

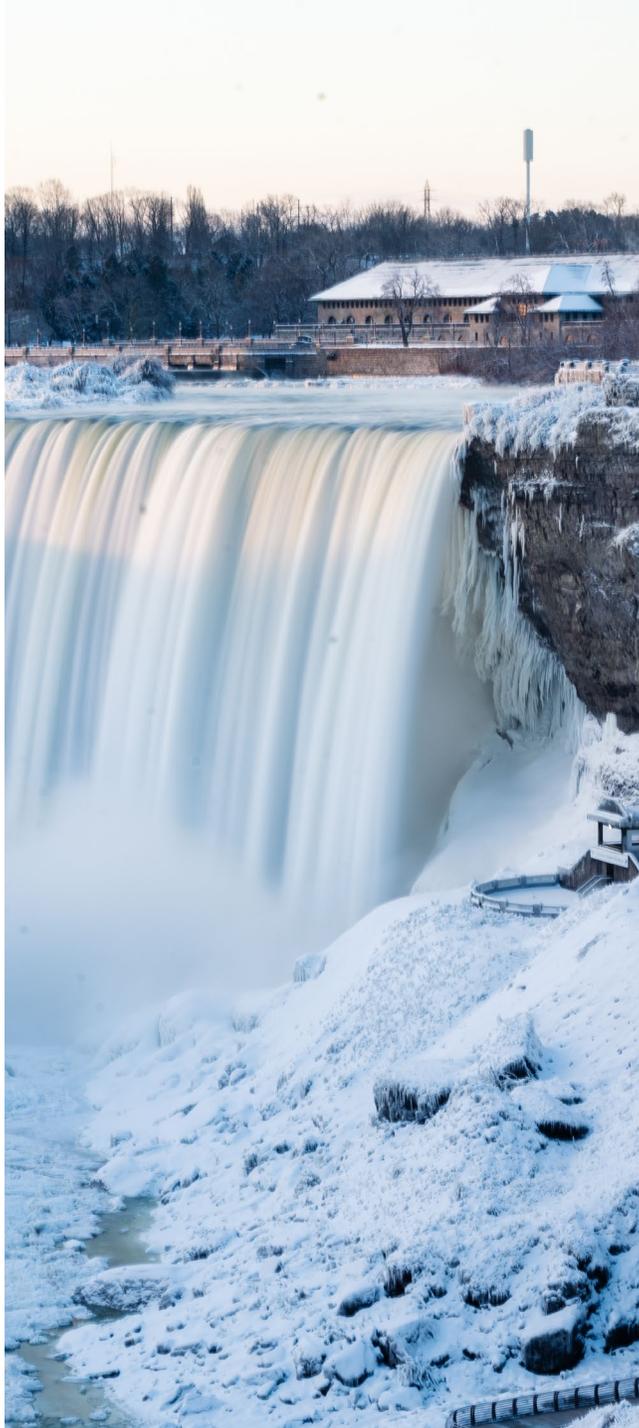


**NIAGARA
PARKS**

Business Highlights Presentation

Niagara Parks Commission – Public Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026



Niagara Parks

- Founded in 1885
- Operates under the Niagara Parks Act
- **Two Founding Principles:**
 - Niagara Parks would never be a burden to the taxpayers of Ontario
 - Niagara Parks would, as much as possible, be free to enjoy
- Board-governed operational enterprise under the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
- 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



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.





