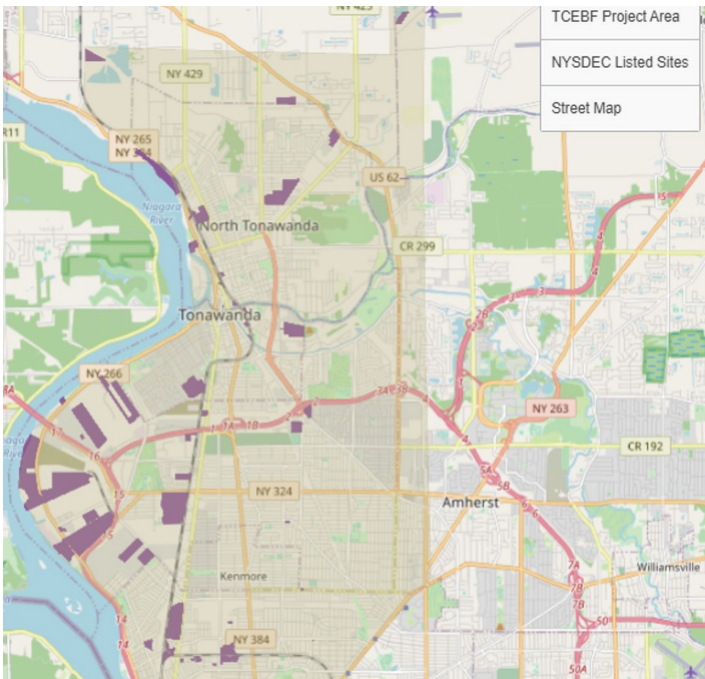


Tier 2 Grantee Project Descriptions

**— TONAWANDA COMMUNITY —
ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS PROGRAM**



Clean Air Coalition

“Organizing Our Environmental Justice Values in Action”

Grant Amount: \$99,000

Location: Buffalo, City of Tonawanda, Grand Island, Kenmore, North Tonawanda, Tonawanda

Project Description

Tonawanda and the surrounding region have a high concentration of current and legacy waste sites. The New York State Superfund and Brownfield remediation programs are crucial to the health, wellness, and future of our communities for generations to come, but they are often inaccessible, and full of technical jargon. In order to encourage more community members and stakeholders to participate in the remedial projects, Clean Air Coalition will use this grant to build a first of its kind community-controlled hazardous waste mapping tool and database to map, track, and take action on hazardous waste sites in our communities. Clean Air Coalition will also administer a “Values in Action and Organizing 101” skills training program that will teach Tonawanda residents living near toxic waste sites the scientific, public health, community organizing and power building skills they need to create lasting environmental justice changes.

Together, these two sister programs will increase community members’ access to decision making and make existing environmental cleanup programs work better for those of us living, working and playing along the fence-line of hazardous waste sites. Through community organizing skills training, education on regulatory processes, community education on the impact of hazardous waste on public health and the environment, and an accessible, accurate and community-led data mapping program, Clean Air Coalition will use this grant to help bolster the voices and power of the community to advocate for more robust, timely, accessible, and transparent remediation programs.



Niagara River Greenway Commission

“Building Stewardship and Strengthening Pride of the Greater Tonawanda Community”

Grant Amount: \$230,000

Location: Buffalo, City of Tonawanda, Grand Island, Kenmore, North Tonawanda, Tonawanda

