



**For Immediate Release**

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**EAST SIDE BLOCK TO RECEIVE GARDENING MAKEOVER**

*Professional landscapers will donate their time and materials to transform 19 front yards  
National Buffalo Garden Festival Front Yard Garden Competition is a first for Buffalo and the nation*

BUFFALO, N.Y. – June 31, 2010 – A full block on Buffalo’s East Side is about to get a gardening makeover.

Starting Tuesday, July 6, all 19 front yards along historic North Parade Ave. between Fillmore Ave. and Northampton St. on Buffalo’s East Side will be transformed by professional landscapers, who will donate their time and materials and compete to create the most impressive yards. This Front Yard Garden Competition is part of the new National Buffalo Garden Festival and festival organizers believe it is the first such civic-minded garden competition in the country.

The competition will give a facelift to a street that borders the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The homes on North Parade Ave. were built between 1890 and 1920 and a former mayor of Buffalo, Chester Kowal, once lived on this block.

The public can view the landscaping work in progress from July 6 to July 10 and then vote for their favorite yard from July 11 to July 18. Physical ballots will be available outside each home along North Parade Ave. and online voting will take place at [www.nationalgardenfestival.com](http://www.nationalgardenfestival.com). The Web site will also feature a blog, where the public can track the progress of the gardens and read profiles of the landscapers and homeowners.

In addition to the public voting, a team of gardening experts will review the gardens and bestow awards in several technical categories to the landscapers.

The Front Yard Garden Competition is being coordinated by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, the Western New York State Nursery & Landscape Association, the New York State Certified Nursery and Landscape Professionals, the Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the National Buffalo Garden Festival organizing committee. The following landscapers are participating in the competition:

- Beaver Landscaping, Inc.
- Beyond the Basics Property Services, Inc.
- Birch Grove Landscaping & Nursery, Inc.
- Buffalo Horticulture and Garden Design
- Dore Landscape Associates
- Elbers Landscape Service, Inc.
- The English Gardener, Ltd
- Johnson's Nursery
- Menne Nursery Corp.
- Murray Brothers Nurseries, Inc.
- T. O'Donnell Landscaping
- Pace Landscaping
- S & R Greenleaf Landscaping

The competition receives additional support from a continually expanding list of local businesses, including, but not limited to: Armor Fence Company of W.N.Y., Bedford Greenhouse, Bee News, Belgard Hardscapes, Cooper Ridge Gardens, Gilson Gardens, Inc., Johnstons Evergreen Nursery, Lakeside Sod Supply Co., Inc., Landmasters, Localodge, Lockwood's Greenhouses, New York Green Roof, Northridge Nursery, Oaks Concrete Products, Russell's Tree & Shrub Farm, LLC, Unilock, Inc., and Wright Frontier Arborist Services.

After the competition is complete, the North Parade Ave. residents can take free training on how to maintain their new landscaping.

“The Front Yard Garden Competition is a major step forward for our Olmsted Community at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and represents a significant new horticultural investment in this historic community,” said Thomas Herrera-Mishler, president and CEO of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy. “This wonderful collaboration between the Conservancy, the generous members of the professional landscape industry and the residents of the community proves once again that we are truly a ‘City of Good Neighbors’ and serves as a potential revitalization model for our Olmsted Communities all over the city. Safe and healthy parks are only assured if they are surrounded by safe and healthy communities. This remarkable competition goes a long way toward stabilizing and enhancing the historic setting of our beloved Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.”

“We’re thrilled that the first ever National Buffalo Garden Festival has been the catalyst for another first: the creation of a garden competition that will beautify 19 homes and help to revitalize the area surrounding an Olmsted park,” said Sally Cunningham, project coordinator for the National Buffalo Garden Festival. “Thanks to the partnership between the Olmsted Parks Conservancy and this community’s homeowners and the enthusiasm and generosity of our local landscape professionals, Buffalo is the first city in the country, as far as we know, to attempt this kind of civic-minded undertaking.”

“The Western New York State Nursery and Landscape Association and the Certified Nursery and Landscape Professionals who make their livelihoods practicing their horticultural art in Buffalo and Western New York are delighted to be partners in the National Buffalo Garden Festival and excited about the opportunity to showcase our talents and capabilities in the Front Yard Garden Competition,” said Neil Stern, president of the Western New York State Nursery and Landscape Association. “Not only will this contest benefit the residents in this historic Olmsted community; it will also advance the cause of gardening and pride-in-property in Buffalo, and we are thrilled to be a part of it.”

The National Buffalo Garden Festival began on June 18 and runs through July 25. With 18 garden walks (including Garden Walk Buffalo – the largest event of its kind in the country), workshops, nationally-recognized speakers, mid-week open gardens, and a series of bus tours, this five-week-long festival has something for anyone with (or without) a green thumb. In all, the festival features more than 70 events. A full calendar of events and additional information is available at [www.nationalgardenfestival.com](http://www.nationalgardenfestival.com).

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