Parks & Recreational Opportunities along Buffalo's Waterfront

Riverside Park

The last park to be added to Buffalo’s historic Olmsted system, Riverside Park is a nationally registered historic site that offers many amenities, but is disconnected from the waterfront by the I-190.

Black Rock Canal Park

Sitting along the Niagara River, Black Rock Canal Park is a prime stop along Buffalo’s Riverwalk Trail, featuring a boat launch for motorboats and jet skis, and an off-leash Bark Park for dogs.

Tow Path Park

Tow Path Park is a 5-acre county park named for the historic towpath that once followed the Erie Canal. It offers views of the Niagara River and is a popular spot for fishing and picnicking.

Unity Island Park

The northern end of Unity Island offers panoramic views of the Niagara River and winding recreational trails for pedestrians and bicyclists that form part of the Riverwalk Trail.

Broderick Park

The newly renovated Broderick Park on the southern tip of Unity Island sits at an historic endpoint of the Underground Railroad and today is a popular fishing spot that connects to the Bird Island Pier for long walks with one-of-a-kind waterfront views.

Front Park

Another historic Olmsted park, Front Park features a semi-circular terrace with panoramic views of Lake Erie and the Niagara River. The park once included the neighboring Fort Porter grounds, where the Peace Bridge Plaza exists today.

Columbus and Prospect Park

These neighboring pocket parks are two of Buffalo’s oldest public spaces. About a half-mile off the waterfront, one can feel refreshing breezes off the lake, but without the waterfront views.

Times Beach Nature Preserve

Once a dumping ground for dredged materials, today, the protected wetlands and woodlands of Times Beach provide wildlife habitat with trails and boardwalks to take in the sights and sounds of nature amidst the backdrop of downtown Buffalo.

LaSalle Park

Buffalo’s largest waterfront park offers many sports fields, open meadows and trails where park goers can take in panoramic waterfront views. The park also features an off-leash dog park, and the City’s only skate park.

Waterfront/Emerson Park

Another City park separated from the waterfront by the I-190, Waterfront/Emerson Young Park has sports fields and a playground for neighborhood residents to enjoy.

Erie Basin Marina

Erie Basin Marina is a municipal inland harbor that pays tribute to the sacrifices of our nation’s military. It is home to several awe-inspiring decommissioned US Naval vessels, smaller vessels and military aircraft.

Buffalo Naval & Veteran’s Park

Buffalo’s Naval & Veteran’s Park hosts a museum that pays tribute to the sacrifices of our nation’s military. The space hosts a plethora of events throughout the year, including festivals, concerts, and an outdoor ice-skating rink.

Canalside

Canalside has quickly become Buffalo's premier waterfront attraction. The heart of Buffalo’s waterfront revitalization, the space hosts a plethora of events throughout the year, including festivals, concerts, and an outdoor ice-skating rink.

Times Beach Nature Preserve

Established as a park in 2013, Wilkeson Pointe features naturalized landscapes, a wind sculpture park, a public beach, kayak launches, and a beer garden on Buffalo’s Outer Harbor.

Outer Harbor

This open area features a bike path, which connects by ferry to the Inner Harbor at Canalside, and offers event space for summertime concerts and festivals. Future plans include natural restoration, recreational trails, and flex event space.

Buffalo Harbor State Park

New York’s newest state park, and the first within the City of Buffalo, this park along Lake Erie features a nautical themed playground, a beach, boat launches, and a restaurant.

Tifft Nature Preserve

This 24-acre nature sanctuary boasts 5 miles of trails through forests, ponds and wetlands, and offers programs for environmental education and scientific research.

Union Ship Canal Commons

This revitalized brownfield, once the site of an iron smelting factory, is now a peaceful waterfront park, with bike trails, fishing spots, and ample seating to take in the waterfront views.