



Parks Master Plan

CITY OF BUFFALO

APPENDICES



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FRONT COVER, TOP: Seated on the banks of Lake Erie, the 87-acre Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park is set to undergo major upgrades, as determined by community members through the Imagine LaSalle project. © RALPH C. WILSON, JR FOUNDATION; **BOTTOM:** The splashpad at MLK Jr. Park. © BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY; **BACK COVER:** Visitors enjoy the boardwalk at Tiff Nature Preserve. © TIFFT NATURE PRESERVE

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APPENDIX 1.

Current Conditions Report*

Introduction

Perhaps more than any other city in the nation, Buffalo has been shaped by its parks. The urban park system designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1868, which aimed to make Buffalo a “city within a park”, has provided a structure to the city that in many ways endures to this day. Meanwhile, great natural attractions like Lake Erie and Niagara Falls have made the outdoors key to the region’s identity. Although de-industrialization has reduced the city’s population from the height of the steel days, the city is undergoing a renaissance. Thanks to the dedication and energy that local partners, city staff, and regional and local philanthropists are devoting to parks, recreation, and conservation, ambitious outdoor projects factor heavily into that resurgence.

Local Context

EARLY HISTORY

Sitting on the banks of the Niagara River and Lake Erie, and home to the Buffalo River and Scajaquada Creek, Buffalo was founded as a small trading village in 1789. The construction of the Erie Canal in 1825 began an era of meteoric growth, and made the city a hub of wealth and progress. In 1881, Buffalo became the first city in the nation to incorporate electric street lights, giving it the nickname City of Light. It was in this era (1867 through 1903) that Buffalo constructed its historic park and parkway system, the nation’s first city-wide park system. Designed by the country’s first landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, the system remains to this day, and includes six of the city’s most beloved parks (see Park Management section). This growth continued through the early 20th century as Buffalo became a railroad hub, and later a manufacturing powerhouse during the WWII era. By 1950 Buffalo was the 15th largest city in the country with a population of 580,000. Like many industrial cities, however, it began to decline as the nation began an era of deindustrialization.

POPULATION

Today, Buffalo’s population sits at 257,518, roughly the city’s population in 1890. The city’s decreasing population in the last half of the 20th century has created a surge in vacant housing, with roughly 16.1 percent of the city’s 131,868 housing units remaining vacant. Despite the shrinking population, the area has seen a recent uptick in its ability to attract young people. Since 2006, the millennial population of Buffalo-Niagara area has grown by over 10 percent, the highest millennial growth rate among New York Counties.¹ Efforts like 43 North, which provides investment, tax breaks, and incubator space, are attracting young entrepreneurs by making Buffalo an attractive city for startups.² Recent traction has also gained around the idea that Buffalo could see a surge of future population growth as a climate change refuge (see Climate Change section). Governor Cuomo has also thrown state support behind reviving Western New York’s economy, committing \$1 billion dollars to the region with the aim of growing the economy, creating jobs, and spurring private investment. The strategy for the Buffalo

* NOTE: This Current Conditions Report was written at the start of the Buffalo Parks Master Plan process with the goal of ensuring that the project team understood the local context within the City of Buffalo before beginning their work. A draft of the report was vetted by steering committee members in the summer of 2020 to ensure its accuracy. Because of this timing and the preliminary nature of the report, it relies heavily on information and data from 2019 and 2020, and certain content may be outdated at the time of publication.

Billion initiative, developed by the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council, identifies tourism as one key growth area, and as such, some of this funding has already gone to supporting outdoor recreation, such as the \$10 million devoted to Buffalo Blueway (see Relevant Plans and Recent Projects section).³

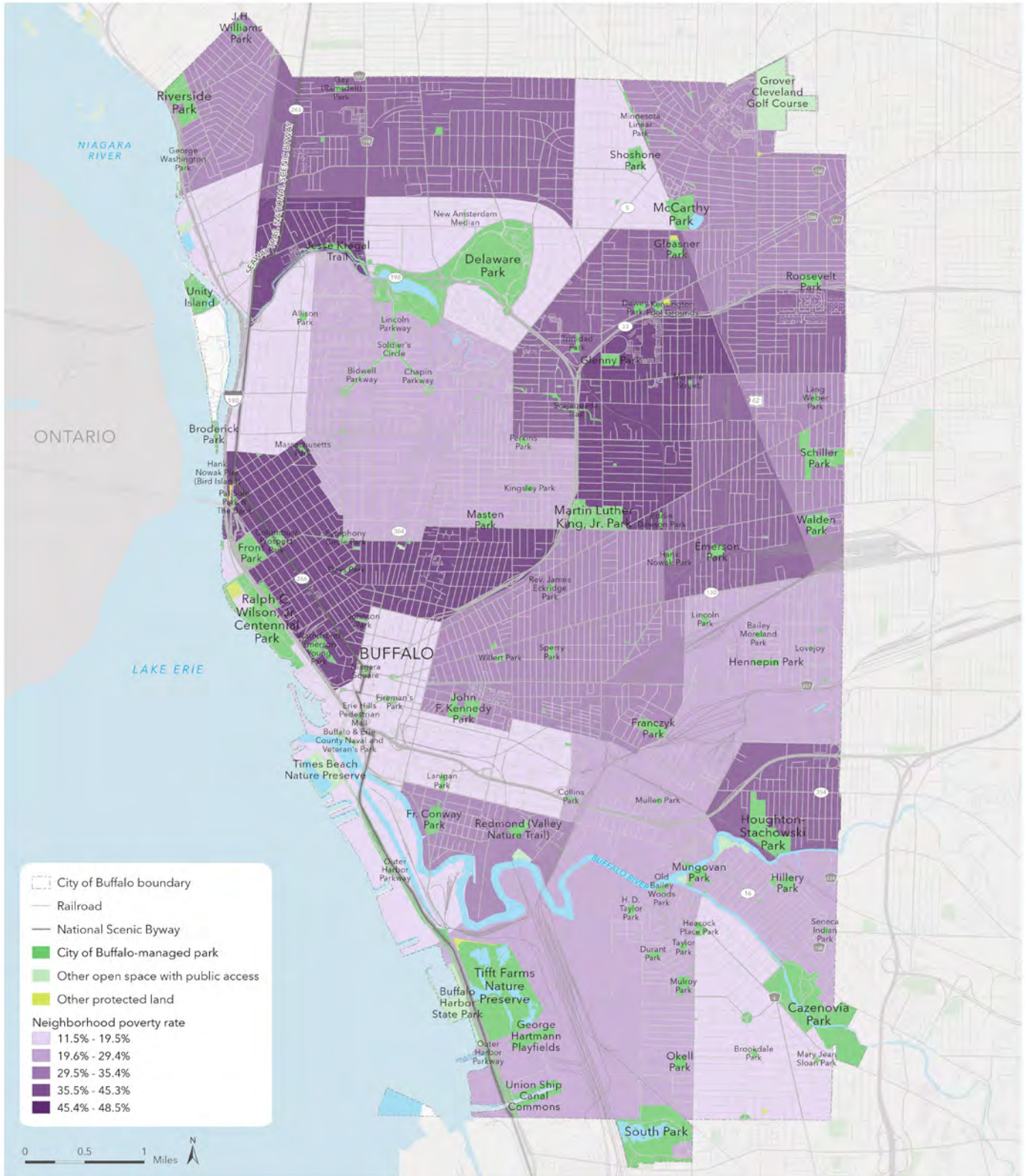
DEMOGRAPHICS

Buffalo’s white and African American populations comprise the majority of residents, at 43 percent and 36 percent respectively, with a smaller Hispanic population of 12 percent (see Table 1). The city’s majority African American neighborhoods are located on the city’s east side, while its white population is largely concentrated in the center of the city. Smaller, predominantly Hispanic communities exist on the west side, northwest of downtown.⁴ Roughly 10 percent of Buffalo’s population were born outside of the U.S.

Race	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	12%
Not Hispanic or Latino	88%
White alone	43%
Black or African American alone	36%
Asian alone	6%
Two or more races	3%

Today, Buffalo struggles with a high degree of poverty, with 30.3 percent of its population living below poverty (75,385), compared to 14.1 percent nationally. Poverty in Buffalo is largely concentrated on the west side north of downtown, the east side, and in the northwest (see Figure 1).

Indicators		Buffalo, NY	United States
Demographics	Population Growth (% change, 2010*-2019*)	-4%	7%
	Median Age (2019*)	33	38
Income	Median Household Income (2019*)	\$37,354	\$62,843
	Per Capita Income (2019*)	\$24,400	\$34,103
	Percent Individuals Below Poverty (2019*)	30%	13%
	Percent Families Below Poverty (2019*)	25%	10%
	Percent of Households with Retirement and Social Security Income (2019*)	44%	51%
	Percent of Households with Public Assistance Income (2019*)	51%	19%



Community indicator

BUFFALO PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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FIGURE 1. Neighborhood Poverty Map of Buffalo

TABLE 2: BUFFALO, NEW YORK DEMOGRAPHICS VS U.S.A. (2019)⁶ INDICATORS

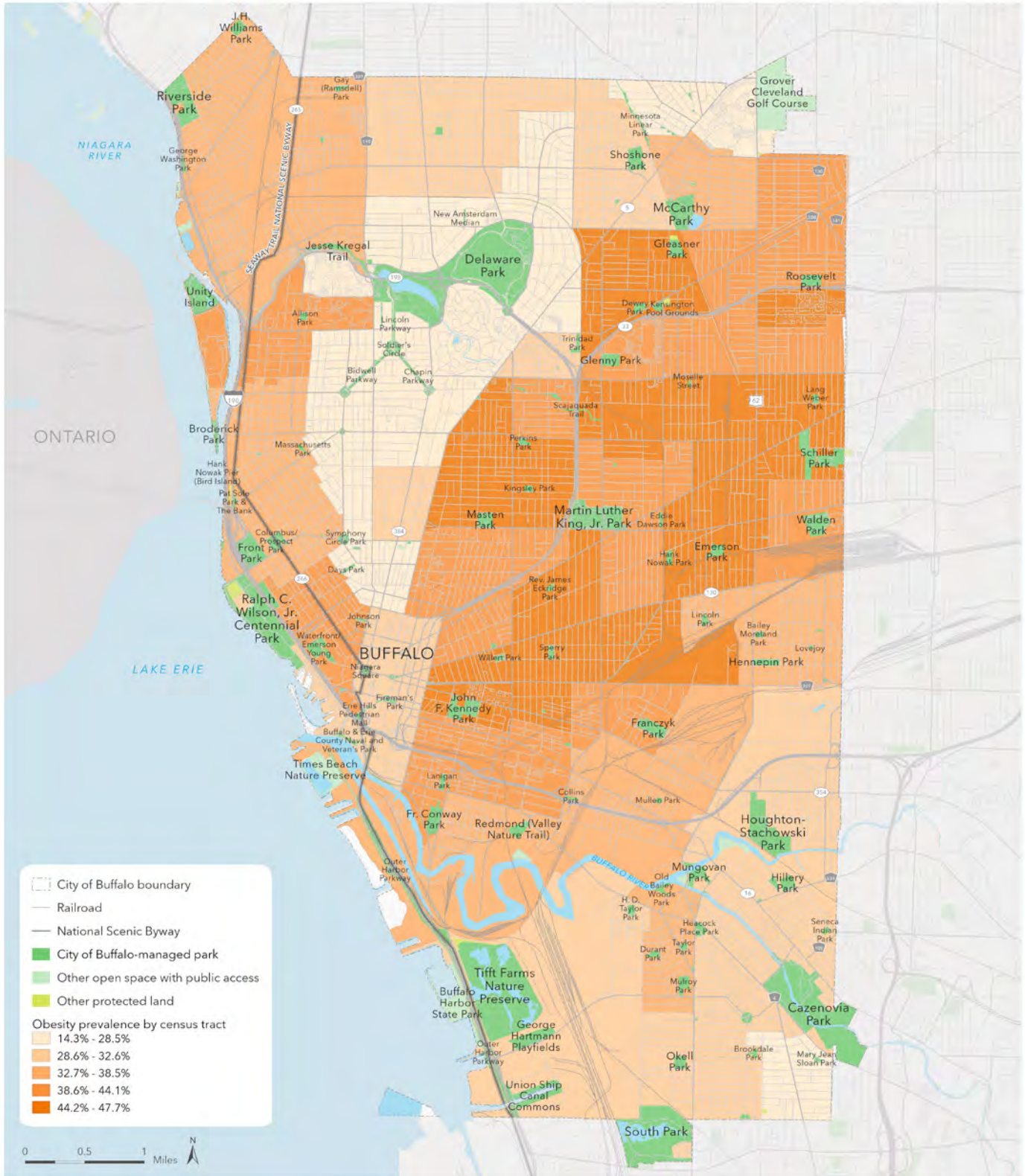
Indicators		Buffalo, NY	United States
Structure	Percent Population 25 Years or Older without High School Degree (2019*)	15%	12%
	Percent Population 25 Years or Older with Bachelor’s Degree or Higher (2019*)	28%	32%
	Percent of Houses that are Seasonal Homes (2019*)	0.2%	4.0%
	Owner-Occupied Homes where > 30% of Household Income Spent on Mortgage (2019*)	22%	28%
	Renter-Occupied Homes where > 30% of Household Income Spent on Rent (2019*)	49%	46%

HEALTH

Buffalo faces a high number of premature deaths (35.4 percent compared to 22.0 percent in Erie County as a whole and 24.0 percent in New York State) and age-adjusted hospitalizations (7.1 percent in Buffalo compared to 4.4 percent in Erie County and 3.1 percent in New York). The city also experiences 269.8 asthma-related hospitalizations per 10,000 residents for ages 0-4, compared to only 139.8 in Erie County as a whole and 198.3 in the state.⁷ One study noted that “the risk of persons with asthma and chronic respiratory illnesses is significantly ($p \leq 0.05$) high among children and young adults living in Buffalo’s west side, newer housing units, and of Latino ethnicity”.⁸ The 2017-2019 Erie County New York Community Health Assessment noted that the area also struggled with high rates of obesity and diabetes, the latter of which disproportionately impacts Black and Hispanic residents, due to “a lack of access to and utilization of comprehensive primary preventive care that could have potentially prevented the need for hospitalization.” Obesity in Buffalo is largely concentrated on the city’s east side (see Figure 2). In the Buffalo school district, 33.7 percent of children are considered obese.⁹

CRIME

Although Buffalo’s crime rate has fallen since the 1990s (when much of the county experienced a peak), it still remains far above the national average and frequently ranks as one of the country’s highest crime cities.¹⁰ With an overall crime rate of 50.59 per 1,000 residents (10.62 violent crimes per 1,000 and 39.97 property crimes per 1,000), it sits at the 96th percentile for crime in cities nationally.¹¹ The fear of crime may be a barrier that reduces the frequency of park use and affects park design. In the recent park plan for Erie County, for example, many of the needed upgrades include security cameras (see Relevant Plans and Recent Projects section).



Community health indicator

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FIGURE 2. Obesity Prevalence Map of Buffalo

ENVIRONMENT

HABITAT

The topography of Western New York was formed largely by expanding and retreating glaciers during the last ice age. The path of these glaciers created a gently rolling topography, flat lake plains, and carved out an extensive network of waterways.¹² These streams, rivers, lakes, and marshes, and the deciduous and coniferous forests that thrive around them, support a wide array of wildlife throughout the region.¹³ Although Buffalo is thought of as an industrial city, the city has managed to maintain and create valuable pockets of nature within this urban setting.

Founded in 1972, Tiff Nature Preserve is a 264-acre nature refuge built on the site of a former city dump. Remediation involved capping solid waste in clay and covering the clay with soil from other sections of the preserve. Ponds on the site were enlarged and the site was replanted. Today, the Tiff's cattail marsh, ponds, and woodlands provide rare habitat within the city. The preserve also hosts five miles of trails and boardwalks, an education center, and hosts fishing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Tiff Nature Preserve is operated by the Buffalo Museum of Science.¹⁴

Erie County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry is also an important manager of natural habitat within the City of Buffalo. In particular, the county's series of Buffalo River Natural Habitat Parks play an important role protecting and restoring habitat along the Buffalo River. The county has partnered with the City of Buffalo, New York State, and in some instances federal institutions (e.g. the Army Corps of Engineers) to "remediate, restore, and revitalize" sites along the Buffalo River, including Times Beach Nature Preserve, Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park, and Red Jacket Natural Habitat Park (see Relevant Plans and Recent Projects section).¹⁵

CLIMATE CHANGE

In recent years, Buffalo has garnered some attention as a self-described "climate change haven." Some research indicates that given the city's cool climate, large fresh water supply (the Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the planet's surface freshwater), and availability of housing and land, people will flock to Buffalo in the 21st century, occupying vacant housing and reviving the economy. The city appears to be at least somewhat insulated from many of the climate disasters (flooding, fire, drought, etc.) that are already starting to plague other cities throughout the country. A recent review by a researcher at SUNY found no evidence of shifts in the severity of rainfall in Buffalo. Since the breeze off of Lake Erie cools the city, there was only one 90-degree day in 2019.¹⁶ It also appears unlikely that the Great Lakes coastlines will experience substantial rise, or that the region will have to deal with high intensity storms.¹⁷ Mayor Brown went so far as to refer to Buffalo as a "Climate Refuge City" in his 2019 State of the City Address.¹⁸ The Mayor has also taken steps to climate-proof the city, such as installing LED street lights, planting trees, upgrading the sewer system, and placing solar panels on city buildings. As such, Buffalo has become a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community.¹⁹

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS

Like many older cities, Buffalo has a combined sewer system that conveys both wastewater and stormwater in a shared pipe and transfers both to the same treatment plant.²⁰ When the volume of water in these pipes exceeds their maximum capacity, they overflow into local streams, rivers, and Lake Erie, introducing bacterial and chemical pollutants.²¹ These Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) in Buffalo occur predominantly along the Buffalo River, Niagara River, and the shore of Lake Erie with the highest concentrations appearing to occur along Black Rock Canal and Cazenovia Creek (see Figure 3).

Buffalo is taking several measures to reduce CSOs in the area. In 2014, the Buffalo Sewer Authority created its Long Term Control Plan, identifying strategies to reduce CSOs such as green infrastructure, optimizing system storage through real time control, and upgrading aging parts of the wastewater treatment system.²² The department has recently updated those plans in the Raincheck 2.0 report which emphasized green infrastructure, and is also

currently in the process of installing sixteen smart sewer complexes across Buffalo. These updated systems use predictive analytics to determine when flows are safe to transfer into local waterways.²³ In the nonprofit world, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper has been an important educator and advocate, promoting green stormwater infrastructure such as permeable pavers, rain barrels, downspout disconnections, and rain gardens.²⁴

Although Buffalo's vacant lots are largely considered a bane, they appear to be a windfall with regards to stormwater management. These thousands of vacant residential lots throughout the city allow for infiltration, reducing the amount of stormwater entering sewers during storms that cause overflow events. The Buffalo Sewer Authority is currently measuring the impact of these vacant lots in reducing CSOs in partnership with the EPA.²⁵

Parks in Buffalo

OVERVIEW

Since Olmsted's original design for a Buffalo park system in 1868, parks have played a crucial role in city life. Today, thanks in part to this original system as well as a series of county parks, smaller neighborhood level parks, and ambitious larger park projects, roughly 90 percent of Buffalo residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. This is an impressive number, as the national average for the country's hundred largest cities is only 55 percent. With regards to park equity, there does not appear to be any major variation in the level of service based on race or income.²⁶ Overall, Buffalo ranks #38 in The Trust for Public Land's ParkScore, a ranking of park systems in the country's largest 100 cities. Buffalo's ranking rose from #51 in 2018 and #47 in 2019 to #43 in 2020. This is partly a reflection of a change in TPL's methodology to include private spending as part of our scoring, which also happened to coincide with spending by philanthropists such as the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation and private groups such as the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy. Their spending adds considerably to the overall Buffalo spending number, providing roughly 27 percent of the total spending on parks in Buffalo. The ParkScore methodology also weights equity, and Buffalo does well even as challenges remain.

While Buffalo scored excellent with regards to access, the overall system acreage was low, with only 8 percent of land used for parks (the national median is 15 percent). The 2021 ParkScore results, which had a particular focus on racial equity, revealed that this lack of park acreage is felt most acutely by communities of color. Residents in neighborhoods of color have access to 8 percent less park space per person than the city median and 53 percent less than those in white neighborhoods.

The efforts of philanthropists and private groups, including donations, has meant that Buffalo spending on parks continues to climb from \$54 per resident in 2017 to \$66 in 2018, \$86 in 2019, and to \$98 per resident in 2021, slightly above the national median of \$98. (See section 3, Benchmarking, for a more in-depth breakdown of park spending in Buffalo). Buffalo scored relatively strongly with regards to amenities (see Figure 6). While access was high to basketball courts (85th percentile), bathrooms (69th percentile), and splashpads (86th percentile), the numbers of dog parks and playgrounds centers were below the 50th percentile.²⁷

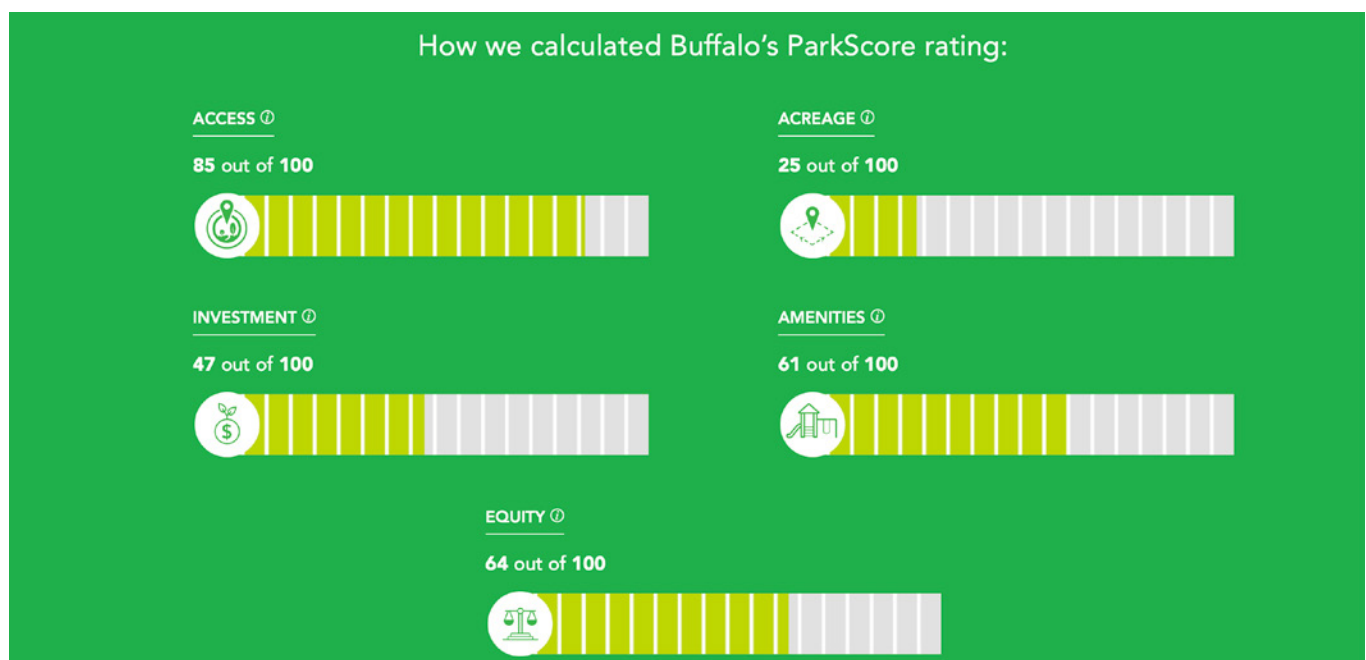
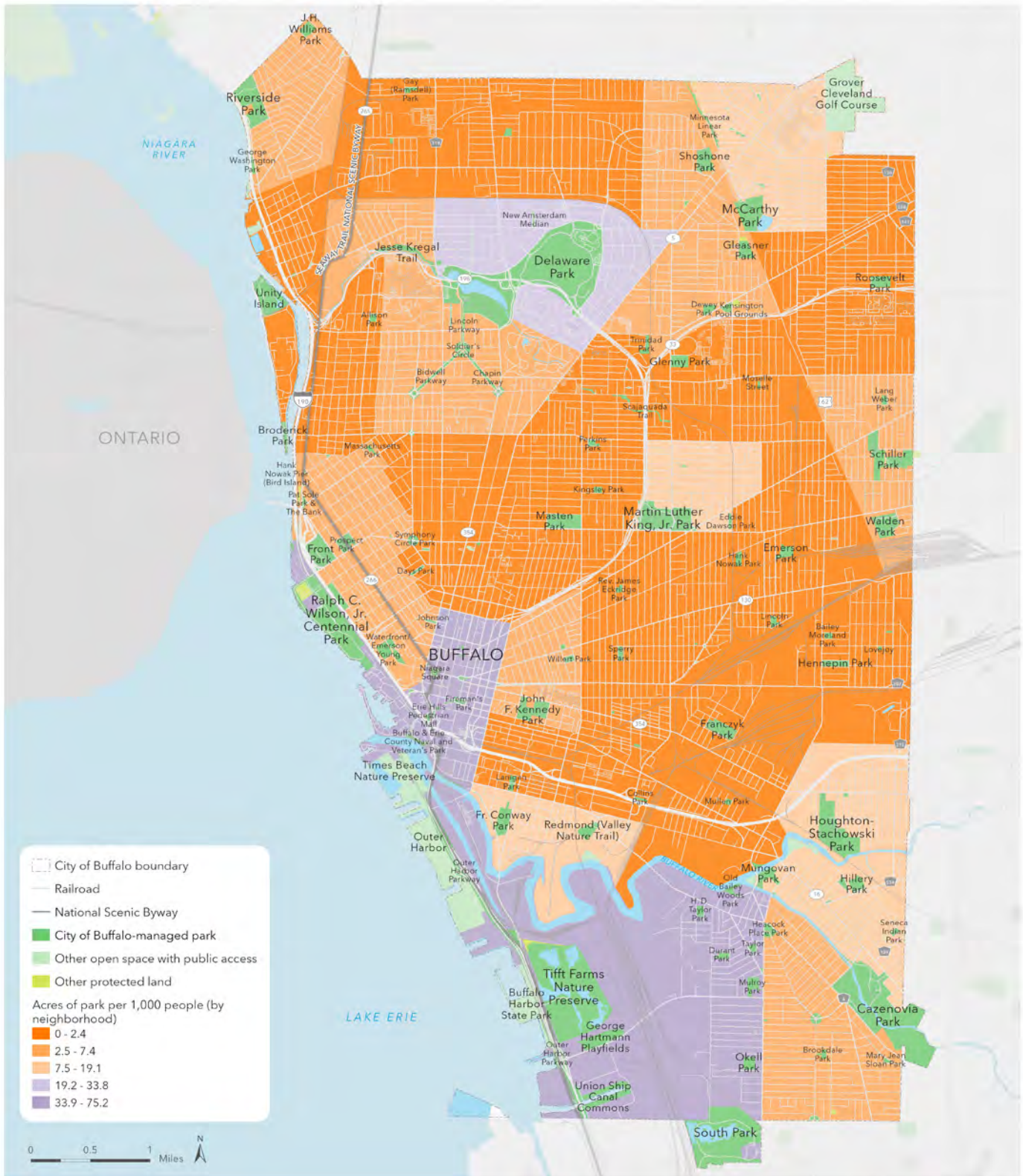


FIGURE 6. A breakdown of Buffalo's ParkScore ranking



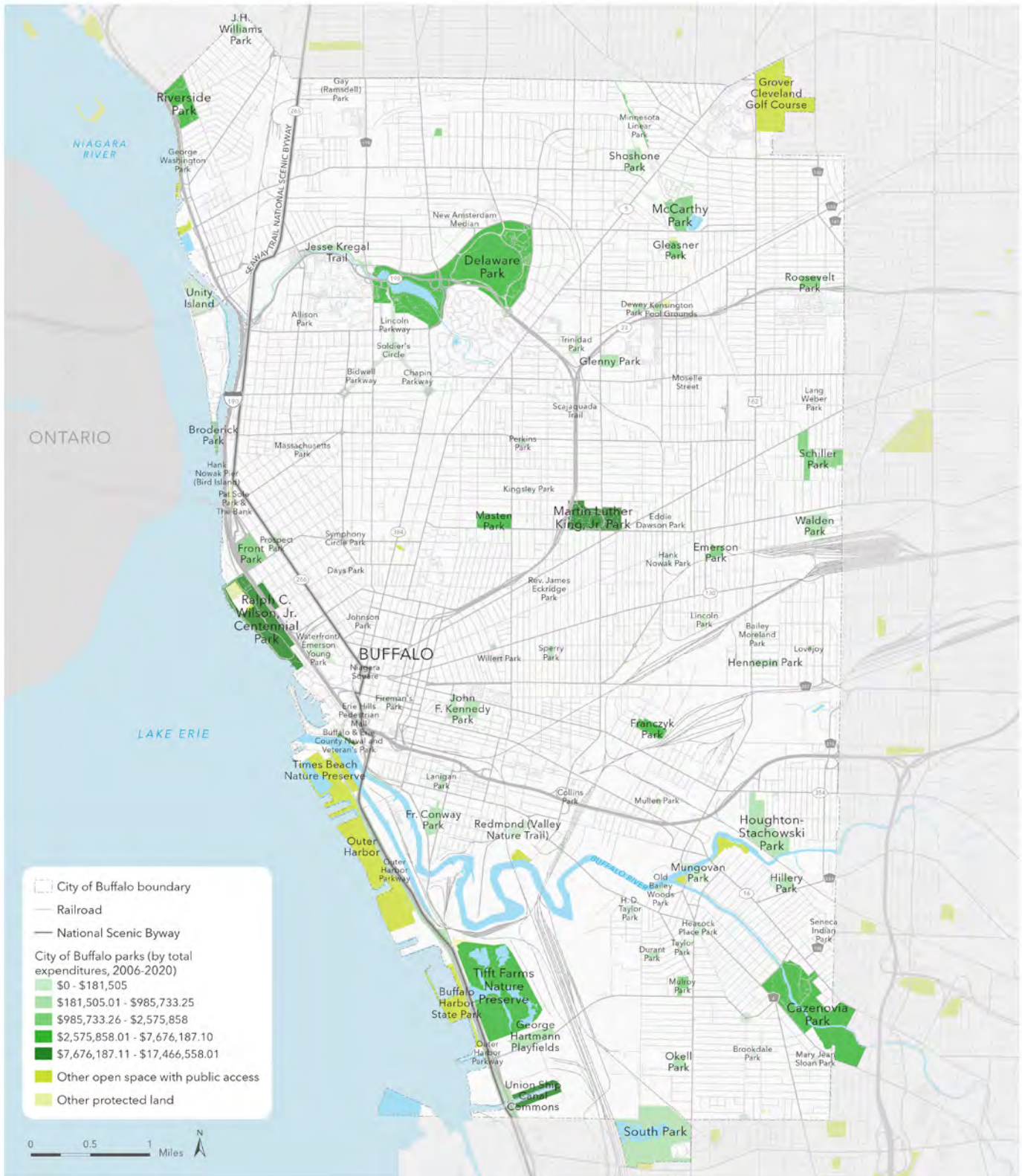
Acres of park per 1,000 people

BUFFALO PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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FIGURE 5. Park Acres per 1,000 residents by neighborhood



Capital encumbrances 2006 - 2020

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FIGURE 7. Capital Spending on City of Buffalo Parks

PARK MANAGEMENT

The primary park managers in Buffalo are the city’s Division of Parks and Recreation within the Department of Public Works; Erie County Parks, Recreation and Forestry; and New York State Parks (which manages Buffalo Harbor State Park). Although Erie County Parks, Recreation and Forestry took over management of the city park system in 2004, the decision was reversed seven years later, and today Buffalo’s City parks are again managed by the city, in partnership with multiple non-profit organizations as listed below, with the county managing the seven county parks within the City of Buffalo.

TABLE 3: PARKS IN BUFFALO BY MANAGER

Agency Name	Total Acres Parkland	Total Agency Units
Buffalo Division of Parks and Recreation	1,869	209
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy	851	22
Buffalo Museum of Science	264	1
Ralph Wilson Park Conservancy (Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park)	87	1
Buffalo Urban Development Corporation (Ship Canal Commons)	22	1
Buffalo Place	4	9
Saving Grace Ministries (Perkins Park)	1	2
Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (Pat Sole Park)	1	1
Buffalo Naval Park Committee Inc.	3	1
Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry (within Buffalo)	93	6
New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	190	1
Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (Outer Harbor)	208	1

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy’s agreement with the City of Buffalo covers roughly 850 acres of parkland throughout the city. Originally formed in 1978 as The Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks, an agreement was signed in 2004 coordinating maintenance and management of the historic Olmsted system. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, his son John, and Calvert Vaux, the historic park and parkway system was built between 1867 and 1903. The system was the nation’s first attempt at creating a city-wide park system. Today, it contains six of the city’s largest parks (Delaware, Riverside, The Front, Martin Luther King Jr., Cazenovia, and South) and is connected by a network of broad parkways. In addition to being the setting for outdoor recreation, the parks also host the Museum of Science in Martin Luther King Jr. Park, the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens in South Park, and the Buffalo History Museum and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Delaware Park.

PARK PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Buffalo’s city parks provide an enormous asset to the community with regards to their ability to host local events. In 2019, Buffalo’s city parks hosted over 1,800 sporting events and roughly 1,300 other permitted events, from large gatherings and parades to small birthday parties and picnics. The Division of Parks and Recreation manages some programming directly (for example, the City’s aquatics program) while also reviewing applications and issuing permits for all sports, rentals, and special events in parks, unless otherwise specified through a partnership agreement. The Department of Community Services and Recreational Programming is also a major provider of

recreational programs in parks. The department funds local organizations and program providers, contracting with not-for-profit agencies throughout the City of Buffalo to provide services to the city's residents, largely focusing on youth and seniors.

Relevant Plans and Recent Projects

In the past decade, Buffalo has seen great progress with regards to park master planning efforts. This section will review some of the most relevant plans, with more recent plans presented first.

REVISIONING FOR ROUTE 33 AND ROUTE 198 (ONGOING)

Routes 33 and 198 have long been criticized in Buffalo for the impacts they have had on neighboring communities, as well as their disruption to Olmsted's original vision for the city. Recently, many advocates have called for major modifications of these routes, including downsizing to a boulevard or covering with decking and building a parkway. At the time of writing, the futures of these freeways are still being debated at the city and state levels.

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL (SHORELINE TRAIL) (2021)

In January of 2017, Governor Cuomo announced his plan to create a 750-mile multi-use trail spanning from Buffalo to Albany and from New York City to Canada. Of the 550-mile section from Buffalo to New York City, 85 percent of the trail will be off-road. While in some places this will involve the construction of new trails, in many places it will tie into existing trails, potentially with some improvements. The section of the Empire State Trail passing through Buffalo is known as the Shoreline Trail, as it follows the banks of Lake Erie and the Niagara River. The route will undergo several improvements, including improved wayfinding, ADA accessibility, trail widening, and safety improvements. Construction, funded through NYSDOT and a NYPA Greenway grant, began in 2020 and is scheduled to be completed in 2021.

THE BUFFALO OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM FIVE YEAR PLAN (2019)

The Buffalo Olmsted Park Conservancy's Five Year Plan (2020-2024) is intended to identify implementable steps from the organization's 2005 plan that can be accomplished in this five-year time frame. Recommendations were broken down by the system's five park districts.

RIVERSIDE DISTRICT

- Niagara River Overlook Enhancement: Maintenance improvements to the metal trellis and stonework, as well as replacement of the furnishings and interpretive elements.
- River Rock Garden: New planting and improvements to the irrigation system.
- Riverside Park: Enhancements to the football field, baseball fields, signage, and furnishings.

WEST DISTRICT

- Days Park: Turf restoration to improve drainage, a stronger management plan.
- Front Park: The top priority for front park is the restoration of the park's original tree canopy, in part to mitigate air quality issues from the highway.
- Prospect Park: The restoration of the shelter as a public restroom with the possibility of a new café to raise revenue for maintenance and capital needs, as well as the reconstruction of pathways that have fallen into disrepair.

DELAWARE DISTRICT

- Delaware Park: Reestablishing the perimeter woodland to create separation from the surrounding area and provide habitat, improving the pathway and irrigation in the rose garden, renovating the Point of the Meadow

restroom, renovations for Parkside Lodge, improvements of Colvin and Parkside Playgrounds, reconstruction of the granite steps staircase, and repairs to Marcy Casino.

- Gates Circle: Conduct a cultural landscape report and infrastructure assessment to prepare for full restoration of the circle
- Bidwell Parkway: Turf restoration along the parkway.
- District-wide: Wayfinding and interpretive signage.

MLK JR. DISTRICT

- MLK Jr. Park: Park lighting improvements, more seating, upgrades to picnic areas, reforestation, upgraded picnic tables, renovations of the greenhouse, interpretive signage, replacement and relocation of the east playground, and reconstruction of path network.

SOUTH DISTRICT

- Cazenovia Park Golf Course: General renovations of the clubhouse, enhancements at Crotty Casino, pathway reconstruction, restoration of the South Park Bridge to historic specifications, rehabilitation of the baseball diamonds and soccer field, replacement of playground equipment.
- South Park: Dredging of the lake to address siltation and invasive aquatic plants that have caused eutrophication, and shoreline restoration to address erosion, restoring the arboretum, a new playground, and renovation of the South Park Clubhouse.
- Heacock Place: Enhancements to utility infrastructure.
- Other: Replacing streetlights along the parkway network with the Olmsted standard lighting, district wide interpretive signage and wayfinding upgrades.

RAINCHECK 2.0 (2019)

The Buffalo Sewer Authority's 2019 Raincheck 2.0 examines the potential for using green infrastructure to address the city's CSO issues. The study examines equity, environmental systems, and the urban context of the City to identify six priority CSO Basins, identifies appropriate green infrastructure approaches to address the city's CSO challenges, and provides implementation guidelines and strategies to support planning and decision making to engage stakeholders and property owners in planning and funding of green infrastructure projects across Buffalo.

CITY OF BUFFALO LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (2018)

Created for the New York State Coastal Management Program and approved in April 2019, the plan establishes policies to protect and safeguard New York State's natural water resources and water-based economic development. Some key takeaways related to parks include:

- Policy Level 1: Water quality and health improvements
 - Prioritize the City of Buffalo Waterfront Revitalization Area, and take a holistic approach to capitalize on interdependency with regional goals
 - Safeguard quality and quantity of Great Lakes water
 - Promote water industry and enliven the waterfront to attract public
- Policy Level 2: Identifies key sites and hubs for waterfront development
 - Carve out future land use plans and unified development ordinances in support of waterfront development
 - Create water enhanced mixed used development districts
 - Implement action strategy projects
 - Implement community connection strategies to bring Buffalo's resident community closer to the Lake Erie/Niagara River waterfront

- Parks Opportunities Referenced
 - Olmsted Parks – operations and maintenance planning
 - LaSalle Park – opportunity for U.S./Canada travel
 - Niagara Parkway – bike and pedestrian trail system
 - Black Rock Canal Park
 - Riverfest Park – bike and pedestrian waterfront connector
 - Scajaquada Corridor – remedy the disconnect at Delaware Park created by construction of Scajaquada Expressway
 - Black Rock Canal Park – launch dock improvements and gateway features
 - Broderick Park – master planning; shore stabilization
- Highlights local capital funding for improvements (Section IV)

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE (2018)

The Erie County parks system includes nearly 10,000 acres of recreational land throughout the county. The department’s 2018 master plan updated assess the condition of each of the parks, heard from local residents, and prioritized future park improvements.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

Engagement findings included:

- Use of existing facilities is low, excluding Chestnut Ridge and Riverwalk
- Trails and pathways are the most used amenities, followed by picnic shelters and playgrounds
- Participants felt that preserving natural areas (49 percent) and protecting the environment (46 percent) should be the department’s top priorities
- The top future priorities for improvement include lake quality (87 percent rated as important), trail and pathway connectivity (82 percent), and restrooms (80 percent).
- Improvements to existing park conditions and maintenance ranked as a top priority.
- While community members support an increase in funding, they were generally opposed to any funding strategy that will increase their tax rates.
- Improved communication and awareness of county parks was a major priority.

PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR ERIE COUNTY PARKS LOCATED IN BUFFALO THOMAS F. HIGGINS NATURAL HABITAT PARK (BAILEY PENINSULA)

Identified issues in this park included loss of trees to beaver damage, litter and disruption of critical habitats, the lack of a greenway connection to other riverfront parks and trails, security upgrades, signage, invasive species, and challenges to pedestrian access due to fast traffic on Bailey Avenue.

Action items include:

- Install security camera system that tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.
- Improve park signage, with wayfinding and directional signage to new parking area and park, as well as interpretive signage in the park.
- Provide typical park signage on Bailey Avenue.
- Improve the health of the Buffalo River and Cazenovia Creek.

BLACK ROCK CANAL

Current challenges at Black Rock Canal include combined sewer outfall under the access road, a lack of connection to the neighborhood due to I-190, poor maintenance conditions in the “Bark Park”, crime, and vandalism.

Action items include:

- Consider consolidating the dog park if maintenance issues continue.
- Provide additional sculptural elements along the aviary walk.
- Improve and maintain the walk and plaza.
- Possible improvements to I-190 underpass to park; potential public art/murals, additional lighting to improve safety, etc.

GROVER CLEVELAND GOLF COURSE

Grover Cleveland Golf Course sits adjacent to the University of Buffalo South Campus.

Priorities for the park include:

- Improve drainage; improving the playability of the course.
- Restore the Schenck House structure and associated out-buildings. Potential exists for an Erie County heritage-related museum, upgraded golf course-related facility, meeting rooms, etc.
- Maximize access and visibility to Main Street.
- Plant additional trees and shrubs along Main Street and Bailey Avenue to improve playability of the course.

RED JACKET RIVERFRONT NATURAL HABITAT PARK

Construction at Red Jacket aimed at ecological restoration concluded in 2017 and was able to ameliorate issues related to invasive species, shoreline erosion and habitat loss. However, the site continues to suffer from abuse and mistreatment on the river (e.g. litter, dumping, etc.), a lack of connectivity to other riverfront parks, deteriorating railings, security issues, a lack of interpretive signage, invasive species, and a lack of pedestrian connectivity.

Specific action items at Red Jacket include:

- Repairing the rails at the overlook
- Promoting public access to the river through trails, overlook, and a possible kayak launch and/or fishing deck
- Collaborate with local artists and neighbors to enhance public art
- Replace existing gateway signage
- Improve connectivity to other Habitat Parks as well as other parks through greenways, rails to trails initiatives, or bike routes

SENECA BLUFFS

Located along the Buffalo River, Seneca Bluffs faces many of the same issues as Red Jacket (e.g. mistreatment on the river, a lack of connectivity to other riverfront parks, security issues, a lack of interpretive signage, and invasive species). High level recommendations include:

- Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park by incorporating volunteers, county employees, and contractors.
- Repair and improve the rails at the overlook.
- Provide interpretive signage in the park.
- Establish gateway signage for the park.
- Install a water line at the site to properly manage native plantings and possible support a community garden in the future.
- Install a security camera system, tying into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.

TIMES BEACH NATURE PRESERVE

Times Beach is located on the Outer Harbor. The site is owned by the City of Buffalo but maintained by the county. The Army Corps of Engineers recently completed a five-year invasive species removal at the site. Current issues at the park include graffiti and other types of abuse, the lack of security, the lack of park signage, and invasive species.

Priorities include:

- Providing signage and gateway treatment off of Furhmann Blvd
- Improving the park's trails and boardwalks
- Greater partnership between stakeholders in park upkeep
- Improve tree health
- Increase connectivity to other parks
- Installing security cameras
- Bank stabilization and erosion control, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction, to support water health Lake Erie.



The view of the marsh at Times Beach. © ERIE COUNTY PARKS

TOW PATH PARK

Tow Path Park sits adjacent to the Shoreline Trail which connects bikers, joggers, and walkers to a variety of waterfront destinations along the Niagara River. Current challenges at the site include the lack of formal restrooms, lack of connection to the community and separation due to I-190, and the deteriorating railing along the waterfront.

Priorities for the park include:

- Security cameras
- Wayfinding signage along Hertel Avenue and Niagara Street
- Improved pedestrian connectivity, including street trees, and on-road bike lanes

STATE OF PLAY: WESTERN NEW YORK (2017)

The Aspen Institute's State of Play reports assess access to sports opportunities in cities across the country. The 2017 review of Western New York gave the region a C+.

Specific takeaways for Buffalo include:

- There is a need for an indoor sports complex.
- The report noted recent improvements in maintenance and safety, but concluded that per capita spending lags, and suggested a stronger relationship between city parks and private donors, including the possibility of naming rights, and cited several success stories.
- The report noted maintenance needs in older parks and the fact that community-led efforts, such as in the case of Massachusetts Avenue Park, have had some success in this area.
- The community schools initiative has created new venues for sports. Lafayette International Community School functions as a community center on Saturdays, where West Side International Soccer utilizes the school's basketball courts for indoor futsal.

BUFFALO BLUEWAY (2017)

A product of Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, the Buffalo Blueway plan aims to create a network of safe and equitable water access points on waterways throughout Erie County. In addition to access, the plan calls for the creation of wayfinding and artwork along the trail, hoping to entice locals and attract visitors.²⁸ The state has already invested \$10 million to implement the plan through its Buffalo Billion II, and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation has awarded \$3 million for the implementation of the plan.²⁹ Work is already underway on the Blueway, and 2019 projects included a mural at Buffalo RiverWorks and markers and interpretive and safety signage at the RiverWorks, Wilkeson Pointe, and Mutual Riverfront Park. The Buffalo Blueway website helps potential users plan their trip, finding access points and creating an itinerary.

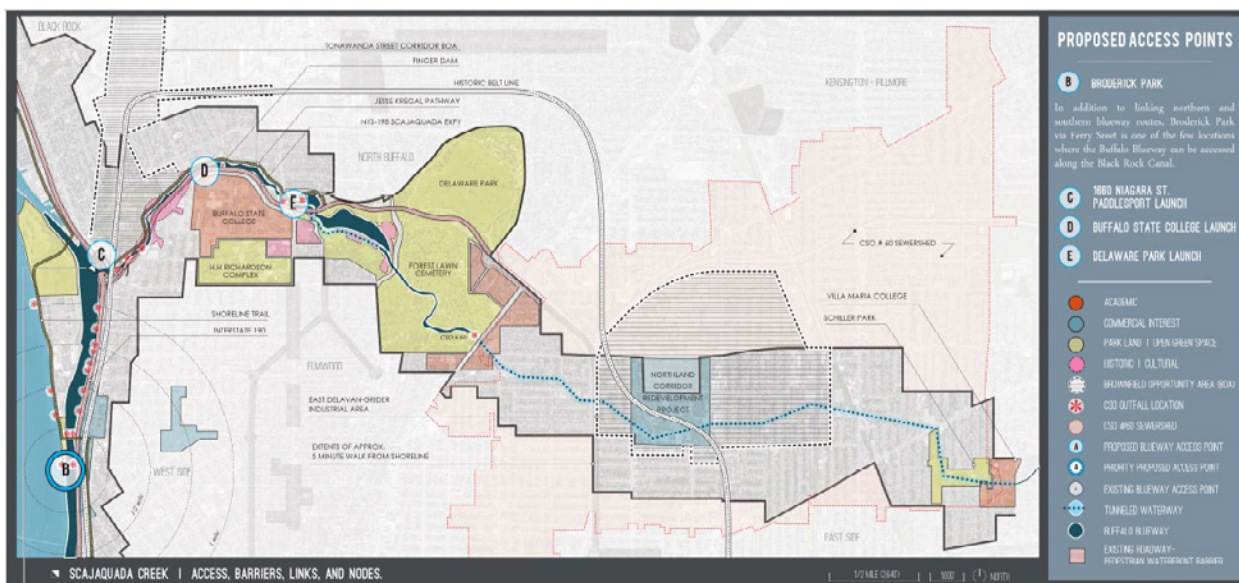


FIGURE 8. Proposed Access Points of the Buffalo Blueway

BUFFALO GREEN CODE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (2016)

The Buffalo Green Code is Buffalo's 2016 update to the city's zoning code, and is intended to help implement the city's 2006 comprehensive plan. The plan was Buffalo's first comprehensive zoning update since 1953, and largely adheres to the concept of form-based planning, supporting Buffalo's tradition of mixed-use development.

Three zoning codes relate to parks and open space (see Figure 9). They are:

D-OS ZONE

4.8.1 PURPOSE

The D-OS zone addresses formal squares, often located at the intersection of important thoroughfares, enclosed by building facades along most of their perimeter, and designed for intensive public use.

4.8.7 SPECIFIC STANDARDS

- A. The square must be organized around one or more central markers, such as a fountain or sculpture, to establish orientation and identity.
- B. The square should be sized proportional to its anticipated public use; i.e. on a temperate, sunny day, it would be inhabited by no less than one person per 300 square feet of publicly accessible surface area.
- C. Circulation within the square must follow the probable desire lines of its users, connecting pedestrians to rights-of-way on which the square abuts, entrances to buildings adjacent to the square, and major design features of the square, such as seating areas or open air cafes.
- D. No surface area of the square that is intended for public use may be more than two feet above or below the adjacent sidewalk level.
- E. Squares must be surfaced with durable, high quality impervious or semi-pervious materials, such as concrete, brick, or stone pavers, for a minimum of 25 percent of the surface area.
- F. To ensure comfort for the public, no surface area intended for public circulation may be sloped, unless required for stormwater management or to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- G. One linear foot of seating must be provided for each linear foot of square perimeter. Six types of seating may be used to satisfy the seating requirements: movable seating, fixed individual seats, fixed benches, seat walls, planter ledges, and seating steps. Deterrents to seating, such as spikes, rails, or deliberately uncomfortable materials or shapes, placed on surfaces that would be suitable for seating are prohibited.
- H. Trees, if provided, must be formally arranged to frame spaces within the square.
- I. Site design should incorporate sustainable landscape practices, in accordance with the Sustainable Sites Initiative Rating System and Guide.
- J. A square must not contain driveways, parking spaces, passenger drop-offs, garage entrances, loading berths, exhaust vents, mechanical equipment, or refuse or recycling storage.
- K. The following exterior facade materials are prohibited on principal buildings:
 - 1. Reflective wall surface material with a Visible Light Reflectance (VLR) of greater than 15 percent.

D-OG ZONE

4.9.1 PURPOSE

The D-OG zone addresses civic greens and parks, characterized primarily by trees and landscape, framed by landscape elements or building facades, and designed for passive or recreational use.

4.9.7 SPECIFIC STANDARDS

- A. Paths within the green must provide convenient routes to abutting thoroughfares and to destinations within the green, but may meander to take advantage of view corridors or topographical or landscape features.
- B. Site design should incorporate sustainable landscape practices, in accordance with the Sustainable Sites Initiative Rating System and Reference Guide.
- C. The following exterior facade materials are prohibited on principal buildings:
 - 1. Reflective wall surface material with a Visible Light Reflectance (VLR) of greater than 15 percent.

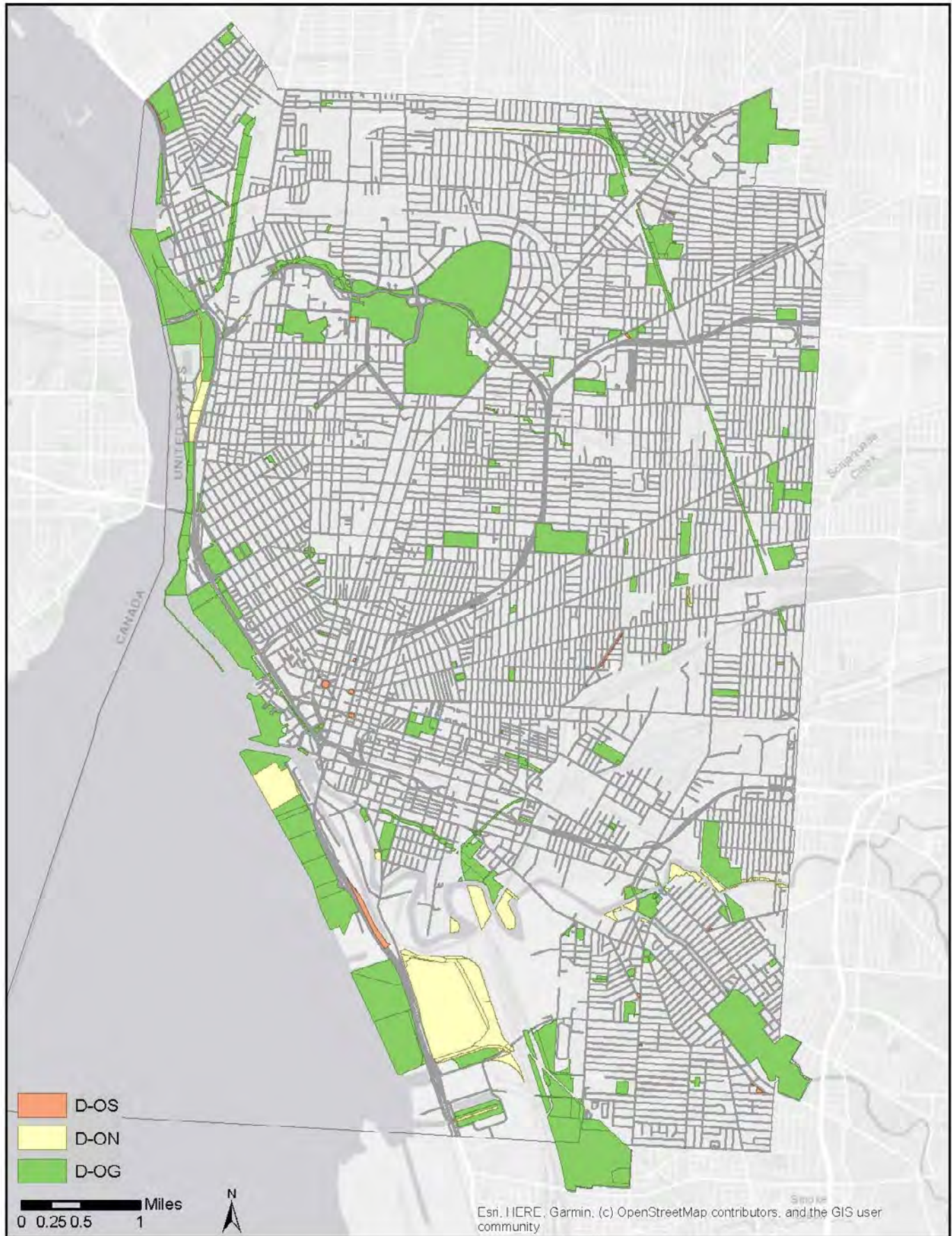


FIGURE 9. Buffalo's Parks and Open Spaces by Green Code Zone

D-ON ZONE

4.10.1 PURPOSE

The D-ON zone addresses open spaces that are maintained in a predominantly undeveloped state, and typically set aside for land conservation, passive recreation, and ecological restoration.

4.10.7 SPECIFIC STANDARDS

- A. Trails and related public amenities, such as boardwalks, pavilions, and observation towers, are encouraged provided they do not negatively impact sensitive habitats.
- B. Substantial alteration to existing topography and landscape is permitted only as necessary to restore ecosystem services or a natural, predevelopment condition.
- C. Native vegetation, such as grasses, shrubs, and trees, may be disturbed only as necessary to control noxious or invasive vegetation or to remove dead, dying, or diseased vegetation. Where removal of native vegetation is unavoidable to facilitate civic uses or public access, native or naturalized vegetation must be replaced in kind elsewhere on the site.
- D. Materials used for elements, features, and objects within the site should use muted, natural colors. Bright, reflective colors, including white, are discouraged.
- E. Site design should incorporate sustainable landscape design practices, in accordance with the Sustainable Sites Initiative Rating System and Reference Guide.
- F. The following exterior facade materials are prohibited on principal buildings:
 1. Reflective wall surface material with a Visible Light Reflectance (VLR) of greater than 15 percent.

DOWNTOWN BUFFALO INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC REALM MASTER PLAN (2015)

Created for the Buffalo Urban Development Corporation by Urban Strategies Inc., TWLA, and Fisher Associates, the plan emphasizes recommendations for public investments on key downtown streets and open spaces, including formal park spaces, public gathering spaces and non-conventional open spaces (classified as ‘Special Urban Spaces’). The plan highlights the cultural value and vitality that outdoor Special Urban Spaces play on the history of Buffalo and the downtown experience. Some key takeaways for park planning include:

- Emphasizes the importance of increasing reliance and quality of non-vehicle transportation mobility to/from public spaces as a means to increase use
- Emphasizes the importance of infrastructure investment such as wayfinding and lighting as a means to make current/plan downtown open spaces more inviting
- Identifies current oversupply of surface parking lots as a potential opportunity to expand and/or increase the number of public spaces downtown thru both temporary and permanent open space improvements
 - New park space creation
 - Flower district concept
- Identifies the development of an assembled Green Waterfront as a priority opportunity to enhance destination quality of downtown
 - Recommends integrating pedestrian/bike pathways along the existing waterfront
- Recommends incorporating street network diets along critical corridors as a means to increasing the appeal of bicycling
 - Pedestrian and bike access are critically compromised in downtown Buffalo, these corridor improvements can help increase interest and access to public spaces

RECREATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY: THE SOUTH BUFFALO BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA (2015)

The 2015 Recreational Needs Assessment Study was commissioned by the Buffalo Urban Development Corporation as part of New York State’s Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) program. The program offers grants to local

governments and community groups to develop area-wide revitalization strategies for neighborhoods or areas affected by brownfields or economic distress, as well as potential tax credits.

The South Buffalo Brownfield Opportunity Area (SBBOA) was home to steel plants and associated industries for most of the last century. The Recreational Needs Assessment was part of a larger effort to create a mixed-use community near the shores of Lake Erie and the Buffalo River within this 2,000-acre waterfront site. The assessment was interested in gauging the area's recreational opportunity, with a particular focus on the potential for an indoor sports facility.

Key findings of the study included:

- “Most sports fields were in fair to good condition, and in need of common repairs including drainage improvement, regrading, weed removal, and installation of amenities (fences, benches, paths).”
- Recreational facilities were generally lacking on Buffalo’s West Side.
- Despite a declining population, pressure on Buffalo’s recreational assets has increased in the past 40 years, partly due to the growth of adult sports programs.
- “User demand in Buffalo aligned with a 30-year national trend indicating demand decreases for basketball and tennis courts, but an increase in demand for baseball and softball diamonds, as well as for rectangular sports fields. Anecdotal information gathered through user group interviews confirmed that both City-based non-profit and for-profit recreational youth and adult sports programs are now constrained by a lack of field space facilities in particular.”
- There is a significant need for more ball fields and rectangular field space.
- There is a strong demand for additional indoor turf/training facilities, including “a critical mass of ‘pay-to-play’ users [that] was readily identified as including existing outdoor adult leagues, new indoor adult leagues, City-based travel, premier, and other membership soccer programs, regional baseball and softball programs (for off-season training), and City-based collegiate and private high school programs (off-season training).”
- “The merit of such a facility development opportunity and business operation option includes quality of life improvement for City of Buffalo and regional residents, contribution to the overall marketability of the City of Buffalo, a financially-sustainable business operation that should not require private sector investment or subsidy, and economic impact through both business operation and generation of incremental retail traffic and spending by users.”

NIAGARA RIVER HABITAT CONSERVATION STRATEGY (2014)

The Buffalo Niagara River Keeper’s 2014 Niagara River Habitat Conservation Strategy creates a strategy for pursuing opportunities to conserve biodiversity/ecology, and improve the environmental health trajectory in the Niagara watershed. The plan details the last six miles of lower Buffalo River and the entire Niagara River connecting channel as 2 of 42 Great Lakes Areas of Concern (toxic hotspots). Key contributions that could inform future park planning include:

- Highlights several goals of restorative watershed improvements:
 - Improve water quality
 - Improve terrestrial habitat to support plant/animal life
 - Restore habitat connectivity and natural hydrology
- These goals mirror downstream watershed objectives noted in related plans – notably water improvement objectives highlighted in the Olmsted Parks Plan
- Distilled available data to identify specific indicators for regional watershed viability analysis
 - Aquatic: stream miles, impervious surface, barriers
 - Wetlands: level of protection based on quality, size, connections
 - Grass/Shrub-lands: breeding opportunities for regional birds

- Natural Areas: landscape quality; semi-protected
- Plant and Animal Species: presence of rare/historic plant species or communities
- Identifies critical threats to the regional watershed
 - Aquatic Habitat: runoff, erosion of riparian buffers
 - Wetlands: invasive species and roadside management practices
 - Terrestrial Features: fragmentation from roads
 - Grasslands/Shrublands: acreage loss due to mowing regimes
 - Climate Change: change in natural cycles and increased damage to property (storm severity)
- Identifies Conservation Objectives
 - Aquatic Habitat: Increase stream buffers and reduce impervious surfaces
 - Grasslands: Increase acreage and habitat value
 - Stewardship: Build partnerships between municipalities and coastal areas with shared resources; increase conservation
- Identifies readily available funding resources from Federal, State and private entity sources

THE BUFFALO OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM: PLAN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (2008)

The Olmsted Conservancies 2008 plan provides a historical framework and functional significance of the Olmsted Park system with respect to parks and recreation assets in greater Buffalo. It emphasizes challenges and restoration opportunities around the six original Olmsted Parks: Delaware Park, Front Park, MLK Park, South Park, Cazenovia Park, and Riverside Park.

NOTEWORTHY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FUTURE PARKS PLANNING:

- Contributing role Olmsted Parks play in the identity of Buffalo parks system with an emphasis on preserving parks role as the critical link between people and access to water.
- Emphasizes Olmsted Parks as an anchor to greater local open space system.
- Identifies the value and contributing qualities of Buffalo’s street network to the park system. Recommends improvements and continued integration of parkways, traffic circles, linear parks and boulevards as systemic connections and transitional assets for the parks system.



Community members review the updated design for Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park in March, 2020. © UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO REGIONAL INSTITUTE

RECENT PARK MASTER PLANS

RALPH C. WILSON, JR. CENTENNIAL PARK (ONGOING)

Currently underway, the Imagine LaSalle project is part of an ambitious effort to reimagine Buffalo's 77-acre waterfront LaSalle Park, transforming it into the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. The project is a collaboration between the City of Buffalo, the University of Buffalo's Regional Institute, and several major design firms, and was funded through a \$50 million donation by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. Since its initiation in the summer of 2018, the project has involved community members throughout, reaching over one thousand residents in its initial discovery phase. Currently, the project team is working through detailed designs of specific park features (e.g., the playground, pedestrian bridge) and soliciting community feedback. Project construction is scheduled to kick off in 2021 with the park's pedestrian bridge.

THE RIVERLINE (2021)

Located on NFTA property and led by the Western New York Land Conservancy, the proposed 1.5-mile linear park, named the Riverline, would aim to connect people to the Buffalo River and create access to nature in an industrialized area near downtown Buffalo. While not located on City of Buffalo parkland, the proposed Riverline would make it easier to access the parks and kayak launches along the Buffalo River, as well as the Empire State Trail, Canalside, the Outer Harbor, and Larkinville. A concept design was finalized in July 2021 to turn the abandoned DL&W railroad into an urban nature trail with woodlands, meadows, wetlands, and bridges that will create overlooks.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY: SEARS, ROOSEVELT, AND LANG WEBER PARKS (2021)

Carried out between 2020 and 2021, this study was conducted by the Regional Plan Association in collaboration with New City Parks. Funded by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, the study aimed to create preliminary designs and budget estimates for three City of Buffalo parks, with the goal that these design packets could be used to seek out funding to implement these improvements. The decision to focus on Sears, Roosevelt, and Lang Weber Parks was based on the results of this plan's Co-Benefits map results (see Section 5), along with input from the Division of Parks and Recreation, after conducting site visits aimed at identifying sites with a high need for upgrades. Following a successful grant application, the city and New City Parks plan to do focused outreach in each neighborhood to better understand specific community needs.

BUFFALO OUTER HARBOR CIVIC AND LAND USE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GENERAL PROJECT PLAN (2020)

The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation ("ECHDC"), a subsidiary of the New York State Urban Development Corporation, took over the 208-acre Outer Harbor site in 2013. The approved 2020 plan for the site will preserve the outer harbor site as public open space, while adding pathways, new parking, boat launches, and other improvements to be built out over the next 20 years.

CITY OF BUFFALO PARKS & BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES SURVEY & DESIGN DEVELOPMENT (2019)

In April 2019, the design and engineering firm SWBR submitted design drawings and cost estimates for improvements to several Buffalo parks and schools, including Glenny Park, Masten Park, All High Stadium, Grabiarz School, JFK Park, McCarthy Park, Mungovan Park, F.L. Olmsted PS # 156, Riverside High School, Seneca (MST) High School PS # 197, and Waterfront Park. Currently, the Division of Parks and Recreation and Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) are conducting due diligence on the items, reviewing the cost estimates and site usage, and no decision has been made regarding these improvements. If the schoolyard improvements are made, the sites would become available to the public during non-school hours, effectively adding to the local park acreage.

