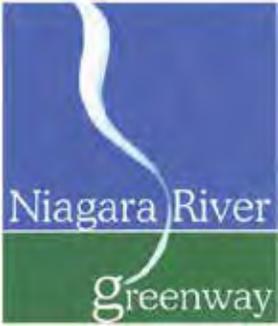


SOUTH PARK LAKE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

PREPARED FOR:



ECOLOGICAL STANDING COMMITTEE



PREPARED BY:
BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY
FEBRUARY 2016

Niagara River Greenway – Ecological Standing Committee
South Park Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project

1. Applicant Info:

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
Parkside Lodge
84 Parkside Ave
Buffalo, NY 14214
Federal ID # - 22-2720927
Charities Registration # - 15-08-95

Point of Contact:

Brian Dold
Ph# 716-280-8118
Email: brian@bfloparks.org

Project Narrative – The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy has been in partnership with the City of Buffalo and the United States Army Corps of Engineers on the South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration project. The project is being conducted under the authority of Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA '96), Public Law 104-303.

To date, within the 50% Draft Project Report, a 67 page document, Chapters 1-4 of the Report have been completed, including documentation of existing conditions, and formulation of plans and alternatives. Pertinent Reports, Studies and Projects completed and included as appendices are the South Park Lake (SPL) Dredging Memorandum, SPL Sediment Evaluation, SPL Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Project Vegetation Plan, and the US Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report on the SPL Restoration Project. \$342,671.00 has been spent to date on Study development from various funding sources.

To complete the study, prior to construction, the work remaining includes evaluation of alternative plans and completion of the NEPA environmental assessment of the recommended plan. The US Army Corps of Engineers, led by Craig M. Forgette, P.E., PMP, Buffalo District, Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes Regional Sediment Management Program Manager, are prepared to complete the remaining work on the report once non-federal matching funds have been identified and a new Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement is signed.

The identified problems at South Park Lake reflect almost a century of plant growth in a pond with limited hydrology, excessive erosion, accumulated nutrients from natural and anthropogenic sources that facilitate eutrophication and systemic degradation of the aquatic and wetlands ecosystem including shoreline and near-shore habitats. South Park Lake lies within South Park, a 155-acre multiple use park, which is part of the City of Buffalo Olmsted Parks system, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The lake was constructed in the early 1900s to provide key ecological/recreational functions in

an otherwise urban industrial/residential landscape, and is one of only three lakes in the City of Buffalo. The lake presently supports relatively shallow water, elevated seasonal water temperatures, a high BOD, low dissolved oxygen, and an overall low functioning state that is a fraction of its potential value to fish, wildlife, and residents of the area.

The proposed South Park Lake restoration project would restore habitat, ecosystem structure and function to approximately 24 acres of lacustrine and palustrine habitat, facilitate recovery of flora and fauna diversity, promote food chain redevelopment, and return functioning aquatic and wetland resources to fish, wildlife, and residents of the City of Buffalo and the neighboring City of Lackawanna. The geographic scope of the proposed project encompasses the 24-acre South Park Lake and shoreline, the inlet drainage swale, depressional wetlands, and immediate near-shore areas. A number of alternatives were considered during the course of the investigation including ways to reduce sediment loads, maintain existing aquatic and wetland habitat, and various methods for removing existing accumulated sediment.

It has been preliminarily determined that removing accumulated sediment to original contours will provide a useful project life of over 100 years. Various levels of dredging were investigated to determine cost effectiveness. Major project components of the preferred alternative include removal of debris from the shoreline and lake areas with disposal off-site, dredging of an estimated 100,000 cubic yards of accumulated organic matter, mineral based sediment, and aquatic vegetation, and transport of dredged material to suitable upland disposal site for re-use or to an approved confined disposal facility (i.e., Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) #4). Through detailed investigations it was determined that the sediment removal was feasible and that the most cost effective method would be to drain the lake and use land based equipment to excavate the sediment, load it into trucks, and haul it to nearby sediment placement areas.

In addition, the project would include removal and replacement of existing lake outlet structure(s), establishment of target shoreline and littoral zone slopes and grades, grading of wetland and riparian buffer areas, installation of bioengineering measures along the shoreline, and creation of shallow gradient points of public access to the lake. Restoration techniques would include application of native topsoil, planting, seeding, and mulching of shoreline, wetland, and riparian areas, installation of waterfowl nesting boxes, snags for fish habitat and other appropriate habitat enhancement features, fish stocking, introduction of aquatic plant management measures, and establishment of nuisance wildlife deterrent measures. All disturbed soils areas will be restored to pre-existing conditions and seeded.

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy's vision for the Greenway has been incorporated into the development of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks System Plan for the 21st Century. The 21st Century Plan looks to place the Parks System within the green infrastructure of the city, restoring and building off of the assets brought to the region by Joseph Ellicott, Frederick Law Olmsted and the Niagara River as Buffalo's reason for being. Ecosystem restoration of historic park features was incorporated into the 21st Century Plan as a part of the public process of the plan. This process included 21

meetings of the BOPC Advisory Council, comprised of representatives of a broad-based group of community organizations and park users whose main purpose is to encourage and facilitate public participation in the planning process. During this same 5 year period, six public meetings were held throughout the city as well as 15 meetings of the BOPC Long Range Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees, who approved the plan. Final design plans developed as a part of this project will be vetted with all appropriate regulatory agencies and the community prior to construction. Following the construction of this project the BOPC will continue to engage our non-profit partners, specifically the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens in providing local residents educational opportunities, hands-on volunteer projects and other enhancements at South Park as a part of our ongoing role as park stewards.

2. Consultation

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy submitted the South Park Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration project to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for the determination of consistency with the Niagara River Greenway Plan on November 19th, 2015. Attached is the consistency determination letter provided to the Conservancy on January 21st, 2016. See attached NRGC submission.

Coordination with a number of agencies (NYSDEC, USFWS, SHPO approval) occurred early on in the project (2007-2012). Additionally, consultation has been ongoing between the City of Buffalo, Conservancy and US Army Corps of Engineers with both the City and Conservancy acting as non-federal sponsors for the project at points in time. At the 75% phase we will have a Tentatively Selected Plan and will confirm / coordinate consistency with state and federal agencies at that time.

