

NEW TREES

The City of Albany was able to plant the following trees with WPC's support:

- Weeping Serbian Spruce (*picea omorika*) and Weeping White Pine (*pinus strobus*, 'pendula') were planted in the garden beds west of King fountain to replace lost shrub screening.
- Lilacs (*syringa vulgaris*, *syringa*-'James McFarlane') and small Magnolias (*magnolia stellata*) were planted in groupings east of the Lakehouse and amphitheater to improve "Lilac Way."
- Maples (*acer rubrum*-'autumn blaze') were planted around lake border to replace losses; a Sweetgum (*liquidambar styraciflua*) found a home across from the Henry Johnson monument; and a Swamp White Oak (*quercus bicolor*) was planted between a couple of senior trees past prime in the Englewood section.
- Generous winning bidders at September Splendor donated two weeping white birches and a weeping willow that now graces the path along the lake west of Lakehouse.



DIG THEM UP!

Don't miss this year's tulip sale, traditionally held the weekend after the Tulip Festival! Come join WPC volunteers, together with City Gardener Jessica Morgan and her staff, to dig up the bulbs on Saturday, and then come back to help sell or purchase some of these beautiful bulbs on Sunday!



**P.O. BOX 1145
ALBANY, NY 12201
2015 OFFICERS**

William Brandow, President
John Pipkin, Vice President
Doug Ebersman, Treasurer
Eve Ryan, Secretary

DIRECTORS

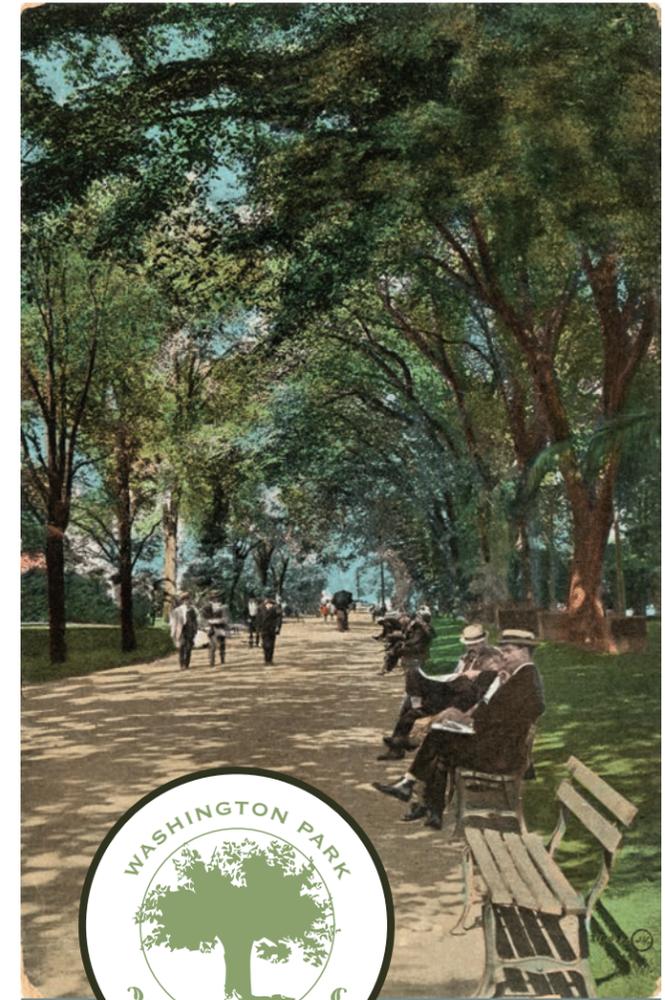
Wint Aldrich
Jeffrey Gordon
Chelle Jenkins
Marcia Kees
Erik Kulleseid
William Lemmon
Christine Miles
Marcia Moss
William O. Pettit III
Susan E. Pezzolla
Sam Shipherd
Tim Varney

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Andrea Lazarski
Charles Liddle
Herb Starr
Dennis Anderson

EX-OFFICIO

Jonathan Jones, Commissioner,
Dept of Recreation
Dan Mirabile, Commissioner,
Dept of General Services
Jessica Morgan, City Gardener
Tom Pfeiffer, City Forester
Nala Woodard, City Clerk
Lemo Young, Washington Park
Manager



DID YOU KNOW?

THE SWINGERS LOSE A CLOSE VOTE

In the nineteenth century, exactly what recreations would be allowed in the park on Sundays was an important matter: for many working people, Sunday was their only free day. In July of 1875, the Commissioners voted on whether their ever-popular patented swings could be used on the Sabbath. Despite votes from some recreation-minded commissioners, including Dudley Olcott of Ten Broeck Mansion and Daniel Manning (of Boulevard fame), the motion was defeated.



SEPTEMBER SPLENDOR

Our 2015 annual fundraiser brought in more money than any previous year! Guests bid on an eclectic selection of botanical and park-themed items, from plants to an antique croquet set to a tandem bicycle. Thanks to an amazing wine selection from Mark Brogna at Capital Wine, scrumptious food by BMT Management Group, and music from Swamp Baby, this party was once again a beautiful end to the Park's summer season. Come join us in September of 2016!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Your support will help the Conservancy restore, preserve, and maintain Washington Park for leisure, recreation, and the appreciation of nature for all of Albany's residents and visitors.

Please fill out and return the enclosed membership form so that you can continue to be involved.

AND PLEASE CONSIDER THE CONSERVANCY IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING.

Check out our Facebook page for the latest happenings while our website is renovated!

2016





SAVING THE ASH TREES

Thanks to the Conservancy's response and support of the Emerald Ash Borer control program – Davey Tree Expert Company treated 28 Ash trees (genus *fraxinus*) in the park. These trees occupy critical positions in Washington Park's landscape. The insect's rapid infestation of Albany trees has put a heavy burden on our urban tree population.



MEADOW & PLAYGROUND

WPC is working with the City of Albany to improve the playground and move it to its original location (slightly to the west and back), allowing for the restoration of the Meadow, an original park feature lost over the years, and for a play area where children can be more easily monitored. This year WPC will reapply for grants and, with the City, explore the re-creation of the rustic shelter.



DID YOU KNOW?

NOWHERE TO SIT

It's hard for us to envision just how crowded Washington Park was in its early years, when it was the only green recreational space within walking distance of many thousands of people. Writing of the summer of 1875, Park Superintendent William Egerton reported, in fine Victorian language, "One hundred and fifty additional Park settees were made and distributed during the summer. It at times seemed impracticable to meet the demand for seating facilities, as the walks on Sundays and on afternoons when music is furnished are so thronged that ... seats sufficient for those desiring them would demand a continuous line along the most frequented paths, thereby incommoding those who wished to walk."

SPRING LECTURE

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 6 PM
ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

Bill Simcoe, Deputy Water Commissioner, City of Albany

A discussion of the beautiful lake in Washington Park (created in the 1870s) flows into many fascinating historical facts and current issues in the city's water supply. This presentation will map the history of development along Beaver Creek, the growth of the combined sewer system, and current plans to mitigate flooding and sewer overflows using separation, green infrastructure, and Washington Park Lake.



THE COMPLETION OF THE BRIDGE RESTORATION

This year the iron bridge, the oldest structure in the park, was sand-blasted to bare steel and repainted, ending the most comprehensive restoration of the bridge in its 140-year history. After years of work—the repair of the stone abutments and installation of new light fixtures in 2013; the 2014 installation of new finials and replacement of missing elements; and the 2015 work on the steel structure and replacement of the wood deck—the bridge is restored to its original glory.