BUFFALO NAVAL PARK (2018)

The Buffalo Naval Park was created in 1976, when the U.S. Navy agreed to grant the decommissioned destroyer USS The Sullivans and the Guided Missile Cruiser USS Little Rock for the park's use. The park continued to grow over the years, incorporating new exhibits like the WWII submarine USS Croaker (SSK-246) in 1988, and moving to their current location in 2008.

In response to recent developments along the waterfront (e.g. the Queen City Bike Ferry, the HarborCenter, the Canalside area with the commercial slip, boardwalk, and the historic replica canals), BNP released an updated master plan in July 2018 with the aim of setting a course for the future that would allow the park to accommodate the ever increasing visitation rates. The 2018 master plan identified the potential for a property expansion onto adjacent City of Buffalo-owned land, improvements in interpretive signage and wayfinding, a plan for arranging new monuments, new lighting, increased building and patio space, a bicycle corral, and creating a stronger sense of entry through more pronounced gateways.



FIGURE 11. Buffalo Naval Park Master Plan

BRODERICK PARK MASTER PLAN (2012)

Broderick Park is one of Buffalo's most historic parks. It is considered to have been a terminus of the Underground Railroad, as this was a common point of crossing into Canada across the Niagara River. A plaque at the site commemorates those who crossed, and the park is listed as a designated Network to Freedom site by the U.S. National Parks Service. The park got an updated master plan in 2012 and recently underwent an \$11 million improvement. Shoreline Trail passes through the park, making access easy and increasing visitation. Currently, the City of Buffalo Arts Commission, the Division of Parks and Recreation, Buffalo Quarters Historical Society, the Friends

of Broderick Park, and Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper are partnering on an engagement effort to understand opportunities to incorporate art into the park.

CONCLUSION

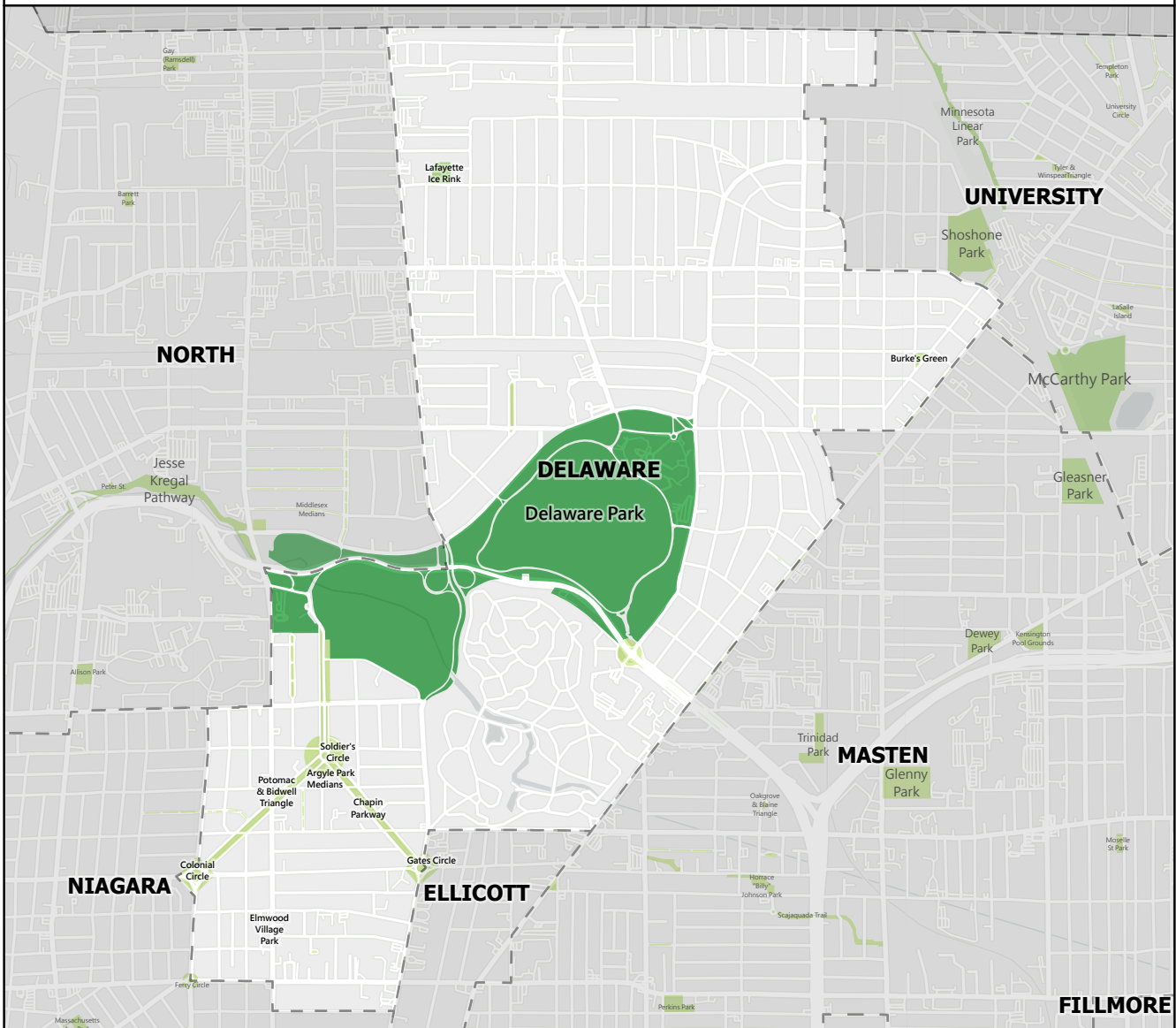
Parks have been a central part of Buffalo life for a century and a half. During that time, the city has known explosive growth and slow decline, great wealth and economic stagnation. Today, the city is on the cusp of an exciting new renaissance. There are many signs of the city's new direction, including the uptick in young people moving to the city, state investment through the Buffalo Billion, ambitious park and recreation planning efforts like the Buffalo Blueway and Imagine LaSalle, and the generous philanthropy of the Ralph C Wilson Foundation's \$100 million dollar commitment for parks and trails. By setting a new direction for Buffalo's city parks, this plan will be a major contributor to the city's future.

1. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/buffalo-population/>
2. <https://www.43north.org/who-we-are/>
3. <https://buffalobillion.ny.gov/buffalo-blueway>
4. <https://www.esri.com/en-us/maps-we-love/gallery/predominant-populations>
5. ACS 5-year estimates used. U.S. Department of Commerce. 2019. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.
6. ACS 5-year estimates used. 2019 represents average characteristics from 2015–2019; 2010 represents 2006–2010. U.S. Department of Commerce. 2019. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.
7. https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/community/minority/docs/mcd_reports/erie_county_city_of_buffalo.pdf
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14. <https://www.tifft.org/about-us/>
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26. <https://www.tpl.org/city/buffalo-new-york>
27. <https://www.tpl.org/city/buffalo-new-york>
28. <https://www.buffalorising.com/2018/05/waterkeepers-soft-opening-of-the-first-dock-and-launch-of-the-buffalo-blueway/>
29. <https://www.wnypapers.com/news/article/current/2018/10/11/134434/buffalo-niagara-waterkeeper-3-million-award-from-ralph-c-wilson-jr-foundation>

APPENDIX 2.

Historic Capital Spending Data in Buffalo City Parks

BUFFALO PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT DELAWARE DISTRICT



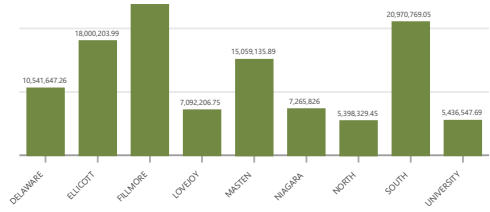
Park	Capital Investment
Argyle Park Medians	23,950
Burke's Green	181,505
Chapin Parkway	0
Colonial Circle	0
Delaware Park	7,676,187

Park	Capital Investment
Elmwood Village Park	0
Gates Circle	211,000
Lafayette Ice Rink	2,449,005
Potomac & Bidwell Triangle	0
Soldier's Circle	0

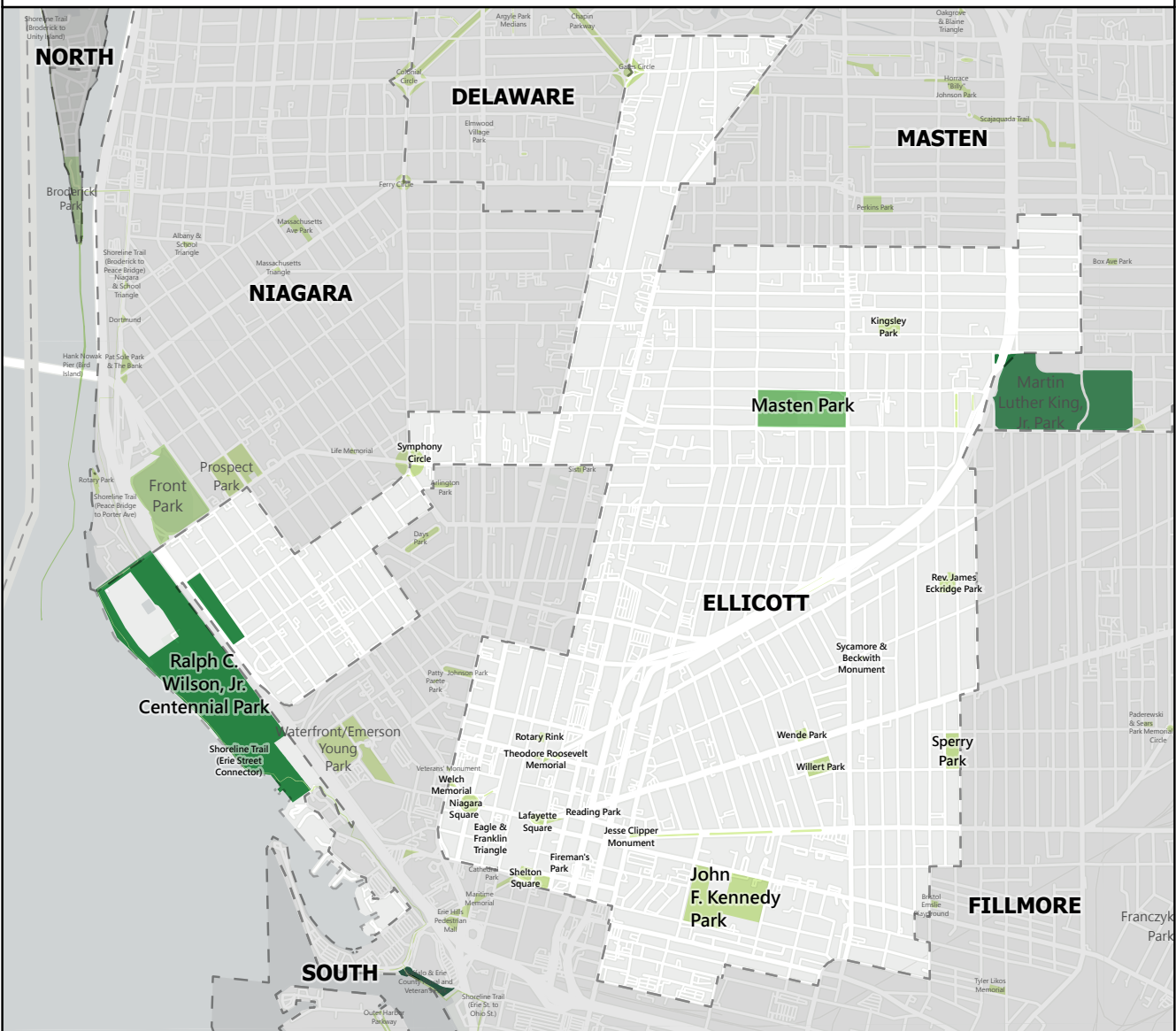


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Park Capital Investment by Council District



BUFFALO PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT ELLICOTT DISTRICT



Park	Capital Investment	Park	Capital Investment	Park	Capital Investment
Eagle & Franklin Triangle	0	Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park	10,706,512	Sycamore & Beckwith Monument	0
Fireman's Park	0	Reading Park	170,000	Symphony Circle	0
Jesse Clipper Monument	471,363	Remembrance Park	0	Theodore Roosevelt Memorial	0
John F. Kennedy Park	388,100	Rev. James Eckridge Park	171,600	Welch Memorial	0
Kingsley Park	69,300	Rotary Rink	0	Wende Park	251,000
Lafayette Square	0	Shelton Square	88,750	Willert Park	122,400
Masten Park	5,131,979	Shoreline Trail (Erie Street Connector)	200,800		
Niagara Square	0	Sperry Park	228,400		

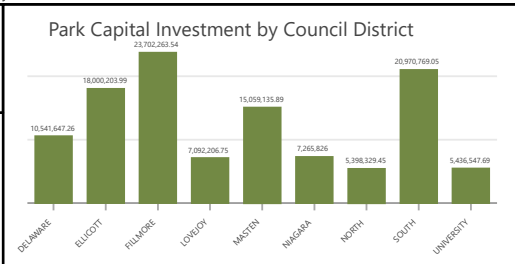
THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

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Parks Capital Investment (\$)

0
17,466,558

Council District Boundary



BUFFALO PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT FILLMORE DISTRICT



Park	Capital Investment	Park	Capital Investment	Park	Capital Investment
1921 WWI Monument	0	Erie Hills Pedestrian Mall	0	Paderewski & Sears Park	0
Arlington Park	0	Fr. Conway Park	350,967	Patty Parete Park	0
Bristol Emslie Playground	125,000	Franczyk Park	3,520,392	Redmond (Valley Nature Trail)	0
Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Veteran's Park	17,466,558	Hank Nowak Park	48,900	Shoreline Trail (Erie St. to Ohio St.)	200,800
Cathedral Park	0	Johnson Park	0	Sisti Park	0
Collins Park	105,160	Lanigan Park	204,300	Tyler Likos Memorial	68,100
Days Park	0	Lincoln Park	86,875	Veterans' Monument	0
Eddie Dawson Park	110,800	Maritime Memorial	0	Waterfront/Emerson Young Park	0
Emerson Park	1,414,412	Memorial Circle	0		

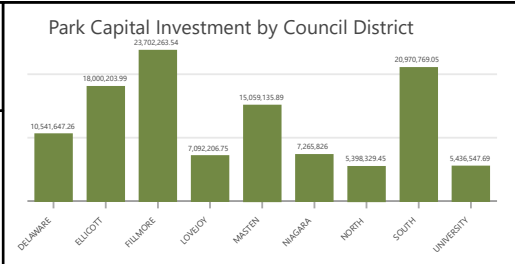


Parks Capital Investment (\$)

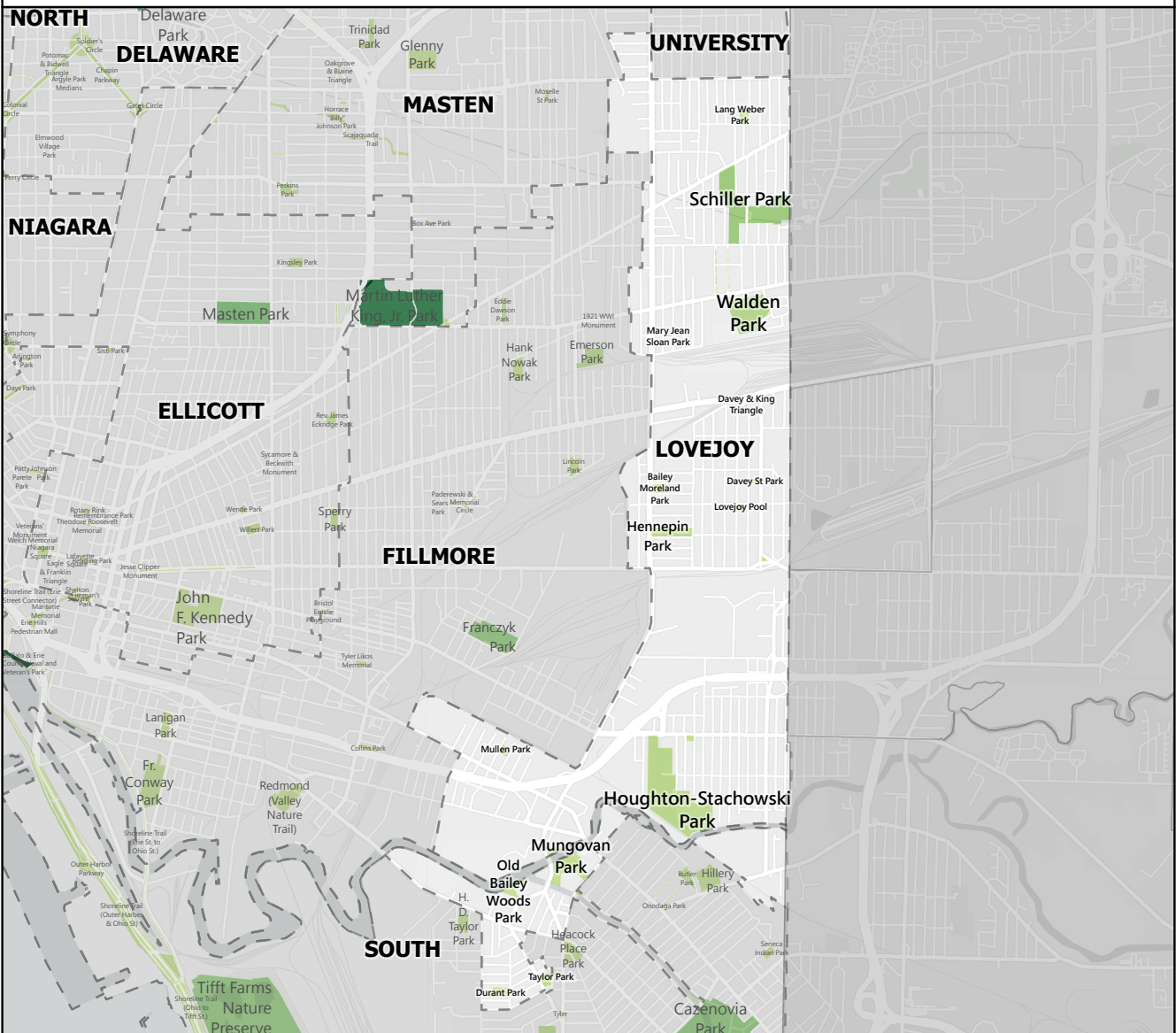
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Council District Boundary

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BUFFALO PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT LOVEJOY DISTRICT



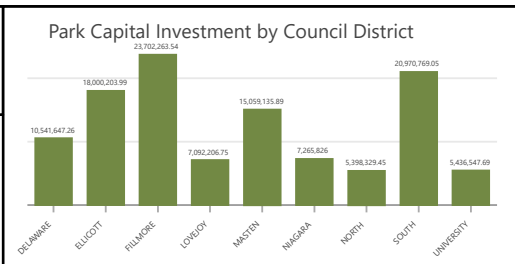
Park	Capital Investment	Park	Capital Investment	Park	Capital Investment
Bailey Moreland Park	0	Houghton-Stachowski Park	554,700	Mungovan Park	49,500
Davey & King Triangle	0	Lang Weber Park	170,400	Old Bailey Woods Park	0
Davey St Park	128,100	Lovejoy Pool	1,782,256	Schiller Park	2,575,858
Durant Park	223,250	Mary Jean Sloan Park	4,000	Taylor Park	0
Hennepin Park	288,790	Mullen Park	449,203	Walden Park	866,150



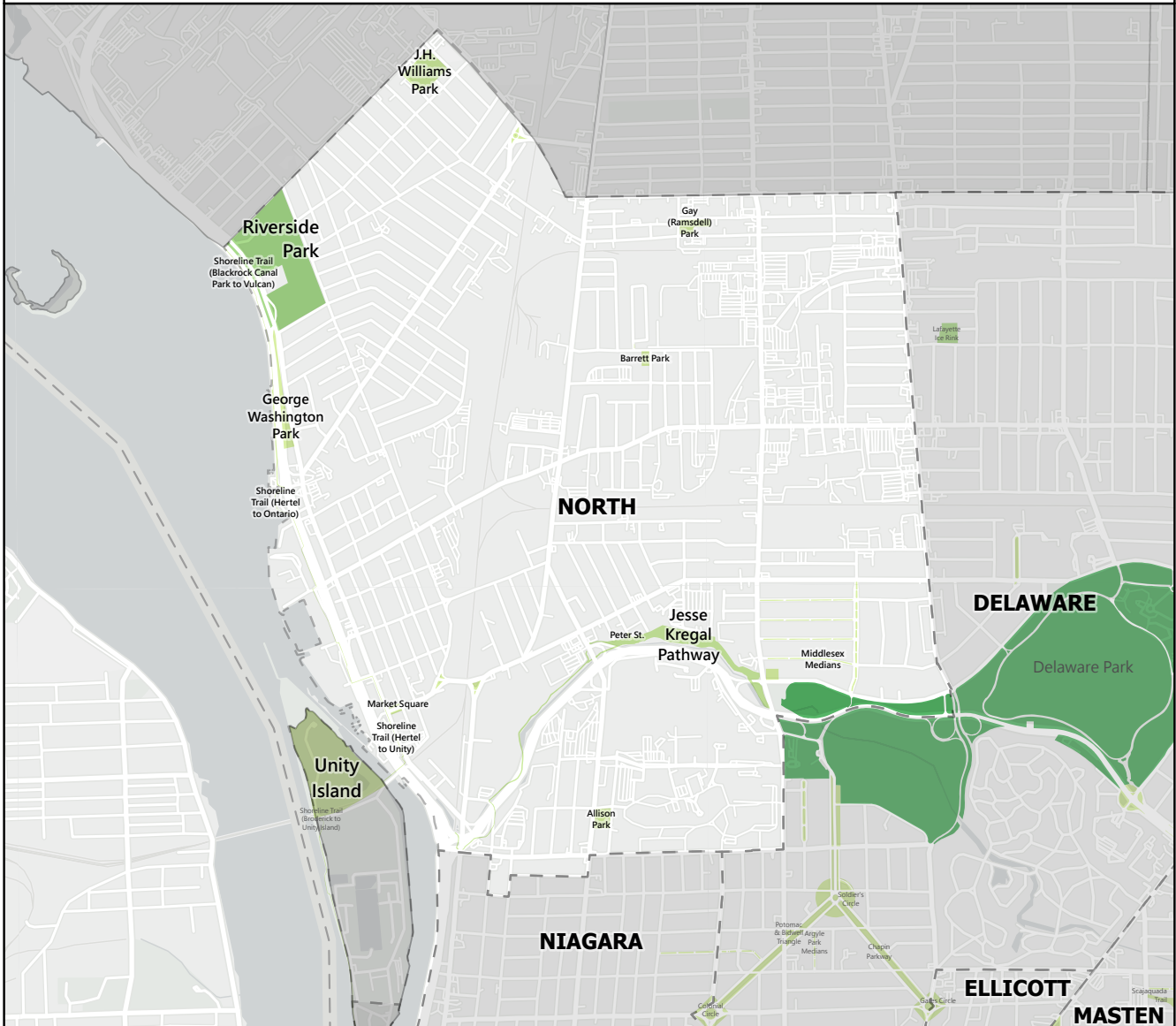
Parks Capital Investment (\$)
 0
 17,466,558

Council District Boundary

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BUFFALO PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT NORTH DISTRICT



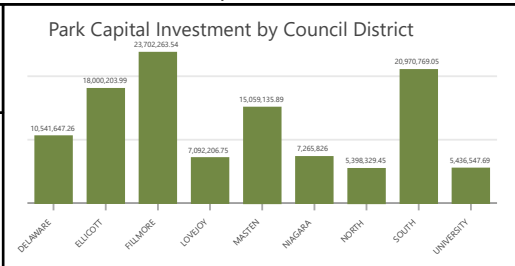
Park	Capital Investment	Park	Capital Investment
Allison Park	131,000	Middlesex Medians	0
Barrett Park	47,900	Peter St.	60,000
Gay (Ramsdell) Park	0	Riverside Park	3,135,902
George Washington Park	40,000	Shoreline Trail (Blackrock Canal Park to Vulcan)	200,800
J.H. Williams Park	388,607	Shoreline Trail (Hertel to Ontario)	200,800
Jesse Kregal Pathway	923,012	Shoreline Trail (Hertel to Unity)	200,800
Market Square	0	Unity Island	69,508



Parks Capital Investment (\$)
 0
 17,466,558

Council District Boundary

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BUFFALO PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT SOUTH DISTRICT



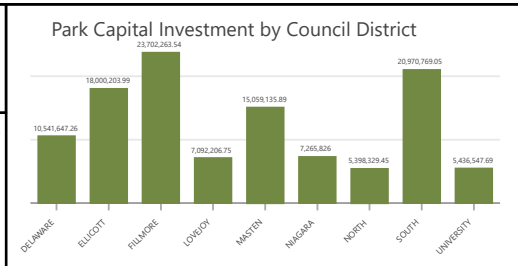
Park	Capital Investment	Park	Capital Investment	Park	Capital Investment
Brookdale Park	34,234	McClellan Circle	0	Shoreline Trail (Outer Harber & Ohio St)	200,800
Butler Park	75,200	McKinley Circle	0	South Park	985,733
Cazenovia Park	3,783,115	Mulroy (Pierce Field) Park	1,480,694	Tiff Farms Nature Preserve	3,559,013
Dorrance Circle	0	Okell Park	217,680	Tim Russert Children's Garden	0
George Hartmann Playfields	196,500	Onodaga Park	0	Tyler	0
H. D. Taylor Park	29,300	Outer Harbor Parkway	460,000	Union Ship Canal Commons	9,500,000
Heacock Place Park	0	Seneca Indian Park	0		
Hillery Park	247,700	Shoreline Trail (Ohio to Tiff St.)	200,800		



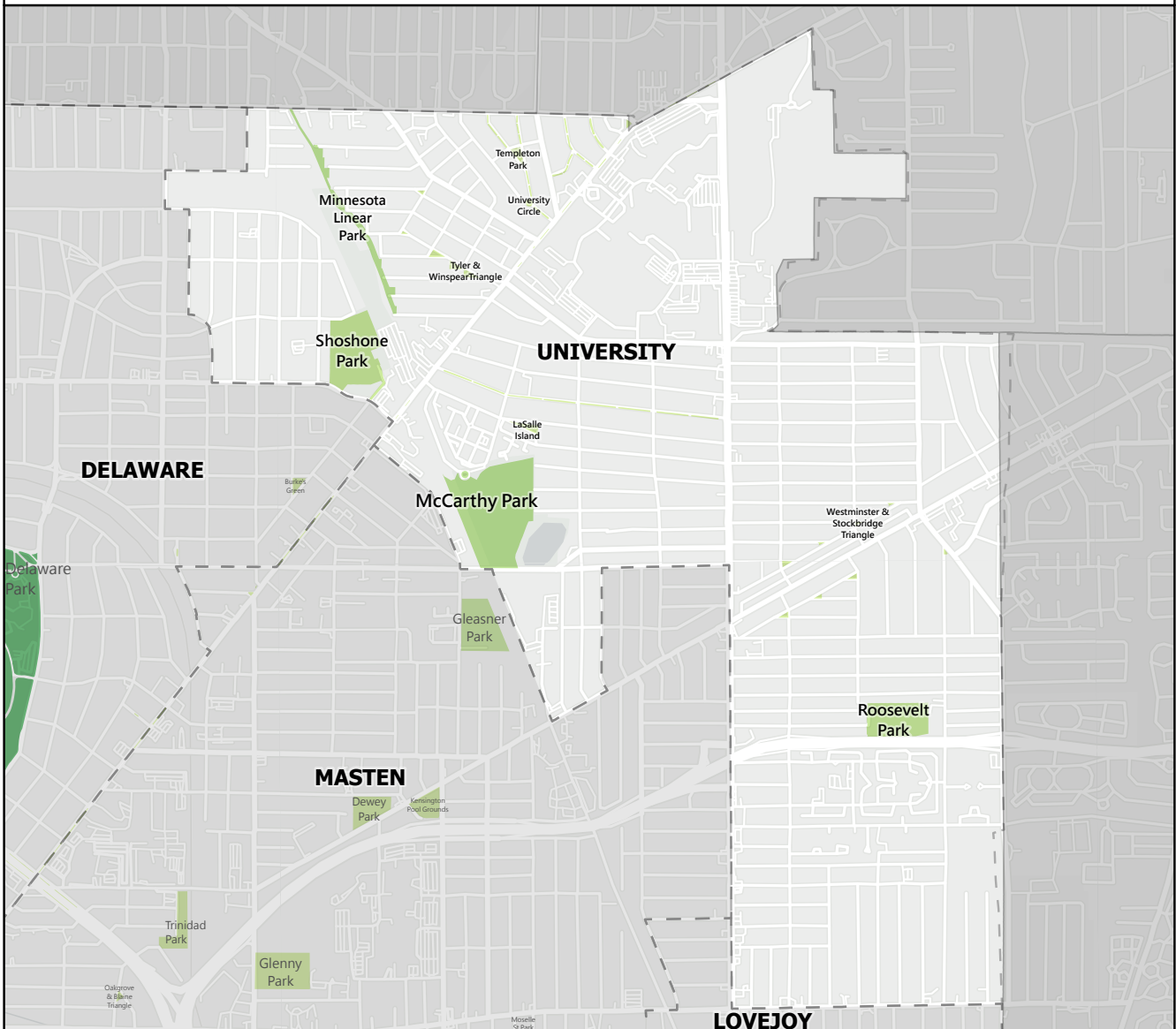
Parks Capital Investment (\$)
 0
 17,466,558

□ Council District Boundary

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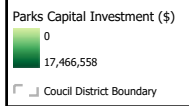


BUFFALO PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

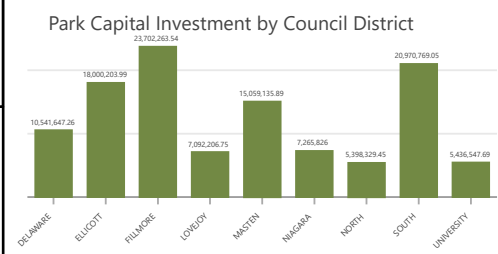


Park	Capital Investment
LaSalle Island	0
McCarthy Park	1,731,200
Minnesota Linear Park	1,800,000
Roosevelt Park	1,084,190
Shoshone Park	821,158

Park	Capital Investment
Templeton Park	0
Tyler & Winspear Triangle	0
University Circle	0
Westminster & Stockbridge Triangle	0



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APPENDIX 3.

GIS Criteria Matrix

ANALYSIS RESULTS: CO-BENEFITS: NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITIES	
Overall Stacked Priorities	
Layer Name	Data included/Source
Overall Stacked Priorities	The Overall Stacked Priorities result was created using an equally weighted max on the 3 Objective Stacked benefit results which included: Health, Natural and Built Environment, and Demographics of the Community.
Health	
Layer Name	Data included/Source
Physical inactivity (17%)	CDC 500 cities data from 2019 and the raw numbers represent the estimated prevalence of physical inactivity for each neighborhood
Poor mental health (17%)	CDC 500 cities data from 2019 and the raw numbers represent the estimated prevalence of poor mental health for each neighborhood
Poor physical health (14%)	CDC 500 cities data from 2019 and the raw numbers represent the estimated prevalence of poor physical health for each neighborhood
Poor air quality (14%)	Environmental Health Hazard Index (https://hudgis-hud.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/HUD::environmental-health-hazard-index/about) – potential health hazards exposure is a linear combination of standardized EPA estimates of air quality carcinogenic (c), respiratory (r) and neurological (n) hazards within indexing census tracts
Heart disease (10%)	CDC 500 cities data from 2019 and the raw numbers represent the estimated prevalence of heart disease for each neighborhood
Population without health insurance (10%)	Business Analyst 2019
Athsma hospitalizations (7%)	NYS DOH (https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/environmental/public_health_tracking/health/asthma.htm)
Diabetes (7%)	CDC 500 cities data from 2019 and the raw numbers represent the estimated prevalence of diabetes for each neighborhood
Obesity (3%)	CDC 500 cities data from 2019 and the raw numbers represent the estimated prevalence of obesity for each neighborhood
Natural and Built Environment	
Layer Name	Data included/Source
Tree canopy (14%)	2016 National Land Cover Dataset

ANALYSIS RESULTS: CO-BENEFITS: NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITIES

Impervious cover (14%)	2016 National Land Cover Dataset
Crimes per 1k (14%)	Crime incidents from the Buffalo data portal (https://data.buffalony.gov/Public-Safety/Crime-Incidents/d6g9-xbg9) – the data is non spatial (table format) and it was geocoded summarized to create crimes per 1k by neighborhood
% of NBHD in priority CSO (11%)	raincheck 2.0 report. Selected the CSOs identified as priorities then intersected with neighborhoods and calculated the % of neighborhood in a priority CSO.
% of NBHD in urban heating (11%)	TPL's 2018 UHI data summarized to the neighborhood
Houses in distress (8%)	City of Buffalo
High traffic stress roads (8%)	City of Buffalo
Pedestrian and bike accidents (6%)	GoBike master planning layer – summarized to the neighborhood layer
Bus stops (6%)	Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) – downloaded spring of 2020
% of NBHD in a flood zone (3%)	FEMA flood zones (Calculated % of the neighborhood in a flood zone)
Existing bike facilities (3%)	Open Data portal – the data was also published by GoBIKE / summarized to the neighborhood layer
Proposed bike facilities (3%)	Open Data portal – the data was also published by GoBIKE / summarized to the neighborhood layer

Social

Layer Name	Data included/Source
Poverty (19%)	Neighborhood layer on the Open Data Portal
Racially concentrated areas of poverty (19%)	2019 Racially concentrated areas of poverty from HUD (https://hudgis-hud.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/56de4e4dea8264fe5a344da9811ef5d6e_0/explore)
Acres of park per 1k (15%)	TPL created this layer based on the final parks layer
Children (15%)	2019 EJ Screen layer
Population density (11%)	2019 EJ Screen layer
Seniors (7%)	2019 EJ Screen layer
People of color (4%)	2019 EJ Screen layer
Disabled population (4%)	“2019 Business Analyst demographic layer”

APPENDIX 4.

Community Engagement Results

Introduction

Community engagement was a key component of the Buffalo Parks Master Plan process. By hearing directly from community members, representatives, and stakeholders with organizations that have deep knowledge of Buffalo's parks, the planning team could understand barriers to park use and priorities for improving the park system. The project's timeline (February 2020–July 2021) overlapped almost entirely with the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, many of the in-person engagement activities that had been planned were removed in favor of activities that could be carried out remotely, such as virtual focus groups, phone interviews, an online survey, and an activity book. In order to hear from as many residents as possible in that context, the project team employed a variety of engagement strategies. While the full Parks Master Plan summarizes these findings collectively, this appendix will summarize the results of each engagement strategy individually.

Focus Group Summary

Introduction

As part of the Buffalo Parks Master Plan engagement process, focus groups were conducted with the aim of exploring specific topics with local stakeholders and residents. Three focus groups were conducted; Programming in Buffalo Parks, Volunteer Support in Buffalo Parks, and Addressing Access and Equity Challenges in Buffalo Parks. These topics were identified as important subjects for further exploration based on preliminary results from the online survey as well as interview responses. Focus groups were carried out from late-March 2021 through early April 2021. Excluding facilitators, 62 people participated in these focus groups.

Please note that the findings in this report are a summary of key points made during the focus groups, and do not constitute the official recommendations of the Buffalo Parks Master Plan. Prior to creating the final report for the Buffalo Parks Master Plan, the findings from these focus groups will be analyzed alongside the plan's other results (the online survey, the Buffalo Unlimited Activity book, mapping results, interviews, parks benefit study, and benchmarking) to create a set of implementation strategies.

Focus Group 1: Programming in Buffalo Parks

The Programming in Buffalo Parks focus group was carried to allow programming providers in Buffalo the chance to discuss current trends in Buffalo Parks programming and opportunities for improvement. The meeting was carried out via Zoom on Thursday, April 1, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM.

AGENDA

The meeting began with a brief welcome message from Deputy Commissioner for Parks and Recreation, Andrew Rabb. Following this, Carter Strickland, New York State Director at the Trust for Public Land gave participants an overview of the project, including its major tasks, deliverables, and timeline. Following Carter's presentation, Matt Moffa, Senior Conservation Planning Project Manager at The Trust for Public Land, provided some preliminary

community engagement results from the online survey and stakeholder interviews, focusing on findings that were particularly relevant to the topic of programming in parks. Next, participants divided into breakout rooms, self-selecting based on the type of programming their organization provides. Breakout rooms were organized as follows:

Nature-Based Programming

- Lauren Darcy, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Meghan Dye, Tiff Nature Preserve
- Kyle Semmel, Western New York Land Conservancy
- Nate Neuman, Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency
- Carter Strickland, TPL (facilitator)

Sports and Fitness Programming

- Nekia Kemp, Police Athletic League
- Artis Green, Police Athletic League
- Kate Braun, The Champion Project
- Pat Ricci Buffalo Public Schools Athletics
- Kenny Simmons, Community Services and Recreational Programming
- Oswaldo Mestre Jr., Division of Citizen Services
- Kevin O'Brien - Greater Buffalo Track Club
- Kenny Halt, AmeriCorps VISTA & Love Your Block
- Brian McElroy, Greater Buffalo Track Club
- Matt Moffa, TPL (facilitator)

Art Programming

- Tori Claflin, Albright-Knox
- Carly Kirchberger, Albright-Knox
- Gina Burkhardt, Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT)
- Tracy Snyder, Theater of Youth (TOY)
- Catherine Gillespie, Buffalo Arts Commission
- David Granville, BMHA and Buffalo Arts Commission
- Marnetta Malcolm, Funk Fest
- Sean Crawford, Shakespeare In Delaware Park
- Mac Love, ArtxLove (facilitator)
- Sean Terry, TPL (facilitator)

Facilitators from the Trust for Public Land ran through a list of questions designed to elicit discussion on the most promising ways to improve programming in Buffalo's parks. Following roughly forty minutes of breakout room discussion, participants returned to the main zoom room. Facilitators provided brief summaries of a few key points from the discussions, and participants were asked for any final comments.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

SPORTS AND FITNESS

Participants in the sports and fitness group generally had positive experiences working with the city.

- Participants noted that the process to reserve a site and obtain a permit was easy and straightforward.
- Participants also noted that Division of Parks and Recreation regularly comes out to clean parks prior to their organizations' scheduled events.

The partnerships that exist between program providers and the city are a huge asset to the park system.

- Buffalo is very well-served with regards to partners providing sports and fitness programming.
- Participants noted that for any sports or fitness program type that might be requested, there are partners that are willing to provide them.
- While there is a wealth of programming providers, participants noted the need for greater outreach in reaching community members who may not already be connected to that programming type. For example, if a program provider is going to do a skateboarding event in an area where skateboarding is now common, outreach needs to be a major focus.

Participants generally felt that the physical condition of the park (e.g., the availability of amenities, the maintenance, etc.) was the biggest hinderance to sports and fitness programming in Buffalo parks.

This was particularly true in Buffalo's smaller parks.

- Participants spoke to the need for more amenities, and a greater diversity of amenities in parks, in particular in communities of color. Particular examples included tracks, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, ice rinks, benches, and restrooms.
- Programming providers noted that while they were educating youth on new sports that they may not have been exposed to, sometimes the children did not have the necessary facilities (e.g., a volleyball court) close by. While the providers could bring a net for the program, the children were not able to continue playing after the program had ended.
- Some of the smaller parks have safety concerns. Most of those discussed were related to upkeep (e.g., needles, holes in the fields), although crime was also discussed.
- Some participants felt a full Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audit of the entire Buffalo park system was warranted, to see where safety standards in the city parks could be improved.
- Lighting was also identified as a need in parks. In addition to providing a safer environment, these lights could be decorative. One participant imagined lighting throughout all of the city parks following a certain theme (e.g., pink for breast cancer awareness), saying that this would create pride.
- Some participants noted that closing Delaware Park to vehicular access made jogging in the park easier.

Specific outreach promoting smaller, less used parks could also help to activate these spaces.

- Participants felt that the system's smaller parks need better marketing, noting that only the people who live nearby know that the parks are there.
- Some also suggested a campaign to visit other parks in the city, such as a parks tour (similar to a mural tour), visiting different parks around the city or a campaign to promoting jogging in different parks around the city.

NATURE-BASED PROGRAMMING

Nature based recreation is extremely popular in Buffalo. More natural spaces within parks would help to facilitate nature-based recreation.

- Participants noted that there are only a few natural areas within City of Buffalo parks, and that particularly during the pandemic, these can be overused. Tiff Nature Preserve, for example, had to close its parking lot due to overuse in the spring.
- Participants felt that the popularity of nature-based recreation highlights the need for greater access to nature-based recreation in Buffalo.
- Participants felt that there is a lack of explicit environmental education in Buffalo, and for that to change there needs to be a shift in park design. Participants noted that most parks in Buffalo have grass and a few trees, and that a change in the design of parks to a more natural aesthetic would help facilitate nature-based programming.

- More native meadows in parks would allow educations to discuss topics such as bees, pollinators, native plants, in the same way that the county parks at Red Jacket and Seneca Bluffs facilitates education on riparian environments.

Other recommended physical changes to parks included:

- Some smaller parks lack restrooms. The cost to bring in portable restrooms can be prohibitive. Additional bathrooms in smaller parks would make it easier to carry out programs.
- Participants agreed that removing vehicular traffic from Delaware and South Park has been a great improvement, and recommended expanding this to close all streets within parks to vehicular traffic.

Administrative changes

- One participant suggested the parks institute a tiered fee structure, with reduced fees for smaller events. She noted that certain types of programs would be hard to carry out at the existing fee level.

Partnerships

- Participants felt that greater partnership between parks and schools would be beneficial for increasing environmental education.
- Participants noted that in addition to the groups participating in the focus group (Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Tiff Nature Preserve, Western New York Land Conservancy) the Audubon Society is pursuing opportunities to increase nature-based programming.
- It was also noted that while Grassroots Gardens has done an incredible job building gardens throughout the city, the majority of these are in vacant lots rather than in the parks.

Winter Activation

- All participants agreed that removing snow and ice from city park pathways would increase use in winter, although having some areas available for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing is beneficial.
- Participants also felt that people need a specific reason to visit parks in the winter. Nature-based programs can help by providing winter-specific activities (e.g., a winter bird walk).

Other Comments

- Participants felt that smaller neighborhood parks could have more programming and a wider variety of programming.
- Off leash dog parks are largely missing from Buffalo parks, and as a result people let their dogs run off leash in areas that are not designated as dog parks.
- Participants agreed with the preliminary survey results presented earlier suggesting that Buffalo needs more after school programs and summer camps, noting that both kids and parents benefit.
- Participants echoed the summary point from the interviews that residents largely do not visit parks outside of their own neighborhood. One participant recommended creating opportunities at different parks to encourage people from outside that area to visit, suggesting a market at Conway Park as an example. Participants also agreed that an event calendar would help.

ART PROGRAMMING

Participants noted several physical improvements that could increase the frequency and popularity of artistic performances.

- Attendees largely agreed that large festivals in the parks were a strength of the city's park programming.
- Some felt that having more small-scale performance space (like the smaller band shells in Central Park in New York City) would make it easier for music, theater, and dance performances to occur.
- More park restrooms would also help to support these events.

Some felt that cultural representation is lacking in the parks.

- One participant noted that for the majority of the youth her organization serves (primarily children from higher poverty neighborhoods on the east side), they do not see themselves represented or invited to participate in parks in a way that respects their culture, music, or art. Participants agreed there needs to be more invitations to participate.
- Participants noted the portrait of Mary Talbert on the Freedom Wall as a positive example, and mentioned that this piece seemed to invite spontaneous performances, with performers doing a socially distanced performance on Juneteenth.
- The Jefferson Avenue Arts Festival was also noted as a great example of an event that invited the community to participate.

Arts programming providers generally felt that the permitting and approval process was cumbersome and expensive.

- Participants felt that many organizers do not know how to get special events scheduled, and that the process feels like jumping through a lot of hoops. This can make it particularly difficult if someone is planning an event that is to happen relatively soon (i.e., in the next few days).
- Participants also noted that providing insurance for these events can be expensive. One participant voiced her surprise at realizing that she would be required to insure the vacant lots in the vicinity of her events.

Accessibility within the park was also noted as a challenge by some.

- The organizer of Shakespeare in Delaware Park noted that many of the event's past attendees are "aging out" of the event. While he noted that the recent addition of lights on the park's paths was a major improvement, he still felt that at night the paths are not safe for elderly attendees.
- The fact that the event primarily relies on street parking also meant that the walk to the event could be long and challenging.

Transportation to the park can be a major challenge to art-related programming.

- The challenge of getting community members to programs applies to both youth after-school programming as well as larger events.
- With youth after-school programs, organizers noted that the bus schedule is not always conducive to getting students to programs on time. Even when there is a bus stop at the park, the student may have to take several buses to get to that stop, and if they miss a bus in the process, they could be stranded. This is particularly difficult in the winter.
- While some organizers have experimented with renting a bus in the past, the cost can be prohibitive.
- Many participants also mentioned that providing parking for large events can be a challenge. At Funk Fest, for example, many attendees could not find appropriate parking and received tickets.
- Participants suggested a more organized mass transit approach to larger events.
- Another attendee noted the fact that the city rents a stage for groups organizing events, and that renting a bus on an event-specific basis for programs in parks would be a major asset.
- Participants also suggested creating a shuttle with arts and cultural stops, or incorporating transportation to parks into the Arts Access Pass created by ASI that includes free Uber or Lyft rides to arts programming.
- Some participants noted that Reddy Bike is piloting no-cost access to electric bikes which could be a major improvement, although it was acknowledged that relying on bicycles for transportation to events would still mean that weather would be a challenge during parts of the year.
- Albright-Knox is piloting an Art Truck that will be used to make arts-based programs more mobile.

Attendees agreed that in addition to programming, parks could benefit from more art installations.

- Some noted that while the city has been proactive about increasing public art, this has been largely absent in parks.
- Participants mentioned the work happening now at Broderick Park commemorating the underground railroad as a positive example of a step in the right direction.
- Some noted that there are arts-based improvements that could incorporate youth, like asphalt art.
- Participants noted that incorporating art into the Olmsted parks was particularly challenging, as the prevailing attitude in the conservancy seems to be that the park is the art, and so no additional art is needed.

Other notes on arts-based programming:

- Movies in the parks in the summertime would be a great addition.
- There was some agreement that Delaware Park is overutilized and that more events should be held in other parks.
- Participants felt that there is not a good pipeline to recruit performance artists to perform in parks.

Focus Group 2: Community Stewardship and Volunteer Support

The Community Stewardship and Volunteer Support focus group was designed to solicit feedback from attendees on the best ways to improve and increase volunteerism in Buffalo parks. Invitees included representatives from organizations involved in organizing and managing volunteer efforts, as well as community members who are actively involved in volunteering in parks. The meeting was carried out on Thursday, April 1, from 11:30 PM to 1:00 PM via Zoom.

ATTENDEES

- Gina Davis, Jes Breathe Block Club
- Linda Garwol, Volunteer, (Niagara Sq, Shoshone Park and University District Medians and Triangles)
- Greg Stevens, Niagara River Greenway
- Atiqur Rahman, Buffalo Muslim Community Services
- Ellen Harris, Trinidad Neighborhood Association Block Club
- Bradford Watts, Jes Breathe Block Club
- Cindy Kincaide, Buffalo Green Fund
- Mike Cartwright, University Heights Collaborative
- Darren Cotton, The Tool Library
- Kenny Halt, AmeriCorps VISTA & Love Your Block
- Hailey Whitney, AmeriCorps VISTA & Love Your Block
- Judy Dean, Buffalo Green Fund and downtown triangles/medians
- Michelle Lockett, NY Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- Zachary Garland, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
- Nancy Smith, Western New York Land Conservancy
- Lauren Darcy, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Nate Neuman, Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency
- Juweria Dahir, Division of Citizen Services
- Gail Wells, Volunteer, Jesse Clipper Park
- Amy Raslawsky, East Lovejoy Coalition of Neighbors (ELCON)
- Otis Barker, Community Services & Recreational Programming
- Kenneth Simmons, Center Services

AGENDA

The meeting began with a brief welcome message from Deputy Commissioner for Parks and Recreation, Andrew Rabb. Following this, Carter Strickland, New York State Director at the Trust for Public Land gave participants an overview of the project, including its major tasks, deliverables, and timeline. Carter then provided some preliminary community engagement results from the online survey and stakeholder interviews, focusing on findings related to volunteerism in parks. Next, participants were divided into three breakout rooms at random.

Facilitators from the Trust for Public Land ran through a list of questions designed to elicit discussion on the most promising ways to improve volunteerism in Buffalo's parks. Following roughly forty-five minutes of breakout room discussion, participants returned to the main zoom room. Facilitators provided brief summaries of a few key points from the discussions, and participants were asked for any final comments.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

CURRENT STRENGTHS

Participants noted several strengths of volunteer efforts in Buffalo's parks.

- Residents are eager to come out and volunteer during the COVID pandemic.
- Some noted strong appreciation for the city's support, clearing away trash bags following volunteer cleanup events.
- Some businesses are active contributors, bringing out employees to help with cleanup efforts.
- Groups frequently carry out volunteer clean-ups in a park prior to hosting an event.
- Providing access to a new park or trail leads to an uptick in volunteerism due to the excitement of the improvement.

POTENTIAL STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Participants agreed that park volunteerism in Buffalo would benefit from more organization and structure.

- Several participants noted the success of the Division of Citizen Services' recent Love Your Block program, and noted that creating a city-wide Love Your Park program could be successful, with one central place for residents to sign up.
- Participants also suggested organizing additional friends groups through an adopt-a-park program.

Several participants noted the importance of a volunteer system or database.

- Such a program could help prioritize maintenance needs, match volunteers with projects, and track progress on certain tasks and volunteer hours contributed.
- The ideal system would also be able to send mass texts to be sure to include people who do not have access to smart phones.
- Buffalo Green Fund noted that they are already doing this successfully with a program called Cervis.
- Niagara River Greenway is also exploring the creation of a system that could be used to organize volunteer efforts. This program would be available to all nature-based volunteering efforts, and could potentially be used by a city parks volunteer program.
- One participant noted their success using Facebook Groups to organize volunteer outreach.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

- Participants felt that new access can be used to galvanize volunteerism, noting that when a newly installed bike path at what is today Linear Park was created, it led to an uptick in volunteer interest in cleaning the site.
- Programming also offers the opportunity to recruit volunteers, as organized activities offer the platform for broader communication and getting the word out about parks initiatives. Another participant noted that at Trinidad Park, people show up to volunteer for special events but much less on a day-to-day basis.

- The Winter Fest Truck is a great asset in the winter because it adds a noticeable, visible, tangible draw to park spaces that may be otherwise vacant in winter months. Participants suggested using a similar draw in the summer to actively recruit people to the parks to volunteer.
- Truck mobility and branding was also mentioned with respect to “The Art Park” (launched in October). The unit is mobile and capable of being used on other sites but could use promotional support from parks until Buffalo residents become acclimated with unit.
- Some felt that the city would never have the capacity to take on a major volunteer recruitment effort, and that it will be incumbent on local grass roots efforts to take this up.
- Small gestures like gifts, notes, or meals can do a lot to make volunteers feel appreciated.
- Creating a party-like environment with music and food can also be a great way to make a volunteer event feel fun.

Sustaining volunteers over time requires a results-oriented approach.

- Participants generally felt that creating a sustained volunteer effort requires tangible results, as volunteering fizzles out when results are not seen.
- It is important to give volunteers action items, explaining what they will be doing, what the need is, and why it is important. Volunteers should be able to visualize what they will be doing.
- Ideally, these should be goals in which the volunteers have an interest. This will make it personal to them.

The existing quality of upkeep within a park can attract or deter volunteers.

- A lack of upkeep within a park can make it difficult to get buy-in on volunteerism from community members.
- Participants noted that seeing the city making a major effort to improve maintenance would inspire local residents to get involved.
- Some participants felt that if city maintenance staff wore an identifiable uniform, residents would be more aware of the city’s efforts to keep the parks clean. This could go a long way to encourage residents’ own efforts.

Some volunteer organizers have had success at recruiting volunteers through employers.

- Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy in particular noted employees receiving a certain number of hours to volunteer each month through their employers.

Participants noted the need for additional training for volunteers, and that this could also assist in recruitment.

- Some felt that volunteer training can be an effective method of recruitment, and that volunteering should be promoted as a tangible learning opportunity more than just a chance to help. For example, for volunteers interested in lawn care and landscaping, volunteering is an opportunity to learn about an interest area from an expert.

Many felt that there should be a more deliberate program to involve youth.

- Participants noted that the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program, high schools and colleges with volunteer requirements, and AmeriCorps VISTA could all be ways to engage youth in parks.
- In particular, the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program was noted as a promising opportunity.
- All agreed that these should be approached as interesting educational opportunities for youth, rather than focusing on menial tasks like litter removal.
- The program could also be an opportunity for environmental education, teaching youth about ecological restoration, which would help to make the work meaningful.

Other thoughts on recruitment:

- There could be a major city-wide push around the importance of volunteering.
- Signage in the park telling people what work is needed and how to sign up would be helpful.
- Senior citizens might need to be approached door-to-door, or by visiting community centers.

SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERS

Participants felt that additional support from the city is necessary to improve and increase volunteer efforts, noting that this will provide practical support to volunteer efforts as well as a morale boost.

- Participants expressed appreciation for the way the city clears away trash after a volunteer event, but felt that additional support is needed.
- Participants noted that when Keep America Beautiful was happening, they used to hand out garbage bags and other supplies. Now, volunteers have to buy bags, tools, gloves, and hoses.
- If the city could provide some of these supplies as well as other resources like access to water sources, compost, plants, and greenhouse access, it would encourage volunteerism.
- Participants felt that more garbage cans would help make it easier for volunteers to keep parks clean.

Some felt that there are major equity issues with volunteering, as people from more privileged backgrounds likely have more availability to participate.

- Participants pointed out that volunteering is a privilege, as many working people do not have time to volunteer.
- There was disagreement on this point, as others pointed out the recent success of the Love Your Block program, in which neighborhood improvements (including in parks) were carried out through volunteer efforts, frequently in under-resourced communities.
- Providing a small stipend could help with this challenge in lower income communities. This could support one community liaison in each block club or park, who could help to identify maintenance needs.

Participants had several recommendations for partnerships that would make volunteering more effective.

- Organizers has successful stories of getting donations from Home Depart and National Grid.
- Other had partnered with high schools and the fire department to get water hookups.

VOLUNTEER'S PARK OF CHOICE

Most participants felt that smaller neighborhood parks could be just as successful at attracting volunteers as larger destination parks.

- Current differences in volunteerism between larger parks and smaller parks (discuss in the interview results summary earlier in the focus group) were largely explained by the fact that 1) people want to volunteer in a park close to their home and more people live close to larger parks, and 2) the Olmsted park system has a dedicated volunteer program and manager who can organize volunteers and be a liaison.
- Many participants did have examples of dedicated neighbors who volunteer in parks on their own, such as the pocket parks in the University Heights.

Organizers have had mixed experiences in attracting volunteers to parks outside of their neighborhoods.

- Many said they have not had success recruiting people to work in other areas of the city.
- Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy shared that their push to attract volunteers to Ferry Circle did lead to an engaged group of volunteers who agreed to work in other parks.

WORKING WITH THE CITY

Some noted the need for additional clarity on what volunteers are needed to do, and what they are not allowed to do.

- Participants felt that greater communication is needed in instructing people how to get involved with park volunteering, and what the needs are.
- Union labor infringement can be an issue, and greater transparency is needed in what volunteers should and can do.
- Some also felt that for a smaller organization like a block club, it can feel like there is a lot of red tape to carrying out a volunteer event. They noted that getting a permit for an event could require visiting several offices within city hall, and that if these offices coordinated more with each other, it would make scheduling events easier. Permits for larger events can also be expensive, and although the forms are available online, it is not always clear which form is required for which type of event. The cost of insurance can also be prohibitive for a block club.

THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

There was not agreement on the ideal roles and responsibilities of volunteers.

- Some felt that day-to-day cleanliness (e.g., picking up litter) will not be done by volunteers, and that residents feel strongly that this type of work is the city's responsibility.
- Others disagreed with this sentiment, pointing out the large number of residents who come out to participate in clean up events multiple times a year.
- Some felt that tactical urbanism solutions (murals, artwork, signage, and other improvements) would be great fits for volunteerism in Buffalo parks.

Traffic Calming and Safety

- Many noted the difficulties in parks created by vehicles, both in terms of safety accessing parks due to speeding cars in surrounding streets, as well as vehicles cutting through parks to save time.
- Some felt that volunteers could be engaged in creating traffic calming measures. One participant recalled an example from Rochester in which groups used pavement painting and other aesthetic improvements to prompt drivers to slow down. She felt that a city-wide volunteer effort in Buffalo could replicate this project on streets abutting parks.
- Some also suggested increased security cameras, and working with immigrant/refugee populations to develop a local security group that can function as a liaison to Buffalo police, establishing a two-way dialogue with police to provide local perspective and communicate trends, prevention needs around crime and safety matters occurring in and around parks in immigrant neighborhoods.
- One participant noted the success of traffic calming measures around schools through the School Zone Safety Program.

Focus Group 3: Access and Equity

The access and equity focus group was created to discuss the barriers to visiting and enjoying Buffalo's parks, and brainstorm solutions to these challenges. In order to involve community members from across the city who could share both their experiences as well as those of their neighbors, and were also actively involved in thinking about improvement to the built environment in their neighborhoods, participants were recruited through the Division of Citizen Services' Love Your Block program. Common council members were also invited to participate in this discussion. The meeting was carried out via Zoom on April 7, 6:00 PM -7:30 PM.

PARTICIPANTS

- Rasheed Wyatt, University District Councilmember
- Amanda Blum, Kaisertown
- Sandra Munson, Chief of staff to Rasheed Wyatt
- Charles Thompson Jr., Castle Place Block Club
- Jeannette Koncikowski, Grassroots Gardens of WNY
- Catherine Gillepsie, Buffalo Arts Commission
- Bradford Watts, Jes Breathe Block Club, People Inc.
- Christopher Scanlon, South District Councilmember
- Gina Davis, Jes Breathe Block Club
- Megan Maier, Legislative Assistant, Lovejoy District
- Ignacio Villa, Kail Military Amherst Block Club
- Donna Stepien, Kail Military Amherst Block Club
- Lyn Courtemanche, Kaisertown Friends Association
- Quinn Wright, Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc., Kaisertown Friends Association
- Ellen Harris, Trinidad Neighborhood Association Block Club
- Councilmember David Rivera, Niagara District
- Evelyn Vossler, Assistant Legislative Aide to Councilmember, Joseph Golombek, Jr., North District
- Lucy Candelario, Erie Regional Housing Development Corporation/The Belle Center
- Rebecca Castaneda, Senior Legislative Assistant to Councilmember Mitch Nowakowski, Fillmore District

AGENDA

The meeting began with a brief welcome message from Deputy Commissioner for Parks and Recreation, Andrew Rabb. Following this, Carter Strickland, New York State Director at the Trust for Public Land gave participants a brief explanation of the project, including its major tasks, deliverables, and timeline.

Next, participants were divided into three breakout rooms at random. Facilitators from the Trust for Public Land ran through a list of questions focused on barriers to park access, equity issues in parks, and how best to address these challenges in Buffalo's parks. Following roughly sixty minutes of breakout room discussion, participants returned to the main zoom room. Facilitators provided brief summaries of a few key points from the discussions, and participants were asked for any final comments.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

CURRENT STRENGTHS

- Many participants shared that they enjoy spending time with family in parks and that existing parks are very family friendly.
- For many of the participants their favorite parks are ones that have a diversity of activities and unique amenities (e.g., the splashpad at Cazenovia park, the natural areas at Houghton Park, and the dog park at Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park).
- Many noted the convenience of having close-to-home parks in Buffalo.
- Many participants noted that the park system has excellent sports programming and access to athletic amenities.
- With the COVID-19 pandemic, many said that they are using parks more than ever, and that the opportunity to get outside is greatly appreciated.

Maintenance challenges pose a major barrier to park use.

- Many participants shared that they were bothered by the lack of upkeep in their local parks, that they had stopped visiting particular parks because of cleanliness issues, or that they refuse to visit certain playgrounds with their children for this reason.

- Participants shared that they were not always certain who is responsible for the maintenance of their local park (e.g., the city, the county, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy).
- A participant shared that Delaware Park has a playground monitor, and that more parks would benefit from this.
- Participants noted discrepancies in park upkeep, and felt that the upkeep of Olmsted parks is generally better than the upkeep in other parks.
- Participants felt that more trash bins, and emptying these bins more frequently, would lead to major improvements.
- Several participants mentioned the illegal presence of ATVs in the parks, making the parks feel less safe for pedestrians and damaging the grounds. Some felt that creating an official ATV park could be a solution.

Safety is also a barrier to park use.

- Several participants expressed concerns for safety in the parks.
- Many noted that a greater official presence the parks, both during the daytime and after dark, would be beneficial. This could be a police officer, a security guard, or a park staff member through the creation of a Park Ranger Program. Some showed a preference for police on bicycles, noting that it would make them more approachable.
- Other proposed solutions included cameras and improved lighting.
- The lack of respect for leash rules was also raised as a safety issue.
- In addition to ATV's, some felt that parks (and in particular Martin Luther King, Jr. Park) needs greater barriers to vehicles, as cars regularly drive through the park.
- Participants noted that parks that get less use feel less safe. Front Park was noted as an example.
- Some suggesting a CPTED assessment for every park in the system. This could be done by training block clubs to do the assessments.

Attendees also felt that in some circumstances distance to the park is a barrier.

- In neighborhoods without a park nearby, or without a safe walking path to get to the park, this is the main barrier to park use.
- Attendees suggested that pocket parks could be a solution, citing the hospital pocket park as an example.
- Participants noted that in some instances, the sidewalks adjacent to the parks are in bad shape, making accessibility difficult, or that the paths leading into parks are not cleared of snow in the winter.

Many identified the need for traffic calming around parks.

- These participants felt that the speeding and drag racing near parks is a barrier to people walking to parks from residential areas
- Speed bumps near parks were identified as a solution, as well as signage informing drivers that they were approaching a park and that there are children at play.
- Some noted that the speed bumps around Cazenovia Park seemed to improve the situation

Some identified transportation as a barrier to park access, although there was disagreement on this.

- Some felt that Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority should have dedicated buses for park events and scheduled team sports.
- Others disagreed that access to transportation is a major barrier to park use, pointing out that many parks close to highly populated neighborhoods are not used because of other barriers.

Greater signage and access to information are needed.

- Many participants felt that parks all over the city need more signage in the surrounding areas, showing the direction of the park and what amenities it holds. This would help share what is available and help invite people into the park.

- Educational environmental signage would be interesting and could also help prevent littering.
- Some felt that a Facebook page for city parks would be an easy way for residents to provide feedback on park-related issues.

Some participants felt that more could be done to make each park unique.

- They emphasized that currently parks do not feel interesting, and that it is important to make them interesting, especially to attract winter users to parks.
- Adding less-common amenities to some parks (e.g., batting cages) would make those parks feel special.

Education, Culture, and Art

- Some participants felt that there is a major need for more educational programming around history, particularly around Martin Luther King Jr. Park.
- Noting the success of Shark Girl and the efforts at incorporating art into Broderick Park, participants requested more art, such as rotating sculptures, water features, musical features or other interactive features that engage all ages.
- Others felt that every park should have an art piece to support the brand for that park, such as the statue in Martin Luther King Jr. Park.
- Some participants noted the importance of creating a culture that values parks and the environment in order to dissuade misuses, littering, and vandalism. Engaging youth through the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program and greater education through the schools was suggested.

Participants identified the need to make parks more multigenerational.

- Many participants felt that there is a lack of activities for seniors. Suggestions included cooking classes, line dancing, and fitness programs.
- One suggestion including creating more open space for passive recreation opportunities for seniors.
- Another noted the importance of seating close to playgrounds so that parents and grandparents can sit while they watch their children.
- Participants noted that park improvements for children are frequently aimed at younger children, and there should be more consideration of the 12–17 age group. One participant noted that while she regularly took her children to city parks to play when they were young, they no longer find them challenging, and they more regularly go to county parks to hike.
- There were several suggestions for making parks more appealing to older children, including creating new playgrounds that appeal to a wider age range, and BMX tracks.
- More hiking trails within city parks was identified as a way to make parks more interesting for all ages. Suggestions included a bigger loop at Outer Harbor, and more connections between trails in parks and greenways throughout the city.

Several amenities were identified as top priorities.

- Participants noted a particular need for bathrooms, noting that a lack of bathrooms can make it more difficult to enjoy parks.
- A need for more benches was also identified, with participants suggesting an easy process for community members to donate memorial benches.
- Some felt that closing access gaps to playgrounds should be the top priority with regards to amenities.
- More trash bins were identified as a need for the sake of preventing litter.
- Some participants mentioned the need for more dog parks.

Programming and Activation

- Participants felt that Buffalo should provide more programming for all ages
- Diversity of programming is also needed. One participant noted that many people had assumed that children on the east side would not play soccer, but in fact when Independent Health provided a soccer program, it uncovered latent enthusiasm and the league quickly expanded from 25 to 150 children. The commenter also noted that the program was successfully partially because it was advertised through the block clubs, noting the importance of outreach.
- Suggestions for greater winter activations included clear paths, with clear access to the paths, greater availability of bathrooms in the winter, and a sledding hill.