3. Operations and Maintenance

South Park is operated and maintained by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy through a contractual agreement with the City of Buffalo. The BOPC maintains all the roads, paths, lawns, woods and parkland trees in addition to the entire shoreline of the lake and inlet wetlands. Through preliminary analysis of this report it has been determined that removing accumulated sediment to original contours will provide a useful project life of over 100 years.

For nearly the last decade, HSBC bank has partnered with the BOPC at South Park and supplied significant volunteer resources to park projects, including over 150 volunteers annually for park cleanup during the United Way Day of Caring event, in addition to providing grant funding for park restoration and volunteer stewardship program.

4. Consistency with Greenway Plan

South Park is a part of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks System in the City of Buffalo and identified as part of the Greenway focus area in the 2007 Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Principles of the Niagara River Greenway Plan

- Excellence – The BOPC has a strong track record in implementing Greenway projects, building community support restoring Olmsted legacy in Western New York. Through our partnership with the City of Buffalo and US Army Corps, we have secured a professional project team and utilizing only the best in construction materials and methods in completing construction.
- Sustainability / Ecological Integrity – the goals of this project are based entirely on ecological repair and restoration of habitat, ecosystem structure and function of South Park Lake. The BOPC is committed to the restoration of the Olmsted Parks through sustainable practices and ecological integrity as identified in our organizational guiding principles.
- Accessibility / Connectivity – this project represents a key node in the South Buffalo community and Greenway focus area within the City of Buffalo. Restoring the potential for access and connectivity to one of the 3 lakes in the City for water based recreation and enjoyment would provide a great benefit to the urban population.
- Public Well-Being – the project is an important investment in a strong working-class community building on strong assets and ensuring their viability for future generations.
- Restoration – this principle represents the cornerstone of The Buffalo Olmsted Parks System: Plan for the 21st Century, as our core mission, and is at the heart of every project undertaken by the Conservancy in Buffalo's Olmsted Parks.
- Authenticity / Celebration – The investment in South Park would be in celebration of the extensive Olmsted legacy of this region and provide a strong southern anchor to the Niagara River Greenway focus area.
- Partnerships/ Community based – The BOPC has worked extensively with both the City of Buffalo and the local community stakeholders in developing a vision for the restoration of South Park as a component of the Plan for the 21st Century. Additionally, for this project, connections with the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and US Army Corps of Engineers provide a valuable partnership, and advise in working through the steps required to address the issues of South Park Lake.

5. State and Federal Regulations

The South Park Lake project is at about 50% complete in the feasibility study phase. Coordination with a number of agencies (NYSDEC, USFWS, SHPO approval) occurred early on in the project (2007-2012). Within 6-10 months after receipt of funds we will be

at the 75% phase and will have a Tentatively Selected Plan. We will confirm and coordinate consistency with state and federal agencies again at that time.

6. Matching Funds

\$342,671.00 in funds have already been secured for development if the Ecosystem Restoration Study. Through a 50/50 cost share agreement, \$75,000 in federal funds would be provided from the Energy and Water Appropriations Act, and are authorized under the USACE continuing authorities program Section 206 WRDA 1996, as amended.

7. Statement of appropriate use of funds

Greenway funds requested will not be used to defray any obligation existing as of August 31st, 2007 or operation and maintenance costs associated with any project existing as of August 31st, 2007.

8. Ownership Description

Current land owner of South Park is the City of Buffalo, no land ownership change is recommended. See Right of Entry Form attached for additional information.

9. Project Budget and Schedule

Project budget attached. Construction funds will not be a part of this initial NRG request and will be implemented at a later date under a federal/ non-federal 70/30 cost share agreement.

Project Schedule

Spring 2016

- Continue study process evaluating alternative plans and completing the NEPA environmental assessment of the recommended plan. (12-18 month process)

Spring 2017

- Review 75% Tentative Selection Plan with State and Federal Agencies.

Fall 2017

- Completion of South Park Lake Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Study.
- Negotiate and approve the Project Partnering Agreement for design and construction
- Begin coordination of efforts with local gov't representatives to prioritize project for federal funding

Winter 2017 and ongoing

- Complete final design plans and construction as future funding is identified through new partnership agreement.

NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY FUND
 ECOLOGICAL STANDING COMMITTEE

BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY

JANUARY, 22, 2016

PHASE 1

SOUTH PARK LAKE - ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT				
PHASE 1			TOTAL	DETAIL
STUDY			\$ 492,671.00	
	WORK COMPLETED TO DATE			\$ 342,671.00
	EXISTING CONDITION EVALUATION			
	PLAN FORMULATION			
	FOMULATION OF ALTERNATIVES			
	WORK TO BE COMPLETED*			\$ 150,000.00
	EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES			
	NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT			
	PROJECT ADMINISTRATION / SUPERVISION		\$ 7,500.00	
	2016 GREENWAY REQUEST		\$ 82,500.00	

PHASE 2 (FUTURE FUNDING REQUEST)				
	CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE**		\$ 3,200,000.00	
	DREDGING & DISPOSAL			
	SHORELINE RESTORATION			

Disbursement 1 - 2nd Quarter 2016 (90%)	\$ 74,250.00
Disbursement 2 - 4th Quarter 2016 (10%)	\$ 8,250.00

* Fund through 50/50 cost sharing agreement under Federal Authority Section 206 of the Water Resource Development Act of 1996

** Estimates in place for funding during future phases of the project assuming leverage of various funding sources.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION / GRAPHICS

