

## **About the Building**

The BNAC provides creative and thoughtful activities for both adults and children in a building that includes classroom and exhibit space.

Local Artists display their work in the Art Gallery with exhibits changing six times a year. A special area is dedicated as a tribute to Charles Burchfield. The gallery building also offers historical and environmental information and exhibits.

Classes and presentations are offered on a variety of topics. Community Art Projects or activities are available for visitors.

The gallery is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Check the website and social media pages for up-to-date information about activities and hours.



## **Volunteer**

Friends of the BNAC manage the exhibits, presentations, events and coordinate day to day activities. Volunteers work on the grounds and in the gardens. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call the center or find the application on the website. Meetings are held the second Friday of the month.

## **About the Grounds**

There are 29 acres of property. About 19 acres are accessible to the public. Paths and boardwalks lead through wooded areas, gardens and along Buffalo Creek. Picnic tables and benches are available throughout the park. A play area for children is located near the parking lot and an amphitheater rest near the creek. Informational plaques about Charles Burchfield and his work are found throughout the park. There are also sculptures.

Gardens and foliage change with the seasons, making every visit a new experience. The parklands are maintained by the Town of West Seneca employees and volunteers. Many community groups and businesses enhance the beauty of the grounds by caring for trails and gardens.

Touring information available on the web site offers guides for exploring and enjoying the park.

The grounds are open dawn to dusk daily.

Visitors are reminded:

- Dogs must be on a leash
- Place all litter in trash cans
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed in park
- No smoking is allowed in the park
- Do not pick flowers or climb trees
- Do not feed the wildlife
- Stay on trails while walking in the park



*“To assure that the BNAC will continue to serve the community interests in the areas of art, recreation, music, history and nature by providing a welcoming and educational facility.”*

*Mission Statement of the Friends of the Burchfield Nature and Art Center*

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Find us on Facebook and Instagram:  
BurchfieldNAC

## **History**

Originally a part of the Buffalo Creek Reservation, members of the Seneca Nation made this area their home until 1842 when the Treaty of Buffalo Creek led to their relocation. They valued the land, water and wildlife. Native American influence is evident at the BNAC in the Treaty of 1842 Commemoration area and through activities that include the Seneca Nation.

The Society of True Inspiration, a group of German immigrants, acquired and settled on this land in 1843. They became known as the Ebenzers, a communal society where everything was done for the good of the community. They remained in the area for 20 years and provided a foundation for the growth and development of the Town of West Seneca.

In the early 1900s, the property became home to the Island Park Hotel. The land around the building was known as Island Park and was a favored place for picnicking, canoeing and community gatherings. After the Island Park Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1974, the area was left vacant.

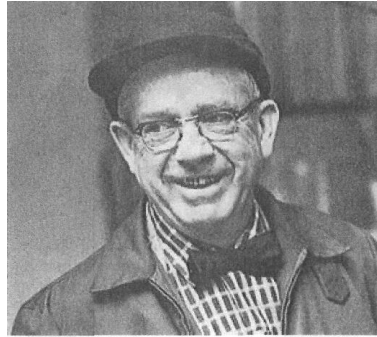
In 1998, the West Seneca Town Board chose the site to honor Charles Burchfield by redeveloping the park lands and adding a building that includes the BNAC Gallery and classroom.



*“As long as you live,  
keep learning how to live.”*

*Sagoyewatha [Red Jacket] (1750-1830)  
Native American Seneca Chief, Orator*

## **Charles E. Burchfield**



*“An artist must paint, not what he sees in nature, but what is there. To do so, he must invent symbols, which if properly used, make his work seem even more real than what is in front of him.”*

*Charles E. Burchfield*

Charles Burchfield is recognized as a famous American watercolorist. His work can be found in prestigious galleries and museums worldwide.

He was born in Ashtabula, Ohio in April 1893. He attended the Cleveland School of Art. In 1921, Mr. Burchfield moved to Buffalo to work for the Birge and Sons Wallpaper Company. He was fascinated with Buffalo’s streets, harbor, railroad yards and the surrounding countryside.

Mr. Burchfield moved to West Seneca in 1925. He would frequently explore and paint in the area that is now the BNAC. This area served as an inspiration for many of his paintings. He lived on Clinton Street with his family until his death in 1967.

The Gazebo in the park faces the former home of Charles E. Burchfield. Throughout the park are descriptive plaques noting Mr. Burchfield’s works.

## **Nature**

Woodlands, meadows and fresh water provide a welcoming environment for wildlife at the BNAC.

Visitors may see white-tailed deer, red fox, coyote, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, woodchucks, rabbits, opossums, bats, chipmunks, garter snakes, turtles, toads, and frogs.

Feathered friends include sparrows, woodpeckers, cardinals, blue jays, blue heron, geese, ducks, wild turkeys, owls and hawks. A variety of butterflies and insects also call this park home.

The woodland areas have maple, birch, hickory, locust, aspen, poplar, box elder, willow, basswood, ash and oak trees. They are complimented by a host of plants including wild grape, rose, raspberry, sumac, spicebush, dogwood, hawthorn and viburnum. Garden areas throughout the park bloom from spring through fall. The spring daffodils provide a brilliant display. Wildflowers and grasses grace the meadows. The Burchfield Nature and Art Center is a place to explore, learn, play and relax with nature.

