

Niagara River Greenway Commission Consultation and Review Form

Date of Submittal:

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:	Town of Lewiston
Mailing Address:	1375 Ridge Road, Lewiston
State:	NY
Zip Code:	14092
Federal ID#:	16-6002298
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 Other: Recreational

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

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES

Source	Amount

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	<u>Lewiston Pickleball Courts</u>
Location (include GPS coordinates if possible):	Richard F. Soluri Park (Artpark Plateau) and Lewiston #2 Fire Company
Project Site Address:	325 Portage Rd, Lewiston, NY 14092 1705 Saunders Settlement Rd, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14092, 14304
Minor Civil Division(s):	Town of Lewiston
County:	Niagara
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other):	Richard F. Soluri Park is owned by the Village of Lewiston and Lewiston #2 Fire Company owns the property

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name:	<u>Steve Broderick</u>
Title:	Town Supervisor
Business Address:	1375 Ridge Road, Lewiston
State:	NY
Zip Code:	14092
Work Number:	716-754-8213
Cell Number:	
E-Mail Address:	supervisor@townoflewistonny.gov

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name:	<u>Steve Broderick</u>
Title:	Town Supervisor
Organization / Firm:	Town of Lewiston
Business Address:	1375 Ridge Rd, Lewiston
State:	NY
Zip Code:	14092
Work Number:	716-754-8213
Cell Number:	
E-Mail Address:	supervisor@townoflewistonny.gov

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please attach material which responds to the following six items in the order that they are presented.

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

The purpose of the Town of Lewiston Pickleball Court Project is to create new community-use Pickleball courts at Richard F. Soluri Park, Artpark, 325 Portage Rd, Lewiston, NY and Lewiston #2 Fire Company Park, 1705 Saunders Settlement Rd, Niagara Falls, NY. These upgrades will enhance the recreational opportunities and park functionality, aligning with high demand for the sport.

The Town of Lewiston declares that it is their opinion, that the addition of the Town of Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will have a positive effect on the use and usefulness of parks connected by the Niagara Greenway. They are also viewed as a way to encourage passive activities and provide diverse recreational options within the Niagara River Greenway corridor.

2. Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.

The Town of Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will promote the vision of the Niagara River Greenway by supporting public parkland along the Niagara River to serve as a recreational gateway for visitors to the Greenway Corridor. The installation of additional pickleball courts supports the goals of the Niagara River Greenway by enhancing public recreational opportunities, fostering community health, and upgrading existing, underutilized park infrastructure. Specifically, these installations align with the Greenway's mission to create a world-class, accessible trail and greenspace network that boosts the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

This project incorporates all of the principles, goals and criteria set forth by the Niagara River Greenway, and the project will support an accessible, unified, environmentally friendly, and revitalized corridor that highlights the natural beauty, cultural diversity, and historic significance of the Niagara River.

PRINCIPALS: The implementation of the Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will meet the guiding principles of the Niagara Greenway Commission as follows:

Excellence: The Town of Lewiston is committed to maintaining the excellence of all its recreational facilities. Richard F. Soluri Park is in close proximity to other Town and State parks, as well as bike trails. Pedestrians and visitors will capitalize on the Park's surrounding area's recreation amenities, pristine natural beauty, and scenic vistas, thus contributing to the Greenway Commission's first-class standards.

Sustainability: The Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will promote the *ecological, economic* and *physical* sustainability for long-term viability and effectiveness. The Town's Parks Department will conscientiously maintain the project.

Accessibility The Richard F. Soluri Park is located along the Niagara Corridor in the Village of Lewiston, thus facilitating improved public access to the Town's additional parks as well as the Niagara River Vistas.

Ecological Integrity: The Lewiston Pickleball Court Greenway Project will support parkland that is used, and will improve the health, vitality, and integrity of the Park's natural resources. Adjacent wildlife habitats from the Niagara River and Lewiston Plateau will continue to support the ecological significance in these areas and natural landscapes.

Public Well-Being: Within the proposed project area of the Niagara River and Greenway Corridor, the Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will provide much-needed recreational opportunity. Providing pickleball facilities helps to make parks more accessible and welcoming for a wide range of ages and skill levels. The Park's project will advance public well-being and promote physical and emotional wellness through the experience that it offers to the public by providing access to both active and passive recreational opportunities, and amenities for those with special needs. The project will provide improved access for various recreational activities and will support a relaxing atmosphere for all visitors.

