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84 Parkside Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214

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Spring 2011 Newsletter

the Leaflet



BUFFALO
OLMSTED PARKS
CONSERVANCY

connecting parks & people

Spring Blooms In Buffalo's Olmsted Parks.

The parks are busy with people walking, jogging, taking photos, and enjoying the picturesque beauty of our historic parklands. Our Buffalo Olmsted Parks (BOPC) operations staff continues to maintain the pathways and public spaces so that the parks are clean, safe, and ready for activities throughout the Olmsted system. We are also working hard on preparing equipment for the coming season, sharpening mower blades (it's harder than it sounds on specialized golf course greens cutters!), planning events and programs, writing grants, meeting with corporate partners, designing restoration projects, growing annuals and perennials in the greenhouses, and working closely with our city partners on ways to improve the parks buildings and grounds.

This is a big year for the Olmsted Parks. Not only is the National Trust for Historic Preservation coming to town next fall, but the board of directors of the National Association of Olmsted Parks is meeting in Buffalo next October. We are raising matching funds for a \$50,000 grant from the County of Erie to allow us to extend our fall seasonal zone gardening efforts, installing colorful fall plants and giving the parks and parkways an extra bit of tending next fall. We call this "Operation Red Carpet."

This summer will feature the 2nd annual National Garden Festival. The Western New York State Association of Landscape and Nursery Professionals will be undertaking the Front Yard Competition, making over front yards facing Cazenovia Park. The Frederick Law Olmsted Gala will be held at Front Park on Friday, July 22, promising an unforgettable evening of fine dining and entertainment.

Riverside Park will be the site of a major restoration project. The RiverRock Gardens project will restore a beautiful water garden on the north end of the park with paths, benches, plantings and an attractive water feature. State Assemblyman Sam Hoyt obtained an initial \$100,000 grant for the Conservancy to begin the process of restoring the character of the minnow pools landscape. In 2008 the Conservancy was awarded \$305,000 from the Erie County Standing Committee of the Niagara River Greenway Commission to help fund the installation of the RiverRock Gardens. Since that time former State Senator Antoine Thompson has assisted in the award of an additional \$200,000 through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) and \$125,000 through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP). Currently the BOPC has a request in to the Erie County Standing Committee for the allocation of approximately \$518,000, the remaining amount of money estimated to complete the design and installation of the project. Other restoration projects anticipated this year include new French doors for the Parkside Lodge, complete restoration of the MLK Shelter, and improvements to the MLK greenhouse, including restoration of historic pavers in the forecourt. Two flights of granite stairs leading to the Humboldt Basin will be restored in the upcoming construction season. We look forward to the completion of improvements to the Scajaquada Trail/Jesse Kregal Pathway, including investments at a focus area along the trail near Wegmans, a major mural project on a retention wall at McKinley High School, interpretative signage honoring the corridor's significance during the War of 1812, and general trail improvements including fence and railing repair, invasive species removal, and planting of appropriate native plant species.

We invite everyone to join us as volunteers to help us prepare America's first park system for an important year. Please contact Steven Nagowski at volunteer@bfloparks.org for more information. See you in the parks!



Thomas Herrera-Mishler
President and CEO

Experience Olmsted 2011 Calendar

April 29, 2011 | **Cazenovia, South, & Delaware Park**
Start of Golf Season
Golf opens at all three Olmsted courses in the city of Buffalo

May / June 2011 | **Various Parkways & Circles**
Spring Annual Plantings
A free community event where volunteers come out to plant annuals in the Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

May 2011 | **Delaware Park**
Boating on Hoyt Lake, Memorial Day through Labor Day
Enjoy leisurely boating on Delaware Park's scenic Hoyt Lake. \$10 per 30-minute session, \$15 per hour, FREE to Conservancy members.

May 28, 2011 | **Riverside Park**
Riverside Birding with Audubon
Come learn about birds in our region and your Olmsted parks, and practice spotting birds in Riverside Park with experts from the Audubon—a FREE event for the entire the family.

June 16 – August 11 | **Hoyt Lake, Delaware Park**
Thursdays by the Lake
Local musicians performing near Delaware Park's Hoyt Lake.

July 11–15 | **Cazenovia Park**
2nd Annual Front Yard Makeover Competition
The Western New York State Association of Landscape and Nursery Professionals will undertake the Front Yard Competition, making over front yards facing Cazenovia Park.

July 16, 2011 | **Cazenovia Park**
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra free concert in Cazenovia Park
Bring a lawn chair, a friend and a picnic, and enjoy a summer concert in Cazenovia Park.

July 22, 2011 | **Front Park**
Frederick Law Olmsted Gala
A dressy evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing with our friends and supporters. Includes live music & auction.

August 20, 2011 | **Delaware Park**
Frederick Law Olmsted Classic Golf Open
A classic golf tournament in Delaware Park.

September 16, 2011 | **Marcy Casino/Hoyt Lake, Delaware Park**
Party for the Parks
Fundraising party for the Conservancy including live music, dancing, an auction, food, beer, wine, and much more!

