

Project Registration Number _____

*Niagara River Greenway Commission
Consultation and Review Form*

Type of Review Required:

Mandatory Consultation

Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name: City of Niagara Falls

Mailing Address: 745 Main Street P.O. Box 69

State: New York Zip Code: 14304

Federal Id# 16-6002548 Charities Registration # _____

PROJECT TYPE

Check all that apply: Environmental Cultural/Heritage Land or Water Public ccess
 Cultural Trail Educational/Interpretive
 Waterfront or Land Based Development Signage
 Recreational Other

Project Name: LaSalle Blueway Trail

Location: Southeast of Robt. Moses extension to LaSalle

Site Address: 6601 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls

State: New York Zip Code: 14304

Minor Civil Division(s): City of Niagara Falls

County: Niagara

Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): Owned by NYS Dept. of Public Works - Use permit issued on April 6, 1993 (see attachment)

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: Paul A. Dyster Title: Mayor

Business Address: 745 Main Street P.O. Box 69

State: New York Zip Code: 14302

Telephone Number: 716-286-4310 Cell Number: _____

Fax Number: 716-286-4349

E-Mail Address: Paul.Dyster@niagarafallsny.gov

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Thomas J. DeSantis Title: Senior Planner

Organization/Firm: City of Niagara Falls

Business Address: 745 Main Street P.O. Box 69

State: New York Zip Code: 14302

Telephone Number: 716-286-4477 Cell Number: _____

Fax Number: 716-286-4485

E-Mail Address: desantis@nfez.org

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please attach material which responds to the follow five items in the order that they are presented.

1. In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.
2. Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.
3. Define the budget for the proposed project and include costs for the following:

Planning	\$ <u>86,950</u>
Construction	\$ <u>147,900</u>
Acquisition	\$ _____
Administration	\$ <u>11,800</u>
Operation and Maintenance/Year	\$ _____
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ <u>246,650</u>

Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained.

4. Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.
5. Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and the how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animals species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and / or enhanced. Cite any relevant project related studies.

Project Narrative

In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.

The LaSalle Blueway Conservation Corridor project is a community-based project between the City of Niagara Falls and LaSalle PRIDE focused on improving the environmental quality and public access to the Niagara River and Little River shorelines from Griffon and Jayne Parks to the former Century Club site at the North Grand Island Bridge. One objective of the project is to develop a canoe trail in the Little River along the Buffalo Avenue business strip and around Cayuga Island on the Niagara River from a launch site at the historic Century Club park site. The project also proposes to conduct a tree survey, husbandry and planting to promote a healthy green structure within the corridor. In addition, a comprehensive community outreach "door to door" campaign will target over 125 residents and businesses along the shorelines for educational purposes and community consultation in development of the corridor and the local capability to support its long-term stewardship.

The City of Niagara Falls respectfully requests \$105,500 from the Niagara River Greenway Commission for the creation of the "LaSalle Blueway Conservation Corridor". The canoe launch will be erected on property owned by the New York State Dept. of Public Works located on the eastern side of the former Century Club site. The City received a permit in 1993 for the use of this property for the installation of a hiking/biking path. The permit requires the City to maintain the property. Upon completion of the launch, new lighting and landscaping will be installed and signs will be posted along the shore identifying the blueway trail. The entire project will take place over a two-year grant period. The total amount required for the project will be \$246,650 (monetary and in-kind costs). A grant application has been submitted to the New York State Environmental Protection Fund seeking funding in the amount of \$92,500. (Appendix A) The remaining \$48,650 consists of in-kind contributions from the City of Niagara Falls, LaSalle PRIDE, and private property owners within the corridor. The installation of a blueway trail is a component of the City's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP), which is currently in draft form. Removal of dead trees and replanting is an objective of the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). Completion of this project will contribute to the environmental health of the shoreline, add to the aesthetic value of the Niagara River and facilitate access to the River by non-motorized boaters. The City will continue to maintain the launch site as well as the trees located on City-property. Residents in the corridor will be contacted through a door-to-door campaign to inform them of the project and solicit commitment to the project by planting and maintaining new trees on their property.

Niagara River Greenway Vision Statement:

The Niagara River Greenway is a world-class corridor of places, parks and landscapes that celebrates and interprets our unique natural, cultural, recreational, scenic and heritage resources and provides access to and connections between these important resources while giving rise to economic opportunities for the region.

The LaSalle Blueway Conservation Corridor project will facilitate access to the Niagara River and provide a safe recreational resource for non-motorized boaters while improving the scenic beauty and environmental health of the waterfront. The site chosen for the canoe launch is a quiet inlet cove at the base of the North Grand Island Bridge that is immediately visible to travelers arriving in Niagara Falls from the south. The downstream canoe/kayak launch would allow users to paddle upstream along the Little River and embark upon Cayuga Creek or Jayne Park (where another launch is to be constructed) or Griffon Park, which has three docks for motorized boats, and return either by Little River or go around on the Niagara River back to the original site.

The site of the upstream canoe launch is located at the terminus of the Niagara Riverview hiking/biking path that was installed as the first step to connecting downtown Niagara Falls with the eastern end of the City. Currently the site is adjacent to an unlit vacant lot (former Century Club site) and is in a state of disrepair due to vandalism and neglect. The installation of new landscaping and lighting will offer a safe and attractive stop for hikers and bicyclists to rest and enjoy with beauty of the River.

Conceptual linkages will be formed by educating the citizenry of the importance of preserving the ecological integrity of the riverfront and the mission of the Greenway to do so. Residents in the corridor will have a better understanding of the role of the Greenway and the advantages of improving and maintaining the urban forest.

Niagara River Greenway Commission Goals

The goals and objectives of the Niagara River Greenway Commission will be served by increasing landside waterfront access and promoting the environmental health of the corridor in the following ways:

Improve Access

The only location currently available for canoe launching exists at Griffon Park which is upstream in the Little River approximately one mile and is primarily utilized by small motorized boats. The installation of a canoe launch at this location will facilitate physical landside access to the Little Niagara River while serving as the downstream end of the Blueway Trail. The launch will allow non-motorized boaters to paddle upstream along the Little River and embark upon Cayuga Creek, Griffon Park, and Jayne Park (where another canoe launch is to be constructed) or into the Niagara River.

Visual access by land or water will be increased by the removal of dead trees and other vegetation and replanting in strategic areas to ensure the view is not obstructed. The removal of dead trees lying in the water will also facilitate access to the Little River and Cayuga Creek by canoes kayaks. Increased access to the waterfront will also promote activities such as sport fishing and bird watching. There will be limited disturbance to the riverbank for the construction of the canoe launch, but overgrown vegetation will be removed.

Make Connections

By educating the citizenry of the importance of preserving the ecological integrity of the riverfront and the mission of the Greenway to do so, conceptual linkages will be formed. At the end of the project, the local residents will have better understanding of the role of the Greenway and the advantages of improving and maintaining the urban forest.

