Film Premiere Highlights
October Conference in Chicago

Those who come early to The National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Chicago this fall will enjoy some exceptional programs. The conference begins Wednesday, October 16 and runs through Sunday, October 20. The preliminary program is co-sponsored by the National Association for Olmsted Parks, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Planning Association.

Preliminary Program
Sat. • October 12
Attendees arrive Saturday, October 12. The Preliminary Program runs through Tuesday evening October 15.

Sun. • October 13
Early arrivals are invited to spend Sunday on tour with the Friends of Parks.

Mon. • October 14
On Monday participants will spend the day touring Riverside and other planned communities in preparation for the conference on Tuesday.

Tuesday • October 15
Tuesday features a full day conference “From Riverside to Sunnyside: Preserving Our Nation’s Historic Communities.”

The conference explores the premise: "If our goal is to manage historic communities that are cohesive and liveable without compromising their integrity, we must strive to develop innovative preservation planning and management tools to insure their cultural longevity."

The conference is co-sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Association for Olmsted Parks and the American Planning Association. Registration begins at 8:30 am. and includes handout materials. The fee that day is $150. Pre-registration is $125.

Tuesday Evening • October 15
The film "Connections: Preserving America's Landscape Legacy," narrated by Angela Lansbury will premiere. The film is a lush view of our nation’s irreplaceable legacy of significant cultural landscapes, from parks and gardens to battlefields and cemeteries. It explores the who’s, what’s and why’s of this important landscape mosaic. Tickets $25. Proceeds will benefit The Landscape Architecture Foundation.

Preliminary Program Contact:
Charles A. Birnbaum, National Park Service, Heritage Preservation Services Program (225S) Box 37127, Washington DC 20013-7127. 202 343-9507; fax 202 343-7127 or Phyllis Knowles, NAOP, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 504-E, Bethesda MD 20814. 202 362-9511.

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CONFERENCES

June 4 & 5, Washington DC
- "Cultural Resource Management Plans" presented by John Cullinane, AIA. Focused on developing planning tools for the day-to-day stewardship of historic and archaeological resources. Cost $275.

June 6 & 7, Washington DC

July 17, Washington DC

July 18 & 19, Washington DC
- "Cultural Resources and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)" presented by Thomas F. King, Ph.D., and Janet Friedman, Ph.D. Cost $325.
Contact: National Preservation Institute, PO Box 1702, Alexandria VA 22313. 202 393-0038

June 8, New York City
"Saturdays at the Cloisters," a day long celebration of the Cloisters Gardens including tours, a family workshop and special lectures. Contact: Friends of Fort Tryon Park, Inc., PO Box 8666, JAF Station, New York NY 10016. 202 923-3700.

July 10-13, Illinois
"Preserving Historic Cultural Landscapes" presented by Patricia O'Donnell and Noel Vernon. Limited enrollment. Deadline for registration June 1. Fee $500 includes accommodations. Some scholarships available. Contact: Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, PO Box 66, Mount Carroll IL 61053. 815 244-1173.

July, New York City
"Introduction to Conservation of Outdoor Bronze," sponsored by US Department of The Interior. Specific dates TBA, 6 days. Fee $900 includes equipment and materials. Contact: John Scott, New York Conservation Center, PO Box 20098LT, New York NY 10011-0008. 212 714-0602; fax 212 714-0149; e-mail: jscott@parix.com.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

WORLDWIDE
Lottery Benefits Parks—An article by Colin Amery in the February 5, 1996, issue of the British Financial Times reports that the National Heritage Lottery Fund, which distributes part of the proceeds from the National Lottery, has created a special fund of about 50 million pounds to "restore and rejuvenate" Britain's great legacy of public parks and urban open spaces. Included in the scope of this fund will be the historic cemeteries that also act as important green lungs in the cities." He notes that while Britain is thought to have the largest proportion of urban green space of any country, about 60 percent of Britons do not use public parks. Amery attributes to that the "rapid and depressing decline" in parks in the late 20th Century. He also applauds the efforts on behalf of Central Park, saying, "It [Central Park] is crucial to the happiness of that city and its restoration became a community activity at all levels." He concludes that the British deserves no less. "The effects on the happiness of millions will be both visible and subtle, but every tree in the cities helps our health and sanity."

NATIONWIDE
President Seeks End to Old-Growth Logging—In February President Clinton told a crowd in Seattle WA he would work to repeal legislation he signed last year that resulted in thousands of acres of old-growth trees being logged in national forests and other federal lands. The logging provision was part of a budget bill Clinton reluctantly signed believing the issue could be managed. White House Press Secretary Michael McCurry said that adverse court decisions had expanded the provision and produced unacceptable results. Clinton said he and Patty Murray, Washington's Democratic senator, will work together to push Congress for repeal.

Geese Be Gone—From Living Bird, Winter 1996 comes the following expert advice: "Paul Curtis, the Cornell University wildlife specialist who developed a methyl anthranilate treatment to repel nuisance geese, says tall fescue (Festuca arundinacea) is distasteful to geese. Periwinkle (Vinca minor), Japanese pachysandra (Pachysandra terminalis) and English ivy (Hedera helix) are other possibilities. Avoid Kentucky bluegrass—the geese love it."