SOUTH PARK LAKE
PROJECT AREA MAP
NOV. 2015

PROJECT AREA



4800 ft

SOUTH PARK LAKE
PARK MAP
NOV. 2015

24 ACRE LAKE

INLET WETLANDS



Floating Aquatic Vegetation



Submergent Aquatic Vegetation



White Waterlily, *Nymphaea odorata*

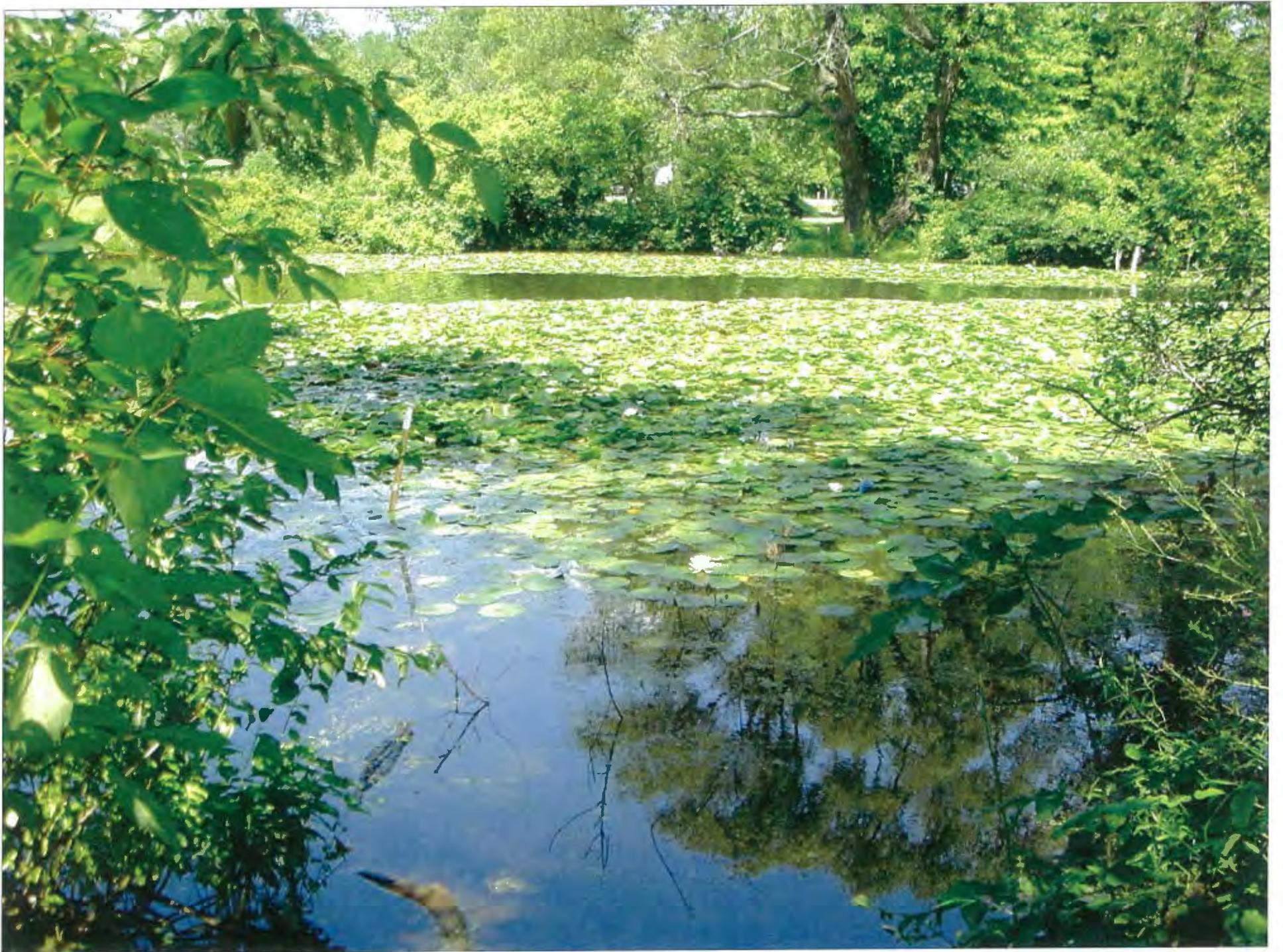


Invasive (Non-native) Terrestrial Plants



Erosion Problems Lake Access Points





CONSULTATION



January 22, 2016

Stephanie Crockatt
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
84 Parkside Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14214

Dear Ms. Crockatt:

The Niagara River Greenway Commission is pleased to support your projects, The South Park Lake Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and the Scajaquada Trail Phase 5 Rumsey Woods Project.

The projects were deemed consistent to the Niagara River Greenway Plan as determined by the Niagara River Greenway Commission on January 19, 2016. The subjective evaluations were been based on the principals, goals and criteria that define the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

The Commission is pleased to support your project proposals and wishes you great success.

Respectfully,

Greg Stevens
Chairman, Niagara River Greenway

Cc: Allan Bozer, Erie County Standing Committee
Lou Paonessa, NYPA

DRAFT

DETAILED PROJECT REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

South Park Lake

City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York



Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996,
as amended



September 2013
P2# 113222

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BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR

CITY OF BUFFALO
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS & STREETS
DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION



STEVEN J. STEPNIAK
COMMISSIONER

ANDREW R. RABB
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

February 2, 2016

Stephanie Crockatt, Executive Director
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
Parkside Lodge, 84 Parkside Ave.
Buffalo, NY, 14214

Re: South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project

The City of Buffalo supports the application of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy (BOPC) as submitted to the Ecological Standing Committee of the Niagara River Greenway Commission, for funding to complete the Detail Project Report and Environmental Assessment of South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration Study.

We will continue to work collaboratively with the BOPC and United States Army Corps of Engineers on this important study, as we have done on similar studies in other locations and believe the funding request is both appropriate and essential from the Ecological Standing Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Rabb



BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR

CITY OF BUFFALO
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS & STREETS



STEVEN J. STEPNIAK
COMMISSIONER
PETER J. MERLO, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

October 20, 2011

Jennifer Janik
Realty Specialist
Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207

RE: SOUTH PARK LAKE

Ms. Janik,

Please find attached a signed copy of the agreement between the City of Buffalo and the Army Corps. of Engineers. Please sign, execute and return to my office at your earliest convenience.

Any questions please contact Don Poletto of my office at 716-851-5359.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Merlo, P.E.
City Engineer

PJM:DJP

CC: Andy Rabb
Buffalo Parks

Attachments

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

CITY HALL

BUFFALO, June 7, 2006

To Whom it May Concern:

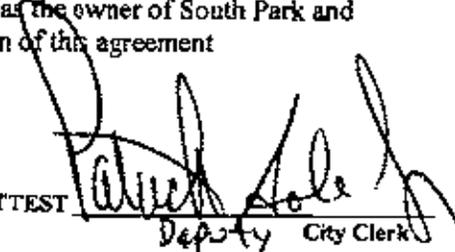
I Hereby Certify, That at a Session of the Common Council of the City of Buffalo, held in the City Hall, on the 30th day of May 2006 a resolution was Passed.

