



The Olmsted City

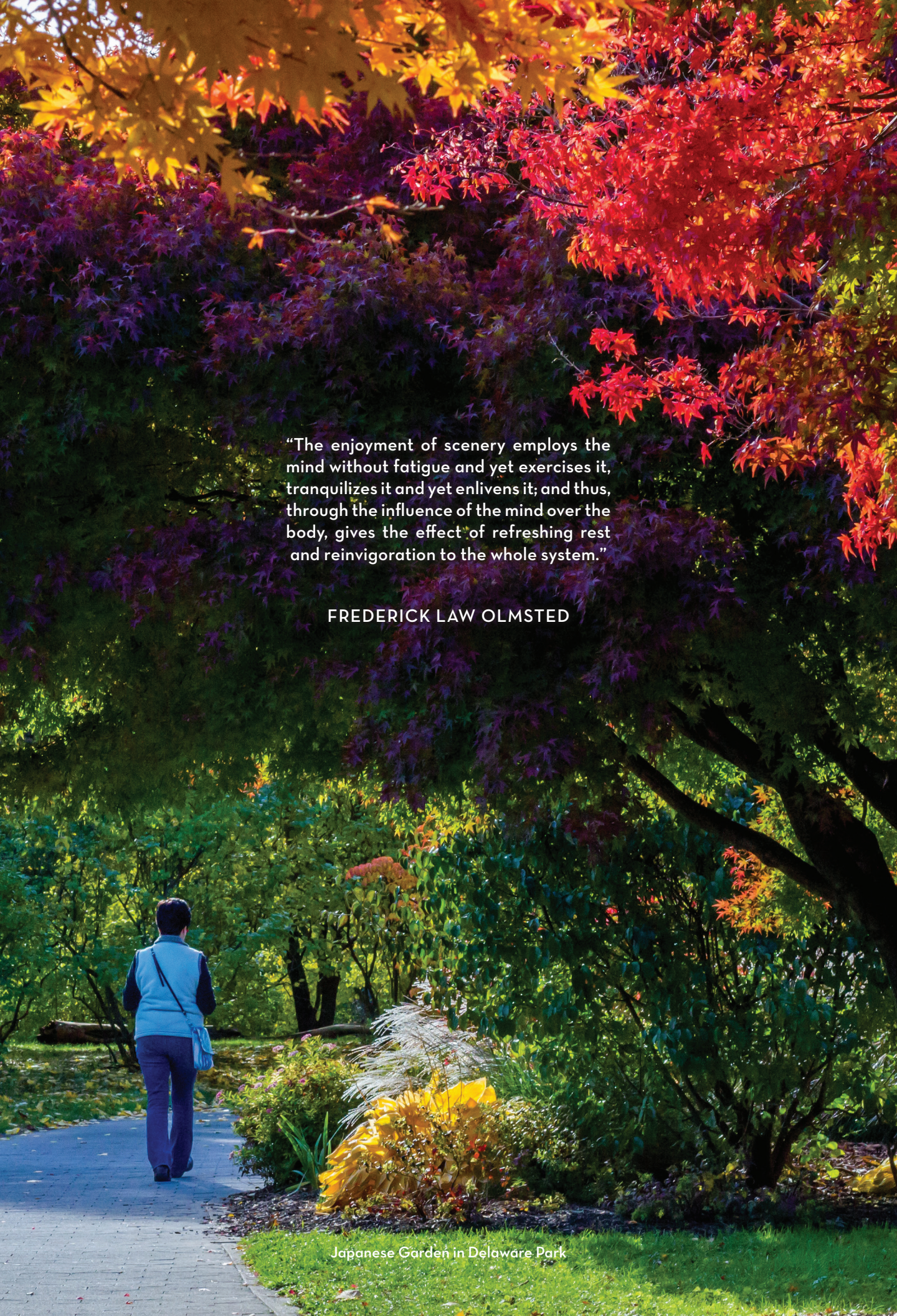
FIVE YEAR PLAN

2020 – 2024

PRIORITIES FOR BUFFALO'S
OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM



BUFFALO
OLMSTED PARKS
CONSERVANCY



"The enjoyment of scenery employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it, tranquilizes it and yet enlivens it; and thus, through the influence of the mind over the body, gives the effect of refreshing rest and reinvigoration to the whole system."

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

Japanese Garden in Delaware Park



The Olmsted City

FIVE
YEAR
PLAN
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PRIORITIES FOR BUFFALO'S
OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM

Developed with the consulting support of:



With generous funding from:



In partnership with:



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

October 2019

Cover photo by Christopher Hyzy, featuring an aerial view of
Soldiers Circle and Bidwell, Chapin and Lincoln Parkways

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850 ACRES

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy cares for 850 acres of Buffalo's Olmsted Park System, the first park system of its kind in the nation.

"Living in an urban environment, the parks provide that necessary escape to enjoy the beauty of nature. It's such a joy to experience the changing of the seasons, the wildlife and people enjoying themselves."

JAY DUDERWICK | DONOR AND PARK USER
PHOTO: CAZENOVIA PARK

FOREWORD

The last decade may have gone by in a blink, yet Buffalo's Olmsted Park System has endured for the last 150 years. As stewards and keepers of this important legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy has been pleased and privileged to serve as the City of Buffalo's nonprofit partner to fulfill our mission promise for this historic park and parkway system – the first urban park system designed in America.

Many have said it would be impossible for a modern city to replicate or develop a park system as grand and valuable as Buffalo's. There are over 180 parks in Buffalo today, but the original Olmsted system – with six major parks, seven connective parkways, eight planted roundabouts, and four pocket parks – makes up half of the city's overall park acreage. Olmsted spaces serve as the steadfast curb appeal to diverse neighborhoods, top cultural attractions, and educational institutions. They are an asset, and they serve everyone.

Proper planning and careful implementation are a large part of any stewardship effort. Strategic to its mission, the Conservancy published an award-winning master plan (The System Plan) in 2008. It was developed in collaboration with the community and has since rendered a variety of projects and improvements during Buffalo's renaissance. Nearly 36.5 million invested dollars later, Buffalo has seen its Olmsted Park System transform, yet we have many years and dollars to go.



Stephanie Crockatt
Executive Director
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy

That is why the Conservancy is pleased to make public its next Five Year Plan: 2020-2024, to supplement The System Plan. Over the last year a committed Working Group has led a community effort to review prior project accomplishments and challenges while gathering current needs and perspectives of today's Olmsted park users. This input has resulted in a recalibration of park project criteria, consideration of modern trends, and a renewed reflection on the value of maintenance.

The Conservancy's Board of Trustees has unanimously approved this planning update and its respective priorities. The City of Buffalo has provided input through affiliated municipal divisions, as well as through its citizenry. Together we are joined in a forward vision toward a sustainable future.

We thank everyone involved in supporting this plan development and in bringing new park priorities to the forefront. We recognize and appreciate the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo for funding this planning initiative, and the University at Buffalo Regional Institute for their collaborative assistance and advisement. Time will continue to go by quickly, and thanks to these valuable planning efforts we have identified a strong focus to guide our talent and resources, as we continue our labor of love for this incredible legacy: Buffalo's award-winning Olmsted parks.



Jim Newman
Chair
Five Year Plan Working Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mission Statement of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy states that as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, independent community organization, it promotes, preserves, restores, enhances and ensures maintenance of Olmsted parks and parkways in the greater Buffalo area to guarantee Olmsted park experiences for current and future generations.

Since 2004 the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy has been a public-private partner charged with the management and operations of Buffalo's historic Olmsted-designed park system. As part of its original partnership agreement with Erie County and the City of Buffalo, the Conservancy initiated an inclusive and comprehensive planning process to fulfill its mission. That effort resulted in an award-winning master plan published in 2008 as the Plan for the 21st Century, referenced herein as The System Plan.

The System Plan is comprehensive, requiring tens of years and hundreds of millions of dollars to complete. Thus to advance practical implementation it calls for regularly scheduled updates of short-term priorities known as the Five Year Plans. The goal of those five-year planning segments is to assess and set criteria-based park improvement projects for strategic engagement. This process helps to gauge balance in public needs and perceptions of today, with the preservation mission of the Conservancy.

Over the past 10 years since the publication of The System Plan, significant investment in Buffalo's Olmsted Park System has been made by both the City of Buffalo and the Conservancy with nearly \$36.5 million of direct investment. This includes fixing the basics from repairing pathways, replacing playgrounds and installing benches and trees, to addressing critical needs like repairing facility roofs and masonry, or stabilizing the shoreline of waterways, and reconstructing major historic features such as the Humboldt Basin. Investments in large part have followed the priorities laid out in the original System Plan while also providing for the flexibility to incorporate approved opportunities as they arise.

The Five Year Plan (2020-2024) effort, undertaken by the Conservancy over the course of the last 12 months, re-engaged the community in a review of park improvement work completed to date, and established a planning process to reset park improvement project priorities for the next five years. Assisted with funding from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and through consultants with the University at Buffalo Regional Institute, the Conservancy convened a series of public meetings (three rounds) held in five segmented Olmsted park districts, along with a 10-week online survey (fall/winter). These efforts refined and confirmed a set of project criteria and developed priority recommendations for each of the Olmsted park districts. Additional oversight of the process was managed through quarterly meetings with a Working Group composed of Conservancy staff, trustees, UBRI consultants and City of Buffalo Parks Division representation. The entire effort was governed through the Long Range Planning Committee of the Conservancy's Board.

Four priority criteria were identified through this community engagement process. Projects proposed for consideration in the 2020-2024 Five Year Plan were weighted on: 1) a stated priority of the community; 2) addressing critical needs in the parks through the Olmsted C.A.R.E.S model; 3) the level of impact on operations and maintenance; and 4) potential to maximize earned revenue generation.

From there, the priority projects broke down into two major classes: systemwide projects and park-specific projects. The systemwide projects focus on creating consistency throughout the Olmsted Park System for quality park user experiences. This is similar to a "fix the basics" approach in The System Plan of 2008, and is identified through a set of five categories: C-Comfort, A-Access, R-Recreation, E-Environment, and S-Safety, otherwise known as "the Olmsted C.A.R.E.S model." There are eight identified systemwide focal areas for projects included in the current Five Year Plan. An additional 18 park-specific projects include special features or unique historic restoration opportunities listed within each park, all as identified by the community per the Olmsted district meetings.

Although the five-year planning process brought forth a host of worthy projects which could be realistically engaged within five years, several issues identified by the community will require further study and consideration beyond this timeframe. As a result of compiling public comments, four primary areas filtered down into: 1) structural assessments for major park building facilities; 2) needing a master recreation and recreational facility study; 3) traffic calming assessments and measures in and around the parks; and 4) other advocacy and preservation issues requiring greater community input and engagement. Continued advocacy, community coordination and study efforts will potentially advance consideration of these broader issues into project proposals for future Five Year Plan updates beyond 2024.

In reviewing the currently proposed priority projects, implementation from 2020 through 2024 may seem ambitious. Although there is no anticipation that every project will be completed in five years' time, it is reasonable to expect that plans to engage each project will have germinated. It all depends on funding. The current cost projections were estimated with forecasting for 2020 expense levels. And while potential funding sources continue to be explored, the plan builds upon existing improvements and relationships and current funding opportunities, as well as potential sources of new, leveraged, or partnered resource strategies.

The total cost of implementing the Five Year Plan is estimated at \$19 million, including \$10.3 million for systemwide improvements, \$7.9 million in park-specific projects and roughly \$800,000

needed for further studies and advocacy issues over the next five years. It is forecasted that 65% of capital funds will be provided by the public sector from various levels of government, and 35% of capital and implementation funds will be acquired through foundations, corporations and private donations.

The Buffalo Olmsted Park System, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is an asset that has national stature and historic significance. Because it is a regional treasure of Western New York, its stewardship is also a regional responsibility. Sustainability of these ongoing investments is a critical consideration. Thus, the Conservancy is simultaneously engaging in a fundraising feasibility study to assess its readiness for both a capital and an endowment campaign. With the Five Year Plan providing the concerted focus for the Conservancy, its Trustees and the public, targeted resources can begin to be identified and cultivated toward greater success.

As part of ongoing evaluation measures, this plan will be monitored and reviewed annually through the Conservancy's internal Strategic Plan, which is overseen by Conservancy management and the Board of Trustees. The overall strategy for the Five Year Plan relies on building upon the success of our public-private partnership, flexibility in managing priorities, and strengthened outreach to the community through the Olmsted Community Alliance in garnering input on needs for continued improvement. Together we will continue to restore and sustain the Olmsted legacy that enriches all our lives.

How to read this report effectively

- 1

Understand the Five Park Districts

 - The Olmsted Park System is organized into **5 geographic park districts**
 - The 5 park districts are (North to South): Riverside District, West District, Delaware District, MLK Jr. District and South District

- 2

Know the Five Year Plan Project Types

Projects are categorized into **2 project types**:

 - **Systemwide Projects**, based on C.A.R.E.S., are emphasized in **GREEN**
 - **Park-Specific Projects**, organized by park districts, are emphasized in **ORANGE**

AN INTRODUCTION THROUGH HISTORY

The Buffalo Olmsted Park System was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, starting with Olmsted's initial visit to Buffalo in 1868 where he conceived the park system model. This incredible concept would include a number of major parks connected by glorious green parkways and beautiful roundabouts. It would take advantage of the ingenious radial urban planning of Joseph Ellicott, and would allow the city to grow into the park system. Olmsted's design theory was that no one would have to leave green space, as the connectivity was inclusive of all areas in the city. It is revered as the first urban park system in the nation; thus its prominence is a significant asset in Western New York.

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy formed out of an advocacy and stewardship group named the Friends of Olmsted Parks. Established in 1978, the Friends helped to write the first national registry application which secured the park system as a cultural landscape designated by the National Park Service; it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Although the Friends - now the Conservancy - has brought attention and recognition to this historic park system for more than 40 years, their physical management and maintenance of the parkland have occurred only since 2004.

As part of its commitment to the new role of maintenance, in 2008 the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy published the Plan for the 21st Century. This became an award-winning master plan for restoration and revitalization of the historic Frederick Law Olmsted-designed Park and Parkway System in Buffalo, New York. Referenced herein as The System Plan, it laid out the framework for incremental rehabilitation of the city's historic Olmsted parks. Through careful consideration of challenges and restoration opportunities, as well as contemporary uses of the Olmsted Park System, the plan introduced guiding principles for restoration and park management. The document has served as a foundational tool in meeting the mission of the Conservancy while serving the public.

In the years since the publication of The System

Plan, Buffalo and the Western New York region have started to experience an urban renaissance. For a city once considered merely a rust belt of industrial decline, this economic turnaround is changing the image and attitudes of Buffalonians and visitors alike. Media attention has grown in spreading the word of progress, and numbers demonstrate that Buffalo Niagara's economy is moving in the right direction for the first time in decades.

For instance, from 2000 to 2010, the Buffalo Niagara region lost an average of 2,500 private sector jobs each year, but from 2010 to 2017 the region gained nearly 4,000 jobs each year on average. In fact, Buffalo Niagara's unemployment rate fell below 5% in 2018, and there are fewer people unemployed in the region now than at any time since 2000. This forecasts a growth in population, which in turn means more anticipated park users and increasing demand for quality greenspace environments.

Attracting young talent will be key to continuing these positive employment trends, and the number of young adults (25-34) in Buffalo Niagara is finally on the rise. Young adults, otherwise known demographically as "millennials," are a key population for economic growth, and the region's young adult population has increased by 5% since 2010, compared to 1% growth from 2000 to 2010. The trend is even more pronounced in the city of Buffalo, where the young adult population has grown by nearly 8% since 2010. Millennials are tracking a higher propensity to use parks, and advocating for trends in mass transit, bike access, events, festivals, and open unstructured play.

Buffalo Niagara is also being revitalized by a more diverse population, with more foreign-born residents and people of color. This increasing cultural diversity is curbing the decades-long trend of population loss. From 2010 to 2016, foreign-born residents in the region increased by 8% and even more (33%) in neighborhoods around Olmsted parks. Over this same time, the number of people of color in the region grew by 10%. The Buffalo Olmsted Park System is seeing the evolution of a wider diversity of park cultural

neighborhoods and a rebuilding of affinity for park proximity and access.