EAST
District of Columbia, Washington
A Grand Plan—The National Capital Planning Commission has unveiled an ambitious plan to reshape Washington DC over the next century. The plan, which was six years in the making and cost $1.7 million, was applauded by President Clinton and booed by the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, a volunteer organization of local planners, urban architects and historians. The plan builds on, and some say improves, the original plans by Pierre L'Enfant and the turn-of-the-century McMillan Commission plan that shaped Washington's "monumental core." Public comment is invited and is certain to be received. The model and other materials will be shown from June through November at the National Museum of American History.
NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

East Coast Greenway
Link By Link By Link—The East Coast Greenway Alliance was born of extraordinary collaboration among groups and individuals who wanted to see the East Coast Greenway, “A Trail Connecting Cities,” come into being. The Greenway is a long distance multi-user trail that will connect the cities along the eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida. It will link local trails for non-motorized users. The national organization represents various public agencies, greenway advocates and user groups. At the state level, the Alliance defines the route within its state and works toward its completion. With criteria, guidelines and procedures in place, work has begun designating trail segments within the Phase I region (from Massachusetts to DC). The 10 links in the first phase would connect Olmsted’s Emerald Necklace in Boston with another Olmsted-designed greenway between government institutions at the Mall in Washington DC. Contact: Executive Director Karen Votava, East Coast Greenway Alliance, 481 Post Road, Wakefield RI 02879. 401 789-1706

Maryland, Baltimore, The Gwynns Falls Trail
Another Property Added to Trail—The State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore recently approved funds to purchase a fourth property needed to complete Gwynns Falls Trail. The 2.8 acre tract will link the new football stadium, Oriole Park at Camden Yards and the Inner Harbour, as well as protect important shoreline habitat. The Trust for Public Land hopes to close on the property this spring. Funds of more than $1 million in Open Space were used to purchase nearly 16 acres of property for Gwynns Falls Trail.

Funding For Grass Roots Involvement—Funding from the Merck Family Fund and the Lila Wallace - Reader’s Digest Fund has allowed The Parks & People Foundation to launch a new Community Grants Program. The program encourages community involvement in park initiatives and environmental improvement projects by awarding grants of $250-$1,000 to be used by groups citywide for the betterment of Gwynns Falls Trail. The first cycle of funding awarded $17,000 in 25 grants.

Construction Drawings Underway for Phase I—Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks has hired Daft McCune Walker, an engineering firm, to begin drawings on the 4.5 mile section of trail slated as Phase I of the Gwynns Falls Trail. The City hopes to begin construction of Phase I in winter of 1997. Funding for Phase I construction was obtained from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), city general funds and private funding sources. Estimates are that design work on Phase II of the Trail will begin this spring.

New York, Brooklyn, Prospect Park
Saving Brooklyn’s Last Forest —The initial step of a 25-year restoration of the Park’s forest is visibly marked by 3,000 feet of construction fence. The city capital project will combine with volunteer effort and the Alliance-supported Natural Resources crew. Ravine I, as the first phase is called, will restore the waterfall, Swan Boat Lake and the bridges on either side of the pools. About 7.5 acres of slope will be brought back up to grade and restored. The pools will be drained, cleared of exotic weeds and replanted. The waterfall will be rebuilt. In a new initiative, the Alliance has developed educational signs to help visitors better understand the progress in the woods.
Conferences Continued

November 16-19, Washington DC
"Playing For Keeps: A Game Plan to Save Outdoor Sculpture," a gathering to celebrate results and consider the next steps for action. Sculptor Luis Jimenez is the keynote speaker. Workshops Nov. 16, Fee $50. Town Meeting Nov. 17-19, Fee $100. Contact: SOS! Town Meeting, National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property, 3299 K Street, NW, Suite 602, Washington DC 20007-4415. 800 422-4612 or 202 625-1495; fax 202 625-1485

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

New York, Brooklyn, Prospect Park
Great Idea For Funding—David Miller is a frequent volunteer with Prospect Park, a marathon runner and an all around good guy. While training for the New York City Marathon, he would run 50 miles a week in the park. One day he was struck by the realization that the park was his health club and he decided he would donate $1 a day as his fee. Miller says "health clubs are boring and the park is always gorgeous." Miller also rides his bike, goes on picnics, attends concerts and generally enjoys the park, as well as making a huge contribution of volunteer effort. Miller has pledged that when he retires, he'll volunteer even more time.

New York, New York, Central Park
The War Continues Over Zoo—As previously reported here, there is a war brewing between proponents of new children's zoo and preservationists who want to restore the old zoo. Articulate advocates and funding on both sides of the issue have fueled the debate. Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern favors a new zoo and an undisclosed donor has offered to pay $4 million of the $6 million cost. On the other side, well-known architect and historian, Robert A.M. Stern, has called the children's zoo "one of the most architecturally significant post-World War II additions to the park." Those favoring restoration say they are close to raising the funds required for restoration. Restoration is estimated at less than $1 million. Respected groups such as the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Wildlife Conservation Society and neighborhood organizations are being drawn into the fray. And some of the most ardent proponents of a new zoo are respected preservationists, saying the old zoo was inappropriate to the elegant original design of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. Some say that, in the debate raging, the experience of introducing children to animals has been lost. Following hearings before the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Art Commission, the new zoo project will go ahead, unless opponents take it to court or the City Council. Stay tuned!

