2007: CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL PARK COMPETITION

When it comes to Central Park, there’s a lot to celebrate. Central Park represents the birth of the urban park movement in America. In 2003, people around the world celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Park’s inception when, in 1853, the New York State Legislature authorized taking an unprecedented portion of New York City’s real estate out of commercial or residential development to create “a public space,” an innovative concept in American history. The design for the future park was not established for five more years, when in 1858, the Board of Commissioners announced that “Greensward,” the plan by Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted, had won the design competition.

This year — 2007 — warrants a celebration of its own, one that commemorates the crucial events leading up to the award-winning plan, the birth of American landscape architecture and the career of Frederick Law Olmsted.

The story begins with Calvert Vaux, frequently forgotten in Central Park’s history. Vaux, a young determined British architect, came to America in 1852 at the invitation of horticulturist turned tastemaker, Andrew Jackson Downing of Newburgh, NY. As there were no architectural schools in America, Downing went to England to seek out a partner who could design homes and landscapes for his growing Hudson Valley clientele. Downing had promoted the idea of a large New York City park in his magazine, The Horticulturist, in 1848 and 1851. If not for his unfortunate drowning in a Hudson River steamboat accident, he and Vaux — not Olmsted and Vaux — most certainly would have been the designers of Manhattan’s future park. When Downing’s life was suddenly cut short at age 37, Downing and Vaux were already creating what would have been the first public park in America — the Mall, the grounds of the Smithsonian and the presidential park in Washington, DC at the invitation of President Millard Fillmore. After Downing’s death, Vaux and Olmsted took up the mantle and completed the Central Park design.
NAOP adopted a strategic plan in 2001, which defined our broad priorities of advocacy, research, outreach and education and development. It has served our organization well but needs to be updated to reflect NAOP’s growth and expanded programming.

In November, NAOP board and Leadership Council members will participate in a strategic planning retreat in Washington, DC, working with the nationally recognized consulting firm WolfBrown, which conducted NAOP’s last planning session. We are grateful to The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation for their support of this important process.

Some of the areas to be explored include strategies for helping NAOP become the key resource for building public awareness of and interest in Frederick Law Olmsted’s legacy; supporting communities and organizations that are engaged in restoring their historic parks, particularly in underserved neighborhoods; and building a network of activists and experts in support of historic parks. The partnership with City Parks Alliance will also be reviewed.

The Olmsteds and their firm produced designs for 650 parks and recreation areas. We still have little knowledge about most of these designs but we know that all have the potential to revitalize communities. In addition to this extensive network of parks and green space in urban centers, the Olmsted legacy includes a vision for healthy cities and a philosophical framework for urban planning in the United States, which is relevant to current-day issues.

We will share the outcome of this effort with you next spring as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Greensward Plan in New York City, the republication of the Master List of Design Projects by the Olmsted Firm and our 28th year of advancing the Olmsted principles and legacy of irreplaceable parks and landscapes that enrich people’s lives.

— Catherine Nagel
On May 24, as part of the observances of Mount Royal Month in Montréal, Charles E. Beveridge delivered a lecture, “The Park and the City: Frederick Law Olmsted’s Vision for Mount Royal,” in the Hall d’honneur of the Hotel de Ville of Montréal. After the lecture he had the honor of signing the city’s Livre d’Or. He also received a medallion bearing the coat of arms of the city presented by Mme. Helen Fotopulos, mayor of the borough of Plateau Mont-Royal and the executive committee member responsible for Mount Royal. During his visit, Dr. Beveridge met with representatives of Les Amis de la Montagne and with staff members of the department of parks concerning issues raised by the provincial government’s recent designation of Mount Royal as an arrondissement historique et naturel (an historic and natural district). He also met with Hélène Thibodeau, the translator of his recent report, Mount Royal in the Works of Frederick Law Olmsted, which will be published in a bilingual edition. His hosts during the visit were NAOP board member Daniel Chartier and his associate Wendy Graham, both landscape architects with the city’s Direction des grands parcs et de la nature en ville.

