



Ralph Wilson Park Conservancy

RALPH WILSON PARK BRIDGE FACT SHEET

The Ralph Wilson Park Conservancy is a not-for-profit organization created to see through the community's transformative vision for the 100+ acre City of Buffalo waterfront park by creating an inclusive, accessible, safe and fun space for everyone. New sections of Ralph Wilson Park will begin opening in 2026. Learn more at www.rwparkbuffalo.org

Bridge Design

- A community driven visioning process for Ralph Wilson Park that started in 2018 called Imagine LaSalle emphasized that the community's #1 priority was safe access to the park. The City of Buffalo and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation added a major infrastructure project to the original scope of the park design: the pedestrian bridge and the redesign of the 4th street park. The cost of both is approximately \$20M.
- The bridge design was chosen through a community-based design competition led by the University at Buffalo Regional Institute in early 2020. The community chose schlaich bergmann partner (sbp), known for its creative, stylish, sustainable design of long-span bridges and towers throughout the world.
- The bridge was designed with an appreciation for Buffalo's rich architectural and industrial heritage, coupled with a desire to create an innovative and optimized structure. The result is a tied-arch bridge structure with an enclosed steel arch that protects pedestrians from the noise and traffic below, while also creating a safe and welcoming crossing into the park. Groups of architectural cut-outs are patterned across the vertical sides of the steel, allowing for the efficient flow of forces between the top and bottom chords of the arch. The proposed pattern of openings was developed as an interpretation of the craftsmanship and detailing associated with Buffalo's historic architecture.
- This new 266-foot pedestrian bridge designed by schlaich bergermann partner (sbp) will soon span across interstate I-190 and the CSX rail line to link the new park with the Lower West Side neighborhood of Buffalo.

Bridge Construction

- Cimolai, the bridge manufacturer, is based in Italy and just established a manufacturing site in Olean, NY. Cimolai was chosen to manufacture the bridge because of its extensive bridge manufacturing experience, high standard of quality, ability to successfully manage the complexity of the design, and a competitive bid.

- The signature pedestrian bridge was shipped from Cimolai's manufacturing plant in Italy and arrived in the New York City Harbor on June 22, and will make its way to Buffalo by way of the Erie Canal in early July 2024.
- The bridge will be transported via barge along the Erie Canal on two boats and in four pieces, lifted to the shore of Ralph Wilson Park, assembled and moved across the park and lifted into its final location via a self-propelled modular transporter (SPMT) and a gantry system in October 2024.
- The bridge is supported by embankment walls on either side of the I-190 roadway. By adding berms at either end of the bridge, sbp was able to shorten the overall length of the bridge and thereby reduce the structural impact, weight, and amount of material required. The structure allows for a usable deck width of 16 feet and the steel plate that covers the bridge reaches a height of 20 feet above the deck at the midspan.
- Once placed over the I-190, there will still be significant construction work done on it before it will be open to the public in 2026.
- The Ralph Wilson Park Conservancy launched a social media campaign in June 2024 (@RalphWilsonParkBridge) to engage the public in tracking the #RalphWilsonParkBridge and revel in this historic moment.

Media Contact

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