



CHESTNUT RIDGE
Conservancy

The 2020 Annual Meeting And Ten Year Anniversary Celebration

Introduction

*Good Evening Members, Guests and Conservancy Directors.
Welcome to the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy 2020 Annual
Meeting and Ten Year Anniversary Celebration Day!*

*My name is Gordon Panek, current President of the
Conservancy. I am the producer and presenter of this Power
Point Presentation on the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy's 2019
year in review and Ten Year Anniversary Celebration.*

*Please feel free to make comments to me on the presentation
and or the CRC operations information at
gpanek@chestnutridgeconservancy.org.*



The 2019 Annual Meeting Call to Order

I now official call our Annual Meeting and Ten Year Virtual Celebration to order.

We appreciate your interest in the Conservancy and it's mission and hope you enjoy listening to and viewing our information and achievements here in.

Thank You.





Ten Year Anniversary

2010 – 2020



Sunday, November 1, 2020 – Official Day of Celebration

Tonight, not only are we reporting to you on the CRC's 2019 year in review, we are also taking this opportunity spread the cheer a bit and wrap up our official day of virtual celebration for the Conservancy's Ten Year Anniversary.

At the conclusion of this presentation we will announce our 2020 Ten Year Anniversary on-line silent auction winners. Those who have won the highest bid will receive an e-mail from us to arrange for receipt of your winning item.

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy

- ❑ *In an effort to assist the County of Erie in preserving and restoring Chestnut Ridge Park in the midst of budget cuts and rising expenses, a dedicated group of concerned citizens came together in 2008 to form the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy.*
- ❑ *Incorporated in 2010 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization the Conservancy was established to support the restoration and preservation of the rich natural, recreational and historic resources that comprise Chestnut Ridge Park.*
- ❑ *The Conservancy is a all volunteer organization comprised of a non-paid Board of Directors. We work in partnership with Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry through a Memo of Understanding with Erie County.*
- ❑ *Our funding stream is based on memberships, general donations and a once a year Gala fund raiser.*



The Conservancy's Mission Statement

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy was incorporated in 2010 to support the restoration and preservation of the rich natural, recreational, and historic resources that comprise Chestnut Ridge Park.



Board of Directors

- The CRC Board of Directors is a 100% volunteer Board.
- There are no paid board members or other paid executive positions.
- We strive to have our Board Members contribute their time and efforts on our community outreach events as well as coordinating our capital project initiatives with Erie County Parks and outside vendors.
- To this end we owe our board members much gratitude for their time and support of the Conservancy's mission.



Current Board of Directors

- Gordon Panek – President
- Mona Lloyd – Vice President
- Tom DiSimone – Treasurer
- William Thornton - Secretary
- Ron Michnik – Founding Trustee
- Troy Schinzel – Erie County Parks Commissioner
- James Hornung, Sr.
- Barbara Hauser
- Liz Cash
- Toni Cudney
- Bernie Boinski
- Ed Murphy
- James Lynch
- Lynn Buffamonti
- Andy Gernold
- Jason Jaskula



2019 vs 2018 Financial Information

- ❑ 2019 gave us a better year revenue stream wise as well as a reduction in administrative expenditures.
- ❑ Revenues from memberships fees, general donations and grants improved over 2018 with the annual gala producing an additional \$12,800 over 2018's Gala.
- ❑ Expenditures in Administrative costs, professional charges, and Gala costs all declined in 2019 vs 2018.
- ❑ Capital project expenditures in 2019 were lower due to lesser costing projects being completed in 2019 vs 2018.
- ❑ 2019 Capital projects were \$20,000 in Casino Floor refinishing and \$5,000 for the eternal flame trail rest area.
- ❑ Net fund balance usage was \$911 in 2019 vs \$45,127 in 2018. 2018's larger fund balance usage was mainly due to a significant decline in 2018 gala revenue and more costly park capital improvement projects.
- ❑ All in all, 2019 was a much better year financially for the CRC than 2018.



