

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts

COUNTY: Norfolk-Suffolk

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.12.25.0017	12/8/71

1. NAME

COMMON: Cong. Dists: 8+9

Olmsted Park System

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION see separate sheet

STREET AND NUMBER: Back Bay Fens, Muddy River, Olmsted (Leverett) Park, Jamaica Park, Arborway, Franklin Park

CITY OR TOWN: Boston-Brookline

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Massachusetts	25	Norfolk-Suffolk	21-25

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☒ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☒ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) 	☐ Comments
--	--	---	--	---

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Boston, Town of Brookline

STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall Town Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Boston Brookline

STATE: Norfolk-Suffolk

CODE: 21-25

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Suffolk Registry of Deeds Norfolk Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Suffolk Couty Courthouse Norfolk County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Boston Dedham

STATE: Mass.

CODE: 25

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of the historic assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: Office of the Secretary, State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston,

STATE: Mass.

CODE: 025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Mass.

COUNTY: Norfolk Suffolk

ENTRY NUMBER: 71.12.25.0017

DATE: 12/8/71

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered (additions)			☐ Moved		
	☐ Unaltered			☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Olmsted Park System includes a series of parks linked by continuous parkways. It curves south from the mouth of the Muddy River to Franklin Park. When originally conceived, the System also included Boston's existing parks, the Common and the Public Garden which were linked to the Olmsted Plan by the Commonwealth Avenue mall.

One of the most heavily used portions of the System is that which comprises the Fens. Olmsted's plan eliminated the original tidal swamp with its dangers of pollution and flooding, and created an informal park. In the section of the Fens north of Boylston Street, although the boundaries remain the same, an overpass access to and from Storrow Drive has mutilated the original landscape design. However, the formal modern design and the plantings are spectacular, and the material used to face the overpass structures is compatible with Richardson's Boylston Street bridge, which was built between 1880-84. Other alterations to the Fens area have been restricted to changes in park land use and have not affected the boundaries and road patterns proposed by Olmsted in 1879. Much of the original swamp has been filled in, although the swamplike vegetation originally used by Olmsted remains along a short portion of the River. Except for a low stadium which desecrates the original design at the junction of the Fenway and Park Drive, most of the remainder of the park presently consists of grass, shade trees and gardens. West of the Muddy River are formal rose garden and small neat gardens tended by nearby residents of the area. These plots began as "Victory Gardens" during World War II and today serve as vivid reminders of that historic period. The most important original structures in this area are Richardson's Boylston Street bridge and the Agassiz Bridge, built in 1887-88.

A linear park, though which the Muddy River flows, links the Fens with Jamaica Pond. Various names have been given to this area, the most common of which are "The Riverway", which extends from the Fens to Route 9, and "Leverett" (or Olmsted) Park". In these areas the River was an eyesore and a cause of sanitation problems. To remedy these, Olmsted created a plan for the sanitary improvement of the River and to connect the Fens with Jamaica Park in 1881. The result is a greenscape which curves sinuously following the natural contours of the River valley. At the southern end of this portion of the System, the River ends in a series of fresh water ponds, the largest of which is called Leverett. With the exception of a large parking lot near Brookline Avenue, some poorly designed recreational facilities near the Ponds, and a large overpass at Route 9, this section of the System retains most of its original design. The original structures date from the early to mid-1890's and were designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge. These include 3 vehicular bridges, 2 footbridges, and a stone shelter on the Riverway.

Jamaica Park was designed in 1892, but only in 1894 was construction on it begun. Jamaica Pond, the only fresh water body of any size within the city limits, and one of the important features of the entire Park System, occupies a major portion of the Park. In his designs, Olmsted bordered the Pond with paths and shade trees. He encircled it with parkways by utilizing the existing parkway on the eastern side (Jamaicaway) and adding roads on the western side. He incorporated the Perkins Mansion ("Pine Bank" House), situated at the northern end of the Pond, in his plans. This structure, the third to stand on the site, was built in 1870 in the Ruskinian Gothic style. After a fire, the City Architect Wheelwright remodelled the interior, roof, chimneys and garden terrace in 1896. The Boston Parks Department uses the house as headquarters for its recreational division. The stone steps, which lead from the house to the Pond, were taken from the John Hancock House. The Park and road patterns

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mass.	
COUNTY Norfolk-Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.12.25.0017	DATE 12/8/71

(Number all entries) BOSTON: OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM

2. Location, cont. - Note: The description below should not be considered a legal description.

Beginning at the intersection of Morton Street and Forest Hills Street; Thence turning and running westerly and northwesterly by the center line of Morton St. and the Arborway; Thence turning and running northwesterly and northerly by the southerly, southwesterly and westerly line of the Arborway to a point at the intersection of the Arborway and Centre St; Thence turning and running northerly and northeasterly by the westerly and northwesterly line of the Arborway to the intersection of the Arborway and Prince St; Thence turning and running generally northwesterly by the center line of Prince St. to a point at the intersection of Perkins St.; Thence turning and running northeasterly and northerly by the northwesterly and northerly line of Perkins St. to a point at the intersection of Perkins St. and Pond Avenue; Thence turning and running northerly, north-easterly, easterly and northerly by the westerly, northwesterly, westerly and northwesterly line of Pond Avenue and Boylston Street; Thence turning and running westerly by the center line of Boylston Street to the intersection of Boylston St. and River Road; Thence turning and running northerly, northeasterly, and northerly again by the center line of River Rd. to a point at the intersection of River Rd. and Brookline Avenue; Thence turning and running northeasterly by the center line of Brookline Avenue to a point at the intersection of Brookline Avenue and Parkway Road; Thence turning and running northwesterly along the center line of Parkway Rd. to the intersection of Netherlands Rd.; Thence turning and running northwesterly in a straight line to the southeastern boundary of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority line; Thence turning and running northwesterly by the center line of said Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority line to the intersection of said line and Park Drive; Thence turning and running southeasterly, easterly, northeasterly and northerly by the north-easterly, northerly, northwesterly and westerly line of Park Drive to the inter-section of Park Drive and Boylston St; Thence turning and running northeasterly and northerly by the northwesterly line of Boylston St. and easterly line of private property to a point at the northwest side of Ipswich St. and the southerly line of Interstate Route 90; Thence turning and running easterly by the southerly line of Interstate Route 90 to a point at the northeast corner of Ipswich St. at the intersection of Charlesgate East; Thence turning and running southwesterly by the southeasterly line of Charlesgate East to the intersection of Boylston St. and the Fenway; Thence turning and running southerly, southwesterly, westerly, and northwesterly by the easterly, southeasterly, southerly and southwesterly line of the Fenway to the intersection of the Fenway and Brookline Avenue; Thence turning and running northwesterly, westerly, southwesterly, southerly, southeasterly, woutherly and southwesterly by the southwesterly, southerly, southeasterly easterly, northeasterly, easterly and southeasterly line of the Riverway to the intersection of the Riverway and Huntington Avenue; Thence turning and running generally southerly, southwesterly, southerly, southeasterly, southerly, southeasterly and easterly by the easterly, southeasterly, easterly, northeasterly, easterly, northeasterly and northerly lines of Jamaicaway, Pond St. and the Arborway to the intersection of the Arborway and Forest Hills Street; Thence turning and running northeasterly and northerly by the center line of Forest Hills Street to the intersection of Forest Hills Street and Glen Road; Thence turning and

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mass.	
COUNTY Norfolk-Suffolk	
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(Number all entries)

BOSTON: OMSTED PARK SYSTEM, CONT.

2 LOCATION, CONT.

running southeasterly by the center line of Glen Road to the intersection of Glen Rd. and Sigourney St.; Thence turning and running northeasterly by the center line of Sigourney St. to the intersection of Sigourney St. and Peter Parley Rd.; Thence turning and running northerly and northeasterly by the center line of Walnut Avenue to the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Seaver St.; Thence turning and running southeasterly by the center line of Seaver St. to the intersection of Seaver St. and Blue Hill Avenue; Thence turning and running southeasterly by the center line of Blue Hill Avenue to the intersection of Blue Hill Avenue and American Legion Highway; Thence turning and running southwesterly by the center line of American Legion Highway to the intersection of American Legion Highway and Canterbury St.; Thence turning and running westerly by the center line of Canterbury St. to the intersection of Canterbury St. and Morton Street; Thence turning and running northwesterly and westerly by the center line of Morton St. to the intersection of Forest Hills Street and Morton Street.

Northern section of the Fens

Beginning at the northwest corner of Back Street at its intersection with Charlesgate West; Thence turning and running northeasterly to the northeast corner of Back St. at its intersection with Charlesgate East; Thence turning and running southerly by the easterly line of Charlesgate East to the northern boundary of Interstate Route 90; Thence turning and running westerly by the northerly line of Interstate Route 90; Thence turning and running northerly by the westerly line of Charlesgate West to the point of beginning.

10. Geographical Data

Muddy River/Jamaica Park

NW	Lat 42°20'47"	Long. 71°06'27"	
NE	42 20 35	71 05 57	
SE	42 18 43½	71 07 11	
SW	42 18 57½	71 07 43	(Newton Quad)

Arborway

NW	42 18 35½	71 07 41	(Newton Quad)
NE	42 18 49	71 07 22	
SE	42 18 02½	71 06 23	
SW	42 17 48½	71 06 42	

Franklin Park

NW	42 18 47	71 06 23
NE	42 18 47	71 05 08
SE	42 17 35	71 05 08
SW	42 17 35	71 06 23



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mass.	
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(Number all entries) BOSTON: Olmsted Park System

7. DESCRIPTION

remain intact, and the Pond is still used for its original purpose of boating and fishing. In 1906, Daniel Chester French carved the Francis Parkman Memorial which stands on a sloping lawn at the western side of the Park.

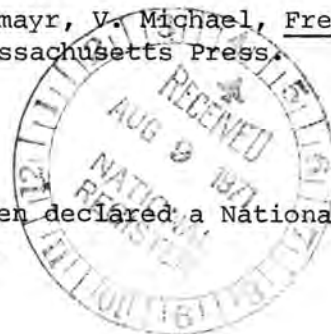
At the same time that Jamaica Park was being developed, the Parkway (Arborway) was continued from it along the edge of the Arnold Arboretum to Franklin Park. An overpass and new road patterns have obliterated the short portion from the east end of the Arboretum to Franklin Park. Despite the addition of two traffic rotaries, the rest of the Parkway retains not only Olmsted's street design, but a great many of the original trees which have now grown to an impressive height completely shading the Arborway.

Franklin Park, the terminus of the System, is unquestionably one of Olmsted's masterpieces. In 1885, Olmsted designed this large rural park especially for working class people. The largest area of the property, "The Country Park" was reserved exclusively "to provide opportunity for a form of recreation to be obtained only through the influence of pleasing natural scenery upon the sensibilities of those quietly contemplating it."¹ "The Country Park" has been used as a golf course since the late nineties. Although this was not the use which Olmsted intended, it has ensured preservation and a standard of maintenance for at least this portion of the Park. Other areas were set aside for sports (the Playstead, on which has been built White Stadium), a deer part, now part of the Zoo, and a playground for small children. The only formal part of the Park is a grand mall, called "The Greeting", designed for use as a promenade and meeting place. The Greeting was never completely planted as planned and has been incorporated into part of the Zoo. Two monuments that Daniel Chester French designed in 1882 for the Boston Post Office are now located at the northern entrance to the Greeting. These groups represent "Labor, Art and the Family" and "Science Controlling the Forces of Steam and Electricity."

The Park is still used for horseback riding and Olmsted's road pattern is intact. Much of the fine original stonework remains, although in bad condition. These structures include the Playstead Overlook (1885-88) and the terraces and arbors on Schoolmaster's Hill (1890-91), both of which appear on Olmsted's 1885 plan, the Valley Gate (1888-89 by Walker and Best) and several rustic fountains. A State hospital, the Shattuck, has been erected on what was formerly the Heathfield on Morton Street.

¹ Fabos, Julius G.Y., Milde, Gordon T., and Weinmayr, V. Michael, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., 1968, University of Massachusetts Press.

2.NOTE: Since the Arnold Arboretum has already been declared a National Historic Landmark, it is not included in this nomination.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☒ 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1879, 1881, 1885, 1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☒ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☒ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | Recreation |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Architecture | ☒ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The comprehensive park system which Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. planned for the City of Boston in the late 1870's is one of the nation's outstanding examples of a multi-use open space and the landscape architect's finest design project in New England. Olmsted's work on the system, which became known as the "Emerald Necklace around Boston," created a strong precedent for it included all the design and planning elements which later landscape architects have applied to regional planning on a large scale.

Olmsted's original plans for the park system had three purposes: to create needed municipal open space while solving an engineering problem; to link newly annexed parts of the city with its historic center; to provide - as in his earlier designs for Central Park (1857-63) - a variety of forms of recreation. Olmsted established a hierarchy of uses for areas within the system, creating large- and medium-size parks for rural relaxation and picnicking, smaller landscaped areas with ponds for recreation and linear parkland for pleasure driving, riding and hiking. Though they were never carried out completely, sketches of circulation patterns suggest that Olmsted intended to separate traffic within the park system according to volume and type, again like his plans for Central Park.

