



**NIAGARA
PARKS**

Niagara River Coastal Wetland Restoration Program

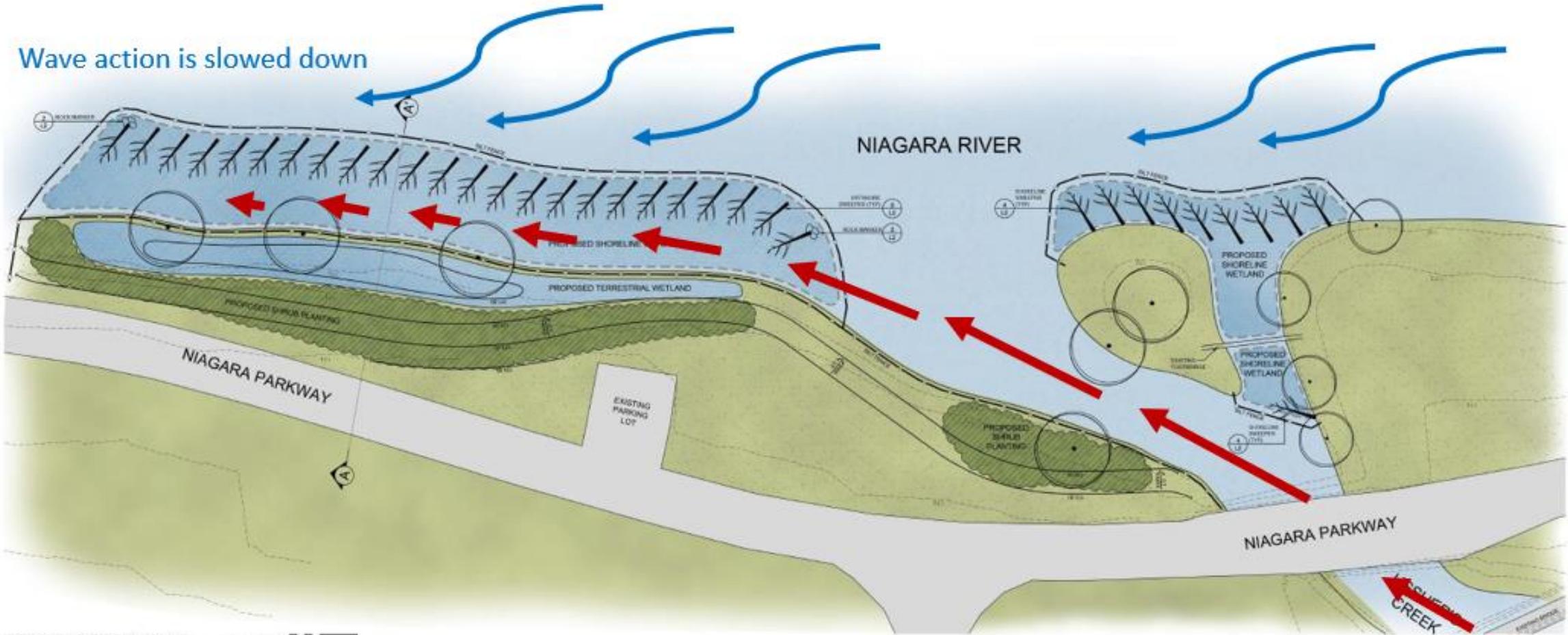
December 11, 2025



Niagara River Coastal Wetland Restoration Program

- Decline in fish populations and species diversity attributed to loss of 75% of near shore (coastal) habitat
- Seven sites selected at creek mouths in the upper Niagara River
- Nursery habitat for fish
- Support achievement of Niagara River Remedial Action Plan goals
- Collaborated with provincial, state, federal, and local partners

Glenn Harrington's - Coastal Wetland Concept Design



Sediment and seeds are deposited



TURNING ISSUES INTO OPPORTUNITIES



NIAGARA PARKS





Parks Canada Collaboration

- In support of Parks Canada's shoreline protection work at Fort Mississauga – NOTL.
- Black Creek and Boyer's Creek
- Started in 2022 and expanded in 2025.
- Utilized declining Austrian Pines with Diplodia tip blight disease from Whirlpool Golf Course.