Protect and Restore Environmental Systems

The urban forest on Cayuga Island, Jayne Park, and Griffon Park and along the Little River corridor is in serious need of maintenance and restoration. The existence of dead trees both standing and lying in the water not only presents a danger to humans and animals, but threatens the ecological health of the corridor. By removing the dead vegetation and reforesting the corridor, the environmental health of the riverfront will be restored. The community outreach campaign will *increase public awareness of the value of these resources and build a greater constituency for regional environmental assets.*

Promote Long-Term Sustainability

As a result of the opening of the Seneca Niagara Casino, the City has realized an increase in revenues, thereby reducing the economic burden and allowing for sufficient funding for the maintenance of the City parks and the urban forest. The City of Niagara Falls is committed to

maintaining the health of the corridor **forestry** and preserving its natural beauty *through continued investment in regional assets, and rehabilitation and improvement of aging facilities.*

Extend the Legacy of Frederick Law Olmstead

The success of Frederick Law Olmstead's mission of *saving Niagara Falls and portions of the Niagara River corridor from over-development* is evident on Cayuga Island and along the Little River. The completion of this project will *provide access to a diversity of resources and build a legacy for future generations.*

Niagara River Greenway Principles

The guiding principles of the Niagara River Greenway Commission will be met as follows:

Excellence: The creation of a blueway trail and restoration of the surrounding urban forest will ensure that the natural splendor and recreational benefits offered by the Niagara River and its shoreline will be rejuvenated and expanded.

Sustainability: As a result of reforestation, the blueway corridor will continue to *promote ecological and physical sustainability for long-term viability and effectiveness*. The City of Niagara Falls pledges to preserve and protect the corridor by providing sufficient funds and manpower for its maintenance. As in the past, LaSalle PRIDE will assist in the maintenance of the shoreline through volunteer cleanups in April and September of each year. LaSalle PRIDE will also present educational opportunities in the form of environmental festivals (Boom Days) at the LaSalle Yacht Club in April and Summer Riverfront Educational Workshops & Festivals in August.

Accessibility: In accordance with Greenway principles, the blueway conservation corridor is *designed to provide and increase physical and visual access to and from the waterfront and related resources for a full range of users (youth, seniors, persons with disabilities)*. The installation of a canoe launch will provide physical accessibility to and from the Little River and the Niagara River. Improvement of the landscape will increase visual access from land and water of the beauty of the surrounding area.

Ecological Integrity: Improved landscaping, including the removal of dead vegetation and the planting of new trees and shrubs will ensure that the *health, vitality and integrity of natural resources and wildlife habitats* are preserved.

Public Well-Being: The creation of a canoe launch at this location will increase the active and passive recreational opportunities offered by the corridor thereby *promoting physical and emotional wellness*. The project will ensure that resident and visitors will be provided with a safe area in which to navigate the Little River with non-motorized crafts from both ends of the corridor and/or experience the natural beauty of the Niagara River and its shoreline.

Connectivity: This project will *increase connectivity and access* through the creation of a blueway trail on the Little Niagara River by installing a canoe launch to serve as the downstream end of the trail. The installation of an additional launch in Jayne Park will provide the upstream end of the trail. Conceptual connectivity will be achieved through the education of the citizenry of the importance of preserving the ecological integrity of the riverfront and the Greenway Commission's role in doing so.

Restoration: Due to economic conditions over the years, minimal funding for the care and maintenance of trees and vegetation on City property has been minimal. Upon completion of this project, overgrown and dead vegetation will be removed, and new trees and shrubs will be planted on city property, thereby *restoring the ecological resources* of the shoreline.

Partnerships: LaSalle PRIDE and the City of Niagara Falls have agreed to a partnership (See Appendix – Gazette story) to move forward the implementation of a conservation corridor in the Niagara and Cayuga Creek watershed. LaSalle PRIDE is a not for profit membership organization formed in November, 2005 that has 110 dues-paying members and an active 15-member Board of Directors. (See Appendix C. - LaSalle Greenway Plan.) Its mission is to “promote, protect, and preserve the cultural, historic, and environmental well being of the LaSalle neighborhood...by the resource utilization of volunteers, private and public sectors.” The City’s Department of Planning and Environmental Services will provide direct supervision of the project with LaSalle PRIDE as the lead agency. LaSalle PRIDE will be responsible for the community outreach, and working with the City and/or contractors for conducting the tree survey and design of the launch.

Community Based: The installation of a blueway trail is a component of the City’s Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP), which is currently in draft form. Removal of dead trees and replanting is an objective of the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC).

Criteria

Consistency with Principles: As previously demonstrated, the creation of a blueway trail and restoration of the forestry in the corridor is in accordance with the Niagara River Greenway principles of *Excellence, Sustainability, Accessibility, Ecological Integrity, Public Well-Being, Connectivity, Restoration, Partnerships and Community Based.*

Priority Status: Upon completion of this project, *improved access to waterfront resources ...for recreational, scenic and aesthetic uses* will be attained through the installation of a canoe launch and the improvement of the urban forest in the corridor. *Restoration of the Niagara River Ecosystem* will be realized through the removal and replanting of vegetation thereby creating an *attractive, healthy and appealing corridor.*

Focus Area: The Little River falls within the core area of the Greenway boundaries. Installation of a canoe launch, improvements to the shoreline and the ecological education of the citizenry will demonstrate visible results of the Greenway mission and contribute to the overall success of the Plan.

Implementable, Economic Viability and Local Sponsor: The City of Niagara Falls Department of Planning and Environmental Services will work with all other public agencies to secure the necessary permits and approvals (i.e. NYSDEC, NYSDOS, OPRHP, etc.) The City Council has shown commitment to the project through a resolution (Appendix D) and by pledging \$13,600 in kind services for GIS mapping, engineering services required for the launch and signage installation, and Forestry Department services required for reforestation. A grant seeking additional funds for the project in the amount of \$92,500 has been submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Protection fund. Upon award of the grant, the City and LaSalle PRIDE will begin the necessary preparations for the project. As the local sponsor, upon completion of the project, the City will consistently budget the necessary funding to maintain the integrity of the corridor.

Consideration of Other Planning Efforts: The revitalization of the City's waterfront has been formulated in its 2005 *Strategic Master Plan* its 2002 "*Achieving Niagara Falls' Future: Waterfront Agenda*". The creation of a canoe launch and blueway trail is one component of the City's waterfront master plan. This project also addresses many of the objectives of the Niagara Falls *Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan* which is in draft form, and the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan of NYS DEC with its attention to green space and conservation measures. Additional projects planned for waterfront revitalization are the installation of a marina park at the former Century Club site with a working public comfort station and the restoration of Jayne Park.

Clear Benefits: The improvements planned for the corridor shoreline will improve the aesthetic beauty of the surrounding area leading to better environmental conditions, increased waterfront access, and additional recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Niagara Falls.

Budget

The general budget for the project by category is:

Planning	\$ 54,350
Construction	145,500
Acquisition	-0-
Administration	36,500
Operation/Maintenance/Year	<u>10,300</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 246,650

The City of Niagara Falls and LaSalle PRIDE respectfully requests \$105,500 from the Niagara River Greenway Commission. A grant application has been submitted to the New York State Environmental Protection Fund seeking funding in the amount of \$92,500. The remaining \$48,650 consists of in-kind contributions from the City of Niagara Falls, LaSalle PRIDE, and private property owners within the corridor. Not shown on the budget are the amounts that will be required for the annual maintenance of the corridor by the City. These figures are dependent upon union contracts and ever-changing costs of goods and services. City duties will include the maintenance of the canoe launch and trees located on City property.