Some participants felt that greater access to nature would be an improvement.

- Many participants felt that parks in Buffalo are seen as landscaping rather than nature, and that they could use more access to things like gardens, flowers, native plants, forests. Currently, they said, many parks are just grass and a few trees.
- They also noted that Buffalo's Garden Walk is the largest in the country, demonstrating a lot of interest in these types of activities.

Interview Assessment Summary

Executive Summary

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Buffalo Parks Master Plan will set the course for parks in Buffalo for years to come. The planning effort that The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is leading is reviewing park equity by identifying the communities with the greatest park needs, is working together with residents and partners to establish a shared vision for the park system, and will develop action steps to make Buffalo Parks serve the people of Buffalo even better. This plan is a critical step in fulfilling current recreational needs, planning for future opportunities, and improving the long-range stewardship of the parks system in Buffalo.

To gain insights into the current state of the park system as well as potential improvements, TPL conducted interviews with 19 stakeholders from April 2020 through September 2020. Interviews were administered over the phone or via zoom and lasted roughly 30–60 minutes. Scripted questions covered topics such as park use, access, programming, community health, green infrastructure, parks and social cohesion, and philanthropy and funding.

All quotes in this report are anonymous. If the quotes used in this report are to be included in the Buffalo Parks Plan Final Report, relevant interviewees will be contacted and asked for permission to use their names and titles along with the quotes. Please note that the findings in this report are a summary of key points made during the interview process, and do not constitute the official recommendations of the Buffalo Parks Plan. Prior to writing the final report for the Buffalo Parks Plan, the findings from these interviews will be analyzed alongside the plan's other results (the online survey, the Buffalo Unlimited Activity book, mapping results, focus groups, parks benefit study, and benchmarking) to create a set of implementation strategies.

INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

Otis Barker, Sr., Office of Community Services and Recreational Programming

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Robert Shibley, University at Buffalo's School of Architecture and Planning

Nolan Skipper, City of Buffalo Department of Public Works, Engineering

SUMMARY RECAP

Park Access

- The distribution of parks across Buffalo is seen as the system's greatest strength. Parks in Buffalo are geographically well-dispersed, and the majority of the city has access to a close-to-home park. This is due in part to Olmsted's vision of placing a city within a park system, rather than vice versa.
- Parks access, and challenges to access in the broadest sense (e.g., park usefulness, safety and condition), vary by neighborhood.
- Improving connectivity is also an opportunity for creating equitable park access. Complete Streets, signage in neighborhoods about nearby parks, utilization of transportation corridors, and connecting neighborhoods to parks via trails are all opportunities.

Park Use

- Generally, parks in Buffalo are thought to be well-used, with parks being used for everything from particularly loved big cultural events, to sports and family-hang outs, to washing cars.
- There is a general perception that while large parks like Delaware are almost overused, many small neighborhood parks are underused, or even avoided. Discussions of use highlighted that
- Economic factors and neighborhood location heavily influence community members' amount and type of park use.
- COVID-19 is increasing local appreciation and use of parks. This could be an opportunity both to invite community members in, as well as to make a stronger case for philanthropy on health-related grounds.

Maintenance

- Improving park maintenance was identified as one of the greatest needs of the system.
- Many feel that city parks are not maintained to uniform standards, with parks in affluent areas and larger signature parks receiving better care than parks in low-income communities, or smaller neighborhood parks.
- Use type was also identified as a maintenance factor, with some uses being more intensive than others.
- There is a general consensus that operations and maintenance are underfunded relative to the size of the park system and its use. Some interviewees did note that they feel that the parks are relatively well-maintained, given budget challenges and the amount of use.
- Changes in hiring practices, as well as the greater specialization in staff, could lead to improvements.

- Safety is seen as a major challenge and a barrier to park use. A greater staff presence in the parks, greater activation, and greater implementation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles were identified as opportunities.

Activation

- Winter activation of parks was identified as a major opportunity. The lack of opportunities for winter park activities has implications for recreation as well as health via its connection to physical activity. The need for winter activation may be particularly strong this year and Buffalo Parks may want to consider short-term, inexpensive pilot projects.
- Recent and ongoing efforts include a feasibility study related to the creation of an indoor field house, the creation of a sledding hill at Centennial Park, and Winter Mission.
- Buffalo’s plans to develop an indoor field house will do a great deal to help community members stay active year-round, and likely help assuage the perceived equity gap in park and recreation investment.
- Managing the cold and wind through heated shelters, walls, and plantings were identified as important strategies, as was making winter-equipment available through rentals.
- Doing more to create a unique identity within neighborhood parks could be one key to activation.
- Some felt that parks are overly devoted to sports and lack space for informal use, particularly neighborhood parks. Those stakeholders felt that flexible, unprogrammed spaces, as well as signage inviting users to participate in non-programmed uses would help.
- Some felt that improving programming and activation will require additional staffing, either in the form of a high-level city employee who is dedicated to park-programming, or a day-to-day employee in the park leading programming. This official presence would also have positive impacts on safety. A Park Ranger program could also provide programming opportunities for seniors.

Volunteering and Stewardship

- In Buffalo, passion about green space and civic pride in the Buffalo Park System are ingrained in the culture. Leveraging volunteer support and realizing the untapped potential for local stewardship would help to build community buy-in and improve park quality.
- Much of the current volunteer work occurring in Buffalo parks is being conducted by a few organized “friends of” groups, is happening in Olmsted parks, or was initiated by proactive individuals or neighborhood groups. The Division of Parks and Recreation has established a precedent around supporting trusted groups through the use of tools, contributing ornamental plants, and ongoing maintenance support for volunteer projects. Many stakeholders felt that to increase the impact of volunteering in Buffalo’s parks, the city needs to develop an organized approach to “invite” community members to volunteer, such as “Adopt-a-Park” or park stewardship programs with training and tools provided. This would have the impact of increasing volunteerism as well as increasing coordination between the city and volunteers. A more organized approach may also allow the city to deploy more volunteers to parks with the greatest need.
- Although most stakeholders agreed that a volunteer program would be a boon to Buffalo’s parks, many had doubts about the level of coordination it would require, including potentially a full-time volunteer coordinator. Some suggested lower-intensity alternatives to a city-run program. Some alternatives included a training program for volunteers, asking Block Clubs to help organize Friends groups, or duplicating/expanding a program similar to the Tool Lending Library, which organizes cleaning activities around community gardens, street trees, and parkways in the University Heights District.

Community Cohesion

- Interviewees emphasized that Buffalo is a segregated city, and that in many ways this segregation plays out in parks. People’s reluctance to visit parks in other neighborhoods may also be acting as a non-physical barrier to accessing parks, or at the very least certain park amenities. Parks could be used to try to bring different communities together.

Green Infrastructure

- The City of Buffalo is moving ahead with green infrastructure in a variety of ways, guided in large part by the Raincheck 2.0 plan. The Division of Parks and Recreation is already incorporating Green Infrastructure into new designs and is working with the Buffalo Sewer Authority (BSA).
- Leveraging funding for stormwater projects provides the opportunity to bring more Green Infrastructure features to parks.
- The long-term maintenance implications of green stormwater management pose a major challenge. The more advanced the green infrastructure practices, the more difficult and expensive these locations become to maintain and rehabilitate in the future. These maintenance issues in turn make collaborations between BSA and the Division of Parks challenging, particularly if there is not absolute clarity surrounding who is responsible for upkeep, or if there is not sufficient budget for the ongoing maintenance.
- Some interviewees suggested that rather than install more intensive green infrastructure interventions (e.g., ponds or raingardens), the city should focus on devoting more parkland to natural, unmanicured spaces that could serve as habitat, provide stormwater benefits, hold trees, and enhance park aesthetics.
- There is some neighborhood reluctance to leave parkland in a less polished, more natural state. Some interviewees felt that more needs to be done to educate the public on the importance of these “natural habitat” areas.

Arts and Culture

- Currently, parks in Buffalo incorporate arts and culture largely through large events. Many of these events are hugely popular.
- Parks largely lack the aesthetic and cultural benefits provided by visual art installations.
- Neighborhood parks in Buffalo are thought to lack identity. Incorporating arts and local culture was suggested by some stakeholders as a way to make neighborhood parks feel unique, improve aesthetics, and reflect local perspective and flavor.

Funding, Sponsorships and Partnerships

- A lack of funding was generally thought to be the reason for many of Buffalo’s park-related challenges. This seems to particularly impact operations and maintenance, which are areas unlikely to be aided by private donations.
- There are only a few philanthropic institutions in the region who support parks and/or the environment. The usual donors are on everyone’s list. This may limit the potential number of donors who are likely to invest in capital improvements. Approaching donors to support programming could provide a way to meet them along their own interests. The city has already had some success in this area, with BlueCross BlueShield sponsoring Summer City Fitness, and Canalside Fitness.
- A sponsorship program, and greater outreach to local businesses, could bring resources into parks and would allow companies to sponsor park improvements and potentially upkeep. Businesses and organizations can take ownership in areas of the park to support maintenance, or to create stronger community policing. However, restrictions within the city on advertisements in the park and community pushback may make this difficult or unlikely unless those restrictions are changed.

Access

The distribution of parks across Buffalo is seen as the system’s greatest strength. Parks in Buffalo are geographically well-dispersed, and the majority of the city has access to a close-to-home park. This is due in part to Olmsted’s vision of placing a city within a park system, rather than vice versa. Olmsted Parks anchor the parks network for the City of Buffalo, and are seen as providing representative coverage and good design across most of the city. However, some also noted that the historic nature of the park system had left equity gaps that still need to be resolved.

- *“The Olmsted park system is a jewel of Western New York”*
- *“Olmsted’s vision is best captured in the area between Delaware Park and Front Park. To get lost in these large park spaces is to experience Olmsted’s original vision for a connected park network that ties communities together through adjacent parkways and boulevards while complementing local waterfront features and the built environment.”*
- *“The City of Buffalo is blessed with the foundation of an amazing public park system. From a community/neighborhood perspective, historical perspective, connectivity perspective, the bones are there ... the city has not always treated it with the respect it deserves.”*
- *“Olmsted Parks pioneered park design (central location, size, amenities, etc.) in the early industrial age. In a lot of ways, it was a different take on equity in the 1800s, about providing poor people in congested areas/dense areas with park access.”*
- *“There is a history of inequity in historic park systems. Back then they were redlining, and telling people where to live. Some people had access to parks, and some people didn’t.”*
- Overall, the Buffalo park network is seen as being the strongest and featuring the best distribution of assets between the coastal parks abutting Lake Erie and the larger, centrally-located parks such as Delaware, JFK, Masten, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.
- Buffalo parks’ proximity to the waterfront is a tremendous strength of the network by some. Water and water features generally are intertwined with the park system and Buffalo’s civic culture.

Parks access, and challenges to access, vary by neighborhood.

- On the west side, accessing parks can be challenging due to access and navigability challenges created by neighborhood density and user demand.
 - *“Poor coverage on the West Side ... people have to use unofficial parks, like the vacant lot in Five Points next to Urban Roots for passive uses.”*
 - *“Areas of higher immigrant populations, and the west side that do not have access. It is one of the densest areas of the City. Need for a park is greater because of the density of the population.”*
 - *“We need more outreach with New American families. The area of improvement is here. Immediate West side of town (from Niagara to Elmwood, there) aren’t a lot of park facilities. We need to have great outreach, may not have close to home but these are the closest to you that you can take advantage of.”*
- On the east side, there is the general perception that parks are smaller and are seen as lacking comparable amenities and features. This is particularly true of the northeast, which lacks an historic Olmsted park.
 - *“Going back many years to the Greenway Plan, and even a more recent plan, both suggested more open space on the City’s East Side. Eastside residents need their own big regional park like South, LaSalle, etc.”*
 - *“The Northeast section of the City in particular does not have an Olmsted legacy park so there is a missing component to the park equity in the City.”*

- “Establishing smaller parks close to where there are large groups of people would be helpful. If you have something like Kenfield/Langfield with all these kids and activities, but there is nothing nearby and no evolving plan or program, that is a problem.”
- “On East Side, folks might feel they need to go to another area to use a park.”
- Some stakeholders felt it is important to specifically target activities in South Buffalo. This area is thought of as a different and separate from the rest of the City.
 - “People in North Buffalo use parks more than people in South Buffalo, where parks are smaller, not as well kept.”
 - “Give people the belief they matter by providing programming here!”

CONNECTIVITY

Improving park connectivity should also be a priority for creating equitable park access.

- The existing street parkways are seen as a strength and an integral component to the parks network.
- City-wide recognition and use of the Complete Streets model would improve access equity for parks. Complete Streets considers all modes of travel (including ADA compliance).
- Currently, the quality of access depends on the park. Bigger parks, such as Delaware Park, are functional for all modes of travel; however, this level of functional access should extend to the local neighborhood parks.
 - “Access to parks is a notable weakness from the engineering perspective. Certain parks are easier to get to than others, but this should not be the case. We would like to see parks focus on improving access conditions to parks for all modes of travel (vehicle, pedestrian, and cyclist).”
- There has been an increase in the mileage of the bike system in recent years, both in terms of on-street striping and paths. Growing connectivity and bike culture in Buffalo (Bike Buffalo) emphasize safe routes and fun routes to/from parks.
- Expressways are a major barrier to park access. They cut through the most marginalized areas, isolating those communities and cutting them off from parks. This disruption and discontinuance within the Olmsted parks network are a weakness of the system, specifically the parkways along Interstate-198 and the parkways at/near Humboldt Avenue.
- Some interviewees felt there is a need for greater neighborhood wayfinding telling community members how to get to certain parks.
- Existing gaps in trails likely correlate with disconnects between getting people out to exercise and be in parks. Areas with direct and strong linkages between trails and parks go a long way in drawing in more users.
 - “A lot of New Americans don’t have their own transportation, and it’s hard to access parks.”

Creative solutions to increasing park access included making greater use of transportation corridors, and asking the University of Buffalo and the medical campus to make greenspace available to the public.

- Collaborating with Buffalo schools and other custodians of public space is an opportunity to bring increase. The Division of Parks and Recreation is already collaborating with BPS in a review of 11 (6 parks and 5 schools) outdoor athletic facilities.
- One interviewee recommended making greater use of rail corridors. Rail corridors are not publicly owned but are an available infrastructure asset, especially in well populated areas. There is an opportunity to advance parks & trails in areas that have incorporated active trails adjacent to active rail lines. One example is the Riverline project.
- Transportation corridors in general can provide opportunities but land assembly can be a challenge.

- “At one time, Buffalo had the most rail in the country. There are lots of rail corridors that interweave through the population that can be a potential opportunity. In more dense areas, we could include trails along active rail. It is hard to do but with proper separation, we may be able to do it. Transportation corridors provide somewhat of an opportunity. There is talk of downgrading the 198. It is a real opportunity to add back the park to that area. Land assembly is the hardest park.”
- “It is surprising to me that UB and the medical campus do not do more for the community around it. It may be that they have not been hassled enough. I would think the medical campus would be more active in the neighborhoods around them. UB has two campuses that are like little islands (unlike Buffalo State which is very connected to the community), and it does not feel connected to the community, and does not feel welcoming. UB does not reach out into the community enough. UB has lots of greenspace. That campus is underutilized because it has professional schools and there are not that many undergrads- they could make a part of it a public park, they could have more of an impact on Shoshone Park. The medical campus could be a good area for more of a park-like setting that is welcoming to the community.”

Park Use

Generally, parks in Buffalo are thought to be well-used, with parks being used for everything from big cultural events, to sports and family-hang outs, to washing cars.

Economic factors heavily influence community members’ use of parks.

- There is an inherent “ease of use” of parks in certain *higher income communities*, where the general sentiment is one of community ownership. In these areas, residents feel “this is their park” and are empowered to call and demand changes in “their” parks when needed.
- *Higher income communities* use the park for their leisure, and for hosting higher profile events such as weddings and fundraising receptions.
- *Middle income communities*, now more than ever before, are using parks because of COVID-19. This uptick in use has allowed them to rediscover value in the trails and parks close to them.
 - During stakeholder interviews, there was no immediate indication to why this uptick is most prevalent in middle income communities.
- *Lower income communities* seem less inclined to be as demanding of parks but these communities need to be equally empowered to express their desires.
 - Residents have to be more vocal
 - The City has to be more responsive
- *Lower income communities* use parks for less formal functions such as grilling food or washing cars. These uses need to be valued equally as other formal uses in affluent neighborhoods.
 - “Low-income communities are more likely to use them as family gathering locations, and just to escape what might be smaller living spaces.”
 - “BMHA [Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority] tenants here tend to use any green space as a park. It becomes almost additional room of their house. Down here when the weather is nice, where there is green space, you’ll find a family eating, hanging out, etc. In more affluent areas, it is more, we are going to go for a bike ride for a couple hours. For low-income people, it becomes an additional room of their house. It has to do with the discomfort of being indoors, not having air conditioning, etc.”
 - “Low-income communities are more likely to need bathrooms and garbage cans because they using them for a longer time.”

- “High-income park use is very much about organized sports, exercise, the families around Shoshone Park watching their kids play ball, while Unity Island is more new immigrants—they are picnicking, spending time together, they are there for hours.”
- “It has a lot to do with economics. The more well-off places tend to utilize and have more events going on. The areas that don’t have less advocates and less activities. It could just be the ones that get more stuff bring in more activities—not just city activities but regional activities. There are places where you could hold an event and people wouldn’t come. But the problem is when you leave them alone and they don’t have activities, you are ceding territory to the not-so-good activities.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has likely brought new populations of users into parks throughout Buffalo. This could be an opportunity to seek additional health-focused funding for parks.

- “With COVID, parks are absolutely providing a safe haven for stress relief and relaxation and local government has done a great job getting behind parks because the awareness that people need an outlet.”
- We have a wealth of parks. Most people are within 10-minutes. It’s an issue of most people not being aware or taking advantage of this opportunity (health and wellness, sports for kids, etc.). The health and wellness aspect would have to be elevated. Given this COVID situation, I think people would respond to that. “We’re inviting you to come and use your parks.” People would respond now.”
- “People are not always aware of those parks being within their neighborhood. When you have it in your backyard you don’t always appreciate it. With COVID-19, people really appreciate the ability to walk to a park.”
- The pandemic is going to bring an entirely new population of park users—the influx of users in spaces is allowing Erie County to get better at assessing needs and providing solutions to users.”
- “The COVID conversation has allowed the public to reengage conversations around community health and consider prioritizing needed improvements that have been on the table for some time.”

PARK SIZE

- Parks use and perceptions around park quality vary greatly based on park size. Buffalo’s large parks were identified as a strength. This is true for both the Olmsted parks (and specifically Delaware) as well as other large parks, such as LaSalle/Centennial.
- Smaller neighborhood parks were frequently mentioned as underutilized places.
- See the Activating Neighborhood Parks section for more on this.
 - “The perception is we have a couple of larger parks that are heavily used by the public, while some of the remaining (smaller, less prominent) parks remain underutilized.”

Maintenance

Improving park maintenance was identified as one of the greatest needs of the system.

- “Funding and resources for maintenance should be a top priority.”
- “The City is good at getting capital projects done, as well emergency repairs and services. For example, McCarthy Park has been transformed with help of Medaille College and it is now packed and well-used. The City and Parks Department do not undertake proper, consistent maintenance (this is true even at the Olmsted Parks). Maintenance is too often deferred, and maintenance funds are the first to be cut. The City needs a proper asset management system for buildings and grounds.”
- “The City should ask how are parks being currently used, and focus on basics and maintenance of existing features before putting in new features. In general, people heavily use grass. In the Lower West Side there are a lot of New Americans who like to play soccer, while on the East side, which is largely African-American, little league

football is very popular and from May to November it is so busy that you can't get on the fields. Both uses are very hard on grass"

- "Sometimes the play areas go weeks and weeks if not longer if something is broke. The slide in my park was broken for 4 months. I know it is just the budget."
- "More attention should be given to basic services like trash pickup, cleanup, graffiti removal, making sure furnishings are working, and lawns are cut or reseeded."

Many feel that the city parks are not maintained to uniform standards, with parks in affluent areas and larger signature parks receiving better care. Use-type was also identified as a factor. Some interviewees did note that they feel that the parks are relatively well maintained, given budget challenges and the amount of use.

- "You could accuse the system of having disparate maintenance from one area to another. It varies by neighborhood."
- "It varies more on the size and status of the park. Delaware and Cazenovia look great. But MLK park is in bad shape."
- "It is also related to the types of usage they get. Shoshone gets its butt kicked all the time because they have baseball, so it looks like it needs some attention."
- "If you ask any of our city parks department people, by the numbers, they would tell you the spending is very equitable. But if a park is in a distressed neighborhood, it already has a distressed feeling. Because some of our parks are in a distressed neighborhood, like MLK, you kind of get a sense that it is not the same as Delaware Park. It needs additional love and care. In proximity to the park, some of the lights don't work. Our city staff are doing a great job at MLK park, but the residents tell you that if the maintenance workers do a great job, they get promoted to Delaware Park. If all of the parks are given the same money, that assumes the needs are the same. But the needs are not always the same."

OTHER MAINTENANCE CHALLENGES

- Special events often leave parks in poor condition. Some interviewees think there should be more rules and enforcement so they are left better than they are found.
- Waterfront trails are especially susceptible to degradation which requires aggressive and constant upkeep.
 - "Maintenance funding for trails is inconsistent and is particularly challenging to obtain - especially when trail projects are lumped into funding considerations/competing with state & local roads that require maintenance. Trails can't compete in this funding model."
- Park setbacks near waterways are a challenge for the coastal parks within the network as the proximity to waterways accelerates the destruction of park grounds.
- Shoreline trails lack clarity in terms of overarching jurisdiction and maintenance responsibilities. This is particularly challenging for monitoring trail conditions and incorporating clearance/improvements. As a result, there are many sections within the trail network that are in disrepair, further adding to the gaps in the network.

IMPROVING MAINTENANCE

There is a general consensus that operations and maintenance are underfunded relative to the size of the park system and its use.

- "Our operations have not moved forward. If you look at just our spending on the O&M side, that is probably our biggest weakness. But what that also shows is that if you look at our parks and how they are maintained, we are doing everything we can with the limited funds we have."

Changes in hiring practices as well as the greater specialization in staff could also lead to improvements. Some felt that providing more competitive salaries for new hires would help to procure higher quality staff.

- *“Currently, the region has too many unskilled workers working in parks. This needs to improve.”*
- *“People are OK with simple if it looks OK. It requires budget and better trained personnel.”*
- *“It would be better if the titles were more specific. But the problem is that our staff has to and I don’t find that we have been able to find qualified individuals for specific titles to fill those vacancies. It would be beneficial if we were able to develop a forestry department.”*
- *“The forestry program is totally underfunded. We are on a 20-year pruning cycle, which is terrible. The small forestry community that we do have is more to address the immediate hazards and storm response for downed trees. Our park staff does not have the time to do continuous tree pruning. Our staff is undertrained in forestry. We do not have a lot of guys trained on saw work. We have tried, but people have retired and left. We do not have dedicated forestry titles. They are park utility workers, not tree pruners.”*
- *“Landscape and planting skills are missing generally, even in the Olmsted system.”*

Many stakeholders feel that an organized, city-wide park volunteer program could be successful in Buffalo. See Volunteerism and Stewardship for more on this.

Safety

Safety is seen as a major challenge and a barrier to park use. A greater staff presence in the parks, greater activation, and greater implementation CPTED principles were identified as opportunities.

- *“Security is probably our number one lacking issue in the city parks. There is no security. The police do what they can, but they are not as accessible as we need. They can’t be everywhere. I would love to have park rangers or park security officers to be there daily on a 7-day a week schedule.”*
- *“Safety is one of the number one things that comes up with block clubs—safety, security, and cleanliness. In a lot of the parks, the drugs and prostitution have waned. In some, no matter what we do, it doesn’t improve. There is only so many times you are going to bring your kids to the park. If we had activities going on, those groups would help keep those parks clean.”*
- *“Where we did soccer for success in neighborhood parks, some of those parks have really improved. Durant and Bailey Morgan playground, Roosevelt, a lot of the illegal activities that were going on, the activities stopped, because they were having positive activities going on. There is a process. It is partnerships and communication.”*
- *“Something that should be addressed right away is increased lighting. MLK Park is pitch dark at night and it has led to crime at night. Lights and maybe security cameras. It would be helpful if the city would devote money to making CPTED improvements.”*

Activation

WINTER ACTIVATION

Winter activation of parks was identified as a major opportunity. The lack of opportunities for winter park activities has implications for recreation as well as health via its connection to physical activity. Recent and ongoing efforts include a feasibility study related to the creation of an indoor field house, the creation of a sledding hill at Centennial Park, and Winter Mission.

Buffalo's plans to develop indoor field houses will do a great deal to help community members stay active year-round.

- *"There are not a lot of indoor amenities and the existing ones are private or subscription based. People do not have things to do in winter. From a lower socio-economic level, it is hard to maintain that same level of fitness."*
- *"At one time, the indoor facilities were free but they charge admission."*
- *"Pursue all different levels of funding to develop a world-class fieldhouse. This is a missing piece in Buffalo. City shuts down for 8 months out of the year. Structured, organized use dies down."*
- Follow through on such a large effort is important because the projects will help to close an equity gap in recreational facilities access. Multiple interviewees specifically noted the field houses as a step in the right direction from an equity standpoint.
 - *"The reality is the public knows that inner-city facilities are not up to the same standards as suburban places."*
 - *"There is an equity gap that needs to be closed, and this needs to be a priority!"*
 - *"The continued work like we did with those 11 parks. Similar projects. If there is a way to have a phased approach in engaging the community. Continually engaging the community. Making people feel like their needs are heard. People want to be heard. And they want to have the same enhancements in their parks whether they live in a lower income neighborhood or a higher income neighborhood"—(in answer to the question 'What should be the top priorities of the Division of Parks & Recreation and its partners?')*

Several interviewees had creative ideas for outdoor winter programming.

- *"Winter is long (1/3 of the year) so ice skating (temporary rinks), winter festivals, ice sculpting, etc. should be offered programming."*
- *"We need to get creative with winter programming. What about lake or creek skating at Delaware, even Cazenovia, South Park? Create cross-country skiing, concessions and rentals, and include warming features."*
- *"Delaware Park used to do a winter lights event (like Drumlins light festival in Syracuse)."*

Solutions to manage the cold and the wind were major priorities:

- Some of the existing facilities within parks that are open in the winter lack heat, for example, to the restrooms.
- Many interviewees felt that wind is an even greater deterrent than the cold, and note the need for walls, indoor shelters, or trees to block these gusts.
- One interviewee felt that some immigrant communities need help understanding and managing Buffalo's weather overall. Helping better prepare these communities for seasonal weather challenges can help increase the likelihood they will become more frequent park users during the winter.

Bringing in vendors to rent equipment was also identified as an opportunity.

- *"Bringing in vendors to do things like cross country skiing...anything that can extend programming into the winter. We have a process; we just need to provide facilities for them."*
- *"The ability to rent equipment and go do winter activities...you can't make a hill, so there is only one good sledding hill, but if I had a place where I could take my kid and rent cross country skis, I would have done it a million times."*

Some stakeholders were pessimistic about winter activation in general.

- *"I think the winter programming is done to the extent that people will show up. Most people think going outside is crazy. "*
- *"People here kind of hibernate in the winter, and then come out in droves in the spring and summer."*

DESIGN FOR ACTIVATION

Many felt that parks are overly devoted to sports and lack space for informal use, particularly neighborhood parks. Stakeholders felt that flexible, unprogrammed spaces, as well as signage inviting users to participate in non-programmed uses would help.

- *“There is no informal use. There is not a good place to put up a badminton net. There is a gay volleyball league that plays in Delaware Park. It is kind of a pickup game, so is not really a formalized use of the land. Is someone going to throw them out? It feels like you are trespassing on someone else’s picnic spot. Everywhere there is lawn it feels like picnic place.”*
- *“You don’t see that much informal use other than Delaware.”*
- *“Let people decide how they use parks. Residents tend to gather on a local level—once already in a park.”*
- *“I want more chaos, more people, more kids laughing. I don’t think we have looser places for kids to play—other than passive lawns.”*
- *“Unstructured recreation is part of the intent of park space so there is a level of receptiveness needed in considering use of the park—as long as people don’t vandalize or litter.”*
- *“The more opportunity we give for unstructured use instead of enforcing rigid spaces in parks, the more parks will resonate with people.”*
- Some stakeholders felt that movable objects in parks (most notably seating) could create greater comfort in the park, but may not be desirable due to perceived likelihood of theft and tamper.

There is a perception among some that parks should have a more consistent design vocabulary that includes the development of design standards.

- Consistency in signage that communicates with the user should be the same from one park to the next. Right now, there are inconsistencies within network.
 - With regards to trails, they should all tie together and communicate similarly—but these too are segmented and prevent consistent communication.
- Uniform standards beyond signs were also recommended, i.e., consistent standards and durability for amenities and fixtures.
 - *“Access and consistency in signage that communicates with the user should be the same from one park to the next. Right now, there are inconsistencies in the network.”*

There was a general view among interviewees that parks need more amenities.

- *“A lot of parks lack features and amenities (fountains, bathrooms, trails, playgrounds, etc.) just a grass area with a few trees. Probably a legacy of trimming back to the bare minimum that could be maintained.”*

Many interviewees had specific recommendations on which amenities would do the most to activate parks:

- Fitness Zones are well-used, and there could be more.
- American Ninja play structures are the new activities of interest.
- Facilities that were noted as being in high demand currently included:
 - Swimming pools
 - Splash pads
 - Green space for private events
 - Shelters

- Waterfront parks
- Sports
 - *“There are more teams than there are fields.”*
 - *“Basketball culture in Buffalo has a unique ability to bring people together.”*
- One interviewee felt strongly that not enough effort is put into keeping up with the times.
 - *“Changes in trends in outdoor entertainment is another weakness. Adaptation to changing trends has been a slower evolving process. For example, County Parks has historically had a lot of baseball diamonds but these areas aren’t used as much anymore since schools have their own diamonds and other fields for other sports of interests (i.e., Pickle Ball).”*
- Recommendations around repurposing existing amenities included:
 - Increasing the number of available pickleball areas by converting some of the underutilized tennis courts.
 - Repurpose and reprogram some playgrounds for more mixed multi-age appeal and social mixing.

ACTIVATING NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks have a particularly high need for activation.

- *“Neighborhood parks are places of mediocre playgrounds and sports fields. That is all people think of them as.”*
- *“Almost all of the events take place in a few parks – almost everyone wants Delaware, MLK– we have so many more parks. This is part of the community outreach, to get people to use smaller parks.”*
- *We focus so much of our time and energy around Delaware park.”*
- *“Delaware Park is kind of the place to be because everyone knows it is the place to be. We are never going to change that and that is fine. What I am more concerned about is the parks that are avoided, where the community feels like they are getting a lesser deal. How do we change that, so that the community feels like that little playground is something special?”*

Doing more to create a unique identity within neighborhood parks could be one key to activation. One interviewee also highlighted the fact that by making each park unique and recognizing its unique function, Buffalo could take a more system-wide approach to park planning.

- *They are the ones [neighborhood parks] that people go to if you don’t want to drive your kids to a better one. They shouldn’t all be the same. I would do a plant themed one, and a space themed one ...make it a neighborhood amenity and destination.”*
- *“Non-Olmsted parks don’t have much of an identity. Schiller Park is typical—just a grass field. Many are like that, no unique features.*
- *Art was suggested as a way to add identity to neighborhood parks. See Art section below.*
- *“For playgrounds that are suited to communities, you need to involve communities in design. Playgrounds could be better designed and dispersed, but also customized for each community.”*
- *“They are trapped in a notion of neighborhood parks everywhere; need to think about the right mix of park typologies (regional, natural, neighborhood, athletic) for the entire city. They don’t understand system approach and plan individual parks. Focus on unique aspects of each park within a system, manage by type rather than a one size fits all approach.*

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Some felt that the issue requires additional staffing to activate these parks, either a high-level city employee, or a day-to-day employee in the park leading programming. This presence could also have positive impacts on safety.

- *“When I was a kid, you could just walk down to the local park and they had a couple youth there in the summer organizing events. We are kind of missing that from our parks—that ‘every Tuesday there is this event at the local park’ and working on that community connection.”*
- *“I do remember as a kid growing up, around the corner from my grandparents’ house in Tonawanda, there would be a rec building, and people there, and you would go and sign up daily to participate in arts and crafts, sports, etc., and there would be rec instructors there every day. We do not have that capability at this point. It would be great to bring here.”*
- *“It would require staff. There could be recreational staff on a daily basis running programming for kids, but we do not have the staff to do that.”*
- *“Algonquin soccer does free programs in the neighborhood playgrounds. But we don’t have that element other than that. The larger parks are almost over-programmed in the summer time. But in these neighborhood parks there is almost nothing there. We convinced PAL to do some of their programs in the playgrounds rather than on streets (their Playstreets program). We get pushback on trying to get them to use the neighborhood parks. We are trying to get an understanding of why people don’t want to use their neighborhood parks. It is possible that there are other activities that are going on that keep people out.*

ACTIVATING SENIORS

To increase park use by seniors, interviewees recommended greater collaboration with Senior Services, and greater availability of certain amenities including park restrooms, seating, and pickleball.

- *“We have to make sure there are spaces that are designed for senior activities. And we need to coordinate more with senior services.”*
- *“The biggest complaint we get from seniors is bathroom access, and benches.”*
- *“A big request for seniors is more pickleball courts. We are planning on building some pickleball courts.”*

To increase activation for seniors, interviewees thought the city should consider replicating the County’s Park Rangers program (trained, certified support personnel that are not official staff) that focuses on programming for Senior Citizens. In addition to children, this type of Park Ranger programming in neighborhood parks (described above) could benefit seniors.

- *“The neighborhood level little day camps could be done for seniors too. It does not have to just be youth based.”*
- *“Development of a Park Rangers program (trained, certified support personnel that is not official staff) that focuses on programming for Senior Citizens.”*
- *“Erie County has effectively done this by using the Park Rangers to facilitate an annual passport program where seniors stamp locations visited during Senior hikes.”*

OTHER NOTES ON PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVATION

- The city relies largely on contractors and community partners to meet programming needs.
- Recent successes include Summer City Fitness and Canalside Fitness, programs sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield.
- One major partner is the Police Athletic League, which has helped children access parks in robust way. Thousands of young people take advantage of parks through opportunities provided by PAL.
- Some felt that the city is in need of a staff member specifically devoted to park programming.

- *“There has to be someone dedicated to it. Having it be an ad-hoc add on to community services of one of the 2,000 jobs of the commissioner, it doesn’t work. It has to be someone’s job. Right now, there is not a person who does that.”*
- Most participants agreed that higher poverty communities have a greater need for programming, as well as New American communities. Some recommended that park programming providers should do more to collaborate with the Office of New Americans to ensure that programming is reaching these communities.
- One interviewee noted the importance of working with communities to determine programming needs and build trust.
 - *“There is some community distrust of city programming if not deeply rooted in community views. Programming partners would need to be present in the community and engaging frequently to build up community trust.”*
- One interviewee felt that if the city showed a greater commitment to parks overall, they could increase their partnerships and outside support for programming.
 - *“The City could develop better parks programming with partners if it were clear that parks are a priority and considered to be essential services. A strong commitment to parks would elicit more partnerships.”*
- One interviewee thought that interactive scheduling would make it easier for people to schedule events. Currently, events are not posted until they are approved, which can lead to uncertainty about whether or not a facility is available in the interim.
 - *“I get a lot of calls from the general public because people don’t know if a certain place will be available on a certain day.”*

Information

Stakeholders agreed that the city should make park information easier to find. A more thorough website would alleviate some of the confusion. The Division of Parks and Recreation should also continue to utilize the city’s Clean Sweep initiative to spread information about parks in-person.

- *There is not park information. Maybe 311 or the city website. The website is not particularly useful or friendly. It would be useful to have [a place with more park information]. You could tell people, “you can setup tents for volleyball, just do x,y,z on your way out.”*
- *“Neighborhood parks would benefit from a site. Where is my neighborhood park? What are they for? What can you find there?”*
- *“The City has improved its website overall.”*
- *“I would love to see a staffed kiosk in parks giving more information about the parks—pamphlets, rental information, I would like to see pamphlets for walking trails to ride a bike or go hiking, and increase the security by having someone there.”*
- *“Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy (BOPC) manages its programming in parks separately from the City of Buffalo; however, there is often confusion on where to go, especially for uninformed people.”*
- *“Obtaining accurate parks information in Buffalo can be confusing given the number of entities with parks authority (City Parks, Olmsted Parks, and County Parks).”*
- *“I think the fact that we don’t get much information out about the parks could be a problem. Some of it could be on a website, but without a whole lot more promotion I don’t know how many people look at that.”*
- *“More partnership with clean sweep; go door-to-door.”*

- *I think the first step is being clear on what are the parks, where they are, what is in them, we don't do a good job of that. There needs to be somewhere to go for that information. We need someone to be able to easily find where the pools are. We are at the basics here."*
- *"You can go to the Olmsted Parks website for those sites and related activities ... The rest of system is less clear. Work through sports club? Work through events package? Information is now fragmented by use."*
- *"The size and scale of Buffalo parks may make it difficult to create a network-wide program for health but one of the ways the parks network can become a stronger catalyst for health is by creating better communication between the park space and park user."*

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Erie County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, and New York State Parks were all noted as strong local precedents for sharing park information.

- BOPC offers a robust website and is developing an Olmsted App that will provide wayfinding and interpretation information for users. The high priority goal for 2022 is to develop a wayfinding system across the BOPC parks network.
 - This application (or a similar one) could be considered for all Buffalo parks in order to maintain consistency of communication of parks information and resources city-wide.
- During the recent County Master Plan—the county used MTA buses as the main catalyst for branding.
- Erie County recently adopted a locator app that allows users to identify points of interest to visit within so many miles of home. This has helped to de-concentrate crowds from the popular park areas.
- New York State Parks was also noted as a strong local precedent for their website.
 - *"New York State parks has a good system—their hiking trails, how long, etc."*

Connecting with the Community

VOLUNTEERISM AND STEWARDSHIP

In Buffalo, passion about green space and civic pride are ingrained in the culture. Leveraging volunteer support and realizing untapped potential for local stewardship would help to build community buy-in for parks and improve park quality.

Existing volunteer efforts:

- **Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy (BOPC)** has a high level of volunteers (although some suggested less than in the past); however, BOPC's level of volunteerism is not matched across the board at all parks.
 - *"Everyone volunteers for Olmsted parks."*
- There are many opportunities for cleanups and improvements in transitional spaces at/near parks with block associations and community organizations such as Buffalo Green Fund's ReTree Program, Buffalo Green Fund, Grassroots Gardeners of Western New York, and Western New York Land Trust. In the past, a group called Keep Western New York Beautiful was active in parks, but the group largely disappeared after the person managing it retired.
- One interviewee noted that social justice groups might be interested and would have good input: Partnership for Public Good, Open Buffalo, and PUSH Buffalo.
- The Division of Parks and Recreation is starting to work more with other branches of city government to organize volunteer activities.
 - *"We are also trying to do better to work with the parts of the city that do volunteer outreach. We have to work with community services and recreational programming to try to get activities in parks. We are hoping that this effort*

is going to establish some of those connections, with events and volunteer outreach, so that people think about the park rather than the vacant lot if they want to do some cleanup.”

Volunteering supports community buy-in.

- “There are definitely groups that work hard on it and volunteer. My area informally takes care of the median on our street. If I go over a couple blocks, there are some that have been planted, have beautiful flowers. That ownership can really mean something.”
- “Volunteering ties into an emotional connection. People could do more to take care of their local parks.”
- “Buffalo Parks should consider adopting an engagement strategy that has been used effectively by Erie County Planning whereby local community groups and businesses organize with Parks around the development of a sponsorship program.”
- “It is the same concept as community schools. When people feel a connection to a park in their community, they take ownership over it. Connecting with people who live in the community ... in the Kaisertown neighborhood, many of the neighborhoods are interested in building community gardens, and we have been facilitating that, and it leads to a sense of ownership by the members of the community.”
- “I think people would definitely come out to volunteer in their neighborhood parks—they just need some guidance and support. It would give people a sense of pride.”
- Volunteering also helps with securing new park users and the next generation of park advocates, who create a stronger sense of civic pride and shared ownership and investment in parks.
- Different neighborhoods and communities in Buffalo can feel divided and segregated. Inviting all community members to help in parks can play a role in building social connections.

Challenges to volunteering:

- For volunteer efforts in parks and streets that border parks, having volunteer support can be helpful. However, major challenges involve managing the liability, ensuring volunteer projects are appropriate for the space, and potentially taking over maintenance if the volunteer groups become less active.
 - “We often have to toe the line between are volunteers doing cleanup, or are they conducting maintenance tasks.”
 - “I think volunteering is very effective, we have a lot of groups that reach out to us, and we work well with them. The only problem I have with volunteers is that a lot of groups will start projects with planting flowerbeds, and if that group folds, there is no one to take that one. Sometimes we end up having to rip it out and plant grass and mow it. It would be a benefit to the city if we had the staff to maintain those areas if the groups do fold.”
 - “I think volunteering is pretty effective. The hard part is managing expectations. Volunteers have an idea that they can do more than what they can actually do. Managing expectations is hard because you get people who say “I’ll take care of it” but then after two or three years it falls back onto the city.”
 - “Our volunteers that we have is mostly people involved in the greenway, Friends of Broderick park, Shoshone Park, groups that come in from UB or Buffalo State that do a little removal ... We encourage all these groups that do planting to keep it simple—if they are not maintaining it we might not be able to.”

Much of the current volunteer work occurring in Buffalo parks is being conducted by a few organized “friends of” groups, is happening in Olmsted parks, or was initiated by proactive individuals or neighborhood groups. The Division of Parks and Recreation regularly supports these efforts through the use of tools, contributing ornamental plants, and ongoing maintenance support for volunteer projects. Many stakeholders felt that to increase the impact of volunteering in Buffalo’s parks, the city needs to develop an organized approach to “invite” community members to volunteer, such as “Adopt-a-Park” or

park stewardship programs with training and tools provided. This would have the impact of increasing volunteerism as well as increasing coordination between the city and volunteers. A more organized approach may also allow the city to deploy more volunteers to parks with the greatest need.

- *“The City could do a better job partnering with volunteers who want to maintain parks. Parks are often maintained by local neighbors, unofficially.”*
- *“Lots of renegade work because there is no management oversight, nor invitations to volunteer.”*
- *“Some segments of Buffalo—particularly areas with high immigrant populations lack park access. Subsequently, these population segments have either been unasked or uninvited to volunteer in parks. If they were invited, people would be more likely to volunteer their time.”*
- *“Volunteers tend to be well meaning, wealthier people, and so unless there is going to be a level of management of that (‘we don’t need you to pick up trash at Delaware Park, we need you to go to Riverside Park’), allowing people to volunteer in just the park they want to volunteer in... Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority residents don’t have time or the inclination to volunteer. So, you have wealthier people who have the ability to do that, they want to pick up trash in their own neighborhood.”*
- *“We need a workforce; where do I go in the city to participate and volunteer?”*
- *“Buffalo has good citizenry for volunteering, especially the Block Club, good communication about discrete, one-off cleanups, but not so much for ongoing stewardship.”*
- *“The other thing that is difficult is that there are so many smaller groups that are doing these things on their own turf, that is why I think we need a city position, because a new nonprofit could not organize all of the existing nonprofits.”*
- *“I would prefer a position. I would love to have a volunteer coordinator. We could do a tremendous amount with that, especially with the digital tools that people have available. But it is probably not a reality based on where we are.”*

Although most stakeholders agreed that a volunteer program would be a boon to Buffalo’s parks, many had doubts about the level of coordination it would require, including potentially a full-time volunteer coordinator. Some suggested lower-intensity alternatives to a city-run program. Some alternatives included a training program for volunteers, asking Block Clubs to help organize Friends groups, or duplicating/expanding a program similar to the Tool Lending Library, which organizes cleaning activities around community gardens, street trees, and parkways in the University Heights District.

- *“Managing a volunteer program like that is a full-time job. They can’t do that. But setting up friends’ groups—‘a friends of parks university ... The city could help with the coursework, organization, etc. ‘This is how you prep your ball diamonds’.”*
- *“I think our block clubs could be approached, but a lot of our block clubs are having a hard time ... there are some very active block clubs and some very inactive block clubs. But that could be a conversation with the Board of Block Clubs. I don’t know if they would take them on.”*
- *“We do work with nonprofits directly on management agreements to help with maintenance that all do their own volunteer program—e.g., work with University Heights Tool Library, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper—but it is fragmented, and it leaves parks behind, primarily the small neighborhood playground. We talk about how to get the block clubs more involved, if Citizen Services could help with that coordination that would be great, but they don’t really have someone to do that either—they are dealing with everything, there is no real park focus. They can’t do that. There are too many other issues. But we do work with the smaller organizations.”*
- *“Block clubs have been a really important part—instead of one person it is a whole group. The block clubs by the parks care a lot about how they are maintained.”*

COMMUNITY COHESION

Interviewees emphasized that Buffalo is a segregated city, and that in many ways this segregation plays out in parks. People's reluctance to visit parks in other neighborhoods may also be acting as a non-physical barrier to park access, or at the very least accessing certain park amenities or events not present in one's closest parks. Parks could be used to try to bring different communities together.

- *“Most people are connected with the community they are familiar with. Buffalo is one of the most segregated cities.”*
- *“We have them (winter activities and amenities), but it is partly about people's reluctance to leave their neighborhood.”*
- *“Buffalo is territorial. People say Buffalo is a city of neighborhoods. Sometimes it is a compliment, but often it is not. People stay in their zones. I think parks could be part of solving that problem.”*
- *“Addressing the physical barriers around parks will help create stronger social connections and bring additional diversity to the park system. We want to encourage people to visit and experience all the city parks, not just the one they know (Delaware Park). Due to the barriers of entrance and division of highways, Delaware Park is the one place where people mix.”*
- *“The city still has a lot of people without cars, which means their neighborhood is going to be reflected in those parks. You can't force someone without a car to go to a park on the other side of town because that would make it more diverse. But encouraging people to go to different parks could be a start.”*

Green Infrastructure

The City of Buffalo is moving ahead with green infrastructure in a variety of ways, guided in part by the Raincheck 2.0 plan. The Division of Parks and Recreation has already started incorporating Green Infrastructure into some of its new designs.

- *“Throughout all of them [park improvements] we look at green infrastructure. When we did the Centennial Park pool parking lot improvement, we put in a swale. All of our projects get green infrastructure no matter what, so we are not increasing the CSO issue.”*
- *“Willard Park was a BSA-led project. It had to meet very specific parks specs. It got tricky, but was worth it in the end.”*

There is an opportunity to make greater use of parks for green infrastructure, in particular working in partnership with BSA.

- *“The Sewer Authority does a fantastic job with managing water infrastructure in Buffalo, and Parks can play a complementary role in improving stormwater management due to the availability of park grounds.”*
- *“There are lots of opportunities to manage stormwater in parks, also to take stormwater from surrounding areas. It would be great to have the stormwater be an amenity, like a pond with bridge, etc.”*
- *“Instead of doing green infrastructure in vacant lots, let's look at parks for potential CSO areas, and let's look at those areas that are not going to change (parking lots, athletic fields) where we know we will not be planting a ton of trees, and it allows the sewer authority to do work in parks. They don't do much in parks, because they don't contribute to CSO issues.”*

The long-term maintenance implications of green stormwater management pose a major challenge. The more advanced the green infrastructure practices, the more difficult and expensive these locations become to maintain and rehab in the future. These maintenance issues in turn make collaborations between BSA and the Division of Parks and Recreation challenging, particularly if there is not absolute clarity surrounding who is responsible for upkeep, or if there is not sufficient budget for the ongoing maintenance. Also, appropriately staffing the relevant department with the kind of expertise needed to manage green infrastructure is a challenge.

- “The Buffalo sewer authority has had several projects ... some of them, there is built-in maintenance in the beginning, but then there is no follow-up, and then there is no plan or funding for the Division of Parks and Recreation to maintain them. Niagara Street corridor, all of the plantings were going in ... they will create those but then there is no plan to come in and take care of them after a couple of years. If they are going to develop these gardens there needs to be a maintenance plan forever. They need to do it, or give us the staff to do it.”
- “I don’t know how much more parks can do. They are pretty green. Doing something like permeable pavement would be a higher level of maintenance than we currently do.”
- “From my standpoint, if the sewer authority wanted to do that (use parks to address stormwater issues) in a way that was a win-win for everyone, I would be open to it; but their vision does not mesh with DPW’s.”
- “There are raingardens that they put in at a park, they are not really looking good right now—they were designed without the idea of what it would take to keep looking like the rendering. And funding is what it is. Adding a task without adding to the funding is a problem.”
- “If the sewer authority is going to use stormwater management techniques to address the stormwater issue in parks, there needs to be a formal agreement between the sewer authority and parks. Who is responsible for the right-of-way? The sewer authority builds these, but then people complain about them, and they are not maintained. We need to formalize that.”
- “They get filled with trash or people complain that they look bad.”
- “The hardest thing about tree care is taking care of them after they are planted. Everyone is thinking about the front end and no one things about the long term.”
- “To make something truly beneficial, it can’t just be something where all of the costs get passed from one agency to another.”
- “We do not necessarily want sewer authority running the trees. There are already so many conflicts over street trees, that if you had stormwater capture into that same space (storage bins under trees) you are setting yourself up for additional problems down the road.”

Some interviewees suggested that rather than install more intensive green infrastructure interventions (e.g., ponds or raingardens) the city should focus on devoting more parkland to natural, unmanicured spaces that could serve as habitat, provide stormwater benefits, hold trees, and enhance park aesthetics.

- “Increasing habitat value of parks, which can help aesthetics and improve health (air quality, cooler)” – [In answer to a question on top park priorities].
- “I would be happy to see more unmanicured areas of parks.”
- “We need more diversity of topography and plant life. It looks like it is all soccer fields right now. It is boring.”
- “Green grass fields could be meadows. It would be reverting to something more natural and would help with management. Simple green infrastructure would work well and be low maintenance. The waterfront could have restored riparian areas. Cazenovia has some riparian restoration areas, and we could have more. Waterways in parks could have living shoreline treatments, as BNW did in Tiffit.”
- “Parks are the lungs of the city. There is low tree cover overall in Buffalo (14 percent), so parks are a good opportunity.”

There is some neighborhood reluctance to leave parkland in a less polished, more natural state. Some interviewees felt that more needs to be done to educate the public on the importance of these “natural habitat” areas.

- “People like manicured areas if there are rodents in the area. Is there a way to have an unmanicured area that is not rodent friendly?”

- “Residents have concerns. But some of our job is to show them when they don’t have all of the info, and to show them technical ways to address their concerns.”

Other green infrastructures opportunities include ...

- South Creek, South Park Lake, Hoyt Lake are water bodies that can help address existing flooding in the respective communities.
 - Currently, there are hydrological issues near each of these water bodies that impact adjacent land. Improving the natural system while improving stormwater network and rehabilitating these water bodies as assets is a priority.
- By incorporating solar technology, there is an opportunity to have a net zero mindset around consumption around parks similar to other public facilities.
- For example, within the Buffalo School District, most of Buffalo’s (60) schools will have some set of solar energy usage—solar panels on 30 of the schools. Close to 40 schools will have solar panels by next year.
- Parks could consider using solar technology to power concession stands and restrooms at their facilities.

Art and Culture

ART

Currently, parks in Buffalo incorporate arts and culture principally through large events. Many of these events are hugely popular.

- Parks bring people together—particularly during organized festivals and permitted events such as Jazz at MLK, Shakespeare in Delaware Park and Buffalo Philharmonic and cultural activities at parks.
 - “The largest Juneteenth celebration, and no one else sees that it is the 2-day celebration in a park.”
- Some noted that better advertising would get more diverse attendance at these events.

Parks are not viewed as places to experience the aesthetic and cultural benefits provided by visual arts, although there are opportunities to increase its presence.

- “There is little or no art in the park.”
- Reframing public art around an art type that isn’t formally structured or functionally maintained. Walls in general are accessible in urban parks. Consider classifying as urban art. Embrace graffiti.”
- “Incorporating arts/cultural programming in park projects has been discussed but one of the challenges is identifying and securing a large enough pool of local artists to choose from to be a part of a project. Dedicated arts elements have been budgeted and tied to engineering projects but getting artists to the table has been a challenge. Incorporating public art has become popular trend but we would like to see a greater number with stronger feasibility for implementation, and cleaner communication of goals, purpose and impact.”
- “Art is the perfect icing to place on parks.”

Neighborhood parks in Buffalo are thought to lack identity (see Activating Neighborhood Parks).

Incorporating arts and local culture were suggested by some stakeholders as a way to make neighborhood parks feel unique and improve aesthetics.

- “I love the idea of painting surfaces in parks. Just sprucing up something so it is not a drab concrete color everywhere. We can frequently get donations from a local hardware shop or get council members to contribute. There is a lot more opportunity for stuff like that for sure.”
- “It would be nice to have changing public art exhibits. A couple years ago they did a giant light show on the side of a psych center. We need more stuff like that to bring people into a park.”

- “Any art that is interactive and can attract social media attention is successful in drawing people to parks or any type of place. They also attract tourism, like Shark Girl”.
- “They could focus on the physical manifestation of placement, especially a stronger celebration of history of Buffalo, spaces, heritage, even in the Olmsted system e.g., about Olmsted! Some examples of where this is done well— Broderick Park had good interpretation of underground railroad. One opportunity is along the Buffalo River— could have kiosks about shipping and industrial past. Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper is doing that with partners about natural heritage.”

CULTURAL DISCONNECTS WITH PARKS

In some instances, interviewees thought there was a cultural disconnect between parks and the communities that they serve. Emerging and marginalized communities are a big part of Buffalo’s culture. It is important to reach out to these communities that do not feel represented in parks and recreation.

- “Refugee groups and the new sports they prefer ... don’t have facilities that match” (answer to the question “Are there groups of people or areas that you think do not have enough access to parks?”).
- “Buffalo has one of the biggest Somali and Burmese communities in the nation, and they have contributed and we should be mindful of that.”
- “The Bangladeshi community likes to play cricket. But there is not really a space for it. Installing a place for cricket in MLK park would be good.”
- “The Hispanic community used to be very much on the west side. I have not seen anything in the park that represents the Hispanic community in that area ... Nothing really representing our New American communities.”

Funding, Sponsorships and Partnerships

A lack of funding was generally thought to be the reason for many of Buffalo’s park-related challenges. This seems to particularly impact operations and maintenance, areas unlikely to be aided by private donations.

- “Everything comes down to funding, understaffing, operational needs to make the parks a better place for the community. We do the best we can with what we have. We try to do even more than what is required when we can. Unfortunately, we run out of time.”
- “Diminishing funding—and that affects the quantity of staffing—we don’t have enough funding to meet the quality expectations that our residents have. (answer to the question “What are the weaknesses of the Buffalo park system?”)

There are only a few philanthropic institutions in the region who support parks and/or the environment. The usual donors are on everyone’s list.

- “Buffalo doesn’t have rich partners. Those few with means are pulled in a number of directions. There are only a few Fortune 500 companies such as Rich Products, Jacobs, the Pegulas (owners of the Bills). But they will be on everyone’s list, same for Ralph C. Wilson Jr. and the Wendt Foundations. Many of the foundations are tapped out.”
- “Philanthropy can’t do everything. There has to be state funding, private funding, and whoever is asking has to bring something to the table too.”

This may limit the potential number of donors who are likely to invest in capital improvements. Approaching donors to support programming could provide a way to meet them along their own interests. The city has already had some success in this area, with BlueCross BlueShield sponsoring Summer City Fitness, and Canalside Fitness.

- “We don’t need any new parks. It would be enhancements to existing parks. Or programming—that would be good because you can meet the philanthropy groups on their own ground based on their interest (poetry in the park,

fitness, etc.). The philanthropists and the city both need to think more logically about maintaining these investments.”

- “Philanthropy needs to see where the parks align with their areas (health, youth, etc.). Someone needs to explain the justification. All they can do is say ‘no’ – you have to ask, extend the invitation to join.”
- “The health and wellness aspect would have to be elevated. Given this COVID situation I think people would respond to that. ‘We’re inviting you to come and use your parks.’ People would respond now.”

A sponsorship program, and greater outreach to local businesses, could bring resources into parks and would allow companies to sponsor park improvements and potentially upkeep. Businesses and organizations can take ownership in areas of the park to support maintenance, or to create stronger community policing. However, restrictions within the city on advertisements in the park and community pushback may make this difficult or unlikely.

- “I don’t know how much the private sector has been asked. The foundations have spent a decent amount of money. We have not figured out how to get the businesses to invest in parks.”
- “Olmsted wanted to get M&T to sponsor something, but conservationists through a fit because they wanted to put up signs.”
- “The opportunities for naming rights – the laws of the city would need to change—ordinances in the city strictly prohibit advertising in parks. Olmsted parks tried to push this. They were just trying to place banners allow post – they would have just had a “Sponsored by” on them but the preservation board and some of the neighborhood groups fought against them.”
- “But there is the idea of a respite in parks from advertising. The escape from all the branding. But there are opportunities and a happy medium.”
- “BlueCross BlueShield was allowed to put up temporary sponsors for fitness in the park, but it is just because they were temporary.”
- “Individual naming rights are allowed. Tiff and the Naval Park already do this.”
- “We undervalue economic return of parks and are too afraid of public private partnerships, which can be done without compromising the parks. We could deliver on the concession side in an organized way.”
- “I wish our corporate community would do more. I wish that our developers would do more to maintain some of their areas that are adjacent to public space. Sometimes they do. But in some cities, the cities don’t pay anything to maintain the streetscapes in front of apartments.”
- “I think it is really important to talk about the public-private partnerships and the outreach to other entities. Buffalo is a poor city—we do have these companies, rich products, new era, the medical carter—there are all these private entities, and they do a lot for the city in their way, but they could be better neighbors with the communities they live with day in and day out—pulling them in more could be pretty useful. Why aren’t they already? I don’t actually know.”

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES:

- **State Park funds and Federal funds** (EPA, Dormitory Funding) should be monitored closely as those budgets increase.
 - Engineering funds directly tied to Federal funds (FAST Act)
- **Niagara River Greenway** is a tremendous funding opportunity that can connect people to water. Water recreation is a trending funding area. Using it a vehicle to improve parks/water spaces can help us to enhance the quality of the system, while improving services and expanding programming.

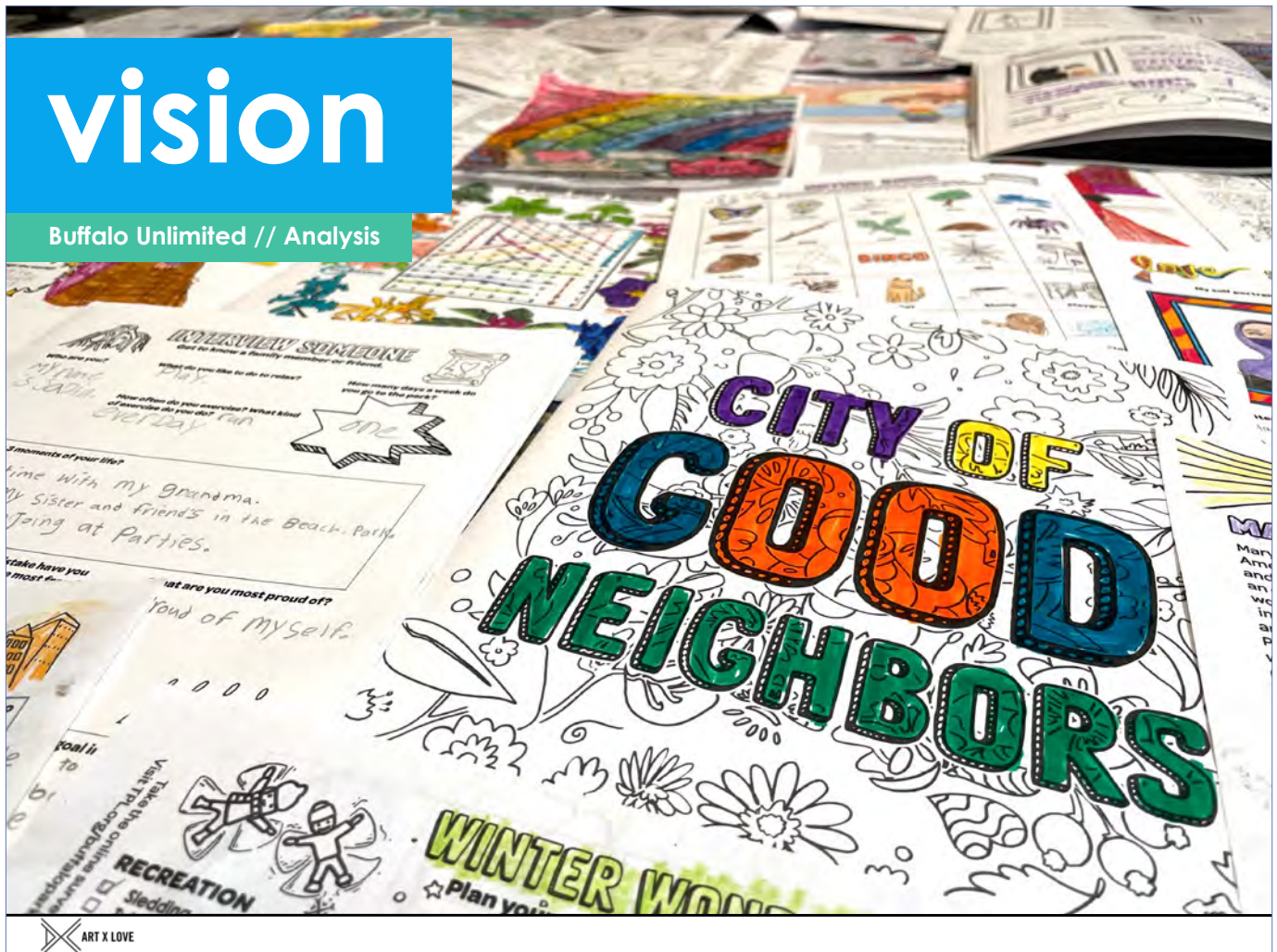
- **The KeyBank Corporation, MM&T, etc.** Local customers seek to have the best sports facilities and health and wellness facilities.
 - Banks alone could put in position to get parks done. Community Foundation of Buffalo been involved in a wonderful way by closing the gap in funding.

EARNED REVENUE FROM PROGRAMMING

One interviewee felt that if the city were run its over its own park recreation (rather than work through contractors) it could generate revenue that could go back into parks. However, others pointed out that this change would come with additional costs, and likely require additional staffing. Note: this specifically refers to adult recreation, as children’s programming is conducted at no cost.

- *“The city itself does not have actual programming in parks—I think we lose a lot of revenues to have someone in place to run those types of leagues—outside organizations run these leagues and make a boatload of money. The city is not seeing those revenues. We maintain the diamonds, and they get the revenue. Softball, kickball, flag football. The only thing the city is benefitting from is the actual permit. All we get are the complaints. The city is losing out on a lot of revenues for the use of the space. Years ago, the city used to run all of their own leagues, and this went back into the city for operations. But it was phased out. The city would generate revenues and have more control over what goes on in the parks.”*
- *“Could we be making a profit off of the programming? I don’t have confidence that we could hire the personnel. If we hired the personnel, we could do it. Right now, the justification to hire 1 or 2 full time staff members is not there. I don’t have confidence that we would keep or even fill that position. We would need to setup those protocols again. Same with the insurance side, hiring coaches, etc. The youth sports people are working at cost mostly—insurance, supplies. They are not really making any money.”*

Buffalo Unlimited Activity Book Analysis



Summary

In 2020, Art x Love was engaged by the Trust for Public Land to produce a 16-page activity book to inspire the community and engage people in participatory design opportunities that will inform the Buffalo Master Parks Plan.

Art x Love toured 24 parks in Buffalo and interviewed residents to gain insight on relevant activities for the book. More than 3,000 copies of the Buffalo Unlimited Activity Book were printed, downloaded, and distributed across the city. We also partnered with Buffalo Public Schools and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library to support distribution and raise awareness of this initiative.

Art x Love engaged dozens of local and community organizations online to raise awareness of the Buffalo Parks Plan, hosted two free virtual workshops, and distributed activity kits (activity books and colored pencils) to residents.

