

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN

Please join the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) and support our work of advocacy, research, education and information exchange. Help us prevent encroachment and protect, preserve and rehabilitate the nation's legacy of historic parks and landscapes that revitalize communities and enrich people's lives. Help advance the Olmsted principles of democracy, intelligent urban planning and sound landscape design. Help us involve NAOP in more local issues surrounding historic parks where the national perspective can enhance the importance of the local position.

As we recognize the 150th anniversary of the concept for Central Park, it is important to remember that Frederick Law Olmsted said, "Everyone deserves . . . the right to relief from urban intensity." This was an important statement of democratic equality that continues to attract people to preserve and rehabilitate their parks. The majority of America's historic urban parks were either designed by the Olmsted firm or based on Olmstedian principles. Today, because of their locations, many are neglected or inadequately maintained, preventing surrounding communities from utilizing them fully. NAOP is dedicated to environmental equality that permits all citizens to enjoy and appreciate the legacy that our landscape architect forebears designed so capably for current and future generations. Perhaps, this legacy's greatest element is its design appropriateness and flexibility, making these spaces as important for our children and grandchildren as they are for us and were for preceding generations.



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION for
OLMSTED
PARKS

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Tel: 202-223-9113 Fax: 202-223-9112 E-mail: info@naop.org



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION for
OLMSTED
PARKS

"LANDSCAPES MOVE US IN
A MANNER MORE NEARLY
ANALOGOUS TO THE
ACTION OF MUSIC THAN
TO ANYTHING ELSE...
GRADUALLY AND SILENTLY
THE CHARM COMES OVER
US, THE BEAUTY HAS
ENTERED OUR SOULS;
WE KNOW NOT EXACTLY
WHEN OR HOW."

-Frederick Law Olmsted





NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION for
OLMSTED
PARKS

National Association for

HELP PROTECT AND PRESERVE OUR NATIONAL LEGACY OF HISTORIC PARKS AND LANDSCAPES

Olmsted Parks

Join NAOP in strengthening our collective capacities to champion improved maintenance and rehabilitation of this historic legacy and benefit from NAOP's experience and research. Utilize www.olmsted.org, receive our newsletters and attend our conferences.



Credit: Daniel Chartier

THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OLMSTED PARKS (NAOP)

NAOP is an advocacy group. During the 1960s and 1970s, as urban centers wrestled with declining revenues and increasing costs, historic parks often found themselves facing severe cuts in funding. This resulted in deterioration and decline, security challenges and reduced use. This threat of permanent loss occasioned the formation of the National Association for Olmsted Parks in 1980.

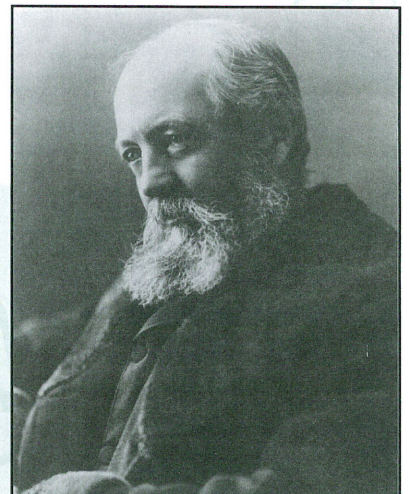
During our first twenty years, NAOP pioneered the focus on cultural landscapes and encouraged the National Park Service to assume public responsibility for cultural landscapes. NAOP helped nurture local park associations across the country – Seattle, Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo and more –and supported new research on the work of Frederick Law Olmsted, his stepson, John Charles, and his son, Frederick Law Jr.

Entering our third decade and armed with an updated strategic plan, NAOP is increasing its advocacy work. It has partnered with the Landmark Society of Western New York to block the zoo located within Rochester, New York's Seneca Park from taking 26 acres of important parkland for a parking lot. NAOP has joined local groups to present resolutions to public

officials in Newark, New Jersey; Montréal, Canada; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle, Washington that call for continued support of their parks and master plans. A coalition is currently being built to seek a master plan to protect the Olmsted-designed grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. for generations to come.

NAOP maintains a Web site, <http://www.olmsted.org>, to inform members and interested citizens of our work in advocacy and research, and provide information on documented best practices. NAOP plans to expand our Web site services for members to include capacity to allow exchanges among users and provide a wider range of technical assistance.

NAOP supports three primary research efforts. One will determine which Olmsted plans were implemented and their present condition. A second supports the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers project at American University. Six volumes of Olmsted Senior's writings have been published and two are in process. The third is the Olmsted Research Guide Online, an online database that combines information about plans and other documents located at Brookline, MA, with letters and other papers located in Washington, D.C., all keyed to the Olmsted-assigned job number (<http://www.rediscover.com/olmsted>). NAOP is a 501 (c) (3) organization.



Frederick Law Olmsted

PLEASE JOIN US AND BE PART OF THE ACTION. THERE IS STILL A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO BE DONE!

New Member Renewing Member

Credit Card (MC) (Visa)

Name _____

Number _____

/
Expiration

Mailing Address _____

Signature _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Web site Address _____

Personal Membership

- Student/Senior \$15
- Individual \$35
- Contributor \$100
- Donor \$250
- Sustaining \$500
- Benefactor \$1,000
- Lifetime \$5,000

Organizational Membership

- Institution/Library : \$100
- Government Agency : \$200
- Corporate Sponsor \$1,000
- Corporate Benefactor \$5,000

Historic Park Affiliate

- Budget under \$250,000 : \$100
- Budget \$250,000 - \$499,999 : \$250
- Budget \$500,000 - \$999,999 : \$500
- Budget over \$1,000,000 : \$1,000

Check enclosed for \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to "NAOP")

