FLO National Historic Site Threatened

Fairsted, the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline MA, is under attack. A number of recent articles have listed it as a national park that should be sold because of its high cost per visitor. Defenders of Fairsted point out that the cost per visitor is not a reasonable way to evaluate its usefulness. Fairsted is not primarily a visitor attraction. Instead, its primary purpose is to house the Olmsted Archives and the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation.

Observers of the controversy believe that a "fact sheet" is being circulated with misleading information about the site. Several recent articles have targeted Fairsted as being too expensive to maintain. Articles include Trouble in Paradise U.S. News & World Report, June 19, 1995; National Parks: Too Big a Bargain by Tony Snow in U.S.A. Today, August 21, 1995; and an article in The Boston Globe on June 1, 1995.

Funding for Fairsted for the fiscal year 1996 appears to supporters to be adequate for the current level of operation. However, the outlook for future fiscal years is somewhat murky. One proposal being studied in Congress is to create an independent commission, similar to the military base commission, to study the park system and suggest more efficient methods of operation. Most observers expect that such a commission would suggest selling off some park service properties or attempting to turn them over to local groups.

Supporters of Fairsted emphasize the national importance of the archival research work being done at Fairsted. They point out that the use of the archival documents allows large numbers of parks to be efficiently managed and to serve well the millions of people who visit them every year.

If Fairsted is to continue to serve parks and landscapes across the country, incorrect news articles must be corrected. Congressmen must be educated about the importance of Fairsted to people around the country and to their own constituents. NAOP has developed a draft letter that makes some of the important points. See page 2. Local groups should include in the letter information about Olmsted research done by their organization.

A fact sheet about the FLO National Historic Site is included with this issue of Field Notes. The fact sheet is not copyrighted and readers are free to make as many copies as necessary. For additional copies, contact the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, 99 Warren Street, Brookline MA 02146, 617-566-1689.

Also available: Education, Archives, Landscape Preservation, a booklet with more detailed information on Fairsted and its programs and partnerships (including the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation).

LIMITED SPECIAL OFFER: Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape by Charles E. Beveridge and Paul Rocheleau; art direction by David Larkin.

While supplies last, NAOP is offering the book for $49.95 plus $4.95 postage and handling (total price $54.9, a savings of $20 off the retail price). Contact: NAOP, 7315 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 504E, Bethesda MD 20814; 202 362-9511; fax 301 469-3841. Include check for $54.90 for each book.

UPCOMING
List of Winter and Early Spring Landscape Conferences and Meetings. See Page 7.
ASLA Adds NAOP To Landscape Architecture Honor Roll

NAOP is one of nine new members of the Landscape Architecture Honor Roll of the Landscape Architecture Foundation and the American Society of Landscape Architects. This year, honorees were chosen for their work with urban parks. Others honored at the convention in Cleveland were: American Greenways/Conservation Fund; Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (especially John Seiberling, Hon. ASLA; Ralph Regula, M.C.; The Cleveland Foundation and the George Gund Foundation; the National Park Service; and the Cuyahoga Valley Association); Bill Flourney, FASLA; Lila Wallace-Readers Digest Fund; Metro Green (Kansas City MO); The Miller Family (Columbus IN); Parque Tezomzomoc, Mexico City; and the Trust for Public Land.

In honoring NAOP, the Landscape Architecture Foundation wrote: “Founded in 1980, the NAOP is dedicated to the revitalization of public parks and landscapes designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and his firm. From Seattle to Chicago to New York to Cleveland, park systems, parkways and standalone parks were designed with a still contemporary philosophy of linking people’s everyday lives to imaginative and restorative far-flung organization, works numbering in the thousands are represented through the NAOP’s clearinghouse function. Key parks are being saved and restored thanks to NAOP’s role as catalyst and chief advocate.”

NAOP Encourages Use of Sample Form Letters

NAOP has developed form letters to deal with issues that arise repeatedly around the country. This one address proposals to decrease or eliminate funding for Fairstved, the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. NAOP invites readers to use and adapt this form letter, adding local information.

Dear

We are concerned by the suggestions that have been made that the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (Fairstved) should not be part of the National Park Service because of low attendance. It seems to us that judging the site on the basis of attendance misunderstands its purpose. While Fairstved is open to tourists on weekends, its primary purpose is to house the Olmsted Archives and the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation.