Along with these positive economic and population trends are real signs of confidence in the Buffalo Niagara market. More private development, a stronger real estate market, and new business start-ups are expanding. The annual number of home sales in the City of Buffalo grew by 29% from 2010 to 2017 while the average closing price of homes sold grew by 43%. Buffalo has also seen \$1 billion invested in private development projects each year from 2011 through 2016.

With this attractive climate for families, businesses and tourism, efforts to restore and reconnect our environmental assets have become a key piece of Buffalo's ongoing turnaround. 86% of residents in the City of Buffalo already live within a 10-minute walk to a public open space, and more attention is being focused on environmental stewardship, water resources, and healthy living.

Buffalo's Olmsted parks play an important role in this regional transformation. This positive impact of the Olmsted Park System can already be seen in the communities surrounding the parks. Overall, neighborhoods near Olmsted parks earn higher incomes than elsewhere in the city. Collectively, the poverty rate of neighborhoods bordering Olmsted parks is 13%, or less than half the citywide poverty rate. Violent crime rates have been dropping significantly in recent years across the city, but even more so in areas around Olmsted parks. Residential vacancy is an issue across Buffalo, but is generally less prevalent near Olmsted parks.

The future prosperity of the city and the Buffalo Niagara region is inherently tied to Buffalo's Olmsted Park System. The Olmsted parks are now a neighbor or home to nearly every major cultural institution, connecting them via a ribbon of green throughout the city. The 150th Celebration of Olmsted in Buffalo in 2018 drew national attention, with cultural and heritage tourism on the rise. Continuing restorative improvements to the Buffalo Olmsted Park

System will in turn improve the communities, economy, and environment of the Buffalo Niagara region.

Therefore, the Conservancy's System Plan is a critical working document in meeting the needs, expectations and aspirations of a resurging region. It serves as an essential roadmap to guide the implementation of park improvements. Within its 188 pages the Plan identifies recently completed, short-term, and long-term capital improvements. Long-term projects scope a planning horizon estimated at 20 years or longer. Short-term actions were planned for the first five years and continue in five-year terms thereafter. The System Plan also serves as a strategic reference with regard to the cultural landscape and the responsibilities of adherence for the Olmsted Park System's status on the National Register, including guidelines from the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The current Five Year Plan depicted in this report spans 2020-2024 and represents the current installment of planning directives from The System Plan. And just as The System Plan from 2008 was developed, the Five Year Plan was guided through a detailed community engagement process. This has resulted in park project criteria being re-established based on today's assessed community priorities. It considers the current economic climate and available funding sources and has established a list of projects which are deemed most likely to be supported via capital fundraising efforts.

Utilized as a valuable management tool, the discipline of engaging a five-year preview process ensures that project and planning priorities are updated to reflect the changing environments of neighborhoods, and recreational and passive activity needs or trends. As per the feedback process on the current Five Year Plan, it also takes into account the ongoing maintenance and life cycle of traditional park amenities. This provides a complete and compelling assessment, and gives focus and attention for the Conservancy, its Board of Trustees, and the public as together we engage improvements from 2020 through 2024.



~13,000

There are approximately 13,000 inventoried trees in the park system, which provide an estimated \$1.5 million in environmental benefits annually.

“The Olmsted Park System is incredibly important to me and my family, and I believe it is one of the biggest assets our city has to offer. We live on an Olmsted parkway, and go to one of the parks at a minimum weekly, if not daily basis.”

SARAH COTTER | DONOR AND PARK USER
PHOTO: CHAPIN PARKWAY

A DECADE OF COMPLETED WORK 2008 – 2018



What projects
and improvements
occured between
2008 and 2018?

Since the Conservancy published The System Plan in 2008, a significant number of park restoration and improvement projects have been completed. Over the last 10 years, by leveraging a variety of funding sources and partners, the City of Buffalo and Conservancy combined their efforts to invest nearly \$36.5 million in the Olmsted Park System. The City of Buffalo’s investment of more than \$27 million was supplemented by nearly \$9.5 million raised

by the Conservancy for capital projects in the Olmsted parks. Throughout every park in the system, significant improvements were made through both capital and maintenance investments. Additionally, continued efforts to downgrade and minimize impacts of the state highways on our Olmsted parks have been led in collaboration with the NYSDOT, with total study and maintenance investments exceeding \$25 million.

TABLE 1 | Total Capital Investment in the Buffalo Olmsted Park System through the Plan for the 21st Century (2008 – 2018)

Olmsted Landscape	Total Capital Investment
Riverside Park	\$2,522,525
Front Park	\$4,330,400
Delaware Park	\$5,276,754
MLK Jr. Park	\$10,950,000
South Park	\$1,306,671
Cazenovia Park	\$3,803,880
Circles, Parkways and Smaller Spaces	\$8,297,000
Total System Investment *	\$36,487,230

* Includes all capital funding of state and municipal partners

Ongoing Work 2018 – 2019

Throughout the planning process over 2018 and 2019, work in the Olmsted Park System has continued and is relevant to include within this planning document. Nearly \$2.5 million in capital projects begun in 2018-2019 will continue to be implemented in the parks, including restoration of the Rumsey Woods pathways and lighting in Delaware Park, installation of new HVAC and concrete repairs at the Marcy Casino, and completion of interior upgrades and access/use plans for the MLK Jr. Park Casino. Those projects are slated for completion by the end of 2019, although they could continue into 2020.

Riverside District

RIVERSIDE PARK

Playground and Crowley Avenue Shelter |

Funded through a grant received by the Conservancy in 2014, this project addressed two priority amenities in Riverside Park: replacing a dilapidated playground structure and enhancing the public restrooms and concession shelter building. The concession shelter serves the surrounding community along with the adjoining playground and baseball field complex at the south end of the park. These projects visually transformed the park viewshed along Crowley Avenue to the delight of the neighborhood.



Playground before refurbishment



Playground after refurbishment

Pathway Improvements | A key concern of the community surrounding Riverside Park was the lack of pathway routes through the park for exercise and enjoyment of scenery. Funded through a 2015 grant received by the Conservancy, 2,300 linear feet of pathways were constructed, creating a new circulation loop to the park entrance gateway at Crowley Avenue and Niagara Street. This also strengthened the connection to the city’s nearby George Washington Park. In addition, 11 park benches and five picnic tables were installed, and perimeter parking was enhanced with new granite curb.

River Rock Garden | An original Olmsted-designed feature, the Minnow Pools at Riverside were reinterpreted into River Rock Gardens. This was an effective and ecologically sensitive way to re-establish a significant historic element of the original park design while considering a modern context. Originally designed as a series of shallow pools meandering along the northern edge of the park toward the Niagara River, the feature experienced various issues and was filled in after only 30 years. The area remained very wet, with ongoing maintenance issues that rendered the site unusable by the surrounding community much of the year. The redesign reinterpreted the water feature as a dry streambed and functional rain garden, and re-established the original Olmsted-designed planting plan for the perimeter gardens, which are now enjoyed by the community.



Landscape of River Rock Garden, 2008



Landscape of River Rock Garden, 2018

Basketball and Tennis Courts | In coordination with the Conservancy, the City of Buffalo dedicated funds through its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts at Riverside Park in 2016-2018. These centrally located courts are well-utilized park features which support several youth programs and tournaments throughout the summer months.

West District

FRONT PARK

Picnic Shelter | Originally designed in 1901, this stone shelter is the only remaining historic structure in Front Park. It was identified as a critical need for repair in 2008, with a failing roof and crumbling masonry. The Conservancy was able to obtain a grant in 2012 which restored the entire structure while enhancing the surrounding landscape and pathway network. The meticulous masonry repairs and restoration of the original Spanish tile roof have transformed this feature into one of the more popular picnic destinations in the park system.



Front Park Shelter before restoration



Front Park Shelter after restoration

Playground | Relocating the existing playground from the remote northwest corner of the park was desired by the community. In 2013 a grant was secured by the Conservancy to remove it and construct a new playground close to the restored stone picnic shelter. Use of this playground has increased substantially as a result.

Baird Drive | Through significant investment by the City of Buffalo, the Peace Bridge Authority and NYS Department of Transportation, a large portion of the 1970s transportation infrastructure running through Front Park has been removed. In 2016, Baird Drive, the second of two intrusive access roads cutting through the park, was eliminated by the NYSDOT. This successful removal returned four acres of historic

parkland and restored a critical connection to the Prospect Hill neighborhood.



View of Front Park before Baird Drive removal



View of Front Park after Baird Drive removal

DAYS PARK

Fountain Fence | Sadly, through an act of vandalism in the fall of 2010, the decorative aluminum fence around the fountain in Days Park was destroyed. With the assistance of the local Days Park Block Club, the Conservancy was awarded funding through the Fillmore District Common Council member to not only replace the damaged fence but also, using historic postcard views for reference, replicate the original ornamental wrought iron around the perimeter of the fountain.

PORTER AND RICHMOND AVENUE

Lighting Replacement | Through coordinated local, state and federal funding sources, the City of Buffalo was able to reconstruct Porter Avenue from Front Park to Symphony Circle in 2010-2011. The project completely rebuilt this Olmstedian roadway, including the reduction of lanes and designating an on-street bike corridor. The project also implemented a standard for new ornamental overhead lights in the Olmsted Park System. The city continued to install the Olmsted light poles along Richmond Avenue during 2013 and 2016, significantly enhancing the character of these Olmsted avenues on Buffalo's West Side.

Delaware District

DELAWARE PARK – MEADOW

Point of the Meadow Shelter | In 2015 the Conservancy leveraged state and city funding sources to improve the surrounding landscape and public access to the restroom facility. In 2016 the city identified additional funding to restore the original clay tile roof.

Parkside Lodge | Through coordinated investments in 2012 the Conservancy and City of Buffalo restored all of the building’s windows. Matching those funds with a state grant, the Conservancy was able to return all of the original French doors across the front of the building. In 2016 the city designated CIP funds to replace the roof system, thereby completing the full exterior renovation and laying the groundwork for future interior enhancements.



Parkside Lodge before renovation



Parkside Lodge after renovation

DELAWARE PARK – LAKE

Rumsey Shelter | A beautiful 1930s WPA stone building had long sat in decay in Delaware Park, but thanks to a granting state agency and matching corporate support the Rumsey Shelter was fully restored as a seasonal comfort facility in 2018-2019. This restroom restoration improves visitor hospitality as Rumsey Woods in a heavily used section of the park.



Rumsey Shelter before restoration



Rumsey Shelter after restoration

Marcy Casino and Landscape | Through collaboration, substantial city and Conservancy investments have been made at Marcy Casino over the last decade. Major projects included reconstruction of the east terrace, integration of an interior elevator and replacement of the HVAC system. In 2015 the Conservancy leveraged state and foundation funding to restore the casino’s Rose Garden Pergola, enhance the entry landscape, and provide ADA access to the casino. In addition, significant interior renovations were undertaken by a local restaurateur to increase access for the general public and generate sustaining revenue.

BIDWELL PARKWAY

Bidwell Parkway Repaving | In 2017 the city repaved the length of Bidwell Parkway. Following through on the mayor’s commitment to add 10 miles of bike lanes per year in coordination with the city’s newly adopted Bicycle Master Plan, this historic parkway was also restriped for bike access.

Martin Luther King Jr. District

(MLK Jr.)

MLK JR. PARK

Casino | Major investments by the state and city have enabled a complete remodeling of the casino's interior and exterior over the last five years. New doors and windows, ADA accessibility via elevator, and upgrades for future concessionaire facilities are among many enhancements to update this stately building for use and access by the surrounding community.



Casino before renovation



Casino after renovation

Greenhouse Complex | Major investments have been made by both the city and the Conservancy to stabilize and increase efficiencies at the MLK Jr. Park Greenhouse facility and shelter buildings. The city renovated the MLK Jr. Shelter into a four-season restroom facility, providing ADA accessibility and replacing two large boilers which service both the shelter and the adjoining greenhouse. Drawing on multiple state and local funding sources, the Conservancy has directed funding to stabilize the greenhouse, where thousands of annuals and seasonal plants for the Olmsted parks and native ecological areas throughout the system are grown.

Humboldt Basin | In the center of the park, the historic five-acre Humboldt Basin sat derelict for many years, after serving generations of park goers. In 2011, led by a \$5 million investment from the City of Buffalo, a three-pronged partnership emerged among the city, the Conservancy, and a top tier corporation. Together they tackled the massive undertaking of creating a functional year-round water feature by reconstructing the entire basin to

include a splash pad amenity and the capacity to flood the seasonal surface for ice skating in the winter. This area of the park is now more popular than ever and has become a designated healthy zone for activity.



Humboldt Basin before renovation



Humboldt Basin after renovation

Basketball Courts | In 2015, as part of a citywide initiative to update court surfacing in the Buffalo parks, city funds were designated to resurface and replace seating infrastructure on two basketball courts near the center of the park. Intrusive and faltering grandstands were replaced with safer and appropriately sized bleachers.



Basketball courts before renovation



Basketball courts after renovation

South District

SOUTH PARK

Clubhouse Roof | The city designated CIP funds in coordination with the Conservancy to repair the roof structure of the golf clubhouse building in 2016. These improvements have enhanced the exterior integrity of the structure, as preparations continue for future interior investments.

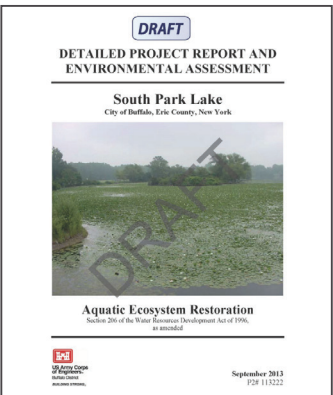


Golf Clubhouse before restoration



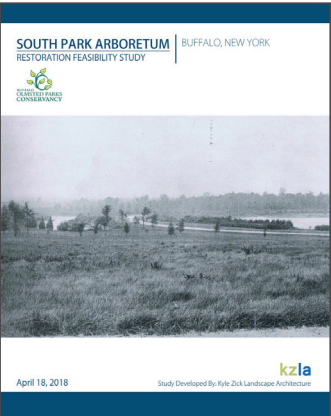
Golf Clubhouse after restoration

Lake Dredging | A lake study effort that began in 2006, facilitated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, fell short of funding in 2010. Potential dredging of South Park Lake and restoration of the shoreline and its hydrology are desperately needed as the lake continues eutrophic growth, flooding and wetland expansion. The Conservancy has recently secured state funding for completion of the study and intends to implement it within the next Five Year Plan.



South Park Lake Dredging Report

Arboretum | The Conservancy was able to obtain local benefactor support for a feasibility study to assess restoring South Park to its original Olmsted design with an arboretum landscape. Two scenarios were analyzed for restoration: one which retained the existing nine-hole golf course, and the other which removed golf from the park for full restoration potential. As a result of the study and its associated community engagement, the two scenarios merged into a single plan to be implemented in phases. The first six phases would restore the arboretum around the existing golf course. Complete restoration of the arboretum would follow through an additional five phases if a suitable nearby replacement for the existing golf facility should become available at some point. Identified as a substantial rehabilitation effort, including lake improvements, the arboretum feature would require extensive fundraising and endowment procurement to sustain operations. In 2018 the Conservancy’s Board adopted the initiative and began work toward the first phase, including the award of a substantial grant to hire a specialized curator to oversee the entire project.



South Park Arboretum Restoration Feasibility Study

South District

CAZENOVIA PARK

Williams Shelter | The Conservancy secured a state agency grant in 2016 for complete restoration of the Williams Shelter including the roof, restoring all doors and windows, and providing ADA accessibility. Similar to the ornate public comfort shelters in both MLK Jr. Park and Delaware Park’s Rumsey Woods, the shelter building services a large and active population. Historic features including restroom facilities and a front common area, often with fireplace, have all been restored with room to consider future concession or vendor presence for sustainability.



