

Friends of Knox Farm State Park Class of 2024 Candidates

Paul A. Battaglia

Paul previously served on the Friends Board for several years. During his time on the Board, Paul served as President of the organization for a three-year period, and as its Vice President on two different occasions. He is a graduate of Canisius College and the University of Buffalo Law School (magna cum laude). Paul joined the firm of Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel in Buffalo upon his graduation from Law School in 1972, and was a partner of the firm from 1976 until 2012. He was a member of the Adjunct Faculty of the University of Buffalo Law School from 1994 until 2019, where he taught courses in corporate tax, corporate reorganizations, and non-profit organizations. He also taught corporate tax and advanced corporate tax at Canisius College in the School of Business master's degree program. In 2003, Paul received the Canisius College LaSalle Medal for his service to the College, and in 2008 he was honored by the Buffalo Law Review for his distinguished service to the Law School. Over the years, Paul has served on the Boards of, and has held leadership positions with, many community organizations. He is presently serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Just Buffalo Literary Center, Inc. and Ujima Company, Incorporated. Paul resides in Orchard Park, New York.

Carlie Graves

Carlie has served on the board of the Friends of Knox Farm State Park in the past, and is currently a member of the board. Carlie considers herself lucky to be a part of preserving and developing this treasure right in our backyard that is Knox Farm State Park. Carlie has lived in East Aurora her entire life, spending part of her childhood living at Knox Farm. Carlie is a Preschool Teacher at Parkdale Elementary School. During her free time, Carlie enjoys spending time with her dogs, visiting her family lake house, and volunteering with organizations in East Aurora. As a Friends of Knox Farm State Park board director, Carlie looks forward to continuing to help organize and volunteer with fundraising events.

Linda LaManna

Linda has lived in East Aurora for 52 years with her husband Bob. Linda's family includes 3 daughters, their husbands and 4 grandchildren. She is a retired Preschool teacher, and currently a library aide at the East Aurora Middle School. Linda is a current member of Rotary, and volunteer at Children's Hospital as a NICU rocker. She is involved with the ROC back to school and snack pack programs. Linda has been a Friends of Knox Farm board member since 2017. During this time, she has experienced the dedication and commitment the board and Friends members have given, resulting in many positive and beautiful changes transforming the building and grounds. She plans to continue to assist programs, events and duties to preserve and maintain the park today and for the future.

David Norton

Dave is a lifelong resident of the Town of Aurora. He retired from the Moog Space and Defense Group in 2022 after thirteen years with the company, where he managed a staff of twenty engineers in the Launch and Explorations Systems organization. Dave's wife Cindy is a co-owner of East Aurora Family Physical Therapy, and recently celebrated seventeen years in business. Dave and Cindy have been married for thirty-five years and have two adult daughters who graduated from East Aurora High School and currently reside in the Town of Aurora. Dave and Cindy were recently blessed with the birth of their first grandchild. Over the years, Dave has served a number of not-for-profit organizations, including The Friends of Knox Farm State Park, Niagara Falls Public Schools Pathways in Technology, The West Falls Center for the Arts, Aurora Arsenal Soccer, Boys and Girls Club of East Aurora, The Rural Outreach Center, and World Central Kitchen. During his time on the board of the Friends of Knox Farm State Park since 2021, Dave served as chair of the Human Resources committee, co-chaired the 2024 Solar Eclipse Celebration committee, and is a member of the Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival and Infrastructure Committees. Dave also serves the Friends of Knox Farm State Park as a crew member working on the replacement of the Stables windows

Jody Valdés

Jody is a communications consultant with extensive experience in communications planning, strategy, marketing, public relations, press communications, special events, press events and project management for multinational firms throughout the USA and Europe. Jody is fully bilingual in Spanish; has lived and worked in Europe and Latin America for over 20 years; has unique expertise in Latin American culture and diversified critical thinking with an international skill set. Jody has served clients including the Foundation for Puerto Rico, Hospital Monte Narranco, Fisher-Price Inc./USA, Fisher-Price Inc./Europe, NASCAR, Terumo Medical Corporation, Republic Drug, Inc., and Westwood Pharmaceuticals. Over the years, Jody has also served on the board of directors for a number of organizations, including Juan Domingo en Acción/Instituto Nueva Escuela, Temple Beth Shalom, Nickel City Prep School, and the Friends of Knox Farm State Park.