2019 vs 2018

2019 vs 2018	2019	% of Rev	2018	% of Rev	Change	%
Revenues						
Membership Dues	\$ 7,980.00	18%	\$ 7,145.00	9%	\$ 835.00	10%
General Donations	\$ 5,593.31	13%	\$ 3,620.60	5%	\$ 1,972.71	35%
Event Sponsors, Donations, Fees	\$ 250.00	1%	\$ 5,835.50	7%	\$ (5,585.50)	-2234%
Grants	\$ 2,500.00	6%	\$ 500.00	1%	\$ 2,000.00	80%
Gala Gross	\$ 26,215.00	60%	\$ 13,405.00	17%	\$ 12,810.00	49%
Misc Sales	\$ 475.00	1%	\$ 2,227.58	3%	\$ (1,752.58)	-369%
Other Revenues	\$ 80.23	0%	\$ 80.14	0%	\$ 0.09	0%
Reserve Usage	\$ 911.49	2%	\$ 45,127.66	58%	\$ 44,216.17	4851%
Total Revenues	\$ 44,005.03	100%	\$ 77,941.48	100%	\$ 54,495.89	
Expenditures						
		% of Exp		% of Exp		%
Administrative - Marketing, Office, Ins.	\$ 3,453.29	8%	\$ 17,847.53	23%	\$ (14,394.24)	-417%
Professional - Consulting, Acctg, Taxes	\$ 4,240.12	10%	\$ 7,087.50	9%	\$ (2,847.38)	-67%
Capital - Park restoration/maintenance	\$ 25,416.25	58%	\$ 41,190.00	53%	\$ (15,773.75)	-62%
Events - Inc Gala	\$ 10,895.37	25%	\$ 11,816.45	15%	\$ (921.08)	-8%
Other Expenditures	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 44,005.03	100%	\$ 77,941.48	100%	\$ (33,936.45)	
Fund Balance	\$ 110,124.14		\$ 111,035.63		\$ (911.49)	
Reserved	\$ 32,500.00		\$ 25,000.00		\$ 7,500.00	
UnReserved	\$ 77,624.14		\$ 86,035.63		\$ (8,411.49)	



Membership and friends base

- ❑ *The CRC 2019 year end membership count was 227.*
 - ❑ *An improvement of 29 members over 2018's membership count.*
- ❑ *We are actively responding to lapsing members to keep our previous base and continuously seek new members to our base.*



2019 Park Restoration & Improvement Projects

In 2019 the Conservancy funded two very notable capital projects in the Park and coordinated a very successful United Way Day of Caring park maintenance projects list with M & T Bank Volunteers.

In Spring of 2019, the Conservancy, together with Boy Scout Troup 285 and Erie County Parks Department, established an Eternal Flame Trail Head rest area. Clearing of brush and debris, landscaping, adding a crushed stone walkway together with the purchase and installation of six stone benches provided for a much needed trail head rest area and tremendously improved the entire trail head area.

In Summer of 2019, the Conservancy funded the first time ever repair, cleaning and refinishing of the Casino interior stone flooring. The \$20,000 project took over a month to complete replacing broken slabs of sand stone, caulking cracks, diamond etch scrubbing of the floors and applying three coats of sealant.

See the following slides for pictures of these outstanding park maintenance and improvement projects.





2019 Eternal Flame Trail Head Team Work – Troop 285





2019 Eternal Flame Trail Head Project Completion - Thank you Troop 285





2019 Casino Flooring Repair & Refinishing





2019 Casino Flooring Repair & Refinishing Completion



2019 United Way Day of Caring Teams Thank you Ron Michnik, Mona Lloyd, Toni Cudney and M & T Bank volunteers!!



2019 Community OutReach Events

- ❑ *The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy also plays a role in bringing people to the park for various events and recreational happenings.*
- ❑ *Co-Sponsor to the Annual Summer Classic Tennis Tournament – Highly competitive, but friendly WNY tournament bringing over 180 tennis players together in a six day event.*
- ❑ *Supporter of the USTA Regional Tennis Championships at the Ridge bringing 400+ participants from Binghamton, Rochester, Batavia, Syracuse areas to name a few*
- ❑ *Pitching the CRC canopy up at the Orchard Park Arts festival for some interactive rock painting and CRC public awareness.*
- ❑ *Sponsor of the Annual Kite festival – now becoming a favorite for the young and old alike.*
- ❑ *Outdoor movie(s) on the hill - big screen movies located on the hill facing down from the casino brings hundreds of kids and family members to the park.*
- ❑ *United Way day of caring – bringing together volunteers from all around to do various spring cleanup and maintenance projects within the park.*
- ❑ *Santa Land & Winterfest – Winter events for kids held around the casino.*



A Look Forward

2020 Park Restoration & Improvement Projects

The Conservancy had planned a very ambitious project restoration and improvement lineup for 2020.

