

Buffalo and Marathon Trip Notes

May 22-26, 2009



A marathon should be a destination, or at least that's one major criterion when I decide to go to a marathon. While Buffalo Marathon counts as at least the 45th marathon I've gone to (with 6 of those unfinished), it's a continual battle against the Marathon Counting Disease (MCD). Numbers are fun but I'd rather numbers not be my focus. I am glad to say that Buffalo IS a destination and a surprisingly better one than I expected. As the poster pictured says: "One of the 44 Places to Go in 2009" and "One of

America's Top Great Neighborhoods." As a marathon, I'm doubtful it would make my top 45.



Why go to Buffalo and the Buffalo Marathon?

- Lots of history started here and historical landmarks remain.
- Early in the 20th century there were more millionaires per capita than any other city in the U.S. and they left their mark. (Yet now they have the highest percentage of unemployed males in the country at 25%.)
- There are major colleges and universities, and ongoing waterfront development.
- Architectural geniuses thrived here and their 'monuments' remain either well preserved or fully intact.
- The marathon course runs by many of the historically significant parts of the city.
- Pasta party and post race party are included in a low priced entry fee, as well as an in-training t-shirt and a technical finisher's shirt.
- Residents and spectators are a very special and giving group. City Love!
- Niagara Falls is only 20 minutes away (I didn't go as I'd been there recently) and just as special, the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake which is worthy of a visit.

What's not to like?

- Downtown is in the early phases of clean up. Homeless and the mentally unfit still rule the streets.
- The marathon organization has some challenges, some outlined on www.marathonguide.com and some that soon will be.
 - a. The course markings and police support rolled up at 11am versus the promised 12:00noon.
 - b. Maps were given out – I swear – you can't make this up. We were moved to the sidewalks.
 - c. Cars on the course were not unusual and one of the top 3 leaders got hit by a car.
 - d. The post-race party scheduled to last until 2pm ran out of all food at 11:00-11:30am.
 - e. The promised in-training shirt came AFTER the marathon.
 - f. The New Balance technical shirt didn't materialize. An ugly maroon one did.
- The race director is known to be batty. Gads but I hope he isn't a volunteer and if he is he should get some credit but he shouldn't swear and hang up on people even if your course did have to change four days before the event.
- Tours don't start until the weekend AFTER the marathon. Zilch available except self-guided walking tours.
- Downtown as we would know it is a ghost town. One needs a car to go to the real downtown which is a stretch along the historical streets of Elmwood Avenue.
- Most tourist sites are scattered over distances too far for even me to walk.

If touring is a priority, I got an A+ (but an F for touring before the marathon)



- Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin house complex was built in 1903 and these six buildings are said to be his finest examples of prairie architecture. Little did I know that FLW has more famous architectural examples here than in Chicago. Luckily the schedule gave me the once-a-month in



depth 'focus' tour by the master docent.

- I first thought it was unlucky that the FLW house was so far away but walking back was a delight, though sometimes frustrating when I got lost, but always pleasant when I found someone who showed me the way. More on that later.
- Frederick Law Olmsted's finest example of city planning is said to be Buffalo and you might recall that I've been following his work around the country. After Ellicott (with designs from L'Enfant) laid out the street plans, the rich of Buffalo called in Olmsted who added his noted expressways and park systems, most of which remain. It is said that his vision created islands of tranquility by connecting a series of parkways and broad avenues lined with elegant homes to make Buffalo unique. I can see the similarities to FLO's Louisville KY planning (the last of his lifetime.)
- Delaware Park is the largest of the park system, and from the FLW home I walked across the park, forgetting how large it was at 350 acres. I went around the edges of the country's 3rd oldest Zoo, through open plains, under massive old trees, through a golf course, and along his designed Forest Park Cemetery. I came out who-know-where. More on that later too.
- Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society is housed in the only remaining building from the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. Exhibited inside this massive building are 700 products that were developed in Buffalo (including the Cheerios cereal by General Mills.)



- Mirror Lake sits between the Cemetery and the Pan-Am building and on the edge of the lake is a lovely little oasis of a Japanese Garden complete with three islands, a massive lantern and a torii gate. It is somehow situated across a big highway with no known means of crossing by the mere pedestrian. Yep, still more on that later.



- Albright-Knox Art Gallery is on that 'other-side' of the highway yet still on a massive lake with another name and a massive boat house to its side. It's said to house one of the finest collections of art anywhere in the world. Across the street, but as its neighbor, is the new Burchfield-Penney Art Center. It's on the edge and/or the ground of the Buffalo State College campus lined with some massive buildings that look like castles.
- Elmwood Avenue is within their historical district (not that much of the city isn't . . .) and it was voted "One of America's 10 Best Neighborhoods." I found it to be most eclectic with miles of variety. There were vibrant and unique shopping areas, hippy sections with tattoo parlors galore complete with the cute examples sitting on stoops, huge Victorian mansions sometimes converted

into apartments, sidewalk cafes and nice restaurants with upscale folks, and then little row houses where you'd feel a need to clutch your backpack a little closer. At the far northerly region are the art museums and at the southerly end begins Downtown's Theatre District.

Citizenry of Buffalo

It might be said that the people of Buffalo are as kind as those in the south. Or it might be said that they are as easy going and as slow as those from the south. What makes for kindness of strangers? It's not that our NYC area doesn't have kindness, just that our peoples are busier and maybe don't take as much time to help strangers.



Every time I got lost on Saturday, and there were numerous times, strangers gave me one nice example after another of southern hospitality.

- Exiting the 400-some acre Delaware Park, I lost my bearings and asked help of two little old men who were talking the pathways. They spent an inordinate amount of time explaining to me how to find the Pan-American Building and then each gave me a big hug and wished me good luck and happy touring as we parted.
- Passing along the edge of the Forest Park Cemetery and lost again, I found a young couple playing Frisbee and inquired as to how to cross the highway to the Pan American Building. They practically took me by the hand and guided me through the confusing pathways and over the pedestrian bridge.
- Having found and enjoyed the Japanese Garden on Mirror Lake, and knowing I should follow Nottingham Drive to the Art Museum, I had no idea which direction to on Nottingham to take so asked a couple of gals enjoying a picnic. Their bicycles were nearby. One insisted on getting on her bike to make sure the directions were correct before sending me on my way and asking if I wanted some picnic too.
- Strolling along the historic Ellwood district, I met a young tough looking fellow with a Buffalo Marathon tattoo. It didn't match but he was holding his new toy poodle puppy. A soft side.
- Sitting down for coffee at 4:30pm on Downtown's Main Street, a beggar came up to my outside table, which is not unusual in Downtown Buffalo. What was different was the owner rushing out to give a tongue lashing, insisting his customers not be harassed, and following up with a call to the cops to say he'd file a complaint if need be.

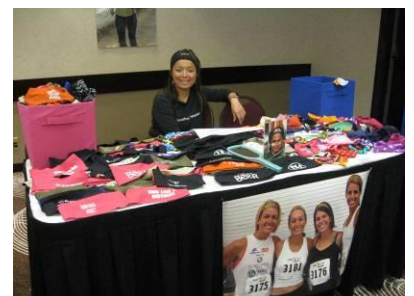


These examples are Pure Buffalo and didn't stop on subsequent days and exposed themselves over and over again with good marathon spectators as well as homeowners who came out to feed us food and drink and cheer us on after the official marathon support had pulled up stakes and gone home. That doesn't mean to say that everyone was helpful, such as the guy I asked directions and he treated me as though I were a homeless. He must have been from NYC.

Marathon results?

After reading all the tourist sites I saw, which kept me on my feet from 9:30am to 4:00pm walking many miles the day before the marathon, you will not be surprised to find that I'm happy with my 5:46:28.

Maricar however, despite being on her feet the day before manning the Bondi Band booth, didn't get slowed down much and came in at 5:20:58.





I met a lovely gal named Amy and we both had hip glitches so gladly walked the entirety of the course after about mile 13. We talked of the tourist sites we'd seen, lamented having to walk for so long on concrete sidewalks, crossed wide streets with traffic lights but no police support, read our course map together and voted for which way to proceed, fussed that the only place we might have taken a shortcut had the only volunteer directing us around the huge circle (to keep us honest!), and discussed how many Tylenol we were allowed to take. She was delightful company and I hope to see new friend Amy while

in Tampa's Gasparella Marathon next February when she's offered to tour me in St Augustine.



Post race

Maricar and I try to walk a lot after a marathon but we didn't rally as well this time. (It's like a massage to the legs in that it makes the blood circulate.) I wonder if our laziness had to do with our both being on our feet all of the day before Fortunately for our leg recovery Maricar chose a restaurant famous for the creation of Buffalo wings and the eclectic and very touristy Anchor Bar turned out to be much farther away than expected so we got our mileage in anyway. Feeling obliged to use our free drink coupons at the hotel bar, dinner and drinks took up much of our late afternoon and evening and little

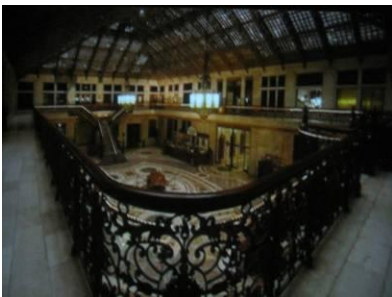


touring was had.

The day after

It's within the norm that Maricar is up hours before I am and this time was no exception, exacerbated by my jumpy legs keeping me awake much of the night. The hotel had gifted me with four free breakfast coupons as an apology for forgetting my airport shuttle pick up, and they'd gifted her with two free drink coupons as an apology for losing her box of Bondi Bands. Hyatt Hotels giving so many freebies on top of a senior discounted rate that was less than a Comfort Inn (which incidentally is practically next door to the Hyatt, the host hotel) made this a marathon we could count as one of our cheapest.

We rode the free train southerly to the waterside, taking in the naval and military park just in time to see two Memorial Day services. Where NYC has their Ship Intrepid, Buffalo has three ships plus aircraft plus numerous military memorials. It's said to be the largest park of its kind in the country and includes Erie Canal memorabilia as well as an Underground Railroad Interpretive Center. The weather was glorious and with a perfect temperature for touring and we walked back via Main Street where most of the architecturally significant buildings are, and lucked out with the guard of the Ellicott Building allowing us inside. This was the largest office building in the world for the 16 years after it opened in 1896 having been designed by the famous Chicago architect Daniel Burnham. He is known for saying "make no little plans, they have no magic to stir men's blood; think big" and BIG this still is. Italian Renaissance made of granite, iron and terra cotta with a veneer of pearl gray brick. The majestic interior courtyard contains a marble mosaic floor of 23 million pieces of Italian marble depicting sun symbols from civilizations around the world. There are broad stairs on both side and a glass roof in an ornamental steel frame in the center providing natural light. Though electricity was installed, it was said that lighting wasn't needed due to the donut shape design giving all offices natural light. You might have seen the lobby which was used for hotel scenes in the moving "The Natural" starring Robert Redford. I climbed



the 10 flights to stairs to look down and understand how the middle skylight would work. (My later thought, after a very slow healing time frame, suggested that climbing as well as the many miles after a marathon was not so wise.)

