



POLLINATORCONSERVATIONASSOCIATION.ORG

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Niagara River Greenway Commission
PO Box 1132
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Attn: Gregory Stevens

November 17, 2020

Dear Niagara River Greenway Commission;

The Pollinator Conservation Association is pleased to submit this application for consistency for our project "Niagara Greenway Pollinator Action Plan". This project builds on our work and our previously approved consistency applications calling for linked pollinator conservation sites throughout the Niagara River Greenway. This is an advocacy and organizing proposal focused on engaging a wide range of landowners and stewards throughout the Greenway in creating and building out a corridor of public and private properties that provide native plant habitat and nutrition for native pollinators. We look at broad conservation strategies through the lens of pollinators and will use this project to both inform and advocate for an engaged constituency within the boundaries of the Niagara River Greenway and its associated watersheds. The deliverable for this project includes creating partnerships and collaborations, a unique website of information, and a registry of sites representing a variety of ecotypes, locations, and citizen science opportunities. That website will provide critical information regarding everything from model designs, to native plant resources and best practices.

We hope that you find this proposal consistent with Niagara River Greenway objectives for Consultation and Review.

Thank -you
Larry Brooks, President
Jay Burney, Executive Director, Special Projects Director

Project Registration Number (office use only)_____

Niagara River Greenway Commission

Consultation and Review Form

Type of Review Required: _____ **Mandatory Consultation**
 _____ **Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement**

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name: _____ **Pollinator Conservation Association**

Mailing Address:_____. **P.O. Box 894 Buffao**

State: _____ **New York** ZipCode: _____ **14207**

Federal ID **81-4169642** Charities Registration # _____ **814169642**

PROJECT TYPE

___x___ Environmental ___x___ Cultural/Heritage ___x___ Land or Water Public Access

_____ Cultural ___x___ Trail ___x___ Educational/Interpretive

___x___ Waterfront or Land Based Development ___x___ Signage

___x___ Recreational ___x___ (Community Engagement/partnership building) Other

Funding Committee Request:

___x___ Host Community Standing Committee

___x___ Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

_____ Ecological Standing Committee

___x___ State Parks Standing Committee

_____ Unsure at this time

Project Information

Project Name: Niagara Greenway Pollinator Action Plan

Location: Throughout the Niagara River Greenway

Site Address: Multiple

State: New York

Zip Code: Multiple

Minor Civil Division(s) Multiple

County: Erie/Niagara

Project Property Interest. Multiple public and private

Authorized Official

Name: Larry Brooks

Title: Board President

Business Address PO Box 894. **State:** New York **Zip Code** 14207

Telephone Number /Cell Number 716 994 9075 **Fax Number.** N/A

Email Address: larrybrooks_50@msn.com

Project Point of Contact

Name: Jay Burney. **Title:** Executive Director/Special Projects Director

Organization/Firm: Pollinator Conservation Association, Inc.

Business Address: P.O. Box 894. **State:** New York **Zip Code:** 14207

Telephone/ Cell: 716 536 5723

Fax: N/A

Email: greenwatch100@gmail.com

Project Narrative

Project Title: Niagara Greenway Pollinator Action Plan

Please attach material which responds to the following six 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.**

The Pollinator Conservation Association is proposing to continue to promote the concept of creating and continuing to build out a linked pollinator pathway in the Niagara River Greenway. A pollinator pathway is a corridor of public and private properties that provide native plant habitat and nutrition for native pollinators, the foundation of biodiversity. We are not seeking funding for any particular sites with this proposal. We are seeking program funding to enhance our advocacy and engagement program to encourage, educate, consult and help to design and promote funding for sites within the corridor through collaboration and partnerships. This project seeks to fund advocacy, education, and engagement by creating programs and presentations, citizen science training, consultation opportunities, and a unique educational website that will include a registry of sites.

