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

NAOP AND NPS REPUBLISH THE MASTER LIST OF DESIGN PROJECTS OF THE OLMSTED FIRM 1857-1979

The scope of the Olmsted legacy—while known to a small group of historians, design professionals and local activists—is now more accessible to the general public. The second edition of The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, first published in 1987, will be unveiled on April 28, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Greensward Plan for Central Park. Co-published by NAOP and the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, National Park Service, the book has been expanded to more than 6,000 projects, organized into fourteen thematic sections, ranging from parks, parkways, recreation areas and scenic reservations to exhibitions and fairs.

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Executive Director’s Report

As Sara Cedar Miller writes in the cover article, the implementation of the 1858 Olmsted and Vaux Greensward Plan was not only a construction process but also a charged political feat. The introduction of a new urban landscape form required an equally innovative management approach that challenged the status quo, as Olmsted observed. A century and a half later we are still developing and testing the stewardship model, balancing the public and private role in the programming, maintenance and funding of these important public spaces. The experience of New York and other cities nationwide that have successfully restored their historic parks shows that both active citizen involvement and strong political leadership are needed.

NAOP plays an important role in this process, serving as a resource for all those who wish to revitalize historic parks and landscapes and create new green spaces in urban settings as a means of building better, healthier and more livable communities. Connecting the Olmsted legacy to the current needs and aspirations of people around the nation was the focus of our recent strategic planning retreat where several key opportunities where identified:

- Increasing public understanding and awareness of Olmsted’s multi-dimensional legacy and its relevance to contemporary society;
- Promoting the legacy through education and research by broadening the base of knowledge among landscape professionals, advocates and lay people;
- Developing a policy and funding environment that is supportive of landscape preservation, restoration and green space development;
- Strengthening NAOP’s links with key organizations locally and nationally; and
- Developing organizational capacity and a closer relationship with the City Parks Alliance.

The NAOP board will review a draft strategic plan at its next meeting in New York in April.

The impact and relevance of the Greensward Plan to today’s world will be explored throughout Body and Soul: Parks and the Health of Great Cities, the international urban parks conference in Pittsburgh, September 21-23 (www.urbanparks08.org). We invite you to join us for this exciting gathering!

—Catherine Nagel
The New Jersey Chapter of the ASLA has granted a 2008 Honor Award to Rhodes & Harwell, Landscape Architects, Alexandria, VA, for *The Restoration of Branch Brook Park, NJ.* The firm prepared a Cultural Landscape Report, Treatment Plans and construction documents for the 400+ acre park designed by the firm of John Bogart and Nathan F. Barrett, Landscape Architects and Engineers, 1895-1898, and the Olmsted Brothers firm, 1898-1937. Historians Arleyn A. Levee and Charles E. Beveridge provided archival research and guidance. David Abramson Architects, Newark, NJ, developed building plans; Pennoni and CMX provided engineering; arboricultural consulting was by Paul Cowie and Associates, Urban Foresters.

The restoration is a project of the Branch Brook Park Alliance and the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, and has been a priority for County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. The plans provide for complete rehabilitation of the park, including planting in accordance with the Olmsted plans, restoring and expanding the famed flowering cherry tree collection and ecological restoration of the lakes and linear water course through the park. More than $15 million in improvements have been completed to date, and implementation is scheduled to continue for another ten years.

—Faye Harwell

The *Summit Garden Club* received a grant from the New Jersey Committee of the Garden Club of America to nominate *Briant Pond Park in Summit, NJ,* to the State and National Register of Historic Places. The 1926 Briant Pond Park is part of the 6,000-acre Union County Park System, the second county park system established in the country, in 1921. Its parks and the Watchung Reservation were constructed according to plans by the Olmsted Brothers firm.

The club has retained Kathleen P. Galop of Preservation Possibilities in Summit, NJ, to conduct research and prepare the nomination. Kathleen was one of the founders of NAOP. For more information, contact Karen Jones, President, Summit Garden Club at jones5844@aol.com or Club member Ellen Hakes at ehakes@gmail.com.