Absence of Controversy? Create It!—Since 1980, the artist Christo has wanted to mount an enormous work of art (temporarily) in Central Park. He offered to put up 11,000 arches, each 15 feet high, festooned with golden banners, along the park's 25 miles of paths. On his side of the argument, it would be installed just once, remain for only two weeks, be entirely financed by Christo including the environmental impact statement, insurance, cleanup, extra costs for police or park workers, etc. He even offered proceeds from commemorative merchandise to the Parks Department. Not surprisingly, his request was denied. But Christo takes the long view. After all, it took him 23 years to convince the German government to allow him to wrap the Reichstag last year. Berlin collected $100 million in additional taxes and the work was so popular that they asked Christo to leave it up longer. Will money make Manhattan relent? Christo says he hopes to install his "Gates" project before he dies.

New Hampshire, Cornish
Ellen Shipman House and Garden For Sale—Brook Place, the former Cornish Colony home of pioneering landscape architect Ellen Shipman, is offered for sale at $342,000. It features six bedrooms, three and a half baths, living room, dining room, six fireplaces and a large study with a secret door. The property includes a carriage house and is surrounded by conservation land. The extensive gardens await your restoration. Contact: Sally and Dennis Dinan 508 457-7543.

Books

Public Places: Exploring Their History by Gerald A. Danzer. A handbook to guide readers through the basics of finding facts and acquiring knowledge to create local history curricula or guides to the history and development of a community. ISBN 0-910-05088-0. Altamira Press for American Association for State and Local History. $16.95

Publications Continued


- Calvert Vaux: Architect & Planner by William Alex and George B. Tatum. A profusely illustrated volume with photographs, plans and drawings showing the range of projects Vaux undertook. Vaux was, with Olmsted, responsible for the two seminal park designs in the United States: Central Park in Manhattan and Prospect Park in Brooklyn. These prototypical examples inspired others across the country. Ink, Inc. Originally $100, now in remainder from Daedalus at $29.98.

- Invented Cities: The Creation of Landscape in Nineteenth-Century New York and Boston by Mona Domosh. Explores the question: Why do cities look the way they do? Using an interdisciplinary approach, Domosh shows how the “building elite” inscribed their visions of social order on distinct areas within the cities. ISBN 0-300-06237-0. Yale University Press. $35.00

- A Sense of Place, a Sense of Time by John Brinkerhoff Jackson. A pioneer in landscape studies offers a tour of past and present American landscapes, showing how our surroundings reflect important changes in our culture. Yale University Press. Cloth ISBN 0-300-06002-5 $25.00 Paper ISBN 0-300-06397-0 $12.00


NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

New York, Poughkeepsie, Springside

What’s Next For Springside?—Originally planned as a site for a rural cemetery, Springside eventually became the estate of philanthropist Matthew Vasser. Plans for both the cemetery and the estate were the inspired work of noted architect and landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing, who evolved two sets of designs until 1851, when Vasser began construction of his private estate. Tragically, Downing was killed within a year, before the extent of his design for its landscape was known. No known plans for the landscape exist, though documentation shows that his influence there is unmistakable. Therein lies the problem faced by Springside Landscape Restoration, a non-profit group charged with preserving the site, providing interpretation and public access. A 1988 site analysis by Walmsley & Company of New York determined that much of the landscape fabric was still in place, although obscured by invasive trees and shrubs. In the past ten years, Springside Landscape Restoration has made considerable progress in clearing invasive plants, made repairs to remaining structures and begun interpretive programs for the public. At this juncture, the organization has asked the Garden Conservancy to review their plans and operations.

Virginia, Annandale, The Potomac Conservancy

Olmsted Would Have Approved—The Potomac Conservancy came into being as a land trust to conserve and enhance the Potomac River and its landscape, particularly the 15-mile Potomac Gorge from Great Falls to Georgetown. Half a century ago, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. wrote, “the Gorge and the river which has carved it, together with its natural vegetation, constitute a complete and unique natural unit of extraordinary beauty, interest and variety.” He and his colleague, City Planner Charles W. Elliot II, left indelible imprints on the Potomac Gorge landscape and the course they set was followed by countless others on an evolutionary path leading to the birth of the Potomac Conservancy.

Water Recedes, Uncovers Ruin—When the flood waters that devastated much of the Mid-Atlantic region crested, the Potomac Conservancy was assessing damage to the C&O Canal within hours. They quickly designated their restoration priorities as: Locks 6, 7 and 8 and the rebuilding of the wooden footbridges on Olmsted Island. To accomplish the tasks, they are seeking people to volunteer funds, technical skills (including database, web page writers and photographers) and sweat equity from supporters. Contact: Potomac Conservancy, PO Box 2288, Merrifield VA 22116. 703 642-9880; fax 703 642-9881; e-mail at virginia@potomac.org

Baseline Study Underway—Potomac Conservancy volunteers, led by National Park Service biologist Chris Lea, are documenting flora and fauna along lower Bullneck Run on the Virginia side of the Potomac. The area includes second-growth mixed mesophytic forest left uncut since the Civil War. They have been aided in their work by Fredette Eagle and her daughter Tobitha Eagle Chung, who provided orientation and access to the Eagle family land. Development has been proposed for a 50-acre tract in this important watershed.
Publications Continued


- **The Botanical Gardens at the Huntington** by Walter Houk, Rosemary Verey, et al. Supervising editor, Peggy Park Bernal. A series of essays and an illustrated introduction to one of America’s great gardens, created during the golden age of horticulture of the early 20th century. Abrams. ISBN 0-8109-6317-7. $35.00