Since 2016, The Pollinator Conservation Association has submitted two Consistency Proposals to the Niagara River Greenway Commission: (“**Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy Pollinator Conservation Supplement**” (November 2016 (approved January 2017)) and; (**MULTIPLE POLLINATOR CONSERVATION SITES, PARTNERSHIP, AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES - November 2018, Approved January 2019**) both of which were deemed consistent by the Commission. Our work has focused on 1); Advocacy and Education; 2) Site Design and Installation; 3) Citizen Science; 4) Promoting Best Practices for long-term success, 5) Encouraging and Creating Collaborations and Partnerships. Our experiences in site design and installation (three funded sites by the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee- Buffalo Harbor State Park. Ohio Street Buffalo, West River Parkway Grand Island) as well as a variety of other projects has brought us significant experience. We have also worked with the private sector (Montante Solar Farm Grand Island, NY) and consulted with a number of agencies, organizations, and groups on a variety of conservation related projects. We have also made dozens of conservation presentations and delivered workshops regarding resiliency design, biodiversity, and pollinator pathway connections both in the Greenway, throughout the Great Lakes, and in other geographical areas including New England, New Jersey, and Long Island. One of our initial projects was to establish “**The Niagara Greenway Pollinator Partnership**, part of the *Niagara Greenway Riparian Habitat Restoration Round Table*. We consider this project to be one of our flagship organizing projects. It remains unfunded by any Greenway Standing Committee. This new project proposal, **Niagara Greenway Pollinator Action Plan**, seeks to create linked and ecologically appropriate pollinator sites by a wide number of organizations, landowners, stewards, agencies, gardeners, and others, to form a highly visible Pollinator Pathway throughout the Niagara Greenway. It is designed to inform, educate, share ideas, best practices, and to help prioritize site location and funding for (pollinator) conservation strategies

and development by collaboration, partnership, and leadership. We will encourage other groups and organizations to participate by creating a pollinator pathway register which we will host on a new and unique website. Sites will range from small gardens to large sites including parks and conservation areas. This collaborative partnership is designed to work with multiple partners, agencies, not for profits, community groups, business, homeowners, and educational institutions to create, manage, and maintain long term conservation initiatives especially and including connected sites to create pollinator pathways in the Greenway.

This project is important because in 2021 an enormous amount of work remains to be done in the Niagara River Greenway involving in the ground project advocacy, planning, prioritizing sites and funding, community engagement, and government engagement. By creating a registry of linked pathways we will bring significant attention to conservation needs in the Greenway. Efforts to reach out to landowners, stewards, organizations, and agencies form the backbone of growing this corridor, and this project is designed to be an action plan toward delivery of that build out. Deliverables include promoting and creation of partnerships and collaborations, a unique website of information sharing (including planting and garden designs, best practices), citizen science opportunities (including training), and a registry of sites representing a variety of ecotypes, greenway locations, and site owners and managers.

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.**

Advancing the Niagara River Greenway Plan

Consistency with NRG Principles

This proposal “**Niagara Greenway Pollinator Action Plan**” by the Pollinator Conservation Association is guided by the same principles as those of the **Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy and Niagara River Greenway Plan**:

1. **Excellence:** Our board, partners, and consultants, and our projects and initiatives have a history of ecological advocacy, on the ground activities, and and consequential environmental relationship with the Niagara River strait, its ecological, economic and restoration activities, and needs, and a vision for collaboration and restoration that is a flag waiver for conservation and community engagement.
2. **Sustainability:** The PCA identifies strategies and projects that have a long term impact. We clearly evaluate the social, economic, and ecological impacts of individual projects and overall contexts of Pollinator Conservation within the NRG and its associated watershed and environments including urban, shoreline, and rural areas. We are focused on long-term engagement, and a long term contract to help to insure that this will be a consistently developed and managed project.

3. **Accessibility:** The PCA NRG project is focused on engagement, outreach, and educational projects. We seek collaborations with the public, governments, educational institutions and the private sector. One of our primary values involves making information available to a wide audience of stakeholders. The accessibility of project sites, will focus on ecological restoration priorities and public sites. We will encourage signage and online information about sites including advocacy contexts through the creation of a unique web registry and site.

