
Get it all done in a week and then… (Sigh) start the process all over again.

Whether your garden is the “north 40” or the north 40 inches, it’s a labor-intensive process. But, it’s all worth it, right?

Now, multiply whatever the size of your garden is by a factor of 100 or more and you’ll have a pretty good idea of what it takes to tame the grass, trees, shrubs, flowers and those pesky invasives that call Utica’s parks (F.T. and T.R. Proctor Parks and Roscoe Conkling/Valley View) and the Memorial Parkway home.

So, who’s responsible for making Utica’s Olmsted-designed city parks and the Memorial Parkway look their “Sunday best” every day of the week during the spring, summer and fall?

That’s where the Central New York Conservancy’s Landscape Design Consultant, Katechen Cardamone, veteran seasonal assistant Lee Edelblute, and 2010 summer interns Stephen P. Welty and Joshua Brown come in.

From late May through mid-September, if you drive to work early in the morning, around 8 a.m. say, you’re likely to see the big, red City of Utica truck sitting on the Memorial Parkway or along the roadway right near the turnoff for Roscoe Conkling Park and the Utica Zoo. You’ll see it in F.T. Proctor Park as well.

Cardamone, Edelblute, Welty and Brown are all aboard, dressed in work clothes, dark green Conservancy t-shirts and bright, fluorescent vests. When they step onto the Parkway, they each select their implements of weed destruction – hoes, rakes, electric weed whackers – as well as whatever may be needed to encourage newly planted perennials and annuals to grow and strut their stuff.

Cardamone provides everyone with his marching orders for the morning. She directs everyone’s attention to shrubs that need pruning or bulbs that need planting. There may be weeds to pull, mulch to spread, or trees and shrubs to be watered. Cardamone moves quickly and efficiently among the flower beds, making sure that the areas surrounding each of the 14 Parkway monuments receives its due.

Cardamone, Edelblute and the interns form the core of the Central New York Conservancy’s seasonal team – the people who, along with City of Utica employees and Commissioner Dave Short – keep Utica’s parks looking healthy and green through the spring and summer so they will continue to thrive even when fall’s winds blow and winter’s snows fly.

The City and the Conservancy’s work is especially evident during one of the year’s most anticipated summer events – Boilermaker Weekend in early July. That’s when more than 12,000 runners, running fans and the...
Five Parkway monuments are sponsored; 9 more wait for YOU!

Utica is a city blessed with numerous public sculptures and monuments. And, we love them all.

Some are stately and grand and remind us of lives lost for significant causes, like the Soldiers and Sailors Monument that stands in Oneida Square. It commemorates the Civil War.

There are busts of famous Uticans, like Horatio Seymour and George Earl Dunham. Dunham, who was born in Clayville, was commemorated in 1931 as living a “useful life in Utica” and we’re told by Hamilton College art historian Rand Carter in the publication Historic Utica: A Guide to the City’s Outdoor Sculpture that Dunham was an “Advocate of Good Causes.”

Others are delightfully wacky, like the miniature version of the Statue of Liberty that stands on the Memorial Parkway and the replica of the Liberty Bell, which has its place of honor on Genesee Street in downtown Utica. Why does Utica have them?

The Statue of Liberty was dedicated in 1950 by the Boy Scouts and 12 citizens whose names are listed on the monument’s plaque. The replica of the Liberty Bell, which as every student knows, is ensconced in Philadelphia at Independence Hall. But you can’t pass either one without doing a double-take the first time you see them and smiling thereafter.

Fourteen monuments stand along various points of the Memorial Parkway. Prof. Carter notes in his publication that

“...The greatest concentration of outdoor sculpture in Utica can be found along the Parkway. The first section of a greenbelt with which Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., proposed to encircle Utica was opened between Genesee and Elm Street in 1909.”

Ultimately, Olmsted’s greenway was extended by 1914 as far as T.R. Proctor Park and Albany Street. The name Memorial Parkway was applied after World War II to the section east of Genesee Street.

In 2009, the Central New York Conservancy undertook an ambitious project — to obtain support for the landscaping that surrounds all 14 of the Memorial Parkway monuments.

As of June 2010, five of the monuments along Utica’s Parkway are spoken for...adopted by some very public-spirited and generous individuals.

Their adoption means that for the next 3 years, any new plantings, flower bed and shrub maintenance, tree plantings or bed redesign will be supported by their contributions.

The monuments already adopted include the following:

- Vice President Sherman (west side of Genesee Street) — adopted by Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Gouse
- General Pulaski (west side of Oneida Street) — adopted by Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kelly
- World War II/Korean Conflict (grass median between Memorial Parkway & Pleasant Street) — adopted by Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Romano
- Swan Fountain (east side of Elm Street) — adopted by Mr. William F. Locke
- Christopher Columbus (west side of Mohawk Street) — adopted by Ms. Carin C. Mei

“People and groups who adopt any of the 14 monuments are helping to preserve a cherished part of Utica’s landscape,” said Conservancy President William F. Locke who has adopted the Swan Fountain. The Fountain is
one of Locke’s favorite public sculptures, and it is one he helped restore several years ago.

