



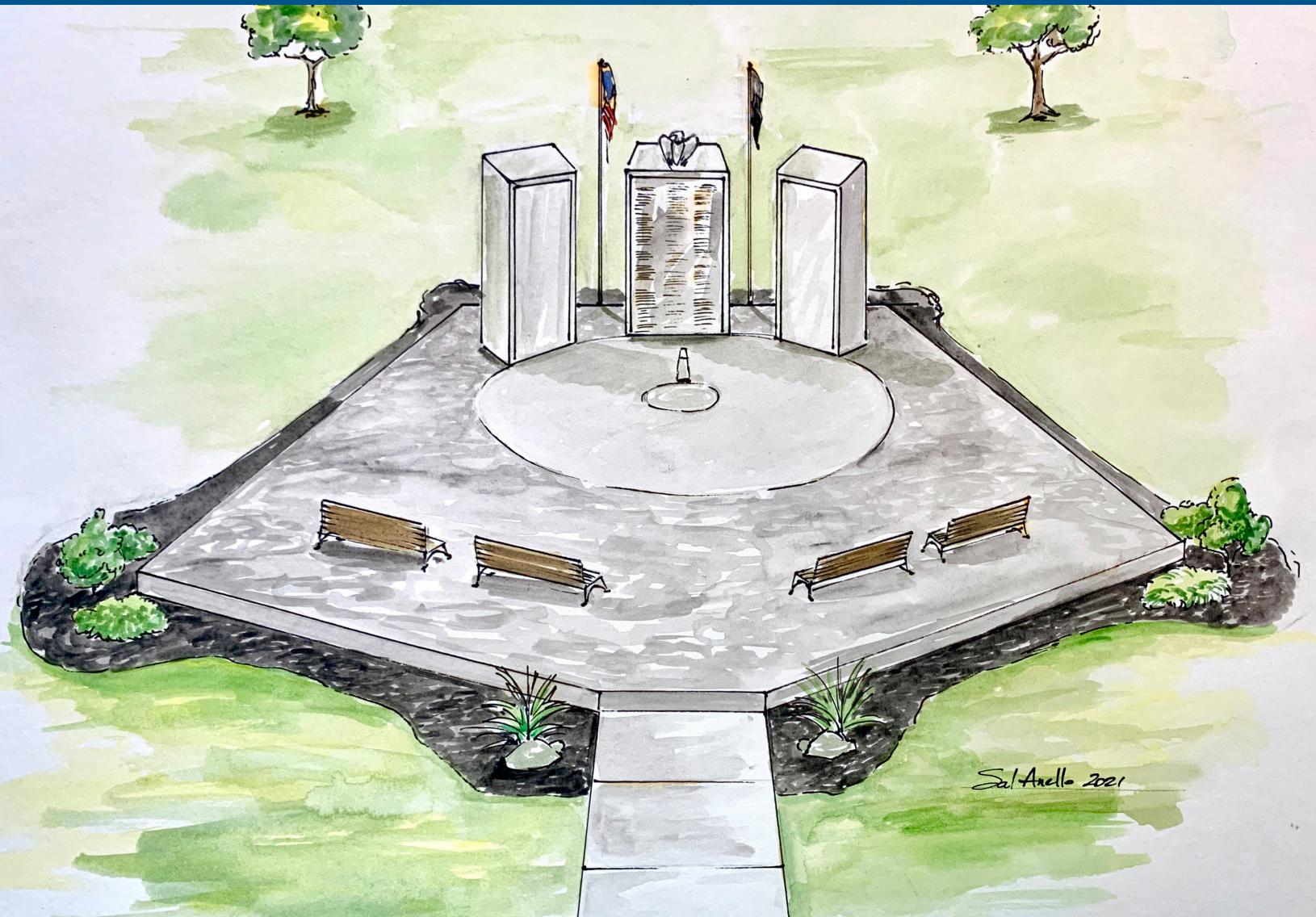
**NCCC**  
FOUNDATION

**NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

# Veterans Memorial Park Campaign

*Greenway Application*

*Submitted to the Niagara Power Coalition Host Community Standing Committee*



3111 Saunders Settlement Road • Sanborn, NY 14132  
[niagaracc.suny.edu/veterans/memorialpark](http://niagaracc.suny.edu/veterans/memorialpark)



## NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Office of the President

3111 SAUNDERS SETTLEMENT ROAD, SANBORN NY 14132-9460  
PHONE 716-614-5905 • FAX 716-614-6824 • WWW.NIAGARACC.SUNY.EDU

Wm. J. Murabito, Ph.D.  
*President*

September 16, 2021

Lisa Vitello, Administrative Director  
Niagara River Greenway Commission  
P.O. Box 1132  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Dear Ms. Vitello:

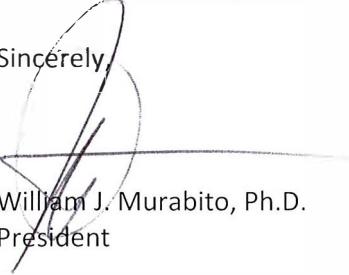
On behalf of Niagara County Community College (NCCC), I am pleased to provide this letter of support toward our NCCC Foundation's efforts to attain \$100,000 in grant funding through the Niagara Power Coalition Host Community Standing Committee (HCSC). The NCCC Veterans Memorial Park project will meet the goals, vision, and principles of the Niagara River Greenway Commission through a number of means. Notably, it will connect our central campus to prominent New York State Bike Route 5, extending it by 1.5 miles and allowing us to welcome visitors to NCCC through the park.

To date, the College has garnered numerous letters of support and donation commitments from leaders and institutions throughout the county. In committing to this venture, the NCCC Operations Division will oversee this project to completion and maintain our Veterans Memorial Park complex thereafter.

NCCC is pleased to present this park as an initiative that will enhance community engagement during Veterans Day and Memorial Day events, as well as educate visitors about our county's armed forces history. Project completion will support continuing efforts to improve access to our institution, protect the environment in and around campus, celebrate the history of Niagara County veterans, and act as a destination memorial in the promotion of tourism.

As a sponsor, the Niagara River Greenway Commission and the Niagara Power Coalition will be invited to participate in a highly-publicized ribbon cutting ceremony, as well as have their name prominently displayed on head signs placed along each of State Route 31 and State Route 429 connected to campus entrances. Your organization's support will have a lasting impact in the lives of Niagara County veterans, their families, and the surrounding community for years to come.

Sincerely,

  
William J. Murabito, Ph.D.  
President

### Board of Trustees

Jason J. Cafarella, Chairperson • Gina I. Virtuoso, Vice Chairperson • Kevin Clark, Financial Secretary • Bonnie R. Sloma, Secretary  
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**Project Registration Number (*office use only*)** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Type of Review Required:**  **Mandatory Consultation**

**Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement**

**PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION**

Name: Niagara County Community College (NCCC)

Mailing Address: 3111 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn

State: New York Zip Code: 14132

Federal ID# 16-0867332 Charities Registration # N/A

**PROJECT TYPE**

Check all that apply:  Environmental  Cultural/Heritage  Land or Water Public

Cultural  Trail  Educational/Interpretive

Waterfront or Land Based Development  Signage

Recreational  Other

Funding Committee  Host Community Standing Committee

Request:  Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

Ecological Standing Committee

State Parks Standing Committee

Unsure at this time

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Name: Niagara County Community College (NCCC) Veterans Memorial Park

Location: NCCC Main Campus

Site Address: 3111 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn

State: New York Zip Code: 14132

Minor Civil Division(s): Village of Sanborn, Town of Cambria

County: Niagara

Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): All land is owned by Niagara