- **City Planning** by RotoVision S.A. New plans from around the world have been gathered to illustrate how contemporary planners adapt plans to the real needs of the population. Watson Guptill. Paper ISBN 0-8250-6499-9. $35.00

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**NEWS FROM THE REGIONS**

- **New Fish Passage For Little Falls**—There is steady progress and a final engineering design to accommodate a fish passage at Little Falls Dam. Although the dam, which was built in the 1950s, included a fish ladder, it failed to attract migratory species that once ranged as far upstream as Great Falls. Three fourths of the project’s $1.5 million cost will be funded by the Army Corps of Engineers’ Title 1135 program. The remaining non-federal match will come from State of Maryland mitigation funds. The Potomac Conservancy is the only non-profit represented on the task force that includes 23 federal and regional agencies, three states, the District of Columbia and the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

- **Minnie’s Island is Media Event**—The donation of Minnie’s Island to the Potomac Conservancy by Margaret Reuss, Johanna Reuss Baskerville and Barbara Miller became an opportunity to get the word out locally and nationally that rivers are being restored nationwide. Among those who visited the island during the two day dedication were 250 private guests, 1,500 visitors at the open house and some very important media representatives. CNN correspondent Kathleen Koch dubbed the island, “Washington’s Walden Pond.” Minnie’s Island represents an important parcel of land now protected by the Conservancy and, perhaps, an important example to the seven remaining islands throughout the Gorge that are privately owned.

- **Stepping Stones To Essential Habitat**—Mrs. Florence J. Lee has donated Golden Eye Island to the Potomac Conservancy. The tiny island had once been used by her husband as a hunting blind. It lies in close proximity to the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area, which already includes an adjacent Van Deventer Island. Golden Eye will eventually be transferred to Maryland Department of Natural Resources for inclusion in McKee-Beshers, adding another tract, which collectively provides important habitat for migratory birds.

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**CENTRAL**

- **Illinois, Chicago, Burnham Park**
  *Expansion Threatens Park, And Wins Big*—Despite opposition from Friends of the Parks on the grounds that expansion violates the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance by taking greenspace from the Burnham Park peninsula, the Plan Commission approved a new 65,000 square foot facility for the Adler Planetarium sited in Burnham Park. Further, $10 million of the $22.5 million project is financed by Chicago Park District bond issues.

- **Illinois, Chicago, Chicago Park District**
  *But There Is Good News*—More than 35 acres of asphalt, parking lots and concrete play slabs along the lakefront will be returned to green space by the owners, Chicago Park District. The program will impact Lincoln Park, Burnham Park, South Shore Cultural Center, Rainbow Beach and Calumet Park. The conversion represents an approximate $130 million addition of park land.
NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Illinois, Chicago, Indian Boundary Park Zoo
Small Zoo Remains Open—Last fall Lincoln Park Zoo said it planned to stop operating the small 61-year-old zoo in Indian Boundary Park on the Far North Side, citing sanitation problems and violations of federal guidelines. But concerned residents, including Friends of Parks and Alderman Bernard Stone, urged keeping the facility as a small petting zoo. City officials found by approving $50,000 for repair and upgrades they could bring the zoo into compliance.

Illinois, Chicago, Jackson Park
Another Expansion Threatens Park—Friends of the Parks has petitioned to intervene in the Chicago Plan Commission’s review of a park-related issue. The Museum of Science and Industry has proposed an expansion of Henry Crown Space Center in Jackson Park. The expansion would be in violation of a 1984 agreement that states the museum would not expand further into the park.

Missouri, Overland, Overland Wild Acres Park
With A Little Help From A Lot of Friends—With technical assistance from the Trust For Public Land, the city of Overland and a coalition of community advocates have convinced the local constituents to approve a one-year utility surtax, providing the final resources to purchase a 25-acre sanctuary of greenspace in the center of Overland. The land was owned, and had been occupied for 50 years, by Holy Family Seminary, a Catholic organization. Its price tag was $1.15 million. General revenues and a $250,000 grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation left a gap now filled by taxpayers.

Missouri, St. Louis, Forest Park
Renovation Begins In Earnest—Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, has pledged $2 million in funds and services over the next several years to help implement the park’s recently completed master plan for renovation. Monsanto’s support will primarily be directed toward a redesign of the lakes, ponds and canals that make up the park’s waterway system. A spokesperson for Monsanto said the company has “about 5,000 employees in the metropolitan area. So our interest in the well-being of this region is intense and we believe a healthy, vibrant Forest Park is fundamental to this well-being.” The master planning process was funded in part by a local advocacy group Forest Park Forever, as was an earlier study of the park undertaken by the Kelly/Varnell firm of New York. For the past few years, the city has allowed extensive citizen involvement through a master plan committee.

Good Press If You Can Get It—Forest Park rated a few hundred words recently in the February 24, 1996, issue of The Economist, a British publication. The article, “To be loved and give delight,” focused on the reclamation of city spaces across America and Europe. A significant comment was, “Across the Atlantic, St. Louis confirms a final point: a great public park can express, and may even encourage, a basic civility in people.”
Publications Continued


City Life by Witold Rybczynski. Architect and essayist contrasts the development of cities and the urban expectations of European tradition and American cities. Extensively reviewed by Jonathan Franzen in the February 19, 1996, issue of The New Yorker. Scribner. $23.00

The 1996 Garden Conservancy Open Days Directory. A useful guide to private gardens open Saturdays and Sundays, April through September. Gardens in Connecticut, New York Counties of Dutchess, Westchester and Putnam, and Eastern Long Island. Admission at the gardens benefits the Garden Conservancy. $8 retail, $5 for members. Include $1.50 handling and mail to The Garden Conservancy, PO Box 219, Cold Spring, NY 10516.


