

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Name: 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park Improvement Project  
Location: 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park, City of Niagara Falls, New York  
Site Address: 401-699 91st St, Niagara Falls, NY 14304  
State: New York  
Zip Code: 14304  
Minor Civil Division: City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara  
County: County of Niagara

Property Proponent Property Interest: The City of Niagara Falls is the sole owner of 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park. This property is legally required to remain public park land, in perpetuity.

**AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL**

Name: The Honorable Paul A. Dyster Title: Mayor  
Business Address: City Hall, 745 Main Street  
State: New York Zip Code: 14301  
Telephone: (716) 286-4310 Cell: (716) 417-7458  
Fax: (716) 286-4349  
Email Address: paul.dyster@niagarafallsny.gov

**PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT**

Name: Seth Piccirillo Title: Director, Community Development  
Business Address: The Carnegie Building, 1022 Main Street  
State: New York Zip Code: 14301  
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Fax: (716) 286-4349

Email Address: [seth.piccirillo@niagarafallsny.gov](mailto:seth.piccirillo@niagarafallsny.gov)

### **PROJECT NARRATIVE**

**Purpose:** Empowered by public participation, the City of Niagara Falls requests a \$200,000 grant to construct a new playground at 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park, in the City of Niagara Falls, New York. Local residents have advocated for a free place space at 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park for many years. Over the past two years, over 40 residents have worked through the Creating A Healthier Niagara Collaborative to make this goal a reality. The improvements include two traditional play areas for ages 2 – 7 and 8 – 14, and an area designed to facilitate adult fitness activity. The playground will also exceed ADA compliance standards. Kompan Playgrounds will execute playground design and the project can be completed in 2018, if funding is awarded.

**Niagara River Greenway Plan Consistency:** 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park is located on the eastern edge of the City of Niagara Falls, in a densely residential neighborhood, a quarter-mile from the Niagara River. However, the neighborhood is not physically designed to take full advantage of its waterfront location. The City of Niagara Falls is purposefully submitting this application to the Niagara River Greenway Commission at the same as the Jayne Park Improvement Project. Consistent with the Commission's vision and objectives, and the 2012 Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan, our goal is to connect residents in the Lasalle Area of Niagara Falls to the waterfront via public parks and dedicated bike lanes. 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park will connect to Jayne Park via interpretive signage and a dedicated bike lane along Buffalo Avenue. The City of Niagara Falls has dedicated \$500,000 to a Buffalo Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project that will better direct pedestrians and bicyclists to Lasalle Waterfront, the Riverway Trail and Niagara Falls State Park. A modern playground at 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park will benefit the public good through physical activity and connect residents to a wide range of Niagara River locations and activities through creative placemaking. Over the past five years, the City of Niagara Falls has completed 30 park improvements city-wide, using the master plan as a guiding and living document, rooted in public participation. Our ultimate goals are to connect all children to a high quality public space within .25 mile walk and to use park amenities to connect all residents to our world class waterways. This project, and our broader efforts along Buffalo Avenue, speak specifically to these important and ongoing goals.

If awarded, the City of Niagara Falls Community Development Department will manage the project planning and execution. Kompan Playgrounds is a company authorized under the New York State General Services Contract. Kompan would provide the site layout and rendering for municipal review. The City of Niagara Falls would be happy to include the Niagara River Greenway Commission in that review process. Upon municipal review, NFCD will also ask the public for comment and review. Equipment will be purchased by Kompan, under the New York State General Services Contract. Competitive bids will be requested for installation, per municipal law. Upon City Council approval, actual construction will begin in the 2018 construction season. Once contractors are on site, construction will be completed and closed out within three weeks.