County and operated by NCCC

**AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL**

Name: William J. Murabito, Ph.D. Title: President, NCCC

Business Address: 3111 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn

State: New York Zip Code: 14132

Telephone Number: (716) 614-5901 Cell Number: N/A

Fax Number: (716) 614-6824

E-Mail Address: wmurabito@niagaracc.suny.edu

**PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT**

Name: Deb Brewer Title: Director, NCCC Foundation

Organization/Firm: NCCC

Business Address: 3111 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn

State: New York Zip Code: 14132

Telephone Number: (716) 614-5911 Cell Number: N/A

Fax Number: (716) 614-5913

E-Mail Address: dbrewer@niagaracc.suny.edu

**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.**

Niagara County Community College (NCCC) respectfully requests the guidance and approval of the Niagara River Greenway Commission in our efforts to attain \$100,000 in Niagara Power Coalition Host Community Standing Committee (HCSC) funding. The requested funds will support the relocation and reconstruction of the NCCC Veterans Memorial Park on the College's Sanborn campus honoring military veterans throughout the county. An existing veterans monument was originally developed and constructed between 1973-1979. While this structure is an important piece of history at the College, it is in need of significant upgrades to its design, and will need to be fully repaired, relocated, and expanded to increase its visibility and accessibility on campus. Funds will be utilized to increase access by moving the site adjacent to a nearby main campus parking lot and building a safe, short accessible walkway leading from main Campus Lot 3 to the memorial. The Park will offer a prominent extension between the bike path around the perimeter of the campus to nearby State Bike Route 5, offering access to refuge for the community. NCCC will post a head sign on its front lawn visible from both New York State Route 31 and New York State Route 429. This sign will graciously acknowledge the Greenway Commission and the Power Coalition for their support while also inviting bike traffic to turn onto campus to extend their ride by 1.5 miles. Park construction will include building a large area for congregation, a Remembrance Wall commemorating service heroes, and a Wall of Honor with the logos and emblems of all branches of the military. Presently, there is an earthen, water-logged pathway through the lawn that has proven treacherous to traverse when used to access the memorial site during annual Veterans Day ceremonies. In building the new memorial directly next to Campus Lot 3, the walkway will offer a very short path to reach the site with ample parking nearby.

This project is designed with the intention of promoting the area with a destination memorial that will attract visitors to Niagara County. The new location eliminates the need for environmental remediation, such as tree removal and grading of land, that would have been caused by renovating the existing location. The current monument is within an eroding area and renovation within that site would not represent an environmentally-sensible option. This project is sustainable and promotes greenspace along with wildlife growth on campus. A patch of lawn just adjacent to Lot 3 represents a shovel-ready location where construction will have no environmental impact whatsoever. Solar-powered outdoor lighting will be added to create ambience during evening hours for this publicly-accessible site which will act as a beacon of hope and remembrance for military-aligned residents throughout Niagara County.

The NCCC Foundation is currently conducting a capital fundraising campaign with a goal of raising \$150,000 in donations that will represent a matching contribution to the project for a total budget of \$250,000. Additionally, the College will devote approximately \$50,000 as an in-kind contribution through employee time dedicated to project oversight. This includes the time of the NCCC Operations Division, which will oversee the project to completion, as well as commit to maintaining the walkway into the future. The NCCC Foundation and other members of the internal committee will also continue to devote their time as in-kind services to ensure the project reaches full funding support through private donations. As of this writing, the College has already secured approximately \$20,000 in donations despite the fundraising campaign just being announced publicly. This park will act as a pillar of community engagement and a central location to hold events honoring those who have served throughout the county.

**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.**

This project advances the Niagara River Greenway Plan in that it connects the surrounding community and members of the NCCC campus to a historical asset: “The (Niagara River Greenway) principles are applicable to municipalities without waterfront lands as well as those fronting the River. They promote access and connections... They support high quality, ecologically-sound projects throughout the region. They are fundamental enough to remain relevant over changing circumstances, providing consistency with flexibility.” Connection to a main campus Parking Lot and extension of State Bike Route 5 to the existing 1.5-mile NCCC campus bike path will promote access and connections between members of the NCCC community as well as residents living near the College. The NCCC Veterans Memorial Park advances the Niagara River Greenway Plan for the development of the Niagara River Greenway. This endeavor will meet and exceed the goals, guiding principles, and vision of the Greenway Plan through the following methods:

**GOALS**

**Improve Access**

A major aspect of this initiative is to improve access to the site of Veterans Memorial Park for both the NCCC community and residents of Niagara County. The existing small monument is located on a patch of grass that is surrounded by trees with no trail leading in its direction. The area often becomes waterlogged around times of most activity, particularly during Veterans Day and Memorial Day celebrations. Remediation of the existing monument and site was deemed to be an option that was not environmentally sound. The new proposed location will lead visitors directly to the site from a main campus parking lot with a fully inclusive and accessible walkway. Through the addition of solar lighting, the site will be visible and accessible to visitors during evening hours. The location will be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities via the short path connecting the memorial and the lot, which will lead to the campus bike path and out to the neighboring community via connection to State Bike Route 5. Clear signage will be added on the campus front lawn to indicate this connection and invite visitors to NCCC.

**Make Connections**

The NCCC Veterans Memorial Park will build connections through educating the community about the rich history of armed forces participation in the area. Education will take place during Veterans Day and Memorial Day events, during which the community’s history of involvement in armed services is exemplified and celebrated. Signage at the site will acknowledge the storied history of those from the community that are included in the memorial. It will increase physical connection between the campus and the site through its construction adjacent to a main campus parking lot. The project will also extend the existing New York State Bike Route 5 to the 1.5-mile bike path that surrounds the campus. This connection will encourage community-wide events to take place at the site on Veterans holidays, as well as act as an area of refuge, relaxation, and community accessibility throughout the rest of the year.

**Protect and Restore Environmental Systems**

This project will be completed without any environmental remediation or negative impact on the environment. The NCCC Veterans Committee has met with a contractor to conduct an initial survey and a full SEQRA review will be conducted to ensure that the park and adjacent walkway will not lead to any impact on the surrounding wildlife area. In communication with qualified field experts, the College identified the opportunity that the location adjacent to Lot 3 created. Had the site been rebuilt and expanded in its inaugural location, any renovations would have necessitated tree removal and ground remediation. Contractors selected to complete this project will be asked to include a stormwater management plan as a component of their overall work plan. The elimination of the existing monument will allow for wildlife to thrive in an area surrounded by tree growth.

### **Celebrate History and Heritage**

The Greenway Plan discusses the importance of “celebrating the area’s rich history” and “improv(ing) coordination of interpretive activities.” This endeavor is being enacted with the purpose of bringing the Niagara County community together in celebration of the brave heroes who have served our country. While the current memorial honors the veterans of the Vietnam War, the revitalized NCCC Veterans Memorial Park will honor those from all branches of military, as well as those who have been captured or lost in battle. Educational programming will take place during Veterans Day and Memorial Day holidays, and visitors to the site will learn about the community’s history of involvement in the armed services through informational signage on the site. Through funding, NCCC will build a destination memorial that will attract tourists to the College campus and the region as a whole. This initiative is designed to improve the integrity of the Greenway system through the addition of a cultural activity within the area, and connected to other parts of the Greenway via State Bike Route 5.

### **Spark Revitalization and Renewal**

According to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, “In the 21st century economy, the livability of a place, including the natural environment, the built environment, the culture and recreational offerings all contribute to attracting residents, visitors and investment.” The NCCC Veterans Memorial Park is a cultural and recreational offering that will attract residents of the surrounding region, new visitors to the area, and investment, particularly through new events honoring the military in the future. This project will enrich the lives of the residents of Niagara County while maintaining the beauty of the natural environment on campus. The expansion of New York State Bike Route 5 through NCCC will enrich the campus environment along with adding to a recreational activity in the area.

### **Promote Long Term Sustainability**

The Greenway Plan encourages projects such as this one to revitalize existing assets to preserve their long-term viability: “The Niagara River Greenway will promote the long-term sustainability of existing sites and features through continued investment in regional assets, and rehabilitation and improvement of aging facilities.” The nearly fifty-year-old monument needs a full reconstruction, a more prominent campus location, and an ecologically friendly plan to remain a functional and attractive long-term asset for the region. This project will encourage visitation to the site for many generations to come.

### **Extend Olmsted’s Legacy**

The project will extend the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted in that it will encourage visitors to connect with NCCC. The College campus includes many open spaces and access to greenery which will be

enhanced by this project. The College is confident that this initiative will attract people to the surrounding area, and in providing access to the site will encourage exploration of the rich greeneries throughout the adjacent space. The addition of this park will connect the scenic 1.5-mile bike and walking trail that surrounds the NCCC campus to State Bike Route 5, encouraging public use.