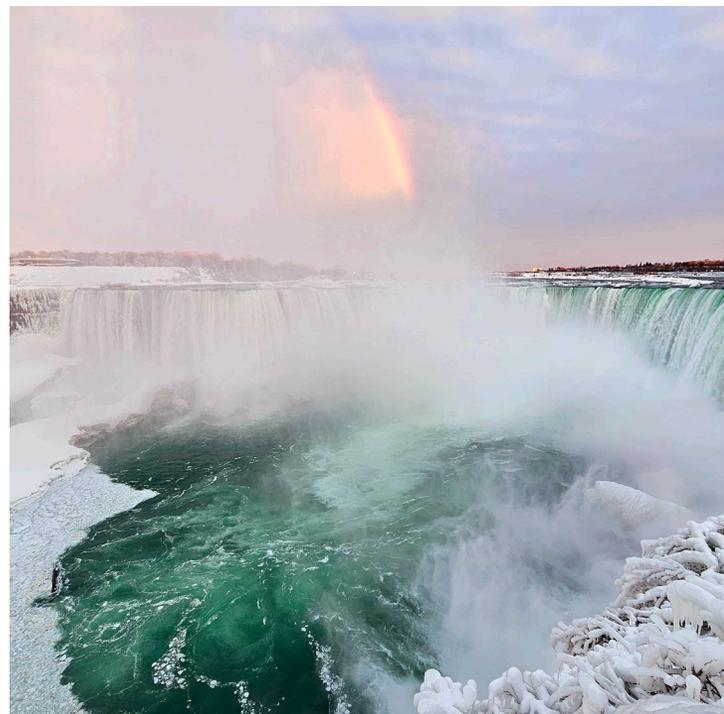
Funding & Operations

- One of the region's largest employers; over 2,000 employees in peak season; \$70 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



Frozen Falls 2026

- Freezing temperatures have caused Niagara Falls to appear partially frozen
- Continues to draw widespread media attention and social media activity
- New photo contest invites photographers and content creators to submit their best “Frozen Falls” photo and/or social media content





Business Development

Retail and Attractions

- Jan. 25 – 29: Retail team attended Toronto Market Week show.
- Feb. 13: Re-opening of Butterfly Conservatory after six-week closure for netting replacement and other updates.

Golf

Whirlpool Golf Course

- Irrigation pumpstation upgrades (3) are being tendered, and work is expected to be completed in fall 2026.
- Planning continues for Whirlpool's 75th anniversary programming.





Business Development

Culinary

- Table Rock Bistro and Wine Bar hosted pop-up Frozen Falls Icewine Bar in partnership with the Niagara Icewine Festival.
 - Final weekend for Frozen Falls Icewine Bar: Feb 14 – 15
- 5 additional languages added to self-serve kiosks at Table Rock Market:
 - Spanish, French, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean.
- New Thursday night "Date Night" promotion has been very well received – increase in Thursday evening reservations.



Business Development

Sales

In January, the sales team hosted:

- 3 business event groups; 4 site inspections; 7 conference calls and attended 3 industry partner events
- 1 Travel Trade FAM tour and attended 1 virtual training session and Destination Ontario's China market update.
- 15 wedding site inspections; 1 FAM tour; attended 1 wedding trade show.



Planning, Environment and Culture

Heritage and Legacy

- Heavy storm events have caused roof damage at Old Fort Erie. Repairs are scheduled and staff are monitoring to actively protect vulnerable historic artifacts.
- Heritage staff hosted elders from the Oneida Nation, who were instrumental in the development of Niagara Takes Flight. The group thoroughly enjoyed the experience and appreciated the content that highlights their history.
- Working with Human Resources, the Heritage team is actively recruiting summer students. The Ministry's Summer Employment Opportunity Fund will help to offset 2026 staffing budget.





Events and Programming

- **Expanded 2026 Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights**
Dates have been confirmed to now include Orthodox Christmas: Nov. 14, 2026 – Jan. 10, 2027.
- **Niagara College Tour:** Hosted 18 senior faculty members from Niagara College on Jan. 14 for a collaborative meeting and tour at Table Rock.
- **Niagara Wine Festival:** Niagara Parks is now a Presenting Sponsor of the Niagara Wine Festival, which marks its 75th anniversary in 2026; hosted two new ice bar activation weekends at Table Rock, as well as the “Cool as Ice” Gala at the Niagara Parks Power Station Jan. 31.
- **Art in Action:** On Jan. 30, eight staff and faculty attended “Art in Action: Climate Change” festival at First Ontario Performing Centre. Niagara Parks was the Presenting Sponsor of the event’s Climate Symposium and Fireside Chat with Edward Bartinsky.





Environmental Stewardship

- Through the Niagara Parks Foundation, Canadian Trees for Life has committed \$50,000 towards Niagara Parks' tree planting efforts.
- Continued collaboration with Brock University's Environmental Sustainability Research Centre to identify trees of natural and cultural significance within Niagara Parks and to develop a pilot self-guided tour.
- Hosted the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and the Niagara Greenway Commission to review trail wayfinding improvement options, including opportunities to promote bi-national trail connections.
- Spring 2026 Prescribed Burns: Plans have been developed for the ongoing maintenance of grassland sites to be conducted this spring.