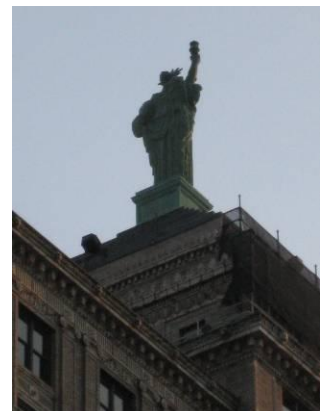
The day after – part 2

Returning to our hotel at noon, the tourist time was slight for Maricar but she was happy to have engaged in what I called a “Bondi Weekend” and felt she had enough touring. We’d been on their commuter train, walked the Naval Museum (NYC has the Intrepid – Buffalo has three ships), and witnessed a couple Memorial Day ceremonies and a gun salute. By 1:30pm I was out again though alone, walking until after 6pm to fully consume the Buffalo self-guided walking tour. I saw some sights again but even those learning more about. Buffalo has a cell phone audio guide. Surprisingly I got into many of these closed buildings (Memorial Day) by just asking the guard.

- Market Arcade, also called Palace Arcade, was modeled after the Burlington Arcade in London and the Gallery Umberto in Naples. It is considered the frontrunner of contemporary malls and was featured at the 1893 World’s Fair in Chicago (also known as the White City or Pan American Exposition.) Its terra cotta designed arches including a huge bison head over the arched doorway is memorable and fortunately a recent \$10 million renovation brought it to life again. It’s on the edge of the Theatre District and houses the visitor’s center (which oddly is closed for the weekend.)
- Across from Key Center with its Ice Rink that turns into a reflecting pond in the summer, is Fountain Plaza. It sits across one street from our Hyatt Hotel and the other street with the old Buffalo Savings Bank, now called M&T Center. Its gold dome is a highlight of the city, with a backdrop of the old GE Building. From this 1912 tower designed after the Pharaoh’s lighthouse in Alexandria Egypt, Buffalo’s New Year’s Eve ball drops with firework display something like NYC’s Times Square.



- The Genesee Building was built in 1923 and known for its distinctive copper roof and then in 1980s the Hyatt Hotels purchased and restored it. Part of the addition covered up the Genesee Street but fortunately they left the majestic marble doorway of the old building inside the contemporary green glass atrium. The top floor green glass atrium will soon open with a refurbished pool.
- Lafayette Square was laid out in 1804 by Ellicott who first developed the street plan for Buffalo. It was on this square in 1825 that 30,000 people gathered to watch the last public hanging in Buffalo. Ellicott would be disappointed to see all the homeless bums sitting on the statuary. I would like to see it when season starts next weekend with free concerts.
- Lafayette Hotel to the side of the Square was designed by the first female architect in the U.S. It like many other historic hotels of Buffalo is now converted into office buildings, but the 1904 architecture exterior remains. It was considered to be one of the 15 finest hotels in the U.S. and was the first hotel to have both running water and a central vacuuming system in each room. It housed Presidents Taft, Wilson, Hoover and Roosevelt (presumably on the days he took over from assassinated McKinley.)
- The Liberty Building is surely the Liberty Ladies favorite as it holds twin Liberty Ladies of 36 feet high, with torches of 6 ½ feet containing 1,000 watt light bulbs that are accessed through the 18 foot high, 4 foot wide stairway inside each arm. The statues sit on stepped pyramids with one



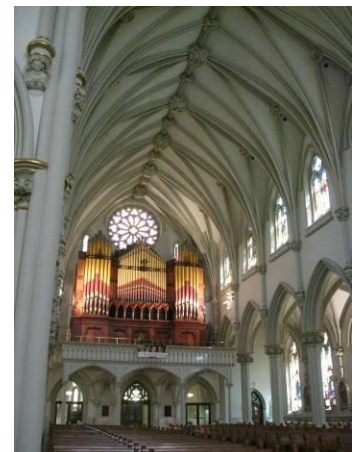


facing east and the other facing east representing the City's strategic location on the Great Lakes. The building was built in 1924 and operated as the German-American Bank until the anti-German World War I sentiments caused the name to change to the Liberty Building. There used to be three Liberty Ladies but I couldn't find any indication of where the third one went only that it had been over the Main Street entrance.

- Until I went into the M&T more modern building, I didn't realize how significant it is. It's new compared to other buildings in Downtown with a 1967 date, but it was designed by Yamasaki who designed the St. Louis

Airport, the IBM Tower in Seattle, and the World Trade Center Towers. The arched column design flows from outside to inside (where they wouldn't let me take pictures) and the open glass theme brings outside inside.

- St Paul's Episcopal Church by architect Richard Upjohn is thought to be his best work. It has a 270 foot tower and a 13th century style. In 1886 it was chosen as the Episcopal Cathedral for the Diocese of New York, a role it holds today. The chimes were installed mid 1800s and continue today. It too is a National Historic Landmark as much of Downtown is.
- In late 1800s James Knox Taylor (also US Treasury designer) designed this granite Flemish Gothic building as a government office. Once the US Postal Service took up residence, and then it remained empty. It looks more like a giant church but now the Erie Community College has taken up residence now that it's on the National Historic Places Register. It sits across the street from the stadium of the Buffalo Bison's who were playing as I toured and took pictures. Their Pettibones Grille took the 500-pound bronze doors from the original Buffalo Savings Bank Building. The scoreboard is 8 stories tall. Next door is the HSBC 40-story office center with one of the tallest buildings of Buffalo, and the HSBC Arena as home to the NHL Buffalo Sabres (hockey), Buffalo Bandits (lacrosse) and Buffalo Destroyers (football). These buildings are all in the Cobblestone Historic District where we'd walked in the morning and whose streets and buildings date from the mid-19th century.
- The Dun Building seems to stand narrow and alone until I walked around it and realized its odd shape is actually larger than first appears. It was built in 1894 and after the man who would found Dun & Bradstreet. Unique are the entrances and windows with a round and deep window with egg and dart molding.
- Across the street is the masterpiece Guaranty Building, now called the Prudential Building, but bold and magnificent and a sister to the Wainwright Building in St Louis where BIL Carl convinced me to visit. As are many of the buildings, this was designed by one of the biggies of all time, the famous Louis Sullivan (mentor to FLW) and dates to 1895. It has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1973. The building's 13-floor plan is unique in that each interior office is no more than 20 feet from a window.
- Katy corner is the St Joseph's Cathedral built in 1851 and it currently serves as the mother church of the Catholic diocese of Buffalo. I wish they would take care of the city's homeless. I sat in their park and had a picnic lunch and read about the vast expanse of interior space, the verticality, painted arches, ribbed vaulting, clerestory lighting, numerous windows and clustered piers. I learned that their Bishop had visited King Ludwig I of Bavaria and convinced the King to donate some of his windows to the new Cathedral, which windows won first prize in the Munich Exposition of 1850. I read about the famous pipe organ which won first prize at the 1876 Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia and which has had a million dollar renovation recently. Little did I expect that the door would be open and I'd be able to walk through what looked like a new cathedral from a movie set.



- The Old City Hall looks like a Victorian Gothic church. It is from 1871 with a clock tower that stands out in the Downtown. It was here in 1901 that President Theodore Roosevelt greeted 150,000 mourners who came to pay their respects to assassinated President William McKinley.



- There is a tunnel of tears underground built for the trial of the assassinator and it's still in use today to protect prisoners with the more recent famous ones being the Attica Prison rioters.
- The old Titor Title Building is the oldest standing building in Downtown and it was on my way to the next stop, the City Hall. I'd toured City Hall my first afternoon, before Maricar arrived, including going to the Observation Tower on the 28th floor and following around a private tour guide and trying to be unobtrusive. This City Hall is also on the National Register of Historic Places as a premier example of Art Deco style popular in the 1920s. The 21 exterior friezes, massive pylon like 15-story wings, and great columns make this building a strong statement.

Mosaics abound inside including a huge amount of statuary. The 380-seat gallery with skylight fills the center.

- In front of City Hall, and laid out and built in 1804 is Niagara Square. Presidents as Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant have spoken at this square. The center monument was enlarged in 1906 as a tribute to President McKinley who was killed in Buffalo. The four marble lions at the base of the monument weigh 15 tons each.
- Almost facing City Hall is another used-to-be famous hotel of the Statler fame. It was built in 1923 and was the first in the world to feature a private bath in each room using the Statler plumbing shaft system, which has to do with back-to-back fixtures opening into a common shaft, but which revolutionized the design of hotels and office buildings. This was once the tallest building in the state outside of NYC and had more rooms than all other Buffalo hotels combined. It was sold to Hilton in 1954 and started turning into an office building in 1967 and now looks abandoned but is said to contain offices.
- YMCA Building just outside the Hyatt back door opened in 1903 and was considered to be one of the most elegant structures in the U.S. with its Greek revival columns and French Chateaux design. It's now offices, retail and a health club and oddly crowded in by the new convention center with only a very few feet between the modern building and the columns.
- Pearl and Chippewa Streets used to be the limits of Buffalo and more recently the red light district. It's now comically called the Entertainment District. It feeds into the Theatre District with the Shea's Buffalo, also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Shea's was considered the finest movie palace located between NYC and Chicago, with antique furnishings by Marshall Field and Tiffany. In 1999 a \$30 million renovation began with the final work yet to be completed. I wish they'd employ some of the City's homeless. There are numerous ancient looking theatres along the few blocks of Main Street.

The end of touring

The last afternoon being spent alone and the next day until 5pm took me back to many of the above buildings for a view inside. Some were compliments of a guided walking tour and some were again begging my way inside through security. I'd intended to visit the Teddy Roosevelt Inaugural National Site and walked a very long ways to do so only to find it closed until June. However, I left my footprints, embarrassingly, as I walked up to the front door and felt something sticky on my feet only to see my footprints behind me. I hurried off and then saw, around to the side, a notice of it being wet paint.

That walk however took me along the marathon route again and I was able to figure out what the huge mansion near to Allen Street was – "The Mansion" – a restored and historically significant Inn that looks worthy of checking out for another trip to Buffalo when tourist sites are open.

Would I recommend the Buffalo Marathon? We should have known better since www.marathonguide.com had slammed them over many organizational problems but my hope had been that they'd get these gripes fixed. They mostly did NOT and they even added a few problems. Buffalo the City is worth a visit, however not if the tourist office persists in starting tours the weekend after wards. I'd suggest checking on the Buffalo to Niagara Marathon in October.



What's next up?