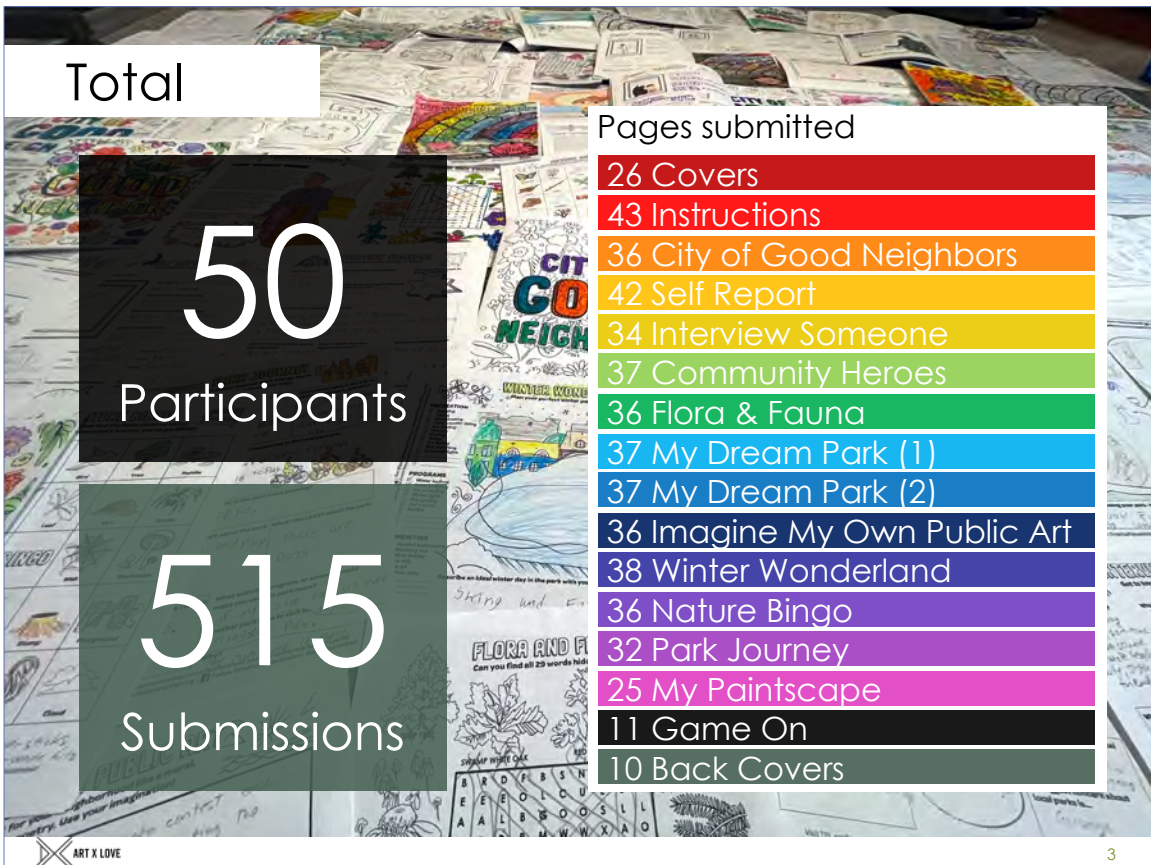
This document is the summary and analysis of the activity book submissions that were received by the April 3rd deadline.

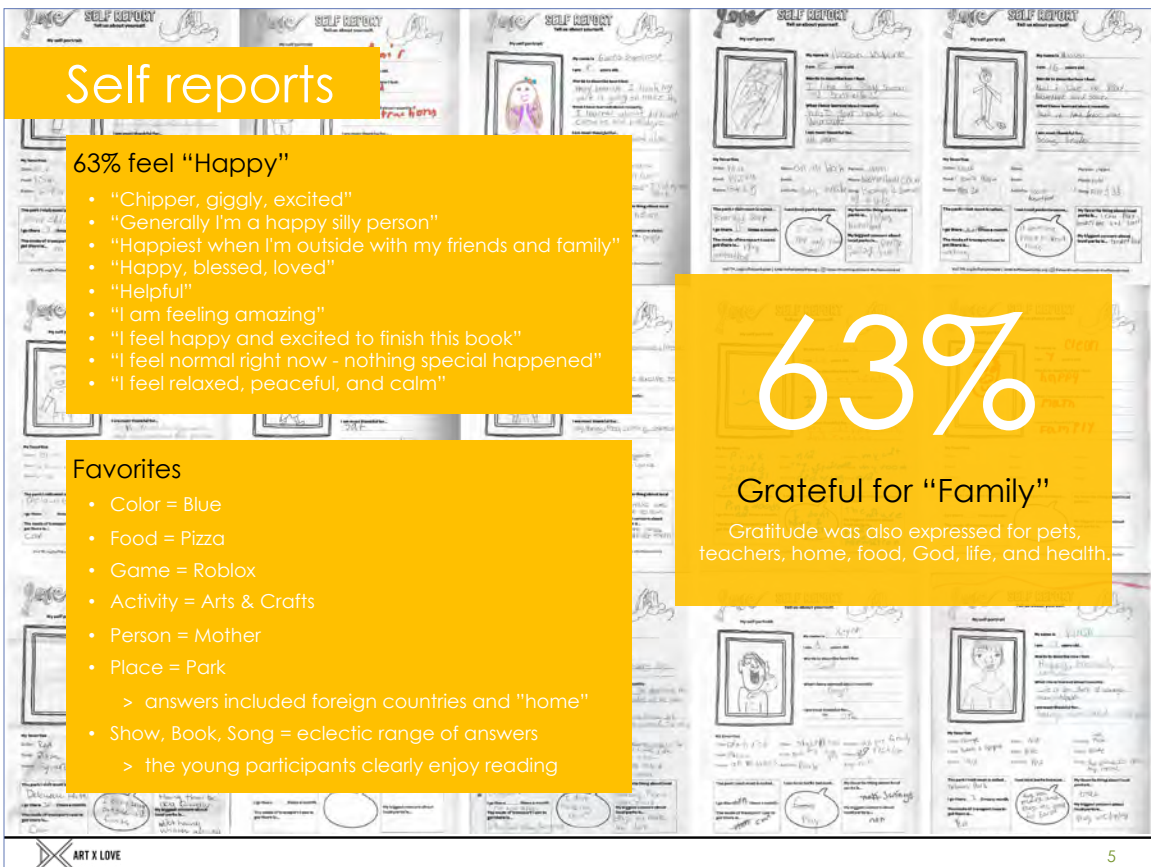
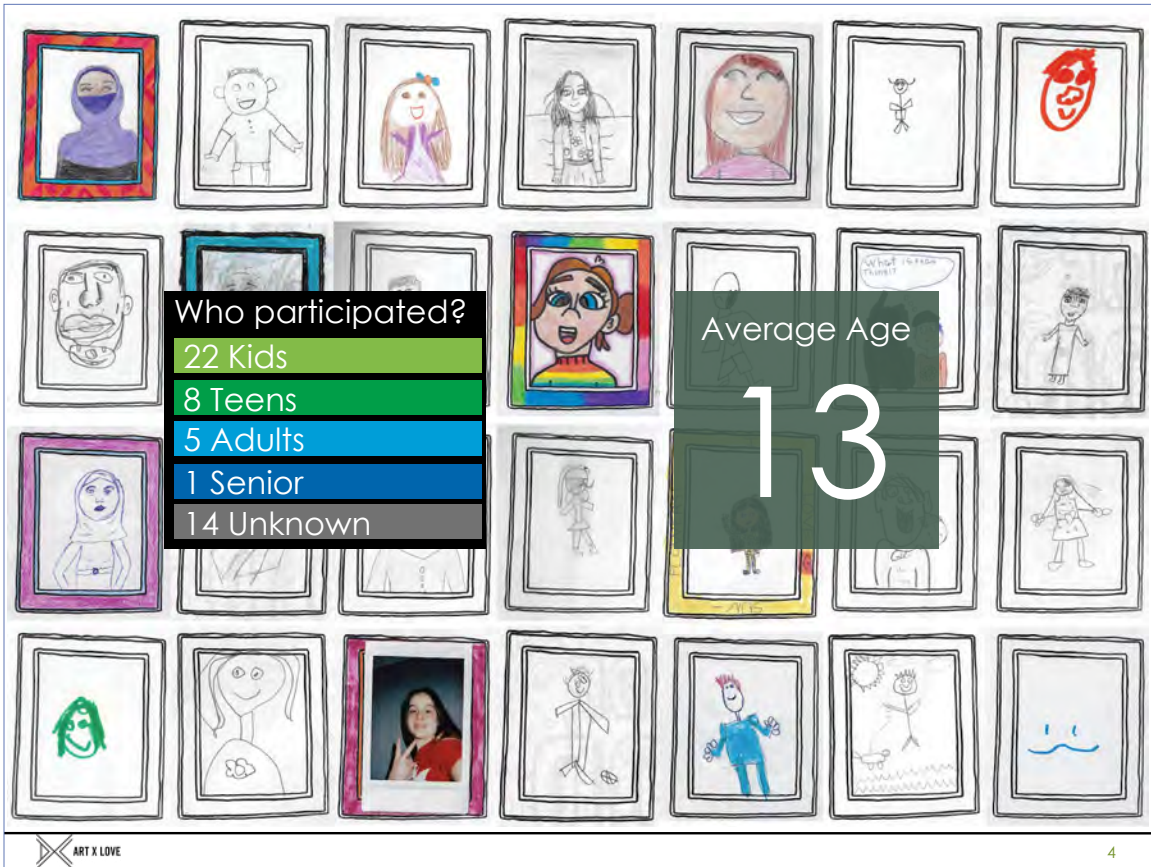
We were delighted to be part of this expansive and engaging opportunity to improve Buffalo's parks. We would be happy to answer any related questions and to continue to partner with the City of Buffalo, Trust for Public Land, and local organizations to help realize this vision for the benefit of all in Buffalo.

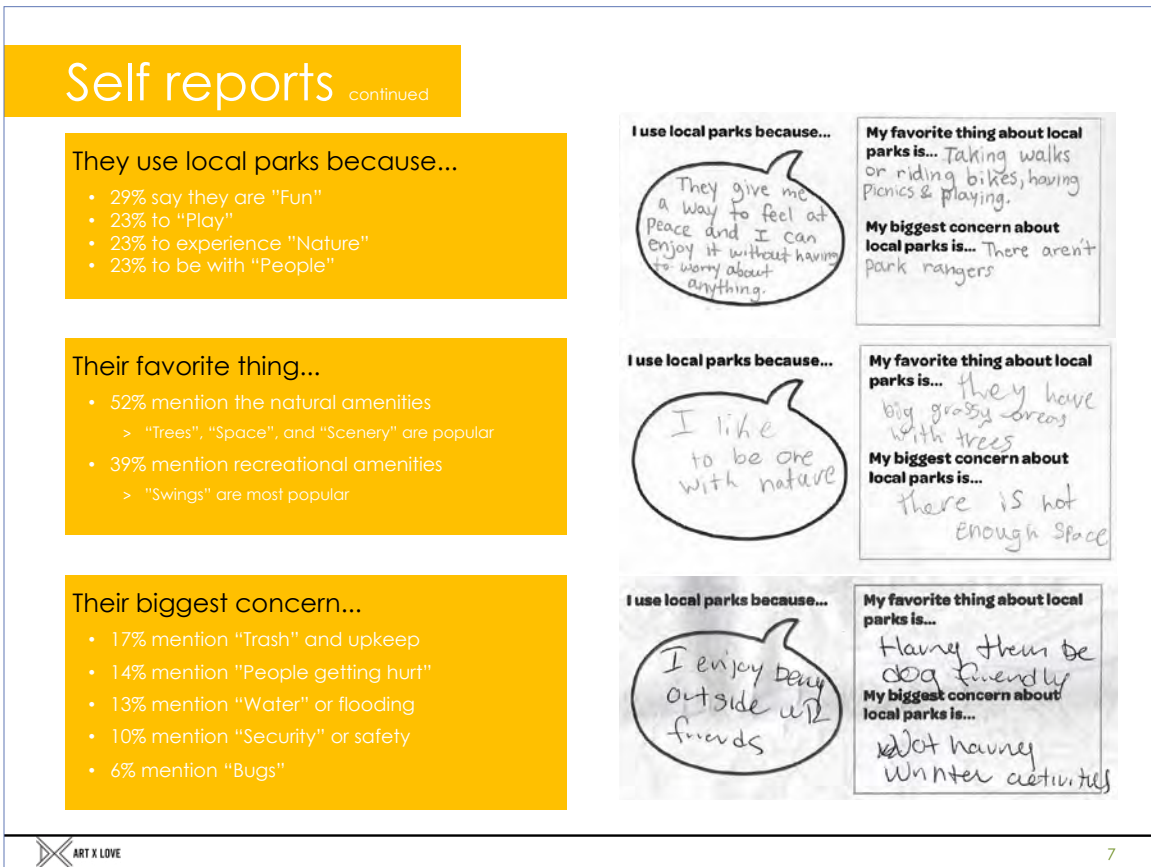
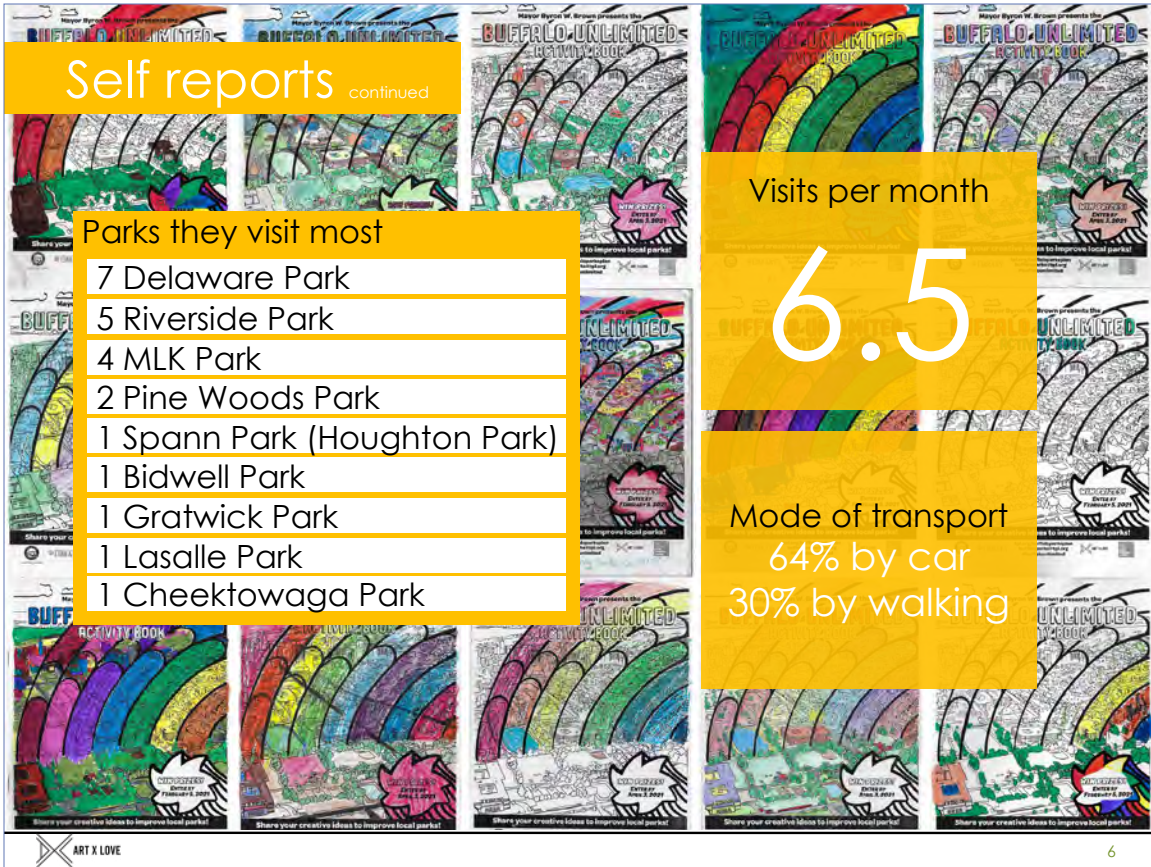
Thank you,

Mac Love

Allyse Love







Interviews

They exercise

2.4

days a week

Best advice

- A bad choice is to touch the hot stove
- Never give up
- Be nice to others
- Be positive
- Do not give up on yourself
- Help another is like helping your own self because god will bless you back
- Keep your head up and don't give up
- If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all
- If you cheat you will never get ahead
- Jesus lives forever
- Make the honor roll
- Stay focused
- Take responsibility for your actions
- The advice that I go are "in the life nothing is easy so to never give up. Don't judge people based on their skin ton because you don't know what they are going through.
- The best way to get someone to trust you is to trust them
- To never say bad words
- TRY YOUR BEST!
- Wear more red lipstick

ART X LOVE 8

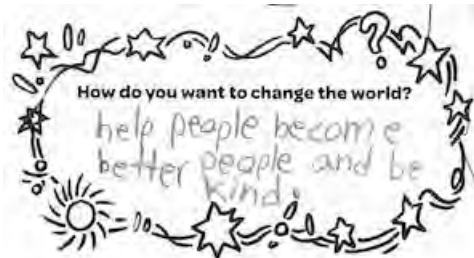
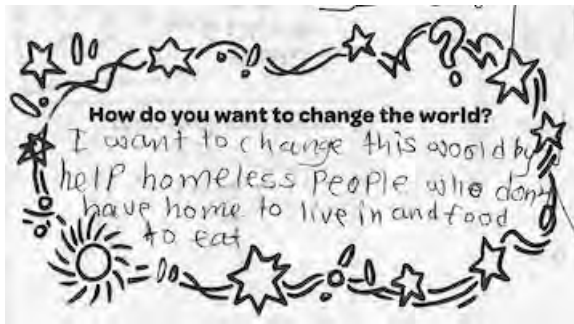
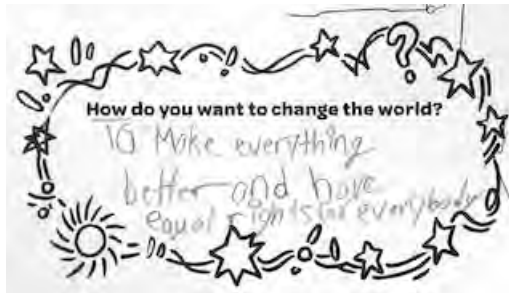
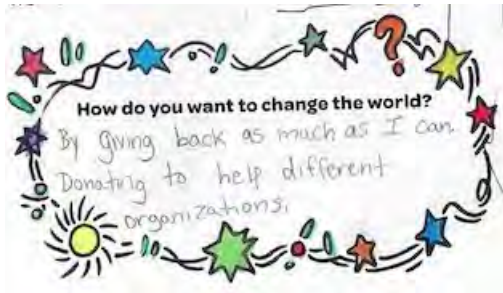
Community Heroes

How they want to change the world...

- "Clean the world."
- "Help people become better people and be kind."
- "By showing peace and stop them from war."
- "I want to donate to many charities."
- "I want to become a teacher."
- "I want to leave the world better than I found it!"
- "By giving back as much as I can. Donating to help different organizations."
- "I want this world to change in a better place which where everyone can have respect and patience with others because judging isn't going and it's not fair because judging others is hard and it very painful."
- "I want to change this world by helping homeless people who don't have a home to live in or food to eat."
- "Stop trashing up the place."
- "To make everything better and have equal rights for everybody."

ART X LOVE 9

Community Heroes continued



Dream parks

Playground priorities

1. Slides
Swings
2. Bridges
Teeter totters
3. Climbers
Nature adventure
4. Toddler play
5. Sand box (2 write-ins)

Splash pad priorities

1. Water slides
2. Night fountains
3. Water sprayers
4. Bucket splasher
Water pedals
5. Rain tunnel
6. Shower activation
7. Squirt guns (1 write-in)

Recreation priorities

1. Dog play areas
2. Swimming pool
3. Fitness zone
4. Volleyball
Walking path
Bike path
Ice skating
5. Basketball courts
Tennis/Pickleball
Skate park
Rock climbing
Sledding
6. Soccer/Football
7. Baseball /Softball
Parcours
Boating/Kayaking
8. Frisbee golf
Fishing

Dream parks continued

Program priorities

1. Ice-cream social
2. Chalk walk
3. Family night
 - Movies
 - Art in the park
 - Gaming
4. Swim lessons
 - Winter festival
5. Nature school
 - Yoga
6. Farmer's market
 - Stargazing
7. Cultural festival
 - Bubble festival
 - Dance
 - Pickup basketball
8. Concert series
9. Public theater
 - Geocaching
 - Battle of the bands
 - Snow building contest (1 write-in)
 - Labyrinth (1 write-in)

Amenities priorities

1. Benches
 - Garbage/Recycling
2. Tables
3. Bike racks
4. Community garden
 - Restrooms
5. Picnic shelter
 - Outdoor grills
 - Parking
 - Art/Sculpture
6. Campfire pit
 - Fountain
 - Story trail
7. Shade pavilion
8. emergency beacon
9. Music stations
 - Wi-Fi (1 write-in)
 - Stage (1 write-in)

Dream parks continued

Draw people using your park. What does it look, sound, and feel like?

It feels great it looks buctful and sounds fun

Draw people using your park. What does it look, sound, and feel like?

It's huge, it's very clean, it's fun, It sounds like it's fun it's peaceful, it feels great, you just want to keep going back. :)

Draw people using your park. What does it look, sound, and feel like?

it look amazing and sound great having a community with great people.

Draw people using your park. What does it look, sound, and feel like?

It sounds like birds chirping and feels like people having fun!!!

Dream parks continued

What makes your park special?

There is a fountain in the middle where people throw coins and make wishes, which is where the name came from.

What makes your park special?

People are happy & there's path room.

What makes your park special? It has a lot of things, activities and other stuff going on that other parks don't.

What makes your park special?

all the people are loving it.

What makes your park special?

It was made by me.

Dream parks continued



MY DREAM PARK IS CALLED Family Fun Park

Check the box next to your favorite features, draw a line to show us where they should go, and tell us why you picked them. Add anything you want. We'll use this information to inform and inspire future parks design!

PLAYGROUND

- Slides
- Bridges
- Climbers
- Toddler play
- Nature adventure
- Swings
- Teeter totter

SPLASH PAD

- Water slides
- Shower activation
- Bucket splasher
- Water sprayers
- Rain tunnel
- Water pedals
- Night fountains

RECREATION

- Basketball courts
- Baseball/Softball
- Soccer/Football
- Tennis/Pickleball
- Volleyball
- Frisbee golf
- Fitness zone
- Skate park
- Rock climbing
- Parcours
- Walking path
- Bike path
- Swimming pool
- Ice skating
- Sledding
- Boating/Kayaking
- Fishing
- Dog play area

PROGRAMS

- Family Night
- Cultural festival
- Movies
- Ice-cream social
- Farmer's Market
- Concert series
- Swim lessons
- Public theater
- Nature school
- Art in the Park
- Bubble festival
- Chalk walk
- Stargazing
- Yoga
- Dance
- Gaming
- Geocaching
- Pickup basketball
- Battle of the bands
- Winter festival
- Snow building contest

AMENITIES

- Benches
- Tables
- Community garden
- Picnic shelter
- Shade pavilion
- Music stations
- Outdoor grill
- Compost pit
- Garbage/Recycling
- Emergency beacon
- Parking
- Bike racks
- Restrooms
- Fountain
- Story trail
- Art/Sculpture



Draw people using your park. What does it look, sound, and feel like?
It sounds like birds chirping and feels like people having fun!!

What makes your park special? My park is special because it has a lot of nature and golf courses do not take over. We have spots for family fun in all seasons!!

Dream parks continued

MY DREAM PARK IS CALLED ZoZo's Fun Park

Check the box next to your favorite features, draw a line to show us where they should go, and tell us why you picked them. Add anything you want. We'll use this information to inform and inspire future parks design!

PLAYGROUND

- Slides
- Bridges
- Climbers
- Toddler play
- Nature adventure
- Swings
- Teepee/fort
- Sand box

SPLASH PAD

- Water slides
- Shower activation
- Bucket splasher
- Water sprayers
- Rain tunnel
- Water pedals
- Night fountains

RECREATION

- Basketball courts
- Baseball/softball
- Soccer/football
- Tennis/Pickleball
- Volleyball
- Frisbee golf
- Fitness zone
- Skate park
- Rock climbing
- Parcours
- Walking path
- Bike path
- Swimming pool
- Ice skating
- Sledding
- Boating/kayaking
- Fishing
- Dog play area

PROGRAMS

- Family Night
- Cultural festival
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- Stargazing
- Yoga
- Dance
- Gaming
- Geocaching
- Pickup basketball
- Battle of the bands
- Winter festival

AMENITIES

- Benches
- Tables
- Community garden
- Picnic shelter
- Shade pavilion
- Music stations
- Outdoor grills
- Campfire pit
- Garbage/Recycling
- Emergency beacon
- Parking
- Bike racks
- Restrooms
- Fountain
- Story trail
- Art/Sculpture
- Skate boarding

Draw people using your park. What does it look, sound, and feel like?

It's huge, it's very clean, it's fun. It sounds like it's fun. It's peaceful, it feels great, you just want to keep going back.

What makes your park special?

It has a lot of things, activities and other stuff going on that other parks don't.

Take the online survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BuffaloParks> and help us improve Buffalo's parks!

Imagine your own public art

How they want public art to inspire and impact the neighborhood:

- "I want my art to make people understand how precious nature is."
- "Art can be anywhere to remind us and others that creativity is all around us and to enjoy bits of beauty. - Lawn signs reminders - Monthly photo contest."
- "By making nice art for my neighborhood."
- "Good Vibes."
- "I want my art to make people understand how precious nature is."
- "I want public art to inspire and impact my neighborhood by getting people more involved and coming together and getting people to show their more creative side."
- "The video game history."

Imagine your own public art continued

have lawn/yard sign reminders that encourage a quiet moment - such as Park-ku (like "haiku")

Parks are great spaces to be together is fun, laughing and happy.


N - grateful gifts of nature
D - decorate a pine tree

have a photo contest each month celebrating the month, such as

- J - snow shoe
- F - make snow-hearts
- m - Find hidden shamrocks
- A - Flower search
- M - jump in puddles
- J - Fly a kite
- J - have a picnic
- A - watch Perseids meteor shower
- S - Harvest moon
- O - Halloween Tree Tag

How do you want public art to inspire and impact your neighborhood?

Art can be anywhere to remind us + others that creativity is all around us and to enjoy bits of beauty.



Winter Wonderland

Describe an ideal winter day in the park with your family or friends:

- "Hot cocoa. Skating."
- "Roasting marshmallows - going sledding and tubing and ice-skating and having some good ole Hot cocoa!! :D"
- "Sitting by the bonfire drinking some hot cocoa, skiing on ice, and chilling with my homies."
- "Skiing and falling."
- "Sledding - hot cocoa - fire pit."
- "Sledding and snowballs."
- "Sunrise snowshoe or sunset snowshoe with hot cocoa, sledding and nature hike with picnic, rest in warming hut, sign guest book. - Bathroom in general. - Snow castles and forts."



Nature Bingo

Their favorite thing to find outside:

100% Nature

Park Journey

How comfortable is the trip to the park?

- 60% say the trip is comfortable
- Most travel to the park by car
- "Is fun because I can walk and go there"
- "Not at all - drug dealers" (Pine Woods Park)

What they like MOST about their park...

- It is "fun"
- Swings and sporting amenities
- Natural elements (trees, scenery, open space)

What they like LEAST about their park...

- Bugs
- Dog poop
- Lack of activities

The activity, program, or amenity that would make them use their park more:

- "A place for sledding."
- "A practice tennis wall."
- "A zipline and trampoline."
- "Art program."
- "Basketball court and soccer field"
- "Biking and playing sport"
- "Crafting"
- "Make more basketball courts"
- "New slides."
- "Paint."
- "Playing volleyball, riding bike, and swimming."
- "Pole vaulting."
- "Take more bike rides."
- "The swings."

Park Journey continued

The three things that stand out most to me about my journey to the local park are...

1. Ease of access (love no traffic in ring road)
2. Old growth trees
3. Can play tennis, par-course, golf playground, The Rock!



What improvements would make your journey to the park more pleasing?

The three things that stand out most to me about my journey to the local park are...

1. lots of people exercise
2. lots of nature
3. people walking dogs



The three things that stand out most to me about my journey to the local park are...

1. if I am going to make new friends
2. want game I am going to play
3. and who I see



Park Journey continued

What improvements would make your journey to the park more pleasing?

fun trip activities bikes and other transports
like roller skate

What improvements would make your journey to the park more pleasing?

Get more friends ride bike

What improvements would make your journey to the park more pleasing?

More people need to come more

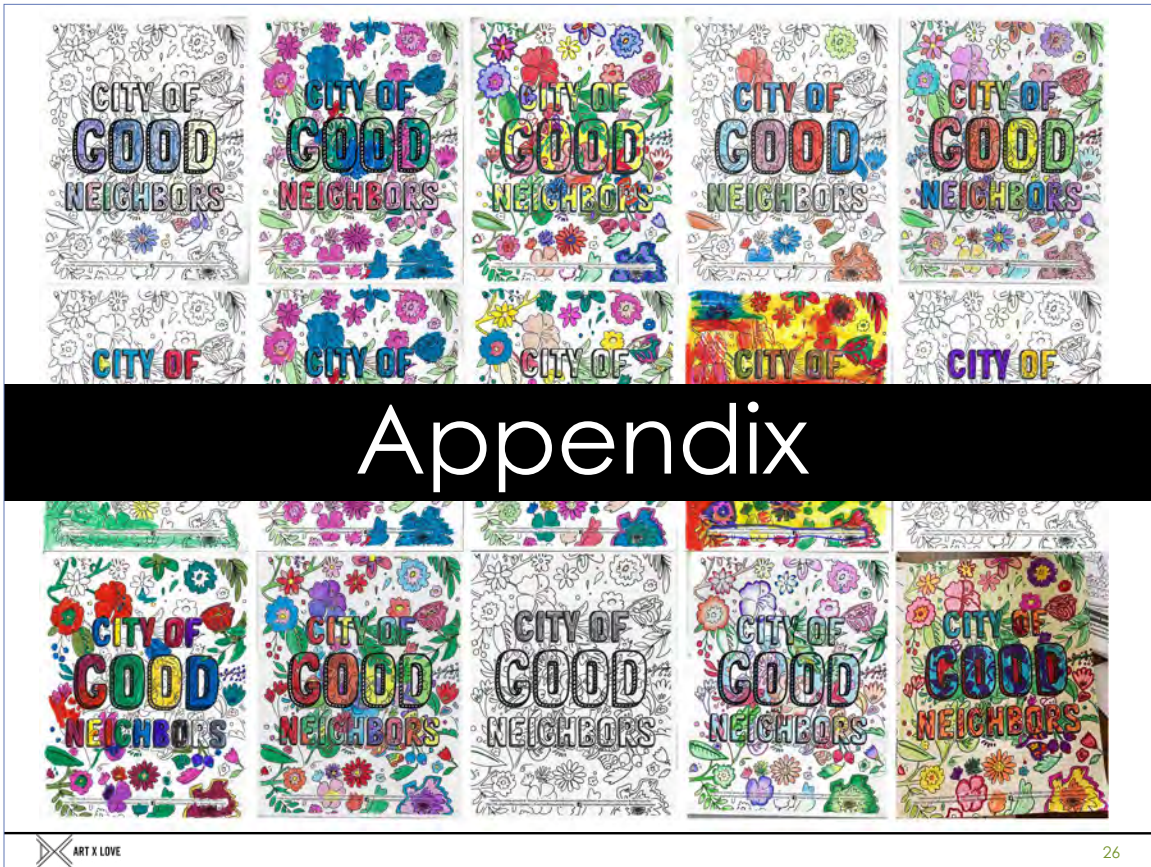
What improvements would make your journey to the park more pleasing?

no more dog poops.

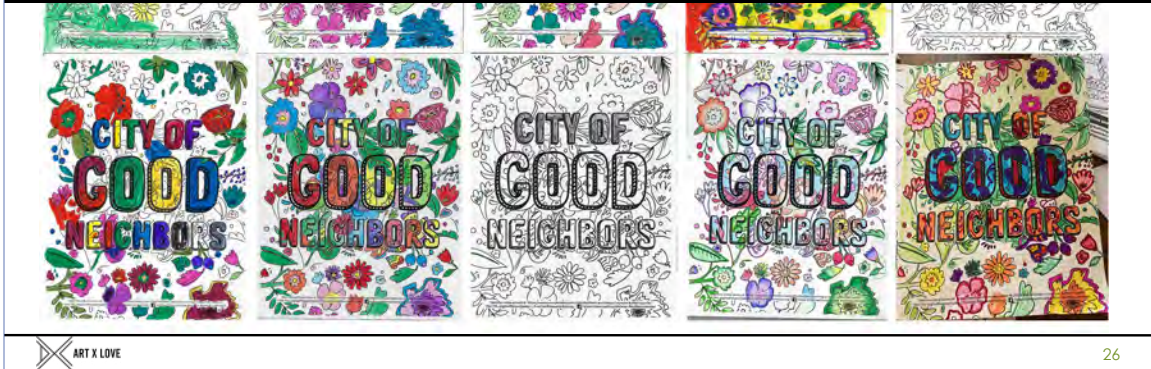


Key takeaways

- Participants are optimistic about the future of Buffalo Parks.
- Participants were young but extremely passionate and did an outstanding job of communicating their interests.
- “Family” was a powerful theme for participants, which makes sense given their age. That said, a “We Are Family” text-based mural would likely be well received.
- Encouragement and positivity means a lot to participants. More signs of it in the public space would be greatly appreciated.
- Being engaged with nature is very important to participants.
- There is a very strong desire for more differentiation between Buffalo parks. Stronger wayfinding, color accents, and a wider range of amenities and activities would likely lead to greater awareness, a stronger sense of equity, and more frequent park use.
- Participants expressed no apprehension about cold weather. In fact, they strongly desire more winter amenities and activities. The key to making these successful is opportunities for warmth and comfort.
- Participants were more excited to go to their park than discouraged by the condition of what is around it.



Appendix



Dream parks continued

MY DREAM PARK IS CALLED

Check the box next to your favorite features, draw a line to add anything you want. We'll use this information to inform and inspire future parks design!

Dream Village Park

Draw people using your park. What does it look, sound, and feel like?

3 dogs like fun and feels like a nice sleep in the park.

PROGRAMS

- Family Night
- Cultural festival
- Movies
- Ice-cream social
- Farmer's Market
- Concert series
- Swim lessons
- Public theater
- Nature school
- Art in the Park
- Bubble festival
- Chalk walk
- Stargazing
- Yoga
- Dance
- Gaming
- Geocaching
- Pickup basketball
- Battle of the bands
- Winter festival
-
-


AMENITIES

- Benches
- Tables
- Community garden
- Picnic shelter
- Shade pavilion
- Music stations
- Outdoor grills
- Campfire pit
- Garbage/Recycling
- Emergency beacon
- Parking
- Bike racks
- Restrooms
- Fountain
- Story trail
- Art/Sculpture
-
-


What makes your park special?

Take the online survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BufaloParks> and help us improve Buffalo's parks!

Dream parks continued



MY DREAM PARK IS CALLED
Check the box next to your favorite features, draw a line to show where they should go, and tell us why you picked them. Add anything you want. We'll use this information to inform and inspire future parks design!



PLAYGROUND

- Slides
- Bridges
- Climbers
- Toddler play
- Nature adventure
- Swings
- Teeter totter

SPLASH PAD

- Water slides
- Shower activation
- Bucket splasher
- Water sprayers
- Rain tunnel
- Water pedals
- Night fountains

RECREATION


- Basketball courts
- Baseball/Softball
- Soccer/Football
- Tennis/Pickleball
- Volleyball
- Frisbee golf
- Fitness zone
- Skate park
- Rock climbing
- Parcours
- Walking path
- Bike path
- Swimming pool
- Ice skating
- Sledding
- Boating/Kayaking
- Fishing
- Dog play area

PROGRAMS

- Family Night
- Cultural festival
- Movies
- Ice-cream social
- Farmer's Market
- Concert series
- Swim lessons
- Public theater
- Nature school
- Art in the Park
- Bubble festival
- Chalk walk
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- Pickup basketball
- Battle of the bands
- Winter festival

AMENITIES

- Benches
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- Shade pavilion
- Music stations
- Outdoor grills
- Campfire pit
- Garbage/Recycling
- Emergency beacon
- Parking
- Bike racks
- Restrooms
- Fountain
- Story trail
- Art/Sculpture




Draw people using your park. What does it look, sound, and feel like?
It look amazing and sound great having a community with great people.


What makes your park special?
The trees, flowers, building, and people.

Take the online survey at: <http://bit.ly/2016parkmasterplan>

Dream parks continued



MY DREAM PARK IS CALLED
Check the box next to your favorite features, draw a line to show where they should go, and tell us why you picked them. Add anything you want. We'll use this information to inform and inspire future parks design!



PLAYGROUND

- Slides
- Bridges
- Climbers
- Toddler play
- Nature adventure
- Swings
- Teeter totter

SPLASH PAD

- Water slides
- Shower activation
- Bucket splasher
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- Rain tunnel
- Water pedals
- Night fountains

RECREATION


- Basketball courts
- Baseball/Softball
- Soccer/Football
- Tennis/Pickleball
- Volleyball
- Frisbee golf
- Fitness zone
- Skate park
- Rock climbing
- Parcours
- Walking path
- Bike path
- Swimming pool
- Ice skating
- Sledding
- Boating/Kayaking
- Fishing
- Dog play area

PROGRAMS

- Family Night
- Cultural festival
- Movies
- Ice-cream social
- Farmer's Market
- Concert series
- Swim lessons
- Public theater
- Nature school
- Art in the Park
- Bubble festival
- Chalk walk
- Stargazing
- Yoga
- Dance
- Gaming
- Geocaching
- Pickup basketball
- Battle of the bands
- Winter festival

AMENITIES

- Benches
- Tables
- Community garden
- Picnic shelter
- Shade pavilion
- Music stations
- Outdoor grills
- Campfire pit
- Garbage/Recycling
- Emergency beacon
- Parking
- Bike racks
- Restrooms
- Fountain
- Story trail
- Art/Sculpture



Draw people using your park. What does it look, sound, and feel like?
Children love to play and have fun for others opportunity for children to meet others from different playgrounds.
This is lacking @ my local park
Chance to enjoy the outdoors and breathe.
Opportunity to have a nice trail system to showcase flora and fauna.
Laughter, children playing

What makes your park special?
Fun for children
Showcase local sources of food, highlight local businesses
Educational opportunity
Buffalo has amazing history - lets showcase it!
Would make the park a better destination

Dream parks continued

MY DREAM PARK IS CALLED

Check the box next to your favorite features, draw a line to show us where they should go, and tell us why you picked them. Add anything you want. We'll use this information to inform and inspire future parks design!

PLAYGROUND

- Slides
- Bridges
- Climbers
- Toddler play
- Nature adventure
- Swings
- Teepee/totter
- Sand pit

SPLASH PAD

- Water slides
- Shower activation
- Bucket splasher
- Water sprayers
- Rain tunnel
- Water pedals
- Night fountains

RECREATION

- Basketball courts
- Baseball/Softball
- Soccer/football
- Tennis/Frisbee
- Volleyball
- Frisbee golf
- Fitness zone
- Skate park
- Rock climbing
- Farcours
- Walking path
- Bike path
- Swimming pool
- Ice skating
- Sledding
- Boating/Kayaking
- Fishing
- Dog play area

Draw people using your park. What does it look, sound, and feel like?
It feels safe, It looks peaceful

Zootopia

What makes your park special?
It was made by me.

PROGRAMS

- Family Night
- Cultural festival
- Movies
- Ice-cream social
- Farmer's Market
- Concert series
- Swim lessons
- Public theater
- Nature school
- Art in the Park
- Bubble festival
- Chalk walk
- Stargazing
- Yoga
- Dance
- Gaming
- Geocaching
- Pickup basketball
- Battle of the bands
- Winter festival

AMENITIES

- Benches
- Tables
- Community garden
- Picnic shelter
- Shade pavilion
- Music stations
- Outdoor grills
- Compost pit
- Garbage/Recycling
- Emergency beacon
- Parking
- Bike racks
- Restrooms
- Fountain
- Story trail
- Art/Sculpture
- Sprinkler

ART X LOVE

30

What is your goal in life?
Show my kids the life isn't easy but is not impossible and give them strength to never give up

If I could improve anything at this park I would:
hushcan

I use local parks because...
They give me a way to feel at peace and I can enjoy it without having to worry about anything.

The three things that stand out most to me about my journey to the local park are...

1. I like go down slide
2. take bike with family
3. I Play tag with friends

How do you want to change the world?
Show people the war end only when people love each other

I use local parks because...
help my mind and make my heart happy

My favorite thing about local parks is... *the Fresh air*

My biggest concern about local parks is... *security*

ART X LOVE

31

Describe an ideal winter day in the park with your family or friends:

We would skate around the park then go sledding and have hot cocoa! I love the idea of a skating path like the Ring Rd.

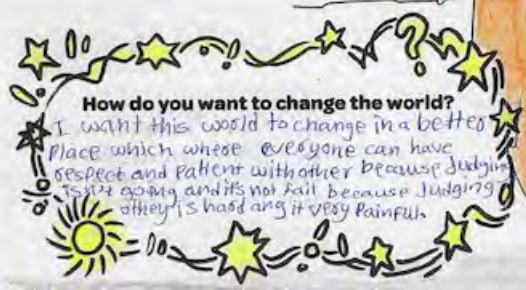
What are you most proud of?

I am mostly proud of myself because I work damn hard in school and I get good grade and I am also proud of my mom who always encourage us to do better at school and to never give up in life.



How do you want to change the world?

I want this world to change in a better place which where everyone can have respect and patient with other because judging isn't going and it's not fail because judging they is hard and it's very painful.



I use local parks because...



My favorite thing about local parks is...

Swings

My biggest concern about local parks is...

it always wet

What is your goal in life?



What is your goal in life?

To be the best person I can be.

If I could improve anything at this park I would:

Put more cameras in the area. keep the park all the time.

What activity, program, or amenity would make you use this park more?

The swings

Another park I like to visit is:

Lang weber Park

Why?

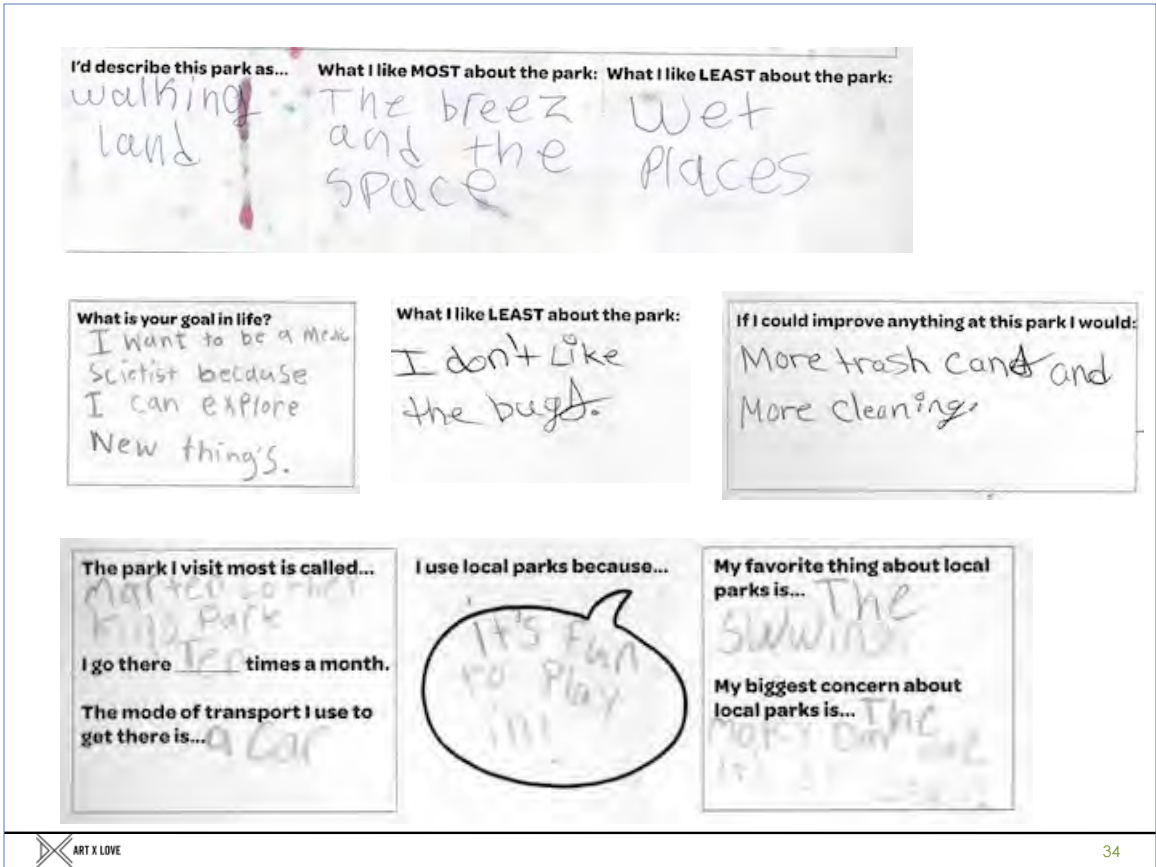
I want to see new things

How do you want public art to inspire and impact your neighborhood?

I want my art to make to make people understand how precious nature is.



unintended



thank you!

Mac Love
 Chief Catalyst, Art x Love, LLC
 1969 N Cleveland Massillon Rd., Akron, OH 44333
 m: 860.389.2944 | e: mac@artxlove.com

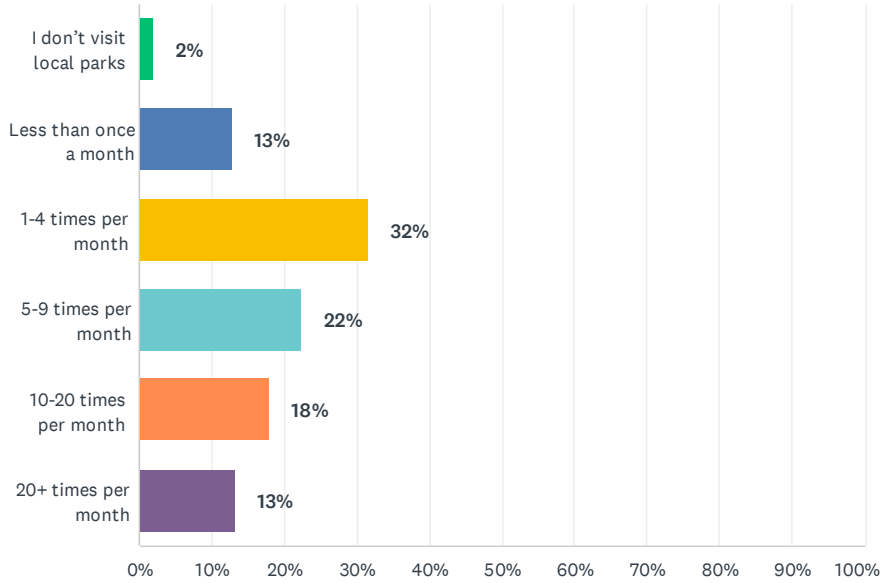
Online Survey Results

Introduction

The online survey allowed residents to share thoughts about current parks in the area and where to focus future improvements. The survey was available in English, Spanish, and Arabic from December 2020 through the end of April 2021. It received 1,015 responses. Outreach occurred over social media and through the planning team's distribution of hard-copy surveys via block club organizers and at the Belle Center and Community Centers. Overall survey responses were robust and represented a wide diversity of Buffalo ethnic groups, ages, and income and education levels, however, responses were not spread proportionately among these demographics. Survey respondents were skewed toward females (57 percent), white respondents (74 percent), and the affluent (30 percent of households earned over \$100,000 annually). To avoid biasing the survey's results toward these demographics, results to certain questions were analyzed in Section 7 of the Parks Master Plan independently based on race/ethnicity and income. This was done wherever statistical analysis of survey results indicated significant differences in answers between these groups. This appendix will present the results of the survey question-by-question, including both the number of responses for each option and the percentages.

Q1 How often do you visit parks on a monthly basis?

Answered: 1,008 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I don't visit local parks	2%	20
Less than once a month	13%	129
1-4 times per month	32%	318
5-9 times per month	22%	226
10-20 times per month	18%	181
20+ times per month	13%	134
TOTAL		1,008

Q2 What is the name of the park you visit most frequently?

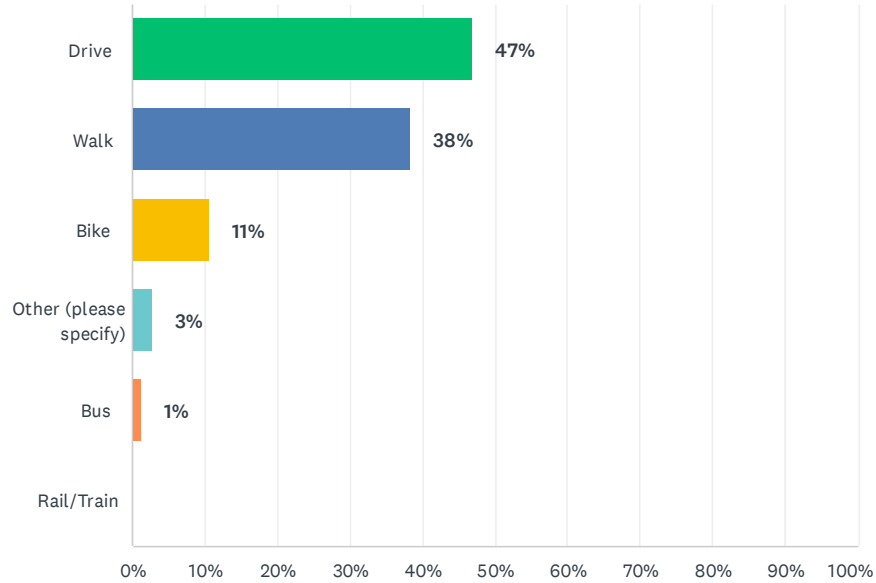
Answered: 942 Skipped: 73

McCarthy Buffalo Harbor State Minnesota Linear Park Unity Island Trinidad Park
Wilkeson Pointe Waterfront State Park Delaware Wilkeson Point Bidwell Parkway
Hennepin Days Park Tifft Harbor Jr Broderick Massachusetts Avenue Park
Shoshone Lincoln Martin Luther King Park Delaware Park
Cazenovia Linear Park MLK South Delaware Masten
Delaware Park Akron Falls Park Seneca Bluffs
LaSalle Harbor State Park Houghton Buffalo Harbor
Hoyt Lake Gallagher Riverside Como Front Park Johnson
Luther King Jr Jfk Schiller park Billy Wilson Bidwell Delaware MLK
Chestnut Ridge Park MLK CaZ Rails Trails La Salle Lake

Note: The word clouds in this section are based on responses to online survey questions. Words were scaled based on the frequency with which each word was used by survey respondents, with more frequently used words appearing larger.

Q3 What is the most frequent mode of transportation you use to visit that park?

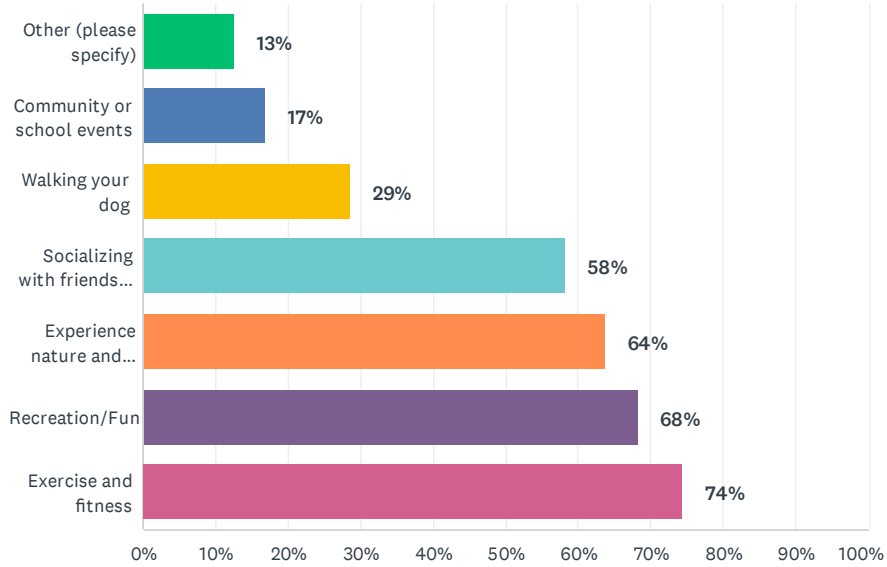
Answered: 1,003 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Drive	47%	471
Walk	38%	385
Bike	11%	107
Other (please specify)	3%	28
Bus	1%	12
Rail/Train	0%	0
TOTAL		1,003

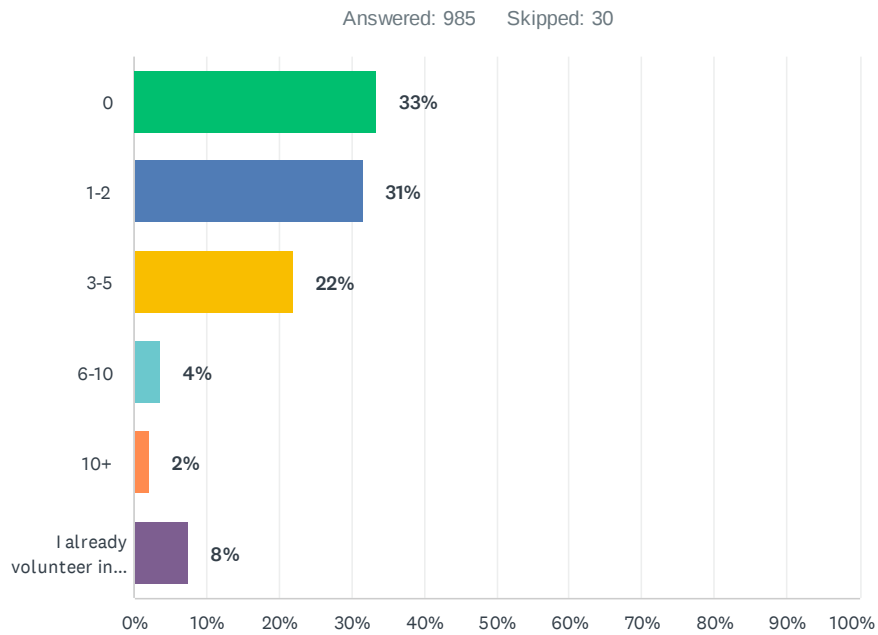
Q4 Why do you use local parks? Check all that apply.

Answered: 1,003 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Other (please specify)	13%	127
Community or school events	17%	168
Walking your dog	29%	287
Socializing with friends or family	58%	584
Experience nature and wildlife	64%	640
Recreation/Fun	68%	685
Exercise and fitness	74%	746
Total Respondents: 1,003		

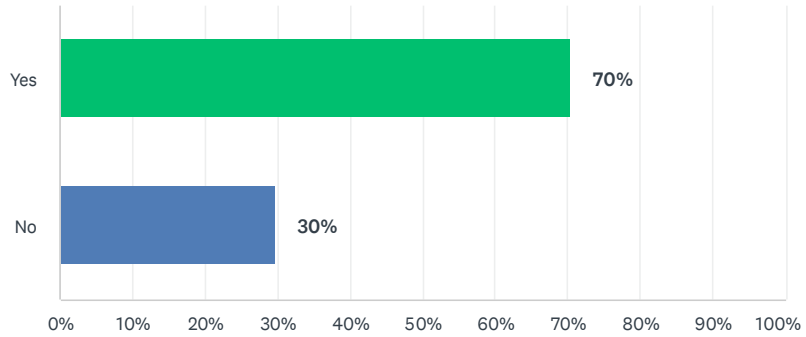
Q5 Many parks and gardens are maintained and improved by volunteer groups. Would you be willing to volunteer to help care for a park in Buffalo? If so, how many hours each month would you be willing to help out?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	33%	329
1-2	31%	310
3-5	22%	216
6-10	4%	36
10+	2%	20
I already volunteer in a park	8%	74
TOTAL		985

Q6 In an average week, do you do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise, such as walking, or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity exercise, such as running?

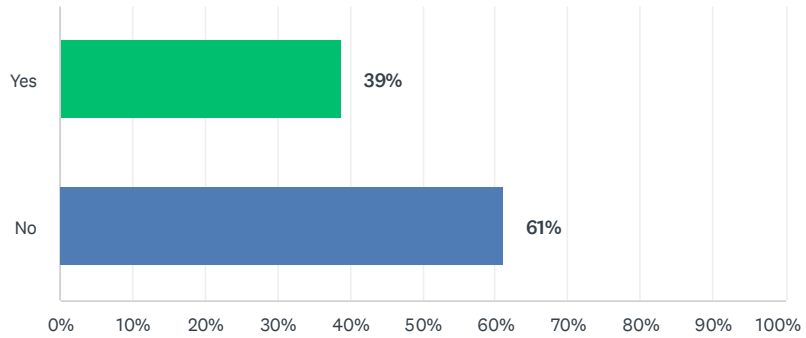
Answered: 973 Skipped: 42



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70%	685
No	30%	288
TOTAL		973

Q7 In an average week, do you do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise (such as walking) or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity exercise (such as running) in a park?

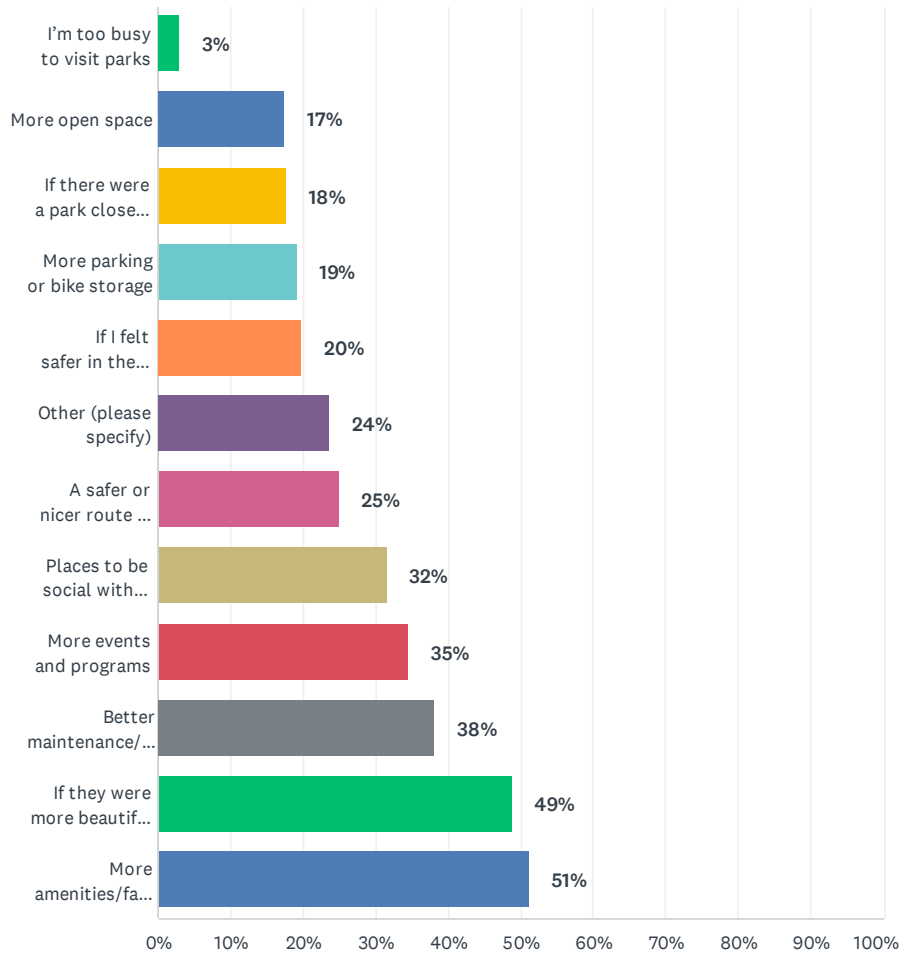
Answered: 968 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	39%	376
No	61%	592
TOTAL		968

Q8 Would any of the following encourage or help you to use any parks in Buffalo more frequently? Check all that apply.

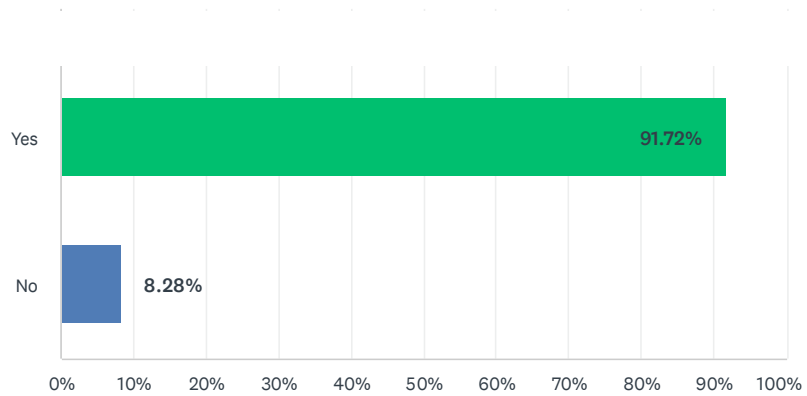
Answered: 950 Skipped: 65



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I'm too busy to visit parks	3%	29
More open space	17%	166
If there were a park closer to my home	18%	169
More parking or bike storage	19%	183
If I felt safer in the park from crime	20%	189
Other (please specify)	24%	224
A safer or nicer route to get there	25%	238
Places to be social with friends and family (e.g. picnic areas, BBQ pits)	32%	300
More events and programs	35%	329
Better maintenance/upkeep	38%	362
If they were more beautiful (e.g. more plants and trees, artwork, water fountains)	49%	464
More amenities/facilities (e.g. sports fields, bathrooms, fitness equipment)	51%	487
Total Respondents: 950		

Q9 Would you support the use of some parkland to build rain gardens that would absorb stormwater from the park and nearby areas?

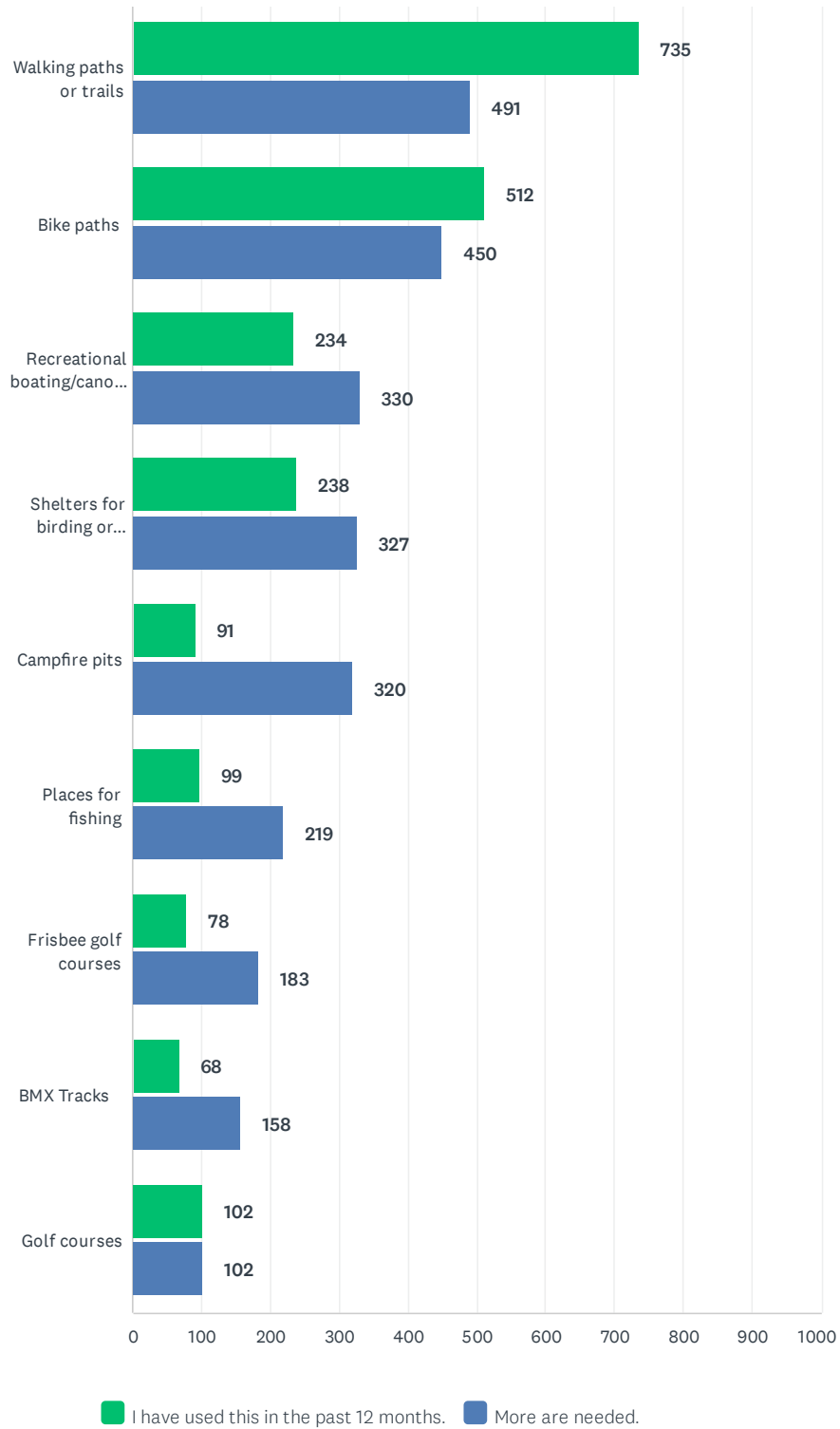
Answered: 966 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	91.72%	886
No	8.28%	80
TOTAL		966

Q10 For each of the following open space amenities, please let us know:
 (1) Have you used it in the past 12 months? (2) Does Buffalo need more of these?

