

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 15 1981
DATE ENTERED MAY 17 1982

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Olmsted Park System of Louisville

AND/OR COMMON same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Cherokee, Iroquois and Shawnee parks;
Algonquin, Eastern, Northwestern, Southwestern and Southern parkways

CITY, TOWN _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Louisville NA VICINITY OF 3 & 4
Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Jefferson CODE 111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Louisville

STREET & NUMBER 601 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN Louisville STATE Kentucky
NA VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

STREET & NUMBER 517 West Jefferson

CITY, TOWN Louisville STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE 1971
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As early as 1887, a plan was proposed for Louisville to have three major parks interconnected by a series of parkways. This plan was put forward by some of Louisville's most prominent citizens. The well-known park designer and landscape architect, Fredrick Law Olmsted, visited Louisville at the invitation of the Board of Park Commissioners in September of 1891. Olmsted was commissioned to design the park system by which Algonguin, Southwestern, Northwestern, Eastern and Southern Parkways were to be tree-lined thoroughfares connecting Shawnee, Cherokee and Iroquois Parks.

The three parks of the system are extremely different in character. Olmsted capitalized on these differences as the basis for his plans. Olmsted's report to the Park Commissioners illustrated this point:

"Louisville has determined to have three parks to be formed upon three sites each of a natural character widely differing from the natural state of the other...The policy that you can adopt, with the slightest prospect of success...be based on the purpose, first, to develop each one of your three properties, a treasure of rural and sylvan scenery of a character distinct from that which you develop in the either of the other two, the distinction being determined in each case by regard to the existing topographical peculiarities of the particular site."

Cherokee Park in eastern Louisville consists of 409 acres of broad meadows and tree covered hills and the winding Beargrass Creek. Adjacent to the park is the Cherokee Triangle Residential District (National Register, June, 1976) and an area of fine mansions dating from the turn of the century. Cherokee was developed as a landscape park and Olmsted stated: " O, if we had such trees in Boston, everyone of them would be famous." The park contains elements such as a Doric columned shelter house designed by McDonald and Dodd and numerous stone bridges which cross Beargrass Creek. This park suffered extreme damage from a 1974 tornado. The successor firm to F.L. Olmsted was hired to restore the park according to the philosophy of the original concept. (Photos 5, 6, 7, 8)

Shawnee Park lies next to the Ohio River in the western section of the city. The 181.5 acre site is a flatter area and affords an excellent view of the river and the Indiana knobs. Shawnee afforded the city a scenic recreation area. The bandstand was a popular site for Sunday outings and is currently being restored. (Photo 10, 11)

Iroquois Park is situated on a steep hill, broken by crags and bluffs and covered with a dense forest. The various lookouts offer panoramic views of the river valley and a large part of the city. The park contains an amphitheatre and a Tudor revival shelter house. (Photos 1, 2)

Nothing of significance has been done to alter any if the original character of these sites. Some improvements for recreational use have been added, such as golf courses and tennis courts. These have not violated the vision of the

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Fredrick Law Olmsted

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Louisville Park System is significant as an excellent example of the work of America's finest landscape architect, Fredrick Law Olmsted. The Louisville Park system is among the nation's finest systems of urban open spaces.

Fredrick Law Olmsted is regarded as the father of landscape architecture in this country. Included among his many accomplishments are the Franklin Park in Boston, Central Park in New York, the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, the grounds of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., the campuses of Berkely and Stanford universities, the layout of the Chicago suburb of Riverside and the layout and landscaping of the Columbian Exposition. Olmsted was also responsible for other works in Louisville including the garden of the Landward House, 1385 S. Third Street (National Register, September, 1973) and the Louisville Free Public Library (passed Kentucky State Review Board, September, 1979). Olmsted's firm also was responsible for the layout of Cherokee Gardens residential development.

The City of Louisville's Board of Park Commissioners hired Olmsted in 1891 to design Louisville's park system. According to Albert Fein: "Olmsted's contribution to the planning of cities spanned almost forty years. During this time he designed many kinds of open spaces in various areas of the country. While the function of these spaces often overlapped at least eight different types can be distinguished." Four of these types are illustrated in the Louisville Park System: (1) large multi-use open rural type spaces planned and designed as part of a physically interconnected municipal park system such as Cherokee Park in Louisville and Franklin Park in Boston (2) heavily wooded areas within urban boundaries, as much as an example of conservation as for recreational use such as Iroquois Park in Louisville and Lynn Woods in Lynn, Massachusetts (3) riverside parks such as Shawnee Park in Louisville and Seneca Park in Rochester, New York (4) parkways, which in addition to serving as physical links between the parks and communities, were designed as linear open spaces.

The Louisville Park System is one of the city's greatest amenities. The Park System is the result of the foresight of a group of civic-minded Louisvillians at the turn of the century. These persons not only saw the need for large open spaces in a growing urban community but also had the wisdom to hire the finest landscape architect available to make the concept a reality. The parks combine recreational facilities in a naturalistic setting. Each park differs in character and these differences were the basis for Olmsted's plans. The parkways have suffered from the lack of consistent and appropriate zoning; this neglect and misuse is being recognized. Hopefully, National Register listing will aid in the recognition of the importance of these urban resources.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cowan, Andrew. "The Public Parks and Parkways". Memorial History of Louisville from its First Settlement to the Year 1896, ed., Josiah Stoddard Johnston. Chicago: American Biographical Pub. Co., 1896, vol. 2., pp. 338-343.

Fein, Albert. Fredrick Law Olmsted and the American Environmental Tradition. New York: Braziler, 1972.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1638.9 (See continuation sheet)

QUADRANGLE NAME See Continuation Sheet

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

UTM NOT VERIFIED

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

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

STATE	NA	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marty Poynter Hedgepeth

September 25, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Com.

DATE

502/587-3501

STREET & NUMBER

727 West Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville

Kentucky

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11-18-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

5.17.82

ATTEST:

William H. Brackman

DATE

5/17/82

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first planners or infringed upon the integrity of the appearance of the sites.

Olmsted intended that the parkways be linear parks relieving the tensions of city life. Five tree-lined boulevards were planned to make a complete circuit between the parks. However, several sections of the circuit were never completed.

Southern Parkway is a 150 foot roadway which was originally flanked by bridal paths. This parkway was the first to be completed in 1893. Southern Parkway originated at Iroquois Park. It is primarily lined with residential structures, including several blocks of fine Victorian homes. Some commercial development has been allowed along this parkway. Southern Parkway becomes Third Street four blocks before the juncture with Eastern Parkway. (Photo 3)

Eastern Parkway is a 120 foot wide roadway and begins at Cherokee Park. It is primarily residential in nature with some commercial development at major intersections. Eastern Parkway connects with Third Street at the University of Louisville. (Photo 9)

Algonquin Parkway runs across the western section of the city. Its proximity to riverfront development has caused many heavy commercial and industrial concerns to locate along the parkway. It still remains as a broad tree-lined street and a wasted urban resource. Algonquin is connected to Third Street (the extension of Southern Parkway) by a few block section of Winkler Avenue. This is one of the links of the circuit which was never completed.

Southwestern Parkway, like Algonquin is a 120 foot wide roadway in the western section of the city. It connects to Algonquin on the south and runs north to Shawnee Park. Part of Southwestern Parkway is flanked by industrial concerns but turns to a residential character in the park area. Chickasaw Park is a later park close to Shawnee Park and is also bordered by Southwestern Parkway. (Photo 4)

Northwestern Parkway begins at the northern edge of Shawnee Park and connects to Southwestern Parkway. The 120 foot wide roadway runs through a handsome early twentieth century residential neighborhood of Shawnee and the historic district of Portland. The parkway is divided by the expressway and continues eastward through Portland until it terminates at a floodwall. A connection between Northwestern Parkway and Eastern Parkway or Cherokee Park was never completed.

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The Louisville Park System is an important example of Fredrick Law Olmsted's urban landscape design. The system is also the city's most important recreational and open space area, enhancing the aesthetic and environmental quality of Louisville.

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Idem., Louisville Parks: A Story of Growth. n.p., 1938.

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Parkway System." (typewritten), University of Louisville, Geography Dept.,
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Northern, Mary Lou. "Parkways and People." Louisville Times. 30 June 1979.
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ACREAGE

Shawnee Park, 181.5 acres located in western Louisville.

Cherokee Park, 409 acres located in eastern Louisville.

Iroquois Park, 666.7 acres located in southern Louisville.

Algonquin Parkway runs for a length of 3.4 miles in an east-west direction in western Louisville. The parkway has a 120 foot right-of-way and comprises 49.45 acres.

Eastern Parkway runs for a length of 3.9 miles in an east-west direction in eastern Louisville. The parkway has a 120 foot right-of-way and comprises 56.73 acres.

Southwestern Parkway runs for a length of 4.1 miles in a north-south direction in western Louisville. The parkway has a 120 foot right-of-way and comprises 59.64 acres.

Northwestern Parkway runs for a length of 3.9 miles in an east-west direction in western Louisville. The parkway has a 120 foot right-of-way and comprises 56.7 acres.

Southern Parkway runs for a length of 2.6 miles in a north-south direction in south Louisville. The parkway has a 150 foot right-of-way and comprises 48.47 acres.

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UTM REFERENCES

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1) | A) 16/614400/4233600 | L) 16/610820/4230740 |
| | B) 16/615500/4232340 | M) 16/609690/4229900 |
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| | E) 16/612880/4232610 | P) 16/608370/4230030 |
| | F) 16/613350/4233450 | |
| | G) 16/613630/4233630 | |
| | H) 16/613370/4232470 | |
| | I) 16/612000/4231520 | |
| | J) 16/611690/4231360 | |
| | K) 16/611430/4231390 | |
| 2) | A) 16/606720/4225320 | |
| | B) 16/607100/4223600 | |
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| | D) 16/605240/4223350 | |
| | E) 16/605940/4223340 | |
| | F) 16/605790/4225330 | |
| | G) 16/606745/4225120 | |
| | H) 16/607580/4226000 | |
| | I) 16/607640/4226280 | |
| | J) 16/607880/4226530 | |
| | K) 16/607990/4228440 | |
| | L) 16/608125/4228600 | |
| 3) | A) 16/602745/4235660 | L) 16/605210/4236800 |
| | B) 16/602620/4235230 | M) 16/605480/4236700 |
| | C) 16/602970/4235120 | N) 16/605525/4236810 |
| | D) 16/602680/4234490 | O) 16/607160/4235700 |
| | E) 16/602660/4234080 | P) 16/602430/4234060 |
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| | G) 16/602150/4235330 | R) 16/602585/4232030 |
| | H) 16/602380/4235800 | S) 16/602665/4231420 |
| | I) 16/602750/4235680 | T) 16/606945/4230810 |
| | J) 16/602880/4236020 | U) 16/607730/4229730 |
| | K) 16/603680/4236650 | |

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Cherokee Park

Cherokee Park is bounded approximately by Cherokee Parkway and Grinstead Drive on the west; Lexington Road, the rear property lines of the east side of Lexington Place and Interstate 64 on the north; the rear property lines of the east side of Alta Circle, the rear property lines of the south side of Alta Vista Road and the rear property lines of the south side of Rostrevor Circle of the east, and Park Boundary Road and Cherokee Road on the south.

Iroquois

City of Louisville Block 67-J; Lot A-H; J-U

Shawnee

City of Louisville Block 8-K; Lot 1-12

Southern Parkway was planned with a 150' right-of-way (75' from center of road to either side). This includes the tree line and bridal path. The other parkways were planned with a 120' right-of-way (60' from center of road to either side). This includes the tree lines. These properties are owned by the city.

The areas of Southern Parkway and Northwestern Parkway which pass under interstate overpasses are included in the nomination since the interruption in the continuity of the street is only interrupted for less than a block in each case. This change in character does not stop the continuity of the roads and should be considered as an intrusion to the original plans.

The parkways are interrupted at three points. The area of Winkler and Third Street (marked as connectors on the City Map I) are not included. These streets are used as connectors between the parkways since the original plans were never completed in these areas. Northwestern Parkway terminates at the K & I RR tracks, just west of 29th Street and begins again at the K & I tracks just east of 31st Street. This area is not included in the nomination.