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OLNSTED PARKS

WORKBOOK Series, Volume 1
BIOGRAPHY



Revere Beach, Revere, Massachusetts, ca. 1897

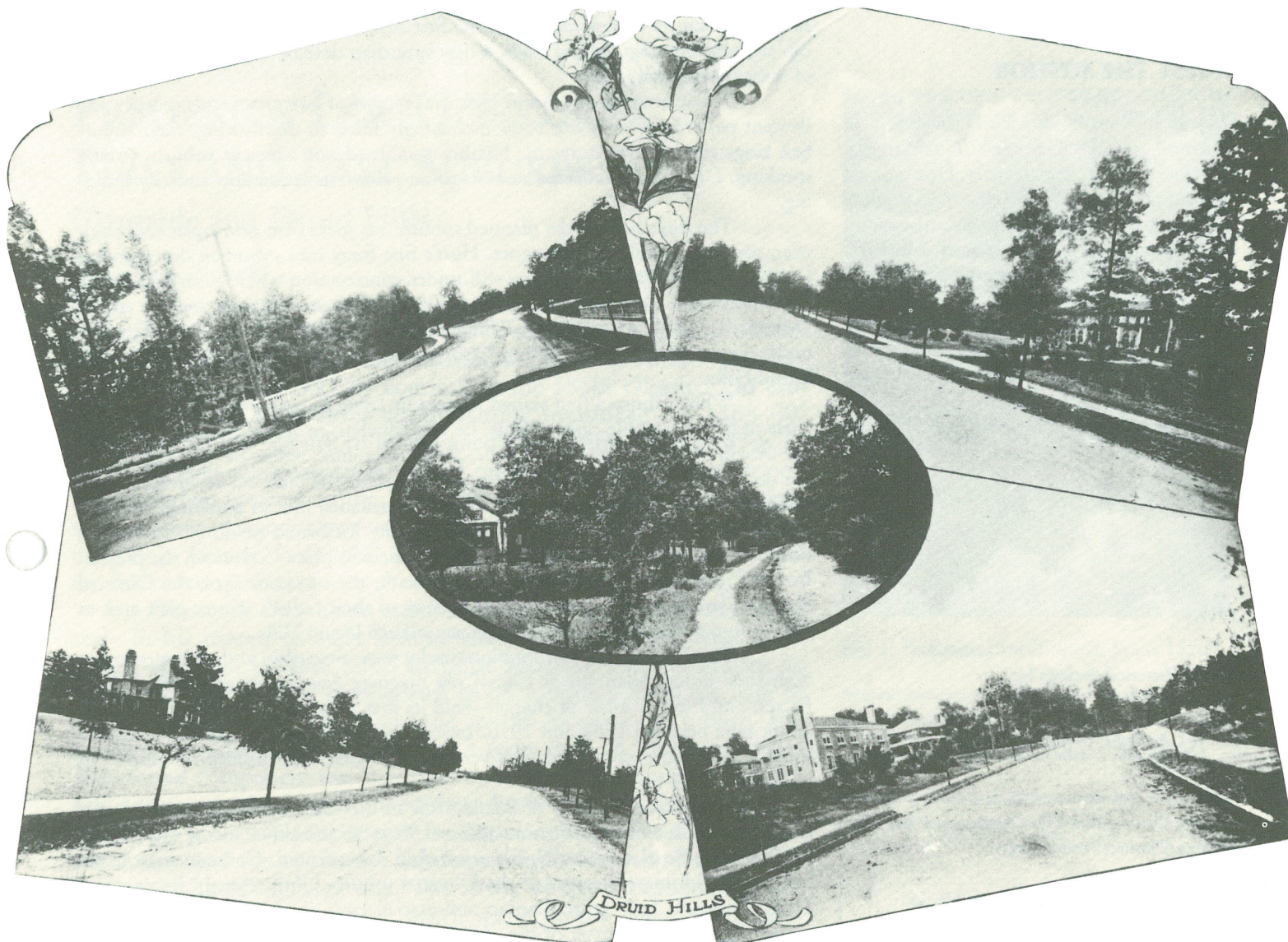
Charles Eliot
1859–1897

HELD IN TRUST:
Charles Eliot's Vision for the
New England Landscape

by Keith N. Morgan

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OLMSTED PARKS

WORKBOOK Series, Volume 4
DESIGN NOTES



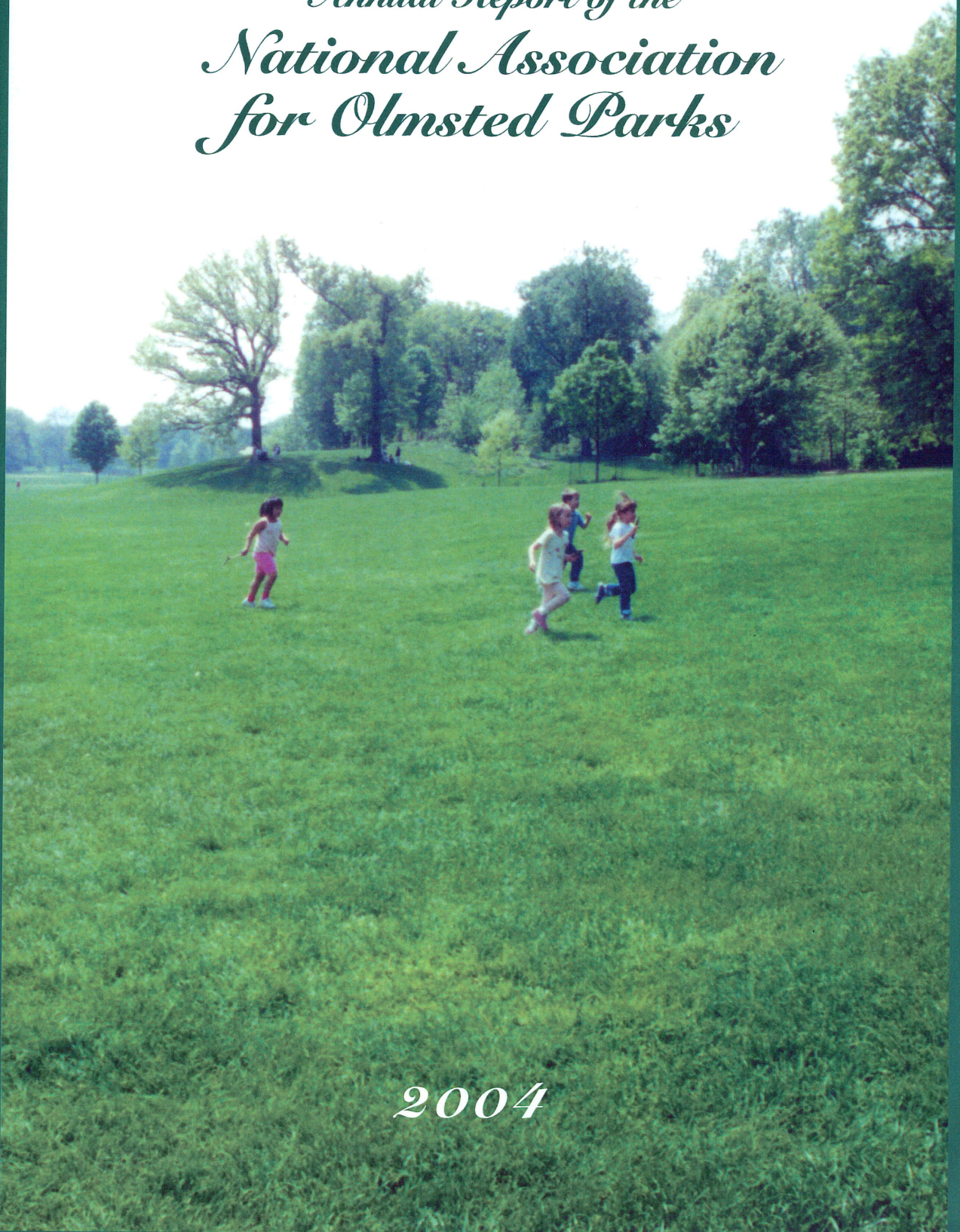
FREDERICK LAW
OLMSTED'S FIRST
AND LAST SUBURBS:

Riverside and Druid Hills

by Darlene R. Roth



*Annual Report of the
National Association
for Olmsted Parks*



2004

Long Meadow, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY

Annual Report for the Year 2004

The year 2004 was a banner year for NAOP. Most important, we are now professionally staffed with an office in Washington, DC. This is the result of forming a dynamic partnership with the City Parks Alliance, a national organization devoted to the maintenance and rehabilitation of urban parks. The first action of this partnership was to create a joint administrative operation with an Executive Director who started April 1st, an assistant who started in June and the establishment of a Washington office. All administrative work previously provided by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy (BOPC) has been transferred to NAOP's Washington office. We are grateful to BOPC for its past support.

NAOP and CPA are now working on a second joint project, the building of a Best Practices website. This is part of an approach for which NAOP and CPA will undertake joint fund raising for shared projects while each organization will continue fund raising for programs related to its individual mission.

NAOP's success in fund raising sustains a more vigorous approach to achieving its mission of maintaining the Olmsted legacy for generations to come. NAOP believes its achievements and expanding advocacy and research efforts will win it even broader support in 2005. We are pleased to enter 2005 with a dedicated fund of \$ 60,000, beyond current revenue, which will support the new and expanded programs described below.

Advocacy

NAOP is committed to a sustained effort to protect the Olmsted designed grounds of the US Capitol. The new Visitor Center, the construction of which is well underway, will radically change the Olmsted vision for the East Lawn. NAOP tried to impact the East Lawn design, but this is a closed issue so NAOP is using the lessons learned to shift its emphasis to protecting the remaining Capitol grounds as well as the significant landscape legacy within the limits of the Capitol complex.

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) has embarked on developing a master plan for the Capitol complex that includes the Capitol, House and Senate Office Buildings, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the Botanical Gardens, and the landscape. NAOP is engaged in conversations with Beverly Wood, the recently appointed campus planner on the AOC's staff who is responsible for developing a Master Plan for the complex. These discussions are defining an active role for NAOP in the master planning process. Ms. Wood is looking to NAOP to help define how

the historic work is understood and protected while integrating contemporary needs. NAOP believes this is an exceptional opportunity to construct a national model in master planning for important historical complexes that respects and preserves the integrity of the historic space.

In addition, NAOP has embarked on a pilot advocacy effort that will create a partnership between NAOP and local urban communities to protect and restore endangered Olmsted parks. A survey of one hundred and ten parks in fifteen states is under way to identify possible participants from which three to five will be invited to submit formal requests for support. This support will consist of: the spotlight that the attention of a national organization provides; identifying for that park a network of technical expertise available both pro bono or for a fee and a possible matching grant. It is hoped to complete this phase early in 2005 and to select the pilot partner by spring 2005. This pilot will create a prototype of advocacy support that can then be offered to other candidates identified in the survey and become a model for reaching out to historic parks across the country.

Research

NAOP has broadened its research efforts to develop information that will strengthen its advocacy efforts. Its newest undertaking is a survey, begun in spring 2004, to determine the following information: how many plans for Olmsted designed parks were, in fact, implemented and to what degree execution followed the original plan. This will be supplemented by an effort to establish the existing condition of the park, with an attempt to document changes that have occurred since the original construction and to identify a local organization (friends group, conservancy, etc.) that works with the city to support, protect and maintain the park. Carla Corbin, board member, and her graduate student associate, Mary Wasilewski, have generously offered to create a pilot effort that will be supported by NAOP. Their project will develop a base of information about Olmsted parks designed for Indiana and Illinois.

The Olmsted Research Guide On-Line (ORGO) is entering a new phase. NAOP has been supporting the final data collection on the Olmsted documents at the Library of Congress for more than a year. This phase is nearly complete. Concurrently, Fairsted has completed its inventory and conservation of 140,000 drawings, for which a maximum of 50,000 have had their data entered into ORGO. NAOP will assist in arranging for the data entry of the remaining nearly 90,000 plans. In the interim, ORGO will be active, providing increasing amounts of information on line.

Two other efforts are underway: cataloguing master plans that have been developed for Olmsted parks; and establishing a bibliography of unpublished theses at the doctorate and master level. This will significantly broaden the base of information available to historians, landscape architects, and parks advocates and partnerships.

NAOP continues to place a high priority on the editing of the Olmsted Papers with the exciting expectation of Volume 7 going to the printer in spring of 2005.

Events and Publications

“It Takes a Partnership: Urban Parks in the New Century” Conference celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of NAOP will take place in Buffalo May 19-22, 2005. Please reserve the date on your calendar. It is sponsored by NAOP, the City Parks Alliance, and the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy. The conference will look at the technical, historic, financial and community issues involved in park preservation, operation and rehabilitation. Some of these issues have been successfully resolved, while many are still of concern to public/private operators of historic parks.

Additions to the first workbook series are underway. This series, launched in 1991, were written by noted historians and practitioners to raise the public’s awareness of Frederick Law Olmsted’s design legacy and the contemporary issues associated with its preservation and maintenance. The first new work will examine the woodlands in Prospect Park that were treated in Volume 2. Questions to be addressed include: how the completed rehabilitation compares with the theses and goals stated in Volume 2; how it compares to the historic plan and how principles underlying the design plan and its implementation compare to those underlying the space’s subsequent maintenance. Additional workbooks being considered include the presentation on John Charles Olmsted’s work that was given by Arleyn Levee at the Southern Gardens Conference in spring 2004 and the twenty-five year struggle of the Landmarks Society of Western New York State to protect Seneca Park from encroachment by the zoo housed within it.

Renewal of NAOP’s website is moving along rapidly. Check for it in spring 2005 at www.olmsted.org.

Conclusion

The achievements reflected in this report are possible only because of the enthusiastic commitment of the members and friends of NAOP. We are grateful for this support.