Connectivity: The Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will facilitate increased access for active recreation areas in Richard F. Soluri Park and the Lewiston #2 Fire Company Park that will serve as a recreational destination for Town residents and the surrounding community. This project will connect park users to additional equipment and recreational opportunities.

Restoration: The location of the proposed pickleball courts creation will feature new equipment that will meet and exceed all regulations. The project is designed to encourage the restoration of recreational resources and equipment, the safety of the surrounding landscape, as well as the protection of the environment

Authenticity: The Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will support the already established clear sense of "place" and identity that reflects the traditional spirit and heritage of the area.

Celebration: This project will be designed to celebrate local history, diversity, cultural resources, and the natural and built environments, and will seek to share this diverse tradition with local residents and visitors to the region. Once this project is complete it will only strengthen the sense of celebration during events and activities that help build social interaction and shared experiences throughout the Greenway corridor.

Partnerships: The focus of the Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will be a direct

cooperation with the neighboring Village of Lewiston and several other local municipalities that will be able to utilize the facility, along with many visitors to the park. This project will only strengthen relationships with neighboring communities and may lend itself to future coordination and integration of efforts throughout the Greenway.

Community Based: The Lewiston Pickleball Court Project has been in the planning stage for several months with support provided by the Town's Director of Recreation (Tim Smith), Town Supervisor (Steve Broderick), and the Town of Lewiston's Town Board, as well as the Village of Lewiston Board of Trustees. The project reflects the preferences and plans of the local community, while respecting other stated goals and the communal vision of the Niagara River Greenway. The project is vital in restoring the Park to meet the needs of the Town, Village and the surrounding population and has the full support of the local community.

GOALS: The implementation of the Pickleball Courts Installation Project will meet the goals of the Niagara River Greenway as follows:

Improve Access: The Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will serve as a recreational destination for members and visitors of the community and will further support recreational activities and programs for the Town's youth. Implementation of this project will significantly contribute to the improvement of the park that has experienced a large increase of usage due to the increase in population within the Town and surrounding communities.

Make Connections:

This project will facilitate increased access for Park users to new Pickleball courts and will serve as a recreational destination for Town residents and the surrounding community. This project will facilitate increased access for active recreation areas in Richard F. Soluri Park and the Lewiston #2 Fire Company Park that will serve as a recreational destination for Town residents and the surrounding community. This project will connect park users to additional equipment and recreational opportunities.

Protect and Restore Environmental Systems: This project will ensure that these areas remain as an open viable parkland space, as well as preserve the surrounding environment from commercial and residential development. The project contributes to the environmental well-being of the region.

Spark Revitalization and Renewal: The Lewiston Pickleball Court Project addresses the heart of the Greenway's goal for revitalization and renewal of green spaces and public recreational opportunities. These park areas serve as a recreational destination for visitors and much of the community's youths through its spring, summer and fall. The addition of pickleball courts will offer accessible, inclusive, and

engaging recreational opportunity for community members of all ages and skill.

Promote Long Term Sustainability: The Town of Lewiston will continue to ensure that the pickleball courts and recreational structures are maintained and updated to remain an attractive destination along the Niagara River Greenway, Revitalization of the Park will be conscientiously maintained well into the future through its recreational events and programs, will contribute to the vitality of the area as it continues to serve as an attractive and essential gateway and stopover along the Niagara River Greenway and trail systems. The Town is committed to the yearly funding and manpower that are necessary to keep the courts and its amenities in top condition.

Extend the Legacy of Fredrick Law Olmstead: Currently the Town of Lewiston has limited public recreational property available for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Due to the recent increase in population and the projected continuance of that trend, the Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will provide local residents and visitors to the area with improved access to the Park's recreational activities. The new equipment will facilitate safer conditions for its users, and will make equipment available for each of the Park's target segments so users of all ages can make use of the equipment and recreational areas.

Celebrate History and Heritage: The addition of new pickleball courts will meet the specialized needs of all that use this area. These courts will draw people from the Town, as well as visitors to the area, thus providing additional recreational amenities to serve the steadily increasing population. Throughout its history, the Town of Lewiston has been a close-knit community within itself, as well as, with surrounding municipalities. All of Lewiston's parks support its heritage and pride of its park system.