The Central Park Conservancy has announced the Central Park Collection, an assembly of photographs celebrating the splendor of one of the world’s great public spaces. The Central Park Collection features images of Central Park captured by the Conservancy’s official photographer and historian, Sara Cedar Miller. The customized black and white or color prints in the Collection offer both familiar and seldom-seen views of Central Park throughout the seasons. Colorful spring blooms, glorious autumn landscapes, snow-covered arches, beloved statues and majestic fountains and water bodies are a few of the scenes highlighted in the Collection. Proceeds from the sale of the prints will support the Conservancy’s work to restore, manage and preserve this national treasure. View the Collection at www.centralparknyc.org/collection. For more information call 212 310 6672 or email centralparkcollection@centralparknyc.org

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy has announced the appointment of Julie Crockford as its new president. Ms. Crockford was most recently the Director of External Affairs for the Museum of African American History in Boston. Among her priorities for the Emerald Necklace are implementing the Conservancy’s “Engaging Diverse Constituencies” project, restoring the Gatehouse on the Back Bay Fens as a visitor center and office, expanding the woodlands restoration and bringing more young people into the park.

Brooklyn’s Prospect Park is undertaking an exciting project that will return the Park to a design more closely resembling Olmsted’s original intent. In 2008, the replacement of the Park’s aging Wollman Rink will commence. Built by Robert Moses, this 1961 structure is located on the site of what used to be Music Island, a small islet with a stage facing the formal Victorian Concert Grove. The new building, Lakeside Center at Prospect Park, will house ice-skating and year-round activities. Architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien have been chosen to design the new facility, which will fit into the landscape more sensitively than the current, outmoded rink. A proposed design will be on two-levels — with one open-air rink affording views of the lake and one partially-enclosed rink for all-weather use. Public meetings are being held to get input for the new center’s design, which is due to be completed in 2010.

(continued on page 4)
News From Fairsted

We are pleased to report that our long-standing request for a new General Management Plan (GMP) has been funded by the National Park Service, which means that we will be heavily engaged in this formal planning process over the next three years. The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site’s first (and only) General Management Plan was required by its authorizing legislation and was completed in 1983. It was designed to guide activities for the next decade, and as most of its goals and objectives have been accomplished and a host of new issues have arisen, a thoughtful, forward-looking revision is sorely needed.

As we enter the 21st century, the site is at a critical point in its maturation and development. We look forward to working with professional National Park Service planners and our many partners and publics—including NAOP and its members—as we take a fresh look at the site, and develop the goals and objectives that will guide us for the next ten to twenty years. Stay tuned—we will keep NAOP fully informed as this planning process takes shape.

In other news, third graders from Boston Public Schools took center stage on June 14th at the opening of an exhibition entitled, “The Art of Landscape: A Four-Season Art Exploration of Olmsted’s Franklin Park.” The exhibition at Massachusetts College of Art featured more than seventy pieces and provided the 200 people gathered with an opportunity to experience students’ four-season impressions of this Emerald Necklace “gem.” The exhibit was the culmination of a year-long art-making program hosted by Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and Massachusetts College of Art. “The Art of Landscape” received generous funding from the Bank of America Foundation and the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Fund.

Our visitor services division offered its usual complement of off-site spring and early summer programming, including an extremely popular summer solstice evening walk at Franklin Park and a panel discussion and informal musical performance on July 8 entitled “From Beethoven to Ballads: The Music of Landscape.” The latter program, cosponsored with Brookline Adult & Community Education, explored some of the many influences of landscape on music across genres. The starting point for the program was a written statement by Olmsted that the effect of a landscape “on the human organism” is akin to that of music, “of a kind that goes back of thought, and cannot fully be given the form of words.”

—Lee Farrow Cook, Site Manager
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

ADVOCACY

Riverside, IL

Following a visit in April by NAOP representatives to meet with trustees and residents who were concerned that plans for a tax increment finance district would harm the historic character of their Olmsted-designed community, the trustees of Riverside made several revisions to the plan based on NAOP’s suggestions. The trustees took out the options for an amphitheater or pedestrian tunnel under the railroad tracks at the train station. The board also added a provision...
that TIF funds could not be used to support a free-standing parking garage. The board discussed adding landscaping as one of the TIF’s main objectives, as well as making the preservation of the Frederick Law Olmsted original design one of the redevelopment plan’s goals. Trustees also decided to add a provision to the plan requiring current and future boards to consult with experts when considering private redevelopment proposals in the TIF and to maintain a list of village-approved architects and landscapers for property owners interested in rebuilding or remodeling within the TIF district.