The Olmsted Archives include about 150,000 drawings and photographs and other documents of Frederick Law Olmsted and his successor firm. Olmsted and his firm designed thousands of landscapes between 1857 and 1960, literally from Maine to California. Designs include parks from block-sized city parks to some of the major parks in the National Park system. A few of the sites are mentioned in the enclosed fact sheet. And the Olmsted designs still work. They provide spaces that let people escape the stresses of urban life and enjoy being together. The engineering provides excellent traffic separation and drainage.

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, a partnership between the National Park Service and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, is the Park Service’s only technical center dedicated to landscape management and preservation, training, and technology development. In 1994 the Center successfully assisted 18 parks with 35 projects. The Center has also conducted landscape maintenance workshops across the United States, reaching people in the public and private sector responsible for some of our most significant parks and open spaces. Fairstved helps thousands to millions of people every year who will never go there and may never have heard of it.

Sincerely

We knew that you would be interested in having accurate information. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to help you and you staff understand this important national resource.
NATIONWIDE

The Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Urban Parks Initiative has announced challenge grants in its program to revitalize parks in major cities. Projects include: $1.3 million to the Prospect Park Alliance, Brooklyn NY, to restore the woodland and increase use and stewardship by park neighbors; $1.45 million to Friends of the Parks, Chicago IL, for work in Garfield Park; $1.5 million to Friends of Hermann Park, Houston TX, for work in the Brays Bayou section of Hermann Park; $1.7 million to the Central Park Conservancy, New York NY, for expanded programs at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center and at Belvedere Castle; and $1.6 million to Friends of Recreation and Parks, San Francisco CA, for work in the west end of Golden Gate Park.

The Fund has also awarded $1.5 million to the Project for Public Spaces in New York NY to work as its partner in developing the Urban Parks Institute, “to help leaders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors share strategies for the successful development of urban parks.” The Fund is not accepting additional grant applications for urban parks pending completion of an assessment by RAND of Santa Monica CA.

Contact: Program Officer for Urban Parks, Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund, 2 Park Ave., 23rd floor, New York NY; 212-253-9800; fax 212-679-6990.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has formed three new partnerships: 1) The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) will join the Trust for Public Land’s Green Cities Initiative and offer technical assistance training in open space design and urban restoration; 2) TPL will join the National Civic League’s Alliance for National Renewal to help design a series of forums on the value of open space; and 3) TPL will aid the Urban Land Institute on a book about the value of open space.

EAST


A team of Quennell Rothschild Associates, New York landscape architects; Butrick, White & Burris, New York architects; and Raphael Architects of Hartford provided site and architectural design. The Bushnell Park Foundation raised more than $836,000 for the project. Some of the funding came from other sources, including the city of Hartford.

Contact: Sanford Parisky, Parisky Group, 730 Main St., Suite 904, Hartford CT 06103; 203 232-6710.


A number of park advocacy groups in Hartford have combined as the Hartford Olmsted Parks Alliance, named for Frederick Law Olmsted, who was born in Hartford in 1822 and is buried in Hartford’s Old North Cemetery. The move was welcomed by Sanford Parisky, NAOP Advisory Board member, vice president of the Parisky Group, and managing director of the Bushnell Park Foundation.

Contact: Sanford Parisky, Parisky Group, 730 Main St., Suite 904, Hartford CT 06103; 203 232-0641.


Benij, Williams and Zito, Inc., Cemetery Memorials recently completed repairs to the burial place of Frederick Law Olmsted. The cost of the work was covered by a donation to NAOP by Ashley Olmsted. Young people participating in Hartford’s Rangers summer employment program cleaned the site and planted vinca.


A fund-raising drive is now underway to finance the rehabilitation of the garden of the Wilson House, the home of Woodrow Wilson after he completed his term as President of the United States in 1921. A comprehensive historic-landscape report was completed earlier this year.


Archeology and the National Register by Jan E. Townsend contains three presentations from a workshop sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation: Research Questions and Important Information by Donald L. Hardesty; "The National Register and the 20th Century: Is There Room for Archeology?" by Susan L. Henry; and "A Site Form for Important Sites—Converting Archeological Reports into National Register Nominations" by John H. Sprinkle, Jr. Historical Research in the National Park Service, A list of "recent and current historical research projects sponsored or supported by or related to the National Park Service."