## **PRINCIPLES**

### **Excellence**

The NCCC Veterans Memorial Park will represent a significant beacon of remembrance and honor for those whom have served our country in representation of Niagara County. In building this endeavor, the NCCC Foundation has initiated a capital campaign and will raise \$250,000 in funding through a combination of grant awards and donations to complete the project. In addition to monetary attainment outright, the College will also contribute \$50,000 in in-kind services to bring the project total value to over \$300,000. NCCC has engaged in initial discussions with contracting firms to ensure proper planning takes place to enact a memorial that meets a high standard of quality and will last as a permanent structure for generations to enjoy.

### **Sustainability**

The project is sustainable, resulting in a park representative of the surrounding community that will last for years to come. The newly constructed NCCC Veterans Memorial Park will include a short, accessible walkway leading to the assembly area and monument with a Remembrance Wall honoring military members. All materials included in this request will be purchased with the mindset of building a durable, long-lasting monument for the public to enjoy for many years into the future. Its location next to the main Lot 3 will promote campus greenspace and preserve habitats surrounding the existing site. A new stormwater management plan will preserve the site, surrounding property, and natural resources in the area. The removal of the existing memorial will encourage wildlife growth in its place, which is surrounded by trees and the opportunity for thriving habitats.

### **Accessibility**

The current memorial site is located off the College's main entrance on a low-lying patch of grass with no path leading visitors to it. This is both an eyesore and a hazard, as visitors must traverse a car entrance road or the busy Route 31 to access the monument. This area often becomes waterlogged, particularly around Veterans Day and Memorial Day when remembrance is observed. Renovation of this site would necessitate environmental remediation, including tree removal and grading of land, actions which are contradictory to the Niagara River Greenway Plan. NCCC set out to maintain the beauty of its existing greenspace while increasing site accessibility. Solar lighting will prominently display the site just off the main campus parking lot, and it will be easily-accessible through a short walkway. This will allow people of all ages and abilities to visit and enjoy NCCC Veterans Memorial Park without worrying about trip hazards or traffic as they honor our military. Connection to the 1.5-mile campus bike path to State Bike Route 5 will encourage the NCCC community and local residents to visit the site regularly. **This will also increase waterfront access, as the bike path travels throughout New York State and leads directly to Niagara Falls.** The site will act as a gateway to bring visitors to the Greenway area and promote what Niagara County has to offer through connection to a popular bike path.

### **Public Well-Being**

The intention of this project is to bring public awareness and a sense of unity around the belief in respect for the heroes within our Niagara County community. This is a passive recreational opportunity that will beautify the campus and surrounding area while also promoting emotional wellbeing and a sense of pride for the region.

### **Restoration**

Through funding, NCCC will restore a historic monument that has been a part of the College campus and local community for nearly fifty years. The park was originally developed and constructed between 1973-1979. While it is an important piece of history at the College, it is in need of significant upgrades to its structure, as well as increased visibility and accessibility on campus and to the surrounding region as a whole.

### **Authenticity**

A primary goal of the NCCC Veterans Memorial Park construction is to make it inclusive to all armed forces veterans. Along the facade of the remembrance wall will be the logos and emblems of the seven branches of the military: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force, and Merchant Marines. The existing memorial honors Vietnam War veterans with a connection to the College, while the upgrades to the site will allow for more space to include honorees from all military backgrounds. A large POW/MIA flag will adorn the site bringing attention to those who were captured or lost. Park construction will revitalize the campus, increasing its character, culture, and history.

### **Celebration**

The new NCCC Veterans Memorial Park is designed to serve as an assembly point for the community, particularly during Veterans Day and Memorial Day holidays. The park construction will increase accessibility, connect the campus with the nearby neighborhood, educate students and visitors of the history of veterans throughout Niagara County, and facilitate events that build social interactions and shared experiences. Local residents and tourists alike will gain a unique understanding of the heroes that hail from the area.

### **Partnerships**

This project is the culmination of partnerships and collaboration within the NCCC campus and throughout the local community. NCCC has received letters of support from local politicians, community leaders, veteran organizations, and businesses throughout the region willing to participate in future events and share their insight in the completion of this initiative. Local donors have already provided financial support in building this endeavor to its current state. Through Greenway funding, private donations, and the dedicated work of College staff, NCCC will enact a project that has received strong coordination and support throughout Niagara County.

### **Community Based**

The focus of the NCCC Veterans Memorial Park project is based on reconstructing a community asset. This endeavor has received approximately \$20,000 in donations, as well as numerous letters of support, to evolve from a burgeoning need into community-wide initiative. This park will offer the Niagara County community a centralized location to celebrate those who have served, and to honor the United

States. NCCC will serve as a destination for ceremonies and military holidays while offering distinction to the military members of Western New York.

#### VISION

The Niagara River Greenway Vision Statement is as follows: "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." This project is designed to revitalize a park/landscape within the Greenway that celebrates a history that is unique to Niagara County. The current site is disconnected from the surrounding area and near a busy road without an easy walking path leading to it. This project will provide easy, safe access to the memorial that was previously unsafe for many to traverse, as well as connect and extend to a prominent New York State bike path leading to waterfront access in the area. All signage will be consistent with way-finding signage throughout Erie and Niagara County. The NCCC Veterans Memorial Park will represent a cultural, recreational, scenic, and heritage resource for Western New York. It will encourage visitors from all over the area, as well as those new to the area, to support and honor members of each branch of military who have a connection to Niagara County. The College believes that this endeavor is well-suited to the framework and vision of the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

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

Planning \$ 20,000.00

Construction \$ 230,000.00

Acquisition \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Administration \$ 50,000.00 (in-kind match)

Operation and Maintenance / Year \$ (though not anticipated, any necessary operations or maintenance will be covered by NCCC)

**TOTAL PROJECT COST \$ 300,000.00**

**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.**

Niagara County Community College (NCCC) respectfully requests the guidance and approval of the Niagara River Greenway Commission in our efforts to attain \$100,000 in Niagara Power Coalition Host Community Standing Committee (HCSC) funding. In support of the project, NCCC has initiated a capital funding campaign with a goal of securing at least \$150,000.00 in donations to strengthen the impact of grant funding received. Prior to construction, the College will enlist the services of a qualified engineering agency to provide a full cost analysis as well as all applicable environmental reviews to the project. In addition to matching funds, the College will contribute \$50,000 in in-kind services to oversee the project to completion. This includes the time of the Operations Division to prepare the site for construction and support any maintenance needed at the memorial site upon project completion and indefinitely moving forward. The College anticipates little future need for maintenance and operations of the site or surrounding area, and the site is being built and relocated away from tree growth to ensure cost-effectiveness in terms of future maintenance. NCCC will be responsible for remediating any

issue that may arise, which is anticipated to be limited to lawn mowing and snow removal. Administrative staff will continue to work on project planning, to seek out available private funding streams, and to execute financial aspects of the initiative.

To secure funding, NCCC will offer recognition to contributors based on the amount donated, which include friend, associate, patron, benefactor, leadership, and distinguished levels. This consists of having the name of a loved one engraved on the monument wall, challenge coins, recognition on a plaque to be placed near the monument, and plaques placed near the College's Veterans Services Lounge. The NCCC Foundation, Veterans Services office, and Public Relations Department collaborated on a website to allow for donations and for the College to share project progress with the public. It can be accessed through the Veterans Services page and directly at <https://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/veterans/memorialpark/>.

<b>NCCC Veterans Memorial Park Proposed Budget</b>	
<b>Description of Item</b>	<b>Item Cost</b>
Monument (request to Greenway Fund)	\$ 100,000.00
Personnel (in-kind services)	\$ 50,000.00
Architectural & Engineering Services	\$ 20,000.00
Concrete Assembly Area (50'x50')	\$ 62,500.00
Accessibility Walkway	\$ 3,000.00
Rememberance Wall (W/ Branch Seal Engraving)	\$ 40,000.00
Sponsorship Placards	\$ 500.00
Flags and Flag Poles (x3 - 25')	\$ 5,000.00
Solar Lighting	\$ 3,000.00
Benches (4)	\$ 6,000.00
Signage	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 300,000.00</b>

### **Niagara County Community College (NCCC) Veterans Memorial Park Project Budget Narrative**

#### **Niagara Power Coalition Host Community Standing Committee Contribution:**

**Veterans Memorial Monument:** \$100,000.00  
 Through HCSC Funds, NCCC will erect a proper monument to adorn its new Veterans Memorial Park. This will act as the centerpiece of the park and honor all branches of the military. A plaque will be prominently displayed on the monument thanking the Greenway Commission and the Niagara Power Coalition for their support in allowing this project to reach fruition.