Catherine Nagel

Catherine Nagel, Executive Director

Morton J. Baum

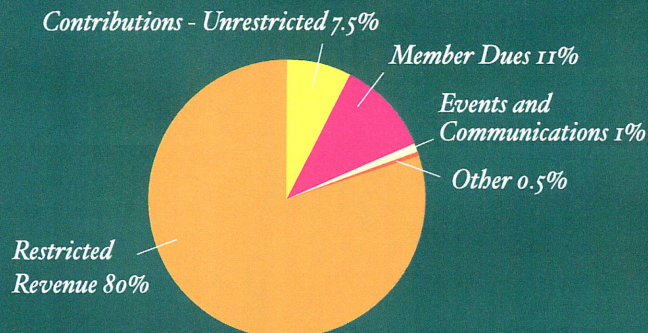
Morton J. Baum, Co-Chair

Lucy Lawless

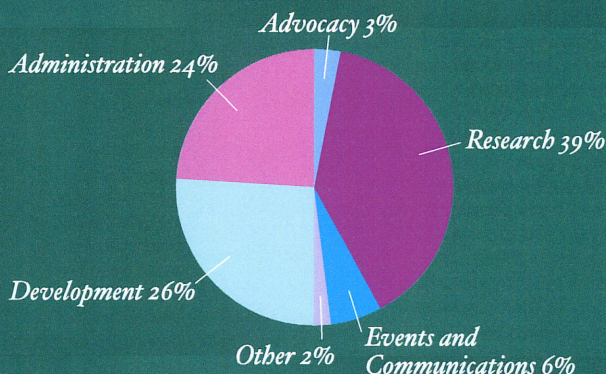
Lucy Lawless, Co-Chair

Fiscal Year 2004

REVENUE Total \$230,400

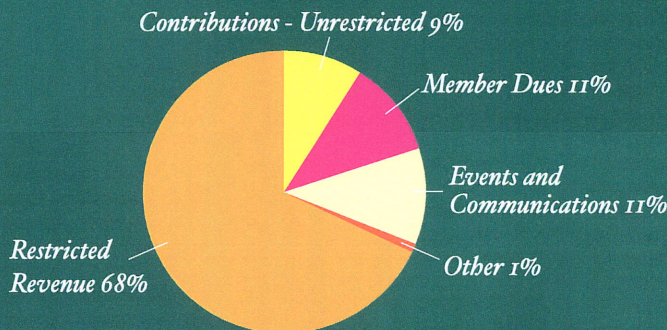


EXPENDITURES Total \$123,100

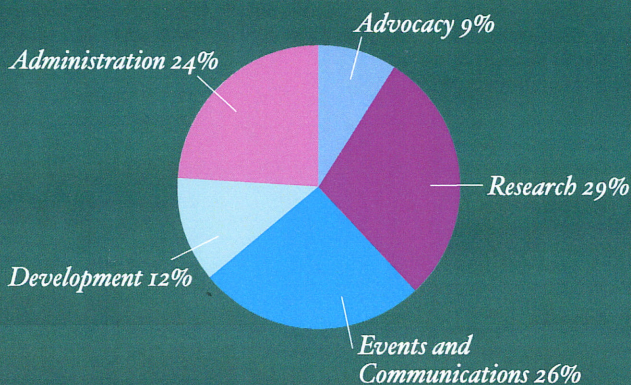


Budget 2005

REVENUE Total \$225,900



EXPENDITURES Total \$246,300





Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ



Jackson Park, Duquoin, IA

*National Association
for Olmsted Parks
733 15th St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
www.olmsted.org
naopinfo@aol.com*



Washington Park, Chicago, IL



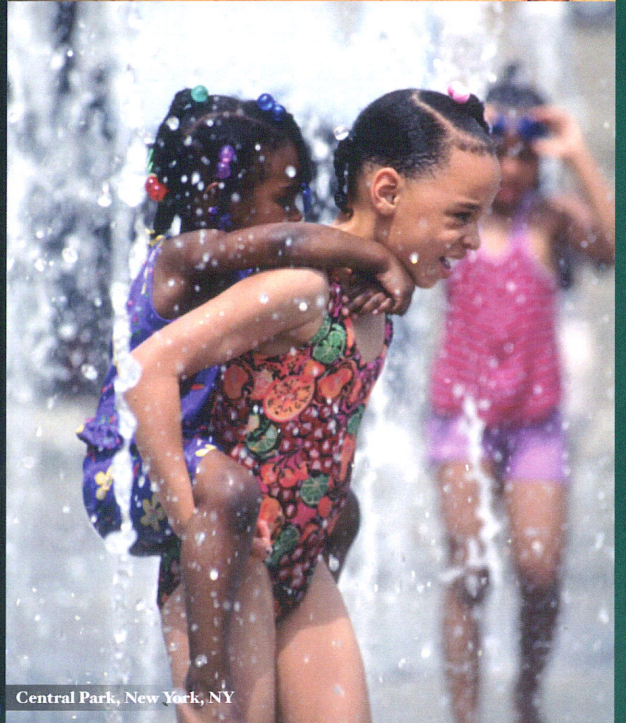
Washington Park, Chicago, IL



Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY



Piedmont Park, Atlanta, GA



Central Park, New York, NY

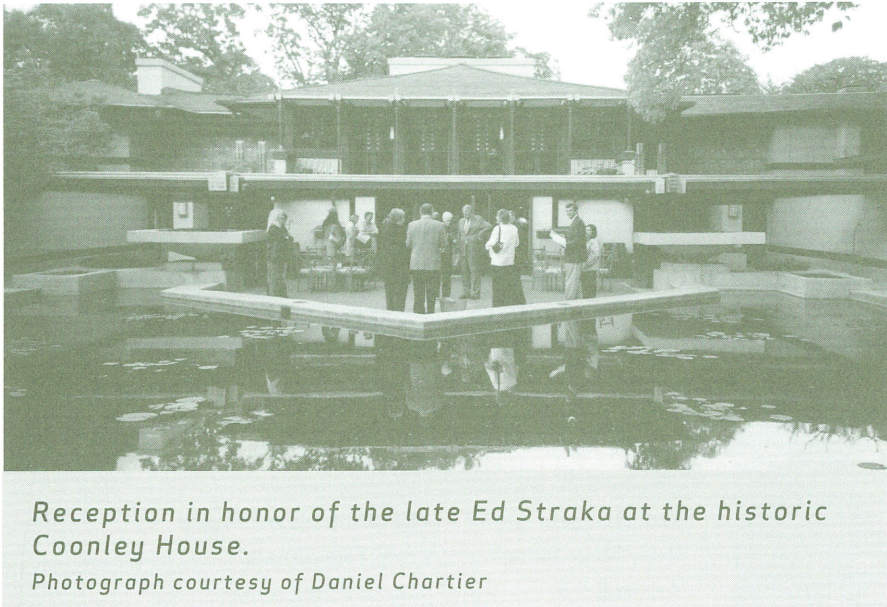


NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION *for*
OLMSTED
PARKS

Field Notes

The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) advances Olmsted principles and the legacy of irreplaceable parks and landscapes that revitalize communities and enrich people's lives.

FALL 2006 | VOL. 24 NO. 2



Reception in honor of the late Ed Straka at the historic Coonley House.

Photograph courtesy of Daniel Chartier

NAOP VISITS HISTORIC RIVERSIDE, IL

NAOP trustees and friends visited Riverside, Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.'s largest surviving community plan, as part of their spring board meeting in Chicago — both to honor the late Ed Straka and to meet community leaders. They were also treated to a look at the house Frank Lloyd Wright identified as his most successful Prairie design, the Coonley Estate.

Ted Smith and Connie Guardi, guides from Riverside's Frederick Law Olmsted Society (FLOS), greeted the group at the landmark railroad station. They conducted tours through Guthrie Park, overlooking Swan Pond and on up Scottswood Common into Riverside's "first division." The trustees saw not only Olmsted's plan unfolding before them, but also architectural works by William LeBaron Jenney, Calvert Vaux and William Drummond.

At the reception graciously hosted by Dean and Ella Mae Eastman, former NAOP Co-Chair Jerry Baum and current Co-Chair David Bahlman presented funds to the village for a memorial tree planting to honor Ed Straka. Cecilia Straka, Ed Straka's widow, was present as were Riverside village President Jack Wiaduck and his wife, Joan.

Straka, an architect, preservationist and student of Olmsted's designs, was a longtime Riverside resident. Once named Illinois Preservationist of the Year, he was active in both FLOS and NAOP. His understanding of

(continued on page 14)

DENVER'S CITY PARK SELECTED IN PILOT ADVOCACY PROJECT

Early in 2004, NAOP launched the Pilot Advocacy Project, an effort to protect and rebuild Olmsted-designed parks and their surrounding neighborhoods in urban communities under stress. The historic legacy of these parks and their potential to enrich the lives of their users is a key component of NAOP's mission. Recognizing that successful restoration requires work in both the park and the community, NAOP developed a prototype partnership to make available to local communities a national network

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NATIONAL
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Field Notes

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SPRING 2006 | VOL. 24 NO. 1

IN MEMORIAM:

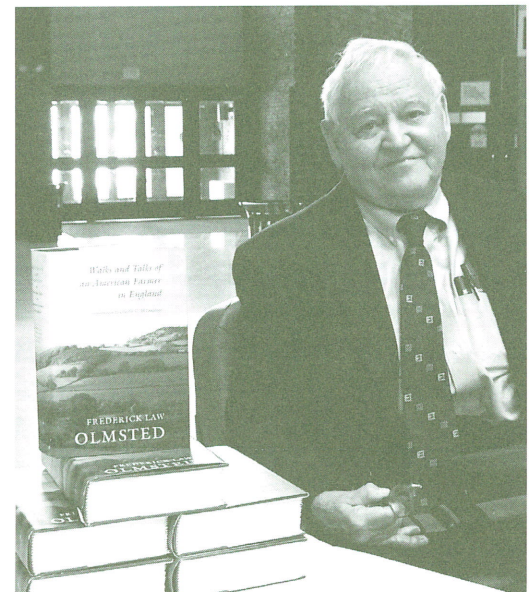
CHARLES MCLAUGHLIN

We are saddened by the death last September of Charles Capen McLaughlin (1929-2005), founding editor of the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers and a leading figure in the formation of the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP). Charlie began his work in the Olmsted world early on, choosing Olmsted's social and planning thought for his prize-winning senior thesis at Yale in 1951. In making this choice, he seems to have drawn from two traditions — the enjoyment of the outdoors and natural world that characterized the career of his father, a noted geologist of the American West, and the concern for scholarship and intellectual pursuits represented by his stepfather Kenneth Murdock, an eminent Colonial historian.

Charlie's involvement with Olmsted continued in graduate school at Harvard, where for his dissertation on American Civilization in 1960 he edited a number of Olmsted's most significant letters. He expanded on this editing work in the years following completion of his dissertation as he began teaching at American University (AU) in Washington, DC. During the next decade, he personally financed and directed the work of a small but dedicated coterie of AU students in carrying out much of the research and drafting of annotation that would appear in the early volumes of the Olmsted Papers. In this early work, he received generous assistance from Olmsted's biographer Laura Wood Roper, who shared her information on Olmsted's Papers in the Library of Congress. Following the Olmsted Sesquicentennial observances in 1972, funding became available from two federal agencies, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications Commission. It was then possible to hire a full-time staff of editors and assistants to work on the Olmsted Papers project. Charlie served as editor-in-chief of the papers until his retirement in 1992 while continuing his teaching career at American University.