Budget Detail

Goal: The Establishment of a LaSalle Blueways Conservation Corridor

... A phase 1 development project of the LaSalle Greenway Plan as a part of the Niagara Greenway Commission Lake to Lake Niagara Greenway Plan

Two year project period. City of Niagara Falls submission in partnership with LaSalle PRIDE

Two Year Budget:

	WHO	HOURS	CITY	GRANT	IN-KIND
Task 1 Establish project boundaries, Subdivide into branches & Contact shoreline property owners					
A GIS mapping of all property owners along Niagara River & Little River from City Line to No. Grand Island Bridge	City / Planning	40			2,000
B Door to door visits, branch subdivision, meetings, recruitment, stewardship pledge, etc.	PRIDE/Sherman	600		15,000	1,500
Task 2 Creation of a LaSalle Canoe Trail with launch site on the Niagara River					
A Work with advisory committee, site / trail design, overview installation & promotion of trail	PRIDE / BN Riverkeeper / Kuebler	100		5,000	450
B Shoreline environmental analysis of site, design of launch site, etc.	PRIDE / Ecology & Environment	320		15,000	
C Installation of launch site, lighting and landscaping (City - casino funding, NPC Greenway)	City / Engineering	100	55,500		5,000
D Signage of Blueways trail along Little River, and around Cayuga Island	City / Engineering	20		4,000	1,000
Task 3 Tree Survey of existing tree infrastructure in corridor, husbandry, plantings & removals					
A Tree survey within project boundary area as to size, age, type, condition, etc	PRIDE / Environment Hamilton	1000		25,000	15,000
B Project report, printing, branch consultations, and recommendations	Environment Hamilton / U of Toronto	100		5,000	
C Tree removal and husbandry along river shorelines at public owned properties (City - casino funding &/or NPC Greenway)	City / Public Works	60	35,000		3,000
D Tree removal and husbandry along riverfronts at private owned properties	Private	200			10,000
E Tree and brush plantings at public owned properties	City / Public Works	40	15,000	15,000	2,000
Task 4 Corridor Activities					
A Shoreline Volunteer Clean Ups in April and September	PRIDE/Sherman	100			2,400
B BoomDays (April) Environmental Festival at the Yacht Club	PRIDE/Sherman	80			3,000
C Summer (August) Riverfront Educational Workshop & Festival	PRIDE/Sherman	100		2,500	2,400
Task 5 Final Report & Seminar Series					
A Conference to evaluate tasks, impacts, final report and make recommendations for Phase 2 of Greenway Plan	PRIDE/Sherman	60		1,000	300
B Participation and / or sponsorship of seminars as part of the statewide program.	PRIDE/City	120		5,000	600
Part-time consultant costs are in a range of \$25 - \$40 including expenses					
		3,040	105,500	92,500	48,650
Total Project Cost:					246,650

Two Year Calendar	2008			2009			
	Apr-Jun	July-Aug	Sept-Dec	Jan-Mar	2009 Apr-Jun	July-Aug	Sept-Dec
Task 1 A Mapping	xxx						
Task 1 B Riparian owners organization development	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Task 2 A Canoe Trail Adv Comm		xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Task 2 B Environmental Analysis & Design		xxx	xxx	xxx			
Task 2 C Launch Site Installation					xxx	xxx	
Task 2 D Signage Installed						xxx	
Task 3 A Tree survey		xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Task 3 B Project Reports					interim xxx		final xxx
Task 3 C Tree Removals - public					xxx	xxx	xxx
Task 3 D Tree Removals - private					xxx	xxx	xxx
Task 3 E Plantings - public					xxx	xxx	xxx
Task 4 A Shoreline Clean Ups	xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx
Task 4 B BoomDays Festival	xxx				xxx		
Task 4 C LaSalle Corridor Festival with workshops		xxx				xxx	
Task 5 A Wrap Up & Final Report							xxx
Task 5 B Sponsorship & Attendance at Seminars	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Community Support

The LaSalle Blueway Trail Conservation Corridor project was initially proposed by LaSalle PRIDE, a local organization composed of members of the LaSalle community. (See letter of support.) The project has also been endorsed by The Niagara Beautification Commission and by the owner and operator of the Justin Tyme on the River Family Restaurant which is located on Buffalo Avenue at the mouth of the Little River. (See letters of support.)

In addition, the establishment of an “urban canoe trail” is specifically listed as a priority in the City’s *Niagara River Greenway Vision and Project Proposals* (See Appendix - excerpt) which has incorporated the objectives of the City’s *2005 Strategic Master Plan*, its 2002 *“Achieving Niagara Falls’ Future: Waterfront Agenda”* as well as its Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (currently in draft form).



Niagara Beautification Commission
P. O. Box 1945
Niagara Falls, New York 14302-1945
(716) 285-5030
Niagara.beautification@verizon.net

January 14, 2008

Niagara River Greenway Commission
Robert Kresse, Chair
2136 West Oakfield
Grand Island, New York 14072

Dear Mr. Kresse:

The Blueways Trail grant proposal submitted by the City of Niagara Falls and LaSalle PRIDE is completely consistent with the Niagara River Greenway goals and objectives. The construction of a canoe launch at the Century Club will complement the existing trailhead at the site. A tree survey and plans for the restoration or removal of selected trees would serve as a model for the rest of the City.

Several years ago, LaSalle P.R.I.D.E. sponsored a public presentation to residents regarding a tree survey based upon a similar effort in Hamilton, Canada. It is a scientific cataloging of the tree canopy that maps the size, approximate age and condition of the trees. Once such data is collected, the City, and perhaps the County, can engage in an comprehensive plan to restore indigenous plant material. Some trees would be removed, if found to be dangerous. This survey would be conducted along the trailhead and on private land adjacent to the River, given the permission of the owners.

The canoe launch will add to the interest of tourists who would enjoy a trip down Cayuga Creek and could add to the economic development of the area for businesses and homeowners along the route.

For these reasons, the NBC salutes the City and P.R.I.D.E. for their foresight in planning that will dramatically improve the quality of life of all of our residents. They have our complete and wholehearted support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie E. Gillies".

Marjorie E. Gillies, Chair
Niagara Beautification Commission

La Salle PRIDE ...

*in our history,
our waterfronts,
our community,
and our people!*

67 So. 87th St.
Niagara Falls
New York 14304

716- 283-7394
mackennap@adelphia.net

Board of Directors:

Patsy Mackenna,
Chairperson
Brigitte Shackleton,
Vice-Chair
Kathleen McCunn,
Secretary
Walter Kendzia,
Treasurer

Priscilla Addoms
Bert Donahue
Joyce Donovan
William Henwood
David Hetrick
Frances Iusi
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Ursula Strong
Jeffery Taylor

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January 14, 2008

Niagara River Greenway Commission
Robert Kresse, chair
2136 West Oakfield
Grand island, NY 14072

Dear Mr. Kresse,

LaSalle PRIDE is pleased to offer our support to the City of Niagara Falls' application for Greenway funds.