—Ellen Hakes

*Friends of Anderson Park,* a conservancy in *Montclair, NJ,* received a $12,500 grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to prepare a nomination of the park to the State and National Register of Historic Places. The 14-acre suburban park, opened in 1905, was designed primarily by John Charles Olmsted, beginning in 1902. It is part of the Essex County Park System, the first countywide park system in the nation. Its creation inspired a town-wide park system in Montclair, and spurred the development of an adjacent commuter suburb. Lisanne Renner of Friends of Anderson Park and Kathleen P. Galop will prepare the nomination. The conservancy is working toward rehabilitating the Olmsted design, which has lost much of its shrubbery and many trees over the past century. Information is available at www.FriendsOfAndersonPark.org or through FAP President Scott Kevelson at Montclairtrees@aol.com.

—Lisanne Renner

New York City based Quennell Rothschild & Partners is part of a team of architects selected by city and state officials in December 2007 to design a 40-acre park on *Governors Island, NY.* The design, commissioned by the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation, will transform much of the island into green space, including a two-mile promenade along the water, a new park on the southern flat expanse of landfill and an improved park in the island’s northern historic district. Financed by the city and state, the project is expected to cost about $400 million and to be completed by 2012. Nicholas Quennell is a former NAOP trustee and co-chair.

William C. Clendaniel, President of *Mount Auburn Cemetery in Watertown and Cambridge, MA,* announced his retirement effective July 1, 2008. Bill has served as President since 1988 and is a former NAOP trustee. In his letter to Mount Auburn lot owners, members and donors, he wrote: “These years have flown by. With the help of a superb staff and Board of Trustees we have accomplished much together. I will leave with very mixed feelings; it has been a wonderful challenge to lead this remarkable institution.” A search committee has been formed and Isaacson, Miller (www.im-search.com) retained as the search firm with Karen Wilcox as primary consultant. She welcomes suggestions regarding possible candidates and can be reached at 617-262-6500 or kwilcox@imsearch.com.

The recently adopted master plan for the Olmsted Brothers designed *Wyman Park Dell in Baltimore, MD,* (1911) was awarded an Honorable Mention for a community-initiated planning project by the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association in October 2007. The master plan can be viewed at http://wymanparkdell.org. It was completed by a local consulting firm commissioned by the Friends of Wyman Park Dell steering committee. The award submission was accompanied by letters of support from the local city
News From Fairsted

In October 2007, Friends of Maryland Olmsted Parks and Landscapes (FMOPL) contacted Fairsted’s archives division to inquire if we would accept a donation of 14 albums of European postcards identified as once belonging to Marion Olmsted. FMOPL had received a monetary donation to purchase the albums and wished to donate them to Fairsted. We were delighted to accept the albums labeled as being from the Office Library of Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, Brookline, Mass. Places documented in the albums include London, Cambridge, Oxford and other cities in England; Geneva, Switzerland; and Tormina, Pompeii, Rome and Palermo in Italy.

Fairsted’s spring programming will feature a lecture and book signing by University of Virginia professor and NAOP board member Ethan Carr on Wednesday, April 16, as well as an outdoor family festival on Saturday, June 7, on the theme of music and landscape at nearby Olmsted Park in the Emerald Necklace.

The April 16 program, *Looking Back on Mission 66 in Anticipation of the National Park Centennial in 2016*, is being presented in collaboration with John F. Kennedy National Historic Site and Brookline Adult & Community Education, with anticipated support from Eastern National cooperating association and the Friends of Fairsted. Ethan Carr will discuss and sign copies of his 2007 book, Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma, at Brookline High School, 105 Greenough Street, Brookline, MA, starting at 7:00 pm.

The *Sounds and Scenes Festival* on June 7 seeks to cultivate greater appreciation of a local Olmsted-designed treasure and landscape generally, using the medium of music. Three family concerts will feature Connecticut-based singer-songwriter Maria Sangiolo, faculty from the Brookline Music School, and nationally-known folksinger, dulcimer player and educator Lorraine Hammond and her husband, guitarist Bennett Hammond. In addition, area cultural and environmental organizations will offer activities in the Leverett Pond area of the park. Along with our site, Brookline Adult & Community Education and Brookline Parks and Open Space are the prime organizers of the festival. Additional collaborators include the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, the Friends of Fairsted, the High Street Hill Association, Brookline Music School, La Piñata folkloric performance group and the Emerald Necklace Bird Club.

—Lee Farrow Cook, Site Manager

government. For information on the process and current efforts to implement the plan, please contact Marcia Holden, president of the Friends group, mholden@parkschool.net.