During these years, his role as a teacher was a significant one. Through his courses in American intellectual history and urban history he kept alive longstanding traditions of cultural studies, combining them with newer aspects of the discipline of history and displaying a wide-ranging intellectual curiosity. In addition to his scholarly contributions he was a greatly appreciated mentor and encourager of a generation of students at the university.

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The late Dr. Charles McLaughlin signs his new edition of "Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England" during the May 2005 Conference, "It Takes a Partnership: Urban Parks in the New Century" in Buffalo, NY.

Photograph courtesy of Chuck La Chiusa

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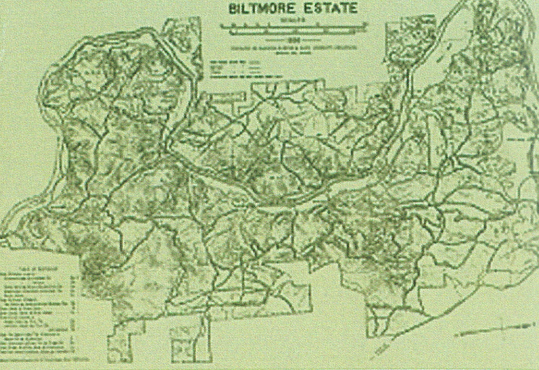
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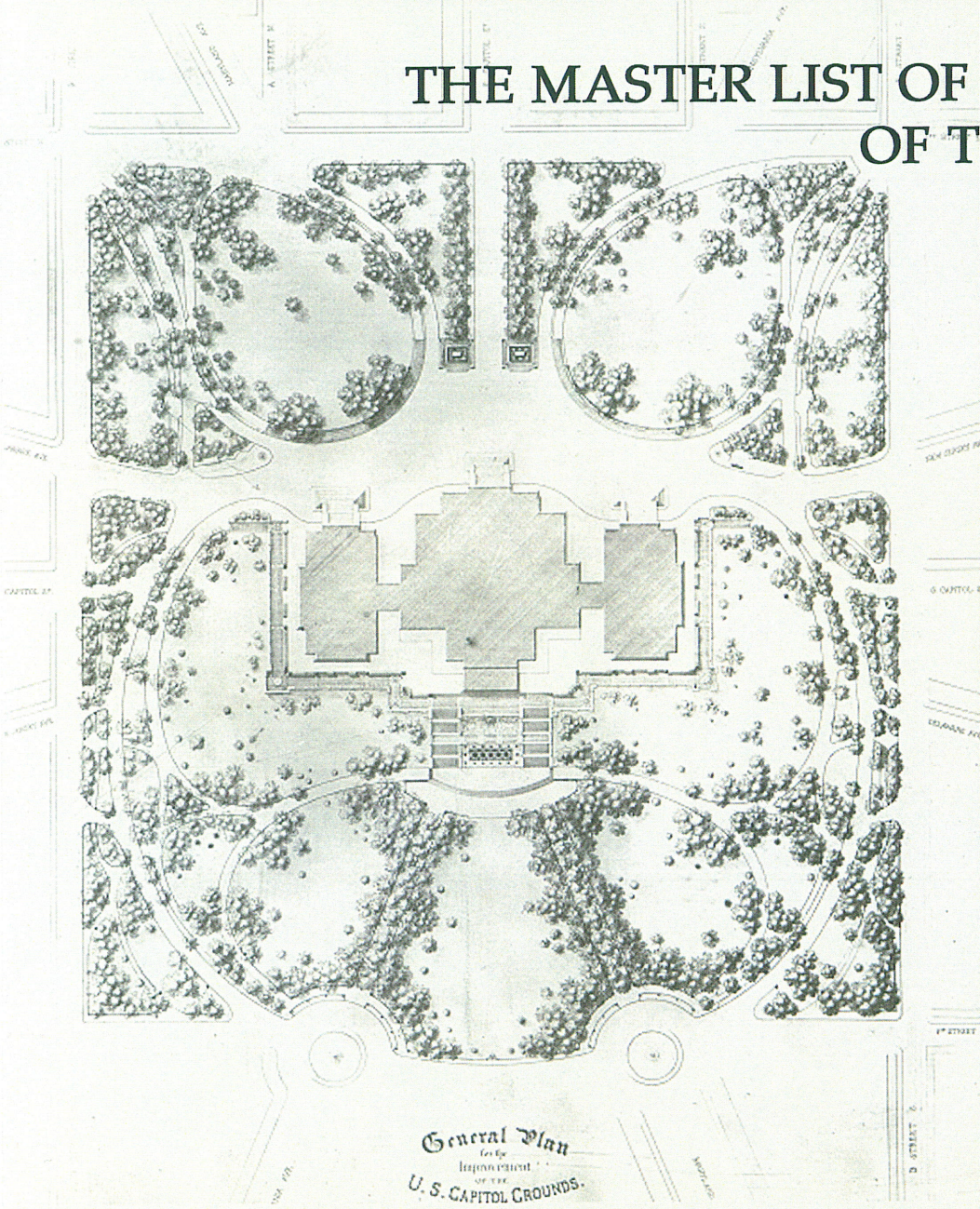
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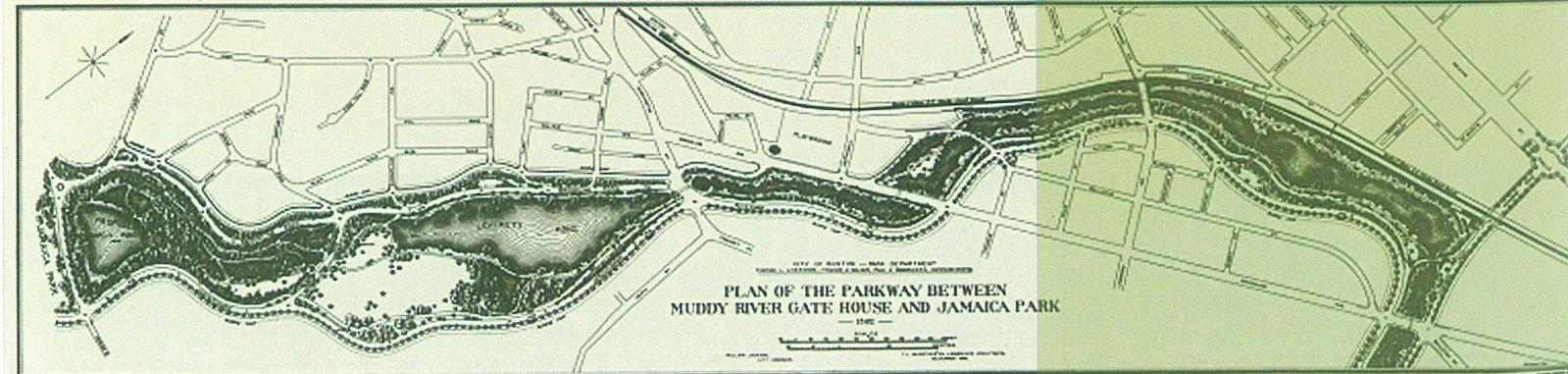
THE MASTER LIST OF DESIGN PROJECTS OF THE OLMSTED FIRM 1857-1980



Prepared for the
National Association for
Olmsted Parks
Leadership Council

by the
NAOP Research Committee
in collaboration with the
NPS, Frederick Law Olmsted
National Historic Site

June 14, 2006



Prospectus

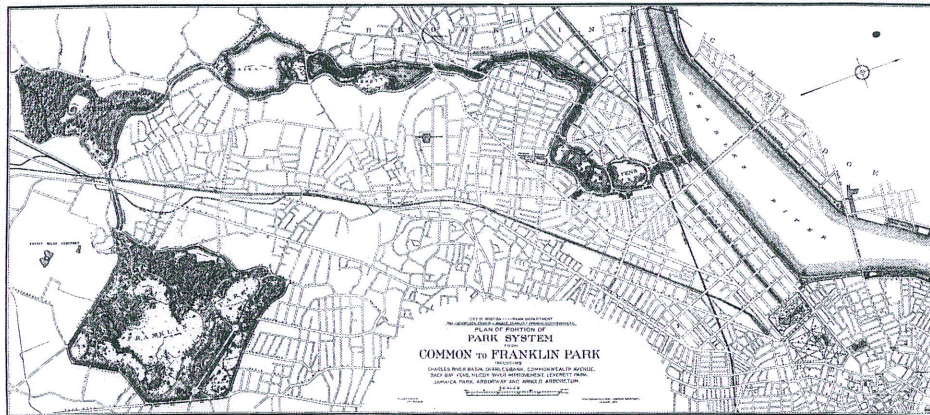


The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm

1857 – 1980



Prepared for the National Association for Olmsted Parks
Leadership Council
June 14, 2006



Courtesy the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

Proposed by the
National Association for Olmsted Parks, Research Committee
In collaboration with
The Olmsted Archives, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

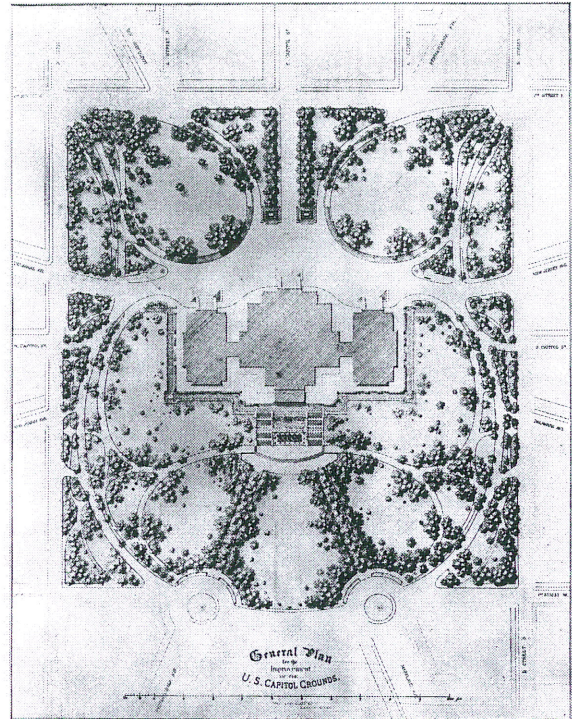
Goals

In 2006-2007, the NAOP Research Committee proposes to republish the *Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857*, known as the “Greenbook.” The Greenbook will be completed by April 2007, in time to celebrate Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.’s birthday and the 150th anniversary of the firm’s establishment in 1857. This will be a stand alone publication directed toward a diverse audience ranging from the casual user interested in his/her local park to the

seasoned landscape researcher. Information contained in the Greenbook adds to, not duplicates, ORGO, NAOP and Fairsted websites and/or sources. The publication size and content will appeal to travelers wanting to carry it as they visit the firm's work around the country. The Greenbook also functions as an essential tool to illustrate the breadth and diversity of Olmsted design projects across the country, serving as an invaluable resource for contextual research and advocacy.