Nine other monuments are still available for adoption/sponsorship by individuals, groups, organizations and companies. They include:

- General Frederick William Baron von Steuben (east side of Genesee Street)
- Vietnam War Memorial (west side of Holland Avenue)
- Dunham Bust (east side of Holland Avenue)
- Spanish-American Wars (west side of Oneida Street)
- POW/MIA (east side of Oneida Street)
- Police & Fire Memorial (grass median between Memorial Parkway & Pleasant Street)
- Statue of Liberty (west side of Elm Street)
- T.R. Proctor Memorial (south side of Parkway, near overflow area for Parkway Recreation Center)
- 9/11 Memorial (south side of Memorial Parkway near intersection with Culver Avenue)

Several of these monuments are singled out for comment and explanation by Prof. Carter in his publication about Utica’s outdoor sculpture. The booklet is available from the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute Library.

Some interesting tidbits of information are offered about these prominent monuments that many of us see every day as we head to work, school or for a leisurely walk. If you’ve ever wondered why Gen. Baron von Steuben is honored with a monument (he was granted 16,000 acres of land in what is now the Town of Steuben in lieu of payment for his heroic role in the American Revolution) or why the Swan Fountain was a favorite among Utica’s dog owners when it was originally installed (the fountain offered a pleasant place for a thirsty pooch to drink after an afternoon constitutional), you’ll enjoy Prof. Carter’s publication.

Individuals, groups, organizations and companies are encouraged to consider adopting a monument. To learn more about the monuments and the sponsorship/adoption program, please contact William F. Locke, President at 315-724-4186 or Gordon M. Hayes, Jr., Treasurer, at 315-853-6101.

Join Katechen Cardamone, the Conservancy’s landscape design consultant, on August 2 for a walking tour of the Memorial Parkway. “Flora Along the Parkway Mall” is presented as a Utica Monday Nite offering by the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica and the Central New York Conservancy. The tour begins at 6 p.m. in front of the Parkway Recreation Center. Parking is available in the Center’s parking lot. For more information, visit the Landmarks Society web site at www.uticalandmarks.org.
How the Conservancy’s Gardens Grow…

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running world’s most visible VIPs come to town to participate in the Boilermaker 15K Race.

When there’s better than 20,000 people running the race and lining the Memorial Parkway from one end to the other, you better believe that every blade of grass, every leaf on every tree and every flower in every bed better be in top form. With Cardamone’s Conservancy crew augmenting the City’s efforts, the parks and Parkway practically shimmer and shine.

Edelblute has worked with Cardamone for the last several years. Welty and Brown are new this season and, though they knew little about maintaining gardens and grounds when they began in late May, they’ve learned a great deal in five short weeks.

Welty is a native of Chadwicks, NY, and earned his certification in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology from Mohawk Valley Community College in 2009. He completed 500 hours of training as an electrical line worker in 2009, too, and hopes to obtain employment in the electric utility industry.

Brown lives in Cassville, NY and is working on a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting at SUNY-IT. He earned an Associate’s degree in Business Management from Mohawk Valley Community College last May. Most recently, Brown managed the Bistro restaurant at Preswick Glen in New Hartford.

If you’d like to see the beautiful fruits of the Conservancy’s labor, plan a visit this summer or fall to the Memorial Parkway and F.T. Proctor Park. Prepare to be dazzled by what you see.

Pippin Hill GC helps keep things poppin’: Members of the Pippin Hill Garden Club spent a spring morning with the CNY Conservancy planting flowers at selected monuments along the Memorial Parkway.

All things bright and beautiful: Pippin Hill Garden Club members plant brightly colored blooms at the Police and Firefighters Memorial on the Memorial Parkway, across from the Parkway Recreation Center.

Down & dirty work – for a very good cause! Intern Stephen Welty gets into the spirit of things during the first week of his internship experience with the Central New York Conservancy. Here, he helps out with planting along the Memorial Parkway.
Marietta von Bernuth joins Conservancy Board

Marietta von Bernuth, a resident of Barneveld, NY, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Central New York Conservancy at the May 2010 Annual Meeting of Members.

“Marietta is no stranger to community organizations and nonprofit boards,” said Conservancy Board President William F. Locke. “We are pleased that Marietta has joined us. She brings many talents and gifts to the organization, along with her passion for making the Mohawk Valley a great place to live and work.”

