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the Leaflet



BUFFALO
OLMSTED PARKS
CONSERVANCY

connecting parks & people



Fall Has Arrived in Buffalo's Olmsted Parks



Preservation is in the air! With the National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference and the Board Meeting of the National Association of Olmsted Parks, both scheduled for Buffalo this fall, the Conservancy is hard at work to make sure our landmark park system is looking its best. Operation Red Carpet assured the installation of almost 1000 red chrysanthemums in key locations throughout the parks and parkways. We are keeping our Zone Gardeners busy, working with volunteers to plant the mums, weeding, tending, watering and pruning... and raking, raking, raking, and composting.

The long-awaited Humboldt Basin restoration in Martin Luther King Jr. Park is well underway with the contractors working hard to get things ready for next summer. The historic shelter building next to the greenhouse complex has been completely restored and is now wheelchair accessible. Look for a historic display interpreting the history of Martin Luther King Park as well as the contributions of Dr. King and Frederick Law Olmsted to the fight for freedom.

Trees are traditionally planted in the parks each fall, and this year is no exception. Look for new trees along the Humboldt Parkway planted in partnership with Canisius and Medaille Colleges. More trees will be planted in Delaware Park with the support of Key Bank. A very special tree was installed by our friends at Upstate New York Transplant Services next to a bench that honors individuals who have given the gift of life. I encourage anyone interested in dedicating a bench, planting a tree, shrub, or bulbs in honor of a special occasion or individual to get in touch with the Conservancy to make arrangements.

So many good times to remember from this past summer: the Farmers Market on Bidwell; Summer Breeze by the Lake; Shakespeare; the Olmsted Gala in Front Park honoring long-time friend of the Parks Richard Griffin; the Irish Festival in Cazenovia Park; Friendship Festival in Riverside; Juneteenth at Martin Luther King Park; and Party for the Parks, our signature end-of-summer party. All of these wonderful events are held in our historic park landscapes, a treasure for us to enjoy and pass on to future generations.

See you in the parks!

Thomas Herrera-Mishler

Thomas Herrera-Mishler
President and CEO

We Could Not Do It Without Our Volunteers

The Volunteer Department had a very successful 2011 winter through summer, with much more on the way. Volunteers were involved in all aspects of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy including operations, office assistance, events and program development. For events, this past January we had 150 Volunteers at the Olmsted FLURRIOUS Winter Festival participating in winter athletics and staffing our event. We also had a highly select team for our Music at the Marcy Concert Series, Summer Breeze by the Lake and our Olmsted Gala in Front Park.

Out in the field throughout the course of the summer the volunteer-led Environmental Restoration Program implemented four successful Earthwatch events involving 100 HSBC volunteers in South Park, the Day of Caring on August 17th with the United Way with 165 HSBC volunteers in South Park, and over 200 volunteers within Delaware Park's Rumsey Woods, Cazenovia Park and the Japanese Gardens. Volunteers removed invasive plants in preparation for replanting of native plants in our more naturalistic Olmsted designed landscapes.

Additionally, over 350 volunteers also planted flowers, cleaned up garbage and cleaned garden beds in all of our parks.

Olmsted's volunteers were not limited to just outside activities. We have had interns from the University at Buffalo and Buffalo State University working on developing more fully several in-depth programs in support of the Plan for the 21st Century and the Olmsted Landscape. Their hard work and expertise has been invaluable to our mission.

Environmental Restoration Plan and Program: Focuses on naturalistic areas within Delaware Park, Cazenovia Park and South Park, identifying the zones for restoration, removing invasive plant species using our in-house invasive plant species report, and developing a plan for replanting within each parks' zones for restoration.

Maintained Meadow Areas: The idea behind the MMA is to replace a percentage of our highly mowed, non-native lawn areas with native wildflowers and small shrubs. Benefits include: An enhanced local environment, restoration of the Olmsted vision of prairie landscapes, reduction of maintenance expenditures for our open lawn areas.

Native Plant Species Guide: Details preferred soil, water, and light conditions for each native plant, providing consultation list for all native plants.