Re-publication of the Greenbook is warranted for three principle reasons:

- 1.) The document is currently out of print;
- 2.) Since it's first publication in 1987, the NPS, Olmsted National Historic Site has made great strides to fully inventory the vast records of the Olmsted firm so that an updated publication is both needed and feasible;
- 3.) The April 2007 anniversary presents an opportunity for renewed public interest and advocacy related to the work of the Olmsted firm, Fairsted and Olmsted-designed landscapes across the nation.



Courtesy the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

Scope

The second edition of the Greenbook will resemble the first publication of the Master List, but will be updated both in content and presentation. The project consists of three primary tasks: information gathering; design and printing; and project coordination including securing funding. The Greenbook will be 8 ½ x 11; other format considerations are discussed below.

Information gathering and content

The Research Committee will work collaboratively with the Olmsted NHS staff and others to assemble the data, text and illustrations. The National Park Service will be responsible for producing the data fields that constitute the details of the Master List – information on Olmsted jobs organized thematically by project type. The Research Committee will also coordinate with Fairsted and others on the data fields and format of the information to facilitate data acquisition so that it represents a reasonable and manageable task easily presented in an 8 ½ x 11" format.

NPS will produce the data for the Master List in an electronic format as an Excel or Access spreadsheet that can be easily graphically manipulated during the design process.

Other sections of the Greenbook will be prepared by the Research Committee, NPS staff, NAOP staff, and Olmsted scholars so that the resulting document represents the current scholarship, management and operation of the archives, and preservation practices as outlined below. This represents a slight change from the first edition, reflecting the current knowledge and understanding about the Olmsted records contained at Fairsted and the Library of Congress. The following outline is a suggested list of topics to be contained in the Greenbook.

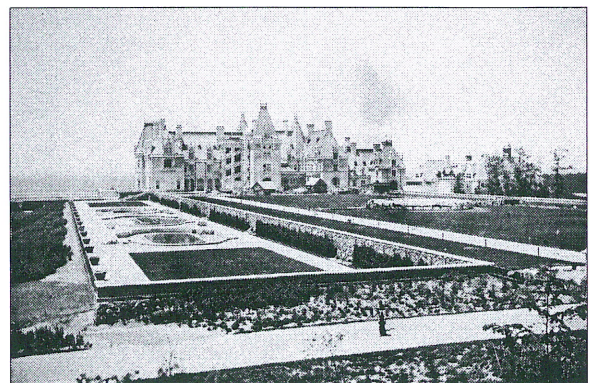
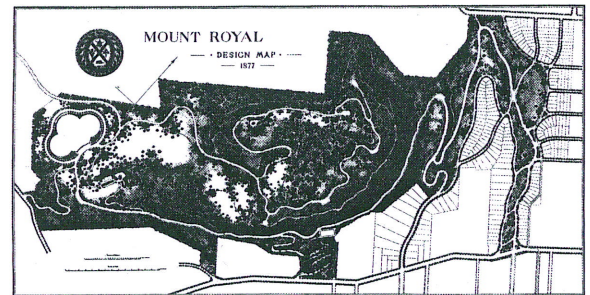
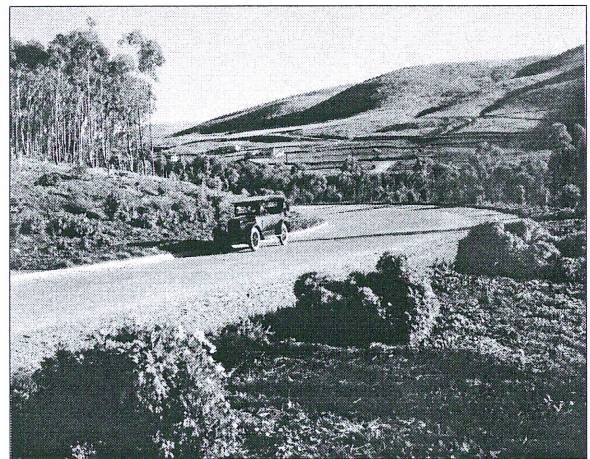
Proposed outline

Preface

Table of Contents

Narrative sections

- *Assessing the work of the Olmsted firm* – Dr. Charles E. Beveridge, Editor, Olmsted Papers. This will be a revised essay based on the first Greenbook, with the possible addition of an updated “Olmsted firm family tree” to illustrate the multiple generations and successor firms.
- *Olmsted Research Guide Online (ORGO)* – Caroline Loughlin. This section will describe ORGO and its use and perhaps contrast ORGO with the Greenbook.
- *Fairsted, the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site* – National Park Service. How to find and use the Olmsted Archives.
- *National Association for Olmsted Parks* – Catherine Nagel, Executive Director. Overview and role in advocating and preserving the Olmsted legacy.
- *Guide to Researching a Historic Property* – Caroline Loughlin and Lauren Meier. Short piece about historical research with a focus on Olmsted-designed landscapes, possibly using a historic property such Biltmore as a case study.



Figures this page courtesy the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.

Master List

- *Guide to the Master List* – National Park Service, Olmsted Archives staff. This introduction will describe what the data represents and how to use it.
- *Master List* – National Park Service, Olmsted Archives staff. This will present the data for Olmsted project organized 1.) thematically (by job type) and 2.) geographically (alphabetically by state and municipality).

Appendices

- *Guide to the Olmsted Papers and Records at the LOC*
- *Policy Guide to the Olmsted Archives at Fairsted*
- Other appendices to be determined.

Once the individual sections are completed by each author, the Project Coordinator and Research Committee will review and edit the document for stylistic consistency and readability.

Design and Printing

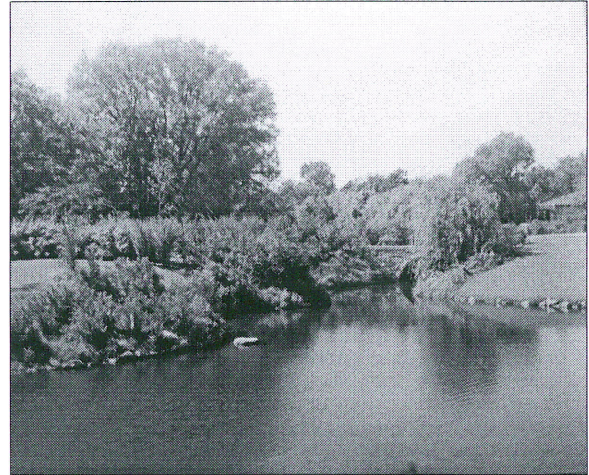
The Research Committee will secure the services of a graphic designer who can accomplish the desktop publishing task utilizing electronic data and text files. The new Master List will include more data fields than the first edition, although the exact number and description of particular fields is still being developed.

Example: Grounds of Public Buildings

1. Introduce each project category with a brief illustrated summary that describes the breadth of the work, geographic distribution, and time span with one or two photographs.

2. List projects according to the following hierarchy:

- Alphabetically by state
- Alphabetically by municipality
- Alphabetically by project name



Grounds of the Newton City Hall, job #1064; photo by Henry Hubbard, 1933 courtesy the National Park Service, Olmsted Archives

Municipality	Name	Alternative Name	Job number	Records at Olmsted NHS			LOC records
				Plans	Plan dates	Photos	
Massachusetts							
Newton	Newton City Hall	War Memorial	01064	165	1931-32	245	Y

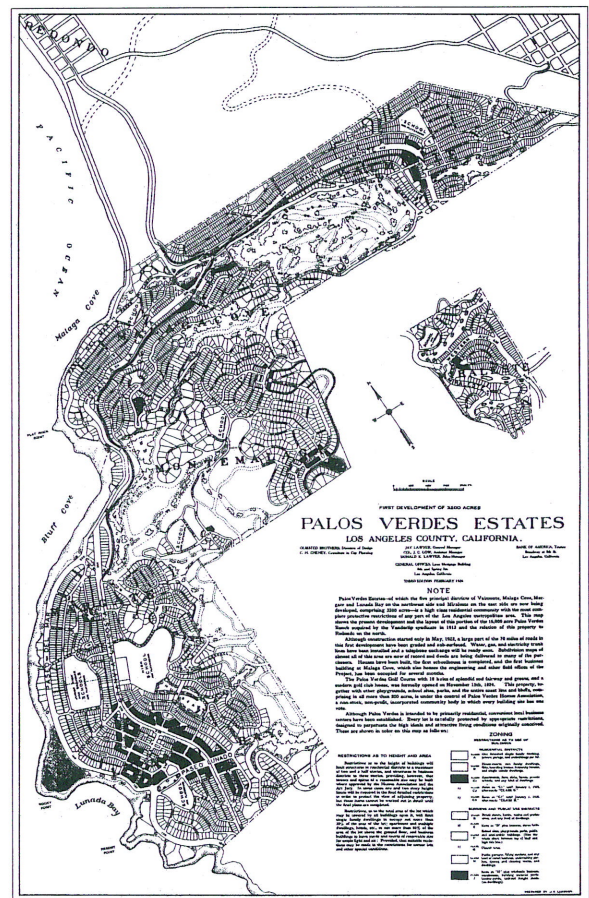
The graphic designer will likely first prepare at least two alternative layouts for consideration by the Greenbook Committee, primarily to resolve both format (portrait vs. landscape) and aesthetic considerations. This will also address binding options – such as wire binding or perfect binding – with the objective of producing a book that can lie flat when open and with a printed spine. Once the basic layout is determined, the designer will proceed with formatting the book. Illustrations will be added in the design process to graphically describe the categories of Olmsted projects nationwide and present a diversity of work, geographic location, size and chronological development. For cost reasons, the design will likely be a 2-color cover (green and black/white), with a black and white interior (text and illustrations).

