

<b>Niagara River Greenway</b> <b>ROUND 12, vote 11/17/2009</b>	<b>Buffalo Museum of Science - Tift Nature Preserve Sustainability Center Upgrade and Expansion Planning</b>	<b>New York State Parks - Heritage Park Restoration</b>	<b>New York State Parks - Niagara Falls State Park 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration</b>	<b>Wild Ones Niagara - Regional Economic Growth through Ecological Restoration of the Niagara Gorge Rim Study</b>
<u>Excellence / will meet world class standards</u>	The proposed project will allow for the continuation of almost 30 years of environmental education by the museum at Tift Nature Preserve and build upon the 150-year history of research and science education at the Buffalo Museum of Science.	The project will renovate an existing pocket park within the larger context of the world class Niagara Falls State Park.	Niagara Falls State Park is the oldest State Park in the nation. In 1885, the Niagara appropriations bill was signed into law, creating the Niagara Reservation. Events will occur throughout the year to celebrate the 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.	Information generated from the Restoration Plan would create a level of high quality projects - protecting existing greenway resources in the Niagara River Gorge Rim area.
<u>Sustainability / long-term viability &amp; effectiveness</u>	Alternative energy options, such as solar and wind power, will be incorporated into the design and operation of the new facility. An expansion to the existing building will also allow the museum to pursue addition uses and revenue sources to maintain and operate the Tift Nature Preserve.	This project will restore the Heritage Park to be more effective.	The project celebrates long-term effectiveness of the Niagara Falls State Park.	Ecological management guidelines, developed as part of this project, will acknowledge impacts from neighborhoods, tourists, traffic and other man-made intrusions. Guidelines will be developed for the built environment and the natural environment.
<u>Accessibility</u>	The building expansion will be fully accessible to all users.	The project will improve access.	Special events for all will be held throughout the year.	A circulation and transportation plan will focus on recommendations that balance the ecological community as a whole with usage potentials. It will also suggest enhancements for recreation and scenic views throughout the gorge.
<u>Ecological Integrity</u>	The expansion to the education center will use green building techniques and materials with the goal of LEED certification. The retrofit to the existing building will improve energy efficiency and reduce natural gas and electricity use. Features such as water saving toilets and high efficiency appliances will be used to reduce the building's ecological footprint.	The project will improve an existing facility.	Special interpretive programs may provide information on the ecological and natural significance of the resources in the park.	The Restoration Plan recognizes that the natural and man-made environments are required components to a sustainable and vibrant community, which must be measured, managed, and be put in balance with each other. That said, the Restoration Plan will provide a natural resource-based approach to guide environmental and community restoration in this area.
<u>Public Well-Being</u>	Tift Nature Preserve is a nature refuge dedicated to conservation and environmental education, with multiple trails and boardwalks for the pursuit of recreation opportunities.	The project will enhance visitor experience.	This project will enhance the tourist experience.	The Restoration Plan will be designed to promote physical activity and community engagement through recommendations to reconnect adjacent neighborhoods and tourists to this area.

<u>Connectivity</u>	This project will provide an increased capacity for public enjoyment of the Preserve.	The restored park will become an appropriate connection between the City of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Falls State Park.	The events will likely promote the park's location in the region.	The project will identify and analyze rationales for eliminating the Robert Moses Gorge Parkway, and integrating the open space with the adjacent communities.
<u>Restoration</u>	Educational displays and interpretation of the onsite restoration of an industrial brownfield will be placed on display in the center.	The project will better link the Park with the City of Niagara Falls and may spark further revitalization w/in the City.		The Restoration Plan will identify new projects that would restore ecological communities and stimulate (community) revitalization.
<u>Authenticity</u>	The Tift Nature Preserve will reflect the history of its location through educational displays and interpretation of the onsite restoration of an industrial brownfield.	The restored Heritage Park, through its cluster of monuments, will establish a clear sense of "place" and identity that reflects the traditional spirit and heritage of the area.	The year-long events will mark the 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Niagara Falls State Park.	
<u>Celebration</u>	Basic objective of the facility – Through education, interpretation and research, Tift Nature Preserve celebrates the natural and built environments.	In celebration of the 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Niagara falls State Park – a great number of plaques, monuments and engraved stone pieces (found around Niagara Falls State Park) will be placed in the restored Heritage Park.	This is the main purpose of the project.	
<u>Partnerships</u>	Tift Nature Preserve is owned by the City of Buffalo and leased by the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, i.e., Buffalo Museum of Science. Friends of Tift Nature Preserve, Inc., a separate non-profit group, assist with operating the preserve.	"Working with community organizations, the existing gazebo will be repaired as necessary, boulders with plaques marking historical accomplishments will be placed thematically throughout the park."	Private funds will also be sought to finance program events.	The Restoration Plan will encourage cooperation and collaboration amongst multiple entities, i.e., NYSOPRHP, NYSDOT, Niagara County, the City of Niagara Falls, the Village and Town of Lewiston, the New York Power Authority, Niagara University, and local neighborhood groups.
<u>Community Based</u>	The proposed project is consistent with the City of Buffalo Draft Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, and the South Buffalo Brownfield Opportunity Area.	The project will relocate, to Heritage Park, dozens of monuments honoring the accomplishments of local residents.		The project would further community plans: City of Niagara Falls Comprehensive Plan 2009; the Niagara Falls Waterfront Restoration Plan, Sasaki Associates (1992); the Niagara Falls Redevelopment Corp Plan, Jerde Partnership (1998). The project will include community input.