**Piedmont Way, Berkeley, CA**

Since 2004 NAOP has been advocating on behalf of the Friends of Piedmont Way. In June, after NAOP wrote a letter of support to the Mayor and City Council members, the City of Berkeley, CA, approved $75,000 for the development of contract documents based on the Rehabilitation Plan, which was finalized last month and was funded in part by a grant from the University of California Berkeley Chancellor’s Community Partnership Fund. The contract documents will be completed by December.

In July, Piedmont Way received a second grant from the Chancellor’s Fund in the amount of $75,000 toward the replanting of the historic parkway beginning in late autumn 2008. The project will entail installing irrigation, soil remediation, planting and mulching. In the meantime, Friends of Piedmont Way is raising funds to meet their $400,000 goal. Visit www.piedmontway.org to learn more.

**U.S. Capitol Grounds**

NAOP Board member Ray Chambers has formed a committee to continue advocacy activity on behalf of Olmsted’s design for the U.S. Capitol Grounds as the new Capitol Visitors Center nears completion. In February, the Architect of the Capitol retired. A letter was sent to the Senate requesting that NAOP be allowed to participate in the interview process for the new Architect, who is ultimately selected by the president. The committee is also writing a brochure about Olmsted’s role at the Capitol that will be distributed at the visitors center. The committee has named itself the Olmsted Capital Committee because once the immediate work at the Capitol is done they will turn their attention to other Olmsted sites in Washington, DC.

**CELEBRATING 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

(continued from cover)

Vaux’s first major client was John A.C. Gray, Director of the Bank of New York and, more importantly, a new member of the Board of Commissioners of the Central Park. Vaux was hired to design a private residence for the Gray family on Fifth Avenue and a bank on Wall Street. It was during this time that Vaux expressed his negative feelings to Gray for the defects of the Park’s previously adopted design by Egbert Viele, the Chief Engineer and the boss of Park Superintendent Frederick Law Olmsted. He later said, “I pointed out whenever I had the chance, that it would be a disgrace to the City and to the memory of Mr. Downing…to have [Viele’s] plan carried out.”

Vaux was also acquainted with another Commissioner, Charles Wyllys Elliot, a writer and amateur horticulturist, whom he had met through Downing. Because of these two powerful connections, Vaux knew he was in a position to influence the future plan for Central Park. With Gray and Elliott on his side, Vaux was given an insider’s opportunity to address the board personally. He pointed out the deficiencies in Viele’s plan and also explained the merits of an open design competition, appropriate for such an important civic and national project.

Vaux must have liked being a twosome; after his partnership with Downing ended, he worked with Frederick Clarke Withers. For the design and construction of Central Park, Vaux saw in Olmsted some important leadership qualities and skills that he needed such as management of the workers, working knowledge of the site’s topography and important connections to the press. Vaux must have been shocked when Olmsted turned him down.

Olmsted was a gentleman and would have found it unseemly to step on his boss’s toes, especially since their personalities were like oil and vinegar. He assumed, rightly, that Chief Engineer Viele would resubmit his rejected plan for consideration. But Vaux must have pushed. We know from future incidents (like the opportunity to design Prospect Park) that Vaux was very persistent with Olmsted. Under pressure from the unrelenting Vaux, Olmsted finally approached his cantankerous boss and asked for permission to enter the competition. Viele, in his typically brusque manner, waved him off dismissively and so, the famous partnership began. As they walked the frozen, barren and rocky site during the cold winter nights of 1857-1858, they composed an elegant landscape painting on the blank canvas of New York’s future park.

The spring issue of Field Notes will feature a second article about the Greensward Plan and the celebrations of its 150th anniversary planned by the Central Park Conservancy.

— Sara Cedar Miller
BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE: AN ARCHIVES ACTION PLAN

Park plans and designs are the key to what was and what can be as we restore and maintain our parks for the next generation. Without them, we are at a loss in locating underground utilities, sewers and subsurface streams; nor can we state with any specificity what was intended to be built in our parks or what was actually built that has since disappeared. In most cases blueprints are considered to be working tools just like construction drawings, which are rolled and unrolled frequently by parks personnel as they go about their work. The challenge we face as park professionals and park advocates is to find the blueprints and properly store them for the future.