4. **Ecological Integrity:** Pollinator conservation is a profound gateway to address ecological integrity from many perspectives. Our international region as reflected by the Niagara River Greenway is a critical corridor and watershed effecting global as well as local and regional contexts. Pollinator conservation addresses native habitats, native plants, native wildlife, and threats to the above. Pollinator Conservation is also a gateway to public engagement and collaboration in a fundamentally popular way. By creating a linked pathways project we will endeavor to reduce fragmentation of habitat in the Niagara River Corridor.

5. **Public Well-being:** Pollinator Conservation is a foundation of supporting diverse ecological systems and places. The support of biodiversity is an anchor for climate change defense, all life, and human life. This has health and economic contexts that promote sustainability that fundamentally connect environment with social and economic strategies. In addition, targeted places, combined with an educational and outreach campaign will engage the public in ways that will profoundly influence what we do, where we do it, and how we do it. Human health and well-being has to be a cornerstone of pollinator conservation.

6. **Connections:** This project will provide physical connections between places by helping to design and provide ecological corridors in the increasingly fragmented natural environment. In addition, this project will help to connect humans throughout the international Niagara River Greenway and beyond to concepts, projects, and other people. Collaboration is a human cornerstone of this project.

7. **Restoration:** This project will promote and engage in restoration projects that will include public and private lands. By creating community based information and advocacy, as well as blueprints for designs and best practices, we will provide a basis for restoration activities linked to conservation through the lens of pollinators. The wholistic connection to conservation is a resiliency strategy that will create and promote more green space for biodiversity to regenerate and flourish

8. **Authenticity:** Our partners and collaborators related to the PCA, our projects, and programs including the Greenway Pollinator Partnership, represent science, nature, ecology, culture, community, advocacy, education, planning, project management and engagement. This project brings us more opportunities for wide ranging community engagement throughout the Niagara River Greenway.

9. **Celebration:** This project is a green flag waiver and a NRG flag waiver. This project will continue to focus on bringing diverse people, agencies, businesses, elected officials and the broad community together to celebrate our opportunities to promote conservation strategies. We will continue to use this project to lift all boats, and encourage the development and independent management of linked sites throughout the Greenway.

10. **Partnerships:** the PCA is invested in creating a broad based network of collaboration, partnerships, and community engagement opportunities. These partnerships and collaborations, including international strategies related to the GreenWay and the Great Lakes, are fundamental to our mission. Since our original consistency

determination in January of 2017 we have continued to develop partnerships both with the Niagara Greenway Pollinator Partnership (<http://www.pollinatorconservationassociation.org/niagara-river-greenway-pollinator-partnership.html>) and with campaigns including the Buffalo Outer Harbor Coalition, the Western New York Environmental Alliance, the Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve, and the International Birds on the Niagara Winter Festival. (www.birdsonthenniagara.org)

11. Community-based: The PCA is focused on place-based advocacy, partnerships and collaborations with communities and people across the region. We will use this project to help develop community based programs and projects including citizen science initiatives including e-bird, and i-naturalist programs.

Consistency with NRG Goals

The proposed PCA project achieves all of the goals of the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

1. Improve Access: Our first priority is to create and provide access to connected habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Fragmentation and development have harmed biodiversity and the wildlife, including pollinators, that depend on it. We will continue to create and advocate strategies that promote long term funding, education, and management strategies for communities and targeted locations. Some projects may be less accessible by a broad public. Other sites may include very public spaces including parkways, parks, schools, homes, and other spaces. In all instances we will strive to create public benefit by helping to create and promote places that can benefit human populations by benefiting biodiversity, climate change issues, and human health. These strategies will include recreation, education, science, and appropriate economic investments. We will provide access to tools and information through our website, social media platforms, and other outreach programs. These programs will help to key on specific places and native fauna and flora, as well as provide credit to the NRG.