I came home with sore legs yet left the next day for two days of NYC touring all of which put me out of commission for the weekend, costing me the cancelation of my long awaited Prospect Park/Brooklyn half marathon plus a Sunday hike. If overuse got me to that point, rest will heal me. Next weekend I'm off to Jamaica, home a day before heading to Lake Placid Marathon, home a couple days before heading to San Francisco and the first of two Yosemite hikes, and all that is before June is over. I'm still working on 2010 plans and look forward to some ideas of trips and they don't need to be marathons.

From Maricar to Marv:

Buffalo has some points. I will write them now so Diana can add it to the trip report. Glad you made out well. We would NEVER pull a Larry Macon. What's the point of going somewhere if you cannot see it for even a day or two? We swore not to do that.

1. sent out training shirt that was nice
2. technical shirt nice, but wrong sizes; the NB shirt promised never happened
3. volunteers DURING the race were amazing, but then they left early. But that's not their fault.
4. walk to start is two seconds from the Hyatt
5. easy to fly to and get to short shuttle ride
6. nice small expo for a small marathon (especially seeing Maricar working a booth)
7. good touristy area if the damn places were open
8. rich in history
9. thank God for spectators who set up own food and water station
10. nice local people, but too many bums and they weren't as nice as GA bums
11. had enough water and Gatorade
12. no Vaseline
13. ran out of food
14. free pasta party

We really hate how half marathoners are eating everything before we get there. We paid more, we should get our food. We're really getting sick of that.

But we had a great time. We even had Buffalo wings where they were invented.

Buffalo Itinerary

Fri May 22 Diana

11:59am Depart Newark via CO#3214

1:19pm Arrive Buffalo

Maricar

2:39pm Depart Newark via CO#2389

3:53pm Arrive Buffalo

Hotel Hyatt Regency Hotel
Two Fountain Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14202
Tele 716 856 1234 Fax 716 852 6157

Sat May 23

9am Marathon Expo will be held at the Hyatt Hotel to 4pm

10:30am Frank Lloyd Wright Martin House Complex tour by master docent Duane Churchill
125 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo 14214

4pm Pasta Dinner through 7:30pm at St. Anthony's Church Hall, 160 Court Street.
The meal is free to all registered runners.

Sun May 24

7:00am Marathon start – see www.buffalomarathon.com (half and relay start at same time)
Six hour cut off

Course (1) Fast, flat, and scenic, showcasing the beauty of Western New York's waterfront. Crossing two harbors and a nature preserve, it highlights some of our friendliest neighborhoods, finest architecture and famous Olmstead parks. Note if weather warm need to carry own water: Gatorade and water are only every 2 miles starting at 3 miles. Toilets available near the start, at the 10K and 20K marks and at the finish.

Award ceremony, food, beverage and music from 8:30am thru 3pm. Awards for the Half Marathon presented at 9:30am, and the Marathon presented at 11:30 am. The post-race party and awards ceremony will be held at the Buffalo Convention Center, next to the finish line.

Mon May 25 Maricar

4:25pm Depart Buffalo via CO#2402

5:52pm Arrive Newark

Tue May 26 Diana

6:48pm Depart Buffalo via CO#3208

8:30pm Arrive Newark

(1) ***The Marathon Course*** - changed four days prior due to unfinished construction

The Marathon begins on Pearl Street, north of Chippewa halfway between Chippewa and Tupper. Runners head south to W. Seneca St, turn right onto W. Seneca to Erie St., proceeds left onto Erie St., right on Lakefront Blvd., follow Lakefront to the end of the condos, make one complete counter clockwise loop of LaSalle Park and return to Lakefront, right onto Ojibwa Dr. to Waterfront Cir, right onto Lakefront Blvd., right onto Erie St., into Erie Basin Marina.

Take the Erie Basin Marina to the circle, counter clockwise around the circle and back onto Erie Blvd. to Marine Dr., right onto Marine Dr. to Hanover St., right onto Seymour Knox Plaza bearing left onto South Park Ave., right onto Michigan St, left onto Ohio St., bearing right onto Fuhrmann Blvd. crossing to the west side of Route 5 to Tifft St., left onto Tifft St., left onto Fuhrmann Blvd. staying on the bike path on the right side of Fuhrmann, continue on the bike path back to Ohio St. Ohio to Michigan Ave., right onto Michigan Ave., left onto South Park, bearing right onto Seymour Knox Plaza, left onto Hanover St. changing into Marine Dr, right onto Erie Blvd., continuing to Franklin St., turn left onto Franklin. Take Franklin to W. Eagle, turn right on W. Eagle St. to Pearl St., left onto Pearl to W. Huron St., left on W. Huron to Franklin St, right onto Franklin and continue north as it turns into Linwood Ave.

Continue on Linwood to W. Delavan Ave., left on W. Delavan to Delaware Ave. Turn right onto Delaware Ave. to Nottingham Terr., right on Nottingham to Meadow Dr., right on Meadow entering Delaware Park turning right on the Ring Road running counter-clockwise. Take Ring Road to the Jewett Ave exit. Turn right onto Jewett Ave, left onto Crescent Ave, right onto Amherst St, left onto Starin Ave, left onto Hertel Ave., left onto Wellington Ave, right onto Linden Ave, left onto Colvin Blvd to Amherst St. Cross Amherst St heading into Delaware Park to the park Ring Road. Turn right onto Ring Road.

Proceed counter-clockwise on Ring Road to the Meadow Road exit. Exiting the park, turn left onto Middlesex Dr. to Elmwood Ave. Turn left, running south on Elmwood to Iroquois Dr. Turn left on Iroquois Dr. and proceed one block to Lincoln Pkwy. Turn right on Lincoln and head south to Soldiers Circle. Run on the right side of the roundabout, counter clockwise to the right portion of Bidwell.

Proceed on Bidwell to Colonial Circle, running counter clockwise around Colonial Circle to Richmond Ave. Take Richmond south to North St., turning left on North staying to the left of Symphony Cir. Thake North to Delaware Ave. Turn right on Delaware and proceed south, counter-clockwise around Niagara Square onto Court St. Take Court one block to Franklin, left on Franklin heading north. The marathon finishes on Franklin just before Mohawk in front of the Buffalo Convention Center.

From www.marathonguide.com – expect some doozies coming up!

☆☆☆☆☆ **Poor Registration and No Shirt** (about: 2008)

Course: 3 Organization: 1 Fans: 3

Curtis Rushing from Toronto (9/25/08)

11-50 previous marathons | 2 Buffalo Marathons

Just wanted to echo the comments of several others. I too arrived at the race (after pre-registering well in advance) to be told that the t-shirts were all gone. My number was taken and I was told it would be mailed. I've still got no shirt, and several attempts to contact people haven't helped. Sounds petty, but part of the marathon experience for me is getting a shirt. I will not be running Buffalo again.

☆☆☆☆☆ **Bad organization - NO RESPONSE to email** (about: 2008)

Course: 4 Organization: 1 Fans: 2

Ann Onymous from Rochester, NY (7/18/08)

2 previous marathons | 2 Buffalo Marathons

Half marathon is a nicely flat course but through a decayed area of Buffalo - easy to get a good finish time.

BUT... I had a very similar experience to MM's from below, with the exception that at the expo, I was promised a shirt by mail - which I have yet to receive. I too have sent two e-mails to the race director, politely asking for my shirt - with ZERO RESPONSE... not even the courtesy of a "sorry." At the expo, they (the lady volunteers) offered and took my race number and added it to a list that had quite a few other numbers on it for post-race mailing of shirts. That was after they tried to sell me on taking a medium because they "ran large." I tried it on and that wasn't so. I was there to pick up my shirt and bag (which I did receive - you didn't miss much except for spaghetti dinner discount coupon). Well, before the end of the expo on Saturday. I tried to be courteous in signing up ahead, knowing that helps in planning shirts, etc. I signed up for a large shirt; to me, this is an implied contract - I sign up ahead AND PAY MONEY and I get a race and a large shirt (unless I show up last-minute). A t-shirt is not that big a deal (well, on second thought it is - I trained long and hard all winter for this race; it would be nice to have something to show for it, like the women in my group who got shirts). How this has been handled is an issue reflective of the race management - poor.

And while I'm on my soap box.... Maybe have a few more than the dozen or so porta-johns for the 2,300 racers at the start area - I've not seen as much public urination in my life (well maybe except for the Boilermaker in Utica - but that doesn't start in a downtown city area).

I tried to drive as much of the course as possible the night before... good luck to me. The course directions were filled with omissions, errors and mixed up sentences - kind of like the website, which had old information from the year before stating this was a new course this year (2008).

I too saw several people run into the posts (at the end of the harbor condo area) designed to keep cars off the park paths. Fortunately, I was familiar with them from the year before.

☆☆☆☆☆ **1st marathon... next one will be somewhere else!** (about: 2008)

Course: 2 Organization: 2 Fans: 3

M. F. from Buffalo, NY (7/14/08)

1 previous marathon | 1 Buffalo Marathon

While this was my first marathon, I've run other, shorter races... so it's not like I have no reference at all.

Having the course go over a 3-foot wide footpath within the first 2 miles (which doubles back and is also about the 3.5-mile mark) is about the dumbest thing EVER!!! You know what's harder than having over a thousand people "racing" in such a small area? Having them going two directions in that small area! Also, the course either closed earlier than advertised, or they opened it up to traffic earlier than advertised.

My other major gripe is that volunteers quit early. I'm slow (4:30 marathon time), but there were still people behind me. When I finished, I drank a Gatorade, grabbed an apple, and walked back to the 26-mile mark to wait to cheer for my nephew. By the time I got back there (conservatively the 4:45 mark), there was NO volunteer directing racers for the last turn to the finish line!!!! (For those who ran, it would be the right turn OFF the roundabout right at the end.) Being the nice guy I am, I stood there and directed racers. Because no one else was there, and the volunteer ditched, I stayed there well after my nephew had finished (and did not get to actually SEE him finish!!! THAT SUCKS!!!)

Spectators were great... there just was not an abundance of them.

I had no issue with picking up my shirt and goody bag (the day before the race), and I could care less about the expo and/or post-race

party.

★★★★☆ **No Shirt, No Goody-Bag, No Award** (about: 2008)

Course: 3 Organization: 3 Fans: 3

M. M. from Rochester, NY (7/8/08)

11-50 previous marathons | 3 Buffalo Marathons

Pre-registered a month before the race. At packet pickup was told they ran out of shirts. No shirt, and couldn't get goody-bag. My wife finished 3rd in her age group in the 13.1-mile race, and 6 weeks later, still no award. Emailed race director twice, but no reply.

★★★★★ **Flat, pleasant variety, historical, friendly** (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 4 Fans: 4

J. J. from Ithaca, NY (6/25/08)

11-50 previous marathons | 1 Buffalo Marathon

I lived in Buffalo for a month in 1984 and have been to the area numerous times. A century ago it was once one of the greatest, richest cities in the US. No more, but remnants of this are all around apparent - if you (know where to) look. The city is now relatively dead - industrially for sure, and downtown on the weekend is a ghost town! It's sad.