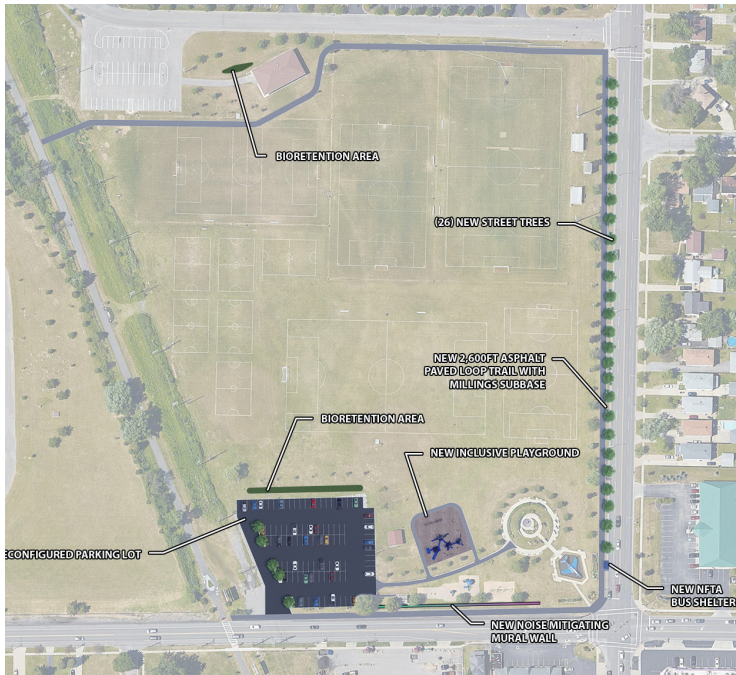
Project Description

Many local municipalities are redefining their cities and towns as ecotourist destinations, making this a great time to educate and empower the Western New York community in learning about the ecological assets within their watershed. With this grant, the Niagara River Greenway Commission will enhance public spaces, improve the community’s green infrastructure, restore the waterfront and increase awareness of environmental issues by boosting community stewardship. This will be accomplished by implementing three distinct but connected initiatives: the Youth Stewardship Program, the Establishment of Trail Adoptions, and a Region Wide Volunteer Management System.

The Youth Stewardship Program’s goal is to work with teachers to increase environmental education in schools and engage students about the environment by learning about water ecology, riparian habitats, and how human interference impacts ecosystems. The Greenway Commission will partner with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and embed themselves in thirteen area high schools. As students learn more about the importance of our environment and work with the land, they will gain a greater appreciation of the environment and become life-long stewards.

The second initiative, the Establishment of Trail Adoptions, will be dedicated to maintaining trail cleanliness, arresting the proliferation of invasive species, planting trees, and installing trail amenities. The Greenway Commission will partner with Rotary Clubs to accomplish these goals. And in the third initiative, the Greenway Commission will grow regional stewardship by developing a volunteer management system that will help environmental organizations communicate more effectively with volunteers, identify problem areas more quickly, and grow their volunteer base. An online system will be created and launched so volunteers themselves can find volunteer opportunities and track their total volunteer hours across organizations.

The Niagara River Greenway Commission has secured a \$130,000 match for this project.



Town of Tonawanda

“Kenney Field Park Multi-Use Trail, Inclusive Playground and Mural Wall”

Grant Amount: \$250,000

Location: Town of Tonawanda

Project Description

This project addresses the need for a dynamic recreation area that promotes wellness, provides environmental benefits, and, most importantly, allows participation by all. With a population of nearly 70,000, the Town of Tonawanda has parks that provide necessary convenient public access to recreation, inspiration, and essential respite. Of the Town’s 12 parks, not one has an inclusive, accessible recreation area for use by a variety of ages and abilities. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data states that 17 percent of children and 26 percent of adults are living with some type of disability. There are individuals and families in Kenmore/Tonawanda, as in every community, that have one or more members that are physically, emotionally, mentally, or developmentally disabled.

The project activities to be conducted with this grant would include the construction of a recycled-asphalt multi-use loop trail that connects the park with the “Rails to Trails” that is both cost effective and friendly to the environment. Inclusive playground equipment with safe, rubber surfacing would also be installed in the park. The Town of Tonawanda would build a mural/noise mitigation wall that would serve as an educational art installation and serve the need of lessening noise pollution from the street, which is an important consideration for an inclusive play area. This will ensure that those with processing disorders are protected from sensory overload due to street noise.

The grant would also support other significant environmental efforts. The town would plant 26 new trees at the Kenney Field park, install five air quality monitors, and create two bioretention drainage areas that would divert stormwater runoff away from storm sewers.

The Town of Tonawanda has secured a \$25,000 match for this project.



Western New York Land Conservancy

“Creating New Nature Preserves, Improving Public Access, Restoring Wildlife Habitat, and Offering Environmental Education”

Grant Amount: \$160,777

Location: North Tonawanda and Grand Island

Project Description

Our forests, rivers, and colorful plants and animals are irreplaceable. Last year, when everything shut down, parks and nature preserves were the only places we could visit with family, let our children play with their friends, and see our grandchildren. We deserve to have more places in nature that are open to us. Our birds and butterflies deserve to have their homes protected. And, our children deserve to be able to sit beneath tall oaks and splash through creeks, like their parents did growing up.

The Western New York Land Conservancy, in partnership with Buffalo Audubon, and in collaboration with you and the community, will use this grant to create new and improved existing nature preserves and trails, restore wildlife habitat, and lead outdoor programs in the Tonawanda community for people of all ages.

At the North Tonawanda Audubon Preserve, the funding will be used to improve some of the muddy walking trails, remove dead trees leaning over neighboring homes, and plant new trees. On Grand Island: at the Gallogly Nature Sanctuary, funding will restore habitat for nesting birds, and improve the existing trail and entrance; at the Love Road Preserve, it will open a new walking trail and restore its forests; at the Alt Preserve, funding will protect the forest and meadow with a conservation easement, and the landowners will open a walking trail system; and at the Funk Preserve, the funds will purchase the forest and restore habitat for frogs and salamanders. At all of these preserves, the Land Conservancy and Buffalo Audubon will lead hikes, volunteer days, and environmental education for children.

The WNY Land Conservancy has secured a \$161,005 match for this project.