Looking Ahead To Louisville

by Susan Rademacher, Executive Director, Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy

Trustees and staff alike of the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Inc. are delighted that the National Association for Olmsted Parks is returning to our city for its fall meeting in early October.

I also have the pleasure of inviting conference participants to attend a program on applying Olmsted's genius at the residential scale. The half-day Saturday conference on October 10th is sponsored by Botanica, a local nonprofit gardening partnership which, by happy coincidence, has chosen Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. as its annual honoree. In addition, Botanica hopes to offer Sunday afternoon tours of Olmsted's private gardens, which would be a real treat.

In keeping with the NAOP conference theme, "Unveiling Louisville's Master Plan for the Restoration of our Olmsted Parks and Parkways," you can look forward to guided tours of recently-completed projects. Since Louisville last hosted a national NAOP gathering, we have made considerable strides in implementing our Master Plan.

The tours will feature completed restoration projects, as well as other planned renewal sites in our three large flagship parks designed by Olmsted Sr.—Shawnee, Iroquois, and Cherokee—which we view as one great urban park.

The Louisville Conservancy has so far completed $4.5 million in park improvements, including:

- a state-of-the-art sports facility;
- an ecological restoration, which includes a wildflower Savannah with wetlands and a walking path;
- a new multiuse woodlands pathway and rustic bridges; and
- the reintroduction of drylaid stone masonry craftsmanship.

In Cherokee Park, a project now underway is especially exciting, as it involves both the excavation and restoration of a historic spring.

Finally, we'll share our progress since the first of this year when the Louisville Conservancy was named one of eight grant recipients of the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. We are using the gift to undertake our first-ever park usership research and to determine financing strategies to secure the Conservancy's role for decades to come. To us, this signals a timely opportunity to expand the Conservancy's role in providing diverse programs in our parks to attract even more visitors and park supporters. On behalf of all the people who will extend "River City's" special blend of Southern Charm and Midwestern hospitality at NAOP's conference, I hope to see "y'all" real soon.

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Premiere of Olmsted Brothers REPRINT Series

With this issue, the NAOP inaugurates in FIELD NOTES a new series of reprints of articles by the partners and associates of Olmsted Brothers.

These articles originally appeared beginning in the late 1890s in various national professional journals or in newspapers from cities in which the firm was working at the time. Covering a wide range of topics, from design philosophy and aesthetics to city planning issues to practical horticultural advice, these articles contain observations and statements as relevant today as when they were first made.

Since the significant writings of Olmsted, Sr., have already been published in the Olmsted Papers or will appear in future volumes, the NAOP decided to concentrate on the successor firm of Olmsted Brothers.

These articles are from diverse old periodicals now accessible only in major research (continued on page 2)
REPRINTS (continued)

libraries. Although we begin this series with an article by FLO, Jr., we intend in future issues to give a voice to many of the other members of the firm who are today barely known, even among current landscape professionals.

This series is designed as a removable insert to provide for ease of filing. It is the hope of the NAOP that these reprints will broaden understanding about the design philosophy and achievements of the Olmsted firm and aid communities and individuals across the nation in their efforts to protect their significant Olmsted landscapes.

The article at right, by historical landscape architect and author Ethan Carr, gives some context to the enclosed REPRINT: Enjoy!

—Arlyn Laves, NAOP Co-Chair

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

by Ethan Carr

FLO, Jr., (1870-1957) grew up around the Fairlawn atelier in Brookline and began practicing landscape architecture as an apprentice to his father and his older stepbrother, John Charles, in the 1890s. If young “Rick” Olmsted inherited an imposing professional tradition, his sense of obligation must have only increased in 1897, when Charles Eliot, the most promising young landscape architect at Fairlawn, died suddenly while still in his 30s. Olmsted replaced Eliot as the chief landscape architect of the Boston area’s Metropolitan Park Commission, and in 1898 he became a full partner in the Fairlawn firm (as Eliot had been). In many ways, Rick Olmsted was destined to carry on not only his father’s professional work, but Eliot’s as well, especially in the field of scenic preservation.

Olmsted went on to head the first academic program in landscape architecture, which was established at Harvard (in honor of Eliot) in 1900. In 1901 he became a member of the Senate Park Commission and then coauthored the McMillan Plan for Washington, D.C. Through his work for Washington and other municipalities, Olmsted helped establish the profession of city planning in this country, and in 1917 he was named the first president of the American City Planning Institute. His work in scenic preservation was equally fundamental. In 1916 Olmsted drafted the key portions of the National Park Service legislation that required the new bureau to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein,” while providing for “the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unmarred the enjoyment of future generations.”

