

A-2 | Renovate Courthouse Park Including a Mobile Stage for Performing Arts

DRI Funding Request/Total Project Cost

\$443,750/\$443,750

Project Description

Courthouse Park is located in the heart of the City's historical downtown. This project will include much-needed improvements to Courthouse Park by including a new performing arts stage with state of the art amenities and a new fountain at the park entrance. The mobile stage will replace an older obsolete mobile stage that cannot easily be deployed to other events within the DRI boundary. The new stage will be used at various events held throughout the DRI area when it is not in use at Courthouse Park.

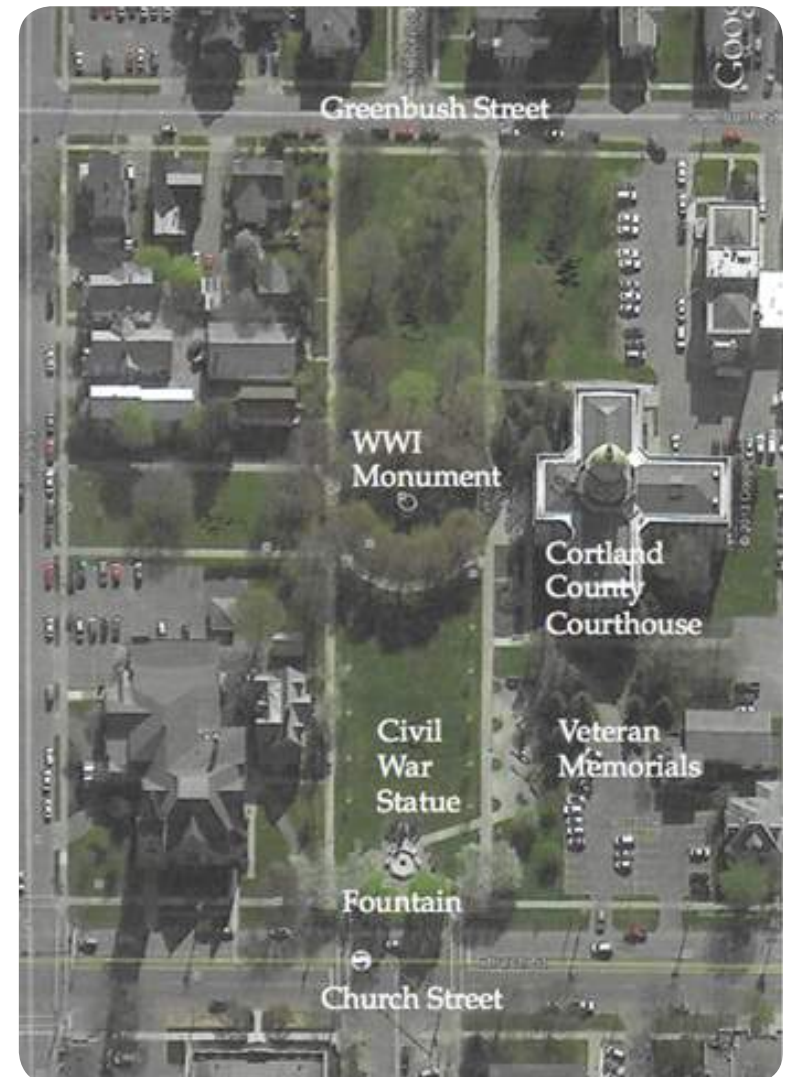
The stage will be stored at the NYS Armory Building indoor drill area located at 31 Wheeler Avenue during the winter months. There is an outdoor storage area that can be utilized, as well. Routine maintenance will be performed by the City of Cortland Motor Equipment Operator/Mechanic at the DPW or Park Maintenance. The city will also use a local heavy equipment repair shop for the required NYS inspection.

Project Location/Address

Courthouse Park – 2.8 acres on the east side of Church Street at Court Street. Stage may be deployed to other locations within the DRI boundary.

Sponsor

City of Cortland



Aerial Photo of Court House Park

Strategies

- Invest in downtown destinations for residents, workers, and visitors, and to attract new businesses and residents;
- Create an identity that will appeal to current and future generations;
- Support and strengthen the local arts and culture community and attractions;
- Increase collaboration between downtown and local institutions; and
- Foster cultural venues, public events, sports events and recreational opportunities.

Public Support

This project has the support of Mayor Tobin, the City of Cortland Youth Bureau Advisory Board, the City of Cortland Common Council members, the Recreation Commission, DPW, Local musicians, Pumpkin Fest Committee, the Downtown Partnership, local business owners, the Cultural Council of Cortland, the Spiegle Willcox Family, Cortland County Travel & Tourism, private donors, and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.

Project Ownership

City of Cortland

Project Partners

Donors, Special Event Organizing Boards, Downtown Partnership

Capacity

The City of Cortland Youth Bureau has a successful history of park renovations and development in Cortland. Recent examples include:

- Wickwire Pool Renovations (\$1.2 Million), Dexter Park Renovations, Beaudry Park Community Building and Test Park Development (\$2 Million).

Project Budget

\$443,750

- \$275,000 - Mobile Stage with auxiliary features
- \$80,000 - New Fountain with lighting
- \$44,375 – Soft costs (engineering, surveying, admin, legal, misc. costs)
- \$44,375 – Contingency

Funding Sources

There are no additional funding sources for this phase of the Courthouse Park project.



Proposed new mobile stage

Feasibility and Cost Justification

A cost-benefit analysis for the CHP project is not feasible at this time, though it is expected that the project will contribute to an anticipated 5-10% increase in the value of properties proximate to infrastructure improvements, based on national averages.

Regulatory Requirements

- Completed reviews and permits – Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation (No Adverse Impact finding); SEQR review Negative Declaration; Financial Review; and Legal Review;
- Will revisit after final design plans – SEQR and Historical reviews.

Timeframe for Implementation and Project Readiness

To be coordinated with phasing of other related infrastructure improvements. Total project timeframe will be approximately 25 months.

- Contract with engineering firm – 6 months;
- Final Design Plans – 9 months;
- Common Council and permit approvals – 10 months;
- Mobile stage can be purchased and in use by early summer 2018.

Project Reporting

The City Youth Bureau will report on facility usage including event attendance, maintenance and revenue collected.