**NO. 24
Right of Entry Agreement
US Army Corps
South Park Lake Restoration Project
South District**

In order to facilitate continuing studies by the Department of the Army related to the South Park Aquatic and Wetland Restoration Project our department has received a license for right of entry (copy attached) in the park for survey, exploration and testing.

The proposed time of duration is from 6/1/06 to 9/30/2008 with a 90 day written termination clause. Our department has no objection to this agreement as the owner of South Park and recommends that Your Honorable Body authorize execution of this agreement

ATTEST


Deputy City Clerk

CCP # 24 was signed by the Mayor on 6/8/06 and returned to the City Clerk's Office on 6/8/06

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LICENSE FOR RIGHT OF ENTRY
FOR
SURVEY AND EXPLORATION**

South Park Lake Aquatic and Wetland Restoration Project
(Project, Installation or Activity)

South Park Lake, City of Buffalo
(Tract Number or Other Property
Identification)

The City of Buffalo, hereinafter called the "Grantor", in consideration of the mutual benefits of the work described, below hereby grants the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government", a license for right of entry upon following terms and conditions:

1. The Grantor hereby provides to the Government a right to enter upon the land hereinafter described in order to survey and to carry out other exploratory work as may be necessary to complete the investigation being made of such lands, at any time for the period June 1, 2006 through September 30, 2008, unless terminated or further extended by written agreement of the parties. Either party may terminate this agreement upon ninety (90) calendar days written notice to the other party.
2. This license includes the right of ingress and egress on other lands of the Grantor not described below, provided that such ingress and egress is necessary and not otherwise conveniently available to the Government.
3. All tools, equipment, and other property taken or placed upon the land by the Government shall remain the property of the Government and may be removed by the Government at any time within a reasonable period after the expiration of this License for Right of Entry.
4. If any action of the Government's employees or agents in the exercise of this license for right-of-entry resulting damage to the real property, the Government will, at its option, either repair such damage or make an appropriate settlement with the Grantor. In no event shall such repair or settlement exceed the fair market value of the fee interest of the real property at the time immediately preceding such damage. The Government's liability under this clause may not exceed the appropriations available for such payment and nothing contained in this agreement may be considered as implying that Congress will at a later date appropriate funds sufficient to meet deficiencies. The provisions of this clause are without prejudice to any rights the Grantor may have to make a claim under the Federal Tort Claims Act, as amended, 28 USC 1346 and 2671 et. Seq., or other applicable federal laws for property damage, personal injury or death arising out of the acts of the Government's employees or agents while exercising the rights herein granted.

NOTE: THE CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY must be executed by an individual other than by the person who signed the agreement. The individual must certify that the official who signed the agreement was authorized to act in that capacity.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I, DANIEL E. KRENZ, do hereby certify that I am the
(someone other than the person signing the agreement)

CITY ENGINEER of the CITY OF
(my position of responsibility within the organization)

BUFFALO and that JOSEPH N. GIAMBRA,
who signed the agreement on behalf of the CITY OF BUFFALO
was at the time of signature its COMMISSIONER,
(position held)

and that the person who executed the agreement on behalf
of the CITY OF BUFFALO acted within his/her statutory
authority.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have made and executed this certification

this 14 day of JUNE, 2006.

DANIEL E. KRENZ
(Name)
CITY ENGINEER
(Title)

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LICENSE FOR RIGHT OF ENTRY
FOR
SURVEY AND EXPLORATION**

South Park Lake Aquatic and Wetland Restoration Project
(Project, Installation or Activity)

South Park Lake, City of Buffalo
(Tract Number or Other Property
Identification)

The City of Buffalo, hereinafter called the "Grantor", in consideration of the mutual benefits of the work described, below hereby grants the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government", a license for right of entry upon following terms and conditions:

1. The Grantor hereby provides to the Government a right to enter upon the land hereinafter described in order to survey and to carry out other exploratory work as may be necessary to complete the investigation being made of such lands, at any time for the period of six (6) months from the date of signing of this instrument, unless terminated or further extended by written agreement of the parties. Either party may terminate this agreement upon ninety (90) calendar day's written notice to the other party.
2. This license includes the right of ingress and egress on other lands of the Grantor not described below, provided that such ingress and egress is necessary and not otherwise conveniently available to the Government.
3. All tools, equipment, and other property taken or placed upon the land by the Government shall remain the property of the Government and may be removed by the Government at any time within a reasonable period after the expiration of this License for Right of Entry.
4. If any action of the Government's employees or agents in the exercise of this license for right-of-entry resulting damage to the real property, the Government will, at its option, either repair such damage or make an appropriate settlement with the Grantor. In no event shall such repair or settlement exceed the fair market value of the fee interest of the real property at the time immediately preceding such damage. The Government's liability under this clause may not exceed the appropriations available for such payment and nothing contained in this agreement may be considered as implying that Congress will at a later date appropriate funds sufficient to meet deficiencies. The provisions of this clause are without prejudice to any rights the Grantor may have to make a claim under the Federal Tort Claims Act, as amended, 28 USC 1346 and 2671 et. Seq., or other applicable federal laws for property damage, personal injury or death arising out of the acts of the Government's employees or agents while exercising the rights herein granted.

NOTE: THE CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY must be executed by an individual other than by the person who signed the agreement. The individual must certify that the official who signed the agreement was authorized to act in that capacity.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I, Peter Marlo, do hereby certify that I am the
(someone other than the person signing the agreement)

City Engineer of the City of Buffalo
(my position of responsibility within the organization)

and that Steve Stepienak

who signed the agreement on behalf of the City of Buffalo

was at the time of signature its Commissioner
(position held)

and that the person who executed the agreement on behalf of the

City of Buffalo acted within his/her statutory authority.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have made and executed this certification

this 20 day of October, 2011.

Peter Marlo
(Name)

City Engineer
(Title)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources

New York Natural Heritage Program

625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-4757

Phone: (518) 402-8935 • FAX: (518) 402-8925

Website: www.dec.state.ny.us



2007 SEP 21

PK Alex J. Grannis
Commissioner

September 18, 2007

Martin P. Wargo
U S Army Corps of Engineers - Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199

Dear Mr. Wargo:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program databases with respect to an Environmental Assessment for the proposed South Park Lake #206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project, area as indicated on the map you provided, located in the City of Buffalo, Erie County.