—David R. Holden

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) launched an online documentary series *Landscape Legends*, chronicling the lives and careers of America’s most significant post war landscape architects. The inaugural documentary was produced in concert with the American Society of Landscape Architects and received generous support from the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation, and the Hubbard Educational Trust. It resides at: http://tclf.org/pioneers/oral_history.htm and features Boston-based Carol R. Johnson whose work includes sites in Boston’s Emerald Necklace. To date, TCLF has videotaped Lawrence Halprin, designer of the FDR Memorial; M. Paul Friedberg, designer of Riis Plaza in New York City and the Olympic Plaza, Calgary; Edward Daugherty, designer of the Governor’s Mansion grounds in Atlanta; Richard Haag who produced the iconic Gas Works Park, Seattle; and the late Ruth Patricia Shellhorn, original landscape architect of Disneyland.

—Andrea Hill

Through its *2008-2009 Save Our History Grant Program*, the History Channel will again award grants of up to $10,000 to fund partnerships between school or youth groups and history organizations on projects that teach students about their local history and actively engage them in its preservation. To read descriptions of past Save Our History grant projects and to apply for a grant, visit www.saveourhistory.com. Grant applications are due June 8, 2008. Questions may be directed to info@saveourhistory.com.

The *Friends of Fairmount Park in Riverside, CA*, met in January aiming to create a permanent conservancy, discussion group and volunteer force for the Park. The group succeeds the Fairmount Park Citizens Committee, which had been active for over 20 years; its founder, Bob Stewart, passed away in 2000. In 2007, when city government officials proposed major changes to the park, people opposed to the plan formed the Friends group, which plans to work with the Park Department, community and preservation organizations to beautify and maintain the park, further the Olmsted open space concept, help with programs and ensure park safety. The park’s original 35 acres were dedicated in 1898. For information, please call Chairman Pat Stewart at 951-686-5595. Pat wrote a history of the park, *Fairmount Park, Riverside’s Treasure*.

—Pat Stewart
INTERNATIONAL
Mount Royal, Montreal, Quebec (Canada)

The Park/Pine interchange, blocking both visual and physical access to Mount Royal Park for 40 years, was demolished and replaced with new roadways, bicycle paths and green space. The continuation of the Olmsted carriage road, a secondary pathway system and several stairways have all been carefully integrated into a new landscape. Olmsted had named this area Cote Placide and described it as a pastoral transition between the city and the Mountain.

The project, designed to restore the mountain experience at the edge of the city, includes the planting of 300 trees and thousands of shrubs and perennials. Total cost of the 28-acre project, including major infrastructure and roadwork, was $30 million (Canadian).

In 1992 the City of Montreal adopted a Master Plan for Mount Royal resulting in important enhancements for the park and neighboring institutions. Recently, the city, along with institutions surrounding the park and advocacy groups, has redefined the plan to ensure the continued protection and rehabilitation not just of the park but of the entire mountain territory in keeping with its designation as a Natural and Historic District by the Quebec Ministry of Culture.

A public consultation on a Revised Master Plan will be held this spring under supervision of the Office de Consultation Publique de Montréal (OCPM) to discuss heritage, landscape, ecological and management issues. Information on the revised plan is posted on OCPM’s website www2. ville.montreal.qc.ca; all are invited to comment.

—Daniel Chartier

Save The Park! has been fighting since October 2006 to preserve historic, Olmsted-inspired Westmount Park, Quebec (Field Notes, Spring 2007), appealing plans by Westmount’s Mayor and Municipal Council to cover the park’s south meadow with synthetic turf. To win the city’s approval for natural grass refurbishment in December 2007, Save The Park! mounted a public campaign. At a public meeting in May 2007, Westmount residents rejected artificial turf after seeing satellite, infra-red photos (www.savewestmountpark.com) showing the contrast between the “heat island effect” of synthetic surfaces and the relatively cool air above natural grass. Until the end of 2007, Save The Park! and its local allies had to parry attempts to enclose part of the grass fields with a fence. Save The Park! thanks NAOP for support shown throughout.

—Patrick Barnard
ADVOCACY

Update on Riverside, IL
NAOP now has a copy of its *Evening of Olmsted*, the panel discussion mounted last April in Riverside with Victoria Ranney, Susan West Montgomery and David Bahlman, for its official files. The program was provided to Riverside residents, broadcast live and repeated for weeks in rotation, and placed in the collection of the Riverside Public Library to help with prospective planning discussions. It will be made available on NAOP’s website in the future.