CRITERIA Through the Lewiston Pickleball Courts Project, the Town of Lewiston meets criteria of the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

Consistency with Niagara River Greenway Principles the Lewiston Pickleball Courts Project makes a significant contribution towards all the principles set forth by the Niagara River Greenway. This project encourages the vision for the Greenway to be explicitly considered for project development, at the basic vision, to see the space around and near the Niagara River become developed and to attract residents and visitors to utilize this space while experiencing the natural resource provided by the Niagara River.

Priority Status the Lewiston Pickleball Court Project has been in the planning phase for several months to restore and enhance several recreation opportunities for users of all ages, including the community's abundant, increasing population, this

project supports the pride of Lewiston's parks system and will enhance the overall attractiveness and usability of the parks for the community.

Focus Area: The implementation of the proposed project will visually improve the aesthetics of the park property and, as it is within close driving proximity to other Town and State parks and attractions along the Niagara Corridor. The improvements to the park will have a local and regional impact at the heart of the Greenway.

Environmental Soundness The conceptual plan has addressed the need to provide proper maintenance of landscaping and plant life, as well as return any disturbed ground to its original condition. The new court will include increased drainage for rain water to access designed runoff areas.

Implementable A contractor will perform all work associated with this project. The cost was figured out by gathering cost estimates from contractors (please see enclosed quote and budget) Once approved, this project will be put out to bid for equipment prices and installation.

Economic Viability and Local Sponsor All maintenance and upkeep of the park will be provided through a line item in the Town of Lewiston Parks Department Budget. The Town of Lewiston will continue to provide stewardship for this project, and provide the necessary money, equipment, and manpower to further this project along from the design phase to its completion and beyond.

Availability of Local Sponsor or Partner the Town of Lewiston is committed to developing and maintaining this park as part of its yearly budget and thus will assume the long-term responsibility for continued operation and maintenance. The Town will ensure that the courts do not fall into disrepair and will continue to champion the project after it is completed.

Ability to Match or Leverage Funds: The Town Lewiston will be providing matching funds for this project in the form of in kind services provided by the highway department and the Village of Lewiston DPW, and also engineering services provided by local stakeholders offering their services at no cost.

Clear Benefits the Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will serve as both an active and passive recreation destination, linking surrounding communities for recreational activities, programs, and sporting events, will improve the quality of life in our growing community, and enhance tourism and the visitor experience for those visiting the Greenway.

3. Define the budget for the total proposed project and include costs for the following:

Planning	\$0
Construction	\$750,000.00
Acquisition	\$0
Administration	\$0
Operation and Maintenance / Year	\$0
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$750,000.00

Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained.

As described previously the Town of Lewiston does not currently have the ability to match or leverage funds, so without funding from Greenway this project is not possible. The Town of Lewiston will continue to provide stewardship for this project once its complete, and provide the necessary money, equipment, and manpower to protect this project, beyond completion.

- 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.

This project, which has been in the planning phase for several months, has received strong community support from residents, organizations, and local representatives and is fully supported by the local governing body for the Town of Lewiston (**see attached resolution**). Town Supervisor Steve Broderick and John Battaglia, a local Engineer, attended the Village of Lewiston Board Meeting on April 6, 2026 and received overwhelming support for this project. The Richard F. Soluri Park is owned by the Village of Lewiston. A letter of support from the Village is attached.

This project will provide excellent opportunities for environmental and geological education, outreach, and community involvement. Once completed, this project will:

- Restore and protect ecologically and geologically significant landscapes;
- Create/enhance public access to a natural resource;
- Result in the restoration of an area, which has been long neglected and underutilized, and no longer meets the needs of the surrounding community; Protect and enhance those scenic, historic and cultural resources, which are readily identifiable as valued parts of the common heritage of New York's citizens by facilitating convenient access to the Niagara River and Erie Canal and;
- Maintain the critical natural-resource-based industries, recreation, and tourism.

5. 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.

The Lewiston Pickleball Court Project will provide improved and restored access to Park passive and active recreational opportunities for all Park community users (youths, adults and seniors). This project entails the creation of a new pickleball courts at Richard F. Soluri Park and the Lewiston #2 Fire Company Park. As these areas are a vital part of the Town's recreational parks system, it is a destination stop along the Niagara River Corridor and is within close proximity to additional Town and State parks to encourage more participation in recreation and provide a stop for trail users along the way.