Horticulture & Education

- **Butterfly Conservatory:** Teams are preparing plant and soil replacements in the interior biome during the annual scheduled closure. Forced bulb plantings for the spring are complete, and propagation and early growing work are underway.
- **Herbarium:** This specialized climate-controlled environment is currently under construction.
- **Flooding in Lower Lecture Hall** due to heavy rainfall and sump pump failure in late December. Custodial and Engineering teams quickly stabilized the facility, resulting in minimal damage.



Horticulture & Education

Niagara Parks School of Horticulture

- Winter semester is underway, offering students a broad course load that includes Commercial Greenhouse, Tropical Plants, Emerging Trends in Horticulture, Plant Pathology and Biology of Insects.
- Six students participated in a student-built garden experience with Landscape Ontario.
- Six contract instructors have been hired to teach Business Landscape Design and Communications, alongside internal departments that will also deliver hands-on training, such as a Chainsaw Workshop hosted by Forestry.
- Several new projects were introduced this winter, giving students hands-on experience with indoor vegetable grow towers, tropical production, as well as winter pruning, annual design, vegetable and herb garden design, and construction.





Horticulture & Education

Design and Décor

- **Table Rock:** Transitioning from holiday décor to winter theming, including snowflake arches, icicles, and silver accents to complement and enhance the Frozen Falls Icewine experience.
- **Floral Showhouse Cyclamen Show:** Designed to bring the feeling of the outdoors inside, with icicles, snowflakes, and white stick arches. Fragrant Cyclamen varieties, together with Paperwhite Narcissus, were incorporated to elevate the sensory experience.
- **Annuals:** The growing team has started seeding annual crops, dividing Cannas, Pennisetum, and Colocasia, and preparing the greenhouses for production. Forced bulb plantings for spring are now complete, and the Floral Clock Viola crop is progressing well.

Horticulture & Education

- **Sustainable Food Production:** Greenhouse production efforts in 2025 supplied microgreens to three restaurants.
 - 25 new hydroponic towers will be installed in 2026
- **Artist Garden Mosaïcultures:** The first two of four new Mosaïcultures sculptures have arrived, selected to showcase Niagara Parks stewardship, nature, whimsy and horticultural excellence. These unique pieces, a mix of leased and purchased works, will support milestone celebrations for the Botanical Gardens & School of Horticulture (90th), the Butterfly Conservatory (30th), and the Floral Showhouse (80th) and to also enhance both summer displays and Winter Festival of Lights programming.





Engineering and Project Management

- **Queen Victoria Park Water & Wastewater Project:** Underway
- **OPG Shared Access Road Improvements:** Rock fall mesh and scaling work to be completed prior to the 2026 season.
- **Water Main Projects at Grand View Marketplace & Rapidsview Park:** Upcoming leak repairs; ensuring compliance.



Engineering and Project Management

- **Garden Café Washroom Redesign**
New fully accessible universal washroom. Work is expected to be completed by the end of March.
- **Queenston Heights Restaurant**
Roof replacement and rooftop HVAC cooling unit installation.
- **Dufferin Islands Sanitary Pumps**
Upgrades to be completed by end of February.



Parks Operations

Central Parks

- Ongoing winter maintenance, storms snow removal from Table Rock and Central Parks.
- Supported Ice Wine Festival events with winter maintenance at Niagara Parks Power Station, Table Rock Bistro and the Clock Tower.

Forestry

- Maintenance of downed tree branches and storm debris.
- Removal of hazardous ice buildup on buildings.
- Shop and storage areas reorganized to better accommodate both forestry and stewardship departments. The installation of an additional workbench is also complete, which will improve maintenance productivity.





Parks Operations

Environmental Services

- 36.6% waste diversion rate was accomplished in 2025.
- Staff supported the successful zero-waste 'Cool as Ice' Gala at Niagara Parks Power Station, with added organics carts (partnering with Davidson Environmental) and recycling processing under Niagara Parks internal waste management system.

