



**NIAGARA
PARKS**

Business Highlights Presentation

Niagara Parks Commission – Public Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2024



Stewards of the Niagara River Corridor

- Niagara Parks is a key demand generator, driving visitation and tourism to Niagara and Ontario.
- Responsible for maintaining 56km Niagara Parkway and 53km recreation trail, numerous parks, gardens and natural areas.
- Breadth of services include Niagara Parks Police Service, School of Horticulture.
- Re-established Niagara Parks Foundation focuses on raising funds to support additional environmental and cultural stewardship projects.
- As a self-funded organization, investments into enhancing our guest experiences that in turn, drive visitation and grow revenue, directly benefit our ability to deliver on our mandate of environmental and cultural stewardship.





Niagara Parks

- Founded in 1885
- Operates under the Niagara Parks Act
- Two founding principles:
 - i. Niagara Parks would never be a burden to the taxpayers of Ontario
 - ii. Niagara Parks would as much as possible, be free to enjoy
- Board-governed operational enterprise under the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Culture
- 12-member Board of Commissioners
- **Mandate:** To be the environmental and cultural stewards of the Niagara River Corridor
- **Vision:** To be one of the most spectacular parks in the world



Funding & Operations

- One of the region's largest employers; 1,800 headcount in peak season; \$60 million payroll.
- Operating budget covers payroll, operating expenses to run its revenue-producing operations and key operational projects.
- Capital budget covers investments into deferred maintenance and strategic projects to enhance Niagara Parks' visitor experiences
 - \$175 million worth of deferred maintenance across Niagara Parks sites
 - **Major capital projects for 2024-25:**
 - *Replacement of Niagara's Fury*
 - *Repairs and maintenance*





Valour & Victory: Honouring Indigenous Veterans

- Annual ceremony held at the Landscape of Nations Memorial at Queenston Heights Park.
- Parks Canada and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada unveiled a new plaque honouring Teyoninhokarawen (John Norton).
- The plaque complements the memorial, which features statues of Norton and Ahyonwaeghs John Brant, son of Mohawk leader Joseph Brant, both Indigenous war captains who led allied forces at the Battle of Queenston Heights.



Niagara Parks Wonder Pass Launch

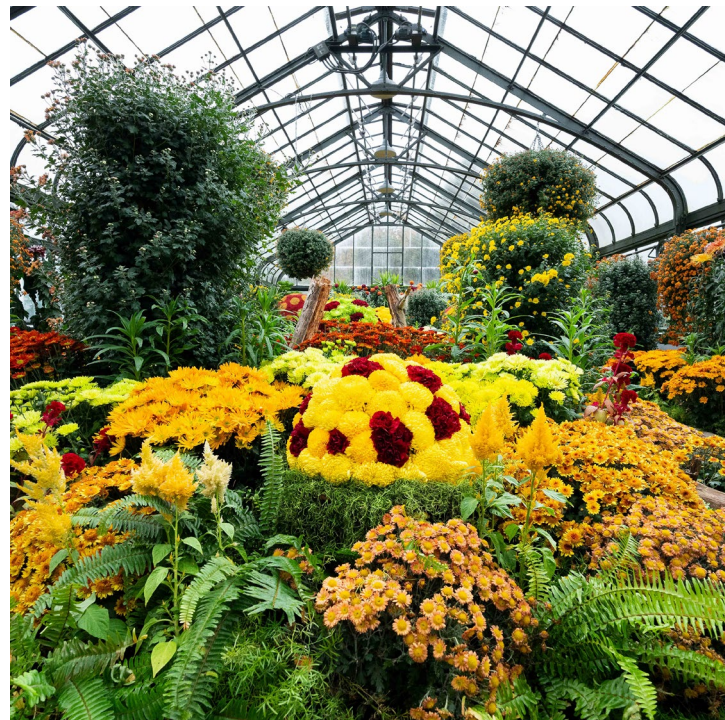
- Niagara Parks Wonder Pass launched Nov. 4
- Guests can save on bundled attractions including Journey Behind the Falls, Niagara Parks Power Station and Butterfly Conservatory
- Passholders receive exclusive benefits with destination partners and at Niagara Parks shops and restaurants





Chrysanthemum Show at the Floral Showhouse

- Annual Chrysanthemum Show ran Oct. 11 to Nov. 10
- Show featured two mesmerizing stages overflowing with different varieties of the classic autumn flower.
- The Annual Chrysanthemum Show has dazzled visitors from around the world since 1946.
- Next up: the Poinsettia Show will open on November 16.





Golf Updates

- New perennial bed installed at main walkway of Whirlpool Golf Course
- Beginning Fall 2024, Legends on the Niagara will undergo significant drainage and cart path enhancements at its Battlefield Course.





