

Phase 2: Niagara Greenway Habitat Strategy

Goal:

Complete the Conservation Action Planning process to identify specific opportunities for restoration and conservation of fish and wildlife habitat using all potential tools in the toolbox.

- Support the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan
- Support the Niagara River Greenway Plan and its goal to restore the Niagara River ecosystem
- Provide stakeholders with an organized and prioritized regional strategy document used to secure and leverage Federal, State and private funding for restoration implementation.

Key Objectives

1. Complete Development of Conservation Action Plan and Strategy Framework
2. Complete Baseline Field Data Gathering to Fill Gaps
3. Conduct Site Assessments for Up to 30 Best-Bet Conservation Opportunities

Objective 1. Complete development of Conservation Action Plan and Strategy Framework

- Finalize viability assessment to determine current and desired health conditions for features
- Identify and rank threats
- Conduct GIS analysis to support identification of opportunities
- Develop opportunity action plans for implementation into final Strategy document
- Engage and involve public stakeholders and technical advisory committee members



Objective 2. Complete Baseline Field Data Gathering

3 Components:

Stream Visual Assessment

- Partner with Buffalo State College using USDA methodologies.
- Collect in-stream information including channel condition, bank stability, riparian zone, nutrient enrichment, water appearance, in-stream fish cover, pools and canopy cover.
- Analyze information to determine overall stream reach condition.



Fish Barrier Analysis

- Assess 14 perennial streams for second and third barriers to movement
- Document barrier type, targeted species and mitigation options
- Identify best-bet opportunities and begin to leverage local and municipal resources for implementation



Little Sixmile Creek - Facing E off of River road.



Spicer Creek, West of Harvey Road.



Unnamed tributary-Grand Island

Map Wetlands/Seeps in Niagara River Gorge

- Map seeps along American Falls Trail and Great Gorge Railway Trail to Whirlpool Bridges
- Categorize data, document predominant plant species, potential for sensitive species, threat of invasive presence
- Identify immediate opportunities for pilot projects to mitigate threats of invasive species to wetland/seep communities in the Gorge.



Conduct Site Assessments for up to 30 Best-Bet Opportunities

Two-Step Approach

Desktop Components

- Conduct continuous GIS-assisted analysis using Phase 1 & 2 generated datasets and baseline environmental data
- Combine and compare query results with existing regional goals and priorities
- Using the CAP process, rank emerging opportunities

Field Components

- Inventory up to 30 potential “best-bet” sites within the Niagara River Greenway.
- Evaluate relative function of existing habitats and potential threats to habitats including invasive species, unstable stream channels, etc.
- Identify and verify site-specific opportunities for conservation

Conservation action plans will be developed for each site and integrated into the final Strategy document

Phase 2 Project Budget

PHASE 2: NIAGARA GREENWAY HABITAT CONSERVATION STRATEGY

PROPOSED BUDGET		
Category	Sub-Category	Total
Personnel		
	Salary	\$144,872
	25% Fringe	\$36,218
TOTAL PERSONNEL		\$181,090
Contractual		
	Ecology and Environment	\$145,000
	Buffalo State College	\$25,000
	Design	\$2,700
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL		\$172,700
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT		\$2,500
TOTAL TRAVEL		\$1,500
TOTAL INDIRECT OVERHEAD COSTS		\$12,210
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$370,000

BUDGET DETAIL		
Year 1	Year 2	In Kind Match
\$72,436	\$72,436	\$9,600
\$18,109	\$18,109	
\$90,545	\$90,545	\$9,600
\$72,500	\$72,500	
\$25,000		
	\$2,700	
\$97,500	\$75,200	
\$1,250	\$1,250	
\$750	\$750	
\$6,105	\$6,105	\$49,684
\$196,150	\$173,850	\$59,284