In the work of the Urban Parks Institute, one theme not unique to parks has come up repeatedly: that more and more people are feeling a loss of community and a lack of connection to the changes taking place in their public environments.

This mirrors what Project for Public Spaces (PPS) has been finding, more and more, in 25 years of working to improve the livability of urban public spaces, including parks, plazas, streets, markets, public buildings, and downtowns. People complain about the lack of places to sit or stroll and a dearth of interesting or attractive things to look at. They lament the loss of centers where people can come together and take part in different activities.

Parks are no exception to this. Many city parks are losing their traditional identity as all-around centers for community interaction. Often, parks only house a loose string of recreational facilities, such as ballfields, pools, and playgrounds, each meant to serve the needs of specific users, each sited in its own silent corner of the park.

Every park built this way misses an opportunity to capture the hearts of local residents. How much better parks could be if we instead combined uses, reinforced a sense of place, and provided comfortable, sociable places flexible enough to satisfy all kinds of people.

There is much out there to teach us. Americans used to build good parks as a matter of course, and many parks have retained their beloved status in their surrounding neighborhoods. Frederick Law Olmsted understood the value of creating destinations to be discovered and experienced, of character-defining features that showed a commitment to quality, of accommodating diverse uses and acknowledging cultural needs. How, then, do we take the best qualities of traditional Olmsted parks and inform future parks, especially in the context of the diversifying populations of urban America?

Though it is difficult to talk about the intangibles that comprise a "sense of place," parks can be evaluated according to several key qualities: their activities and uses, access and linkages, comfort and image, and sociability.

A good example is Central Park's Conservatory Waters, otherwise known as the sailboat pond, which draws loyal crowds who are constantly entertained by its swirling mixture of children and adults playing, eating, and people-watching. New parks such as Granville Island in Vancouver BC combine active water play with passive play fields and, in the midst of it all, a restaurant/caf at

(continued on page 2)
The Urban Parks Institute Reports (cont. from page 1) which parents and spectators can sit and watch the activity.

Toronto’s Dufferin Grove Park has turned a once empty neighborhood park into a vital gathering place by incorporating nontraditional uses, like cook-fires and a Portuguese bake oven, that are customized to its ethnically diverse surroundings.

All of us in the parks profession ask what can make parks better places and keep them relevant, safe, and well-funded. If attracting more and better use is the key, then the context of the historic landscape must be joined—in sensitive, sensible ways—with that of its surrounding community.

This article was contributed by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Urban Parks Institute, a pilot project to educate leaders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors about best practices in urban park development. It is designed to promote interdisciplinary and collaborative problem-solving and to facilitate sharing of successful strategies among experts and practitioners in the urban parks field. The Institute is sponsored by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund and managed by the Project for Public Spaces, Inc.

PUBLICATIONS

OF SPECIAL INTEREST


- To Live In The New World: A.J. Downing and American Landscape Gardening - Judith K. Major. Examines the conviction of Downing (1815-1852) that landscape gardening should be adapted to America’s people and indigenous landscapes. Downing wrote the first American treatise on landscape gardening and edited the Horticulturist. MIT Press. ISBN 0-262-13331-8; $35.


State parks are finding new ways to generate money through entrepreneurial marketing strategies. California has used television ads, while Texas uses a mail-order catalog offering Texas-style merchandise. State parks are using new fundraising strategies out of necessity; according to the Political Economy
(NEWS FROM THE REGIONS, cont.)
Research Center in Bozeman, Montana, state park budgets have fallen 22% since 1980. Funds for capital improvements and maintenance have fallen 68%.

Ohio's state parks, which rent camping gear, have seen revenues climb from $12 million six years ago to $21 million today. An official from the Political Economy Research Center predicts that national parks will join the marketing efforts in the future.

EAST
The famous Japanese cherry trees around Washington's Tidal Basin are causing controversy as botanists argue over which trees should replace the original trees given by Japan in 1912. Of the more than 3,000 trees planted then, only an estimated 150-200 remain—and no one is sure exactly which trees are the originals.

