

Buffalo & Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee

City of Buffalo • Erie County • Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy • New York Power
Authority

2014 Annual Report Activity through January 31, 2015

March 24, 2015

The Erie County / City of Buffalo Relicensing Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) was reached in support of the Application for a new License for the Niagara Power Project. One of the provisions of the Agreement is for the Power Authority (“NYPA”) to support the establishment of the Erie County Greenway Fund (“Fund”) with an annual \$2 million payment for the life of the License beginning in October 2007. The Fund is administered by a Committee comprised of one member each from the City of Buffalo, Erie County, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy and NYPA.

One of the requirements of the Agreement is to provide an Annual Report from the Committee to NYPA which shall include:

- A summary of all active projects funded by the Committee;
- A project by project list of all expenditures;
- A detailed list of planned expenditures for the upcoming year;
- An updated balance sheet of the Fund, and
- Any significant correspondence.

The Committee began organizing in 2007 and in the spring of 2008 adopted Committee Protocols. One of the Agreement commitments was for the Committee to appoint a Trustee. The process consumed a great deal of time, the Committee entered into a Trustee agreement with the Bank of America in September 2009.

Additionally, in early 2009 the Committee reached agreement for grant management services with the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. The primary responsibilities of the Foundation are to monitor project progress to ensure deliverables and provide for timely fund disbursements. The Foundation will monitor progress from a project plan submitted by the proponents and approved by the Committee. In 2010, the Committee extended the contract with the Foundation through 2012 with an option to renew for 2013 and 2014. At the October 29, 2013 meeting, the committee exercised the option to extend the contract with the Foundation for both years.

NYPA transferred \$2 million, representing the 2014 annual payment, at the end of October 2014 to the Fund.

To date, the Committee has reviewed over 67 projects and approved support to 39 projects. In all, the Fund has received \$16 million in payments from NYPA and committed over \$13.5 million to projects, some projects are multiple year awards. Of the 39 projects, 29 have successfully completed the work the Committee funded; another 10 are expected to complete all Committee funded work by the end of 2015.

In 2008, the Committee had reviewed and approved for funding the following projects:

- Fisherman's Landing -- Town of Grand Island \$400,482
- Shoreline Trail Signage -- Erie County \$205,000
- Scajaquada Creekside Trail -- Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy \$1,210,467

In 2009, the Committee had reviewed and approved for funding the following projects:

- LaSalle Park – City of Buffalo \$654,830
- Park Pavilion - City of Tonawanda \$866,970
- Minnow Pools at Riverside Park --Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy \$305,000

In 2010, the Committee was very active, approving the following 6 new projects which commit \$2,444,681 to the establishment of the Niagara River Greenway. The Committee temporarily instituted a 10% holdback policy for projects funded pending further consideration of a permanent policy adopted by the Committee.

- Union Ship Canal -- Buffalo Urban Development Corporation \$385,000
- Riverside Park Concourse -- Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy \$56,175
- Land Acquisition Study -- Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper \$100,000
- LaSalle Park Phase 2/ Porter Avenue -- City of Buffalo \$993,506
- Riverfest Park -- Valley Community Association \$410,000
- Tift Nature Preserve Sustainability Center Expansion --Buffalo Museum of Science \$225,000 in 2010 funds and \$275,000 in 2011 funds.

In 2011, the Committee was very active approving projects and inspecting the work of projects that have received support. The Committee received several projects for consideration and was able to review all submissions through the website of the Community Foundation. Seven projects were approved this year totaling over \$1.1 million.

- Tift Street Pier -- City of Buffalo -- \$470,000
- Fenian Invasion Marker -- Fenian Marker Committee: -- \$21,108
- Adaptive Paddle sports Launch System -- City of Tonawanda \$75,325
- Black Rock Heritage Trail War of 1812 Project -- Northwest Buffalo Community Development Center -- \$105,000
- Black Rock Canal Park Improvements --Erie County \$900,000 (\$135,000 2010 funds; \$765,000 in 2011 and 2012 fund).
- River Fest Park Phase II -- Valley Community Association \$250,000
- Fireboat Cotter -- Friends of the Cotter \$60,000 Challenge Grant.