A comprehensive plan to map our entire park system's soil PH and soil structure. This will enable us to prepare long term restoration and replanting plans using the existing typology of the unique sites found within all of our parks and parkways.

Our dedicated interns continue working on many other projects such as Olmsted community neighborhood assessment, and a cutting edge research plan on methods for reducing soil compaction in the maintained landscape.

If you are interested in volunteering or interning with the Conservancy, please contact Steven Nagowski at volunteer@bfloparks.org, or call 716-838-1249 x15.





Humboldt Basin: Hard Hat Area Ahead

The City of Buffalo and the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy are proud to partner together to move forward with the project to restore and enhance the water features of the Humboldt Basin in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The project will expand the existing splash pad so that it can support additional users during the summer months, a reflective basin during the other three seasons of the year with lighting and accent sprays, and potentially ice skating in the winter (depending on weather conditions).

Funds for the project have been procured by the Conservancy through grants from the Environmental Protection Fund, and BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York. The City of Buffalo has commissioned Wendel Duchscherer Architects and Engineers, to undertake the analysis, design and construction as part of the Phase 2 improvements to the Humboldt Basin, following New York State Historic Preservation Office guidelines. The 2004 phase included the construction of a splash pad with a total of 122 spray heads in the center of the basin. This project addressed an immediate need for the community utilizing only a small portion of the Basin. Phase 2, however, will restore year-round use of the entire Basin.

The Humboldt Basin, historically was used for wading, toy boating and ice skating. As part of Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, this one-of-a-kind urban park space is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of Buffalo's Olmsted park system and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The Basin is the largest artificial water feature in New York State.

After the project is completed, the Basin will again provide recreational opportunities for the community year round, enhancing the overall park experience in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Construction is underway, with the goal is to have the splash pad constructed and ready to open in July of 2012.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

This past July, Front Park and the spectacular view of the mouth of the Niagara were the setting for the 9th Annual Frederick Law Olmsted Gala, sponsored by M&T Bank. Over 400 friends and supporters of the Conservancy gathered to celebrate a great year of accomplishments in our nation's first park system, Buffalo's Olmsted Parks. This year's honoree of our Gala was long-time friend and advocate of the parks, Richard F. Griffin. Together with his wife, Jane, his friends and family, he was recognized for his many contributions to the parks and to our region.

After cocktails out on the grounds, Rich's Catering served a gourmet meal followed by the sounds of the All Star Band, dancing, and fireworks. Guests were treated also to an exciting auction with vacation packages generously provided by Delaware North Companies.

Thanks, once again, to all who made this wonderful celebration possible, especially M&T Bank, Delaware North Companies, Gallo Wines, Hodgson Russ, National Grid, NOCO, Council Member David Rivera, Try-it Distributors, Unilock, Inc., United Graphics, White Bicycle, and the Zenger Group.



The 6th Annual Olmsted Open

Our 2011 6th Annual Olmsted Open golf fundraiser was a success. The 92 golfers that participated were treated to a beautiful sunny day (except for a 30-minute rain shower) and truly enjoyed the entire day of golf, contests, food, drink, awards, and fun.

Cazenovia Park Men's golf club were this year's foursome repeat winners — Dave Taylor, Pat Fahey, Joe Zglinicki and Matt Messing. They scrambled to an outstanding score of 54 — 14 under par.

The tournament had great representation from the men's and women's golf clubs from Cazenovia Park, South Park and Delaware Park golf courses, with many returning golfers who returned to play again in 2011. We truly appreciate their support of this great fundraiser to benefit the Buffalo Olmsted Parks golf courses and youth golf organizations from the Western New York area.

Some highlights for the day:

- ✍ Junior players from The First Tee of WNY and the Buffalo Inner City Youth Fan Club for Golfing playing in the tournament
- ✍ Two WNY PGA professionals: Scott Arnold and Steve Latimer participated by hitting shots on two par 3 holes to possibly help with the team scoring.
- ✍ Steve Bartkowski from the WNY PGA office also helped with his expertise.
- ✍ We thank them and the WNY PGA for their support and help.