The National Park Service has been replacing the trees with saplings from commercial nurseries. Charles Birnbaum, NAOP co-chair and coordinator of the Park Service's Historic Landscape Initiative, thinks that the original trees have such significance that they should be replaced by their own genetic descendents. The Historic Landscape Initiative recently developed guidelines supporting the preservation of original landscapes and plantings.

Bernard McLaughlin was a self-taught gardener who planted three barren acres with an array of plant specimens, some of which are no longer available.

Last year, McLaughlin died, leaving no instructions for the garden's care. When commercial developers expressed an interest in the land, hundreds of local residents picketed—and formed the McLaughlin Foundation. It seeks to purchase and care for the perennial garden, protect and preserve the plants, and establish a Center for Maine Horticulture.

(PUBLICATIONS, cont.)


- Civic Realism - Peter G. Rowe. Looks at the shape and appearance of civic places, and at the social, political, and cultural circumstances that bring them into existence. MIT Press. ISBN 0-262-18180-0; $22.50.

- Lewis Mumford and the Ecological Region: The Politics of Planning - Mark Luccarelli. Traces the development of Mumford's thought on ecology-based regional planning and how he tried to turn his ideas into reality through the Regional Planning Association of America (RPAA). Guilford. ISBN 1-57230-228-3 pb; $18.95.


- Growing Perennials In Cold Climates - John Whitman with Mike Heger. A fully illustrated volume on the 50 best perennials to grow in cold climates, as well as an encyclopedic listing of 1,700 plant recommendations of the most hardy varieties. HarperCollins. ISBN 0-06-273413-X pb; $32.50.


- Tender Roses for Tough Climates - Douglas Green. Green, a nursery owner in Canada, developed a totally new method of growing roses—without hilling or winter protection of any kind,
(NEWS FROM THE REGIONS, cont.)
The group has received endorsements from the Maine Olmsted Alliance and the Garden Conservancy, among others, and has raised $21,000 with another $35,000 pledged. The property is valued at $200,000. Contact: Ms. Lee Dassler, The McLaughlin Foundation, P.O. Box 124, Norway ME 04268.

Maryland, Baltimore.
Gwynns Falls Trail.
The City of Baltimore, State of Maryland, Trust for Public Land, and other organizations are developing the Gwynns Falls Trail. Construction on Phase I of the trail will begin this summer. Final design documents for Phase II of the trail are due in December.

Students from South Baltimore built two boardwalks and three observation decks along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, one of the many new destinations being created along the trail. The project was part of a unique employment program sponsored by the Trust for Public Land, Baltimore's Department of Recreation and Parks and Department of Planning, and the Parks and People Foundation. The students, from the Cherry Hill and Westport neighborhoods bordering the trail, were guided by the Living Classrooms Foundation, an organization providing job training for at-risk youth.

Maryland, Prince George's County.
Seton Belt Home Farm.
The Trust for Public Land, Western Shore Conservancy, the state of Maryland, and other partners have helped to protect the 515-acre mature forest property called the Seton Belt Home Farm, also known as the Belt Woods. It is named for William Seton Belt, Jr., the last in a line of family members to own the property.

The Belt Woods Management Council was recently formed to determine what level of research and educational uses the land can support. The partners are developing a management and stewardship plan for the forest, which

(PUBLICATIONS, cont.)


- The American Horticultural Society Pruning and Training: A Fully Illustrated Plant-by-Plant Manual - Christopher Brickell and David Joyce. A guidebook providing basic techniques for training plants at all stages of life plus specific information about pruning and managing more than 800 trees, shrubs, roses, fruits, and climbing plants. Dorling Kindersley. $34.95.


- Modern Landscape Architecture: Redefining The Garden - photography by Felice Frankel; text by Jory Johnson. 180 photographs, this book won the Award of Excellence by the Garden Writers
(NEWS FROM THE REGIONS, cont.)
is home to possibly the highest concentration of migratory songbirds in North America.

