

**THE VIOLATION OF THE
NIAGARA RESERVATION ACT OF 1883**

The Niagara Falls State Park, as it is called today, is a business enterprise with two primary business partners: New York State and Delaware North. The original creators of the “park”, which was created as the “Niagara Reservation”; were a group of environmentalists known as Free Niagara. Leading the movement were Frederick Law Olmsted and Thomas Welch. It is estimated, though debated, that over 8 million tourists visit Niagara Falls State Park every year. As of today, Sunday, June 25th, 2017; the city of Niagara Falls, NY is facing bankruptcy and a NYS control board. The city is ravished by drugs, crime, abandoned buildings and great poverty. In addition to being a multi-billion dollar tourist machine, the water of Niagara also generates power to much of the East coast of the United States. Below you will find scans of documents dating back to 1883, starting with the official act that created the Niagara Reservation. The findings and research were conducted by archivist and librarian Michelle Dukette with assistance from myself, Ken Cosentino. We intend to prove that NYS and Delaware North are violating the laws of formation of the United States’ oldest state park in Niagara Falls, NY. There is to be no commercialization within the reservation and the natural environment is to be preserved. The very fact that Delaware North owns the commercial contract to the Niagara Falls State Park is a violation of the agreement signed by NYS in 1883. In 1885, the Niagara Appropriations Bill documented the purchase of the lands surrounding Niagara Falls river and waterfalls for the creation of the Niagara Reservation. Frederick Law Olmsted and Thomas V. Welch both died in 1903, just two months apart. After their deaths, NYS quickly began funneling money from the Niagara Reservation. With the creation of the Niagara Reservation, a group of commissioners, led by the first superintendent Thomas V. Welch, were assigned to oversee the reservation and submit annual reports. Here is an except from a 1906 report:

five per cent. on the investment, a good business enterprise. But
the result will in fact be far superior to the present condition.

MAINTENANCE.

Why there should be a continued inadequate provision for the maintenance of this Reservation is not apparent. No State property or institution is so insufficiently provided with funds for this purpose in proportion to actual needs. Only \$25,000 per annum has been provided with which to meet the expense of paying Superintendent's salary, employees, maintaining miles of roads and pathways, caring for grass, trees and shrubs on 107 acres of land, lighting, heating, repairs and incidentals that are inevitable, and of this \$15,171.40 has been paid back to the State in twelve months ending September 30, 1906, being revenue from concessions on the Reservation with the income from the Railway.

The roads are of dirt of a soft nature and easily worn, having never been permanently improved for want of any appropriation therefor, and the travel upon them with automobiles and carriages is very destructive. No adequate maintenance of the Reservation can be had for less than \$40,000 per year, and that sum should be

The Niagara Reservation was assimilated into the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Although the NYS OPRHP was not created until 1970, from the above report it is clear that the commissioners of the Niagara Reservation lost control, and NYS gained control for financial gain following soon after Welch's and Olmsted's deaths.

Below from the Wikipedia page for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation:

The agency that would become the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP) was created in 1970; however, the history of state parks and historic sites in New York stretches back to the latter part of the 19th century. Management of state-owned parks, and guidance for the entire state park system, was accomplished by various regional commissions, private organizations, statewide advisory councils, and divisions within other state agencies prior to the establishment of NYS OPRHP, which grew from the framework created by these earlier organizations.^[7]