2. Make Connections: Partnerships and collaborations are broad based and are designed to engage connections between and within public contexts, government, education, community groups, advocates, and the private sector. Since our initial proposal to the NRG in 2017 we have partnered with the Greenway and a number of other organizations, institutions, agencies, and towns to form the Niagara River Pollinator Partnership. We have created and published Quarterly editions of **the POLLINATOR**.

This partnership is designed to build an informed and educated constituency regarding pollinator conservation and conservation in general. In addition creating pollinator conservation sites and places throughout the Greenway will help to address the ecological fragmentation that characterizes so much of this area.

3. Protect and Restore Environmental Systems: The **Greenway Pollinator Action Plan** will protect and restore unique and threatened ecological resources, including critical riparian and land based habitat. These habitats support declining rare, threatened and endangered species that depend on a number of habitat types. Our goal is to reduce fragmentation of habitats by creating and encouraging conservation and restoration, and by encouraging a wide range of landowners and stewards to adopt conservation standards that promote biodiversity, resiliency, and regeneration.

4. Celebrate History and Heritage: Our region has a long history of both conservation and development. We will celebrate human history by exploring how Indigenous culture perceives and lives with nature and how the

contemporary culture of the most recent 200 plus years has contributed to a decline in ecological integrity. We will work with urban, rural, and other communities to advocate for world class leadership of restoration and conservation strategies. We will address brownfield restoration, agricultural balance, and ongoing industrial development with plans, goals, and blueprints for promoting (pollinator) conservation. We are helping to create the roadmap to restoring the health of the river, watershed, and other sensitive and threatened areas associated with the Niagara River Greenway.

5. Spark Revitalization and Renewal: Our focus on (pollinator) conservation continues to stimulate community awareness and investment in conservation. This helps to make our region a Great Lakes, national, and international leader and clearing house for strategies, information, policies, practices and planning for restoration. Since our inception in 2016 we have worked with a variety of local and regional agencies including the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation, The Niagara River Greenway, DEC, the Buffalo Harbor State Park, Erie County, the City of Buffalo, the Our Outer Harbor Coalition, Buffalo State Park, Olmsted, Buffalo State College, Grand Island, the Scajaquada Coalition and others to promote pollinator habitat and climate resiliency. This includes consulting with private development companies including Montante Solar and Grand Island to create pollinator friendly solar farms on Grand Island. We have been especially effective at the Buffalo Outer Harbor waterfront where we have worked closely with ECHDC and its consultant teams to promote pollinator conservation. In addition we have made presentations at regional and national conferences, and have drawn positive national and international media attention.

6. Promote Long Term Sustainability: The concepts of Pollinator Conservation and our projects and products, are designed to address and reverse the current decline of ecosystems and the associated ecological services that this decline reflects. We always ask the question what are the expectations in 10 years, 50 years, 100 years and longer, and how are we going to meet those expectations. We have a long term action agenda. This project proposal covers a three year time period, but we fully anticipate working on this project for decades. We are fully engaged in advocating for and creating long term conservation plans including management and maintenance plans. Funding for the **Niagara Greenway Pollinator Action Plan** will both protect our investments and provide opportunities to build out a wide-ranging pollinator pathways and connectedness for future generations, which must be a primary strategy and goal.

7. Extend Olmsted's Legacy: We believe and aggressively advocate that a 21st Century Olmsted legacy involves native habitat and ecosystem restoration and public engagement. We proudly waive this flag, and expect to help move our regions Olmsted branding forward with this vision. We embrace an action plan that defends and engages with this legacy.

Consistency with Criteria

-Consistency with Principles: This proposed project is guided by the same 11 principles that guide the Niagara River Greenway Plan. (see above)

-Priority Status: Short and long-term planning, education, collaboration and partnerships, and advocacy, leads our vision toward restoration of the Niagara River and associated biota ecosystems.

-Focus Areas: We have an overarching goal to address the entire Niagara River Greenway geography including the associated watershed (s). Our priorities will focus on properties and sites within the Greenway including municipal boundaries and along State designated trails and related assets. We include urban, suburban, industrial, and agricultural sites as places to become part of a pollinator pathway. We have also developed international partnerships and working relationships with Canadian organizations and agencies.