Massachusetts, Boston.
Emerald Necklace.
The Boston GreenSpace Alliance hosted an Emerald Necklace Conservancy Conference, along with Northeastern University, on March 24. The conservancy is seeking national funding totaling $75,000 to prepare an inventory of the woodlands in five of the six Emerald Necklace parks.

The project would include assessing the trees, creating maps, and replanting the parks' forests. The Conservancy says it will identify “alternative sources of funding to supplement the restricted budget of the Boston Parks Department.” The conference featured former NAOP Trustee Tupper Thomas, who heads restoration of Brooklyn's Prospect Park in Brooklyn with municipal and private funds.

The Conservancy had reason to celebrate in April when a part of the Emerald Necklace that had been turned into a Sears parking lot was returned to the city for restoration as a park.

New Jersey/New York.
Sterling Forest.
In February the Trust for Public Land and the Open Space Institute signed a formal purchase and sale agreement with the corporate owners of Sterling Forest, a 17,500-acre wilderness and watershed straddling the New York-New Jersey border. The two groups have one year to purchase 90% of the Sterling property for $55 million. Private and public sources have pledged $34 million. The forest is the last large privately owned wilderness in the New York City metropolitan area; the TPL calls it the single most important environmental issue facing the two states.

New York, the Bronx.
The Haupt Conservatory.
The Haupt Conservatory, a giant glass (PUBLICATIONS, cont.)


- A Garden of One’s Own: Writings of Elizabeth Lawrence - edited by Barbara Scott and Bobby J. Ward. Lawrence (1904-1985), a gifted landscape architect and writer, wrote more than fifty articles for gardening magazines, newsletters, and plant society bulletins—which are collected here for the first time. The University of North Carolina Press. ISBN 0-8078-2349-X; $24.95.

- Garden Style - Penelope Hobhouse. Shows some of the finest gardens in the world to display how to lay out and plant natural, flower, patterned, and formal gardens. Willow Creek. ISBN 1-57223-087-8; $35.


- Great Gardens, Great Designers - George Plumptre. Presents the history of garden design to provide a deeper appreciation of function, structure, expanse, and landscape. Also discusses designers. Ward Lock. ISBN 0-7063-7455-3 pb; $19.95.


- The Rothschild Gardens - Miriam Rothschild, Kate Garton, and Lionel de Rothschild. Naturalist Miriam Rothschild, granddaughter of the first Lord Rothschild, leads an illustrated tour of her
family's public and private gardens and parklands as they once were and as they are today. Abrams. ISBN 0-8109-3790-5; $35.

- The National Trust Guide - Lydia Greeves and Michael Trinick. The official, fully comprehensive and illustrated guidebook to the more than 500,000 acres of coast and countryside in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland maintained by the National Trust. Also includes 200 historic houses and 150 gardens; 16 pages of maps. Abrams. ISBN 0-8109-6335-3; $39.95.


- Gardens of Scotland 1997 - Scotland's Garden Scheme. A reference guide to more than 300 private gardens open throughout Scotland, including all National Trust for Scotland Gardens and Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh outstations. All gardens are open to the public and support charities with admission proceeds. Color and black & white photos throughout. Seven Hills. ISBN 0-901549-10-X pb; $4.95.


- Rare Friedrich Schiübel, Charlottecol!/Romische Bader, Potsdam - introduction by Heinz Schonemann, photographs by Reinhard Gorner. Schiübel's only work to have survived complete inside and outside, surrounded by Leucre's carefully preserved landscape garden. Edition Axel Menges. ISBN 3-930698-12-5; $48.


- Smithsonian's Great Battles & Battlefields of the Civil War - Jay Wertz and Edwin C. Bearss. Based on the television and video series of the same name, this is a history and practical guide
(NEWS FROM THE REGIONS, cont.)
Stockett turned to the old family records of his mother, Gertrude Conover, and traced the family's line back to an Alfred Conover in the early 19th-century. Nearly 600 people, most of them black, lived in Seneca Village during its heyday in the early 19th century.