North American Landscape Trees by Arthur Lee Jacobson. Describes 5000 exotic and native cold-hardy trees. An A-Z listing includes thorough descriptions, common and botanical names, maximum potential size, drawings and photos. Includes information on how plants were named and a reference index. Ten Speed Press. Cloth $70.00 Paper $39.95.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Ohio, Cleveland
Free Professional Advice—Clean-Land and the Trust for Public Land have partnered to help revitalize the local parks. In November, the neighborhood-based Friends of Forest Hills Park & Parkway joined the efforts. Volunteers, from design professionals to the merely interested, spent a recent Saturday drawing a new vision of their park. A month earlier, on the other side of town, five teams of architects from around the country volunteered their time to produce a series of conceptual designs turning a neglected former industrial site into a park addition for Kowalski Playground. In both cases, the volunteer help from professionals has done much to galvanize the neighborhoods.

WEST
Texas, Presidio County, Mesquite Ranch
Gift With A Difference—A 40,000 acre tract of land (almost 50 times the size of Central Park), known as Mesquite Ranch, has been donated to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department by the Richard King Mellon Foundation. The 62 square mile gift includes beautiful canyons, bluffs and woodland plateaus, but its most striking feature is a private endowment established by Heiner and Philippa Friedman to maintain the property and offset the approximately $7600 in local taxes that would otherwise be lost. Barry Tindell, director of public policy at the National Recreation and Park Association, called the arrangement “a new phenomenon nationwide.” He said traditionally only established parks receive funding from non-governmental sources. He cited the more than $100 million raised by Central Park Conservancy as an example. He also noted that some land gifts have been turned down, like the proposed gift of a 2000 acre wildlife preserve in Peoria, IL that was rejected because the state could not afford the annual operating cost. Andrew Sansom, director of Texas Parks and Wildlife, said, “Though this might be a new concept for us right now, in the future a pre-existing endowment could be a condition of acquisition.”

Field Notes

A publication of the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP), 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Room 504 East Bethesda, Maryland 20814 Comments, news items and letters to the editor are welcome. Please send them to the address above.
Editor: Caroline Loughlin
Designer: Sandra Sparks

Newsletter Deadlines

Spring: April 15
Fall: September 15
Winter: January 15

8.
A Special Issue of the George Wright Forum

Balancing Natural & Cultural Issues in the Preservation of Historic Landscapes
Selected Papers from the National Association for Olmsted Parks Conference
Edited by Charles A. Birnbaum & Sandra Talant

Cosponsored by the National Park Service & the U.S. Forest Service

On April 20-23, 1995, in honor of the centennial of the Biltmore estate—Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.'s, last, and perhaps greatest achievement—over two hundred attendees gathered in Asheville, North Carolina to continue a discussion on balancing nature and culture in historic landscapes. Six plenary papers were selected for this first publication that reflect the issues surfacing throughout the conference: the relationship between people and the land; past and present, an integration between historical and current design, planning, and management; tools for interpretation and intervention; and, shifting anthropological, ecological and cultural values. The papers include: The Twentieth Century Park Landscape by Ethan Carr, Landscape Historian, NPS; Moving Toward the Middle in a World of Extremes by Robert Z. Melnick, FASLA, Dean, Department of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon; Can "Ecosystem Management" Manage Cultural Landscapes? An Ecological Perspective by Robert E. Cock, Director, Arnold Arboretum; The "Balance" Between Nature and Culture by John Dixon Hunt, Chairman, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania; Master Plan for Renewing Louisville Kentucky's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards by Rolf Sauer, Landscape Architect, Andropogon Associates, Ltd., and Integrating Cultural and Natural Landscape Values in Louisville's Olmsted Parks and Parkways, Patricia O'Donnell, Principal, LANDSCAPES.

To order a copy, please send $6.95 (check or money order only) to: National Association for Olmsted Parks, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 504-E, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814.

Name ____________________________________________
Affiliation _________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
ZIP Code ___________________________________________
Reclaiming Waterways—
Protecting Watersheds

It comes as no surprise to colleagues in the west that issues surrounding waterways and watersheds are attaining increased prominence across the land.

• The Trust for Public Land and Open Space Institute were key players in developing agreement on a general framework to protect New York City’s water supply. The choice was either protect the water supply by acquiring and protecting land around its reservoirs or be forced by the EPA to build a costly (perhaps, ruinously costly) filtration system. The Coalition of Watershed Towns had legally blocked city purchases of watershed land, even from willing sellers. The Coalition has agreed in principle to drop its opposition in exchange for economic assistance, regulatory compromise and assurance that the acquisition process will be a fair and open one.

• In New Jersey, 100 sites have been identified in Barnegat Bay watershed as most worthy of protection. They are part of a blueprint called the Century Plan, a long-term strategy to protect the Bay that was intended by the Public Trust for Land as a citizen’s guide to enhance awareness of the extraordinary resources of the Bay and its land conservation potential.

