

Project Registration Number (*office use only*) _____

**Niagara River Greenway Commission
Consultation and Review Form**

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

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

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

PROJECT TYPE

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

Funding Committee Request: Host Community Standing Committee
 Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee
 Ecological Standing Committee
 State Parks Standing Committee
 Unsure at this time

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: PROSPECT PARK PATHWAYS AND FURNISHINGS PROJECT
Location: BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS SYSTEM - BUFFALO, NY
Site Address: 280 PORTER AVE.
State: NEW YORK Zip Code: 14201
Minor Civil Division(s): BUFFALO
County: ERIE
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION - PUBLIC / PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: STEPHANIE CROCKATT Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Business Address: 84 PARKSIDE AVE
State: NEW YORK Zip Code: 14214
Telephone Number: 716.838.1249 x16 Cell Number: 716.909.5817
Fax Number: 716.835.1300
E-Mail Address: stephanie@bfloparks.org

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: BRIAN DOLD Title: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ADVOCACY
Organization/Firm: BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY
Business Address: 84 PARKSIDE AVE
State: NEW YORK Zip Code: 14214
Telephone Number: 716.280.8118 Cell Number: 716.280.8118
Fax Number: 716.835.1300
E-Mail Address: brian@bfloparks.org

Buffalo Olmsted Park and Parkway System
Prospect Park Pathways and Furnishings Project

11/17/20

Project Narrative –

The Prospect Park Pathways and Furnishings Project is a comprehensive effort to plan, design and implement pathway and park furnishing upgrades at Prospect Park in the City of Buffalo.

Frederick Law Olmsted, our nation's father of Landscape Architecture, was instrumental in establishing a vision, not only for Buffalo, but for the entire Niagara River corridor, and was influential in saving Niagara Falls and creating the Niagara Reservation (Niagara Falls State Park). Preserving and promoting the Olmsted Legacy is one of the primary principles identified in the Niagara River Greenway Plan and is core to the mission of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy (BOPC). The Buffalo Olmsted Park System (BOPS) is a significant historical and cultural asset in Buffalo and the Western New York region, which greatly contributes to the value of the Niagara River Greenway. Prospect Park located 1/3 of a mile directly up Porter Ave from the riverfront and is a key node within the west side community and connection point to the Shoreline Trail. Prospect Park is home to the Isaias Gonzalez-Soto Branch Public Library, and functions as the central commons of D'Youville College. Prospect Park has been envisioned in the updated Buffalo Olmsted Parks System Five Year Plan for Park Improvements (2019) as a vibrant center of community and cultural activity on the west side.

Over the past year, and intensively during the pandemic, the Conservancy has been partnering with the West Side Promise Neighborhood collaborative which includes: D'Youville College, Rich Products, Buffalo State College, WEDI, Citizens Bank, Buffalo Public Schools, the Belle Center and West Side Community Services. The West Side Promise's mission is that every child deserves a promise neighborhood; a place where they are wrapped in the education, health and social support they need, from cradle to career, to reach their full potential. The West Side Promise Neighborhood (WSPN) network exists to create that envelope of care and support. Their vision is to make Buffalo's West Side a vibrant, safe, healthy and inclusive neighborhood by 2025. They envision a community where every family is strong, every child is healthy, and every youth succeeds in school and achieves lifelong success. The purpose of the recent collaboration has been to focus on how we can enhance Prospect Park for safe community programming and activities. Collectively we identified the first step in this ambitious effort is to invest in enhancement of the infrastructure of the park.

In accordance with the BOPS Five Year Plan priority investments for Prospect Park include restoration of the Prospect Park Shelter as a comfort facility and restroom as well as reactivating a community room with concessions, refreshments and community gathering. An additional priority is to upgrade the exterior grounds of the facility and the park as a whole with new accessible pathways and furnishings. Providing these critical park upgrades, and resources were identified as critical first steps to move forward on greater programming and community activation with WSPN partners.

Through coordinated partnership focused on the Five Year Plan implementation, the City of Buffalo is currently investing resources to upgrade basic utility services and HVAC at the shelter building which has been shuttered from public use for over two decades. The Conservancy has leveraged corporate and foundation support for 2021 to complete the restoration and remodeling of the shelter building for public use and programming.