**Total Niagara Power Coalition Host Community Standing Committee Contribution:**  
**\$100,000.00**

#### **NCCC Foundation Contribution:**

*Through private donations and in-kind services, NCCC will add approximately \$200,000 in value to support this project as outlined below.*

<b>Personnel (in-kind services):</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
The College will contribute approximately three hours per week over the next year of the Vice President of Administration in operations and maintenance oversight, five hours per week of the NCCC Foundation Director in fundraising activities, and two hours per week of the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs, Economic Development in administrative oversight. The NCCC Operations Division will also support any future operations or maintenance of the sight upon project completion and moving forward. This is anticipated to be limited primarily to lawn mowing and snow removal, as the relocation of the site away from tree growth will eliminate the majority of need for ongoing maintenance.	
<b>Architectural and Engineering Services:</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
An architecture and engineering consultancy will be hired to provide the College with an estimate for all expenditures, a plan of work with a detailed timeline to complete the project, and will complete all environmental reviews prior to commencement of construction activities.	
<b>Assembly Area:</b>	<b>\$62,500.00</b>
A 50-foot by 50-foot area for congregating and holding events will allow NCCC to become a destination for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and other community activities. The College will purchase ornate surfacing that is sealed, both as a decorative component of the memorial, and one that will be long-lasting. After consulting with the campus Operations Division, the project team was advised to calculate this at a \$25 per square foot rate.	
<b>Accessibility Walkway:</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
A short pathway will connect pedestrians from Lot 3 off the main campus road directly to the Veterans Memorial, as well as ensure connection between the park, the campus and New York State Bike Route 5. The exact size and shape will be based off the architectural rendering with a \$3,000 categorical budget limit, as well as full ADA compliance, in mind.	
<b>Remembrance Wall:</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>
To commemorate the heroes who have served in the military who also have been associated with NCCC, a Remembrance Wall will be constructed and engraved with the names of the individuals who have served. Space will be leftover for future engravings as to readily allow additional names to be added.	
<b>Sponsorship Placards:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Every sponsor involved in this project will be acknowledged for their generous contribution in making it possible to reinvigorate the NCCC Veterans Memorial Park site.	
<b>Flags and Flag Poles (3):</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Three large 25-foot flag poles will replace the existing, smaller flag pole to increase visibility of the area. This includes two large flags to honor the United States and large POW-MIA flag to add inclusive distinction to members of the armed forces who have been lost.	
<b>Solar Lighting:</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
Solar-powered outdoor structural lighting will illuminate NCCC Veterans Memorial Park, the small walkway leading to it, and surrounding areas. Not only will this increase safety and accessibility around the park, but it will act as a community beacon, beautify the campus, and encourage visitors to the site and the College.	

**Benches (4):** **\$6,000.00**

Four benches will allow for seating around the memorial as well as a resting point for those using the bike/walking path and the surrounding community.

**Signage:** **\$10,000.00**

The connection to State Bike Route 5 will be displayed on the NCCC front lawn with a head sign along each of State Route 31 and State Route 429 connected to campus entrances. This signage will be consistent with way-finding signage in both Erie and Niagara County. Another prominent sign will lead visitors to the NCCC Veterans Memorial Park. This will increase visibility of the bike path and the site. The head signs will gratefully acknowledge the Niagara River Greenway Commission and the Niagara Power Coalition for their support in this endeavor. An additional sign will be placed on the Park site to educate passive visitors about the history of the brave men and women from Niagara County who served in the armed forces.

**Total NCCC Foundation Contribution:** **\$200,000.00**

*NCCC has received support from a number of local organizations and politicians, through donations and community assistance to further the efforts of this project. Approximately \$20,000 has been raised in the early stages of this capital campaign.*

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** **\$300,000.00**

**4. 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, as well as associated fundraising and grant efforts were presented to, and approved by the NCCC Board of Trustees on April 20, 2021 (minutes attached). A formal resolution will officially be accepted by the Board of Trustees on September 21, 2021 (attached). Additionally, the College has worked extensively with local politicians and community leaders to gain widespread approval and letters of support for the park. In the execution of the project, the NCCC Operations Division will work directly with a chosen consultant to prepare the site, complete environmental reviews, and perform necessary operations or maintenance tasks upon project completion. The consultant will provide the College with a full report detailing the plan of work and will be tasked with completing it within the budget. Initial surveys and meetings have taken place between NCCC and potential consultants. An alumnus of the College has provided an artistic rendering of the future site in collaboration with the NCCC Veterans Committee to illustrate the potential layout of the park upon project completion.

Within the latest Niagara County Comprehensive Plan, survey respondents from throughout the area continually noted the importance of expanding parks and recreational opportunities. This Plan also notes the importance of proactive steps to protect and manage the green space throughout the county and projects that make sustainable, positive impacts in community parks, and natural areas. The County also places an emphasis on increasing connectivity among communities, including through bikeways and in the facilitation of alternative forms of transportation through public and private investment. This project connects the existing 1.5-mile campus bikeway to New York State Bike Route 5.

In addition to upholding the goals of Niagara County and the Greenway Commission, this project is also consistent with those of local government entities, which is particularly noted within the Town of Cambria Comprehensive Plan. This Plan notes the importance of “encourag(ing) mixed use, walkable development surrounding Niagara County Community College.” This initiative will respond to that precise need by promoting ease of access for walkers and bikers in and around the NCCC campus. The regional significance of NCCC is also recognized within the plan, and the College intends for NCCC Veterans Memorial Park to make a notable impact throughout the area. This memorial will represent a destination for tourists near and far to make a trip to Niagara County.

**NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**APRIL 20, 2021**

\* \* \* \* \*

**A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held  
on April 20, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.  
via ZOOM and live streaming**

**Board Members Present via ZOOM**

Ms. Gina Virtuoso, Chairperson  
Mr. William Ross, Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Jason Cafarella, Financial Secretary  
Ms. Katherine Alexander  
Mr. Kevin Clark  
Ms. Sheila Smith  
Mr. Jerald Wolfgang (in person)

**Board Members Excused**

Ms. Bonnie Sloma, Secretary  
Mr. Maurice Jackson, Student Trustee

**Administration Present via Zoom**

William J. Murabito, Ph.D., President  
Ms. Deborah Brewer, Director, Foundation  
Ms. Catherine Brown, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources  
Ms. Barbara DeSimone, Director of Public Relations  
Mr. John Eichner, Director of Business Services  
Mr. Jesse Goldberg, Interim Chief Information Officer  
Mr. Wayne Lynch, Vice President of Administration  
Mr. Robert McKeown, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management  
Ms. Julia Pitman, Vice President of Student Services  
Ms. Lydia Ulatowski, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Ms. Barbara Walck, Assistant to the President  
Mr. Brad Wingert, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs

Chairperson Virtuoso called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those serving in the military, along with a moment of silence for the passing of former Niagara County Legislature Chair William Keith McNall.

**PRESENTATION**

Joe Patalivo, Veterans Services Technical Assistant, provided a Power Point presentation showing the different areas for the location of the new Veterans Memorial Park. After reviewing all possible location sites, the board agreed on "Lot 3" Staff Lot (grassy area) for the new location site. A timeline for construction and timeline for completion was also presented.

It was moved by Trustee Clark and seconded by Trustee Alexander to proceed with the Veterans Memorial Park Project, using the location of Lot 3 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.



# NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

3111 SAUNDERS SETTLEMENT ROAD, SANBORN NY 14132-9460  
PHONE 716-614-6222 • FAX 716-614-6700  
[WWW.NIAGARACC.SUNY.EDU](http://WWW.NIAGARACC.SUNY.EDU)

## Board Resolution

### Support for the Veterans Memorial

**WHEREAS**, the Niagara County Community College Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of honoring those who defend our freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, relocating and expanding the existing Veterans Memorial on the Sanborn campus to the visible, grassy and tree lined area by the staff parking lot 3; and

**WHEREAS**, would ensure we never forgot the sacrifice of our Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, bringing the community to the Sanborn campus for a sense of pride and appreciation; and

**WHEREAS**, the campus's commitment to maintain and preserve the Veterans Memorial.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Niagara County Community College support the relocation, expansion, and guarantee the maintenance and preservation of the Veterans Memorial on the Sanborn campus.

Signed:

---

Jason J. Cafarella  
Board Chairperson  
September 21, 2021

BOT 21-04



SBDC  
3111 SAUNDERS SETTLEMENT RD.  
SANBORN, NEW YORK 14132  
PH: 716.210.2515  
[WWW.NIAGARASBDC.ORG](http://WWW.NIAGARASBDC.ORG)



NIAGARA FALLS CULINARY INSTITUTE  
28 OLD FALLS STREET  
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK 14303  
PH: 716.210.2525 FAX: 716.210.2575  
[WWW.NFCULINARY.ORG](http://WWW.NFCULINARY.ORG)



NCCC FOUNDATION, INC.  
3111 SAUNDERS SETTLEMENT RD.  
SANBORN, NEW YORK 14132  
PH: 716.614.5910 FAX: 716.614.5913  
[WWW.NIAGARACC.SUNY.EDU/FOUNDATION](http://WWW.NIAGARACC.SUNY.EDU/FOUNDATION)

**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 future location of the park will be on property owned by Niagara County and operated by NCCC. While there are wetlands elsewhere on the NCCC Sanborn campus grounds, they are not within areas that will be affected by this project. NCCC will ensure full compliance with SEQRA and the protection of surrounding natural resources along with consultation from a chosen engineering agency in executing the project. Initial discussions with engineering organizations have ensured the placement of the park will eliminate the need for any environmental remediation and preserve wildlife habitats on campus.

**6. Please attach the proposed project timeline, identify any relevant milestones, and provide an estimated date for project completion/opening. 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. All projects submitted for review after the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting are to include a project timeline.)**

## **PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE**

**Project Planning:** In progress, Veterans Park Planning Committee has been meeting on a weekly basis since January 2021.

**October 2021:** Official announcement of the NCCC Foundation's Capital Campaign to the public.

**November/December 2021:** Anticipated Notification of Funding Award

**January 2022:** Bidding process to select organization to execute construction will begin.

**March 2022:** Winning bid selected.

**April 2022:** All necessary SEQRA review forms are finalized. Construction plan finalized and approved by the College.

**May 2022:** Site construction begins.

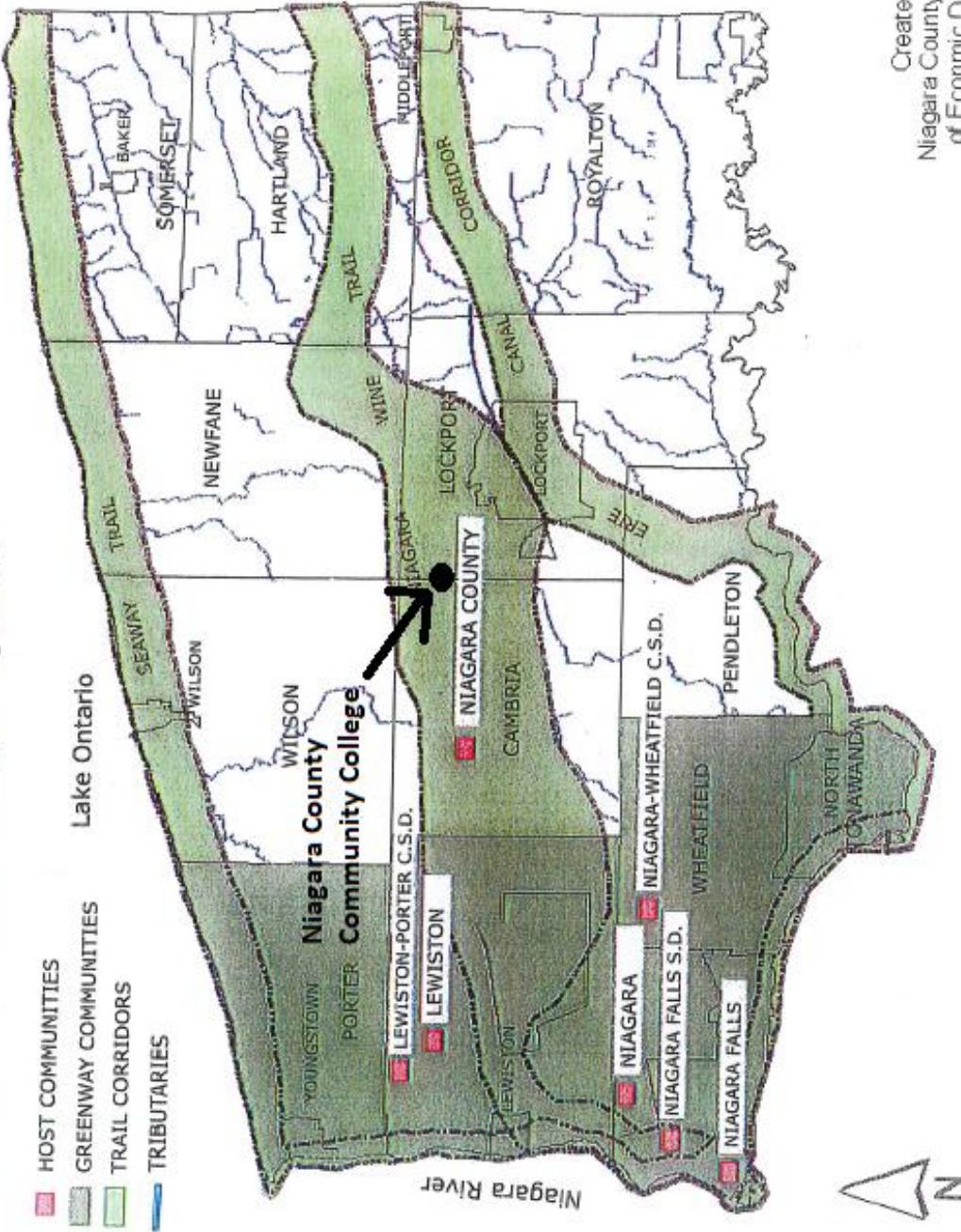
**August 2022:** Construction completed.

**September 2022:** NCCC Operations Division performs final site inspection, completes any necessary maintenance on or around the site.

**Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022:** NCCC Veterans Memorial Park is officially unveiled to the public for Veterans Day and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCCC celebration.