Our community group has long advocated for a canoe launch along Niagara's *blueways* in LaSalle and we are partnering with the City in this application. We herald initiatives which help people get closer to, indeed **on**, the water that almost surrounds us. The tree survey, trail signage, and shoreline integrity maintenance are vital components for a comprehensive project to enhance the Niagara River (both Big and Little) experience.

Jayne Park Restoration has also been on our residents' horizon since long before LaSalle PRIDE was founded in 2005. Cayuga Island has a charming history and its little park can again be the gem it was when it was first dedicated to Dr. Jayne decades ago. This excellent project has been within our grasp only to be taken away at least once, if not twice. To recapture it and see the Jayne Park Restoration through to completion would be truly reflective of the Greenway legislation intent.

We thank you, Mr. Kresse, for the attention we anticipate you'll give to the Niagara Falls' proposals.

Sincerely,

Patricia Mackenna
chair, LaSalle PRIDE

<justrye03@adelphia.net>

01/14/2008 07:11 PM

To sherry.shepherd-corulli@niagarafallsny.gov

cc jeff t <justrye02@yahoo.com>

bcc

Subject blueways trail support

JUSTIN TYME ON THE RIVER FAMILY RESTAURANT
7611 Buffalo Ave.
Niagara Falls NY 14304
[716-283-1339]

01/15/08

Attention: Niagara River Greenway Commission

As a waterfront family business property owner & LaSalle resident, I hereby wish to express my support 100% for the BLUEWAYS TRAIL PROJECTS along the upper Niagara River & Little River around Cayuga Island and the improvements to Jayne Park [upper river canoe launch]

As we all know, Buffalo Ave. is the only waterfront property in the City of Niagara Falls and is in much need of a economic boost. Our location is smack dab in the middle of both projects, and is the only waterfront family restaurant in C.N.F. We have limited boat and canoe dockage [200 ft.] But the area needs more public recreation on the water in C.N.F. That said it is still difficult to operate a business in this depressed town. And we really need your help all businesses in LaSalle.

Thank you for all your efforts and I look forward to being involved in the process and progress.

YOURS TRULY

JEFFREY P. TAYLOR

Niagara Falls City Council Resolution

I hereby certify that the following Resolution was adopted at a Meeting of the City Council held on January 14, 2008.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-13

RELATIVE TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND
APPLICATION FOR LASALLE BLUEWAY TRAIL

By: Council Chairman Samuel Fruscione
Council Member Robert Anderson, Jr.
Council Member Steve Fournier
Council Member Chris Robins
Council Member Charles Walker

WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls has applied for an environmental protection fund grant for the above referenced project with a total cost of \$246,650 with State assistance in the amount of \$92,500 and a local share of \$154,150 of which \$48,650 would be in-kind services; and

WHEREAS, matching funds will be available from either casino revenue or Power Authority greenway funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York that it hereby approves this grant application and authorizes the Mayor to act on behalf of the City in all matters related to the application and grant and is further authorized to execute any and all documentation related to this grant.

Witness my hand and seal this
15th day of January, 2008.



Carol A. Antonucci
City Clerk

Appendices

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND
APPLICATION FOR STATE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS
LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM, YEAR 2007-2008

(From WordPerfect Menu - View turn Table Gridlines Off - or in File use Print Preview mode - use Tab to navigate between fields)

PART A - APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. APPLICANT MUNICIPALITY:

City Town Village of: Niagara Falls

2. APPLICANT MAILING ADDRESS:

(no. & street) 745 Main Street P.O. Box 69

(city) Niagara Falls NY (zip) NY 14302

3. FEDERAL TAX IDENTIFICATION No. 16-6002548

4. CONTACT PERSON: Thomas J. DeSantis TITLE: Senior Planner

5. PHONE: (716) 286-4477 FAX: (716) 286-4485

6. CONTACT MAILING ADDRESS (if different from applicant)

(no. & street) _____

(city) _____ NY (zip) _____

PART B - GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

1. PROJECT NAME: LaSalle Blueway Trail

2. PROJECT LOCATION: COUNTY: Niagara USGS MAP Attached **X**

NEW YORK STATE SENATE DISTRICT: SD 60

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT: AD 148

3. PROJECT TYPE:

- Visioning and development of local or regional revitalization strategies
- Completing or implementing a Local or Regional Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Preparing or implementing a local or regional waterbody management plan
- Downtown and hamlet revitalization
- Urban waterfront redevelopment
- Creating a Blueway Trail
- Interpreting Waterfront Resources - New York State Coastal Resources Interpretive Program

4. NAME OF WATERBODY: Niagara River

5. NAME OF PRIORITY WATERBODY LISTING SEGMENT (if appropriate): _____

PART C - PROJECT TIMING AND COST

1. Proposed Start Date: June, 2008 2. Expected Completion Date: Dec., 2009

3. Total Project Costs: \$ 246,650 4. State Assistance Requested: \$ 92,500

5. Local Share: \$ 154,150

PART D - BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED PROJECT

In three sentences, describe the project type, purpose and location; the need for the project; and what will result if the project is undertaken.

The "LaSalle Blueway Conservation Corridor" project is a community-based project between the City of Niagara Falls and LaSalle PRIDE focused on improving the environmental quality and public access to the Niagara River and Little River shorelines from Griffon Park to the Century Club site at the North Grand Island Bridge.

The project will develop a "LaSalle Canoe Trail" in the Little River along the Buffalo Avenue business strip and around Cayuga Island on the Niagara River from a launch site at the historic Century Club park site accompanied by a tree survey, husbandry and planting project to improve a healthy green structure within the corridor.

In addition, a comprehensive community outreach "door to door" campaign will target over 125 residents and businesses along the shorelines for educational opportunities and community consultation in development of the "LaSalle Blueway Conservation Corridor", and the local capability to support its long-term stewardship.

PART E - MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION AND CERTIFICATION

Municipal resolution is attached. Municipal resolution will be submitted by February 1, 2008.

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that information provided on this form and attached statements and exhibits is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. False statements made herein are punishable as a Class A misdemeanor pursuant to Section 210.45 of the Penal law.

(print name) Vincenzo V. Anello (title) Mayor of (entity) City of Niagara Falls

(Date) 12-5-07 (signature) Vincenzo V. Anello

Exhibit 3



NIAGARA FALLS: Mayor, PRIDE to join forces on Greenway

Niagara Gazette

Members of a LaSalle community group plan to join with Mayor Vince Anello today 9/23 to announce their joint support for a series of projects they hope will be eligible for funding as part of the Niagara River Greenway.

A press conference scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at Griffon Park boat launch will feature a one-hour small boat tour of the Little River and Cayuga Creek.

Anello and LaSalle PRIDE Chairwoman Patsy MacKenna will ride in the same vessel in order to demonstrate they "are on the same course paddling the same direction and ready to implement a common vision for our LaSalle waterfront," they said in a statement released by the group Friday.