The Environmental Bond Act passed by New York voters last fall has improved the prospects for saving the Taconic Ridge, New York's border with the New England states. The Trust for Public Land has helped lead the effort to protect forest along the 29-mile Taconic Crest Trail, which runs from southwestern Vermont to Pittsfield State Forest in Massachusetts. To date, the TPL has helped protect more than 2,750 acres along 12 miles of the popular hiking path.

Virginia, Potomac River.
Both Virginia and Maryland have granted tax exemptions to the Potomac Conservancy. The organization can now accept donations of land without the burden of property taxes. The Conservancy oversaw the restoration of the Olmsted Island Bridges at Great Falls; 60% of it was completed before winter set in. Volunteers began working again in March to complete the restoration.

In April, water from the Potomac was diverted into the C&O Canal in an operation the National Park Service calls "rewatering" the canal. Crews are building a dock for the Canal Clipper, a boat that uses mules to tow tourists along the canal. The National Park Service estimates that repairs along the canal will take at least two years.

West Virginia, Cheat River Gorge.
Last year, the Trust for Public Land and the Coopers Rock Foundation celebrated the protection of the view from Coopers Rock Overlook as part of the Coopers Rock State Forest. Local activists had been fighting since the late

(PUBLICATIONS, cont.)


- Wildflowers of Mammoth Cave National Park - Randy Seymour. A field guide to the more than 400 wildflowers (with color photos of each) found throughout the lower Ohio River Valley. University Press of Kentucky. ISBN 0-8131-0898-5 pb; $17.95.

- The Smithsonian Guides to Natural America. Includes national and state parks as well as smaller wildlife refuges and wilderness reserves; gives telephone numbers, maps, etc. Random House; pb each $19.95.
  - The Southeast - Michele Strutin, with photographs by Tony
(NEWS FROM THE REGIONS, cont.)
1980s to protect the viewshed lands from development. The 2,000-acre viewshed will provide more land for mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, and water activities.

CENTRAL
Illinois, Chicago. Meigs Field.
Meigs Field, once planned to be shut down and converted to park land, will remain open for another five years, under a deal struck by the governor of Illinois and the mayor of Chicago.

Missouri, St. Louis.
The Missouri Department of Conservation is planning to purchase 4,600 acres of undeveloped flood plain at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in St. Louis. The area, where explorers Lewis and Clark once crossed into Missouri, will be used for recreational trails, nature viewing, and fishing access. The Conservation Department will pay $9.3 million to the city of St. Louis for the land.

Ohio.
Since the 1970s the Ohio Historic Preservation Office has gathered information about historic properties in its Ohio Historic Inventory program. Over the next year, a team of nine people will put information from the 61,000 paper forms into a new electronic database. Information will be sortable by location, construction date, architect, etc. The work is funded by a $272,488 grant from the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) obtained through the Ohio Department of Transportation, and $39,262 from the Ohio Historical Society.

Ohio, Cleveland. Walter Burks Park.
Walter Burks Park in Cleveland had become a haven for drug dealers, and nearby residents couldn't let their children play there. The Northeastern Neighborhood Development Corporation had gained the park's inclusion in

(PUBLICATIONS, cont.)
• The Heartland - Suzanne Winckler, with photography by Willard Clay, Tom Till, Mike Forsberg, and Charles Gurche. A guide to more than 250 significant natural sites in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. ISBN 0-679-76481-X.


• Wildflowers of Yosemite - Lynn and Jim Wilson and Jeff Nicholas. In its fourth printing, this field guide is used in the Botany curriculum at the University of California. Identifies 224 native flowering plants found in Yosemite and the central Sierra Nevada. Sierra Press. ISBN 0-939365-02-2 pb; $9.95.

• The Cycle of the Seasons - Includes photographs and an essay that provide in-depth information on the natural and human histories of the subject. Sierra Press; pb each $14.95, hc each $24.95.