The course goes through a good variety of neighborhoods: changes in ambiance, lots of great architecture, and in much the first half, along the waterfront. Course is flat - the approach to the bridge by the Cheerios plant is about the greatest altitude change. Fortunately, that comes in the first half. :-) Footing is mostly good. Logistics were as easy as it gets; no stress. And lots of friendly people - running, accompanying, volunteering/helping out. Kudos!

I had a wonderful experience (can't you tell?). Met and conversed with many friendly people. Despite running about 25 minutes slow, I was feeling mostly good about being there. I was towards the front as well, so I didn't have some of the problems others write of, but then, my expectations or demands were different. For example, I did not attend the post-race party and had no food - I brought my own food (anyway). But I can see that a good marathon SHOULD really have a variety of tasty, wholesome calories near the finish line, and a more festive atmosphere is hard to replicate on a city street. The Hartford, Connecticut marathon is better in that respect - the food for sure, in my experience.

I had no problem with race registration the day before or with directions during the race. Course was well marked.

Buffalo, the city of light, city of no illusions: I had a great day, even if I couldn't say that for my performance. But that's a good sign, eh?

★★★★☆ **very pleased** (about: 2008)

Course: 4 Organization: 4 Fans: 4

Justin Zink from Freedom, New York (6/9/08)

4-5 previous marathons | 4-5 Buffalo Marathons

I'm not sure why everyone is complaining. This was my fourth time running Buffalo, and I am happy. Granted, I broke the four-hour mark. I did not have a problem getting my blanket at the end, and as for food, I was in no mood. Also, the other runners are always so talkative and supportive - who needs spectators? (Although, I am a person who runs for myself and not to get the praise of others, so I might be a little more uninterested in crowd size than other people.) In conclusion, it may not be perfect, but hey, what in this world is? And there are not many other places with volunteers who are so willing to jump in front of vehicles to stop them from going out on the course.

★★★★☆ **CHIPPAWHAT THE HECK????** (about: 2008)

Course: 3 Organization: 2 Fans: 1

B. F. from PA/USA (6/4/08)

3 previous marathons | 1 Buffalo Marathon

My first time running the Buffalo Marathon, and it will also be the last. Very disappointed at the lack of fitness expo (one boardroom in the hotel). What a joke. I finished in 3:56 and did not get a mylar cape because they were gone!?!? Around 500 people came in after me and there was nothing to offer these people (post-race meal was a joke). The only positive comment I have was the location of the host hotel to the start and finish areas. They make for easy an transition for spectators and runners. This race did not live up to its website's billing. Stay away!!!!

★★★★☆ **Disappointed with 4th Buffalo Marathon** (about: 2008)

Course: 2 Organization: 2 Fans: 3

B. B. from Finger Lakes (5/31/08)

6-10 previous marathons | 4-5 Buffalo Marathons

Last year I was very happy with the course change. The one thing that sucked last year was the congestion as the two races came together and 2,000 people tried to navigate a 3-foot wide park path. I had hoped they would stagger the starts for the two races, but this year was even worse with more people running. The wheelchair participants were so far ahead they were trying to go in the opposite direction on this narrow piece of asphalt. This is not a great idea. Once again I saw someone run directly into the unmarked posts (designed to keep cars out) at the path end. Other than the very rough road surface in many areas (and the congestion) the course was ok. Packet pickup was a joke. I was there 90 minutes before the race and they were out of large men's shirts? And on top of that I got NO bag? The ladies behind the counter were rude and had no clue what was going on or any explanation as to why we'd not get a packet. I know they are volunteers but was anyone there that was running the thing? It didn't seem like it. I convinced 4 other runners from my area to go with me and run the Buffalo Marathon because it was flat and fast. They were very disappointed and now joke that the Buffalo Marathon was a BM. I have to agree and will not be back. Cheaper isn't always better.

★★★★★ **1st half marathon** (about: 2008)

Course: 4 Organization: 5 Fans: 5

Mara Schlereth from Buffalo, NY (5/30/08)

1 previous marathon | 1 Buffalo Marathon

I just want to say that this was a great course for a first-timer like me. I had not only a wonderful support (my boyfriend), but the support of the people who came out early Sunday morning to watch us. I fulfilled my two goals, which was great (1st: to get to the finish line; 2nd: to hit my predicted time of 2:30). I will agree that the 1st few miles were congested but I ran quicker than I wanted and bumped up my time for the last part of the course because I ended up walk/jogging in the end from fatigue. The drink stations were great, but a bit congested (ran into a few people and had to apologize while taking off). All in all, I thought that this event went well and that I would definitely run again next year (maybe a full). Hope to run with a lot of you again next year!

★★★★☆ **Fast course... NO FRILLS** (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 1 Fans: 2

t. g. from Canandaigua ny (5/29/08)

3 previous marathons

The course was quite nice - very flat, a nice mix of park trails (paved) and city streets, old neighborhoods and pretty lake views. Got to the race over an hour before the start. NO T-shirts, yet I had registered 60 days prior. They said they would mail the shirt, but they refused to give goody bags to anyone not getting a shirt. I tried to follow up today, but there was is no listed way of contacting the director. Fast course, but I would never run it again.

From: Buffalo Tours <info@BuffaloTours.org>

Date: Sat, 16 May 2009 11:26:45 -0400

Thank you for writing. Our tour season does not kick in until after Memorial Day, but our free cell phone tours are still available. You can ask the front desk of the Hyatt for a Buffalo Tours brochure or find them at the Visitor Center, one block away at 617 Main Street. This self-guided audio tour can also be downloaded here and put on a CD or MP3 player.

While downtown, I would also recommend seeing the Erie Canal Harbor. You can take the train for free from the Hyatt to the Erie Canal Harbor station. There is also a Naval Park there with a number of ships and a museum.

I hope that helps--have a great visit!

Fred Schrock
Education Coordinator
BuffaloTours.org

PreservationBuffaloNiagara.org
617 Main Street, Suite M108
Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: (716) 852-3300
Fax: (716) 852-5340

www.buffaloolmstedparks.org

Frederick Law Olmsted believed parks were places where city dwellers could enjoy scenery designed to “refresh and delight the eye, and through the eye, the mind and spirit.”

This philosophy inspired Buffalo’s park and parkway system—a wealth of cultural gems that sparkle in virtually every neighborhood. In Buffalo, Olmsted created the first of its kind—an interconnected park system that is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Frederick Law Olmsted is America's first and greatest landscape architect. He once said, "A park is a work of art, designed to produce certain effects upon the minds of men." His system of parks and parkways in Buffalo is historic because it is the first of its kind in the nation and represents one of his largest bodies of work. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the System consists of six major parks, their connecting parkways and circles, and several smaller spaces. Today, it comprises 75% of the city's parkland.

In the late 1800s, visionary citizens brought Olmsted to Buffalo. It was here that Olmsted, inspired by Joseph Ellicott's radial street layout, designed his first system of parks and parkways, and proclaimed Buffalo to be "the best designed city in the country, if not the world." During the 1901 Pan American Exposition, Buffalo was celebrated not only as the City of Light, but the City of Trees.

Urban Value

As early as the 1850's, Olmsted justified the purchase of land for New York City's Central Park by noting that the rising value of adjacent properties would produce enough new tax revenue to pay for the investment. By 1864, Olmsted documented a net return of \$55,880 in additional annual tax revenues. Just think of the potential economic development opportunities for Western New York with a revitalized Buffalo Olmsted Park System!

As recent studies at Yale University have found, urban nature areas have proven to reduce societal stress, moderate temperatures, purify air, prevent soil erosion and protect water sources. This is in addition to neighborhood connection, improved quality of life and increased property values for park community residents.

Today, cities across America are discovering what Buffalo knew a century ago - quality urban parks and greenways are vital to a city's quality of life and to its economic success. The Buffalo Olmsted Park System creates a unique urban landscape that integrates the city, providing common ground and connectivity among the neighborhoods.

New Ground

In 2004, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy entered a groundbreaking partnership with the City of Buffalo, Erie County and the Community that made the Conservancy the official stewards of the Buffalo Olmsted Park System, overseeing its management, operations and maintenance. The Conservancy is the first not-for-profit in the nation to manage a park system. Through the development of a 20-year Management and Restoration plan with guidance of its community-based Advisory Council, the Conservancy's experienced and professional staff is now revolutionizing the way common ground is cared for in Buffalo.

Revolutionary Results

In a plan modeled after Central Park Conservancy's highly successful Zone Management System, the Conservancy has broken the entire Olmsted Park System into a series of 10-50 acre zones. A seasonal zone gardener is assigned to every

zone. Each zone gardener is responsible for everything within the assigned area, from trash pick up to bench repair; from working with volunteers to plantings. This revolutionary urban parks management plan brings accountability and pride in ownership to the parks. Public feedback and participation is key to its success.

Building Success

Keeping its activities mission-focused and community-based is the key to the Conservancy's success. Success has brought strength. In 2000 the Conservancy defended Front Park and Porter Avenue from an encroaching transportation project. In 2003, it successfully advocated that the Scajaquada Expressway be replaced with a calmer, more beautiful parkway. In 2004, it explained the value of implementing a revolutionary urban parks management plan that is now in place. Victories like these that improve both parks and neighborhoods have empowered the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy to become an important advocate for Western New York.

Park System

In 1868, Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner, Calvert Vaux were invited to Buffalo, NY to design the first system of parks and inter-connecting parkways. See the Olmsted Park & Parkway System in Buffalo.

From www.olmsted.org – National Association of Olmsted Parks

Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. - Landscape architect, author, conservationist (1822-1903)

Education and Early Interests

Frederick Law Olmsted was born in Hartford, Connecticut, a member of the eighth generation of his family to live in that city. His mother died when he was four, and from the age of seven he received his schooling mostly from ministers in outlying towns, with whom he lived. His father, a successful dry-goods merchant, was a lover of scenery, and much of Olmsted's vacation time was spent with his family on "tours in search of the picturesque" through northern New England and upstate New York. As he was about to enter Yale College in 1837, Olmsted suffered severe sumac poisoning, which weakened his eyes and kept him from the usual course of studies.

He spent the next twenty years gathering experiences and skills from a variety of endeavors that he eventually utilized in creating the profession of landscape architecture. He worked in a New York dry-goods store and took a year-long voyage in the China Trade. He studied surveying and engineering, chemistry, and scientific farming, and ran a farm on Staten Island from 1848 to 1855.

In 1850 he and two friends took a six-month walking tour of Europe and the British Isles, during which he saw numerous parks and private estates, as well as scenic countryside.

In 1852 he published his first book, *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England*. That December he began the first of two journeys through the slaveholding south as a reporter for the *New York Times*.

Between 1856 and 1860 he published three volumes of travel accounts and social analysis of the South. During this period he used his literary activities to oppose the westward expansion of slavery and to argue for the abolition of slavery by the southern states.

From 1855 to 1857 he was partner in a publishing firm and managing editor of *Putnam's Monthly Magazine*, a leading journal of literature and political commentary. He spent six months of this time living in London with considerable travel on the Continent, and in the process visited many public parks.

