The Buffalo Parks Master Plan

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF BUFFALO’S PARKS

Parks are an essential part of community life in Buffalo, and the city is famous for its historic park system. Most of us know that big parks like Cazenovia Park, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, and Ralph Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park can be fun places to spend time outside, and that smaller neighborhood parks can be great places to see friends or to let our kids play. But did you know that parks can also connect people to nature, strengthen communities by bringing people together, and improve community health by lowering stress and providing a place to exercise? Parks even improve the environment, cooling cities during the summertime and giving water a place to sink into the soil.

WHY THE BUFFALO PARKS PLAN IS IMPORTANT

Buffalo has some great parks, but we want to make them better. To do that we need a plan. The Buffalo Parks Master Plan will allow the city to incorporate all of the existing park projects into a single plan. The plan will also ensure that future park improvements go to the areas that need them the most, and that the city and its partners are focused on the types of improvements that residents really want.
GOALS

The Buffalo Parks Master Plan will set the course for parks in Buffalo for years to come. The plan will review park equity by identifying the communities with the greatest need, will work together with residents and partners to establish a shared vision, and will develop action steps to figure out how to make all of this a reality.

This project will:

• Hear directly from Buffalo residents in order to understand their park use, and how parks could better meet their needs,

• Learn where community members like to go spend time outside, including spaces that are not officially parks,

• Figure out which parts of Buffalo have the greatest need for park improvements,

• Create an inventory of city parks, so that community members always know where the closest park is located and what it has to offer,

• Combine all of the recent park projects and plans being carried out throughout Buffalo into a single plan,

• Figure out how Buffalo parks could do more to improve the environment,

• Develop a strategy to turn these goals into reality, and

• Create a fun, easy-to-use online StoryMap where community members can learn about their local parks and get inspired to try new activities in parks.

GET INVOLVED

We are excited to create a vision for the future of Buffalo’s parks, but we can’t do it without you! For starters, take our online survey at surveymonkey.com/r/BuffaloParks. The survey takes about 10 minutes, and helps us understand how we can improve parks in Buffalo. Then, check out our website at tpl.org/buffaloparksplan for updates on the plan.

PROJECT PARTNERS AND TIMELINE

The Buffalo Parks Master Plan is a project of The City of Buffalo’s Division of Parks & Recreation and the Office of Strategic Planning. The Trust for Public Land is leading the project and is working with local design and planning firms New City Parks and the Regional Plan Association. Representatives of local agencies and community groups are guiding the process as members of a steering committee. The Buffalo Parks Plan is being carried out from January 2020 through June 2021. This effort was made possible through the generous support of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.