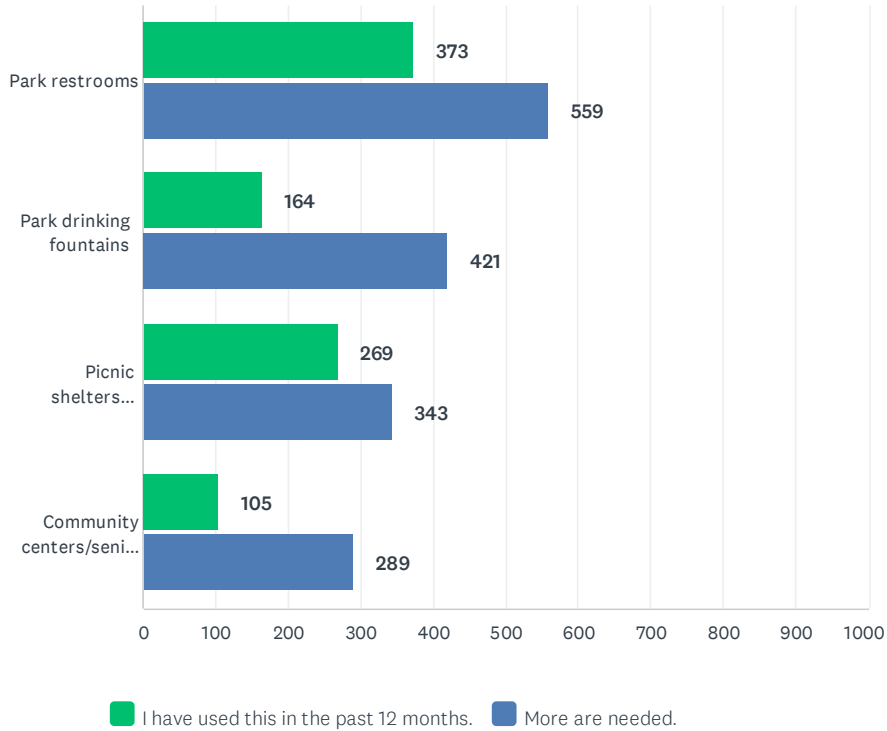
Answered: 899 Skipped: 116



	I HAVE USED THIS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.	MORE ARE NEEDED.	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Walking paths or trails	86.47% 735	57.76% 491	850
Bike paths	77.81% 512	68.39% 450	658
Recreational boating/canoeing	53.18% 234	75.00% 330	440
Shelters for birding or nature viewing	52.77% 238	72.51% 327	451
Campfire pits	25.85% 91	90.91% 320	352
Places for fishing	35.61% 99	78.78% 219	278
Frisbee golf courses	35.45% 78	83.18% 183	220
BMX Tracks	34.52% 68	80.20% 158	197
Golf courses	56.04% 102	56.04% 102	182

Q11 For each of the following passive park amenities, please let us know: (1) Have you used it in the past 12 months? (2) Does Buffalo need more of these?

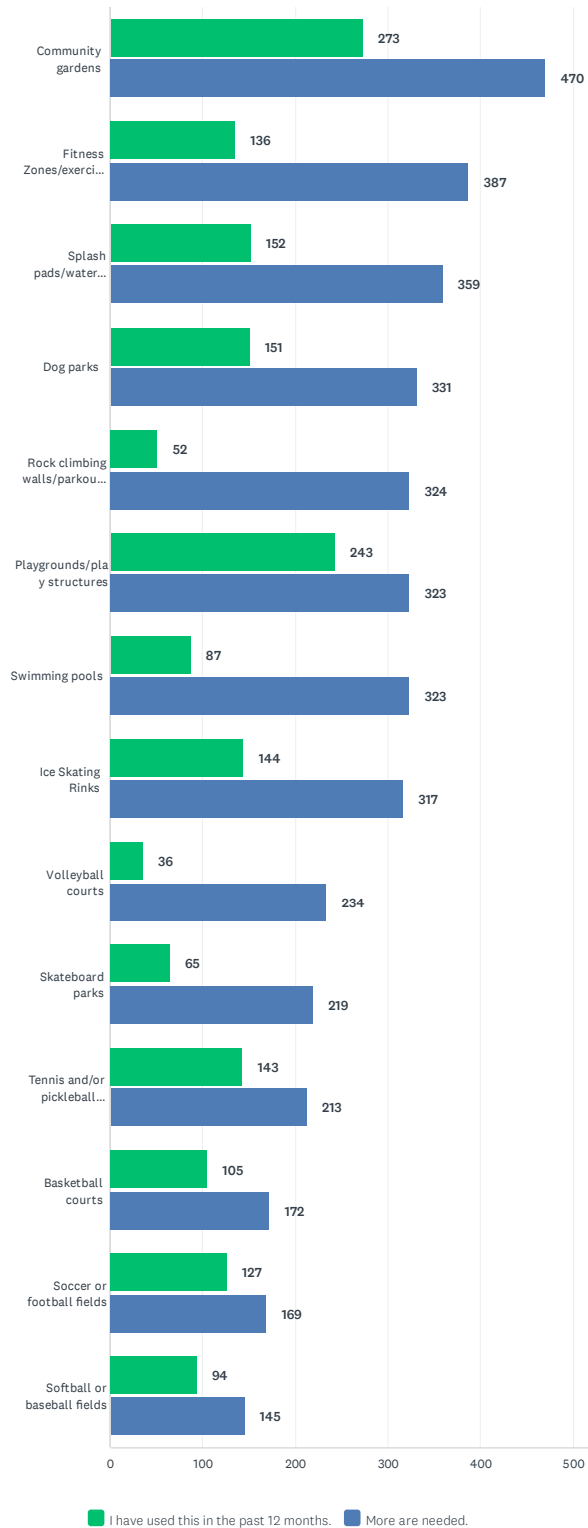
Answered: 789 Skipped: 226



	I HAVE USED THIS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.	MORE ARE NEEDED.	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Park restrooms	53.59% 373	80.32% 559	696
Park drinking fountains	35.57% 164	91.32% 421	461
Picnic shelters (including grills)	54.12% 269	69.01% 343	497
Community centers/senior centers	30.43% 105	83.77% 289	345

Q12 For each of the following active park amenities, please let us know:
 (1) Have you used it in the past 12 months? (2) Does Buffalo need more of these?

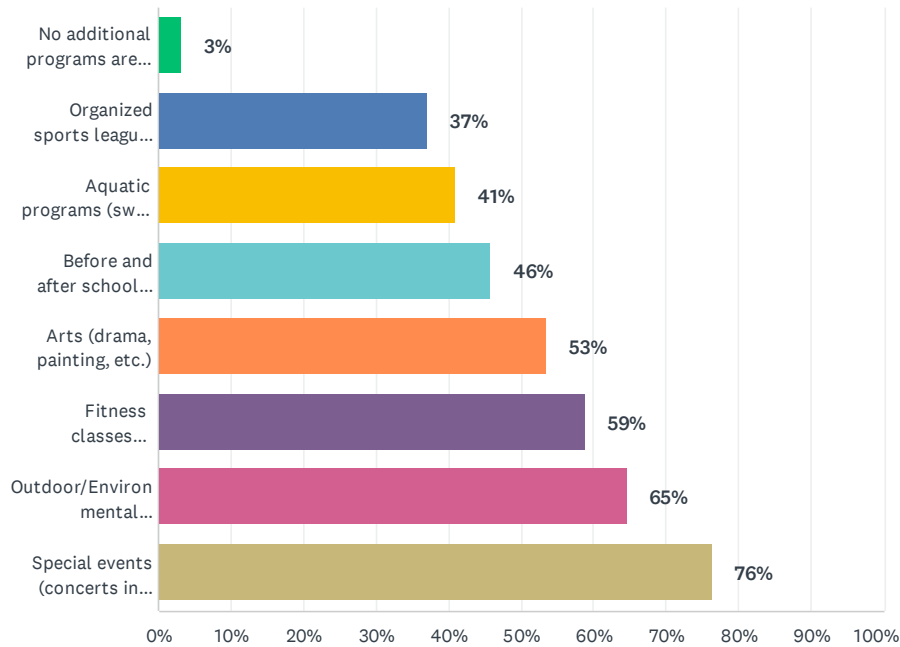
Answered: 836 Skipped: 179



	I HAVE USED THIS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.	MORE ARE NEEDED.	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Community gardens	47% 273	81% 470	577
Fitness Zones/exercise equipment	32% 136	90% 387	431
Splash pads/water features	35% 152	84% 359	429
Dog parks	39% 151	85% 331	388
Rock climbing walls/parkour facilities	15% 52	96% 324	338
Playgrounds/play structures	55% 243	73% 323	441
Swimming pools	24% 87	89% 323	364
Ice Skating Rinks	38% 144	83% 317	384
Volleyball courts	15% 36	95% 234	246
Skateboard parks	27% 65	91% 219	241
Tennis and/or pickleball courts	48% 143	72% 213	297
Basketball courts	45% 105	74% 172	233
Soccer or football fields	49% 127	65% 169	261
Softball or baseball fields	45% 94	69% 145	211

Q13 What additional recreational programs do you feel Buffalo parks should offer or expand? Check all that apply.

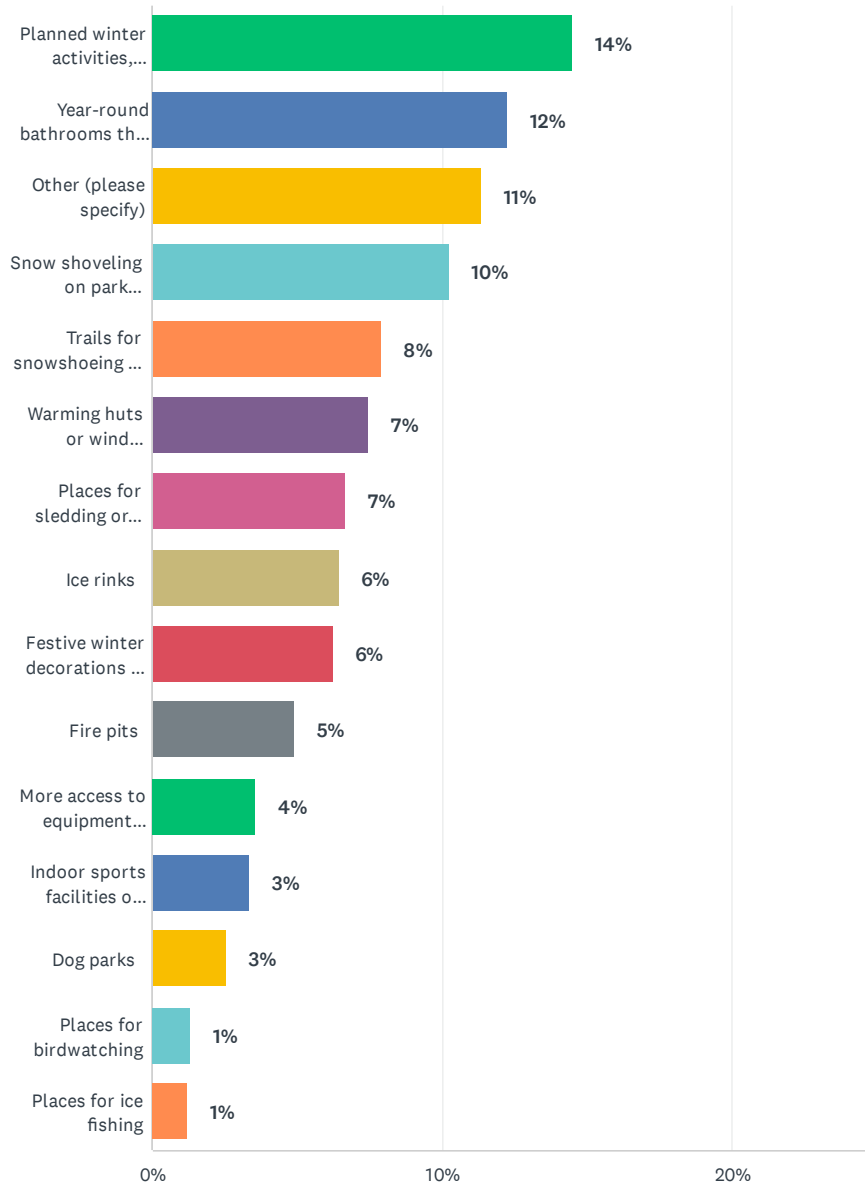
Answered: 886 Skipped: 129



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No additional programs are needed	3%	28
Organized sports leagues (football, ultimate frisbee, etc.)	37%	328
Aquatic programs (swim lessons, water exercise, etc.)	41%	362
Before and after school programs	46%	406
Arts (drama, painting, etc.)	53%	474
Fitness classes (aerobics, yoga, etc.)	59%	521
Outdoor/Environmental education programs	65%	572
Special events (concerts in the park, festivals, movies, etc.)	76%	676
Total Respondents: 886		

Q14 We want to help people use parks all year. Please complete the sentence below: I would use parks more in the winter if there were more:

Answered: 898 Skipped: 117



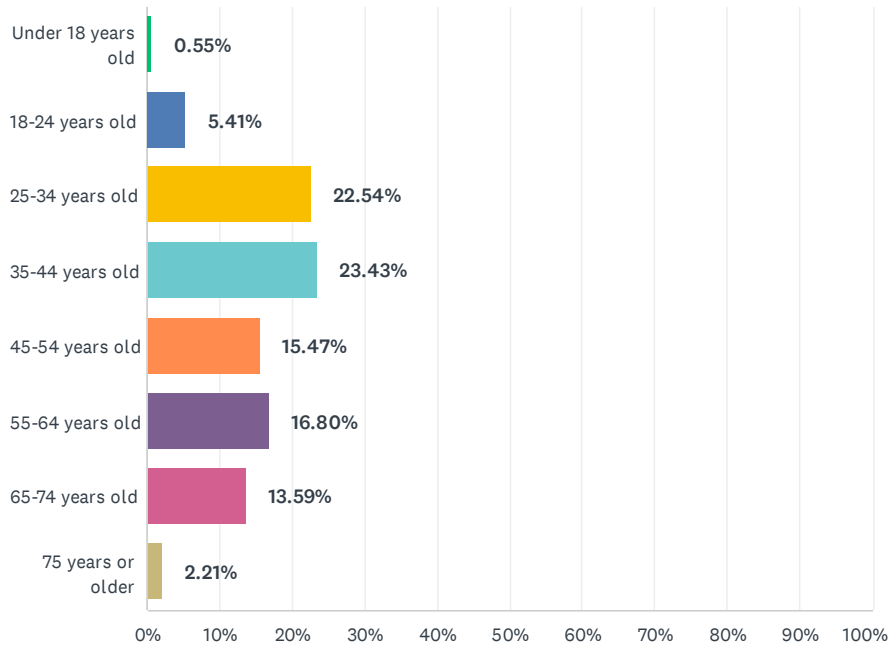
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Planned winter activities, events, or festivals	14%	130
Year-round bathrooms that are heated	12%	110
Other (please specify)	11%	102
Snow shoveling on park pathways or nearby sidewalks	10%	92
Trails for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	8%	71
Warming huts or wind shelters	7%	67
Places for sledding or tubing	7%	60
Ice rinks	6%	58
Festive winter decorations and lighting	6%	56
Fire pits	5%	44
More access to equipment rentals (e.g. ice skates or skis)	4%	32
Indoor sports facilities or gyms	3%	30
Dog parks	3%	23
Places for birdwatching	1%	12
Places for ice fishing	1%	11
TOTAL		898

Q15 What is your zip code?

Answered: 842 Skipped: 173

Q16 How old are you?

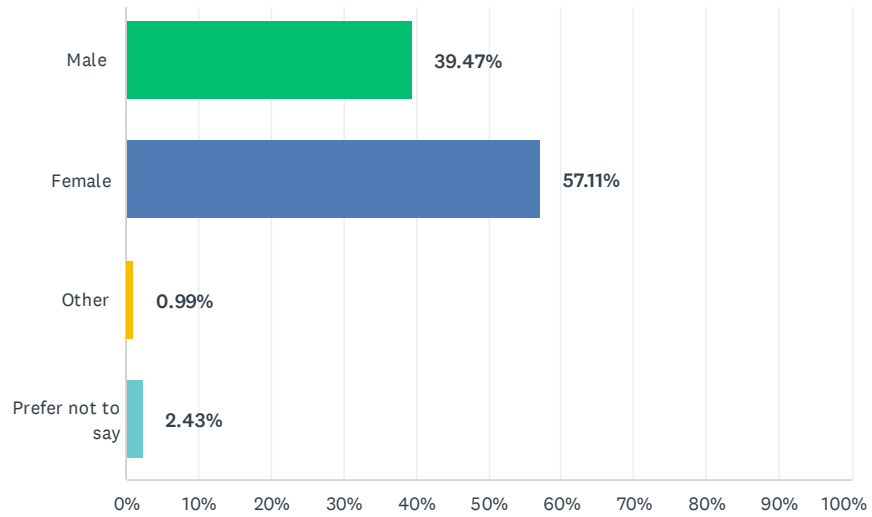
Answered: 905 Skipped: 110



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18 years old	0.55%	5
18-24 years old	5.41%	49
25-34 years old	22.54%	204
35-44 years old	23.43%	212
45-54 years old	15.47%	140
55-64 years old	16.80%	152
65-74 years old	13.59%	123
75 years or older	2.21%	20
TOTAL		905

Q17 What is your gender?

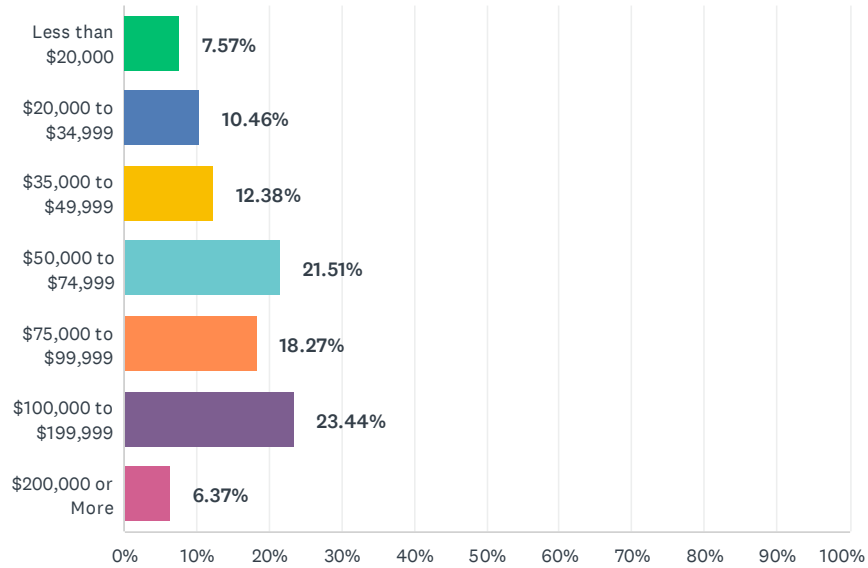
Answered: 907 Skipped: 108



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	39.47%	358
Female	57.11%	518
Other	0.99%	9
Prefer not to say	2.43%	22
TOTAL		907

Q18 What is your annual household income?

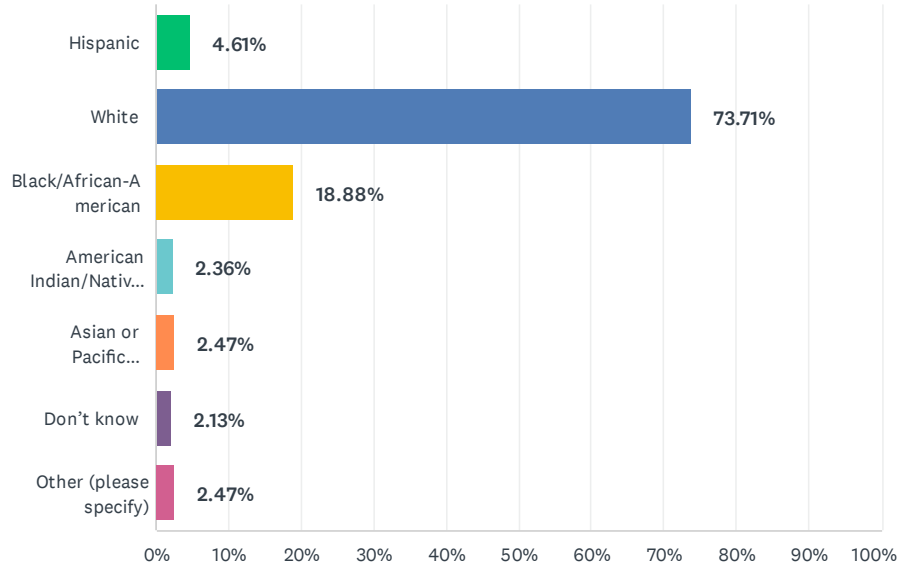
Answered: 832 Skipped: 183



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than \$20,000	7.57%	63
\$20,000 to \$34,999	10.46%	87
\$35,000 to \$49,999	12.38%	103
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21.51%	179
\$75,000 to \$99,999	18.27%	152
\$100,000 to \$199,999	23.44%	195
\$200,000 or More	6.37%	53
TOTAL		832

Q19 Check all of the options below which describe you.

Answered: 890 Skipped: 125



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hispanic	4.61%	41
White	73.71%	656
Black/African-American	18.88%	168
American Indian/Native American	2.36%	21
Asian or Pacific Islander	2.47%	22
Don't know	2.13%	19
Other (please specify)	2.47%	22
Total Respondents: 890		

Q20 What do Buffalo city parks mean to you?

Answered: 702 Skipped: 313

close around neighborhood grew important outside S home safe place gather part
historic great always open space visit fresh air healthy escape together play
city parks mean relax place relax outdoors respite free activities opportunity
one enjoy world use place go recreation City parks fun bring
beautiful gathering family makes people peaceful
space need place area nature also parks children
city Olmsted community house Buffalo quality life
love lot green space provide beauty place exercise
walking place enjoy nature exercise able life residents history health
time pride live safe place kids peace better nice way day allow playground
enjoy nature dog Buffalo parks outdoor space relaxation environment
Buffalo city parks safely access memories Delaware Park Freedom Everything run
friends park system

Q21 What is your favorite thing about local parks?

Answered: 695 Skipped: 320

child play cricket green crowded safe ability clean part Delaware Park friends fresh air around
flowers connection trails nice outdoors wildlife natural beauty lots history birds
scenery well kept variety proximity Water home close views people waterfront
community quiet beautiful walking trails Seeing go many activities
place kids open space Family city grass walk area
parks diversity nature natural trees neighborhood
Green space convenience beauty dog space others
enjoy bike path love greenery able watching Access large outside
everyone free Buffalo playground basketball court design fishing Accessibility
different play way walking paths Olmsted lake good ones Accessible paths Landscape
escape availability Easy access car Hoyt Lake opportunity open local park sports
walking biking easy locations

Note: The word clouds in this section are based on responses to online survey questions. Words were scaled based on the frequency with which each word was used by survey respondents, with more frequently used words appearing larger.

Q22 What is your biggest concern about local parks?

Answered: 699 Skipped: 316

traffic hard see amenities Delaware trail accessibility s golf course crowding go
sometimes become care better budget maintained poor playgrounds lot
Safety cleanliness local parks areas well maintained lighting buffalo park
Garbage back access winter safe attention clean communities
Delaware Park play space money trash neighborhoods Crime
concern use one upkeep don t need think Safety
vandalism parks events enough Lack upkeep
maintenance restrooms lack also people amount
bathrooms nature city smaller litter love trees feel keep everyone
many development cars keep clean security Lighting night activities lack funding
without Broken lack maintenance children Cleanliness great funding Limited will
facilities much families around overuse kids lawns walking issues make roads
biggest concern always

Q23 Is there anything else you would like to add?

Answered: 419 Skipped: 596

hope art neighborhoods safety improve ages SURVEY much year parks maybe
playgrounds local parks Closed MLK park N holes NOW increase also near
activities public safe within nice love see park system restore access
important events water love kids area places space great see lights
Thank want people throughout city use care Buffalo
flowers need things parks way community around
city LaSalle Park Delaware Park come keep
bathrooms make built Please continue better clean winter play
city parks waterfront one green space think every dog park pool live
nature plan future many maintenance enjoy Houghton time Please consider bikes
golf course help ring road work police maintain designs beautiful plants day Delaware
add will

Note: The word clouds in this section are based on responses to online survey questions. Words were scaled based on the frequency with which each word was used by survey respondents, with more frequently used words appearing larger.

Q24 Thank you for your time and participation, we truly appreciate your input! If you would like to get updates on the Buffalo Parks Master Plan, please provide your email here. Read our privacy policy at tpl.org/privacy-policy.

Answered: 249 Skipped: 766

APPENDIX 5.

Joint Use Agreements and “Green Schoolyards” Proposal

Joint use agreements provide a significant opportunity for cities to use existing publicly-owned land at schools to quickly and effectively improve access to outdoor recreation and nature. Opening of existing schoolyards and athletic fields to the public after school hours, on weekends, and during the summer allows communities to benefit from the increased access to parks and recreational facilities, while options like pollinator gardens, additional trees, and absorbent turf fields provide environmental benefits like stormwater capture and cooling shade. Newly-created green schoolyards are multi-functional outdoor areas designed for and by the school community that offer places for students, teachers, parents, and community members to play, learn, explore, and grow. They can be used as an outdoor classroom or a setting for community gatherings, and can include play areas, athletic courts, and features for neighbors of every age, such as shaded picnic tables and exercise tracks.

Making this program a reality in Buffalo will require cooperation between Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) and the City of Buffalo Division of Parks and Recreation (Parks). This agreement will mean that BPS continues to maintain these spaces while Parks contributes technical assistance and coordination on public access protocols. We are proposing a three-tiered rollout of a green schoolyard program.

TIER 1 GREEN SCHOOLYARDS: EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

The first phase of the green schoolyards rollout will focus on schoolyards that have the ability to improve playground access in the short term. These will be schoolyards that lack any major maintenance concerns and do not have any immediate scheduled upgrades, and are located in neighborhoods that are currently not within walking distance of a public park with a playground. Except for the need for signage displaying the rules and hours for after-school use (see attached examples from NYC and Philadelphia), these spaces are largely ready to be made public now. Access to these schoolyard areas could begin in 2021, with the playgrounds being available to the public 4:00 PM – 7 PM on weekdays, 8 AM – 7 PM on weekends and daily during the summer. Tier 1 sites are shown on attached Playground Accessibility graphic and listed below:

SCHOOL	ADDRESS
17	1045 West Delavan
19	97 West Delavan
33	157 Elk
37	295 Carleton
43	161 Benzinger
45	141 Hoyt
54	2358 Main Street
61	453 Leroy
64	Amherst & Lincoln Pkwy.
65	249 Skillen
66	780 Parkside
67	911 Abbott
76	315 Carolina
80	600 Highgate
81	140 Tacoma
90/59A	50 A Street
94	489 Hertel Avenue

TIER 2 GREEN SCHOOLYARDS: EXISTING ATHLETIC FACILITIES

The second phase of the green schoolyard rollout will focus on athletic facilities on school grounds. Unlike Tier 1 sites, these Tier 2 facilities are in need of upgrades as detailed in joint Parks/BPS plan for athletic hubs. These facilities could be made available to the public once the improvements have been completed and Parks/BPS have agreed on rules for the space and hours for community access (e.g., a formal and publicly posted application process for community-based youth sports organizations to reserve athletic facilities, posted hours for the general public use). Tier 2 sites are shown in attached Sport field Accessibility graphic and would include All High Stadium, Riverside Stadium, MST Field, Grabiarz Field, and Olmsted/Kensington Field.

TIER 3 GREEN SCHOOLYARDS: PROPOSED NEW BPS ATHLETIC & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The third phase schoolyards will encompass new sites for athletic and recreational facilities that require significant planning, design and construction. Some Tier 3 sites are currently undergoing or are scheduled for development or renovation, such as Fosdick Field, and will become available for public use following the completion of their development in the next 3-5 years. A pipeline of appropriate and needed Tier 3 sites should be developed with planning level budget, so that the city and supporting non-profit groups can fundraise for their development.

If BPS approves this approach, a formal agreement with City/Parks will need to be developed and submitted to Buffalo Board of Education and City of Buffalo Common Council for authorization.



P.S. 130 THE PARKSIDE SCHOOL COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND

This park is available to the community during non-school hours as posted.
Please be courteous and respectful to others so that everyone can have a fun and safe time.

PLAYGROUND RULES

- NO LITTERING ·
 - NO VANDALISM / GRAFFITI ·
 - NO USE OF ALCOHOL OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES ·
 - NO SMOKING OR VAPING ·
 - NO DISORDERLY CONDUCT ·
 - NO FIGHTING OR BULLYING ·
 - NO BIKE RIDING, SKATEBOARDING, ROLLERBLADING ·
 - NO BARBECUING OR USE OF AN OPEN FIRE ·
 - NO BRINGING IN PETS ·
 - NO BRINGING IN GLASS BOTTLES / CONTAINERS ·
 - NO USE OF RADIOS OR SPEAKERS, EXCEPT WITH A PERMIT ·
 - NO TRESPASSING / ENTERING PLAYGROUND AFTER IT IS CLOSED ·
- AND ... PLEASE BE KIND TO OUR TREES

VIOLATORS MAY BE SUBJECT TO SUMMONS AND/OR ARREST
For emergencies, call 911 or the 72nd Precinct at (718) 965-6311

This park is available to the community when no school programs are in session.



Welcome

to the
**William Cramp
Schoolyard**

Weekday Hours are 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Weekend and Saturday Hours are 10:00 am 8:00 pm
Sunday Hours are noon to 6:00 pm.

Please enjoy your time while you play, but for your safety and the safety of others, please follow these rules:

- No Unsupervised Play
- Play at your own risk
- No Illegal Substances
- No Weapons
- No Fireworks
- No Smoking
- No Alcohol
- No Drugs
- No Pets
- No Bullying
- No Cursing
- No Glass Bottles
- No Motorized Vehicles
- No Tagging or Graffiti
- No Vandalism of any kind

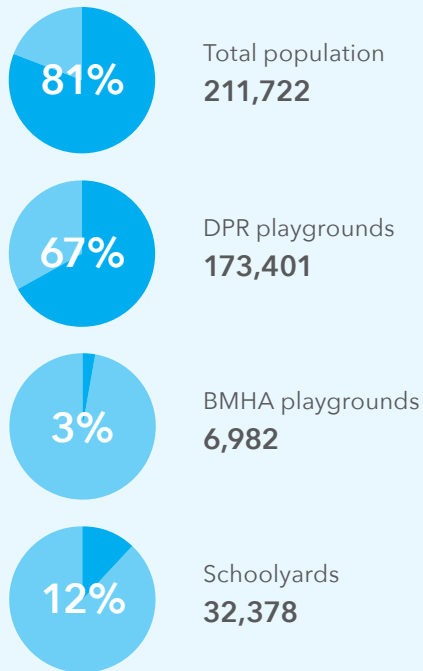


The School District of Philadelphia, William Cramp School, Friends of William Cramp Schoolyard and The Trust for Public Land are not responsible for anything that happens here.

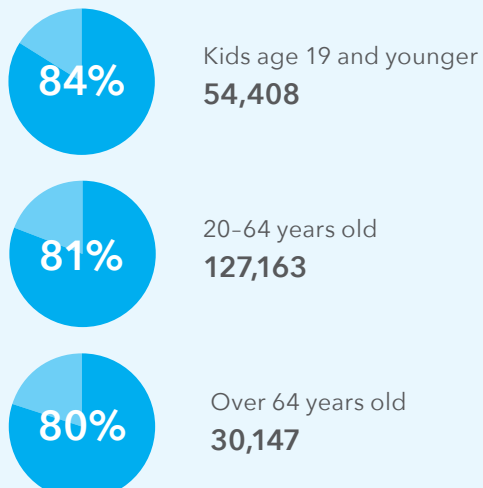
Please be respectful of the playground, the equipment, plants, trees, fence, artwork. Many People are working hard to make this a community space. Help keep it great!

Residents within a 10-minute **walk** from playgrounds

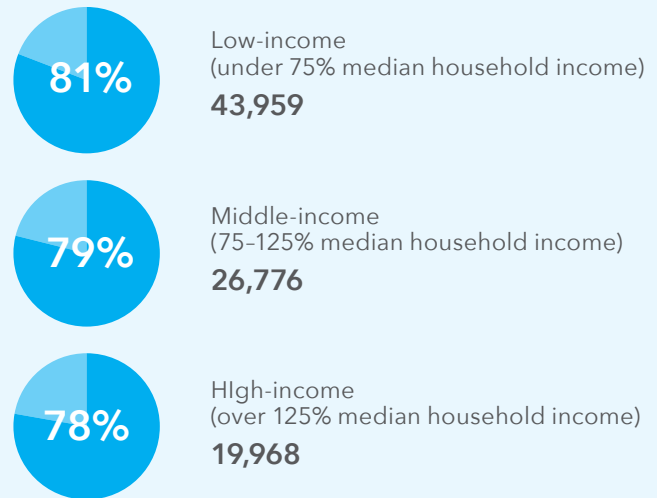
INDIVIDUALS within a 10-minute walk (total)



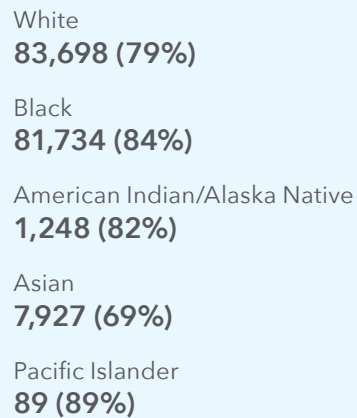
INDIVIDUALS within a 10-minute walk (by age)

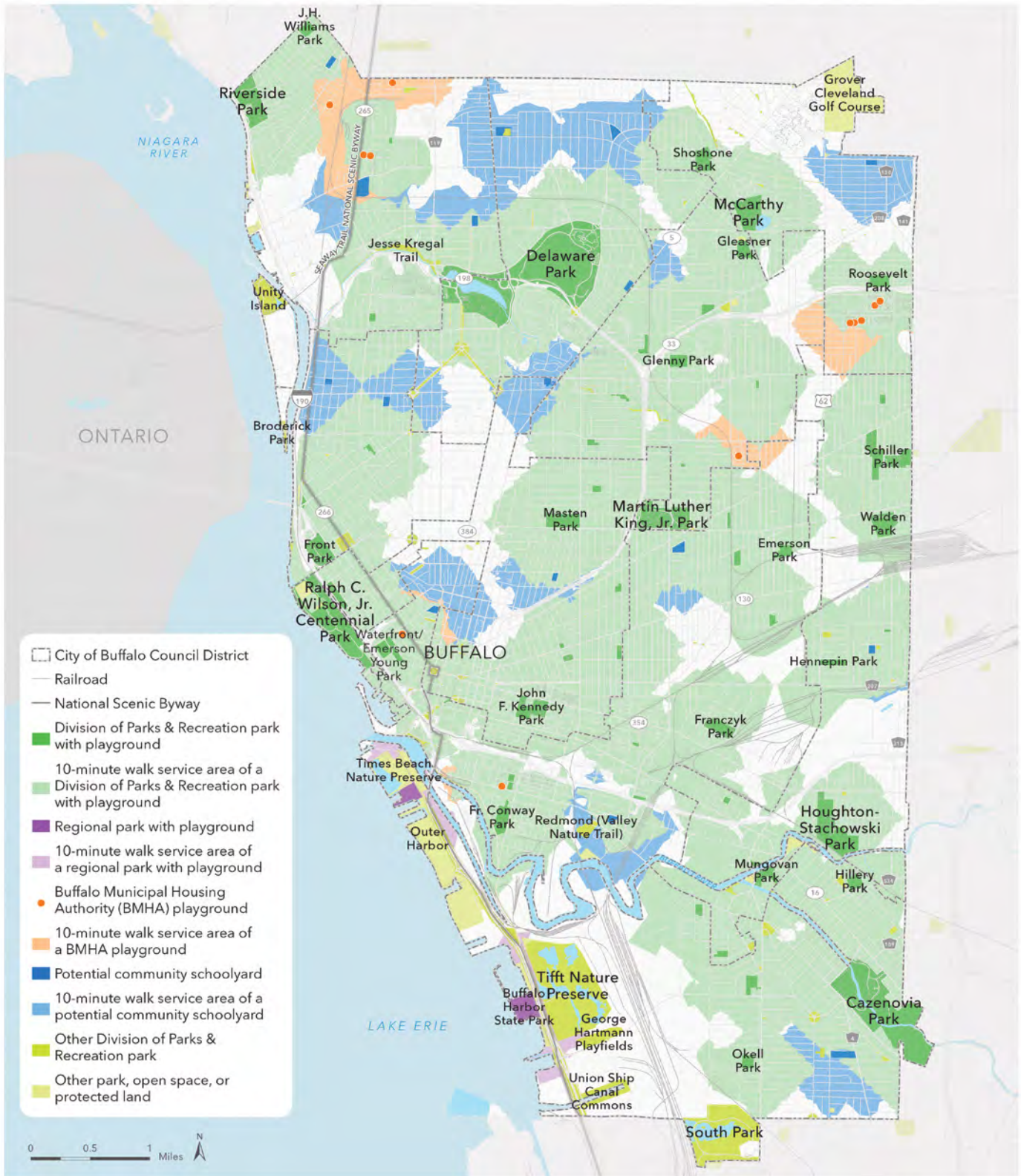


HOUSEHOLDS within a 10-minute walk (by income)



INDIVIDUALS within a 10-minute walk (by race)





Playground access

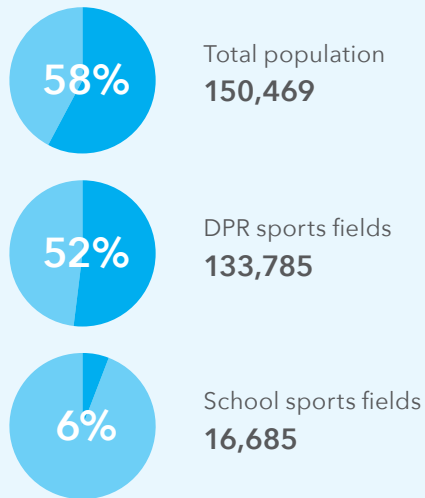
BUFFALO PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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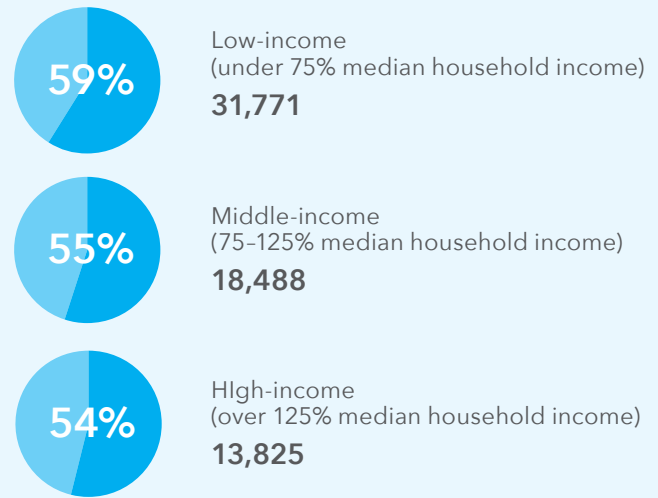


Residents within a 10-minute **walk** from sports fields

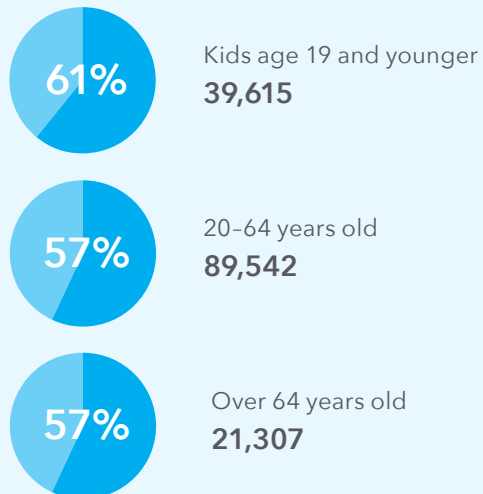
INDIVIDUALS within a 10-minute walk (total)



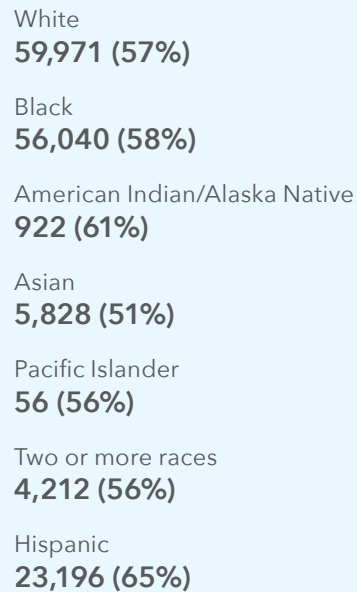
HOUSEHOLDS within a 10-minute walk (by income)



INDIVIDUALS within a 10-minute walk (by age)



INDIVIDUALS within a 10-minute walk (by race)



APPENDIX 6.

Sample Park Rating Forms

Introduction

While access to parks is critical, so is the quality of parks. Throughout the engagement process, many community members and stakeholders shared their feeling that the quality and upkeep of Buffalo's city parks can vary substantially from park to park. To combat this, Buffalo will implement a rating system to evaluate park quality and needs on a regular basis. Such a system will help parks managers to invest in the parks with the greatest need for upgrades. Evaluations will be conducted periodically to ensure they are up to date and to evaluate trends compared to a baseline year. Similar rating systems have been implemented in cities across the country. This appendix provides examples of such rating systems, including New York City's Park Inspection Program Standards, Louisville's Park Assessment Form, and a park assessment developed for the Trust for Public Land's Healthy Parks Plan for Travis, Bastrop, and Caldwell Counties (TBC).



Parks Inspection Program Standards

2019

City of New York Parks & Recreation
Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Commissioner



March 1, 2019

Dear Parkies:

The Parks Inspection Program (PIP) has been one of NYC Parks' cornerstone programs for more than three decades. It has evolved and expanded over the years, while consistently measuring the safety and cleanliness of the parks we present to the public. PIP helps to ensure that our parks are well-maintained and welcoming for New Yorkers and visitors alike.

PIP captures issues requiring quick attention and paints a broad picture of our agency's performance. This manual outlines the criteria by which Operations and Management Planning (OMP) inspects the parks and thus the standards by which our agency holds itself accountable. PIP is comprehensive and flexible enough to apply to small sitting areas, to playgrounds and neighborhood parks, and to our largest wooded areas. All Parkies should be familiar with these standards as we all share a role in keeping our parks enjoyable.

The remarkable improvements to the parks over the past thirty years can be attributed to your hard work and dedication, combined with our agency's commitment to a detailed, objective, and transparent inspection program. This helps us create an optimal NYC Parks experience for everyone.

Please take the time to review the manual. If you have any questions about the Parks Inspection Program, feel free to call OMP at (212) 360-8234.

Thank you for your continued efforts in keeping our vital parkland clean, green and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mitchell J. Silver".

Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP
NYC Parks Commissioner

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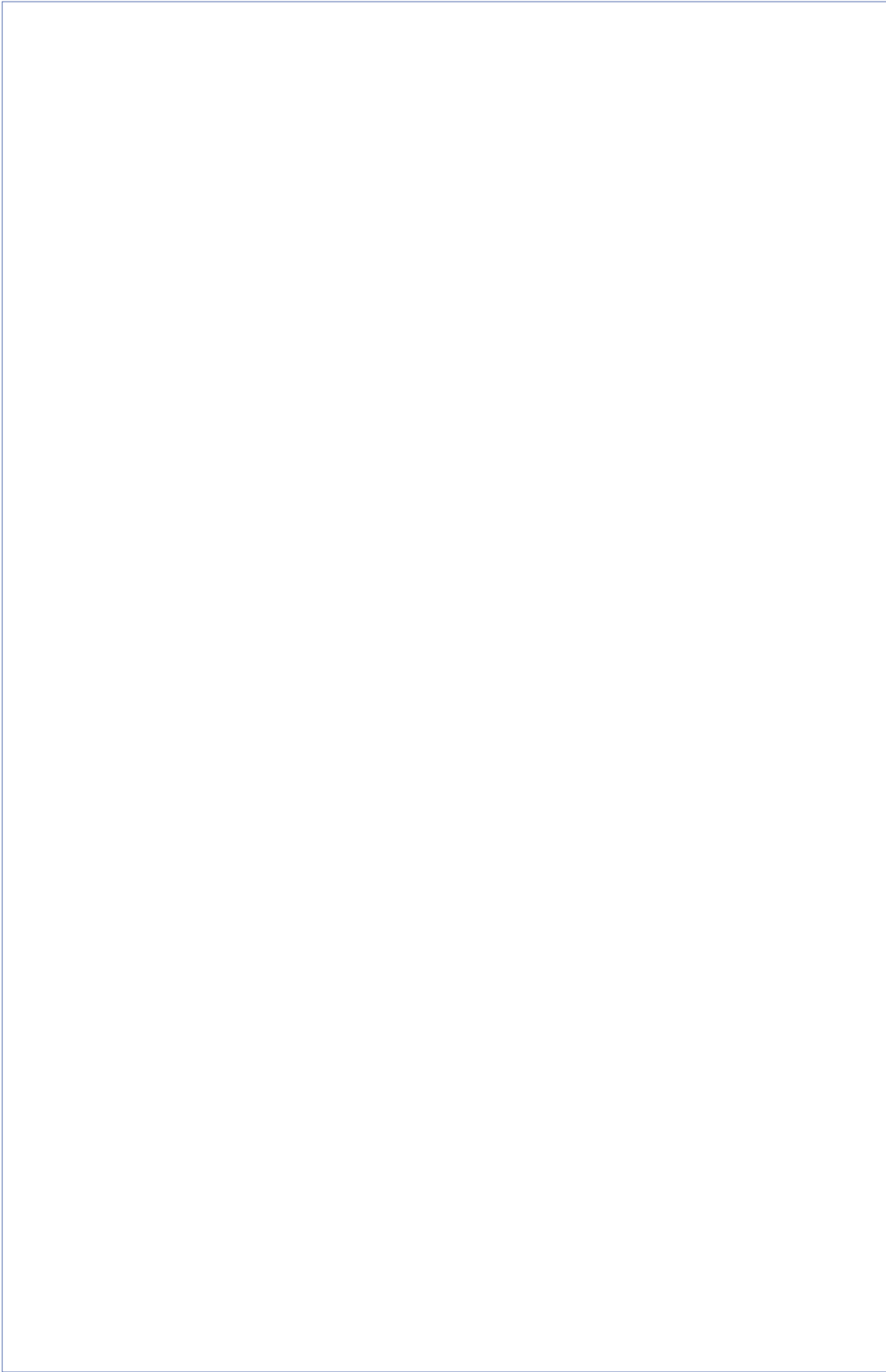
Part Two

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Part One

Guide to the Parks Inspection Program

Guide To PIP

History of the Program

The Parks Inspection Program (PIP) began in the latter half of 1984 as an initiative to measure the effectiveness of the Neighborhood Parks Restoration Program (NPR), a program in which in-house crews refurbished neighborhood parks and playgrounds. In the spring of 1985, the inspection program was expanded by the Office of Operations, Policy and Planning (now the Office of Operations and Management Planning or OMP) to evaluate playgrounds jointly operated by NYC Parks and the Board of Education.



Small parks and playgrounds were the first properties to be rated in the Parks Inspection Program because they are the agency's most highly visible and heavily used properties. The inspection program also placed great emphasis on inspecting playgrounds for safety hazards.

In the summer of 1986, PIP became a comprehensive inspection program for small parks and playgrounds when it was expanded to include all properties under five acres. (The threshold for rating small sites under PIP has since been increased from five to six acres.) At that time, the program was called the ABCD Condition Rating System, because every inspected park received a grade of A, B, C or D (A being the best and D the worst). In this system, 20 features in a park were inspected. Sites were rated during three inspection seasons and summary reports were issued for the spring, summer, and fall.

In the summer of 1989, stricter standards were developed, which placed greater emphasis on the health and safety of park patrons. At this time, the concept of an "Immediate Attention" hazard was introduced to the program.

In the summer of 1990, the program was altered to provide a separate rating for District Maintenance. This was later renamed Cleanliness.

Guide To PIP

In the summer of 1991, due to budget reductions and layoffs within the agency, the inspection program was temporarily suspended. During the suspension, OMP reevaluated the inspection process and its resources, and developed a streamlined Parks Inspection Program that was launched in the spring of 1992. Instead of evaluating all 20 features that were previously rated, 12 features considered to be the most important for a site's overall condition and cleanliness were selected. Furthermore, the ratings for a site were simplified from A, B, C and D to "Acceptable" and "Unacceptable" to make the program more objective.

From 1985 to 1995, PIP summary reports were produced only three times a year: at the end of the spring, summer, and fall inspection seasons. In March 1995, the program moved to the current system of 24 inspection rounds per year. OMP instituted random inspections of 100 sites a round, from which statistically representative borough-wide and citywide ratings were generated. Inspectors began inputting their ratings directly into hand-held computers while out in the field, and uploading information into OMP's inspection database upon returning to the office.



In December 1998, following a yearlong review of the inspection standards, new standards were released that were considerably more detailed, with the intent of making inspections less subjective from Inspector to Inspector and from inspection to inspection.

The differentiation between "Priority One" and "Priority Two" Immediate Attentions and between "Unacceptable" and "Unacceptable/Site" ratings for features was also introduced. Also in December 1998, planted "Greenstreets" sites were included in the inspection program for the first time.

Guide To PIP

Beginning in the fall of 1998 and continuing through the summer of 1999, a pilot program for the inspection of large parks was conducted. Inspection standards were drafted and the City's 150 accessible large parks were divided into ratable zones in order to make inspecting these large parks feasible.



Some large parks are inaccessible to the public because they are protected wetlands, undeveloped, or parkways. In general, large park zones were created that follow geographic boundaries such as park drives and tree lines, conform to existing borough and district Maintenance and Operations boundaries, are not too small (which would reduce inspection efficiency) and are not too big (which would make zones hard to inspect in one to two hours). This helped match the public's perception of certain areas of large parks as unique from other areas.

Following the pilot project, the program was officially expanded to include large parks in December 1999. The first large parks to be added to the program were the 10 flagship parks, large parks of regional importance which are managed by flagship park administrators. At that time, approximately 300 Greenstreets were also added to the program. By 2002 all remaining Greenstreets and large park zones had been added for inspection.

The number of sites inspected during a round continued to increase each year. In the spring 2002, this number reached 205 per round. By 2003, photos taken with digital cameras were being uploaded to a photo management system, allowing for quicker and more efficient report generation.

Guide To PIP

In 2004, OMP Inspectors began to perform weekend inspections of small parks during the summer months to evaluate the conditions of these sites during periods of peak usage. More recently, OMP instituted summer weekend inspections of high-use large park zones to provide additional feedback on the effectiveness of our seasonal deployments.

In August 2004, OMP launched a pilot Comfort Station Inspection Program (CSIP), a program modeled after PIP, that rates the overall condition of the City's public comfort stations. (The standards for the Comfort Station Inspection Program are found in Part Three in the manual.) In June 2006, OMP added Ice (previously rated under Litter) as the seventeenth overall and fifth cleanliness feature to PIP. Under "Ice," OMP Inspectors note the various conditions and hazards caused by snow and ice in our parks during the winter months. Although there are five cleanliness features, only four are rated at any given time due to the seasonality of Ice (winter) and Weeds (spring through fall).



OMP remains committed to adding for inspection any sites that are Parks' property and are developed and accessible to the public. A number of large park zones, and new playgrounds, have been added to the list of ratable sites in recent years. To accommodate this, as of July 2013 (Fiscal Year 2014), the number of sites inspected per round was increased to 250, bringing the total number of inspections conducted in an inspection year to 6,000. It is estimated that OMP currently inspects well over 95% of all developed and accessible park acreage.

Guide To PIP

Overview of the Program

The Parks Inspection Program is administered by the division of Operations and Management Planning (OMP) of NYC Parks. Trained Inspectors from OMP’s Inspection Team use hand-held computers and digital cameras to perform 6,000 PIP inspections each year, giving each inspected park an “Acceptable” (A) or “Unacceptable” (U) rating for overall condition and cleanliness. Individual “Acceptable” or “Unacceptable” ratings are given to as many as 16 separate park features which fall under three broad categories: cleanliness, structural, and landscape. Weeds and Ice are seasonal.

Park Features		
Cleanliness	Structural	Landscape
Glass	Benches	Athletic Fields
Graffiti	Fences	Horticultural Areas
Ice	Paved Surfaces	Lawns
Litter	Play Equipment	Trails
Weeds	Safety Surface	Trees
	Sidewalks	Water Bodies

A site’s overall condition rating will be rated “Unacceptable” (U) if the site fails cleanliness, if any three of its features are “Unacceptable,” or if any one of its features is considered “Unacceptable for the entire site” (U/S). A site’s cleanliness rating will be rated “Unacceptable” (U) if any two cleanliness features are “Unacceptable,” or if any one cleanliness feature is considered “Unacceptable for the entire site” (U/S).

Features are rated “Unacceptable” because of generally substandard conditions, such as heavy litter, peeling paint on benches, or bare lawns. Hazardous conditions, such as sharp, protruding bolts on benches, trip hazards on paved surfaces and sidewalks, or dangling limbs may also cause the park feature to fail inspection. Such hazards are noted by an

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Inspector as needing “Immediate Attention.” All Immediate Attentions must be corrected within a specified time frame unless there is a documented need for Capital, Requirements work, or other legitimate reasons that might delay the IA resolution. See page 15 for further details concerning the resolution of Immediate Attentions. An Immediate Attention designation can fail a feature (U) or even an entire site (U/S). Some additional park elements such as drinking fountains, flags, and signs, are tracked and inspected, but do not figure into the cleanliness or overall condition ratings of a site.

There are four inspection seasons each year: spring, summer, fall, and winter. Each season consists of six inspection rounds. The inspection year dates from the beginning of the spring inspection season (early March) to the end of the winter inspection season one year later (late February/early March). Inspections typically take place in two-week inspection rounds. A three-week round takes place once each season, or four times per year, to fit four seasons into a 52-week inspection year. Each round, 250 ratable sites are randomly selected according to set parameters.

At the conclusion of each round, a summary report is produced showing the citywide and borough-by-borough percentages of sites rated acceptable for cleanliness and overall condition. This report is distributed at upper-level management meetings at which the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners, and Borough Commissioners are present. OMP also makes available to each Borough Commissioner detailed evaluations of each failing site in his or her borough, along with pictures of hazardous or unacceptable conditions observed. These are accessible on OMP’s intranet website. Ratings are also reported for the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) in the Mayor’s Management Report.

Parks Inspection Program ratings provide NYC Parks management, elected officials, and the general public with a broad indicator of the condition of NYC parks. As such, the ratings serve as one of the agency’s key performance measures. Using the ratings, the agency holds itself accountable to specific standards of cleanliness, safety, and structural conditions at rated sites. PIP reports also include

Guide To PIP

detailed information on specific issues at individual parks, helping NYC Parks use its resources effectively to target problem areas.

The Parks Inspection Program has been one of the agency's major initiatives for over 30 years. Since the mid-1990's, when the program was first maturing into the system we have today, citywide overall condition ratings have risen from a low of 39% (FY 1995) to 87% (FY 2018). Similarly, cleanliness ratings have risen from a low of 70% (FY 1992) to 93% (FY 2018). The Parks Inspection Program has both recorded these gains and served as an important management tool for achieving improved conditions.

Ratable Sites

There are three categories of ratable sites: 1) playgrounds and small parks, 2) large parks and large park zones, and 3) Greenstreets. (See the "Ratable Sites" table on page 13.) Currently, there are more than 3,200 ratable sites citywide. Of these, OMP inspects more than 1,500 playgrounds and small parks, over 600 large parks or large park zones, and over 1,000 Greenstreets.

Parkways which are maintained by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and offer no opportunities for public recreation, such as the Grand Central Parkway, are not rated. However, parkways which include paved pedestrian and bike paths and benches, such as Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn or Mosholu Parkway in the Bronx, are rated.

Random Selection of Sites

At the beginning of each inspection round, 250 sites are randomly selected by the PIP database according to the following parameters:

- **First:** The same number of sites are inspected in each borough every round. These numbers generally reflect each borough's share of the total number of ratable sites citywide.
- **Second:** The ratio of playgrounds and small parks, large park zones, and Greenstreets inspected in each borough is proportional to the overall number of these sites citywide. Large and small parks are inspected more frequently than sitting areas and Greenstreets.
- **Third:** Once a site is inspected, it is not eligible to be re-inspected until two rounds (usually four weeks) have passed.

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What Is Inspected at a Site?

The entire property owned or maintained by Parks, including the surrounding sidewalk, is inspected as part of a PIP inspection. Certain park elements at a site, such as drinking fountains, flags, and signs, are not rated. However, information on these park elements are recorded and tracked. (See page 19 for “Park Elements.”) Since August 2004, comfort stations are rated as part of a separate inspection program called the Comfort Station Inspection Program.

Ratable Sites	
Property Type	Description
Playgrounds and Small Parks	These properties are up to 6 acres and are made up of sitting areas, triangles, malls, neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and a few small undeveloped areas. Playgrounds within large parks are included in this group and are rated separately from the large parks. Playgrounds which are jointly operated with the Department of Education, or JOPs, are also included in this category.
Large Parks and Large Park Zones	Large parks are generally greater than 6 acres. To make inspecting some extra large parks (such as our flagship parks and beaches) more manageable, they are divided into large park zones. In general, large park zones follow geographic boundaries such as park drives and tree lines, conform to preexisting district boundaries, and can be inspected in 1-2 hours.
Greenstreets	Greenstreets are islands of trees and horticultural plantings along city streets. Many are former barren concrete triangles and malls that have been converted by Parks into green spaces by planting trees, shrubs, and other woody perennials. Stormwater capture bioswales installed and maintained by the Department of Environmental Protection are not rated by OMP.

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When Are Sites Inspected?

Playgrounds, small parks, and Greenstreets are inspected year-round, Monday through Friday. Large parks are not inspected on Mondays or after holidays to allow for one day of additional clean-up following the high usage. Otherwise, inspections begin no earlier than 8:30 AM Tuesdays through Fridays, and always after 10:00 AM on Mondays and days after official holidays. Inspections of beachfronts, which take place from Memorial Day to the end of beach season, may begin no earlier than 10:00 AM. Litter visible from the boardwalk will be rated year-round.

Immediate Attention Hazards

A feature is flagged for “Immediate Attention” when one or more hazards are present. Such hazards are referred to as Immediate Attentions or IA’s. All features can be flagged for Immediate Attention. Upon inspection, an IA Hazard that is already sufficiently marked and blocked off (with warning tape, cones or french barricades) to prevent access by the public will not fail the feature or the site. It will, however, still be noted as an IA. Below are the two levels of Immediate Attention hazards:

Priority One:

- The hazard presents the chance of a serious (life-threatening or debilitating) injury.
- A single Priority One Immediate Attention will typically fail the overall condition rating (as well as the cleanliness rating if a cleanliness feature is flagged for Priority One Immediate Attention). A Priority One Immediate Attention will always fail the feature rating.

Priority Two:

- The hazard presents the chance of a slight to moderate injury, or is more serious in nature but in a remote location (in which case injury is less likely).
- Graffiti that depicts hate speech or profanity.

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- In playgrounds, small parks, and Greenstreets, one Priority Two Immediate Attention will fail the feature rating. In large parks, two Priority Two Immediate Attentions are needed to fail the feature.

Typical examples of both Priority One and Priority Two Immediate Attentions are listed in the standards for each feature. These lists are not all encompassing, and conditions not explicitly listed may be flagged as Immediate Attentions by an Inspector.

IA Resolution

At the end of each day during which PIP inspections are conducted, OMP sends an email to designated M&O personnel summarizing that day's Immediate Attentions. That evening, the agency's Daily Immediate Attentions, or "DIA" system, will compile this information, including corresponding photos, and make it available agency-wide the following morning. M&O enters resolution notes, including work order numbers where applicable, into the DIA system. Once an IA has been satisfactorily resolved, authorized M&O personnel must sign off on the work in DIA and include a photo showing that the IA was resolved. While the use of caution tape, orange cones, or fencing may be necessary to make the area safer in the short-term, an item in DIA is not actually 'resolved' until the area or piece of equipment has been repaired and returned to public use without restriction. See **IA Time Extension** on page 16 for items in DIA that cannot be repaired within the timeframes specified below.

Within 24 hours of the initial report, all Priority One Immediate Attentions must be investigated by M&O and either be a) resolved, or b) made safer by using caution tape, orange cones, temporary fencing, etc. and a work order generated for resolution. All Priority One Immediate Attentions must be resolved and signed off in DIA within one week of initial report. Priority One tree issues, that cannot be resolved by M&O upon investigation, must be submitted to Forestry within 24 hours of initial report. Within 24 hours of receiving this request, Forestry will perform an inspection and assign a risk category. Forestry will then resolve the issue based on its internal

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guidelines. Managers may use confirmation of a completed Forestry inspection (or actual resolution of the issue) to sign off on Priority One tree issues in DIA within the one week timeframe.

As soon as possible, but no later than one week after initial report, all Priority Two Immediate Attentions must be investigated by M&O, and either be a) resolved, or b) made safer by using caution tape, orange cones, temporary fencing, etc. (where possible) and a work order generated for resolution. All Priority Two Immediate Attentions must be resolved and signed off in DIA within 30 days of initial report. Priority Two tree issues, that cannot be resolved by M&O upon investigation, must be submitted to Forestry within one week of initial report. Within one week of receiving this request, Forestry will perform an inspection and assign a risk category. Forestry will then resolve the issue based on its internal guidelines. Managers may use confirmation of a completed Forestry inspection (or actual resolution of the issue) to sign off on Priority Two tree issues in DIA within the 30 day timeframe.

IA Time Extension

Borough administration must formally notify the Director of PIP, by email, of any Immediate Attentions that will require more time and resources to resolve than are presently available. Typically, these are situations where a Capital or Requirements project is needed. The notification must include an explanation of why the IA cannot be resolved within the designated time period, and a projected timeframe for resolution. M&O is expected to utilize resources available to lessen the severity of the IA until it can be adequately resolved. OMP will track items on this Extended List and follow-up on them periodically. Items on the Extended List that are still open and accessible to the public will be rated in subsequent inspections.

Cleanliness Rating

The cleanliness rating is determined to be either acceptable or unacceptable, depending on the ratings of the five cleanliness features (glass, graffiti, ice, litter, and weeds).

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Any of the following will cause the cleanliness rating to be unacceptable:

- Two or more unacceptable (U) cleanliness features.
- One or more very unacceptable (U/S or “Unacceptable/Site”) cleanliness features.

Overall Condition Rating

The overall condition rating is determined to be either acceptable or unacceptable depending on the ratings of all 16 features. Any of the following will cause the overall condition rating to be unacceptable:

- Unacceptable cleanliness rating.
- Three or more unacceptable (U) features (any combination of cleanliness, structural, or landscape features).
- One or more very unacceptable (U/S or “Unacceptable/Site”) features (any cleanliness, structural, or landscape features).

Playground Design and Construction Issues

All new Parks playgrounds are designed to meet or exceed the latest American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards for playground safety, design and construction. The CPSC standards were first released in 1981, and the ASTM standards were first released in 1993. PIP Inspectors are periodically trained in ASTM standards and often participate in final use inspections for parks and playgrounds that undergo Capital renovation. Older play equipment or safety surface that is not in compliance with current ASTM standards is noted as a capital design issue using the designation “Priority C.”

Sites Closed Due to Construction

Sites closed for capital construction are the responsibility of the capital contractor and the interior is typically not rated. However, Inspectors will note litter, trip hazards, tree issues, etc. along the sidewalk, if the public has access. All construction sites must have the following:

- A sign indicating that the site is closed and under construction.
- A secure fence that is locked and does not have any sneakholes.

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If a site is accessible and a member of the general public could enter the site, either through an open or unlocked gate or a sneakhole, and there are no construction workers present, the Inspector will enter and rate the interior of the site for Immediate Attention hazards. Any Immediate Attention hazards discovered will be recorded and will count toward the ratings. If there is no sign present explaining that the site is under capital construction and an Inspector has access to a construction site via a sneakhole or unlocked gate, and there are no construction workers present, the Inspector will rate the site as a full PIP inspection. The same rules shall apply to sites undergoing partial capital renovation. OMP will not rate the area under construction, provided that the area is properly secured and is accompanied by appropriate signage. However, the rest of the site will be rated in full.

Sites Officially Closed by Maintenance & Operations

Sites which are not undergoing capital construction or officially closed off to the public are expected to be open to the public during normal hours of operation. Sites which are officially closed off to the public and marked with corresponding signage explaining the closure will not be rated. This category includes sites which are permanently closed off or locked because of security and/or other concerns. However, the periphery of these sites is rated. The periphery of the site is the area between the fence and street and generally includes sidewalks, lawns, fences, and trees. If an Inspector finds access to the site via a sneakhole or unlocked gate, the Inspector will enter and rate the interior of the site as a full PIP inspection. The interior of this site is otherwise generally not entered or inspected, except for excessive litter, glass, weeds, and graffiti, if they are visible from the periphery of the site.