Initial acquisitions

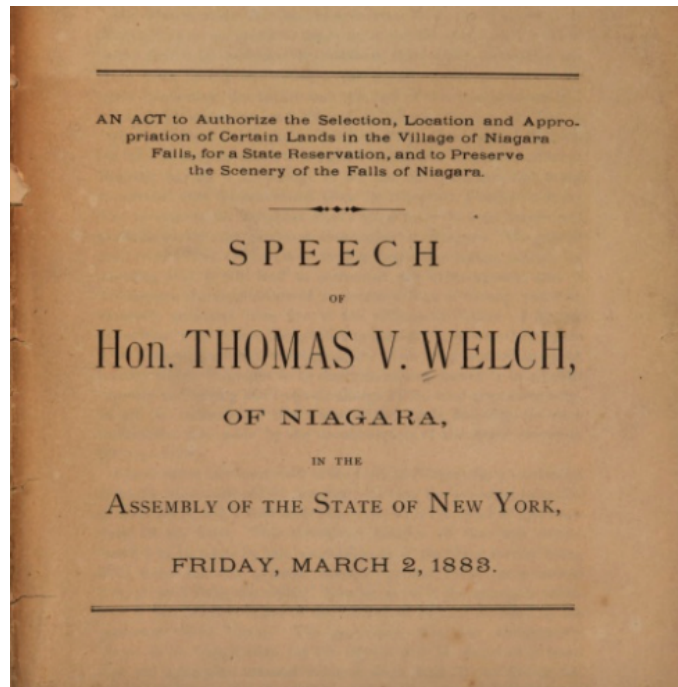
State-level procurement and management of parks in New York began in 1883, when then-governor [Grover Cleveland](#) signed legislation authorizing the appropriation of lands near [Niagara Falls](#) for a "state reservation".^{[7]:10^[8]} Two years later, the Niagara Reservation, known today as [Niagara Falls State Park](#), opened to the public.^[9] The park is claimed to be the oldest state park in the United States,^{[2]^[note 1]} and was the first established via [eminent domain](#).^[9]

The [State Reservation on the St. Lawrence](#) was authorized in 1896, and by 1898 it included modest state holdings in the [Thousand Islands](#) region of New York.^[11] During the early 20th century, the state continued to expand its public parks system with several large additions, including [Letchworth State Park](#) in 1906, [Fire Island State Park](#) (known today as [Robert Moses State Park](#)) in 1908, [John Boyd Thacher State Park](#) in 1914, [Enfield Glen State Park](#) (today's [Robert H. Treman State Park](#)) in 1920, and [Allegany State Park](#) in 1921. A coordinated effort to protect portions of the



Prospect Point at the Niagara Reservation, c. 1900. The reservation, known today as [Niagara Falls State Park](#), was the first park opened by New York State.

Here are excerpts from a speech made by Thomas Welch, leading to the creation of the Niagara Reservation in 1883. I have highlighted the multiple infractions that are currently being enacted. [Read the speech in it's entirety here.](#)



generations, have generously reserved them for public use. They could have disposed of them, much more advantageous, for industrial purposes. They have guarded them with patriotic pride, and if it were not for their constant care and protection all the natural surroundings would have long since disappeared, as they have already disappeared from around the falls of the Genesee.

For this service they deserve the gratitude of every citizen of this State, of every lover of Nature, and of all mankind. But a new order of things has arisen. Manufacture is clamoring for the power that is stored away in the currents of Niagara, and if the cataract is to be preserved as an object of profound interest to all mankind, something must be done, and done quickly, for that purpose; and in justice to the owners whose lands are liable to be seized by the State, such lands should now be duly appraised, and it should be determined whether the State is to take possession or not, so that if they are not to be taken the owners may divert them to more profitable uses.

The word "park," as used in connection with this project, is clearly a misnomer. Nothing like a park, in the ordinary acceptance of the

word, is contemplated or desired at Niagara. Nature there presents a spectacle of more beauty and grandeur than all the artificial parks of the world combined, and any attempt to improve it by ornament should be regarded as a sacrilege. The aggregate judgment of mankind has pronounced its unparalleled sublimity as a natural object. It is the property of the whole world. But the enjoyment of contemplating it depends largely upon the beauty and harmony of its surroundings. At the brink of the falls, in the midst of the rapids, is a group of islands. They have apparently been placed there by a good Creator for the supreme enjoyment of his creatures. To my mind these islands are surrounded by such influences of nature as make them the most enchanting resorts on the face of the earth. They are covered with a majestic primeval forest which the providential care of the Porter family has so far preserved. Grand old trees that looked down upon Father Hennepin in 1679, when an European first beheld the cataract. They were witnesses of the early struggles of the French and English on that frontier, and of the victories of our own war of 1812, achieved within sight and sound of Niagara. It is proposed to embrace these lovely and romantic islands in any reservation that may be established. Prospect Point is covered with magnificent natural woods, and commands a famous view of the American Fall. It is desired to embrace this historic spot, and a narrow strip of lands along the great rapids, which are objects of interest and wonder scarcely less than the cataract itself. It would seem as if no reservation would be of value that did not include all of