The Bay Bay Fens and the Fenway were the first portions of the park system to be planned. Into the 1870's the Fens were a tidal swamp which served as a repository for sewage and were subject to violent floods. The three-man Boston Park Commission was created in 1875 primarily to find a solution to this problem. Following an unsuccessful competition for a design, Olmsted was asked to prepare a new plan for the Fens. Using swamp-like vegetation able to withstand periodic soakings with salt water, he created an informal park which was a unique feat of engineering skill and naturalistic landscaping.

Franklin Park, the terminus of the system, is one of Olmsted's masterpieces. This large rural park, included in the earliest schemes for Boston's park system, was financed in part by a bequest made to the city by Benjamin Franklin. Olmsted's plan for the Franklin Park area was completed and work begun in 1885. Though the surrounding area was still rural, Olmsted anticipated the growth of the city in this direction and designed the Park as a retreat for working class people whose access to open space would be limited without it. In his concern for the social and humanitarian aspects of park design, Olmsted was influenced by the work of Joseph Paxton, whose "People's Park" at Birkenhead (England) he had first visited in 1850. Olmsted's plan for Franklin Park is a more elaborate and highly articulated version of Paxton's Birkenhead design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Board of Commissioners of the Department of Parks, Boston, Mass., Annual Reports and Special Reports, 1876-1900.
 Olmsted, Frederick Law, "Notes on the Plan of Franklin Park and Related Matters", Eleventh Annual Report, Boston Park Department, Boston, 1886.
 Fabos, Julius GY., Milde, Gordon T., & Weinmayr, V. Michael, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts Press. 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA see separate sheet

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	42 ° 21 ' 07 "	71 ° 06 ' 03 "		° ' "	° ' "	° ' "
NE	42 ° 21 ' 07 "	71 ° 05 ' 27 "				
SE	42 ° 20 ' 19 "	71 ° 05 ' 27 "				
SW	42 ° 20 ' 19 "	71 ° 06 ' 03 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: estimated 843

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Mass.	25	Norfolk	21
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mass.	25	Suffolk	25
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Anne R. Wardwell, Survey Director	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Massachusetts Historical Commission	7/1/71
STREET AND NUMBER:	
Office of the Secretary, State House	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Boston	Mass.
	CODE
	25

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name John F. X. Donovan
 Secretary of the Commonwealth,
 Chairman, Mass. Historical Commission
 Title _____

Date 7/2/71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 8 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Smutay, Jr.
 Keeper of The National Register

DEC 4 1971

Date _____

BACK BAY
FENS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Mass.	
COUNTY Norfolk-Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71-12-25-007	DATE 12/8/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Olmsted Park System			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Back Bay Fens, Muddy River, Olmsted (Leverett) Park, Jamaica Park, Arborway, Franklin Park			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston-Brookline			
STATE: Mass.	CODE 25	COUNTY: Norfolk-Suffolk	CODE 21-25
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Metropolitan District Police			
DATE OF PHOTO: 2-22-71			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Metropolitan District Commission			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Westerly view of Riverway (Muddy River) from Longwood Ave. bridge.			

Metropolitan
District Police

Location Muddy River
Date 2-22-71
Time _____
Photographer W. H.

Jacket 533-183
Illus No. 132
Width 27 1/2 pics Depth 32 pics Focus 59 %
Sg. Ht. ☒ Line ☐ Comb. ☐ Silite ☐ Broad



BOSTON/BROOKLINE, MASS.

OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM

U.S.G.S BOSTON-SOUTH, 1956

U.S.G.S NEWTON, 1956

scale: 1:24,000

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Mass.	
COUNTY	
Norfolk-Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71-12-25-0017	12/8/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: <u>Olmsted Park System</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Back Bay Fens, Riverway, (Muddy River) Olmsted (Leverett)</u>			
<u>Park, Jamaica Park, Arborway, Franklin Park</u>			
CITY OR TOWN:			
<u>Boston, Brookline</u>			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mass.	25	Norfolk-Suffolk	21-25
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
<u>U.S. Geological Survey Maps Boston-South, Newton</u>			
SCALE: <u>1:24,000</u>			
DATE: <u>1956</u>			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered DEC 8 1971

Name

Location

Olmsted Park System

Boston-Brookline
Norfolk-Suffolk Counties

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

Hon. Louise Day Hicks

Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer

Hon. John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission

Office of the Secretary

State House

Boston, Massachusetts 02133

HR

MCMeans:mm 12/2/71

CLM Systems, Inc.

292 Main St., Cambridge, Mass. 02142
Telephone 617-492-6210

July 11, 1973

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Attention: William J. Murtagh

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

CLM/Systems, Inc. is presently preparing an environmental impact statement as required by Massachusetts law for a proposed expansion of zoo facilities in the City of Boston. This project is located in Franklin Park, which is part of the Olmsled Park System recently designated as a National Landmark in February of this year.

Could you please send me copies of whatever information you have in your files pertaining to this park system. The New England Field Office of the National Park Service has directed me to you for this data. We are especially interested in the survey that was conducted, as well as the specific reasons that this park system was chosen as a National Landmark.

We are very much aware of the possible historical impact of the proposed project. Thus, we would appreciate receiving any information that you feel would be helpful to us as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

CLM/Systems, Inc.

Donald Anderson

Donald Anderson

DA:pv

sent 7/26/73

~~No letterhead~~

RFD 1, 151 Fruit Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748
August 28, 1980

Ms. Carol Shull
Chief, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
United States Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C., 20243

Dear Ms. Shull,

Relative to the Recreation Theme Study as announced in the August 22, 1980 Federal Register, Page 56197, I would suggest Olmsted Associates, 99 Warren Street, Brookline, Massachusetts. The house is already in the Register under Olmsted, Frederick Law, House, but applicable also are many of the studies/projects the partnership carried out over the years. To mention a few - Central Park, the Fenway, Augusta (Masters) National Golf Club, redesign of the Capital Grounds (Washington, D.C.) and a large park in Baltimore. I can run down a Joe Hudak in the Boston area if

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D SEP 3 1980

____ INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

____ INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

____ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

you seek additional information. My father was a senior partner there so I have some limited knowledge of jobs. Mr Kudak is the only principal left in this area when the firm ceased operations in 1979.

Among my other jobs I am involved in Cultural Resources Management for the New England Power Service Co, part of New England Electric System and view the Register (Federal) daily. Several of us have created a workshop annually, led by a James J. Shire of Georgia Power Company with whom I believe you have had contacts. As an old history major, I appreciate your efforts.

Such a letter cannot be a formal company letter, hence the scribbled note. Good luck.

(over)

Sincerely,
Jordan E. Marquie

Enclound is a copy of the agenda of our C.R.M. workshop recently held in Portland, Oregon in conjunction with our Land Use Management workshop. Tuesday was for all participants and then Wednesday & Thursday were for the separate sessions. I deleted the Land Use sessions as an aid to seeing the C.R.M. session. You will covered for Tom King, Leslie Wilderson USDA-Northwest covered for J. Friedman, plus a couple of other changes.

cc. James J. Shive, Georgia Power Co.

EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE

The 3rd National Conference on Recreation
and Resource Management

Jantzen Beach Thunderbird—Portland, OR
May 12-15, 1980

AGENDA

MONDAY, May 12, 1980
ALL PARTICIPANTS

4:00—7:00PM Registration & Informal Get-together Parlor Suite
Dinner and Sightseeing on Your Own

TUESDAY, May 13, 1980

GENERAL SESSION—ALL PARTICIPANTS

7:00—8:30AM Buffet Breakfast—All Participants Rogue Room
8:00—8:45AM Registration Main Lobby
9:00—9:30AM Introduction Klamath/McKenzie Room

National Welcome—
Dick Thorsell
Edison Electric Institute
Task Force Welcome—
Jim McGuffey
Task Force Chairman
Conference Welcome—
G. Eldon Drennan, President
Pacific Power & Light Company

SESSION CHAIRMAN

Jim McGuffey
Land Resource Utilization Supervisor
Georgia Power Company

9:30—10:30AM F.E.R.C. Legislation and its Impact on Land
Use Management
Georgiana H. Sheldon
F.E.R.C. Commissioner

10:30—10:45AM BREAK

10:45—12:15PM Cultural, Natural Heritage & Recreation Resources
David Cherry
HCRS, Regional Director for Pacific
Southwest Region
Richard Winters
HCRS, Asst. Regional Director for
Northwest Region
Ronald Corby
IAS, Staff Archaeologist for Pacific
Northwest Region

12:30—1:30PM LUNCHEON—ALL PARTICIPANTS Rogue Room
SESSION CHAIRMAN
Donald E. Wirth
Chief, Environmental Planning
Northeast Utilities

1:45—4:45PM Land Use Management & How It Works
Wade S. Manning, Vice President
Land Depr.—Georgia Power Company
Donald Baumann, Supervisor
Property Management, Southern
California Edison Co.

2:30—2:45PM BREAK

Leslie A. Donner, Manager
Real Estate Division
Puget Sound Power & Light Co.
John J. Zaborowski, Supervisor
Land Management
Consumers Power

DINNER & SIGHTSEEING ON YOUR OWN

CONCURRENT SESSIONS WEDNESDAY, May 14, 1980

7:00—8:30AM BUFFET BREAKFAST—ALL PARTICIPANTS
8:00—8:45AM Late Registration Rogue Room
Main Lobby

LAND USE MANAGEMENT SESSION SESSION CHAIRMAN

Ronald W. Sorenson
Director, Land Management
Minnesota Power & Light Company

9:00—10:30AM LAND USE: A TRIED APPROACH AND
AN APPROACH TO TRY
Richard E. Cary, Supervisor
Land Management
Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.
Sandra Nawrocki, Biologist
Texas Electric Service Co.

10:30—10:45AM BREAK

10:45—12:15PM LAND USE: ECONOMICS & PUBLIC RELATIONS
Thomas Houghtaling, Supervisor
Land Use Administration
Minnesota Power & Light Company
Arthur Barschdorf
Corporate Communications Counsel
Minnesota Power & Light Co.

12:30—1:30PM LUNCHEON—ALL PARTICIPANTS Rogue Room
SESSION CHAIRMAN

Charles Borawa
Supervisor, Project Recreation
Duke Power Company

1:45—2:45PM RECREATION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO
LAND USE MANAGEMENT
Charles N. Singer
Senior Recreation Planner
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

2:45—3:00PM BREAK

3:00—4:00PM PROJECT ZONING, LAND & WATER
Robert Ferracco
Manager, Project Lands Management
South Carolina Public Service

4:00—5:00PM IMPENDING LEGISLATION & ITS IMPACT
ON LAND USE MANAGEMENT
W.S. Tucker, Jr.
Manager, Environmental Affairs
Florida Power & Light Co.

6:30—8:30PM SOCIAL HOUR & DINNER
ALL PARTICIPANTS Willamette Room
ENTERTAINMENT—The Meistersingers

THURSDAY, May 15, 1980

6:30—7:30AM BUFFET BREAKFAST
ALL PARTICIPANTS Riverview Room

8:00AM—5:00PM LAND MANAGEMENT SESSION
TOUR LAND RECLAMATION PROJECT AT
THE CENTRALIA THERMAL PROJECT

DINNER & SIGHTSEEING ON YOUR OWN

FRIDAY, May 16, 1980

Check out and Return Home
Breakfast on Your Own

WEDNESDAY, May 14, 1980

SESSION I: CRM, Multi-Disciplinary
Approaches/An Overview
SESSION CHAIRMAN

D.R.M. White, Ph.D. Anthropologist
Southern California Edison Company

9:00—9:30AM PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY IN CRM
J.E. Fitting, Ph.D., Assoc. Director
Environmental and Life Sciences Group
Science Applications, Inc.