• PhotoSecrets Yosemite: The Best Sites and How to Photograph Them - Andrew Hudson. Shows all the classic views and describes how to photograph them. 100 photographs and maps. PhotoSecrets Publishing. ISBN 0-9653087-0-7 pb; $7.95.


Articles
• "Olmsted's trip: How did a news reporter come to create Central Park?" by Adam Gopnik. The New Yorker, March 31, 1997.

• "A Woodland Grows In Brooklyn: Restoring Olmsted and Vaux's masterpiece park means replanting the native woodland—while accommodating 6 million New Yorkers a year" by Charles Siebert. Audubon, Jan./Feb. 1997.
(NEWS FROM THE REGIONS, cont.)
a community design process jointly
conducted by the Trust for Historic Pres-
servation and agencies in Ohio. But resi-
dents and area businesses decided that,
rather than a redesign, the park needed
more programs. A $3,500 grant contract
was awarded from the Lila Wallace-
Reader's Digest Fund, and a children's
activity coordinator was hired. The co-
ordinator scheduled arts and crafts, sports
and games, and special activi-
ties three days a week—and made a
real difference in the life of the park.

Ohio. National Road.
The Ohio Historic Preservation Office
has received a $68,000 grant to conduct
an 18-month study of the historic Na-
tional Road (now known as US Rt. 40).
The grant, made through the Ohio
Department of Transportation via the
federal Intermodal Surface Transpor-
tation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), will allow
the Preservation Office to survey and
document historic structures and sites
within a 400-foot corridor along the
road, including work camps, remnants
of the original road, stone bridges, com-
memorative monuments, and more.

Ohio. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the
Ohio Historic Preservation Office are
working together to protect and pre-
serve the historic resources of the mil-
itary base. It includes Huffman Prairie
Flying Field where Wilbur and Orville
Wright tested their early aircraft; the
Olmsted Brothers-designed Wright
Memorial; and many other facilities
associated with the development and
history of aviation. The project received
an Award of Merit from the Ohio His-
toric Preservation Office.

WEST
California. Channel Islands
National Park.
In a commando-style raid, the National
Park Service seized the last slice of pri-
ivate land on Santa Cruz Island, located

(PUBLICATIONS, cont.)
- "Golf Gets Back To Nature, Inviting Everyone To Play: Using
natural landforms and native grasses and plants, golf course de-
designers are creating links that are environmentally up to par" by

- "Scenic Overlooks: Frederick Law Olmsted's landscapes have
taught us how to think about nature for 100 years" by Malcolm

- "Defining American Landscape: J.B. Jackson" by Richard E.

- "Parks Canada: Archeology and Aboriginal Partners." CRM

- "Stone Conservation: Some highlights from the 8th Interna-
tional Congress on Deterioration and Conservation of Stone" by
ElizabEth Bede. NCPTT Notes, February 1997.

INTERNET

The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty
(commonly known as the National Trust) was founded in Great
Britain in 1895. The National Trust's web site provides a complete
index of the principal gardens, houses, coast, and countryside
owned and protected by the organization in England, Wales, and
Northern Ireland. Available at: http://www.ukindex.co.uk/na-
tionaltrust/

EXHIBITS

Through August 10, 1997 - New York, New York
"Before Central Park: The Life and Death of Seneca Village," the
story of the thriving 19th-century black community razed for

1997 Schedule of Traveling Exhibition "Viewing Olmsted: Pho-
tographs by Robert Burley, Lee Friedlander, and Geoffrey James."
- May 10-August 10, 1997, Columbus, Ohio - Wexner Center for
the Arts. NAOP Trustee Elizabeth Meyer will speak at the open-
ing event.
- September 2-November 23, Wellesley, Massachusetts - Davis
Museum and Cultural Center.

Permanent Exhibit
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
"Science in the Pleasure Ground." A retrospective celebrating the
Arnold Arboretum's 125 anniversary celebration; includes an ex-
hibit telling the story of the design collaboration between Charles
Sprague Sargent, the Arboretum's first director, and Frederick Law
Olmsted. Features a replica of Olmsted's drafting table, original
landscape drawings dating to 1872, and then-and-now photos of
the landscape. Hunnewell Building at the Arnold Arboretum.