The proposed project's improvements will allow the Town to continue its tradition of providing its residents and the surrounding community with open space for recreation and environmental conservation. There were no relevant studies necessary for this project, and all SEQR documentation will be obtained once before the project commences.

6. Once funded, the project will be advertised for bidding in May of 2026 and construction will be set to begin in the early part of summer 2026, with completion by September of 2026. If funded, it is expected that the project sponsor or point of contact will notify the Commission of the project opening date as it nears completion. *(Note: This addition to the application was made September 2018.)*

Town of Lewiston
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION
April 13, 2026

For the Niagara River Greenway for Lewiston Pickleball Court Project

I, Tamara Burns, Town Clerk of the Town of Lewiston located at 1375 Ridge Road Lewiston, NY 14092, do hereby certify that the following resolution was adopted at a special Town Board meeting of the Town of Lewiston held on April 13, 2026, and is incorporated in the original minutes of the said meeting and that the said resolution has not been altered, amended or revoked and is in full force and effect.

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to acquiring the funds to complete Town of Lewiston, Pickleball Court Project

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to provide this type of amenity to residents at the lowest possible cost to the Town and Town taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to apply for financial assistance from the Niagara River Greenway, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board commits to providing the required local matching funds to insure the timely implementation of the proposed project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes and submits an application for the Niagara River Greenway funds for the Lewiston Pickleball Court Project in the amount of \$750,000 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign all documents and agreements related to the Niagara River Greenway Program application

RESOLVED, that Steve Broderick, as Supervisor of the Town of Lewiston, is hereby authorized and directed to file an application for funds from the Niagara River Greenway, and execute a project agreement for such financial

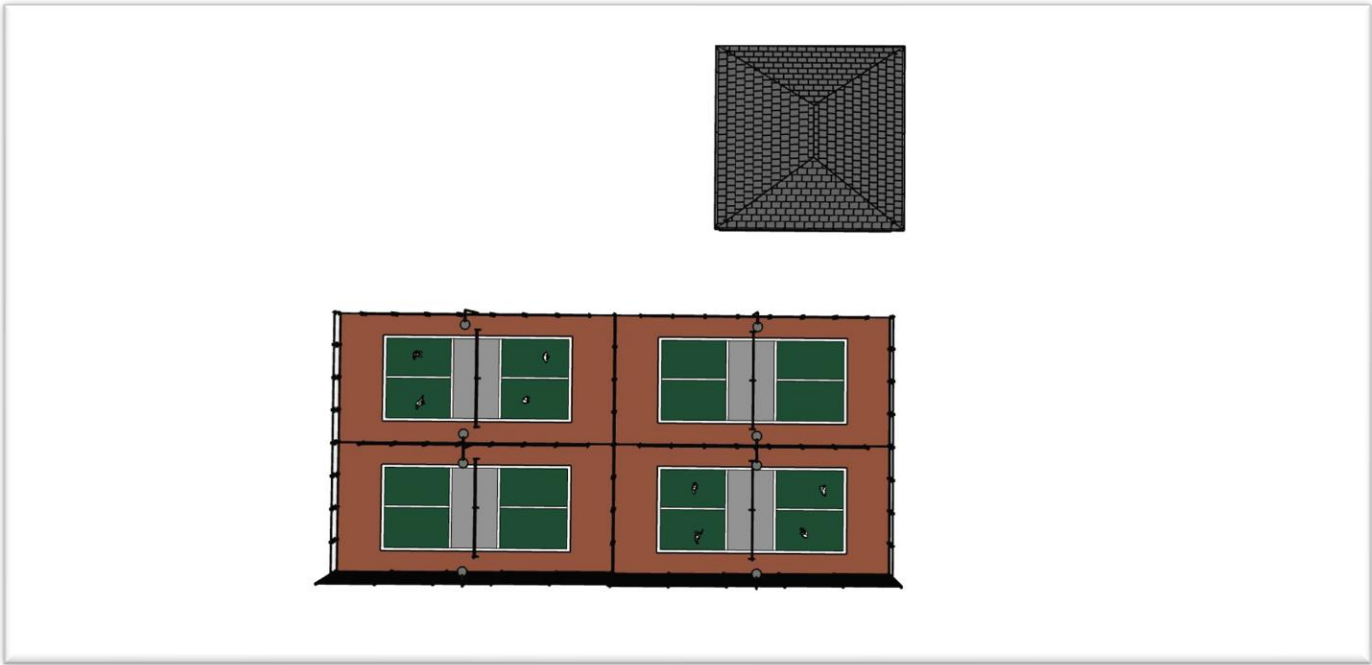
assistance to the Town of Lewiston for the proposed Lewiston Pickleball Court Project.