<u>Improve Access</u>	This project expands the capacity of the Tift Nature Preserve Center.	The project will allow visitors to gain a greater appreciation for their experience w/in the larger context of the nation's oldest State Park.	The resonance of the celebration could also be carried throughout the Greenway.	The Restoration Plan will provide recommendations for increased public access to the Niagara Gorge Rim, and identify opportunities to eliminate physical barriers created by the Parkway.
<u>Make Connections</u>	This project would provide the Tift Nature Preserve with the additional capacity to inform the public about the value and importance of the natural resources of the Niagara River Greenway.	The project will better link the Park with the City of Niagara Falls	The events will integrate stories with special installations and interpretive programs about the resources of the area.	As part of the gateway to the Niagara Falls region, increasing the physical connections along the Niagara Gorge Rim area will help link the surrounding communities and visitors to the entire Niagara Greenway system.
<u>Protect and Restore Environmental Systems</u>	Tift Nature Preserve is a recovering brownfield and its restoration and transformation into a nature preserve will be highlighted within the education center.	The project might advance this goal through placement of plaques referring to protection and restoration of the environment.	N/A	The Restoration Plan will identify projects that will enhance the parkland along the Niagara River and restore environmental health of the region through restoration efforts.
<u>Celebrate History and Heritage</u>	Educational displays and interpretation of the onsite restoration of an industrial brownfield would be provided by the project.	The plaques and monuments to be moved to the park will promote "telling the story".	Special interpretive programs will be provided throughout the year.	The Restoration Plan will develop recommendations for celebrating and sharing the unique history and heritage of the region – through interpretative and wayfinding signage.
<u>Spark Revitalization and Renewal</u>	This project will increase the space and tools for educational projects - to attract additional visitors.	This project will provide another attraction with the larger State Park.	The project will attract additional visitors and investment.	The Restoration Plan will lead to increased eco and heritage tourism that would spark revitalization, reinvestment and renewal in the Niagara River Gorge Rim area.
<u>Promote Long-Term Sustainability</u>	The facility would incorporate alternative energy practices, such as solar and wind power, to reduce dependence on non-renewable energy sources.	The project will improve and enhance an existing park.	125 years of the park - can't beat that for sustainability.	
<u>Extend Olmsted's Legacy</u>	N/A	The park retains Olmsted's vision as a place of natural beauty - open to all.	The park retains Olmsted's vision as a place of natural beauty - open to all.	This project extends Olmsted's legacy.
<u>1. Consistency with Principles</u>	yes/consistent	yes/consistent	yes/consistent	yes/consistent
<u>2. Priority Status</u>	yes/the project would help achieve the goals for the greenway	yes	yes	This is a plan that will lead to improved access, restored/ preserved ecological environments, and revitalized communities.

<u>3. Focus Area</u>	yes/Tift Nature Preserve is within the focus area	yes/Niagara Falls State Park is within the focus area	yes/Niagara Falls State Park is within the focus area	yes/the Niagara Gorge Rim area is within the focus area
<u>4. Environmental Soundness</u>	The expansion and retrofit to the education center will be designed with the environment in mind utilizing green building techniques and materials.	The project should not produce any negative impacts on the environment.	The project should not produce any negative impacts on the environment.	The Restoration Plan would not produce any negative impacts on the environment.
<u>5. Implementable</u>	Schedule and detailed costs not specified.	This project is easy to implement.	yes/this project is implementable.	The Restoration Plan should be completed by the end of 2010, with work beginning on recommended projects by 2011.
<u>6. Economic Viability</u>	Friends of Tift Nature Preserve, Inc., a separate non-profit group, assists with aspects of operating the preserve.	No excessive O&M costs would be expected	project cost of \$15,000 appears nominal for the benefits to be realized	This plan could become the foundation for the coordinated planning of future projects w/in the targeted area.
<u>7. Local Sponsor or Partner</u>	- Buffalo Museum of Science - Friends of Tift Nature Preserve, Inc.	NYS OPRHP	NYS OPRHP	Wild Ones Niagara will be the Restoration Plan's project sponsor. The City of Niagara will be the local sponsor.
<u>8. Matching Funds/ Leveraging</u>	-Grant proposal made to NYS OPRHP (\$600,000) -Potential funding from EPFLWRP (NYS Department of State)		private dollars will also be sought	No matching funds have been sought for the project.
<u>9. Consideration of other Planning Efforts</u>	-The project makes efficient use of/protects investment and building infrastructure. - The project is part of the expansion - supported by the Draft City of Buffalo LWRP and the South Buffalo Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA)			The Restoration Plan will examine the continuous barrier between the City and its waterfront due to the Robert Moses Parkway. Planning efforts of the last two decades have all suggested ways to mitigate the impact of the parkway. These include the Niagara Falls Waterfront Masterplan by Sasaki Associates (1992), the Niagara Falls Redevelopment Corp Plan by the Jerde Partnership (1998), and several others ending with the City of Niagara Falls' Comprehensive Plan of 2009.
<u>10. Clear Benefits</u>	Clear benefits of this project include: improved ability to provide environmental education and programming; increased sustainability and energy efficiency of the education center; and expanded uses and revenue sources to maintain and operate the Tift Nature Preserve.	The project will improve the cosmetics of the park while allowing visitors to gain an appreciation and education for its historical heritage.	Special programming relating to the project could bring more attention to the greenway.	The information generated from the Restoration Plan will create a level of high quality, objective analysis that <b>has the potential</b> to become the foundation for all future projects planned within this corridor.