**SOURCES AND USES BUDGET**

Niagara River Greenway Commission Request:	\$200,000
City of Niagara Falls Contribution:	\$50,000
Total Project Cost:	\$250,000

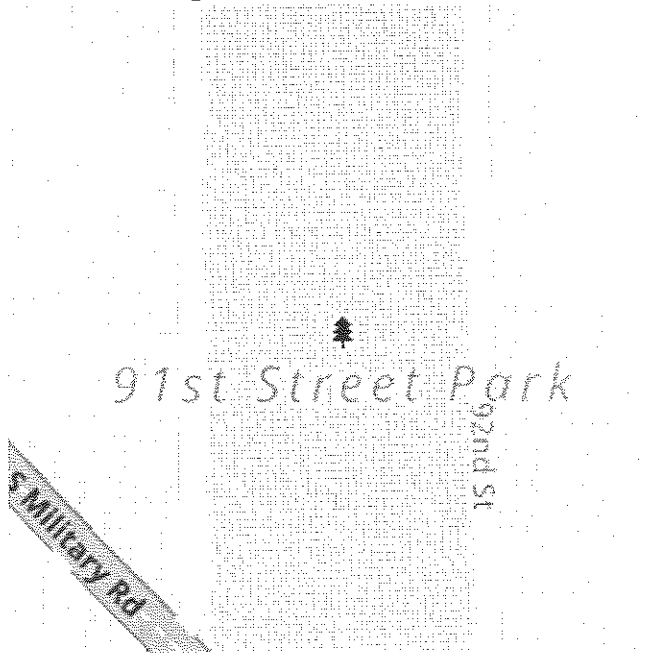
<b>91st Street Park Improvement Project</b>	
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	
Grant #1 (Niagara River Greenway Commission)	\$200,000
Other Source #1 (City of Niagara Falls - Design/Bid)	\$25,000
Other Source #2 (City of Niagara Falls - Annual Maintenance)	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDING</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>USE OF FUNDS</b>	
Planning	\$25,000
Construction	\$200,000
Acquisition	\$0
Administration	\$0
Operation and Maintenance/Year	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL USE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

<b>Project Schedule</b>	
Final Design	February-18
Procure Equipment	March-18
Bid Installation	June-18
Installation	June-August 18
Completion	September-18

While the City of Niagara Falls is requesting Niagara River Greenway Commission funds for a majority of this specific project, the City of Niagara Falls is executing a \$500,000 street space improvement and beautification project along Buffalo Avenue to connect 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park with Jayne and Lasalle Waterfront Parks, the Riverway Trail and Niagara Falls State Park.

**Public Support:** A new and accessible playground at 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park is consistent with the 2012 Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan, specifically created through extensive community workshops and public participation. Further, the Niagara Falls Community Development Department organized a public meeting in April and July 2017 to get local input, ideas and to create a user profile for the playground. The Niagara Falls Community Development Department has worked with the Creating A Healthier Niagara Collaborative over the past two years to create the project concept. The Niagara Falls City Council are voting to support this application, by resolution, on January 17, 2018.

**Environmental Setting:**



The City of Niagara Falls is the sole owner of 91<sup>st</sup> Street Park and the project site. Kompan Playgrounds is currently creating full schematic drawings and renderings. This property has always been public park land. The project will have no impact on any wetland or natural habitat. The relevant section of the 2012 Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan are included with this submission.