October / November 2011 | **Various Parks**
Fall Community Volunteer Bulb Plantings
A free community event where people in the area come out to plant flower bulbs in the Olmsted Parks.



Get Into the Swing With Olmsted

Spring is on its way which means that golf has returned to the Olmsted Parks. The golf season kicked off on Friday, April 29 and is expected to last deep into the autumn months. With three Olmsted courses (Delaware, Cazenovia, and South Park) to choose from, even the most avid golfer will have a hard time tiring of our links.

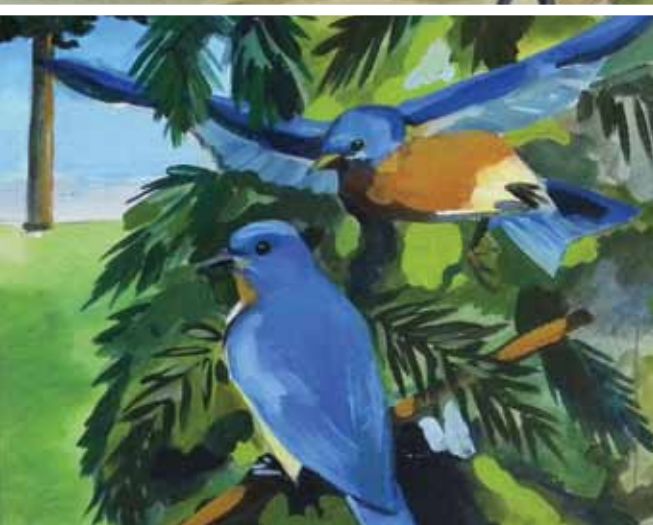
With season passes accommodating a variety of golfer needs, including unlimited course use, at affordable prices, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks has never made it easier to be a part of the action. While the greens fees and season pass prices won't increase this year, the BOPC has still managed to introduce some enjoyable new elements to the Olmsted golfing experience, including:

- 🏌️ **Power carts now available in Delaware Park**
- 🏌️ **A new concessionaire at South Park club house**

Golf passes can be purchased online at our website or at any of the course golf houses.

Golf leagues and outings are another way for our golfers to enjoy the game while socializing and relaxing in the beautiful Olmsted Parks. Our three golf courses have a tradition of hosting many evening leagues, as well as weekday and weekend tournaments. Our men's, women's, and seniors' golf clubs have played and supported these courses for years, and have played an integral role in their longevity. For 2011, we'll also offer leagues for men and women at Delaware and South Park golf courses.

If your company, group or organization would like to start a summer golf league or if you would like contact information for one of the men's, women's, or senior's golf clubs at Cazenovia, Delaware, or South Park golf courses, contact Dave Hoover, Golf Operations Manager at 716-838-1249 (ext. 19) or email dave@bfloparks.org.



Artist Selected For McKinley High School Mural Project



The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is proud to announce Augustina Droze of Los Angeles, California has been selected as lead artist for the installation of a mural project at McKinley High School as part of the Jesse Kregal Pathway Improvement Project funded through the New York Power Authority, Niagara River Greenway Commission.

The selection was made based on Ms. Droze's extensive national experience in mural painting, presentation, and proposal. Her experience and artistic vision of a narrative mural of Frederick Law Olmsted's life and work best aligns with the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy's goals for the project. We look forward to working closely with her to develop a final design and associated landscape plan to successfully implement in the coming year.

Augustina Droze is familiar with large scale public art through her work in large scale mural projects and mixed media installations. With over 10 years experience in the industry she has worked extensively with architects and designers nationwide during every phase of a project. She has worked with a variety of public art agencies including The Chicago Public Art Group and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts as well as with large corporations. She completed a 365 foot long mural commissioned by the Forbes Company in the Gardens Mall in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Augustina's work is figurative, realism based, and draws on conceptual elements of nature, science, and fantasy.

The artist has been chosen by a panel of judges who reviewed presentations made by artists from across the country. The panel consisted of: Thomas Herrera-Mishler, CEO and President of the BOPC; Philip Ogle, Chair of the Buffalo State University Fine Arts Department; Michelle Agosto, Supervisor of Curriculum in Art for Buffalo Public Schools; Louis Grachos, Director of the Albright Knox Art Gallery; James Pappas, Associate Professor of African American Studies in the UB College of Arts and Sciences, and member of the Buffalo Arts Commission; Ted Pietrzak, Former Executive Director of the Burchfield Penney Art Center, and member of the Buffalo Arts Commission.

For more information, please visit www.bfloparks.org



Walsh Insurance Group Celebrates 150 Years With 150 Trees

In celebration of 150 years of service, Walsh Duffield Companies, Inc. marked their historic anniversary with a unique gift to the WNY community. On a sunny day last October, the Buffalo-based insurance firm brought together more than 140 volunteers for an Olmsted tree planting celebration and family picnic in Delaware Park. Together with their business partners the company contributed nearly \$50,000 to purchase trees and support their ongoing maintenance. In addition to the 150 trees planted by employees, family members and friends, the Walsh Insurance Group also helped to plant 1,000 new daffodil and tulip bulbs in the park's garden beds for bloom this spring.