First, you will need to find your park’s blueprints and other important documents, such as maps, plans and designs, correspondence, photographs, annual reports, minute books of park commissions, reports from the landscape architects, newspaper articles, glass plates and copper plates used in the printing of park documents, surveyors tools, etc. If any of these documents or materials appear to be under immediate threat from heat or light, or if they are sitting in damp basements or in locations visited by pests, you will need to move them to a safer location. When moving these items, do so carefully and try to maintain the order in which they are filed or organized. You are likely to discover that there is some logic to the way these items are filed even if initially you don’t recognize it. Relocate only those items under immediate threat; for the other items you find, take a general inventory of what they are and where they are stored.

You will need two tools to assist you in developing a Preservation Plan for your park archives: a Preservation Needs Assessment and a Disaster Plan, sometimes called an Emergency Preparedness Plan.

A Preservation Needs Assessment documents the variety of materials in your collection and describes the conditions under which they are presently being stored. The purpose of it is to survey what you have in your possession and to assist you in prioritizing the actions that need to be taken to protect your collection. As you work on this assessment you will create an awareness among members of your park’s staff for the importance of preserving and conserving these materials, thereby creating an internal support network, which will prove invaluable as your work on the collection moves forward.

The Preservation Needs Assessment can be prepared in-house or by an outside consultant. There are advantages to each approach. If prepared in-house, whoever is preparing it will be familiar with the park organization and where things are stored, aware of the values of the organization and perhaps be in a position to make more realistic recommendations. If the plan is prepared by an outside consultant, you will have the advantage of fresh eyes looking at your collection and someone who might be positioned to ask hard questions about the importance of the items you are saving.

The Disaster Plan is essential as you develop a Preservation Plan for your collection. It will include preventive measures that you need to implement to secure and protect your collection, and must also include your response steps to disasters or impending threats to your collection such as flood or fire. It should address security issues and protect your collection from theft. Professional guidelines can be obtained for your Disaster Plan but don’t overlook local expertise from the fire department and police. Use common sense as well.

The next step in the process is the preparation of a Preservation Plan that recommends storage alternatives, fire suppression systems, pest control, public access issues and staff training. A future article will review the components of a thorough Preservation Plan and the funding sources available to protect your collection.

—Kathleen P. Galop, guest columnist
Notable Passages

SERVICES FOR CHARLOTTE OLMSTED KURSH

More than 20 members of the extended Olmsted family, from babies to grandmothers, gathered on February 24, 2007, at Hartford’s Old North Cemetery for services honoring Charlotte Olmsted Kursh, granddaughter of Frederick Law Olmsted. Charlotte died on December 27, 2006, at the age of 94, having lived an eventful life that included earning a Ph.D. in Anthropology in her fifties and graduating at the top of her class when she did it. Following her interment in the family vault where her grandfather is buried, the family went to the Cheshire, CT, homestead where Frederick Law Olmsted spent time visiting, farming and living with his aunt and uncle, Linda Hull and David Brooks. During a warm memorial service, family members recalled their many fond memories of Charlotte. The day included a group photo on the front porch, a tradition at the Brooks Homestead where Linda and David Brooks’s great granddaughter, NAOP Board member Jean McKee, now lives.


Photo courtesy of Barbara & Gene Bellows

REMEMBERING KATIE JO JOHNSON

Catherine Joy Johnson, a former board member of NAOP, died at her home in Beaux Arts Village near Seattle on June 3, 2007. Katie Jo, as she was known, was captivated by the work of the Olmsted brothers. She turned that interest into action in the 1980s as a founding member of Friends of the Seattle’s Olmsted Parks, a group whose activities and advocacy continue to protect Seattle’s Olmsted treasures. Her interest in the Olmsted legacy extended beyond Seattle and she was active on the NAOP board. Her particular interest was the Olmsted residential landscapes and in 1997 she published an inventory of the private estates and residential communities designed by the Olmsted Firm in the Pacific Northwest between 1873 and 1959. Katie Jo was 78. Donations in her memory can be made to the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO, 80205.
PUBLICATIONS

The Biltmore Nursery: A Botanical Legacy

Frederick Law Olmsted’s last great project, the Biltmore estate near Asheville, NC, combined a palatial country house with a vast program of forestry and agriculture intended to restore the depleted Blue Ridge landscape of 125,000 acres to aesthetic and economic health. Plants propagated on the estate for this purpose were also sold in a commercial venture until 1916. This substantial paperback begins with an illustrated history of Biltmore’s horticultural establishment, including forestry, arboretum, herbarium and nursery. The Biltmore Nursery Catalog from 1912 is reproduced in its entirety, with period illustrations and price lists. For a modern gardener interested in the Edwardian era, this constitutes a veritable time machine. Alexander helps the reader with a table of Latin names that have changed in the 95 years since publication, as well as a list of plants in the catalog that are now recognized, and in some cases outlawed, as invasive.

