



For immediate release:
January 3, 2023

CONTACT:
Kyle Semmel
Communications Manager
The Western New York Land Conservancy
(716) 687-1225 ext. 112
ksemmel@wnylc.org

Program for Landscape Maintenance Technicians to Offer Paid Training, Field Work, and Job Placement Opportunities

Buffalo Center for Arts & Technology (BCAT), The Riverline, and Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy are pleased to announce that pre-registration is now open for their 2024 Landscape Maintenance Technician training program. Funded initially with seed money from the First Niagara Foundation in 2020, the program has grown to become a pipeline for individuals to get training—and good paying jobs—in the field. The program includes both on-site and online training and is scheduled to conclude just as many landscape maintenance employers are seeking seasonal employees. In March, BCAT and The Riverline will host a job fair where participants will meet employers—and potentially secure jobs.

One such seasonal employee who found full-time work is Patrick McIntyre. After successfully completing the program in 2020, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy hired him. Since then, he has worked his way up to become the Superintendent of the Conservancy's three golf courses. He wouldn't be where he is today, he says, without this program. "Coming in, I had absolutely no experience working in this field. But this program really focuses on getting trainees the practical know-how to do these challenging jobs."

The 2024 program is slated to begin on February 5th. There is no cost to participate in the program, but seats are limited and **pre-registration by January 29th is required**. This year, all participants will get PAID training up to \$1,500. This includes 30 paid hours on a field site and 30 hours of paid online classes—which trainees can do from anywhere. [REGISTER HERE](#).

Participants will also get:

- a free pair of steel-toe boots
- a resume writing workshop to help them prepare for getting jobs

- a Landscape Maintenance certificate after completion of the class
- an opportunity to attend a post-training job fair in March

About the program Gina Burkhardt, President and CEO of the Buffalo Center for Arts & Technology, says, “Since its inception three years ago, we have trained more than 30 people who were well-prepared to land good jobs. With so many employers in the region seeking qualified landscape maintenance technicians every spring, this program offers an opportunity for graduates to be job-ready from day one. This training class is cost-free to participants **AND** includes paid training. If you’re looking for a new career, there’s no better way than to do so while learning *and* earning.”

“The Riverline is excited to be part of a program that’s training the future landscape maintenance workforce in Buffalo,” says Jeff Lebsack, The Riverline Director. “We hope it will allow members of our community to start a solid new career—one that might one day lead to being involved in the operation and maintenance of The Riverline.”

For questions about the program, contact Krista Berry, BCAT Landscape Program Coordinator, at (716) 259-1680 ext. 117 or via email at kberry@bufcat.org. **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS JANUARY 29, 2024. [REGISTER HERE.](#)**

Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT) is based on a nationally recognized arts and training center. BCAT provides resilient learners needing targeted support with educational and career-centered opportunities in an environment of hope and discovery. We mentor and prepare adults to secure new career pathways, and motivate high school youth to stay in school, explore their creativity and identity, and plan for their future through an arts and technology afterschool program. Visit their [website](#).

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy (BOPC) is the first nonprofit organization in the nation, through a unique public-private partnership, to manage, operate and maintain an entire urban park system consisting of more than 850 acres of beautifully designed historic parks, parkways and circles. The Conservancy is an independent not-for-profit, community organization whose mission is to steward Buffalo’s historic Olmsted park system to welcome and benefit all. To accomplish this, the Conservancy collaborates with community and strategic partners, advocates for quality parks for all, and enhances the park system through beautification, maintenance, and capital projects. More than 2.5 million visits occur in Buffalo’s Olmsted Park system annually for recreation, relaxation, and rejuvenation. Visit their [website](#).

The Riverline will be a 1.5-mile nature trail and multi-use greenway that will connect downtown Buffalo to the Buffalo River. By reimagining a former railway, The Riverline will be an innovative and inspiring community gathering place, alive with the history and voice of the city. Visit their [website](#).

###