Urban river reclamation projects are taking hold across the country in an effort to reverse the decline and pollution that peaked in the 1960s. Impetus from the Clean Water Act of 1972, increased public awareness of the environment and the assistance available from the Trust for Public Land, are fueling the movement. As detailed by William Poole in “Rivers Run Through Them,” Land and People published by the Trust for Public Land, the time seems to be now.

• Friends of the Stream in Portland OR is trying to create a patchwork of parks along the Willamette and Columbia rivers and their feeder streams.
• The Miami River Neighborhood Restoration Association in Florida is working to create open space along the river.
• Boston groups are working together to acquire land for a twelve mile Neponset River Greenway.
• Designated the most endangered of the nation’s urban rivers, the Los Angeles River is the focus of groups that want to transform it into a network of trails, parks and natural habitat.
• Woonasquatucket River in Providence RI was so disregarded that a state park on its banks was abandoned and the river itself buried in a tunnel. As an economic attraction in downtown, the river has returned to the surface and a 4.4 mile greenway is proposed.
• Seventeen local bayou protection associations have sprouted in Houston and Bayou Lands Conservancy has accepted its first easement.
• While pressure is mounting for high cost development on the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta, five properties have been added to the Chattahoochee River National Recreation area and TPL is negotiating for five more. In addition there are plans to create a twelve mile river greenway through Atlanta’s urban core.
• The once infamous Cuyahoga River in Cleveland is the target of an ambitious plan that involves greenway and a National Heritage Corridor along the river and the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation. Once completed it will link Lake Erie to Zoar, Ohio, and will offer bike and hiking connections from Cleveland, Akron and Canton to the 32,000 acre Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

See also “News From Regions.”

9.
NAOP Board Bios

Mary Burns

For the past 10 years, Burns has been general manager of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, where she was previously the assistant general manager for finance and administration. She has had a variety of administrative roles under different San Francisco mayors and served as president of the Urban Park and Recreation Alliance, representing the 58 largest park districts in the US and Canada. Burns currently serves on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Conservation Corps, The Giants Community Fund, The Stern Grove Festival Association and the Sunset Parkside Activities Center. She is a former president of San Francisco Special Olympics and has been active on its Board of Directors.

William (Bill) Clendaniel

Clendaniel is president, treasurer and trustee of Mount Auburn Cemetery, America's first garden cemetery. Previously he served as both deputy and acting director of the Trustees of Reservations, a land trust. Clendaniel has been a practicing attorney in both public and private practice. He is the founder of the Historic Cemeteries Alliance and holds leadership positions with Historic Massachusetts, Inc. and the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation. He has served on many state boards and committees including the Statewide Advisory Committee for Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation. In 1993 Clendaniel was presented the Honor Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Paul Foster

Foster is principal in the firm FJJ Associates, which specializes in architecture, urban design, park planning and research. From 1988-94, he served as deputy manager for planning, design and construction for the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation. Foster has been an associate professor of architecture, program coordinator of urban design and visiting studio critic in the School of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado at Denver. He is a member of numerous preservation and urban design organizations including the American Institute of Architects, the National Trust and Historic Denver, Inc. He has also served as chairman of the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission. Foster has received awards from AIA Colorado, Colorado Preservation, Inc., Historic Denver and the University of Colorado at Denver.

Lucy Lawliss

In 1994, the American Society of Landscape Architects, Georgia Chapter, honored Lawliss with a Merit Award for her publication, "Residential Work of the Olmsted Firm in Georgia, 1893-1937." She has done extensive research on the Civilian Conservation Corps and the South's state parks. She won honorable mention for her entry in the Peachtree Street/Auburn Avenue International Design Competition, Atlanta. Lawliss is historical landscape architect, southeast field area, with the National Park Service in Atlanta. She assisted with the planning of the 1995 NAOP/NPS conference in Bilmore. Currently she serves on the Historic Preservation Commission for the City of Decatur and is active in the Southern Garden History Society. Prior to joining NPS, she was with private firms specializing in landscape architecture, historic preservation, architecture and planning.

Board Bios, Continued
Milestones Continued

Christy Johnson McAvoy, founding principal of Historic Resources Group, an historic preservation planning and development firm in CA, was recently appointed to the Board of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt.

NAOP elected officers and trustees at the April meeting in Portland. Officers are: Co-Chairs Charles A. Birnbaum of Washington DC and Caroline K. Loughlin of St. Louis MO. Vice Chair, Development Nancy LaColla of Newburgh NY. Vice Chair, Outreach John Karel of St. Louis MO. Vice Chair, Publications Arleyn Levee of Belmont MA. Vice Chair, Conferences Carolyn Etter of Denver CO. Secretary Edward Straka of Riverside IL. Treasurer Charles Gleaves of Indianapolis IN. Trustees were elected to 3 year terms ending in 1999. Elected to second terms were: Charles E. Beveridge and Charles A. Birnbaum of Washington DC and Kenneth Efphand of Eugene OR. Elected to first terms were: Mary Burns of San Francisco CA, William Clendaniel of Cambridge MA, Paul Foster of Littleton CO, Lucy Lawless of Atlanta GA, Arleyn Levee, Edward Muller of Pittsburgh PA and Alida Silverman of Atlanta GA. Continuing terms as trustees are: Janet Olmsted Cross of New York NY, Susan L. Klaus of Washington DC, Elizabeth Meyer of Charlottesville VA, Ann Satterthwaite of Washington DC, Suzanne Turner of Baton Rouge LA and Noel Vernon of Sierra Madre CA.