Features Blocked Off by Maintenance & Operations

Any individual feature, such as benches or play equipment, which Maintenance & Operations blocks or cautions off, will not be rated. However, if M&O blocks off the feature to the extent that it inhibits the public's ability to use the entire feature, that feature will be rated. For example, if all of the play equipment at a playground is blocked off, play equipment will be rated unacceptable. A feature will also be inspected and rated if it is not sufficiently blocked off or cautioned off.

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Undeveloped Sites

Undeveloped sites are comprised of two groups. The first group is made up of large, undeveloped natural areas over six acres in size that do not contain public-access trails (e.g., inaccessible wetlands). These areas are not rated. Natural areas that do contain public-access trails are inspected and rated.

The second group consists of undeveloped lots that are typically smaller than six acres and are surrounded by developed areas. The periphery of these parks is fully rated. The periphery of the site is the area between the fence and street and includes sidewalks, fences, and trees. The interior of these sites is generally not rated, except for excessive litter, glass, weeds, and graffiti, which is rated insofar as any such matter is visible from the periphery of the site. Additionally, if an Inspector has access to the site through a downed fence or unlocked gate, the site is rated as a full PIP inspection.

Park Elements

Park elements are features of parks that are tracked by the Parks Inspection Program but do not typically affect the rating of a site. The most important park elements are signs and flags.

Signs help identify parks and playgrounds, provide important information to park users, and highlight amenities and facilities. As agency policy, each park should have a consolidated rules sign posted at each entrance. In addition, facility-specific rules signs should be at tracks, synthetic ballfields, turf ballfields, tennis courts, skate parks, pools, beaches, piers, and water bodies.

Flags help identify City and Parks' properties, beautify parks and playgrounds, and serve as important representative symbols. As agency policy, all flagpoles without yardarms must fly the American and POW/MIA flags. Flagpoles with yardarms must fly the American, POW/MIA, New York City, and NYC Parks flags.



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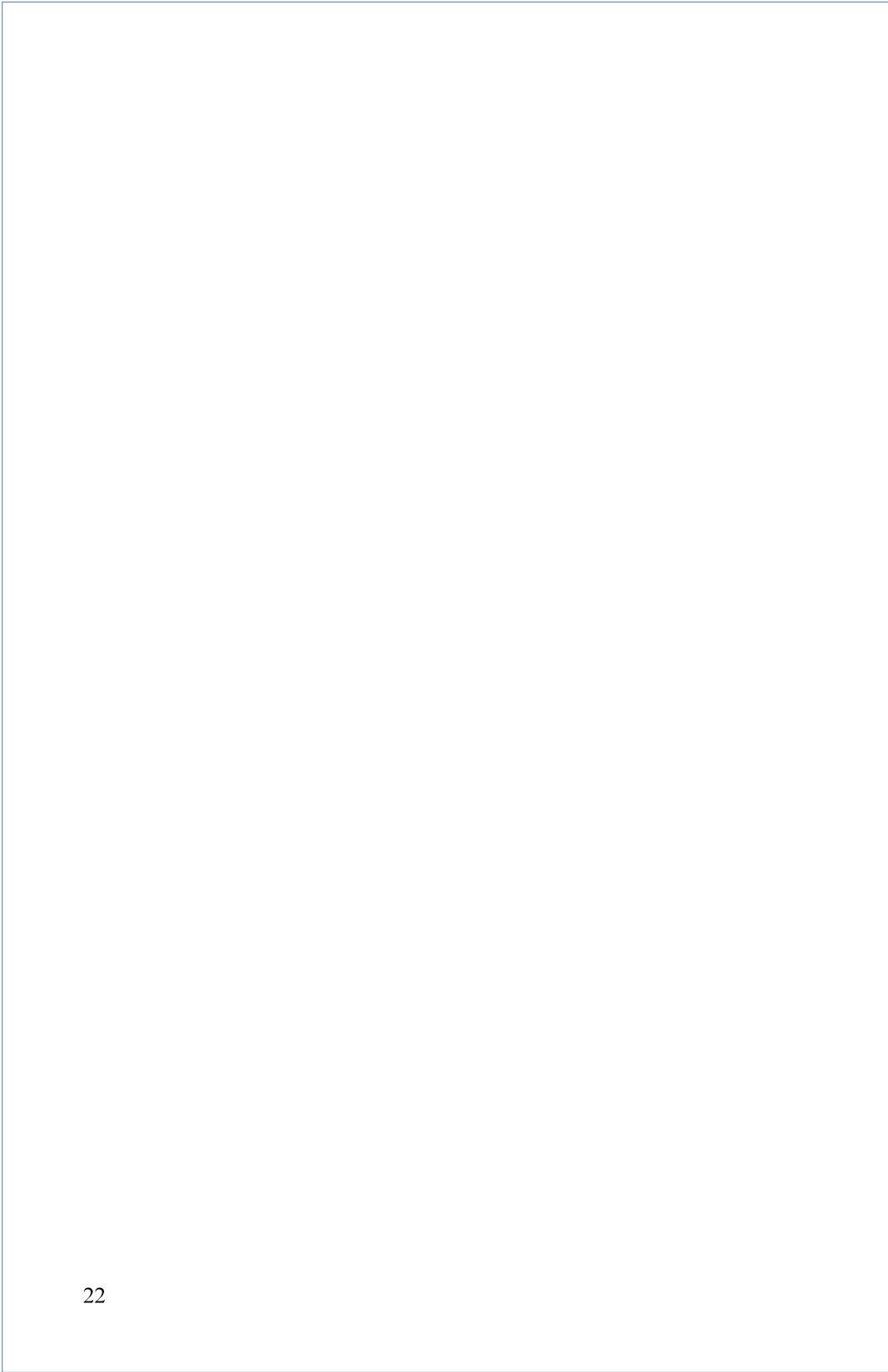
In addition to flags and signs, OMP tracks whether spray showers and drinking fountains are in service during their respective seasons. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, spray showers should be turned on when the temperature reaches 80 degrees Fahrenheit, children are present, and an inspection takes place after 10:00 AM. Between Memorial Day and Columbus Day, OMP tracks drinking fountains, which should be in service and have sufficient water pressure.

Features Not Rated

A specific feature will be marked as “not rated” (N) at a site when a crew is present and actively working on that specific feature at the time of the Inspector’s arrival. For example, litter will not be rated when a cleaning crew is actively cleaning a site; benches, fences, and other structural features will not be rated if a park worker or crew is maintaining or repairing them. However, if there is an Immediate Attention hazard that has not been addressed by the crew, the Inspector will rate that hazard. In addition, a feature will be rated if a crew arrives after the inspection has begun, or if the crew departs before the inspection has ended and the condition has not been corrected. In a large park, the crew must be actively working in the zone that is being inspected for any relevant feature to be exempt from rating.

Part Two

Official Inspection Standards



Cleanliness Features

Cleanliness Features

Glass

What Is Rated

All broken glass is rated under Glass. Unbroken bottles are rated under Litter.

Glass Rating Criteria

Accumulation

Glass is considered to be light, moderate, or heavy in the following accumulations:

Accumulation of Glass		
Light	Moderate	Heavy
Pieces of glass equivalent to less than 1 broken bottle.	Pieces of glass equivalent to 1 or 2 broken bottles.	Pieces of glass equivalent to 3 or more broken bottles.

Number of Problem Areas

An Inspector notes how many areas have light, moderate, or heavy glass. Areas can be the following:

- A distinct area such as handball courts, sidewalk, or multi-purpose play area (MPPA).
- At a playground or small park, a 25 x 25 square foot area or along a 100 foot line.
- In a large park zone, a 50 x 50 square foot area or along a 200 foot line.
- At a small site, such as a Greenstreet or a triangle, approximately 25 x 25 square foot area, or a mall 100 feet long, glass is determined to be light, moderate, or heavy for the site overall.

Location

Glass on play equipment, safety surface, active play areas and beachfronts is treated as an Immediate Attention. All other glass is rated using the above criteria.

Glass Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Broken glass, equivalent to 1 bottle, found on play equipment or safety surface.

Cleanliness Features

- Broken glass, equivalent to 1 large (40 oz.) bottle, found along a beachfront.

Priority Two

- Broken glass, equivalent to one bottle, found in any active play area, such as handball courts and MPPA.
- Broken glass, equivalent to less than 1 bottle, found on play equipment, safety surface, benches or along a beachfront.
- Any broken glass on the paved surface immediately adjacent to play equipment.



Heavy accumulation of glass

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Glass Ratings Standards			
	Small Site	Playground/Small Park	Large Park Zone
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass is moderate at the site overall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 or more areas have moderate glass. • 1 or more areas have heavy glass. • 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for glass are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 or more areas have moderate glass. • Glass is heavy in 1 area and moderate or heavy in 1 additional area. • 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions are present. • Less than 1 bottle's worth of glass on a beachfront.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass is heavy at the site overall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 or more areas have moderate or heavy glass. • 3 or more areas have heavy glass. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for glass are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 or more areas have moderate or heavy glass. • 4 or more areas have heavy glass. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for glass are present.

Cleanliness Features

Graffiti

What Is Rated

All spray paint, permanent markers, stickers, scratches on wood or other surfaces, posters or other advertisements that have been illegally applied or affixed to any surface are rated as Graffiti.

Unsightly and contrasting paint cover can also adversely affect the Graffiti rating.



Unsightly paint cover

Murals that have been sponsored by the community and approved by the Commissioner are not rated. Graffiti within skate parks will be noted but not rated. This includes skate park elements such as ramps and platforms, as well as other paved surfaces, benches and lampposts. This exception will not apply to graffiti that interferes with signage, graffiti on trees, or any graffiti that contains profanity or hate speech. Similarly, drawings in chalk on any surface are not rated unless they contain profanity or hate speech.

Borough crews that discover graffiti on monuments, statues, and other sensitive historic structures should contact the Art and Antiquities division before making any attempt to cover or remove it. If OMP is notified of the situation before an inspection takes place, this graffiti will not be rated.

Graffiti on Non-Parks Property

Graffiti on a non-Parks property that abuts a Parks property and has a detrimental effect on the appearance of a Parks property will be noted in the inspection report and the borough will have until the next PIP inspection to remedy the problem. Sufficient remedies include the actual removal of the offending graffiti with the cooperation of the neighboring property owner, or the installation of a mesh cover or plantings that hide the graffiti from view. Graffiti on traffic signs is treated as graffiti on non-Parks property. It is the responsibility of the borough to follow up with DOT to ensure removal of the graffiti.

Cleanliness Features

If the noted graffiti is still present upon a subsequent PIP inspection, OMP Inspectors will rate the feature. However, if the graffiti on non-Parks property has been reported to 311 or the Community Affairs Unit (CAU) and a record of the complaint is sent to OMP before a second inspection occurs, the graffiti will not be rated.

Graffiti Rating Criteria

Graffiti is rated with respect to the following criteria:

Surface Area

Graffiti ratings are determined by the total surface area of graffiti that covers vertical surfaces and the total surface area of graffiti that covers horizontal surfaces.



Spray paint on handball court

Content

Graffiti that depicts hate speech or profanity is considered a Priority Two Immediate Attention. Graffiti related to gang activity will be noted as such.

Agency Graffiti Policy

All graffiti reported to agency personnel requires immediate removal. All service requests for graffiti called into Central Communications must be removed by noon on the day it is reported if it is reported before 10:00 AM. If graffiti is reported after 10:00 AM, it must be removed by noon on the following day. The same timetable applies to graffiti that is discovered by Maintenance and Operations personnel on a routine site maintenance inspection.

Cleanliness Features

Graffiti Ratings Standards		
	Playground, Small Park, or Greenstreet	Large Park Zone
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 square feet or more of graffiti that covers vertical surfaces. (This is approximately the size of one flag of concrete sidewalk.) • 50 square feet of graffiti equally distributed between vertical and horizontal surfaces. • 75 square feet or more of graffiti that covers horizontal surfaces. • 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for graffiti are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 square feet or more of graffiti that covers vertical surfaces. • 75 square feet of graffiti equally distributed between vertical and horizontal surfaces. • 100 square feet or more of graffiti that covers horizontal surfaces. • Graffiti that depicts hate speech or profanity. • 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for graffiti are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 square feet or more of graffiti that covers vertical surfaces. • 150 square feet or more of graffiti equally distributed between vertical and horizontal surfaces. • 200 square feet or more of graffiti that covers horizontal surfaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 square feet or more of graffiti that covers vertical surfaces. • 300 square feet or more of graffiti equally distributed between vertical and horizontal surfaces. • 400 square feet or more of graffiti that covers horizontal surfaces.

Cleanliness Features

Ice

The presence of ice and compacted snow on sidewalks, stairs and ramps is rated during the winter season. OMP rates for ice no earlier than 24 hours following a snowfall. Greenstreets that are stand-alone properties (but not narrow traffic medians) will be rated no earlier than 48 hours following a snowfall.



Ice on a sidewalk, Priority One Immediate Attention

What Is Rated

The following are rated under Ice:

- Compacted snow and ice on sidewalks at the perimeter of a park.
- Compacted snow and ice on ramps in the interior of a park.
- Compacted snow and ice on staircases in the interior of a park.

The following are not rated under Ice:

- Ice on safety surfaces and level paths in the interior of a park is not considered a hazard.
- Non-compacted snow that does not appear to have the potential to freeze.

Ice Rating Criteria

Accessibility

- There should be a clear path at least 3 feet in width to allow safe passage on sidewalks around the perimeter of a park.
- There should be a clear path at least 3 feet in width to allow safe passage on staircases and ramps in the interior of the park.
- All paths created on a staircase and ramp should be next to a railing, and not down the middle of the staircase or ramp.
- At least one side of all staircases and ramps must be shoveled.

Cleanliness Features

Ice Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Presence of ice on sidewalks around the perimeter of a park that does not have a clear path of at least 3 feet in width.
- Presence of ice on staircases and ramps in the interior of a park that does not have a clear path of at least 3 feet in width.



Ice on a staircase, Priority One Immediate Attention

Priority Two

- Presence of compacted snow on sidewalks around the perimeter of a park that does not have a clear path of a least 3 feet in width.
- Presence of compacted snow on staircases and ramps in the interior of a park that does not have a clear path of a least 3 feet in width.

Ice Ratings Standards		
	Playground, Small Park, or Greenstreet	Large Park Zone
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for ice are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for ice are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for ice are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for ice are present.

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Cleanliness Features

Litter

What Is Rated

The following are rated under Litter:

- Refuse that has been discarded somewhere other than a proper garbage bag or receptacle.
- Bird feces, such as pigeon waste.
- Non-bird feces, such as canine waste.
- Accumulated grime on structural features. Grime includes, but is not limited to: residue from food products, oily substances, grease, or stains.
- Health hazards such as condoms, syringes, non-bird feces, and fetid water. Fetid water is a pool of water that has been sitting for more than 24 hours, and usually contains signs of algae or insect infestation.
- Overflowing garbage cans.
- Dumping of any items brought onto Parks property by people or businesses for the purpose of disposal. Commonly dumped items include furniture, bicycles, tires and household or construction debris.
- Refuse in water bodies.
- Unbroken glass bottles.
- Natural debris will not be rated unacceptable unless it presents a safety hazard (for example, excessive leaves, seed pods or broken shells on a hard surface creating a slip hazard).
- Wash-up of debris along a shoreline (items that have clearly floated in with the tide) will be noted, not rated.



Heavy litter in a playground

Litter Rating Criteria

Accumulation

Accumulations of litter are considered light, moderate, or heavy depending on the type of litter found at a site. (See the table on page 32 for the different types of litter.)

Cleanliness Features

Grime, stains, and bird feces will be deemed light, moderate, or heavy depending on how severely the condition detracts from the appearance of a feature, and how adversely it affects the public’s ability to use that feature. Accumulations consisting solely of small refuse like bottle caps, cigarette butts, water balloons and confetti will not receive a rating greater than moderate.

Accumulation of Litter			
	Light	Moderate	Heavy
Trash	Fewer than 15 pieces.	15 to 30 pieces.	More than 30 pieces.
Trash cans	n/a	Can overflowing, generally with multiple pieces of litter, less than 6 inches in height.	Can overflowing, generally with multiple pieces of litter, 6 inches or more in height.
Non-bird feces	1 pile or equivalent.	2 piles or equivalent.	3 or more piles or equivalent.
Dumping	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 tires, • Small appliance, • Shopping cart, • Small piece of furniture, or • Multiple crates. 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-6 tires, • Large appliance, • Large piece of furniture, • Multiple pieces of small furniture, or • 2-3 shopping carts. 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 abandoned vehicle, • 1 boat, • 1 full size refrigerator, • More than 6 tires, or • More than 3 shopping carts.

Cleanliness Features

Number of Problem Areas

An Inspector notes how many areas have light, moderate, or heavy litter. Areas can be the following:

- A distinct area such as a handball court, sidewalk, or MPPA.
- At a playground or small park, a 25 x 25 square foot area or along a 100 foot line.
- In a large park zone, a 50 x 50 square foot area or along a 200 foot line.
- For the litter feature, there can be more than one type and accumulation of litter at a single problem area. For example, OMP Inspectors may note conditions for both trash and non-bird feces in the same problem area.
- At a small site, such as a Greenstreet or a triangle, approximately 25 x 25 square foot in area, or a mall 100 feet long, litter is determined to be light, moderate, or heavy for the site overall.

Litter Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Serious health hazards, such as syringes, condoms, or dead animals, regardless of size, in a critical area (play equipment or safety surface).
- Non-bird feces in a critical area or on any above-grade, high-use feature such as benches or tables.
- Bee or wasp hive in an active play area during the spring, summer, or fall inspection seasons.



Overflowing trash can

Priority Two

- Serious health hazards, such as syringes, condoms, or dead animals, regardless of size, in non-critical areas.
- Non-bird feces in active play areas such as MPPA's, courts, or the paved surface immediately adjacent to play equipment.
- Standing, fetid water.
- Live rodent sighting or presence of rodent holes. Rodent holes will not be marked as Immediate Attention if signage on site and/or documentation available to OMP indicates the site has been baited in the last 30 days.

Cleanliness Features

- Slip hazard due to the presence of a foreign substance, such as sand or natural debris, in a critical or active area.
- Dumped hazardous materials such as construction debris with jagged or protruding sharp edges, or chemical substances, in an active area.

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Litter Ratings Standards			
	Small Site	Playground/Small Park	Large Park Zone
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter is moderate at the site overall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 or more areas have moderate litter. • 1 or more areas have heavy litter. • 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for litter are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 or more areas have moderate litter. • Litter is heavy in 1 area and moderate or heavy in 1 additional area. • 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for litter are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter is heavy at the site overall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 or more areas have moderate or heavy litter. • 3 or more areas have heavy litter. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for litter are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 or more areas have moderate or heavy litter. • 4 or more areas have heavy litter. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for litter are present.

Cleanliness Features

Weeds

What Is Rated

The following are rated under Weeds:

- Unsightly vegetation that was not intentionally planted in and around structural features.
- Any vegetation from a lawn or natural area that has grown through fencing, even if it did not originate from Parks' property.
- Growth in clay infields of a baseball or softball field.



Heavy weeds along a park path and around benches

The following are not rated under Weeds:

- Weed growth in bocce courts is rated under Play Equipment.
- Overgrown trails in large park zones are rated under Trails.
- Weed growth within a lawn is rated under Lawns for lack of mowing.
- Weed growth within a horticultural planting is rated under Horticultural Areas for lack of maintenance. This also applies to thorns extending from a deliberate horticultural planting.
- Empty tree pits that have grass that conforms to lawn standards will not be rated for weeds.
- Weeds level with Belgian blocks that form a neat green outline.

Weeds Rating Criteria

Accumulation

Weeds are considered to be either light, moderate, or heavy in the following accumulations:

Accumulation of Weeds		
Light	Moderate	Heavy
Less than 20% of an area, where weed growth is possible, is infested with weeds.	20% to 50% of an area, where weed growth is possible, is infested with weeds.	More than 50% of an area, where weed growth is possible, is infested with weeds.

Cleanliness Features

Number of Problem Areas

An Inspector notes how many areas of potential weed growth have light, moderate, or heavy weeds. Areas can be the following:

- A distinct area such as handball courts, sidewalk, or MPPA.
- At a playground or small park, a 25 x 25 square foot area or along a 100 foot line.
- In a large park zone, a 50 x 50 square foot area or along a 200 foot line.
- At a small site, such as a Greenstreet or a triangle, approximately 25 x 25 square feet in area, or a mall 100 feet long, weeds are determined to be light, moderate, or heavy for the site overall.
- Tree pits are not rated as a separate problem area.



Weeds in a tree pit

Weeds Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Weed growth that hides or obscures a traffic control signal or critical signage (“Stop,” “Yield,” or “Do Not Enter”).
- Weed growth that obscures a fire hydrant or roadway.

Priority Two

- Weed growth that hides or obscures less critical traffic signage.
- Weed growth that obscures the edges of sidewalks or steps, creating a trip hazard.
- Hazardous weeds with thorns, or poison ivy/poison oak, that encroach onto structural features.
- Wild mushrooms (that could be poisonous) in any play area.

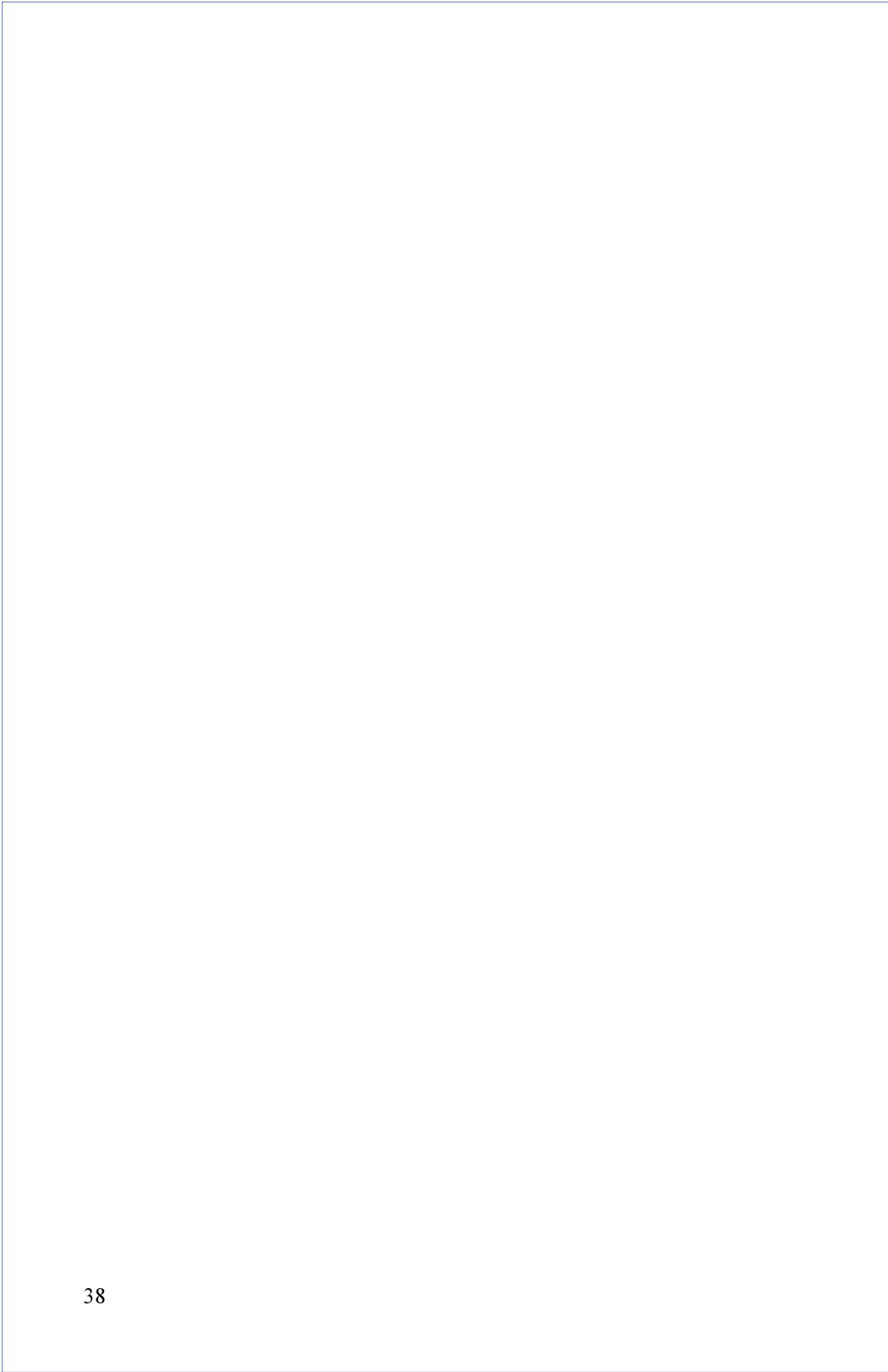


Weeds obscure fire hydrant

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Cleanliness Features

Weeds Ratings Standards			
	Small Site	Playground/ Small Park	Large Park Zone
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weeds are moderate at the site overall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 or more areas have moderate weeds. 1 or more areas have heavy weeds. 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for weeds are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 or more areas have moderate weeds. Weeds are heavy in 1 area and moderate or heavy in 1 additional area. 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for weeds are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weeds are heavy at the site overall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 or more areas have moderate or heavy weeds. 3 or more areas have heavy weeds. 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for weeds are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 or more areas have moderate or heavy weeds. 4 or more areas have heavy weeds. 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for weeds are present.



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Structural Features

Structural Features

Benches

What Is Rated

All benches, including those made of wood, plastic, metal, concrete or other material, as well as bleachers and picnic tables, are rated under Benches. The surfaces of chess and checkers tables are rated under Play Equipment.



Benches missing slats

Maintenance and Operations can remove benches at a site (for construction, safety concerns, etc.) if they have first checked with the community and received the approval of the Chief of Operations. M&O is responsible for informing OMP when a significant number of benches have been removed from a park, with explanation. Otherwise, the absence of these benches at a site can adversely affect the ratings.

Benches Rating Criteria

Benches will be rated with respect to the following criteria:

Damage

This includes cracks, broken slats or supports, exposed reinforcement bars, and wood-rot.



A bench in need of paint

Needing Paint

Benches that require paint will be noted. Exempt from rating are benches with pressure-treated wood.

Missing Slats

Removed

If benches provide the predominant recreational activity at a site and have been mostly or completely removed, benches will be rated unacceptable.

Structural Features

Benches Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Bleachers that are in danger of collapsing and are greater than 4 feet in height.

Priority Two

- A slat or support which is in danger of collapsing.
- A splintered or damaged slat with sharp edges.
- A bolt which protrudes one-quarter inch or more with sharp edges.
- A loose, unsecured slat which can pinch or fall off.
- An exposed reinforcement bar with jagged or sharp edges.



Bench was splintered and damaged

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Benches Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% or more of the benches are damaged, require paint, or are missing slats. • 50% of benches at a site have been mostly or completely removed. • At a playground, small park, or Greenstreets site, 3 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for benches are present. • In a large park zone, 6 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for benches are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches provide the predominant recreational activity at a site and are so unacceptable that they prevent the public from using the site. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for benches are present.

Structural Features

Fences

What Is Rated

All fences at a site are rated. This will include wrought-iron fence around a park's perimeter, chain-link fence around a basketball court or ballfield, pipe-rail fence that surrounds a lawn area, and ornamental fence around a horticultural area. Guardrails that surround natural areas are rated for structural issues but will not be rated for rust. Dasher boards surrounding a hockey rink are also rated under Fences.



Damaged fence

Fence running along railroad tracks, fence along parkways, and fence around concessionaires are the responsibility of other agencies or the concessionaire, and are not rated. Sneakholes in such fencing are noted in the inspection and do not affect the rating of the site. In the event that temporary fencing separates a playground or other sub-property from a large park zone, the fence can be rated as a feature for both the sub-property and large park zone.

Fences Rating Criteria

Fences will be rated with respect to the following criteria:

Appearance

Fencing, except for guardrails and chain link fence in a natural setting, should not be rusted or in need of painting.

Structural Defects

Fencing should not be damaged, missing, or in need of tiebacks or crossbars.

Damaged or missing crossbars or tiebacks may be noted as a hazard if they protrude into an active area or create a fall hazard.

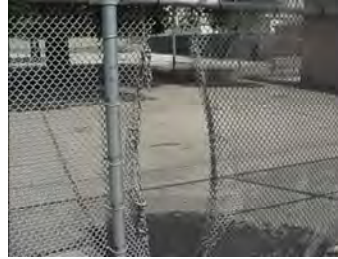


A fence in need of paint

Structural Features

Formalized Sneakholes

“Formalized” sneakholes are acceptable as long as they do not create a hazard. A formalized sneakhole is a deliberate opening in the fencing, created by Maintenance and Operations, to allow access to site. Sneakholes that are the result of vandalism are unacceptable.



Fence has a sneakhole

Fences Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Sneakhole, or missing fencing, which leads to a drop of 4 feet or more.
- Missing section of swing safety fencing.
- Unlocked, missing, or damaged fencing that would allow access to critical areas, such as swimming pools (regardless of depth), water bodies, catch basins, etc.

Priority Two

- Sneakhole, or missing fencing, which leads to a drop from 2 to 4 feet.
- Protruding fencing with sharp edges in an active area. Includes safety fencing for swings or the fencing directly adjacent to a sneakhole.
- A trip hazard created by downed sections of fencing in an active area.
- A trip hazard created by an empty bollard collar (with no obvious reason for bollard's removal at time of inspection and no notice provided to OMP).
- An ankle turn hazard created by missing tie-backs at ground level behind a basketball hoop.
- Fencing that contains barbed wire less than 8 feet in height.
- Hole in safety fencing, such as backstops, large enough for a moving ball or other object to get through.
- Loose or missing section of handrails if present adjacent to a staircase.



Missing tie-backs under basketball hoop

Structural Features

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Fences Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25% or more of the fencing is rusted or in need of paint.• 25% or more of the fencing is damaged, missing, or in need of tiebacks or crossbars.• 3 or more non-formalized sneakholes are present.• At a playground, small park, or Greenstreets site, 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for fences are present.• In a large park zone, 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for fences are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fences are the predominant feature at a site, and are so unacceptable that they severely detract from the overall appearance of the site.• 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for fences are present.

Structural Features

Paved Surfaces

What Is Rated

All hard pavements covering the ground are rated as Paved Surfaces, excluding sidewalks. Examples of paved surfaces include all non-sidewalk asphalt, cement, hex-block, Belgian block, brick, and cobblestone surfaces. Gravel paths, except through natural areas, are also rated under Paved Surfaces. Also rated under are drains, utility covers, quick-couplers, stairs, retaining walls, and the exteriors of comfort stations. Basketball courts, asphalt ballfields, tennis courts, and handball courts are also rated. Boardwalks at beaches are rated under Paved Surfaces.



Paved surface with deterioration of hex blocks

Severely faded sports coating on court areas will be noted under Paved Surfaces but will not affect the feature rating. Basketball backboards and rims, tennis court nets, and handball walls are rated under Play Equipment.

Paved Surfaces Rating Criteria

The paved surface ratings are determined by the percentage of the paved surface suffering from structural deterioration. Structural deterioration includes severe spalling, chipping paint, missing segments, holes, cracks, protrusions, and uplifts.

The paved surface ratings are also determined by the percentage of paved surfaces that have been patched or blocked-off by Maintenance and Operations.



Missing valve cover

Structural Features

Paved Surfaces Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Missing manhole or drain cover.
- Impalement hazard of 6 inches or more in height, such as protruding rebar or sign post stub.
- Severe trip hazard or fall hazard of 4 inches or more in height (vertical difference) in an active area.
- Trip hazard of at least 1.5 inches, or significant structural damage, on a staircase.



Fall hazard on staircase

Priority Two

- Trip hazard of 1.5 inches or more in height (vertical difference) in an active area.
- Trip hazard of 4 inches or more in height (vertical difference) in a less-active area.
- Trip hazard of at least 1.5 inches, or significant structural damage, on staircase with very wide (2 feet or greater) treads.
- Section of paved surface where spalling or missing segments have created loose, rubble-strewn, slippery conditions.
- Tree pits or tree lines are 4 inches or more below the grade of the surrounding paved surface.
- Missing water valve cover.
- Exposed sharp edges or bolts resulting from damage to a quick-coupler or water fountain.
- Ankle-turn hazard 2 inches or greater in width due to cracks or exposed expansion joint in an MPPA or court.
- A problem with the retaining wall or shoreline surrounding a water body creates a trip or fall hazard into a water body.
- An open lamppost electrical box (a streetlight that is DOT property will be noted as an IA but will not impact the rating).



Basketball court with ankle turn

Structural Features

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Paved Surfaces Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% or more of the paved surface suffers from structural deterioration. • 75% or more of the paved surface has been patched or blocked off by Maintenance and Operations. • At a playground, small park, or Greenstreets site, 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for paved surfaces are present. • In a large park zone, 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for paved surfaces are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paved surfaces are the predominant feature at a site, and are so unacceptable that they severely detract from the overall appearance or use of the site. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for paved surfaces are present.

Structural Features

Play Equipment

What Is Rated

All equipment in a park or playground intended for use by children at play, or for recreational use by teenagers and adults is rated as Play Equipment. This includes traditional play equipment such as slides and swings, adventure play equipment, handball walls and basketball backboards and rims, bocce courts, sandboxes, exercise equipment, goal posts on athletic fields and tennis court nets (except during the winter). Three-dimensional animal art surrounded by safety surface is also rated. Play equipment found on beachfronts, such as volleyball courts or adventure equipment, will also be rated under Play Equipment.



Broken swing, Priority One Immediate Attention

Litter and glass issues will be rated under Litter and Glass. Structures not meant for play such as art installations, statues, and memorials are not rated.

Play Equipment Rating Criteria

Play equipment will be rated with respect to two criteria:

Structural Deterioration

Structural deterioration for play equipment includes rust, rot, splintering, dents, and peeling or chipped paint. Structural deterioration is considered to be either light, moderate, or heavy for any given piece of play equipment in the following accumulations:

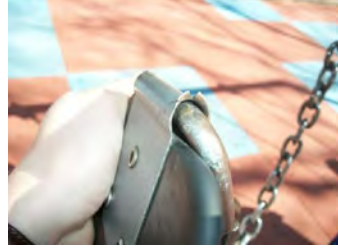
Structural Deterioration of Play Equipment		
Light	Moderate	Heavy
Less than 20% affected.	20% to 50% affected.	More than 50% affected.

Structural Features

Usability

A piece of play equipment is usable if it is in good working order, is not blocked off, and has not been either partially or wholly removed.

Sandboxes and bocce courts that are not maintained in usable condition (empty sandbox, rutted or weed-infested bocce court) can contribute to assessment of unusable play equipment.



Sharp protruding metal on a j-swing

Play Equipment Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Fall hazards from a height of 4 feet or more due to:
 - Damaged or missing guardrails/barriers on play equipment.
 - Damaged, loose, or missing climbing apparatus or sliding pole in danger of detaching from play equipment.
- Severe laceration or impalement hazards due to sharp protrusions 1 inch or more in length.
- Hazard where users are in motion and cannot readily stop themselves. Examples include the following:
 - Pronounced gap or protrusion on the slide platform or bed, due to damage or structural deterioration, that creates an entanglement, laceration, or impalement hazard.
 - Swing or cargo net with any open hooks, chains, or yokes.
 - Any hooks, chains, or yokes that are more than 2/3 worn through.
 - Entire apparatus or substantial components in danger of collapsing or breaking away.



Swing yoke worn 2/3 through, Priority One Immediate Attention

Structural Features

Priority Two

- Fall hazards from a height of 2.5 to 4 feet due to:
 - Damaged or missing guardrails/ barriers on play equipment.
 - Missing, loose, or damaged equipment, such as suspended rings.
 - Loose, damaged or uplifted edges on skate park equipment.
 - Drop down to exposed paved surface in an empty sandbox.
- Cut, scrape and laceration hazards due to:
 - Exposed metal on a swing with sharp or jagged edges.
 - Any protruding screw, bolt, or nail with a sharp edge and/or greater than 1/4 inch in length in an accessible area.
 - Bolts under K-swings that protrude more than 2 threads beyond the plastic frame.
 - Jagged, splintered wood.
- Hazards where a user is in danger of having an appendage caught or pinched. Examples include the following:
 - Planks on adventure platforms which are loose and pinch together.
 - A gap or opening in the fulcrum of a seesaw resulting from damage or deterioration to the seesaw where fingers could be caught or pinched.
 - Any hooks, chains, or yokes that are 1/3 worn-through.
 - Gaps between panels on a spiral slide causing an entanglement hazard.
 - Gaps created by loose bolts.
 - Cracks in plastic cargo nets.



Missing slats

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Structural Features

Play Equipment Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% or more of the play equipment exhibits moderate structural deterioration. • Any 1 piece of play equipment exhibits heavy structural deterioration. • 1/3 or more of the play equipment intended for the site is no longer usable, except when play equipment is limited to Chess and Checkers tables. • At any site, 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/3 of all play equipment at a particular site is unusable, except when play equipment is limited to Chess and Checkers tables. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for play equipment are present.

Play Equipment Capital Design Issues

Older play equipment that does not meet current ASTM standards, such as pipe-form units, fulcrum seesaws, traditional slides or Timberform units, will be noted as capital design issues using the designation “Priority C”.

Structural Features

Safety Surface

What Is Rated

All materials under and around play equipment whose purpose is to protect against injuries due to falls are rated under Safety Surface. This includes poured-in-place safety surface, interlocking and sectional rubber matting, as well as loose-fill materials such as wood chips and sand.



Missing loose-fill at exercise station

Safety Surface Rating Criteria

Safety surface ratings are determined by the percentage of the safety surface that is in disrepair. Disrepair includes safety surface that is damaged, worn, or uplifted; that has missing or protruding plugs; or that has metal anchors with missing rubber caps. The severity of a hazard can depend on whether it is located in a critical or non-critical area of the safety surface. A critical area of the safety surface is generally within six feet of play equipment, whereas a non-critical area is considered the periphery of the safety surface.



Safety surface uplifted causing trip hazard

Safety Surface Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- 1 square foot or more of exposed concrete, asphalt, or compacted earth in a critical area of the safety surface at a playground resulting from the following:
 - Missing section of rubber matting.
 - Hole due to worn-away poured-in-place safety surface.
 - Hole due to washed-away sand or wood chips.
- Bolt or nail at grade or protruding in any critical area of the safety surface.

Structural Features

Priority Two

- Less than 1 square foot of exposed concrete, asphalt, or compacted earth in a critical area of the safety surface at a playground.
- Missing safety surface or insufficient loose-fill material around exercise equipment where required.
- Uplift of 1.5 inches or more in height, in any area other than in inaccessible areas under the play equipment.
- Bolt or nail at grade or protruding in a non-critical area of the safety surface.
- Any instance of the following will be flagged as an IA, but a minimum of **two** instances will cause the feature to fail:
 - Safety surface separated 2 inches or more in width, in any area other than in inaccessible areas under the play equipment.
 - Exposed hard or compacted surface in a non-critical area due to missing rubber matting, poured-in-place, sand or wood chips.



Safety surface damaged in a critical area of the playground



2 inch gap in safety surface

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Structural Features

Safety Surface Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25% or more of the safety surface at the site is in disrepair.• 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for safety surface are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for safety surface are present.

Safety Surface Capital Design Issues

Safety surface that does not meet current ASTM use zone standards will be noted as a capital design issue using the designation “Priority C”.

Structural Features

Sidewalks

What Is Rated

All sidewalks surrounding Parks' property are rated, including sidewalks made of concrete, asphalt, brick or block pavers. Curbs, drains, and utility covers on or adjacent to the sidewalk are also rated. Uneven or damaged curbs will be rated as hazards when adjacent to an entrance or crosswalk.



Cracked and uplifted sidewalk

Belgian blocks and tree pits between the sidewalk and the street or the sidewalk and the perimeter fence are rated under Paved Surfaces.

Sidewalks Rating Criteria

Sidewalk ratings are determined by the percentage of the sidewalk suffering from structural deterioration. Structural deterioration for sidewalks includes severe spalling, missing segments, holes, cracks, protrusions, and uplifts.

Inspectors will note the percentage of sidewalk that has been patched or blocked off by Maintenance and Operations.

Sidewalks Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Missing manhole or drain cover.
- Impalement hazard of 4 or more inches, such as a sharp signpost stub.
- Severe trip hazard or fall hazard of 4 or more inches in height (i.e. uplifted section, missing section, etc.).



1.5 inch trip hazard

Structural Features

Priority Two

- Trip hazard of at least 1.5 inches (i.e. uplifted section or crack).
- Section of sidewalk where spalling or missing sections have created loose, rubble-strewn, slippery conditions.
- Missing valve cover.

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Sidewalk Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% or more of the sidewalk suffers from structural deterioration. • 75% or more of the sidewalk has been patched or blocked off by Maintenance and Operations. • At a playground, small park, or Greenstreets site, 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for sidewalks are present. • In a large park zone, 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for sidewalks are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalks are the predominant feature at a site, and are deemed unacceptable for the entire site because they severely detract from the overall appearance or public use of the site. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for sidewalks are present.

Landscape Features

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Landscape Features

Athletic Fields

What Is Rated

All natural or artificial turf areas designated for active-recreational use are rated as Athletic Fields. Examples include baseball, softball, football, soccer, cricket, volleyball and multi-use fields. Running tracks are also rated under Athletic Fields.



2 inch separation in turf

The following are not rated under Athletic Fields:

- Asphalt ballfields are rated under Paved Surfaces.
- Lawns that are not designated for active recreational use are rated under Lawns.
- Backstops and dugout fencing at ballfields are rated under Fences.
- Unsightly vegetation in clay infields is rated under Weeds.

Athletic Fields Rating Criteria

Grass or dirt athletic fields are classified as either A, B, or C athletic fields, and are rated using slightly different standards depending on their classification.

- **“A” athletic fields** are all athletic fields that are regularly irrigated and have controlled usage. “A” athletic fields are unacceptable when they are overgrown (over 5 inches), rutted/eroded/uneven, bare, or browned-out.
- **“B” athletic fields** are all non-irrigated baseball and softball fields. “B” athletic fields are unacceptable when they are overgrown (over 5 inches), rutted/eroded/uneven, or bare.
- **“C” athletic fields** are all non-irrigated soccer, cricket, football, volleyball, and multi-use athletic fields. “C” athletic fields are unacceptable when they are overgrown (over 5 inches) or rutted/eroded/uneven. “C” athletic fields are not rated for bareness.



Bare outfield

Landscape Features

Athletic fields will be rated for structural deterioration and for potential hazards. Examples include the presence of divots, holes, uplifts, and missing sections.

Athletic Fields Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One:

- A hole, 1 foot or more in diameter and 1 foot or more in depth, in an active area.
- An uplift or missing section creating an vertical difference of at least 4 inches in height.

Priority Two

- A hole, 1 foot or more in diameter and 1 foot or more in depth, in a less active area.
- A hole less than 1 foot in width or less than 1 foot in depth.
- An uplift or missing section creating a trip hazard of at least 1.5 inches in height.
- Separation of 2 inches or greater in an artificial turf field creating an ankle-turn hazard.
- Off-grade of 4 inches or greater causing a trip hazard at a dugout entrance.



Hole in an athletic field, Priority Two Immediate Attention

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Landscape Features

Athletic Fields Rating Standards

(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25% or more of the A or B athletic fields are bare.• 25% or more of synthetic turf fields have missing or damaged sections• 50% or more of the A, B, or C athletic fields are unacceptable (see Ratings Criteria).• Small parks cited for 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for athletic fields.• Large parks cited for 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for athletic fields.• Large park zones cited for 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for athletic fields.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grass that is greater than 1 foot in height.• Athletic fields are the predominant feature, and are so unacceptable that they severely detract from the overall appearance or use of a site.• Athletic fields cited for 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions.

Landscape Features

Horticultural Areas



Bare horticultural area

What Is Rated

All ornamental planted areas are rated under Horticultural Areas. This includes areas planted with shrubs, vines, and flower beds. Above-ground planters and pots are not rated for bareness during the winter inspection season.

Horticultural Areas Rating Criteria

Horticultural areas will be rated with respect to the following criteria:

Dead or dying

Horticultural areas, especially at Greenstreets sites, should be regularly watered.

Weed Infestation

Weeds are unsightly, and pose a threat to ornamental plantings.



Weed control fabric visible

Bareness

Horticultural areas should not be bare, except in the winter and in areas normally planted with annuals.

General Maintenance

Horticultural areas should be free from damage and broken fencing.

Soil Condition

Soil should not be severely compacted or eroded.

Landscape Features

Horticultural Areas Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Shrubs or vines that obscure a fire hydrant or roadway.



Thorns protruding into active area

Priority Two

- Shrubs or vines in an active area that protrude at or near eye level (3 to 6 feet).
- Thorns from horticultural plantings that extend into an active area.
- A hole, 1 foot or more in diameter and 1 foot or more in depth.
- Trip hazard created by a horticultural area 4 inches or more below the grade of an adjacent paved surface or sidewalk, without a raised curb or other cribbing, in an active area.

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Horticultural Areas Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% or more of the plants or 25% or more of the horticultural area are unacceptable (See Ratings Criteria). • A small park or Greenstreets site is cited for 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions. • A large park zone is cited for 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Greenstreets site at which 50% or more of the plants or 50% or more of the horticultural area are cited for violations (see Rating Criteria). • Horticultural areas which are so prominent and so unacceptable that they severely detract from the overall appearance of the site. • A horticultural area cited for 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions.

Landscape Features

Lawns

What Is Rated

The following are rated under Lawns:

- All grassy areas that are not designated for active recreational use, including lawns, grass strips, and tree lines, as well as natural areas.
- Sandy areas along a waterfront will also be rated under Lawns (natural areas).



Bare lawn with desire lines

The following are not rated under Lawns:

- Horticultural plantings are rated as Horticultural Areas. (At Greenstreets, all areas of greenery are rated under Horticultural Areas.)
- Natural turf ballfields are rated under Athletic Fields.

Lawns Rating Criteria

Grassy areas are classified as “A”, “B” or “C” lawns, and are rated using slightly different standards depending on their classification.

- **“A” lawns** have irrigation and their usage is controlled. “A” lawns are unacceptable when they are improperly mowed, are overgrown (over 5 inches, including growth through fencing), rutted/eroded/uneven, weed-infested, browned-out, or bare.
- **“B” lawns** are all non-irrigated lawns. “B” lawns are unacceptable when they are overgrown (over 6 inches, including growth through fencing), rutted/eroded/uneven, or bare.
- **“C” lawns** are a small number of lawns which, with borough approval and notification to OMP, will not be rated for bareness due to active recreational use.
- Natural areas are not included in any percentage unacceptable.

Lawns Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- A hole, 1 foot or more in diameter, 1 foot or more in depth, in an active area.

Landscape Features

- Overgrowth that hides or obscures a fire hydrant or roadway.

Priority Two

- A hole, 1 foot or more in diameter and 1 foot or more in depth, in a less active area.
- A hole less than 1 foot in diameter or less than 1 foot in depth.
- Trip hazard created by a lawn 4 inches below the grade of an adjacent paved surface or sidewalk in an active area. The transition from sidewalk to sand at the entrances of beach zones will be rated in the same manner.



12 inch deep hole in lawn, Priority One Immediate Attention

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Lawns Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For “A” lawns, 10% or more of the lawns are bare. • For “B” lawns, 25% or more of the lawns are bare. • For “A” lawns, 20% or more of the lawns are unacceptable (see Ratings Criteria). • For “B” lawns, 50% or more of the lawns are unacceptable (see Ratings Criteria). • Excessive desire lines detract from the overall appearance of an area of the site. • For playgrounds, small parks, and Greenstreets sites, 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for lawns are present. • For large park zones, 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for lawns are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawns are the predominant feature at a site, and are so unacceptable that they severely detract from the overall appearance of the site. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for lawns are present.

Landscape Features

Trails

What Is Rated

All unpaved paths in a natural area that are mapped, signed, marked, or otherwise formalized are rated under Trails. A trail is considered formalized if it is sufficiently wide and easily discernible from the surrounding natural area.



Trail impassible due to fallen trees

Cleanliness issues along trails such as litter, glass and graffiti are rated under their respective features, however overgrowth is rated under Trails, not Weeds (for lack of trail maintenance). Cleanliness issues in natural areas, such as abandoned vehicles, are always rated if observed. Paved paths through natural areas that have been intentionally allowed to deteriorate are rated under Trails, rather than under Paved Surfaces. M&O should formally notify OMP of any trails being officially decommissioned and make efforts to deter the public from using them.

Trails may be made of dirt, gravel or woodchips. Infrastructure along trails, including cribbing, drains, and footbridges, is also rated.



Trip hazard due to damaged footbridge

Trails Rating Criteria

Trails will be rated with respect to the following criteria:

Overgrowth/Impassibility

Trails should not be blocked by brambles, vines, limbs, overgrowth or downed trees.

Erosion

Trails should not be flooded or eroded.

Landscape Features

Trails Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Erosion or some other condition affecting a trail that is adjacent to a steep slope and poses a serious fall hazard.
- Missing section of trail or footbridge that poses a serious fall hazard.

Priority Two

- A large hole creating a serious trip hazard.
- Hazardous weeds such as poison ivy or plants with thorns encroaching onto the trail path.
- 4 inch trip hazard of any kind existing anywhere on the trail.

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Trails Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 or more instances where the trail is made impassible by branches, fallen trees, or plant growth.• 3 or more instances of serious rutting, erosion, or pooling water.• 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions cited for trails.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trails are the predominant feature, and are so unacceptable that they severely inhibit the public's ability to use the site.• 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions cited for trails.

Landscape Features

Trees

What Is Rated

Tree issues are rated in all active areas, such as over benches, paths, sidewalks, or play or picnic areas. Trees are rated for dead or dangling limbs, rigid branches at eye-level, and tree stumps that create trip or impalement hazards. Dead trees are also rated. Trees are not rated in natural/undeveloped areas, except where a hazard exists directly on or over a trail.

Dangling Limbs

A dangling limb will be defined as any limb that appears to be, from the vantage point of the Inspector, at least 6 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter, is fully or partially detached, and is suspended over an active or less active area.



Dangling limb

Wind Event Grace Period

A 48-hour grace period will be granted for the removal of dangling limbs following the conclusion of the following warnings/advisories issued by the National Weather Service:

- Hurricane Warning/ Watch
- Extreme Wind Warning
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning/ Watch
- High Wind Warning/ Watch
- Tropical Storm Warning
- Wind Advisory
- Ice Storm Warning

Additionally, the activation of the Downed Tree Task Force (for the above or any reason) will result in a grace period for the duration of the activation, as well as 48 hours after its deactivation.

During the grace period, dangling limbs will be noted as Immediate Attention but will not affect the feature rating.

Landscape Features

Dead Limbs

Any dead limb showing signs of wood rot over an active area that appears, from the vantage point of the Inspector, to be greater than 6 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter will be rated as a Priority Two Immediate Attention. Dead limbs are not rated over trails.



Large dead limbs

Dead Trees

Standing dead trees, except in natural areas, should be removed.

Protruding Tree Stumps

Protruding tree stumps in active areas are rated as potential trip or impalement hazards.

Trees Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Dangling limb that appears to be in danger of falling onto an active area.
- A sharp tree stump that is 6 or more inches in height in an active area and presents an impalement hazard.
- Branches that hide or obscure a traffic control signal or critical signage (“Stop,” “Yield,” or “Do Not Enter”).

Priority Two

- A dead limb showing signs of wood rot that appears to be in danger of falling onto an active area.
- A dangling limb that appears to be in danger of falling onto a less active area or trail.
- Branches that hide or obscure less critical traffic signage.
- A protruding branch, from a mature tree, that is at eye level (3 to 6 feet) and located in an active area.
- A trip hazard created by a tree stump which is 4 or more inches in height and in an active area.

Landscape Features

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as an Immediate Attention.

Trees Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a site with 1 to 5 trees: 1 dead tree is present or 1 tree has non-hazardous, low-hanging branches. • At a site with 6 to 10 trees: 2 dead trees are present or 2 trees have non-hazardous, low-hanging branches. • At a site with more than 10 trees: 3 or more dead trees are present or 3 or more trees have non-hazardous, low-hanging branches. • At a small park, playground, or Greenstreets site, 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for trees are present. • In a large park zone, 1 Priority One or 2 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for trees are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees are the predominant feature at a site, and are so unacceptable that they severely detract from the overall appearance of the site. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for trees are present in a small park or Greenstreet, or 2 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for trees are present in a large park zone.

Landscape Features

Water Bodies

What Is Rated

All natural and man-made bodies of water in a park, including lakes, ponds, and reflecting pools are rated. Large water bodies, such as oceans and rivers, that are adjacent to a large park zone will not receive a rating. If a water body borders on a large park zone, the shore of the water body and the part of the water body visible from the zone will be rated. Debris and refuse in water bodies and on beachfronts are rated under Litter.



Damaged ice rescue ladder, Priority One Immediate Attention

Retaining walls of water bodies and structural elements of fountains are rated under Paved Surfaces. Outdoor public pools and wading pools are not rated.

If an entire water body resides in a single large park zone, it will be rated as a single problem area.

OMP inspects for the presence of signs and ice rescue ladders at all enclosed water bodies during periods of potential freeze (from December 1 to March 31st). At least one ice rescue ladder and appropriate signage should be present every 400 feet of accessible shoreline.

Water Bodies Rating Criteria

Water bodies will be rated in respect to the following criteria:

Algae Infestation

Algae covering the surface of a water body is rated.



Excessive algae in water body

Landscape Features

Plant Growth

Invasive and undesirable plant growth is rated. However, plant growth in non-functioning decorative fountains is rated as Weeds.

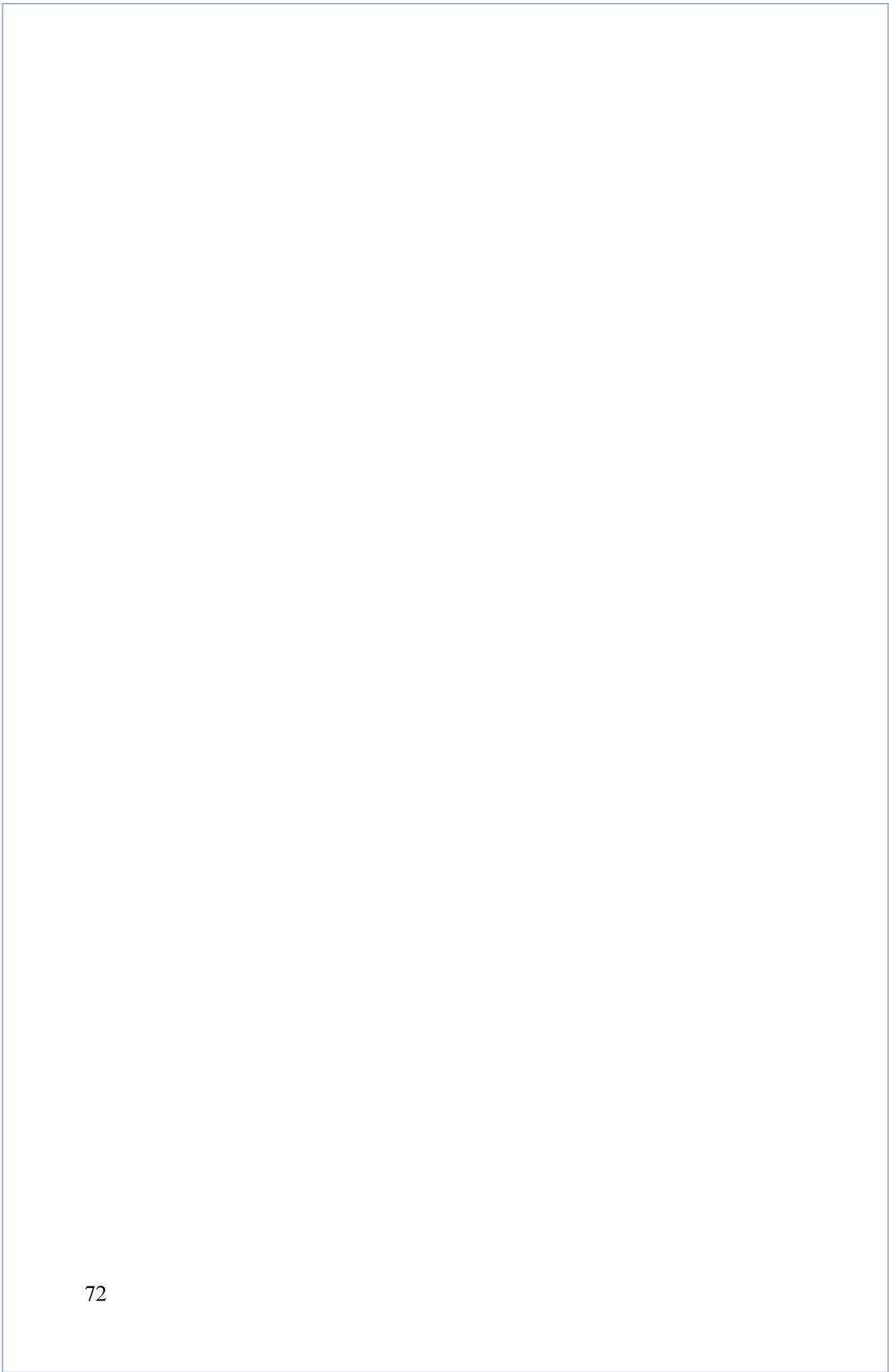
Water Bodies Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- An ice rescue ladder is not available every 400 feet of accessible shoreline.
- No “Danger” signs are posted along with ice rescue equipment at water bodies during the winter season.
- Ice rescue ladders are damaged or improperly stored such that they would not be readily usable in an emergency.

Hazardous conditions not explicitly listed above may be flagged as Immediate Attentions by an Inspector.

Water Bodies Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than 50% of the water body is infested with algae or invasive plant growth.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water bodies are the predominant feature at site and are so unacceptable that they severely detract from the overall appearance of the site.• 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for water bodies are present.



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Part Three

Comfort Station Inspection Program

Overview of the Program

Since August 2004, OMP has administered the Comfort Station Inspection Program (CSIP) as an additional way of evaluating the agency's overall performance. Prior to the implementation of CSIP, OMP Inspectors had tracked comfort stations as a park element under the Parks Inspection Program (PIP). This only provided Maintenance and Operations personnel with baseline information regarding comfort station conditions. Comfort stations provide an important service to the public. As such, CSIP takes a more comprehensive and structured approach to evaluating comfort stations, and assigns a rating to each facility that is inspected. This is designed to hold borough personnel more accountable for the condition of the facilities under their care.

Comfort stations are rated “Acceptable” or “Unacceptable” for their overall condition. Four primary features are rated: amenities, graffiti, litter, and structural. Comfort stations are considered unacceptable in their overall condition if the facility is unofficially closed during hours of operation, does not meet standards of cleanliness, lacks amenities, suffers from significant structural deficiencies, or any combination of these. Comfort station inspections occur simultaneously with PIP inspections – there is not a separate sort to determine selection of facilities. The overall condition rating for the comfort station has no bearing, positive or negative, on the PIP rating for an adjoining park or playground. However, comfort station inspection information and ratings are published alongside the PIP report and reported at upper level management meetings.



CSIP provides NYC Parks management with a broad indicator of the condition of the agency's comfort stations. The program serves three important goals:

- To hold the agency to a higher level of accountability for the condition of the comfort stations in its parks and playgrounds
- To help NYC Parks allocate resources to target problem areas
- To help improve overall conditions for the public

Overview of the Program

What is Inspected at a Site?

A comfort station is defined as a facility that contains both a men’s and a women’s restroom, and is owned and maintained by NYC Parks. A complete comfort station inspection includes the inspection of both the men’s and women’s restrooms.



Inspections include all fixtures, walls, floors, ceilings, and amenities. The comfort station will be rated for litter and graffiti found inside the comfort station. Cleanliness issues that are found on the outside of the comfort station are rated within the purview of PIP.

Immediate Attention Hazards

A feature is flagged for “Immediate Attention” when one or more hazards are present in a single restroom. All features can be flagged for Immediate Attention. The following are the two levels of Immediate Attention hazards:

Priority One:

- The hazard presents the chance of a serious (life-threatening or debilitating) injury.
- A single Priority One Immediate Attention will fail the feature rating, as well as the overall condition rating for a single restroom and the overall condition of the comfort station.

Priority Two

- The hazard presents the chance of a slight to serious injury.
- Graffiti that depicts hate speech or profanity.
- A single Priority Two Immediate Attention will fail the feature rating for a single restroom, and the overall feature rating for the comfort station. However, it will not necessarily fail the overall condition rating for a single restroom, and the overall condition rating of the comfort station.

Overview of the Program

Restroom Feature Rating

The men's and women's restrooms are rated separately. Each restroom will receive an individual feature rating for amenities, graffiti, litter, and structural. A feature can be rated either acceptable (A), unacceptable (U), or very unacceptable (U/S) based on the ratings for each feature. (Please see the rating standards for each feature in the pages that follow.) Restroom features will be marked "not rated" (N), in restrooms that are found closed. Any of the following will cause the restroom feature rating to be unacceptable:

- If an Inspector finds a single Priority One Immediate Attention in a restroom, the restroom feature rating will be very unacceptable (U/S or "Unacceptable/Site").
- If an Inspector finds a single Priority Two Immediate Attention in a restroom, the restroom feature rating will be unacceptable (U).

Restroom Overall Condition Rating

The restroom condition rating is determined to be acceptable or unacceptable depending on the ratings of the four restroom feature ratings. Any of the following will cause the restroom condition rating to be unacceptable:

- If the restroom is closed. Restrooms will be marked "not rated" (N) in comfort stations that are officially closed for the season or closed for construction. See page 86 for official comfort station closure policy.
- If an Inspector notes two or more unacceptable (U) features in a restroom.
- If an Inspector notes one or more very unacceptable (U/S or "Unacceptable/Site") features in a restroom.

Comfort Station Feature Rating

In addition to each restroom feature ratings, the entire comfort station will receive a comfort station feature rating for each of the four inspection features. Each comfort station feature can be rated either acceptable (A), unacceptable (U), or very unacceptable (U/S) based on each restroom feature rating. Any of the following will cause the comfort station feature rating to be unacceptable:

Overview of the Program

- If an Inspector notes a restroom feature failure for both the men's and women's restroom, the comfort station feature rating will receive an unacceptable (U) for the entire comfort station. For example, if the restroom feature rating for graffiti is unacceptable (U) in both men's and women's restrooms, the comfort station feature rating for graffiti will be rated as unacceptable (U).
- A comfort station feature rating will be unacceptable (U) when a Priority Two Immediate Attention is found in a single restroom. For example, if an Inspector notes inappropriate storage in the women's restroom, the comfort station feature rating for litter will be unacceptable (U).
- A comfort station feature rating will be unacceptable (U) for amenities, graffiti and structural features if a failure exists in a single restroom. For example if an Inspector notes one moderate graffiti failure in the men's room or more than 10% fixtures missing, damaged, deteriorated or in poorly repaired condition in the women's room, the comfort station rating for that feature will be unacceptable (U).
- If an Inspector notes a very unacceptable (U/S or "Unacceptable/Site") restroom feature rating, the comfort station feature rating for that feature will be found very unacceptable (U/S or "Unacceptable/Site"). For example, if an Inspector notes inadequate lighting in the men's restroom, a Priority One Immediate Attention, the comfort station feature rating for structural will be rated as very unacceptable (U/S or "Unacceptable/Site").
- The comfort station feature rating for amenities is based on the total number of missing amenities for the entire comfort station, not the individual restroom. For example, if there are no paper towels in the women's restroom the comfort station feature rating for amenities will be unacceptable (U). If an Inspector notes missing liquid soap and paper towels in both restrooms, totaling four issues, the comfort station feature ratings for amenities will be very unacceptable (U/S or "Unacceptable/Site").
- If one restroom is closed, but the other restroom is open, the comfort station feature ratings will be determined by the condition of the open restroom.

Overview of the Program

Comfort Station Overall Condition Rating

The comfort station overall condition rating is determined to be acceptable or unacceptable depending on either the restroom condition ratings or comfort station feature ratings. Any of the following will cause a comfort station overall condition to be unacceptable:

- If at least one restroom is closed. This excludes comfort stations that are seasonal or closed for construction. See page 86 for official comfort station closure policy.
- If at least one restroom condition rating is unacceptable. For example, if the women's restroom condition rating is unacceptable (U), then the comfort station overall condition will be unacceptable (U).
- If two comfort station feature ratings are found to be unacceptable (U). For example, if both graffiti and litter are found to be unacceptable the comfort station, overall condition rating will be unacceptable (U).
- If an Inspector notes a very unacceptable (U/S) for a comfort station feature rating. For example, if structural features are found to be very unacceptable, then the comfort station overall condition rating will be unacceptable (U).

Comfort Station Features

Amenities

What Is Rated

The following amenities are inspected in the comfort station: toilet paper, paper towels or hand dryers, and liquid hand soap. Soap dispensers, soap globes, and toilet paper and paper towel dispensers will be rated under the structural feature.



No toilet paper

Rating Standards

All comfort stations are expected to provide basic amenities to park users. A comfort station restroom will be considered unacceptable if any of the following conditions exists at the time of the inspection:

- There is no liquid hand soap present. (Bar soap is not an acceptable alternative to liquid soap.)
- There are no paper towels or working hand dryer.
- At least 50% of the stalls do not have toilet paper.

Restroom Amenities Rating Standards	
(U)	• If 1 of the above conditions exists in either restroom.

Comfort Station Amenities Rating Standards	
(U)	• If 1 of the above conditions exists in either restroom.
(U/S)	• If a total of 4 of the above conditions exist for the entire comfort station.