Cazenovia Park Shelter before restoration



Cazenovia Park Shelter after restoration

Crotty Casino | The city has made significant CIP investment over the last decade in structural repairs to this building and its foundation. The stabilization of the structure and the replacement of doors and windows have helped to visually improve and secure the exterior of the casino, a central structure in the park. Further stabilization is required, as is the need for interior investments and program development to sustain this park asset.

Cazenovia Creek Shoreline Stabilization

From 2015 to 2017, the Conservancy secured state agency funding for the study, design and implementation of an engineering project to protect a section of historic shoreline in Cazenovia Park. Caused by seasonal ice jams and scour, continued erosion and bank destabilization were encroaching into the park. This project, a template for further natural shoreline stabilization along creeks and waterways, protects the highly used recreational area of the lower baseball diamond and outfield bowl.

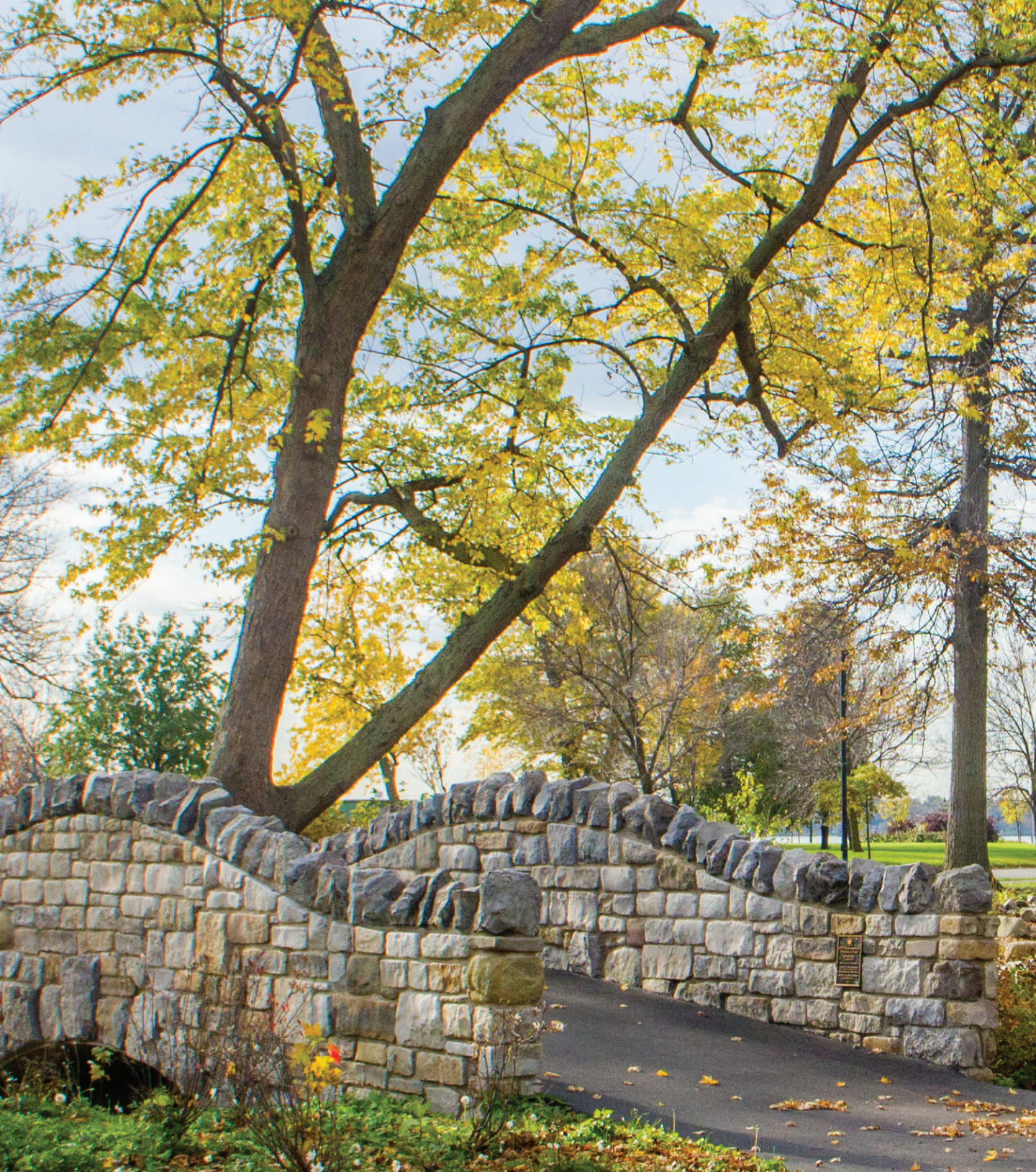


Before the creek shoreline stabilization began



After creek shoreline stabilization

Park Roads and Pathways | Through efforts of the South District Common Council member, funding was earmarked for the repair and restriping of key access roadways in the park in 2015. Supplemental to this funding the Conservancy secured state funds to rebuild pathways and trails.



6 PARKS

In Buffalo's Olmsted Park System, there are six major parks, seven parkways, eight circles, and four smaller spaces.

"Preserving our incredible park system is not only important to us for day to day enjoyment, but helps insure these green spaces will be here for future generations."

NICOLE S. URDANG | DONOR AND PARK USER
PHOTO: RIVER ROCK GARDEN AT RIVERSIDE PARK

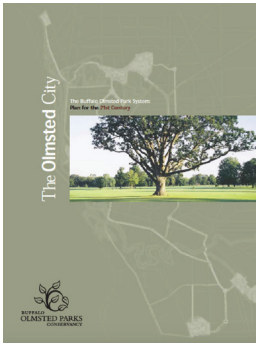
FIVE YEAR PLAN FRAMEWORK FOR INVOLVEMENT

The Planning Process

The Plan for the 21st Century – The System Plan – was published in 2008 after a four-year community input process. The document is 188 pages with over \$428 million estimated in implementation costs. System-specific costs account for \$252.5 million, with another \$175.5 million for roads, connectors and other external projects to the cultural landscape. This incredible feat of funding and project implementation validates why a scope with five-year segments is preferred for realistic goal setting.

Thanks to a grant funded by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, the 2018 planning process for the Five Year Plan update was able to follow a similar but expedited course of engagement. As in 2008, a renewed effort to collect extensive community outreach and feedback was performed including survey activities and deep-dive discussions with municipal leaders. A Working Group of key representatives, consultants and stakeholders was formed and led by the Conservancy’s Director of Planning and Advocacy, Brian Dold.

Guided with advisement from the University at Buffalo Regional Institute, data was collected and analyzed with set measurables. The results were reviewed extensively by the Working Group and the Long Range Planning Committee of the Conservancy’s Board of Trustees, as well as the Board, Conservancy upper management, and city representatives. The planning process concluded not only with the final report and its priority findings, but also with the return of the Olmsted Community Alliance, which has begun meeting to evaluate project implementation and continue discussions about the future.



The Plan for the 21st Century



Five Year Plan: 2020 – 2024

Developed with the consulting support of:

University at Buffalo
The State University of New York
School of Architecture and Planning

UB Regional Institute

With generous funding from:



Community Foundation
for Greater Buffalo

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR GENEROSITY.

Five Year Plan Working Group

As a task force of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC), members were assigned to the Five Year Plan Working Group, which was established in May 2018 for the specific purpose of managing the Five Year Plan update. Their tasks included providing detailed review and guidance throughout the process, monitoring project schedule and scope, reviewing public meeting presentations and agendas, and reviewing plan documents at key points in the process. The Working Group is composed of an appointed subcommittee chairperson from the Long Range Planning Committee, the Conservancy Director of Planning and Advocacy (Project Manager), the Conservancy Executive Director, the

Director of Park Administration, the Director of Development and Communications, the Chairperson of the Giving and Awareness Committee, the City of Buffalo Deputy Parks Commissioner, the Common Council appointee to the Conservancy, and consultants on the project from the University at Buffalo Regional Institute.

A “Project Team,” assigned as a staff-led division to support the Working Group, is headed by the Director of Planning and Advocacy with the assistance of the Community Outreach Manager and the Marketing and Communications Specialist.

Long Range Planning Committee

One of seven subcommittees of the Conservancy’s Board, the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has since 2004 provided oversight and guidance of the planning and advocacy aspects of the Conservancy. As an additional chartered responsibility since 2008, LRPC has reviewed and advised the advancement toward policy development and future project implementation in accordance with The System Plan. As a matter of course, the LRPC oversees the preparations for, and implementation of, the five-year planning updates and their activations. Once project priorities are set and published, they may become a matter of project construction, which defers to the Design Review Committee of the Board.

Conservancy Board of Trustees

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy Board of Trustees is the governing entity responsible for the oversight of all matters pertaining to the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy as a nonprofit organization. The Conservancy grew out of a grassroots effort by a group of citizens who founded the Friends of Olmsted Parks advocacy group in 1978. In 1996, the Friends group officially became the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The membership of the Conservancy elects the Board of Trustees, and the body of trustees comprises park advocates, business leaders, historic preservationists and local leaders.

Community Engagement – Public Meetings and Online Survey



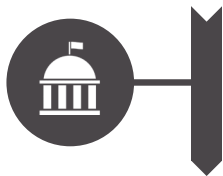
How did the
Conservancy
engage the
Buffalo
community?

An important aspect of any public project is conducting open-forum meetings and educational workshops for the local citizenry. The public is informed of these events through local print and electronic media, including community newspapers, social media platforms and the Conservancy's website and newsletters.

The Project Team coordinated with members of the Buffalo Common Council for their involvement in the process and outreach to constituent groups in their districts. In addition, each meeting was broadcast through the Facebook Live platform on social media to enable people to view the presentation online, either as the meeting was happening or at a later date. All meeting agendas, presentation slides and video recordings were stored on the Conservancy's website and an email address was established (5yearplan@bfloparks.org) to allow for follow-up comments or questions between rounds of meetings.

To facilitate comprehensive participation by the public, the Conservancy identified five park districts (Riverside, West, Delaware, MLK Jr. and South Districts) and conducted three rounds of community meetings in each district. A total of 15 meetings were held across the city, with a final presentation on June 18, 2019, where stakeholders and their participatory efforts were recognized.





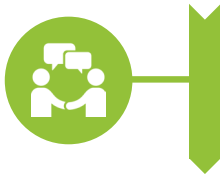
JUL 2018 – JUL 2019
**MEETINGS WITH
CITY OFFICIALS**

At each step in the community engagement process, meetings were held with each member of the City of Buffalo’s Common Council as key partners in the outreach to constituents of the park districts. Results of previous meetings and agendas for subsequent meetings were reviewed in detail for their input and feedback. As previously mentioned, the city’s Deputy Parks Commissioner participated as a member of the Working Group, reviewing

summary documents and providing critical feedback at key points throughout the entire process. Periodic meetings with the Deputy Parks Commissioner along with other key staff from the city’s Department of Public Works and Department of Planning were held toward the end of the prioritization process for final coordination and consensus on the plan.

TABLE 2 | Meetings with City of Buffalo Common Council Members and Departments

Common Council (CC) and City of Buffalo (COB) Department	2018 Meeting Dates	2019 Meeting Dates
CC – Golombek	Jun 22	Feb 8, May 21
CC – Feroletto	Jun 19	Feb 5, May 14
CC – Rivera	Jun 28	Feb 5, May 21
CC – Wingo	Jun 22	Feb 6, May 15
CC – Scanlon	Jun 19	Feb 7, May 21
CC – Franczyk	—	Jun 21
COB Departments	Aug 2	Apr 17, May 9



JUL – AUG 2018
**KICK-OFF
MEETINGS**



How did the
Conservancy engage the
Buffalo community?

The first round of meetings to initiate work on the Five Year Plan update took place in July and August 2018 in each of the five identified park districts. During these meetings Conservancy staff provided stakeholders with a brief overview of the 2008 System Plan, its purpose and the restoration goals it set forth. This information was complimented by a summary of the extensive investments made in park improvement projects by the

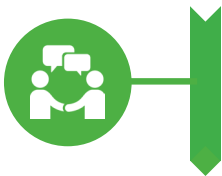
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy and the City of Buffalo over the last 10 years. The meetings were then opened for stakeholders to provide input and identify priority issues, concerns and recommendations for further investment in park features. The conclusion of this feedback resulted in the development of the four project priority criteria as well as a preliminary list of needs and desires.



Community Meeting on Delaware District,
August 6, 2018



Community Meeting on West District,
August 22, 2018



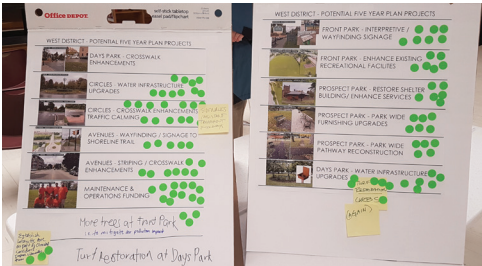
OCT – NOV 2018
**REFINEMENT
MEETINGS**

Second-round meetings were scheduled in October and November 2018. The main purpose for these meetings was to review, refine and make additions to the preliminary list of priority park issues and project recommendations developed at the previous meetings and received via email to ensure that the priorities listed were complete. These sessions concluded with an

exercise for stakeholders to begin prioritizing investment dollars by placing green stickers on the project(s) they determined to be most important. This exercise was intended to demonstrate not only the financial impact of projects or needs, but their valued weight in public importance. It was at these meetings that the Conservancy introduced stakeholders to the online survey, as a next step.



Community Meeting on South District,
November 7, 2018



Hands-on activity with attendees of the
Refinement Meetings



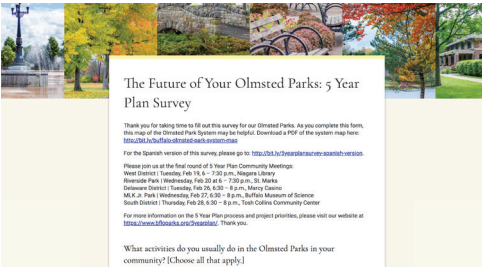
NOV 2018 – JAN 2019
**ONLINE
SURVEY**

In November 2018, the Conservancy launched an online survey with the coordinated lists of potential priority projects for each park, based on the community input received at the previous two rounds of district stakeholder meetings. The online format was open and advertised for 10 weeks, allowing the broader public to review and further prioritize the projects identified. More than 1,150 stakeholders participated in the online survey, ranking individual improvement projects for each major Olmsted park in the

system, as well as the contiguous parkways, circles and small spaces. The survey also enabled the Conservancy to gather basic park user data and demographics from participants. Furthermore, an open answer question gave respondents the opportunity to provide any additional thoughts they wanted to contribute subjectively. Results of the survey were collated and analyzed to form the basis of discussion for the third round of community meetings.



Seneca Street Christmas Market, December 15, 2018



Screenshot of the Five Year Plan Online Survey



JAN – FEB 2019
**CONFIRMATION
MEETINGS**

The final series of meetings in the community engagement process took place in January and February 2019 as a culmination of six months of project development and refinement. At each district meeting, Conservancy staff reviewed the extensive input received through the online survey and presented a refined prioritized list of park improvement projects identified through community engagement and feedback. Reviewing the prioritization criteria established

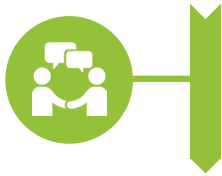
at the previous meetings, staff presented a near final list of priority projects for each of the park districts, as well as identifying systemwide versus park-specific needs. The meetings concluded with the recommendation of a prioritized list of projects for general confirmation by the stakeholders who participated, and identified ongoing topics of conversation regarding broader long-term planning and advocacy.



Community Meeting on Riverside Park,
February 20, 2019



Community Meeting on MLK Jr. Park,
February 27, 2018



JUN 2019
FIVE YEAR
PLAN REVEAL

A public meeting was held at the Burchfield Penney Art Center to reveal the park projects included in the Five Year Plan. Large-scale

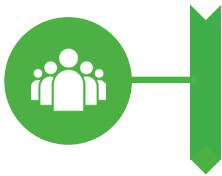
maps of each park district were used to highlight the priority projects.



