

Part Five



Environmental Assessment

Environmental Assessment



The American Falls

Introduction

As directed by Public Law (PL) 107-256, the National Park Service is preparing a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a Niagara Falls National Heritage Area. This feasibility study describes the affected environment and considers alternatives for formal federal designation of such an area as outlined in the public law. The study also assesses the possible impacts of these alternatives relative to cultural and natural resources and the human environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Such resources, impacts, and aspects have been given preliminary evaluation through public involvement to sense the potential for significant effects. This analysis provides the basis for a report to satisfy the Congressional request and assist in its decision making on whether to authorize the establishment of a national heritage area at Niagara.

At this level of analysis, it appears that most of the common aspects of the human environment and the resources themselves would not be subject to potentially significant effects. Only socioeconomic

impacts require an increased level of analysis. Given the suitability and feasibility of authorizing this area primarily for recognition and conservation of its heritage values, the NPS feels that the processing of an environmental assessment (EA) would satisfactorily support the feasibility study and report of it to Congress, in keeping with NEPA.

The conceptual nature of the management alternatives in this study limits the scope of the impact evaluation of environmental aspects to a relatively broad analysis, in the absence of detailed project descriptions. If the Niagara National Heritage Area were to receive federal designation, a management plan would be developed in greater detail to describe actions to be implemented. Preparation of that management plan would be accompanied by an EA and/or environmental impact statement (EIS) for project work involving federal action where it is deemed to be major and of a significant impact to the human environment.

Since this feasibility study is intended to determine if the Niagara Falls region meets the criteria for designation as a National Heritage Area and does not

propose any specific federal action beyond a recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior to Congress regarding designation, no compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is needed at this time. If a Niagara National Heritage Area management plan is developed and it identifies specific actions that may have impacts on cultural resources, Section 106 compliance would be covered at that time.



Prospect Point Niagara Falls State Park

Overview of Socioeconomic Impacts in a Niagara National Heritage Area

Heritage area designation could be helpful to achieve obtain community and economic improvements in the Niagara Falls area. The primary goals of a national heritage area in the Niagara Falls area would be to increase appreciation of the region's nature, culture, and history, to upgrade the visitor experience, and to enhance the quality of life.

With the establishment of a national heritage area, visitation would likely increase to some degree. Heritage initiatives could increase lengths of stay and spending levels, since heritage tourists tend to spend more, stay in hotels more often, visit more destinations, and stay longer than other types of tourists. Since the early 1990s, "heritage tourism" has been one of the fastest-growing segments of tourism in the country. It is especially popular with people taking daytrips and long-weekend vacations.

The experience of existing heritage areas can provide a sense of potential tourism impacts. The heritage area designation tends to make regions more attractive to visitors. It induces greater expenditures by tourists, partly because heritage areas spawn new businesses, such as inns, restaurants, and shops, which are appealing to consumers. Heritage, cultural, and environmental tourism represent growth niches in the tourism economy because they have traditionally been underserved. Although Niagara Falls is a completely different place from most national heritage areas because it is a long-established tourist destination, it assumed that a Niagara National Heritage Area could modestly increase visitation above current levels.

Although heritage areas usually realize economic benefits, there are pitfalls associated with projecting numerical impacts. In a feasibility study, it is difficult to quantify the potential impacts of the Niagara National Heritage Area without a description of future projects, which would be only determined later, after federal designation and development of a management plan.

Another problem related to estimating potential impacts is that it is much easier to estimate visitor increases at a specific museum or performing arts venue than across an entire heritage area. The National Park Service and the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, which have developed a methodology to analyze the economic impacts of heritage areas, have learned that economic impacts need to be measured at a small number of heritage sites and larger trends and impacts have to be extrapolated from them. This study has found it is complicated to quantify the economic impact of projects that affect the region's quality of life, such as walking and bike trails, roadway signage, interpretive exhibits and brochures, and preserved historic landmarks.

Impacts of National Heritage Designation on Local Area

Taking into account the difficulties associated with making projections about future visitation to the Niagara National Heritage Area, this study presents scenarios of future tourism impacts, based upon conservative assumptions developed from reviewing the experience of other heritage areas and

Niagara Falls. It should be stated that the projections would be realized only after the national heritage area had a full program of events, heritage trails, and upgraded promotion and interpretation. If significant additional attractions were developed, the number of visitors could increase further. This report's bibliography cites the sources used in the economic impact analysis.