9:30—10:00AM HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN CRM
J.H. Cleland, Ph.D.
Project Archaeologist
Wirth Associates

10:00—10:15AM BREAK

10:15—10:45AM ETHNOGRAPHY IN CRM
D. Theodoratus, Ph.D.
President
Theodoratus Cultural Research and
University of California—Davis

10:45—11:30AM NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA
APPLICABLE TO HYDRO FACILITIES
W.A. Myers
Company Historian
Southern California Edison Company

11:30—NOON PALEONTOLOGY & THE INVESTOR-OWNED
UTILITY—IS THIS REALLY CRM?
R.W. Loose
Environmental Scientist
Public Service Company of New Mexico

NOON—12:30PM MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES
TO CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES
D.R.M. White, Ph.D.
Anthropologist
Southern California Edison Company

12:30—1:30PM LUNCHEON—ALL PARTICIPANTS Rogue Room

SESSION II: The Federal Role in CRM
SESSION CHAIRMAN

Santiam Room

J.J. Shive, Archaeologist
Georgia Power Company

- 1:30- 1:45PM INTRODUCTION- J.J. SHIVE
1:45- 2:15PM J.P. Feeney
Historian
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
2:15- 2:45PM L. Bykoski, Ph.D.
Regional Environmental Economist
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
2:45- 3:00PM BREAK
3:00- 3:30PM J. Friedman
Cultural Resource Specialist
USDA- USFS, Washington
3:30- 4:00PM T.F. King, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Cultural Resource
Preservation for Advisory Council
on Historic Preservation
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
4:00- 4:30PM J.J. Shive
Archaeologist
Georgia Power Company
4:30- 5:00PM DISCUSSION

THURSDAY, May 15, 1980

**SESSION III: State-Level and Regional-Federal-Level
Regulation and Administration in CRM**

SESSION CHAIRMAN

Santiam Room

- W.D. Chilson, Planning Analyst
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
8:30- 9:00AM D. Miller
Regional Archaeologist
USDA- USFS- San Francisco, California
9:00- 9:30AM W. Olson
State Director- Cultural Resources
Bureau of Land Management, California
9:30- 10:00AM D.W. Powers
Manager, Oregon Historic Preservation Office
10:00- 10:30AM W.C. Seidel
Staff Archaeologist
State Office of Historic Preservation
California
10:30- 10:45AM BREAK

SESSION IV: Professional Services in CRM
SESSION CHAIRMAN

Santiam Room

- W.D. Chilson, Planning Analyst
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
10:45- 11:15AM R.A. Knutson
University of Idaho- Moscow
11:15- 11:45AM P.H. Garrow
Senior Archaeologist
Soil Systems, Inc.
11:45- 12:15PM R. Corbyn
Staff Archaeologist
IAS, Pacific Northwest Region
12:15- 12:30PM DISCUSSION
12:30- 1:30PM LUNCHEON

Clackamas Room

**SESSION V: Workshop Caucus
(Industry Representatives Only)**

SESSION CHAIRMAN

Santiam Room

J.J. Shive, Archaeologist
Georgia Power Company

- 1:45- 2:00PM INTRODUCTION- J.J. Shive
2:00- 2:30PM THE NATIONAL HERITAGE POLICY ACT
R.F. Green
Senior Environmental Planner
Consumers Power Company
2:30- 3:00PM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
PROTECTION ACT OF 1979
R.W. Loose
Environmental Scientist
Charles Carroll
Environmental Scientist
Public Service Company of New Mexico
3:00- 3:15PM BREAK
3:15- 3:45PM HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING AND EARLY
TWENTIETH CENTURY HYDRO DEVELOPMENT
J.A. Miakisz
Associate Environmental Analyst
Niagara Mohawks Power Corporation
3:45- 4:15PM REGIONALISM: PROBLEMS AND PRACTICES
IN THE NORTHEAST, SOUTHEAST, MIDWEST,
SOUTHWEST AND FAR WEST REGIONS
J.J. Shive
Archaeologist
Georgia Power Company
4:15- 4:45PM ADVISORY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS & THE
UTILITY CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGER
W.G. Coleman
Environmental Permits Coordinator
Arkansas Power & Light Company
4:45- 5:15PM DIRECTIONS, OBJECTIVES & REPORT
TO THE TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN
All Industry Participants

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- MONDAY Registration and
Evening Reception 4:00- 7:00PM
WEDNESDAY Attitude Adjustment Hour
Banquet and Entertainment
THURSDAY Tour Land Reclamation Project
at the Centralia Thermal Project
FOR LAND MANAGEMENT ATTENDEES

REGISTRATION

Conference Registration Fee:
LAND USE MANAGEMENT (Tour Included) \$72.00
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT \$69.00

Conference Registration forms are included herewith and must be returned by April 18, 1980 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING SESSIONS IN BOTH PROGRAMS, PLEASE PAY THE \$72.00 LAND USE MANAGEMENT REGISTRATION FEE.

The registration fee covers a buffet breakfast and lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the Wednesday night social and banquet and also the Land Use Management Tour.

For any additional information, please contact Lee Carothers, Pacific Power & Light Company, 920 SW Sixth Ave., Portland, OR 97204, or call (503)243-4795.

**EDISON ELECTRIC
INSTITUTE** The Association of Electric Companies

**Task Force on Land Use
and Resource Management**

3rd National Conference



Jantzen Beach
Thunderbird Inn
Portland, Oregon
May 12-15, 1980

SEP 29 1980

Sheffield 9-26-80
for Harrison

Mr. Jordan E. Marquis
RFD 1, 151 First Street
Hopkinton, Massachusetts 01748

Norfolk Co.
Listed

Dear Mr. Marquis:

Thank you for your letter of August 28, 1980, suggesting the inclusion of the Frederick Law Olmsted House in the Recreation Theme Study of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

We are pleased to inform you that the Frederick Law Olmsted House and Central Park were designated as National Historic Landmarks on May 23, 1963. Enclosed is information on these Landmarks and on Public Law 96-87, which established the Frederick Law Olmsted House as a National Historic Site. We agree that the Olmsted firm played a major role in designing many of the country's premier urban parks. We will give them close attention in our study.

We appreciate your suggestions for the Recreation Theme Study and your interest in the historic preservation programs of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull (Sgd.)

Carol D. Shull
Acting Chief of Registration

Enclosure

bcc: NR

FHR:S. Harrison:arb:343-6401:9-26-80

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NATIONAL REGISTER

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

JOAN K. BOZER
Legislator, 10th District



Residence:
768 Parkside Avenue,
Buffalo, New York 14216

Office:
25 Delaware Avenue, Room 710
Buffalo, New York 14202

Telephone:
846-6469

December 8, 1980

Gerry Rogers
Acting Keeper
National Register
440 G. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Gerry:

In preparation for our second national conference next April, we would appreciate it very much if you would provide us with a list of Olmsted parks listed on the National Register.

I am enclosing a copy of our first Newsletter for your information.

We would be delighted to have you join us at our Conference in Brookline next April!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan K. Bozer".

Joan K. Bozer

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D JAN 2 1981

____ INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

____ INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

____ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OLMSTED PARKS

175 FIFTH AVENUE • THE FLATIRON BUILDING • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010

SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OLMSTED PARKS PLANNED FOR BOSTON- BROOKLINE, APRIL 24-26

The National Association for Olmsted Parks will hold its 2nd National Conference in Boston, Cambridge, and Brookline, Mass. on April 24-25-26, 1981, a successor to the first one held in Buffalo, under the aegis of the then Friends of Olmsted Parks, now the National Association.

The Boston Park System, the product of Frederick Law Olmsted's maturity, is a unique work of art. It reflects the best of FLO — as artist, pragmatic park planner, social visionary and political realist. The preservation, protective restoration, use and maintenance of "The Emerald Necklace," and all other Olmsted parks, presents a continuing challenge to park administrators, neighborhood activists, urban

planners and landscape architects.

This conference will involve a variety of participants who will address a broad range of perspectives. The goal of the conference is to educate and inform, to share ideas, and assess current problems, and to channel our concern for our Olmsted parks into constructive programs to meet the needs in our own communities. We will focus on Frederick Law Olmsted and his work from many different points of view. We will discuss both general and specific concerns, working to develop both long-range and emergency strategies, to enable us all, public park administrators and private park

Continued on page 13

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OLMSTED PARKS ORGANIZED

In the summer of 1977, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan appeared on a television interview program in the City of Buffalo, while participating in a conference there, and discussed his "dream" of a national Olmsted historic park system which would include Central Park in New York City as well as others scattered across the U.S.A. Even before that, he and a group of concerned citizens had met to talk about a greater Federal role in the likes of Central Park, then under severe attack and suffering from too many years of neglect.

It made good sense. The U.S. Government and Frederick Law Olmsted were not, after all, total strangers. In 1947-48, and again between 1965-71, the Library of Congress received the majority of the Olmsted Papers, which now comprise the single largest repository of his work and thought, now in the process of being edited. For more than a decade legislation, initiated by Senator Edward M. Kennedy and Congressman Robert Drinan, had been directed toward the acquisition of the Brookline office-home of Olmsted Associates, Fairsted, as a National Historic Site and public resource, due primarily to the consistent efforts of William Alex, President of the Frederick Law Olmsted Association, the acquisition has been accomplished. A few years earlier, lest we forget, in 1874, Mr. Olmsted had also been instrumental in the design of the U.S. Capitol grounds, as

Continued on page 12

Members of the National Association for Olmsted Parks Steering Committee meet at Fairsted with Park Manager Shary Berg and Mary Tynan, long-time member of the Olmsted firm. They are, from L to R, Betsy Gross, 1981 Conference Coordinator, William Alex, Treasurer, Mary Tynan, Kathleen Galop, Secretary, Shary Berg, Joan K. Bozer and Charles C. McLaughlin, Co-Chairmen. Photo by Sandy Allport, Executive Director, hence missing from the picture.



Individual Copies, \$2.50. Annual Subscription, \$3.00

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Editor, Alexander W. Allport; Contributing Editors, Charles C. McLaughlin, William Alex; Contributors, William Alex, Alexander Allport, Joan K. Bozer, Betsy Shure Gross, Richard Heath, Mary Ellen Hern, Charles McLaughlin, Jill Weber Radler; Consulting Editor, Mary Lou Allport. Design and layout by Caroline Harris.

Olmsted Papers

VOLUME II OF THE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED PAPERS BEING PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION IN EARLY 1981

Volume I of the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers was greeted with critical acclaim in *The New York Times* in August, 1977, *Landscape Architecture*, *The Smithsonian Magazine* and the *American Historical Review*, and universally praised for its scholarship and contribution to the knowledge and understanding of this important figure. Drs. Charles C. McLaughlin and Charles E. Beveridge, the editors, had selected "the best" of their subject's letters and other writings, arranged chronologically, covering Olmsted's "Formative Years" from his birth in 1822 until 1852, years which "revealed the development of Olmsted's attitudes toward nature and the land, which he had gained as a farmer, as well as his own spiritual growth," according to the *Smithsonian Magazine*.

But this is only the beginning, the years before Olmsted really began to write and design. Present plans call for twelve volumes in all, an historic undertaking, of which Volume II, *Slavery and The South, 1852-57*, when Olmsted wrote his classic descriptions of southern society and demonstrated his concern with the problems posed for America by slavery, is due in 1981.

Central Park, which he also designed between 1857 and 1861, was originally planned as part of Volume II, but will now occupy a place of its own, well deserved, as Volume III, also to be published in 1981. The popularity and importance of the subject may make possible a paperback edition.

Scheduled for future publication are:

The Civil War and the U.S. Sanitary Commission, 1861-1863

The California Frontier, 1863-65

The New York Years, 1865-1878

The Early Boston Years, 1879-1889

Landscape Architect to the Nation, 1890-1895

The Public Design Reports, 1865-1880

The Public Design Reports, 1880-1895

Writings on the Theory of Landscape Design

Plans, Designs and Views, 1858-1895

Twelve volumes in all, surveying some 250,000 items stored in 750 boxes and stretching over about 300 linear feet, the length of a football field. One immediate by-product of the project has been the publication of a working list of parks, parkways and public recreation grounds designed by the Olmsted firm between 1857 and c. 1950, described elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The audience for the Olmsted papers is as wide and varied as the papers themselves, ranging from those interested in the history of American slavery to the Civil War buff, from historians of the American frontier to urban problem-solvers and environmentalists. Landscape architects, municipal planners and citizen activists, all interested in achieving the intelligent and informed restoration of Olmsted's urban parks and open spaces will find these volumes invaluable.

Since the 1950's a growing number of those concerned with the history of American urban life and anxious to improve the quality of our cities have seen the importance of an edition of the papers of Olmsted Senior. It was during this period that the Editor in Chief, Dr. McLaughlin, began his work with an undergraduate honors essay at Yale College on "The Social and City-Planning Thought of Frederick Law

Olmsted." In his research he received the assistance of Laura Wood Roper, who at that time had sole access to the Olmsted Papers at the Library of Congress and was working on her definitive biography *FLO*. In the meantime Charles Beveridge and Victoria Post Ranney had begun their independent work on Olmsted. Today the three are the major collaborators on the Olmsted Papers project, though scores of others have contributed substantially to its continuing success.

The new National Association for Olmsted Parks is understandably interested in seeing this project proceed. Frederick Law Olmsted is now being recognized as one of the most profoundly influential figures in the development of American urban life in the nineteenth century and the records of his work and thought provide an essential guide to the future.

To date the Olmsted Papers project has been largely financed by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the National Historic Publication and Records Commission as well as numerous other individuals and foundations. The work is sponsored by the American University in Washington, DC. Publication and distribution are by Johns Hopkins University Press. Additional funding will be sought by the National Association, especially for those volumes which will be of particular interest to a given geographic area, such as *Creating Central Park*, *The Early Boston Years*, and *The California Frontier*, or to established professional groups, such as *Landscape Architect to the Nation* would be. We hope some of these volumes will be adopted by a community or organization, thus insuring the completion of this monumental work by 1990.

Original Central Park Drawings Exhibited

The initial preservation project of the Frederick Law Olmsted Association, intent on preserving a vital part of New York City's environmental design heritage, has also proved to have had an immediate practical value in the current day restoration work on Central Park. A portion of this heritage, comprising over 50 drawings never before exhibited, is now made available for public viewing at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 East 91st Street at 5th Avenue from October 28, 1980 to February 1, 1981.