est and wonder scarcely less than the cataract itself. It would seem as if no reservation would be of value that did not include all of these points of interest, and yet the commissioners may select but one of them if they so decide. They need not be governed by the recommendations of the commissioners of the State Survey. But no such thing as an artificial "park" is contemplated. No place of general pleasure. No costly structures; nothing but the natural landscape conditions restored, with provisions for public convenience. In a word, Niagara as it existed in its original grandeur and beauty, before it was disfigured by the acts of man. I have already stated to this House the circumstances which led to the introduction of this measure. It is here to-day in response to public sentiment. It required years of agitation before public opinion warranted the passage of a railroad commission bill, or a free canal amendment. So it has required years to evoke a commanding expression of public opinion on this question. There can be no doubt that public opinion is strongly in favor of the passage of this bill. To be so convinced it is only necessary to read the comments of the daily press and listen to the utterances of our prominent men. Petitions have been presented from all sections of the State signed by thousands of its citi-

zens praying for the passage of this bill. The petitioners eloquently set forth "That in possession of that greatest natural object of its kind the Falls of Niagara, this State is trustee not only for its own citizens but for the nation and the world. And hearing with alarm of the rapid disfigurements which threatened its speedy destruction, and protesting earnestly against the complete neglect in the past by this great, wealthy and intelligent State of these considerations, and of the rights of its citizens to the enjoyment of this gift of nature, from which it results that there is not one foot of American soil from which our citizens can obtain without payment, a sight of the falls, and believing that the sublime spectacle of Niagara is one which every citizen should have the right to enjoy without money and without price, feeling that the present state of things which makes it a luxury beyond the reach of poverty, amounts to a public wrong which ought no longer to go unredressed. To the prayer of this petition, I believe every patriotic citizen of this State will say Amen. Niagara never fades from the minds of those who look upon it. Coming as I do from the very spot sought to be preserved, it is natural that it should be dear to me, and it is a labor of love for me to plead its cause. All the associations of life are connected with it. As long as I can remember I have lived within sight of its clouds of spray and within hearing of its waters. I have seen it in all its changing moods by day and by night, in cloud and in sunshine, in the glow of summer, and if possible, when more beautiful in the icy fetters of winter, as it is to-day. I have marked the awe with which strangers from beyond the sea approached it, as if to a solemn service of worship. I have observed the delight of great multitudes viewing it

from beyond the sea approached it, as if to a solemn service of worship. I have observed the delight of great multitudes viewing it for the first time, and I have also witnessed the horror depicted on every face when some unfortunate was engulfed forever, over whose remains the roar of the cataract ascended in requiem.

In a spirit of patriotism, what remains of Niagara should be preserved. As the most stupendous spectacle of its kind, it deserves to rank with the scenes which mankind by common consent holds sacred. I feel now that upon the success of this measure the preservation of Niagara depends; that if a narrow, sordid course is pursued, such as is advocated by some, it may be destroyed forever, and that by a broad, humane and enlightened policy, in response to public opinion, it will be reserved by the State for all time to come. I know that the state of things existing at Niagara, with the cataract enclosed for private profit, does not reflect credit on the State or the nation which boasts of its possession. I can see the danger of encroachments being made upon it, which will completely destroy its beauty and grandeur. I believe the advocates of the measure in all parts of the

I have highlighted in yellow and blue our key stance on the current violations of this act by NYS. "It will be reserved by the State for all time to come" as the preservation of the natural beauty and splendor of the "park", and the refusal of commercialization on the reservation itself.

Here is a screenshot from the [Niagara Falls State Park website](#).

Niagara Falls State Park

Today, the park's signature attraction, the majestic Niagara Falls, is the dramatic apex of the free-flowing waters of four of the Great Lakes into the Niagara River Gorge. But that wasn't always the case. During the Industrial Revolution of the early 19th Century, the natural beauty of Niagara Falls began to suffer as earnest industrialists built mills and factories along the river to harness its power. By the late 1860s, a small band of early environmentalists, including landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who were concerned over the river's waning flow, founded the Free Niagara movement. The movement believed that the natural beauty of the land surrounding the Falls should be protected from commercial interests and exploitation, and remain free to the public. Members urged New York State to reclaim the Falls and the surrounding area.

After more than 15 years of pressure, the Free Niagara crusaders won their battle. The Niagara Appropriations Bill was signed into law in 1885, creating the Niagara Reservation and signifying possibly the most important event in Niagara Falls' history. New York State Assemblyman Thomas Vincent Welch was a prominent figure in getting the bill signed and later went on to serve as the first superintendent of America's oldest state park.