Branch Brook Park

Newark’s park system traces its origins to an 1867 study by Frederick Law Olmsted. This volume celebrates the 140th anniversary of that seminal event. Although the land Olmsted recommended for purchase by the city included the site of the present Branch Brook Park, acquisition didn’t begin until after the Essex County Park Commission became the nation’s first countywide park district in 1895. Considerable construction had taken place on the park site and the beauty of the long narrow park is largely man-made. John Bogart and Nathan F. Barrett began the park’s development, but Olmsted Brothers took over in 1898 and continued well into the 1920s. Nearly 200 black and white photos illustrate the park’s seasonal beauty.


Roger Kemp has served as city manager for cities across the country for the past two decades and during that time he has written 14 books on issues facing local governments. The present volume is an anthology of articles drawn from nearly a dozen professional journals. Gathered here, they serve as an inspirational and practical resource on a wide variety of open space concerns, ranging from local to regional in scope, from brownfield reclamation to wildlife preservation, and including trails, riverfronts, beaches and playgrounds. The book begins with five chapters on the importance of parks and open spaces to economic and environmental health and continues with 40 chapters describing examples of successful initiatives, arranged alphabetically by city. Five final chapters consider the future and conclude that “the eco-economic revolution is here to stay.”

Jacob Weidenmann: Pioneer Landscape Architect

Rudy Favretti has made his name synonymous in preservation circles with authenticity in landscape restoration, particularly 19th-century gardens. He has devoted years to researching the life of the designer of two great Hartford, CT, landscapes, Bushnell Park and Cedar Hill Cemetery, and this book is the result. Jacob Weidenmann was born in Switzerland in 1829 and migrated to New York in 1856. In 1871, he began an association of nearly two decades with Frederick Law Olmsted, contributing to Prospect Park, Mount Royal, Congress Park in Saratoga Springs and other projects. Before his death in 1893, Weidenmann’s practice stretched as far west as Iowa, where he designed the capital grounds in Des Moines. This large-format book is a worthy tribute to his achievements.

Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma

In June, Library of American Landscape History (LALH) and University of Massachusetts Press released “Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma” by NAOP Trustee Ethan Carr. Carr’s study examines the roots, planning and execution of Mission 66, a decade-long planning, landscape and architecture initiative that transformed our national parks and catalyzed the modern environmental movement, largely in opposition to it.

—Esley Hamilton
Coming in April 2008 in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the Greensward Plan for Central Park—the National Association for Olmsted Parks is pleased to announce the re-publication of

The Master List of Projects of the Olmsted Design Firm, 1857-1979

with essays by Julia Sniderman Bachrach, Charles E. Beveridge, Ethan Carr, Lee Farrow Cook, Rolf Diamant, Nancy Elwand, Susan L. Klaus, Frank Kowsky, Lucy Lawliss, Arleyn A. Levee, Caroline Loughlin, Lauren G. Meier, and Anthony Reed.

The 2nd edition of the “Master List” includes research conducted over the past 20 years. It will be searchable by project type and geographic location and can be used on its own or as a companion to the Olmsted Research Guide Online (www.ORGO.org). It is being printed in full color with images illustrating the text.

Order now and take advantage of this special pre-publication offer. When published, the book will be sold for $45, NAOP members, and $55, non-members. Pre-order before January 31, 2008 using the form on the reverse page and save $10!

NAOP members: $35
Non-NAOP members $45
This offer is valid until 1/31/07

$8.95 handling & shipping for the first book
For each additional, add $2.50
Please note: Pre-orders for the “Master List” will be shipped when it is published in April 2008.

Too little is known about the extraordinarily rich body of work created by the Olmsted firm during its long and illustrious history. As the head of a regional land conservation organization, I welcome NAOP’s publication that will inform our and other groups’ preservation efforts.