**Park Type:** Local Park  
**Size:** 5.8 Acres  
**Location Description:** Residential Neighborhood

# 91st Street Park

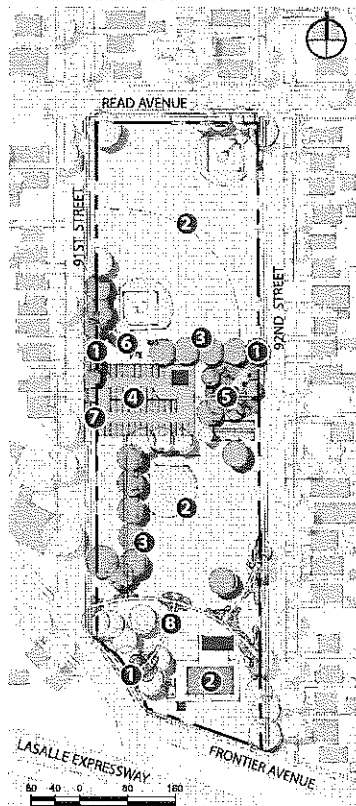
Park 25

## Park Description

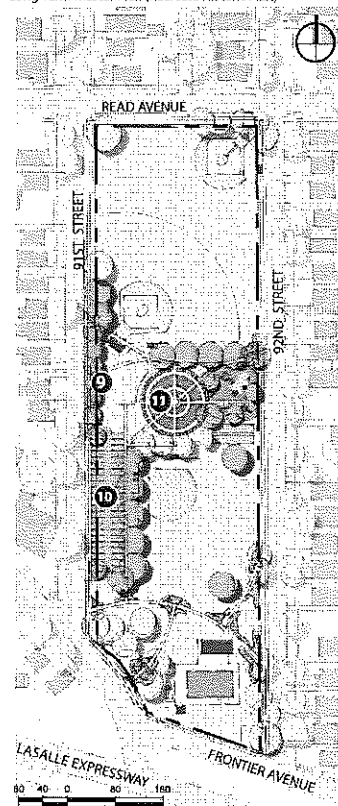
91st Street Park contains athletic facilities and is located in a residential neighborhood. Residential streets are located on all four sides of the park and the LaSalle Expressway travels along the south edge of the park. The park is organized linearly with baseball fields at the northern 2/3 of the park and a pool area at the southern end. Vehicular access and the parking are located in the center of the park and accessed from the west side of the park. Public sidewalks provide access at the north and south edges of the park.

## Park Master Plan

Short - Mid Term Master Plan



Long Term Master Plan (Recreate Historic Plan)



- 1 Install park identification
- 2 Retain existing ball fields and pool
- 3 Plant shade trees
- 4 Re-stripe existing parking lot
- 5 Add natural play area
- 6 Restore concession stand (includes drinking fountain and restrooms)
- 7 Add security camera
- 8 Reintroduce historic path system

### Long-Term Plan Improvements

- 9 Plant shade trees
- 10 Relocate parking lot
- 11 Expand historic path system, including central plaza

## Proposed Capital Improvements

The improvements recommended for 91st Street Park will enhance the park user experience. The baseball fields and swimming pool are the primary amenities at the park. It is recommended that the baseball fields and pool should be maintained. Additional recommendations include restoration of the existing concession stand, installation of a drinking fountain, restrooms, a new playground, as well as increased shade with the planting of shade trees throughout the park. The existing parking lot should be restriped to clearly identify vehicular circulation, pedestrian routes, and parking spaces, which will help to alleviate congestion during baseball games. Because there is rich history associated with this park, it is recommended that historic elements of the park are reintroduced, as the park is developed. Historic improvements to the park include the reintroduction of the historic path system, new plantings, and interpretive signage.

# 91st Street Park

Park 25

## Implementation Strategy

The individual City in a Park Plan master plans incorporate a two-tiered approach to implementation, first prioritizing the parks within the overall system and then prioritizing the recommended improvements within each park.

This park is categorized as a 'Mid-Term Improvement Park.' It is expected that parks in this category provide opportunities to improve recreational opportunities and reduced maintenance in the next five to eight years. However, the parks in this category are generally less utilized and the park condition may be acceptable for the next five years.

Park Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
1 Install park identification	SHORT TERM	\$3,000
2 Retain existing ball fields and pool	ONGOING	--
3 Plant shade trees	SHORT TERM	\$13,800
4 Re-stripe existing parking lot	SHORT TERM	\$2,200
5 Add natural play area	MID TERM	\$133,920
6 Restore concession stand (includes drinking fountain and restrooms)	MID TERM	\$65,900
7 Add security camera	MID TERM	\$10,000
8 Reintroduce historic path system	LONG TERM	\$101,000
<b>Long-Term Plan Improvements</b>		
9 Plant shade trees	LONG TERM	\$2,400
10 Relocate parking lot	LONG TERM	\$118,600
11 Expand historic path system, including central plaza	LONG TERM	\$253,000

**Total Cost: \$702,920**

**SHORT TERM:** Improvements that should take place in the next 4 years. These improvements are a high priority because they will achieve one or all of the following: increased safety, reduces maintenance costs, fulfill a community need, or funding is available.

**MID TERM:** Improvements that should take place in the next 5-8 years. These improvements are a lower priority because of one or all of the following: improvement is dependent on short-term improvements, they require significant investment, or funding sources have not been identified.

**LONG TERM:** Improvements that are not likely to take place until 8 or more years from now. These improvements typically have high costs associated with them or are dependent on future development or community need.