

PLANTINGS 2016

Through the Conservancy's ongoing support and several generous donations the park benefited with the planting of 22 new trees and 17 shrubs! Plantings were throughout the park, but were increased in the area surrounding the formal gardens/fountain area. New specimens such as Dawn Redwood (*metasequoia glyptostoboides*), Weeping White Pine (*pinus strobus 'pendula'*), and Swiss Stone Pine (*pinus cembra*) will enhance the background of flower beds.

Unique items such as the Weeping Katsura (*cercidiphyllum japonicum pendula*), Paperbark Maple (*acer griseum*), and Golden Rain tree (*koelreuteria paniculata*) now add to the diversity of park plantings. The "Lilac Row" was augmented with Japanese tree lilac (*syringa reticulata*) and groupings of common lilac (*syringa vulgaris*).

Park visitors will be greeted with showy Catalpa trees (*catalpa speciosa*) at the Madison and Willett entrance and the approach to the playground opposite Sprague Place.

Tom Pfeiffer, Forester City Of Albany DGS



TULIPS!

2016's Tulip Dig drew lots of enthusiastic tulip lovers who endured long lines to dig up tulips from beds throughout the park. Don't miss this year's event, 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! Proceeds go towards new plantings in the park.



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ALBANY, NY 12201
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SEPTEMBER SPLENDOR

On a beautiful late summer evening, fans of Washington Park gathered for the Conservancy's biggest fundraiser, September Splendor. Local nurseries and tree services donated an impressive selection of perennials, annuals, and trees for the silent auction; these offerings were enhanced with a dizzying array of silent auction items ranging from tickets to Carnegie Hall, to certificates to local eateries, to original artwork by talented local artists. Thanks to an amazing wine selection from Mark Brogna at Capital Wine, delectable food by BMT Management Group, and elegant music by classical guitarist Zach Cohen, this party was once again a beautiful end to the Park's summer season. Come join us in September of 2017!

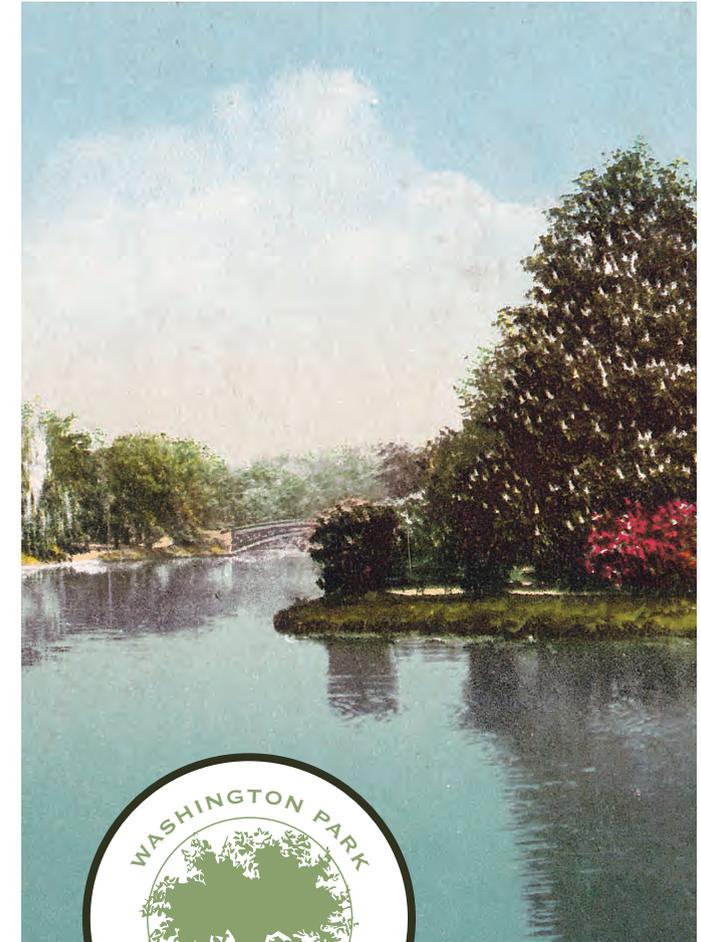
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

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!



2017



SPRING LECTURE

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 6-7 PM
ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

Fifty years ago, the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon, two of the nation's most beloved birds, were heading toward extinction. A small group of largely forgotten women scientists played a critical role in the two efforts that restored these birds to the wild, often under extremely hazardous conditions in isolated settings. These pioneers developed groundbreaking new approaches to this historic work.

In her book, author Darryl McGrath details the group's contributions to endangered species work with vivid anecdotes and stirring recollections by the unsung heroines of the state's raptor recovery projects. Following her lecture, McGrath will sign copies of her book *Flight Paths: A Field Journal of Hope, Heartbreak, and Miracles with New York's Bird People*.

FREE ADMISSION

FOLLOWED BY A PARK BIRD WALK
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 8 AM

Led by Tristan Lowery. Meet at Englewood & State Streets.

