NAOP is the recipient of the 2008 American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Medal of Excellence, in recognition of “notable and sustained contributions to the management and conservation of natural and public landscapes.”

NAOP’s publication, The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm 1857–1979, is the recipient of the 2009 ASLA Honors Award, calling it “an important volume for all landscape architects and urban planners to track and research Olmsted projects in their cities.” In addition, it received the Boston Society for Landscape Architects Award of Excellence; and The Foundation for Landscape Studies 2009 Brinckerhoff Prize for “…significant contributions to the study and understanding of garden history and landscape studies.”

Without NAOP we may not have saved our park. Druid Hills linear park is the centerpiece of Frederick Law Olmsted’s design for his last suburb. When the park was threatened by a proposed roadway, NAOP elevated our fight. Here was a national organization giving us recognition.

—Sally Harbaugh, Trustee Emerita
Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, Atlanta, Georgia

Beginning in 1857 with the design for Central Park in New York City, Frederick Law Olmsted (1822–1903), his sons and successor firm created designs for more than 6,000 landscapes across North America, including many of the world’s most important parks. Olmsted’s remarkable design legacy includes Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Boston’s Emerald Necklace, Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, Mount Royal in Montreal, the grounds of the United States Capitol and the White House, and Washington Park, Jackson Park and the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. Olmsted’s sons were founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects and played an influential role in the creation of the National Park Service.

From Buffalo to Louisville, Atlanta to Seattle, Baltimore to Los Angeles, the Olmsteds’ work reflects a vision of American communities and American society still relevant today—a commitment to visually compelling and accessible green space that nurtures the body and spirit of all people, regardless of their economic circumstances.

The Olmsteds believed in the restorative value of landscape and that parks can bring social improvement by promoting a greater sense of community and providing recreational opportunities, especially in urban environments.
NAOP at Work

Advocacy: NAOP works to enhance the capacity of our national network of members and affiliates to preserve, rehabilitate and manage Olmsted landscapes in their communities and to carry the Olmsted vision into the future. In our nation’s capital, NAOP’s Design for Democracy campaign promotes the preservation of the Olmsted-designed U.S. Capitol Grounds. Visit NAOP’s Capitol Grounds website at www.uscapitolgrounds.org.

Research: NAOP works to document the extensive legacy of Olmsted and his firm through scholarly research and publications. NAOP supports the completion of The Frederick Law Olmsted Papers Project, a 12-volume series of Olmsted’s most significant letters, reports and landscape plans—an essential tool for historians, landscape architects, and local preservation and advocacy efforts. Learn more at www.olmstedpapers.org.

Education: NAOP works to increase knowledge among landscape professionals, advocates and lay people to support the preservation of historic landscapes and the implementation of Olmsted principles in contemporary landscapes. NAOP partners with national organizations and government agencies to develop education programs, conferences and workshops introducing the Olmsted’s work and the value of parks to people of all ages.

About NAOP

Can you imagine New York City without Central Park? Washington, D.C. without the National Mall? Or Boston without the Emerald Necklace?

Neither can we! For more than 30 years, the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) has raised awareness of the importance of the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted among public officials, community leaders, landscape design professionals and academics. NAOP encourages scholarship, publishes key reference materials, supports local park restoration, and provides technical assistance to preservation efforts.

The Olmsted legacy needs a strong national advocate. Historic parks and landscapes around the country face threats from development pressure, shrinking municipal budgets, and lack of understanding about the breadth and importance of the Olmsted-designed landscapes.

Established in 1980, NAOP is the only national organization solely dedicated to preserving the Olmsted legacy by providing the advocacy, research and education needed to protect, restore and maintain these exemplary parks and landscapes.

Join Us!

By becoming a member of NAOP, you will join a passionate group of Olmsted experts and enthusiasts leading the effort to preserve, restore and promote Olmsted-designed parks and landscapes.

Your support enables NAOP to continue its work to document and protect these historic places while strengthening the network of communities working together to preserve the Olmsted legacy.

As an NAOP member, you will receive:
• NAOP’s e-newsletter Field Notes with updates on Olmsted parks around the country, and Reprints, writings of the Olmsted Brothers
• Action alerts on urgent park issues
• Discounts on books and publications
• Reduced registration for NAOP conferences/workshops

Institutional members and members at the professional level and higher also receive:
• Listing on NAOP’s website www.olmsted.org with a link to your organization’s site
• Opportunity to promote your activities and events in Field Notes
• Advocacy support
• Research assistance

YES, I want to support NAOP’s mission to preserve & advance the Olmsted legacy. Join online at www.olmsted.org.

Individual Membership

$35 Friend
$100 Professional
$250 Contributing
$500 Sustaining
$1,000 Olmsted Society

Institutional Membership

$100—Budget less than $250,000
$250—Budget $250,000–$2,999,999
$500—Budget greater than $3,000,000

Institutional Members

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Email
Phone

My check payable to NAOP is enclosed.
Please charge my credit card
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Signature

Please mail check or credit card payment to NAOP, 1111 16th Street, NW, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20036 202-223-9112 (fax). Or join online at www.olmsted.org. NAOP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.