Correction
In our Fall 2007 Field Notes we mistakenly noted some minor elements of the many discussions taking place simultaneously in Riverside last spring. For clarification:

- The proposed TIF district was shelved by the Village Board after it was rejected in last May’s referendum by a four-to-one vote.
- In a visioning session related to the TIF debate, one participant proposed consideration of an amphitheatre in Riverside’s Swan Pond; however, a proposal for an amphitheater was not part of the TIF feasibility study.
- Riverside’s longtime pedestrian underpass, an early 20th century tunnel, has hefty maintenance costs the village has trouble funding. Bonding for a proposed rebuild was rejected by voters.

NAOP appreciates comments from Field Notes readers.

(Continued from cover)

NAOP AND NPS REPUBLISH THE MASTER LIST OF DESIGN PROJECTS 1857-1979

This *Master List* tells an astounding story about the influence of the Olmsteds and their partners on the built landscape in the United States and abroad. As Charles E. Beveridge details in his introductory essay, the firm drew plans for more than 700 public parks and parkways, 2,000 private estates, 350 suburban communities, 250 college and school campuses, almost 100 residential institutions, more than 100 public buildings, 125 commercial buildings and 75 churches.

The *Master List* features new sections to help individuals and professionals understand, restore and protect Olmsted designs in their communities. An essay on researching an Olmsted landscape provides a practical approach for starting this process. Other essays describe the Olmsted influence on the development of the National Park Service and the firm’s impact on the development of landscape architecture practice beyond America’s borders.

The book is the result of a heroic effort by the editorial team of NAOP board members Lucy Lawliss, Caroline Loughlin and Lauren Meier, along with the Advisory Committee of Lee Farrow Cook, Alan Banks, Anthony Reed, Liza Stearns and Jill Trebbe, all at Fairsted; and Olmsted scholars Charles E. Beveridge and Arleyn A. Levee. Many thanks to Cynthia Sanford, who, as project coordinator, ably shepherded the publication under a tight timeframe from a conceptual to printed form; and to graphic designer Jamison Spitler who brought the information together magically. Many other individuals, including current and former NAOP trustees and members, contributed to this edition. They include Jerry Arbes, Julia S. Bachrach, Ethan Carr, Rolf Diamant, Nancy Pollack-Ellwand, Myra Harrison, Susan L. Klaus, Francis R. Kowsky, Catherine Nagel and Ann Knight.

NAOP IS GRATEFUL TO THE PROJECT’S SPONSORS:

- Hubbard Educational Foundation
- Central Park Conservancy
- Felicia Fund
- Pressley Associates
- National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NPS)
- Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation (NPS)
- Quennell Rothschild and Partners, LLP
- Reed Hildebrand Associates Inc.
- Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc.
- The Jaeger Company
- The Trust for Public Land
- Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC.
Coming in April 2008—The National Association for Olmsted Parks is pleased to announce the re-publication of

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

Edited by Lucy Lawliss, Caroline Loughlin and Lauren Meier with essays by Julia S. Bachrach, Charles Beveridge, Ethan Carr, Lee Farrow Cook, Rolf Diamant, Nancy Pollack-Ellwand, Susan Klaus, Francis Kowsky, Arleyn Levee, Catherine Nagel, Anthony Reed and Jill Trebbe.

When the field of landscape preservation and our awareness of the Olmsted design legacy was in its promising infancy, *The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm* was the essential reference. Twenty years later, this new edition, brought to life with contemporary photography and evocative essays, is as much a cause of celebration as the hundreds of Olmsted designs that have been preserved and interpreted by communities all across America.

— Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR, Founder + President, The Cultural Landscape Foundation

Please send your order to: National Association for Olmsted Parks Book Orders, P.O. Box 104, Tranquility, NJ 07879; fax to 973.383.4877; or e-mail to cpa-naop@customfulfillment.com. For customer service, call 973.383.4488. Thank you for your order!

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2007: CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL PARK COMPETITION (PART 2)

commissioners, the park’s 843-acres were completed by 1873. After five more years of political battles, an embittered Olmsted left Central Park never to return. Nonetheless, he fought the park’s mismanagement from afar, confessing to Vaux, “[T]here is no other place in the world that is home to me. I love it all through and all the more for the trials it has cost me.”