Brian Dold, Director of Planning and Advocacy, presents to a full house at the Five Year Plan Reveal



Attendees view the park maps and projects at the Five Year Plan Reveal



AUGUST 2019
FIRST OLMSTED COMMUNITY
ALLIANCE MEETING

The implementation of the Five Year Plan will require as much, if not more, cooperation and communication among the Conservancy, city government and the public as went into the creation of the planning update. This continued coordination will be critical as funding is secured and projects move into the detail design phase for construction. To support this effort, the third series of district community meetings included the announcement of and recruitment for a new community-based organization, the Olmsted Community Alliance.

Building on the successful engagement of individual stakeholders with a passion for their Olmsted parks, the Conservancy is currently

working to organize the Olmsted Community Alliance. The governance structure and logistics for continued community participation are being finalized for activation in 2020. Primary to its intent, this group will meet regularly to assist the Conservancy in the implementation and evaluation of the Five Year Plan priorities. The Alliance will also be a conduit for ongoing communication of issues and concerns affecting the park user experience between community stakeholders and the Conservancy, its Board and its public-private partner, the City of Buffalo. A final opportunity through the establishment of this group is the ability to pursue and develop future five-year planning initiatives with greater outreach and feedback.



86' TALL

South Park currently hosts a state champion Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), which measures 86 feet tall with a circumference of 156 inches.

“Helping the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy makes Buffalo a better place. It makes my neighborhood more beautiful, it makes my commutes more enjoyable, and it’s everyone’s favorite place to unwind.”

JORDAN LEMA | DONOR AND PARK USER
PHOTO: BITTERNUT HICKORY TREE AT SOUTH PARK

FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024



How were park projects chosen to be included in the Five Year Plan?

Evaluation Criteria

As discussed and identified via public input throughout the community engagement process, the Working Group developed a set of priority criteria in alignment with guiding principles, upon which to evaluate park projects for inclusion in the Five Year Plan update. These four criteria formed the

basis for project consideration, incorporating priority assessments received through public input and survey results. As discussed in this report, the multitude of projects identified for five-year implementation may not all be completed in five years, but it is a goal to activate each project area in that timeframe.

Two Project Types



Systemwide Projects Based on C.A.R.E.S.

Systemwide projects follow a model that we have coined for this effort – Olmsted C.A.R.E.S.



Park-Specific Projects By Park District

These park-specific projects are described within each park district. The location of each project is identified visually on a park map.

Priority Project Descriptions

The following section identifies and describes in detail the systemwide and park-specific projects being targeted through this five-year plan. These projects are not listed in any order of priority but rather serve as a comprehensive menu of approved projects. Funding will be

key to which projects are activated sooner than others. The funding section of this report will discuss other related criteria or trends in forecasting implementation capacity and setting expectations.

Evaluation Criteria

1

IS THIS PROJECT A COMMUNITY PRIORITY?

Balancing current stakeholder needs with the mission of the Conservancy was an important and essential communication and education exercise. Addressing that balance is fundamental to any consideration for park improvement priorities. The participants who engaged in the public meetings voiced both their concerns and their aspirations for improved park experiences. Many of these conversations identified the sustainability of current amenities versus adding, restoring or providing new amenities. Because it comes from park users and neighbors to the system, this input receives the greatest weight as the Olmsted Park System serves the entire public first and foremost.



2

DOES THIS PROJECT ADDRESS A CRITICAL NEED IN THE C.A.R.E.S MODEL?

Through coordinating with Conservancy staff and conducting systemwide park conditions inspections, several recreational and park user amenities were identified to be in poor condition and need of upgrading. As part of an ongoing commitment to excellence, the Conservancy developed the Olmsted C.A.R.E.S. model, an acronym focused on basic elements of a quality park user experience: Comfort, Access, Recreation, Environment, and Safety. In ascertaining common needs across the Olmsted Park System, thematic areas of priorities were identified to be addressed systemwide within the current Five Year Plan.



3

HOW DOES THIS PROJECT IMPACT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE?



A critical lesson learned through the first 10 years of capital project implementation was that careful consideration and attention must be given to daily maintenance and any increase necessitated by new amenities or investments. Through the community engagement process, the majority of the priority projects identified were determined to either have no impact on maintenance or even provide maintenance efficiencies. However, for those few projects identified as having an impact on operational efficiencies, the incorporation of a long-term maintenance plan to supplement current operations will be required.

4

DOES THIS PROJECT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO GENERATE REVENUE?



Throughout the Olmsted Park System there are several shuttered buildings and under-utilized facilities that possess great potential to better serve the surrounding community. Enhancing these facilities has been identified as a need but also as a strategic priority for potential revenue generation. The ability to restore a facility for public use or access while sustaining it through revenue generation was set as a primary consideration for priority selection.

Systemwide Projects Based on C.A.R.E.S.

Comfort

Keywords: Park benches,
Picnic tables, Relaxation



Park Furnishings | Over the last 10 years, through capital projects and the Conservancy's commemorative bench program, a significant number of park benches have been added to the Olmsted parks. However, several parks were identified as deficient in the number of park benches

and picnic tables available for park use. The addition of benches, picnic tables and other park furnishings to the landscape will be a systemwide priority over the next five years, with a concerted focus identified for Riverside, MLK Jr., Cazenovia and South Parks.

Access

Keywords: Signage, Wayfinding, Directional,
Interpretative, Park orientation



Park Signage | A City of Buffalo park signage standard was established through a grant obtained by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy in the late 1990s. At that time a handful of park identification signs were installed throughout the entire city park system as a preliminary phase of implementation. Since that time very few additional signs have been installed and wayfinding through the Olmsted system is lacking. Several additional sign types are to be installed throughout the Olmsted Park System

including directional signage, park orientation signage, and historic and interpretive signage. Furthermore, the signs installed over 20 years ago are in desperate need of refurbishment due to fade and damage. Over the next five years, it is recommended that the signage plan and standards, as supplement to The System Plan and Five Year Plan, be scheduled for updating and amendment followed by full implementation across the Olmsted Park System.

Recreation

Keywords: Playgrounds,
Athletic fields, Pathways



Soccer / Football Fields | Several soccer/football fields throughout the Olmsted Park System have been identified as needing rehabilitation for turf quality and safety, with grading and drainage, as well as irrigation. Soccer fields in Front and Cazenovia Parks and the football field in Riverside Park have been identified specifically for rehabilitation in the next five years.

Baseball Fields | Baseball fields in Riverside and Cazenovia Parks have also been identified for rehabilitation as a part of the Five Year Plan, including fence and backstop repairs, bleacher replacement, reconstruction of pitchers' mounds, and resurfacing of infield clay, plus the regrading and drainage of outfields and facility perimeters.

Recreation (continued)

Playgrounds | Nearly every playground throughout the Olmsted Park System has been identified as needing replacement and upgrades, as only two new playgrounds at Front and Riverside were installed in the last ten years. Playgrounds in Delaware Park, Cazenovia Park, and MLK Jr. Park have been identified for replacement or enhancement in the next five years. South Park is currently the only major park in the Olmsted system that does not have a playground; thus construction of a playground to serve this community is also a planning priority.



Pathways | Throughout several of the Olmsted parks, sections of pathway have deteriorated and are in need of repaving for safe and inclusive access. Traversing the scenic natural landscape on smooth and defined pathways is a critical component of the Olmsted park experience. The use of pathways was identified by the public as one of the highest utilized features in the parks. Delaware, Cazenovia, Prospect and South Parks have been identified specifically as priority spaces for pathway reconstruction over the next five years.

Environment

Public Lawn Restoration | The Olmsted parks, and especially the parkways, are highly utilized public spaces. Continued use of large lawn areas, specifically areas that are shaded, can lead to compacted soils, poor drainage and a reduction in turf growth and quality. In general, good turf management consists of seasonal aeration and overseeding which can maintain reasonable turf quality; however, in some

Keywords: Turf, Irrigation, Drainage



severe cases turf restoration requires major intervention to remedy poor soil quality and compaction. Two areas of highly utilized park space have been identified as in dire need of turf restoration over the next five years: Days Park and Bidwell Parkway. Part of this effort will require a significant amount of public education and cooperation, which can be assisted through the new Olmsted Community Alliance.

Safety

Keywords: Park lighting, Traffic calming, Modes of transportation

Park Lighting Enhancement | Park safety was identified by stakeholders as a high priority across the entire Olmsted Park System. The infrequency and extent of damage to existing park lighting, paired with insufficient coverage of light in key areas, were all identified as major community concerns. A comprehensive upgrade is needed for lighting infrastructure to provide consistent and dependable illumination in high-use park areas. Two ornate



light standards and luminaires have been specifically selected for Buffalo's Olmsted Park System: one for the pedestrian scale and one for larger street scale light distribution. These light amenities also enhance and brand the historic character of the Olmsted parks. A systemwide effort to address missing or limited light pole coverage will be a focus in the Five Year Plan.

Systemwide Projects Based on C.A.R.E.S.

WEST DISTRICT

Front Park

- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation
- Soccer Field Rehabilitation



Prospect Park

- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation
- Pathway Reconstruction

Days Park

- Turf Restoration

MLK JR. DISTRICT

MLK Jr. Park

- Benches / Park Furnishings Installation
- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation
- Playground Reconstruction
 - Pathway Reconstruction
- Park Lighting Improvements



RIVERSIDE DISTRICT

Riverside Park

- Benches / Park Furnishings Installation
- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation
- Football Field Rehabilitation
- Baseball Fields Rehabilitation



DELAWARE DISTRICT

Delaware Park – Meadow

- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation
- Colvin Playground Reconstruction
- Parkside Playground Reconstruction

Delaware Park – Lake

- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation

Bidwell Parkway

- Turf Restoration



SOUTH DISTRICT

Cazenovia Park

- Benches / Park Furnishings Installation
- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation
- Soccer Field Rehabilitation
- Baseball Fields Rehabilitation
- Playground Reconstruction
- Pathway Reconstruction

South Park

- Benches / Park Furnishings Installation
- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation
- Future Playground

McKinley and Red Jacket Parkways

- Parkway Lighting Improvements



Park-Specific Projects By Park District



Riverside District

RIVERSIDE PARK

Niagara River Overlook Enhancement |

Constructed as part of the 1997 Riverside Park Master Plan, this feature was intended to represent the historic Olmstedian pedestrian bridge and overlook at the foot of Riverside’s Central Concourse. This modern reinterpretation has fallen into disrepair over the last several years. The steel elements are severely rusted due to exposure to rain, wind and snow, and portions of the concrete foundation are spalling, which has compromised the stone façade. Through the community input process, this feature was identified as an eyesore and a high priority for enhancement. The rusted metal trellis will be considered for removal, and foundation and stonework will be repaired, with furnishings and interpretive elements replaced.



Niagara River Overlook at Riverside Park, 2018

River Rock Garden Enhancement | The River Rock Garden feature, a reinterpretation of the original Olmsted Brothers-designed Minnow Pools at the northern end of the park, was identified as a high-impact project in the 2008 System Plan and was installed in 2014. From the onset, the increased maintenance requirements of the landscape have challenged the Conservancy staff. Modifications to plant material and enhancements to the irrigation system have been identified as a high community priority for the next five years to ensure the efficient maintenance and sustaining beauty of this reinterpreted park feature.



River Rock Garden, 2018

SYSTEMWIDE PROJECTS – RIVERSIDE DISTRICT

As previously noted in the systemwide investment section, Riverside Park will be receiving enhancements to the football field and baseball fields along with enhanced park furnishings and signage over the next five years.



Baseball field at Riverside Park, 2018

West District

FRONT PARK

Tree Planting | Identified through the community input process, the top priority for Front Park is to continue the efforts made over the past decade to restore the original tree canopy. The Adaptive Landscape Management Plan conducted by the Peace Bridge Authority in 2015 stated that planting trees would provide significant mitigation of air pollution from the surrounding highway transportation infrastructure along the waterfront of Buffalo's West Side. Reforestation will be prioritized at Front Park over the next five years, and will be a great opportunity for volunteer and community outreach efforts.

PROSPECT PARK

Shelter Restoration | The Prospect Park Shelter was designed by architects Esenwein & Johnson and constructed in 1907-1908. Based on community input, the restoration of the shelter building as a public restroom facility and potential for a public access café would provide a great service and amenity in the beautiful setting of Prospect Park with the possibility of generating additional revenue for park maintenance and building needs.



Prospect Park Shelter, 2018

Pathway Reconstruction | Identified as a high priority within the West District, the pathways of Prospect Park are in severe disrepair and in need of reconstruction. The original design was a simple yet elegant set of crisscrossing paths arching ever so gently through the landscape dotted with benches for passive enjoyment of the magnificent tree canopy in this neighborhood park. Full pathway reconstruction in Prospect Park is a priority of the Five Year Plan.



Existing pathway at Prospect Park, 2018

DAYS PARK

Turf Restoration | Days Park is one of the oldest parks in the City of Buffalo, donated as perpetual parkland by Thomas Day in 1854. It is included under Conservancy management because Frederick Law Olmsted redesigned the park in 1887. The turf is severely degraded, particularly at the west end, due to park usage and heavily compacted soils, leading to further topsoil erosion. Turf restoration through amending the soil profile and enhancing drainage and infrastructure, in conjunction with a stronger management and use plan, will enhance the visitor and resident experience in the densely populated Allentown neighborhood.



Turf at Days Park, 2018

OTHER SYSTEMWIDE PROJECTS – WEST DISTRICT

As previously noted, the West District will focus on rehabilitation of the soccer facilities in Front Park, plus new wayfinding and interpretive signage.

FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024

Riverside District – Riverside Park





Systemwide Project
(Based on C.A.R.E.S.)