**December 2022:** Project Finalization and Closeout.

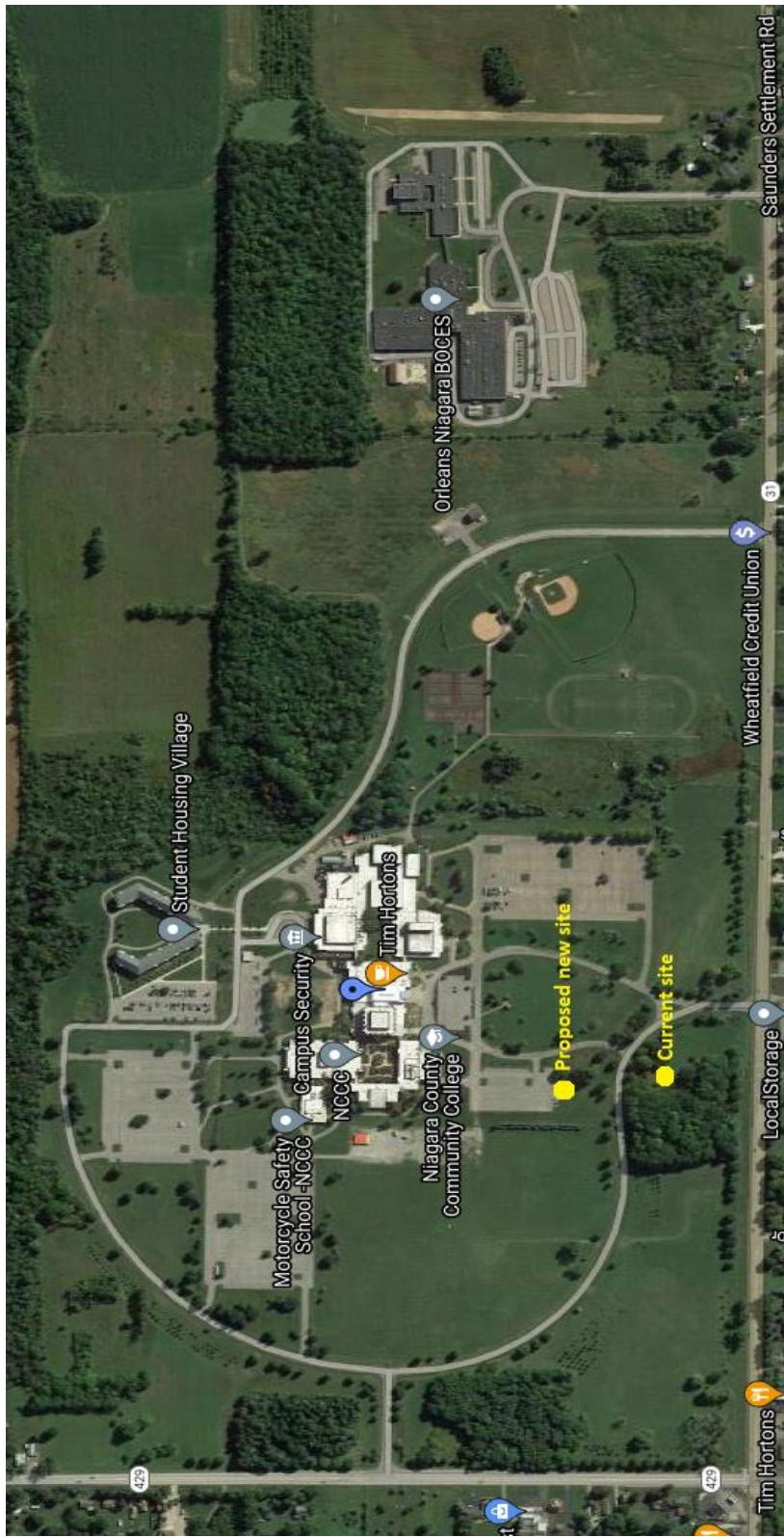
## Niagara River Greenway Proposal



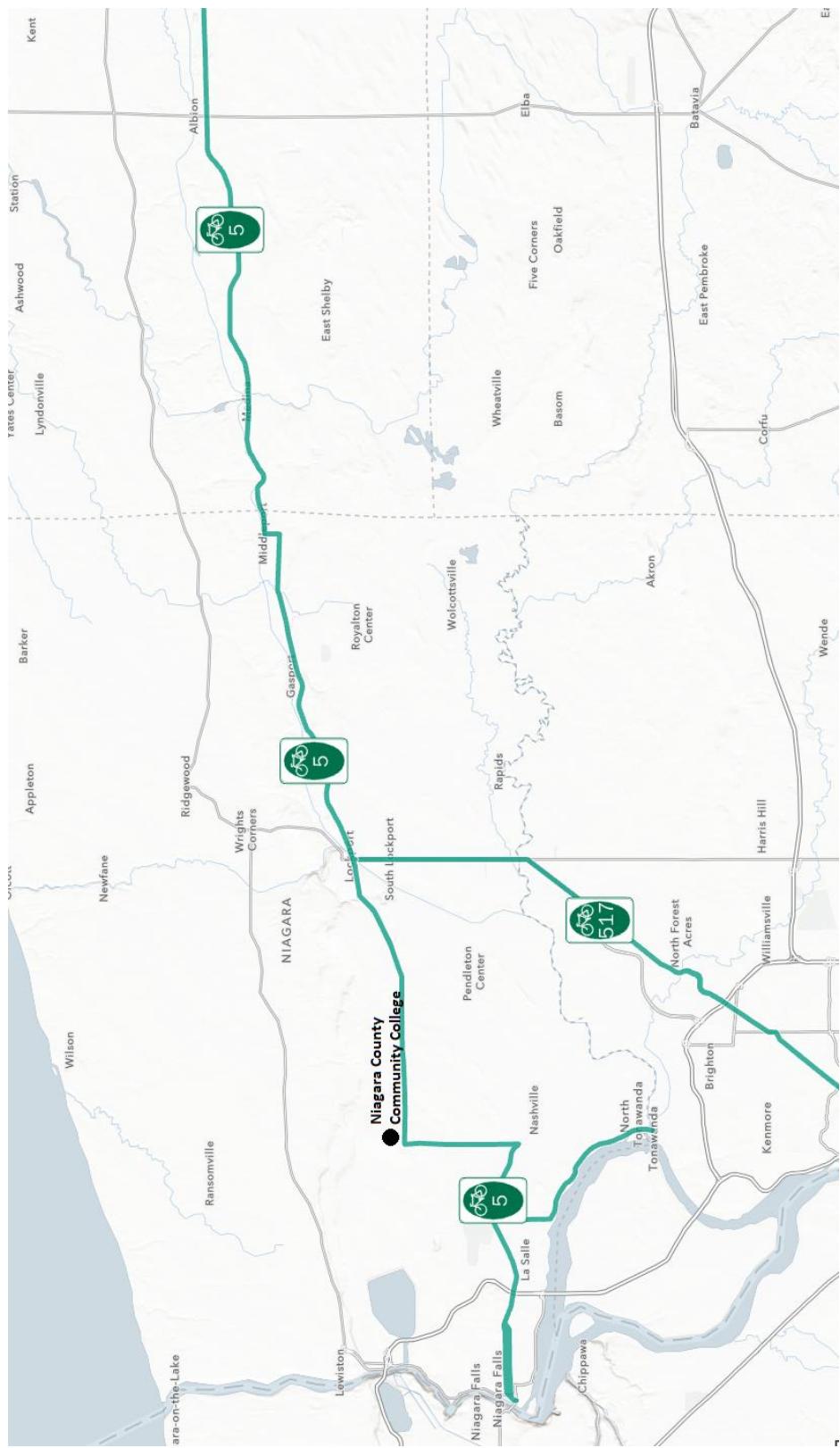
Above: NCCC's location within the Niagara River Greenway

## MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Created by  
Niagara County Department  
of Economic Development



Above: Google Map location image



Above: Proposed connection to New York State Bike Route 5

## **CURRENT SITE PHOTOS**



Large trees prevent visibility of site as well as render existing site renovation impossible without environmental remediation.