Parks, Environment & Culture

- Oct. 17 – 18: Niagara Parks participated in the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects conference offering tours of restoration sites (Dufferin Islands, Chippawa Battlefield and Gonder's Flats) and presenting on Niagara River remediation and stewardship efforts.
- Coordinated with Brock University's co-op department for student networking and 2025 recruitment.
- Held a cross-departmental meeting on 2024 hiring and recruitment strategies for the 2025 season.
- Program and interpretation planning for a Children's Garden is underway.



Parks Operations

North Parks:

- 6 successful Memorial Tree Plantings and 5 benches
- New perennial beds at Whirlpool Golf Course
- Ongoing post & rail fence repairs at Whirlpool Adventure Course

South Parks:

- Rehabilitation of the riverwalk pathways in Fort Erie
- Memorial trees and benches installed
- At Nichols Marine Boat Launch, turf protection and new waste receptacle installed; compost spread on turf for rehabilitation.





Parks Operations

Central Parks:

- Surge Tank Garden upgrades and extension of wall by masons
- Cenotaph Island armor stone and mulch path
- Tulip planting at Table Rock and QVP
- Table Rock Garden Soil Amending





Nature & Gardens

- Niagara Parks continues its partnership with Niagara College's Ecosystem Restoration Department. A student group is developing strategies to restore the Niagara Gorge near White Water Walk, focusing on alternative methods to manage invasive species in difficult terrain with poor soil
- On October 31, Niagara Parks hosted over 45 Niagara College students at Gonder's Flats in Fort Erie to conduct a plant inventory, allowing staff to assess planting success and address any concerns based on a comparison with plantings from the past two years





Community Tree Planting Event

- Annual volunteer tree planting event held on October 26, across from Old Fort Erie
- Planting of over 250 trees by approximately 100 volunteers, including 60 students
- All trees were purchased through the Niagara Parks Foundation's Toonies for Trees program



Rapidsview Tree Planting

- Planting of 2,000 native trees, restoring over three acres of forest canopy
- Funding support provided by Niagara Falls Tourism and Canada Trees for Life
- Over 30 Brock University students assisted in the planting of more than 300 trees



Parks Police Services

Representatives on behalf of the Niagara Parks Police Service attended numerous meetings and events related to public safety, education and policing. Highlights include:

- Oct. 2 meeting with Transport Canada and other stakeholders concerning Niagara River Safety
- Oct. 12 – Fire Prevention Week and 75th Anniversary of the Queenston Firefighters Association at Station 4 in NOTL
- Oct. 21 Three separate meetings with stakeholders concerning Next Gem 9-1-1 Implementation
- Oct. 24 – Recruit Graduation Ceremony at Niagara Regional Headquarters
- Nov. 1 – Meeting with the RCMP Integrity Unit
- Nov. 2 – Attended ceremony at Landscape of Nations in Queenston Heights Park to honour Indigenous Veterans



PURCHASE YOUR WEGO FARE ONLINE!

Getting around Niagara just got easier! You can now purchase your WEGO bus tickets directly through the Niagara Parks website. With a simple and convenient process, your e-ticket will be delivered straight to your email.

How it works:
Buy your WEGO tickets online, then scan your e-ticket directly from your mobile device when boarding the bus to activate your pass—no other redemption steps required!

BUY WEGO PASSES

WEGO bus passes can also be purchased from any available Niagara Parks attraction or Welcome Centre. For a list of available Niagara Parks attractions, please see our [Hours of Operation](#).

 **NIAGARA PARKS** Order # 189042116

Ticket 1 of 3

ID AXXXXL5V6VV85



ACCESSO TEST

Adult (13+ years)

Two Day - GO Niagara Train Service + 48 Hour WEGO Bus & Falls Incline Railway



WEGO Ticketing Updates

- New hardware added to WEGO buses that will allow tickets to be scanned directly.
- Will have better business intelligence on ridership by line, time of day, breakage, and by rider type (a la carte or pass holder)
- Online Ticket Purchase Capabilities
- Ability to add to an apple or google wallet