Park-Specific Project

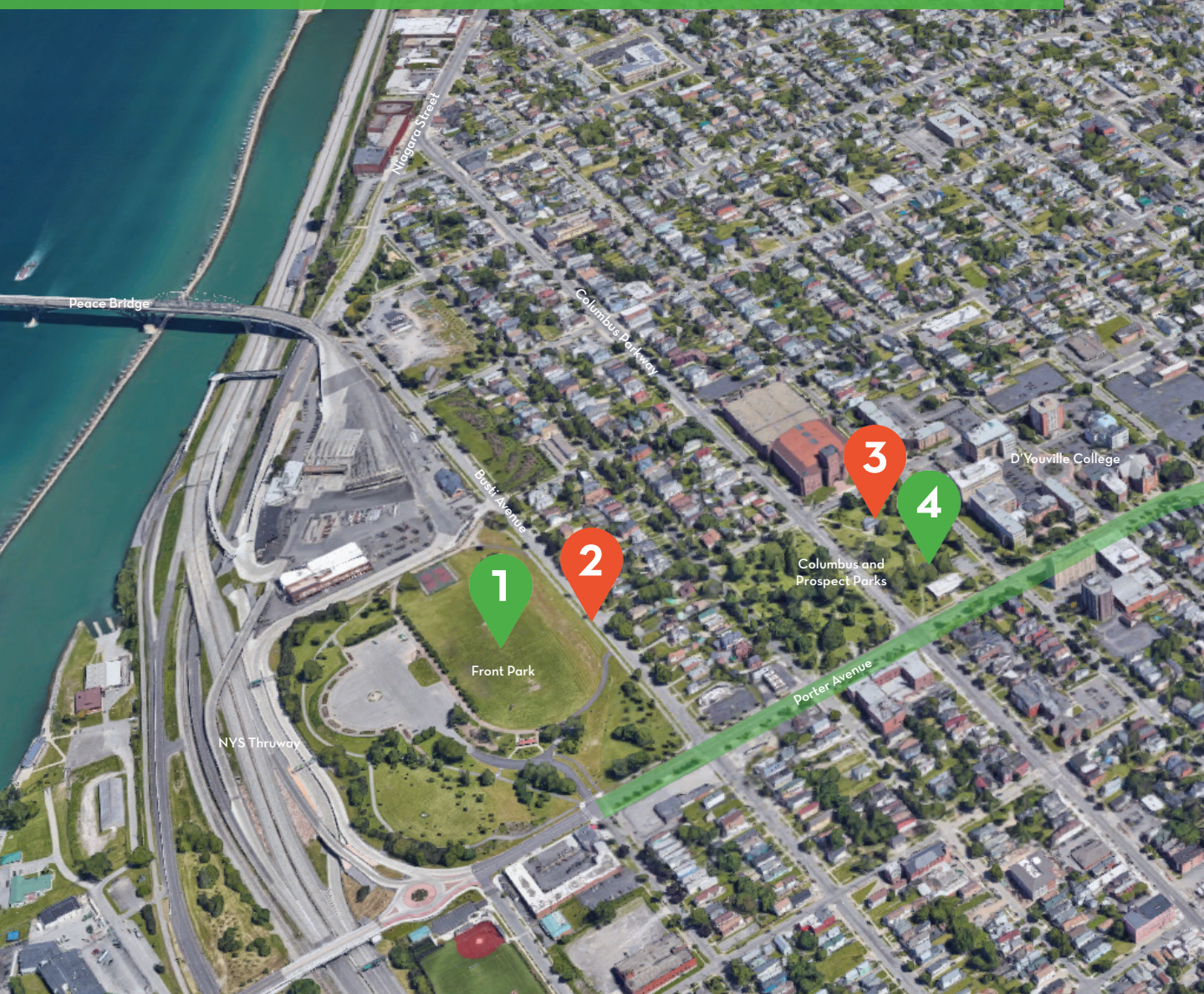


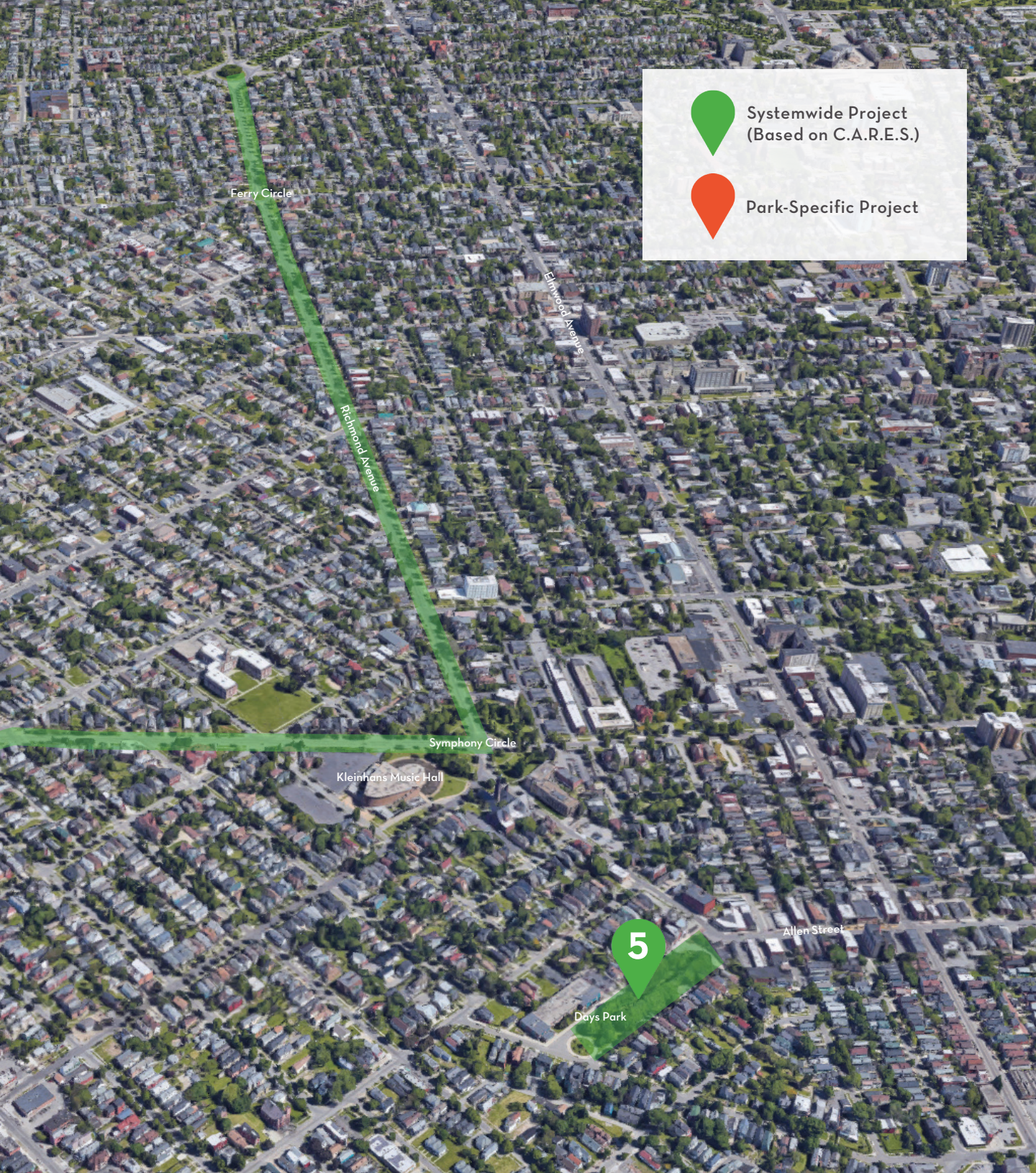
Other Systemwide Projects – RIVERSIDE DISTRICT


- Benches / Park Furnishing Installation
- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation


FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024

West District – Front, Columbus, Prospect and Days Parks, and Symphony and Ferry Circles





 Systemwide Project
(Based on C.A.R.E.S.)

 Park-Specific Project



 Other Systemwide
Projects – WEST DISTRICT

- Wayfinding and
Interpretive Signage
Installation

* Final project scope and investment for 5YP
to be based on facilities assessment

Delaware District

DELAWARE PARK – MEADOW

Point of the Meadow Restroom Rehabilitation |

In 2017 a new roof in the spirit of historic restoration was installed on this restroom shelter, and exterior cleanup and landscape modifications enhanced access. While the restrooms are regularly cleaned as part of daily maintenance practices, the fixtures and facilities within the Point of the Meadow Restrooms are in dire need of replacement. A complete interior renovation of this facility in the next five years will reduce maintenance and greatly enhance the user experience at this critical park facility.



Delaware Park Point of the Meadow Restroom, 2018

Parkside Lodge Renovations | The Parkside Lodge, while also serving as the headquarters of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy and the Delaware Park golf retail center, is a very viable rental space and holds great potential for enhanced revenue generation and/or educational programming. Several areas of the building are underutilized in their current configuration, including a small café area, great room and storage spaces. With a full renovation the Lodge could serve the community in a more effective manner. General utility upgrades are also needed to enhance the four-season usefulness of this facility. Project priorities over the next five years include a comprehensive conditions assessment, renovations to HVAC and remodeling of the main room, café and south wing.

Perimeter Woodland Regeneration | A key feature of Olmsted’s design philosophy was the establishment of perimeter woodland areas which would help to screen the sights and sounds of the surrounding traffic and commerce from the park user experience. Over time this landscape feature along park perimeters has been eliminated through altered maintenance practices and the suburban desire to see manicured lawn out to the edges of the park. In addition to restoring an original Olmsted design component, re-establishing sections of the perimeter woodland vegetation and meadow will also enhance the ecological value of our urban park system as habitat and migratory cover for butterflies, birds and the community of pollinators in our region, while diminishing the need for gasoline-powered and carbon-producing equipment. Establishment and management of these areas have been identified as a community priority in Delaware Park.

DELAWARE PARK – LAKE

Rose Garden Infrastructure Enhancements |

The Rose Garden is an extremely popular destination within Delaware Park. A venue for wedding ceremonies throughout the summer, it holds an important place in many people’s hearts. The irrigation infrastructure of the garden, however, is in severe disrepair, creating a tremendous burden on Conservancy staff to tend this high-maintenance feature. In addition, pathway conditions and erosion issues require constant repair to prevent tripping hazards and unsafe walking conditions. A complete overhaul of the irrigation system and structural enhancements to the pathway network, as well as other minor upgrades over the next five years, will ensure the long-term sustainability of this beautiful regional destination in Delaware Park.



Rose Garden in Delaware Park, 2018

Delaware District

Reconstruction of Grand Granite Steps |

The Grand Granite Steps staircase was a major component of the 1901 Pan American Exposition, and remains one of the oldest Olmsted park features. This iconic area also included the construction of the Three Nations Bridge, the Albright Art Gallery (not completed until 1906) and a new boathouse (now Marcy Casino). The granite steps down from Lincoln Parkway continue the strong connection between the main entrance to the art gallery and Gala Water (now Hoyt Lake). Over the decades, these massive stones have shifted and portions of the foundation have eroded away. Periodic repairs and stopgap measures carried out by the City of Buffalo have kept the steps in relatively fair working order. However, in order to prevent further deterioration, it is time to undertake a full restoration of this monumental park feature. Restoring the masonry of the entire staircase in the next five years will ensure its viability long into the future.



Grand Granite Steps in Delaware Park, 2018

Marcy Casino Renovations | A major center of activity in Delaware Park, the casino has seen tremendous rehabilitation in the last decade. Significant investment by the City of Buffalo and the Conservancy, along with investors in the structure and its operational program, have all greatly enhanced the public access and usefulness of the facility. Although the HVAC system is currently a project, a comprehensive conditions assessment with prioritized consideration for the doors, windows, exterior stairs, front entrance patio, and other concrete repairs will maximize the usefulness of the community asset.

GATES CIRCLE

Cultural Landscape Report | The community engagement process revealed significant concern regarding continued damage to the historic integrity of the central rotary of Gates Circle. While traffic safety and pedestrian accommodations are a topic of further study systemwide, Gates Circle requires immediate attention. It will be strategically important to conduct a cultural landscape report and infrastructure assessment to prepare for full restoration of this intricate and ornate historic landscape feature. Through the years, modifications have been made to both landscape and infrastructure elements, including the fountain sprays. An assessment and analysis of this infrastructure will be critical to ensuring that repairs are made in a historically appropriate manner, and are suitable for traffic patterns.



Infrastructure needs at Gates Circle, 2018

SYSTEMWIDE PROJECTS – DELAWARE DISTRICT

These include reconstruction of the Colvin and Parkside playgrounds, turf restoration at Bidwell Parkway, and districtwide wayfinding and interpretive signage.

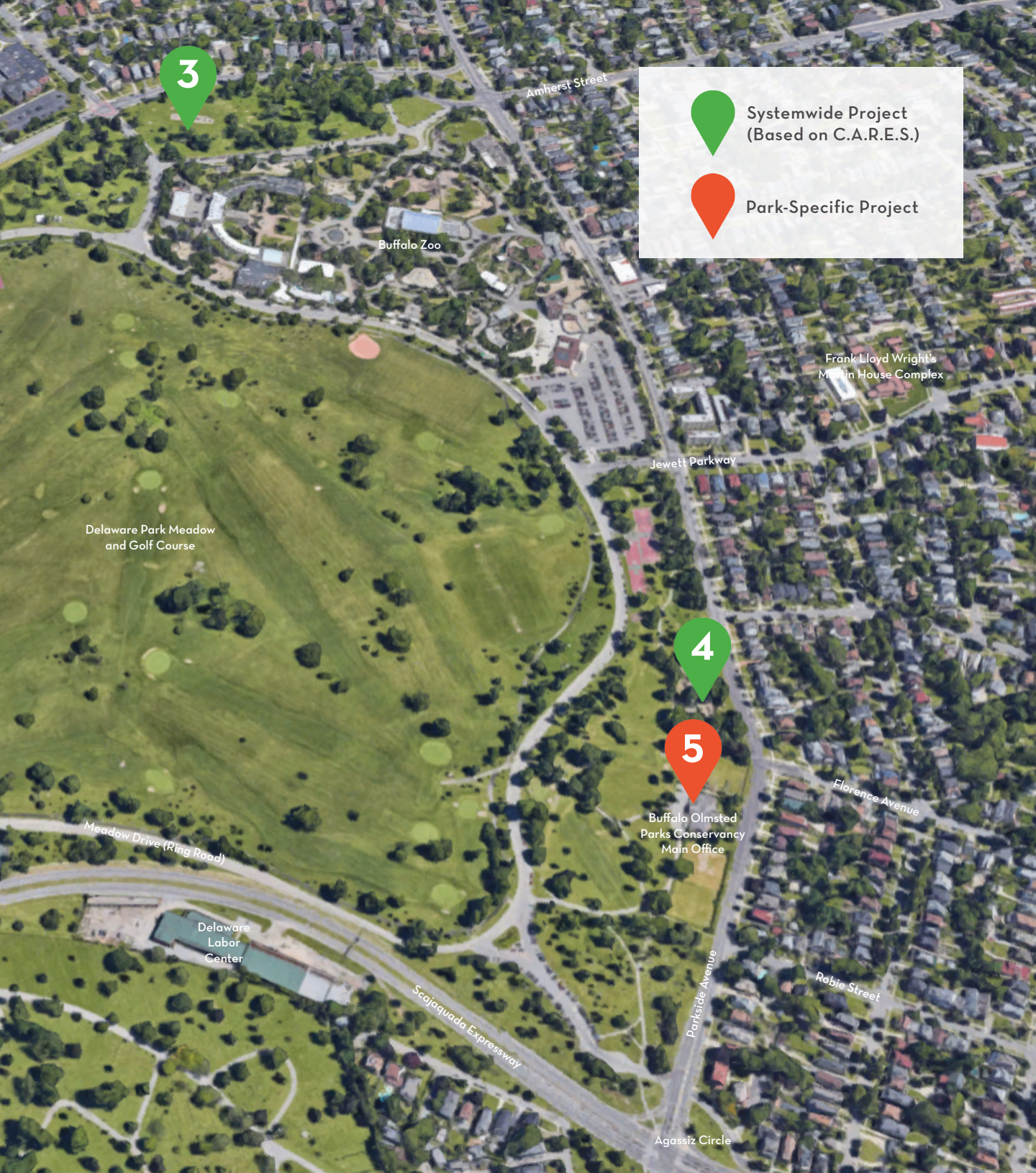



Playground in Delaware Park by Colvin Avenue, 2018


FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024

Delaware District – Meadow





 Systemwide Project
(Based on C.A.R.E.S.)