Olmsted's Political Values

Thus it was that by the time he began work as a landscape architect, Olmsted had developed a set of social and political values that gave special purpose to his design work. From his New England heritage he drew a belief in community and the importance of public institutions of culture and education. His southern travels and friendship with exiled participants in the failed German revolutions of 1848 convinced him of the need for the United States to demonstrate the superiority of republican government and free labor. A series of influences, beginning with his father and supplemented by reading such British writers on landscape art as Uvedale Price, Humphry Repton, William Gilpin, William Shenstone, and John Ruskin convinced him of the importance of aesthetic sensibility as a means of moving American society away from frontier barbarism and toward what he considered a civilized condition. To learn more about his southern travels and research on the institution of slavery, [click here](#).

Olmsted's Later Work

In the fall of 1857, Olmsted's literary connections enabled him to secure the position of superintendent of Central Park in New York City. The following March, he and Calvert Vaux won the design competition for the park. During the next seven years he was primarily an administrator in charge of major undertakings: first (1859-1861) as architect-in-chief of Central Park, in charge of construction of the park; then (1861-1863) as director of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, charged with overseeing the health and camp sanitation of all the volunteer soldiers of the Union Army and with creating a national system of medical supply for those troops; and finally (1863-1865) as manager of the Mariposa Estate, a vast gold-mining complex in California.

In 1865, Olmsted returned to New York to join Vaux in completing their work on Central Park and designing Prospect Park in Brooklyn. Over the next thirty years, ending with his retirement in 1895, Olmsted created examples of the many kinds of designs by which the profession of landscape architecture (a term he and Vaux first used) could improve the quality of life in America. These included the large urban park, devoted primarily to the experience of scenery and designed so as to counteract the artificiality of the city and the stress of urban life; the "parkway," a wide urban greenway carrying several different modes of transportation (most important a smooth-surfaced drive reserved for private carriages) which connected parks and extended the benefits of public green space throughout the city; the park system, offering a wide range of public recreation facilities for all residents in a city; the scenic reservation, protecting areas of special scenic beauty from destruction and commercial exploitation; the residential suburb, separating place of work from place of residence and devoted to creating a sense of community and a setting for domestic life; the grounds of the private residence, where gardening could develop both the aesthetic awareness and the individuality of its occupants, and containing numerous "attractive open-air apartments" that permitted household activities to be moved outdoors; the campuses of residential institutions, where a domestic scale for the buildings would provide a training ground for civilized life; and the grounds of government buildings, where the function of the buildings would be made more efficient and their dignity of appearance increase by careful planning. In each of these categories, Olmsted developed a distinctive design approach that showed the comprehensiveness of his vision, his uniqueness of conception that he brought to each commission, and the imagination with which he dealt with even the smallest details.

Principal Projects

His principal projects in each category are:

Scenic reservations. Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove (1865) and Niagara Reservation (1887).

Major urban parks. Central Park (1858); Prospect Park (1866); Delaware Park, Buffalo (1869); South Park (later Washington and Jackson Parks and Midway Plaisance), Chicago (1871); Belle Isle, Detroit

(1881); Mount Royal, Montreal (1877); Franklin Park, Boston (1885); Genesee Valley Park, Rochester, New York (1890); Cherokee Park, Louisville (1891). Also notable were Riverside Park (1875) and Morningside Park (1873 and 1887) in New York and Fort Greene Park (1868) in Brooklyn. In smaller cities, Walnut Hill Park in New Britain, Connecticut (1870); South (now Kennedy) Park in Fall River, Massachusetts (1871); Beardsley Park in Bridgeport, Connecticut (1884); Downing Park in Newburgh, New York (1887), and Cadwalader Park, Trenton, New Jersey (1891).

Parkways. Eastern and Ocean parkways, Brooklyn (1868); Humboldt and Lincoln, Bidwell and Chapin Parkways, Buffalo (1870); Drexel Boulevard and Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago (1871); the "Emerald Necklace" (1881 on), Beacon Street, and Commonwealth Avenue extension (1886) in Boston; and Southern Parkway, Louisville (1892).

Park systems. Buffalo-Delaware Park, The Front, The Parade, South Park and Cazenovia Park, and connecting parkways. Boston-the "Emerald Necklace": Charlesbank, Back Bay Fens, Riverway, Leverett Park, Jamaica Pond, Arnold Arboretum, Franklin Park, and Marine Park, and connecting parkways. Rochester-Genesee Valley, Highland, and Seneca Parks and several city squares. Louisville-Shawnee, Cherokee, and Iroquois Parks, Southern Parkways and several small city parks and squares.

Residential Communities. Riverside, Illinois (1869); Sudbrook, Maryland (1889); Druid Hills, Atlanta (1893).

Residential campuses. Stanford University (1886); Lawrenceville School (1884); Buffalo State Hospital for the Insane (1875); Hartford Retreat (1860); Bloomingdale Asylum, White Plains, New York (1892).

Government buildings. U.S. Capitol grounds and terraces (1874); Connecticut State House (1878).

Country Estates. Olmsted designed a number of large estates, and with some of these he introduced projects with public significance, particularly scientific forestry and arboretums. The outstanding examples are Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, and Moraine Farm in Beverly, Massachusetts.

Throughout his career, Olmsted emphasized the importance of collaboration with professionals in other disciplines - especially engineers, horticulturists, and architects. A prime example of such collaboration was Olmsted's role as site planner of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. He worked cordially with the eastern architects of the buildings on the formal Court of Honor while creating profuse naturalistic plantings on the Wooded Island and the shores of the lagoons, the setting for the more informal structures of Chicago architects.

Purposes of Landscape Architecture

Olmsted believed that it was the purpose of his art to affect the emotions. This was especially evident in his park design, where he created passages of scenery in which the visitor would become immersed, experiencing the restorative action of the landscape by what Olmsted termed an "unconscious" process. To achieve this result, he subordinated all elements of the design to the single purpose of making the landscape experience most profound. Olmsted always sought to look beyond current taste and fashion and to base his designs on fundamental principles of human psychology. In particular, he drew from the analysis of earlier British theorists of naturalistic landscape and their emphasis on the special qualities of "pastoral" and "picturesque" scenery. The epitome of pastoral landscape was the English deer park, with its sense of extended space and its gracefully modulated ground and smooth, close-cropped turf. This style he found to be a special antidote to the ill effects of urban life. The "picturesque" style he applied to steep and broken terrain,

planting thickly with a variety of ground covers, shrubs, vines, and creepers in order to achieve an effect of bounteousness, profusion, and mystery. His own most intense experience of this effect was on the Isthmus of Panama during his passage to California in 1863. Both styles shared the quality of indefiniteness, of lack of individual objects for specific examination.

As Olmsted expressed it, the term "scenery" does not apply to any field of vision in which all that is to be seen is clear and well defined in outline. It must contain either "considerable complexity of light and shadow near the eye, or obscurity of detail further away." These qualities were essential for the unconscious action of scenery on the psyche. They were also a crucial element of his designs as a training ground for aesthetic sensibility. The quality of "delicacy," which involved variety, intricacy, and fine gradation of texture, tint, and tone, was fundamental to Olmsted's artistic and civilizing purpose. The final test of civilization, he taught, was this delicacy, shown by "the willingness of the people to expend study and labor with reference to delicate distinctions in matters of form and color."

Landscapes and Climate

Although the scenery Olmsted most loved required considerable rainfall to achieve its effect, he recognized that most of the United States possessed a different climate. Accordingly, he set out to develop a separate and distinct landscape style for the South, while in the semiarid west he saw the necessity of a new water-conserving regional style. He laid the basis for this approach with a half dozen projects in the San Francisco Bay area and in Colorado, most visibly on the campus of Stanford University.

Olmsted carefully trained a handful of talented young men to carry on his design principles, but only his stepson, John C. Olmsted, lived to serve this role. Both Henry S. Codman and Charles Eliot, his students and then his partners, died before him.

More than 500 Commissions

During his career, Olmsted and his firm carried out some 500 commissions. They included 100 public parks and recreation grounds, 200 private estates, 50 residential communities and subdivision and campus design for 40 academic institutions. Olmsted was a prolific author, despite the difficulty he experienced in expressing his ideas in writing. Six thousand letters and reports that he wrote during his landscape architecture career have survived, dealing with 300 design commissions. Several times he paid for the publication and public distribution of important reports. The full list of his publications, including letters describing his southern journeys and various documents published by the U.S. Sanitary Commission, contains more than 300 items.

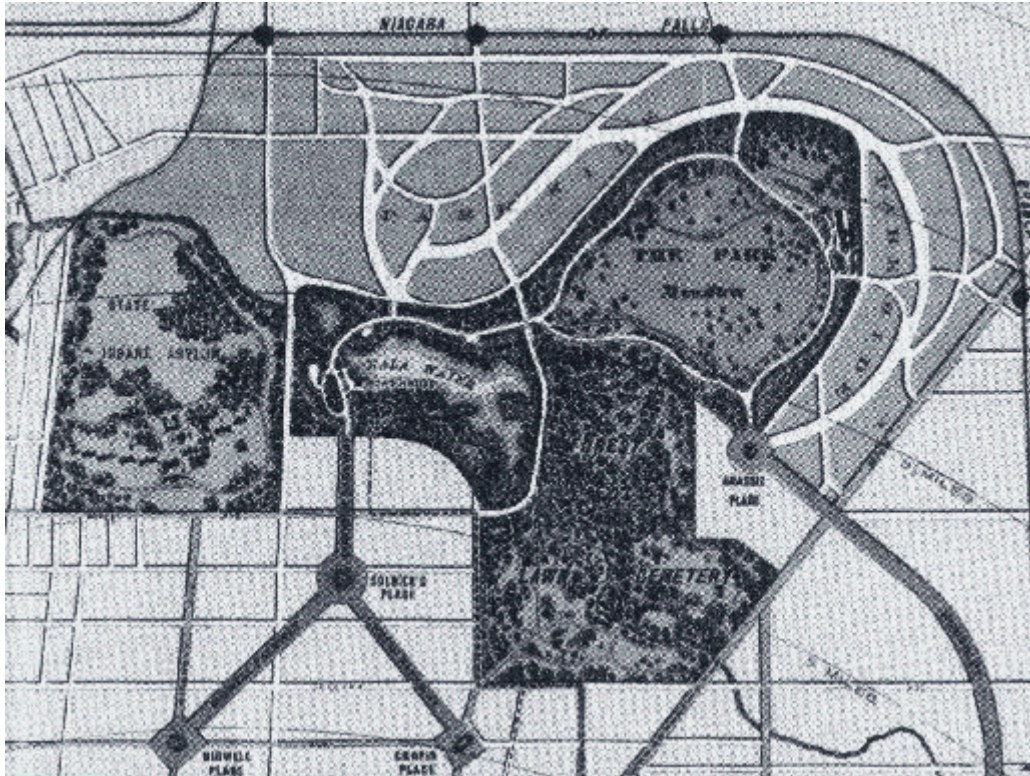
From a brochure on DC's design on www.olmsted.org site:

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) was the leading landscape architect of the post-Civil War era and principal founder of the profession of landscape architecture in America. His remarkable design legacy includes Central Park and Prospect Park in New York, Boston's "Emerald Necklace", Biltmore Estate in Asheville, Mount Royal in Montreal, and Washington Park, Jackson Park and the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. For each project, Olmsted developed a comprehensive vision, working with professionals in architecture, horticulture and engineering. This multi-disciplined master planning approach was well ahead of its time. Olmsted's social and political values played an important role in the U.S. Capitol project. He believed that parks can bring social improvement by promoting a greater sense of community and providing recreational opportunities, especially in urban environments. He felt strongly about the nurturing, restorative value of landscape to people's health.