If Alternative 2 or 3 were adopted, it might be reasonable to estimate an increased visitation of 2%. According to this assumption, either of these alternatives would attract 140,000 new visitors, or 56,000 new visitor parties.

This study assumes a scenario that would have 34% (19,040 visitor parties) of visitors staying overnight in local lodging, 14% (7,840 visitor parties) staying overnight in other accommodations, 29% (16,240 visitor parties) being day-trippers from outside the area, and 23% (12,880 visitor parties) being local day-trippers.

According to the Money Generation Model Version 2, visitor parties at national park sites are projected to spend \$523 per trip if they are staying in a hotel/motel/inn and \$234 per trip if they are staying somewhere else, such as a private home. The local day-tripper would spend \$56 per party, and the non-local day-tripper visitor party would spend \$85.

The annual total tourism expenditure impact is estimated to be \$13,894,160. Assuming that 46 cents is spent on secondary sales for every dollar of direct tourist expenditures, the \$13,894,160 in direct



Young Re-enactors at Old Fort Niagara

tourism expenditures would produce an additional \$6,391,314 in indirect and induced expenditures.

Under Alternative 1: Continuation of Current Practices, no federal measures would be taken to attract new visitors to the area and generate the new economic impacts that would accompany them. Nevertheless, change would continue to occur in the region and various sites might attract new tourists, but there would be no concerted preservation and interpretation measures that would accompany a national heritage area.

Type of Visitor Expenditures	Visitor Parties	Per Trip Expenditure	Total
Overnight at lodging	19,040	\$523	\$9,957,920
Other overnight	7,840	\$234	\$1,834,560
Local day-tripper	12,880	\$56	\$721,280
Non-local day-tripper	16,240	\$85	\$1,380,400
Total	56,000	—	\$13,894,160

Visitation at Niagara Sites and Events

In order to provide some context for the estimates of 56,000 additional visitor parties under Alternatives 2 and 3, they should be compared with visitation at existing Niagara Falls attractions and events.

Table 4:
Visitors at Niagara Falls, New York Attractions — 2001

Attraction	Visitors
Niagara Falls State Park Walk-ins/Tours	3,695,350
Fall/Rapids/Gorge Overlook	2,848,795
Niagara Reservation Tower (fee)	699,585
Cave of Winds (fee)	288,177
Viewmobile (fee)	113,785
Aquarium of Niagara (fee)	145,916
Old Fort Niagara	102,000
Niagara Gorge Discovery Center (fee)	35,720
Niagara Power Vista	140,000

Binational “Doors Open” Weekend

The plausibility of the heritage area visitation projections can be demonstrated by comparing them with the attendance at the binational “Doors Open” weekend held in October since 2002 of open houses at heritage sites on both the American and Canadian sides of the Niagara Frontier. The “Doors Open” event demonstrates the kind of visitation that well-planned heritage events can produce.

Doors Open (2002)

U.S.	4,410 (26 sites)
Canada	6,469 (40 sites)
Total	10,779 (66 sites)

Doors Open (2003)

U.S.	12,284 (44 sites)
Canada	10,779 (44 sites)
Total	23,012 (88 sites)

Impacts of Alternatives and Features

Alternative 1: Continuation of Current Practices

Summary of Alternative

Under this alternative, there would be no formal designation of a national heritage area. Other forms of federal resource recognition or protection could be pursued by state and local entities (e.g., National Natural and Historic Landmark programs). Primary federal involvement in the area would be limited to existing competitive grant and technical assistance programs. The general lack of connection between thematically related sites in the region would continue

Impacts on Natural Resources

There would be no additional preservation measures for natural resources. Without such preservation efforts, an incremental decline could occur in the quality of natural resources.

Impacts on Cultural Resources

There would be no additional preservation measures for cultural resources. Without such preservation efforts, an incremental decline could occur in the quality of cultural resources, including such landmarks as the U.S. Custom House and the Adams Power Plant Transformer House in Niagara Falls which are in need of protective measures.

Impacts on Recreational Resources

No additional negative impacts to recreational resources would occur under this alternative. However, opportunities to increase public awareness of and access to recreational resources could be lost.

Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Experience

Existing cultural and natural sites in the Niagara Falls area would maintain the current visitor experience and levels of interpretation and other public programming. The overall visitor experience would remain largely unchanged.

Socioeconomic Impacts

The Seneca Niagara Casino would increase visitation to Niagara Falls. This would increase visitor expenditures and sales revenues. Under Alternative 1, no federal national heritage area funds would be made available to the Niagara area to assist with the preservation and interpretation of cultural and natural resources.

Alternative 2: National Heritage Area — Niagara Falls and Lower Niagara River

Summary of Alternative 2

Under this alternative, Congress would designate the Niagara National Heritage Area with a local management entity. The National Park Service would provide financial and technical assistance for planning, resource protection, and interpretation.

The local management entity identified in the federal legislation would be responsible for the development of a heritage management plan, establishing priorities and implementing the plan in cooperation with other parties. Through its membership and in partnership with others the local management entity would coordinate among federal, state, regional, and local programs to address the protection of cultural and natural resources and promote heritage tourism. The management entity would serve as a forum for communities, businesses, nonprofit institutions, property owners, and users of resources to work together to identify, protect, and develop heritage area resources appropriately. The management entity could function as an information clearinghouse, coordinating efforts that would increase public awareness and stewardship of local resources.

Designation as a national heritage area would recognize the importance of the Niagara region in American culture. A heritage area could help strengthen the sense of identity both within the region itself and for outside visitors. The regional approach would encourage the protection and management of complex natural, cultural, and historical resources and allow them to be treated more systematically and within a larger context.

The formal structure of a national heritage area could help ensure that participating governments and organizations, with their different needs, would have an institutionalized process for coordinating actions. The coordinated management functions could avoid duplication of services and fulfill the need for ongoing and effective communication. A national heritage area could help the Niagara Falls area realize such goals as improving the visitor experience, increasing visitation, preserving historic and natural resources, increasing appreciation of local history, culture, and the natural environment, and enhancing the community's quality of life.

Impacts on Natural Resources

Given the regional nature of a heritage area, it is likely that a more regional, systemic approach to natural resource management would be considered and would be beneficial.

Formal national heritage area designation could serve to increase the region's profile as a visitor destination, despite already being internationally recognized for Niagara Falls, and thereby increase visitation. The increase in visitation resulting from national heritage designation to the central resource—Niagara Falls—is likely to be moderate. Because of its extensive visitor infrastructure, Niagara Falls could easily absorb a moderate visitor increase over existing levels.

However, as a result of increased public awareness, other less well known locations such as the Niagara Gorge Trail, Devil's Hole, and other natural areas along the Niagara River may actually experience a relatively more substantial increase in visitor traffic. While increasing recognition and public awareness of these places could foster greater stewardship, there is also the possibility that higher visitation in these areas could raise issues about carrying capacity and resource impairment. Resource conditions should be monitored and appropriate adjustments to visitor management practice should be made to minimize resource degradation.

NPS technical assistance offered through the heritage area could provide support to state and local resource managers that would address a wide range of resource management issues including interpretive programming and materials, public access, carrying capacity, and resource protection.



View of the city of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

Impacts on Cultural Resources

Similar to impacts described under natural resources, well-known resources such as the historic parklands surrounding the Falls are unlikely to see a significant surge in visitation. However, due to increasing public awareness, some lesser-known sites may experience a considerable leap in visitation. While increasing recognition and public awareness of these places could foster greater stewardship, there is also the possibility that higher visitation could raise issues of carrying capacity and resource impairment.

Taking a regional approach could enhance opportunities to interpret the region's history and bring attention to the full gamut of cultural resources in the region. The increases in visitor volume and length of stay would generate marginally greater impacts on cultural resources. Given the

existing levels of use at heritage sites, an estimated 140,000 additional visitor days would be spread across the heritage area. They would occur mainly between May and October.

New visitation (2% increase) would not likely cause additional congestion over traffic levels at existing individual sites. Cultural resources could be monitored for possible negative impacts and visitor management practice should be adjusted accordingly.

NPS technical assistance through the heritage area could contribute to cultural resource protection through support of inventory and documentation of historic resources, guidance on historic preservation planning, sustainable design, and preservation practices.