Many community organizations have benefited from Ms. Von Bernuth’s expertise, including Hospice & Palliative Care, the Utica Chamber Music Society, the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute, Unity Hall (Barneveld) and the Meadow Project of Trenton Falls. Ms. Von Bernuth is also associated with Clinton Florists on Kellogg Road in the Village of Clinton.

With Ms. Von Bernuth’s appointment, the Conservancy Board now numbers five directors, including William F. Locke (President); Jef Saunders (Secretary), Gordon M. Hayes, Jr. (Treasurer) and Virginia B. Kelly.

Proctor Park 4th of July Celebration

It’s Alive! The restored Lily Pond in F.T. Proctor Park has come alive with plants and wildlife. The pond contains lily pads placed by the Conservancy and cattails that have established themselves. It seems that wildlife also calls the pond home. On July 4, these young boys saw, heard and caught a bullfrog that lives in the pond. Yes, they set the frog free – it’s the chase that counts!

Bocce and the Flag. What could be more American than that? The City of Utica’s second annual Proctor Park July 4th celebration brought families, friends and visitors to the Park for music, games and relaxation.
Continuing the Conservancy’s Legacy

Thanks to all of our dedicated donors, the Central New York Conservancy may maintain the improvements already made to Utica’s F. T. Proctor Park and the Memorial Parkway. And, we may develop new projects and enhancements to the community’s Olmsted-designed parklands and green spaces.

The Conservancy’s Board of Directors extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals, garden clubs, companies and foundations who consider the Conservancy’s work a significant priority deserving of support.


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We are the world: No need to travel to Africa to see international soccer play. It was available in Utica on June 11-12 when teams made up of Uticans and representing their native countries of El Salvador, Somalia, Nepal, Bosnia, Iraq, Burma and the Sudan (to name a few) gathered in T.R. Proctor Park to play for the Redeemer Cup. The tournament was organized by Rev. Rick Andrew of Redeemer Church on Herkimer Rd. T.R. Proctor Park, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., lived up to its creator’s vision as the “recreational park” in Utica’s Park System.

Preserving and restoring the Olmsted green spaces in the Mohawk Valley

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WITH THANKS TO Katechen Cardamone
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AWARDS & HONORS
Utica Zoological Society/John & Wilma Sinnott Award (2009)

GIFTS IN-KIND
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Utica Monday Nite in the Park: F.T. Proctor Park was the locale for a CNY Conservancy tour, hosted by the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica. Landscape design consultant Katechen Cardamone (center, right) led the group on a tour of the park’s Lily Pond, Bath Houses, area bordering Starch Factory Creek ( pictured), Butterfly Garden and the Upper Loop walkway around the entire park.

What’s old is new again: Landscape design consultant Katechen Cardamone showed a Utica Monday Nite tour group a photo of F.T. Proctor Park’s original Lily Pond and headwall, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. The Lily Pond, its headwall, stone work and stairway was restored by the CNY Conservancy in 2006. Several species of rose bushes are planted on its perimeter and the pond itself now has aquatic plants that adorn its surface.

Meadow lark: Attendees at the July 5 tour of F.T. Proctor Park listen as Katechen Cardamone describes the native plants that border the Butterfly Garden and meadow across from Starch Factory Creek.
You can help the Central New York Conservancy sustain its ability to preserve, restore and maintain the beauty and elegance of the Utica Parks System.

Though the country and the Mohawk Valley continue to experience an uncertain economic situation, there are ways that make it possible for you to support the Conservancy, even as you provide financial security for your family.

How can you do that? One of the most popular ways is to include the Central New York Conservancy in your will or bequest.

Wills and bequests aren’t just for the very wealthy. Anyone can — and everyone should — consider making a will. A bequest will allow you to retain ownership and control of your assets and income until they are no longer needed by you or your spouse or partner.

Bequests are also revocable which ensures that you may change your mind and be flexible about your estate plans in the event of a medical emergency or other major unanticipated expense.

There are many different ways to fund a bequest. One method that also provides a tax advantage is to fund your bequest with an IRA. Because an IRA is subject to income tax and, depending on the size of your estate, to estate tax as well, the combined total of these taxes on an IRA may exceed 75 percent. But, you can avoid both of these taxes with the gifting of an IRA to a charity like the Central New York Conservancy at death.

The Central New York Conservancy was created thanks to the foresight of a very generous individual who named the Conservancy in her will. And, bequests continue to be important as the Conservancy seeks sustainable funding for its current and future endeavors.

Bequests can help us do so much to increase the Conservancy’s ability to preserve, protect, and maintain the beauty of Utica’s Parks System.

If you would like to discuss making a bequest or other type of legacy gift to the Central New York Conservancy, please contact President William F. Locke at 315-724-4186 or Treasurer Gordon M. Hayes, Jr. at 315-853-6101.