Members of Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and Quality Quest will also participate in the waterfront tour.

The Niagara River Greenway Commission is leading the planning process for a system of interconnected parks, greenspaces, trails and other sites along the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

A final plan is due in March.

Some of the projects for which the group wants commission approval already have partial funding from local governments allocated to them.

Those include \$20,000 for a downstream canoe launch at either LaSalle Park or Jayne Park; \$147,000 for improvements to Jayne Park; and \$135,000 for repair and improvements to boat launch docks and moorings.

Approval from the greenway commission will likely strengthen the case for funding, but will not guarantee funding for specific projects, greenway officials have said.

Many groups from across Erie and Niagara counties have pushed for their specific proposals to be included in the greenway plan.

Anello and Senior Planner Thomas DeSantis made their push for a series of citywide projects, including those in LaSalle, to the commission's Local Government Advisory Committee in mid-July.

LaSalle PRIDE members also made their own push to the commission's Citizens Advisory Committee in mid-July.

"We look forward to working with the Niagara Greenway Commission, its consultants, the city of Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York State and the New York Power Authority to advance these recommendations," members of the LaSalle PRIDE board said in a prepared statement.

What they want

Here are areas LaSalle PRIDE members believe are in need of improvement and Mayor Vince Anello has agreed to support before the Niagara River Greenway Commission:

- n 102nd Street landfill area
- n Griffon Park/LaSalle boat launch
- n Jayne Park
- n Cayuga and Bergholtz creeks
- n Former Century Club site
- n Fishing pier and waterfront parking on 53rd Street
- n An extension of the riverwalk along Buffalo Avenue, River Road and the LaSalle Expressway
- n LaSalle Library
- n Creation of LaSalle Conservation Corridor

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LaSalle Greenway Plan

The following commentary has been adopted by LaSalle PRIDE, Inc. as its neighborhood fit into the Greenway Proposal of the City of Niagara Falls, and submitted to the Niagara Greenway Commission, July 20, 2006.

LaSalle PRIDE is a not for profit membership organization formed in November, 2005 with 80 dues paying members and has an active 15 member Board of Directors. Its mission is to “promote, protect, and preserve the cultural, historic, and environmental well being of the La Salle neighborhood....”

LaSalle PRIDE agrees “that the Falls, the gorge, and the Niagara waterfront are the City’s greatest assets, and should remain at the center of plans for its economic revitalization” as stated in the City of Niagara Falls plan of July, 2006 (page 3), Niagara River Greenway Vision & Project Proposals.

The LaSalle Waterfront (about 1/3 of the City of Niagara Falls shoreline) is a good mix of properties: private home, businesses, and city owned parcels. The remaining shoreline (Parkway, Reservation, and Gorge) is administered by New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New York Power Authority.

The waterfront of LaSalle begins downstream of the North Grand Island bridge and runs to the City line at Williams Road, and includes the watersheds of the Niagara River, the Little Niagara, and Cayuga and Bergholtz Creeks.

The village of LaSalle was annexed by the City of Niagara Falls in 1927. This historic neighborhood takes its name from Robert Cavalier de LaSalle, the 26 year old French adventurer whose daring vision ordered the building of a small sailing vessel near the confluence of the Little Niagara River and Cayuga Creek in 1679. That little ship, the Griffon, was the first commercial craft to venture into the Great Lakes west of Lake Ontario. Early records and maps associated with LaSalle’s accomplishments are recorded by Father Louis Hennepin, likely the first European to view the Mighty Niagara. Today, Cayuga Island, once farmland, considered as a site for the Pan American games in the early 1900’s, and now a long established residential section of the LaSalle neighborhood, is mapped with street names acknowledging its significant history: Joliet, Champlain, Griffon, and Hennepin.

LaSalle PRIDE supports:

1. a comprehensive Niagara River Greenway Plan fashioned after the plan submitted by the City of Niagara Falls
2. a LaSalle Plan whose boundaries are defined by the watersheds of the Niagara River, the Little Niagara, and Cayuga and Bergholtz Creeks

3. a LaSalle Plan that promotes public access, tourism / historic preservation and environmental practices which endorse and enhance protection for habitats and clean waters.

Specific to LaSalle's (Upper River) portion of a lake to lake Greenway Plan is our support for the following recommendations, most of which are proposals in the City of Niagara Fall's Plan:

102 ST. LANDFILL AREA (part of LOVE CANAL)

- Plantings (trees) along Buffalo Avenue (River Road) security fence
- Elevated overview from landfill frontage along Niagara River shoreline
- Educational kiosk / Interpretive Center about Landfill & Love Canal
- Improve "Welcome to City" signage at 102nd Street with mini-park

GRIFFON PARK / LASALLE BOAT LAUNCH

- Improved docks and moorings
- Improved public access, particularly access to the "big" river
- Enclosed toilet facilities
- Educational kiosk dedicated to history of LaSalle & Griffon
- Mini-park setting around Griffon Rock with amphitheatre
- Protected shoreline habitat, interpretive signage & new plantings

JAYNE PARK (ON CAYUGA ISLAND)

- Pedestrian shoreline trail with public overlook
- Improved amenities – toilets, covered picnic pavilion, benches, receptacles, parking, etc.
- Canoe launch *
- Protected shoreline habitat, interpretive signage & new plantings

CAYUGA / BERGHOLTZ CREEKS (FROM LITTLE RIVER TO CITY LINE)

- Dredge Little River and Creeks of debris (trees, tires, pilings, etc.)
- Ongoing maintenance program to stabilize shoreline with new plantings & remove fallen trees
- Remove Point Ave bridge
- Upstream canoe launch *

* LaSalle PRIDE recognizes that a series of canoe launching facilities throughout the upper river will constitute a unique asset-set while promoting greater access and interaction with the resource at relatively low cost.

LASALLE WATERFRONT PARK & FORMER CENTURY CLUB SITE (66 ST.)

- Priority project – make this entire site a new & enhanced waterfront park as mid point on the Riverwalk Trail with appropriate amenities to accommodate cyclists, boaters, anglers, and pedestrians

53 ST. WATERFRONT PARKING & FISHING PIER

- Make area known to the public
- Improve safety concerns and lighting
- Add an at-grade entrance / exit off parkway for cars.

RIVERWALK EXTENSION:

ALONG BUFFALO AVE. / RIVER RD.

- Improve the Seaway Trail from 66th St to City line as an extension to Riverwalk (Consider an urban design plan for Buffalo Avenue)
- Reconstruction of LaSalle section of Buffalo Avenue should include special Streetscaping (new sidewalks and added bike lanes)
- Reduce curbside parking to one side and adding off street parking for area businesses (with water-dependent uses given priority consideration)

ALONG LASALLE EXPRESSWAY

- Reconfigure the Expressway and its major intersections so as to reduce it as a barrier between neighborhoods and the river
- Reconstruction of the LaSalle Expressway to include provision of a new multi-use Riverwalk Trial Extension through the corridor

LASALLE LIBRARY (Added proposal to City Plan)

- Seek historic preservation status for 1924 building (constructed as the Village Hall)
- Make building handicapped accessible
- Develop as LaSalle interpretive venue and/or Visitor Center for historical documentation and exhibit space on LaSalle, Griffon, tourism, waterfront, Love Canal, etc.

