

Scranton Public/Albright Memorial Library

Back to the Future: Olmsted at Albright

Project Manager: John Finnerty

1998 Grant Award: \$ 20,000

The Scranton Public/Albright Memorial Library is the largest public library in Northeastern Pennsylvania with over 200,000 people using the facility every year. The library, within an architecturally significant building, is located at one of the busiest intersections of Scranton.

In the 1990s, the library joined with several neighboring companies and organizations to revitalize the area's greenscape for both visitors and residents. They developed and received funding for **Back to the Future: Olmsted at Albright**. This project implemented an original Frederick Law Olmsted design from 1893 in front of the Albright Memorial Building. Project improvements included the planting of trees, shrubs, and perennials in an Olmsted landscape design, which enhanced the library and contributed to the city of Scranton's revitalization effort.

Significant Revisions to the Scope of Work

The grant originally envisioned implementing Olmsted's plan as drawn in 1893. However, not all of the original 37 species could be planted because some were potentially invasive and others were not available. Selected plantings were still guided by the Olmsted ideals.

Project Accomplishments

- Planted 9 deciduous trees and 217 shrubs;
- Thomas McLane Associates, landscape architects, conducted a tree inventory and created a plan for the project site;
- Approximately 760 square feet of macadam was removed and returned to greenspace;
- Planted approximately 1,910 square feet of the project site;
- Installed an automatic lawn and shrub sprinkler system in Children's Library garden and revamped existing irrigation system to accommodate new plantings;
- Produced a brochure and distributed 250 of them at the dedication ceremony;

- Received a citation from the "Marking the Millennium" committee of the local civic group, Scranton Tomorrow; and
- Received the "Pride and Progress" award presented by the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$20,000
Cash Contributions	\$17,626
In-kind Contributions	<u>\$ 4,785</u>
Total Project Value	\$42,411

Project Partnerships

The Architectural Heritage Association – contributed a framed reproduction of the original Fredrick Law Olmsted drawing
The Laurel Garden Club – donated time to advise on the maintenance of the grounds