See www.olmstedinbuffalo.org:

Buffalo, New York is the home to America's oldest coordinated system of public parks and parkways, designed by the renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903), in concert with his partner Calvert Vaux and other subsequent partners.

Olmsted's pioneering design for Buffalo consisted of three public grounds: a very large park featuring a naturalistic landscape; a public ceremonial space; and a military drill ground, all of which were connected by broad "parkways" which excluded all commercial traffic and extended the park experience throughout the city. Olmsted began his work in Buffalo in 1868, and continued to design public grounds for the rapidly expanding city's Board of Park Commissioners during the remainder of his career. After Olmsted's retirement due to ill health in 1895, his firm continued a relationship with Buffalo through 1915, when the city's form of government was altered and its independent Park Commission dissolved.



The Park - 1876.

Today the majority of Olmsted's designs in Buffalo are substantially intact and represent one of the largest bodies of work by the master landscape architect. The Olmsted designed portions of the Buffalo park system are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The original components of the system are:

- **Parks:**
 - The Park (now Delaware Park)
 - The Front (now Front Park)
 - The Parade (redesigned by Olmsted as Humboldt Park in 1896, now Martin Luther King, Jr. Park)
- **Park Approaches:**
 - **Parkways:**
 - Humboldt Parkway (lost)
 - Lincoln Parkway
 - Chapin Parkway

- Bidwell Parkway
- The Avenue (now Richmond Avenue)
- Porter Avenue
- Fillmore Avenue (partially completed, opened to commercial use in 1906)
- **Circles:**
 - The Circle (now Symphony Circle)
 - Soldier's Place (now Soldier's Circle)
 - Bidwell Place (now Colonial Circle)
 - Chapin Place (now Gates Circle, central portion redesigned in 1902 by Green & Wicks)
 - Agassiz Place (now Agassiz Circle, heavily modified with the center island lost)
 - Ferry Street Circle (at Richmond Avenue)

Attractions:

Amusements

Arcade and Attica Railroad 278 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 24009, Arcade, 716-496-9877, Remember America's past and enjoy a 90 minute coach excursion train ride through Western New York on the last original steam engine in New York. Call for information on mystery dinner tours. more...

Kavinoky Theatre, The 320 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201, 716-881-7668, This beautiful restored Victorian theatre is an attraction in itself. They also thrill audiences with fantastic productions in the fall.

Martin's Fantasy Island 2400 Grand Island Boulevard, Buffalo, NY 14072, 716-773-7591, Enjoy family fun and excitement at this 80 acre theme park with over 100 rides, shows and attractions including a water park. more...

Six Flags at Darien Lake 9993 Allegheny Road, Buffalo, NY 14040, Darien Center, 716-599-4641, This theme park is full of over 100 rides, shows and attractions including Superman Ride of Steel, one of the tallest coasters in the northeast, a water park and kiddie park. The park also features a hotel and performing arts center. more...

UB Center for the Arts 103 Center for the Arts, Buffalo, NY 14260, 716-831-3742, This performing arts venue is known for offering a wide variety of entertainment.

Historic Homes & Buildings

Buffalo City Hall 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, NY 14202, 716-851-4200, This Art deco masterpiece features an observation deck on 25th floor. The building is on the National Historic Register. more...

Cobblestone Museum Complex 14393 Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14411, Childs, 716-589-9013, With seven historic buildings featuring cobblestone masonry from the 1800's, this complex has a school, church, parsonage and blacksmith shop.

Darwin D. Martin House Complex (circa 1905) 125 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14201, 716-856-3858, A National Historic Landmark in the historic Parkside district of Buffalo, the Darwin D. Martin Prairie-style House was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The Martin House, thought to be one of Wright's finest residential works, is available for tours. more...

Graycliff Estate (circa 1927) 6472 Old Lake Shore Road, Buffalo, NY 14047, Located 20 Minutes South of Downtown Buffalo, 716-947-9217, "Known as the "Jewel of the Lake," Graycliff was the Martin family summer estate that was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this complex situated on a bluff overlooking Lake Erie includes three buildings and gardens. more...

Jell-O Gallery Historic LeRoy House (circa 1822) 23 East Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14482, LeRoy, 716-768-7433, This house features an interactive exhibit that traces the history of America's Most Famous Dessert. The house has three floors open to the public featuring an open hearth kitchen. more...

Millard Fillmore House 24 Shearer Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216, 716-652-8875, Built by President Millard Fillmore, this house contains furnishings and artifacts connected with Millard Fillmore's life.

Old Fort Niagara Youngstown, 716-745-7611, Explore original pre-Revolutionary stone building, ancient fortifications, exhibits, demonstrations and living history. more...

QRS Music Rolls 1026 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14213, 716-885-4600, This large manufacturer of player piano rolls, founded in 1900, has tours available. more...

Roycroft Campus 31 South Grove Street, Buffalo, NY 14052, 716-652-333, Elbert Hubbard and his Roycroft Renaissance continue to blossom in East Aurora. It has been a national historic landmark since 1986, the Roycroft campus features nine public buildings including the Roycroft Inn and gift shops.

Historic Sites & Monuments

Allentown Historic Preservation District Allen Street, Buffalo, NY 14202, 716-881-1024, This bustling area is a must for visitors. See the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site, Victorian homes, antiques, art galleries, shops and restaurants.

Forest Lawn Cemetery 1411 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209, 716-885-1600, This cemetery hosts the graves of President Millard Fillmore, famous Indians and unique grave markings. more...

National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima 1023 Swann Road, Buffalo, NY 14092, Lewiston, 716-754-7489, This lush outdoor shrine of 35 acres, has more than 125 life size statues of saints, Dome Basilica of Glass, one of our country's largest rosaries, one of Western New York's largest religious articles store and a cafeteria. more...

Our Lady of Victory Basilica & National Shrine 767 Ridge Rd, Buffalo, NY 14218, 716-828-9444, Stands as a tangible symbol to one man's faith in God, Father Nelson H Baker, who is now a candidate for sainthood. more...

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Site 641 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202, 716-884-0095, Visit this historic house museum, it is the site of Theodore Roosevelt's 1901 inauguration. more...

Libraries & Research Centers

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203, 716-858-8900, This library houses more than three million books. The Mark Twain Room features a rare book collection, Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" manuscript and other memorabilia. more...

Museums & Galleries

Albright - Knox Art Gallery 1285 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222, 716-882-8700, Internationally renowned paintings and sculptures of the 20th century are housed at this gallery. more...

Amherst Museum 3755 Tonawanda Creek Road, Buffalo, NY 14228, 716-689-1440, Experience 19th century life on the Niagara Frontier. Tour an historic home, churches and one room schoolhouses. more...

Anderson Gallery of the St University of Buffalo Martha Jackson Place, Buffalo, NY 14214, 716-834-2579, The gallery houses an extensive collection of contemporary paintings, sculptures and graphics from World War II to the present.

Aurora Historical Museum 5 South Grove Street, Buffalo, NY 14127, 716-652-3280, this museum contains the complete history of the town. Exhibits are presented in sequence through Rix Jennings' murals and Aurora Historical Society collections.

Buffalo Arts Studio 2495 Main Street, Suite 500, Buffalo, NY 14214, 716-833-4450, Buffalo Arts Studio exhibits regional, national, international in ten solo exhibits and two group exhibitions each year. Educational programs and public art help BAS serve the community, while subsidized studios and workshops for artists ensure the growth of regional artists. more...

Buffalo Fire Historical Museum 1850 William Street, Buffalo, NY 14206, 716-892-8400, Look into the heroic past of Buffalo's fire fighting. Antique equipment and displays portray the dangers faced by firefighters dating from volunteer days.

Buffalo/Erie County Historical Society Museum 25 Nottingham Court, Buffalo, NY 14216, 716-873-9644, View the many permanent displays and frequently changing exhibits which explore local industrial and cultural history.

Buffalo/Erie County Naval and Military Park 1 Naval Park Cove, Buffalo, NY 14202, 716-847-1773, Visit this museum of military history that houses various historical ships and much more. more...

Burchfield - Penney Art Center 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222, Buffalo State College, 716-878-6011, A variety of 20th century American water colors are featured at this art gallery. more...

CEPA Gallery 617 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202, 716-856-2717, Photograph, video and film exhibits are available for viewing at this popular cultural center. more...

Elbert Hubbard-Roycroft Museum 363 Oakwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214, 716-352-4735, Roycroft bungalow was built in 1910 and today contains a collection of Roycroft artifacts.

Explore & More, A Children's Museum 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, NY 14052, 716-655-5131, This unique museum encourages children to touch as they experiment, discover, play and learn. more...

Herschel Carousel Factory Museum 180 Thompson Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120, 716-693-1885, This fantastic and magical museum features carousel carving exhibits, and operational 1916 and 1948 Kiddy Carousels. more...

Holland Land Office Museum 131 West Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14020, Batavia, 716-343-4727, Housed in the 1815 land office used by the Holland Land Company, this museum focuses on Genesee County's rich and diverse history and the Holland Company.

Iron Island Museum 998 Lovejoy Street, Buffalo, NY 14206, 716-892-3084, Railroad items, neighborhood memorabilia, NY Central Terminal Gallery, eclectic mix and school pictures are housed at this unusual and interesting museum. more...

Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum 453 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201, 716-885-4139, Buffalo is one of seven US cities to house a Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum. The museum's comprehensive collection is the largest of its kind in the world. more...

Niagara County Aquarium of Niagara 701 Whirlpool Street, Buffalo, NY 14301, Niagara Falls, 716-285-3575, Californian sea lions, piranha, river otters are many of the 1,500 aquatic animals on exhibit.

Original American Kazoo Company 8703 South Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14057, 716-992-3960, This is the only metal kazoo manufacturer in the world and is now operating as a working factory and museum. more...

Pedaling History Bicycle Museum 3943 North Buffalo Road, Buffalo, NY 14127, 716-662-3853, As the largest bicycle museum in the world, this museum exhibits a complete history of the innovation, invention and development of man's first personal mechanical transportation. more...

