

## 2022 EMC Environmental Excellence Award Winners

The Erie County Environmental Management Council (EMC), an advisory board to the County on environmental issues, announced the following Environmental Excellence Award Winners:

**“The Habitat Project”** - This Black Rock Riverside Alliance project resulted in the certification of both the City of Buffalo and Erie County as National Wildlife Federation Wildlife (NWF) Habitats. This work had a significant positive impact on ecosystem health, community action and education, as well as wildlife welfare. To date there are over 900 NWF Wildlife Habitats certified in Buffalo and Erie County, including parks, community gardens, private residences, schools, colleges and businesses. Erie County is now the 6th largest NWF Community Wildlife Habitat in the country and the largest in NY State. <http://brralliance.org/>

**“Grand Island Recreational Trail Network”** – The Town of Grand Island has established a network of recreational On Street Bicycle Network, Multi-use Pedestrian Bicycle Trails, Hiking Trails, and River Paddle Course (Blueway Trails) to provide access to natural places. The result is about 30 miles of trails on land and about the same distance of the Blueway Trails on water. These trails also connect to national and international trail systems like the Bruce Trail in Canada, the Finger Lakes Conservation Trail and the statewide Erie Canalway Trail. [Town of Grand Island Recreational Bikeways, Hiking Trails and Blueway Trails map](#)

**“Pollution Prevention through Art”** - The Buffalo Zoo, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, and Buffalo Museum of Science were the main drivers of this two-year program that involved teacher development days held at the Buffalo Zoo about the negative impact plastic pollution and ways to create art using discarded single-use plastic. This led to 2,000 students in 40 schools creating works of art and writing narratives explaining the issue they were illustrating. Each year a jury selected pieces to be displayed at a month-long exhibit at the Buffalo Museum of Science. <https://www.solution2plasticpollution.com/>