Comfort Station Features

Graffiti

What Is Rated

All spray paint, permanent markers, stickers, crayon, and adhesive posters that have been illegitimately applied or affixed to any surface within the comfort station are rated as graffiti. All markings on the outside of the comfort station will be rated as part of the Parks Inspection Program.

Rating Criteria

Graffiti will be rated based on the total square footage of each room.

Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority Two

- Graffiti that depicts hate speech or profanity.

Restroom Graffiti Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is at least 10 square feet of graffiti in a single restroom.• 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for graffiti are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is greater than 20 square feet of graffiti in a single restroom.

Comfort Station Graffiti Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is at least 15 total square feet of graffiti for the entire comfort station.• 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for graffiti are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is greater than 25 total square feet of graffiti for the entire comfort station.

Agency Graffiti Policy

For more information on the agency’s graffiti policy please see “Agency Graffiti Policy” on page 27.)

Comfort Station Features

Litter

What Is Rated

The following are rated under litter: refuse that has been discarded somewhere other than in a proper garbage bag or receptacle; equipment stored within the comfort station; the condition of garbage cans and garbage bags awaiting pick-up; large quantities of natural debris; bird and non-bird feces within the comfort station; grime; health hazards such as condoms, syringes, or fetid water; and the sighting of any rodents, cockroaches, or flies within the comfort station.

Rating Criteria

Accumulations of litter can be light, moderate, or heavy. The definitions of a particular accumulation depend on the type and amount of litter found:

Comfort Station Litter Rating Criteria			
	Light	Moderate	Heavy
Trash	Fewer than 5 pieces.	6-10 pieces.	More than 11 pieces.
Trash cans	n/a	Can overflowing, generally with multiple pieces of litter, less than 6 inches in height.	Can overflowing, generally with multiple pieces of litter, more than 6 inches in height.
Feces and grime	1-2 areas (1 square foot).	3-4 areas.	More than 4 areas.
Natural debris	Lightly scattered.	Moderate amount evenly distributed.	Large amount densely concentrated.

Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- Serious health hazards such as syringes, dead animals, or condoms within the comfort station.

Comfort Station Features

- Broken glass anywhere within the comfort station.
- Bee or wasp hive.
- Inappropriately stored objects that present a serious safety hazard. Examples include, but are not limited to: gasoline cans, rock salt, cleaning agents, sharp clippers, and any objects that obstruct the exit to a comfort station.



Moderate litter

Priority Two

- Less serious health hazards such as standing fetid water or the sighting of a cockroach, rodent, or other animal, or evidence of infestation such as a large number of ants or a fly strip covered with flies.
- Foul odor emanating from the comfort station.
- Inappropriately stored objects that present a less serious safety hazard. Examples include, but are not limited to: buckets, brooms, shovels, weed whackers, leaf blowers, and shopping carts.

Restroom Litter Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more categories of litter are found to be moderate in a single restroom. • 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for litter are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more categories of litter are found to be heavy in a single restroom. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for litter are present.

Comfort Station Litter Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions for litter are present.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more categories of litter are found to be heavy. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions for litter are present.

Comfort Station Features

Structural

What Is Rated

The following is rated under structural features: ceilings, fixtures, floors and walls. Structural features should be in good repair. Additionally, paint should be uniform in color, applied evenly in all areas of the comfort station, and be devoid of chipping.



Uneven paint

Comfort Station Structural Features - What is Rated	
Ceilings	All ceilings, inclined roofs, and skylights. Rated for water damage, paint, cracks, holes, leaks, dents, and ceiling tiles that are missing, misaligned, or otherwise damaged.
Fixtures	All toilets, urinals, sinks, lights, toilet paper dispensers, paper towel dispensers, mirrors, and changing tables. Rated for cracks, chipping, constantly running water, clogging, being out of order, or otherwise damaged.
Floors	All floors, stairs, and ramps inside the comfort station. Rated for cracks, missing floor tiles, uneven flooring, holes, broken or loose tiles, pooling water, clogged floor drains, cracking or loose grout, damaged stairs, and water damage.
Walls	All doors, stall panels, and stall doors. Rated for water damage, paint condition, cracks, holes, leaks, dents, unfinished areas, or other damage.

Comfort Station Features

Rating Standards

The structural features listed on the previous page will be assessed for each restroom separately, and deemed light, moderate or heavy based on the following criteria:

Restroom Structural Rating Criteria		
Light	Moderate	Heavy
Less than 10% of the feature is missing, deteriorated, damaged, or in poor repair.	10-25% of the feature is missing, deteriorated, damaged, or in poor repair.	More than 25% of the feature is missing, deteriorated, damaged, or in poor repair. A restroom with no working toilet will also be rated as 'Heavy'.

For example, if a small comfort station has a missing or out of service sink in the men's restroom, this could count towards 10-25% of the feature (Fixtures) missing, deteriorated, damaged, or in poor repair and the room and comfort station will receive a "U" for Structural. If the ceiling of a restroom exhibits widespread deterioration, this will count towards more than 25% of the feature (Ceilings) missing, deteriorated, damaged, or in poor repair and the room and comfort station will receive a "U/S" for Structural.

Immediate Attention Hazards

Priority One

- 4 or more inches of vertical difference (i.e. uplifted section, crack, hole, and sunken area).
- Exposed wiring from an electrical fixture.
- Poor or insufficient lighting as a result of missing or inoperative light bulbs in comfort stations.

Comfort Station Features

Priority Two

- 1.5 inches or more of vertical difference (i.e. uplifted section, crack, hole, or sunken area).
- Missing drain / water valve cover.
- Laceration hazard due to cracked fixture.
- Loose, missing or worn straps on a diaper changing station.
- If a comfort station appears to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessible design, none of the required amenities can be damaged or missing (e.g., railings next to urinal or toilet, lowered hand dryer, sink, etc.).

Restroom Structure Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more categories are found to be moderate. • 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions are found. • More than 25% of fixtures are damaged or missing in a single restroom.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or more categories are found to be moderate. • 1 or more categories found to be heavy. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions are present.

Comfort Station Structure Rating Standards	
(U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more categories are found to be moderate. • 1 or more Priority Two Immediate Attentions are found. • More than 50% of fixtures are damaged or missing in the entire comfort station.
(U/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more categories found to be heavy. • 1 or more Priority One Immediate Attentions are present.

Comfort Station Closure Policy

Comfort Station List

OMP will maintain a master list of all comfort stations, indicating which are officially closed during the Winter season (winterized) as well as those which are (or are scheduled to be) officially closed for other long-term reasons such as construction. By the first week of September, OMP will distribute this list to each borough for confirmation. Boroughs are responsible for returning the list to OMP, with any updates, by the third week of September. Any additions to the list must be approved by the Office of the First Deputy Commissioner. This list will remain posted on the OMP website throughout the year.

A comfort station that is found to be closed during an inspection will be marked as unofficially closed unless a) OMP has received prior notice of an emergency closure, with explanation, b) the comfort station appears on the winterized or otherwise officially closed list, or c) a snowfall grace period is in effect.

Emergency Closures

Throughout the year, and as soon as possible, boroughs must notify the Director of PIP by email, and copy the Chief of Operations, if a comfort station must close due to an emergency situation such as damaged pipes, inadequate heat, vandalism, etc. Pages received by OMP from Central Communications regarding comfort station closures will also be considered sufficient notice. This information will be taken into account for a one-week period from date of receipt, during which time the comfort station will be considered officially closed. If repairs cannot be completed within one week, boroughs must notify the Director of PIP by email and provide an anticipated date of re-opening.

Snowfall Grace Period

Borough managers and supervisors should make every effort to keep their year-round comfort stations in service in the event of a snowfall. A comfort station that is fully closed at the time of inspection will not be penalized as unofficially closed if a Snow Alert has been issued by the Office of the First Deputy Commissioner. Such an alert generally will be issued on the afternoon/evening before a day in which two or more inches of snow is forecast, and will require the boroughs to submit a Snow Report the following morning. The grace period will remain in effect for the entire day following the alert, or 24 hours after the conclusion of the snowfall if it continues to snow throughout the day.

Part Four
Appendices

Inspection Program Appeals

Filing an Appeal

The Borough Commissioner, Chief of Operations, Deputy Chief of Operations, or any designee of the aforementioned can appeal a PIP or a comfort station inspection rating to the designated Parks Inspection Program Ombudsman if he or she feels that the rating given to a site is erroneous. The Ombudsman is generally a member of the First Deputy Commissioner's staff. All appeals must be sent in writing to the Ombudsman by the appeal due date for that inspection round as listed in the PIP calendar. The reasons why the rating is being appealed, as well as any evidence supporting the borough's appeal (photographs, documents), should also be included.

Resolution of Appeals

The Ombudsman, after investigating the merits of an appeal, can, at his or her discretion, retroactively change the rating of a given feature or site, if he or she is convinced that the rating in question constitutes a misapplication of the official inspection standards as described in this manual. If the wrong site was rated, the Ombudsman will change the rating to "Not Rated." An exception is where Greenstreets are not properly marked, clustered together, and the wrong site was possibly rated. In this case, the rating for that site will stand.

The Ombudsman will notify the borough in writing of his or her decision within two to four weeks of the receipt of an appeal. The resolution of an appeal by the Inspection Program Ombudsman constitutes the final decision of NYC Parks.

Glossary of Terms

Accessible Area:	Any area easily accessed by the public (not fenced-off or otherwise effectively obstructed).
Accumulation:	The amount of litter, glass, weeds, etc. found in an area. Accumulations are rated as light, moderate, or heavy.
Active Area:	Areas of a park that users are expected to frequent, including paved paths, sidewalks, play areas, sitting areas, picnic areas.
AF:	Abbreviation for athletic fields.
ADA:	Abbreviation for the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Bare:	Lacking grass, shrubs, plantings or wood chips.
BBCT:	Abbreviation for basketball court.
BE:	Abbreviation for benches.
Bridle Path:	A path officially designated (typically through signage) for equestrian use. Bridle paths are rated under trails.
C&CT:	Abbreviation for chess and checkers table.
Capital Design Issues:	Problems due to the design of a site which in-house forces are unable to correct. Capital design issues are most often noted for play equipment and safety surface.
CLF:	Abbreviation for chain-link fence.
Color Seal:	A latex based coating that provides traction on basketball courts, asphalt softball fields, volleyball courts, and tennis courts. Also referred to as sports coat.
Comfort Station:	A public restroom facility consisting of a men's and women's restroom.
Critical Area of Safety Surface:	The safety surface directly around play equipment onto which a child falling from or exiting the equipment would be expected to land. For stationary play equipment (i.e. adventure equipment), the critical area is considered to be 6 feet around play equipment. For motion-oriented play equipment (i.e. swings or slides), the critical area is wherever a child could potentially land when falling or exiting from the equipment. (See "Use Zone" on page 94)
Deadheading:	The removal of flowers from plants when flowers are fading or dead.

Glossary of Terms

DF:	Abbreviation for drinking fountain.
Desire Line:	Any non-paved, non-formalized path. Examples include shortcuts across a lawn or through natural areas.
EE:	Abbreviation for exercise equipment.
FE:	Abbreviation for fences.
Fall Hazard:	Unobstructed potential drop of at least 2.5 feet from play equipment onto safety surface. Also evaluated under fences when a sneakhole leaves a drop of 2 feet or more.
Formalized Sneakhole:	A sneakhole which has been made into an official passageway by Parks through the attachment of vertical posts and the clipping of all sharp edges.
Fetid Water:	A pool of water that has been sitting for more than 24 hours, and usually contains signs of algae or insect infestation.
GL:	Abbreviation for glass.
GR:	Abbreviation for graffiti.
Grime:	Grime includes, but is not limited to: residue from food products, bodily fluids, oily substances, grease, or stains.
Hate Speech:	Graffiti which includes language or symbols which communicate hostility towards a group of people, often based on race, gender, sexuality, or religion.
Hazardous Weeds:	Poison ivy, poison oak, thorns, or wild mushrooms.
HBCT:	Abbreviation handball court.
HORT:	Abbreviation for horticultural areas.
Immediate Attention:	Any safety hazard found at a site. Immediate Attention are defined as either Priority One or Priority Two.
Impalement Hazard:	A sharp protrusion at least 4 inches long which has the potential to pierce a patron. Common impalement hazards are sign stubs and sharp tree stumps.
J-swing:	Type of swing with flat seat appropriate for school-age children.
K-swing:	Type of swing with bucket-style seat appropriate for toddlers.

Glossary of Terms

Less Active Area:	Areas peripheral to active areas but still accessible, such as open lawns or the outfields of ballfields. Trails are less active areas.
LW:	Abbreviation for lawns.
MPPA:	Abbreviation for multi-purpose play area.
Natural Area:	Mainly within large parks, an unlandscaped area (usually woods or meadow) which has public-access trails and is used recreationally by the public.
PE:	Abbreviation for play equipment.
Pipe Form Unit (PFU):	Older climbing equipment that consists mainly of metal piping.
Pinch Hazard:	Any juncture which could squeeze/bind the user's appendage during use, usually of play equipment or benches.
Play Area:	Play equipment and all surrounding safety surface, court areas, and athletic fields.
POW/MIA Flag:	The Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag was created to honor members of the US Armed Forces who have been or remain prisoners of war. City Council requires these flags to be flown at all parks that fly an American flag.
Profanity:	Graffiti which includes abusive or vulgar language.
PS:	Abbreviation for paved surface.
Requirements Contracts:	Introduced in 1995, requirements contracts allow Parks to replace standard park features and improve the overall condition of a site without undertaking a complete reconstruction.
RS:	Abbreviation for routed sign.
Restroom:	A restroom consists of a single sex bathroom with toilets and urinals (men).
Safety Fencing:	Fencing which serves the primary purpose of protecting other park users from fast moving objects such as a baseball or handball, or swings, or helps protect against inadvertent falls to an area below. The chain-link fencing at backstops, dugouts, and handball courts, as well as railings along a raised walkway, are examples of safety fencing.

Glossary of Terms

Small Site:	A site that does not constitute more than one distinct problem area, i.e. that is no larger than 25x25 square feet in area or along a 100 foot line.
Spalling:	The significant crumbling of paved surface or sidewalk to create a loose, rubble-strewn surface.
Sports Coat:	A latex based coating that provides traction on basketball courts, asphalt softball fields, volleyball courts, and tennis courts. Also referred to as color seal.
SS:	Abbreviation for safety surface.
SW:	Abbreviation for sidewalks.
TL:	Abbreviation for trails.
TREE:	Abbreviation for trees.
Undeveloped Area:	An area that is undeveloped and has no public-access trails. (See “Natural Area” on page 93.)
Use Zone:	Standard language that is used by American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to define the area around play equipment that should have protective surfacing and be free of obstructions. Most play equipment requires a minimum use zone of 6 feet.
U:	Abbreviation for unacceptable — can apply to overall condition, cleanliness, and feature ratings.
U/S:	Abbreviation for unacceptable for site — applies only to feature ratings, and will always have the effect of failing overall condition (and cleanliness if a cleanliness feature).
WB:	Abbreviation for water bodies.
WD:	Abbreviation for weeds.
Wash-up:	Any material that washes up along a shoreline due to the changing of the tide.

Notes

Notes

For more information
regarding this manual,
please call Operations
& Management Planning
at **(212) 360-8234**.



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 City of New York Parks & Recreation
 Originally published August 1987



Park Assessment Form



Louisville Parks and Recreation

Inspection Guidelines:

- Rating 5 = Condition is Excellent
- Rating 4 = Meets Almost all Goals
- Rating 3 = Needs Improvement
- Rating 2 = Barely Acceptable
- Rating 1 = Unacceptable

Send your completed assessment to:

LMPRvolunteer@louisvilleky.gov OR mail to:

Louisville Parks and Recreation
Attn: Volunteer Program Office
P.O. Box 37280
Louisville, KY 40233

What to Look for:

1. Garbage Control
 - Goals: Cans available and collected beyond half full, litter free throughout park, cans in good condition
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Cans available, in good condition, but full and unusable
 - Rating 1 – Garbage on the ground, full and/or overturned cans, can in disrepair
2. Restrooms
 - Goals: Clean fixtures, soap and paper supplies available, clean floors, walls and ceilings litter free and odor free. Entrance and areas immediately around the restrooms are clean a graffiti free
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Litter, dirty wall, stained floor
 - Rating 1 – Dirty walls, litter, no toilet paper, graffiti
3. Picnic Shelters and Areas
 - Goals: Shelter surfaces clean and cobweb free, odor free, free of litter and garbage, grills are free of coals and ashes, clean undamaged picnic tables/furniture, tables are located on trip-tree attractive surfaces, trashcans are in good condition, lined, and less than half full
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Some litter, wear and tear obvious on table, ashes in grill
 - Rating 1 – Dirty table, graffiti, litter, overflowing garbage, unusable grill
4. Play Areas
 - Goals: Safe, free of glass, litter, graffiti and debris, weed free, level surface, adequate volume of surface material, surface material contained, spray features are clean and in good condition
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Mulch is not level, tripping hazards present, weeds in play area
 - Rating 1 – Litter, graffiti, and weeds, equipment is damaged, uneven surfaces or tripping hazards present
5. Sport Courts
 - Goals: litter, leaf, and glass free, nets in good condition, weed free, surface clean, goals are painted
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Some leaves and litter but netting is intact
 - Rating 1 – Weeds, litter, broken or no net, paint is peeling or chipped

6. Athletic Fields

- Goals: Hazard free, grass is mowed and sand/dirt areas are even and have sufficient material. Infields are weeded with well-defined edges. Dugouts are clean and paint is in good condition, goal posts and scoreboards are well maintained and painted, benches are in good working order
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Weeds in infield, paint peeling or chipping, benches are worn
 - Rating 1 – Dugouts are worn, litter in dugouts, field is uneven with potential tripping hazards (holes), benches are cracking or missing boards

7. Hardscapes

- Goals: Surfaces are blown, litter free, weed free, and graffiti free.
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Debris on surfaces
 - Rating 1 – debris, graffiti, weeds, surfaces damaged or uneven

8. Grass Fields and Grass Areas

- Goals: Free of trip hazards, edged and trimmed, mowed to proper height, large quantities of leaves removed, no tire ruts or damage
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Mowed, but not edged, some litter
 - Rating 1 – Tire ruts, tall grass, considerable litter

9. Shrubs and Landscape Beds

- Goals: Weeded and mulched, plants pruned for size, shape, and removal of dead elements, healthy plant color, edged and/or well defined borders
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Mulched but no defined edge, some weeded present
 - Rating 1 – Overgrown plants, weeds, not mulched

10. Tree Management

- Goals: Trees appear healthy. The upper canopy is free of broken or hanging branches greater than two inches in diameter. Low hanging branches do not create accessibility issues. The base of the trunk is maintained, free of suckers, and without obstructions
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Small broken branches or dead limbs in canopy, branches impeding access, if there are larger broken branches, the side has been secured
 - Rating 1 – Dead tree or tree with major damage, tree stumps that may be tripping hazards, large fallen or hanging limbs across walkways/roads

11. Trails and Natural Areas

- Goals: Passable, not overgrown, litter free, to trip, slip or overhead hazards, trail signs are legible (if applicable)
 - Rating 5 – Meets all goals
 - Rating 3 – Overgrown but passable, level surface.
 - Rating 1 – Significant trip hazards or overhead hazards, trail is uneven and dangers, overgrowth obstructs trail

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Louisville Parks and Recreation
Attn: Volunteer Program Office
P.O. Box 37280
Louisville, KY 40233



LOUISVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION

Park Assessment Form –
See inspection book for rating details and example photos.
Ratings: 1 = >3 unmet goals, 2 = meets all but three goals, 3 = meets all but two goals,
4 = meets all but one goal, 5 = meets all goals

Park Inspected:	Inspector:	Date:	Time:	Weather:
Inspected Areas	Rating	Comments on Rating/ Improvements Needed		
Garbage Control				
Restrooms				
Picnic Shelters and Areas				
Play Areas				
Sport Courts				
Athletic Fields (Natural and Synthetic)				
Hardscapes				
Grass Fields and Grass Areas				
Shrubs and Landscape Beds				
Tree Management				
Trails and Natural Areas				
Total of all area ratings:				
Comments, critiques, suggestions:				

For Parks and Recreation Staff:

Number of areas rated:	
Average Rating per area:	
Work Orders Submitted	

TBC PARK AND OPEN SPACE EVALUATION TOOL

For evaluation of outdoor resources during non-winter months

GENERAL INFORMATION

Park Name (and ID) _____

Park Evaluator _____ Date and Time _____

Open Space Type (circle one)

Regional Park Neighborhood Park Pocket Park Plaza/Square Special Use Natural Area

Major Amenities (check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Education/Nature Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground/Play Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Arboretum | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Square | <input type="checkbox"/> Pool | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Feature | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Field or Court |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Area/Pavilion | <input type="checkbox"/> Skate Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Feature | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Stage/Space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Splash Pad/Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Lawn (usable for
lounging or casual sports) | <input type="checkbox"/> Horticultural/
Demonstration Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Boat Launch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Station | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike Share |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Waste Bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Information Booth | <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery |

TOTAL SCORE

Score	Weight <i>Adjustable</i>	Weighted Score	Category
_____	x _____	_____	1. Park Access
_____	x _____	_____	2. Park Features
_____	x _____	_____	3. Supportive Facilities
_____	x _____	_____	4. Safety & Maintenance Concerns
_____	x _____	_____	5. Aesthetics
_____	x _____	_____	6. Health
		_____	TOTAL

SCORING INSTRUCTIONS

Instructions

All items should be scored on a 1 to 5 scale. **5 is the highest possible quality rating.**

5 could mean abundant, well provided, very attractive, excellent condition, no concerns, true, etc.

1 could mean scarce, no provision, very unappealing, terrible, unusable, derelict, very concerning, absolutely not, etc.

In general, all criteria should be scored. *Section 2: Park Features and Section 6: Health* are exceptions.

In other sections, if an asterisk precedes the criteria, see the note in the text for circumstances in which scoring is not required. It may be determined in the field that some criteria are not relevant to a particular site. Use "n/a" sparingly.

Only score amenities that are present.

1. PARK ACCESS

Score **Criteria**

Park Entrances

- Sufficient number of unlocked entrances for park size (or an open perimeter)
Informal entrances may be an indicator of insufficient provision; choice of entrances is valuable
- Highly visible entrances to encourage use by passersby; easy to locate entrances (or an open perimeter)
- Well designed park entrances
Care and attention given to design of gates, plantings, and ground surface, as appropriate to the site
- Signage (as appropriate to park size and use): *Park name, hours and rules (including pet-related), maps for parks with extensive trails, multilingual for destination (signature/historic) parks and those located in neighborhoods with many non-English speakers.*
- ADA-accessible entrances (n/a for dedicated hiking/biking areas or where topography prohibits)
At least the primary entrance or a visible entrance near the primary entrance should be ADA-accessible such as paved paths with no obstructions, at least 5 feet wide, and a ramp no steeper than 1:12 pitch

Safe and Convenient Access to Entrances

- Crosswalks, and crossing signals in higher traffic areas, at or close to park entrances (*n/a when park entrance is located along a very small, low-traffic, quiet street*)
- Sidewalks along roads accessing park entrances
- Location of park entrances connects to surrounding circulation patterns and activity areas
Streets align with entrances, entrances are adjacent to schools or retail areas, etc.

Transportation Access

- Sufficient on-site/overflow parking for intended park uses/available park amenities
- Sufficient bicycle parking in park or adjacent to park entrance (at least one bike rack; more as appropriate)
- Bus stops nearby (n/a for parks in rural spaces)

Access to All Park Areas

- Pathways connect to destinations; signage indicates where destinations are when not obvious
- Some trails are ADA-accessible (*n/a in dedicated hiking/biking areas*)

- Sum of scores**
- Total number of scored items**
- Average score (sum / total number)**

2. PARK FEATURES - Condition, Maintenance, Usability & Appearance

Recreational and Educational Uses *(Only score for features present within the park)*

<u>Score</u>	Criteria
_____	Amphitheaters/music/performance/event spaces <i>Pavement and seating condition (cracks, deterioration), cleanliness, overall attractiveness</i>
_____	Picnic areas/pavilions <i>Pavement and furniture condition (broken/protruding parts, potential for splinters) and appearance of structure</i>
_____	Splash pad/park <i>Water features, pavement condition (cracks, deterioration), cleanliness</i>
_____	Paved open spaces/plazas <i>Pavement condition (cracks, loose pavers, deterioration), lighting, overall attractiveness</i>
_____	Skate park <i>Condition (cracks, deterioration), cleanliness, features</i>
_____	Boat launch <i>Facility condition (broken/protruding parts)</i>
_____	Off-leash dog park <i>Complete fencing in good condition, turf wear, lighting</i>
_____	Education/interpretive center <i>Welcoming and maintained building</i>
<input type="text"/>	Sum of scores
<input type="text"/>	Total number of scored items
<input type="text"/>	Average score (sum / total number)

3. SUPPORTIVE FACILITIES

Score	Criteria	
_____	Permanent restrooms, not portable toilets (n/a for very small sites) <i>Usable (not locked), sufficient provision for scale of the park, reasonably maintained (no severe maintenance issues)</i>	
_____	Sufficient number of trash and recycling receptacles, no overflowing receptacles	COUNT: _____
_____	Functioning drinking fountains	COUNT: _____
<input type="text"/>	Sum of scores	
<input type="text"/>	Total number of scored items	
<input type="text"/>	Average score (sum / total number)	

4. SAFETY & SERIOUS MAINTENANCE CONCERNS

Score	Criteria
Park Context/Surrounding Environment	
_____	No adjacent derelict land or buildings
_____	No graffiti, vandalism, or broken windows adjacent to the park or visible from inside the park
_____	No evidence of alcohol/substance abuse in areas adjacent to the park
_____	No evidence of unauthorized camping or vagrancy in areas adjacent to the park

The following criteria all relate to conditions inside the park/on park property.

No Serious Maintenance Concerns

- _____ No graffiti, vandalism, broken windows or furniture
- _____ No derelict land or buildings
- _____ No litter
- _____ No animal waste
- _____ Vegetation is maintained
- _____ *No overgrown grass, weeds, bushes or dirt patches in green areas*

Inappropriate Uses

- _____ No evidence of alcohol/substance abuse
- _____ No evidence of unauthorized camping or vagrancy in the park

Roads (n/a if park contains no roads)

- _____ Traffic calming measures to ensure safety of pedestrians and cyclists where cars are permitted in parks
- _____ *Narrow streets, speed bumps, planted circles, curbside bulbouts, and other obstructions to slow drivers*

Park Design

Regarding the following: Characteristics such as visibility, openness, active use, and a quickly understandable pathway circulation system and park layout that make it easy to find one's way around create safer park conditions.

- _____ Easily and quickly understandable path system and/or park layout
- _____ Multiple and efficient (non-circuitous) ways to get through the park (n/a for small sites)
- _____ Ability to see ahead for a generous distance on primary routes (context specific)
- _____ *Lack of obstructions, wide paths or path "shoulders" which are mowed or have low vegetation*
- _____ Easy to find park entrances/exits from inside the park
- _____ More than one entrance/exit
- _____ Ability to see into and out of the park (unobstructed sightlines) from most areas and all primary destinations (n/a in natural areas with extensive trail systems)
- _____ Active areas near the park edge to create an inviting view from the street/make people more inclined to enter
- _____ Clustering of activity areas to encourage greater informal surveillance

- _____ Park functions as a shortcut through the neighborhood to encourage presence of people (n/a in nat. areas w/ extensive trail systems)
- _____ No isolated areas within the park (n/a in natural areas)
- _____ No trail dead ends that lead to deserted areas

Directional Signage in Parks with Extensive Trail Systems (n/a for parks without extensive trail systems)

- _____ Clear directional signage, that also indicate the direction to exits, in parks with more extensive trail systems; maps at path intersections are desirable in parks with complex trail systems

Nighttime Safety (n/a to all of the following if park access is prohibited after dark)

- _____ Lighting at entrance
- _____ Lighting along park perimeter
- _____ Lighting at nighttime activity areas (tennis courts, sports fields, plazas, performances spaces, sitting areas, etc.)
- _____ Nighttime activity areas are clustered and near park perimeter
- _____ Paths that lead to nighttime activity areas have pedestrian-scale lighting
- _____ *Closely spaced, pedestrian-scaled lamp posts; NOT very tall, widely spaced, street-type light poles nor ground lighting not accompanied by overhead lights. These create areas of light and shadow and decrease safety.*

<input type="text"/>	Sum of scores
<input type="text"/>	Total number of scored items
<input type="text"/>	Average score (sum / total number)

5. AESTHETICS

Score	Criteria
_____	Diversity of uses/activities <i>(n/a if a single use facility, such as a playground or pool)</i>
_____	Abundant and well placed trees in park or along park edge if a pocket park
_____	Vegetation and trees are well cared for, tastefully pruned, not overgrown, alive
_____	Attractively designed park perimeter (as seen from inside and outside the park) <i>Attractive vegetation, wood fences instead of chainlink, unattractive cement walls, unappealing entrance landscaping</i>
_____	Variety and coordination of color in programmed environments <i>(n/a for natural areas)</i> <i>Play structures or fitness station equipment, skate parks, etc.</i>
_____	High quality materials <i>Wood rather than vinyl or aluminum building siding, etc.</i>
_____	Attractively designed and coordinated signage <i>Primary and secondary signs designed as a group of coordinated elements, high quality materials, good condition</i>
_____	Attractive and coordinated light fixtures and furnishings <i>Benches, lamp posts, trash receptacles, etc.</i>
_____	History and culture is celebrated and amplified by park design and features <i>(n/a if not relevant)</i>
_____	Sense of style <i>Unique landscape or amenity design treatments, fun or sophisticated look/feel, etc.</i>
_____	Pleasant sounds <i>As appropriate to the context, no roaring highways or industrial sounds</i>
_____	Effective mitigation of unappealing surrounding land uses, such as industrial facilities, etc. <i>(n/a if no such adjacent uses)</i>
<input type="text"/>	Sum of scores
<input type="text"/>	Total number of scored items (do not count blank or n/a)
<input type="text"/>	Average score (sum / total number)

6. HEALTH

Score	Criteria
Healthy environments	
_____	Effective mitigation of loud or unappealing surrounding noises from highways, industry, etc. <i>(n/a if located in a quiet neighborhood)</i>
_____	Presence of Water <i>Views of water present, perceived water quality, flowing or stagnant, naturalized edge or engineered edge</i>
_____	Connections to larger active transport networks <i>Connections to existing bike or walking paths to encourage active transportation to and from park, sufficient bike parking onsite, etc.</i>
_____	Opportunities for nature observation and vistas <i>Paths, benches, pavilions for observation of lakes, creeks, trees, landscape vistas, birds and wildlife, etc.</i>
_____	Variety of landscape types and environments <i>(n/a if a single use facility, such as a playground or pool)</i> <i>Hills, meadows, forests, water, open lawns, paved areas/plazas, manicured vs. naturalistic</i>
_____	Variety of vegetation (degree of variety is appropriate to the space) <i>Different species, different forms/heights/shapes (trees vs. shrubs vs. herbaceous vegetation), different colors (flowers)</i>
_____	Attractive park surroundings; presence of expansive views or views to neighborhoods from inside park
Social spaces	
_____	Man-made shelters/natural shade <i>(n/a for small sites)</i>
_____	Benches
	Count _____
Active Amenities <i>(Only score for features present within the park)</i>	
Trails	
_____	Paved trails or paths <i>Potholes/cracks, obstructions, benches, lighting, directional and distance markers, connects to activity areas, views, litte</i>
_____	Dirt trails <i>Erosion, obstructions, litter and debris, benches, directional and distance markers, view</i>

Sports Fields & Courts

_____	Soccer/football/Ultimate/field hockey/lacrosse field	<i>Turf wear, levelness, evidence of puddles, yard markers/goals</i>	Count _____
_____	Baseball/softball diamond/field	<i>Turf wear, levelness, evidence of puddles, lighting, and fences/backstop</i>	Count _____
_____	Tennis court	<i>Cracks, weeds, low spots, lighting, equipment condition (nets)</i>	Count _____
_____	Basketball court	<i>Cracks, weeds, low spots, lighting, equipment condition (hoops)</i>	Count _____
_____	Volleyball court	<i>Cracks, weeds, low spots, lighting, equipment condition (nets)</i>	Count _____
_____	Outdoor swimming pool	<i>Pool and deck condition (cracks, deterioration), cleanliness, feature</i>	Count _____

Other Healthy amenities

_____	Open lawns	<i>No overgrown grass or dirt patches, overall attractiveness</i>	
_____	Playground	<i>Equip. condition (broken/protruding parts, rust), soft ground (mulch, rubber, etc.)</i>	Count _____
_____	Fitness station	<i>Equip. condition (broken/protruding parts, potential for splinters, rust)</i>	Count _____
_____	Trails in natural areas	<i>Free from litter, debris, unobstructed</i>	Count _____
_____	Community gardens	<i>Plot maintenance, litter and debris, attractiveness of structures, broken fence</i>	Count _____
_____	Horticultural/demonstration gardens	<i>Well tended, unobstructed if accessible, evidence of puddles, overall attractiveness</i>	Count _____

OBSERVATIONS (Optional)

Use this area for notes about a park deficiency that could be quickly and inexpensively rectified, safety hazards, unique characteristics about the park character or context that may have affected scoring, or any other potentially useful information.

APPENDIX 7.

Love Your Park Framework

Love Your Park

A VOLUNTEER PROGRAM TO SUPPORT BUFFALO PARKS

“I think people would definitely come out to volunteer in their neighborhood parks—they just need some guidance and support. It would give people a sense of pride.”

- STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW

Parks make cities better by facilitating social interactions that might not otherwise happen at home, work, or commuting (unless by mass transit). Even casual interactions with strangers counterbalance social isolation and can create greater understanding or appreciation of fellow citizens, and can ultimately lead to a greater sense of shared experience and civic pride. Even stronger social bonds are formed through more organized interactions such as sports leagues or shared volunteer service and, in turn, these groups can provide valuable support for the parks that help shape everyone’s shared experience. The social connections created by parks makes cities more resilient when facing economic, health, and environmental challenges.

These observations are based on The Trust for Public Land’s experience in working with city park systems across the country and in our work with the City of Buffalo on this Master Plan. In conversations with many Buffalonians, we discovered significant and widespread, if latent, support for volunteering at parks. Of the 1,015 Buffalo residents surveyed for this study, 8 percent said that they already volunteer in parks, and another 60 percent said that they are willing and eager to volunteer in parks at least once per month; of those respondents, 28 percent said that they are willing and eager to volunteer three or more times per month.

Moreover, volunteer work to keep parks clean and green could increase residents’ use of parks. When residents were asked what would encourage or help them to use parks in Buffalo more frequently, 49 percent selected “If they were more beautiful (e.g. more plants and trees, artwork, water fountains)” and 38 percent selected “Better maintenance and upkeep.” In interviews with 21 stakeholders and a focus group on stewardship with 22 community and city leaders, we heard that leveraging volunteer support and realizing the untapped potential for local stewardship would help to build community buy-in and improve park quality.

This wellspring of support, however, will remain untapped unless the city changes its approach. Stakeholders and focus groups told us that to increase the impact of volunteering in Buffalo’s parks, the city needs to develop an organized approach to recruit individual community members and existing groups to volunteer in park stewardship programs with training and tools provided. Although most stakeholders agreed that a volunteer program would be a boon to Buffalo’s parks, most felt that first the city needed to invest in a full-time employee to coordinate efforts, supplemented by enlisting existing block clubs to help organize “friends of parks” groups.

We propose that Buffalo parks would benefit from a formal volunteer program that would advance the social goals of parks by mobilizing three existing resources that are strong in Buffalo: park lands, community groups, and civic outreach efforts. This initiative could be called “Love Your Park” to mirror Buffalo’s successful “Love Your Block” program, and could be open to organized groups who want to provide a civic service and individuals who want to volunteer on their own or with a group. With modest effort and investment, a Love Your Park program would proactively direct volunteers to the areas that need the most attention for litter cleanup, weeding, and other low-risk activities. Over time this effort could be ramped up to recruit new volunteers and increase overall volunteer hours and support for parks. Over the long term, these efforts will create life-long stewards and supporters of the Buffalo Parks system. Through this relatively modest effort, Buffalo could leverage its physical assets (parklands) into social capital (greater citizen engagement and social cohesion) and center its communities on parks.

A volunteer program would also boost the physical infrastructure of Buffalo’s parks and funding. While volunteers aren’t “free” because an organized program involves dedicated staff to organize and manage programs and offerings, volunteerism offers a multiple return on investment by leveraging public and private funds with volunteer labor-hours. In addition, a volunteer program can help unlock in-kind donations. Increasingly, businesses are donating goods and services to public parks and recreation agencies, ranging from skilled professionals for planning, design, construction and landscape work to trees, plants, mulch and park amenities. These donations can be used for capital projects, operations and maintenance, and programming, and are often provided in conjunction with corporate volunteer days or donations of time.

Context

PARK VOLUNTEERISM: AN EMERGING NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Volunteers are a source of both skilled and unskilled labor for park system operations, maintenance and programming. Beginning 40 years ago, non-profit parks agencies saw volunteers as a strategic way to build their capacity and demonstrate community engagement and commitment for the given parks that they adopted. While volunteers are not a substitute for dedicated public park staff, effective volunteer programs managed by dedicated parks staff are seen by cities as a key asset to be supported with staff, training programs, job descriptions and recognition. In 2019, TPL reported that the 100 largest cities in the U.S. recorded 17.6 million volunteer hours donated to parks and recreation, worth \$503 million, according to time value calculations by Independent Sector. (<https://independentsector.org/>). Public and non-profit agencies are increasingly joining forces to provide volunteer opportunities, training, support and recognition across a city park system, and systematically track these efforts over time. For example, Los Angeles, Jacksonville, New York and San Francisco report large annual number of volunteers working with their public and non-profit parks agencies as well as total hours donated.

Only a few public parks agencies in the 100 largest U. S. cities have truly effective and integrated volunteer programs. A quarter of the 100 largest cities still do not report volunteer hours, which indicates both that those cities do not have mature management systems in place for volunteers and that the volunteer hours and value reported above are likely much greater.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

A universal barrier to building a good volunteer program is the need to build civic trust between residents and the city, which may be strained for reasons completely unrelated to parks. Also, parks staff are typically overstretched to maintain existing services with existing budgets, and lack time to manage community groups that have a range of abilities and challenges. A nonprofit is often a great go-between and can hire community organizers to build relationships and trust.

The Trust for Public Land has found that a citywide coordinated program of parks volunteer efforts, usually integrated with a citywide adopt-a-park program, is most effective when managed jointly between a city parks department and a citywide conservancy or parks advocacy organization. Local leaders determine whether the volunteer programs are housed initially in the city, a community foundation, or a conservancy, but an effective, engaged public or non-profit organizations working on the entire system is key. Good examples include City Park Foundation in New York City, Austin Parks Foundation, Park Pride in Atlanta, Seattle Parks Foundation and LA Parks Foundation. In other cities, park organizations ostensibly dedicated to one park have expanded to a de facto citywide mandate, such as the Fairmount Parks Conservancy in Philadelphia. Another option would be a coalition of groups funding a position for volunteer coordination, but that is more challenging to fund and operate.

In Atlanta, Park Pride has largely assumed the role of coordinating volunteers working with Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation as well as the Atlanta Beltline Partnership to offer volunteer opportunities in a growing number of parks. Over 74 Friends of Parks groups are working with Park Pride in Atlanta parks, with more in DeKalb County Parks. The Friends of Parks program provides training, support, grants and coordination in exchange for a multi-year renewable agreement.

Similarly, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy plays a key role in coordination with the City of Pittsburgh. There, the Pittsburgh Department of Parks and Recreation, or Citiparks, operates and programs parks, recreation centers, pools, tennis courts, and other facilities, while the Department of Public Works is responsible for maintenance. Potential volunteers sign up on the Department of Public Works website, which also has waivers and other forms as well as a list of volunteer opportunities that are not specific to parks but also include streets and other areas in need of cleanups. These efforts are greatly enhanced through a partnership with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, which actively recruits individual and group volunteers and creates opportunities to clean up parks. At scheduled public volunteer event days, individuals can join conservancy and city staff on work projects while the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy provides tools, gloves, training, and guidance. Motivated “super volunteers” can apply to be Parks Champions or Urban Eco-Stewards and, after training, can undertake self-directed cleanup and gardening activities. Corporate, school, and community groups can sign up for volunteer events, and the conservancy works with Department of Public Works maintenance staff to create projects based on the needs of the park such as planting trees, cutting invasive vines, and gardening.

CASE STUDY

Serve Detroit. Detroit recently established a volunteer program while facing comparable challenges to Buffalo. The City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for 308 parks and 12 recreation facilities and Detroit’s parks range from mini parks under 2 acres of land, to sprawling parks like Rouge Park, which covers more than 1,000 acres. Over the past five years, Detroit has made key investments in its park system and has also incorporated the efforts of several non-profits that are focused on specific parks or systems and are tackling some very ambitious projects, including Detroit RiverWalk and the Dequindre Cut, Downtown, Riverfront, and Belle Isle (with the Michigan state parks system), Joe Lewis Greenway (with Detroit Greenways), and Millennium Park (with the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation). To support these efforts and many other non-park initiatives, the city created Serve Detroit, a mayor’s office initiative dedicated to promoting service and volunteerism throughout the city. Serve Detroit engages residents, community leaders, nonprofit and corporate entities by connecting willing and dedicated volunteers with meaningful service opportunities. These activities include joining or starting a neighborhood block club, participating in a local park clean up and/or volunteering with youth, and potential volunteers can sign up on the city’s website. Detroit also relies on non-profit partners such as The Greening of Detroit!, which recruits thousands of volunteers every year to help plant trees and clean up parks.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND COVID

Several park systems have ramped up their volunteer efforts in the COVID era to respond to dramatic increases in litter caused by the simultaneous decrease in operational funding and increase in park visitors. For example, New York City, increased existing volunteer efforts in 2020 and completely restructured volunteer programs in 2021. The volunteer program now includes an awareness campaign featuring public service announcements and advertisements for volunteer programs from April 1 through November 1 in addition to an annual “It’s My Park” citywide cleanup day. The call to action (“Here’s how you can help”) directs potential volunteers into an online sign up form on the NYC Parks and Partnership for Parks websites where there is access to training and cleaning efforts. The new programs include:

- *It’s My Park*—a joint program between City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks that organizes both groups and individual neighborhood volunteers, in which Partnership for Parks will lead 150 anti-litter clean-ups during the high use season and Friends groups will lead additional clean-ups independently;
- *Monday Morning Pitch-Ins*—project dates are scheduled in advance in each district by Partnerships for Parks, and NYC Parks reaches out to elected officials to recruit volunteers for 2-3 weeks prior to each event, supplemented by general volunteers who enter the system through the website;
- *Junior Litter League*—a friendly park stewardship competition for youth ages 10 and older in which organized teams from schools and afterschool clubs engage in self-guided park clean-ups, with the weight of trash collected reported and shared with borough and citywide winners announced at end of competition (includes Caring for Parks Toolkit with clean-up guidance, background info, and pre/post activities);
- *Litter Ambassadors*—a program to recruit volunteers from the public to educate and encourage park visitors to clean up after themselves, distribute (orange) trash bags and encourage park users to properly dispose of trash and litter, and are assigned in 20 heavily used picnic/BBQ locations; and
- *Parkie Volunteer Clean-Ups*—a program to mobilize non-M&O staff to volunteer on key holidays to assist with litter pick-up on 21 high-volume dates, led by M&O staff

The NYC Parks operational team is supporting volunteer efforts on-site by identifying 180 high intensity/high use sites, expanding litter corrals and trash can stickers, using orange trash bags for use by all volunteers throughout the season to identify their efforts, and weighing/estimating litter pickups at all locations.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AT BUFFALO PARKS

Buffalo has over 200 parks and 90 percent of city residents live within a ten-minute walk of a park. This proximity creates a huge potential for park volunteers and our focus group noted several areas of strength for volunteer efforts in Buffalo’s parks. Particularly during the COVID pandemic, residents came out and volunteered to clean up parks. Many businesses are active contributors, bringing out employees to help with cleanup efforts, and groups frequently carry out volunteer clean-ups in a park prior to hosting an event. Most stakeholders expressed strong appreciation for the city’s support to clear away trash bags following volunteer cleanup events. And new parks or trails lead to an uptick in volunteerism due to interest in the new amenity.

Volunteer efforts typically involve picking up litter and maintaining gardens and other planted areas, and these efforts complement the work of Parks operational staff, who have exclusive responsibility for using power equipment such as mowers. Groups initiate these efforts and choose the parks in which they want to work. The city responds to requests by requesting waiver forms, providing authorization, and, after the volunteers have finishing their work, collecting bags of refuse for disposal.

Many of the groups have organized cleanups for years, such as Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper’s cleanups of Broderick Park and other waterfront parks throughout the city. In addition there is a longstanding traditions of baseball little leagues maintaining and cleaning fields, diamonds, and adjacent park spaces.

Individual residents, however, may find it more difficult to officially volunteer for the park system, although there are a few “volunteer heroes” such as South Buffalo resident Marge Ryan, who is famous for riding her bicycle around the city and maintaining the planted areas on medians and other beautification areas.

It should be noted that this system depends entirely on the initiative of volunteer groups, who are essentially self-guided in their efforts. While the Division of Parks and Recreation readily welcomes citizens-led beautification efforts, many residents are not aware of this policy or of ongoing group efforts, even as they indicate a desire to volunteer more at parks. Of the nearly 70 percent of survey respondents who said that they are willing to volunteer in parks, only 8 percent currently do so.

There is no comprehensive or highly visible effort to recruit existing groups or, with respect to individual residents who are not part of an existing group, to facilitate and organize volunteers at Buffalo Parks. There is no volunteer portal on the official parks website or other method to sign up to volunteer. Buffalo Parks does not provide training, tools, gloves, or bags to volunteers. Nor does Buffalo Parks have a comprehensive program to direct efforts to documented high need areas or collect and track information about volunteer hours.

The experience is slightly more proactive at the historic city parks maintained by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy (BOPC). BOPC has one staff person dedicated to coordinating volunteer efforts by organized groups such as the Boy Scouts. This BOPC employee is equipped with a pickup truck and will set out wheelbarrows, hand tools, gloves, and garbage bags at designated weeding and cleanup sites before the group arrives, and then will pack up the equipment and remove any bagged trash after the group has completed its work. Volunteers are asked to view relevant training videos that BOPC has uploaded for viewing on YouTube. When there is financial support, BOPC provides boxed lunches and drinks for volunteers.

The scope of volunteer activities is generally constrained to picking up litter or weeding. There may be additional opportunities for volunteers to paint asphalt and hard surfaces such as benches, seating, curbing, ground surfaces, and ball courts.

NEW VOLUNTEER LEGISLATION

The current volunteer program was recently formalized by the City. In 2021, the Buffalo Common Council amended the City of Buffalo Ordinance to facilitate Adopt-a-Street/Park programs. The legislation allows groups of three or more people with proof of insurance and liability waivers to gain approval to coordinate and supervise cleanups at identified parks for a two year period, which will be renewable on a three year schedule. The longer terms reduce paperwork and make it easier to plan group cleanups. The legislation includes various rules and regulations for safety purposes, requires the groups to provide safety vests, gloves, pickers and trash bags, and requires an after-the-fact reports and release forms to the City. The City will dispose of full trash bags. While this new legislation should make group volunteering easier, it does not facilitate individual volunteering. It also retains the essentially self-guided nature of the current arrangements, with no greater oversight or management by the city.

Recommendation: Establish a Citywide Volunteer Program for Buffalo Parks

Parks could benefit from Buffalo’s strong tradition of distributed community engagement. Block clubs, communities of faith, and small businesses are examples of civic organizations that have a locally focused interest in the urban fabric. There is also a vibrant and active network of schools and libraries also tasked with fostering a healthy civil society. The City has dedicated agencies to such efforts such as the Office of Citizen’s Services, which carries out local outreach programs such as Love Your Block, Wintermission, and Clean Sweeps. Our stewardship focus group participants felt that the success of the Office of Citizen Services’ recent Love Your Block program, with one central place for residents to sign up, would be a good model for a city-wide Love Your Park program.

We recommend that the city create a “Love Your Park” volunteer program that will build on the successful “Love Your Block” program to promote community stewardship of parks. Love Your Park envisages community-building through the use of parklands to catalyze a progressive process of engagement, networking, education, social connectivity, and tangible, visible improvements in community beautification. Love Your Park will elevate the importance of local, sustainable community investment in Buffalo parks by empowering existing community groups/outreach programs to pursue individual program goals while promoting broader citizen engagement within parks.

We recommend that this program be run out of the Division of Parks and Recreation in coordination with the Mayor’s Office of Citizen Services.

POTENTIAL PROGRAM GOALS

The program would ramp up over a five-year period, at the end of which success would be recognized if the following goals are met:

- The Love Your Park program is established and widely known;
- Every park in Buffalo is adopted by a volunteer organization;
- There is funded support for a volunteer position, training, tools, and other items to support volunteers; and
- The park volunteer program measures results through recorded inputs (e.g., volunteer hours) and outputs (e.g., bags of trash) and is growing compared to a baseline established in the first or second year.

POTENTIAL PROGRAM ELEMENTS

AWARENESS AND RECRUITING. The city could create a web portal to log in volunteers, with a back-end system for collecting volunteer contact information, waivers, and self-certification of basic training. These improvements and branding as a Love Your Park program can be promoted through word-of-mouth and social media by existing volunteer groups and also through existing community organizations such as the Board of Block clubs. An advertising campaign to raise awareness of the program could also be considered, especially to reach individuals who are not associated (yet) with organized volunteer groups. For example, advertising media could include lawn signs advertising the program to be placed in underdeveloped parks and leaflets to be distributed alongside other material distributed during the Clean Sweeps. Recruiting volunteers can be done in conjunction with the distribution of materials via Clean Sweeps and Board of Block Club meetings as well as on social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook. One of our stewardship focus group participants claimed success in using Facebook Groups to organize volunteer outreach. Regardless of the system, individuals interested in a particular park could be directed to a group that steps up to adopt a park, or to just to show up when a group is scheduled for a cleanup.

In addition, other park department activities can be leveraged to recruit volunteers. A newly installed bike path at what is today Linear Park was created, and it led to an uptick in volunteer interest in cleaning the site. Programming also offers the opportunity to recruit volunteers, as organized activities offer the platform for broader communication and getting the word out about parks initiatives. The city could consider actively recruit people to the parks to volunteer at special events or a draws like the Winter Fest Truck in the summer.

There could be a more deliberate program to involve youth, including the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program, high schools and colleges with volunteer requirements, and AmeriCorps VISTA could all be ways to engage youth in parks. These volunteers should be approached as interesting educational opportunities for youth, rather than focusing on menial tasks like litter removal. The program could also be an opportunity for environmental education, teaching youth about ecological restoration, which would help to make the work meaningful.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE PRIORITY LIST. A key difference between the current supportive but reactive system and a proactive system would be for the city to direct volunteer efforts where they are needed most (not where they are the most convenient for volunteers.) On a citywide basis it will be important for Buffalo Parks to

maintain a list of high-use and high-traffic areas that are perennial sources of litter or of garden areas that need attention on a regular schedule. While many groups have a park in mind for cleaning up, other groups or individuals may be open to suggestions. By organizing and directing cleanup efforts, Buffalo Parks can ensure that no hot spots are overlooked and that the overall system is equitably maintained.

This priority list could be “crowdsourced” through two-way communication with citizens. Potential volunteers could help the city identify maintenance priorities with written recommendations or photo uploads to an online portal—which would also provide the city with an opportunity to ask for volunteer and/or financial support.

OVERALL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT. Our stewardship focus group noted the importance of a volunteer system or database that would prioritize maintenance needs, match volunteers with projects, and track progress on certain tasks and volunteer hours contributed. The system should be able to send mass texts to be sure to include people who do not have access to smart phones. The Buffalo Green Fund noted that they are already doing this successfully with a software program called Cervis.

SUPERVISION, TRAINING, TOOLS, AND SUPPORT. Volunteer efforts would be greatly facilitated and their effectiveness enhanced through basic support. There needs to be proper supervision of volunteers. This can be done by the non-profit, block club or a volunteer organization.

Training would protect volunteers from glass, poison ivy, or other common hazards and would make their work more predictable and effective. Buffalo parks could develop more enhanced training tools over time, starting out with Frequently Asked Questions page or online videos until there are resources for an employee to go over personalized instruction that distills down best practices from manuals and protocols.

Some park systems have formal, graduated certificate programs that allow volunteers to gain green jobs skills and to use progressively more advanced tools or take on progressively more work. Some of the existing “super volunteers” could be enlisted as trainers. These volunteer program also become a way to identify potential candidates for future skilled labor job openings and to address an existing talent pipeline gap for horticulturists, arborists, and even machine operators and mechanics. A job training program could seek corporate, state, or other support for stipends in order to ensure equitable opportunities.

Participants noted that training can be an effective method of recruitment if volunteering is promoted as a tangible learning opportunity more than just a chance to help. For example, for volunteers interested in lawn care and landscaping, volunteering is an opportunity to learn about an interest area from an expert.

While there is widespread appreciation for the way the city clears away trash after a cleanup, we also heard that volunteers have to buy bags, tools, gloves, and hoses, and that this cost and effort is a deterrent to many potential volunteers. It would be helpful if the city could provide some of these supplies as well as other resources like access to water sources, compost, plants, and access to greenhouses. More garbage cans would help make it easier for volunteers to keep parks clean.

TRACKING AND MEASURING VOLUNTEER EFFORTS. Management means measurement. To manage a successful volunteer effort, Buffalo Parks should track volunteer efforts by logging commonly used program inputs (person-hours) and outputs (bags or weight of trash removed). Groups can provide estimates that are uploaded at the completion of work, and individuals can also be asked to self-report hours on an annual basis.

Sustaining volunteers over time will require achieving and celebrating results. Without a sense of progress, volunteer efforts may fizzle out. It is important to give volunteers action items, explaining what they will be doing, what the need is, and why it is important. Volunteers should be able to visualize what they will be doing. Ideally, these should be goals in which the volunteers have an interest.

A successful volunteer program will build on itself because the existing quality of upkeep within a park can attract or deter volunteers. A lack of upkeep within a park can make it difficult to get buy-in on volunteerism from community members. Seeing the city making a major effort to improve maintenance would inspire local residents to get involved. In addition, if city maintenance staff wore an identifiable uniform, residents would be more aware of the city's efforts to keep the parks clean. This could go a long way to encourage residents' own efforts.

SPONSORSHIP. To pay for staff and equipment, Buffalo Parks or non-profit partners, as discussed below, should develop a sponsorship program. This could include major corporate or institutional underwriting for unrestricted support of the Love York Park program. In addition, Buffalo Parks could consider charging a fee for certain groups. Because many companies encourage charitable contributions for communities and also consider cleanups to be team-building events, many companies will pay Buffalo Parks to help organize company cleanups. Some companies may even consider adopting a park, subject to any restrictions on permanent corporate signage in parks.

We are mindful that there are major equity issues with volunteering, as people from more privileged backgrounds have more time to participate. This is not insurmountable, as shown by the recent success of the Love Your Block program to organize neighborhood improvements in under-resourced communities. Nevertheless, a sponsorship program to provide small stipends could help potential volunteers in lower income communities or even support one community liaison in each block club or park, who could help to identify maintenance needs.

POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE—PARTNER WITH A CONSERVANCY

Alternatively, Buffalo could partner with a citywide parks conservancy that would be given a mandate of organizing volunteers. Even if the city decides to launch its own program, Buffalo Parks could delegate to a partner or partners the responsibility of organizing and supervising volunteer programs at a few pilot parks where there is strong neighborhood support and also a significant need for cleanup or related support. The Division of Parks and Recreation may decide to formalize a multi-year agreement with a nonprofit or multiple nonprofits.

Notably, we have found that parks conservancies are more successful than municipalities in attracting corporate, foundation, and other private philanthropy into a volunteer program.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS. A sense of comradery and even friendly competition can strengthen volunteerism. Buffalo Parks could encourage this by providing awards and other recognition to the top volunteer groups and individuals, on a citywide or neighborhood basis, based on program metrics.

POTENTIAL PROGRAM MILESTONES AND WORKPLAN

YEAR 1 - FOUNDATION

- Hire a volunteer coordinator, who could be an Americorps VISTA.
- Buy and set up one of many volunteer program software programs.
- Collate a centralized list of park volunteers (groups and individuals) who have been active over the past five years.
- Establish an initial list of priority areas and parks for litter cleanup, weeding, and other appropriate tasks that will best meet and complement the system's operational and maintenance needs.
- Create web portal for volunteers on the main web page of Buffalo Parks, with back end system for collecting volunteer contact information, waivers, and self-certification of basic training.
- Make basic training FAQs and videos that are then posted to YouTube.
- Initiate corporate sponsorship of corporate volunteer events

YEAR 2 - INITIATION AND BENCHMARKING

- Ramp up social media promotion of the Love Your Park program as well as materials distributed through existing volunteer groups; launch active recruiting of individuals and groups through existing community engagement channels. The City should retain authority to post official park-related content on social media, but volunteers can be enlisted to post “selfies” at Love Your Park events under programmatic and themed hashtags.
- Secure sponsorship.
- Provide general support for volunteers such as hand tools, gloves, wheelbarrows, trash bags, etc.
- Adopt a program to log volunteer hours and track work done. This will be the baseline benchmark of volunteer efforts.
- Consider in-person training and even certification efforts, depending on resources.
- Launch volunteer recognition program.

YEARS 3, 4, AND 5 - DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

- Shift the program from better organizing existing volunteers to recruiting additional volunteers and growing this resource for Buffalo Parks
- Continuously refine priority areas and parks.
- Track volunteer hours and productivity.
- Consider mini-grants (depending on fundraising and resources) modeled on the Love Your Block program.
- Expand support to set up and break down of volunteer sites.
- Consider a citywide “It’s Your Park” cleanup day in the spring, perhaps around Earth Day.
- Expand marketing efforts.

PROGRAM BUDGET AND RESOURCES

BASIC SUPPORT TO LAUNCH LOVE YOUR PARK (YEAR 1 AND 2)

- One coordinator operating in an ongoing capacity and/or a VISTA. The task of the coordinator would be to maintain an accurate list of partners and resources, curate social media, communicate with park supervisors and the operations team, maintain communications with existing volunteers, recruit new volunteers, and develop training materials.
- Additions to the Buffalo Parks landing page that will include a volunteering “button” that will lead to basic program overview, basic documents such as FAQs and waivers, an email address for interested peoples to reach out to, and an intake form for volunteers to enter information and upload documents.
- A basic budget might be approximately \$150,000 per year:
 - \$90,000 Staff Costs (Salary + Fringe)
 - \$20,000 IS support for website
 - \$10,000 management software and maintenance
 - \$15,000 Supplies (trash bags, gloves, signs, etc.)
 - \$15,000 Truck lease and other supplies

Appendix: Potential Partners and Suggested Roles

BUFFALO SEWER AUTHORITY. Buffalo Sewer Authority strives to increase green infrastructure, such as rain gardens, street trees, rain barrels, and more, throughout Buffalo through our Rain Check Initiative. Buffalo Sewer Authority could partner with Parks and Rec to grow awareness around the importance of park spaces and develop programs to increase public participation in park upkeep.

- Raise awareness and maintain green infrastructure within dedicated parkland
- Build appreciation for public parks by highlighting park’s role in storm management in education curriculum

- Develop volunteer base and provide trainings for green space maintenance
- Help fund green projects on public parks through Love York Block and/or Buffalo Parks

Buffalo Green & Clean. Formerly “The Great American Cleanup”, an annual initiative focused on beautifying our city, homes, and neighborhoods by fostering social responsibility. Since its inception, the Great American Cleanup has engaged more than five million volunteers and participants annually, making it the nation’s largest community improvement program. The City of Buffalo has organized and encouraged community members to participate in cleanup events such as litter and shore-line pick-up, recycling, and tree planting. Community members organize their own clean-up events, gather volunteers, and develop a COVID19 safe plan. By registering with the City, the Division of Citizen Services will provide trash bags, hand sanitizers, gloves, and will organize a pick-up time for the trash.

- Motivate people to register.
- Help people take ownership of their local parks.
- Play a role in facilitating resources.

BUFFALO NIAGARA WATERKEEPER. Waterkeeper is dedicated to the protection and revitalization of our waterways. They also provide environmental education programs such as Water Academy and Young Environmental Leaders to help build the next generation of stewards for water and the environment.

- Resource for education and stewardship opportunities in parklands abutting waterways.
- Coordination on shoreline sweeps.

BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY. The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that manages and operates the historic Olmsted urban park system through an agreement with the City. Having begun as an all-volunteer organization, they continue to maintain a volunteer base that keeps the parks operating at the highest possible standard.

- Spread awareness of volunteer opportunities in Olmsted parks as well as the rest of the City’s park system.
- Pilot a volunteer program

TIFFT FARMS NATURE PRESERVE. Tiffit is dedicated to conservation and environmental education. They have been working to restore the Nature Preserve’s habitat by removing invasive species and planting native trees and shrubs.

- Maintains a list of native and non-native plant species that can be used to aid in park planting projects.
- Help develop training manuals for weeding and gardening.

BOARD OF BLOCK CLUBS. The Board of Block Clubs is an organization of block clubs, tenant councils, associations and coalitions from the city of Buffalo and Erie County. Its purpose is to inform area block club leaders and other groups of local events, happenings, and opportunities.

- Spread information about volunteer opportunities and events.
- Act as a potential pool of volunteers

LOVE YOUR BLOCK. A partnership between the City of Buffalo and Cities of Service, Love Your Block serves to empower block clubs and other local community groups. Through resource development and resident-led projects, the program aims to build relationships that ultimately increase the impact of members within their own communities. Love Your Block provides mini-grants and other resources to support efforts of citizen groups and local nonprofits to fight property blight through home repairs, lot transformations, and community cleanups.

- Volunteer groups could potentially apply for and use mini-grants to aid in funding projects within parklands.

APPENDIX 8.

