

BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS MASTER PLAN

location: Buffalo, NY

owner: Olmsted Parks Conservancy



BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY

PROPOSED RESTORATION PLAN

OF

MLK PARK

BUFFALO, NEW YORK



BUFFALO, NY



ERIE COUNTY

NOVEMBER 15, 2007



CAZENOVIA PARK

The City of Buffalo hosts one of the most celebrated and intact Olmsted parks systems in the country. Olmsted's system of parks and parkways in Buffalo is historic because it is the first of its kind in the nation and represents one of his largest bodies of work. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the system comprises 75% of the city's parkland.

Working off the Ellicott designed city framework for radial streets, Olmsted developed six major parks linked through a series of parkways and circles throughout the city. In a long-standing relationship, Trowbridge & Wolf has provided planning, restoration and design services to the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy since its inception in 1978.

Design and planning work on Olmsted open spaces in Buffalo includes: South Park, Cazenovia Park, Front Park, Delaware Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, and Riverside Park.

Most recently, Trowbridge & Wolf was an integral member of the project team for the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy's 20-Year Restoration and Management Plan for the Olmsted system. This ambitious project worked to compile a comprehensive set of restoration, design, and management goals for every major park in the system, including the connecting circle and parkway elements.

Study of historical documents, site visits, inventory and analysis, programming considerations, management strategies and intensive multidisciplinary charrettes helped guide development of design and management recommendations for Cazenovia Park, Delaware Park, Front Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Riverside Park, South Park and the Circles and Parkway.

MLK Park

RESTORE THE HISTORIC INTEGRITY OF THE PARK FROM THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

- Project #1: Renovate and enhance the Casino building
- Project #2: Restore the Humboldt Basin
- Project #3: Restore the Original Fountain as a splash pad
- Project #4: Restore the original Water Plant Basin/Bog
- Project #5: Restore the historic Greenhouse area
- Project #6: Restore Picnic Grove

ESTABLISH THE MARTIN LUTHER KING MONUMENT AS A FOCAL POINT FOR THE PARK

- Project #7: Redesign the MLK Memorial within the loop area

IMPROVE ACCESS AND CIRCULATION WITHIN THE PARK FOR VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS

- Project #8: Redesign the South Ring Road as a pedestrian pathway and relocate parking to Best Street
- Project #9: Install traffic calming and streetscape features on Fillmore Avenue
- Project #10: Redesign the southwest entrance of the park
- Project #11: Redesign the southeast entrance of the park

IMPROVE OR RATIONALIZE RECREATION AND SERVICES WITHIN THE PARK

- Project #12: Consolidate and improve the playground on the south side of the park near the Humboldt Basin
- Project #13: Relocate the basketball courts and arena to a better, agreed upon location near the park
- Project #14: Relocate the tennis courts to a better location outside the park

REESTABLISH PARK ELEMENTS SURROUNDING THE SCIENCE MUSEUM AND SCHOOL

- Project #15: Interpret the remnant of the historical Humboldt Parkway at the former north entrance to the park
- Project #16: Rationalize and expand parking for the Museum and park users within and outside of the park
- Project #17: Redesign the school bus drop-off area to articulate the park road
- Project #18: Redesign the Rose Garden near the Science Museum

ESTABLISH CONNECTIONS TO AREAS SURROUNDING THE PARK

- Project #19: Design a circle at Best Street near the Kensington Expressway
- Project #20: Redesign the Best Street/Genesee Street intersection
- Project #21: Open West Parade to two-way traffic
- Project #22: Widen the sidewalks and add a vegetative buffer to the bridges that cross the Kensington Expressway
- Project #23: Deck over the section of the Expressway by the park
- *Project #24: Restore park perimeter roads

RESTORE THE BASIC PARK ELEMENTS

- *Project #25: Restore the park's historic furnishings
- *Project #26: Identify areas in need of lighting; design and install lighting
- *Project #27: Restore and maintain public restroom facilities
- *Project #28: Restore, maintain, or install drinking fountains
- *Project #29: Rehabilitate Olmsted pathway system
- *Project #30: Rehabilitate Olmsted roadway system
- *Project #31: Introduce traffic calming measures at park roads
- *Project #32: Install appropriate wayfinding and branding signage
- *Project #33: Restore historic landscape patterns and plantings, especially perimeter vegetation
- *Project #34: Manage drainage and erosion issues throughout the park

*These projects are not numbered on the map.





In close collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, the group also organized and gave priority to a set of site specific goals and projects for each park.

Park rehabilitation and updated design recommendations were illustrated through plans, sections and site-specific sketches. The result is a comprehensive, system-wide restoration and management plan that will guide development for the Olmsted parks in the Buffalo System for the next 20 years.

The completed graphics for the project will be used for major fundraising efforts. Trowbridge & Wolf was additionally responsible for creating the final graphics for the management plan. In recognition of the historic documentation for the parks, Trowbridge & Wolf constructed the illustrative work for the project in the spirit and style of the Olmsted office. The illustrations and sketches included here are the culmination of that effort.

