



**For Immediate Release**

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## **The Land Conservancy to Plant Trees in the Old First Ward and at Red Jacket Riverfront Natural Habitat Park**

You may soon notice more greenery in Buffalo. Beginning this fall, the Land Conservancy will plant trees in the communities near The Riverline, including American basswood, hackberry, bur oak, and pin oak as well as a disease-resistant variety of American elm and shrubs like American hazelnut and serviceberry.

Thanks to a \$75,000 grant from the Buffalo and Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee, the newly planted trees and shrubs will create ribbons of green that will help connect the communities with The Riverline, the planned nature trail and greenway. With the assistance of volunteers and community members, the Land Conservancy and community partners will plant the young trees at several locations in the Old First Ward and at Red Jacket Riverfront Natural Habitat Park.

These new trees and shrubs will benefit everyone. Trees can live for hundreds of years, and they make our own communities better places to live. They cool our neighborhoods in the summer, and they protect us from the wind in the winter, reducing our heating and cooling costs.

“With our changing climate, cities across the country are planting thousands of trees. Cooler, more beautiful tree lined-streets give city residents significant health benefits, including cleaner air and water,” said **Nancy Smith, the Land Conservancy’s Executive Director**. “Thanks to the generosity and vision of the Buffalo & Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee and community support, neighbors of The Riverline will have these same benefits.”

“The Buffalo and Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee is honored to provide funding that is helping to make this tree planting project a success,” said **Buffalo & Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee Chair Daniel Castle, and Commissioner for Erie County Dept. of Environment & Planning**. “Partnering with organizations like the Western New York Land Conservancy is one of the ways that Erie County works to

protect and restore natural resources, parks, and trails for the future use and enjoyment of all County residents."

"The prevalence of trees and beautiful landscape is a contributing factor in a healthy, safe, and prosperous community," said **Congressman Brian Higgins**. "This award, made possible thanks to the federal relicensing settlement with the New York Power Authority, will support the good work of the Western New York Land Conservancy to enhance natural public destinations and build on the exciting momentum behind The Riverline project."

"With this investment, The Riverline continues to become a space that inspires people to get outdoors and embrace all that our city has to offer," said **Senator Tim Kennedy**. "As use of the The Riverline grows, so too will these trees - serving as a reminder of what can be accomplished when our community comes together with a greater vision and a commitment to create new opportunities."

"As the Executive Director of the Old First Ward Community Center, I've experienced firsthand the enthusiasm of the Land Conservancy when it comes to planting native trees and shrubs," **Patrick Gormley** said. "Since the early days of planning for The Riverline, the Land Conservancy has been fully engaged with the Old First Ward community, and we're really excited to see new trees being planted here."

If you are interested in learning more about this project, or the importance of planting trees, please visit [WNYLC.ORG](http://WNYLC.ORG). You can also reach out to the Land Conservancy at (716) 687-1225 or [info@wnylc.org](mailto:info@wnylc.org).

**The Western New York Land Conservancy** is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation value in Western New York for current and future generations. The Land Conservancy envisions a future in which open spaces, working lands, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty are cherished and protected as part of the landscape and character of Western New York. The Land Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and is one of 1000+ land trusts nationwide, including 87 in New York State. Land trusts have protected over 56 million acres of land. To learn more about the Land Conservancy, visit [wnylc.org](http://wnylc.org).

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