LASALLE CONSERVATION CORRIDOR (Added proposal to City Plan)

ADDED GREENSPACES:

- Consider the purchases of properties like that at 80-82 St @ Buffalo Ave along Little River - and the National Grid site at Cayuga @ Brandi (Bergholtz Creek) for added greenway spaces to the corridor
- Explore conservation easements as an alternative to a purchase

EASEMENTS & SET BACKS:

- Encourage the City to develop a set back and easement policies for transitional (new) ownership of shoreline properties
- Set back policies should be for conservation and water dependent purposes only and not to be confused with a land "taking"

STEWARDSHIP ETHIC: A PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY

- I will to the best of my ability manage my land and its shoreline in such a manner as to protect the natural and scenic qualities of the river corridor
- I will refrain from dumping leaves, grass, oils or other foreign materials into our waterways
- I will plan to participate in special community events and activities like clean ups, and river festivals when able, and
- I will protect water quality by maintaining a conservation buffer of 25 feet or more from the edge of the water free of any new buildings or impervious materials.

We look forward to working with the Niagara Greenway Commission, the City of Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York State, and the New York Power Authority to advance these recommendations.

LaSalle PRIDE

Patsy Mackenna, Chair
Kathleen McCunn, Secretary
Brigitte Shackleton, Vice Chair
Walter Kendzia, Treasurer

Ursula Strong, member
Joyce Donovan, member
Ken Sherman, member

Stewardship "Pledge of Allegiance"

I pledge my energies
To the waters of our rivers,
To keep them forever clean.
And to the watershed
From which it springs,
One ecosystem
Interconnected through the laws of nature,
With life and abundance for all.

and the addition of off-street parking. Remedies to Jayne Park are crucial in order to create a healthy, attractive, and connected green space along the waterfront. Improvements should also include dedicated canoe launch facilities.

While, every Greenway community should make a systematic effort to rehabilitate, improve and expand public parks and recreational facilities, and add new green structures whenever feasible, the City intends to implement a specific program to enhance city parks, which can be linked into a linear system of multi-use trails. Parks proposed for specific greenway improvement include: Griffon, Gill Creek, 60th St, 70th St, 91st St, Caravelle Dr, Hennepin, Hyde, Center Court, Liberty Parks, and the Abate School Playground.

26. Extend the LaSalle Expressway west to connect downtown

Consideration should be given to coordinating the reconfiguration of the RMP between the I-190 and downtown with the inevitable replacement of the Grand Island Bridges within the next twenty-year planning horizon. This major transportation improvement will offer the opportunity for the Community to relocate highway interchange functions inland, allowing the extension of the LaSalle Expressway (former railway) corridor west toward downtown, coming to grade at a new major intersection with Hyde Park Blvd. continuing along the current Buffalo Ave. alignment west from Hyde Park Blvd. This reconfiguration creates a safer more functional highway network with greater capacity and connectivity. Not insignificantly, this new configuration diminishes the relevance of the RMP as a connecting expressway, while creating new opportunities for an expanded "greenway" and associated neighborhood redevelopment.

27. Extend RiverView Trail through the LaSalle Expressway Corridor

Reconstruction of the LaSalle Expressway creates the opportunity to re-align the roadway to provide room for constructing a multi-use trail extension of the River View Trail north and east from the Century Club Trailhead (within the ROW). This establishes the continuous link between the east city line and the RiverView section of the Niagara River Greenway Trail. This section of the waterfront trail is very much a neighborhood "recreational trail" not only providing easy access to/from the river's shore, but also linking the various LaSalle neighborhoods, which find themselves separated by the expressway.



28. Improve Cayuga Creek as a connection and its ecological function

Cayuga Creek should be strengthened as an important physical connection and new green structure opportunity linking the adjacent neighborhoods to the Upper Niagara and Little Niagara River. The creek is one of only two water-based links from the river into the city and should be actively managed as part of the city's open space network removing overgrowth and investing in habitat restoration that improve its ecological function. While connection to the river is envisioned via establishing, a "urban canoe trail" and an exclusive canoe launch.

29. Connect City to RiverView Trail and Parkway at 53rd Street C.5

Connect 53rd Street to the Robert Moses Parkway at a city-style at-grade intersection. This will create easy access to existing dock facilities from both the adjacent neighborhoods and the Parkway itself and create a new waterfront trailhead and fishing access point. At the same time, this will calm the flow of traffic on the reconfigured parkway.



Project Area

LaSalle Blueway Trail

USGS: 1:24,000 Series
Tonawanda West

0 0.250.5 1 1.5

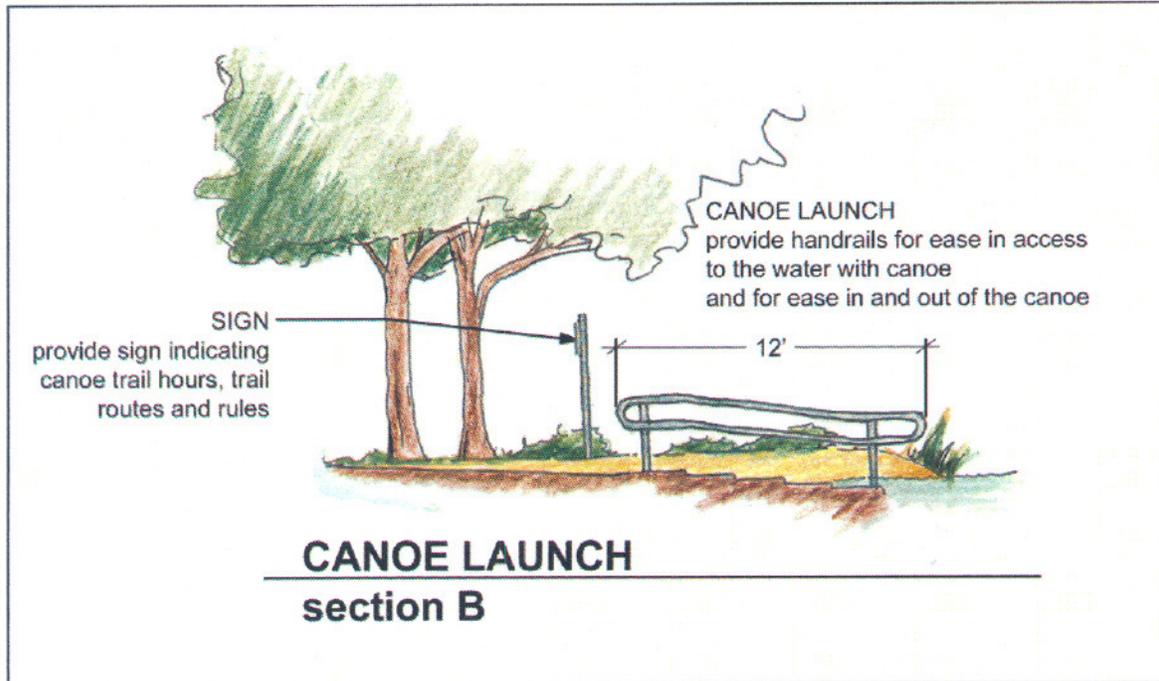
Miles



prepared for: **BUFFALO NIAGARA RIVERKEEPER**
in cooperation with: CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
NIAGARA COUNTY
NIAGARA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND
LASALLE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
LASALLE PRIDE