This alternative could stimulate conservation of scenic landscapes in the area and preservation of historic sites, structures and objects. The level of federal funding and technical assistance potentially available under this alternative could generate new preservation efforts. Funds would be available for the national heritage area to make grants to local heritage nonprofit organizations for preservation and interpretation of cultural resources.

Impacts on Recreational Resources

Communities could benefit from a coordinated effort that includes National Park Service support to expand and link recreational facilities. The region's efforts to clean up and improve recreational opportunities along the Niagara River could be strengthened by recognizing the river as the spine of the heritage area.

Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Experience

Under this alternative there would be enhanced opportunities for interpretation and education available to both visitors and area residents. Visitors would receive a broad overview of the region, indicating how specific cultural and natural sites fit into major regional themes. Developing residents' awareness and appreciation of the region's cultural and natural heritage would increase pride in the area and foster greater stewardship of heritage resources.

The federal funding and assistance available under this alternative would enhance the visitor experience by providing support and incentives for upgrading and expanding the signage system, wayside exhibits, museum exhibits, new research, and education programs.

Socioeconomic Impacts

Under this alternative, the heritage area would receive federal designation, which reflects national recognition of the area's importance. The national heritage area designation carries with it the National Park Service "seal of approval" and receives publicity in NPS descriptive materials. National heritage areas are usually included in American Automobile Association and other national promotional materials and guidebooks. This recognition can increase the national and international marketability of the region and increase the management entity's ability to leverage funding. It is estimated that the direct annual economic impact of Alternative 2 could generate at least \$5,810,000 for the area.

Because Niagara Falls is already an established tourist destination, the expected effects would entail modest increases in visitor trips and longer vacation stays. Visitors would presumably stop at lesser-known heritage sites throughout the region. An increase in tourism expenditures would be accompanied by increased sales tax revenues, payroll and supply expenditures in the local economy, and local employment. These increases would mean added income for local businesses and could expand the market for overnight accommodations, restaurants, and other retail venues.

Under this proposed alternative, costs could range from \$150,000 to \$300,000 per year to support operations and from \$350,000 to \$700,000 per year to fund projects and grants. This breakdown is based on a projected range of total funds available per year of between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

Alternative 3: National Heritage Area — Niagara Falls and Network of Thematically Related Sites

Summary of Alternative 3

Under this alternative, Congress would designate the Niagara National Heritage Area with a local management entity. The National Park Service would provide financial and technical assistance for planning, resource protection, and interpretation.

The local management entity identified in the federal legislation would be responsible for the development of a heritage management plan, establishing priorities and implementing the plan in cooperation with other parties. Through its membership and in partnership with others the local management entity would coordinate among federal, state, regional, and local programs to address the protection of cultural and natural resources and promote heritage tourism. The management entity would serve as a forum for communities, businesses, nonprofit institutions, property owners, and users of resources to work together to identify, protect, and develop heritage area resources appropriately. The management entity could function as an information clearinghouse, coordinating efforts that would increase public awareness and stewardship of local resources.

Designation as a national heritage area would recognize the importance of the Niagara Region in American culture. A heritage area could help strengthen the sense of identity both within the region itself and for outside visitors. The regional approach would encourage the protection and management of complex natural, cultural, and historical resources and allow them to be treated more systematically and within a larger context.

The formal structure of a national heritage area could help ensure that participating governments and organizations, with their different needs, would have an institutionalized process for coordinating actions. The coordinated management functions could avoid duplication of services and fulfill the need for ongoing and effective communication. A national heritage area could help the Niagara Falls Region realize such goals as improving the visitor

experience, increasing visitation, preserving historic and natural resources, increasing appreciation of local history, culture, and the natural environment, and enhancing the community's quality of life.

This alternative would expand potential support for preservation and interpretation of natural and cultural resources from a narrow area around Niagara Falls to a broader range of heritage sites in Niagara and Erie Counties with thematic links to Niagara Falls.

Impacts on Natural Resources

Given the regional nature of a heritage area, it is likely that a more regional, systemic approach to natural resource management would be considered and would be beneficial.