The final formatted design will be reviewed by the Committee to ensure that it meets the objectives of the project. Once the final corrections are made, the designer will export the files as pdfs in a print-ready format and prepare detailed printing specifications.

The Research Committee will solicit quotes from reputable printers based on the specifications provided by the designer and select a printer based on both cost and quality work.

Project coordination and funding

The NAOP Research Committee will coordinate the project, working closely in collaboration with the NPS, Olmsted NHS and NAOP staff. The Research Committee will solicit grant(s) and donations for the project to support design, printing and NAOP oversight.



Photos top and bottom courtesy the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

At present, it appears that the content of the Greenbook will be contributed as donated or in-kind services by both the NPS and others, and will not require financial support. However, additional funds will be required to support both design and printing and NAOP overhead. The Research Committee has identified the Hubbard Educational Foundation as a potential funding source:

The Hubbard Educational Foundation was created to further understanding of appreciation for landscape architecture. It is concerned with landscape architectural education, the history of landscape design, and communication of the landscape architects's vision of the environment.

The Foundation funds landscape publications and related work, and supported the first edition of the Greenbook. Grant requests should not exceed \$10,000, with a summer grant deadline approaching on July 15. This grant could potentially support the services of a professional graphic designer. The NAOP Research Committee will take the lead in preparing a grant proposal to the Foundation, working closely with the NAOP and NPS staff.

Project team

NPS Olmsted National Historic Site

Lee Farrow Cook, Site Manager
Jill Trebbe
Anthony Reed
Alan Banks

NAOP

Catherine Nagel, Executive Director
April Croft, Program Manager

NAOP Research Committee

Caroline Loughlin, Co-chair
Ethan Carr, Co-chair
Lucy Lawliss, Project Coordinator
Lauren Meier, editorial support
Carla Corbin

Project Advisors

Charles Beveridge, Editor, Olmsted Papers
Arleyn Levee, Landscape Historian



Courtesy the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

The NAOP and the Research Committee will also coordinate with the Friends of Fairsted as the project progresses, particularly related to local publicity to announce the second edition.



OLMSTED CENTER FOR LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION (Charlestown, MA) - Branching Out: An Exploration in Arboriculture for Boston Youth

OLMSTED CENTER FOR LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION

Charlestown, MA

In This Profile: Program Description • Program Goals • Timeframe • Budget • Funding/Support • Results Achieved • Lessons Learned • Ask The Expert • Contact Information

Introduction

The [Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation](#) strengthens the capacity of parks and historic properties to manage cultural landscapes as part of our national heritage. Working in partnership with national parks, universities, government agencies and non-profit organizations, the Olmsted Center provides a full range of technical assistance in cultural landscape research, planning, stewardship and education. Founded at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, the Olmsted Center perpetuates the traditions of the Olmsted Offices and Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.'s lifelong commitment to people, parks and public spaces.

Program Title - Branching Out: An Exploration in Arboriculture for Boston Youth

Program Description

In collaboration with Thompson Island Outward Bound's Green Corps Program and Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation is offering a multi-year educational program in tree care for Boston youth. The program provides young people (ages 14 – 18) with an introduction to tree care, hands-on field experience with professional arborists, and opportunities to learn about educational scholarships and career paths in the fields of arboriculture, park management and the environment. Working under the guidance of skilled arborists and experienced resource managers, participants progress through a sequence of workshops and field projects to learn about tree biology and management techniques.



Level I participants learn about tree identification from Instructor Goodell on Thompson Island.

Initially, students participate in an introductory three-day workshop on tree care basics. As they build knowledge and skills, students have the opportunity to participate in additional training on broader arboricultural topics and techniques. After successfully completing the program, students are provided with further educational and career development opportunities such as internships with the National Park Service.

Below is a brief overview of the program:

Level I introduces participants to basic tree biology, tree care safety, rope use and knots, climbing equipment and techniques, and hand pruning. Professional certified arborists teach participants the concepts and fundamental practices of tree care.



Level II builds on the fundamentals that students acquire in Level I and challenges them to apply those skills and abilities in the field. During the first week of training, participants work alongside professional arborists to accomplish tree maintenance in a



Boston-area park. Following the field experience, participants assist with instructing and mentoring Level I students.

On Georges Island, Level II participant, Leona, secures knots for Level I participant, Jonathan, before climbing.

Level III engages participants in applying skills and techniques to a variety of tree maintenance projects. During the first two weeks of training, participants mentor Level I and II students. The concluding experience involves traveling to a national park and completing an arboriculture related project.

Internship in Arboriculture is a culminating experience that offers graduating participants an opportunity to gain additional field experience. Interns are also provided with opportunities for pursuing educational scholarships and employment in the field of arboriculture and park management.

In addition to the summer workshops, students are invited to participate in several arboricultural related field study experiences throughout the year.

The following organizations are involved in this program:

- Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area, National Park Service
- Boston African American National Historic Site, National Park Service
- Boston Environmental Ambassadors to the National Parks
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Goodell Tree Service
- Massachusetts Arborists Association
- Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service
- Shelter Tree Company
- Thompson Island Outward Bound
- Wind River Tree Care
- Youth Conservation Corps/Public Land Corps, National Park Service

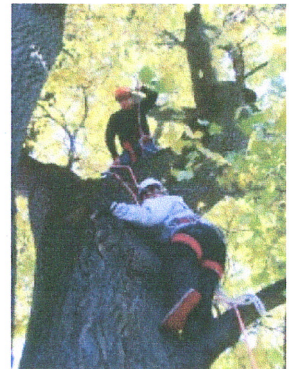
Program goals/issues addressed:

- Introduce young adults from Boston to the field of arboriculture;
- Generate interest in and enthusiasm for arboriculture;
- Cultivate a relationship with plants and the environment;
- Provide opportunities for employment or further education in the field of arboriculture; and
- Expose participants to the National Park Service and National Park Service sites in the region.

Instructor McGuane coaches Level II participant, Suki Jo, up an 80-foot tulip tree during a day of climbing at Boston National Historical Park.

Timeframe (planning/execution):

An introductory three-day workshop in tree care has been offered for five years. In 2005, youth engaged in the program were interviewed to begin the process of shaping the future of the program. At that time, it was determined that a multi-year educational program in tree care be created so returning participants could gain advanced knowledge and skills, as well as mentor those entering the program. Program development began in the fall of 2005. The first Branching Out internship began in June 2006 and the tiered training was offered to returning participants in the summer of 2006.



Annual program budget:

The program is made possible through contributions of staff time and resources from several for profit and non-profit organizations in the public and private sectors. Participating organizations and individuals provide technical expertise, equipment, logistical support, etc., to make the program possible. Approximately \$5,000 is provided annually from public and private sources to acquire educational resources and safety supplies.

Funding sources/partnerships and type of support provided:

See above.

Results achieved/impact:

- Established, coordinated and completed 17-week, pilot internship
- Arranged professional employment interview for intern; resulted in job offer with commercial tree care company in Boston
- Developed and conducted Level II field training at Adams National Historical Park in partnership with Outward Bound/Green Corps, Adams National Historical Park, Wind River Tree Company and Goodell Tree Company
- Created mentoring program in which returning students instructed first year participants
- Strengthened existing program partnerships with Boston Harbor National Park Area, Thompson Island Outward Bound, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the commercial tree care industry
- Initiated program collaboration with Boston National Historical Park, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and Adams National Historical Park

Lessons learned:

1. It is critical to have a point person who is enthusiastic about the program. Working in partnership with several private and public organizations takes a great deal of coordination, attention to sharing information and ensuring effective communication. Find someone who is good at it!
2. Start small. Initiate programs slowly, expand them as you make accomplishments.
3. Use experiences, successes and failures, to reshape the program as it moves forward.
4. Think of ways to actively engage partners to share ownership and successes in the program.
5. Keep it fun for yourselves and the participants!

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Photos courtesy of the National Park Service

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- [PIEDMONT PARK CONSERVANCY \(Atlanta, GA\) - Building a Corporate Environment](#)
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- [WEEQUAHIC PARK ASSOCIATION \(Newark, NJ\) - Weequahic Park Urban Forest Inventory](#)
- [SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION \(Seattle, WA\) - Seattle Shoreline and Salmon Habitat Assessment](#)



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NAOP's Advocacy Role

U.S. Capitol Grounds

Advocacy Pilot Project

Other Advocacy

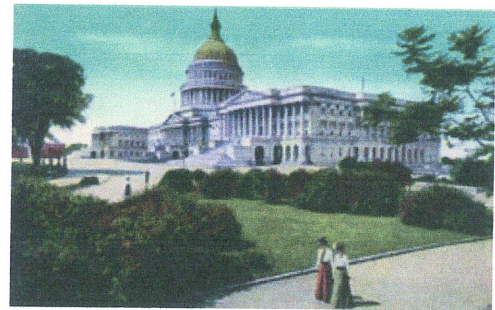
Request for Advocacy Support

Parks Watch

U.S. Capitol Grounds

NAOP WORK TO PRESERVE U.S. CAPITOL GROUNDS GAINS MOMENTUM

As construction activity continues on the massive U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, NAOP brought together local and national stakeholders to talk about the future of the Capitol's historic landscape and to advocate for its preservation and restoration. "A Design for Democracy: An Olmsted Vision for the U.S. Capitol Grounds, 1874 - 2005," held June 14th at the National Building Museum, included presentations by renowned Olmsted scholars and longtime friends of NAOP, Charles Beveridge and Arleyn Levee, as well as insightful remarks by Richard Longstreth, professor, George Washington University; David Maloney, deputy state historic preservation officer, Historic Preservation Office (Washington, D.C.); Nellie Longworth, government affairs consultant and former president of Preservation Action; and Charles Birnbaum, NAOP board member and director of the Historic Landscape Initiative of the National Park Service.



Participants included representatives from federal and capital region agencies such as the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, scholars, national organizations including the American Society of Landscape Architects and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and citizen advocates. Representatives of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and its consultants were also involved. The AOC is currently preparing a master plan for the entire U.S. Capitol Complex, which consists of the Capitol itself, House and Senate Office Buildings, the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

From the beginning of the master planning process, NAOP has been the leading voice for the preservation of the historic Capitol landscape. Although the Center is largely underground, it has precipitated significant changes to the historic design. On January 26, 2005, NAOP met with staff of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and representatives from its master plan consultants, HOK and Hargreaves Associates. The meeting offered NAOP an opportunity to make its case for the preservation of the historic Olmsted-designed landscape and for a comprehensive planning approach for the entire U.S. Capitol complex.

