

Maintained Meadow Areas



connecting parks & people

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy's mission is to promote, preserve, restore and enhance the historic Frederick Law Olmsted within the City of Buffalo. Enhanced maintenance standards that incorporate sustainability and organic land management practices for Olmsted designed Parks and Parkways have been suggested by the Olmsted Naturally Committee. The objective is to beautify the parks, enhance sustainability, and reduce long term operational costs. This plan will help guarantee an Olmsted park experience with a modern understanding of our need to be sustainable for current and future generations.

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy has a goal of becoming the 'greenest' parks system in the nation. To support those goals we are attempting to limit the amount of heavily maintained lawn area. This would help cut down on the use of mowers, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers needed for lawn care. Olmsted Naturally has done research on what is traditionally called a "no mow" area. With some small cultural changes, Olmsted plans to introduce them into our parks system and title them "Maintained Meadow Areas" (MMAs). We plan to establish MMAs within the 6 major parks that we manage.

A Maintained Meadow Area is a former section of open lawn that has been either cleared of non-native plants and reseeded with natives or selectively planted with native plants. Using Olmsted's Zone Management System, each Zone Gardener would be responsible for the new maintenance standards for those areas. These areas will be mowed depending on the plant material used either once a year (spring) or twice a year (spring and fall).

Once fully established, MMAs offer a number of benefits over traditional lawn areas. These areas will provide a chance to introduce native flora and grass species back into their former habitat, provide biodiversity, a habitat for beneficial insects and reducing the carbon impact of mowing and maintaining open lawn areas. These areas can also provide an educational opportunity for the public, are aesthetically pleasing and break up the monotony of a continuous lawn area.