- 1.) First up is a \$10,000 Casino interior stone work restoration project replacing broken step slabs around the two fire places, cleaning and re-mortaring stonework cracks above and around the two fire place hearths. The project has been completed in August.
- 2.) Second is a \$25,000 project to replace forty year old (non-working) light fixtures and relight the upper four tennis courts. The tennis courts have not be lighted since 1995. This project is in the works and has a completion date for around the end of September.
- 3.) Third up and our biggest , most ambitious project ever undertaken by the CRC is the purchase and installation of a “PLAYGROUND FOR ALL” to be located to the right side of the casino. This project carries a \$450,000 price tag. The CRC has already sourced over \$300,000 in capital funds and in-kind contributions for the project. We are in need of a couple more big contributions to take us over the finish line to get the project started. We had thought 2020 would be the year until the COVID 19 pandemic came about, but we are very confident if we don't get it done in 2020 it will happen in 2021. It will be a Playground for All children of all Abilities.

See the following slides for some pictures of our 2020 Park improvement initiatives.



Casino Interior Stone Work

Completed in the Summer of 2020



Tennis Courts New Fixtures & Re-Lighting

Currently in the works – Expected completion October 2020



**When completed, it will be the first time
in over twenty five years the lights will be
back on at the tennis courts.**



A Playground for All

- ☐ *A playground for all children of all abilities to be located in Chestnut Ridge Park to the right of the Park Casino.*
- ☐ *The price tag for the playground and foundation is in the \$425,000 - \$450,000 range.*
- ☐ *The Conservancy has already committed nearly \$38,000 in funding. \$25,000 toward capital equipment and \$13,000 in fund raising consulting.*
- ☐ *This past summer the Conservancy secured a \$50,000 grant from the Ralph Wilson Legacy.*
- ☐ *Just last week, the Junior League of Buffalo awarded the Conservancy \$215,000 for the Playground from it's 2019 Decorators Showcase of Homes proceeds.*
- ☐ *To date the Conservancy has raised over \$325,000 in capital and in-kind donations. We are now on third base with one more good base hit to go.*
- ☐ *We are continuing a very active campaign to closing the gap possibly in 2020 and if not this year, for sure in 2021.*
- ☐ ***You can contribute directly by Texting "PLAYGROUND2020" to 44-321***
- ☐ *Please see the following slides for pictures of the preliminary design and playground equipment options in consideration.*



A Playground for All

TEXT
“PLAYGROUND2020”
TO 44-321





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Our Sponsors & Supporters Thank You!

All of what we do through the CRC is made possibly by support from our sponsors, supporters, members and volunteers. We wish to recognize the generosity and support of all

2019 Gala Sponsors

- ☐ ***Polymer Conversions, Inc.***
- ☐ ***Try-It Distributing***
- ☐ ***West Herr Automotive***
- ☐ ***Richard & Karen Penfold***
- ☐ ***APEX Corporation***
- ☐ ***M & T Bank Charitable Foundation***

2019 Gala Program Advertisers

- ☐ ***Litwin Castle Insurance***
- ☐ ***United States Tennis Association
USTA Eastern***
- ☐ ***XOAR Communications***

2019 Gala Program Advertisers

- ☐ ***Brown & Stromecki Agency, Inc.***
- ☐ ***Images in Glass, Inc.***
- ☐ ***Pace & Pace Law Firm***
- ☐ ***Lockwood's Garden Center***
- ☐ ***Grateful Grind Café***
- ☐ ***Susan Panaro Senior Personal
Training***
- ☐ ***Thomas J. Johnson Homes, Inc.***
- ☐ ***Southtowns Ear, Nose & Throat, LLP***
- ☐ ***Great Erie Federal Credit Union***
- ☐ ***Nino's Pizza***
- ☐ ***FB Brown & Sons Funeral Home***
- ☐ ***Illo DiPaolo's Restaurant***

Finally to the hundreds of members , supporters and volunteers who have donated their money, time and talents to the CRC, you are the backbone of the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy!