NAOP also prepared a written statement, "The United States Capitol Complex: An Approach to Preserving and Protecting the Landscape Legacy." In the statement, NAOP urged the AOC to prepare a detailed historic study of the entire complex, develop a statement of philosophy and a program plan against which all design and program elements could be measured, include a conservation plan as part of the final masterplan, and engage the public to the greatest extent possible. Now it is joined in its advocacy by other stakeholder groups.

This fall, NAOP's board of directors and its Leadership Council will meet in Washington, D.C. Attendees will have an opportunity to tour the Capitol Grounds and meet in a joint session with the Office of the Architect of the Capitol to discuss the master plan process and its implications for the historic landscape.

The United States Capitol Complex:

An Approach to Preserving and Protecting the Landscape Legacy

Prepared by the National Association for Olmsted Parks

The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) believes that applying the principles outlined below to the 'Vision of the U.S. Capitol in 2025' will help the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) guide appropriate future use and development of this treasured work of landscape architecture. NAOP is fully committed to working with the AOC to help promote careful stewardship and protection of

this most important work of Olmsted's design legacy and the facilities and lands surrounding it in the U.S. Capitol Complex.

The United States Capitol and its surrounding complex of institutions, offices and open space is a powerful and enduring center and symbol of the United States Government. It also contains an unmatched collection of internationally important works of architectural and landscape architectural design. In particular, the Capitol Grounds, conceived and executed by Frederick Law Olmsted over 130 years ago, is a hallmark of his design legacy and one of his greatest artistic achievements. As a direct result of Olmsted's design genius, the Grounds today are a working place of government, a renowned cultural landscape, and, for employees, citizens of the District of Columbia and tourists, a modern-day park.

The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) applauds the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) for establishing the 'Workshop Series to Discuss the Master Plan for the U.S. Capitol'. We have read the 'Project Brief' outlining the program and we look forward to participating in the discussions. NAOP believes the treatment of the landscape of the U.S. Capitol in the master plan can represent not only a vision for the future, but a national model of how to foster stewardship and appropriate planning for other historic working landscapes as well. Indeed, the complexity of issues facing the site, its historic credentials, and the national and international profile it enjoys make it ideally suited and deserving of the utmost public attention, scholarship and expert involvement.

Toward that end, we respectfully suggest that the following components be made part of the master planning process. These will ensure that the master plan for the entire U.S. Capitol Complex will meet its myriad of needs while at the same time protecting and celebrating the historic Olmsted-designed landscape.

For the purposes of this discussion we refer to the "U.S. Capitol Grounds" as the Olmsted designed areas immediately surrounding the Capitol building, and the "Capitol Complex" as the balance of lands and facilities under the purview of the AOC.

1. The Master Plan should proceed from a thorough understanding of the historic context of the entire U.S. Capitol Complex.

NAOP understands that a detailed historic study was undertaken to define the legacy of Olmsted's design for the Grounds and that this study has not as yet been made publicly available. We also recognize that, as part of the new Capitol Visitor Center, several elements of the design will be rehabilitated. However, it is clear from observing the site under construction that much of the original design on the east side of the Grounds has been lost. NAOP believes that such catastrophic change to the surviving Olmsted design can be avoided as future projects are developed on the remainder of the Grounds. We believe that clear understanding of Olmsted's design intent coupled with more careful planning and construction design can achieve these critical goals.

This same consideration must also be extended geographically and chronologically beyond the work of Olmsted at the site. A comparable historians' report by qualified scholars should be prepared for the balance of the complex and for the period following Olmsted's involvement. Clearly the Capitol complex possesses multiple, perhaps even competing layers of historic significance. It is only through comprehensive study that a clear understanding of the totality of historic significance at the site can be gained. Such knowledge can then guide preservation, rehabilitation and restoration plans and ensure that program plans and design for the site are compatible with its most important elements.

2. A "Statement of Philosophy" and a program plan for the entire complex should be developed and vetted prior to design development.

In order to successfully insert new uses and requirements into the existing fabric and framework of the site, the master plan should proceed from a philosophical basis against which all program elements can be measured. Importantly, this philosophical foundation should be carefully reviewed by plan advisors, stakeholders and all concerned parties. Once such a foundation is in place, the design will not be piecemeal but rather a comprehensive reflection of an overall vision for the site.

Specifically, we urge that the following principals be considered:

1. The character of the spaces originally designed by Olmsted should be preserved and restored to the greatest extent possible, and protected from future encroachment and compromise. Where spaces have been altered or original design intent is lost or unclear, rehabilitation should be undertaken to restore, to the maximum extent possible, the historic spatial and visual relationships.
2. The critical linkages of the design of the Grounds are the circulation system, the vegetation patterns, and the spatial character they define. Olmsted felt that efficiency of circulation was a key component of a well-functioning public space. He also believed that the Capitol Grounds should be a restful park-like space, in contrast to what he correctly anticipated would become busy, urban surroundings of the Grounds. Furthermore, he had

a specific idea regarding visual presentation of the Capitol building, and the vistas revealing it, and carefully controlled these as part of his design. In this way he provided for a stunning public experience of the site that ensured access and enjoyment for generations of visitors. These elements, and the individual areas and components that comprise them, should be restored/rehabilitated to the original design intent.

3. Contemporary needs for the entire Complex should be accommodated and designed without loss of the integrity and character of the site.
4. Features that were part of the original design should be preserved and protected from further disturbance and, when needed, restored in accordance with the original design. On the Grounds these include furniture, walls, railings, paving patterns and lanterns as well as specific elements such as the Summer House.
5. New elements needed to provide security and other modern requirements should be designed in such a manner that their intrusion is minimized and that they are subordinate to the overall intent of Olmsted's original design as well as the historic integrity of the entire Complex.
6. Vegetation throughout the site should preserve the spatial qualities and original design intent. Existing vegetation should be managed to retain historic character and historic plant species, where possible, while maintaining visibility for security.
7. Wherever possible, retain, enhance, and replant/restore historic plantings, based on historic plans and plant lists, including trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, so that vegetation throughout the Grounds is true to the original design intent: to arrange planting to heighten the effect of dignity of the building and to avoid decorative plantings that distract the viewer from this appreciation of the building. Utilize vegetation to screen non-historic, non-contributing elements, as well as those features that are visually intrusive or that detract from the spatial integrity of the site. When necessary, substitute plantings may be used but they should maintain the original intent as to character and effect.
8. Temporary facilities to fulfill needed functions during the longer-term process of rehabilitation should be simply treated and developed, and should not compete visually with historic resources.
9. Develop appropriate, consistent signage, furniture, lighting, and security devices for the entire Capitol Complex that allow the Architect of the Capitol to promote public understanding of the Complex as a coherent, designed urban landscape. Keep signage quantities and sizes to the minimum required for effective communication. Furniture and security devices should be consistent throughout the Complex, and in their appearance avoid decorative plantings and be subservient to both architecture and the broader urban landscape character.
10. While the Olmsted-designed site elements at the Capitol Grounds (such as walls, steps and railings) should be considered as an example for new structures, they should not be copied or translated, and the proportions and scale of new elements should be carefully considered to subordinate them and keep to a minimum their visual significance in the broader urban landscape.

3. The final Master Plan should include a specific Landscape Conservation Plan.

A stated goal of the master planning process is to incorporate sustainable design and create a maintenance plan that ensures long-term stewardship and care for the complex. A comprehensive landscape conservation plan can address this goal and include, among other things, the following elements:

- Sustainable practices including the management of storm water runoff, irrigation and the incorporation of "green" features;
- A long-range plan for plant material including a schedule for tree replacement;
- Design strategies that soften the impact of security and move from fortification to secure accommodation; and
- A design framework that allows for the accommodation of new elements, such as those for security, without compromising the integrity of the design.

4. Engage the public in the master planning process to the greatest extent possible.

A full and public review process for the U.S. Capitol Complex is not required by law. However, the AOC office has suggested that it would like to make the planning process transparent and accessible to stakeholders and the public. NAOP applauds this willingness and would like to be as helpful in this regard as possible.

NAOP can work with the AOC to convene a diverse group of organizations and individuals including representatives from the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission on Fine Arts, the DC State Historic Preservation Office, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the National Park Service's Historic American Landscape Survey, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, citizen groups such as the Capitol Hill Restoration Society and the DC Preservation League. All these interests will bring experience and insight to the planning process. Their early and active involvement will ensure that the plan is both the best possible for the Capitol and a model for such landscapes across the country. In addition, such groups can serve as champions for the implementation of the plan over time.

January 26, 2005

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PARKS WATCH

A Legislative Update for Members of
National Association for Olmsted Parks and City Parks Alliance
Vol. 4 Number 1, Winter 2007

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- Healthy Lifestyle Initiatives Introduce in the House
- EPA Says No to Industry Request to Use Chromate-based Wood Preservative

110th Congress Off and Running

Congress is off and running with pledges of bipartisanship and balanced budgets. Both House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) have pledged to work longer hours and full weeks.

The House leadership produced a 100 legislative hour agenda that featured:

- Introducing legislation intended to curb the power of lobbyists.
- Committing to no new deficit spending.
- Fully enacting the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.
- Raising the minimum wage from \$5.15/hour to \$7.25/hour. Pelosi pledged that there would be no congressional pay raises until the minimum wage is upped.
- Enacting legislation allowing the government to negotiate with drug companies over prescription drug costs for Medicare.
- Promoting and increasing funding for stem cell research.
- Cutting interest rates on college loans by 50%.
- Beginning to roll back subsidies to oil companies.
- Fighting any attempt to privatize Social Security.

The Senate has gotten off to a slower start, complicated from the beginning by the unexpected hospitalization of Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD). There is promising news regarding Sen. Johnson's recovery, and he is expected to return to the Senate in the months ahead.