It Works!







Results to Date:

- 7 coastal wetlands created (10 acres)
- 80% of Canadian side vegetated shoreline
- Increase in fish species and population sizes
- Recycled over 500 trees
- Habitat for shore birds and birds of prey
- Thousands of trees and shrubs and wildflowers planted
- 1,700 m of shoreline restored



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**NIAGARA
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Business Highlights Presentation

Niagara Parks Commission – Public Meeting

Thursday, December 11, 2025



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.





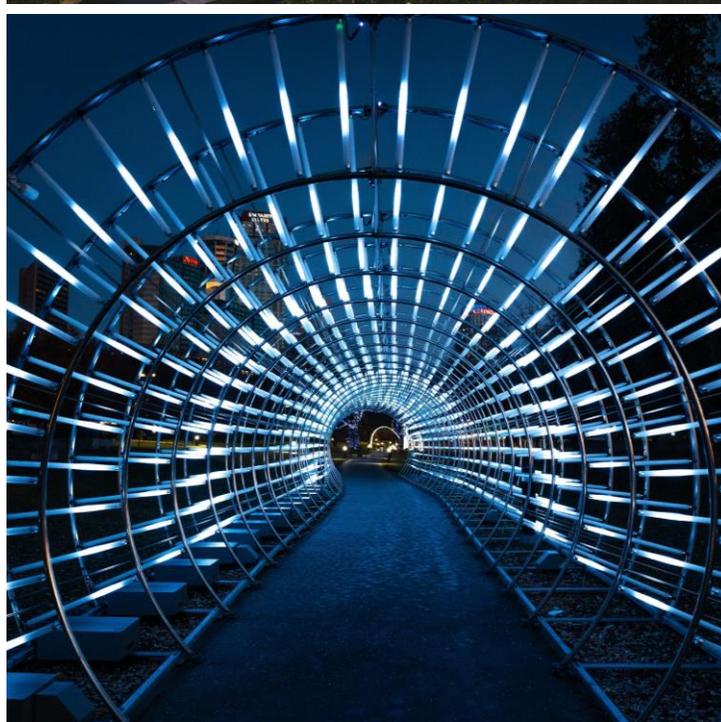
Funding & Operations

- One of the region's largest employers; 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
 - **Major Capital Projects for 2026:**
 - Repairs and maintenance



Winter Festival of Lights

- The Winter Festival of Lights has returned for its 43rd year, running from Nov 15 – Jan 4.
- Millions of lights and over 75 unique displays illuminate Niagara Parks, making this a must-see holiday tradition.
- New interactive light displays, projection mapping lighting on Niagara Parks Power Station, Laser Light Shows in Queen Victoria Parks and holiday fireworks.
- Culinary sites are featured along the Hot Chocolate Trail: Queen Victoria Place Café, Table Rock House Restaurant and Table Rock Bistro + Wine Bar.



The Old Scow Shifts

- Nov. 19: the Iron Scow, a 107-year-old shipwreck lodged above Niagara Falls shifted downstream.
- The viral story posted by the communications team garnered over 6 million online impressions and generated headlines:
 - CBC Radio
 - [Narcity](#)
 - [CHCH](#)
 - Hamilton Spectator
 - Niagara Falls Review





Celebrating 25 Years of Service

- Congratulations to our dedicated employees marking 25 years with Niagara Parks in 2025!
- Nov. 10: Recognition event held during the Employee Town Hall to highlight nine employees.
- Certificates were presented by Niagara Parks Chair Bob Gale and members of the Executive Team.
- Honourees will be celebrated again at the annual Retiree and Service Recognition Dinner in May.

