

## History of the Bushnell Park Carousel

### THE JEWEL IN DOWNTOWN HARTFORD

It's a sweet surprise to find a vintage 1914 carousel standing in Bushnell Park. There, by the shadow of skyscrapers and a giant Turkey Oak, a 24-sided pavilion houses 48 hand-carved wooden horses and two lovers' chariots that swirl around a booming Wurlitzer band organ. Turning 100 years old in 2014, this Carousel maintains the past, while the future buds all around it.

For just \$1.00, you get a 3 1/2 minute ride that can blur your worries, trick you into feeling young and enlarge the eyes of even the widest-eyed youngster. The Knox Foundation brought the carousel to Hartford from Canton, Ohio, in 1974. Jack Dollard, director of the Foundation at the time, thought the horses would symbolize Hartford's restoration.

The New England Carousel Museum received the contract to manage the Bushnell Park Carousel in 1999 and began work to fully restore the Carousel in time for her 100th birthday celebration in 2014. Work on the horses is continuous, and you can see the progress as you the carousel swirls. Currently, this carousel is only one of three left Stein & Goldstein carousels left operating in this country.

They, like many carousel craftsmen, started in Russia as carvers of women's hair combs. They came to the United States in the late 1800s to carve carousel horses for Coney Island, which at the height of the Golden Age, from 1880 to 1930, had some 17 carousels operating. Stein and Goldstein horses are big passionate animals with their eyes wide, their nostrils flared and in some circumstances their tongues sticking out. Huge and colorful cabbage roses festoon their bodies and they have real horse hair tails

Eventually, they built a reputation as "artistic carousel manufacturers" and they built carousels when there were at least 3,000 in the United States, when riders on the outside row reached for the brass rings. A ride was considered a dare because 15 mph was faster than anything until the invention of the roller coaster gave carousels a more romantic reputation—and fewer riders.

Every year thousands of riders take the dare and go for the thrill of riding on Hartford's magnificent and historic Stein and Goldstein carousel. It is a magical experience.





## **MAYOR BRONIN ANNOUNCES ALL WASTE WILL FUND BUSHNELL PARK CAROUSEL**

HARTFORD, CONN (June 21, 2017) – Today, Mayor Luke Bronin joined representatives from the Bushnell Park Carousel and All Waste, Inc. to announce that All Waste has generously offered to donate \$75,000 towards the operation of the carousel. In the past, Hartford has contributed that amount for the carousel’s operation through its annual budget.

“At a time when Hartford has had to make dramatic spending cuts, I am enormously grateful that members of our community have stepped up time and again to fund events and activities that our residents value,” said Mayor Bronin. “All Waste is a local company, with a longstanding commitment to our community, and I want to thank Russ Lallier and All Waste for this extremely generous contribution to the Bushnell Park Carousel. Because of that commitment, thousands of children and families will be able to enjoy our beautiful, historic carousel all year.”

“The Bushnell Park Carousel has been operating in our city since 1974 and was originally crafted in 1914 in Brooklyn, New York. The carousel is an integral piece of the fabric of our city and an amazing part of history which is ridden by thousands from in and around Hartford each year. The carousel was brought to our great city by the Knox foundation which was run by Jack Dollard at the time – his vision for the horses was that they would symbolize Hartford’s restoration. All Waste, Inc., being city-based, believes that vision is needed now more than ever and we are pleased to help keep this symbol of Hartford running,” said Russ Lallier, President of All Waste, Inc.

“Thank you to the City of Hartford for finding an angel for the Bushnell Park Carousel. We are excited to learn that All Waste is going to sponsor

the Carousel this year and help to keep her running for her 103rd year,” added Louise DeMars, Executive Director of the New England Carousel Museum, which manages the Bushnell Park Carousel. “The Carousel is a jewel in Bushnell Park bringing joy to many children and adults. We are grateful to Russ Lallier, President of All Waste and our new best friend, for providing the funding to keep the Carousel spinning.”