—Jerry Adelman, OpenLands, Chicago

As an open space conservation planner working on management planning in the Woodlands of Franklin Park, Boston, I find the Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857-1979 to be an invaluable tool. This reference guide also aids the historian consulting with me on capital improvement projects in our research at the Olmsted National Historic Site Archives.

—Lanae Handy, Woodlands Project Director, Franklin Park Coalition
By ordering through us you typically receive a discounted rate from the list price while helping us support our mission!

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- $47.00 Vol. 1 *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted: Writings on Public Parks, Parkways, and Park Systems*, edited by Charles E. Beveridge and Carolyn F. Hoffman

**MORE PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST** (2-3 days for 1st class shipping, $2 each)

- $3.00 *Balancing Natural and Cultural Issues in the Preservation of Historic Landscapes: Selected Papers from the National Association for Olmsted Parks Conference*, edited by Charles A. Birnbaum and Sandra L. Tallant

**THE MASTER LIST OF PROJECTS OF THE OLMS TED DESIGN FIRM**

(This book will be published in April 2008. Pre-orders will be shipped at that time.)

- Pre-publication special: $35 for NAOP members before January 31, 2008; $45 for NAOP members thereafter.
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NAOP EVENTS

Maintaining Historic Urban Parks Workshop
November 5 – 8, 2007
Smithsonian National Zoological Park
Washington, DC

NAOP, in cooperation with the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service, is sponsoring a workshop on maintaining historic urban parks. The workshop will provide a forum to discuss current issues and solutions associated with maintenance of these unique landscapes. The three-day event will include sessions on preserving historic character, applying new technology to historic landscape maintenance, retaining turf in high use areas, special event planning and recovery and achieving preservation goals with limited operational resources, among others. Doug Blonsky, President of the Central Park Conservancy, will kick off the event with a presentation on Balancing Preservation with Contemporary Use. Participants will have the opportunity to visit key public landscapes during the second day of the program.

An optional pre-conference site visit to the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Mount Vernon, and the Lincoln Memorial is planned for Monday, November 5. This full-day tour will provide a behind-the-scenes view into the landscape management challenges, solutions and operations of these significant resources.

Details and registration information is found at www.olmsted.org under Events. Many thanks to The Davey Tree Expert Company for their generous sponsorship of this event.

NAOP Board Meeting
April 26 – 28, 2008
Central Park
New York, NY

The NAOP Board will meet in New York City over the last weekend in April 2008, in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Greensward Plan. The Central Park Conservancy (CPC) and the Metropolitan Museum of Art will host various activities for the Board in conjunction with the celebrations they are planning. Information about all the celebratory activities by the CPC will be posted on the NAOP website, www.olmsted.org, in the spring.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

The Trustees of Reservations’ Putnam Conservation Institute will hold its 5th annual “Managing Land & Visitors” conference on Saturday, November 3, 2007, at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster, MA. The day-long conference is designed to provide and share information and ideas for the staff and volunteers who manage natural or historic places that are open to the public. This year’s conference will focus on how to engage, inspire and retain volunteers to help with stewardship plus organizational and community leadership. More information at: www.thetrustees.org/putnamconservationinstitute.cfm

In 2005, the state of CT proclaimed April 26 as Frederick Law Olmsted Day in honor of his birth in Bridgeport. This year, the CT Chapter of ASLA, the CT Olmsted Heritage Alliance and the City of Bridgeport celebrated Olmsted’s 185th birthday at their annual conference.

Photo courtesy of Whitney A. Talcott
INTERNATIONAL URBAN PARKS CONFERENCE, PITTSBURGH
SEPTEMBER 21 - 23, 2008

The next urban parks conference, co-sponsored by NAOP along with the City Parks Alliance and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, is scheduled for Pittsburgh in September 2008. *Body and Soul: Parks and the Health of Great Cities* will bring together national and international leaders who are working to create, preserve and restore urban and historic parks to promote the health and vitality of their cities. It will focus on the critical relationship between urban parks and the well-being of the vast numbers of people living in urban areas. Keynote speakers include Richard Louv, author, “Last Child in the Woods” and Teresa Heinz Kerry. The program schedule includes a significant number of tours and on-site sessions, including overviews of the Highland, Frick and Schenley Parks restorations, the Olmsteds in Pittsburgh, and a visit to the model town of Vandergrift, designed by the Olmsted firm. Information and registration information can be found at www.urbanparks08.org