Both are included in Cultural Resource Management, Volume 18, No. 6 Supplement, 1995. ISSN 1068-4999. US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, PO Box 37127, Washington DC 20013-7127; 202 343-3395; fax 202 343-5260; e-mail greenberg@nps.gov.

The Muses of Gwinn by Robin Karson is a monograph on Gwinn, the estate of William Gwinn Mather on Lake Erie. Charles A. Pratt designed the house and garden; Warren H. Manning oversaw the plantings. Sagapress/Timberpress 800 327-5680. $39.95 (10% off for Garden Conservancy members).


Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is conducting a survey of the historic parks and gardens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. An initial inventory of designed landscapes created before 1950 will include parks, cemeteries, school campuses, and the grounds and gardens of private residences. The survey will consider other types of landscapes, such as amusement parks, golf courses, and highways. It will also recognize "significant examples of vernacular and folk gardening." The Foundation expects to list landscapes designed by the Olmsted firm, William Falconer, Ralph Griswold, and the firm of Simonds and Simonds. A book containing the results of the survey is planned.

Contact: Barry Hannegan, Consulting Director, Parks & Garden Survey, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 1 Station Sq., Suite 450, Pittsburgh PA 15219; 412 471-5808; fax 412 471-1633.

Pennsylvania, Vandergrift.

On April 27, a portion of the town of Vandergrift PA identified as the Vandergrift Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This year, the town, located approximately twenty-five miles northeast of Pittsburgh, celebrates the one hundredth anniversary of the design and beginning of the execution of the plan designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

In 1892 George McMurtry, owner of the Apollo Iron and Steel Company, originally located in Apollo PA, purchased a site of 640 acres of farm land adjacent to Apollo to provide for the expanding needs of the company and to establish a village adjacent to the plant that McMurtry described as "a working man’s paradise." In 1895 he contracted Olmsted to design a new town adjacent to a new industrial plant.

Olmsted’s town plan incorporated curving streets on sloping hills, areas of grassy open public lands filled with majestic trees, and a central business district, which was adjacent to a passenger railroad station.

SOUTH

Louisiana.

Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOSI) is now underway in Louisiana. SOSI, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) in Natchitoches LA and the Louisiana State University (LSU) schools of art and architecture in Baton Rouge are collaborating in the Louisiana section of this national project.

Contact: for northern LA, Sarah B. Luster, NCPTT; 318 357-6464; e-mail Luster@alpha.nslsu.edu; for southern LA, Barrett Kennedy, LSU School of Architecture, Office of Community Preservation; 504 388-6904; or Richard Cox or intern Wendy Post, LSU School of Art; 504 388-5408; or Jill Wiley, SOSI, 800 422-4612.

CENTRAL

Illinois, Riverside.

Dorothy Unger of Riverside IL has submitted a proposal to Postmaster General Marvin Runyon for a stamp to honor Frederick Law Olmsted and recognize his significance in America’s development.

Twenty years ago a group from Riverside, including Unger, traveled to Washington DC to request that the Postal Service issue a stamp commemorating Olmsted’s great contributions to American society and his extraordinary works and efforts that enhance our environment.

Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Facing a $678,000 budget deficit, the Minneapolis Park Board decided to let 10 per-
The Trouble with Wilderness: Wilderness is no more 'natural' than nature is—it's a reflection of our own longings, a profoundly human creation' by William Cronon in The New York Times Magazine, August 13, 1995.

"Isle in a Sea of Change: The restored gardens at Rancho Los Alamitos in Long Beach interpret the history of southern California" by Kathleen McCormick in Historic Preservation, July/August 1995.

"Master Planner: Hurricane Iniki offers a unique opportunity for the Allerton Gardens in Hawaii to restore their grand design" by Kathleen McCormick, Historic Preservation, September/October 1995.

"Good Deeds: Led by Martin J. Rosen, the Trust for Public Land helps communities retain and preserve their heritage of property" by Allen Freeman, Historic Preservation, September/October 1995.

Note: AABGA Publications has a number of publications that may be of interest, including: Conservatory Plant Sources compiled by Don Pylant and AABGA (American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta) Conservatory Committee, and Federal Funding Programs for Botanical Gardens and Arboreta by AABGA Resource Center. AABGA Publications, 786 Church Rd., Wayne PA 19087; 610 688-1120; fax 610 293-0149.

