

Greenway Ecological Standing Committee and Greenway Ecological Fund Schedule

The Greenway Ecological Standing Committee, one of four standing committees established by settlement agreements to distribute New York Power Authority funds for Niagara River Greenway projects, has set the following dates for submitting applications to the Greenway Ecological Fund:

Cycle 1: Application deadline: January 31; funding decisions by March 31.

Cycle 2: Application deadline: June 30; funding decisions by August 31.

Funding will be for projects that create and support ecological enhancements within the Niagara Greenway. Projects should support at least one of the following: land acquisition and conservation; habitat research; aquatic and terrestrial land restoration for habitat and species benefits and/or ecosystem services; ecological stewardship activities and education. Multiple-year projects up to three years will be considered.

Applicants must be from one of the following entities within the Buffalo–Niagara Region:

- A not-for-profit corporation with IRS determination as a 501c3 entity;
- A city, town village, county or Indigenous Nation located in the area defined by the Greenway Plan;
- A public benefit corporation organized under the laws of New York State.

Proposals must provide written documentation of consistency with the Niagara River Greenway Plan, as determined by the Niagara River Greenway Commission any time prior to submission to the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee for funding. Other factors to be addressed include engineering and maintenance feasibility, operation, biological effectiveness, and cost effectiveness.

The Greenway Ecological Standing Committee includes the New York Power Authority, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tuscarora Nation, the Tonawanda Seneca Nation, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition. The Committee has one million dollars per year through 2057 available from the Greenway Ecological Fund.

For questions regarding proposal requirements, contact Erin Redding, Niagara River Habitat Specialist, Natural Heritage Trust, Greenway Ecological Standing Committee Co-chair. Contact information: erin.redding@dec.ny.gov, 716-851-7010.

Each proposal should be submitted as a single PDF document via email to:

- Erin Redding, Niagara River Habitat Specialist, New York Natural Heritage Trust for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, erin.redding@dec.ny.gov;
- Kerrie Gallo, Deputy Executive Director at Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Niagara River Environmental Coalition, kgallo@bnwaterkeeper.org; *and*
- Cheryl Jobs, Licensing Manager, New York Power Authority, cheryl.jobs@nypa.gov

Greenway Ecological Standing Committee and Greenway Ecological Fund

Important Dates, 2026

January 31	GESC Cycle 1 Proposals Due
February 25	GESC Meeting GESC 2024 Cycle 1 Proposal Presentations
March 31	GESC Cycle 1 Funding Decisions Announced
April 15	GESC Meeting
May 15	GESC Cycle 1 Ongoing Project Status Reports Due
June 30	GESC Cycle 2 Proposals Due
July 22	GESC Meeting GESC Cycle 1 Ongoing Project Presentations (annual status reports submitted 5/15) GESC 2024 Cycle 2 Proposal Presentations (proposals due June 30)
August 31	GESC Cycle 2 Funding Decisions Announced
October 15	GESC Cycle 2 Ongoing Project Status Reports Due
October 28	GESC Meeting GESC Cycle 2 Ongoing Project Presentations
December 31	GESC and ESC Final Project Reports Due

Questions regarding meetings, project proposals, or reporting should be directed to:

- Erin Redding, Niagara River Habitat Specialist, Natural Heritage Trust for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, erin.redding@dec.ny.gov, 716-851-7010