We have no records of known occurrences of rare or state-listed animals or plants, significant natural communities, or other significant habitats, on or in the immediate vicinity of your site.

The absence of data does not necessarily mean that rare or state-listed species, natural communities or other significant habitats do not exist on or adjacent to the proposed site. Rather, our files currently do not contain any information which indicates their presence. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted. For these reasons, we cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence or absence of rare or state-listed species, or of significant natural communities. This information should not be substituted for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental assessment.

Our databases are continually growing as records are added and updated. If this proposed project is still under development one year from now, we recommend that you contact us again so that we may update this response with the most current information.

This response applies only to known occurrences of rare or state-listed animals and plants, significant natural communities and other significant habitats maintained in the Natural Heritage Data bases. Your project may require additional review or permits; for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), please contact the appropriate NYS DEC Regional Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at the enclosed address.

Sincerely,

Tara Seoane, Information Services
New York Natural Heritage Program

cc: Reg. 9, Wildlife Mgr.
Reg. 9, Fisheries Mgr.



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Division for Historic Preservation • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

www.nysparks.com

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

March 7, 2012

Mr. William Butler
US Army Corps of Engineers
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207

Re: USACE
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project
South Park Lake
Buffalo, Erie County
12PR00243

Dear Mr. Butler:

Thank you for providing information to the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the proposed dredging project at South Park Lake in Buffalo. The SHPO has reviewed the materials submitted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the relevant implementing regulations.

Based on the materials provided, it is our opinion that the proposed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration will have **No Adverse Effect** on the historic and cultural resources in and around the APE of the dredging project. As you know, Nancy Herter has no archaeology concerns.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at (518) 237-8643, ext. 3287, or by email at elizabeth.martin@parks.ny.us. Please refer to the SHPO Project Review (PR) number in any future correspondences regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Martin
Historic Site Restoration Coordinator

cc: Bonnie L. Locking, Terra Tech

via email only

SUPPORT LETTERS



February 1, 2016

Tim Priest
Chair
GEFSC
NYS DEC Region 9
Michigan Ave.
Buffalo, NY, 14203

Re: South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Priest:

I am writing on behalf of The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens Society, Inc. to fully endorse the application of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy (BOPC) as submitted to the Ecological Standing Committee of the Niagara River Greenway Commission, for funding to complete the Detail Project Report and Environmental Assessment of South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration Study.

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens is a living museum dedicated to advancing appreciation for and knowledge of plant life and its connection to people and cultures through its documented plant collection, historic conservatory, education, research and exhibits.

South Park is a jewel of the Olmsted Parks System, and an important component of the Niagara River Greenway Corridor, the City of Buffalo and its South Buffalo community. Restoration of South Park Lake could restore habitat, ecosystem and aquatic filtration function to the 24 acre historic lake facilitating the recovery of flora and fauna diversity in South Park. In addition to the lake itself, this project repairs the shoreline and creates points of access to the water's edge. Thorough study of existing conditions, evaluation of alternatives, and environmental review are critically important in setting the stage for future action and improvements.

We support the BOPC's collaborative work with agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers on this important study, and believe the funding request is both appropriate and essential from the Ecological Standing Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,


David Swarts
President/CEO



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. LYNNE DIXON

LEGISLATOR
DISTRICT 9

February 1, 2016

Mr. Tim Priest, Chair GEFSC
NYS DEC Region 9
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203

Re: South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Priest:

I am writing to endorse the application of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy (BOPC) as submitted to the Ecological Standing Committee of the Niagara River Greenway Commission, for funding to complete the Detail Project Report and Environmental Assessment of South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration Study.

South Park is a jewel of the Olmsted Parks System, and an important component of the Niagara River Greenway Corridor, the City of Buffalo and its South Buffalo community. Restoration of South Park Lake could restore habitat, ecosystem and aquatic filtration function to the 24 acre historic lake facilitating the recovery of flora and fauna diversity in South Park. In addition to the lake itself, this project repairs the shoreline and creates points of access to the water's edge. Thorough study of existing conditions, evaluation of alternatives, and environmental review are critically important in setting the stage for future action and improvements.

I support the BOPC's collaborative work with agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers on this important study, and believe the funding request is both appropriate and essential from the Ecological Standing Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lynne Dixon", is written over a light blue circular background.

Lynne Dixon
Erie County Legislator
District #9

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY
SENATOR, 63RD DISTRICT

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& SMALL BUSINESS
INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPITAL INVESTMENTS
COMMITTEES
BANKS
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS
& RECREATION
ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FINANCE
INSURANCE
TRANSPORTATION

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 506
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2426 OFFICE
(518) 426-6851 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2239 SOUTH PARK AVENUE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14220
(716) 826-2683 OFFICE
(716) 826-2793 FAX

E-MAIL ADDRESS:
KENNEDY@NYSenate.GOV

January 26, 2016

Tim DePriest, Chair GEFSC
NYS DEC Region 9
Michigan Ave
Buffalo, New York 14203

Re: South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project

Dear Mr. DePriest:

I write to offer my strong support for the application of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy to the Ecological Standing Committee of the Niagara River Greenway Commission for funding to complete the Detail Project Report and Environmental Assessment of South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration Study.

As a State Senator representing South Park, an Olmsted-designed park, I understand the importance of maintain the historical integrity of this vital public property. Not only does this park serve as the home of the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, but it also plays an important role as Buffalo's front door to the Southtowns.

South Park is an important component of the Niagara River Greenway Corridor, the City of Buffalo's Olmsted Parks System and the South Buffalo community. Restoration of South Park Lake would restore habitat, ecosystem and aquatic function to the 24-acre historic lake, thereby facilitating recovery of flora and fauna diversity in South Park. In addition to the lake itself this project repairs the shoreline and creates points of public access to the water's edge in this jewel of the Olmsted Parks System. Thorough study of existing conditions, evaluation of alternatives, and environmental review are critically important in setting the stage for future action, and the completion of this study is key.

Again, I strongly support the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy's application for support from the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me in my district office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Kennedy".