Clarification

The previous issue of Field Notes contained only a sampling of the many ideas presented at the conference in Asheville on "Balancing Nature and Culture." The complete proceedings will be available from NAOP in Spring 1996. Contact: Phyllis Knowles, Administrator, NAOP, 7315 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 504E, Bethesda MD 20814; 202 362-9511; fax 301 469-3841.

News from the Regions

In Maplewood, a first-ring suburb of the Twin Cities, residents raised $5 million by referendum to buy open space. The vote will require about a $26 annual increase in property taxes for each household. The median property value in Maplewood is $80,000. The land will remain undeveloped. Instead of being changed to ballfields or playgrounds, it will be left as woods, wetlands, or meadows. The Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy sent volunteers to clear trash from one 19-acre site so the city could accept the land.

West

California, San Francisco. Golden Gate Park.

In August police and clean-up crews evicted homeless people from the park and used bulldozers to remove their camps. Many of the squatters had already left the 1,000-acre area. The removal followed a shooting incident in which a police officer and three homeless people were injured and a police dog was killed.

Oregon, Portland.

Voters approved a $136 million bond issue to acquire new parks and green spaces. Planners for the parks department are working on sites for the new parks, many in inner-city neighborhoods.


The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation is distributing a Green Lake Vegetation Management Guidelines Questionnaire. The flyer emphasizes that the guidelines will affect only "vegetation-related issues" and are "neither a master plan nor a new design for the park." The questionnaire includes a map for respondents to use in marking problem areas.

Contact: Paul West, Urban Forests, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, 100 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle WA 98109-5199; 206 684-4122.

Quotations

"This sounds corny, but Fred's character—I call him Fred—was as important as his talent. He was an abolitionist. What business did he, a failed cabbage farmer from Staten Island, have going into the South and telling them that a society cannot be half free and half slave? That is not an idle observation. It is ingrained in the quality of what distinguishes us from other forms of animals that don't have the same kind of ethical, articulated philosophy. We have a higher duty. Fred saw man as part of nature, not as a brute or Darwinian survivor, but as expressing and listening to the music of the land."

Martin J. Rosen, President of the Trust for Public Land, on Frederick Law Olmsted, quoted in "Good Deeds: Led by Martin J. Rosen, the Trust for Public Land helps communities retain and preserve their heritage of property" by Allen Freeman in Historic Preservation, September/October 1995, page 71.

"Fenced portions of city parks should be set aside for dog owners to exercise their animals, and spaying and neutering must be made affordable for all owners." Kathleen Summers in a letter to the editor of The Washington Post, July 15, 1995.

"Biltmore's opulence exceeds even the prevailing standards of the age, and only the serenity and rationality of Olmsted's landscape design save the estate from vulgarity." From Olmsted's America: An "Unpractical" Man and His Vision of Civilization by Lee Hall, Little, Brown and Company 1995, page 201.
An Update on San Francisco's Golden Gate Park: From Frederick Law Olmsted to a New Master Plan
by Douglas Nelson, ASLA, Project Manager, Golden Gate Park Master Plan

Although Frederick Law Olmsted was not the creator of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, his ideas and influence had a great impact upon its design. While in California consulting on a number of projects, FLO talked to San Francisco's leaders about a great park for that fast-growing city. Local politicians were eyeing a barren, windswept expanse of sand dunes outside of the city boundaries. Their interest in this land was probably influenced more by political and land speculation reasons than good site planning for a great park. FLO told them he did not believe the site was conducive to the needs of an urban park. It was too far from the population, and this cold, foggy, and windswept expanse could not possibly support the growth of trees and other vegetation necessary to create pastoral and picturesque park landscapes. FLO suggested several other sites within San Francisco, which had a more advantageous climate. Not surprisingly, the politicians prevailed, and the Outside Lands, as they were called, were annexed and subdivided. A half-mile by three-and-a-half mile tract of a thousand acres, stretching right to the Pacific Ocean, was reserved for the park.

A talented young surveyor, William Hammond Hall, was hired in 1870 to survey the park site and later to create a grand plan. Hall, a true Renaissance man, first studied the science of dune reclamation, particularly efforts being made in Europe to reclaim large tracts of lowlands for agriculture. Beginning with Lupine and barley, the first vegetation was taking hold. Many species of trees were tested. Hall then studied the theories of park design, and he began an ongoing correspondence with FLO, who explained his ideas and recommended readings for Hall.