City of Buffalo Parks Listing, Maintenance Schedule, and Amenities

Parks Listing

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Bailey Moreland	back of 1351 Bailey Ave	112.41-3-1.1	65	East	LOV	P-1	Small Park	1.94	listed as Buffalo Police property	DPR	1965		Property survey, needs to be split from Buffalo Police property
Box	46 Box Ave	101.45-1-2.2	39	East	MAS	P-1	Small Park	0.42	in-rem property, needs to be formally dedicated	DPR	1965		File property survey with county clerk as park land
Dewey	494 Kensington Ave	90.53-2-22	29	East	MAS	P-1	Midsize Park	4.17	dedicated park	DPR	1938	X	
Eddie Dawson	23 Roetzer St	101.62-2-2	43	East	FIL	P-1	Small Park	1.90	listed as vacant commercial	DPR	1984		Property class discrepancy, file property survey with county clerk as park land, possible private lot infringement
Emerson (Koons)	193 Koons, foot of Koon address unlisted	101.71-4-3.1	46	East	FIL	P-1	Midsize Park	6.88	listed as Board of Education property	DPR	1959		Survey action required, join parcels as one formal park, split from BPS grounds
Gleasner	137 Manhattan Ave (minus water tank)	90.30-2-1	13	East	MAS	P-1	Large Park	9.24	listed as Buffalo Water Board property	DPR	1961		Survey action required, split from Buffalo Water Authority
Glenny	1823 Fillmore Ave	90.17-1-1	31	East	MAS	P-1	Large Park	9.51	dedicated park	DPR	1957		Survey action required, split from BPS grounds
Hank Nowak	1177 Sycamore St	101.78-4-4	47	East	FIL	P-1	Midsize Park	3.81	dedicated park	DPR	1945	X	
Hennepin	1207 Bailey Ave	112.49-3-1	69	East	LOV	P-1	Midsize Park	6.79	dedicated park	DPR	1907	X	
Horrace "Billy" Johnson Park	25 & 26 Hager St	89.83-3-1.1, 89.82-4-37	21	East	MAS	P-1	Small Park	1.86	dedicated park	DPR	1971		
Kensington Pool Grounds	665 Kensington Ave	90.13-1-7	84	East	MAS	P-1	Small Park	2.89	dedicated park	DPR	1956	X	
Kingsley	52 Kingsley St	100.50-5-18.1	41	East	ELL	P-1	Small Park	2.21	dedicated park	DPR	1968	X	

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Lang Weber	38 Weber Ave	101.26-5-13	33	East	LOV	P-1	Small Park	2.19	dedicated park	DPR	1965	X	
LaSalle Island	171 & 173 LaSalle Ave	79.71-6-1, 79.71-6-2	125	East	UNI	P-1	Triangle	0.63	listed as vacant residential	DPR		X	Survey action required, join parcels as one formal park
Lincoln	69 Peck St	112.31-8-4	64	East	FIL	P-1	Small Park	2.75	dedicated park	DPR	1929	X	
Masten	224 Best St western half of property only	100.65-2-1	45	East	ELL	P-1	Major Park	20.79	western half is public park, eastern half is Johnnie B. Wiley Stadium (1100 Jefferson) under lease with Board of Ed & controlled by JBW Board as per City Charter	DPR	1936	X	
McCarthy	274, 278, 300, & 304 E Amherst (minus quarry); 117 William Price Parkway; 71 NYL & W RR	90.22-5-3.1, 90.23-7-11, 90.23-7-1, 79.78-3-13, 79.70-2-16.11	11	East	UNI	P-1	Major Park	36.60	listed as vacant industrial, commercial, and residential land, except for 274 & 280 E Amherst & 117 William Price which are dedicated as parks	DPR			File new property survey with county clerk, join parcels
Minnesota Medians	Minnesota Ave r.o.w.		174	East	UNI	P-1	Median	1.68	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	DPR	1933		
Moselle	638 Moselle	90.78-4-5		East	MAS	P-1	Small Park	0.73	877 E Delevan is an independent community center which is not a park, but property at 638 Moselle is listed as park-land by assess.	DPR	1925	X	
Oakgrove & Blaine Triangle	51 Oakgrove Ave	89.75-5-1	32	East	MAS	P-1	Triangle	0.18	listed as vacant residential	DPR	1976		Consider removal or amend § 309-30
Paderewski & Sears	358 Paderewski Dr	112.37-3-25	139	East	FIL	P-1	Small Park	0.26	listed as Div of Real Estate	DPR	1973		Survey required and file with county clerk
Perkins	325 East Ferry St	100.34-6-1.1	85	East	MAS	P-1	Small Park	2.48	dedicated park	DPR	1972	X	
Rev. James Eckridge (Johnson St.)	181 Johnson St	111.27-1-39	63	East	ELL	P-1	Small Park	1.73	dedicated park, named in for Rev. James Eckridge in 2001	DPR	2001	X	
Roosevelt	430 Edison	90.42-22.11	14	East	UNI	P-1	Large Park	9.65	dedicated park	DPR	1949	X	
Scajaquada (Drain) Trail	1590 Fillmore Ave, 0 Rickert Ave, 577 & 622 Humboldt Pkwy, 89.82-4-37, 26 Hager St, 1673 Jefferson Ave	100.36-3-9, 100.27-2-7, 100.36-1-41, 89.82-4-37, 89.82-5-84	34	East	MAS	P-1	Trail	3.79	listed as vacant commercial and residential, except for 0 Rickert & 622 Humboldt Pkwy which are dedicated as parks, City holds NYS Thruway occupancy permit	DPR	1922		
Schiller	2057 Genesee St & 105 Sattler	101.12-1-1, 101.42-2-35	36	East	LOV	P-1	Major Park	36.72	dedicated park	DPR	1912	X	Possible private lot infringement
Sperry	77 Paderewski Dr	111.51-1-1	67	East	ELL	P-1	Midsize Park	3.03	dedicated park	DPR	1902		

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Trinidad	237 Kensington Ave	89.67-4-20	30	East	MAS	P-1	Midsize Park	3.86	dedicated park	DPR	1932	X	
Walden (Scajaquada Little League)	25 Bakos Blvd	101.15-1-7.1	44	East	LOV	P-1	Major Park	20.76	dedicated park	DPR	1908	X	File survey with county clerk as park land
Kermit & Olympic Triangle	7 Kermit Ave	90.72-4-1	142	East	LOV	P-2	Triangle	0.09	listed as vacant residential	Block Club	1914	X	Consider removal, return to vacant lot or amend § 309-30
1921 WWI Monument (Sycamore & Walden)	447 Walden Ave	101.71-3-13	81	East	FIL	P-3	Triangle	0.01	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1869		
Academy Rd Medians	Academy Rd r.o.w.		144	East	LOV	P-3	Median	0.74	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Contractor	1974		
Beverly Medians	Beverly Rd r.o.w.		150	East	MAS	P-3	Median	0.56	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Contractor	1974		
Bickford & Alice Triangle	12 Alice Ave	90.34-1-23	133	East	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.09	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1933	X	
Bickford & Edith Triangle	2 Orleans St	90.26-5-1	112	East	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.13	listed as vacant residential	Pkwy Contractor	1920		
Bickford & Suffolk Triangle	26 Fennimore Ave	90.33-3-1	111	East	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.15	listed as vacant commercial	Pkwy Contractor	1929		
Brunswick Blvd Median	Brunswick Blvd r.o.w. between Jefferson and Lonsdale		155	East	MAS	P-3	Median	0.24	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	DPR	1974		
Donaldson Circle	Donaldson Circle r.o.w.		91	East	MAS	P-3	Circle	0.06	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor	1974		Amend § 309-30
Kay & Eggert	intersection of Kay & Eggert r.o.w.		113	East	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.06	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
Linden Pk Median	Linden Pk r.o.w.		172	East	ELL	P-3	Median	0.17	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Contractor	1933		
Main & Northland Monument	intersection of Main & Masten St r.o.w.		102	East	MAS	P-3	Triangle	0.44	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
Main St. Medians	Main St r.o.w Humboldt to Bailey		4	East	UNI	P-3	Median	1.14	COB r.o.w.	Pkwy Contractor			Consider removal or amend § 309-30
Mary Jean Sloan Park	Scheu Pk r.o.w.		37	East	LOV	P-3	Median	0.27	COB r.o.w., named Mary Jean Sloan Park 2014	Pkwy Contractor	2014		File survey with county clerk as park land or amend § 309-30
Memorial Circle	Memorial Circle r.o.w.		68	East	FIL	P-3	Circle	0.26	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
Norway Pk Medians	Norway Pk r.o.w.		76	East	ELL	P-3	Median	0.50	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Contractor	1933		

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Rt 33 Medians	Cherry St & BFNC Dr r.o.w., Virginia to Orange St		138	East	ELL	P-3	Median	0.21	COB r.o.w. under DPR (adjacent to highway railings)	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
St. Marys Medians	St. Marys Rd r.o.w.		72	East	LOV	P-3	Median	0.82	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Contractor	1876		
Sycamore & Beckwith Monument	462 Madison St & Beckwith r.o.w.	111.34-1-27	132	East	ELL	P-3	Triangle	0.08	listed as vacant residential and COB r.o.w.	Pkwy Contractor	1965	X	
Viola Park Median	Viola Park r.o.w.		134	East	MAS	P-3	Median	0.26	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor	2018		Amend § 309-30
Westminster & Amherst Triangle	798 E Amherst St	90.25-6-1	109	East	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.15	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1912	X	
Westminster & Berkshire Triangle	142 Westminster Ave	90.25-2-14	149	East	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.05	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor			
Westminster & Hewitt Triangle	523 Hewitt Ave	79.82-4-12	167	East	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.05	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1984		
Westminster & Stockbridge Triangle	571 Stockbridge Ave	79.82-5-1	110	East	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.07	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1974		
Potomac & Bidwell Triangle	667 Potomac	89.70-4-33	205	West	DEL	P-1	Triangle	0.23	COB r.o.w. under DPR	DPR	1893		File property survey with county clerk as park land
Agassiz Circle	Agassiz Circle r.o.w.		145	Olmsted	DEL	P-3	Circle	1.92	COB r.o.w. & dedicated historic park	BOPC	1876		
Bidwell Parkway	Bidwell Pkwy r.o.w.		151	Olmsted	DEL	P-3	Parkway	4.58	COB r.o.w. & dedicated historic park	BOPC	1876		
Cazenovia	161 Cazenovia St	133.16-1-1	89	Olmsted	SOU	P-3	Major Park	194.01	dedicated historic park	BOPC	1896		
Chapin Parkway	Chapin Pkwy r.o.w.		156	Olmsted	DEL	P-3	Parkway	3.97	COB r.o.w. & dedicated park	BOPC	1876		
Colonial Circle	420 Lafayette Ave & Colonial Circle r.o.w.	88.84-5-30	18	Olmsted	DEL	P-3	Circle	2.17	COB r.o.w. & dedicated historic park	BOPC	1876		
Columbus/Prospect	730 & 779 Niagara St	99.74-3-1, 99.75-1-1	130	Olmsted	NIA	P-3	Large Park	9.03	dedicated historic park	BOPC	1851	X	
Days	86 Days Park	100.77-10-67	28	Olmsted	FIL	P-3	Small Park	1.52	dedicated historic park	BOPC	1859	X	
Delaware	414 Parkside Ave & 2182 Delaware Ave	89.07-1-1, 89.14-3-1	12	Olmsted	DEL	P-3	Major Park	337.44	dedicated historic park	BOPC	1876	X	
Ferry Circle	intersection of W Ferry & Richmond r.o.w.		114	Olmsted	NIA	P-3	Circle	0.78	COB r.o.w. & dedicated historic park	BOPC	1876		
Front	952 Busti Ave	99.82-7-1	25	Olmsted	NIA	P-3	Major Park	26.63	dedicated historic park	BOPC	1896		

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Gates Circle	2 Gates Circle	89.79-4-2	50	Olmsted	DEL	P-3	Circle	2.16	COB r.o.w. & dedicated historic park	BOPC	1876		
Heacock Place	225 Abbott Rd	123.79-6-1	83	Olmsted	SOU	P-3	Midsize Park	4.82	dedicated historic park	BOPC	1885		
Humboldt Pkwy Medians	Humboldt Pkwy r.o.w. Monticello to Parkside		168	Olmsted	MAS	P-3	Parkway	0.37	COB r.o.w.	BOPC	1876		
Lincoln Parkway	Lincoln Pkwy r.o.w.		16	Olmsted	DEL	P-3	Parkway	3.38	COB r.o.w. & dedicated historic park	BOPC	1876		
Martin Luther King, Jr.	175 North Parade, 1354 & 1194 Genesee	100.16-1-1, 101.61-7-1, 101.61-9-35	42	Olmsted	MAS	P-3	Major Park	56.13	dedicated historic park, includes Walden & Genesee Islands	BOPC	1876	X	Join parcels
McClellan Circle	81 McClellan Circle & McClellan Circle r.o.w.	133.49-2-30	121	Olmsted	SOU	P-3	Circle	3.16	COB r.o.w. & dedicated historic park	BOPC	1896		
McKinley Circle	McKinley Circle r.o.w.		124	Olmsted	SOU	P-3	Circle	1.69	COB r.o.w. & dedicated historic park	BOPC	1896		
Nottingham & Elmwood	0 Nottingham & old Elmwood r.o.w.		180	Olmsted	DEL	P-3	Triangle	0.92	listed as vacant residential & COB r.o.w.	BOPC	1960		Amend § 309-30
Riverside	2505 Niagara St	77.10-1-1	1	Olmsted	NOR	P-3	Major Park	40.38	dedicated historic park	BOPC	1898	X	
Soldier's Circle	198 Soldiers Pl & Soldiers Pl r.o.w.	89.62-4-20	15	Olmsted	DEL	P-3	Circle	5.85	COB r.o.w. & dedicated historic park	BOPC	1974		
South Park	2441 South Park Ave	142.05-1-1.1	94	Olmsted	SOU	P-3	Major Park	146.28	dedicated historic park	BOPC	1925	X	Possible private lot infringement
Symphony Circle	4 Symphony Circle & Symphony Circle r.o.w.	99.76-4-10	128	Olmsted	NIA	P-3	Circle	3.30	COB r.o.w. & dedicated historic park	BOPC	1920		
Lafayette Ice Rink	124 (aka 156) Tacoma	78.55-2-51.111		Rec	DEL	P-3	Rink		public ice rink, listed as School #81	NB Bisons Hockey	1911		Survey action required, separate from school
Bristol Emslie	185, 189, 235 Emslie St	111.74-3-1, 111.74-3-2, 111.74-3-3	153	South	FIL	P-1	Small Park	0.24	listed as vacant residential	DPR			Needs property survey, join parcels as one formal park
Brookdale	293 McKinley Pkwy	133.64-2-8	92	South	SOU	P-1	Small Park	2.24	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1933		
Butler	95 Roanoke Pkwy	123.65-4-1	79	South	SOU	P-1	Small Park	2.87	dedicated park	DPR	1915		
Collins	317 Smith St	122.35-5-20	74	South	FIL	P-1	Small Park	1.35	dedicated park	DPR	1949	X	
Davey	244 North Ogden St	112.43-4-12.1	66	South	LOV	P-1	Small Park	0.55	dedicated park	DPR	1950		
Durant	50 Durant & Osage St r.o.w.	133.30-1-1.11	88	South	LOV	P-1	Small Park	2.96	dedicated park	DPR	1973		

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Fr. Conway	122 Louisiana St	122.10-2-7.1	62	South	FIL	P-1	Large Park	14.88	dedicated park	DPR	1954	X	Survey action required, separate from police dog training
Franczyk	564 New Babcock St	122.17-1-10	70	South	FIL	P-1	Large Park	15.57	dedicated park	DPR	1984		
George Hartmann (Tiff) Playfields	1200 Fuhrmann Blvd (on Tiff St side)	132.11-1-2	86	South	SOU	P-1	Major Park	20.14	dedicated park	DPR	1975		Survey action required, split from Tiff Nature Preserve
H. D. Taylor	353 Germania St	123.69-3-11	80	South	SOU	P-1	Midsize Park	3.28	dedicated park	DPR	1943		
Hillery	106 Mineral Spring Rd	123.15-1-1.11	77	South	SOU	P-1	Midsize Park	8.18	front only dedicated as park, back of property is Board of Ed	DPR	1961		Survey action required, split from BPS grounds
John F. Kennedy	285, 399 & 401 Clinton St	111.14-3-1, 111.14-3-3.1, 111.14-3-4	58	South	ELL	P-1	Major Park	21.52	dedicated park	DPR	1966	X	Survey action required, join parcels as one formal park
Lanigan	146 Fulton & 380 South Park Ave	122.23-3-2, 122.31-2-2	60	South	FIL	P-1	Midsize Park	3.43	dedicated park	DPR	1912	X	
Mullen	112 & 118 Harrison St	123.30-4-7, 123.30-4-6	75	South	LOV	P-1	Small Park	1.48	dedicated park	DPR	1974		Survey action required, join parcels
Mulroy (George Herrmann PG, Pierce Field)	890 Tiff St	133.39-1-10	90	South	SOU	P-1	Midsize Park	7.52	dedicated park	DPR	1928		
Mungovan	609 & 611 New Bailey, 444 Southside Pkwy & 12 Pomeroy St	123.14-4-1, 123.14-4-19, 123.14-4-25, 123.14-4-18	78	South	SOU	P-1	Large Park	11.92	listed as Board of Ed, Water Board & dedicated park	DPR	1955		File property survey with county clerk, join parcels
Okell	92 Okell St	133.62-2-24	93	South	SOU	P-1	Midsize Park	6.44	dedicated park	DPR	1953		
Old Bailey Woods	70, 74, & 78 Bailey Ave	123.17-2-7.2, 123.17-2-5.12, 123.17-2-6.2		South	LOV	P-1	Midsize Park	3.39	dedicated park	DPR	2001		Survey action required, join parcels, possible private lot infringement
Onondaga	17 Seminole Pkwy	123.73-2-1	119	South	SOU	P-1	Triangle	0.33	dedicated park	DPR	1915		
Seneca Indian	129 Buffum St	123.83-3-5	82	South	SOU	P-1	Small Park	1.61	dedicated historic park	DPR	1909		
Stachowski (Houghton)	1677 Clinton St	123.11-1-1.11	73	South	LOV	P-1	Major Park	58.57	dedicated park	DPR	1925		
Taylor	1668 South Park Ave	133.23-1-15	87	South	SOU	P-1	Small Park	2.14	dedicated park	DPR	1972		
Tyler	78 Southside Pkwy	133.31-2-9.1	120	South	SOU	P-1	Triangle	0.37	dedicated park	DPR	1924		
Tyler Likos Memorial	828 South Division St	111.83-4-18.1	71	South	FIL	P-1	Small Park	0.75	dedicated park	DPR	1933		
Wende (Spring St)	450 Broadway	111.41-6-2	52	South	ELL	P-1	Small Park	0.82	dedicated park	DPR	1908	X	

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Willert	375 Spring St	11.49-5-1	54	South	ELL	P-1	Small Park	2.34	dedicated park	DPR	1912		
Dorrance Circle	intersection of Dorrance & Ward Ctr.o.w.		160	South	SOU	P-2	Circle	0.10	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Block Club			Amend § 309-30
Genesee Gateway Triangle	Genesee & Ellicott r.o.w.			South	ELL	P-2	Triangle	0.02	COB r.o.w. under DPR				Amend § 309-30
Tim Russert Children's Garden	2002 & 2006 South Park Ave	133.47-4-39, 133.47-4-38	195	South	SOU	P-1	Small Park	0.29	2006 dedicated park, 2002 listed as vacant commercial	S BFLO Alive	1917		
Abbott & Potters Triangle	548 Abbott Rd	133.49-4-1	143	South	SOU	P-3	Triangle	0.07	listed as vacant residential	Pkwy Con- tractor	1909		
Coolidge Medians	Coolidge Rd r.o.w.		158	South	SOU	P-3	Median	0.55	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Con- tractor			Amend § 309-30
Culver Medians	Culver Rd r.o.w.		159	South	SOU	P-3	Median	1.17	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Con- tractor	1933		
Davey & King Triangle	458 Davey St	112.26-3-1		South	LOV	P-3	Triangle	0.06	dedicate park	Pkwy Con- tractor	2011		
Harding Medians	Harding Rd r.o.w.		166	South	SOU	P-3	Median	0.94	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Con- tractor	1933		
Jesse Clipper Monument	intersection of William & Michi- gan St.r.o.w.		127	South	ELL	P-3	Triangle	0.32	COB r.o.w.	Pkwy Con- tractor	1935		File property survey with county clerk as park land or Amend § 309-30
N Legion & Cazenovia	intersection of N Legion & Cazenovia r.o.w.		175	South	SOU	P-3	Median	0.63	COB r.o.w.	Pkwy Con- tractor			Amend § 309-30
N Legion & South- side	intersection of N Legion & South- side r.o.w.		176	South	SOU	P-3	Median	0.31	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Con- tractor			Amend § 309-30
Ridgewood Medians	Ridgewood Rd r.o.w.		187	South	SOU	P-3	Median	1.01	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Con- tractor	1951		
Roanoke Medians	Roanoke Pkwy r.o.w.		188	South	SOU	P-3	Median	0.60	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Con- tractor	1933		
S Legion & Cazenovia	intersection of S Legion & Cazenovia r.o.w.		190	South	SOU	P-3	Median	0.36	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Con- tractor			Amend § 309-30
S Legion & South- side	intersection of S Legion & South- side r.o.w.		191	South	SOU	P-3	Median	0.14	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Con- tractor			Amend § 309-30
Seminole Medians	Seminole Pkwy r.o.w.		192	South	SOU	P-3	Median	0.41	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Con- tractor	1933		
Sheldon	193 Tuscarora Rd	133.67-3-1	123	South	SOU	P-3	Small Park	1.12	dedicated park	Pkwy Con- tractor	1913		

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Shoreline Trail (Outer Harbor Parkway & Ohio St)	Fuhrmann Blvd r.o.w.		181	South	SOU	P-3	Trail	75.01	NYS DOT & COB r.o.w.	?	2012		Clarification required per Outer Harbor plans
Tift Farms Nature Preserve	1200 Fuhrmann Blvd	132.11-1-1	194	South	SOU	P-3	Major Park	233.33	dedicated park	Science Museum	1965		
Tuscarora Medians	Tuscarora Rd r.o.w.		196	South	SOU	P-3	Median	1.11	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor	1927	X	Amend § 309-30
Tuscarora Triangle	78 Naragansett Rd	133.66-2-1	122	South	SOU	P-3	Triangle	0.13	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor			File survey with county clerk as park land
Union Ship Canal Commons	Commerce		197	South	SOU	P-3	Major Park	22.31	dedicated park	BUDC	1958		
Valley (Redmond)	87 Leddy St	122.11-1-5.11		South	FIL	P-3	Midsize Park	8.44	dedicated park, named Valley Nature Trail in 1981	Valley Com As-soc	1974		
William & Ogden Triangle	intersection of William & N Ogden r.o.w.		118	South	LOV	P-3	Triangle	0.38	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
William St Medians	William St r.o.w., Michigan to Jefferson		203	South	ELL	P-3	Median	1.99	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor	1984		Amend § 309-30
Allison	40 Rees St	88.59-4-1.1	17	West	NIA	P-1	Small Park	2.06	dedicated park	DPR	1966	X	
Arlington	9 Arlington Pl	100.69-1-11	27	West	FIL	P-1	Small Park	0.60	dedicated park	DPR	1856	X	
Barrett	East end of 75 Race St, East portion of Whitlock St r.o.w.	77.60-7-1	6	West	NOR	P-1	Small Park	0.74	soccer field area of 75 Race St under jurisdiction of Board of Ed, 439 Millitary also BOE and is no longer a park	DPR	1956	X	Property survey, needs to be split from BPS grounds & soccer fields
Bedford Medians	Bedford Ave r.o.w.		148	West	DEL	P-1	Median	0.55	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	DPR	1933		
Broderick	3 Bird Island Pier & southern end of 92 West Ferry St	99.41-1-1, 99.07-1-1	19	West	NIA	P-1	Midsize Park	5.74	dedicated park	DPR	1911	X	Needs property survey, join
Gay (Ramsdell)	322 Ramsdell Ave	78.37-6-1	2	West	NOR	P-1	Small Park	2.15	dedicated park	DPR	1947	X	
George Washington	2302 Niagara St	77.64-1-53.1	40	West	NOR	P-1	Midsize Park	3.45	dedicated park	DPR	1960	X	
Hank Nowak Pier (Bird Island)	3 Bird Island Pier	99.41-1-1	152	West	NIA	P-1	Small Park	1.71	dedicated park	Engineering/DPR	1992		
J.H. Williams	89 Albemarle St	65.81-2-9.1	5	West	NOR	P-1	Midsize Park	6.49	dedicated park	DPR	1955		
Jesse Kregal Trail	1548 Elmwood Ave, NYS DOT r.o.w. under use permit (Grant - Niagara)	88.36-1-22	3	West	NOR	P-1	Large Park	13.50	dedicated park, Engineering property & NYS r.o.w.	DPR	2008		Survey action required, join parcels as one formal park

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Johnson Park	250 South Elmwood Ave	111.29-8-38	51	West	FIL	P-1	Small Park	1.06	dedicated park	DPR	1886	X	
Life Memorial	458 Porter Ave	99.68-10-18	24	West	N/A	P-1	Triangle	0.15	dedicated park	DPR	1992	X	
Massachusetts	378 Massachusetts Ave, 49 Lawrence	99.43-3-36, 99.43-3-54	20	West	N/A	P-1	Small Park	1.64	dedicated park	DPR	1922	X	Join parcels
Minnesota Linear	111 & 113 Custer St; 134, 135 & eastern strip of 137 W Northrup Pl; 94 Flower St, 158 Tyler St, 228 Merrimac St, 57 Angle St, 307 Heath St, 126 Nicholson St	79.54-4-77, 79.54-4-78, 79.54-4-1, 79.54-3-78, 79.53-4-19.11, 79.54-1-1.1, 79.45-8-1, 79.45-7-2, 79.45-4-4, 79.45-4-5, 79.37-2-1	10	West	UNI	P-1	Midsize Park	4.97	need to check against formal Item #174 CCP 9/3/90 dedicating as park land and determine boundaries. It is unclear what exactly is park.	DPR	1990		Survey action required, join parcels
Patty Parete Park	33 Whitney	11.29-9-3		West	FIL	P-1	Small Park	0.07	dedicated park	DPR	2013		
Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park	10 Perry Prop, 5 Porter Ave, foot of Jersey St and Porter Ave r.o.w., 10 & 17 Hudson St	110.07-1-1, 110.07-1-2, 110.07-2-4.2, 110.07-2-5.1	49	West	ELL	P-1	Major Park	99.39	listed as Buffalo Water Board property, formerly Centennial Park 1932, named LaSalle 1940, named RCWJ Centennial 2019	DPR	1912		File property survey with county clerk with 4th St Park as park land
Shoreline Trail (Blackrock Canal Park to Vulcan)				West	NOR	P-1	Trail	2.47	no addresses, bike path	DPR	1876		
Shoreline Trail (Broderick to Unity Island)				West	N/A, NOR	P-1	Trail	5.06	no addresses, bike path	DPR	1888		
Shoreline Trail (Erie Street Connector)	33, 145, 195 Lakefront Blvd	110.60-1-1.1, 110.59-1-6		West	ELL	P-1	Trail	3.40	dedicated park	DPR	2018		
Shoreline Trail (Hertel to Ontario)				West	NOR	P-1	Trail	1.18	no addresses, bike path	DPR	1981		
Shoreline Trail (Porter to Peace Bridge)				West	N/A	P-1	Trail	1.94	no addresses, bike path	DPR	1947	X	
Shoshone	1978 Hertel Ave	79.61-2-23	9	West	UNI	P-1	Large Park	15.75	dedicated park	DPR	1892		Possible private lot infringing (parking lot & bus turn around)
Sisti	42 North St	100.70-3-19	26	West	FIL	P-1	Small Park	0.35	dedicated park, named Tony Sisti Park in 1981	DPR	1912	X	

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Unity Island	13 Black Rock Harbor	88.10-1-1	8	West	NOR	P-1	Major Park	40.85	listed as Department of Public Works property - solid waste, named Unity Island 2015	DPR			
Waterfront/ Emerson Young	portion of 95 Fourth St & 43 Carolina St, 25 7th st	110.12-1-23.11, 110.12-1-20.11	53	West	FIL	P-1	Large Park	9.50	listed as Board of Ed & BURA properties	DPR	1973		
Allenhurst Medians	Allenhurst Rd r.o.w.	146	146	West	UNI	P-2	Median	0.37	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Block Club			Amend § 309-30
Burke's Green	170 Beard Ave	79.77-6-1	103	West	DEL	P-2	Triangle	0.55	dedicated park	Block Club	1907		
Chatham Medians	Chatham Ave r.o.w.	157	157	West	DEL	P-2	Median	0.52	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1933		
Dorchester Medians	Dorchester Rd r.o.w.	99	99	West	NIA	P-2	Median	0.81	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1984		
Duane Terrace Median	Duane Terrace r.o.w.	161	161	West	DEL	P-2	Median	0.06	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1974		
Eagle & Franklin Triangle	53 West Eagle St	111.53-3-6	164	West	ELL	P-2	Triangle	0.07	dedicated park	Block Club	1886	X	
Elmwood Village	762 Elmwood Ave	100.21-4-8.1	208	West	DEL	P-2	Small Park	0.06	dedicated park	Block Club	2002	X	
Fordham Medians	Fordham Dr r.o.w.	165	165	West	DEL	P-2	Median	0.55	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1951		
Larchmont Medians	Larchmont Rd r.o.w.	171	171	West	UNI	P-2	Median	0.38	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1933		
Middlesex Medians	Middlesex Rd r.o.w.	173	173	West	DEL	P-2	Median	0.56	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1974		
New Amsterdam Median	New Amsterdam Ave r.o.w.	135	135	West	DEL	P-2	Median	0.99	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Block Club			Amend § 309-30
Niagara Square	5 Niagara Square, intersection of Court St & Niagara Sq r.o.w.	111.53-2-3, 99.49-5-1	178	West	ELL	P-2	Small Park	1.85	dedicated park with triangle at Court St	City Hall-BNB	1839	X	
Pelham Medians	Pelham Dr r.o.w.	183	183	West	UNI	P-2	Median	0.24	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1974		
Penhurst Park Medians	Penhurst Park r.o.w.	184	184	West	DEL	P-2	Median	0.99	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1933		
Radcliffe Medians	Radcliffe Rd r.o.w.	185	185	West	UNI	P-2	Median	0.26	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1933		
Rebecca Park Median	Rebecca Park r.o.w.	201	201	West	NOR	P-2	Median	0.02	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Block Club			Amend § 309-30
Rotary Park	10 & 20 Porter Ave	99.73-1-1, 99.73-1-7	210	West	NIA	P-2	Small Park	0.80	dedicated park	Boat House	2008	X	File property survey with county clerk, join parcels

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Shoreham Medians	Shoreham Pkwy r.o.w.		162	West	NOR	P-2	Median	0.33	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1933		Consider removal as planted median no longer exists
St. Catherine's Court Median	St. Catherine's Ct r.o.w.		193	West	DEL	P-2	Median	0.07	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Block Club	1920		
Templeton	38 Larchmont Rd	79.39-2-1	38	West	UNI	P-2	Triangle	0.49	dedicated park	Block Club	2006		
Veterans' Monument	154 West Mohawk St	111.45-6-1	199	West	ELL	P-2	Triangle	0.09	dedicated park	City Hall	1978		
Voorhees & North Circle	intersection of Voorhees Ave & North Dr r.o.w.		189	West	DEL	P-2	Circle	0.25	COB r.o.w.	Block Club	1886		Consider removal as circle no longer exists
W Genesee St Median	W Genesee St r.o.w. Niagara Sq to Franklin		200	West	ELL	P-2	Median	0.10	COB r.o.w. under DPR	BFLO Green Fund	1953	X	Amend § 309-30
Welch Memorial	0 Jerge Dr		202	West	ELL	P-2	Triangle	0.18	dedicated park	City Hall	1908	X	
Willowlawn Median	Willowlawn St r.o.w.		163	West	DEL	P-2	Median	0.03	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Block Club	1974		Amend § 309-30
Albany & School Triangle	583 Plymouth Ave	99.42-10-1	23	West	NIA	P-3	Triangle	0.28	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1886	X	
Amherst & Middlesex Triangle	Intersection of Amherst & Middlesex r.o.w.		135	West	DEL	P-3	Triangle	0.03	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
Amherst & Tonawanda Triangles	intersection of Amherst & Tonawanda St r.o.w.		7	West	NOR	P-3	Triangle	0.50	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
Argyle Park Medians	Argyle Park r.o.w.		147	West	DEL	P-2	Median	0.29	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Block Club			Amend § 309-30
Bingham Triangle	Bingham & Church Str.o.w.			West	FIL	P-3	Triangle	0.43	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Veteran's Park	1 Marine Dr & Marine Dr r.o.w.	111.17-16-1.1	61	West	FIL	P-3	Small Park	2.54	dedicated park, except for Canal Side, which is a separate development	Naval Park Com	1979		File new property survey with county clerk as park land
Capen Medians	Capen Blvd r.o.w.		137	West	UNI	P-3	Median	0.29	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Contractor	1951		
Cathedral	Cathedral Park r.o.w.		56	West	FIL	P-3	Small Park	0.48	dedicated park	BFLO PL	1970		
Dortmund	959 Niagara St		179	West	NIA	P-3	Triangle	0.19	COB r.o.w. & dedicated park, named Dortmund Park in 2018	Pkwy Contractor	1886		
Dunston Circle	intersection of Kenmore Ave & Ontario St r.o.w.		95	West	NOR	P-3	Triangle	0.37	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Erie Hills Pedestrian Mall	80 Erie St, 98 Lower Terrace & Erie St r.o.w.	111.69-2-12, 111.17-2-1	57	West	FIL	P-3	Small Park	1.81	listed as pkg lot, COB r.o.w. with 80 Erie as dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1976		Survey action required, join parcels as one formal park
Erie Street Medians	Erie St r.o.w.			West	FIL	P-3	Median	0.10	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
Fireman's Park	325 Washington St	111.13-23-9	55	West	ELL	P-3	Small Park	1.14	dedicated park	BFLO PL	2011		
Heath & Mildred Triangle	intersection of Heath & Mildred St r.o.w.		104	West	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.08	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
Kenmore & Main Triangle	intersection of Kenmore Ave & Main St r.o.w.		169	West	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.12	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
Lafayette Square	415 Main St	111.13-8-1	170	West	ELL	P-3	Small Park	0.82	dedicated park, formerly Court House Sq, named Lafayette in 1897	BFLO PL	1848	X	
Maritime Memorial	47 Erie St & Erie St r.o.w.	111.61-2-14	59	West	FIL	P-3	Small Park	0.43	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1986		
Market Square	1849 & 1851 Niagara St	88.41-7-1, 88.41-2-18	96	West	NOR	P-3	Median	0.30	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1830	X	Join parcels
Massachusetts Triangle	293 Massachusetts Ave	99.43-6-49	98	West	NIA	P-3	Triangle	0.13	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1888	X	
N Lincoln Pkwy Medians	Lincoln Pkwy North r.o.w.		177	West	DEL	P-3	Median	0.97	COB r.o.w. under DPR as per § 309-30	Pkwy Contractor	1933		
Niagara & School Triangle	1015 Niagara St	99.49-1-1	97	West	NIA	P-3	Triangle	0.19	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	1886	X	
Pat Sole Park & The Bank	888 Columbus Pkwy & Massachusetts Ave r.o.w.	99.57-3-1	22	West	NIA	P-3	Small Park	2.71	dedicated park	PBA	1933		
Reading Park	intersection of Broadway & Washington r.o.w.		154	West	ELL	P-3	Triangle	0.39	COB r.o.w.	BFLO PL	2018		File new property survey with county clerk
Remembrance Park	intersection of Genesee, Huron & Washington r.o.w.		186	West	ELL	P-3	Triangle	0.21	COB r.o.w. under DPR	BFLO PL			File survey with county clerk as park land or Amend § 309-30
Shelton Square (Church St Arterial)	N & S Division r.o.w. between Main and Washington St		129	West	ELL	P-3	Small Park	1.06	COB/NYS DOT r.o.w. & dedicated park	BFLO PL	1967		Survey required, coordinate with NYSDOT
Theodore Roosevelt Memorial	intersection of Genesee, E Huron & Main r.o.w.			West	ELL	P-3	Triangle	0.01	COB r.o.w. under DPR	BFLO PL	1940		Amend § 309-30

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Tyler & Cornell Triangle	92 Tyler St	79.54-1-26	106	West	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.32	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	2012		
Tyler & Flower Triangle	37 Flower St	79.46-8-1	107	West	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.29	dedicated park	Pkwy Contractor	2011		
Tyler & Mildred Triangle	intersection of Tyler & Mildred St r.o.w.		105	West	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.05	COB r.o.w.	Pkwy Contractor	1954		Survey action required, split north of RR tracks from monitored landfill
Tyler & Winspear Triangle	31 W Winspear Ave	79.54-1-28	204	West	UNI	P-3	Triangle	0.34	listed as Div of Real Estate	Pkwy Contractor	1933		
University Ave. Median	University Ave r.o.w.		198	West	UNI	P-3	Median	0.14	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor	1886		Amend § 309-30
University Circle	University Ave r.o.w.		108	West	UNI	P-3	Circle	0.18	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor	1940		Amend § 309-30
Vernon Triangles	intersection of Vernon Pl & Main St r.o.w.		182	West	MAS	P-3	Triangle	0.07	COB r.o.w. under DPR	Pkwy Contractor			Amend § 309-30
CITY OWNED PROPERTIES FOR PARK LAND CONSIDERATION													
1318 Niagara St				West	NIA								
Buffalo River conservation easement													
Canalside				West	ELL				what isn't developed or owned by NY State				
Erie Basin Marina				West	FIL								
foot of Hamburg St				South	FIL								
Genesee Gateway triangle				South	ELL								
Jefferson & Carlton median				East	ELL								
Jefferson & Cherry triangle				East	ELL								
Katherine St natural area				South	SOU								
LaSalle & Main St				East	UNI								
Michigan Ave public access to Lift Bridge				South	FIL								
St Claire St Bike Path				South	FIL								
Virginia & Prospect				West	ELL								

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
William Gaiter	William Gaiter Pkwy r.o.w. E Delavan to Kensington Ave			East	MAS	P-1	Parkway	7.51	COB r.o.w.	DPR			
FACILITIES													
Allison Pool	50 (aka 40) Rees St			Rec	SOU	P-1	Rec Ctr		Community Ctr on parkland	DPR/SBCA/PAL			
Allison Splash Pad	50 (aka 40) Rees St			Rec	NIA	P-1	Rec Ctr		Community Ctr on parkland	DPR/PAL			
Asarese Matters Community Center	50 (aka 40) Rees St			Rec	ELL	P-1	Rec Ctr		Community Ctr on parkland	DPR/CAO/PAL			
Bud Bakewell Ice Rink	2505 (aka 2607) Niagara St			Rec	LOV	P-1	Rec Ctr		Community Ctr on parkland	DPR/PAL			
Cazenovia Connors, Kait Harry Pool	35 Cazenovia St			Rec	LOV	P-1	Rec Ctr		Community Ctr on parkland	DPR/AB-LEY/PAL			
Cazenovia Splash Pad	35 Cazenovia St			Rec	FIL	P-1	Rec Ctr		Community Ctr on parkland	DPR/PAL			
Centennial Pool	10 Perry Prop			Rec	NOR	P-3	Rec Ctr		Community Ctr on parkland	SABAH			
Centennial Splash Pad	10 Perry Prop			Rec	LOV	P-3	Rec Ctr		Community Ctr on parkland	Schiller Senior			
Crowley St Wading Pool	2505 Niagara St			Rec	FIL	P-1	Rec Ctr		Community Ctr on parkland	DPR/PAL			
Hennepin Community Center	1207 Bailey (24 Ludington)			Rec	FIL	P-3	Rec Ctr		Community Ctr on parkland	Valley Com Assoc			
Houghton Pool	1677 Clinton (36 Spann St)			Rec	ELL	P-3	Stadium		stadium complex on parkland	JBW Board/BOE			
Houghton Splash Pad	1677 Clinton (36 Spann St)			Rec	ELL	P-3	Rink		public ice rink	BFLO PL			
JFK Community Center	114 Hickory St (401 Clinton)			Rec	NOR	P-3	Rink		public ice rink	Hasek's Heroes			
JFK Pool	114 Hickory St (401 Clinton)			Rec	SOU	P-3	Rink		public ice rink	Hasek's Heroes			
Johnnie B. Wylie Stadium	1100 Jefferson Ave			Rec	SOU	P-1	Splash Pad		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Kensington Pool	665 Kensington Ave			Rec	DEL	P-3	Rink		public ice rink, adj School #81	NB Bisons Hockey			
Lafayette Ice Rink	124 (aka 156) Tacoma			Rec	SOU	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			

PARK NAME	STREET	SBL	NEW ID	PARK DISTR	COUNCIL	TYPE	CLASS	ACRES	LAND USE	MAINTAINED BY	YEAR	ASSESSMENT	ACTION
Lanigan Field House Community Center	146 (aka 150) Fulton St			Rec	MAS	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Lanigan Splash Pad	380 South Park Ave			Rec	ELL	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Lincoln Community Center	10 Quincy St (69 Peck)			Rec	ELL	P-1	Splash Pad		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Lincoln Splash Pad	69 Peck			Rec	NIA	P-1	Splash Pad		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Lovejoy Indoor Pool	1169 Lovejoy			Rec	NIA	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Machinica Community Center	1799 Clinton St			Rec	ELL	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Masten Pool	224 Best St			Rec	LOV	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Masten Splash Pad	224 Best St			Rec	LOV	P-1	Splash Pad		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
MLK Humboldt Basin & Splash Pad	175 North Parade			Rec	FIL	P-1	Splash Pad		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
MLK Wading Pool	175 North parade			Rec	LOV	P-1	Splash Pad		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Riverside Community Center	2505 (aka 2607) Niagara St			Rec	ELL	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Riverside Pool	2505 Niagara St			Rec	NOR	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Roosevelt Splash Pad	430 Edison St			Rec	MAS	P-1	Splash Pad		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Rotary Rink	580 Main (Fountain Plaza)	111.46-2-1.12		Rec	LOV	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Schiller Senior Center	2057 Genesee St			Rec	UNI	P-1	Splash Pad		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Schiller Splash Pad	2057 Genesee St			Rec	MAS	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Shoshone Pool	445 Beard St			Rec	UNI	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Timothy J. Burvid Ice Rink	35 Cazenovia St			Rec	ELL	P-1	Splash Pad		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Tosh Collins Community Center	35 (aka 161) Cazenovia			Rec	FIL	P-1	Splash Pad		public pool or splash pad	DPR			
Valley Community Center	87 Leddy St			Rec	NOR	P-1	Pool		public pool or splash pad	DPR			

Maintenance Schedule

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	DIST	TYPE	COUN- CIL	ACRE	BIWEEKLY REQUIRED MAINTENANCE*						
						MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
EAST MAINTENANCE DISTRICT												
Box	46 Box Ave	East	P-1	MAS	0.4	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Dewey	494 Kensington Ave	East	P-1	MAS	4.2	MCWI -14 G-7 SP						
Eddie Dawson	23 Roetzler St	East	P-1	FIL	1.9	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Emerson (Koons)	193 Koons, foot of Koon address unlisted	East	P-1	FIL	6.9	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Gleasner	137 Manhattan Ave (minus water tank)	East	P-1	MAS	9.2	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Glenny	1823 Fillmore Ave	East	P-1	MAS	9.5	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Hank Nowak	1177 Sycamore St	East	P-1	FIL	3.8	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Horrace "Billy" Johnson Park	25 & 26 Hager St	East	P-1	MAS	1.9	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Kensington Pool Grounds	665 Kensington Ave	East	P-1	MAS	2.9	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Kingsley	52 Kingsley St	East	P-1	ELL	2.2	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Lang Weber	38 Weber Ave	East	P-1	LOV	2.2	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Lincoln	69 Peck St	East	P-1	FIL	2.7	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
Masten	224 Best St western half of property only	East	P-1	ELL	20.8	MWCI -14 G-7 SP						
McCarthy	274, 278, 300, & 304 E Amherst (minus quarry); 117 William Price Parkway; 71 NYL & W RR	East	P-1	UNI	36.6	MWCI -14 G-7 SUMMER MC-7 BECAUSE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS SP						
Moselle	638 Moselle	East	P-1	MAS	0.7	MWCI -14 G- 7 SP						
Perkins	325 East Ferry St	East	P-1	MAS	2.5	MWCI 14 G 7 SP						
Rev. James Eckridge (Johnson St.)	181 Johnson St	East	P-1	ELL	1.7	MWCI 14 G 7 SP						
Roosevelt	430 Edison	East	P-1	UNI	9.6	MWCI 14 G 7 SP						
Schiller	2057 Genessee St & 105 Sattler	East	P-1	LOV	36.7	MWCI 14 G 7 SP F						
Sperry	77 Paderewski Dr	East	P-1	ELL	3.0	MWCI 14 G 7 SP						
Trinidad	237 Kensington Ave	East	P-1	MAS	3.9	MWCI 14 G 7 SP						
Walden	25 Bakos Blvd	East	P-1	LOV	20.8	MWCI 14 G 7 SP						
Academy Rd Medians	Academy Rd i.o.w.	East	P-3	LOV	0.7							

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	DIST	TYPE	COUN- CIL	ACRE	BIWEEKLY REQUIRED MAINTENANCE*												
						MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN						
Beverly Medians	Beverly Rd r.o.w.	East	P-3	MAS	0.6													
Bickford & Alice Triangle	12 Alice Ave	East	P-3	UNI	0.1													
Bickford & Edith Triangle	2 Orleans St	East	P-3	UNI	0.1													
Bickford & Suffolk Triangle	26 Fennimore Ave	East	P-3	UNI	0.1													
Brunswick Blvd Median	Brunswick Blvd r.o.w. between Jefferson and Lonsdale	East	P-3	MAS	0.2													
Donaldson Circle	Donaldson Circle r.o.w.	East	P-3	MAS	0.1													
Kay & Eggert	intersection of Kay & Eggert r.o.w.	East	P-3	UNI	0.1													
LaSalle Island	171 & 173 LaSalle Ave	East	P-3	UNI	0.6													
Linden Pk Median	Linden Pk r.o.w.	East	P-3	ELL	0.2													
Main & Northland Monument	intersection of Main & Masten St r.o.w.	East	P-3	MAS	0.4													
Main St. Medians	Main St. r.o.w Humboldt to Bailey	East	P-3	UNI	1.1													
Mary Jean Sloan Park	Scheu Pk r.o.w.	East	P-3	LOV	0.3													
Memorial Circle	Memorial Circle r.o.w.	East	P-3	FIL	0.3													
Minnesota Medians	Minnesota Ave r.o.w.	East	P-3	UNI	1.7													
Norway Pk Medians	Norway Pk r.o.w.	East	P-3	ELL	0.5													
Oakgrove & Blaine Triangle	51 Oakgrove Ave	East	P-3	MAS	0.2													
Paderewski & Sears	358 Paderewski Dr	East	P-3	FIL	0.3													
Rt 33 Medians	Cherry St & BFNC Dr r.o.w., Virginia to Orange St	East	P-3	ELL	0.2													
Scajaquada (Drain) Trail	1590 Fillmore Ave, 0 Rickert Ave, 577 & 622 Humboldt Pkwy, 26 Hager St, 1673 Jefferson Ave	East	P-1	MAS	3.8													
St. Marys Medians	St. Marys Rd r.o.w.	East	P-3	LOV	0.8													
Sycamore & Beckwith Monument	462 Madison St & Beckwith r.o.w.	East	P-3	ELL	0.1													

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	DIST	TYPE	COUN- CIL	ACRE	BIWEEKLY REQUIRED MAINTENANCE*												
						MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Lincoln Parkway	Lincoln Pkwy r.o.w.	Olm	P-3	DEL	3.4													MWCI-14 G 7 SUMMER G 4
Martin Luther King, Jr.	175 North Parade, 1354 & 1194 Genesee	Olm	P-3	MAS	56.1													MWCI-14 G 7 SUMMER G 4
McClellan Circle	81 McClellan Circle & McClellan Clellan Circle r.o.w.	Olm	P-3	SOU	3.2													MWCI-14 G 7 SUMMER G 4
McKinley Circle	McKinley Circle r.o.w.	Olm	P-3	SOU	1.7													MWCI-14 G 7 SUMMER G 4
Nottingham & Elmwood	0 Nottingham & old Elmwood r.o.w.	Olm	P-3	DEL	0.9													MWCI-14 G 7 SUMMER G 4
Riverside	2505 Niagara St	Olm	P-3	NOR	40.4													MWCI-14 G 7 SUMMER G 4 F
Soldier's Circle	198 Soldiers Pl & Soldiers Pl r.o.w.	Olm	P-3	DEL	5.9													MWCI-14 G 7 SUMMER G 4
South Park	2441 South Park Ave	Olm	P-3	SOU	146.3													MWCI-14 G 7 SUMMER G 4 F
Symphony Circle	4 Symphony Circle & Symphony Circle r.o.w.	Olm	P-3	NIA	3.3													MWCI-14 G 7 SUMMER G 4
					TOTAL	850.5												

SOUTH MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

Bailey Moreland	back of 1351 Bailey Ave	South	P-1	LOV	1.9													MCWI -14 G-7 SP
Bristol Emslie	185, 189, 235 Emslie St	South	P-1	FIL	0.2													MCWI -14 G-7 SP
Brookdale	293 McKinley Pkwy	South	P-1	SOU	2.2													MCWI -14 G-7 SP
Butler	95 Roanoke Pkwy	South	P-1	SOU	2.9													MCWI -14 G-7 SP
Collins	317 Smith St	South	P-1	FIL	1.4													MCWI -14 G-7 SP
Davey	244 North Ogden St	South	P-1	LOV	0.6													MCWI -14 G-7 SP
Durant	50 Durant & Osage St r.o.w.	South	P-1	LOV	3.0													MCWI -14 G-7 SP
Fr. Conway	122 Louisiana St	South	P-1	FIL	14.9													MCWI -14 G-7 SP
Franczyk	564 New Babcock St	South	P-1	FIL	15.6													MCWI -14 G-7 SP
George Hartmann (Tiff) Playfields	1200 Fuhrmann Blvd (on Tiff St side)	South	P-1	SOU	20.1													MCWI -14 G-7 SP F
H. D. Taylor	353 Germania St	South	P-1	SOU	3.3													MCWI -14 G-7 SP
Hennepin	1207 Bailey Ave	South	P-1	LOV	6.8													MCWI -14 G-7 SP

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	DIST	TYPE	COUN- CIL	ACRE	BIWEEKLY REQUIRED MAINTENANCE*												
						MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN						
Mulroy (Pierce Field)	890 Tift St	South	P-3	SOU														
N Legion & Cazenovia	intersection of N Legion & Cazenovia r.o.w.	South	P-3	SOU	0.6													
N Legion & Southside	intersection of N Legion & Southside r.o.w.	South	P-3	SOU	0.3													
Old Bailey Woods	70, 74, 78 New Bailey	South	P-3	LOV	3.4													
Onondaga	17 Seminole Pkwy	South	P-3	SOU	0.3													
Ridgewood Medians	Ridgewood Rd r.o.w.	South	P-3	SOU	1.0													
Roanoke Medians	Roanoke Pkwy r.o.w.	South	P-3	SOU	0.6													
S Legion & Cazenovia	intersection of S Legion & Cazenovia r.o.w.	South	P-3	SOU	0.4													
S Legion & Southside	intersection of S Legion & Southside r.o.w.	South	P-3	SOU	0.1													
Seminole Medians	Seminole Pkwy r.o.w.	South	P-3	SOU	0.4													
Sheldon	193 Tuscarora Rd	South	P-3	SOU	1.1													
Shoreline Trail (Outer Harbor Parkway & Ohio St)	Fuhrmann Blvd r.o.w.	South	P-3	SOU	75.0													
Tift Farms Nature Preserve	1200 Fuhrmann Blvd	South	P-3	SOU	233.3													
Tuscarora Medians	Tuscarora Rd r.o.w.	South	P-3	SOU	1.1													
Union Ship Canal Commons	Commerce	South	P-3	SOU	22.3													
Valley (Redmond)	87 Leddy St	South	P-3	FIL	8.4													
William & Ogden Triangle	intersection of William & N Ogden r.o.w.	South	P-3	LOV	0.4													
William St Medians	William St r.o.w., Michigan to Jefferson	South	P-3	ELL	2.0													
					TOTAL	554.4												

WEST MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

Allison	40 Rees St	West	P-1	NIA	2.1	MCWI -14 G-7 SP												
Arlington	9 Arlington Pl	West	P-1	FIL	0.6	MCWI -14 G-7 SP												
Barrett	East end of 75 Race St, East portion of Whitlock St - r.o.w.	West	P-1	NOR	0.7	MCWI -14 G-7 SP												

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	DIST	TYPE	COUN- CIL	ACRE	BIWEEKLY REQUIRED MAINTENANCE*												
						MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN						
Templeton	38 Larchmont Rd	West	P-2	UNI	0.5													
Veterans' Monument	154 West Mohawk St	West	P-2	ELL	0.1													
W Genesee St Median	W Genesee St r.o.w. Niagara Sq to Franklin	West	P-2	ELL	0.1													
Welch Memorial	0 Jerge Dr	West	P-2	ELL	0.2													
Willowlawn Median	Willowlawn St r.o.w.	West	P-2	DEL	0.03													
Albany & School Triangle	583 Plymouth Ave	West	P-3	NIA	0.3													
Amherst & Middlesex Triangle	Intersection of Amherst & Middlesex r.o.w.	West	P-3	DEL	0.03													
Amherst & Tonawanda Triangles	intersection of Amherst & Tonawanda St r.o.w.	West	P-3	NOR	0.5													
Bedford Medians	Bedford Ave r.o.w.	West	P-3	DEL	0.6													
Bingham Triangle	Bingham & Church	West	P-3	FIL	0.4													
Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Veteran's Park	1 Marine Dr & Marine Dr r.o.w.	West	P-3	FIL	2.5													
Capen Medians	Capen BLVD r.o.w.	West	P-3	UNI	0.3													
Cathedral	Cathedral Park r.o.w.	West	P-3	FIL	0.5													
Dortmund	959 Niagara St	West	P-3	NIA	0.2													
Dunston Circle	intersection of Kenmore Ave & Ontario St r.o.w.	West	P-3	NOR	0.4													
Erie Hills Pedestrian Mall	80 Erie St, 98 Lower Terrace & Erie St r.o.w.	West	P-3	FIL	1.8													
Erie Street Medians	Erie St r.o.w.	West	P-3	FIL	0.1													
Fireman's Park	325 Washington St	West	P-3	ELL	1.1													
Maritime Memorial	47 Erie St & Erie St r.o.w.	West	P-3	FIL	0.4													
Market Square	1849 & 1851 Niagara St	West	P-3	NOR	0.3													
Massachusetts Triangle	293 Massachusetts Ave	West	P-3	NIA	0.1													
N Lincoln Pkwy Medians	Lincoln Pkwy North r.o.w.	West	P-3	DEL	1.0													
Niagara & School Triangle	1015 Niagara St	West	P-3	NIA	0.2													

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	DIST	TYPE	COUN- CIL	ACRE	BIWEEKLY REQUIRED MAINTENANCE*												
						MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN						
Potomac & Bidwell Triangle	667 Potomac	West	P-3	DEL	0.2			ISP										
Vernon Triangles	intersection of Vernon Pl & Main St r.o.w.	West	P-3	MAS	0.1			I										
Lafayette Square	415 Main St	West	P-3	ELL	0.8			I										
Reading Park	intersection of Broadway & Washington r.o.w.	West	P-3	ELL	0.4			I										
Remembrance Park	intersection of Genesee, Huron & Washington r.o.w.	West	P-3	ELL	0.2			I										
Shelton Square (Church St Arterial)	N & S Division r.o.w. between Main and Washington St	West	P-3	ELL	1.1			I										
Pat Sole Park & The Bank	888 Columbus Pkwy & Massachusetts Ave r.o.w., Busti & Massachusetts r.o.w.	West	P-3	N/A	2.7			I										
Theodore Roosevelt Memorial	intersection of Genesee, E Huron & Main r.o.w.	West	P-3	ELL	0.01			I										
Tyler & Cornell Triangle	92 Tyler St	West	P-3	UNI	0.3			ISP										
Tyler & Flower Triangle	37 Flower St	West	P-3	UNI	0.3			ISP										
Tyler & Mildred Triangle	intersection of Tyler & Mildred St r.o.w.	West	P-3	UNI	0.05			ISP										
Tyler & Winspear Triangle	31 West Winspear Ave	West	P-3	UNI	0.3			ISP										
University Circle	University Ave r.o.w.	West	P-3	UNI	0.2			I										
University Ave. Median	University Ave r.o.w.	West	P-3	UNI	0.1			ISP										
TOTAL					27.8													

Amenities

PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES
Allison Park	7
Basketball Court	2
Playground	1
Pool	1
Recreation Center	1
Restroom	1
Splashpad	1
Bailey Moreland Park	1
Soccer Field	1
Barrett Park	1
Playground	1
Box Ave Park	2
Basketball Court	1
Playground	1
Bristol Emslie Playground	1
Playground	1
Broderick Park	6
Canoe Launch	1
Concessions	1
Parking	2
Picnic Shelter	1
Restroom	1
Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Veteran's Park	3
Picnic Shelter	1
Restroom	2
Cathedral Park	1
Playground	1
Cazenovia Park	31
Baseball Diamond	2
Basketball Court	2
Casino/Lodge	1
Concessions	1
Golf Course	1

PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES
Ice Rink	1
Multi Use Field	1
Parking	4
Playground	1
Pool (indoor)	1
Recreation Center	1
Restroom	6
Soccer Field	2
Softball	2
Splashpad	1
Tennis	4
Collins Park	5
Basketball Court	2
Parking	1
Picnic Shelter	1
Playground	1
Davey St Park	2
Picnic Shelter	1
Playground	1
Delaware Park	49
Baseball Diamond	2
Basketball Court	4
Casino/Lodge	2
Concessions	1
Fitness Area	1
Golf Course	1
Multi Use Field	1
Parking	6
Picnic Shelter	1
Playground	3
Restroom	4
Soccer Field	5
Softball	1
Tennis	17
Dewey Park	3

PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES
Basketball Court	1
Cricket Pitch	1
Playground	1
Durant Park	3
Basketball Court	1
Playground	1
Soccer Field	1
Eddie Dawson Park	5
Basketball Court	1
Picnic Shelter	2
Playground	1
Restroom	1
Emerson Park	8
Basketball Court	2
Concessions	1
Football Field	1
Parking	1
Picnic Shelter	1
Playground	1
Restroom	1
Fr. Conway Park	6
Concessions	1
Multi Use Field	1
Playground	1
Restroom	1
Softball	2
Franczyk Park	10
Basketball Court	3
Hockey Court	1
Multi Use Field	1
Parking	2
Playground	1
Softball	2
Front Park	7
Parking	2

PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES
Picnic Shelter	1
Playground	1
Soccer Field	1
Tennis	2
Gay (Ramsdell) Park	3
Basketball Court	2
Softball	1
George Hartmann Playfields	5
Football Field	1
Multi Use Field	1
Parking	1
Restroom	1
Softball	1
Gleasner Park	7
Basketball Court	1
Concessions	1
Football Field	1
Parking	1
Picnic Shelter	1
Playground	1
Restroom	1
Glenny Park	10
Basketball Court	2
Concessions	1
Football Field	1
Parking	1
Picnic Shelter	1
Playground	1
Restroom	1
H. D. Taylor Park	3
Basketball Court	1
Playground	1
Softball	1

PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES	PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES
Hank Nowak Park	4	Basketball Court	4
Parking	1	Football Field	1
Picnic Shelter	1	Parking	3
Playground	1	Playground	1
Soccer Field	1	Pool	1
Hennepin Park	9	Restroom	1
Basketball Court	1	Restroom	1
Hockey Court	1	Softball	1
Playground	1	Splashpad	1
Recreation Center	1	Track	1
Restroom	1	McCarthy Park	22
Tennis	4	Baseball Diamond	2
Hillery Park	9	Baseball Little League	2
Basketball Court	2	Basketball Court	3
Concessions	1	Concessions	1
Multi Use Field	1	Football Field	1
Parking	1	Multi Use Field	1
Playground	1	Parking	4
Restroom	1	Picnic Shelter	1
Soccer Field	2	Playground	2
Horace "Billy" Johnson Park	2	Restroom	1
Fitness Area	1	Soccer Field	1
Playground	1	Softball	1
Basketball Court	2	Tennis	2
Hockey Court	2	Moselle St Park	3
Parking	1	Basketball Court	2
Picnic Shelter	3	Parking	1
Playground	1	Mullen Park	4
Pool	1	Basketball Court	1
Restroom	1	Hockey Court	1
Softball	2	Multi Use Field	1
Splashpad	1	Playground	1
Tennis	1	Mulroy (Pierce Field) Park	3
J. H. Williams Park	8	Multi Use Field	1
Basketball Court	1	Parking	1
Concessions	1	Playground	1
Multi Use Field	2	Baseball Diamond	1
Splashpad	1		
Tennis	1		

PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES	PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES
Picnic Shelter	1	Picnic Shelter	1
Playground	1	Playground	1
Splashpad	1	Splashpad	1
Lincoln Park	6	Lincoln Park	6
Basketball Court	1	Basketball Court	1
Parking	1	Parking	1
Playground	1	Playground	1
Recreation Center	1	Recreation Center	1
Restroom	1	Restroom	1
Splashpad	1	Splashpad	1
Lovejoy	2	Lovejoy	2
Pool (indoor)	1	Pool (indoor)	1
Restroom	1	Restroom	1
Machnica Community Center	3	Machnica Community Center	3
Parking	1	Parking	1
Recreation Center	1	Recreation Center	1
Restroom	1	Restroom	1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	26	Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	26
Basketball Court	2	Basketball Court	2
Concessions	1	Concessions	1
Ice Rink	1	Ice Rink	1
Parking	4	Parking	4
Picnic Shelter	8	Picnic Shelter	8
Playground	2	Playground	2
Pool	1	Pool	1
Restroom	2	Restroom	2
Splashpad	1	Splashpad	1
Tennis	4	Tennis	4
Massachusetts Ave Park	4	Massachusetts Ave Park	4
Basketball Court	1	Basketball Court	1
Multi Use Field	1	Multi Use Field	1
Picnic Shelter	1	Picnic Shelter	1
Playground	1	Playground	1
Masten Park	15	Masten Park	15
Baseball Diamond	1	Baseball Diamond	1

PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES	PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES
Basketball Court	2	Basketball Court	2
Concessions	1	Concessions	1
Parking	1	Parking	1
Playground	1	Playground	1
Restroom	1	Restroom	1
Soccer Field	2	Soccer Field	2
Jesse Kregal Trail	1	Jesse Kregal Trail	1
Basketball Court	1	Basketball Court	1
John F. Kennedy Park	19	John F. Kennedy Park	19
Basketball Court	3	Basketball Court	3
Concessions	1	Concessions	1
Football Field	1	Football Field	1
Multi Use Field	1	Multi Use Field	1
Parking	3	Parking	3
Playground	1	Playground	1
Pool	1	Pool	1
Recreation Center	1	Recreation Center	1
Restroom	2	Restroom	2
Softball	1	Softball	1
Tennis	4	Tennis	4
Kensington Pool Grounds	3	Kensington Pool Grounds	3
Pool	1	Pool	1
Restroom	1	Restroom	1
Splashpad	1	Splashpad	1
Kingsley Park	3	Kingsley Park	3
Basketball Court	2	Basketball Court	2
Playground	1	Playground	1
Lafayette Ice Rink	2	Lafayette Ice Rink	2
Ice Rink	1	Ice Rink	1
Restroom	1	Restroom	1
Lang Weber Park	2	Lang Weber Park	2
Multi Use Field	1	Multi Use Field	1
Playground	1	Playground	1
Lanigan Park	5	Lanigan Park	5
Basketball Court	2	Basketball Court	2

PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES	PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES
Hank Nowak Park	4	Basketball Court	4
Parking	1	Football Field	1
Picnic Shelter	1	Parking	3
Playground	1	Playground	1
Soccer Field	1	Pool	1
Hennepin Park	9	Restroom	1
Basketball Court	1	Restroom	1
Hockey Court	1	Softball	1
Playground	1	Splashpad	1
Recreation Center	1	Track	1
Restroom	1	McCarthy Park	22
Tennis	4	Baseball Diamond	2
Hillery Park	9	Baseball Little League	2
Basketball Court	2	Basketball Court	3
Concessions	1	Concessions	1
Multi Use Field	1	Football Field	1
Parking	1	Multi Use Field	1
Playground	1	Parking	4
Restroom	1	Picnic Shelter	1
Soccer Field	2	Playground	2
Horace "Billy" Johnson Park	2	Restroom	1
Fitness Area	1	Soccer Field	1
Playground	1	Softball	1
Basketball Court	2	Tennis	2
Hockey Court	2	Moselle St Park	3
Parking	1	Basketball Court	2
Picnic Shelter	3	Parking	1
Playground	1	Mullen Park	4
Pool	1	Basketball Court	1
Restroom	1	Hockey Court	1
Softball	2	Multi Use Field	1
Splashpad	1	Playground	1
Tennis	1	Mulroy (Pierce Field) Park	3
J. H. Williams Park	8	Multi Use Field	1
Basketball Court	1	Parking	1
Concessions	1	Playground	1
Multi Use Field	2	Baseball Diamond	1
Splashpad	1		
Tennis	1		

PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES	PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES	PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES	PARK	NUMBER OF AMENITIES
Mungovan Park	4	Soccer Field	2	Concessions	1	Basketball Court	2
Multi Use Field	1	Softball	3	Football Field	1	Multi Use Field	1
Parking	1	Splashpad	1	Multi Use Field	1	Playground	1
Playground	1	T-ball	2	Parking	4	Restroom	1
Track	1	Rev. James Eckridge Park	5	Picnic Shelter	1	Tyler Likos Memorial	2
Olell Park	8	Playground	5	Playground	2	Picnic Shelter	1
Baseball Diamond	1	Basketball Court	3	Recreation Center	1	Playground	1
Baseball Little League	2	Handball Court	1	Restroom	3	Unity Island Park	5
Basketball Court	1	Playground	1	Splashpad	1	Parking	5
Concessions	1	Riverside Park	23	Shoshone Park	14	Walden Park	10
Playground	1	Baseball Diamond	1	Baseball Diamond	1	Baseball Diamond	1
Restroom	1	Baseball Little League	2	Baseball Little League	4	Baseball Little League	2
T-ball	1	Basketball Court	2	Basketball Court	1	Concessions	1
Pat Sole Park & The Bank	1	Concessions	1	Concessions	1	Football Field	1
Playground	1	Football Field	1	Hockey Court	1	Parking	1
Perkins Park	7	Ice Rink	1	Parking	1	Picnic Shelter	2
Basketball Court	3	Parking	3	Playground	1	Playground	1
Hockey Court	1	Picnic Shelter	2	Restroom	1	Restroom	1
Multi Use Field	1	Playground	1	Softball	2	Waterfront/Emerson Young Park	7
Playground	1	Pool	2	T-ball	1	Basketball Court	1
Restroom	1	Recreation Center	1	South Park	6	Football Field	1
Peter St.	1	Restroom	2	Concessions	1	Playground	1
Playground	1	Softball	1	Golf Course	1	Soccer Field	1
Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park	32	T-ball	1	Parking	3	Tennis	3
Baseball Diamond	1	Tennis	2	Restroom	1	Wende Park	3
Baseball Little League	3	Roosevelt Park	7	Sperry Park	6	Basketball Court	2
Concessions	1	Basketball Court	2	Basketball Court	3	Playground	1
Dog Park	1	Parking	1	Fitness Area	1	Willert Park	5
Football Field	1	Playground	1	Picnic Shelter	1	Basketball Court	2
Parking	4	Restroom	1	Playground	1	Picnic Shelter	2
Picnic Shelter	7	Splashpad	1	Tift Farms Nature Preserve	3	Playground	1
Playground	3	Tennis	1	Nature Center	1		
Pool	1	Rotary Rink	1	Parking	1		
Restroom	1	Ice Rink	1	Restroom	1		
Skatepark	1	Schiller Park	17	Trinidad Park	5		
		Basketball Court	2				



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