Timothy M. Kennedy
New York State Senator, 63rd District

NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY COMMISSION
APPLICATION

Project Registration Number _____

*Niagara River Greenway Commission
Consultation and Review Form*

Type of Review Required: X Mandatory Consultation
 Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name: BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY
Mailing Address: PARKSIDE LODGE - 84 PARKSIDE AVE
State: NEW YORK Zip Code: 14214
Federal Id# 22-2720927 Charities Registration # 15-08-95

PROJECT TYPE

Check all that apply: X Environmental X Cultural/Heritage X Land or Water Public Access
 Cultural Trail X Educational/Interpretive
 X Waterfront or Land Based Development X Signage
 X Recreational Other

Project Name: SOUTH PARK LAKE - AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
Location: SOUTH PARK
Site Address: 2441 SOUTH PARK
State: NEW YORK Zip Code: 14220
Minor Civil Division(s): CITY OF BUFFALO
County: ERIE

Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): CONTRACTED MANAGER
 AND OPERATOR OF THE BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS SYSTEM FOR THE CITY OF BUFFALO.

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: STEPHANIE CROCKATT Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Business Address: PARKSIDE LODGE - 84 PARKSIDE AVE

State: NEW YORK Zip Code: 14214

Telephone Number: (716) 838-1249 X16 Cell Number: _____

Fax Number: (716) 835-1300

E-Mail Address: stephanie@bfloparks.org

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: BRIAN DOLD Title: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ADVOCACY

Organization/Firm: BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY

Business Address: PARKSIDE LODGE - 84 PARKSIDE AVE

State: NEW YORK Zip Code: 14214

Telephone Number: (716) 280-8118 Cell Number: (716) 280-8118

Fax Number: (716) 835-1300

E-Mail Address: brian@bfloparks.org

South Park

Ecosystem Restoration Project

11/16/15

Project Narrative – The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is partnering with the City of Buffalo and the United State Army Corp of Engineers on the South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration project. The project is being conducted under the authority of Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA '96), Public Law 104-303. The identified problem at the project is almost a century of plant growth in a pond with limited hydrology; excessive erosion; accumulated nutrients from natural and anthropogenic sources that facilitate eutrophication and systemic degradation of the South Park Lake aquatic and wetlands ecosystem, including shoreline and near-shore habitats. South Park Lake lies within South Park, a 155-acre multiple use park, which is part of the City of Buffalo Olmsted Parks system and a local, regional, and nationally recognized urban cultural and natural resource. The lake was constructed in the early 1900s to provide key ecological/recreational functions in an otherwise urban industrial/residential landscape, and is one of only three lakes in the City of Buffalo. The lake presently supports relatively shallow water, elevated seasonal water temperatures, a high BOD, low dissolved oxygen, and an overall low functioning state that is a fraction of its potential value to fish, wildlife, and residents of the area.

The proposed South Park Lake restoration project would restore habitat, ecosystem structure and function to approximately 24 acres of lacustrine and palustrine habitat, facilitate recovery of flora and fauna diversity, promote food chain redevelopment, and return functioning aquatic and wetland resources to fish, wildlife, and residents of the City of Buffalo and the neighboring City of Lackawanna. The geographic scope of the proposed project encompasses the 24-acre South Park Lake and shoreline, the inlet drainage swale, depressional wetlands, and immediate near-shore areas. A number of alternatives were considered during the course of the investigation including ways to reduce sediment loads, maintain existing aquatic and wetland habitat, and various methods for removing existing accumulated sediment. It was determined that removing accumulated sediment to original contours will provide a useful project life of over 100 years. Various levels of dredging were investigated to determine cost effectiveness. Major project components of the preferred alternative include removal of debris from shoreline and lake areas with disposal off-site, dredging of an estimated 100,000 cubic yards of accumulated organic matter, mineral based sediment, and aquatic vegetation, and transport of dredged material to suitable upland disposal site for re-use or to an approved confined disposal facility (i.e., Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) #4). Through detailed investigations, it was determined that sediment removal was feasible and that the most cost effective method would be to drain the lake and use land based equipment to excavate the sediment, load it into trucks, and haul it to nearby sediment placement areas.

In addition, the project would include removal and replacement of existing lake outlet structure(s), establishment of target shoreline and littoral zone slopes and grades, grading of wetland and riparian buffer areas, installation of bioengineering measures along the shoreline, and creation of shallow gradient points of public access to the lake. Restoration techniques would include application of native topsoil, planting, seeding, and mulching of shoreline, wetland, and riparian areas, installation of waterfowl nesting boxes, snags for fish habitat, and other appropriate habitat enhancement features, fish stocking, introduction of aquatic plant management measures, and establishment of nuisance wildlife deterrent measures. All disturbed soils areas will be restored to pre-existing conditions and seeded.

To date, Chapters 1-4 of the Report have been completed, including documentation of existing conditions, and formulation of plans and alternatives. \$342,671.00 has been spent to date on Study development. To complete the study, prior to construction, the work remaining includes evaluation of alternative plans and completion of the NEPA environmental assessment of the recommended plan.

Principles of the Niagara River Greenway Plan

- Excellence – every project undertaken by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is done with excellence. Within the scope of the project would be securing a professional project team and utilizing only the best in construction materials and methods in completing construction.
- Sustainability / Ecological Integrity – the project would be executed with the agreed upon best practices in managing the landscape. The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy has a commitment to sustainable practices.
- Accessibility / Connectivity – this project represents a key node in the South Buffalo community and Greenway focus area within the City of Buffalo.
- Public Well-Being – the project is an important investment in a strong working-class community building on strong assets and ensuring their viability for future generations.
- Restoration – this principle represents the cornerstone of *The Buffalo Olmsted Parks System: Plan for the 21st Century*, as one of the 7 Guiding Principles, and is in the forefront of everything done by the Conservancy.
- Authenticity / Celebration – The investment in South Park would be in celebration of the extensive Olmsted legacy of this region.
- Partnerships/ Community based – The BOPC has work extensively with both the City of Buffalo and the local community stakeholders in developing a vision for the restoration of South Park as a component of the *Plan for the 21st Century*. Additionally, for this project, connections with the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, Buffalo Niagara

Riverkeeper and US Army Corp of Engineers have provide valuable partnership and advise in working through the steps required to address the issues of South Park Lake.