Olmsted understood, as his father and Charles Eliot had, that successful practice of landscape architecture (especially in the public sector) required literary as well as design efforts. The elder Olmsted had famously instructed Eliot in this regard, and with both the elder Olmsted and Eliot silenced by the late 1890s, Rick Olmsted took on the role of intellectual theorist and literary spokesman for the profession and for the American park movement generally.

His first publication, on “the relation of parks to reservoirs,” was published by the, American Park and Outdoor Art Association in 1899. Many important essays followed, often on the subjects of city planning and scenic preservation causes from Niagara Falls to Yosemite Valley. In 1906, Olmsted joined with John Nolen to formulate “the normal requirements of American towns and cities in respect to public open spaces,” a landmark essay in which the authors refined a typology of open spaces—from the corner playground to outlying scenic reservations—to be coordinated features of a city plan.

But like both his father and Charles Eliot, Rick Olmsted never brought his writings together in a single volume or textbook. (He did edit his father’s papers with Theodora Kimball and published them in 1928—an achievement which in itself had an enormous effect on the profession.) Rick Olmsted’s life and writing, as important as they are, remain relatively obscure and scattered. The reprinting of this article hopefully begins the process of addressing this outstanding debt to one of the great landscape architects of the 20th century. The article reprinted here was written after Olmsted Jr.’s experiences during World War I, when he was responsible for military cantonment planning and a wartime federal program to provide housing for workers in defense industries. By the 1920s, Olmsted was involved in major planning projects at a variety of scales, including the design of Palos Verdes Estates (1923) and the extraordinary State Park Plan for California (1929).
**NEWS FROM THE REGIONS**

**Special Alert From Malden, Massachusetts**

The Defense of Ferryway Green

In April, workers under orders from the City of Malden (a northern suburb of Boston) began dismantling the playground equipment at Ferryway Green, a playground designed by Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot in 1894. City officials have decided to build a public school on the site as part of Malden’s $98 million state-funded new schools project.

Ferryway Green is one of the first 15 municipal playgrounds to be laid out and developed in the United States. The 4.8-acre, triangle-shaped park is the most heavily used park in Malden, and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The park lies in a densely populated neighborhood comprised mostly of immigrants.

Several grass-roots organizations—NAOP, Historic Massachusetts, and the Sierra Club, among others—as well as the citizens of Malden themselves have tried to save the park. Two years ago more than 1,700 Malden residents signed a petition circulated by the Friends of Ferryway Green, followed by hundreds of letters and phone calls to legislators. On April 10, The Friends of Ferryway Green gave the City of Malden a letter of intent to file a 10-taxpayer lawsuit and seek a court-ordered injunction to stop the playground’s destruction. Malden’s mayor is intent on going forward with the school construction project.

**EASTERN**


The Olmsted Woods Restoration campaign, created by the All Hallows Guild at Washington National Cathedral, had raised $180,000 as of December 31, 1997, one year after its commencement. The campaign’s five-year goal is $600,000. In November 1997, the Guild published its first progress report for the Olmsted Woods Restoration effort. The booklet describes the purpose of the project and outlines current activities and future plans. For a copy, contact Dede Petri at (202) 298-8109.

Maryland, Baltimore. Patterson Park.

A volunteer planting of 200 trees was completed in Fall 1997 in about one third of the northern portion of Patterson Park. The firm: Rhodeside & Harwell, Incorporated, who developed the park’s Master Plan, headed up the team. The installation was made in accordance with the Olmsted Brothers planting plan of 1906. This spring, the firm will begin developing construction plans to upgrade the park’s perimeter with more than $750,000 worth of planting and refurbishing of gateways, pathways, and lighting.

Massachusetts, Boston. Emerald Necklace.

The restoration of Olmsted’s original vision for the Muddy River, a waterway winding through the Emerald Necklace, is looking somewhat promising. While the biggest challenge will be finding the estimated $5 million to clean up the waterway, environmentalists are encouraged by increased interest in recent years. A flood on the Muddy in late 1996 started a series of studies, from flood control to toxins in the sediment.

The Muddy, which flows from a spring at Jamaica Pond, was designed by FLO, Sr. in 1879 to add beauty—and sanitation—to the lives of Bostonians. The waterway is supposed to be a moving river that could flush out debris to the open sea. Instead, the waterway is now choked by pollution-loving reeds, trash, and other debris. Brookline officials have recently closed off all illegal

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**MEETINGS & COURSES**

June 15-19, 1998
Mount Auburn Cemetery
Cambridge, MA

"Monument Care in Cemeteries and Battlefields: Current Practices" will address state-of-the-art practices for maintenance of historic stone monuments and bronze memorials in landscaped surroundings. Registration preference will be given to employees of historic cemeteries, battlefields, public parks, and gardens. Sponsored in part by the Olmsted National Historic Site. Contact: Dennis Montagna, Program Manager, Monument Research and Preservation, National Park Service, phone: (215) 597-5824; e-mail: dennis_montagna@nps.gov.