Formal national heritage area designation could serve to increase the region's profile as a visitor destination, despite already being internationally recognized for Niagara Falls, and thereby increase visitation. The increase in visitation resulting from national heritage designation to the central resource — Niagara Falls — is likely to be moderate. Because of its extensive visitor infrastructure, Niagara Falls could easily absorb a moderate visitor increase over existing levels.

However, as a result of increased public awareness, other less well known locations such as the Niagara Gorge Trail, Devil's Hole, and other natural areas along the Niagara River may actually experience a relatively more substantial increase in visitor traffic. While increasing recognition and public awareness of these places could foster greater stewardship, there is also the possibility that higher visitation in these areas could raise issues about carrying capacity and resource impairment. Resource conditions should be monitored and appropriate adjustments to visitor management practice should be made to minimize resource degradation.

NPS technical assistance offered through the heritage area could provide support to state and local resource managers that would address a wide range of resource management issues including interpretive programming and materials, public access, carrying capacity, and resource protection.

An additional impact of Alternative 3 is that it could extend the benefits of natural resource protection to thematically related sites in Niagara and Erie Counties.

Impacts on Cultural Resources

Similar to impacts described under natural resources, well-known resources such as the historic parklands surrounding the Falls are unlikely to see a significant surge in visitation. However, due to increasing public awareness, some lesser-known sites may experience a considerable leap in visitation. While increasing recognition and public awareness of these places could foster greater stewardship, there is also the possibility that higher visitation could raise issues of carrying capacity and resource impairment.

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NPS technical assistance through the heritage area could contribute to cultural resource protection through support of inventory and documentation of historic resources, guidance on historic preservation planning, sustainable design, and preservation practices.

This alternative could stimulate conservation of scenic landscapes in the area and preservation of historic structures and objects. The level of federal funding and technical assistance potentially available under this alternative could generate new preservation efforts. Funds would be available for the national heritage area to make grants to local heritage nonprofit organizations for preservation and interpretation of cultural resources.

An additional impact of Alternative 3 is that it could extend the benefits of cultural resource protection and interpretation to thematically related sites in Niagara and Erie Counties.

Impacts on Recreational Resources

Communities could benefit from a coordinated effort that includes National Park Service support to expand and link recreational facilities. The region's efforts to clean up and improve recreational opportunities along the Niagara River could be strengthened by recognizing the river as the spine of the heritage area.

Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Experience

Under this alternative there would be enhanced opportunities for interpretation and education available to both visitors and area residents. Visitors would receive a broad overview of the region, indicating how specific cultural and natural sites fit into major regional themes. Developing residents' awareness and appreciation of the region's cultural and natural heritage would increase pride in the area and foster greater stewardship of heritage resources.

The federal funding and assistance available under this alternative would enhance the visitor experience by providing support and incentives for upgrading and expanding the signage system, wayside exhibits, museum exhibits, new research, and education programs.

Alternative 3 extends programmatic relationships among sites beyond the geographic bounds of the heritage area. This could allow for greater opportunities to interpret important stories that transcend the narrow geography of the proposed heritage area such as the Underground Railroad and the War of 1812.

Socioeconomic Impacts

Under this alternative, the heritage area would receive federal designation, which reflects national recognition of the area's importance. The national heritage area designation carries with it the National Park Service "seal of approval" and receives publicity in NPS descriptive materials. National heritage areas are usually included in American Automobile Association and other national promotional materials and guidebooks. This recognition can increase the national and international marketability of the region and increase the management entity's ability to leverage funding. It is estimated that the direct annual economic impact of Alternative 3 could contribute at least \$5,810,000 to the area.

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Under this proposed alternative, costs could range from \$150,000 to \$300,000 per year to support operations and from \$350,000 to \$700,000 per year to fund projects and grants. This breakdown is based on a projected range of total funds available per year of between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

Summary of Public Involvement

In May 2003, Senator Charles E. Schumer and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation held a press conference formally announcing the beginning of the national heritage area study process for Niagara Falls.

Shortly thereafter, the study team began the process of identifying and interviewing local stakeholders. To date, over 30 individuals have participated in in-depth interviews. These individuals have represented state agencies, local communities, historians, tourism interests, business interests, and the academic community along the Niagara River corridor. Although primary emphasis has been placed on meeting with stakeholders in New York State, the study team has also interviewed representatives of pertinent groups on the Canadian side as well.