 Park-Specific Project



 Other Systemwide Projects – DELAWARE PARK MEADOW

- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation

* Final project scope and investment for 5YP to be based on facilities assessment

FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024

Delaware District – Lake





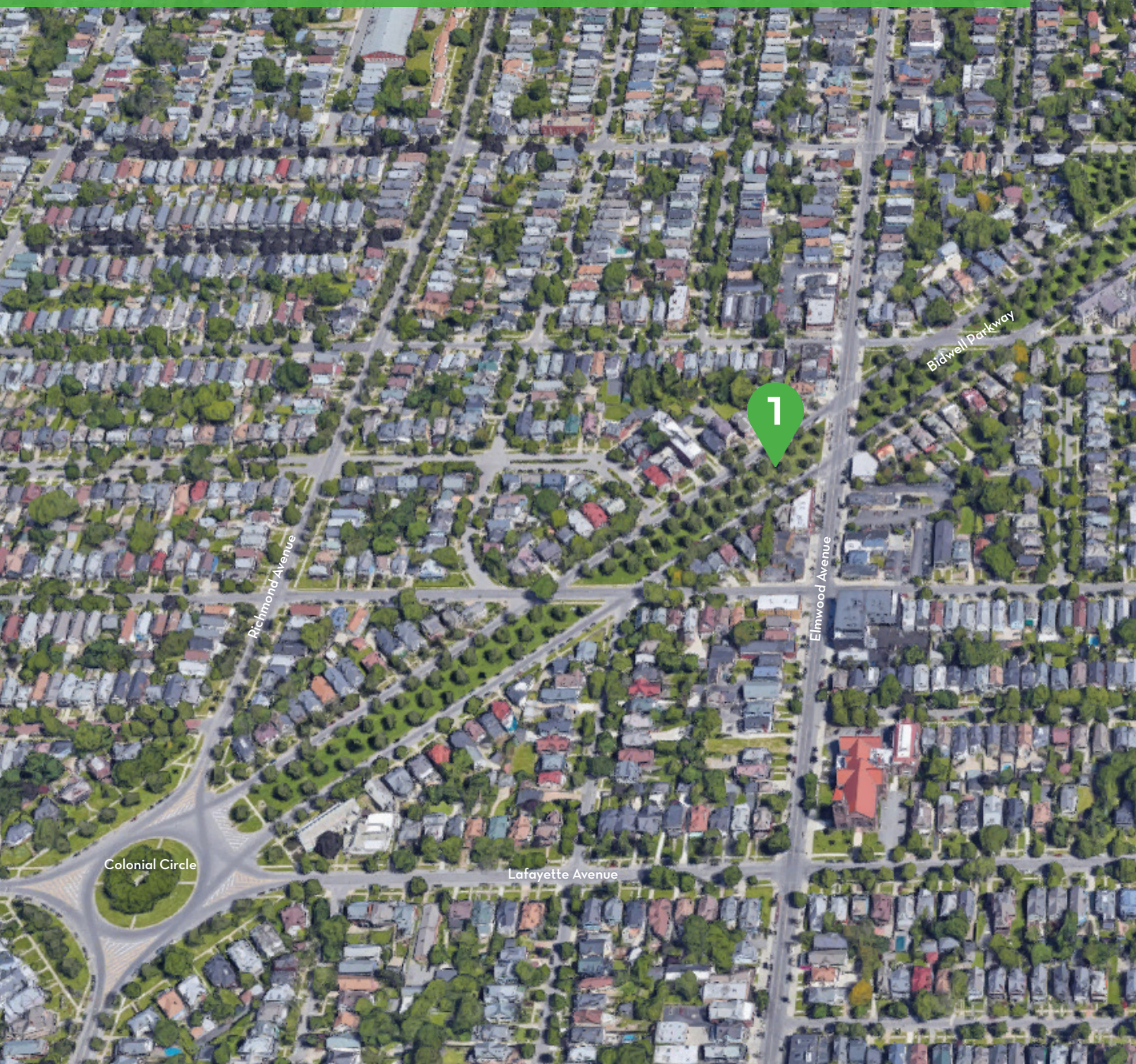
Other Systemwide Projects – DELAWARE PARK LAKE

- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation

* Final project scope and investment for 5YP to be based on facilities assessment

FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024

Delaware District – Parkways and Circles



Bidwell Parkway Turf Restoration



Summer Concert Series at Bidwell Parkway



MLK Jr. District

MLK JR. PARK

Greenhouse Complex Renovations |

Continued investment in the park’s greenhouse facility was identified as a high priority within MLK Jr. Park. A redesign of the park by Olmsted’s firm at the turn of the century included a greenhouse complex for growing the flowers and plants to be installed throughout the city parks. Over the years the facility has fallen into disrepair. Investments have been made by the city and through grants obtained by the Conservancy to stabilize and maintain the functionality of the facility. A comprehensive conditions assessment is needed. Prioritized investment has been identified for window and door repairs along with repainting the entire structure to protect it from future deterioration. Updating the HVAC system, including replacement of all radiators, has been identified as an urgent need. In addition, the exterior landscape of the structure needs enhancement, including repair of the surrounding walkways. Furthermore, improvements to user amenities include required updates and repairs to the staff restroom. Rehabilitating the greenhouse to full and efficient working order will provide great potential for the building as a community asset, with future educational possibilities or even revenue generation.



MLK Jr. Park Greenhouse, 2018

Park Lighting Improvements | At MLK Jr. Park the frequency and extent of disrepair to park lighting, paired with insufficient coverage of light in key areas, were identified as a major community concern. A systemwide comprehensive upgrade to the lighting infrastructure and light quality will provide consistent and dependable illumination in high-use park areas. This could also allow for periodic celebration of seasonal and cultural events with infrastructure for temporary light pole banners in key locations.

Park Furnishings Upgrades | Comfort and refuge were identified by the community as high priorities, specifically within MLK Jr. Park. The online survey identified relaxation and enjoyment of the park scenery as the second most popular user activity throughout the park system. MLK Jr. Park as a whole has an inadequate number of benches, and upgraded picnic tables are needed in high-use areas and shelters. Throughout the park, and especially at the basketball courts, there is a need to enhance comfortable and shaded seating options. Tree coverage and canopy at the park have suffered from deferred maintenance and shade is a desired commodity. Long-term reforestation efforts by the Conservancy will restore the lost canopy of shade; however, in the short term a context-sensitive design standard for shade structures is under consideration within the Olmsted parks.

MLK Jr. District

Renovate East Playground | Several of the playgrounds throughout the Buffalo Olmsted Park System need replacement to meet modern standards and best practices in ADA and inclusive access for children of all needs and abilities. The community identified replacement and relocation of the aging playground equipment on the east side of MLK Jr. Park as a priority. The Conservancy has been pursuing partnerships and additional funding sources for an inclusive playground reconstruction that would not only replace the existing equipment but engage the community in the hands-on design and implementation of a new state-of-the-art playground.



East playground at MLK Jr. Park, 2018

Pathway Reconstruction | The most popular user activity identified in the online survey was walking and jogging on park pathways, cited by nearly 89% of park users. As noted in the systemwide C.A.R.E.S. priorities, maintaining smooth, high-quality pathways throughout the parks is critically important not only for safety, but to encourage healthy recreation and exercise in the community. Reconstruction of these original Olmsted pathways will largely complete the restoration of the path network in MLK Jr. Park and will greatly improve the usability of a highly valued recreational amenity.



West pathways at MLK Jr. Park, 2018

Educational and Interpretive Signage | MLK Jr. Park and its surrounding community have a rich cultural and historical story. However, other than the MLK Jr. Monument itself, there are currently no interpretive elements to tell the community's story. Significant community interest was expressed in providing additional interpretive information on African American history at MLK Jr. Park, along with providing more educational opportunities and partnerships. Providing interpretive signage on the history of the park and the community will deepen the park user experience. Plus, in taking advantage of the proximity of the park greenhouse and Museum of Science, environmental education panels explaining the ecology and science of the natural world would enhance STEM educational and programming opportunities for young people in the MLK Jr. Park community.

FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024

MLK Jr. District — MLK Jr. Park



1



Pathway Reconstruction

2



Benches / Park Furnishings Installation

3



Park Lighting Improvements





Systemwide Project
(Based on C.A.R.E.S.)



Park-Specific Project




Wayfinding / Interpretive Signage Installation (Example)




Park Playground Reconstruction




Greenhouse Complex Renovations*

South District

CAZENOVIA PARK

Crotty Casino Assessment and Use Plan |

The Crotty Casino in the center of Cazenovia Park has long been underutilized. While it is available for event rentals, enhancements to the building’s facilities and services are needed to sustain operations and maintenance. Increased activity at the building, resulting from interior renovations, potential vendor services and improved security infrastructure, will deter current issues of vandalism. A comprehensive facilities assessment will be undertaken to determine investment priorities to improve the structure.



Aerial view of Cazenovia Casino, 2018

Pathway Reconstruction | Identified as the highest priority for Cazenovia Park through the community input process, several sections of pathway within the park are in disrepair and in need of reconstruction. Cazenovia is a heavily utilized neighborhood park and a safe and comprehensive network of paths, as noted as a systemwide improvement, will increase a quality experience of the natural landscape and exercise options.



Existing pathway in Cazenovia Park, 2019

Clubhouse Renovation | Cazenovia Park Golf Course is a popular recreational facility in the Olmsted Park System, and general renovations to its golf clubhouse are desperately needed. Investment in the interior and exterior of the building will go a long way to improve golf hospitality and increase revenue to support continued golf course maintenance needs and upgrades.

SOUTH PARK

Lake Dredging and Shoreline Restoration |

South Park is a beautiful pastoral park highlighted by the ornate Botanical Gardens conservatory designed by Lord & Burnham. A principal feature of the South Park landscape is the 24-acre Olmsted-designed lake in the center of the meadow. Over the past century, gradual siltation of the land and introduction of invasive aquatic plant species have led to the eutrophication of the lake. Erosion at the water’s edges has created an unmanageable shoreline condition, leading to additional invasive vegetation and wetland expansion rendering the lake unusable. Coordination with the environmental regulatory agencies is the critical first step in determining the restoration approach and costs associated with a major lake dredging project. It is anticipated that once an analytical report is completed, the Conservancy and municipal partners will be able to make decisions on fundraising strategies for the anticipated restoration project over the next five years.



Aerial view of South Park Lake, 2018

South District

Arboretum Restoration | South Park was originally designed as a Botanical Garden and Arboretum by the Olmsted firm in 1892. By 1905, investment in planting the Arboretum collection began to diminish and a nine-hole golf course was introduced into the central meadow of the park. In 2017 the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy completed a feasibility study for the potential restoration of the Arboretum. The report determined that the Arboretum could be restored in 11 phases of implementation, with the first six phases proceeding with no impact to the golf course. Over the next five years, it is a priority to move forward in completing Phase 1 of arboretum restoration and to work toward completion of Phase 2.

Clubhouse Renovation | The South Park Clubhouse, built in 1927 and updated by the Works Progress Administration in 1938, is a beautiful structure which is in urgent need of rehabilitation. Functioning today as the golf course clubhouse, it provides restroom facilities and a concession stand offering modest refreshments, but the entire interior is in need of full renovation and requires a comprehensive facilities assessment. Renovation of the original fireplace could greatly enhance the character of the facility. Enhancing the concession space and reconfiguring it for use as an information center for South Park could increase both user activity and revenue-generating potential of this undervalued park facility.



South Park Clubhouse, 2018

South Park Bridge Reconstruction | The City of Buffalo has dedicated funding to reconstruct the South Park Bridge in the northwest corner of the park in the next five years. Restored to historic specifications, this bridge will enhance park user experiences and access along the road loop.

SOUTH CIRCLES AND PARKWAYS – RED JACKET AND MCKINLEY PARKWAYS

Parkway Lighting Improvements | The top priority of the South District community for the parkway network was the replacement of the street lights with the Olmsted standard overhead poles and luminaires. The current 18-foot pedestrian-style poles do not provide adequate light coverage for the roadway or the sidewalks along the parkway. The use of the Olmsted standard overhead light poles and luminaires on the avenues of the West District has already proven to enhance the distribution of light along Porter and Richmond Avenues. Replacement of lighting along the South District parkways over the next five years will improve safety as well as increase recognition of this beautiful Olmsted corridor.

HEACOCK PLACE

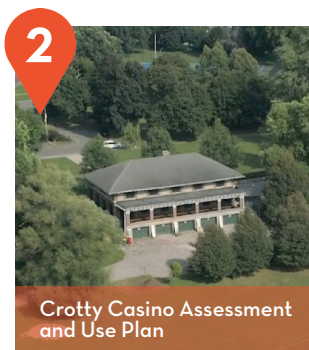
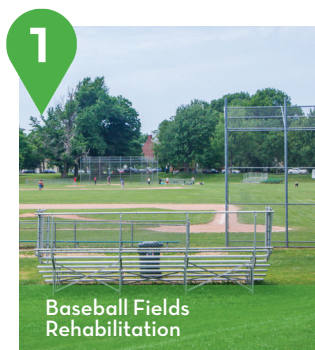
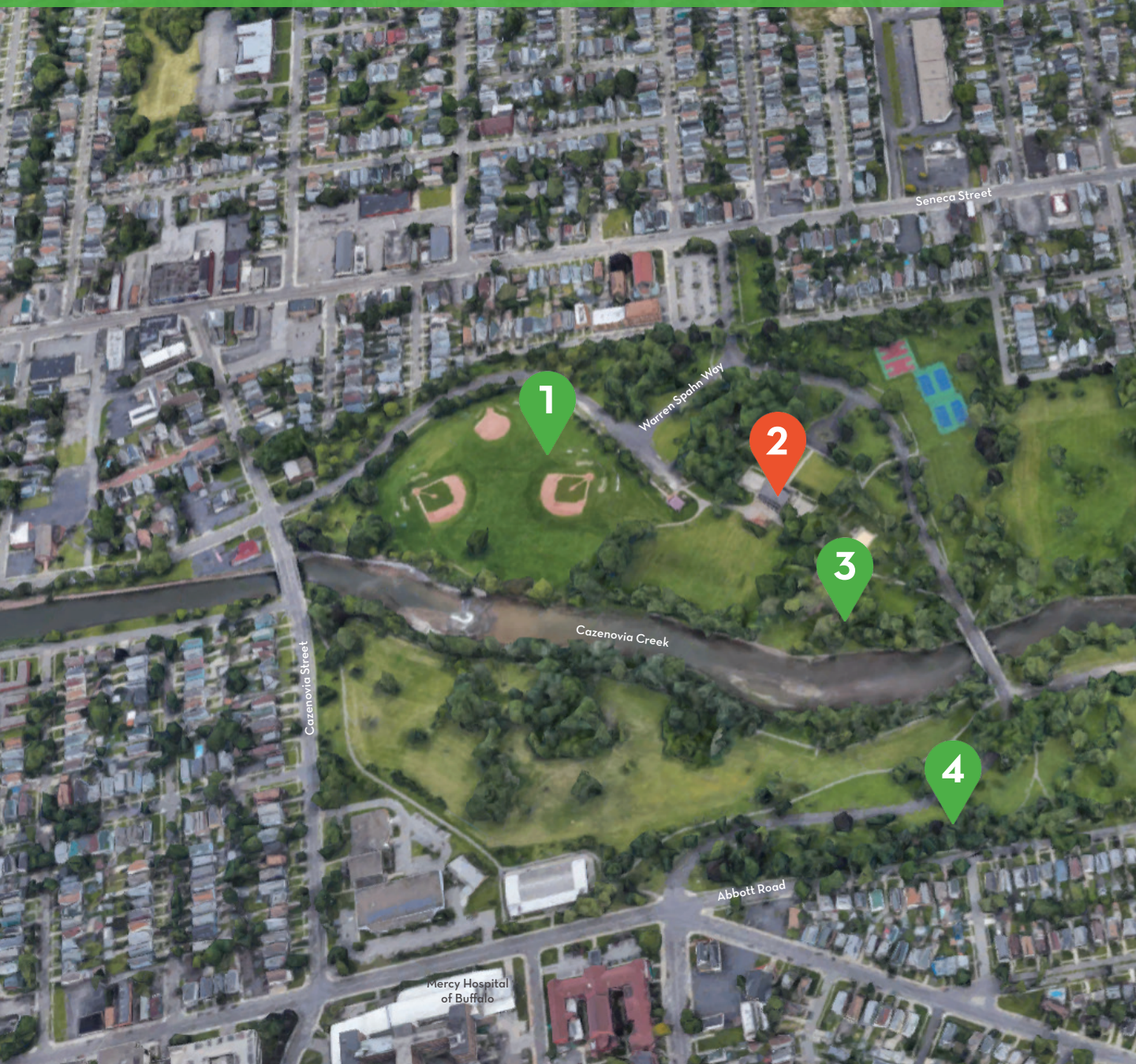
Special Events Infrastructure | Heacock Place is used extensively by the South Buffalo community for special events and seasonal gatherings. Enhancements to utility infrastructure within the park over the next five years will aid in the coordination of utility access, such as electricity, and will reduce impacts from the events on Conservancy operations.