Frederick Law Olmsted, perhaps best known for designing New York City's Central Park, believed that parks should be places of natural beauty, where "the masses could be renewed." This philosophy was applied throughout Olmsted's landscape design for Niagara Falls State Park, with an entire network of footpaths through wooded areas and along the banks of the Niagara River.

Today, the oldest American State Park retains Olmsted's vision by staying committed to maintaining native vegetation, preserving its unparalleled vistas and providing public access. Visitors from around the world are entranced by the thundering wonder of Niagara Falls, a grand tribute to the men and women who fought to preserve it for all.

“...should be protected from commercial interests and exploitation...”

Delaware North owns the commercial rights, contracted by NYS, to all concessions at the state park. There is a toll booth for parking on Goat Island. In 2012, the Scott Lawn Yard company was contracted by NYS to remove large, natural boulders from Three Sisters Island and construct a railing. This is directly in violation of the spirit of the act that was created by Free Niagara and legally agreed upon by NYS in 1883, to preserve the natural beauty of the reservation. That act will be found towards the end of this document.

February 21st, 2017, a resolution was passed by the Niagara Falls City Council to ban the building of the Cuomo/Delaware North lodge on Goat Island, to ban future commercialization on Goat Island, and to divert funding from the Buffalo Billions meant for economic development into the city of Niagara Falls, NY. County legislators passed a similar resolution soon after.

When the stones were moved from Three Sisters Island and the railing erected, many locals (myself included) wondered why there was not an opportunity for public input on the destruction. Those stones were sacred to many of us. I soon found out that there was a public presentation by NYS development, but it was not announced. An NYS representative claimed that, since nobody showed up to oppose the project, they went ahead with it. When I was tipped off about the “public presentation” for the RFP (request for proposal) on the Goat Island lodge, I made sure to be present to oppose it publicly. I then started a petition which gained over 1,000 signatures and led to the city resolution on February 21st, 2017. Many of our prominent citizens, including: politicians, scholars, historians and ancestors of the founders of the city of Niagara Falls, NY; joined together to oppose the construction of the lodge. Many of us wrote open letters to Governor Andrew Cuomo, who stood firm on his support of the lodge. A local organization, Rise Niagara, openly protested the construction of the lodge. Here is an article from the Niagara Gazette reporting on my initial public opposition. More information on this situation can be obtained easily by searching “Goat Island Lodge Niagara Falls” in any search engine.

Here are two articles chronicling the information surrounding Delaware North and the proposed lodge on Goat Island. Article I and Article II

It is important to note that Delaware North is involved in a lawsuit with Yosemite National Park after Delaware North’s contract was not renewed. The company sued over the Yosemite name and trademarks. The loss of the Yosemite contract was clearly a hit to Delaware North. Read this Washington Post article for more information on this case. Yosemite National Park is also the work of Frederick Law Olmsted... same environmentalist architect, same parasitic company, and a very similar situation to the one currently being experienced in Niagara Falls, NY. One must wonder whether the situation in Yosemite could be a precedent for the ongoing at the Niagara Falls State Park?

Direct quotes from the aforementioned Washington Post Article: **“In another place, it would be just a contract dispute. But in Yosemite — which bills itself as “not just a great valley, but a shrine to human foresight, the strength of granite, the power of glaciers, the persistence of life, and the tranquility of the High Sierra” — it’s being perceived as an affront to the entire point of preserving nature for public use.**

“It’s not just a name, it’s iconic. This is our history and you can’t mess with that,” Fresno resident Bill Campbell, who spent his honeymoon at the Ahwahnee 40 years ago, told the [Courthouse News Service](#). “The park belongs to the people, it’s not right that this company is trying to profit from that. People won’t stand for it.”

“The Park Service and other critics have characterized Delaware North’s \$51 million pricetag for the names and other “intangible assets” as a shameless money grab.”