In 2012, the Committee received twelve funding requests and provided support totaling \$1.85 million to the following projects:

- Bird Island Pier Project – City of Buffalo \$750,000
- War of 1812 Bicentennial Signage -- Seaway Trail \$15,000
- Tonawanda Shoreline Stabilization Proposal – City of Tonawanda \$250,000

- Front Park -- Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy \$435,750
- Riverfest Park -- Valley Community Association \$104,000
- Scenic Woods Bicentennial Park -- Town of Grand Island for \$164,371
- 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration – 1812 Legacy Council \$127,500

In 2013, the Committee received 15 funding requests and provided support totaling \$1.8 million to the following projects:

- Buffalo Museum of Science Tifft – Education Center, Phase 1 \$150,000*
- ADA Accessible Fishing Pier – City of Tonawanda \$210,000
- Waterfront Landscaping Planning – Town of Tonawanda \$70,000
- Front Park Phase II – Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy \$433,650
- Bird Island Pier Phase II – City of Buffalo \$750,000
- Francis Folsom Weather Inlet – Cazenovia Community Center \$187,800

In 2014, the Committee received six funding requests and provided support totaling over \$1.7 million to the following projects:

- Buffalo Museum of Science Tifft – Education Center, Phase 1 \$112,500*
- Scajaquada Creek Paddlesport Launch Micro-Park–Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper \$601,987
- Crowley Avenue Shelter Enhancements – Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy \$729,000
- Buffalo River Rowing Center – Buffalo Scholastic Rowing Association \$100,000
- Francis Folsom Weather Inlet – Cazenovia Resource Center, Phase 2 \$157,365
- USS Trippe – Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Legacy Council \$35,000

*Allocated with multiple year awards

Open Project Status Reports:

2013 Funds

Grantee: **Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper**
Project Name: **Scajaquada Creek Paddlesport Launch Micro-Park**
Grant Amount: \$470,305 (2014 \$131,682) for total of \$601,987
Proposed Timeline: ~15 months – May 2014 – February 2015

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$169,315	5/15/14	5/2/14
Disbursement 2: \$168,000	8/15/14	10/21/14 requested
Disbursement 3: \$ 85,960	10/15/14	
Projected Completion: February 2015		

Holdback 10%: \$ 47,030
Delay in bid package submittal.

Grantee: **Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy**
Project Name: **Crowley Avenue Shelter Enhancements**
Grant Amount: \$729,000
Proposed Timeline: 4/30/14 – 12/31/14

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$ 39,000	4/30/14	5/5/14
Disbursement 2: \$255,600	6/30/14	11/5/14
Disbursement 3: \$361,500	9/30/14	12/4/14 requested
Projected Completion: 12/31/14 Q1 2015		
	Q2 2015	

Holdback 10%: \$ 72,900 12/15/14
The preconstruction meeting for the Shelter Improvements portion of the project was held on 12/18/14. The contractor will be progressing with the interior renovations during the winter months but due to the long lead time and potential weather conditions the exterior roof work delays are anticipated. The roof construction is expected to begin in the spring and the entire project to be closed out at Quarter 2 of 2015.

Grantee: **Buffalo Scholastic Rowing Association (BSRA)**
Project Name: **Buffalo River Rowing Center**
Grant Amount: \$100,000
Proposed Timeline: 5/1/14 – 12/31/14

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$ 90,000	9/1/14	9/4/14
Disbursement 2: \$		
Disbursement 3: \$		
Projected Completion: 12/31/14		
Holdback 10%: \$ 10,000	12/15/14	

Documentation submittal on the status update on the Buffalo Scholastic Rowing Association Greenway grant requested by BECGFSC.

Grantee: **Niagara 1812 Legacy Council**
 Project Name: **USS Trippe**
 Grant Amount: \$35,000
 Proposed Timeline: fall 2014 – spring 2015

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$31,500	Q1 2015	2/4/15
\$ 15,656		
Disbursement 2: \$ 15,844	Q1 2015	
Projected Completion:	Q2 2015	
Holdback 10%: \$ 3,500	Q2 2015	

 BECGFSC has received approval of project plan and recommended milestone payments and notified project contact on 2/19/2015 of intention to release disbursement 1 in January 2015.