Special Acknowledgement

The Conservancy, it's board members would like to give a sincere nod of appreciation and thank you to Commissioner Troy Schinzel, and all the Ridge Park staff who have helped and supported the CRC over the past year. The Conservancy accomplishes good things for Chestnut Ridge Park with the blessing and help of Commissioner Schinzel and Erie County Department of Parks, Forestry and Recreation. We are grateful to have a good working relationship the Parks Department and look forward to many more years of continued partnership for the benefit of Chestnut Ridge Park.





Ten Year Anniversary

Celebrate for us!



You can continue to support the Conservancy through our current “Virtual Gala” fund drive. It’s running right now.

We are extending our “Virtual Gala” funding drive to December 1st, 2020

We have four ways you can choose from.

1.) For a \$100 donation, you can receive a \$25 dinner gift certificate to one of five area restaurants of your choice plus a commemorative CRC T-shirt or a CRC Cap or a CRC etched wine glass set. Your choice. See next slide.

2.) You can also advertise in our commemorative program booklet. Deadline is Monday!

Full Page ad is \$500, a half page ad is \$250 and a quarter page ad is \$150.

3.) You can choose to be a major sponsor.

Sponsor levels at \$5,000, \$3,000, \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500



Gift Certificate

for You or Your

in the amount of \$ \$25.00

Redeemable at:

*Illo DiPaolo of Blasdell or
Roycroft Inn – East Aurora
Hamburg Brew Company of Hamburg or
The Byrd House of Orchard Park or
Glen Iris Inn at Letchworth State Park*

Given by Chestnut Ridge Conservancy

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy

Authorized Signature

**\$38 of value
back to you for
a \$100
donation!**

Plus One of the Following



CRC Cap – One size fits all



CRC T-Shirt (S-M-L-XL)



CRC Boxed Wine Glass Set





Ten Year Anniversary

Celebrate for us!



To Purchase individual \$100 tickets, it's really easy
online at

www.ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org

Just click on the “2020 Virtual Gala” tab for the drop down menu and
select “Virtual Gala Tickets”.





Ten Year Anniversary

Celebrate for us!



For Sponsorships and/or Advertising in our
Commemorative Program

Email or Call Gordon Panek ASAP at:

gpanek@chestnutridgeconservancy.org

770-757-9240



Conservancy Memberships, Directorships & Volunteers

We are always looking for new members as well as new directors that can help out with the Conservancy's mission. If you would like to only occasionally volunteer, we have needs for you as well!

For Memberships and Volunteers

Go to our website and click on the "Join us" tab and select from the drop down menu.

If your interested in becoming a Conservancy Director please email me and your resume to

gpanek@chestnutridgeconservancy.org

Thank you for your interest in the Conservancy.





Chestnut Ridge Conservancy

Online Silent Auction Winners



Robert Bateman Print "Giant Panda" - Tom Sanderson Winner

Ilio DiPaolo "Dinner for Four" - Mona Lloyd Winner

Three Ridge Tennis Lessons - Bryan Debroka Winner

Patty Looney Photography \$250 Gift Certificate – June Brennan Winner

Garden Sculpture by Jim Cudney – Michelle Dunham Winner

Robert Bateman Poster "Grey Squirrel" - GAB Winner

Mini Burst Red – Mixed Media Art by Chris Derubeis – Jack Bertsch Winner

One Hour Guitar Lessons with Doug Yoemans – Carrie Lane Winner



Closing Comments

That concludes our Annual Presentation for 2019's review. Thank you for your interest and attendance.

That said, I'll make a motion to adjourn our Annual Meeting.

Can I have a Second?

Have a good night everyone.

Thank you and stay safe!