The new committee chairs in the House and Senate are busy organizing agendas and schedules with many promises to investigate programs that have not been given attention under the past 12-years of Republican leadership. Committee staffs are very interested in hearing about programs that need oversight. A complete listing of the new

committee organizations is available through Thomas, the legislative arm of the Library of Congress, at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Leveling the Playing Field for Lobbying Congress

On the second day of the 110th Congress, the House approved a package of internal rules changes designed to sever cozy links between lawmakers and lobbyists. H.R. 97 was approved 430-1, with only Rep. Dan Burton, (R-IN) voting against it. For citizen groups and small non-profit organizations, these changes should provide better access to members of Congress.

The changes would prohibit House members or employees from knowingly accepting gifts or travel from a registered lobbyist, foreign agent or lobbyist's client. Lawmakers could no longer fly on corporate jets. In addition, Congressional travel financed by outside groups would have to be pre-approved by the Ethics Committee and immediately disclosed to the public.

On Jan. 18, 2007, the Senate passed its own ethics reform package. The new ethics rule will still allow for Congressional trips such as those paid by universities or nonprofit organizations that do have registered lobbyists. This may provide parks and preservationists great opportunities to showcase special projects to members of Congress. Gifts are banned, and Senators will be asked to pay full price for tickets and entertainment events. It also extends the waiting period before a member can engage in lobbying from one year to two years. Most of the provisions take immediate effect because they are internal Senate rules and, therefore, do not have to go to conference with the House.

New Congress Returns to Budget Neutrality & Transparency

The PAYGO or pay-as-you-go rule compels new spending or tax changes not to add to the federal deficit. New proposals must either be "budget neutral" or offset with savings derived from existing funds. The House adopted the rule on Jan. 5, 2007, and there will be a similar push in the Senate.

In 2000, the federal government actually had a budget surplus of \$236 billion. Just five years later, the overall federal debt is \$7.7 trillion. When PAYGO was on the books during the 1990s, it worked well enough to help lower the deficit and, eventually, balance the federal budget. PAYGO expired in 2002. It is no coincidence that in that same year, the budget plunged back into the red.

Both the House and Senate have adopted new regulations on eliminating hidden earmarks and/or last minute earmarks from legislation. Earmarks for specific projects are often inserted in conference reports without the knowledge or vote of other members. The new legislation will require earmarks to be disclosed as to author, amount and the off-set under PAYGO. The new process will ask Members to request any earmarks early in the appropriations mark-up cycle, and then disclose them during the process.

In the past earmarks have served as an important tool in obtaining federal funds for parks and preservation projects because the appropriations' committees preferred to let such funding requests happen at the end of the process. The change is raising some anxiety from Hill watchers about the impact such new rules will have on the FY 08 appropriations bills. However, earmarks have also served to undermine federal competitive grant programs, like Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program and the Historic Preservation Fund. As the use of earmarks burgeoned, members of Congress preferred to seek earmarks for district projects rather than defend programs that were awarded through the National Park Service and which they could not control.

Congresswoman Velazquez Introduces H.R. 43, Brownfields Housing and Community Renewal Act --

Transforming Unusable Land into Safe, Vibrant Locations for Residents

A member of Congress since 1992, Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) is the new chair of the Small Business Committee and second ranking member on the Committee on Financial Services that has jurisdiction over H.R. 43, The Brownfields Housing and Community Renewal Act. She stated:

"Local communities should not only be able to reap the benefits of the latest technology, but they should also enjoy the use of safe and vibrant locations throughout neighborhoods. The reclaiming and restoration of environmentally damaged areas is key to restoring communities throughout the country. There are an estimated 6,000 Brownfield sites in New York City alone, representing an estimated 3500 acres of unusable land. In order to transform these areas to usable, safe locations, this bill will ensure the areas are reintegrated into their local communities, and can be enjoyed by local residents."

--Statement by Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Jan. 4, 2007

The bill's purpose is to empower local communities and their partners to clean and redevelop brownfields in their communities by providing:

- Flexibility for the development of local plans to address brownfields problems; and
- Access to economic development grants.

Grants must be used to benefit low- and moderate-income communities, increase affordable housing, address imminent threats or urgent community needs, and to provide open spaces or parks.

At this time, no companion bill has been introduced in the Senate, but one is anticipated later in this session of Congress.

Healthy Lifestyle Initiatives Introduced in the House

Three bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives to promote a healthy lifestyle, including a bill by Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY). H.R. 45, The Healthy Foods for Healthy Living Act, authorizes the Dept. of Agriculture to make grants to community-based organizations and local redevelopment agencies to promote increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Agriculture, and the Ways and Means Committee. No similar bill has been introduced to date in the Senate.

Rep. Gene Green (D-TX) has introduced, H.R. 19, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning health promotion and disease prevention. The resolution encourages the federal government to:

- Enhance the science base required to develop fully the field of health promotion and disease prevention; and
- Explore how strategies can integrate lifestyle improvement programs into national policy, health care workplaces, families and communities.

H.R. 19 has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Similar legislation is expected in the Senate.

On Jan. 10, 2007, Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA) introduced H.R. 398, Healthy Places Act of 2007. The legislation would establish a Health Impacts Assessments Program to provide grants to allow states and local communities to address environmental health hazards, and provides additional support for research on the relationship between the built environment and the health of our communities. The bill also creates an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Health to facilitate more communication and collaboration between federal agencies.

"Our environment and our health are inextricably linked, particularly among low-income urban populations. By paying greater attention to the built environment including homes, schools, parks, transportation and community design, we can reduce instances of chronic disease such as diabetes and asthma," said Congresswoman Solis. "At a time when our children are suffering from obesity and asthma, the Healthy Places Act would provide the tools we need to create cleaner environments

and healthier communities.”

The bill also encourages implementation of the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine’s report, “Does the Built Environment Influence Physical Activity?” released on Jan. 11, 2005, and “Rebuilding the Unity of Health and the Environment: A New Vision of Environmental Health for the 21st Century,” released Jan. 22, 2001.

A similar bill was introduced in the previous session of Congress. That bill had the endorsement of 80 national organizations. Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) is expected to introduce a similar bill in the Senate in the coming weeks. Sen. Obama was the lead sponsor last session.

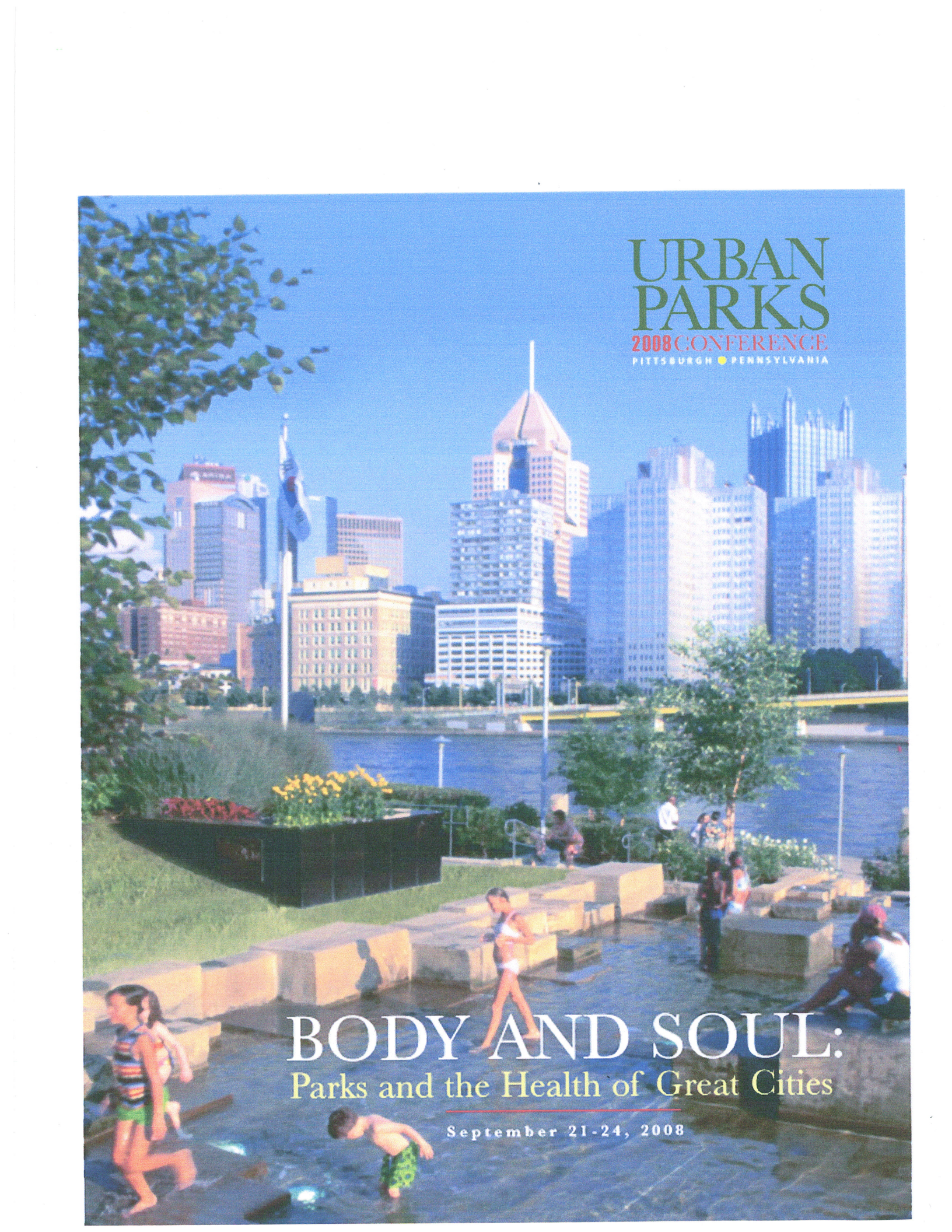
EPA Says No to Industry Request to Use Chromate-based Wood Preservation for Lumber in Decks and Playground Equipment

On Jan. 8, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rejected a request by the Forest Products Research Laboratory to approve the use of acid copper chromate (ACC) to treat playground equipment and outdoor decks.

EPA expressed concern that the proposed uses would pose a skin irritation risk to children who come in contact with the treated wood. It also poses cancer and non-cancer risks to workers during the manufacturing process. EPA noted that there are available alternatives to the treated wood product like redwood and cedar or plastics. EPA began phasing out the use of similar chromate preservatives in 2002 because of concerns about arsenic.

www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/chemicals/acid_copper

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