Dear Dave, Peter and Brian,

In answer to your question about next steps, the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee will want to review and approve your planting plan for the Union Ship Canal site before finalizing this grant approval. We understand you may not have maintenance contracts, but the plan should include the basic terms of those contracts to assure plant survival to the greatest degree possible. We are interested in all the other details we listed in our letter as well. Meanwhile the committee has been compiling native plant information as guidance. Attached please find (1) a directory of sources for information and for plant material, and (2) a specific short list of possible trees and shrubs for the Union Ship Canal site, depending on specific soil and site conditions you will have.

Thanks,

Margaret
Sources on native plants and conservation landscaping  (last revised 3/2010)

Regional information


- NYS Conservation Department. *Biological Survey of the Erie-Niagara System*, 1928. This document contains a list of the native aquatic plant species found in the Niagara River.


Plant sources


- (from D. Spiering at Tifft) Prairie Moon Nursery in Winona, MN – “Not local, but many of the species they sell are native to WNY. This is the best native plant nursery I have ever encountered.” Also, Ernst Conservation Seed, Inc. in Meadville, PA. provided native plants used at restoration sites on the Buffalo River.

- Native Landscapes and Garden Center, Pawling, NY


- Russel’s Tree & Shrub Farm in East Amherst & Akron Tree Farms in Pendleton – Both focus on the non-natives and cultivars, but also carry natives.

The Plantsmen Nursery, Groton, NY


White Oak Nursery, Canandaigua--for native trees and shrubs. [http://www.whiteoaknursery.biz](http://www.whiteoaknursery.biz)

**Other good references**

- American Society of Landscape Architects has developed requirements for sustainable sites accreditation including guidance on native & non-native plants. [www.sustainablesites.org/report](http://www.sustainablesites.org/report)


- The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. [http://www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) A very informative and easy to use website for the gardener or restorationist. (D. Spiering)


A short list of native trees and shrubs for the Union Ship Canal site

These species represent some of the ecological values that the GESC wants to cultivate in the Niagara River Greenway, including remediating degraded sites, restoring native plant communities, and increasing food and habitat for native and migratory wildlife.

Most of these species naturally occurred together in what Carol Reschke (Ecological Communities of NYS, NYS DEC, 2002) classified as a “Maple-basswood rich mesic forest” characteristic of the Great Lakes Plain ecozone. Some, like Eastern cottonwood and shrub willows, represent early colonizers that can survive in highly disturbed areas.

These are not the only native species that may be appropriate for the site and site goals, and some may not thrive. The BUDC planting plan should select on the basis of soil and substrate characteristics and maintenance plans that include deer protection.

Trees:

- American Basswood *Tilia Americana* (recommended for its historical presence along the Buffalo River, whose native name meant “Place of the Basswood.” Prefers partial sun or shade.)
- American Beech *Fagus grandifolia*
- American Sycamore *Plantanus occidentalis* (great sprouting characteristics for difficult sites)
- Black Cherry *Prunus serotina*
- Black Willow/other willow species *Salix spp.* (doing well there now – PAH remediation potential)
- Eastern Cottonwood *Populus deltoids*
- Red Maple *Acer rubrum*
- Red Oak *Quercus rubra*
- Tulip Tree *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- White Oak *Quercus alba*

Small trees/ shrubs:

- Choke cherry *Prunus virginiana*
- Crab apple *
- Elderberry *Sambucus Canadensis*
- Hawthorns *Crataegus spp.*
- Red osier dogwood *Cornus stolonifera/sericea* (on site now - but will be cleared)
- Serviceberry *Amelanchier spp.*
- Spicebush *Lindera benzoin* (not preferred by deer – shade)
- Staghorn Sumac *Rhus typhina* (on site now – but will be cleared)
- Witch hazel *Hamamelis virginiana*

* no specific species but choose one that holds fruit late into the fall / winter period