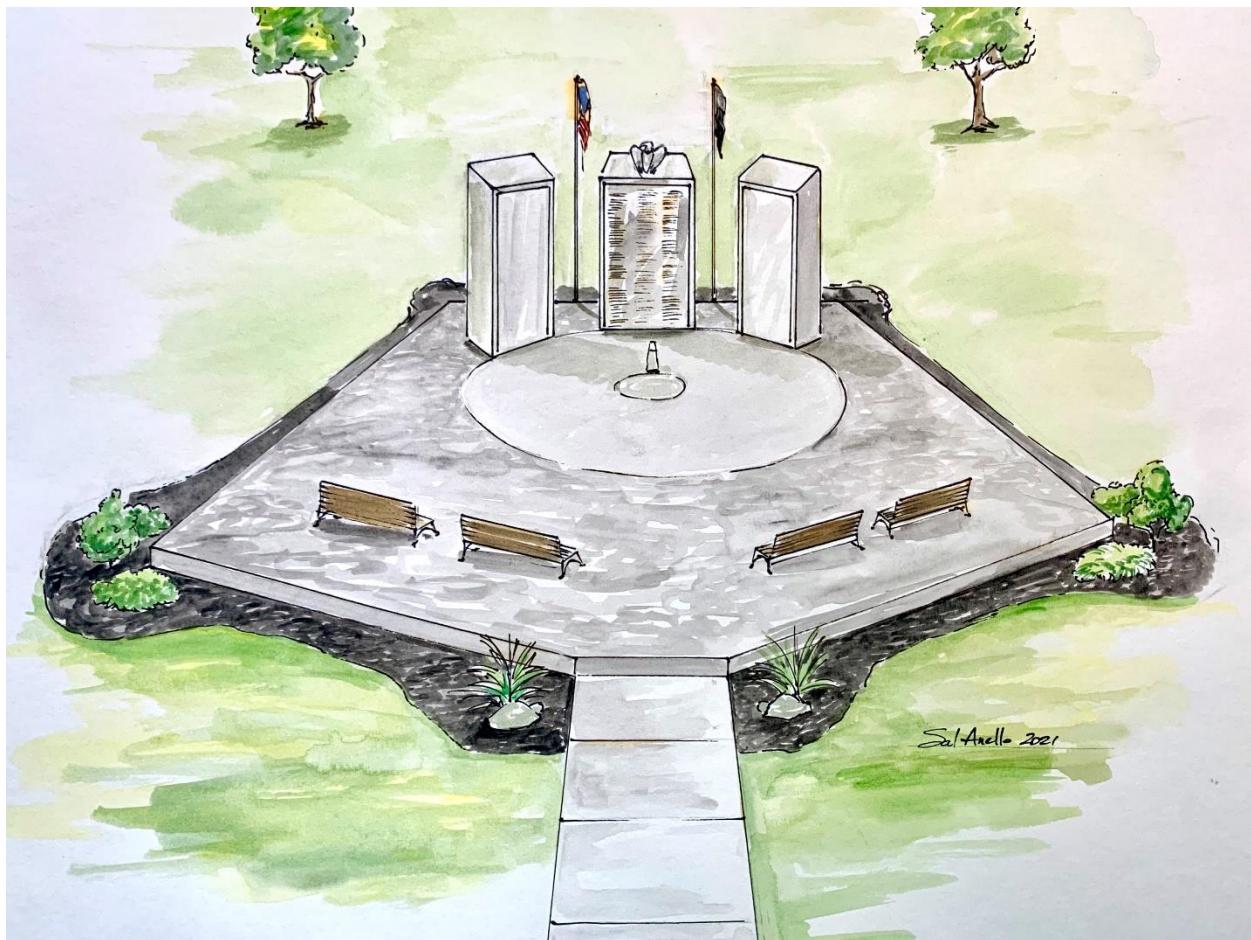




The new site will be located across the street directly adjacent to Campus Parking Lot 3, which will allow visibility, accessibility, and availability of parking nearby.



## **NEW NCCC VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK PROPOSED DESIGN**



### **SEQRA STATEMENT**

NCCC has worked with engineering consultants in the planning of this project and in the preparation of this application. While a full SEQRA review will take place upon funding, the consultant agreed that there would be no adverse impacts on the environment through this project. NCCC Veterans Memorial Park will be located within a spot of land just off the main campus parking lot and away from any wildlife habitats. The College fully anticipates a Negative Declaration to be issued upon completion of the SEQRA review. Any necessary review forms will be completed and sent prior to the commencement of construction, or as requested.

### **LETTERS OF SUPPORT (ATTACHED BELOW)**

Lisa Vitello, Administrative Director  
Niagara River Greenway Commission  
P.O. Box 1132  
Niagara Falls NY 14303

**RE: Letter of Support for the NCCC Foundation, Inc. to obtain Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to relocate and expand the Niagara County Community College Veterans Memorial.**

Dear Niagara Greenway Commission:

I am pleased to provide my strong support for the NCCC Foundation, Inc. in their endeavor to attain funding to relocate and beautify the Veterans Memorial located at Niagara County Community College (NCCC) into a proper community destination, Veterans Memorial Park.

The efforts brought forth by NCCC will allow the surrounding community to honor those who have served through events held at Veterans Memorial Park. As a USMC Vietnam Combat Veteran myself, and a Niagara County legislator for the 10th District for over 11 years, I have been a strong proponent of those who work to honor our military through worthy projects such as this one. The expansion of this monument into a park capable of holding large community events and acting as an area of engagement for the county will greatly enhance our region moving forward.

Community togetherness, reinvigoration of a meaningful piece of history, and respect for our military will be the major focuses of this project. NCCC and its Foundation will utilize Veterans Memorial Park as a means of bringing more visitors to Niagara County. Veterans Day and Memorial Day events already attract visitors to the College, and these renovations to the park will offer an increase in capacity while also offering visitors a more meaningful experience.

Upon completion, the park will benefit and honor generations of veterans across Niagara County. Your support will help NCCC turn this vision into a reality, and I wholeheartedly support the efforts to obtain funding for this worthy project. Please contact my office at (716) 751-9606 if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



David E. Godfrey  
Chairman of Public Safety  
Niagara County Legislator, 10th District

**ALBANY OFFICES**  
ROOM 909 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2024

ROOM 315 STATE CAPITOL  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2070



**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
175 WALNUT STREET  
SUITE #6  
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094  
(716) 434-0680

**E-MAIL**  
[ORTT@NYSENATE.GOV](mailto:ORTT@NYSENATE.GOV)  
**WEBSITE:**  
[ORTT.NYSENATE.GOV](http://ORTT.NYSENATE.GOV)

**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY 12247**

**ROBERT G. ORTT  
62ND SENATE DISTRICT  
SENATE MINORITY LEADER**

July 26, 2021

Lisa Vitello, Administrative Director  
Niagara River Greenway Commission  
P.O. Box 1132  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

**RE: Letter of Support for the NCCC Foundation, Inc. to obtain Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to relocate and expand the Niagara County Community College Veterans Memorial.**

Dear Niagara Greenway Commission:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the NCCC Foundation, Inc. in obtaining funding to relocate and expand the Veterans Memorial located at Niagara County Community College (NCCC) into a destination, Veterans Memorial Park.

This project is an opportunity to serve the greater Niagara County veteran community and honor those who served in the armed forces. Expanding the current standalone monument into a small memorial park will enable the College to offer community programming celebrating Niagara County's proud armed forces heritage. Alumni, area veterans, and their families will be honored annually during Veterans Day ceremonies at this park. As a veteran myself, I would like to share my enthusiastic support for NCCC in this endeavor.

The College's proposal will rehabilitate a historic resource in the county, which directly meets the Greenway's mission of developing historic resources throughout the Greenway corridor. In developing this existing site into a community asset to hold events, NCCC's Veterans Memorial Park will offer opportunities for visitors to learn the stories of our region's armed forces.

Upon completion, the park will benefit and honor generations of veterans across Niagara County. Your support will help NCCC turn this vision into a reality, and I wholeheartedly support the efforts to obtain funding for this worthy project. Please contact my office at (716) 434-0680 if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Ortt".

Robert G. Ortt  
New York State Senate, 62<sup>nd</sup> District  
Minority Leader



# City of Niagara Falls, New York

Robert M. Restaino  
Mayor

September 14, 2021

Niagara River Greenway Commission  
P.O. Box 1132  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Dear Niagara Greenway Commission,

On behalf of the City of Niagara Falls, I would like to proudly share my endorsement for Niagara County Community College's (NCCC) project to relocate and expand their existing Veterans Memorial Park located on their Sanborn campus. Our Host Community, the City of Niagara Falls, is committed to collaboration in support of NCCC in their endeavor to fully fund this project through grants and donations.

As a graduate of NCCC, I am familiar with the existing memorial and the importance it holds on campus. With upgrades to its structure and a more prominent location, it will be an excellent meeting point that encourages community togetherness, particularly during Veterans Day and Memorial Day events. This memorial will act as a beacon of hope and pride for the heroes throughout Niagara County that have served our country in the armed forces.

As the mayor of Niagara Falls, I assess initiatives by the good they will bring to the community; I am certain that NCCC will do such good with a memorial that commemorates our military members and attracts visitors from surrounding areas. This is an effort for which I am honored to advocate, as residents and visitors to our region will have a place of remembrance to pay homage to those who have served. Thank you for considering their proposal.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Restaino  
Mayor, City of Niagara Falls



**VETERANS ONE-STOP CENTER OF WNY**  
**WE EMPOWER VETERANS**

October 6, 2020

NCCC Foundation, Inc.  
3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
Sanborn, NY 14132

RE: Letter of Support for the NCCC Foundation, Inc. to obtain funding expanding the NCCC Community Veteran's Monument.