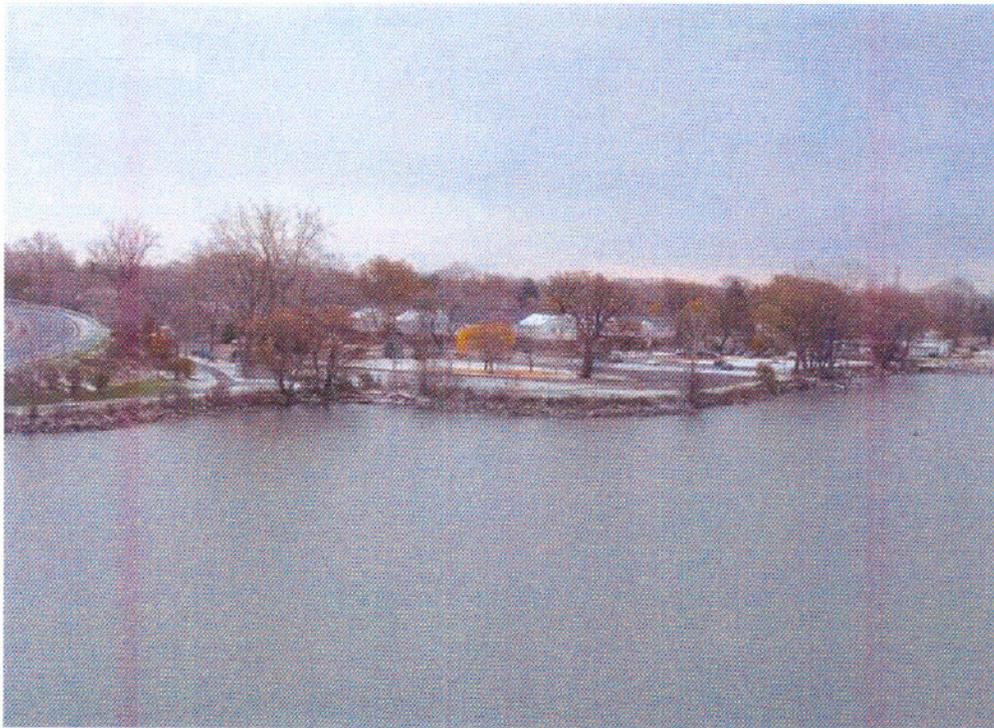
prepared by: **JOY KUEBLER, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**

for further design information on Jayne Park refer to
JAYNE PARK RESTORATION MASTER PLAN, APRIL 2001
prepared by URS Corporation Group Consultants





