

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Name: Niagara Falls Winter Skating Project

Location: Municipal Parking Lot

Site Address: Municipal Parking Lot, adjacent to 114 Buffalo Avenue

City: Niagara Falls

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 this property.

**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](mailto: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

### **PROJECT NARRATIVE**

**Purpose:** Niagara Greenway funds would be specially used to procure a temporary ice skating rink facility that will be assembled at the municipal parking lot, next to 114 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York. This location is directly across Buffalo Avenue from the entrance to Niagara Falls State Park. It also sits in the middle of the downtown tourism district, directly next to the Destination Niagara Falls Visitor Center, and within .25 miles of ten new hotels and hundreds of millions of dollars of private/public investment.

The Niagara Falls Winter Skating Project's purpose is to better activate downtown Niagara Falls during the winter months. In recent years, we have seen national, and international, interest in Niagara Falls spike. The "Frozen Falls" have captivated media audiences around the world, drawing in tourists during months that usually see a steep visitation decline. The natural beauty of our waterfront is impressive in every season. However, the local community fails to make a connection to our natural resources in winter, due to a lack of activities. We must find more ways to draw people to the waterfront in the winter months. Ice skating, between December and March of each year, is a proven way to attract visitors and families to any area. Recent successes in the City of Buffalo and the Village of Lewiston, give the City of Niagara Falls confidence that outdoor ice skating resonates with regional residents. The launch of "Jingle Falls USA" in 2017 also showed an interest in holiday events in Niagara Falls, in the spirit of the former Festival of Lights. Jingle Falls USA included a street hockey tournament at this same municipal site. It was well attended, showing that dynamic winter events will draw participants, regardless of weather conditions. The lot's location, and proximity to the Niagara River and Niagara Falls State Park, will make it a unique tourism destination. This activity will improve access to the waterfront and support local business patronage.

#### **Niagara River Greenway Plan Consistency:**

The Niagara Falls Winter Skating Project is a fun, family-friendly, and accessible winter activity that highlights an often overlooked natural asset of the Niagara River Greenway – our ice. Ice and ice skating has a long, celebrated history along the Niagara River Corridor from the actual creation of the Niagara River and Niagara Falls to our modern-day cultural identity with hockey, figure skating, and public skating recreation. This project will bring back the historic ice rink that served the community in downtown Niagara Falls since in the former Lackey Plaza.

While not located in dedicated park land, this project uses municipal lands, adjacent to the Niagara Reservation, in a unique way that creates open space, public access, and a walking-distance connection to the ecological wonder of the Falls and Goat Island.

This staple feature, within earshot of the Falls and common to many downtown centers in Western New York, will create a winter place that is easily identifiable for locals and tourists alike. The Niagara Falls Winter Skating Project lends itself to partnering with other non-profit local, environmental, and historical organizations to provide interpretive programming, festivals, and can serve as a catalyst to revitalization and renewal for Niagara Falls winter tourism and business.

**SOURCES AND USES BUDGET**

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Niagara River Greenway Commission Request: | \$200,000 |
| City of Niagara Falls Contribution:           | \$50,000  |
| Total Project Cost:                           | \$250,000 |

SOURCE OF FUNDS	
Grant #1 (Niagara River Greenway Commission)	\$200,000
Other Source #1 (City of Niagara Falls - Operations)	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDING</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
USE OF FUNDS	
Planning	
Construction	
Acquisition of Temporary Rink	\$200,000
Administration	\$0
Operation and Maintenance/Year	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
Project Schedule	
Procure Equipment	April-18
Bid Operations	May-18
Facility Open	December-18

**Public Support:** The Niagara Falls City Council voted in support this application, by resolution, on January 17, 2018.

**Environmental Setting:**

N/A.