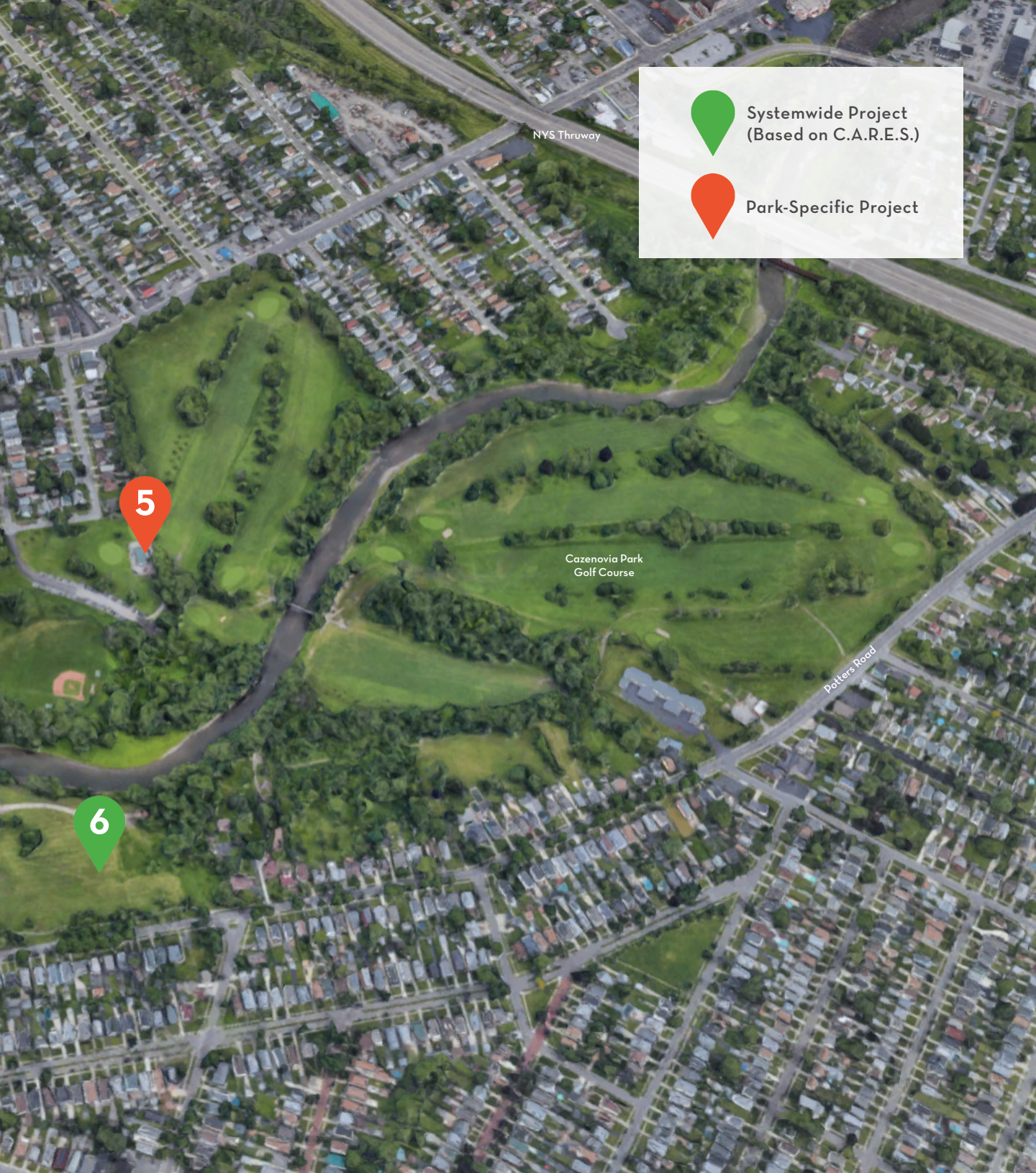
OTHER SYSTEMWIDE PROJECTS – SOUTH DISTRICT

Rehabilitation of baseball diamonds and soccer field in Cazenovia Park, replacement of playground equipment in Cazenovia Park, construction of a new playground in South Park, districtwide site furnishing enhancements and wayfinding and interpretive signage upgrades.

FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024

South District – Cazenovia Park











Systemwide Project
(Based on C.A.R.E.S.)




Park-Specific Project



Golf Clubhouse
Renovation *



Soccer Field
Rehabilitation



Other Systemwide Projects –
CAZENOVIA PARK

- Benches / Park Furnishings Installation
- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation


* Final project scope and investment for 5YP to be based on facilities assessment

FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024

South District – South Park







Systemwide Project
(Based on C.A.R.E.S.)



Park-Specific Project





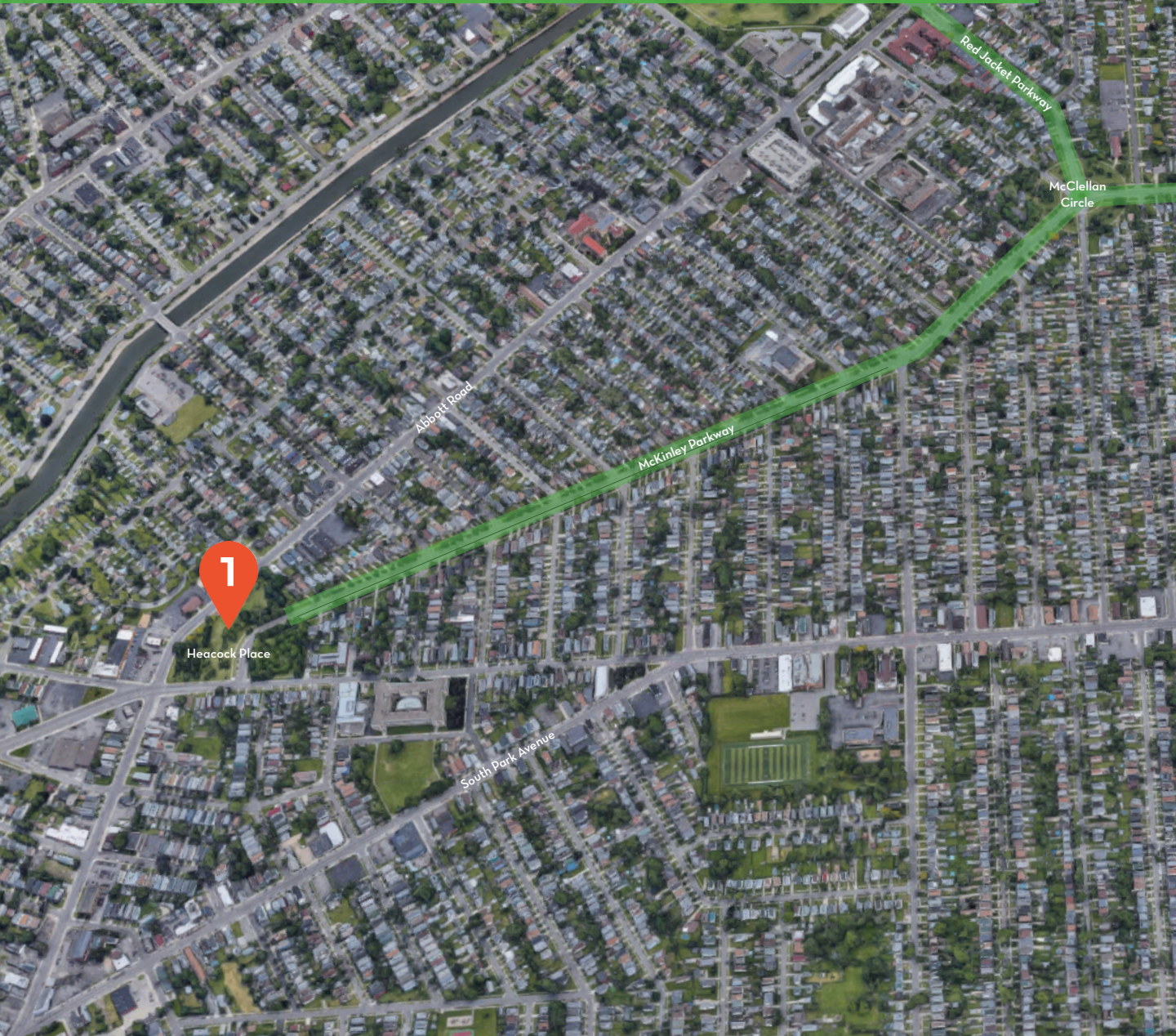
Other Systemwide Projects – SOUTH PARK

- Benches / Park Furnishings Installation
- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation

* Final project scope and investment for 5YP to be based on facilities assessment
 ** Project includes only feasibility study and design phase of work. Final project scope and investment to be based on study.

FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024

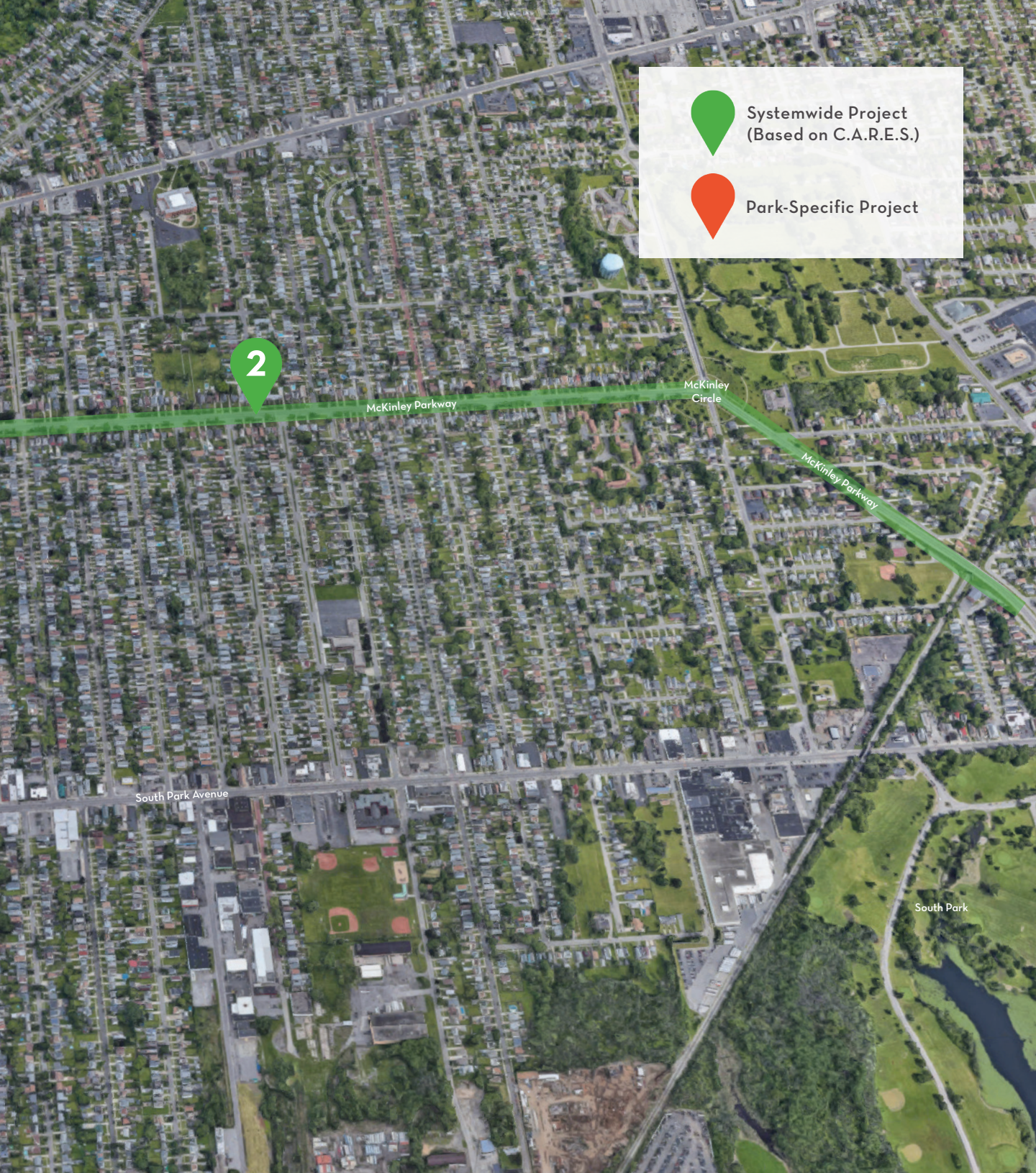
South District – Circles, Parkways and Heacock Place



Heacock Place Events Infrastructure



Aerial View of Heacock Place



McKinley and Red Jacket Parkways
Lighting Improvements



View of McKinley Parkway



SINCE 1868

Frederick Law Olmsted and partner Calvert Vaux included three major parks in his original plan back in 1868. They are The Park (Delaware Park), The Front (Front Park) and The Parade (MLK Jr. Park).

"My Olmsted parks give me a sense of joy, relaxation and beauty and an understanding of how valuable this historic gem is to our city. I believe in the mission of the Conservancy and the importance of preserving Olmsted's legacy in our city."

JANIS DUNWORTH | DONOR AND PARK USER
PHOTO: TERRACE GARDEN AT FRONT PARK

FIVE YEAR PLAN FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



How much money does the Conservancy need to implement all the projects identified in the Five Year Plan?

Cost of Implementing the Five Year Plan

The Five Year Plan provides a guiding opportunity for strategic capital investment throughout the entire Olmsted Park System. Completing these projects, which reflect community interest and need, will require funding from a variety of sources, including foundations, corporate partners, fellow park lovers, the City of Buffalo and New York State. Based on current cost estimates, industry forecasts and probabilities for project

phasing, this section provides projections of the anticipated capital costs to be incurred for implementation of the Five Year Plan.

The total current cost of implementing the Five Year Plan is \$19.4 million, including \$10.7 million for systemwide improvements through the C.A.R.E.S. model and \$8.7 million in major capital investment for park-by-park priority projects.

Five Year Financial Planning

The following outlines the scope of continued investment needed in the Buffalo Olmsted Park System over the next five years. As current funding sources are refined and new ones identified, a plan to leverage multiple funding sources for priority improvement projects will maximize public sector and private sector investments. In addition to the plans to secure funds to activate or complete the Five Year Plan projects, the Conservancy

is exploring a mechanism for sustained funding, ensuring that this significant investment is protected for generations to come. The Conservancy does not currently hold an endowment for sustaining or long-term operations, maintenance or capital needs; thus a comprehensive assessment and a fundraising feasibility study have been engaged in tandem with the five-year planning process to ascertain levels of support.

Sources of Funds

Primary sources of project funding have been grouped into three categories: government, foundation, and corporate/individual. Based on the analysis of investments in the parks over the last 10 years of The System Plan's implementation, along with referencing national sources and internal forecasting, it is anticipated that government sources (city, county, state, and federal) will contribute 65% of the capital costs during the next five years. This includes several New York State funding streams, such as the New York Power Authority relicensing agreement Niagara River Greenway funds.

The value of the Conservancy's public-private partnership with the City of Buffalo is

quantified through the ability to leverage public money with private sector contributions from corporate partners, individuals and foundations. The Conservancy anticipates based on its forecasting research that the remaining 35% of funds needed to complete these projects will be provided by local and national foundations (25%) and corporate/individual donors (10%). The Conservancy has a dedicated development and fundraising team which will be engaged in funding acquisition. The Conservancy has also received additional capacity funding through a grant to employ a dedicated major gifts officer specifically to solicit and acquire capital and future campaign support for the Five Year Plan.

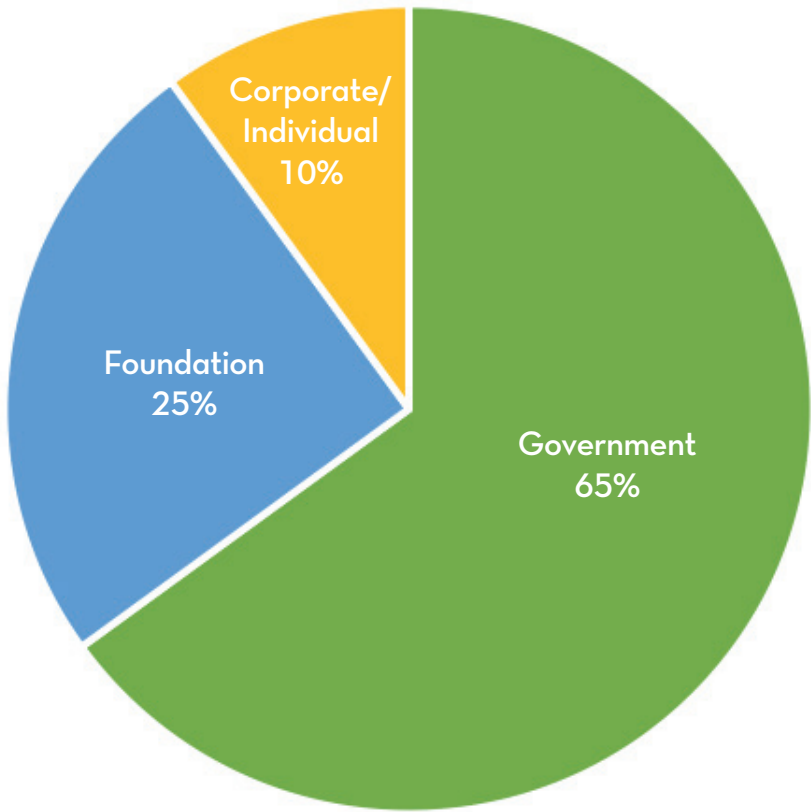


Figure 1 | Primary sources of project funding

Uses of Funds

Funds raised to support the Five Year Plan will be used for all phases of work associated with park improvement project development for the Olmsted parks. This includes both in-house and consultant services for further study, as well as detail design and project oversight

in addition to the hard capital construction costs, administration and overhead. For some specialized sub-campaigns or initiatives, small endowments or sustaining funds for maintenance and upkeep could be required and funds will be raised and held accordingly.