What we have is a world treasure, Niagara Falls, being exploited by two primary entities: NYS and Delaware North; as business partners. A city, Niagara Falls, NY, on the verge of bankruptcy. Billions of dollars being made by NYS and Delaware North from the state park, right next to a poor city of the same name. In fact, if you go to www.iloveny.com and search for restaurants in the city of Niagara Falls, NY, you will get this:



Top of the Falls Restaurant

NIAGARA FALLS, GREATER NIAGARA

(716) 278-0340



A restaurant owned by Delaware North, right on Goat Island. In the photo, it is obvious that many of the historic trees noted by Thomas Welch in his speech have been cleared out for a “nice view of the falls from Top of the Falls Restaurant.” If you cater a movie at the state park/ Goat Island, you will have to eat here, since Delaware North owns the commercial license. Ergo; it would be illegal to have a local restaurant cater a film being shot at the state park.

The commercial violation of Delaware North’s presence on the Niagara Reservation, and the destruction of the natural environment on the Niagara Reservation, both demand immediate action from lawmakers, activists, journalists and environmentalists. Below is the 1883 Niagara Reservation Act.



ALBANY:
WEED, PARSONS AND COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1883.

CHAP. 336.

AN ACT to authorize the selection, location and appropriation of certain lands in the village of Niagara Falls for a state reservation and to preserve the scenery of the falls of Niagara.

PASSED April 30, 1883 ; three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. Within ten days after the passage of this act, there shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the consent of the senate, five commissioners, all of whom shall be residents of the state of New

Commissioners,
appointment of.

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term of
office, etc.

York, who are hereby appointed and constituted a board of commissioners by the name and style of "The Commissioners of the State Reservation at Niagara." Said commissioners shall hold office for the term of five years from and after the passage of this act, and until others are appointed in their places. No member of said board shall receive any compensation for his services as commissioner, but each commissioner shall be entitled to receive his actual disbursements for his expenses in performing the duties of his office. In case any of the persons so appointed as above will not undertake the office of this commission, or in case of a vacancy on said board, such vacancy shall be filled by the governor, and the person so appointed shall hold his

commission, or in case of a vacancy on said board, such vacancy shall be filled by the governor, and the person so appointed shall hold his office for the term of five years from the date of his appointment and until another shall be appointed in his place.

Powers. § 2. The said board shall have power to select and locate such lands in the village of Niagara Falls and the county of Niagara and the state of New York as may in their opinion be proper and necessary, to be reserved for the purpose of preserving the scenery of the falls of

appraisement. on application of said board of commissioners of the state reservation at Niagara, upon notice of such vacancy and application to be published in a newspaper in the county of Niagara for ten successive days, appoint another in his place.

Official oath. § 5. The commissioners of appraisement so appointed shall, before they enter upon their duties, take and subscribe an oath, to be administered by some person authorized to administer oaths, faithfully to execute their duties according to the best of their ability. They shall

Notice of meeting to view property. give notice of the time and place of the meeting to view the said prop-

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erty, by publishing the same in a newspaper printed and published in the county of Niagara, for twelve successive week days.

§ 6. The commissioners shall together view such property and shall receive any legal evidence as to the compensation that should be made therefor, and may adjourn from time to time. They shall ascertain and award to the respective owners of the property to be taken, and to all persons and corporations interested therein, such compensation therefor as in their opinion shall be just and proper, and in fixing the amount of such compensation said commissioners shall not make any allowance or deduction on account of any real or supposed benefits which the parties interested may derive from the said state reservation or improvement for which said lands are to be taken. The report of the said commissioners of appraisement, signed by a majority of said commissioners, shall be filed in the office of the clerk of Niagara county as soon as completed, and said report shall be made

To view property, take evidence, make award and file report.

of said commissioners, shall be filed in the office of the clerk of Niagara county as soon as completed, and said report shall be made and filed within six months from the time of their appointment. Their minutes of testimony taken by them, if any, shall be attached to and filed with their said report and form a part thereof.

§ 7. After the report of the said commissioners of appraisement shall be so filed, the board of commissioners of the state reservation at Niagara shall give notice, by publishing the same in ten successive numbers of some newspaper printed and published in the said county of Niagara, that they will on a day to be specified in said notice apply to the said supreme court for an order confirming the said report, and on the day so appointed the said court, upon being furnished with proof of the due publication of said notice as above provided, shall confirm such report, and make an order containing a recital of the substance of the proceedings in the matter of the appraisement, and a description of the real estate appraised, for which compensation is to be made, and shall also direct to whom the money is to be paid.

To publish notice of application to confirm report.

§ 8. A certified copy of the order so to be made as aforesaid shall be recorded at full length in the office of the clerk of the county of Niagara, and also in the office of the secretary of state.