In his 1882 essay “Spoils of the Park” Olmsted noted that because of Central Park’s uniqueness it needed an innovative form of management. He recommended that an executive office, a skilled landscape architect and an unpaid and informed board of directors oversee the decisions for the park.

After the death of Vaux (1895) and Olmsted (1903), Central Park began a steady decline. Samuel Parsons, the Parks Department landscape architect and Vaux’s able successor, was constantly challenged in his fight to save the park from politicians and opportunists, who threatened to encroach on precious parkland and who cared for neither responsible

PUBLICATIONS


This is the third collection of essays about landscape from Princeton Architectural Press, following Recovering Landscape (1999) and The Landscape Urbanism Reader (2006). As before, the essays tend toward the theoretical, but here they are anchored in current examples in which the Central Park model of constructed landscapes as opposed to ones left “as found” has been applied. Parks receiving attention from the essayists include Fresh Kills, New York; Golden Gate Park, San Francisco; the Bois de Boulogne in Paris and the new Parc du Sausset outside the city; Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord in Germany; Bos Park in Amsterdam; and Centennial Parklands in Sydney.


When Fairysted, the Olmsted home and office in Brookline, became part of the national park system in 1979, park administrators were unprepared by standard National Park Service practices to deal with its unique challenges. The house came with only 1.75 acres but vast contents, including 120,000 uncatalogued drawings. It brought with it a tradition amounting to an imperative for furthering Olmsted principles of design, not just in the restoration of Olmsted-designed projects but in all landscapes. David Allen, a consulting historian, records in this administrative history how the Park Service’s unwieldy decision-making process has gradually moved over nearly 30 years from resisting to leading the recognition of landscape as a cultural resource.


This volume is part of Arcadia Publishing’s extensive Images of America series. Using Arcadia’s standard format of two illustrations per page (and no index), Albano, a landscape architect and county park employee, charts the course of the county’s parks from a scattering of private open spaces set aside by real estate promoters to the modern system of 15,000 acres. A board of park commissioners first met in 1889, and F.L. Olmsted & Co. designed three of the first parks. Lake Park, which for many defines the image of the city, and Riverside Park were connected by Newberry Boulevard. Washington Park became a focus for recreational facilities, including a zoo, racetrack and bandshell.


This modestly priced, horizontal-format paperback recounts the story of the Mall, from Pierre L’Enfant’s 1791 plan for the capital city, through the transgressions of the 19th century, to the McMillan Plan of 1902 and the century since then needed to implement it, with setbacks such as wartime temporary buildings and funding cuts. Exceptionally apt illustrations in color and black-and-white reinforce histories of each feature of the Mall and its surroundings, past and present, including FLO’s masterful design for the Capitol grounds.
management nor necessary maintenance. In his *Memoirs*, published posthumously in 1926, Parsons had written poignantly of both his despair for the present and his hope for the future of the park.

Let me now make a confession of Faith. Notwithstanding the fact that for twenty-five years I have been struggling not only to defend the Park from attacks of all kinds, but also hoping, above all, to make the government and citizens realize its forlorn condition and provide a remedy, and having apparently failed, I believe still that the Park will eventually be restored to something of its pristine beauty. It may not be through my own efforts, but someone will undoubtedly do it. The New York American public will never allow their greatest treasure to pass entirely out of existence as a thing of beauty.

To some degree “master builder” Robert Moses heeded Parsons’ call when he arrived as Park Commissioner in 1934. Moses brought management, maintenance and programming to the park—though he destroyed many of Vaux’s elegant structures and obliterated important landscapes and views when adding cultural and recreational facilities. When he left office in 1960 neither funds nor management plans were put in place; therefore the park began a serious downward spiral once again. In the following decades Central Park became the stage for popular mass events that brought both new energy and new erosion to the park. With severe cutbacks in the city budget and no leadership or accountability for park staff, the park became an unsightly and lawless ruin. The national treasure became the national disgrace.

A small band of visionary citizens knew that something desperately needed to be done. In 1979 Mayor Edward I. Koch and Parks Commissioner Gordon J. Davis appointed urban planner Elizabeth Barlow (now Rogers) to the newly established position of Central Park Administrator—the “executive office” that Olmsted had wisely envisioned for the park’s care.