Early on in the study process, the study team was made aware of a number of public processes taking place coincidentally with the NPS study. The Urban Design Project (SUNY/ Buffalo) under the direction of Robert Shibley was engaged in many of these efforts, had identified key audiences, and had assembled several useful databases. The study team has employed the Urban Design Project to help the National Park Service coordinate public involvement efforts related to the study process.

In November 2003, the study team conducted its first public meeting at the Niagara Falls Arts and Cultural Center. At the session, NPS planners described the study process and related their initial findings in terms of defining the study area, heritage tourism needs, and predominant themes. Over 100 people attended the session and commented on all



Niagara Falls at Night Time

aspects of the presentation. In February 2004, a newsletter summarizing the meeting was printed and distributed to a mailing list of 1,200 contacts and also appeared on the study's newly launched website, www.niagaraheritagestudy.org.

The study team continued to consult with state and local stakeholders informally as they entered the alternatives development phase of the project. In June 2004 a second newsletter describing four possible heritage area scenarios for the region was released. Again the newsletter was distributed to the full mailing list and appeared on the project website. Also in June, a public meeting and stakeholder work session were held to share and discuss the proposed alternatives. Approximately 40 people attended the public meeting and stakeholders representing local municipalities, Niagara County, New York State agencies, and the Congressional

delegation were consulted during the smaller work session. An additional information session was held for about 25 key stakeholders in November 2004. The information session included presentations by the National Park Service's National Heritage Area coordinator and executive directors of national heritage areas in the Blackstone River Valley (MA/RI) and Rivers of Steel (PA), followed by a question-and-answer period.

In fall 2005, a full study report with an executive summary will be released for public review and comment. Copies of the executive summary will be distributed to the entire mailing list. Both documents will be available in local libraries as well as in a digital format on the study's website. A final round of public and stakeholder meetings will be held shortly after the release of the study report.



The organizations and institutions that will receive a copy of the draft study report include but are not limited to the following:

Aquarium of Niagara
 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
 Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society
 Buffalo Audubon Society
 Buffalo Common Council
 Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Buffalo Niagara Partnership
 Buffalo Olmsted Park Conservancy
 Buffalo Ornithological Society
 Castellani Art Museum
 City of Buffalo Mayor's Office
 City of Niagara Falls
 City of Niagara Falls Department of Community Development
 City of North Tonawanda
 City of Tonawanda
 Empire State Development Corporation
 Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
 Erie County Executive's Office
 Erie County Department of Environment & Planning
 Erie County Industrial Development Agency
 Erie County Legislature
 Foit-Albert Associates
 Friends of the Buffalo Niagara Rivers
 Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council
 Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
 Historic Riviera Theater
 Institute for Local Governance & Regional Growth
 John R. Oishei Foundation
 Kenan Center
 Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier
 Lewiston Economic & Community Development Office
 Maid of the Mist Corporation
 Main Street Business and Professional Association, Niagara Falls, New York
 New York Power Authority
 New York State Assembly (members)
 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Department of Transportation
 New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
 New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 New York State Office of the Governor
 New York State Senate (members)
 Niagara County Historical Society
 Niagara County Industrial Development Agency
 Niagara County Legislature
 Niagara County Planning Department
 Niagara Falls City Council
 Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
 Niagara Gazette
 Niagara Heritage Partnership
 Niagara Historical Society Museum (Canada)
 Niagara Parks Commission (Ontario, Canada)
 Niagara Tourism and Convention Corporation
 Niagara University
 Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce
 Old Fort Niagara Association Inc.
 Pine Avenue Business Association, Inc., Niagara Falls, New York
 Seneca Nation
 The Buffalo News
 Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site
 Tonawanda Band of Seneca
 Town of Lewiston
 Town of Niagara Falls
 Town of Porter
 Town of Wheatfield
 Tuscarora Nation
 University of Buffalo, School of Architecture & Planning, Urban Design Project
 United States Army Corps of Engineers
 United States Fish & Wildlife Service
 United States House of Representatives (Brian Higgins, Thomas M. Reynolds, Louise M. Slaughter)
 United States Senate (Charles E. Schumer, Hillary Rodham Clinton)
 USA Niagara Development Corp
 Village of Lewiston
 Village of Youngstown
 Western Erie Canal Heritage Area