For longer than one wishes to recall, a collection of about 1400 original Central Park drawings lay neglected in an outbuilding of Sara Delano Roosevelt Park in Manhattan's Lower East Side, exposed to damage by water leakage, mold and vermin. In 1973 Henry Hope Reed, Curator of Central Park, with the assistance of a group of scholars and students from Columbia University, brought the drawings for safe-keeping to Columbia's Avery Library where they were placed on permanent loan. The drawings lay there basically untouched, rolled up in their cardboard boxes, until 1979 when the Frederick Law Olmsted Association made the conservation and cataloging of these drawings a priority project and applied to the New York State Council on the Arts for funding to begin this work. Grants awarded in 1979 and 1980 enabled us to proceed.

The original drawings for Central Park date from the late 1850's, the 1860's '70s and later, and include fine watercolor renderings of the original bridges, buildings, stone carvings, terrace and pavement designs, rustic shelters and so forth. Many are full scale instruction drawings for artisans: for carpenters there are sheets of elevations, plans and details of summerhouses and rustic structures; for stonemasons there are stone carving details drawn full size; for ironmongers there are details of wrought iron bridges, as well as forms for iron castings. Above all are the fine renderings of bridges for presentation to the Board of Commissioners for construction approval. In addition there are hundreds of working drawings for use by landscape architects, engineers and builders; they include topographical contour studies, underground drainage lines, roadway sections and the like. All were directed and overseen by Olmsted who, with his partner Calvert Vaux, designed the Park. Jacob Wrey Mould, a talented architect and artist, collaborated with Vaux on many of the designs. Mould also provided the designs for the stone carvings of the Bethesda Terrace area.

The conservation procedure used by the Olmsted Association staff follows the latest practice with regard to aged, brittle paper drawings that have been attacked by mold.

The drawings are placed in a humidification chamber in which defungicidal chemicals are circulated. After a period of 7 to 14 days they are removed and individually cleaned. The cataloging process involves measurement and careful notation of subject, date, architect-draftsman, medium, inscriptions and other important information. They are then placed in acid free folders under dust covers in flat steel cabinets. Bound volumes of the drawings index will be made available when the work is complete to Park officials, civil engineers, landscape architects, municipal archives, libraries and to all directly concerned with Park restoration. Copies in large type will be made for use by visually handicapped workers.

Many drawings have been encapsulated between transparent mylar sheets for simple protection during handling, inasmuch as they are now being consulted for a variety of restoration projects: the Belvedere, the Bethesda Terrace, several bridges, the Gofalon bases and poles and others. But many drawings are badly damaged and even fragmented and must be sent out for special conservation treatment. Funds are needed for this and other aspects of this major preservation project. While the conservation work is tedious and often attended by unpleasant chemical fumes, the

Continued on page 11

Many hands make light work, but not when it comes to revealing a tightly rolled and long-untouched work of art such as the Central Park drawings at Avery Library. Additional funds are needed to continue this important conservation work, assisted in part by the New York State Council on the Arts and several private donations.

Conservator Susan Dooha begins analysis of one of the 15,000 rolled Central Park drawings being stored at Avery Library, Columbia University. More than 50 from this collection will be exhibited at the Cooper Hewitt Museum under the auspices of the Frederick Law Olmsted Association, which is responsible for their conservation and cataloging.



PHOTO COURTESY THE OLMSTED ASSOCIATION



PHOTO BY GAYLE GLEASON COURTESY THE OLMSTED ASSOCIATION

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OLMSTED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



The middle vault contains less than one third of the Olmsted drawing collection

OLMSTED'S HOME AND OFFICE IN BROOKLINE ACQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

"A most important component of the national artistic and historic patrimony ... its preservation is of prime significance to this country." So wrote Professor James Marston Fitch of Fairsted, Olmsted's home and office in Brookline, Mass., and its contents: thousands and thousands of drawings by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. & Jr., John C. Olmsted and others associated with the Olmsted firm from 1883 until the early 1950's; a continuum of professional creativity unmatched in America.

Now, finally, after years of effort by William Alex and others, and with the support of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Congressman Robert Drinan and the numerous

INSIDE FAIRSTED

A view of the upper drafting room



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OLMSTED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

co-sponsors of U.S. Public Law 96-87, and the signature of the President, Fairsted has become a National Historic Site. Shary Berg, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a master's degree in landscape architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and a Park Service staff member since 1976, has been appointed the first Park Manager at Fairsted, with a considerable degree of responsibility for planning its future. A local advisory committee and the Trustees of the National Association for Olmsted Parks stand ready to help her in this critical task.

The National Park Service assumed full responsibility for the site only on July 1, 1980. For the immediate future its primary responsibility is to provide maintenance and security for the physical plant and its contents. Funds have not been appropriated by the Congress for the purchase of the archives, which remain the personal property of Mr. Artemas P. Richardson, a member of the Olmsted firm. An agreement has been reached with Mr. Richardson, however, for limited access by written appointment to the collection. Copies of this statement of policy, as well as the most recent status report of the Park Manager, may be secured from

Park Manager
Frederick Law Olmsted National
Historic Site
 99 Warren Street
 Brookline, MA 02146
 (617) 566-1689

A major goal of the National Association is to facilitate the purchase of the archival collection by the National Park Service, or to secure its donation to Fairsted in one way or another. When linked to the Olmsted Papers at the Library of Congress, and other lesser collections around the country, it constitutes the real legacy of FLO, his sons and associates, and remains the touchstone for Olmsted's impact on the American Scene.

Describing what he found during his initial survey of Fairsted in 1973-74, William Alex said, "The archives in Brookline ... contain approximately 800,000 drawings distributed over some 10,000 individual jobs. However, between 15 to 20,000 drawings may be said to constitute the significant core of historic drawings. Among these are jobs that have continued for decades and demonstrate a rare continuity of work by a single American professional organization, now one hundred seventeen years old...."

This core ... comprises the history in the United States of environmental design, a concept not even named until our own generation and held nowhere else in the world except in the mind of one man whose life activity was a demonstration of its most valid principles."

Registrants to the National Association's April, 1981, conference in Brookline will have a rare opportunity to see and understand the importance of Fairsted today, and the critical need to complete the purchase of the documents and establish a continuing center for their study and use.



Reprinted by special permission from the August, 1980, issue of Progressive Architecture.

First Olmsted Conference meets in Buffalo

It was like a family reunion — discovering distant cousins with enough of a resemblance to acknowledge a familial connection, but each different and sufficiently dissimilar to be recognized as unique and independent. It was the first conference on this country's urban Frederick Law Olmsted parks, and it met in Buffalo this past May to form a National Association.

During informal workshops, structured meetings, and tours of some of Buffalo's six Olmsted-designed parks, 65 delegates from 25 cities learned about each other's problems, potentials, successes, and mistakes. Their greatest common problem, they found, lies in promoting public and political recognition of the enormous breadth and range of the Olmsted legacy.

"The ignorance of the parks' historic significance on the part of the park user is one of the challenges to be met," asserted Kathleen Galop, an attorney from Newark, NJ, who successfully placed that city's Branch Brook Park on the State Register of Historic Places.

Problems faced and overcome in Newark were familiar to many of the conferees. A few years ago, local park administrators were making plans to bring the 19th-Century park "up to date," to straighten out the curving roads, and to install more baseball diamonds with seating, parking facilities, and comfort stations in areas Olmsted had planned as open meadows.

Continued on page 6

The photo library contains thousands of project photographs



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 OLNSTED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

continued from page 5

"Because the city's park planners didn't have an appreciation for Olmsted's original design intent, they were willing to impose these inappropriate changes," Ms. Galop recalls. "But once the community realized the park's value, four public hearings were held, and plans began to change." Today the city is improving roads by providing appropriate curbing, eliminating swampy areas, and restoring planting.

Olmsted parks in 122 cities face similar problems of benign neglect and inappropriate use. The pervasive challenge remains to find alternate sites for popular, although sometimes faddish, active recreation, without imposing patchwork plans to satisfy vocal pressure groups, and while still staying within Olmsted's intent.

The changing environment presents problems, too, and these were discussed at the conference. Some parks, like Buffalo's Delaware Park, are undergoing massive restoration of their water features because of siltation and sewage, and a \$8.1-million bypass project, the largest inland lake restoration program in the country, is currently underway.

Appropriately, the keynote address was delivered by Charles McLaughlin, editor of the Olmsted papers, in the glass-domed conservatory in South Park, an almost-intact Olmsted design. Speaking on "The Social and Psychological Value of Olmsted Parks," McLaughlin made several strong arguments to justify the tying up of thousands of acres of urban landscape in the 20th Century.

Referring to the "need for psychological range that only a big landscape park can provide," his allusions to FLO's original visions seemed exceptionally appropriate today: the relief from stress in the post-industrial era... the illusion of being out of the city without traveling long distances... and the calming effect of scenery on the mind.

By the end of the conference, the National Association for Olmsted Parks had been formed. A steering committee will meet in New York City in June, and the next annual conference will be held on April 26, 1981—Olmsted's birthday.

Meanwhile, the steering committee will start publishing a newsletter with educational material for use in communicating with state legislators and congressional representatives. Within the year it is expected that the group will begin to share information and techniques for finding

funds and making applications for state and national historic recognition.

Jill Weber Radler

Designating Landmark Parks

The Case History of Riverside Park and Drive

In New York City, the designation of landmarks is not limited to buildings or historic districts; scenic landscapes with "a special character, special history, and aesthetic interest and value" to New York City are also eligible for designation.

Riverside Park and Drive are a case in point. Concern over the potential expansion northward of the Westway highway and the proposed reworking of portions of the Henry Hudson Parkway by the State Department of Highways, caused the Upper West Side community in Manhattan to approach the Landmarks Preservation Commission requesting such designation of the park in 1978.

Riverside Park is a ribbon of green space on the edge of Manhattan Island, extending from 72nd to 129th Street along the Hudson River. This leftover piece of land, too steep and rocky for building sites, was molded into a park and scenic drive by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in the 1870's.

The park has seen many changes in the post-Olmstedian years; in the 1930's, Park Commissioner Robert Moses radically altered the park. The railroad tracks adjacent to it were roofed over to create a promenade. The river's edge, which had been used for commercial purposes, was cleared, new land created, and a highway laid along the water from the Battery to the tip of Manhattan.

The designation process, often initiated by concerned citizens and community groups, such as the newly established Friends of Riverside Park, was in this instance already begun by the Commission's Olmsted Project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The part played by the community was, however, crucial. City Councilwoman Ruth Messinger organized the various constituencies, and in June 1979, chaired a Speak-Out for Riverside Park. As a result of this day-long conference, where the role of the park in its community was discussed and evaluated, the Riverside Park Community Fund was established. This organization, modelled on the Central Park Community Fund, is to provide continuing

community financial support for the park. Other members of the community wrote letters of support to the Commission, prepared statements for the news media, compiled information on the park, and finally appeared before the Landmarks Preservation Commission to testify in support of the designation.

Riverside Park and Drive received a public hearing on September 11, 1979. The purpose of the hearing was to permit interested parties to voice their support or opposition to the proposed designation. Many spoke in favor of the designation of Riverside Park and Drive, including the City Parks Department and the State Department of Highways. No one opposed it.

In the meantime, a complete survey of Riverside Park and Drive was prepared by members of the Olmsted Project and the Historic Preservation Program at Columbia University. The survey, conducted during the summer of 1979, included topographical, horticultural and condition reports, as well as indications of use patterns, architectural features and landscape accessories. Information gathered from historical records, Parks Department reports, maps and pictorial documentation was examined to determine early park conditions and subsequent changes. From this material, the designation report was prepared.

The Landmarks Preservation Commissioners voted to designate Riverside Park and Drive a scenic landmark on February 19, 1980. Their action was sent to the Board of Estimate for confirmation on April 24, 1980, and the Park and Drive officially became New York City's sixth Olmstedian scenic landmark. As such, it will now be monitored by the Commission's Preservation Department, which must approve all proposed changes by the Parks Department to the park and drive. Since the Parks Department is another city agency, the Commission issues a report to the Commissioner of Parks, rather than the usual certificate of appropriateness. The Commissioner is not legally required to implement the report, but in recent years the reports have been used as guidelines for changes in scenic landscapes.

"The landmarking of Riverside Park is not going to solve all of our problems, but it gives us time. It is protection against encroachment without due notice," summarized one park supporter.

Mary Ellen W. Hem
Editor, The Olmsted Project
N.Y.C. Landmarks Preservation Commission



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OLMSTED PARKS

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FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED'S PARKS: ANTIQUES OR URBAN NECESSITIES?

Charles C. McLaughlin, Editor

The Frederick Law Olmsted Papers The American University

This article is taken from the text of a speech delivered by Dr. McLaughlin at the first annual conference of the National Association for Olmsted Parks held in Buffalo, NY in 1980. Additional copies may be purchased from the National Association.