Projected Changes in the Conservancy's Budget

Throughout the entire plan development process, the Conservancy carefully considered the potential impact on operational and long-term maintenance expenses associated with the projects under consideration. The Conservancy operates with a lean team of park laborers and specialists, and does not have the capacity to expand its workforce exponentially. As noted earlier in this plan, it was a chartered focus to consider park improvements that either reduced maintenance, kept maintenance and operations neutral, or provided a potential revenue stream to offset new maintenance or labor expenses. Therefore, any project identified to have the potential to increase ongoing maintenance of the park system was flagged early in the evaluation process.

As mentioned above under Uses of Funds, for any project identified as having an impact on operations that remained a top priority through the community engagement process, the Conservancy has made a commitment to ensure that long-term maintenance plans and funds are obtained before any capital investment is made. This commitment guarantees that the investment in park enhancements will not be executed to the detriment of basic park maintenance. This is further ensured through the Conservancy's public-private partnership and its maintenance and operations contract with the City of Buffalo.

Five Year Plan Cost Estimates

TABLE 3.1 | Systemwide Projects – Based on the C.A.R.E.S. Model

		Riverside District	West District	Delaware District	MLK Jr. District	South District	Studies	Total
C	COMFORT Benches / Park Furnishings Installation	\$45,000			\$345,000	\$190,000		\$580,000
A	ACCESS Wayfinding / Interpretive Signage Installation	\$70,000	\$55,000	\$150,000	\$105,000	\$180,000		\$560,000
R	RECREATION Soccer / Football Field Rehabilitation	\$150,000	\$380,000			\$380,000		\$910,000
R	RECREATION Baseball Field Rehabilitation	\$330,000				\$330,000		\$660,000
R	RECREATION Playground Reconstruction			\$500,000	\$250,000	\$500,000		\$1,250,000
R	RECREATION Pathway Reconstruction		\$430,000		\$1,250,000	\$750,000		\$2,430,000
E	ENVIRONMENT Turf Restoration / Drainage		\$75,000	\$75,000				\$150,000
S	SAFETY Park Lighting Improvements				\$1,140,000	\$3,025,000		\$4,165,000

TABLE 3.2 | Total Cost Estimate for the Five Year Plan

	Riverside District (Table 3.3)	West District (Table 3.4)	Delaware District (Table 3.5)	MLK Jr. District (Table 3.6)	South District (Table 3.7)	Studies (Table 3.8)	Total
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS	\$730,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,430,000	\$4,190,000	\$8,760,000	\$800,000	\$19,410,000

LEGEND

Systemwide Project and Cost

Park-Specific Project and Cost

* Final project scope and investment for 5YP to be based on facilities assessment
** Project includes only feasibility study and design phase of work. Final project scope and investment to be based on study.

TABLE 3.3 | Riverside District Projects – Riverside Park

		Riverside District	West District	Delaware District	MLK Jr. District	South District	Studies	Total
RIVERSIDE PARK								
	Niagara River Overlook Enhancement	\$50,000						\$50,000
	River Rock Garden Landscape Enhancement	\$85,000						\$85,000
C	Benches / Park Furnishings Installation	\$45,000						\$45,000
A	Wayfinding / Interpretive Signage Installation	\$70,000						\$70,000
R	Football Field Rehabilitation	\$150,000						\$150,000
R	Baseball Fields Rehabilitation	\$330,000						\$330,000
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE FOR RIVERSIDE DISTRICT								\$730,000

TABLE 3.4 | West District Projects – Front, Prospect, Columbus and Days Parks, Porter and Richmond Avenues, Symphony and Ferry Circles

		Riverside District	West District	Delaware District	MLK Jr. District	South District	Studies	Total
FRONT PARK								
	Tree Planting		\$30,000					\$30,000
A	Wayfinding / Interpretive Signage Installation		\$35,000					\$35,000
R	Soccer Field Rehabilitation		\$380,000					\$380,000
PROSPECT PARK								
	Shelter Restoration *		\$530,000					\$530,000
A	Wayfinding / Interpretive Signage Installation		\$20,000					\$20,000
R	Pathway Reconstruction		\$430,000					\$430,000
DAYS PARK								
E	Turf Restoration		\$75,000					\$75,000
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE FOR WEST DISTRICT								\$1,500,000

TABLE 3.5 | Delaware District Projects – Delaware Park, Bidwell, Chapin and Lincoln Parkways, Colonial, Gates and Soldiers Circles

		Riverside District	West District	Delaware District	MLK Jr. District	South District	Studies	Total
DELAWARE PARK – MEADOW								
	Point of the Meadow Restroom Rehabilitation *			\$310,000				\$310,000
	Perimeter Woodland Regeneration			\$130,000				\$130,000
	Parkside Lodge Renovations *			\$565,000				\$565,000
A	Wayfinding / Interpretive Signage Installation			\$75,000				\$75,000
R	Colvin Playground Reconstruction			\$250,000				\$250,000
R	Parkside Playground Reconstruction			\$250,000				\$250,000
DELAWARE PARK – LAKE								
	Rose Garden Infrastructure Enhancements			\$145,000				\$145,000
	Granite Steps Reconstruction			\$700,000				\$700,000
	Marcy Casino Renovations *			\$790,000				\$790,000
A	Wayfinding / Interpretive Signage Installation			\$75,000				\$75,000
CIRCLES AND PARKWAYS								
	Gates Circle – Cultural Landscape Report			\$65,000				\$65,000
E	Bidwell Parkway – Turf Restoration			\$75,000				\$75,000
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE FOR DELAWARE DISTRICT								\$3,430,000

TABLE 3.6 | MLK Jr. District Projects – MLK Jr. Park

		Riverside District	West District	Delaware District	MLK Jr. District	South District	Studies	Total
MLK JR. PARK								
	Greenhouse Complex Renovations *				\$1,100,000			\$1,100,000
C	Benches / Park Furnishings Installation				\$345,000			\$345,000
A	Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation				\$105,000			\$105,000
R	Playground Reconstruction				\$250,000			\$250,000
R	Pathway Reconstruction				\$1,250,000			\$1,250,000
S	Park Lighting Improvements				\$1,140,000			\$1,140,000
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE FOR MLK JR. DISTRICT								\$4,190,000

* Final project scope and investment for 5YP to be based on facilities assessment
** Project includes only feasibility study and design phase of work. Final project scope and investment to be based on study.

TABLE 3.7 | South District Projects – South and Cazenovia Parks, McKinley and Red Jacket Parkways, McClellan and McKinley Circles

		Riverside District	West District	Delaware District	MLK Jr. District	South District	Studies	Total
CAZENOVIA PARK								
	Crotty Casino Assessment and Use Plan *					\$45,000		\$45,000
	Golf Clubhouse Renovation *					\$310,000		\$310,000
C	Benches / Park Furnishings Installation					\$105,000		\$105,000
A	Wayfinding / Interpretive Signage Installation					\$88,800		\$88,800
R	Soccer Field Rehabilitation					\$380,000		\$380,000
R	Baseball Fields Rehabilitation					\$330,000		\$330,000
R	Playground Reconstruction					\$250,000		\$250,000
R	Pathway Reconstruction					\$750,000		\$750,000
SOUTH PARK								
	Lake Dredging and Shoreline Restoration **					\$250,000		\$250,000
	Golf Clubhouse Renovation *					\$650,000		\$650,000
	Arboretum Restoration (Phases 1 and 2)					\$1,200,000		\$1,200,000
	South Park Bridge Reconstruction					\$900,000		\$900,000
C	Benches / Park Furnishings Installation					\$85,000		\$85,000
A	Wayfinding / Interpretive Signage Installation					\$91,200		\$91,200
R	Future Playground					\$250,000		\$250,000
HEACOCK PLACE, CIRCLES AND PARKWAYS								
	Heacock Place – Event Infrastructure					\$50,000		\$50,000
S	McKinley / Red Jacket Parkways – Parkway Lighting Improvements					\$3,025,000		\$3,025,000
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE FOR SOUTH DISTRICT								\$8,760,000

TABLE 3.8 | Studies and Assessments

		Riverside District	West District	Delaware District	MLK Jr. District	South District	Studies	Total
STUDIES AND ASSESSMENTS								
	Other Facilities Assessment						\$30,000	\$30,000
	Comprehensive Olmsted Parks Traffic Safety Assessment						\$520,000	\$520,000
	Olmsted Parks Recreation Study						\$250,000	\$250,000
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE FOR STUDIES								\$800,000



GREENSWARD

At 365 acres, Delaware Park is the largest Olmsted park in the system, including a 122 acre greensward, the term Olmsted and Vaux employed to describe extensive stretches of rolling meadow land dotted with trees.

“It really is an incredible asset for anyone living nearby. Whether you’re just getting outside for the sake of it, running or biking the loop, playing golf, basketball, or visiting the zoo ... it really is the gift that keeps on giving.”

JEREMY WHITE | PARK USER
PHOTO: DELAWARE PARK MEADOW

BEYOND FIVE YEARS – MAJOR PLANNING EFFORTS



Wait ... what about
other projects such
as the Scajaquada
and Kensington
Expressways?

Some of the issues and concerns raised during the community engagement process were deemed premature for consideration for a Five Year Plan project. This judgment was based on their complexity, the need for coordination across multiple agencies and levels of government, or the extent of community partnership required to develop an actionable capital project. The issues raised, though premature for capital campaign fundraising, represent significant impacts on Olmsted parks or are central concerns of the stakeholders in those park districts.

Therefore, as part of the Five Year Plan, these issues have been identified as items to continue for dialogue, engage in further data gathering and study, or build organizational partnerships in an effort to advance them toward collective action at a future date.



Summer splashing and winter skating at MLK Jr. Park

Studies and Assessments

TABLE 4.1 | Studies and Assessments

Olmsted Parks Recreation Study	Next Step
Through the community engagement process, several recommendations were made for either modification of existing recreational facilities or the addition of new recreational facilities. Before making any major modifications to existing recreational features in the Olmsted parks, it is critically important to gather comprehensive user information and study the trends in recreational needs of each community. Such a study will provide the city and Conservancy with essential data and analysis to consider future recreational facility modifications in the Olmsted parks.	Coordinate with City of Buffalo on a citywide parks master plan and recreation study
Park Facilities Structural Assessment	Next Step
As mentioned several times within this report, a comprehensive facility assessment is required for all major structures within the Buffalo Olmsted Park System, including park casinos, golf clubhouses and the greenhouse. This study will investigate all aspects of each building's condition and recommend prioritized long-term investments to restore these significant structures. Additional assessment of HVAC upgrades will be conducted for year-round use of park shelter buildings.	Coordinate with City of Buffalo on prioritized approach to Olmsted park facilities assessment studies
Olmsted Parks Traffic Safety Assessments	Next Step
Coordinated through a partnership with the City of Buffalo and GObike Buffalo, funds would be necessary to conduct a comprehensive community-based approach with a data-driven analysis of traffic throughout the Olmsted Park System. Through community outreach, historic research and data gathering, these studies will provide the City of Buffalo with the analysis required to consider next steps on permanent traffic pattern modifications. A primary goal is to increase pedestrian safety around the Olmsted Park System.	Coordinate with City of Buffalo and GObike Buffalo on a prioritized approach to traffic safety assessment studies

Long-term Advocacy and Community Conversations

TABLE 4.2 | Long-term Advocacy and Community Conversations by Park District

Riverside District Conversations	Next Step
Greenway / Future of Waterfront and I-190	Coordination of a stakeholder meeting process in partnership with Black Rock Riverside Alliance and Niagara River Greenway Commission
West District Conversations	Next Step
Peace Bridge / Future of Waterfront and I-190	Coordination of a stakeholder meeting process in an effort to enhance communication and coordination on issues related to transportation infrastructure on the West Side
Coordination on Imagine LaSalle	Coordination with City of Buffalo through the development process of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park
Delaware District Conversations	Next Step
Route 198	Continued coordination with City of Buffalo, NYSDOT and community stakeholders through the Scajaquada Corridor Coalition
Future of Golf in Delaware Park	Continued coordination between Conservancy, City of Buffalo and a private golf venture in reconsidering the golf course and beginning a community engagement process
Scajaquada Creek / Hoyt Lake	Continued coordination around watershed issues among the Conservancy, City of Buffalo, Buffalo Sewer Authority, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, regulatory agencies and other stakeholders
MLK Jr. District Conversations	Next Step
Route 33	Continued coordination with City of Buffalo and NYSDOT and community stakeholders through the Restore Our Community Coalition
Park Programming Partnerships	Coordination of educational and community-based organizations for potential park programming partnerships
South District Conversations	Next Step
Future of Golf in South Park	Continued coordination among the Conservancy, City of Buffalo and a private golf venture on the future of golf in South Park, and supporting a community engagement process

ABBREVIATIONS USED

BOPC	Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
C.A.R.E.S.	Systemwide Model for selecting projects to be in the Five Year Plan C - Comfort, A - Access, R - Recreation, E - Environment, S - Safety
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
COB	City of Buffalo
NYS	New York State
NYSDOT	New York State Department of Transportation
Route 198	Scajaquada Expressway in Buffalo, New York
Route 33	Kensington Expressway in Buffalo, New York
SPARP	South Park Arboretum Restoration Project
WPA	Works Progress Administration

CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR FEEDBACK ON THIS REPORT

Contact: Brian Dold
Title: Director of Planning and Advocacy
Email: Brian@bfloparks.org

Alternatively, please visit bfloparks.org/5yearplan to learn more.

TO MAKE A DONATION OR FUND A PROJECT

Contact: Catie Stephenson
Title: Director of Development and Communications
Email: Catie@bfloparks.org

Alternatively, please visit bfloparks.org/support to learn more.

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES ON THE CONSERVANCY

Phone: (716) 838-1249
Website: bfloparks.org

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FIVE YEAR PLAN WORKING GROUP

Stephanie Crockatt
Paul DiBenedetto
Brian Dold *
Andrew Lloyd *
Jim Newman
Zhi Ting Phua *
Laura Quebral
Andy Rabb
Paul Ray
Greg Robinson
Mary Simpson
Catie Stephenson

CONSERVANCY STAFF

Humbert Baez, Jr.
William Brown
Keith Cahill
Mike Candaras
Ed Christmas
Jimmy Coyle
Stephanie Crockatt
Brian Dold
Beth Downing
Troy Drake
Zachary Garland
Chris Hartgrove
Dave Hoover
Brian Jenkins
Sarah Larkin
Thomas Lester
Eileen Martin
Patty Mertens
Martha Neri
Emere Nieves
Zhi Ting Phua
Melissa Pidanic
Ron Pope
Nate Putnam
Greg Robinson
Jennifer Rogers
Mike Sawyer
Catie Stephenson
Bob Stotz
Mark Tavernese
Willie Tinker
Joe Volino
Andrew Webster
Anthony White
Patty Wolfsohn

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Emeritus

Joan Bozer
Richard C. Cummings
Kevin Kelly
Robert J. Kresse
Mark V. Mistretta
Victor A. Rice
Gretchen Toles

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Lauren Becker
Nancy DeTine
Francis Kowsky

** Project team
As of October 29, 2019*



BUFFALO
OLMSTED PARKS
CONSERVANCY

Parkside Lodge | 84 Parkside Avenue | Buffalo, NY 14214
716-838-1249 | bfloparks.org