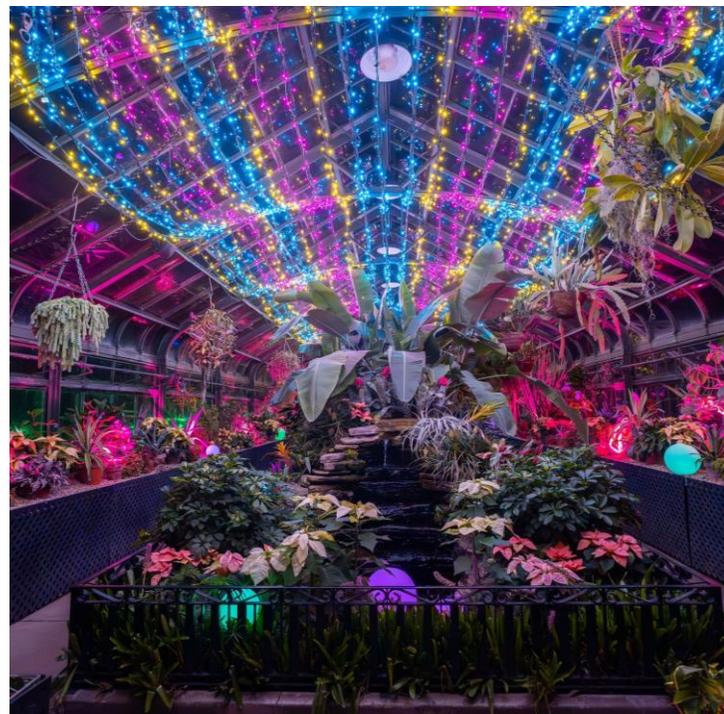




Business Development

Retail and Attractions

- Retail stores are now showcasing festive décor and seasonal apparel.
- Annual Family Christmas Open House was held at the Floral Showhouse on Nov. 26.
- The retail merchandiser led a staff session at Queen Victoria Place Gift Shop, sharing strategies for effective product presentation and creating eye-catching displays.
- Numerous requests for 2026 reservations at the Queenston Heights Pickle Ball and Tennis Courts; a strong indication of the popularity of these new facilities that opened this past summer.



IAAPA Expo

- Nov. 16 to 21: Staff attended the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo in Orlando.
- The team proudly represented Niagara Parks on the world stage, sharing their presentation on the making of Niagara Takes Flight.





Culinary

- The Culinary team supported a private reception for Asahi Kasei at the Niagara Parks Power Station.
- Queenston Heights Restaurant hosted the sold-out 'Late Harvest' six-course wine paired dinner, featuring locally-sourced seasonal ingredients.
- Table Rock House Restaurant offered an elevated holiday experience for American Thanksgiving.

Sales

- Destination Ontario Europe Sales Mission Nov. 15 – 21, represented by senior manager of sales.
- Five wedding ceremonies and two wedding receptions were hosted in November.





Events and Programming

- Successful launch of the 43rd annual Winter Festival of Lights.
- Staff Holiday events season kicked off with the Family Open House event at the Floral Showhouse on Nov. 26.

Heritage and Legacy

- Heritage staff hosted sold-out Murder at McFarland House event.
- Old Fort Erie hosted a general Trivia Night.



Golf

- Winter protection applied to greens, tees and approaches; 'Drill and Fill' completed on Whirlpool greens.
- Tree removals for Whirlpool course restoration; work to continue through winter in preparation for 75th anniversary.
- All Access Pass went on-sale Nov. 3; Weekday pass sold out in eight days.
 - Limited Unrestricted & Chippawa packages still available.
- New carts with GPS and connected screens coming in 2026 to both Whirlpool and Legends to further enhance the overall guest experience.





Horticulture

Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens & School of Horticulture

- Under the watch of curators and instructors, students have finished preparing seasonal beds and planting spring bulbs and now winterizing the garden beds.

Holiday Design and Décor

- Design teams have elevated the holiday experience across Table Rock, Queen Victoria Place Cafe, Queenston Heights and Legends on the Niagara with sparkling décor and vibrant poinsettias, as well as fresh winter urns throughout Queen Victoria Park and the Botanical Gardens.