We thank all our sponsors, especially major sponsors M&T Insurance Agency, Inc., Council Members Michael LoCurto and Demone Smith, New Era Cap Co., Try-it Distributing and Coca-Cola for their continued support year in and year out.

Planning for the 2012 Olmsted Open has begun and we look forward to another fantastic event.



FLURRIOUS! 2012

SAVE THE DATE — JANUARY 21, 2012 — CELEBRATE WINTER IN BUFFALO'S DELAWARE PARK.



Operation Red Carpet

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is ready to dress up for autumn. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, the Conservancy planted red fall blooms in all high profile gardens throughout the entire Olmsted Parks System, “rolling out the red carpet” for the anticipated thousands of preservationists from all over the United States that will come to Buffalo later this October for the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference, and the board meeting of the National Association of Olmsted Parks.

“It has been my dream to have a planting of fall blooms every year,” says Thomas Herrera-Mishler, president and CEO of the Conservancy; “This year it will become a reality thanks to funds provided by the County of Erie, the Baird Foundation and the Fund for the Arts, and our partnership with the city of Buffalo. We will showcase Buffalo’s Olmsted designed park system, first one in the nation.”

Early this month, we spruced up the garden beds and planted nearly 1,000 mums. We worked in Riverside Park, Delaware Park, Front Park, Columbus Park, Days Park, MLK Jr. Park, Heacock Place, Cazenovia Park, South Park as well as all the Circles both north and south.

We thank all of our volunteers, our staff and our donors, private and public who made rolling out the red carpet possible.

Mural Dedication and Continuation

On July 27, 2011, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the retaining wall behind McKinley High-School marking the completion of the 265-foot mural depicting the Olmsted Parks’ landscapes. The mural artist, Augustina Droze, along with her artist partners from Buffalo State College and McKinley High-School spent the summer completing the public art project. Representatives from the City of Buffalo, Board of Education, Buffalo State, and McKinley High School were in attendance for the dedication of the mural. Dignitaries in attendance included Jay McCarthy, Andy Rabb, Steve Stepniak, Philip Ogle, James A. Williams, and many more. A group of young artists from the Buffalo Public Schools painted a paper mural all their own as well under the direction of Ms. Droze that day.

The massive work has received so much attention this summer that additional plans to extend the piece are in the works.

Ms. Droze is back in Buffalo as an extended stay in order to attach an additional panel that was originally slated to be left blank. Also in works, the Conservancy is considering adding a metal component as a tri-dimensional extension of the mural to be attached to the railing overhead. If approved the actual production of the metal structure will be done by students from McKinley High School. Work will also be underway to complete a landscape to be installed in front of the mural to reflect the vegetation included within the mural, again, giving the appearance of a tri-dimensional effect. Landscape work will be completed this Fall as a part of the Jesse Kregal Creekside Trail Improvement Project.



2nd Annual Front Yard Competition

This summer, homes on Newman Place facing Cazenovia Park received a front yard makeover courtesy of our friends from the Western New York State Nursery & Landscape Association, the New York State Certified Nursery and Landscape Professionals. Popular vote online and at drop off boxes on Newman Place determined the winner landscape professional; however, the true winners again this year were the recipients of the talents, time and resources of these professionals committed to a better and more beautiful Buffalo.



Benches Restored in Prospect Park

On these beautiful fall days, we invite you to take your lunch out and enjoy one of Buffalo’s Olmsted landscapes, sitting at one of the newly restored picnic benches in Prospect Park.

Watch Your Donation Grow

Thanks to an anonymous donor, all donations to our annual fund will be matched up to \$25,000! This is your chance to make sure your gift goes an extra long way. To donate, visit our website at www.bfloparks.org, or use the envelope included in this issue.



Leave Your Legacy in an Olmsted Park

- ✍ A tree near your favorite spot in Riverside Park to mark your anniversary
- ✍ A bench to remember your loved one’s favorite place in Cazenovia Park
- ✍ A bouquet of spring bulbs in Delaware Park to say “happy birthday” each year

Gifts of green to honor the many seasons of your life in your favorite Olmsted space.

Contact us at 716-838-1249 x31 or visit www.bfloparks.org to leave your legacy today.