

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Florence Johnson, Chair  
Kevin Kelly, Chair Elect  
Dennis R. Horrigan, Vice Chair  
David McIntyre, Vice Chair  
Philip C. Kadet, Treasurer  
Judith M. Dean, Secretary



11/22/2013

Amy E. Black  
Alan J. Bozer  
Joan Bozer, *Emeritus*  
Elizabeth D. Carlson  
Joseph Jerry Castiglia, *Emeritus*  
Richard C. Cummings  
Dennis Dargavel  
Clarke E. Eaton, Jr.  
Susan J. Elkin  
Dennis Elsenbeck  
S. Jay Ferrari  
Nickole Garrison  
Richard Griffin  
Anne Harding Joyce  
Robert J. Kresse  
Lynn M. Marinelli  
Annie V. McCune  
Mark V. Mistretta, *Emeritus*  
Jock Mitchell  
Matthew McKenna  
Gary L. Mucci  
Corinne Rice  
Victor A. Rice, *Emeritus*  
Aaron Siegel  
Mary Simpson  
Julie R. Snyder  
Gretchen Toles, *Emeritus*  
Deborah Lynn Williams

Steven Stepniak, *Ex-Officio*

Thomas Herrera-Mishler, CEO

**Buffalo's Olmsted System**

**Parks**  
Cazenovia  
Delaware  
Front  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Riverside  
South

**Parkways**  
Bidwell  
Chapin  
Lincoln  
McKinley  
Porter  
Red Jacket  
Richmond

**Circles**  
Agassiz  
Colonial  
Ferry  
Gates  
McClellan  
McKinley  
Soldiers  
Symphony

Dear Members of the Erie County Legislature:

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy requests support of \$10,000 from the County of Erie to complete the restoration of the Pergola at the Rose Garden in Delaware Park.

Few places in Erie County serve more citizens from across the regions than the Olmsted Park system. Every day the people of our county come and enjoy their parks free of charge. The Trust for Public Land has determined that Delaware Park has more than 1.8 million visits per year. The visitors are proud of the history and legacy the parks represent as the nation's oldest park system.

This is where Erie County comes to recreate, raise money for their favorite cause, watch Shakespeare, enjoy a festival, or just go for a walk in a beautiful, clean and safe setting. The Rose Garden in Delaware Park is a popular wedding venue. It draws thousands of visitors each year to enjoy the blooms, and is the setting for many photos and family outings. The Senior Vice President of the Trust for Public Lands, Adrian Benepe, toured our parks in June, 2013. He stated that the Olmsted Parks were the best maintained parks system in the nation.

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is charged with the maintenance and restoration of these popular and historic landscapes since 2004, when the County of Erie signed an historic agreement with the City of Buffalo and the Conservancy. The County recognized the regional use and value of the parks at that time.

We ask that the County support this important initiative to preserve and ensure the safety and visual character of this community asset.

Sincerely,

Thomas Herrera-Mishler  
CEO and President

# Delaware Park Rose Garden Pergola Restoration

---

## Erie County Legislature

### Request for funding

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy requests a grant of \$10,000 to support the restoration of the Rose Garden Pergola in Delaware Park. The Rose Garden in Delaware Park is one of the most popular garden destinations in Erie County. Framing the Rose Garden is a handsome columned Pergola, backdrop to thousands of weddings and portraits over the years. This structure is part of the essential visual character that defines Erie County and an integral part of the historic Olmsted legacy in our region.

Last restored in 1976, the Pergola is in need of immediate restoration, with some of the wooden columns threatening to collapse. The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, in a uniquely successful public/private partnership with the County of Erie and the City of Buffalo, took over the maintenance and restoration of the entire Olmsted Parks and Parkways in 2004. Since then over \$30,000,000 has been secured toward the implementation of the park system's long range plan. The Conservancy has focused on high impact projects that enhance the visitor experience of the parks, improving their comfort and accessibility. Attractive new benches, trails and pathways have been implemented.

The Rose Garden Pergola restoration is a high priority given the urgency of the repair, the prominence of the structure and how beloved this pergola has become to the citizens of Western New York.

The project budget is \$45,000. The Conservancy has secured \$34,250 in funding from the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo and the Hyde Family Foundation to undertake this project. The column manufacturer provided the conservancy a significant discount on the cost of the 36 columns. The remaining funds are needed to underwrite the cost of installation and painting.

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks will be featured in a PBS documentary to air nationwide in 2014 and this increased exposure is sure to draw many visitors to Erie County to enjoy this cultural masterwork of landscape design. The Rose Garden Pergola restoration is key to the visitor experience.

Listed on the national, state and local Register of Historic Places, the Olmsted Parks and Parkways are a key component of the region's cultural tourism economic development strategy. Most of the region's key cultural institutions are located in the Olmsted landscapes. The Parks and parkways host 1,600 public events each year, drawing thousands of people from across the region and well beyond. Music is Art in Delaware Park, the Friendship Festival in Riverside Park and the Irish Festival in Cazenovia Park, athletic events, charity walks and runs including the Corporate Challenge and the Susan G. Komen Race of the Cure are all held in Olmsted landscapes. Shakespeare in Delaware Park attracts over 30,000 visitors each year to a hillside located next to the Rose Garden. Almost half of the millions of park users live outside of the city limits and growing numbers of visitors travel from well outside of Western New York to enjoy the nation's most historic park system.