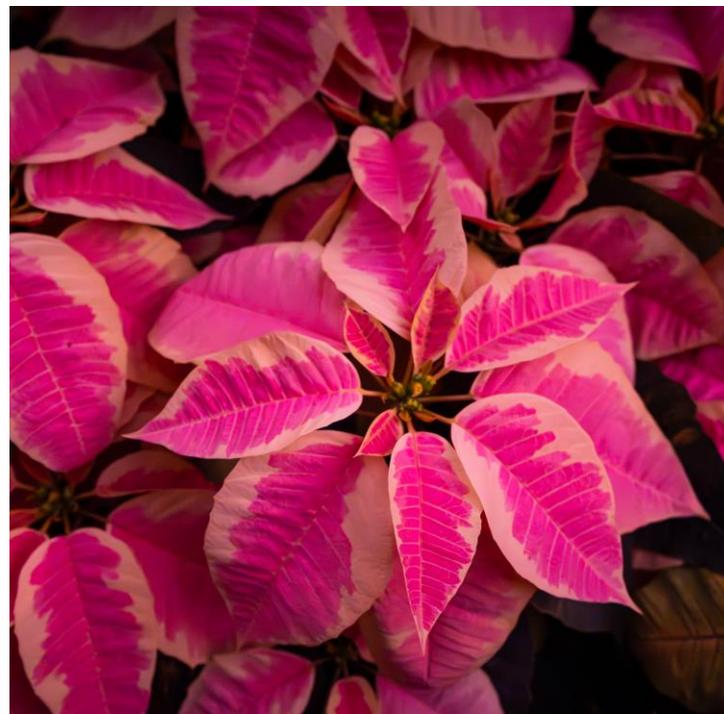
Horticulture

Poinsettia Show at the Floral Showhouse

- Now in its 79th year, the tradition returns, including illuminated displays and signature elements such as the Poinsettia Tree and evergreen arches, as well as enhanced lighting and whimsical installations.

Greenhouse Production

- Forced bulb plantings for spring are complete and propagation and early growing work is underway for future exhibition programs.
- Teams are preparing plant and soil replacements in the Butterfly Conservatory biome, planned during the netting replacement project in January.





Environmental Stewardship

Brock University and Niagara College Student Initiatives

- Masters students from Brock's Environmental Sustainability Research Centre have been assisting with research being used to guide best practices and towards the development of the next version of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy in 2028.
- Students from the Niagara College Ecosystem Restoration Program recently conducted a vegetation assessment of Gonder's Flats, noting the site is establishing well into a natural, functional ecosystem.



Environmental Stewardship

- Supported by the Niagara Community Foundation, the **Niagara Falls Moraine Restoration Project** includes the management of invasive species and installation of bio-engineering materials to stabilize the moraine and mitigate erosion, while providing critical wildlife habitat.
- **Niagara Glen Nature Centre**, now closed for the season, saw a 40% increase over 2024 in its educational Nature Exchange Program.
- **Niagara Parks Sustainability** crew teamed up with the Niagara Parks Police Service and Niagara Helicopters to remove more than 400 pounds of trash from the Niagara Gorge.







Niagara Parks Police

- Nov. 5: Niagara Parks Police provided a K9 demonstration to grade 9 students on Take our Kids to Work Day.
- Nov. 11: Members of the Niagara Parks Police Service attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony hosted by the City of Niagara Falls.
- Inspector Jankovic (right) and Constable Paul (left) joined the Zonta Clubs of Niagara Falls and St. Catharines at Table Rock for a candlelight vigil marking **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence**. This global campaign is a call for action to end violence against all women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.