Park preservation may soon have a place in our national life comparable to the rapidly growing architectural preservation movement as we rediscover our immense legacy of park acreage in the midst of our troubled and deteriorating cities. Are these great spaces worth preserving and caring for? Can we justify them with strong enough arguments to convince those who would cut public expenditures or those who would argue that the nineteenth-century public park has no place in our modern cities? Most of our major cities from Boston to San Francisco still have the landscaped parks which the city fathers set aside for public use and protected from developers in the second half of the last century. Twenty-seven of these in fifteen cities including Milwaukee, Brookline, Chicago, Rochester, Louisville, Detroit, and Buffalo were parks which Frederick Law Olmsted and his partners designed beginning with New York's Central Park in 1857.

Olmsted's parks have many friends today from coast to coast. Citizens have defended them from encroachments from the time they were built. Lately they justify preserving and restoring these great landscape compositions with the arguments of the conservationists and the ecologists spurred on by the counterculture. Also those alarmed at the deteriorating quality of existence in our cities have helped bring about almost a cult of Olmsted and his great parks. Attempts to restore these parks, despite tightening city budgets, are under way in many cities. Louisville, Kentucky, rebuilt Cherokee Park, following the original Olmsted planting plans, after a tornado wrecked it. The appeal of the old parks and admiration for the man who designed them climbed with the Olmsted 150th birthday celebrations of 1972 such as those in the Chicago South Parks and *New York Magazine's* baking of an enormous cake in the shape of Central Park. In the same

year many learned of Olmsted's great design accomplishments through major exhibitions at the Whitney Museum in New York and the National Gallery in Washington D.C.

Unfortunately, though, the mounting enthusiasm, while terribly important, does not guarantee that we can fully restore Olmsted's major works of landscape architecture to the use he had for them. It is far easier to reconstruct a building so that it looks exactly as it did in the past than it is to replant and rebuild a living and constantly changing landscape. We have to turn to Olmsted's writings as well as his plans to catch the spirit and intent of his work. To understand how to restore his parks we have to know the artistic and social conditions in which Olmsted worked, because his landscapes, although they seem to be natural, as he intended they should, are designed to be unified works of art, each unique to its own site and the purposes of the client. Being true to the genius of the place and the wishes of the client challenged Olmsted to produce artistic and ecological miracles when he designed parks for such unpromising locations as the rocky spine of Manhattan Island, the flat and swampy lake front of Chicago, and the polluted, muddy Back Bay fens of Boston.

MEDIATOR BETWEEN CIVILIZATION AND NATURE

Olmsted understood the constraints of climate and soil, but he was not a pioneering ecologist like George Perkins Marsh. Nor can we lump him with John Muir or Henry David Thoreau as an unabashed enthusiast for unspoiled wilderness, although he read and enjoyed their writings and was an active promoter of their aims. Working on the edge of our expanding cities, he mediated between civilization and nature as did his favorite English landscape gardeners, Humphry Repton, John Claudius Loudon, and Joseph Paxton. Like these practitioners in the picturesque tradition, his art ranged from the aesthetic effects of the architect to those of wild and untamed nature. Artificial sand parks, electric launches, and parade grounds were just as important in his work as the elements of landscape he introduced into his compositions to approximate effects he had observed and enjoyed from such diverse places as the Isle of Wight, the Connecticut Valley, and the Isthmus of Panama. Olmsted was a deliberate artist

who manipulated scenic effects for social purposes. A look at the park reports he wrote from 1858 to 1895 proves the point.

In discussing the needs of Buffalo in 1888 he wrote: "For people who have monotonous occupations amid sombre surroundings, tranquilizing natural scenes are less demanded than by those by which gayety, liveliness, and a slight spirit of adventure are stimulated." He therefore proposed that there be a park along the shores of Lake Erie with a running and bicycling track, facilities for balloon ascensions, parades, and exhibitions. The park would have a beach for surf bathing, like that at Newport, Rhode Island, behind which he wanted a shallower stretch of water heated by the sun for warm water swimming. Beyond the bathers the water could be used for boating and would be studded with islands which could be reserved for special occasions like outings and weddings just as in the parks of Paris. At night the islands would twinkle with small electric lights powered from batteries charged by windmills. Olmsted suggested that the park be designed like the Haga Park in Stockholm, to be accessible only by water. Even getting to the park would be a pleasant adventure, a short, ocean ride in an electric launch from downtown. Once in the park, children would find sand parks and other amusements, and their parents, restaurants.

Olmsted included in his park plans many facilities such as bathhouses, playgrounds, out-of-doors concert stages, and exhibit space that turn-of-the-century Progressives, the parks and recreation leaders of the 1930's, and open space enthusiasts of the 1960's were to demand for their contemporaries. The important difference between these later proponents of active sports and recreation and Olmsted was that his designs displayed greater aesthetic sensitivity and his proposed facilities did not interfere with tranquilizing vistas of park scenery for the casual saunterer. The Olmsted and Vaux design for the Chicago South Parks in the 1870's is a good example of his approach.

In the 1871 report Olmsted and Vaux envisioned interconnected parks to be built from the swampy, windswept lake front, to the flat prairie three miles to the west with ample space for a whole set of different uses such as lacrosse, cricket, tennis, boating, archery, skating, parades, and balloon ascensions. He carefully placed facilities for all these activities so they would not interfere with each other or disturb those enjoying the lovely vistas of meadow, foliage, and still stretches of water to be seen on foot, horseback, or in carriages. For Jackson Park on Lake Michigan, Olmsted proposed a great pier running into the lake resembling those at Brighton or Nice where large boats could tie up. The pier sheltered an inlet leading to the lagoon in the park which in turn was to be connected by a canal down the middle of the Midway Plaisance to the lake in Washington Park to the west. Thus, the intrepid boater could paddle a canoe all the way from Jackson Park to Washington Park as well as others could explore them on foot, horseback, or driving.

As he had responded imaginatively to the park possibilities of the Buffalo and Chicago lakefronts, so Olmsted literally rose to the occasion at Montreal where he had to decide what to do with a little mountain, Mount Royal. He cautioned the park commissioners against trying to fill up the vertical landscape with the usual furniture of an ordinary park. Also, he wrote them that it would be silly to serve up the view in an indigestible mouthful by sliding people up and down the slope on a funicular railway. Instead, he wanted the delights of

mountain scenery and expanding vistas to steal upon the visitors gradually in a gentle climb up the slope on a winding carriage road or on footpaths marked by views at different levels. Even more subtle was the effect of altitude Olmsted wanted to achieve by altering the vegetation towards more and more Alpine varieties the higher one climbed. He was practicing a form of "aesthetic ecology" not existing in the natural ground cover to achieve the effect Olmsted wanted.

SOME DISAGREE OR MISUNDERSTAND

The city officials and other clients with whom he had to deal often missed the subtle social and aesthetic imaginativeness that Olmsted displayed in his park designs and his genius is still misinterpreted today even by critics and historians who make a point of understanding the past sympathetically. One such is Sam Bass Warner, an eminent urban historian who argued in a laudatory review of Laura Wood Roper's biography of Frederick Law Olmsted that the landscape parks Olmsted designed are now antiques, irrelevant for the present city both in purpose and in aesthetic. He wrote:

Today it is clear that the park movement came to the Atlantic world at that moment when cities were growing so large that the ordinary citizen could no longer get out of them on Sunday. Since most of the city dwellers in the 19th century were former country folk, access to the symbols of that country was an issue of great popular movement. . . . Olmsted was also a fine artist and his parks not only gave the public the pastoral spaces it longed for, he gave it his landscape. His skill, as J. B. Jackson has pointed out, was to remake the rough lands on the edges of our cities into scenes resembling the pre-Civil War Connecticut countryside of Olmsted's experience. . . . Yet for all the parks' charm, there has always seemed to me to be something grandmotherly about a walk in Central Park. The popular consent to the genteel promenade or decorous picnic mystified me as a child and later puzzled me when as a historian I became aware of the boisterous side of 19th century America. . . . To picnic on the lawn, to bask in the sun, to follow the winding path carried stronger meanings than today because the park was the refuge for families exposed to recurrent epidemics, families fighting coal smoke, leaky gas, ever present dirt and the stink of bad plumbing and horse manure. . . . the conditions under which parks came forth were unique to their age and that neither in mode of organization nor aesthetic are these antique models for the present planning of the city. We approach parks in automobiles, we seek contrast to our planted suburbs, not more garden spaces; the conflicts and possibilities of our metropolitan bureaucracies are not those of Olmsted's days of gentlemen, speculators, and bosses; our sports and machine models of recreation cannot be contained by even the best organized city park. We are escaping a different city; we are in search of a different Mother Nature.

Professor Warner is laboring under an eloquent misapprehension when he says that Olmsted designed his parks solely for the decorous grandmotherly promenading of his contemporaries, particularly for the slum-dwelling immigrants yearning for the rural landscapes surrounding their peasant villages in the old country. Instead, Olmsted hoped his scenery would delight and refresh not only his contemporaries but fulfill some of the contemplative and boisterous needs of city

dwellers for generations to come. To be sure, many of us do escape our cities by car to seek natural scenery, but this does not mean that we have no further need of Olmsted's nineteenth-century compositions back home. In fact, Americans still enjoy well-kept, beautiful urban parks just as much as their peasant ancestors. When abroad, they flock to the well-kept parks of London, Paris, and Vienna just as enthusiastically as the local inhabitants. Perhaps, if our parks were all in prime condition and as well-maintained and policed, Americans would be as at home in them as they are in Europe's today.

Olmsted did not have to be prophetic to see the problem of criminal violence in our urban parks. He wrote in his Chicago Parks report in 1871:

It is impossible to make grounds in the midst of large towns which offer numerous places of complete obscurity, safe places of general resort after nightfall. Wherever it has been attempted in Europe or America, decent people have soon been driven from them, and they have become nurseries of crime and immorality.

Accordingly, he designed his parks so that portions could be shut off at night leaving only well-lighted and policed parks accessible until morning. In 1859 when he was in charge of the management of Central Park, Olmsted consulted with the police of London's West End parks to discover how they handled the crime which spilled over from Dickensian London. Thereafter, he started the training of a force of keepers not only to protect people using the parks, but also, like our National Park Service guides today, to help them enjoy their visits, an idea which only last year found favor with Commissioner Gordon Davis in New York, who created the Urban Park Ranger Corps for almost identical purposes.

Olmsted's park keepers would have had little difficulty in persuading the public to watch balloon ascensions and parades or to listen to band concerts or to go skating or bask in the sun or follow the winding path. But Olmsted as a park designer had a harder job, getting the park commissioners to purchase vast acreages of potentially valuable urban real estate for park land. It is still difficult for people to understand why some of the parks Olmsted proposed had to be so large. While most special facilities for parks do not take up much room, Olmsted insisted that urban parks had to have "range" as he called it, expansive stretches of meadow or stretches of water fringed by bushes and trees to achieve the illusion of limitless vista to encourage a relaxed, contemplative and meditative state of mind for the park frequenter.

PARKS' CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH

In his report to the San Francisco Park Commission in 1868, he tried to frighten the members into realizing that they must acquire ample park acreage to save the citizens from mental and nervous exhaustion brought on by the pressures they endured in business and the professions. San Francisco was losing too many of these highly dedicated and productive citizens. These driven men, he wrote, wrecked themselves overworking and had to retire early from their occupations suffering from premature brain failure and a morbid frame of mind. Regular visits to a park would help.

He told the Buffalo Park Commissioners that their citizens who were suffering from neurasthenia had had an unfilled need to exercise disused perceptive powers such as would be

encouraged in the proposed Delaware Park in the northern part of the city (now, unfortunately, bisected by a freeway). To the Montreal Park officials he wrote:

... certain scenery has a tendency to lift us out of our habitual condition into one which ... we should recognize as poetic. Let us say for the time being the charm of natural scenery tends to make us poets. There is a sensibility to poetic inspiration in every man of us, and its utter suppression means a sadly morbid condition. Poets, we may not be, but a little lifted out of our ordinary prose may be often to our advantage... Wordsworth (only greater in poetic sensibility than any one of us...) came home from a painful experience in France after its great revolution, sick, broken down, unfit for business. Everything was going wrong with him. His sister, Dorothy, persuaded him to let her guide him into the midst of a charming scenery, and subject himself for a time to its influence; "and thus," says Doctor Shairp, telling the story, "began the sanative process which restored him to his true self and made that blessing to the world he was destined to become."

These terms (sanative, restoring) are not metaphorical. They testify precisely that the charm of natural scenery is an influence of highest curative value; highest, if for no other reason, because it acts upon the highest functions of the system, and through them or, all below, tending, more than any single form of medication we can use, to establish sound minds in sound bodies — the foundation of all wealth.

Since this romantic intuition about the calming effect of natural scenery on the mind is at the core of Olmsted's work, we would do well to examine the theory of it and ponder whether such a purpose justifies tying up thousands of acres of urban real estate today. At first glance, Olmsted's assumptions about the effect of natural scenery on the mind depended upon a belief in the goodness of nature as the creation of a loving God. Olmsted, himself, was highly selective in choosing natural effects to accomplish his social and psychological purposes. For instance, he found the awesome effects of thousand-foot cliffs like El Capitan in Yosemite Valley and the torrents of Niagara Falls to be belittling and frightening to people — hardly the results he wished to achieve in his parks.