Today in Golden Gate Park, we see the results of this collaboration remarkably well preserved after 120 years. The park's curving roadways and articulation of forest and meadow bear the unmistakable signature of Olmsted. The preservation of the park and its design are more the result of resistance to any changes in this beloved landscape than to formal preservation efforts. The uses of Golden Gate Park have remained remarkably unchanged. However, like many other public landscapes, the park is threatened by reductions in public funding and by shifting priorities.

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department decided that a master plan was needed to provide that vision and lay the groundwork for the park's preservation and enhancement into the next century. The landscape architecture firm of Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey of Mill Valley CA was hired to produce the master plan. The master planning process was designed to build community support for the plan and awareness of the problems facing Golden Gate Park. The loss of the park's framework; its aging forest, is accelerating. Much of the park's infrastructure is more than 100 years old and deteriorating. At the same time, the level of city funding for the park has been in decline for 20 years. There has been a 25% reduction in the park maintenance staff, while maintenance needs are growing.

The Golden Gate Park Master Plan is the first comprehensive plan for the park since its creation. The master plan includes recommendations for all aspects of park management including preservation of the park's unique historic landscape, circulation, recreation and visitor facilities, buildings and monuments, utilities and infrastructure, maintenance and operations areas; provision for park administration and funding; and design of special study areas. A landscape design framework was developed to record the unique characteristics of the park's landscape. The purpose of the framework is to facilitate preservation of the landscape as it undergoes extensive renovation and reforestation.

The challenge of this project was to create a master plan that preserves the historic significance of Golden Gate Park while meeting the needs of a diverse community. This constituency will advocate for the park in political issues, foster a sense of community ownership that will see a greater role for volunteerism, and lead to the creation of a Golden Gate Park Conservancy organization dedicated to preserving the park by providing opportunities for private financial support.

Contact: Douglas Nelson, Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, 225 Miller Ave., Mill Valley CA 94942-0937; 415 383-7900; fax 415 383-1433.
Frederick Law Olmsted
National Historic Site
99 Warren Street
Brookline, Massachusetts

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) is widely recognized as the founder of American landscape architecture and the nation's foremost parkmaker. At the height of his career, Olmsted established a full-scale professional office in Brookline, Massachusetts, which expanded and perpetuated his landscape design ideals, philosophy, and influence over the course of a century. The Olmsted home and office were designated a National Historic Landmark in 1963 and became part of the National Park System in 1979.

The Olmsted Archives is one of the most heavily-researched museum collections in the National Park System, containing close to 1,000,000 original documents. Park and city planners from across the United States use these critical records each year to rehabilitate and rebuild many of the nation's most significant and beloved landscapes to the lasting benefit of millions of people.

Olmsted Archives

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Olmsted Project Highlights

The nearly 5,000 individual design projects exhibited in the Olmsted Archives include a significant number and variety of public landscapes: major metropolitan park and parkway systems, city and regional planning and improvement projects, school and college campuses, institutional grounds, and scenic reservations. Project highlights include:

Central Park, New York City, NY
Acadia National Park, Mount Desert Island, ME
White House Grounds, Washington, DC
Yosemite Valley, Mariposa, CA
Seattle Park System, Seattle, WA
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN
United State Military Academy, West Point, NY
Denver Mountain Parks, Denver, CO
Chicago Park System, Chicago, IL
U.S. Capitol Grounds, Washington, D.C.
Louisville Park System, Louisville, KY
Maine State Capitol, Augusta, ME
Cuyahoga County Park System, Cleveland, OH
Atlanta Parks, Atlanta, GA
LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION

The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site transcends the traditional role of a historic house museum by serving as a center for the study and preservation of landscapes. The Olmsted Archives assists nearly 1,000 individual researchers each year with documentation for Olmsted-designed landscapes. The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation shares technical expertise in historic landscape preservation and maintenance to better manage and care for parks and historic properties. Together these programs enhance appreciation and stewardship of America’s most valued public spaces.