9
(NEWS FROM THE REGIONS, cont.)

off the coast of Ventura, California. The February seizure followed a battle over land that had been privately owned for 117 years. In 1980, Congress designated Santa Cruz part of the new Channel Islands National Park. The Nature Conservancy bought 90 percent of the island in 1987 and manages it in cooperation with the National Park Service. The holdout owner felt that his property, which has 12.5 miles of oceanfront, a eucalyptus grove, and several historic buildings, was worth more than the Park Service was offering. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. proposed Santa Cruz Island as a national park in 1927.

California. Yosemite National Park.

In January, nature asserted itself at Yosemite, the country's busiest national park (4 million visitors annually) when the Merced River flooded and swept away many of the man-made facilities along its banks. The high-tech flood sewer system, cabins, power lines, and roadways received millions of dollars worth of damage. Some see the devastation as an opportunity.

In 1980, the Department of the Interior issued a master plan for Yosemite that called for a reduction in accommodations and parking lots, and limits on visitors. That plan has gone largely unheeded. At press time, Congress was debating an emergency appropriation of $200-$240 million—$100 million for storm damage repair and the rest to begin implementing the 1980 master plan. Emphasis will be on getting private cars out of the park, relocating housing out of the flood plain with some out of the park entirely, and upgrading and relocating some of the concession facilities. NAOP's Mary Burns writes, "This is a rare opportunity to preserve and protect a true national treasure. Individuals and organizations are urged to contact their legislators to urge support for this important environmental legislation."

COURSES

June 15-27, Charlottesville, Virginia.
The Historic Landscape Institute will offer students an introduction to the fields of landscape history, garden restoration, and historical horticulture by using the landscapes designed by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and U.Va. as case studies and outdoor classrooms. Participants can elect to receive graduate credit from U.Va. by completing additional assignments. Added costs for academic credit. Contact: Charlottesville Regional Programs, The University of Virginia. 804-982-5313; fax: 804-982-5324.


Contact: National Preservation Institute. 202-393-0038; internet: info@npi.org www.npi.org
- Accessibility and Historic Integrity - June 12-13, St. Paul MN; Oct. 15-16, Atlanta GA
- Integrating Cultural Resource and Environmental Compliance (Cultural Resources and NEPA) - Sept. 16-17, Albany NY; Nov. 17-18, Phoenix AZ
- Federal Cultural Resource Compliance - Oct. 1, Waltham (Boston), MA; Oct. 22, Atlanta GA
- Contracting for Cultural Resources Tasks - June 5-6, Washington DC; Sept. 18-19, Albany NY; Nov. 19-20, Phoenix AZ
- Writing on Archaeology and Historic Preservation - June 5-6, Waltham (Boston) MA
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties - Sept. 16, Washington DC; Oct. 29, Albany NY
- Photodocumentation of Historic Structures - June 10-11, St. Paul MN; Sept. 17-18, Alexandria VA

1997 Courses, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll IL.

Contact: 815-244-1173.
- Stabilization & Maintenance of Historic Structures - July 8-12.
- Conservation of Wooden Frame Structures - July 14-16
- Preserving Historic Cultural Landscapes - August 20-23
- Accessibility in Historic Properties - August 7-9

COMPETITIONS

SOS! (Save Outdoor Sculpture!), a joint project of the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, and the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property, is accepting nominations for its SOS! 2000 HONORS for achievement in the areas of preservation, scholarship and public awareness. Prizes of $1,000 will be offered. Nonprofit organizations and state and local agencies are eligible. Apply by July 1, 1997, with projects that have occurred within the 36 months before the deadline. Contact: 202-625-1495 or 888-SOS-SCULP.
THANK YOU

The National Association for Olmsted Parks is grateful to all contributors. The following have renewed their memberships for NAOP's fiscal year 1997-1998 at or above the Donor Level after January 15, 1997.