This project would build on the resources secured and the momentum generated with community partners for Prospect Park improvements. The project will fully reconstruct the park pathway network to provide safe access from the community to the network of Niagara River Greenway resources and provide Shoreline Trail users access to community assets and comfort facilities in the west side of Buffalo. Additionally, furnishings for relaxation along with a bicycle repair station and bike racks leading to and surrounding the newly activated shelter building are planned

Principles of the Niagara River Greenway Plan

- Excellence – every project undertaken by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is done with excellence. Within the scope of the project, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy would be securing a professional project team and utilizing only the best in construction materials and methods in completing construction.
- Sustainability / Ecological Integrity – the project would be executed with the agreed upon best practices in managing the landscape. The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy has a commitment to sustainable practices.
- Accessibility / Connectivity – this project’s purpose and impact will be the increased public connectivity throughout the Olmsted Park System with linkages to the larger Niagara River Greenway system through awareness and wayfinding improvements.
- Public Well-Being – the project is an important investment in a strong working-class community building on many existing environmental and healthy living assets, ensuring their viability for future generations.
- Restoration – this principle represents the cornerstone of *The Buffalo Olmsted Parks System: Plan for the 21st Century*, as one of the 7 Guiding Principles, and is in the forefront of the Conservancy’s mission. This project will enhance the integrity of our historic landscapes.
- Authenticity / Celebration – The activation of Prospect Park made possible with this project would enhance the opportunity for celebration of the extensive Olmsted legacy of this region.
- Partnerships/ Community based – ongoing coordination with our partners within the West Side Promise Neighborhood will ensure the implementation of this project and the associated enhancements to programming opportunities are undertaken collaboratively.

Project Budget:

Planning	\$ 57,000
Construction	\$ 470,000
Acquisition	\$ 0
Administration	\$ 51,000
Operation and Maintenance / Year*	<u>\$ 32,000</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 610,000

** The Buffalo Olmsted Park System is operated and maintained by the BOPC through contractual agreement with the City of Buffalo, however initial maintenance funding is required.*

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy's vision for its contribution to the Greenway has been incorporated into the development of the *Buffalo Olmsted Parks System Plan for the 21st Century*. The *21st Century Plan*, published in 2008, looks to place the park system within the green infrastructure of the city, restoring and building off of the assets brought to the region by Joseph Ellicott, Frederick Law Olmsted and the Niagara River.

The 2008 master planning process included 21 meetings of the BOPC Advisory Council, comprised of representatives from a broad-based group of community organizations and park users whose main purpose was to encourage and facilitate public participation in the planning process. During this period six public meetings were held throughout the city as well as 15 meetings of the BOPC Long Range Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees, who approved the master plan.

In 2018-2019 the BOPC undertook an extensive community engagement process to update park improvement priorities of the Plan for the 21st Century, a Five-Year Plan update. This engagement included three rounds of community meetings across five park districts in addition to an online survey responded to by over 1,100 residents. The final report, published in November 2019, was fully vetted with the City of Buffalo Department of Public Works and voted with approval/adoption by the BOPC Board of Trustees.

Final design plans will be developed as a part of this project and will be vetted with the City of Buffalo Department of Public Works and the community prior to construction. Following the construction of this pathway and furnishings project the BOPC will continue to engage our partners with WSPN and residents on volunteer projects and other enhancements. The BOPC, as a part of our ongoing role as park stewards, will work through a newly established park-user engagement entity, the Olmsted Community Alliance.

The Prospect Park Pathways and Furnishings Project will comply with any and all SEQRA regulations relevant to the project. All necessary studies of existing conditions will be a part of the initial technical site analysis phase of the project.