PUBLIC BENEFITS

Major metropolitan parks, park systems, and institutional grounds created by the Olmsted firm between 1860-1950 provide people in our urban centers with opportunities for reflection, recreation, and revitalization. The Olmsted Archives is a critical tool for understanding and recapturing aspects of historic designs that may have been changed or lost over time. For example, documentation for Washington, D. C. provides details for over 70 landscape design projects attributed to the Olmsted firm including the U. S. Capitol Grounds, the White House, the Mall, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, National Zoological Park, American University, Rock Creek Park, Theodore Roosevelt Island, and the Washington Cathedral Grounds.

The Olmsted Archives is frequently consulted to rehabilitate and rebuild public parks and parkways. Tens of millions of dollars of public and private funds are currently being invested in urban park systems to renovate and repair Olmsted-designed landscapes. A few examples include:

- A $15 million bond is being used for capital improvements to the Seattle Park System’s 15-mile boulevard - one of the busiest commuter parkways in America serving a greater metropolitan population of 2.5 million. Improvements will include the purchase of scenic greenway easements alongside the boulevard and the reestablishment of park landscape connections lost from the original design. Records exist for over 120 Olmsted design projects in Seattle.

- $120 million has been targeted by the City of Boston as part of a capital improvement program aimed at the rehabilitation of 192 city parks and playgrounds including $20 million for the 1,300 acre Boston Park System - considered one of Olmsted’s finest achievements and serving some 4 million people annually. Over 2,600 plans and 800 photographs from the Olmsted Archives were consulted. Records exist for over 100 Olmsted design projects in Boston.

- $7.6 million was raised by the City of Louisville to begin implementation of a Master Plan aimed at restoring historic landscape features in three major Olmsted-designed public parks - Shawnee, Iroquois, and Cherokee - serving close to 1 million people. Over the next 25-30 years, an additional $50 million will be targeted towards ongoing restoration. Records exist for over 170 Olmsted design projects in Louisville.
THANK YOU

The National Association for Olmsted Parks is grateful to all contributors. The following have renewed their memberships for NAOP's fiscal year 1995-96 at the Donor level or above since the last Field Notes:

SUSTAINER

Beacon Hill Garden Club, Boston MA
Susan L. Klaus, Washington DC
Eric W. O'Brien, Medfield MA
Nicholas Quennell, New York NY
Noel D. Vernon, Pomona CA

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Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks, Buffalo NY
Canadian Center for Architecture, Montreal, Quebec
Frances Loeb Library, Harvard University, Cambridge MA
Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside, Riverside IL
Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks & Landscapes, Baltimore MD
Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Louisville KY
Prospect Park Alliance, Brooklyn NY

MILESTONE

Eric W. O'Brien will serve as the Chairman of the Board of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) for a 3-year term beginning in October 1995. He says he hopes to forge closer relationships between NRPA and the ASLA, NAOP, and the American Planning Association (APA).

U.S. Representative Barbara B. Kennelly, Connecticut, made a statement on the floor of Congress in recognition of the centennial of the Hartford park system. The statement read in part, "One of the driving forces behind the creation of the park system was Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, also known as the Father of Landscape Architecture. A native of Hartford, born in 1822, Mr. Olmsted went on to design almost 100 public recreation grounds and planned communities nationwide, including Central Park, Boston's Emerald Necklace, and the U.S. Capitol grounds."

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

February 8, Washington DC, "Historic Landscapes: Techniques for Identification, Interpretation and Documentation", $250.

Contact the National Preservation Institute, PO Box 1702, Alexandria VA 22313; 202 393-0038.

November 9-10, Wave Hill, Bronx NY, "Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture" sponsored by the National Parks Service Preservation Assistance Division, the Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the James Rose Center for Landscape Architectural Research and Design.

Contact: Chris Panos, Wave Hill, 675 W. 252nd St., New York NY 10471; 718 549-3200 x204.


February 19-24, Washington DC, "American Forest Conference" sponsored by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Contact: William R. Bentley; 203 653-3195; e-mail b.bentley@cgnet.com.

March 6, New York NY, and March 8, Longwood Gardens PA, "Roberto Burle Marx—Legend and Legacy" sponsored by The Garden Conservancy, the Americas Society, and Longwood Gardens. Explores the life and work of the Brazilian artist, plantsman, and designer. $115 ($95 for members of the sponsors).

Contact: The Garden Conservancy, Box 219, Albany Post Road, Cold Spring NY 10516; 904 265-2029.