Custodial Services

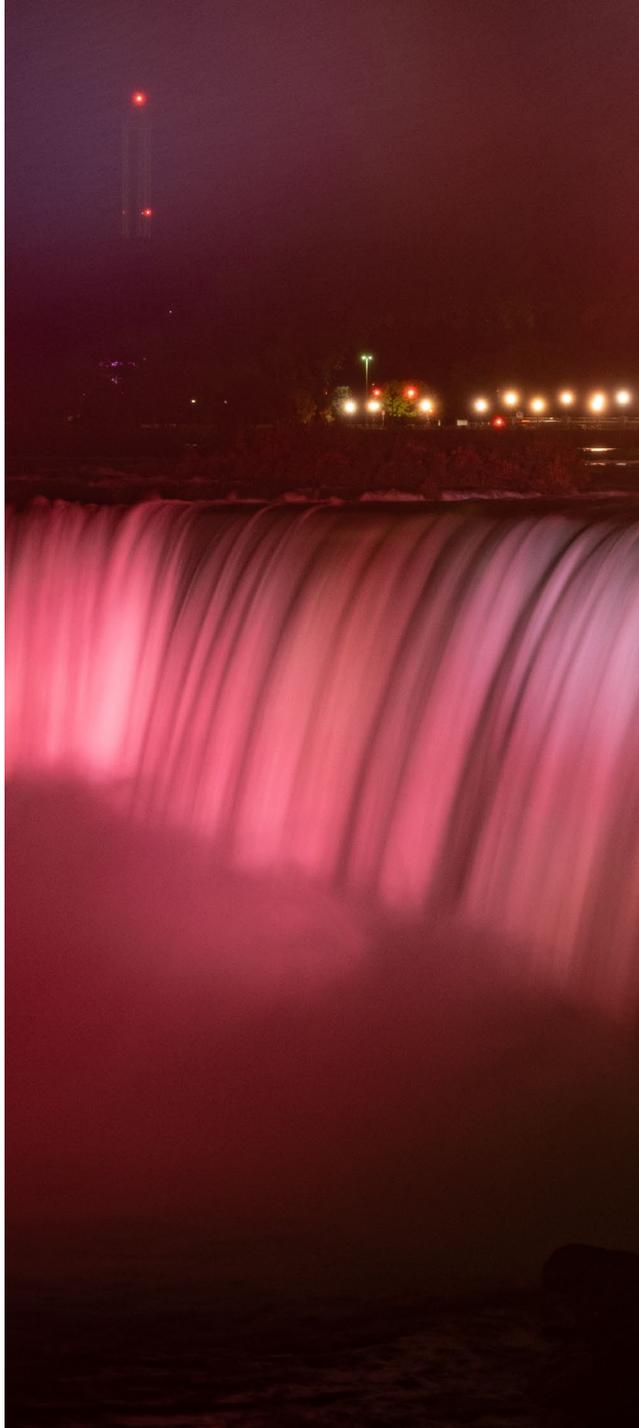
- Staff trained on new bailing machines at Table Rock and Niagara Parks Power Station, to improve poncho and cardboard recycling procedures.
- Power washing of paths; cleaning of the stream and pond at Butterfly Conservatory during closure.



Health, Safety and Compliance

- **January Training Updates:**
 - 13 employees participated in First Aid training Jan. 28 - 29. Upcoming sessions in Feb/Mar.
 - JHSC Basic Certification Part 1 – spring training scheduled; Part 2 training planned for fall 2026.
 - Coordinating with Human Resources on employee orientation and refresher training using the new Citation platform.
- **Health and Safety Excellence Update:** Internal HSMS audit review of evidence and report completion is in progress.
- **2027 - 2031 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan:** Updates now in progress.
- **Compliance Updates:** Annual Mobile Columns and Transmission Jack inspections completed.





Upcoming Events

- Jan. 10 – Mar. 1: Cyclamen Display at the Floral Showhouse
- Feb. 13: Live ice carving of heart-shaped ice sculpture at Table Rock Centre (Falls Incline Plaza)
- Feb. 13: Re-opening of the Butterfly Conservatory
- Feb. 13 & 14: Valentine's Day Features at Table Rock House Restaurant
- Feb. 14 & 15: Final weekend for Frozen Falls Icewine Bar at Table Rock Bistro + Wine Bar
- Feb. 16: Family Day Birding Open House at Niagara Glen Nature Centre - Free
- Black History Month Speaker Events:
 - Feb. 21: Guest Speaker Lezlie Harper at Old Fort Erie
 - Feb 28: Guest Speaker Rochelle Bush at McFarland House



Questions & Comments