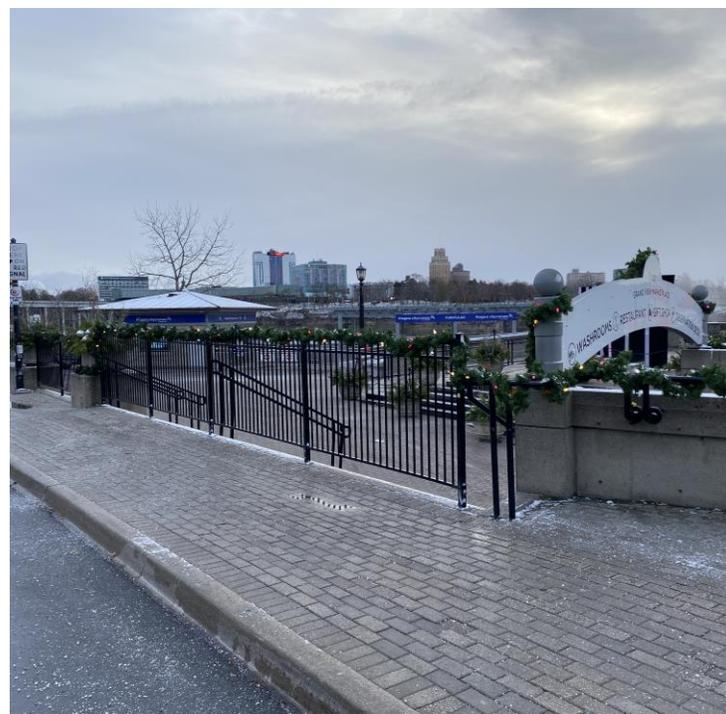
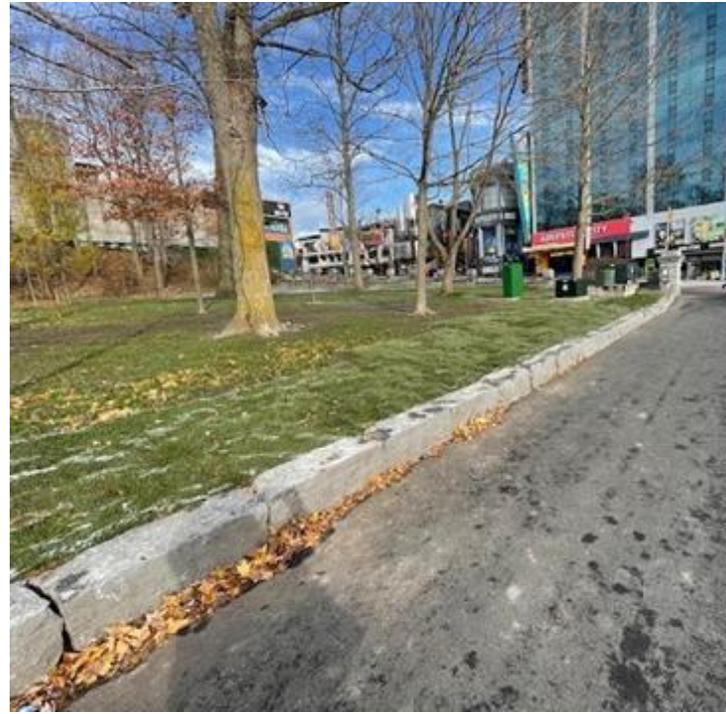


Engineering and Parks Operations

Project Management

- Queen Victoria Park watermain and servicing project underway (May 2026 completion)
- Weir Replacement underway at Dufferin Islands (anticipated completion by Jan 12, 2026)
- 14 staff members attended the Niagara Launch Centre Open House at the Seaway Mall.
 - Community-connected learning experience for high school students, supported by partnerships within the local skilled trades industry.
- Scheduled work to address erosion concerns at Queenston boat launch, Dec 8-9.
- Whirlpool Golf parking lot expansion, Dec 1-22.





Parks Operations

Central Parks

- Completed sidewalk stone and turf at Falls Avenue and Clifton Hill.
- New safety fencing with décor installed at Grand View to close stairs while maintaining the holiday aesthetic.

North / South Parks

- Parking lot curb stones installed on new asphalt at Nichols Marine boat launch, removed wooden bollards.

Forestry

- Estimated over 9,000 labour hours by month's-end to successfully launch the Winter Festival of Lights.
- Maintained vegetation, primarily invasive species, along the Niagara River shoreline at selected scenic viewpoints.



Health, Safety and Compliance

- “The Accessible Passport Project” was filmed at Niagara Takes Flight, exploring the experience for visitors with disabilities.
- Planning is underway for the annual Accessibility Public Information Centre (virtual meeting), scheduled December 9.





Christmas Day Operations

- While WEGO bus services will be closed on Christmas Day, select Niagara Parks attractions and visitor services will be open to the public on Dec. 25:
- Table Rock Centre:
 - Niagara Takes Flight
 - Journey Behind the Falls
 - Table Rock Shop
 - Table Rock Market
- Queen Victoria Place Gift Shop and Café, as well as the Casino Shop and Welcome Centre will all be open to serve visitors on Christmas Day, as well as WildPlay's Zipline to the Falls attraction.
- For up-to-date hours of operation, including parking and Falls Incline Railway: niagaraparks.com/hours.