2012 Funds

Grantee: **Buffalo Museum of Science**
 Project Name: **Tiftt – Education Center, Phase 1**
 Grant Amount: \$150,000 (match from Sci Museum - \$200K) from 2012 funds
 \$112,500 from 2013 funds
 \$112,500 from 2014 funds
 \$375,000

Proposed Timeline:

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$150,000	3/1/14	3/24/14
Disbursement 2: \$ 112,500	6/1/14	10/9/14
Disbursement 3: \$ 75,000	1/15/15	
Projected Completion:	Q1 2015	
Holdback 10%: \$ 37,500	3/31/15	

 Remaining amount to be disbursed is \$112,500, 2014 funds.

Grantee: **City of Tonawanda**
 Project Name: **ADA Accessible Fishing Pier at Gateway Harbor**
 Grant Amount: \$210,000
 Proposed Timeline:

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$ 94,500	Sept/Oct 2013	
	Q2 2014	
Disbursement 2: \$ 94,500	March 2014	
	Q4 2014	
Projected Completion:	August 2014	
	Q4 2014	
	Q2 2015	

Holdback 10%: \$ 21,000
 The project was bid and awarded. All of the major construction done in 2014 with landscaping extended to the spring 2015.

2011 Funds

Grantee: **Grand Island**
Project Name: **Scenic Woods – Bicentennial Park**
Grant Amount: \$164,321
Proposed Timeline:

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$46,461	March 2013	
Disbursement 2: \$41,070	August 2013	
Disbursement 3: \$60,358	October 2013	
Projected Completion:	July 2014	
Holdback 10%: \$16,432	July 2014	

The Town did not receive the additional funding they applied for under the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). The design work is completed but reimbursement has not been submitted to BECGFSC. The Engineering Dept. is waiting on the Town Board decision of how much of the project is to be advanced before a bid package is put together. A project status update has been requested.

Grantee: **Seaway Trail**
Project Name: **War of 1812 Outdoor Storyteller Signs**
Grant Amount: \$15,000
Proposed Timeline:

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$13,500		9/25/12
Disbursement 2: \$		
Disbursement 3: \$		
Projected Completion:	11/30/12	
Holdback 10%: \$1,500	12/15/12	

The three locations for signs are:
End of Erie Street
Niagara Square
Tow Path Park

Making repeated efforts via email and telephone to contact the organization to discuss the required documentation needed to release the remaining funds and close out this grant.

2010 Funds

Grantee: Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
Project Name: River Rock Gardens - Riverside Park
Grant Amount: \$220,350 (plus \$217,500 from '08 funds not yet released = \$437,850)

Proposed Timeline: anticipate completion spring 2013

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$ 96,216	6/1/12	7/5/12
Disbursement 2: \$140,818	9/1/12 Q1 2013 April/May 2013	4/25/13
Disbursement 3: \$156,941	4/1/13 6/30/13	7/25/14

Projected Completion: August 2013
~~6/30/13~~ 9/30/13
~~Q2-2014~~ Q3-2014 Q2 2015

Holdback 10%: \$ 43,875

The project is nearly complete and approx. \$40,000 in construction monies remaining. Remaining \$40,000 will be spent after funding from the state has been reimbursed resulting in pushing out the final completion of this project into Q2 – 2015.

Grantee: **Erie County Department of Environment & Planning**
 Project Name: **Black Rock Canal Park Improvements**
 Grant Amount: \$135,000 per email 7/14 only need \$60K in 2011
 Proposed Timeline: Phase I design – to be complete 2/1/12

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$ 60,000	12/31/11 4/2/12	9/14/12 \$ 2,382 10/15/12 \$33,873
Disbursement 2: \$400,000 12/31/12		2/11/13 \$98,638 3/28/13 \$79,283
Disbursement 3: \$120,000 4/1/13		7/26/13 \$302,543 7/8/14 \$101,087 10/21/14 \$33,856 12/23/14 \$35,444

Disbursement 4: \$320,000 12/31/13
 Projected Completion: ~~12/31/13~~ 6/30/2015
 Holdback 10%: \$ 0 not applicable b/c pay upon receipt

Below is an estimated revised project schedule:
 Advertise/Release Revised Bid Documents November 19th
 Bids Due December 18th
 Legislative Approval of Contract January 16th
 Construction Start March 15th (weather depending)
 Construction Completion June 30th

10/20/14 received request for seventh payment in the amount of \$33,856.40.
 10/21/14 requested release of \$33,856.40
 12/17/14 received request for eighth payment in the amount of \$35,444.80
 12/23/14 requested release of \$35,444.80