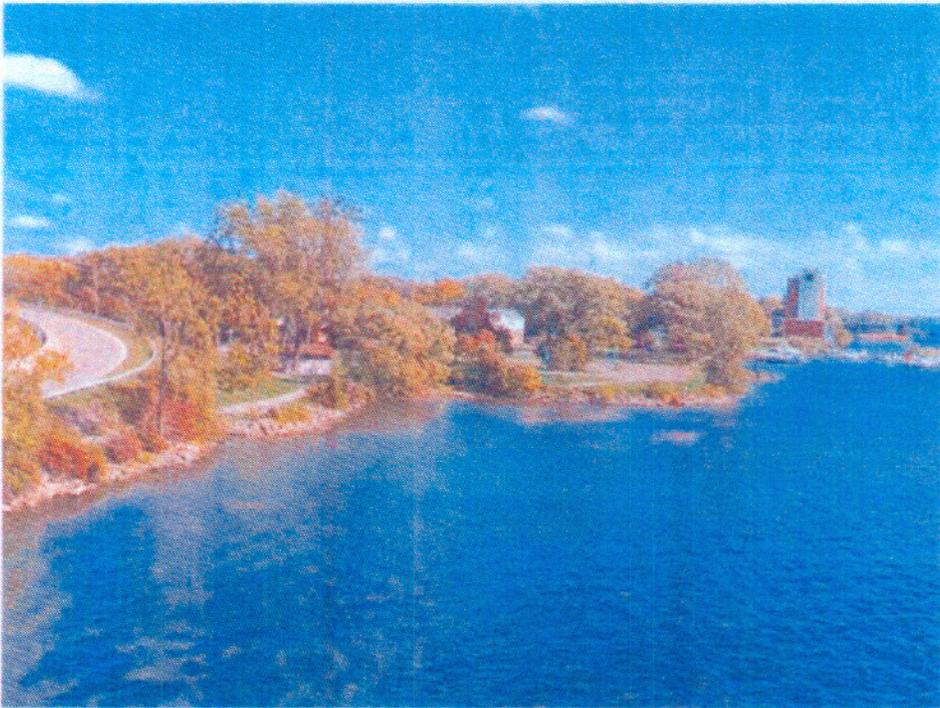
Griffon Boat Docks



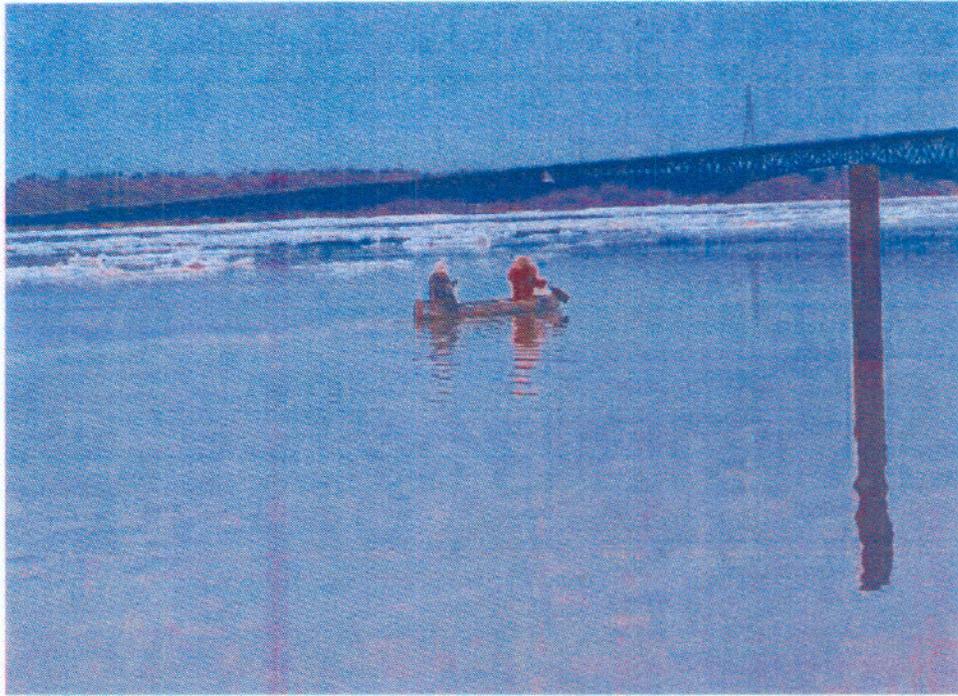
Boat Launch Site



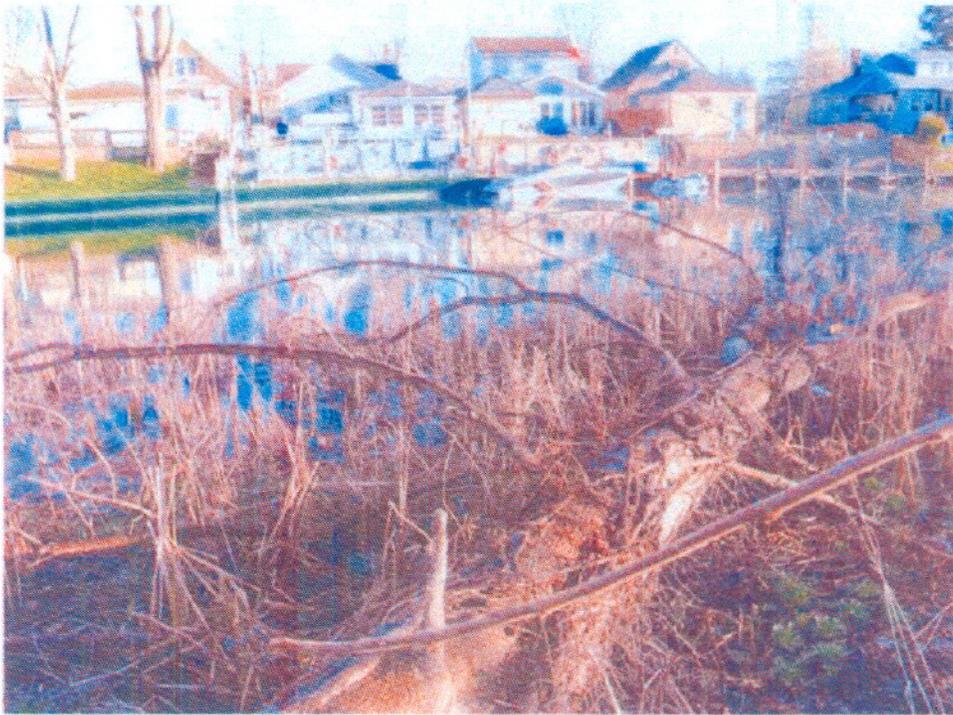
View of 87th St.



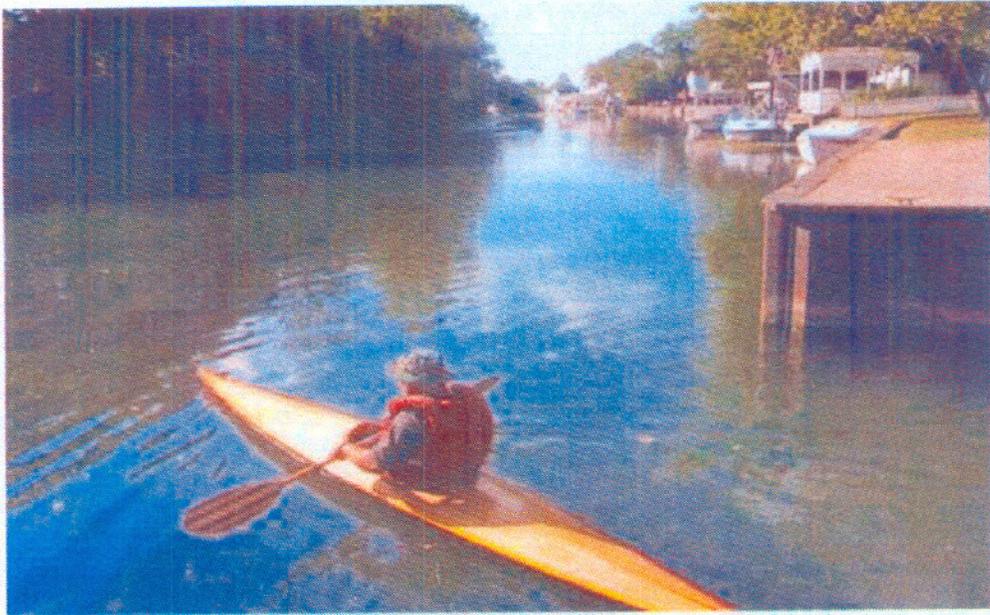
Cove at former Century Club site.



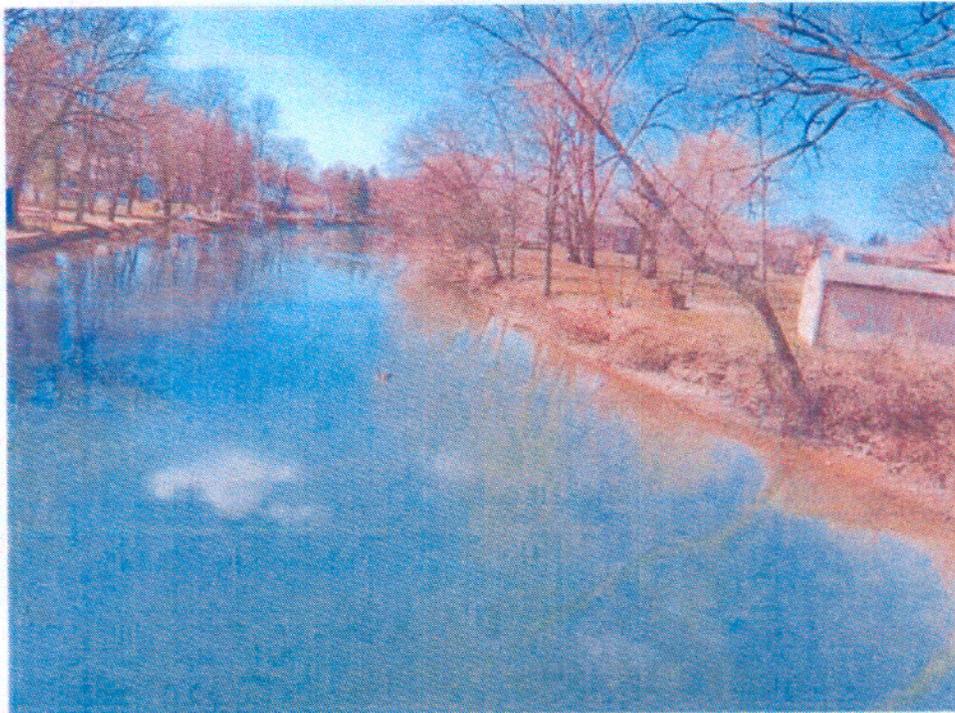
Niagara River near former Century Club.



Little River – fallen shoreline tree.



Kayak in Little Niagara River.



Little River - Downstream.



Mouth of Cayuga Creek. View looking north from Riverbank – north edge of Park.



View looking southeast from Riverbank – north edge of Park.