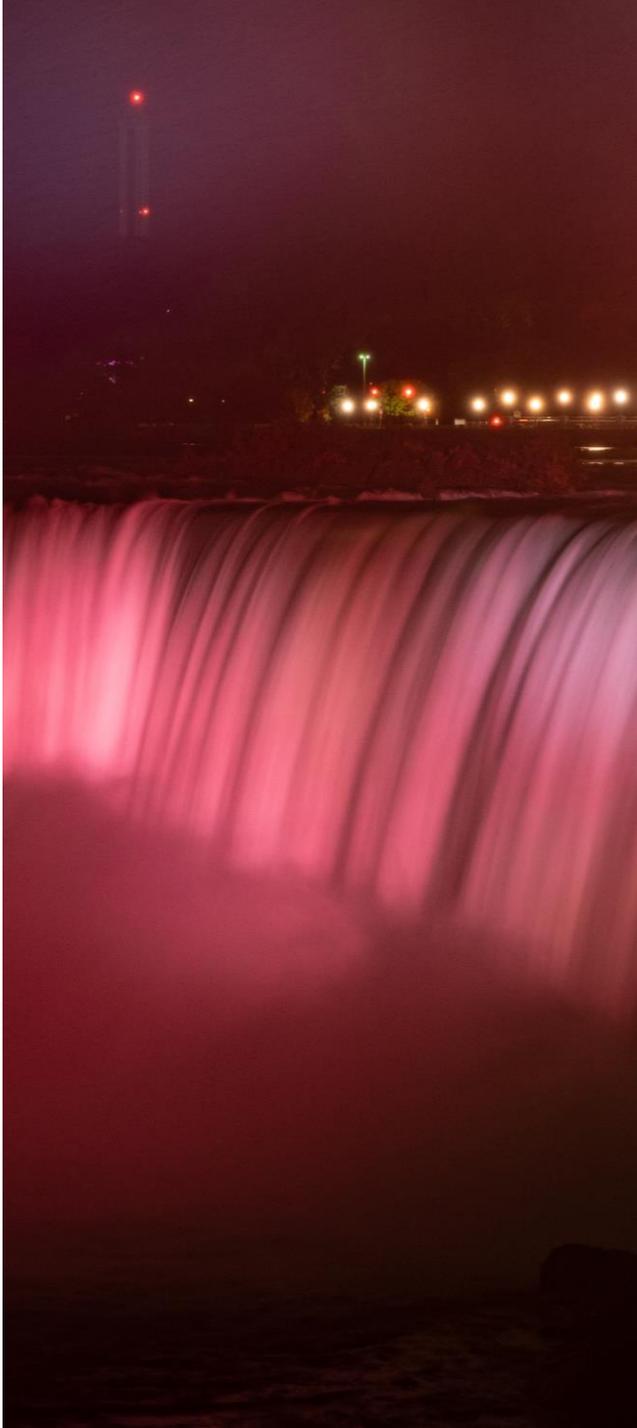


New Year's Eve

- Niagara Parks operations, including parking lots and WEGO bus services, will run as usual on New Year's Eve.
- Two fireworks displays at 8 p.m. and midnight.
- Winter Festival of Lights interactive displays and Laser Light shows.
- Elegant Prix Fixe Dinner at Table Rock House Restaurant.
- New Year's Day Brunch at Queenston Heights Restaurant.

Road Closures

- Niagara Parkway from Clifton Hill to Murray Street: closure begins at 7 p.m., fully reopened by 1 a.m.



Upcoming Events

- Dec. 10 – 12: Yuletide Tea at McFarland House
- Dec. 13: McFarland Heritage Christmas
- Jan. 10 – Mar. 1: Cyclamen Display at Floral Showhouse
- Jan. 31: 'Cool as Ice' Niagara Icewine Festival Gala at Niagara Parks Power Station
- Feb. 13 & 14: Valentine's Day Prix Fix Menu at Table Rock House Restaurant
- Feb. 16: Family Day Birding Open House at Niagara Glen Nature Centre
- Feb. Dates TBA: Black History Speaker Series
- Feb. Date TBA: Niagara Jazz at Table Rock House Restaurant

Questions & Comments