SUSTAINER or above
Beisy Shure Gross, Brookline MA
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Hartford CT
Thompson Park Conservancy,
Watertown NY

OLMSTED PAPERS FUND
Sarah H. Harbaugh, Atlanta GA
Caroline K. Loughlin, St. Louis MO

Nomenclature
The name Olmsted is a Swedish name belonging to the category of surnames derived from the place where the initial bearer once lived or held land. The name is derived from the Germanic word "ulm" meaning "elm," and "stede" meaning "place." Thus the name can literally be translated as "place where elm trees grew."

Ten Plants That Changed The World
In the last issue of Field Notes, we asked readers to guess which plants were on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's list of "Ten plants that changed the world." Here is their list: papyrus, tea, sugar cane, wheat, olives, quinine, cotton, bamboo, rubber, and pepper. Others suggested: rice, potatoes, tobacco, and the opium poppy.
REQUEST FOR
LETTER OF INTEREST

The president of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is seeking letters of interest (two-page maximum) from landscape architects interested in designing a new, two-acre landscape providing burial space on a site now used as a nursery and for earth and leaf recycling and equipment storage.

While there is no direct historic preservation component, the project will call for design suggestions for integrating the adjacent ten-acre Meadow interment area (ca. 1945-1960) with both the earlier areas of the Cemetery on one side and the new landscape on the other.

The new landscape will require extensive manipulation of the existing grade to provide more interesting topography and will have both open spaces and small garden rooms, with Mount Auburn's traditional interest in sophisticated horticultural plantings. Some sort of water feature will be included.

The Cemetery will select 3-5 firms to produce site-specific schematic designs and then intends to select one firm with which to work on the final design.

To be selected, firms must have extensive experience with projects of this size, whether residential or institutional, and must demonstrate sensitivity to historic landscapes, to work well with resident horticultural staff on an ongoing basis, and to have an affinity for spiritual aspects of the cemetery and this new landscape.

Send letters of interest to William Clendaniel, 580 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 or e-mail to: bill@mtauburn.com. No telephone calls please. A more comprehensive program statement with a detailed request for qualifications will be sent out to those submitting letters of interest.

LETTERS FROM NAOP

To: Jennifer Raab, Chairperson,
Landmarks Preservation Commission, New York, NY
RE: The Reconstruction of Anne Lofts Playground in Fort Tryon Park

Dear Ms. Raab:

As a national organization committed to preserving the Olmsted design legacy, the National Association of Olmsted Parks is interested in the future of Fort Tryon Park, the remarkable National Register space.

We have received calls from several constituencies concerning the present rehabilitation planning for the Anne Lofts Playground. We recognize that there are many programmatic agendas involved in this reconstruction project.

Having reviewed documents concerning the original Olmsted Brothers plan of 1935, we feel that the integrity of the original design can be retained while accommodating limited picnic and play equipment. We appreciate the efforts of the New York Department of Parks and Recreation to preserve the original spatial organization of this area, defined by the pool and the tree canopy, while introducing the community desired play equipment. Renewal of this water feature is an important element in the preservation of the Olmsted design. Of equal, if not greater, importance is the preservation and renewal of the maturing tree canopy. The original trees, many of which have been lost, are defining components, providing a leafy gateway to the wilder park spaces beyond. As such they enhance a simple yet strong design statement so characteristic of the Olmsted tradition in park planning.

We hope that every effort will be made to protect and enhance the health and vigor of the existing trees and to replant critical missing trees. Additionally, we hope that an appropriate ground treatment, balancing paving, safety surface, and softer materials characteristic of an Olmsted design, will be selected to enhance this entry, and thereby contribute to the long-term viability and quality of the maturing and newly planted trees.

Very truly yours,
Charles A. Birnbaum, Arleyn A. Levey
Co-Chairs, National Association for Olmsted Parks

Quotations

"Setting aside natural spaces for the recreation of mind and body and providing programs and services that facilitate that recreation are vital principals in the development of a healthy society.