-Environmental Soundness: Pollinator Conservation and creating connected pathways seeks to remove threats and to encourage sound science based management plans and strategies. We have a list of best practices that we will provide to site owners and stewards to help insure the best possible integration of sites.

-Implementable: We have done a great deal of organizing and implementation with our greenway funded efforts and our efforts to create working partnerships and collaborations. The PCA has become a leader in (pollinator) conservation efforts and strategies in the Niagara River Greenway. Our budget is reasonable, pollinator conservation is becoming very popular so we will be able to engage the public, and our focus on multiyear funding, and long term maintenance, and management strategies will help to insure that the Pollinator Conservation action plans will last for a long while. This long-term view is critical to implementation success.

-Economic Viability: In addition to Greenway funding, our project development strategy involves working with partners and collaborators to find and apply for a variety of funding resources for prioritized projects. For this particular aspect of the project we wish to ask each of the standing committees to provide a portion of our funding, as well as other funding partners including the Community Foundation, Ralph Wilson Foundation, and M&T Bank, among others. Having a positive Greenway Consistency determination will bolster these efforts. In addition we wish to lift all boats. Community organizations, land owners, municipalities, land stewards, and others will be encouraged to develop plans, seek funding, and participate in this program so that we can have a more profound impact on creating a less fragmented conservation trail based on pollinators.

-Local Sponsors and Partners: The PCA is an association based on collaboration and partners. These partners do and will include municipal and other governments, agencies, schools, community groups, and the private sector. We have created strong partnerships and collaborations with our funded projects and with our Greenway Pollinator Partnership members. We encourage the development of projects by all comers to help create a connected pollinator pathway in the Niagara Greenway.

-Matching Funds/Leveraging: A primary strategy of the PCA and the NRG Pollinator Conservation strategy is to use the funding to seed and build long term partnerships and funding strategies. We are working on a variety of funding sources, including NYS Assembly, the Community Foundation, and the Wilson Foundation as well as private sector gifts and projects. We have had some success in 2020 in raising funds through our public advocacy efforts and believe that this funding source will continue to grow.

-Other Planning Efforts. Our board members, partners, and clients have long term investments and experience in a variety of planning efforts including One Region Forward, WNY-REDC, Queen City Hub, local comprehensive plans, the Buffalo Unified Development Ordinance (Green Code), The Niagara River Corridor Globally Significant Important Bird Area, Ramsar, The Our Outer Harbor Coalition, Times Beach Nature Preserve, and other regional planning initiatives including NRG plans and projects. Many of our partners have helped to create these plans. Our objective is to make sure that the environment, conservation strategies, and ecological integrity become priority issues as various plans continue to be implemented and developed. Our

work with ECHDC, SUNY Buffalo State, the Greenway Pollinator Partnership, and other agencies, communities, not-for-profits including PUSH, and the Western New York Environmental Alliance have helped to stimulate a wide variety of conservation oriented projects in the Greenway and its associated watersheds.

-Clear Benefits:

Ecological Integrity

The Niagara River Corridor is a world class place that will continue to benefit from ecological restoration and conservation initiatives. Fragmentation of habitat continues to pose a serious threat. Linking habitat is an important element in creating a secure and resilient greenway. Members of our staff, board, and many of our partners have been central to the creation of the NRG Commission, the Niagara River Globally Significant Important Bird Area, the Niagara River Ramsar, Birds on the Niagara, and the Erie Niagara Marine Sanctuary proposal, and a new focus at Buffalo's outer harbor on ecological integrity, habitat and conservation strategies. We know how important pollinator conservation and addressing fragmentation is to the preservation of biodiversity. We have world class partners and deep relationships throughout our region with elected leaders, officials, agencies, organizations, universities and science professionals, planners, and individuals. These relationships based on conservation strategies create a backbone for our project that will benefit the ecological goals and principles of the NRG.