Tamara Burns, Town Clerk

Town Seal

Richard F. Soluri Park:

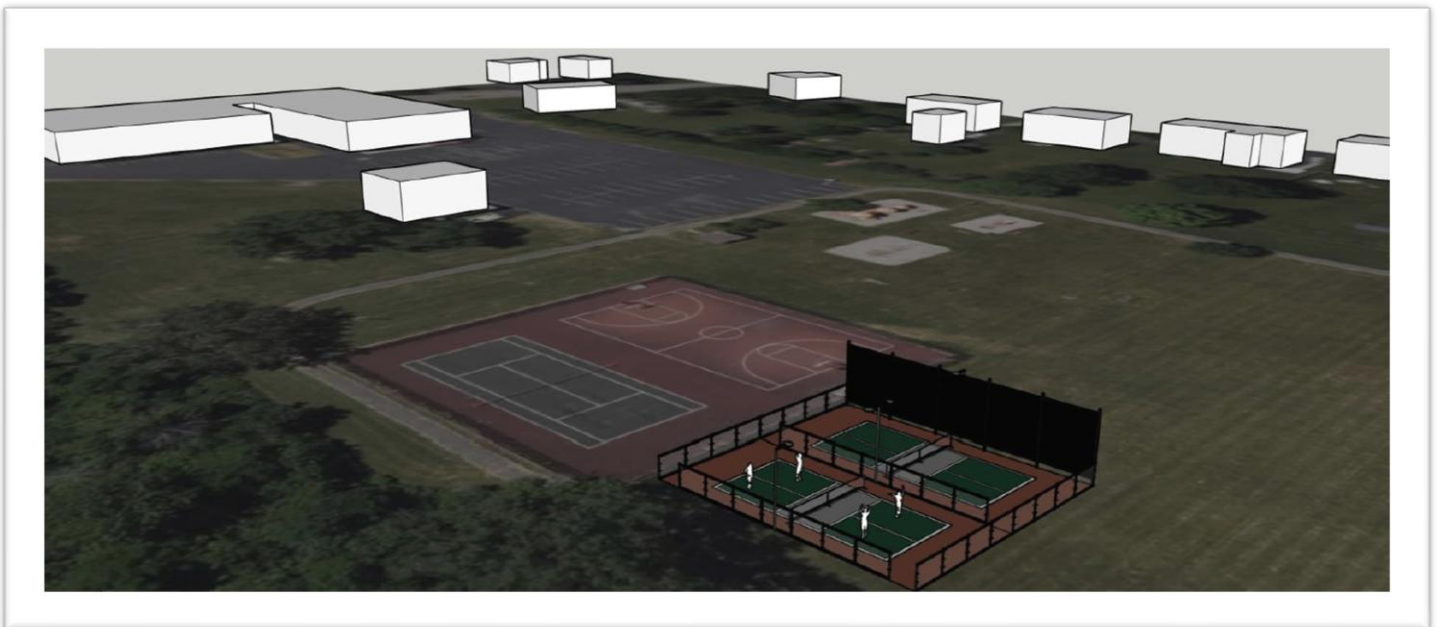


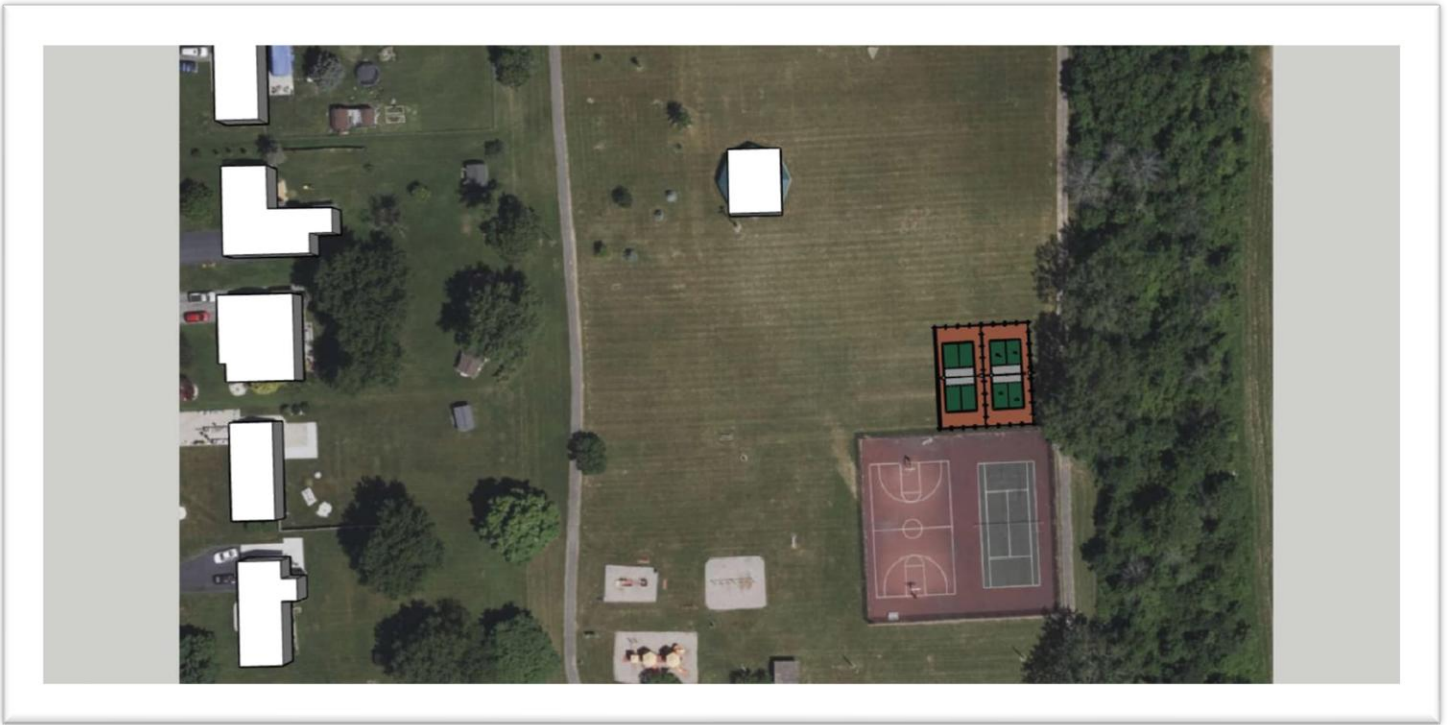


Richard F. Soluri Park:



Lewiston #2 Fire Company Park:





Village of LEWISTON

145 North Fourth Street • PO Box 325
Lewiston, NY 14092-0325
716.754.8271 • FAX 716.754.2703
villageoflewistonny.gov



April 7, 2026

Niagara River Greenway Commission
3180 Deveaux Woods Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Re: Letter of Support for Recreational Improvements at Richard F. Soluri Park

Dear Members of the Niagara River Greenway Commission,

On behalf of the Village of Lewiston, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed installation of dedicated pickleball courts at Richard F. Soluri Park, as well as the potential addition of a pavilion and expansion of the existing parking area.

Pickleball has rapidly grown in popularity across Western New York, attracting participants of all ages and skill levels. The addition of pickleball courts at Richard F. Soluri Park would provide a valuable recreational amenity that promotes physical activity, social interaction, and community engagement. The inclusion of a pavilion would further enhance the park by offering a welcoming space for gatherings, shade, and community events, while expanded parking would improve accessibility and accommodate increased visitation.

These improvements align closely with the Niagara River Greenway Commission's mission to enhance public access, recreation, and overall quality of life along the Niagara River corridor.

Richard F. Soluri Park is well-positioned to serve as a hub for active and passive recreation. Enhancing the park with these amenities would further activate this public space, encourage greater use by residents and visitors, and support healthy, outdoor lifestyles. Importantly, these upgrades can be designed to complement the park's natural character while increasing its functionality and appeal.

We believe this investment will yield long-term community benefits, strengthen regional recreational assets, and contribute positively to the continued development and utilization of our waterfront.

We respectfully urge the Niagara River Greenway Commission to support and advance this proposal. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to improving recreational opportunities throughout the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Welch".

Anne Welch
Mayor
Village of Lewiston