Project Budget:

Planning*	\$ 492,671
Construction**	\$ 3,200,000 (Estimate)
Acquisition	\$ 0
Administration	\$ 327,500
Operation and Maintenance / Year**	\$ 37,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 4,057,171

**\$342, 671.00 in funds have already been secured for development if the Ecosystem Restoration Study. Matching funds can be leveraged for the completions of the Study through a 50/50 cost share agreement.*

*** Construction funds will be will not be a part of this intitial NRG request and will be implemented at a later date under a federal/ non-federal 70/30 cost share agreement.*

**** The project will be operated and maintained through contractual agreement, by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy through the City of Buffalo.*

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy's vision for the Greenway has been incorporated into the development of the *Buffalo Olmsted Parks System Plan for the 21st Century*. The *21st Century Plan* looks to place the Parks System within the green infrastructure of the city, restoring and building off of the assets brought to the region by Joseph Ellicott, Frederick Law Olmsted and the Niagara River as Buffalo's reason for being. Ecosystem restoration of historic park features was incorporated into the *21st Century Plan* as a part of the public process of the plan. This process included 21 meetings of the BOPC Advisory Council, comprised of representatives of a broad-based group of community organizations and park users whose main purpose is to encourage and facilitate public participation in the planning process. During this same 5 year period 6 public meetings were held throughout the city as well as 15 meetings of the BOPC Long Range Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees, who approved the

plan. Final design plans developed as a part of this project will be vetted with the City of Buffalo Department of Public Works and the Community prior to construction. Following the construction of this project the BOPC will continue to engage local residents on volunteer plantings and other enhancements at South Park as a part of our ongoing role as park stewards.

The South Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration project will be coordinated through the NEPA process to comply with any and all SEQRA regulations relevant to the project. All necessary study of existing conditions will be a part of the initial technical site analysis of the project.

Project Schedule

Spring 2016

- Continue study process evaluating alternative plans and completing the NEPA environmental assessment of the recommended plan. (12 month process)

Fall 2016

- Begin coordination of efforts with local gov't representatives to prioritize project for federal funding

Spring 2017

- Review completed Report with local gov't representatives and coordinate funding for construction.

Spring 2018

- Construction as weather permits.

SOUTH PARK LAKE
PROJECT AREA MAP
NOV. 2015

PROJECT AREA



SOUTH PARK LAKE
PARK MAP
NOV. 2015



SOUTH PARK LAKE



The Olmsted City

The Buffalo Olmsted Park System: Plan for the 21st Century

Edited by Robert G. Shibley and Lynda H. Schneekloth

DEVELOPED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF:

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
City of Buffalo
County of Erie

DEVELOPED WITH THE CONSULTING SUPPORT OF:

The Urban Design Project, University at Buffalo, State University of New York

WITH

Trowbridge and Wolf, Landscape Architects
Wendel Duchscherer, Architects and Engineers

WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM:

The Center for Computation Research, University at Buffalo, State University of New York
Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts

WITH GENEROUS FUNDING FROM:

The John R. Oishei Foundation

WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM:

Baird Foundation	Jake Schneider, Schneider Design Architects
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo	Watson, Bennett, Colligan, Johnson & Schechter, LLP
Former Erie County Legislator Judy Fisher	Margaret L. Wendt Foundation
Paul and Niscah Koessler	City of Buffalo
Erie County Legislator Lynn Marinelli	County of Erie
Corinne and Victor Rice	

On January 31, 2003, the Mayor of Buffalo declared the city to be "The Olmsted City"

FRONT COVER IMAGE:

The White Oak Tree in the Delaware Park Meadow

BACK COVER IMAGE:

The Humboldt Basin in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park from the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society image collection

The Urban Design Project
School of Architecture and Planning



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

The Urban Design Project
School of Architecture and Planning
University at Buffalo,
State University of New York
3435 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214
(716) 829-3485 ext 218
www.urbandesignproject.org

The System Plan was completed by The Urban Design Project, School of Architecture and Planning, University at Buffalo, under the guidance of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Olmsted Advisory Council of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy. The proposed designs build on the history of planning for the parks. Past plans commissioned by the City of Buffalo were supplemented by team and client charrettes and subsequent design development with community input. Cost estimating was done by Wendel Duchscherer, final artist renderings of the park plans were prepared by Trowbridge and Wolf, and system graphics were prepared by The Urban Design Project. All other graphics in the report without sources are from The Urban Design Project or the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

—Restoration Plan— south Park

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

- Project #1: Enhance the Arboretum and botanical collection around the Conservatory
- Project #2: Repair the lake and improve water quality
- Project #3: Restore the Meadow

IMPROVE ACCESS AND CIRCULATION WITHIN THE PARK FOR VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS

- Project #4: Repair the Ring Road
- Project #5: Replace the bridge
- Project #6: Discourage local traffic from using the park as a thoroughfare

RESTORE AND ENHANCE THE PARK'S GATEWAYS AND EDGES

- Project #7: Articulate the park's main entrance as a major gateway
- Project #8: Enhance the park's southwest entrance for pedestrians
- Project #9: Create a 'Father Baker Garden' where the unused bus loop is located

RATIONALIZE PARK FACILITIES AND STRUCTURES

- Project #10: Construct the Boathouse
- Project #11: Enhance the appearance and utility of the concession structure

ESTABLISH CONNECTIONS TO AREAS SURROUNDING THE PARK

- *Project #12: Integrate South Park with surrounding urban Lackawanna neighborhood
- *Project #13: Connect South Park to the Greenway through trails along Ridge Road
- *Project #14: Connect South Park to Tiff Street and the Tiff Nature Preserve
- *Project #15: Restore park perimeter roads to create more of a park-like setting in the surrounding neighborhoods

RESTORE THE BASIC PARK ELEMENTS

- *Project #16: Restore the park's historic furnishings
- *Project #17: Identify areas in need of lighting; design and install lighting
- *Project #18: Restore and maintain public restroom facilities
- *Project #19: Restore, maintain, or install drinking fountains
- *Project #20: Rehabilitate Olmsted pathway system
- *Project #21: Rehabilitate Olmsted roadway system
- *Project #22: Introduce traffic calming measures at park roads
- *Project #23: Install appropriate wayfinding and branding signage
- *Project #24: Restore historic landscape patterns and plantings, especially perimeter vegetation
- *Project #25: Manage drainage and erosion issues throughout the park



BUFFALO, NY



ERIE COUNTY

*These projects are not numbered on the map.