In 1980, Koch, Davis and Barlow established a public-private partnership, forming the Central Park Conservancy, akin to the impartial, unpaid board of directors that Olmsted had envisioned. The Conservancy began to raise private monies to supplement the dwindling city budget, and gradually took on more and more management and maintenance responsibilities. The “New York American public” finally heeded Parsons’ cry for help and vowed to “never allow their greatest treasure to pass entirely out of existence as a thing of beauty.”

Today Central Park has never been more beautiful or better managed, and the Conservancy is proud to be the leader of the park’s longest period of sustained health and beauty. In 2008 we celebrate not only Olmsted and Vaux’s work as designers but also the realization of Olmsted’s management vision ensuring, once and for all, that one of the most important works in both his and Vaux’s distinguished careers receives the protection it needs to survive and flourish. Olmsted would be gratified that his beloved masterpiece is at last under the expert care of an executive who is both an able manager and a professional landscape architect, Conservancy President and Central Park Administrator Douglas Blonsky, and a caring Board of Trustees that not only plans for the park today but also *finally* plans for the park’s future. Mistrustful of city government, Olmsted never could have imagined the consummate professionalism of today’s Parks Department under the strong leadership of Commissioner Adrian Benepe, who also has a distinguished career in park management.

Perhaps the Conservancy’s greatest and proudest legacy will be its inspiration to private citizens across America and the world that—like the dedicated New Yorkers who reversed the decline of Central Park—they too can make a significant contribution to the quality of life in their community with sensitive restoration, thoughtful management and wise planning for their own precious urban park.

—Sara Cedar Miller
NAOP EVENTS

NAOP Greensward Plan 150th Anniversary Dinner

NAOP will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Olmsted and Vaux Greensward Plan design with a festive dinner featuring introductory remarks by Charles E. Beveridge followed by guest speaker and renowned Lincoln scholar, Harold Holzer. In his talk, “Lincoln and Olmsted: Civil War and the Landscape of Urban Life”, Holzer will explore the relationship between Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Law Olmsted and their shared vision for democracy.

A benefit for NAOP, the event will be held at The Century Association on April 28, the day the Greensward Plan was adopted in 1858. Several generations of the Olmsted family, including Frederick Law Olmsted, were members of The Century Association, housed in the historic McKim Mead & White Beaux Arts building at 7 West 43rd Street, New York City. For more information or to request an invitation, please call NAOP or e-mail gestramiris@cpa-naop.org.

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

The NAOP Board will meet in New York City in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the Greensward Plan. The Central Park Conservancy (CPC) will host the meeting at Central Park’s Charles A. Dana Discovery Center, including a tour of the Dana Center and park areas by NAOP trustee Laura Starr, former Chief of Design for Central Park. Board members will also participate in CPC and Metropolitan Museum of Art events surrounding the celebration, tour Morningside Park and host guests at the NAOP fundraising dinner on April 28.

PAST EVENTS

Maintaining Historic Urban Parks Workshop
NAOP in partnership with the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service, held a first Maintaining Historic Urban Parks workshop in Washington, DC, November 5-8, 2007. The sold-out event, in collaboration with the NPS National Capital Region and Park Cultural Resources Program and the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, began with a tour along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, which celebrated its 75th anniversary that week. Led by Tim David, PhD, NPS historian and author of America’s Park Roads and Parkways, and Maureen Joseph, lead historical landscape architect for the National Capitol Region, the day featured behind-the-scenes looks at Mount Vernon with site manager, Dean Norton; the NPS “Elm replacement project” with NPS horticulturists Rob DeFeo and Barry Stahl; a site visit to view preservation efforts at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial with Andy Wenchel, Historical Architect; and a discussion on the Lincoln Memorial cultural landscape led by Maureen Joseph, author of the Memorial cultural landscape report, and Alice McClarty, landscape architect for the Mall.

The following days offered presentations on the challenges of maintaining historic urban parks. Douglas Blonsky, President of the Central Park Conservancy, set the tone with an outstanding kick-off. Speakers covered topics including management of aged trees (Kevin Smith, U.S. Forest Service), retention of turf in high use parks (Kevin Trotta) and special event planning in historic urban parks (Jim Jacobs). A day of field sessions showed how sites around the nation’s capital tackle these issues. Field exercises included projects at Meridian Hill Park, the National Mall and the U.S. Capitol Grounds.

With the success of this course and the great need for work-
shops addressing maintenance and management of historic urban landscapes, NAOP and the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation intend to offer a course on this topic again on the west coast in 2009. A one-day workshop is planned for the Pittsburgh Body and Soul parks conference in September.