Honoring the late Rex Wassermann’s contribution to scholarship and his commitment to the restoration of Prospect Park, the Art Commission of the City of New York has renamed its historic files on Prospect Park “The Rex Wasserman Archives.” Before his death last November, Wasserman endowed a position for the Woodlands. Anyone wishing to donate to the endowment may do so by making a contribution in Rex’s name. For more information, call 718 965-8945.

Christian Zimmerman, Prospect Park Alliance’s assistant director of design and construction, has won his second consecutive Art Commission Excellence In Design Award for the re-design of Imagination Playground.

Edward (Ted) Muller

Muller is professor and chair of the Department of History, University of Pittsburgh. His publications include “The Olmsted of Pittsburgh: Part 1. Landscaping the Private City” and “Part II. Shaping the Progressive City;” “Before Renaissance: Planning in Pittsburgh from 1900-1940” (with John F. Bauman) and The Atlas of Pennsylvania as coeditor. Muller is currently working with Bauman on The Olmsted in Pittsburgh: Landscaping the Progressive City. He is a founding and active member of the Friends of Riverfront (Pittsburgh), the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation – A Pennsylvania State Heritage Park and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Historical Geography. Muller has served on the Historic Preservation Board for the State of Pennsylvania. Muller was honored for his support of the Pittsburgh Riverfront with the 1994 Clearwater Award from the Waterfront Center, Washington.

Alida Cooper Silverman

Silverman is president of the Olmsted Parks Society of Atlanta, Inc. and is a member of the Olmsted Ponce Park Master Plan management committee. She serves on the boards of the Druid Hills Civic Association and the DeKalb Historical Society. She is active on the legislative committee of the Medical Association of Georgia. Silverman is a member of numerous preservation, environmental and cultural organizations including the Georgia Planning Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Georgia Trust and Preservation Action, Atlanta Preservation Center, the Atlanta History Center, Zoo Atlanta and the High Museum. Prior to moving to Georgia, she taught in New Rochelle NY and worked as a counselor at the Army Education Center in Nuremberg, Germany.

Miscellany

Editor’s Note: We received the following information without attribution but couldn’t resist using it, or inserting City Park in New Orleans. Let us know if you have any additions or corrections!

“The largest parks located within the limits of American cities are:
1. Fairmont Park, Philadelphia PA - 3845 acres
2. Griffith Park, Los Angeles CA - 3761 acres
3. Pelham Bay Park, New York NY - 2117 acres
4. Rock Creek Park, Washington DC - 1800 acres
   [City Park, New Orleans LA - 1500 acres]
5. Balboa Park, San Diego CA - 1400 acres
6. Forest Park, St. Louis MO - 1380 acres
7. Washington Park, Cleveland OH - 1212 acres
8. Lincoln Park, Chicago IL - 1185 acres
9. Golden Gate Park, San Francisco CA - 1107 acres
10. Belle Isle Park, Detroit MI - 985 acres

“We’ve calculated the number of people per acre that each of these parks would contain if the entire population of their respective metropolitan areas could somehow be squeezed in. The people of St. Louis would have the most elbow room (at 328 people per acre), while the folks in New York City (surprise!) would have only a tenth as much (3,340 per acre). And if the list were expanded to include an eleventh park, things would really get crowded: New York’s Central Park would find 8,418 people crammed into each of its 840 acres.”
Milestones Continued
Elizabeth Bede has been named a 1996 Research Fellow by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. She is a Paul Cormans Fellow in the University of Delaware doctoral program in Art Conservation Research. Her doctoral studies focus on carbonate stones.

Ipswich: Italian Garden at the Crane Reservation was recognized recently with a Preservation Award by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The commission acknowledged the major restoration recently completed and recognized the workers and crafts people who labored on the project. Designed by the Olmsted brothers, the garden was built in 1911.

Thank You
The National Association for Olmsted Parks is grateful to all contributors. The following have renewed their memberships for NAOP’s fiscal year 1996-97 at the Donor Level or above after January 24 of this year:

SUSTAINERS or above:
Sarah H. Harbaugh, Atlanta GA
Catherine Joy Johnson, Bellevue WA
Noel Dorsey Vernon, Pomona CA

DONORS
Clyde H. Eller, Rock Hill SC
Bradley Hale, Atlanta GA

NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS
Downing Park Planning Committee, Newburgh NY
Druin Hills Civic Association, Decatur GA
Friends of Maryland’s Olmsted Parks & Landscapes, Baltimore MD
Friends of Seattle’s Olmsted Parks, Seattle WA
Montauk Friends of Olmsted Parks, Montauk NY
Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay NY
Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc., Watertown NY

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
East Bay Regional Park District, Oakland CA
Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, Lansing MI
Monroe Country Parks Department, Rochester NY
Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline MA

Self Funding For Parks—From New Orleans to New York

The decline of public funding and the increasing pressure on parks to generate revenues to support their operations is not a new scenario. It is, however, a familiar story and one that is repeated in every region of the country. As administrators and communities struggle with the concept of “selling parks,” it’s useful to look at three communities, with distinct histories and different approaches to the problem.