Copy order to be recorded.

§ 9. Within twenty days after the confirmation of the report of the commissioners, as provided for in the seventh section of this act, any party may appeal by notice in writing to the other to the supreme court from the appraisal and report of the commissioners. Such appeal shall be heard by the supreme court at any general term of the fourth department on such notice thereof being given according to the rules and practice of said court. On the hearing of such appeal the court may direct a new appraisal before the same or new commissioners in its discretion. The second report shall be final and conclusive on all the parties interested. Provided, however, that the state shall not take possession of the said appraised premises until the amount awarded for the same shall have been duly appropriated by act of the legislature of this state for this purpose.

Appeal and proceedings thereon.

§ 10. If there should be diverse and conflicting claimants to the money or to any part of it, to be paid as compensation for the real estate taken for the purpose aforesaid, the court may direct the moneys to be paid into court, and may determine who is entitled to the same, and direct to whom the same shall be paid, and may in its discretion order a reference to ascertain the facts upon which said determination

Money to be paid into court in case of conflicting claimants, etc.

to be paid into court, and may determine who is entitled to the same, and direct to whom the same shall be paid, and may in its discretion order a reference to ascertain the facts upon which said determination and order are to be made.

conflicting claimants, etc.

§ 11. The said court shall have power at any time to amend any defect or informality in any of the proceedings to acquire title to the said land, as may be necessary, and also to appoint other commis-

Power to amend proceedings.

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506

LAWS OF NEW YORK.

[CHAP. 337.]

sioners of appraisement in place of any who should die, or refuse or neglect to serve or be incapable of serving upon like notice as required by section four of this act in like cases of neglect or refusal to serve.

To acquire perfect title.

§ 12. If at any time after an attempt to acquire title by compensation as aforesaid it should be found that the title attempted to be acquired is defective, the said board of commissioners of the state reservation at Niagara shall proceed anew to acquire or perfect such title in the manner hereinbefore set forth, and as if no appraisement had been made.

To report to the legislature.

§ 13. After the proceedings herein provided for, for the purpose of acquiring title by the state to the said lands, shall have been concluded, the said board of commissioners of the state reservation at Niagara shall report such proceedings, and all other action by them taken, together with the amounts awarded by the said commissioners of appraisement, to the legislature of this state.

In case of failure to make appropriation.

§ 14. It is further provided that in case the legislature shall fail to make an appropriation to pay the owners for the lands which may be selected and located by the said commissioners of the state reservation

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In case of
failure to
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§ 14. It is further provided that in case the legislature shall fail to make an appropriation to pay the owners for the lands which may be selected and located by the said commissioners of the state reservation at Niagara pursuant to the provisions hereof within two years after the passage of this act, all the proceedings which may have been taken for acquiring the title to the said lands shall be void and of no effect, but in such case the comptroller shall pay to the parties whose lands have been condemned in pursuance of the provisions of this act the reasonable costs and expenses incurred by them in such proceedings, the amount of such costs and expenses to be fixed and allowed by the attorney-general and to be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

\$10,000 ap-
propri-
ated.

§ 15. The sum of ten thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, payable out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, is hereby appropriated subject to the audit of the comptroller to carry out the provisions of this act, and the same shall be payable by the comptroller to the said commissioners of the state reservation at Niagara.

§ 16. This act shall take effect immediately.

February 9th, 2017 - The [Buffalo News](#) announced that Delaware North made a \$300,000 donation to the Buffalo Olmsted Foundation. This was less than two weeks prior to the Niagara Falls resolution banning the Goat Island lodge, and amidst the media frenzy of local opposition. Many opponents to the lodge cited Olmsted's vision. This writer finds it highly coincidental that Delaware North, after losing the Yosemite contract and on the verge of negative PR regarding their Niagara Falls contract, should find it in the kindness of their hearts to battle the emerald ash borer. Note that Delaware North has never made a donation of this size to the Buffalo Olmsted Foundation before...

Delaware North gives \$300G to battle ash borer assault on Olmsted trees

"Olmsted's parks are integral to the unique character of Buffalo," said Lou Jacobs, co-CEO of Delaware North. "Delaware North is thrilled to support the efforts of Mayor Brown and the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy to preserve these green spaces for future generations."

