

SAY IT ISN'T SO

After 31 years of caring for Washington Park's magnificent collection of trees, city forester Tom Pfeiffer retired last fall. An institution in his own right, he has tenderly cared for and nurtured trees in the park and all over the city of Albany. He has spearheaded the annual planting of the trees the Conservancy gives to the park, and last year directed the treatment of the park's ash trees against Emerald Ash Borer, thanks to a grant the Conservancy received from the Albany County legislature. The park's trees will miss him, but we are pleased he will stay in the area and continue to be a park steward as a volunteer!

PROTECTING PARK TREES

The stately ash trees of Washington Park are under threat by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer. This year, thanks to a grant from the Albany County Legislature sponsored by legislator Chris Higgins, the Conservancy was able to do a second protective treatment (following up on a similar treatment in 2015). We are pleased that the park's ash trees continue to be symptom-free, which cannot be said of the untreated ash trees as close by as Townsend Park on Central Avenue. We fully expect these periodic treatments to be a focus of our park protection work for the indefinite future.



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."

ANNUAL EVENTS

BREAKFAST: In June of 2017, the Conservancy enjoyed one of our favorite yearly events: providing breakfast for the workers who take such great care of our park. Thanks to the mayor's office and local businesses for their support!

DIGGING FOR TULIPS: Another favorite event: our annual Tulip Dig, where fans of the park tulips patiently stand in line to dig up bulbs from the Moses fountain beds. Don't miss this year's event, traditionally held the weekend after the Tulip Festival. Come join the Conservancy 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.

SEPTEMBER SPLENDOR: 2017's September Splendor (our biggest fundraiser) was held on a warm summer evening, as we honored William Kennedy, the Pulitzer prize winning chronicler of Albany. Once again, local artists, businesses, nurseries, and tree services generously donated an abundance of items for the silent auction. Mark Brogna of Capital Wine, BMT Management Group's catering, and classical guitarist Zach Cohen contributed to a beautiful end to the Park's summer season. Come join us in September of 2018!



P.O. BOX 1145
ALBANY, NY 12201

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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, or go online to our website at

washingtonparkconservancy.org

AND PLEASE CONSIDER THE
CONSERVANCY IN YOUR ESTATE
PLANNING.



2018



Paul Buckowski: Times Union photo used by permission

LANTERNS ON PARADE

400 recycled bottles
10 community workshops and 7 Albany Public Library workshops
15 community partners
300+ participants – on a cold, rainy, November night!

Last fall's free lantern-making workshops were a hit across the city and the result was a lovely community parade of beautifully lit lanterns at dusk, parading around Washington Park Lake at the second annual Albany Lantern Parade.

At each community workshop, we saw strangers come together in conversation and art, watching community being built. The network that supported this event grew larger than we could have imagined! At the parade we were able to welcome everyone and even had lanterns to spare for those who dropped in last minute. This free event in the park was entirely accessible to everyone and we were honored that Mayor Kathy Sheehan joined us to cheer on the participants.

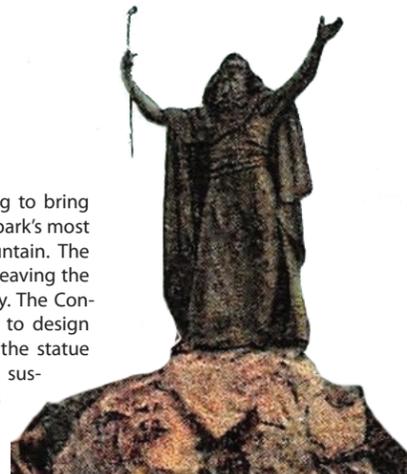


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SKATEBOARD PARK On Friday July 7th, 2017 the City of Albany's long-awaited (and first) Skateboard Park opened. Numerous public officials, including Mayor Sheehan and Albany Department of Recreation, Commissioner, Jonathan Jones, gave remarks at the event along with members of the local Skateboarding community and the Conservancy. The new Park is located on the site of four disused tennis courts and has received heavy use since its opening. The conservancy raised \$10,000 through a grant to put towards the creation of the new skateboard park.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON MOSES

In 2018, the Conservancy is working to bring evening lighting back to one of the park's most prominent features, the Moses Fountain. The statue has not been lit for decades, leaving the icon invisible to nighttime passersby. The Conservancy has hired a lighting team to design and install new lighting, providing the statue with an elegant visibility and using sustainable technology to keep costs low. So don't be surprised to see an old friend in a new light sometime soon!



SPILLWAY In 2017, The Albany Water Board undertook a new water management system to eliminate flooding issues on nearby Elberon Place, utilizing the Washington Park lake. The new infrastructure at the east end of the lake is below ground, but the new spillway at the west end of the lake is highly visible. The Conservancy is working with the Water Board to integrate the new west spillway into the fabric of the park, and will fund additional work this year.



URBAN ORCHARD

Sunday, April 15th is the planting date for the Washington Park urban orchard, the result of a partnership with Nine Pin Cider Works and Sa-mascott Orchard, the Washington Park Conservancy and the City of Albany. Located at the Thurlow Terrace end of the Park, the orchard will have eight varieties of New York State apples with signage illustrating the long history of apple culture in the State. The orchard will foster education on the culture of apples for urban gardeners, offer pollinator opportunities in the Park, and encourage community activities around the cycle of apple growing.



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WASHINGTON PARK CONSERVANCY
~ Protecting a Living Legacy ~



NEW WEBSITE! The Conservancy launched its new website in September 2017! Our primary goal was to strengthen our online presence and provide a starting point for people interested in the Park to get oriented and engaged. Working with GoatCloud Communications, we built the new site to be mobile-friendly, integrate with our Facebook page, handle online donations, and make timely announcements about Park hap-

penings and Conservancy activities. You can also sign up for our e-newsletter, and find contact information for the various City departments that handle different aspects of Park operations. Check it out! www.washingtonparkconservancy.org – and let us know what you think. We're hoping to keep it updated and make continual improvements based on user suggestions.