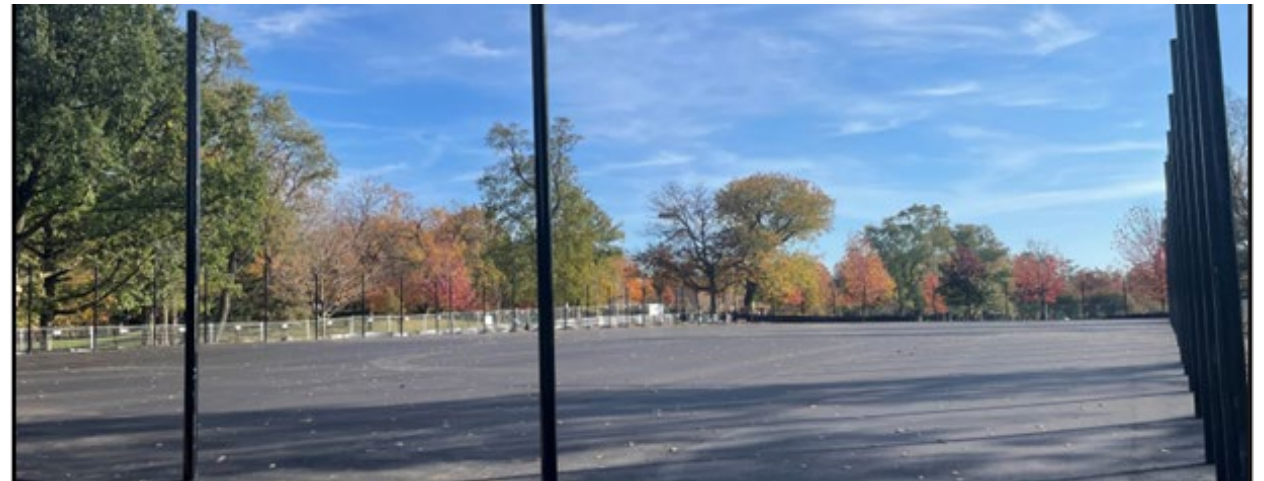
North Parkway Construction Projects

Queenston Heights Tennis Courts

- Work is well underway for the new tennis and pickleball courts at Queenston Heights Park

Butterfly Conservatory Drainage Project

- The Butterfly Conservatory Drainage project started Monday, November 11 and will continue for roughly four weeks. During this time, all guests are asked to follow signage and remain out of the construction zone.





Central Parks Construction Projects

Currently Underway:

Bridge of Flowers

- From Monday, October 28 to Friday, November 15, there will be a double lane closure set up below the Bridge of Flowers to complete some painting.
- Pedestrian traffic over the bridge will remain open but will be condensed to one side at times throughout the project. The road closure will be opened to a single lane closure for weekends during the work.

Table Rock Centre

New Attraction Development

- The top floor of Table Rock Centre is under construction to prepare for the opening of the flying ride attraction in summer 2025.

North Fire Exit

- Improvements to the north side fire exit.

Exterior Work at Niagara Parks Power Station

- New public washrooms are being built on the west side of the Niagara Parks Power Station, with completion expected by spring 2025.

Resurfacing Resurfacing of the Niagara River Parkway from Zimmerman Ave to John Street will start late Fall and will be followed up by resurfacing of the Parkway from Clifton Hill to Fraser Hill. Freshly resurfaced roads will enhance the overall appeal of Queen Victoria Park and improve the overall iconic experience of visiting the Falls.

Recently Completed:

- Recreation trail and driveway revamp at Queen Victoria Park
- Electrical upgrades at Dufferin Islands
- Tesla Pathway lighting
- New heated pathway between Falls Parking Lot and Bridge of Flowers



South Parkway Construction Projects

Legends on the Niagara

In the coming months, additional projects at the Legends on the Niagara will include:

- Front Trail repairs at the golf course
- Drainage improvements throughout the Battlefield Course
- Battlefield Course cart path replacements





Winter Festival of Lights

Dates: November 16 – January 5

Canada's largest free outdoor light festival returns to illuminate the Niagara River corridor with 8km wonderland of twinkling lights.

Highlights:

Opening Celebration – November 16 at 6:30pm
Circus Orange Spectacle

Additional Nights of Programming

- Nov 22 - Jambo Brothers
- Nov 23, 30, Dec 7 - Children's musical performer Chris McKhool
- Nov 29-30 - Coca Cola Holiday Caravan
- Poinsettia Display at the Floral Showhouse
 - Mosaiculture activation
- Fireworks
- Full details of festival line-up and programming are available online at niagaraparks.com/wfol





New interactive displays:

- Les Diamants by Perséides Studio
- Entre les rangs by KANVA Architecture with Quartier des Spectacles Partnership
- Musical Bikes by Atractiv
- The TUNNEL, a BIG ART Tour production by Creos

Returning fan favourites:

- Impulse interactive see-saws by Lateral Office and CS Design, with soundscape by Mitchell Akiyama
- Larger-than-life Aurora Moose
- Beloved nature displays at Dufferin Islands

Free hop-on, hop-off shuttle available from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on performance nights, connecting guests to illumination displays at Table Rock Centre, Grand View, and Queen Victoria Place.





Upcoming Events

- Nov. 16 to Jan. 5: On Fridays and Saturdays the fireworks series returns
 - All shows will start at 8 p.m. and run 5 minutes in length
 - An additional nine-minute show will be held Dec. 31 at midnight.
- Nov. 15: Chef Chris Totah's Seafood Dinner at Table Rock House Restaurant.
- Nov. 16: Poinsettia Show begins at the Floral Showhouse
- Nov. 27: Holiday Family Open House for staff at the Floral Showhouse
- Nov. 28: U.S. Thanksgiving Dinner at Table Rock House Restaurant
- Dec. 11 - 13: Yuletide Tea at McFarland House
- Dec. 14 - 15: McFarland Heritage Christmas
- Dec. 31: New Year's Eve at Table Rock House Restaurant



Questions & Comments