Restore the Historic Integrity of the Park from the Period of Significance

Project #1: Enhance the Arboretum and botanical collection around the Conservatory

- Re-establish the arboretum and botanical collections including the trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Re-establish formal botanical gardens behind the conservatory.

(See the 2001 Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens Master Plan)

Project #2: Repair the lake and improve water quality

- Repair lake functioning by dredging, ensuring sufficient water circulation, and eliminating sources of pollution.
- Restore missing section of the lake northeast of the ring road.

- Replant the lake edges with appropriate vegetation (both edge and submergent) while leaving space for recreation and contact with the water.
- Provide water-based recreation opportunities on the lake, including boating and fishing.
- Restore the extent and functioning of the Bog Garden.

Project #3: Restore the Meadow

- Restore the full expanse of the historic meadow and arboretum to obtain the original spatial organization as well as historic plant diversity and density. (See the 1986 Master Plan for the Restoration of Frederick Law Olmsted’s South Park Arboretum)
- Reconsider the golf course—maintain or remove.

IMAGES

Clockwise from left:

The historic gardens around the conservatory can only be restored if the rear growing houses are removed. (Source – City of Buffalo. (1910) Buffalo Park Commissioner Report: 1901-1910 Buffalo, NY: Haas & Klein Printers.)

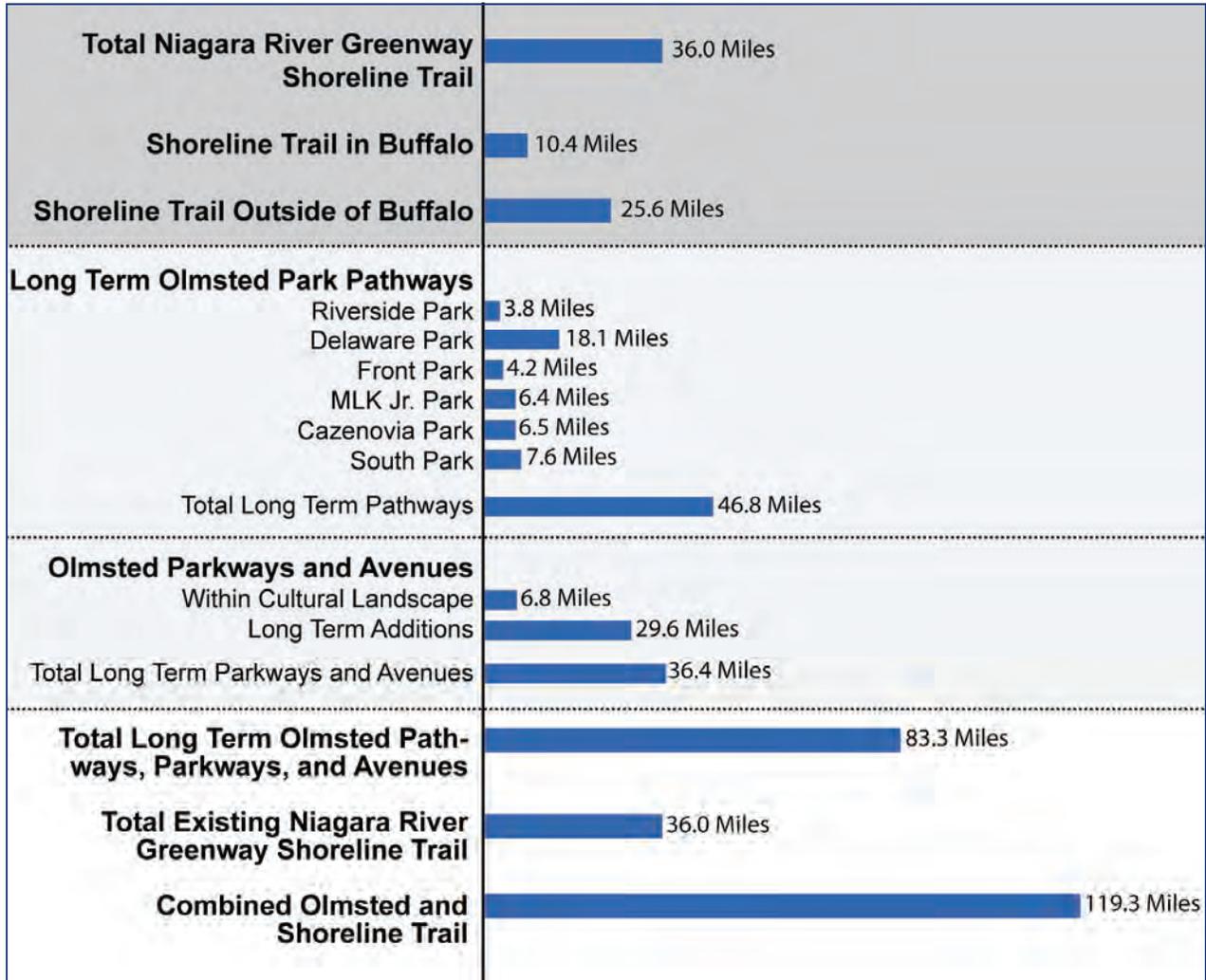
The lake in South Park has suffered from a lack of maintenance and needs dredging.

The restored South Park Lake will be a popular destination for boaters and other park users.

Much of the arboretum is still intact. The park comes to life every spring with fragrant, colorful, flower blossoms.



Part Five: Niagara River Greenway and the Buffalo Olmsted Park and Parkway System



Seamlessly Connected Systems

The existing Niagara River Greenway Shoreline Trail is approximately 36 miles in length. The draft proposals in the Buffalo Olmsted Park and Parkway System 20 Year Management and Restoration Plan show the Parks having 46.8 miles of pathways in the long term. The 20 Year Plan shows the Parkway and Avenue System, with fully developed pathways, trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes, to total 36.4 miles

in the long term. Integrating the Olmsted and Greenway System expands the Niagara River Greenway Shoreline Trail approximately 83.3 miles, to a total of more than 119.3 miles of Greenway that winds through the City of Buffalo.