Co-sponsored with the Albany Institute of History and Art

PLAYGROUND EFFORT CONTINUES

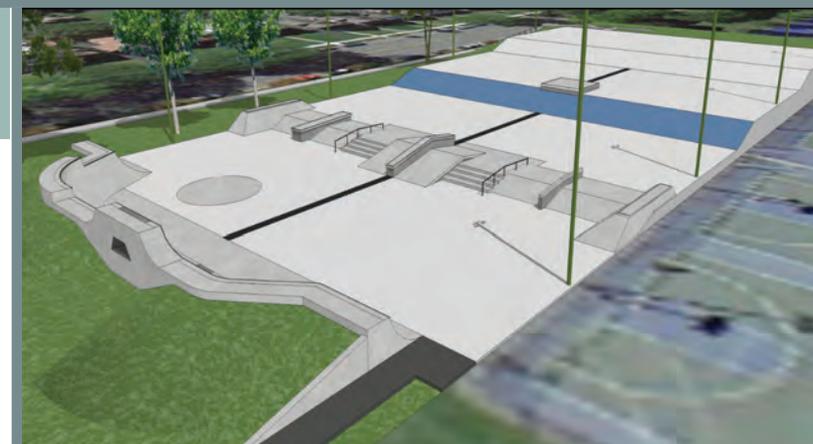
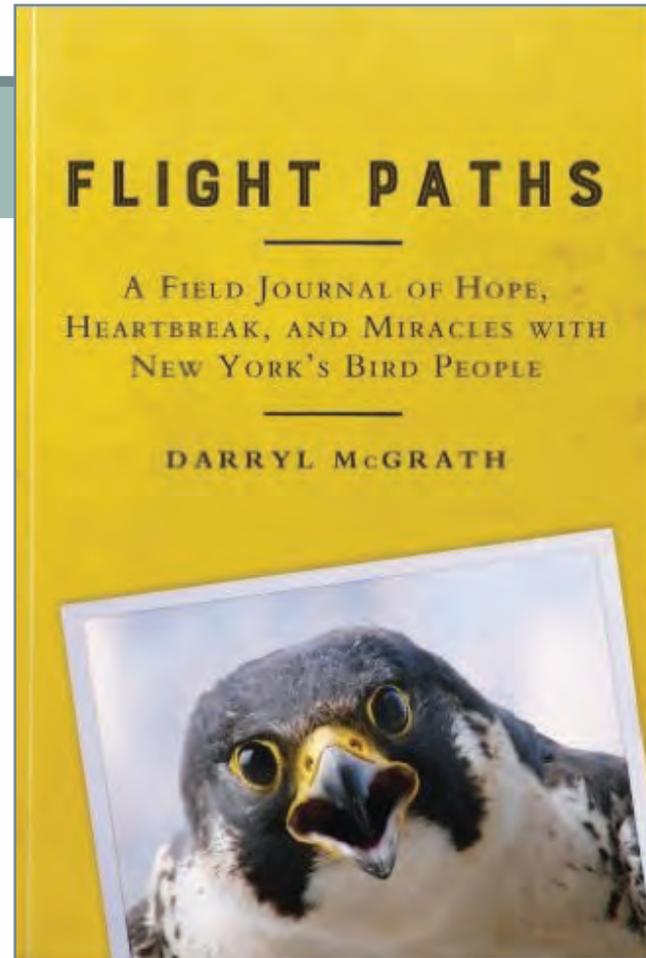
The Conservancy continues to support the relocation and replacement of the scattered playground equipment in the meadow on the north side of the park. For the second year in a row, the Conservancy applied for \$115,000 in state matching funds to help underwrite the \$150,000 cost of purchasing and installing new equipment in a smaller footprint that will be convenient for parents and caregivers. We were disappointed that the grant was not awarded, but are grateful to the many neighborhood groups that supported us, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Albany, Girls Inc, local neighborhood associations, Mayor Sheehan, Assemblywoman Fahy and Senator Breslin. We will continue to seek funding for the project in 2017. (Photo courtesy of the Times Union)



DID YOU KNOW?

PLUS ÇA CHANGE

In 1875 the Park Commissioners were informed of "alleged improprieties in the conduct of visitors" in the evenings. They authorized the temporary hiring of a detective, though one was apparently never appointed. Superintendent Egerton's Report later in the year also complained of "a class eager to take advantage of the obscurity [which] deterred many of the better class of visitors from entering the grounds after nightfall." Gaslights were being extended in the park that year and Egerton declared "a light, properly placed, is almost as efficient a guard against a breach of decorum as a policeman."



SKATE PARK UNDERWAY!

The City of Albany's Department of Recreation has commissioned a design and solicited bids for a new 20,000 square-foot skate park on the site of four long-disused tennis courts in Washington Park. The project is funded part by a \$10,000 grant received through the Conservancy from a family foundation that focuses on recreational infrastructure projects. An additional gift of \$1,000 was made as a memorial gift to the park and over \$650 was raised at last year's Go Skate Day event in Washington Park. The Conservancy acted as a partner with the City and the Skateboarding community throughout the project, and we're hopeful that the new Washington Park Skate Park (the first designated skate boarding area in the city) will

help to keep skateboarding out of areas of the park where it is not permitted and potentially damaging to park infrastructure.