June 18-21, 1998
Fourth Clearing Landscape Institute
The Clearing, Wisconsin

This symposium will focus on the rich legacy of landscape architecture and related aspects of environmental history and landscape preservation in the nation’s heartland. Included in this broad conference theme are approaches, issues, prominent historical figures and their work, significant projects, future directions, and other aspects of landscape architecture that characterize the Midwest. Contact: Professor Bill Tishler, Department of Landscape Architecture, phone: (608) 263-8973; e-mail: wtishler@facstaff.wisc.edu.

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**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

SOSI 2000 Awards
Applications are now being accepted for SOSI! Save Our Sculpture! 2000 Awards in three categories: Assessment, Maintenance Training, and Achievement. Applications for the Achievement Award will be accepted through July 1, 1998; Assessment and Maintenance Training applications will be accepted through November 1, 1998. Contact for applications and information: SOSI 2000 at (888) SOS-SCULP or (202) 625-1495.
NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

New Jersey, Newark. Riverbank Park.

Riverbank Park is no longer under threat of having a baseball stadium built on top of it. Advocacy groups, including SPARK and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, are now working to get Riverbank cleaned up and opened to the public by spring of 1999, and eventually to have it surveyed and designated a historic site.

SPARK has created a Riverbank Park Remediation Team, made up of scientists from around New Jersey, to clean up the toxic waste in the park. The organization has also received various grants and has hired a landscape preservationist to oversee the park restoration. In November, Newark voters will have a chance to approve a referendum on a bond sale that would provide $3.5 million to Riverbank Park.

New York, Brooklyn. Prospect Park.

The Prospect Park Alliance announced that the $9 million goal for its 1996-2000 Woodlands Campaign has now been reached. Of the $9 million total, $4.5 million came from the Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, bringing his total giving over the past 20 years to well over $80 million. The remaining $4.5 million was raised from foundations, corporations and individuals, including a $1.3 million grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund. By the year 2000, more than 100 acres of woodlands will have been stabilized.

The Alliance has begun a new planning exchange program with the city of Denver. On Jan 9, a delegation of Denver parks and museum officials and community representatives went to Prospect Park to see how a community-based nonprofit organization can invigorate a public park.

New York, Buffalo.

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy held a “Just Desserts” party on March 22, which featured desserts from 14 area restaurants. The Conservancy also reports that it received a $65,000 grant from the Urban parks Initiative of the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund. The Conservancy will use the funding for a planning and research plan for enhancing public usership of Delaware, Front, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parks in Buffalo. The information gathered will help to guide future programming and capital projects in those parks.

New York, Montauk.

The fight against developers continues by the Montauk Friends of Olmsted Parks. Readers interested in the long history of the struggle for these lands (dating back to 1686), the appeal to the New York Supreme Court by Robert A. Ficalora both pro se and as acting president of Montauk Friends of Olmsted Parks, Inc. regarding the Olmsted park system in Montauk and the “right of the proprietors to govern,” can visit the MFOP web site at www.montauk.com.


On February 11, the Central Park Conservancy officially took control of Central Park’s daily operations, including concession stands, educational programs, and grounds maintenance. The City of New York will
NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

still maintain some control, such as managing police patrols and giving
court and softball permits.

The Conservancy is largely responsible for bringing Central Park back
from a state of disrepair that reached its height in the early 1980s. The
Conservancy will receive $1 million from the city this fiscal year if it can
raise $5 million in private donations and concessions. In the next fiscal
year, the Conservancy will receive an additional 50 cents from the city
(up to a $2 million maximum) for each $1 it raises above the $5 million
mark. The deal marks the first time that concession revenues will go
back to a park, instead of into the city's budget. Mayor Rudolph Giulianii
said that he would consider extending such a deal to other city parks—
including Prospect Park, where the Prospect Park Alliance has done major
fund-raising on behalf of the park.

New York, New York City. Fort Tryon Park.
The Friends of Fort Tryon Park report some changes in the park sched-
ule. The Fort Tryon Park Cafe has new hours: open to the public every
day except Monday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Garden Tours of The Cloisters for
individual visitors are Tuesdays to Sundays at 1 p.m. Bette Mielier's New
York Restoration Project welcomes volunteers to work in the park on
any morning. The park offers a variety of classes and tours on weekends.