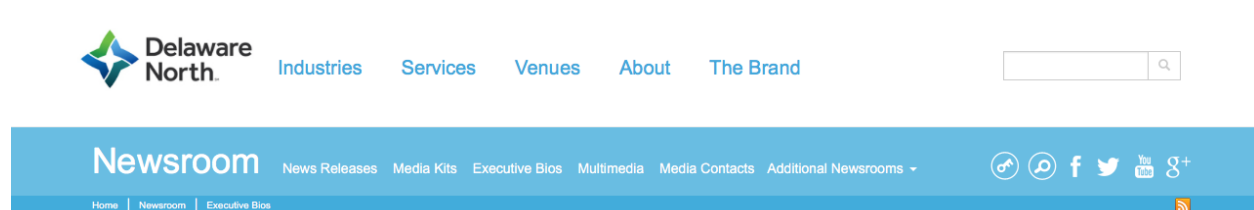
Stephanie Crockatt, the conservatory's executive director, expressed gratitude for the company's support.

"Delaware North has been an incredible partner for a number of years," Crockatt said. "This is the biggest gift they've given us."

The only other private donation of this magnitude the parks organization has received is a 10-year, \$1 million grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, which is reserved for Martin Luther King Park's Splash Pad and Ice Rink.

"The generosity of Delaware North is wonderful news for the historic Olmsted Park system as the conservancy continues to manage one of Buffalo's greatest assets," Mayor Byron W. Brown said. "I'm also pleased that these funds will enable the conservancy to hire more of our young people through my Summer Youth Program to assist with forestry efforts, while learning valuable skills."

...also worth noting is Kevin Kelly; Delaware North's President of Travel, who also happens to serve on the board for the Buffalo Olmsted Park Conservancy. Some would say that this is a conflict of interest: Why should a corporation such as Delaware North, who are notorious for "money grabbing" and commercialization, have any say whatsoever in the legacy and vision of Frederick Law Olmsted? The Buffalo Olmsted Foundation released no statement whatsoever regarding the proposed lodge on Goat Island, the concept of which is clearly in complete disregard to the efforts and life work of Frederick Law Olmsted.



Kevin Kelly, President, Delaware North, Travel

Position: President, Delaware North, Travel



Kevin Kelly is president of Delaware North's travel subsidiary, which provides award-winning food, beverage and retail services at airports around the world. Delaware North is a global leader in hospitality and food service with more than \$3 billion in annual revenue and 55,000 associates serving half a billion customers in North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Kelly oversees all aspects of Delaware North's travel division, which operates more than 200 airport outlets in 20 cities, including some of the world's busiest airports such as Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, Austin-Bergstrom

Food Network Kitchen, L.A.'s Original Farmer's Market and numerous other award-winning dining and retail outlets. Its portfolio boasts more than 200 national, local and proprietary brands, as well as high-profile partnerships with the likes of Wolfgang Puck, Jack Nicklaus and Jay-Z. While being a leader in the industry, Delaware North also maintains several longtime airport contracts, some of which have spanned more than 60 years.

Prior to leading the travel division, Kelly served as vice president of shared services for Delaware North, overseeing enterprise-wide services – including retail, the Culinary and Hospitality Council, supply management services, facilities, corporate security and the company's proprietary environmental management system, GreenPath®. In the role, Kelly was involved with each operating company within Delaware North's vast portfolio of locations and industries.

From 2005 to 2012, Kelly served as president of Delaware North's parks and resorts subsidiary, where he earned key contract extensions at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex and new National Park Service contracts at Olympic and Shenandoah national parks. In addition, Kelly led the acquisition of three hotels in West Yellowstone, Mont., the expansion of Tenaya Lodge outside of Yosemite and the integration of the company's five resort properties in Australia.

Kelly joined Delaware North's parks and resorts division in 1996 as director of retail operations at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. He later served as director of retail operations and then chief operating officer for Delaware North at Yosemite National Park before going on to serve as a regional vice president for the division.

In addition to his leadership role with Delaware North, Kelly serves on the boards of the Buffalo Olmsted Park Conservancy and the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation. He has been a strong advocate for responsible stewardship of U.S. national parks through participation on numerous committees and councils at a national level, including the National Parks Hospitality Association, of which he was vice-chairman.

A graduate of the University of Southern California, Kelly began his hospitality management career with Aramark in its Parks and Resorts division.

Corporate Info

[Annual Report](#)

[Corporate Social Responsibility Report](#)