"The Western New York community has given us so much, we wanted to find a way to say thank you in a meaningful and lasting way," said Ted Walsh, president of Walsh Duffield Companies, Inc. "Planting trees was the perfect way to celebrate. We accomplished significant change for the parks and had a wonderful time doing it."

Since 2004, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy has been responsible for the restoration, maintenance, and preservation of Buffalo's Olmsted Parks. Combined, the parks once boasted 42,000 trees. Decades of poor urban landscape management, along with the tree mangling storm of 2006, contributed to a loss of about one in three trees in the Buffalo Olmsted Parks. Together with private partners, like the Walsh Insurance Group, the BOPC is working to restore Buffalo's once verdant recreation spaces. In the last three years alone, 3,000 new trees and countless spring bulbs have been planted in the parks by the BOPC.

For more information about commemorative tree plantings please call, 716-838-1249 (ext. 14).

You can help **ReLeaf Buffalo** by sponsoring a commemorative tree planting in one of Buffalo's historic parks: Cazenovia, Delaware, Front, Martin Luther King, Jr., Riverside, and South. For each tree sponsored at \$350, the Conservancy is able to purchase, plant and maintain a new tree.

For more information about commemorative tree plantings please call 716-838-1249 (ext. 14).

Tree Facts: Did you know that new trees consume five gallons of water per week during the growing season? Most new trees require weekly watering, seasonal compost and mulch for three years until they become established.

OMG! supporting your Buffalo Olmsted Parks is so easy!

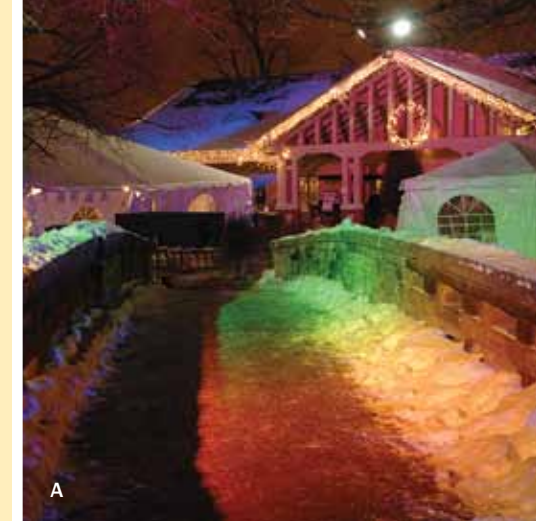
Text **PARKS** to 2022 to make a one-time \$10 donation!

No clue? Your local teenager would be happy to introduce you to their world of texting. Your donation will appear on your phone bill or deducted from your prepaid account.

thx 4 ur suprt ;)



Olmsted Parks Happenings



Olmsted's 2010 Volunteers

6

2010 was a good year for volunteer cultivation as our total volunteer hours increased by 5.5% for the hours that were donated, along with a corresponding increase in total value, from \$164,000 in 2009 to \$173,000 for 2010, a gain of approximately \$9,000.

Volunteers were involved in all of the major events for 2010 including the Music at the Marcy concert series, the Frederick Law Olmsted Gala, Party for the Parks and Olmsted Nights Winter Lights. Volunteers also helped us plant over 1,000 trees, assisted with the replanting and rededication of the Japanese Gardens, provided critical labor for our environmental restoration program, cleaned up Hoyt Lake, performed several major garbage cleanups of our grounds, assisted with our summer annuals plantings and the fall planting of over 7,500 bulbs.

For 2011, we have several volunteer opportunities such as our Thursday Summer Concert Series by the Lake, our annuals planting in May, the Olmsted Gala in Front Park, Party for the Parks at the Marcy Casino, and a continuation of our environmental restoration projects within Delaware, Cazenovia, and South Parks.

Environmental Restoration

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is dedicated to becoming the greenest parks system in the nation. Along those lines we are actively restoring our natural and forested areas within South Park, Cazenovia Park and Delaware Park. Our challenge is unique as we are the stewards of an artificially created landscape that has become overrun with non-native plants.

These invasive plants crowd our forested areas, cost us a great deal in staff hours to remove, are less than aesthetically appealing, and provide a poor habitat for our wildlife.

In support of our plan for the 21st Century and our aim to become a sustainable parks system we are going to remove all invasive plants within South Park, Delaware Park and Cazenovia Park from our more 'wild' areas. After these invasive plants are removed the long-term plan is to replant with native trees, shrubs, and ground covers to restore our historic Olmsted landscape and natural environment.

Without the help of our dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to carry out this project. If you're interested in helping with this endeavor as a volunteer, please contact Steven Nagowski, our Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@bfloparks.org or (716) 838-1249 (ext. 15).



PHOTOS (from top, left-to-right)

- A The Parkside Lodge during Flurrious in Delaware Park
- B Volunteers working in the Rose Garden
- C Scene from Flurrious
- D Halloween Tree Planting in Columbus Park
- E Ice skating during Flurrious
- F Woman's Rugby in the snow
- G Carriage rides
- H Volunteers working hard in Delaware Park

Photos courtesy of Joe Casico [©2011 Joe Casico] and the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