To whom it may Concern:

I'm writing this letter of support for the NCCC Foundation, Inc. to obtain funding to expand and beautify the NCCC Community Veterans Memorial Park located at Niagara County Community College (NCCC) into a destination, Veterans Memorial Park.

This project affords NCCC an opportunity to serve the greater Niagara County veteran community in providing a Veterans Memorial Park representative of those who served in the armed forces. Expanding into a small park from the current standalone monument, would enable the College to offer community programming celebrating Niagara County's proud heritage of armed forces enlistment. Beginning with former alumni and previous students, area veterans, and their families would be invited to be memorialized on the park's monument to be honored annually during Veterans Day ceremonies.

From Lockport to Niagara Falls, the impact of this project would endure for generations to come. To date, my office is aware the College has had limited success in obtaining funding for such a worthy endeavor from public sources. We are confident a local, private funder will see value in fielding an application for such a community asset.

Sincerely,

Chuck Marra  
President & CEO

# WNY Heroes, Inc.

Supporting Our Western New York Veterans

WNY Heroes, Inc. office graciously donated by:



NCCC Foundation, Inc.  
3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
Sanborn, NY 14132

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Sincerely,

  
Christopher Kreiger  
Iraq War Veteran  
President/Co-Founder  
WNYHeroes, Inc.

September 16, 2021

Lisa Vitello, Administrative Director  
Niagara River Greenway Commission  
P.O. Box 1132  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Dear Lisa,

I am the owner of a small sandwich shop, Tortuga, in the small town of Sanborn, New York. The closest major landmark to our business is Niagara County Community College, which attracts students and members of the community from all over the county and beyond. I am sending you this letter to support their efforts to gain funding for Veterans Memorial Park located on their College campus.

As a successful small business owner located near the College, and also a resident, I believe this park will become a major part of our community for years to come. Just as the College attracts visitors from a number of areas, this memorial will bring bike and foot traffic to the campus and our surrounding businesses.

The NCCC Veterans Memorial Park is a worthy project that will have an impact on our Sanborn and Niagara County communities. I plan on being in Sanborn for many years into the future, and I plan to visit this memorial along with other residents once the project comes to fruition. Thank you for taking the time to review the application for funding.

Sincerely,



Andrew Smiedala  
Tortuga Sandwich Shop  
Sanborn, NY



---

P.O. Box 1027 • Buffalo, NY 14240-1027 • 716-635-5124

---

**John Persons**  
President

September 20, 2021

Lisa Vitello, Administrative Director  
Niagara River Greenway Commission  
P.O. Box 1132  
Niagara Falls NY 14303

Dear Lisa,

As the community's hometown grocery store, Tops Friendly Markets prides itself in living up to our Neighbors Helping Neighbors mission and giving back to the communities we serve. Our Sanborn store, adjacent to the Niagara County Community College here in Sanborn, NY proudly serves as the sole grocery store in the area, serving not only residents, but students on campus as well, offering convenience, value, and the products they want and need, every day.

In our role, we feel it's important to support projects that continue to enhance the value of our community and help it continue to thrive and that's why I am writing today in our support of the expansion project for the Veterans Memorial Park. In seeing the plans for the expansion, we are confident that it will bring increased foot and bike traffic not only to the campus, but to the surrounding community and businesses alike and increase tourism to the area. Additionally, Tops has a longstanding history of supporting our Veterans and see establishment of this Veteran Memorial Park as an endeavor which aligns with our mission and vision for honoring veterans in the communities we are located within.

If you have any questions about our alignment and support of this campaign, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Persons".

John Persons  
President  
Tops Friendly Markets



September 20, 2021

Lisa Vitello, Administrative Director  
Niagara River Greenway Commission  
P.O. Box 1132  
Niagara Falls NY 14303

To Whomever it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the development of a Veterans Memorial Park at Niagara County Community College (NCCC). As a small business owner operating a Subway franchise located in close proximity to the NCCC campus in Sanborn, NY, I appreciate anything the College can offer to potentially draw visitors to our community. My business very much does derive foot traffic from those who visit and/or conduct business at the College.

Beyond business, I can say candidly that I am a proud supporter of anything which benefits our area veterans. I believe placing such a park on campus dedicated to honoring the service of our veterans would indeed be a fitting tribute. Please know moving forward this project has my full support and I am hopeful that your board will join me in this position as well. Please kindly consider supporting the project outlined in the attached proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Constance McCrosskey".  
Subway Franchisee  
2846 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
Sanborn, NY 14132

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Constance McCrosskey".

NCCC Foundation, Inc.  
3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
Sanborn, NY 14132

RE: Letter of Support for the NCCC Foundation, Inc. to obtain funding expanding the NCCC Community Veteran's Monument.

To whom it may Concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the NCCC Foundation, Inc. in obtaining funding to expand and beautify the NCCC Community Veterans Memorial Park located at Niagara County Community College (NCCC) into a destination, Veterans Memorial Park.

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From Lockport to Niagara Falls, the impact of this project would endure for generations to come. To date, my office is aware the College has had limited success in obtaining funding for such a worthy endeavor from public sources. We are confident a local, private funder will see value in fielding an application for such a community asset.

Sincerely,



Karl Hinterberger  
Army, Disabled

GREG METZGER  
4603 TONAWANDA CRK. RD  
N. TONAWANDA ,NY 14120  
PHONE & FAX-----716-694-4574  
E-MAIL --- [books4cars@roadrunner.com](mailto:books4cars@roadrunner.com)

Joseph Potalivo  
Veteran Services / Financial Aid  
Niagara County Community College

7 October, 2020

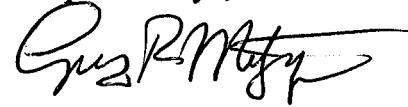
Mr. Potalovo:

Mr Gordie Bellinger forwarded the enclosed letter and petition to me as he knew I would be in support . Being a 50 year resident of Pendleton. a father of 2 NCCC graduates and a original member of the Pendleton Veteran Association He was correct .

Please keep me informed as to anything and everything pertaining to this noble and needed effort to honor all veterans and especially Alumni and Niagara County residents.

I have copied the petition letter and will distribute to veteran friends and neighbors .

Respectfully ,



Greg R Metzger

10/7/2020

NCCC Foundation, Inc.  
3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
Sanborn, NY 14132

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Sincerely,



**INSERT TITLE**

GRBG R MBT29 ER  
V.P Pendleton Veteran Assn.

NCCC Foundation, Inc.  
3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
Sanborn, NY 14132  
Attn Mr Joseph Patalivo

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Sincerely,

*Colleen O'neals*  
General Manager  
**INSERT TITLE**  
*Tonawanda Park Ranger Clerk*  
*6173 Townline Rd*  
*Lockport NY 14210-9211*  
*0716-432-7858*

NCCC Foundation, Inc.  
3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
Sanborn, NY 14132  
Attn Mr Joseph Potalivo

RE: Letter of Support for the NCCC Foundation, Inc. to obtain funding expanding the NCCC Community Veteran's Monument.

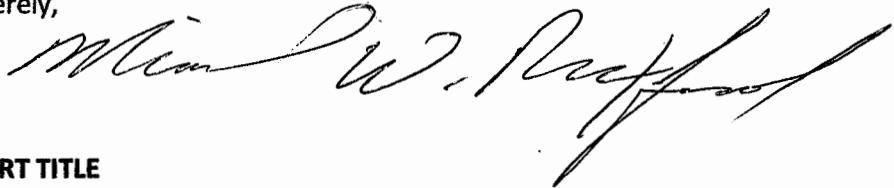
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Sincerely,



INSERT TITLE

Michael W. REXFORD  
ARMY E5 1969-1971  
694-2093

NCCC Foundation, Inc.  
3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
Sanborn, NY 14132  
Attn Mr Joseph Patalivo

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Sincerely,

INSERT TITLE

MMSGT Wayne Jacobs  
US AIR FORCE RETIRED  
716-983-0209