"We—both professional practitioners and citizen advocates—have learned these lessons well. We will not underestimate the value of either parks and open spaces or recreational programs and services; we see their value every day. However, our greatest challenge—over one hundred years later—is to communicate that message to the public.

"The message is simply that parks and recreation improves the quality of people's lives... We must find ways to quantify what we already know and present it to a public that is barraged by messages of a failing social system and threatening economic climate."

— Eric O'Brien, Chairman of the Board, National Recreation and Park Association and former NAOP Treasurer/Trustee, in P & R magazine, November, 1996.
NOTES FROM THE NAOP ANNUAL MEETING

At its March 14 meeting, the NAOP Board of Trustees approved the slate submitted by the nominating committee. The 1997-'98 trustees, and their bios, are listed below.

**Officers**
CoChairs - Charles Birnbaum and Arleyne Levee  
Vice Chair, Development - Nancy LaColla  
Vice Chair, Outreach - John Karel  
Vice Chair, Publications - Lucy Lawless  
Vice Chair, Conferences - Carolyn Etter  
Secretary - Alida Silverman  
Treasurer - Charles (Chuck) Gleaves

**Board of Trustees (3-year terms ending 2000)**

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<th>Second Term</th>
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**Board Bios**

Melanie Anson, Baltimore - A freelance writer, attorney, and resident of Sudbrook Park actively involved for past 15 years in researching Sudbrook’s history.

Jerry Arbes, Seattle - Citizen activist.

Carolyn Etter, Denver - Landscape and Park Consultant for Denver Historic Park Document Project of the Western History Department, Denver Public Library.

Mary J. Fox, Brooklyn - Director, Capital Projects Office, Prospect Park Alliance.

Charles (Chuck) Gleaves, Indianapolis - Director of Horticulture, Indianapolis Museum of Art.

John Karel, St. Louis - Director of Tower Grove Park.

Nancy LaColla, Newburgh, N.Y. - Executive Director of the Downing Park Planning Committee since 1991.

Arleyne Levee, Belmont, Mass. - Heads an independent landscape design practice. Also works as a landscape historian and preservation consultant.

Charles (Mac) McClure, Louisville - Former Executive Director and Manager, Isaac W. Bernheim Foundation, and Owner/Operator of 14,000-acre Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest.

Elizabeth (Beth) Meyer, Charlottesville, Va. - Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia.

Cyndey Millstein, Kansas City - Principal of the firm Architectural and Art Historical Research, preparing National Register applications, Historic Resources Inventories, etc.

Cornelia Flahn Oberlander, Vancouver, B.C. - Widely recognized as Canada’s foremost landscape architect.


Dana Souza, Portland, Maine - Parks & Cemetery Operations Manager of the Portland Parks and Recreation Dept.

The Board approved these resolutions at the meeting:

**Resolution**
(Note: The Americans for our Heritage and Recreation Campaign is a consortium that resulted from a January, 1997 summit meeting of park officials, conservation organizations, and sport equipment companies in Monterey, California. See the Winter 1996-7 issue of Field Notes, page 3, for more details.)

Resolved that the National Association for Olmsted Parks supports the efforts of Americans for our Heritage and Recreation Campaign to restore funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and

Resolved that NAOP urges Congress and the Administration to recognize the importance that Americans place on the preservation of the rich legacy of parks and recreation facilities and to create new opportunities for future generations; and

Resolved that Fiscal Year 1998 Federal Budget and Appropriations must contain funding commensurate with the documented local, state and federal needs; and

Further be it resolved that the National Association for Olmsted Parks will work cooperatively with Americans for our Heritage and Recreation Campaign to expand the network of organizations and individuals supporting this endeavor to strengthen our national commitment to conserve our natural and cultural heritage.

**Resolution**
The Board of the National Association of Olmsted Parks is concerned that Volume 2 of the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers is now out of print and unavailable for purchase. The NAOP wishes to express its conviction that all volumes of the Olmsted Papers be kept in print, and urges the John Hopkins University Press to reprint volumes of the Papers as needed.