Pierce Arrow Museum 263 Michigan Street, Buffalo, NY 14203, 716-853-0084, Automobile enthusiasts love this exhibition of Buffalo and Western New York made automobiles, motorcycles, carriages, etc. Includes cars from 1903 Mid 60's, muscle cars, Pierce Arrows, Thomas Flyers, etc.

Steel Plant Museum 560 Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14621, at Lackawanna Public Library, 716-823-0630, A tribute to Western New York steelworkers and Buffalo's former largest steel plant, this museum contains photos, artifacts and displays of local steel industry related memorabilia. more...

Toy Town Museum 636 Girard Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14052, 716-687-5151, Toys through the Twentieth Century are exhibited at this unique museum. See 100 years of the actual toys, games, stuffed animals, music and literature-enjoyed by generations of children. more...

Parks, Gardens & Zoos

Artpark Foot of South Fort Street, Buffalo, NY 14301, Lewiston, 716-754-9000, 800-659-7275, This 200 acre New York State park for visual and performing arts. Summer theatre, park arts and crafts programs, fishing and hiking are available. more...

Beaver Meadow Audubon Center 1610 Welch Road, Buffalo, NY 14113, North Java, 716-457-3228, 800-377-1520, This 324 acre wildlife refuge is complete with 8 miles of hiking trails, newly expanded visitory center houses live animals and interpretive displays. Guided tours are available by reservation. more...

Buffalo Zoological Gardens 300 Parkside Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214, 716-837-3900, More than 23 acres of natural settings, exotic and doemestic animals make up the zoo and garden. more...

Buffalo/Erie County Botanical Gardens 2655 South Park, Buffalo, NY 14218, Visitors love this beautiful garden with its Victorian conservatory, greenhouse, exotic plants and flower events. more...

Cave of the Winds, Goat Island Park Niagara Falls, 716-278-1730, Venture down a series of wooden walkways leading to Bridal Veil Falls, where you will be only an arm's length away from the thundering water.

Dr. Victor Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve 77 Honorine Dr, Buffalo, NY 14043, 716-851-7201, Get back to nature with this 90-minute guided nature walk describing the history and general ecology of the 289-acre preserve.

Tift Nature Preserve 1200 Fuhrmann Boulevard, Buffalo, NY 14203, 716-896-5200, Natural beauty abounds at this 264 acre preserve, marsh, lake, ponds and nature trails.

Science & Technology

Buffalo Museum of Science 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14214, 716-896-5200, The Buffalo Museum of Science features various permanent and temporary exhibits covering millions of years of science and natural history. more...

Naigara Aerospace Museum 6929 Williams Road, Buffalo, NY 14304, Summit Park Mall in Niagara Falls, 716-297-4148, Explore the exciting aerospace heritage of Western New York. more...

New York Power Authority Power Project Visitors Cn 5777 Lewiston Road, Buffalo, NY 14092, Lewiston, 716-286-6660, An interactive center, this building features exhibits explaining the operation of Niagara Power Project and Electricity. more...

Penn Dixie Paleontological & Outdoor Education Ctr North Street, Buffalo, NY 14201, 716-627-4560, A 32 acre regional fossil site operated by the Hamburg Natural History Society, this site features a collection of 380 million year old fossils.

Tours & Cruises

Buffalo News 1 News Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14240, 716-849-3477, Tour all departments of Buffalo's news by appointment.

Grand Lady Cruises 100 Whitehaven Road, Buffalo, NY 14072, 716-774-8519, Cruise the Niagara River and Lake Erie with Grand Lady Cruises while enjoying an upscale lunch, brunch or dinner. more...

Know How Tours 1127 Wehrle Drive, Buffalo, NY 14221, 716-626-9694, Know How Tours offers the largest selection of one day motorcoach tours in Buffalo, NY and the surrounding area. Their wide variety of tours, for adults and children of all ages, travel throughout NY State, PA, Ohio and Canada. Enjoy theater, concerts, wine tasting, boat cruises, train trips, sightseeing, soft adventure, baseball games, festivals and many other unique sites without the hassles of driving. They also offer a variety of multi-day motorcoach tours, and can also assist you with your individual or group travel needs. more...

Maid of the Mist Boat Tour 151 Buffalo Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14303, Niagara Falls, 716-284-5446, A breathtaking 30 minute seasonal boat ride up close to one of the Wonders of the World. Pass by the base of the American Falls and into the ring of the Horseshoe Falls. more...

Miss Buffalo/Niagara Clipper Cruise Boats 79 Marine Drive, Buffalo, NY 14202, 716-856-6696, 888-625-4509, Enjoy sightseeing lunch and dinner cruises. more...

Buffalo City Tours, 617 Main Street, 716 852 3300

<http://www.buffalotours.org/walkingtours.html>

Unless noted, tours are 90 min.-2 hrs. long and cost \$10

Queen City Downtown

Our beautiful downtown landmarks provide a stunning backdrop for Buffalo's most important stories, including the Erie Canal, several Presidents, master architects like Sullivan, Burnham, Upjohn, and Green, and the "Best Designed City" designation by Frederick Law Olmsted. The Guaranty Building, St. Paul's, and the Ellicott Square Building are as magnificent on the inside as on the outside. See these stories come alive.

Winter—We take the Inside Downtown route, with more interior spaces.

Tuesdays all year (starting in May) at 2pm

July and August: Every weekday at 10am

Meet at the Visitor Center, 617 Main Street; \$10 (Map)

Queen City Saturdays

June-October at 2pm

On Saturdays, meet at the Erie Canal Harbor next to the Naval & Military Park Store; \$10 (Map)

City Hall

Learn all about this Art Deco masterpiece—inside & out. Get the best view in Buffalo from the Observation Deck.

Weekdays year 'round (except holidays)

12:00 Noon – 1:00 pm

Meet in the City Hall lobby; FREE (Map)

Inside the Central Terminal

Featured on the TV show Ghost Hunters, the Art Deco Central Terminal evokes poignant memories of departure and reunion ... and dismay over its deterioration under various owners. Since 1997, the nonprofit Central Terminal Restoration Corporation has arrested deterioration, restored the tower clock, conducted regular clean-ups and sponsored well-attended events in this magnificent structure. See the results and hear about future plans.

Sundays May 31, July 26, Aug 9, Sept 20 at 11am

Meet at 495 Paderewski Drive (take Broadway to Memorial Drive); \$10 (Map)

August 13, 2004

JOURNEYS; 36 Hours | Buffalo

By BARBARA IRELAND

PROSPERING where East Coast canal boats and railroads met Great Lakes cargo, Buffalo was a rich city around 1900, a time when a dynamic group of innovators was transforming American architecture. Wealth and vision came together in major works by Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, H. H. Richardson, Frederick Law Olmsted, Eliel and Eero Saarinen, and more -- arrayed amid blocks of Victorian houses and lavish mansions. When industry collapsed, a shaken and considerably poorer Buffalo slowly realized it had a legacy. Now Buffalonians are working to preserve their architectural collection and are eager to show it off. The time to visit is summer, when Buffalo gets a glorious payback for its snowy winters with some of the best weather in the nation -- three months of mostly sunny, dry days with temperatures in the high 70's and low 80's. BARBARA IRELAND

Friday

6 p.m.

1) On the Waterfront

Join joggers and sailors at Erie Basin Marina (329 Erie Street), a popular park. Climb the small observation tower for a picturesque 360-degree view of grain elevators (a Buffalo invention) on the placid Buffalo River, an 1833 lighthouse, and the final expanse of Lake Erie as it narrows to become the Niagara River. The trees a couple of miles across the water are in Canada -- British troops came across to burn Buffalo to the ground in the War of 1812, but all is now forgiven. To the north, the current picks up on the way to Niagara Falls, 15 miles downstream.

7 p.m.

2) The Mansion District

Drive north on Delaware Avenue, where one landmark, a towering red sandstone church at the corner of West Tupper Street, is being restored by Ani DiFranco to become the headquarters of her Righteous Babe Records. At another, the Greek-revival Wilcox Mansion (641 Delaware Avenue), Theodore Roosevelt took the presidential oath in 1901 after an anarchist ruined Buffalo's much-vaunted Pan American Exposition by assassinating William McKinley on the exposition's grounds. Dozens of grand mansions remain on this avenue, but others fell to 20th-century ideas of progress. When the elegant Metcalfe House was demolished in 1980, the Metropolitan Museum of Art acquired part of its Stanford White-designed interior and reassembled it in New York. Delaware Avenue got a parking lot. Relax over dinner at Hutch's (1375 Delaware Avenue, 716-885-0074), a cozy bistro that draws a cheerful crowd. The oysters with mignonette sauce (\$12) are cool and crisp, and seafood is a strong contender for the entree, too: specials one recent Friday included a crisply sauteed soft-shell crab and thick, meaty tuna in a sesame-seed crust (both \$24.95). Linger for berries and whipped cream in an almond cookie cup (\$5.95).

Saturday

10 a.m.

3) Walk and Gawk

Take a downtown stroll among 19th-century masterpieces, beginning with the big star, Louis Sullivan's 1895 Guaranty Building (28 Church Street), 13 stories of intricately molded terra cotta enclosing a steel skeleton and expressing a complex philosophy about manmade and natural forms. Nearby, beyond the stone towers and stained glass of Richard Upjohn's St. Paul's Cathedral (Church and Pearl Streets), 128 terra cotta Medusa heads peer out from the roof-line perimeter of Daniel Burnham's elaborately decorated Ellicott Square Building (295 Main Street). The ornate Gothic Revival Erie Community College (Ellicott and South Division Streets), was built as the main post office in the late 1890's, when the city's friends included Grover Cleveland, a former mayor of Buffalo and, briefly, the town hangman. Advance to Art Deco at City Hall (65 Niagara Square), a 32-story tour de force with symbolic friezes and a colorful, tiled dome. The obelisk in the traffic circle out front is Buffalo's apology to McKinley.

Noon

4) The Temple of Wings

Naturally, the best Buffalo chicken wings are in Buffalo. Stop at the Anchor Bar (Main and North Streets, 716-886-8920), where their fame began, for a plate of the spicy originals and the tale of their creation by a resourceful cook.

1 p.m.

5) Browsing

Artists and funky window designers give a lighthearted touch to shops and galleries on Elmwood Avenue from West Ferry Street to Bidwell Parkway. Browse through luminous bracelets and flutes handmade in Cameroon at Plum Pudding (No. 779, 716-881-9748), or pick up pottery or an Albert Einstein action figure at Positively Main Street (No. 773, 716-882-5858). Talking Leaves (No. 951, 716-884-9524) is a well-stocked independent bookstore adjoining a shop with good coffee and pastries. For views of substantial Victorian houses, wander east off Elmwood onto the side streets.

3 p.m.