THE IMPACT OF COLOR ON MIND AND SPIRIT

Olmsted selected pastoral scenery for its specific effect on the human mind. These are new confirmations of the wisdom of his artistic choice based on our emotional and physical reactions to the colors of natural scenery which are not dependent upon a romantic faith in the goodness of nature. For example, Olmsted, in his compositions, opposed the use of masses of brightly-hued flowers because he thought them distracting and exhausting to the eye. Instead, his passages of scenery centered on a broad sweep of green meadow or lakes reflecting the blue sky above and the surrounding trees and shrubs in varied hues of green with occasional accent points of colorful flowers appearing as they would in nature. Modern research into the effects of color conclude that for the majority of people, blue and green are the tranquilizing colors. A person in the presence of blue and green experiences a lowering of blood pressure, pulse rate, brain wave activity, and galvanic skin response. the same person seeing bright reds, oranges, and yellows, such as one might looking at banks of flowers,

has all his bodily responses stimulated. To be sure, there were times when Olmsted wanted to stimulate a feeling of liveliness and gaiety with bright color. He hoped, for instance, that the buildings at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 could be colorful and decked out with bright flags. Instead, to his disappointment, most of the buildings were of dazzling white marble staff reflecting the heat and light of the sun onto the crowds.

Recent discoveries about the brain seem to confirm Olmsted's belief that the effect of his art on the mind was like that of music. Robert Ornstein and David Galin of the Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute of San Francisco have postulated that the two hemispheres of the brain divided by the corpus callosum have different functions to perform and that one rests when the other is active. The left half is working when we are busy with linear, verbal, analytical, and logical tasks at the office and rests when the right is occupied with holistic, aesthetic, spatial, and non-verbal activities like horseback riding, strolling through pastoral scenery, skating or listening to a concert in the park. We might conjecture that the nervous exhaustion which Olmsted observed among city dwellers of his day was caused by their overuse of the logical and verbal side of the brain and the consequent neglect of the exercise of the aesthetic and non-verbal side. According to the latest research, while the right hemisphere of the brain was exercising its poetic and contemplative function, as Olmsted intended, the left side, exhausted by business and professional activities, would be getting a much needed rest during the visit to the park. Olmsted sensed that we need a balanced regimen of stimulus or exercise for both sides of our natures. If anything, our civilization has erred in overemphasizing the logical and verbal activities of the left hemisphere which we have traditionally associated with intelligence. The romanticism of Olmsted's time and the counterculture reaction of the 1960's were efforts to redress the balance.

Olmsted, like his contemporaries, believed that miasmas, or noxious exhalations from decaying organic matter, caused contagious diseases like malaria, yellow fever, and typhus. He thought that well-drained and planted landscape parks could help control the spread of epidemics by lessening the amount of stagnant water and decaying organic wastes in the open land of our cities. The leafy trees and plants would purify the air, blocking the circulation of miasmas. To improve public health Olmsted advocated cleaning up the polluted Back Bay area of Boston and replacing the swamp and shallow bay with the interconnected Fenway, Arborway, Arboretum, and Franklin Park system. The miasma theory of diseases was replaced with the germ theory in the 1880's but public health was certainly improved by getting rid of polluted water and sewage whether or not they produced miasmas.

Another justification for park making was that park greenery purified the air by adding oxygen. Olmsted liked to quote Lord Pitt's remark that the "lungs of London" were its parks. While park landscape does add a bit to the oxygen level and absorbs carbon dioxide, most of our oxygen comes from the ocean rather than the countryside. Trees and plants, though, do reduce the suspended dust in the air and negatively ionize the oxygen molecules we breathe. According to the researches of Albert Krueger at the University of California at Berkeley and Felix Sulman at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, adding negatively charged oxygen molecules to the air improves our ability to assimilate oxygen. Krueger and Sulman argue that heavily polluted air in our cities and the air

to be found in air-conditioned or forced-air heating buildings is positively ionized and produces fatigue, irritation, and depression because the oxygen supplied is difficult for our bodies to assimilate. Our artificial urban environment then produces the same kind of stress for many people that dry winds like the Föhn in Switzerland, the Sharav in Israel, and the Santa Ana in California seem to foster. So we have another reason for having beautiful landscaped parks in our cities with open stretches of turf, water, and trees. Fountains are excellent ionizers. Niagara Falls produces some of the best ionized air in the world and happily, Olmsted designed a park from which to view it.

NOW — PRESERVATION, RESTORATION, UTILIZATION

Today in almost all of our large cities we have great parks which Olmsted and his firm designed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The most complete listing of them has recently been compiled by the Olmsted Papers project and can be purchased from the National Association. They built them as works of art to enhance life in our cities with facilities for sports, civic, and cultural festivities, and with stretches of scenery to tranquilize the mind and refresh the soul. They were built to be accessible, connected with parkways to all parts of the city and to smaller neighborhood and special function parks. Despite arguments to the contrary, more and more people think that we still need these great parks and their connecting links. Many think that they should be restored to enhance our urban life today. If we agree, we face the problem of their very expensive rehabilitation at a time when materials and labor are growing more and more costly.

Some of the rehabilitation can be done by volunteer labor. Louisville, Kentucky, consulted the original planting plans at the Olmsted firm to restore Cherokee Park and received the first Federal funding for such a project. Now, under the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978, Title X, Federal grants are available "to economically hardpressed communities specifically for the rehabilitation of critically needed recreation areas and facilities ... including improvements in park landscapes, buildings, and support facilities."

Thus, if we restore Olmsted's facilities with funds now available, we can have a rich and varied range of activities in our city parks. The great landscaped spaces we have inherited from the nineteenth century will then, once again, be useful, life-enhancing assets to our civilization.

The nineteenth-century parks are not all that we need today, but they will have taken their rightful place in a comprehensive scheme of parks, scenic preserves, green belts, and all the parks we have added since including vest pocket parks, theme parks, and more specialized recreational facilities. We need not jam Olmsted's parks with motorcycle race courses, candy cane villages, or statuary, but instead create new and more appropriate spaces for these more artificial delights. Also, we must learn from Olmsted's park reports and our own observations how to use the facilities he left us. Properly and sensitively restored and intelligently used, the Olmsted parks will again be delightful places to jog, ride horseback, stroll, or congregate. Then they will serve the gregarious, athletic, and poetic sides of our nature, brightening our lives and those of generations to come as Olmsted hoped they would when he designed them a century ago.

HISTORIC REFERENCE AND INFORMATION SERVICES OFFERED

Teachers and students, architects and engineers, administrators and planners, horticulturists and designers, history buffs and passionate amateurs interested in the work of Frederick Law Olmsted, his sons and associates, are invited to send their inquiries to the National Association for Olmsted Parks, which is attempting, for the first time anywhere, to serve as a clearinghouse and information center on the work and thought of these pioneers in the field of landscape architecture, open space planning and park design.

As interest in Olmsted's work expands, and the public's appreciation of its significance grows, so does the need to know just what he did, where, when and why, and what he thought about it.

In some instances, examples of what he did not do, or why, can be of equal importance. While established reference services in libraries and universities, and existing publications can meet some of the demand, access to much of the original source material is still largely limited to a few researchers and scholars working in the field.

The Central Park drawings at Columbia are only partially catalogued, though limited retrieval of them is now possible by special arrangement. Those at Fairsted, Olmsted's office-home in Brookline, are still privately owned, though initial agreements for using them are being made with the National Park Service. The Library of Congress papers are only 1/10th published, but the second and third volumes will be coming out soon. And, other information exists in the minds of scholars and in private collections from Boston to San Francisco.

Some day, perhaps before the end of this century, much of this information and most of these materials may become centrally available, in copy, if not in its original form. To bring this about is one of the major goals of the National Association for Olmsted Parks. In the meantime the Association hopes to provide more convenient access to the content of them, working closely with the many scholars and researchers currently using the documents themselves.

Questions which can be answered by the National Association directly, or by providing a list, bibliography, extract or reprint, will be; others will be referred to the most appropriate scholar in the field, who, in cooperation with the Association, has

agreed to respond as promptly and fully as possible. Sometimes a query will be circulated to more than one respondent, to insure as full an answer as possible. When that won't do, questions will be brought before the Association's Board of Trustees or the National Advisory Council, or become the basis for a paper or workshop at the National Conference.

Those sending questions will also receive the next several issues of the Association's newsletter, and from time to time questions of particular interest will be printed in it, or formed into an article for it. A growing family of persons already interested in the work of Olmsted and his associates is the best assurance of a strong and growing National Association for Olmsted Parks.

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Olmsted Association staff derives great satisfaction seeing how the removal of dirt and the infusion of moisture into the drawings sharpens the pencil line and brightens the colors, bringing them to life once more. The work is being directed by Susan Dooha of the Olmsted Association.

This preservation project is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

The project has also been substantially assisted with funds from the Central Park Administrator's Office, the Central Park Community Fund, the Central Savings Bank, and other contributors.

Beyond preservation of an extraordinary heritage of design and documentation for America's premier urban park, this work is important in the current major restoration thrust. With the immediate availability of original drawings, the usually protracted design process is shortened so that, with design in hand, funding for capital improvements is materially expedited, the bidding and construction process following quickly.

When the Olmsted Association completes its conservation and cataloging work, an important range of Central Park restoration — structures, bridges, circulation, water — will have a factual original basis in restoring and maintaining the Park for its 20 million annual visitors.

William Alex
President
Frederick Law
Olmsted Association

Denesmouth, one of the forty-six beautiful and varied bridges and arches in Central Park, will be shown in a magnificent and colorful architect's presentation drawing, c. 1856 at the Cooper Hewitt exhibition of original Central Park drawings housed at the Avery Library at Columbia and being conserved by the Frederick Law Olmsted Association. The exhibition, organized by the Association, will highlight the need to conserve and catalogue this unique collection of historic documents.



PHOTO COURTESY THE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED ASSOCIATION & AVERY LIBRARY

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one specialist said, preventing the building from looking as though it were about to slide down the west front of now famous Capitol Hill.

Buffalonians were quick to seize on the initiative. Wherever Joan K. Bozer, a member of the Erie County Legislature went, she enlisted "Friends of the Olmsted Parks Committee" from among those who shared with her the idea that maintenance, protection and preservation of our major, historic parks is an idea whose time had come. She had helped to organize the first meeting of Olmsted enthusiasts from around New York State in 1977, and others leading to the Buffalo conference in 1980.

The need was obvious. In Buffalo, as just one example, the number of skilled employees in the city system had dropped from 63 to 16 in twenty years. Where previously it had 20 growers, it now has four; 25 treemen, now only seven. From other cities across the country had come similar horror stories. While generally money for major capital improvements continued to be available, the capacity to maintain either older parks or newly renovated areas declined drastically. It was out of this threat of permanent loss that the new National Association for Olmsted Parks was born, some three years and many meetings later, at a second Buffalo Conference in May.

There the question was asked, "Are we a package? Can we, a network of urban parks designed by Olmsted, obtain national recognition and Federal funds for the maintenance, preservation and protection of our parks, while maintaining local control over parks themselves?" The answer was, "yes!"

In truth, the resounding affirmative response may have applied more to "Are we a package?" than to "can we obtain Federal funds," for certainly the latter could not be sought and secured without a strong national organization and on-going effort dedicated to the dissemination of Olmstedian ideas and the preservation of Olmsted's parks and open spaces.

Thus it was, as some would write, that another meeting was held in July, 1980, in Brookline, Mass., to formalize the resolutions of the Buffalo conference, elect a slate of organizing officers, lay out a schedule of future meetings, plan for the 2nd National Conference and agree on the outlines of a national program and budget which would bring the earlier dreams closer to a reality.

The goals of the Association? To develop

a national commitment to preserve, protect and maintain our nation's Olmsted parks. To compile and disseminate educational materials about our historic and socially important Olmsted parks. To identify and enlist the support of Olmsted park historians, park professionals and friends in all communities with parks designed by Olmsted or with an Olmstedian legacy. To locate, evaluate and insure the preservation of and access to Olmstedian archival materials. To work for public recognition of the network of urban Olmsted parks and the National Association itself.

Shortly thereafter, Alexander W. Allport, known to all his friends as Sandy, who had formerly served as the Assistant Commissioner for Horticulture and Forestry in the NYC Department of Parks and was completing over four years as staff director of the Central Park Community Fund, was retained as Executive Director for the National Association. The challenge is formidable, but public interest great and early pledges of help and cooperation numerous. Sandy had participated from the beginning in the Buffalo meetings, and worked closely with all the other park-related groups in New York through the Consultative Group of Organizations Interested in Central Park, a model forum for the cooperation of diverse organizations in solving park and community problems.

The first pledge toward a proposed two-year, \$1.5 million program budget came literally the day work began, from the Arthur Ross Foundation, long an imaginative contributor to Central Park and other cultural institutions. The search for other support began in earnest as soon as the applications for incorporation and tax exempt status were filed. The budget for the National Association for Olmsted parks includes, without assignment of specific priorities, the following:

<i>National Conference, 1981...</i>	<i>\$ 10,000</i>
<i>Five Volumes Olmsted Papers...</i>	<i>500,000</i>
<i>National Newsletter, 3 times</i>	<i>3,750</i>
<i>Publications & Reprints.....</i>	<i>10,000</i>
<i>Information, Reference Service</i>	<i>25,000</i>
<i>Olmsted Bibliography.....</i>	<i>3,000</i>
<i>Travelling Exhibition.....</i>	<i>50,000</i>
<i>The Fairsted Drawings.....</i>	<i>500,000*</i>
<i>Historic Inventories</i>	<i>20,000</i>
<i>Constituency Building</i>	<i>30,000</i>
<i>Film, Olmsted's America.....</i>	<i>150,000</i>
<i>Administration, 18 months.....</i>	<i>150,000</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$1,451,750</i>

**One of the largest, and most critical, items, are the drawings by Olmsted and his firm at Brookline. Legislation has passed for their purchase with Federal funds. However, getting the money appropriated, and soon, will require a major effort.*

The incorporating officers and Trustees of the Association, elected to serve until the annual meeting scheduled for April, 1981, are Joan K. Bozer, Dr. McLaughlin, editor of the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers, National Co-Chairmen; Kathleen P. Galop, a Newark lawyer active in securing National Registry status for Branch Brook Park, Secretary; William Alex, Treasurer; and Sandy Allport, Executive Director. In addition to these five, Betsy Shure Gross, Cornelia Hanna McMurtrie, Elizabeth Barlow, Charles Beveridge, and Victoria Ranney have agreed to serve as Regional Co-Chairs in their respective areas, and Betsy Gross, a member of the Brookline Conservation Commission, is conference coordinator for the 1981 meetings in Boston. Walter Steesy, editor of the "Olmsted News" and secretary for the Olmsted Family Association, will act as Genealogist to the Association. Additional Trustees and Regional Chairmen will be proposed at the 1981 National Conference.

A National Advisory Council has also been formed. Through it scholars, writers, park administrators and others can become involved in the work of the Association without the obligation of attending too many meetings or being concerned about day-to-day operations, budget and managerial problems. The Advisory Council will meet annually in conjunction with the conference and work with the Information and Reference Service.

A major function of the National Association will be to help bring into a continuing relationship the many community groups which already exist in cities where Olmsted designed parks, and to help in the formation of other park-concerned organizations where they are needed.

Visits to many of these important areas will be taking place this winter, bringing the Executive Director and several members of the Board of Trustees into closer touch with community leaders and familiarizing them with the current situation and problems. One goal of the Association is to facilitate a continual interchange of information between concerned parties in all areas, enabling each community to benefit from the experiences of others and allowing them to

be mutually supportive when crises arise. For more information on these visits and the evolving plans for cooperation, please write to the National Association.

The legacy and influence of Frederick Law Olmsted reaches far beyond the boundaries of the parks he planned. It includes what then were radical concepts of social interaction and profound views on the nature and meaning of democracy. He thought about the organization, management, maintenance and protection of people and places, as well as about the plants, prerequisites and paths. He looked into the future of America, not with perfect vision perhaps, but with more foresight than most others, and defined the needs of modern urban society in now classic terms. We are still well advised to seek answers to the future by studying the past. Hence the

great interest in the formation of the National Association for Olmsted Parks. Your participation in it will be most welcome.

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continued from page 1

advocates to work together to protect our parks.

Historically, Boston and Brookline have been receptive to new ideas and to new beginnings. FLO chose to live here one hundred years ago — and my initial inquiries on behalf of the National Association for Olmsted Parks' National Conference have met with enthusiasm and gracious offers of individual and institutional commitment, which justify his good judgment. While the list of conference participants and sponsors will continue to develop throughout the year, we do have some structure and events confirmed.

Co-Chairman of the National Association Charles McLaughlin and other Trustees examine some of the deteriorating nitrate photo negatives uncovered at the Brookline National Historic Site. Preservation of as many as possible is crucial to a complete history of the work Olmsted and his associates did over a period of 100 years.



PHOTO COURTESY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

John Vitagliano, the new Boston Park Commissioner, has invited registered conference participants to be his guest at a reception Friday morning, April 24, to be followed by a bus tour of "The Emerald Necklace." Friday afternoon we will be hosted by Harvard University, hearing the traditional Olmsted Lecture. The speaker will be Lawrence Halprin, on Creativity in Landscape Architecture.

Saturday, Boston University will sponsor our seminars and workshops on their campus. Sunday morning we will be the guests of The Town of Brookline Board of Selectmen, Conservation, Park and Historical Commissions and The Brookline Chronicle-Citizen. Sunday afternoon our hosts will be The Department of the Interior's National Park Service, and we will visit "Fairsted" for a 159th anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth and the formal dedication of his home and offices at 99 Warren Street, Brookline, as a National Historic Site. It is expected that Volume II of the Olmsted Papers, *The Slave States and Free Soil, 1852-57* will be released on this occasion.

As Conference Coordinator, I will be developing the program schedule of seminars, lectures and workshops during the Fall. Suggestions are welcome. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible to indicate your interest in participating in the conference program. The general panel/seminar categories are: park commissioners; conservation commissioners and directors; historical commissioners and directors; landscape architects; neighborhood activists and fund raising, and a workshop on making news with Olmsted in the 1980's.

As much private home hospitality is being arranged as possible for those coming from out-of-town. Reservations can also be made at Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, 575 Commonwealth Avenue (800) 654-2000 (Toll free) or Travel Lodge, 1200 Beacon Street (617) 277-1200. Both are within easy walking distance of Boston University and public transportation. In either case, the earlier you let me know that you plan to attend, the better accommodations we can arrange for you.

Betsy Shure Gross
Conference Coordinator



Franklin Park Coalition

The Franklin Park Coalition was formed in 1971 by Ms. Elma Lewis, Director of the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts located across the street from Franklin Park in Jamaica Plain, near Boston, Mass. At this time, Franklin Park had been allowed to deteriorate badly. Ms. Lewis brought together city agency representatives (The Park Department and Police Department), neighborhood organizations such as Lena Park Community Development Corporation and the Boston Zoological Society to begin a comprehensive look at what had become of Franklin Park, the hub of Frederick Law Olmsted's Boston Park System.

Regular police patrols were reinstated at the Coalition's urging which helped reduce crime greatly. Access by motor vehicles from every corner of the Park was identified as the most serious problem to safety and in the summer of 1971, steps were taken by the Parks Department.

In 1972, the city of Boston began to lose interest in Franklin Park. The Park Commissioner, that had been so cooperative with the Franklin Park Coalition and empathetic to the needs of Franklin Park left city government and was replaced by another. The momentum gained in 1970 and 1971 all but stopped. Maintenance dribbled to nothing, police patrols dropped off and the program to seal the interior areas of the Park from motor vehicles stopped.

By this time the Franklin Park Coalition's membership had grown to include Boston residents from all over the city. In 1975, the original members of the Coalition recognized that the most effective way to get proper maintenance and upkeep for Franklin Park was to broaden the membership base. Throughout this period the Coalition always remained a volunteer group. It sponsored many clean-ups in Franklin Park — a tactic used right from the start in the Coalition's history. In 1976, the first walking tour of Franklin Park ever held was led by a Coalition member under the auspices of the Victorian Society. This event was well attended.

Commissioner Peter Meade, appointed in 1976, started a lot of programs during his administration. A large CETA project of general clearing and clean-up of Franklin Park during the summer of 1977; hiring a landscape architect to prepare a Master Plan for Franklin Park's future development; applying for and receiving an HCRS grant to restore walkways in the Park and continue with the motor vehicle control project; finally he appointed a Franklin Park Coordinator to oversee these projects and to be the liaison with the Coalition on other issues and problems. The Franklin Park Coalition was included in some of the planning processes and under the Commissioner Meade administration the Coalition began learning how to work with city agencies.

The Franklin Park Coalition was still loosely structured, though, without any one leader or a board of directors. In early 1978 Richard Heath put himself before the members as a candidate for Coalition President. He was elected and promptly organized the group with a dues structure, by-laws, board of directors, incorporation, a newsletter and a scholarly bimonthly Bulletin. He also put more emphasis on public education and in so doing set the Coalition on parallel methods of operation — activism and advocacy as before coupled with slide-lectures, walking tours and newspaper articles. The slide-lectures in particular have been invaluable not only as a means to inform people of Franklin Park's significance, but also as a way to increase membership. The Franklin Park Coalition was incorporated on December 26, 1978.

Since 1977 the Coalition has closely advised on the Master Plan for Franklin Park, Phase I Construction Plan (an HCRS grant) the rebuilding of the Golf Course Club House in Franklin Park, a traffic and parking study for the Franklin Park Zoo, an exercise course presented to the Park by New England Life Insurance Co., the plans for the Zoo Education Building to be built on Park land adjoining the Zoo, and a landscape restoration of the Rock Garden in the Franklin Park Zoo. In addition to this the Coalition monitors maintenance needs of Franklin Park. Annually, in spring, it draws up a list of maintenance and repair projects

Both Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux are honored in the restored Dairy with 6' sepia toned, oval portraits on the north. Neither is identified, however, on the grounds that park lovers everywhere should come to know who is who and which is which.

The Dairy in Central Park, as it appeared on re-opening day after a \$200,000 restoration job, privately financed with gifts from the Reulon, Avon, Solow, Osborn and Vincent Astor Foundations. It now welcomes thousands of visitors a year and provides varied information about the park, its history and many public facilities.



PHOTO BY SANDY ALLPORT,
PORTRAITS COURTESY THE
FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED ASSOCIATION



PHOTO BY SANDY ALLPORT

draw up a list of maintenance and repair projects and submits it to the Park Department for their action.

The Franklin Park Coalition has good relations with other community groups and agencies around Franklin Park. Most of the community groups and agencies are either represented as members or are on the mailing list. The Coalition insists on keeping all community groups and agencies well informed on the work and eagerly encourage their participation. The Coalition closely follows a very important issue for a lot of neighborhoods — the restoration of Franklin Park. Most community groups and

agencies are tied down with other human service issues like jobs, housing, tenant action, education, etc. and cannot devote much energy to Franklin Park. The Coalition does devote itself to Franklin Park exclusively and involves these other groups as much as they want to be involved. The Coalition certainly keeps other groups and agencies informed as much as finances permit.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In addition to reporting on noteworthy events in the various Olmsted parks, the National Association's Newsletter seeks to look at the various

forms of community organization which have grown around citizen interest in our parks. The Franklin Park Coalition is one such form of organization. Others will be described in future issues, and a comprehensive survey of a variety of community organizations created to help protect important parks will be published by the National Association in 1982, in the belief that each community can benefit in some way from the experience of others. For additional information about the Franklin Park Coalition, write Richard Heath, 319 Forest Hills St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

NATIONAL NEWS OF OLMSTED PARKS

Editor's Note: In each issue of the National Association's Newsletter we will share interesting items of local concern which may also have importance elsewhere. Because of its brevity, each mention will obscure a considerable amount of additional information which can generally be secured from the local news sources, or through the National Association. We also would welcome your contributions to this Newsletter feature, and hope to find space to print them.

Every reasonable effort has been made to check the complete accuracy of the information we have received. However, the possibility of error does exist, and different interpretations of the same facts are always possible. We assume full responsibility for such errors should they arise, and will try in subsequent issues to make them right whenever we can.

NEW YORK, NY

The Dairy in Central Park, designed by Calvert Vaux and built in 1870, is restored privately at a cost of \$200,000 and now serves, under Parks Department management, as a beautiful and useful information center, where slides and films are shown, literature sold and a colorful free map distributed, tours organized and led by Urban Park Rangers, and numerous music programs and lectures scheduled by the Central Park Administrator's Office. The National Association, whose Executive Director was primarily responsible for the project, will be glad to furnish complete information on the how and why of this unique restoration of an historic building in a major Olmsted Park. A Central Park Conservancy has now been organized by Parks Commissioner Gordon J. Davis and CP Administrator Elizabeth Barlow to generate additional private funds for other major restorations.

BERKELEY, CA

Friends of the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers are being incorporated to help finance Volume V *The California Frontier, 1863-1865*, and perhaps other volumes of the Olmsted Papers. Another evidence of growing interest and support. Write Mrs. D.H. McLaughlin, 1450 Hawthorne Terrace, Berkeley, CA 94708.

MILWAUKEE, WI

The August, 1980, issue of *National Geographic* states "Time seems to have stood still in this part of the city. At nearby Lake Park, planned by Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of New York's Central Park, the lawn-bowling club still dresses in its traditional whites for the Fourth of July matches." So too in Central Park, and why not, we ask?

NEWARK, NJ

Branch Brook Park, Olmsted Bros., 1898, accepted to the State Register of Historic Places, thanks largely to the efforts of the Newark Cherry Blossom Festival and civic pride. Copies of the nominating document available through Ms. Kathleen Galop, 375 Mt. Prospect Ave., Newark, NJ 07104.

WASHINGTON, DC

Partners for Livable Places, a nonprofit organization, launches an Economics of Amenity program to improve the environment and encourage better design in twenty cities, including ten where some 110 works by Olmsted and his firm exist. They are: Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, AL, Buffalo, Charleston, SC, Lowell, MA, Milwaukee, Portland, ME, Providence and Seattle.

For years the works of Olmsted and his associates have been a prime amenity in any community, and hopefully they will benefit from the Partners' interesting pilot effort.

SEATTLE, WA. AND THE MIDWEST

Walter R. Hundley, Superintendent of Your Seattle Parks and Recreation, and Donald Harris, Director of Development, accept as Regional Co-Chairmen for the Pacific Northwest. Ms. Marilyn Tuchow and Victoria P. Ranney will share responsibilities for Chicago and the Midwest. If interested in contacting them the National Association will be happy to provide complete addresses.

BROOKLYN, NY

Ms. Tupper Thomas appointed Administrator of Prospect Park, one of Olmsted's finest, the second NY City park to create such a managerial position to improve maintenance and schedule use of an historic park. Important City-wide conference on Regional Parks held there in October, 1980, report of which is available from The Borough President, Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

STATEN ISLAND, NY

NY Landmark Preservation Commission considering the Vanderbilt Tomb and grounds for landmark designation. Much of the original Olmsted design remains, and much care was put into the site, a favorite of FLO's while living on the Island. For further information inquire of Landmarks Preservation Commission, 305 Broadway, NYC 10007.

Membership In The National Association Open To All Interested Individuals And Institutions, Professional Societies And Park Administrations

Membership in the newly formed National Association for Olmsted Parks may be unique. Almost the only one who can't join is an Olmsted park itself.

Two classes of membership have been established: INDIVIDUAL at \$25, runs for three years; and INSTITUTIONAL at \$100, runs for five years. As all charter memberships will start officially on April 26, 1981, those joining now will receive several extra months of participation benefits at no added cost.

A \$3.00 annual subscription price has been established for the Newsletter only, which will bring lots of information without the benefits of Membership. Among the benefits of membership are two semi-annual issues of the Newsletter, 32-40 pages of valuable information about what is happening in the field, much of it of permanent importance. Up to 10 additional issues will be sent in a member's name to others whom he or she believes will be interested in knowing about Olmsted and the National Association.

Members will be entitled to reasonable, unlimited use of the Information and Reference Service, without charge, and receive the full reports of all conferences sponsored by the Association, documents for which otherwise we must set a fee. In addition they

will receive discounted prices on the incidental publications of the Association, including speeches, biographies and bibliographies, annotated lists, and books which will be published or sponsored by the Association. Also available will be various reports, studies and documents prepared in other communities for use in preserving their parks. There will be more benefits as time goes on, and the Newsletter will report on them as they are announced.

But, Membership is more than getting, it is really an opportunity to give to a national movement of growing importance to scholars and practitioners alike. It is an opportunity for any interested individual, and all involved institutions and organizations to become a part of a network of dedicated people, able by working together to prevent further desecration of some of our historic parks, and by sharing to make whole the great but still dissected body of knowledge about the work and thought of Frederick Law Olmsted, his sons and associates, and their influence for good on our lives and those of future generations.

Institutional Membership includes four subscriptions to the Newsletter and numerous other opportunities to contribute to the growing importance of Olmsted in America.

Incidental Publication No. 1 Available

The most comprehensive listing of the public works designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Senior and Junior, John Olmsted and the Olmsted firm between 1857 and c. 1950 is now available. Compiled by the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers for distribution by the National Association, the working list includes designs done for 33 states, the District of Columbia and Montreal, Canada. It covers parks, parkways and public recreation grounds in 163 cities, towns and counties from Hawaii to Augusta, Maine and cites some 653 job numbers under which most of these plans are entered at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Mass. The list is an invaluable resources tool to anyone working in the field, and succeeding editions will add such further information as may come to light through the research of the Olmsted Papers project and the work of the National Association.

Individual copies are \$5 postpaid. Ten or more are \$3.00 each. A 20% discount may be taken by individual and institutional members of the National Association.

Many will recognize it immediately, still a prosperous subdivision near a major city, planned by Olmsted and Vaux in 1869. Can you?



Harrison 2/10

listed

FEB 11 1981

Norfolk Cdr.
out of file

436

Ms. Joan K. Bozer
Legislator, 10th District
Erie County Legislature
25 Delaware Avenue, Room 710
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Ms. Bozer:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 1980, concerning parks designed by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Unfortunately the National Register is unable to provide you with this information. Although the National Register has listed a number of parks designed by Olmsted, there is presently no means of retrieving the names of listed properties by architectural credit. In order to compile this information, one would have to individually review the files on more than 23,000 properties.

As you may know, several Olmsted designed projects have also been designated as National Historic Landmarks. Enclosed are copies of the National Historic Landmark booklets and copies of the "Federal Registers", which contain a complete listing of National Register properties through December, 1979. We hope that this information may aid you in your research.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please let us know. We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull (Sgd.)

Carol D. Shull
Acting Chief of Registration

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Orin Lehman, New York SHPO

bcc: FHR: S. Harrison:jrb:343-6401:2-9-81
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE		2. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION	3. NUMBER	5. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER	6. NUMBER
1. TYPE OF ACTION ☐ PREAPPLICATION ☒ APPLICATION (Mark appropriate box) ☐ NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (Opt) ☐ REPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION		b. DATE 1977 01 20	Year month day 1977 01 20	b. DATE ASSIGNED 19 75 06 16	75050496
4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT			5. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.		
a. Applicant Name : Massachusetts Historical Commission b. Organization Unit : c. Street/P.O. Box : 294 Washington Street d. City : Boston e. County : Suffolk f. State : Massachusetts g. ZIP Code: 02108 h. Contact Person (Name & telephone No.) : Elizabeth Reed Amadon, S.H.P.O. (617) 727-8470			046-002-284		
7. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT			6. PROGRAM (From Federal Catalog)		
Olmstead Park System: Jamaica Pond Boathouse Development Project, Boston, Suffolk County Restore roof, chimneys, gutters, downspouts, eaves and fascias. Source of non-federal match is funds of the City of Boston.			a. NUMBER 150904 b. TITLE Historic Preservation		
8. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT			9. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE		
A-State B-Interstate C-Substate D-District E-County F-School District G-Special Purpose District			H-Community Action Agency I-Higher Educational Institution J-Indian Tribe K-Other (Specify):		
10. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of cities, counties, States, etc.)			11. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING		
Commonwealth of Massachusetts			5,689,170		
12. TYPE OF APPLICATION			13. PROPOSED FUNDING		
A-New C-Ravision E-Augmentation B-Renewal D-Continuation			a. FEDERAL \$ 16,000 .00 b. APPLICANT 16,000 .00 c. STATE .00 d. LOCAL .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 32,000 .00		
14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:			15. TYPE OF CHANGE (For 12c or 12e)		
a. APPLICANT 9 b. PROJECT 9			A-Increase Dollars F-Other (Specify): B-Decrease Dollars C-Increase Duration D-Decrease Duration E-Cancellation		
16. PROJECT START DATE Year month day 19 77 01 20			17. PROJECT DURATION 36 Months		
18. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY			19. EXISTING FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER		
19 77 01 20			25-76-00370-00		
20. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST (Name, City, State, ZIP code)			21. REMARKS ADDED		
National Park Service, Washington D.C. 20240			☐ Yes ☒ No		
22. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT			23. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE		
a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved.			b. If required by OMB Circular A-95 this application was submitted, pursuant to instructions therein, to appropriate clearinghouses and all responses are attached:		
(1) Office of State Planning (2) (3)			No response attached ☐ ☒		
24. AGENCY NAME			25. APPLICATION RECEIVED		
Department of the Interior			1977 1 25		
26. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT			27. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE		
National Park Service			Grants Administration Div.		
28. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION			29. ADDRESS		
25-76-00370-00			18th & C Streets NW., Washington, D.C. 20240		
30. FEDERAL GRANT IDENTIFICATION			31. ACTION TAKEN		
25-76-00370-00			☒ a. AWARDED ☐ b. REJECTED ☐ c. RETURNED FOR AMENDMENT ☐ d. DEFERRED ☐ e. WITHDRAWN		
32. FUNDING			33. ACTION DATE		
a. FEDERAL \$ 16,000 .00 b. APPLICANT 16,000 .00 c. STATE .00 d. LOCAL .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 32,000 .00			1977 3 10		
34. STARTING DATE			35. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and telephone number)		
1977 3 10			Stephen D. Newman (202) 523-5472		
36. ENDING DATE			37. REMARKS ADDED		
1980 3 10			☐ Yes ☒ No		
38. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION			39. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 OFFICIAL (Name and telephone no.)		
a. In taking above action, any comments received from clearinghouses were considered. If agency response is due under provisions of Part 1, OMB Circular A-95, it has been or is being made.			same as #35		

SECTION I—APPLICANT/RECIPIENT DATA

SECTION II—CERTIFICATION

SECTION III—FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE		2. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION	a. NUMBER	3. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER	a. NUMBER
1. TYPE OF ACTION (Mark appropriate box) ☐ PREAPPLICATION ☒ APPLICATION ☐ NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (Opt.) ☐ REPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION		b. DATE Year month day 19 77 04 20			b. DATE Year month day ASSIGNED 19 75 06 16
4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT		5. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO. 046-002-284		6. PRO-GRAM (From Federal Catalog)	
a. Applicant Name : Massachusetts Historical Commission		b. Organization Unit :		a. NUMBER 1 5 0 9 0 4	
c. Street/P.O. Box : 294 Washington Street		d. City : Boston		b. TITLE	
e. County : Suffolk		f. State : Massachusetts		Historic Preservation	
g. ZIP Code: 02108		h. Contact Person (Name & telephone No.) : Elizabeth Reed Amadon, S.H.P.O. (617) 727-8470			
7. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT		8. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT		9. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	
Olmsted Park System: Back Bay Fens Development Project, Boston, Suffolk County		A-State B-Interstate C-Substate D-County E-City F-School District G-Special Purpose District		A-Basic Grant B-Supplemental Grant C-Loan	
"Restore and reinforce the original planting scheme so that Olmsted's original concept of the park space can once again be recognized." Source of nonfederal match is the City of Boston.		H-Community Action Agency I-Higher Educational Institution J-Indian Tribe K-Other (Specify):		D-Insurance E-Other	
10. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of cities, counties, States, etc.) Commonwealth of Massachusetts		11. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING 5,689,170		12. TYPE OF APPLICATION A-New B-Renewal C-Revision D-Continuation E-Augmentation Enter appropriate letter [A]	
13. PROPOSED FUNDING		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:		15. TYPE OF CHANGE (For 12c or 12e) A-Increase Dollars B-Decrease Dollars C-Increase Duration D-Decrease Duration E-Cancellation F-Other (Specify):	
a. FEDERAL \$ 75,000 .00		a. APPLICANT 9		Enter appropriate letter(s) [] [] []	
b. APPLICANT .00		b. PROJECT 9			
c. STATE 75,000 .00		16. PROJECT START DATE Year month day 19 77 04 20		17. PROJECT DURATION 36 Months	
d. LOCAL .00		18. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY Year month day 19 77 04 20		19. EXISTING FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 25-76-00334-00	
e. OTHER .00		19. EXISTING FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			
f. TOTAL \$ 150,000 .00					
20. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST (Name, City, State, ZIP code) National Park Service, Washington D.C. 20240		21. REMARKS ADDED ☐ Yes ☒ No			
22. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT		a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved.		b. If required by OMB Circular A-5 this application was submitted, pursuant to instructions therein, to appropriate clearinghouses and all responses are attached:	
		(1) Office of State Planning		No response ☐ Response attached ☒	
		(2)		☐	
		(3)		☐	
23. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE		a. TYPED NAME AND TITLE Elizabeth Reed Amadon, Exec. Dir. and S.H.P.O.		b. SIGNATURE Elizabeth R. Amadon	
		c. DATE SIGNED Year month day 19 77 04 20			
24. AGENCY NAME Department of the Interior		25. APPLICATION RECEIVED Year month day 19 77 4 27			
26. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT National Park Service		27. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Grants Administration Div.		28. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION	
29. ADDRESS 18th & C Streets NW., Washington, D.C. 20240		30. FEDERAL GRANT IDENTIFICATION 25-76-00334-00			
31. ACTION TAKEN		32. FUNDING		33. ACTION DATE Year month day 19 77 06 27	
☒ a. AWARDED		a. FEDERAL \$ 75,000 .00		34. STARTING DATE Year month day 19 77 06 27	
☐ b. REJECTED		b. APPLICANT 75,000 .00		35. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and telephone number) Stephen Newman (202) 523-5472	
☐ c. RETURNED FOR AMENDMENT		c. STATE .00		36. ENDING DATE Year month day 19 80 06 26	
☐ d. DEFERRED		d. LOCAL .00		37. REMARKS ADDED ☐ Yes ☒ No	
☐ e. WITHDRAWN		e. OTHER .00			
		f. TOTAL \$ 150,000 .00			
38. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION		a. In taking above action, any comments received from clearinghouses were considered. If agency response is due under provisions of Part 1, OMB Circular A-95, it has been or is being made.		b. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 OFFICIAL (Name and telephone no.) same as 35	