For more information, please contact NAOP or Charlie Pepper at 617-241-6954 x260, charlie_pepper@nps.gov.
—Lucy Lawliss

**NAOP Fall 07 Board Meeting in Spokane**

NAOP trustees traveled to Spokane, WA, for the September board meeting and a preview of Spokane’s celebration of the centennial of their Olmsted parks plan. Tours of Spokane’s Olmsted parks and neighborhoods, a presentation by historian Sally Reynolds, a reception at the Arbor Crest Winery and *The Olmsteds in Spokane* exhibit at the Museum of the Northwest in honor of the centennial (and opened early for our visit) made for a rich experience. The meeting hotel, founded by a client of the Olmsted Brothers, Louis Davenport, was a beautifully restored building of sumptuous public rooms rescued from the wrecking ball by a dedicated group of Spokane citizens.

The commitment of the Spokanians we met and their evident pride in their Olmsted legacy was energizing and inspiring. These citizens of the “Inland Empire” have much to be proud of in their stewardship of their parks. The reprint by the Spokane Parks Foundation of the Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, including the Olmsted Brothers 1908 Report, was another highlight of the centennial celebration. The Report has guided park development throughout the last century and continues to do so to the present. NAOP thanks landscape architect Kenneth Laxton and his committee for providing such a fine experience.

**OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Landscape as Art is the subject of the 2008 Connecticut Frederick Law Olmsted Day celebration at the New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT, on Friday, May 2, 8:30 am-3:00 pm. Morgan Fippinger from the museum and Charles Birnbaum, President of the Cultural Landscape Foundation, will speak in the morning. Lunch and birthday cake will be followed by updates from organizations involved with cultural landscapes in Connecticut and discussions of the history and current use of Walnut Hill Park designed by Olmsted, Vaux & Co. in 1870. Attendees will have time to tour the park and galleries. For more information, contact Norma Williams at 203-431-5866, norma_williams@sbcglobal.net.
—Norma Williams

Mark your calendars for the meeting of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, October 13-17 in Montreal! The Alliance will collaborate in the celebration of its 30th anniversary with the Association of Preservation Technology—celebrating its 40th anniversary—by having a combined conference. The overall conference theme is Interdisciplinary Collaboration, with the Alliance hosting the sub-theme on the Conservation of Urban Landscapes.

**STAFF CHANGES AT NAOP**

**Iris Gestram** joined the NAOP staff as Assistant Director in December 2007. Iris has an extensive professional background in the public horticulture and historic garden field, having served as department head for education and visitor services at both historic Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA, and the Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. designed Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, FL. Her experience includes public programming and services, promotions, strategic planning and archival management as well as horticulture and historic landscape preservation.

**Cynthia Sanford** will be working as full-time Assistant Director for City Parks Alliance, and will continue to be involved with joint CPA-NAOP programs.

In March, NAOP welcomed **Angelina Horn** as the new Membership Coordinator/Office Manager. Angelina’s background includes a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and positions as Program and Development Assistant with the Nevada Arts Council and, most recently, the Children’s Defense Fund in Washington, D.C.

Membership Coordinator **Marisa Lau** left the office in March to pursue graduate studies in Istanbul, Turkey. We wish Marisa well as she embarks on an exciting new chapter in her career.
The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is proud to be the local host for the 2008 International Urban Parks Conference, *Body and Soul: Parks and the Health of Great Cities*, in Pittsburgh September 21-23. Co-sponsored by NAOP, City Parks Alliance and the City of Pittsburgh, the conference will bring together national and international leaders working to create, preserve and rehabilitate urban and historic parks to promote the health and vitality of their cities.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Meet innovators from around the world with a vision for urban parks as centers of health and well-being for people of all ages.
- Hear inspiring keynotes from environmentalist and philanthropist Teresa Heinz Kerry, human rights advocate Luis Garden Acosta and *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* author Richard Louv.
- Participate in a large selection of tours, on-site sessions and mobile workshops.
- See how Pittsburgh is restoring its parks and reclaiming its rivers, and why it has been named the Greenest City in America.
- Take advantage of pre-conference activities including tours to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater and the Olmsted-designed model industrial town, Vandergrift.

*For more information and to register for the conference, visit www.urbanparks08.org.*

Visit www.olmsted.org for updates on NAOP’s work to preserve the Olmsted legacy.