



**Board of Trustees**

Philip Schultz, Chair  
*Fox Point, WI*

Douglas Luetjen, Vice-Chair  
*Seattle, WA*

Stephanie Crockatt, Secretary  
*Sarasota, FL*

William Bell, Treasurer  
*New York, NY*

Mark Buscaino  
*Washington, DC*

Steven Livengood  
*Washington, DC*

Spencer Tunnell  
*Atlanta, GA*

Bronwyn Nichols-Lodato  
*Chicago, IL*

Mary Caraccioli  
*New York, NY*

Ray Chambers  
*Seattle, WA*

Wyman Winston  
*Cudahy, WI*

Anne "Dede" Neal Petri  
President and CEO

Victoria Vanhuss  
Director Communications & Outreach

Leslie Jacobs  
Office Manager

Madelaine Momot  
Olmsted Online Content Manager

July 8, 2024

Mayor Cavalier Johnson  
City Hall  
200 E. Wells Street, Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

County Executive David Crowley  
901 N 9<sup>th</sup> Street, #306  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Mayor Johnson and County Executive Crowley:

As Milwaukee "reimagines" WI State Highway 175 on the west side of Washington Park, it has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to replace the stub end of an abandoned freeway with a beautiful boulevard.

Far more than roadway redesign is at stake.

**"Reimagining 175" provides an opportunity to restore dozens of acres of park land to one of Milwaukee's most historic and treasured parks. It also will allow the City of Milwaukee and west side neighborhoods to undertake a revitalization plan for the area surrounding Washington Park—a plan that could restitch communities, improve neighborhood access, increase affordable housing, and advance economic growth.**

The Olmsted Network would like to partner with you to make this happen.

Founded in 1980, the Olmsted Network is the national champion for parks designed by America's most prominent landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, and the principles that underpin his famous parks. We bring both a national and local focus to Milwaukee and the improvement of Washington Park. Two of our board members come from Fox Point and Cudahy. In 2022, we were honored to testify in support of naming Olmsted Way in Washington Park and we spoke at the naming ceremony. In 2023, we held our national conference in Milwaukee, featuring Olmsted's Washington, Lake and Riverside Parks.

Enclosed you will find two recent op eds by the Olmsted Network that outline our position. **As we have said often, Washington Park is not just any park. It is Milwaukee's Central Park** -- part of a system of three parks that Olmsted designed while also working as a social reformer and staunch abolitionist. As we emphasize in our op-eds, Washington Park is a unique natural asset of national significance. Its expansion and enhancement as part of "Reimagining 175" can add immense value to the city, enhance public health and bring people together.

We know this from experience. Central Park in New York City is a case in point. There was a time when tourists and city dwellers actively avoided Central Park because of crime, neglect and lack of

**PARKS, PLACES & PEOPLE**

appreciation. But in the 1980s the city found ways to reinvest in this great asset. Central Park now welcomes millions of visitors each year. Its revitalization has produced millions of dollars in revenue that benefit all of New York City.

Now that Highway 175 must be revisited, Milwaukee can reverse the damages of the past...and more. Given the Biden administration's call for reconnecting communities, and the availability of federal resources, Milwaukee now has an unmatched opportunity to regain healthful greenspace, make an historic park a vibrant success, repair past harm done to disconnected neighborhoods, and create affordable housing.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this exciting future with you. We will follow up soon to set up a meeting. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Phil Schultz  
Chair, Fox Point



Wyman Winston  
Board Member, Cudahy



Anne Neal Petri  
President and CEO

Enclosures (op eds)

Cc via email:

Milwaukee City Attorney and State Rep. Evan Goyke

[Rep.Goyke@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Goyke@legis.wisconsin.gov)

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Room 800, Milwaukee, WI 53202

State Senator LaTonya Johnson

[Sen.Johnson@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Johnson@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**PARKS, PLACES & PEOPLE**

State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

County Supervisor Sky Capriolo

[Sky.Capriolo@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Sky.Capriolo@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

Court House, Room 20, 901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233

Alderman Jonathan Brostoff

[Jonathan.Brostoff@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Brostoff@milwaukee.gov)

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Room 205, Milwaukee, WI 53202

**PARKS, PLACES & PEOPLE**