

Greenway Ecological Standing Committee  
Grantee Status Report

Status Report Date: March 17, 2016	
Project Title: Stella Niagara Preserve	
Organization: Western New York Land Conservancy	
Report Prepared By: Jajeon Rose-Burney	
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Project Start Date: March, 2013	Project Anticipated Completion Date: June, 2015

1. Describe what progress you have made toward each of your grant objectives since your last status report. Did you meet your goals for this period? Please be specific.

This is our final status report for both GEF funds and HERF funds for this project. The main objectives of this project include:

- Acquire the 29-acre parcel on the west side of Lower River Road in Lewiston, NY, owned by the Sisters of St. Francis.
- Enhance 18 acres of grassland / savannah habitat there.
- Open the property to low-impact public access.
- Steward the property in perpetuity.

A status update on each of these objectives is below:

- We acquired the 29-acre parcel on the west side of Lower River Road in Lewiston, NY, formerly owned by the Sisters of St. Francis, in May 2015.
- We will begin enhancing 18 acres of grassland / savanna habitat in spring 2016. This will be guided by the community-driven Vision Plan developed through a robust public engagement process, and a Concept Plan created by Darrel Morrison, a nationally renowned landscape designer, and his colleague Nancy Aten. This work is expected to be complete by the end of 2017.
- The Land Conservancy opened the property to low-impact public access (walking and kayaking) in July 2015.
- The Land Conservancy established a \$600,000 stewardship fund and hired a part-time preserve steward in 2016.

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2. How did you measure your progress since your last status report? What kind of data have been collected to determine whether progress is being made or not being made? What results have been obtained since your last status report?

Since the last status report, the Land Conservancy has completed most project objectives. The remaining incomplete project objective, enhancing wildlife habitat, will begin in spring 2016 and be complete by the end of 2017. The Land Conservancy collected data from hundreds of stakeholders during the Vision Plan and Concept Plan process. This data will inform the habitat enhancement work and ongoing management of the preserve.

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3. What challenges have you encountered since your last status report? How are you addressing these challenges?

The most significant challenge to this project is the significant amount of fundraising needed to create the Stella Niagara Preserve. The estimated total needed is \$3.8 million. The Land Conservancy raised \$3.65 million, allowing the acquisition to be completed on-time, the stewardship fund to be fully funded, planning work to go forward, and habitat enhancement work to begin. Additional fundraising will be needed to complete the second year of habitat enhancement work.

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4. Are you on schedule to complete your project in the proposed timeline? If not, please explain why you are ahead or behind schedule.

The project timeline from our original grant application to the HERF / GEF had a property acquisition date of December 2014. This date was extended because of the fundraising process, and the property was acquired in May 2015. Habitat enhancement work will continue through 2017.

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5. Please use the table below to report your expenditures since your last status report. Include in-kind support from other resources have you used since your last report below the table. Please explain any differences between anticipated and actual expenditures. Attach copies of any relevant receipts or invoices to this report.

Budget Categories	GESC-approved budget	Funds or in-kind support from other resources	Total expenses to date	Remaining balance
Salaries and Benefits	35,000	-	35,000	0
Travel	0	-	0	0
Equipment	0	-	0	0
Supplies	0	-	0	0
Meetings	0	-	0	0
Printed Material	0	-	0	0
Consultants	0	-	0	0
Other (purchase price, closing costs, stewardship fund)	2,218,487	1,430,000	2,218,487	0
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>2,253,487</b>	<b>1,430,000</b>	<b>2,253,487</b>	<b>0</b>

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6. What progress toward your objectives do you expect to make before your next status report? Please be specific.

Funding from HERF / GEF for this project was for the acquisition of the property and for the stewardship fund. These project components are complete, and no additional status reports are required.

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7. Please include 1 to 2 photographs with dates and short descriptions taken since your last project report.



*Ribbon-cutting ceremony in July, 2015*



*Vision Plan and Concept Plan presentation in January, 2016*

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