SOUTHEASTERN
Georgia, Atlanta. Druid Hills.
The Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) has chosen landscape archi-

tect Spencer Tunnell II as consultant for the first phase of implementing
the Master Plan for Restoration and Rehabilitation of the Druid Hills
linear park, using TEA funds. Tunnell's team includes: landscape archi-
tect Patricia O'Donnell of Connecticut and Vermont; Dr. Charles
Beveridge, editor of The Olmsted Papers (who was also on the Master
Plan's consultant team); and Heery International (engineering).

Georgia, Atlanta. Piedmont Park.
The Piedmont Park Conservancy held its 2nd annual Landmark Lun-
cheon on April 29 with this year's theme commemorating the Cotton
States Exposition of 1895 and celebrating businesses and civic institu-
tions still in existence since then. The Exposition grounds became the
Park and the Olmsted Brothers developed a plan for improvements. A
recipient of a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund planning grant, the
Conservancy is nearing completion of its $6.5 million capital campaign.

MIDWESTERN
Illinois, Grayslake.
Former NAOP Trustee Victoria Post Ranney is co-developer of Prairie
Crossing in Grayslake, Illinois, a contemporary "green development" in
which the homes are clustered into hamlets, walking is encouraged in-
stead of driving, and native plants are used in natural looking landscapes.
Sixty percent of the subdivision is devoted to open space, included recon-
structed prairies, community vegetable gardens, and hiking trails. The
community is 40 miles north of Chicago and has commuter rail services
to the city. Prairie Crossing is among 30 communities profiled in a new
book by the Rocky Mountain Institute entitled Green Development, In-
NAOP Conference
October 8-11, 1998, Louisville, Kentucky
"Unveiling of Master Plan for the Restoration of Louisville's Olmsted Parks," NAOP Louisville Olmsted Park Conservancy. The Board Meeting will also take place at this time. Contact: NAOP at (202) 362-9511.

A Note of Appreciation
The NAOP Board of Trustees very much appreciated the excellent hospitality of Rolf Diamant, Superintendent of the Olmsted National Historic Site, and John Maounis, Acting Deputy Superintendent, and their staff at Fairmount during the first Board meeting. After a tour of this special place—as Superintendent Diamant said, "Fairmount is more than a house or historic site,"—the Trustees met in the room where FLO, Sr. did his work.

Milestones
A seminar at the Field Museum in Chicago on “Restoring Olmsted: A National Perspective” was presented by three NAOP members: Mary Fox, NAOP Trustee from Prospect Park in Brooklyn; Susan Rademacher, former NAOP Trustee from the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy; and Donald Harris, new NAOP Co-Chair from the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation.

NAOP Mourns Peter Odell
Peter North Odell, NAOP Board member from 1990-96 and Director of Development at Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, died on January 31, 1998 at age 56. As the administrator for management and development with the Fairmount Park Commission, he raised money to finance park projects. "He wrote hundreds of persuasive grants that brought millions of dollars to the Fairmount Park Commission," Commissioner Ernest Ballard was quoted as saying in the Philadelphia Inquirer.
Peter died of an apparent heart attack as he was about to lead a bike tour in Lansdale. The NAOP Trustees have donated a tree in his name to the "Gifts For All Seasons" program at Fairmount Park. He will be sorely missed by his NAOP friends and colleagues.

Illinois, Riverside.
The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside has a full calendar of events for summer. Each month from May to October, the Landscape Committee spends a day (usually the third Saturday) working in one of Riverside's parks. On the last Sunday of the month from May through October, the Olmsted Society offers two-hour guided walking tours past structures designed by such notable architects as Frank Lloyd Wright and William LeBaron Jenney.

WESTERN
California, Yosemite. Yosemite National Park.
Update on Yosemite’s General Management Plan and Flood Recovery: In response to issues raised by groups and individuals to the Draft Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan (VIP), park officials will circulate additional information, clarification, and analysis on the alternatives set forth in the draft VIP. People will have additional opportunity to comment on the draft VIP and the supplementary material.
Because of input by the public, dramatic improvements have been made in the site design for Yosemite Lodge. Stan Albright, Superintendent of Yosemite, said, “The changes to the Yosemite Lodge Plan are excellent examples of how the public process works to improve plans...we want to thank everyone for their time, interest and effort.”

1998-1999 NAOP Officers
The Officers for the 1998-99 term are as follows:
Co-Chairs - Azleyn Levee (continuing), Donald Harris
Vice-Chair, Outreach - Paul Foster
Vice Chair, Conferences - