NAOP VISITS HISTORIC RIVERSIDE, IL

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

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

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

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

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This past May, the NAOP board of trustees held its semi-annual gathering in Chicago to coincide with the board meeting of City Parks Alliance (CPA), NAOP’s partner. As members may know, the two organizations share staff and an office. NAOP and CPA board members met over lunch to review the relationship and explore ways to strengthen it through more joint programming. A national urban parks and recreation summit in Chicago, co-sponsored by CPA, was one such opportunity (see page 14). NAOP presented information about the economic benefits of historic parks and our trustees had a chance to learn about new park design through a tour of Millennium Park.

Riverside, the first residential development designed by Olmsted and Vaux (1868 – 1870), 30 miles outside of Chicago, was also the site of an NAOP board reception. Building on this seminal project, the Olmsteds would be engaged to plan or consult in more than 200 communities in North America through the twentieth century. This issue of Reprints focuses on such work. We are building a list of representatives in communities designed by the Olmsteds. If you reside in one, keep us posted on your restoration efforts so that we can share your experience with others. Our organizational membership includes Druid Hills Civic Association, Atlanta, GA; Lakeshore Homeowners Association, Oakland, CA; and the Olmsted Society of Riverside, Riverside, IL.

The amount of news in Field Notes reflects the growing activity of our organization and its members. In order to sustain this momentum NAOP has embarked on a significant fundraising and awareness building campaign. With the help of a part-time development consultant, we will organize a number of events and special appeals in the coming year. These additional resources will enable us to build organizational capacity so that we may better serve as a central source of information about the Olmsted legacy and historic parks and improve our responsiveness to advocacy requests. We look forward to opportunities to make presentations about our work in your community. Please contact us if you are interested in having an NAOP representative visit.

—Catherine Nagel
Northeast

Surrounded by the beauty of the Frederick Law Olmsted designed Riverside Park, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy and New York State Assemblyman Sam Hoyt announced in May a grant of $100,000 for restoration of paths and gardens in Riverside Park. The funds will go a long way towards restoring Frederick Law Olmsted’s original vision for Riverside Park and will follow recommendations for park improvements from the conservancy’s 20-Year Management and Restoration Plan.

Originally possessing a commanding view of the Niagara River, Riverside Park, a popular park for neighborhood families and sports leagues, has suffered from changes and intrusions for decades, including the construction of the New York State Thruway and the elimination of the attractive minnow ponds. In recent years, the conservancy has dedicated many hours of volunteer work towards beautifying the green space by landscaping, planting flower bulbs and keeping the park clean. This new funding will take the restoration a step further by reconstructing historic pedestrian pathways and gardens in the 22-acre Riverside Park. The planned pedestrian pathways will follow the original Olmsted design and will surround a stunning new garden, reinterpreting the minnow pool that once graced the park. The flowing design of the restored paths and gardens will give visitors to Riverside Park a wonderful opportunity to see why it is a special asset to the Buffalo community. To learn more about the conservancy, visit http://www.joinolmsted.org.

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, president of the Foundation for Landscape Studies (FLS) in New York, has announced the launching of http://www.foundationforlandscapesstudies.org where one can obtain information on the foundation’s mission, goals and awards. Back issues of its publication,

**News FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY**

**NAOP LEADERSHIP UPDATE**

NAOP is pleased to announce new board members and officers serving on the board of trustees, who were elected during the May board meeting in Chicago.

**New NAOP trustees who have been elected to their first term:**
- Eliza Davidson of Arbutus Design is a certified arborist, licensed architect and landscape designer whose experience has included long-term vegetation management planning for several Olmsted-influenced parks;
- William Deverell, professor of history at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles and director of the newly established Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West;
- Timothy Fulton, director of Parks Management and Operations, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy;
- Erin Chute Gallentine, director of parks and open space for Brookline, MA;
- Sara Cedar Miller, director of archives and information at the Central Park Conservancy; and
- Christian Zimmerman, landscape architect and vice president of the Prospect Park Alliance in Brooklyn, NY.

**New officers:**
- David Bahlman (Chicago, IL) and Susan West Montgomery (Takoma Park, MD) will serve as co-chairs.
- Lucy Lawliss (Richmond, CA) is secretary.
- John Karel ((St. Louis, MO) is treasurer.
- Jerry Baum (Baltimore, MD) is vice-chair, development.

Former board members elected to first-term: Ethan Carr (Amherst, MA), Faye Harwell (Alexandria, VA) and Caroline Loughlin (Weston, MA). Returning trustees are Royal Alley-Barnes (Seattle, WA), Yamil Avivi (Newark, NJ), Sharon Casdin (New York, NY), Ray Chambers (Washington, DC), Meg Cheever (Pittsburgh, PA), Carla I. Corbin (Muncie, IN), Patrice Kish (Boston, MA), Jean McKee (Washington, DC), Kevin Moore (Newark, NJ), Christopher Robling (Chicago, IL), Alida Silverman (Atlanta, GA), and Barbara Wilks (New York, NY).

In addition, NAOP’s Leadership Council — an advisory group of supporters from across the country committed to parks and to preserving the Olmsted legacy — held its annual meeting on June 15 in Fort Tryon Park in Manhattan. NAOP created the council in 2003 for the purpose of obtaining informed insights into the policy and program direction of the organization, and for assistance in broadening NAOP’s development base. The council meets once a year. NAOP staff and board members updated the council on current and future projects, and the council urged NAOP to take on a greater role in fundraising for the completion of the Olmsted Papers.

A two hour tour of Fort Tryon Park by Jane Schachat, administrator of the park, and Nicholas Quennell, former NAOP co-chair, followed the meeting. Fort Tryon Park was a project of John D. Rockefeller Jr. in conjunction with Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. It is set on a hillside with curving walking paths, expansive views of the Hudson River and the Palisades, and has an extensive herb garden that has been recently restored.

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, president of the Foundation for Landscape Studies (FLS) in New York, has announced the launching of http://www.foundationforlandscapesstudies.org where one can obtain information on the foundation’s mission, goals and awards. Back issues of its publication,
Site/Lines, can be downloaded from the Web site. If you are interested in learning more about the FLS or to be added to the mailing list for Site/Lines, contact Betsy Rogers at rogerseb@aol.com. Editor’s Note: An interview with Rogers appeared in the summer 2006 issue of the National Park Service publication, CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship.

Frederick Law Olmsted Park in Newport, RI is located on Bellevue Avenue — considered one of America’s most elegant streets. The unique trees within the three-acre park are labeled with their common and Latin names, including nine Champion Trees and the oldest Japanese zelkovas in the Northeast. A Seth Thomas Post clock has been added to the park, originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted as a “park-like” landscape that provided privacy for the occupants of a gilded era mansion. The mansion was demolished in 1963 and the grounds were purchased in 1998 by Judy and Laurence Cutler with a vision to create a memorial park honoring Olmsted. Visit http://www.americanillustration.org for more information.

On April 26, 2006 the reading of a Proclamation from Governor M. Jodi Rell started the observance of the inaugural Frederick Law Olmsted Day in Hartford, CT. This was the culmination of many years of work by State Senator Bill Finch and the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and it was the public introduction of the newly formed Connecticut Olmsted Heritage Alliance (COHA). The success was due in part to the support of NAOP members. Featured speakers were Tupper Thomas, former NAOP board member and president of Prospect Park Alliance; NAOP Leadership Council Member Charles Beveridge and NAOP Board Member Faye Harwell. The conference was an introduction to Olmsted’s early life in CT and to the preservation work that has been done in parks throughout the country. In the afternoon Rudy Favretti lead a tour to two Olmsted sites in Hartford — the grounds of the Institute of Living and Old North Cemetery, where Olmsted Sr. and Jr. are buried. COHA is hoping that this event will help in our efforts to educate the public about the state’s Olmsted Heritage.

Theatre in Motion, an award-winning company based in NYC, performed an original musical for intergenerational family audiences this past summer, entitled “The Promise of the Park,” about the creation of Central Park, Frederick Law Olmsted and the ensuing bounty of Olmsted landscapes. For information, visit http://www.theatreinmotion.com.

Weequahic Park Association (WPA) was recently successful in an effort to pass landmark resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment that would provide a stable source of funding for New Jersey’s state and local parks and natural areas. The amendment would reallocate a surplus of existing, environmentally-dedicated funds from Corporate Business Tax revenue to fund capital, maintenance and stewardship programs in urban and rural parks across the state. The funding equates to over $250 million over the next 30 years, with no additional cost to taxpayers. NAOP Board Member Kevin Moore, project director for the Newark-based WPA, testified on June 1 to the Committee on the Environment and Solid Waste, and with the organization NY/NJ Baykeeper, met with many state legislators to garner their support. The resolutions (ACR195 and SCR105) received broad bipartisan support in both houses and ACR195 passed on July 8 after additional lobbying coordinated by the Outdoor Recreation Alliance (ORA). The measure is now on the November ballot.
ORA represents over 35 statewide environmental organizations, sportsmen's groups, affordable housing advocates and environmental justice activists working to secure a long-term stable source of funding for capital projects and operation, maintenance and stewardship of New Jersey's state and local parks and natural heritage conservation. For more information on the legislation, visit http://www.wpapark.org/ or http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/ and search by bill number ACR195. For more information on the ORA, including a list of member organizations, please visit http://www.outdoorrecreationalliance.org/.

Mid West
Geoffrey Von Burg, a horticulturist at Oldfields (the country place era estate on the campus of the Indianapolis Museum of Art) is researching how to rehabilitate and interpret a portion of the orchard and vegetable gardens. No detailed planting plans for these spaces survive in the NPS Olmsted Archives for this Percival Gallagher designed project. He would like to correspond with those interested in “working” gardens of 1910-30s. Please contact him directly at gvonburg@ima.museum or visit http://www.ima-art.org.

West
Former NAOP Trustees Carolyn and Don Etter of Denver, CO, were honored by Colorado Preservation, Inc., at the 16th annual Dana Crawford Awards Dinner on May 9 as recipients of the Dana Crawford Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation. Colorado Preservation, Inc., described the Etters as having “... inspired the preservation of historic buildings and landscapes through numerous books, lectures, and consultations. Their work has furthered the knowledge of landscape preservation and protected the legacy of Denver’s park system. They have served many organizations committed to historic preservation in addition to jointly working as manager of Denver Parks and Recreation during Mayor Federico Pena’s administration.” For more information, visit http://www.coloradopreservation.org. Denver was the site of NAOP’s fall board meeting in September, which Carolyn Etter graciously organized.

Frederick Law Olmsted’s very first experiment with parkway design, Piedmont Way (which was to be the northern section of a scenic “pleasure drive” that he proposed in 1866, running through the hills from Berkeley to Oakland, CA) is one step closer to rehabilitation! On August 8, the Friends of Piedmont Way was awarded a competitive grant from the University of California Chancellor’s Community Partnership Fund to develop an historic rehabilitation plan for this seminal streetscape. Oakland based PGAdesign, Inc., commenced work on the plan later that month. With matching funds from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, PGAdesign also applied finishing touches to the Current Conditions Survey of Piedmont Way for HALS (Historic American Landscape Survey). For more information visit http://www.piedmontway.org.

Seattle Parks Foundation was joined by neighbors, city officials and private donors in dedicating two projects this June: a restoration of water and art features at the Olmsted-designed Woodland Park Rose Garden and development of a brand new pocket park, Lakewood Triangle Park. The land for Lakewood Triangle Park was originally set aside as part of the Olmsted plan for Seattle’s park and boulevard system. Construction was finally made possible through a $100,000 gift from neighbors Gary and Vicki Glant. For more information visit http://www.seattleparksfoundation.org.

Archival photo from spring of 1924 shows a portion of the newly planted orchard at “Oldfields,” the Landon estate, Indianapolis. Olmsted Brothers job #6883.

Photograph courtesy of the Fredrick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, NPS

Looking Southeast on Piedmont at the intersection of Bancroft Way, circa 1909.

Photograph courtesy of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association

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News From Fairsted

The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site remains closed to visitors in anticipation of a much needed construction project to improve its fire suppression, museum climate and site drainage systems. We have experienced some contracting delays due to escalating costs of the project; however, we hope the construction will be well underway by the time this newsletter is distributed. Meanwhile, the Olmsted Archives remains open for limited archival reference services; check our Web site for contact information and updates at http://www.nps.gov/frla. The archives staff has been busy preparing Fairsted for construction – they are in the midst of providing protection for the building’s historic “built in” artifacts and fixtures, and cataloguing formerly un-catalogued objects.

This past spring, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site partnered with the Franklin Park Coalition, Zoo New England/the Franklin Park Zoo, the Forest Hills (Cemetery) Educational Trust and the Massachusetts Audubon Society’s Boston Nature Center to present the “Birds and Bards Festival” in May. The festival was a celebration of migrating birds, poetry and nature tied to International Migratory Bird Day. The partnering organizations envisioned the festival as a means of drawing first-time visitors to Olmsted designed Franklin Park, and the nearby historic Forest Hills Cemetery and Boston Nature Center, which together form an 800 plus acre green corridor at one end of the Emerald Necklace park system. As part of the festival, National Park Service ranger Mark Swartz researched and developed three self-guided walking tours of Franklin Park that discuss the park’s history, landscape features and birds, and include poems thematically-linked to particular stops. These booklets were made available at the festival, and a limited number will be made available through the Franklin Park Coalition to future Franklin Park visitors.

–Lee Farrow Cook and Mark Swartz,
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Staff

ADVOCACY

NAOP continues its advocacy effort to protect and preserve the Olmsted-designed Grounds around the U.S. Capitol. An update from the Office of the Architect of the Capitol follows:

The Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) continued in its historic role as stewards of the U.S. Capitol and Grounds by completing several projects over the course of this year, and beginning several others on Capitol Square.

An historic structures report was completed for the Summer House, which brought together divergent information from the historical record, completed archeology and analysis of building materials, such as mortar. It also assessed the conditions of the structure and the landscape plantings. This document will be used as a basis for preservation efforts and for further research. In the near future, the AOC plans to rejuvenate overgrown plantings, and remove inappropriate materials.

Our Memorial Tree Policy was modified this past year to promote the return to the planting scheme identified in the 1904 Olmsted Brothers plan for the U.S. Capitol Grounds. When a Member of Congress requests the planting of a memorial or commemorative tree AOC staff will recommend a location to fill a gap in the landscape as delineated from the plan. This serves as our guideline while a comprehensive Cultural Landscape Report is being completed and approved.

Perimeter security projects are continuing around Capitol Square and are nearly complete on First Street, across from the Supreme Court. To relieve the preponderance of security bollards across from Capitol Hill, on either side of the East Capitol Street toward Constitution and Independence

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RESEARCH

ORGO Nears Completion

The NAOP-funded work on the Olmsted Research Guide Online (ORGO) is now nearing an end. We believe that all materials in the Library of Congress that can be related to a specific job have been entered into the database and are available online at http://www.rediscov.com/olmsted. For documents that have been microfilmed, ORGO contains reel and frame numbers. Microfilms are available on interlibrary loan.

Two major collections at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (Fairsted) are being entered:

1. The Plan Index (PI) cards document plans drawn, including those that have since been destroyed, so they may list plans that are not in the collection at Fairsted. The cards also contain information not on the plans, including the names of people and companies (architects, nurserymen, etc.) who worked on the job. We expect this data will be available online by the end of the year.

2. The plan and drawing information for some jobs is being entered by a Fairsted employee. These are jobs for which some or all of the plans were entered in old databases that must be checked and corrected by someone with access to the plans. This data entry is ongoing and completion is expected in the next few years.

Researchers should consult Library of Congress documents to learn the history of the design and design intent. It is always a good idea to see if plans and documents are available locally — in the office of the park department, local libraries and archives or other repositories. This is especially true while Fairsted is closed for construction.

-Caroline Loughlin

NAOP Makes Plans to Republish the “Greenbook” for FLO Anniversary

Twenty years ago, NAOP joined with the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and the Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks, to publish for the first time the “Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857 - 1950.” This thematic listing of thousands of projects — parks and parkways, estates, campuses, etc. — still stuns first-time readers for the scope of the designed works as well as the geographic diversity of projects accomplished by Olmsted and his successors over almost a century of landscape architecture practice. Continuously in demand, the “Greenbook,” as it came to be known because of its distinctive green cover, has been the first stop for academic or practical pursuits.

In addition to its being out of print, the NAOP research committee has two other motivating factors for tackling republication of the “Greenbook”: April 2008 is the 150th anniversary of the Olmsted and Vaux Greensward Plan for Central Park, and after more than twenty years of inventory, catalog and conservation work accomplished by the National Park Service, the Library of Congress, and the Olmsted Papers project led by Dr. Charles Beveridge, a valuable update of the original information is now possible (see previous article). NAOP is using these opportunities to rethink the “Greenbook” and bring a new and updated 2nd edition to the public next year. The goal is to publish a more informative, more user-friendly, and more graphically inviting edition that will appeal to a range of audiences — from the Olmsted enthusiast to the historic landscape scholar. The publication is expected to be completed by April 2007, to coincide with Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.’s birth date and the 150th anniversary of the beginning of his career as a landscape architect.

-Lucy Lawliss
Do you know where your original park plans and designs are stored? Are they accessible? Will your documents survive for another hundred years? Have these documents been studied as you plan for the future of your parks? If you are one of the lucky ones, your park archives are properly stored and accessible to the public, but that scenario is the exception—not the norm.

If you are raising questions about your park archives, start by going on your own treasure hunt. What you will find in dusty cabinets and damp basement storage rooms will amaze and shock you. As you proceed you will need direction and tools to handle your park archives appropriately. In the next few issues of Field Notes, I will be writing this column to provide you with some useful information to get started.

If your park archives look like this “before” picture, then you will want to take some immediate action. For starters, serious restoration, rehabilitation and retrofitting of our parks for the next century. Since the Olmsted designs are the work of the “masters,” any current undertaking in the parks should begin with a study of the original plans and drawings. Olmsted Sr. and the firm prepared dozens, sometimes hundreds, of detailed plans/drawings for every park they worked on. These documents hold the key to the future of our parks.

Where do we first look to find these “blueprints”? The obvious place is The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, MA, a tremendous resource for all of us. But the least obvious and easiest place to look is right inside your own park system offices because that is where most of the originals will probably be found. As consultants, Olmsted Sr. and the firm sent the originals to the client, and that is likely where they remain today.

These drawings contain the aesthetic features of our parks, but, more importantly, they also convey information on the infrastructure of our parks: location of utility lines, drainage basins, underground streams, sewers, etc. No work on any Olmsted park should ever begin without first consulting these original documents.

Fortunately, most park systems have maintained these “blueprints.” Unfortunately, since they were considered working construction documents, most were never assigned historical significance and importance. As we face the need to maintain and upgrade our aging parks, by necessity we must refer to these now “historic” documents. Many of them
might be falling apart and too fragile to use. This is a situation which we can do something about.

I have found the treasures of the Essex County Park System (NJ) and the Union County Park System (NJ) stored in horrendous conditions: attic spaces without insulation or heat; rolled up in barrels in common work areas; in a room referred to as the “dungeon” and accessible only through an outside below grade window; in plastic milk crates in a basement with two to three inches of water; and hanging on walls as decorations.

With proper planning, the assistance of several grants, time consuming hands-on labor, the help of dedicated Eagle Scout candidates and other volunteers and some detective work by parks department employees, I have witnessed a growing appreciation for the significance of these archives. Dramatic changes have taken place towards saving these treasured documents, storing them archivally and developing historical libraries for these resources.

In the next issue of Field Notes, I will discuss Disaster Planning and Preservation Needs Assessments in greater detail. I will also provide information on locating funding sources and suppliers of archival storage materials. If you are prompted to take action and are concerned about preserving and restoring your park system’s heritage, please feel free to contact me at kpgalop@att.net or at 908-918-1370 and I can provide you with some direction. Take a look at the “after” picture, which demonstrates how the Union County Park System is now storing the 15,000 historical photographs that had been filed in plastic milk cartons in a damp basement. Theirs is a success story; perhaps your park archives will be the next.

RESEARCH
(continued from page 7)

The Corrected Canadian Record

A refinement of the Canadian portion of the “Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857-1950” was recently completed after extensive archival searches and site visitations. The correction informs an exploration of the firm’s influence on Canadian planning and landscape architecture that is published in the July issue of Planning Perspectives: An International Journal of History, Planning and Environment (“The Olmsted Firm in Canada: A Correction of the Record,” 21(3): 277-310). The study also offers a broader perspective on the transfer of landscape design and planning ideas during the early days of the parks movement, planned community development and town planning.

It was the Olmsted brothers, John Charles and Frederick Law Jr., and associates who did the bulk of the 95 project listings in Canada, but it was Olmsted Sr. who provided the seminal work in Mount Royal Park in Montreal. Over an eight-decade period, 1874 - 1946, the firm’s Canadian practice was sustained by public projects, most notably in town planning and suburban development, and numerous private residential commissions.

The Olmsteds played a key role during the formative years of Canadian planning and landscape architecture. Their influence was exerted through their built works (about a third of the 95 were realized), writings and public addresses and the encouragement of many cities to adopt formalized development processes and agencies. Their former employees, arguably their “disciples,” also numbered as some of the first practitioners in Canada. Three in particular, Frederick G. Todd, Rickson Outhet and Gordon Culham, established thriving practices.

In correcting the record of Olmsted projects in Canada the legacy of this influential firm can be understood better beyond America’s borders. Within the microcosm of a smaller nation, the concepts the firm developed are distilled and the foundational tenets of contemporary landscape architecture and planning are recognized.

The exploration of the Olmsted legacy in Canada now continues with an examination of the careers and lives of the “disciples”. In particular with the upcoming donation of the Outhet papers to the University of Guelph, the life of this enigmatic town planner and landscape architect is now being examined. A paper on Rickson Outhet will be forthcoming in the Canadian Historical Review. For more information, contact Dr. Pollock-Ellwand at nellwand@uoguelph.ca.

-Nancy Pollock-Ellwand, Ph.D., Head and Chair, School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, The University of Adelaide, Australia
of experts and to help resolve the prototype park’s technical, funding and organizational challenges. NAOP hopes to add a national spotlight to aid in local advocacy efforts through this initiative.

The project started with a list of 110 parks in 15 states where the Olmsted firm was involved in planning and design, but where little was known about implementation. Through a process of assessing the amount of historic documentation on each park, identifying local contacts and gathering feedback from local contacts the list was then narrowed to 36 parks. These parks received a survey designed to provide information that would indicate the park’s chances of success as a likely partner with NAOP; 20 surveys were completed and returned.

An advisory committee of NAOP trustees reviewed the list, gathered additional information and selected four semi-finalists: Briant Pond Park (Summit, NJ), Washington Park (Milwaukee, WI), City Park (Denver, CO) and Pope Park (Hartford, CT). Personal visits by an NAOP trustee to meet with local representatives provided additional background on each park’s current condition. NAOP sought a prototype where there was a diverse population utilizing the park, including immigrants and low-income families; integrity of the historic design; a park under stress; a commitment from the local urban community including the public CEO to restore the park; ability by the local community to raise matching funds; and a partner that would benefit from the support provided by NAOP.

Based on these criteria, City Park was awarded a grant of $10,000 to be matched on a 1:2 basis. The funds will be used for appropriate outreach efforts and for the restoration of paths, based on the 1912 Olmsted Brothers plan for rehabilitation and restoration of the park. City Park is managed by the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation and is the largest urban park in the city’s system. A local non-profit organization, City Park Alliance, supports the park through fundraising and volunteer events.

The experience with City Park will help NAOP to improve its efficacy as a national advocacy organization in partnership with other local communities working to preserve historic parks.

**Olmsted Point Rehabilitation in Yosemite National Park, CA**

Olmsted Point, a major vista point along the historic Tioga Road in Yosemite National Park, is currently undergoing rehabilitation. The vista point was named in 1961, upon completion of a reconstruction and realignment of Tioga Road, to honor both Frederick Law Olmsted and his son Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. Both Olmsteds played an important role in the development of Yosemite National Park.

The elder Olmsted was chairman of the first Yosemite Commission, which was tasked with managing the transfer of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove from the federal government to the State of California for its preservation as a state park until it became the first official national park.
in 1872. Olmsted Sr. wrote a document entitled, “Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove: A Preliminary Report, 1865.” The report presented reasoning for the preservation of Yosemite's spectacular scenery, as well as the need for providing access for all people, not just the rich. Olmsted's writings gave voice to an emerging conservation ethic and the later precepts of stewardship adopted by the National Park Service. Having expended great effort creating Central and Prospect Parks, Olmsted was amazed at the park-like landscape created by nature in Yosemite Valley. In the report, Olmsted described the scenery of Yosemite as a union of “the deepest sublimity with the deepest beauty of nature, not in one feature or another, not in one part or one scene or another, not any landscape that can be framed by itself, but all around and wherever the visitor goes, constitutes the Yo-Semite, the greatest glory of nature.”

Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. served on the Yosemite Board of Expert Advisors from 1928 to 1956. Frederick Jr. and the advisory board were instrumental in helping the National Park Service manage the park, stressing preservation of the scenic values instilled by his father. He wrote numerous reports on subjects such as traffic and circulation in Yosemite Valley, improvements to the Glacier Point and Tioga roads, and preservation of the park's meadows. The Olmsted firm also designed the grounds of the park's Ahwahnee Hotel.

Olmsted Point, at elevation 8,400 feet, is located where Tioga Road crosses a bare granite ridge above Tenaya Lake with views to Half Dome and Clouds Rest. The rehabilitation includes reconstruction of a 300'-long stone retaining wall, a viewing terrace and belvederes with interpretive exhibits, and accessibility improvements. The $1.5 million project is funded by The Yosemite Fund, a San Francisco nonprofit that supports projects and programs to protect, preserve and restore the national park. The project improvements were designed by the landscape architecture firm Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey of Mill Valley, California. The Olmsted Point rehabilitation was dedicated on September 13. For more information, contact Douglas Nelson of Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey at 415-383-7900 or doug@rhaa.com.

-Douglas Nelson, Principal, Royston, Hanamoto, Alley & Abey.

ADVOCACY
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Avenues the Olmsted walls were rebuilt and raised to meet new security requirements. Capitol Grounds arborists, working directly with construction crews, tied back or judiciously pruned interfering branches from historic plant materials. Major tree roots obstructing the construction trench were root pruned by consulting arborists. Stones from the original wall were carefully labeled, removed then re-installed in their original locations with three courses of matching gneiss stone (similar to granite) added to achieve the required height. Cap stones were placed back in their original position and the wall finished with raised square bead pointing. Cast-iron bollards were chosen for the middle portion of the street in an effort to preserve the configuration of the Olmsted knee walls and to promote scenic views of the Capitol.

An historic structures report is also being prepared for the Olmsted hardscape features that include walls, walkways, fountains and other decorative and utilitarian features on Capitol Square. These features determined the informal design that dictated patterns of Grounds circulation and usage, and provided a setting for the Capitol building and landscape plantings. Currently much of the field work has been completed and the report scheduled for completion by year’s end.

-Theodore R. Bechtol Jr., Horticulturist Supervisor

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
A landscape architect and NAOP member working for Union County, NJ, is interested in pursuing historic nominations for the approximately 5,000 acres of Olmsted firm landscapes that have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. However, the management is hesitant to pursue formal historic nominations unless a clear financial benefit can be demonstrated. He is searching for examples of restored National Register Landscapes and how the restoration funds came through grants and/or private donations, and the resulting work. If you have any information that could be of assistance, please send it to croftapril@naop.org.
COMPLETE 1902 MCMILLAN PLAN NOW ONLINE

The National Park Service has been creating its own version of the Gutenberg Project by adding complete versions of books and unpublished studies to its Web site. An important recent addition is the 261 pages of the McMillan Plan for Washington, DC, in 1902 (listed under National Capital Parks). Long recognized as one of the most effective and influential city plans in American history, the McMillan Plan resulted from a special congressional committee chaired by Senator James McMillan of Michigan and including Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., architects Daniel Burnham and Charles Follen McKim, and sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. They focused on restoring and expanding Pierre Charles L’Enfant’s original 1792 design for the National Mall and the monumental core of the city. So persuasive was the plan that the Mall was transformed from an area of railroad crossings and obstructed vistas to a source of civic pride.

Among today’s landmarks conceived by the McMillan Plan are Union Station, the Lincoln Memorial and the Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery, the Jefferson Memorial, and the George Washington Parkway to Mount Vernon. The National Park Service has been responsible for the National Mall since 1935 and continues to use the plan as inspiration. Less famous but equally influential were the McMillan Plan’s recommendations for a comprehensive park system for the District of Columbia, anchored by the long sweep of Rock Creek Park. The McMillan Plan is at http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/mcmillan/index.htm.

—Esley Hamilton

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY
(continued from page 5)

International

The Quebec Government’s Ministry of Culture and Communications cites the 2002 NAOP Declaration on Mount Royal as a primary reference regarding the park in a preliminary version of a report about Mount Royal. The report characterizes the designated area known as the “Mount Royal Historic and Natural Precinct” from an historical perspective and elaborates on measures currently being set in place to protect and enhance this territory. The park (450 acres) covers approximately 25% of the total designated site.

The NAOP Declaration emphasizes the importance of the Olmsted concept for Montreal’s mountain park, recognizes the quality of ongoing preservation and restoration work and suggests that other areas on the mountain would benefit from a similar approach. Extending park pathways into surrounding urban neighborhoods and through neighboring institutional properties would “expand” the park and improve access to the diverse natural and cultural resources in the spirit of Olmsted.

Quebec and the City of Montreal recently approved a five-year budget of $30 million Canadian dollars to be shared equally and put towards the conservation and enhancement of this unique North American natural and historic heritage site.

In addition, a new artificial skating rink located next to Beaver Lake in Mount Royal Park opened last winter to an awaiting public. The successful integration of the skating surface into a “modern and naturalistic” landscape setting that is part of an Olmstedian park was a primary objective for the city parks department, which managed the project, and for consultants Groupe Cardinal Hardy.

The Beaver Lake area, developed in 1938 by landscape architect Frederick Gage Todd, can be found in the sector Olmsted referred to as the Glades. Despite a different vocabulary and form, the lake and surrounding open space area were eventually built where Olmsted had located a formal water reservoir and “a wide spread of turf” in his original plans. The area has also maintained the social and recreational functions foreseen by Olmsted in 1878.

For more information, visit http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/.

NAOP wishes to thank all who contributed to News From Around The Country!
The Center for City Park Excellence at the Trust for Public Land released a new study of urban parks in June. You will find a long list of tables displaying a fascinating variety of data from the 56 largest cities in the United States. Some highlights:

• Jacksonville, FL, has the largest park system by acreage, almost 98,000 acres, but that includes some water preserves.
• Albuquerque, NM, has the largest percentage of its incorporated area protected as public open space, more than one quarter.
• Minneapolis, MN, and Washington, DC, have the most park land per resident, with 14 or more acres per thousand people.
• Central Park in New York City is the nation’s most used, with 25 million visits a year.
• San Francisco, CA, spent the most on parks per capita in 2004, $276 per resident.

Longtime members of NAOP may remember when Field Notes attempted to list the nation’s largest city parks, only to find that nobody could agree on what constituted a city park. The new study has made another attempt, including municipal, county, regional, state and national parks and preserves, as long as they are within the city limits. The list that has resulted is strikingly different from earlier ones, which usually started with the Fairmount Park-Wissahickon Valley complex in Philadelphia, PA - 4,167 acres. At the top of the new list is Franklin Mountain State Park, 24,000 acres in El Paso, TX, created in 1979. Six of the seven largest parks are similar preserves in the Southwest. Fairmount is now at number 16. New York City stands out with 10 parks in the top 100, but Central Park, the most famous of these, is 7th at 840 acres, or number 85 overall. Other prominent Olmsted parks include Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. at 39 (1,949 acres) and Belle Isle Park in Detroit, MI, at 80 (982 acres).

Another table in the study sure to stir up controversy is a list of the 18 oldest city parks, from Boston Common in MA, established in 1634, to Central Park in NY, 1859. New Haven Green in CT, 1641, is second, but as we get further down the list, some omissions are noticeable. Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia, PA, is there but not the three other surviving parks from William Penn’s original town plan of 1682: Franklin Square, Washington Square and Logan Circle. And where is Jackson Square, which dates from the founding of New Orleans in 1718?

It is available on their Web site, http://www.tpl.org by clicking on “Conservation Research” in the left column, then on “Center for City Park Excellence,” and then on “City Park Facts.”

-Esley Hamilton

Peter Harnik of the Trust for Public Land responds: Keep your comments coming! There’s no readership in the country that can provide as much historical knowledge as NAOP’s, and we’re eager to make this list 100% authoritative. Just as our list of the 100 largest city parks keeps unearthing unexpected surprises, so will this. We’ll add these four parks, plus Bushnell Park in Hartford (1854) whose antiquity we just discovered. Send your facts and figures to peter.harnik@TPL.org.

UPCOMING EXHIBITION: Patronage and Landscape Symposium
Bloomfield Hills, MI  November 9 - 11, 2006

With generous support from House & Garden magazine, The Cultural Landscape Foundation is collaborating with the Cranbrook Educational Community for a national symposium, Patronage & Landscape. To be held at Cranbrook’s DeSalle Auditorium, the two-day symposium (one day of lectures and one day of tours) will explore the role of landscape patronage historically and today. Utilizing the iconic Cranbrook National Historic Landmark property as a point of departure, the symposium will reveal, showcase and celebrate great patrons of America’s collective cultural landscape including George Booth, J. Irwin Miller, George W. Vanderbilt and the Ford family among others. Speakers will include Richard H. Driehaus, president, The Driehaus Foundation; Dr. Charles E. Beveridge, series editor, The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted; Arleyn Levee, landscape historian; Laurie Olin, an internationally recognized landscape architect; and Adele Chatfield-Taylor, president, American Academy in Rome. For registration information, visit http://www.tclf.org.
the mutual support that local Olmstedians and NAOP can provide each other was a hallmark of his involvement.

The Eastmans provided tours of their restored Wright masterpiece, including the coach house where restoration is currently underway and the original sunken garden, long buried under overgrowth and debris. Afterwards, a small group dined in the historic Arcade Building overlooking Guthrie Park.

The Arcade Building is shortly due for a major expansion in its non-landmark rear, and restoration in its landmark front. Condominium residences, office space and retail will be offered in this building widely considered to be among the first mixed-use projects in the U.S.

Guthrie Park and Swan Pond, for their part, reflect another aspect of new development. Preliminary village plans include them in a tax increment financing zone. These plans have FLOS concerned. The society has appealed to NAOP for assistance in commenting on such a possible action by the village, which is currently under review.

Such matters raise weighty questions for all who care about preserving Olmsted’s works. Renewed relationships between Riverside and the national Olmsted organization, of the sort that Ed Straka had maintained for so many years, will undoubtedly strengthen all Olmstedians who decide to participate in these important public discussions. Connecting local advocates with national resources may be one of NAOP’s most important tasks through the coming wave of preservation – and development – issues. For information on tours of Riverside, visit http://www.olmstedociety.org.

-NAOP Trustee Chris Robling is a resident of Riverside and member of its preservation commission.

Editor’s Note: NAOP wishes to thank Chris Robling, FLOS and the Eastmans for their kind assistance with organizing this memorable tour of Riverside and one of its landmark properties.

If you are interested in learning more about Riverside, you may wish to order NAOP’s Workbook Vol. 4, “Frederick Law Olmsted’s First and Last Suburbs: Riverside and Druid Hills” by Darlene R. Roth. See enclosed book order form for details.

URBAN PARKS GATHERING GALVANIZES CITY PARKS MOVEMENT

Close to 400 big-city park directors, park advocates and civic leaders attended the “Urban Park and Recreation Summit,” a two-day convocation held on May 17 & 18 in Chicago, to examine the state of city parks and recreation in America and to adopt a national agenda. NAOP’s partner, the City Parks Alliance (CPA), was a co-sponsor of this inaugural event, along the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and Trust for Public Land (TPL).

The event was organized to highlight the need for greater public and private investment in our nation’s urban parks, which have suffered from a lack of funding in recent years, and to strengthen the emerging nationwide grass-roots movement on behalf of city parks and open space. Keynote speakers including John Crompton, distinguished professor of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism at Texas A&M University, referenced Olmsted’s writings about the role of parks in urban development. NAOP Co-Chair Susan West Montgomery moderated the panel, “Making the Most of Historic Parks,” that focused on how great historic parks are helping to revitalize local economies. NAOP held its board meeting as well as joint meetings with the CPA board following the summit. For additional details on the summit, visit http://www.cityparksalliance.org or http://www.nrpa.org/.

NAOP's board, staff and a few local members enjoyed a post-summit tour of Chicago's historic parks, led by Julia Bachrach, Chicago Park District.

Photograph courtesy of April Croft
**PUBLICATIONS**

*Capital’s Utopia: Vandergrift, PA, 1855-1916*


John Charles Olmsted laid out Vandergrift, PA, in 1895 for George McMurtry’s galvanized steel works. Many thought that the ideals it incorporated — solid buildings in spacious surroundings with all the modern conveniences — had been definitively found irrelevant to community harmony only a year earlier as a result of the bitter strike at George Pullman’s planned community south of Chicago. But McMurtry ran a non-union factory, and even during the strike of 1901 that followed the incorporation of McMurtry’s business into J. P. Morgan’s United States Steel, the workers at Vandergrift remained unorganized. Even the muckraking journalist Ida Tarbell wrote in 1916 that “it would be difficult ... to find a prettier town, greener, trimmer, cleaner, and more influential ... than Vandergrift.” Mosher shows that the reality was not quite so ideal, as two adjacent, less well planned towns grew up next door to accommodate the flood of unskilled and low-wage immigrants crucial to the company’s success. Just as Vandergrift is not as well known today as its counterparts, not much attention has been paid to this book. Its most important review, by John F. Bauman, appeared in a British periodical, Planning Perspectives (April 2005, pp. 238-239). Nevertheless, Mosher, an associate professor in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, has balanced planning and design with social and industrial history to produce a study that is a landmark in Olmsted studies.

—Esley Hamilton

**HOLIDAY BOOKS**

The holidays are right around the corner! Please keep NAOP in mind when preparing your gift list. By ordering through us you typically receive a discounted rate from the list price while helping us support our mission. See the enclosed bookstore order form for more details.

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**FLO PAPERS**

(continued from back page)

permanently to Brookline, MA, and the firm that would operate there for nearly a century had begun to take shape.

Once correction of page proofs and preparation of the index for Volume 7 has been completed, I will resume preparation of Supplementary Series Volume 2, the large-format volume of historic plans and photographs of the sixty principal public parks, recreation grounds, parkways and scenic reservations that Olmsted designed. Editing of the volume is scheduled to be completed in 2007 with publication in 2008. Editorial work will then resume on Supplementary Series Volume 3, a large-format volume containing plans and photographs of the most significant of Olmsted’s projects other than public parks.

Ethan Carr, professor of landscape architecture at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a member of the NAOP Board of Trustees, has agreed to serve as principal editor of Volume 8 of the Olmsted Papers, “The Early Boston Years, 1882 - 1890.” He will begin editorial work on the volume this fall. It is hoped that funds will be available in 2007 to make it possible to begin editing of Volume 9, “The Last Great Commissions, 1890 - 1895,” with emphasis on the park systems of Boston, Rochester and Louisville, the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 and subsequent redesigning of Jackson Park in Chicago, and the planning of Biltmore Estate in North Carolina.

—Charles E. Beveridge, Series Editor

Editor’s Note: Volume 7 is available for purchase through NAOP. See the enclosed bookstore order form for details.
The Johns Hopkins University Press has scheduled next spring for publication of Volume 7 of The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, “Parks, Politics, and Patronage, 1874–1882.” The volume chronicles a particularly demanding and intense period in Olmsted’s career as he struggled to realize his conception for such major commissions as the grounds and terraces of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., the park on Mount Royal in Montreal, the park on Belle Isle in Detroit, the grounds of the Washington Monument in Baltimore, and the Back Bay Fens and Arnold Arboretum in Boston.

Olmsted faced opposition, lethargy and a variety of political pressures in these projects as well as in his final years of work for the department of public parks in New York City. There he sought to realize his plans for Riverside Park and Tompkins Square and to protect his and Calvert Vaux’s vision for Central Park. These years also brought his first opportunity to plan for residential neighborhoods in New York, as he collaborated with the engineer J. J. R. Croes on the street and rapid transit plan for the newly annexed twenty-third and twenty-fourth wards — the Bronx. New political alignments in the form of a resurgent Tammany Hall under “Honest John” Kelly resulted in Olmsted’s dismissal from the parks department in early 1878, compounding a crisis in his physical and mental condition. During this period he and the architects H. H. Richardson and Leopold Eidlitz redesigned the new state capitol of New York in Albany, amidst a storm of controversy, while he and Charles Eliot Norton, professor of Fine Arts at Harvard, mounted an unsuccessful campaign to create a public scenic reservation at Niagara Falls.

In addition to letters and reports on the subjects listed above, the volume contains the journal of encounters with political patronage that Olmsted kept during this period, as well as the pamphlet, “The Spoils of the Park”, that he published to protest the policies of the New York parks department in the years immediately following his dismissal. By volume’s end he and his family had moved


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