

LOCAL HISTORY

## A plan to remake Clinton Square

Each week, the Onondaga Historical Association looks back at important events:

**16 Years Ago:** In early December of 1999, a \$6 million plan was proposed to transform Clinton Square into an urban park and festival site in an effort to attract more people to downtown Syracuse. The plan called for the permanent closure of Erie Boulevard West from Salina Street to Clinton Street. It was initially delayed, with some people wanting to enlarge the park up to



Clinton Square after the renovation. (OHA photo)

four times its proposed size by closing two blocks of Salina and Washington streets and incorporating Hanover Square into the project. The original plan was eventually approved and the new park opened in 2001. An ice rink was added during the winter months so that Syracusans could skate on the reflecting pool, reminiscent of the days when people skated on the frozen Erie Canal.

— Dan Connors for the OHA



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