6) Wright in Progress

Frank Lloyd Wright shocked a neighborhood of sedate three-story houses in 1905 with his aggressively modern Darwin Martin House complex (125 Jewett Parkway): a sprawling 15,000-square-foot Prairie-style house, two smaller houses, a conservatory, stables, gardens and a 100-foot-long pergola. Martin, a businessman and a patron of Wright (their sizable correspondence is now at the University at Buffalo), absorbed outrageous cost overruns to give the master a free hand with cantilevered roofs, Roman brick and art-glass windows (left). The complex, now publicly owned, is undergoing a \$23 million restoration, expected to be finished in 2007. Even with the Wright-designed furniture in storage and plumbers roaming the house, the one-hour-fifteen-minute tour is fascinating -- a view of architecture as art and of an eccentric genius who demanded oddities like art-glass windows three-quarters of an inch wide but balked at giving Mrs. Martin a closet. (Tour schedules vary, reservations are essential; 716-856-3858; darwinmartinhouse.org.).

8 p.m.

7) A Plate and a Glass

Rue Franklin (341 Franklin Street, 716-852-4416), whose reputation as Buffalo's best restaurant is rarely challenged, not only serves French food and wines, but takes a French-style August vacation. During its hiatus (to Sept. 8 this year), try Oliver's (2095 Delaware Avenue, 716-877-9662). A generally predictable favorite since 1936, it is adventurous enough to use truffled honey with its roast free-range chicken (\$24).

Sunday

10 a.m.

8) Drive-by Masterpieces

Take a quick driving tour past more unmissable architecture. At the 1940 Kleinhans Music Hall (370 Pennsylvania Street), the Saarinen's married upswept lines and near-perfect acoustics. (Its carefully shaped wooden interior walls were "as warm as the wood in my violin," Isaac Stern once told an audience there.) Green and lovely Chapin and Lincoln Parkways are main streets in the best-preserved part of Olmsted's parks system, begun in 1868 and encompassing six city parks connected by miles of divided parkways and landscaped traffic circles. Just off Lincoln at 629 Bird Avenue is another of Buffalo's six houses by Wright. Nearby at 400 Forest Avenue, look behind a graceful screen of trees (another Olmsted landscape) for the majestic, spooky towers of the abandoned Buffalo State Hospital, one of H. H. Richardson's earliest and largest Romanesque designs. Saving it is the preservationists' next big challenge.

11 a.m.

9) Quiche and Caryatids

At the Garden Restaurant in the Albright-Knox Art Gallery (1285 Elmwood Avenue, 716-270-8223), take a table in the sculpture garden for a relaxed and civilized buffet brunch (\$12.50) with dishes like fresh blackberries, baked salmon and artichoke quiche. In a quick visit to the gallery itself, concentrate on the 20th-century art. Seymour H. Knox, a Buffalo banker whose father and cousin founded the F. W. Woolworth chain, was an early patron of Abstract Expressionists like Willem de Kooning, Mark Rothko and, especially, Clyfford Still. He collected contemporary art for decades, giving the gallery more than 700 works. Andy Warhol's portrait of Knox hangs near his renditions of beef noodle soup cans and Marilyn Monroe (716-882-8700; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; admission \$8 for adults, children 13 and under free). Outside, gaze out from the gallery's back porch, supported by caryatids sculptured by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, at the placid lake in Delaware Park, Olmsted's crown jewel.

THE BASICS

Visiting Buffalo

Buffalo is at the confluence of Lake Erie and the Niagara River, 400 miles northwest of New York City and 100 miles southwest of Toronto. Buffalo Niagara International Airport is served by several major airlines.

The Mansion (414 Delaware Avenue, 716-886-3300), a luxurious hotel in an elegant oversized house built in 1869, with preserved architectural and interior details, has 28 rooms from \$150 to \$250, butler service included.

The Hyatt Regency Buffalo (2 Fountain Plaza, 716-856-1234) is built in and around a 1923 downtown office building, with part of the original marble and iron facade preserved in the lobby. Its 394 rooms and suites are \$140 to \$345.

The Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown Buffalo (220 Delaware Avenue, 716-855-2223) opened in 2001 in a converted 84-year-old brick office building, preserving arched stonework on the facade. Its 137 rooms and suites start at \$119.

Photos (Photographs by Dan Cappellazzo for The New York Times); (Photo by Natasha Perkel for The New York Times) Map of New York highlighting Buffalo.

By **RICHARD B. WOODWARD**

In 1902, when Frank Lloyd Wright met Darwin D. Martin to discuss possible commissions, the 34-year-old Chicago architect knew he had a big fish on the line. As secretary of Buffalo, N.Y.-based Larkin Co., a leading soap manufacturer in its day, Martin was among the highest-paid executives in the country. Wright's early clients tended to be progressive industrialists with thick wallets. Martin, a self-made millionaire by the age of 38, fit the mold.

The two men quickly became friends and formed a partnership that had lasting benefits for American architecture. Wright's work in Buffalo ranks with his finest. The compound he designed for the Martin family between 1903 and 1905 represents one of the crests of his Prairie Style; and his Larkin Administration Building, completed in 1906, is often called the most forward-looking office plan of its time.

Martin House by Frank Lloyd Wright.



It was the senseless demolition of that landmark in 1950 that helped to fuel the movement in this decade to preserve the earlier Martin houses, which had deteriorated rapidly after Darwin's death in 1935. The public-private group behind the renovation, now in its last phase, has raised \$40 million and seeks a final \$7 million to finish the task. They aim to fill the rooms of the main house with Wright furniture and carpets, landscape the 1¼-acre lot, and replace the more than 400 pieces of art glass originally in the windows and skylights.

The opening in March of a \$5 million, 7,775-square-foot visitor pavilion by Toshiko Mori underscores the seriousness of the effort. Standing parallel to the pergola that connects the Martin main house and the former carriage house (now a gift shop), it has triple-glazed floor-to-ceiling windows and serves as a visual and historical platform for studying Wright's ambitious scheme. A deft piece of architecture in itself, Ms. Mori's design neither overshadows nor grovels. The slender steel columns at the corners of the building and the gently upturned white roof act as counterpoint to the interior structural piers and hipped top to the Martin house -- in effect, turning two elements of Wright's blueprint inside out and upside down.

Wright had to prove himself suitable both to Darwin Martin and his wife, Isabelle, who never let go of her suspicions that the dashing young architect was fleecing her husband. Darwin owned a corner lot on Summit Avenue and Jewett Parkway in the prosperous Buffalo neighborhood of Parkside. Wright's first assignment was to design a small house, budgeted at \$4,000, for Darwin's sister and brother-in-law, Delta and George Barton. As the Martins lived a few hundred yards farther down Summit, they kept watch on construction.

Only after completing the Barton assignment to Darwin's satisfaction was Wright given permission to expand his outline for the lot to include a new house for the Martins, with a pergola joining it to a conservatory and carriage house, along with a separate gardener's cottage. When all the structures were erected, and their 32,000 square feet filled with Wright's furnishings and the yard landscaped according to his specifications, the cost had risen to some \$175,000, an ungodly sum at a time when constructing a single home in Buffalo cost about \$7,000. Perhaps as a safeguard, Wright began with the outer buildings, saving much of the lavishness and the biggest bills for the main house. At that point, he must have guessed, Martin would be loath to fire him. Where would he live?

The visitor pavilion by Toshiko Mori.





From photographs in the visitor's center -- even in this unfinished state, the Martin house receives about 3,500 visitors a year -- Wright's audacity is clear, even if he is sending mixed aesthetic signals. The trim and furnishings that he devised (his barrel chair was first built for this house) were often carved from exotic woods, harking back to the arts-and-crafts tradition. The stained glass in an abstract pattern of cascading wisteria was equally sumptuous and installed in bathrooms as well as closets.

The outside tells a different story. The broad, stacked, jutting horizontal roof lines and the cruciform axes of the buildings -- few visitors can resist photographing the tunnel view down the pergola -- take American domestic architecture into the future.

The first floor of the main house has the easy flow between rooms, and between inside and outside, that distinguishes the Prairie Style, albeit with more interior light than in some other examples, such as Robie House in Chicago and Westcott House in Springfield, Ohio. Subtle touches can be found everywhere: the moldings for the library and living room are a classical quotation. But they also rhyme with the notches formed by layers of brick in the piers outside the windows.

Wright was no less attentive about shelter for the staff. The chauffeur's quarters above the carriage house are spacious and warm; and the gardener's cottage, with a side entrance that lets visitors see directly into the kitchen, conveys homeyness like no other space on the property.

Apart from the Martin complex and the Larkin building, Darwin commissioned 10 other designs from Wright, including Graycliff, the Martins' summer house along Lake Erie, and a stepped cemetery plot for the family that Darwin Martin nicknamed the Blue-Sky Mausoleum because of its projected cost. When he was wiped out by the 1929 stock market crash -- worth \$2.5 million in 1928, he claimed he could not afford by 1932 to pay \$6 for Wright's autobiography -- the plan went unrealized until 2004, after funds were raised by the owner of the cemetery.

Darwin's death in 1935 after a series of strokes did not stop Wright from hustling Isabelle for work. With his typical sensitivity, he sent her a condolence note that after some high-flown sentiments about her late husband mentioned a plaster model "around here somewhere" of the cemetery design "in which D.D. was interested."

The sudden financial reverses of the Martin family don't fully explain how their complex was allowed to tumble into ruins. Abandoned soon after his death in 1935, it stood vacant and unheated for 16 years. Vandals feasted on the contents. Even though Wright's reputation declined among avant-garde taste makers in the 1930s and '40s, why no one for decades found the means or motive to protect one of his early masterworks is a puzzle.

The restoration of the Martin complex should help bring students of architecture back to Buffalo, which once contended with Chicago, New York and Detroit as a modernist outpost. Plans have been floated to use part of a \$76 million federal grant to reopen H.H. Richardson's massive hospital complex from the 1870-90s as an orientation center for all the cultural sites the city has to offer.

With a park system by Frederick Law Olmsted, Louis Sullivan's Guaranty Building, a concert hall by Eero Saarinen, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the new Burchfield-Penny Art Center, Buffalo's citizens already have a lot to be proud of. Now, like every other city in America, all they need is a lot of money.

Mr. Woodward is an arts writer living in New York.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: batzrunner@aol.com

To: dianab@juno.com

Date: Tue, 02 Jun 2009 09:31:14 -0400

Subject: Re: Buffalo trip notes

Diana,

Thanks for sharing your experience with Buffalo. Folks will ask the typical questions of "What race was your favorite?" (Boston, where Steve and i met) and "What's your least favorite" and i always answer Buffalo. It's the only race i could say that i would never do again. It's also one of the only races that i've posted negative comments on marathonguide.com. i was following gu packets and cups to find the course. The folks who marked the turns on the course left early and didn't leave their signs telling where to turn. They also didn't mark anything on the ground to help runners find the way. They said that the city wouldn't let them paint the ground. Guess they never heard about using flour.

Best of luck in your next adventures.

Thanks,
paula

(wife of 50 states president who I meet in Delaware '07 when she ran her 200th marathon.)