



Developing A Climate Readiness Plan for the Niagara Parks

March 2021

Brock
University



Excellence in Environmental
Stewardship Initiative (EESI)

Introduction:

In March 2020 the Niagara Parks Commission approved a plan for "**Nurturing Environmental Stewardship in Niagara Parks**". This 10 year plan set forth the goals and objectives for environmental stewardship in Niagara Parks. An accompanying strategy was developed to identify key activities and track progress. The key action items included:

- Conducting a Climate Readiness Assessment of the Niagara Parks Commission
- Developing and Implement a Climate Change Strategy

Developing a **Climate Readiness Plan** was initiated in the fall of 2020, as a part of the Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Initiative - a partnership with Brock University. It will assess the current state of climate readiness within the Niagara Parks Commission as well as set out actions for implementation. Ultimately, the **Climate Readiness Plan** will inform how Niagara Parks Commission navigates the impacts from climate change and contributes to its' commitment as a leader in sustainability.

A Roadmap to Developing Climate Readiness

The process of developing a **Climate Readiness Plan** involves the following steps:

- Articulating goals and objectives
- Understanding climate change trends, projections, and impacts
- Assessing risks
- Identifying readiness options
- Implementing actions and monitoring performance

Progress to Date:

So far, best-practices in climate readiness planning have been synthesized, a guiding framework for developing the plan has been adopted, and available climate information with pertinence to Niagara Parks has been summarized. Assessing risks and engaging leaders in Niagara Parks is presently underway.

Next Step: Engaging Leaders Within Niagara Parks

Engaging leaders within Niagara Parks is critical to developing a **Climate Readiness Plan**. In building upon progress thus far, we are pleased to share an informational video that highlights the regional impacts of climate change. Thereafter, we request that you complete a questionnaire regarding risks, readiness and actions. The questionnaire will provide essential insights into climate readiness across all aspects of Niagara Parks.

You will then be invited to participate in a virtual workshop. At the workshop we will share the results from our background research and the questionnaire, confirm the goals and objectives of the **Climate Readiness Plan**, discuss climate readiness options, and prioritize next steps.