Projects Closed in 2014:

2009 Funds

Grantee: **City of Buffalo**
 Project Name: **LaSalle Park Phase 2/Army Corps - Component 2**
 Grant Amount: \$250,000
 Proposed Timeline: 10/1/10 – 9/30/12

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$125,000	9/10/10	10/13/10
Disbursement 2: \$100,000	10/1/11 3/31/12	3/29/12
Projected Completion: 2/1/11 7/31/13	Q1 2014	
Holdback 10%: \$ 25,000	9/30/12 12/30/12 7/31/13	3/5/14 Q12014

CLOSED 3/5/14

2010 Funds

Grantee: **Valley Community Association**
 Project Name: **Buffalo River Fest Park**
 Grant Amount: \$250,000 (Design/Engineering fees)
 Proposed Timeline: 6 months

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$125,000	11/1/11 4/15/12 3/31/12	4/23/12
Disbursement 2: \$125,000	1/31/12 9/30/12	6/21/13
Will be released upon receipt of completed, signed drawings.		
Projected Completion:	1/31/12 9/30/12 3/31/13	12/5/14
Holdback 10%: \$ 0		

CLOSED 12/31/14

Grantee: **City of Buffalo**
 Project Name: **Tift Street Pier**
 Grant Amount: \$470,000
 Proposed Timeline: 9/1/11 – 11/1/12

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$211,500	9/1/11	2/10/12
Disbursement 2: \$211,500	6/1/12	10/30/14
Projected Completion:	11/1/12	
Holdback 10%: \$ 47,000	11/15/12	10/30/14

CLOSED 10/30/14

2011 Funds

Grantee: **Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy**
Project Name: **Front Park Gateway**
Grant Amount: \$435,750
Proposed Timeline: anticipate completion December 2012

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$ 55,600	6/1/12	7/5/12
Disbursement 2: \$168,287	9/1/12	10/16/12
Disbursement 3: \$168,288	12/1/12 Apr/May 2013	10/2/13
Projected Completion: 12/31/12 6/30/13 Q4 2013		Q1 2014
Holdback 10%: \$ 43,575		2/24/14

CLOSED 2/24/14

Grantee: **Valley Community Association**
Project Name: **Buffalo River Fest Park**
Grant Amount: \$104,000 – dock extension w/ new pilings
Proposed Timeline:

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$10,000	Q3 2012	
		\$37,000 3/12/13
Disbursement 2: \$83,600 \$56,600	Q1 2013	6/18/13
Projected Completion: Q2 2013		Q1 2014
Holdback 10%: \$10,400		3/5/14

CLOSED 3/5/14

2012 Funds

Grantee: **Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy**
Project Name: **Front Park Gateway, Phase 2**
Grant Amount: \$433,650
Proposed Timeline: 8 months (2 months bid process & 6 months work)

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$ 170,033	Q2 2013	7/2/13
Disbursement 2: \$ 220,253	Q3 2013	10/25/13
Disbursement 3: \$		
Projected Completion: Q4 2013 Q4 2014		
Holdback 10%: \$ 43,365 Q4 2013 Q4 2014		12/23/14

CLOSED 12/23/14

12/23/14 all final expense docs and narrative report submitted.
Requested release of holdback \$\$43,365; 2/19/2015

Grantee: **Town of Tonawanda**
 Project Name: **Waterfront Landscaping – Planning**
 Grant Amount: \$70,000
 Proposed Timeline: 8 months

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$ 31,500	6/1/13	6/11/13
Disbursement 2: \$ 31,500	9/1/13	
Projected Completion: 12/31/13 11/30/14		2/2/15 - \$38,500
Q1-2014 Q3-2014		
Holdback 10%: \$ 7,000		

PROJECT CLOSED 2/3/15

2013 Funds

Grantee: Cazenovia Resource Center, Phase 2
 Project Name: Francis Folsom Cleveland Fair Weather Inlet
 Grant Amount: \$157,365
 Proposed Timeline:

	Anticipated	Actual
Disbursement 1: \$ 78,683	Q2 2014	5/2/14
Disbursement 2: \$ 62,946	Q3 2014	9/25/14
Projected Completion:	Q3 2014	
Holdback 10%: \$ 15,736	Q3 2014	1/13/15

PROJECT CLOSED 1/13/15