Project Schedule

Summer 2021

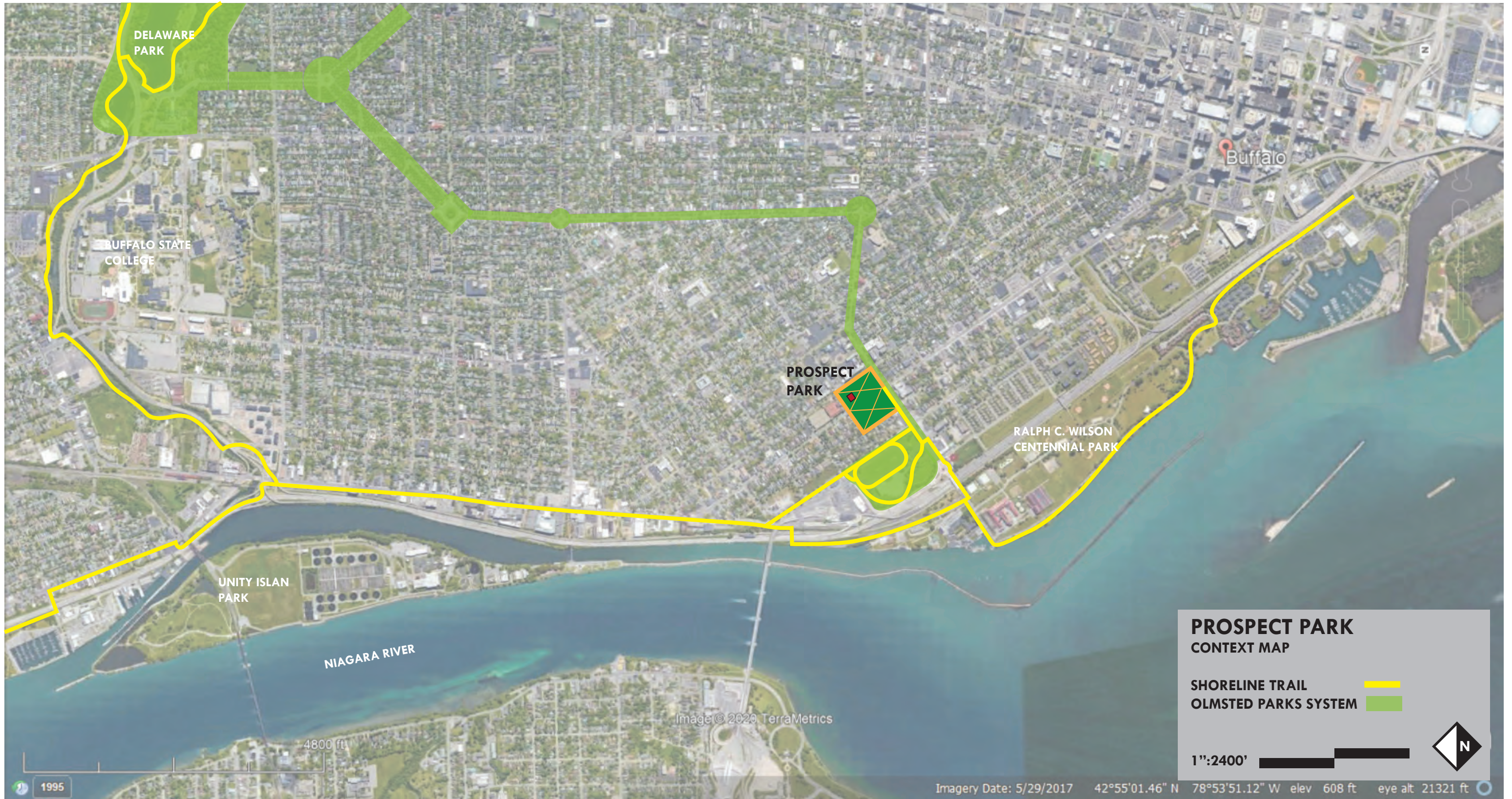
- Design Development

Fall 2021

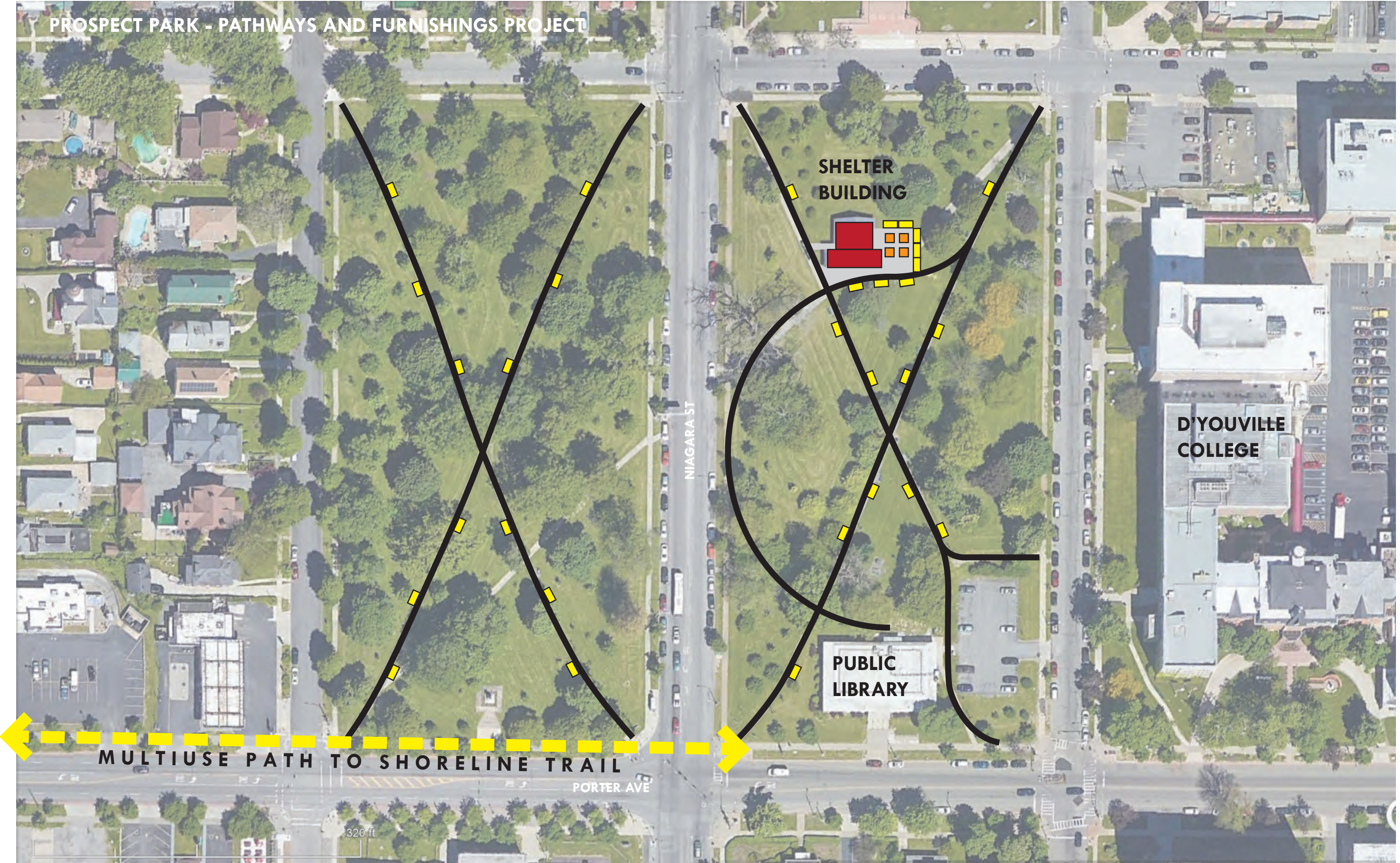
- Bid construction and begin pathways and furnishing demolition and new installation.

Spring 2022

- Finish pathway and furnishing installation and close out project.



PROSPECT PARK - PATHWAYS AND FURNISHINGS PROJECT



**SHELTER
BUILDING**

**D'YOUVILLE
COLLEGE**

**PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

NIAGARA ST

PORTER AVE

320 ft

MULTIUSE PATH TO SHORELINE TRAIL





1



2



3



4



The Olmsted City

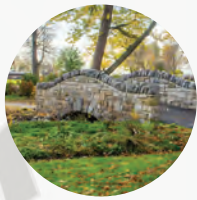
FIVE YEAR PLAN

2020 – 2024

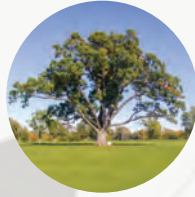
PRIORITIES FOR BUFFALO'S
OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM



BUFFALO
OLMSTED PARKS
CONSERVANCY



Riverside Park



Delaware Park



Front Park



MLK Jr. Park



Cazenovia Park



South Park

CANADA

Niagara River

Lake Erie

Niagara Street
I-190

Rte 198

Lincoln Parkway

Bidwell Parkway

Colonial Circle

Elmwood Avenue

Delaware Avenue

Main Street

Boiley Avenue

Rte 33

Rte 198

Richmond Avenue

Porter Avenue

Niagara Street
I-190

North Street

Rte 33

Downtown Buffalo

Genesee Street

Broadway

William Street

Clinton Street

I-190

Buffalo River

Rte 5

South Park Avenue

Heacock Place

Red Jacket Parkway

McClellan Circle

McKinley Parkway

McKinley Circle

N



SYSTEM MAP LEGEND

- Olmsted Circle
- Olmsted Parkway
- ▲ Olmsted Pocket Park

The Olmsted City

FIVE YEAR PLAN

2020 – 2024

PRIORITIES FOR BUFFALO'S
OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM

Developed with the consulting support of:



With generous funding from:



In partnership with:





MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

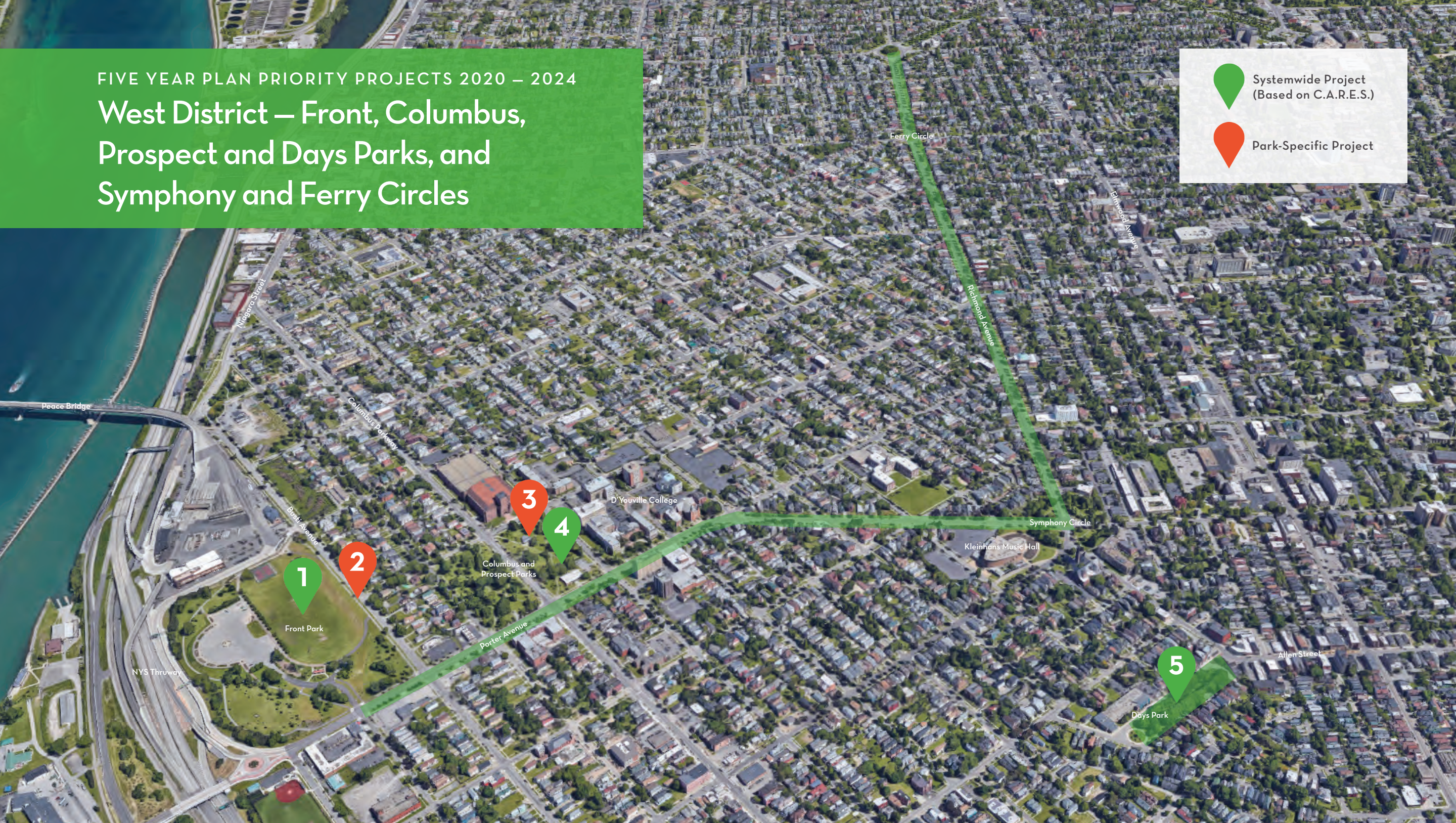
October 2019

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

FIVE YEAR PLAN PRIORITY PROJECTS 2020 – 2024

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

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



 Other Systemwide Projects – WEST DISTRICT

- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Installation

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

West District

FRONT PARK

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