Economic Development

Our outreach and education strategies include engaging and enhancing visitor and resident experience of the Greenway, through the promotion and flag-waiving contexts associated with conservation and pollinator strategies. We identify places and programs that are both highly visible and ecologically beneficial. We conduct programs and exhibits that will engage people and enhance tourism opportunities and development. Our work with the ECHDC and other state and local government agencies and departments is paying incredible economic development benefits including the refocusing on the Outer Harbor as green and open space, suitable for conservation, recreation, and tourism. We believe that our efforts have and will continue to raise the quality of life in our area, and that attracts people that want to live, work, and invest in this area.

3. Define the budget for the total proposed project and include costs for the following: 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.

We anticipate a 2021-2023 budget for this proposal to be approximately \$246,000. We are seeking funding from the Greenway Standing Committees, and local foundations including the Ralph Wilson Foundation, M&T Bank, the Community Foundation, other sponsors and private contributors.

The PCA has raised about \$4,000 in private donations for this project 2019-2020 and made in-kind, volunteer contributions of about \$50,000. Any activities 2021-2023 will need new funding, which we anticipate seeking in the same way as previous years. The project will be operated and maintained by the Pollinator Conservation Association staff, consultants, and volunteers in partnership and collaboration with identified stakeholders.

Proposed Budget Outline 2021-2023

Planning: \$12,000 per year including presentation materials. (Total x 3 years \$36,000)

Construction: We do not anticipate funding any sites directly with this funding.

Acquisition: We do not anticipate any acquisition of property with this project

Administration: 2 part-time positions at approximately \$35,000 per year (Total 3 years, \$105,000)

Operations and Maintenance: Funding for meetings, travel (mileage/tolls/parking) within the Greenway, special presentations, workshops, communications, training programs, website development \$30,000 per year. (Total 3 years \$90,000)

Miscellaneous: (equipment, etc.) \$15,000 total.

Total 3 year budget \$246,000

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.

In 2018 The Pollinator Conservation Association proposed to the Niagara River Greenway Commission the concept of creating a Greenway-long Pollinator Conservation Corridor. This project proposal included creating and characterizing pollinator conservation strategies, identifying and prioritizing sites, advocating for policy and funding, community engagement, and defining best practices for implementing on the ground conservation opportunities and strategies.

This concept was described in a Buffalo News Article by T. J. Pignataro, “**Pollinator corridor aims for 37 miles of bee-friendly plants**”. which was published in July of 2018.

https://buffalonews.com/news/local/pollinator-corridor-aims-for-37-miles-of-bee-friendly-plants/article_48bc8e3c-3bc8-55a1-9645-d7b8882d1375.html

That year the Pollinator Conservation Association partnered with the NRGCC to form The **Niagara Greenway Pollinator Partnership** as a part of the *Niagara Greenway Riparian Habitat Restoration RoundTable*.

Since then we have been creating sites, partnerships, engagement, citizen science initiatives, and working to establish a connected corridor or pathway in the Niagara Greenway and its Watersheds.

This proposal focuses on further creating and implementing an Pollinator Greenway Action Plan to promote on the ground sites and partnerships throughout the Greenway and it’s watersheds, (including urban areas), connecting critical and appropriate habitats so that the essential biodiversity that creates healthy ecosystem can be conserved, restored, and made to flourish. (Economic, Social, and Ecological Resiliency)

We have worked with municipal governments and state and federal agencies on a variety of initiatives including helping to describe municipal ordinances regarding native plant landscaping; helping to define and prioritize areas for conservation stewardship (Buffalo Outer Harbor, Scajaquada Conservation Campus, West River Parkway) and helping to engage the public through citizen science, educational initiatives, and other advocacy initiatives. We are working with schools, not for profits and other community groups on science education, citizen science, and conservation needs. We have been a central force in creating the Birds on the Niagara International Winter Celebration, which focuses on tourism, engagement, and education with a target of promoting economic development through conservation initiatives. We will continue to do this work with this funding.