City Park, New Orleans
City Park began as many parks, a gift of 100 acres by a benefactor to the city. Along the way, the park grew to 1500 acres and became a state agency. Today, it is an exquisite site that draws more than 10 million visitors a year. But the Cinderella story had some twists along the way. In 1987, the state and the city simply cut off the park, withdrawing financial support but leaving its tax-exempt status intact. Since then the park has been self-sustaining, generating its own operating budget, which is $9 million this year.

Revenues generated by four golf courses provide almost $3.2 million a year. Newer enterprises, like catering, special events, fees for baseball, weddings, tennis and amusement areas, show that privatization has been successful, although it was unwilling. Park officials are quick to point out that, except for the golf courses, only 25 acres of the park’s 1500 acres require a fee to enter.

City Park was at one time entirely free. The Botanical Garden, Storyland, special events and other activities now require a fee. But the park, with no public funding, has to pay its bills, among them a $1 million insurance bill that takes 12 percent of the budget.

The tax-exempt status for the park has helped. Friends of City Park have raised $4 million to help maintain the trees in the park, build four new fountains and help build the new pavilion. Corporate donors and foundations have also helped with generous gifts. Now Executive Director Beau Bassich is trying to build a much-needed endowment for the park to secure its future.

Bassich has raised about $25,000 for the endowment so far, while Audubon Park, one-fifth the size of City Park, boasts a $5 million endowment. But Bassich is undeterred, as he has been since 1988 when he left his family business and began his 10-hour days at City Park where he is paid the astonishing sum of $1 a year.

Since funding was cut off, it has been a scramble, but Bassich sees some real positive features in being self-sufficient. Bassich says, “There is a certain security that comes with independence: not having to rely on money that could be yanked away at any time.” The park directors also have more control over the destiny of their park and they don’t have to deal with patronage. While no one at City Park talks about patronage, Geoffrey Godbey of the National Recreation and Park Association says, “A park that pays its own way can avoid patronage. And parks that avoid patronage are better run.”
Self Funding Continued

As City Park moves into the future, its operating revenues are fairly secure, its private donors remain generous and its endowment fund is small but growing. According to Bassich, the issue the park continues to face is “a difficult balance between green space and revenue-generating areas that can help us maintain the park.”

Parks and Recreation Department, New York City

Even the operators of the enormously successful Central Park face budget cuts in the millions and the “balance between the sanctity of public space and the clear need to generate revenues.”

The momentum to market New York City’s parks is spurred by an agreement with Mayor Giuliani that allows the agency to keep all revenues in excess of those earned in 1994. Those funds can be plowed back into the struggling parks rather than flow into the city’s general fund.

The first step was to re-negotiate all its concession contracts including pushcarts, a golf course and Wollman Ice Skating Rink. In highly visible negotiations previous franchise holders, including Donald Trump at Wollman Rink and the longtime operator of the Central Park carousel, were deposed. The result was a 46.2 percent increase (from $18.6 million to $27.2 million) in fees for the fiscal year ending this June 30.

Next came the more controversial push to market the city’s parks. Last fall Central Park’s drives were turned into a test road for BMW. DeWitt Clinton Park has been rented out to a dinner-theater production. The most publicized event was the screening of Disney’s “Pocahontas” in Central Park, which netted $1 million for the City Parks Foundation.

With New York as the nation’s biggest market, there is no shortage of commercial enterprises willing to sign on for special events, sanctioned merchandise, corporate sponsorships and advertising sites. Speedo, Rockport, Jan-Li-Bo (China’s leading soft drink company) have joined the line. The Department is considering endorsing a soft drink, an official tire and even its own credit card.

The public generally endorses the concession increase—the result of expanding some concessions and re-negotiating others. They are less comfortable with the new marketing angle. Neighborhood and civic groups are adamantly, for instance, about putting advertisements in recreation centers and Little League fields. The Parks Council, an advocacy group, essentially opposes signs anywhere in the city’s 27,000 acres of parks. The council’s Director Marcia Reiss said, “Parks are the places New Yorkers seek to restore their bodies and souls. They are too essential to the fragile quality of our lives as city dwellers to sell to the highest bidder.”

On the other side of the issue is Henry J. Stern, parks commissioner. His park force has been halved in the past five years and his budget consistently cut. His only choice is to find new revenue sources, among them corporations that make possible recreational events and park improvements that would not otherwise happen.

Fairfax, Prince William, Howard and Loudon Counties, Virginia

The fast growing and ever growing suburbs of Washington DC are facing cash-strapped local governments that cannot give additional funding to parks and recreation programs. So money-losing projects like new ball fields or hiking trails go by the wayside as fees at public swimming pools are up sharply. New golf courses, traditionally big money-makers, are replacing wooded areas and open fields.

At Braddock Park in Fairfax County, officials are considering leasing part of the park to a private entertainment company that will operate miniature golf and bumper boats. Prince William will be opening a self-supporting aquatic park and two new golf courses by summer. Everywhere there are new fees for traditional attractions, softball fields, light fees.

Residents question whether park officials have lost track of their mission. They are asking: What is the purpose of parkland anyway? Since everyone owns the park, why should someone be excluded if they can’t pay? and — Why not just put in another strip mall?

Park and county officials are not happy with the situation either. Prince William County Executive James H. Mullen says, “Do I think it is a good thing? No, I don’t. But that is the reality. People just are not willing to support additional taxes, yet they want more and more services.”

Perhaps, the dilemma is summarized best by Peggy Delinocci, executive director of the Prince William Park Authority. “You get into this field thinking it’s a community service. But the final reality is, it has become a business.”