PROSPECT PARK

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



Prospect Park Shelter, 2018

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



Existing pathway at Prospect Park, 2018

DAYS PARK

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

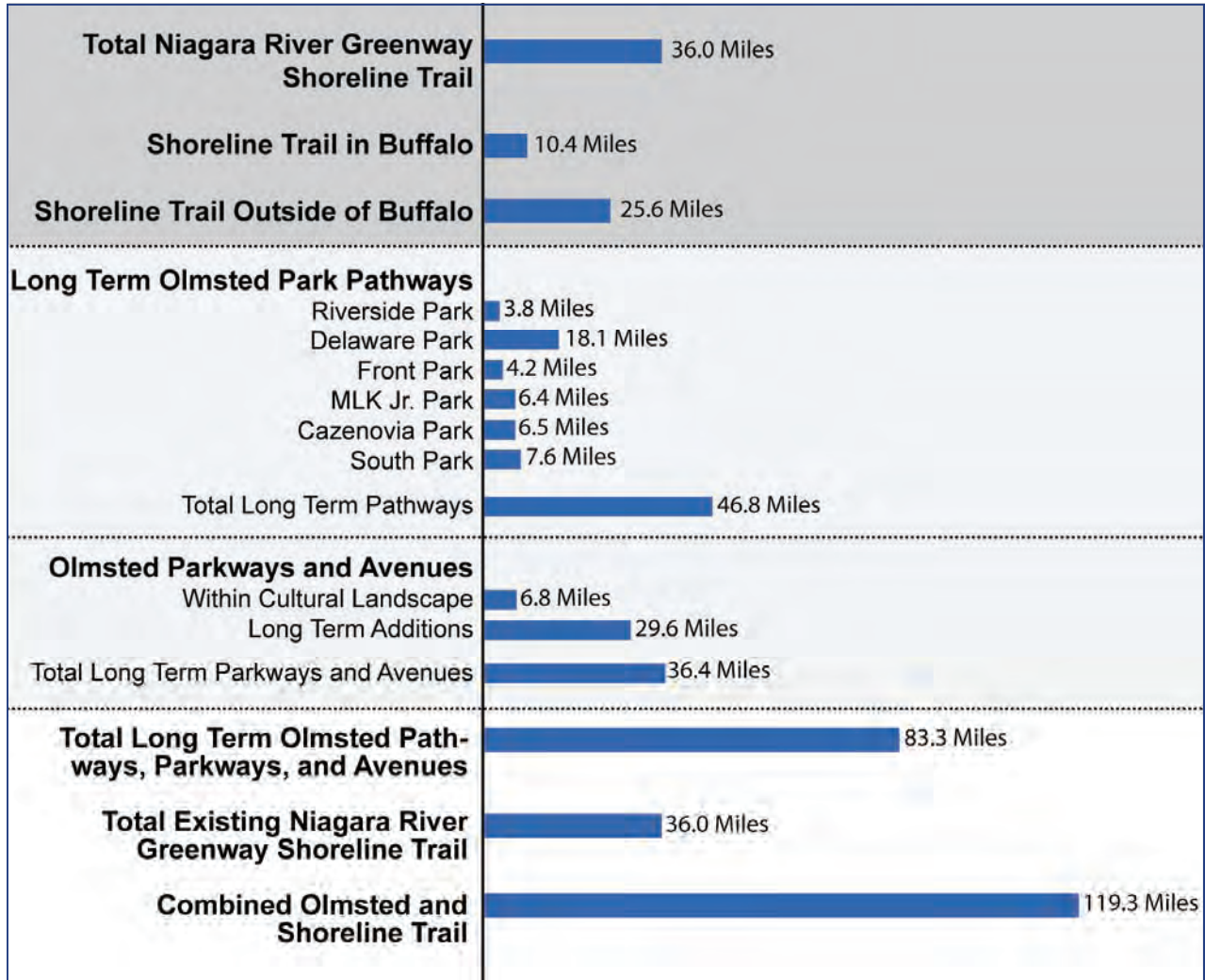


Turf at Days Park, 2018

OTHER SYSTEMWIDE PROJECTS – WEST DISTRICT

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

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



Seamlessly Connected Systems

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

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