This project funding will reinforce our work to promote:

-Public/private partnerships including property ownership and stewardship, public engagement, and the advocacy and to inform or create public policies and ordinances to promote conservation. (Including community lawn and garden ordinances and tree ordinances)

A. Engage property owners including municipal, county, state, federal and private land owners.

B. Engage school and other community groups including garden groups.

C. Identification, inventory, prioritization, of appropriate sites so that urban, waterfront, and other connections can be established.

D. Sites can include parks, designated conservation areas, parkways, yards, gardens, lawn scapes, forests, grasslands, wetlands, schools, neighborhoods, and other small and large opportunities. (Can be as small as a box of native plants in a yard.)

We will establish an informational network and website that will:

- Provide toolkits and information on creating pollinator friendly sites including small garden designs and landscape level initiatives.

- Greenway based site registration.

- Help to develop economic incentives for local native plant growers by growing a marketplace. This could be a \$1-5 million dollar regional industry by 2030.

- Provide resources to help find and purchase appropriate native plants.

- Best practices guidelines regarding design, installation, management, and short and long term-maintenance of sites.

- Provide Pollinator Friendly site signs-Provide opportunities for citizen/community science opportunities

- Create all season tourism regarding conservation strategies and ecotourism (example: Birds on the Niagara International Festival, Buffalo Outer Harbor Recreational Area), etc.

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 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 animal 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.

Our project does not target any particular sites. We are looking to identify and link existing and potential sites within the Greenway and to find and prioritize other sites and conservation opportunities (including other organizations) as part of a large scale Pollinator Greenway/Pollinator Pathway. We anticipate that any site development will either not be relevant to SEQRA or will receive a Negative Declaration. We do offer to conduct site surveys including creating an inventory of species or anticipated species that may be rare, endangered, or of special concern. If there are SEQRA issues, we will actively consult on any issues and or applications. We have a SEQRA framework and have worked with a number of attorneys on a variety of projects.

Our objective is to uplift conservation through the eyes of pollinators, and advocate for project development by others, including but not limited to Greenway Pollinator Partnership members.

This was best described in a Buffalo News article **by T. J. Pignataro, “Pollinator corridor aims for 37 miles of bee-friendly plants”. which was published in July of 2018.**

https://buffalonews.com/news/local/pollinator-corridor-aims-for-37-miles-of-bee-friendly-plants/article_48bc8e3c-3bc8-55a1-9645-d7b8882d1375.html

There are a number of sites throughout the Niagara River Greenway including PCA sites and numerous other sites associated with the Greenway Trail, shorelines, parkways, nature preserves, in-river sites, public parks, municipal and urban environments, schools, and private locations. This project is designed to reach out to landowners and potential conservation partners to help uplift, develop and realize a connected pollinator pathway concept within the Niagara River Greenway.

We continue to rely on the document “Niagara River Habitat Conservation Strategy”, produced by Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper in 2014.

<https://bnwaterkeeper.org/projects/habitat/habitat/habitatstrategy/>

Project Timeline

2017 Launch of PCA

2018 Launch of Niagara River Greenway Pollinator Conservation Partnership

2019 Partnership organizational meetings, surveys, site assessments prioritization, partnership engagement, project development and support. We encourage appropriate conservation strategies by landowners and stewards.

2020 Ongoing work, meetings, developing partnerships and collaborations, priorities, project identification. Launch website and registration. Develop web-based information, best practices, etc. Publication of the POLLINATOR.

2021 Ongoing fundraising, quarterly meetings of Niagara Greenway Pollinator Partnership, develop collaborations, new individual partners, new projects assessments, development, and support, promote registry to engage, support, and encourage, new projects, provide technical assistance, new fundraising initiatives. Development and delivery of website, trainings, presentations, workshops, etc.

2022 Create new funding for a regional (Great Lakes) pollinator conference, expand the registry and pathway, develop ongoing funding initiatives to keep the Greenway Pollinator Action Plan active. We anticipate that this program will continue for many years to help manage, develop, promote, advocate for Pollinator Pathways in the Greenway and its associated watersheds.

2023 and Beyond- Continue to expand the Pollinator Pathway concept and add registry to additional sites.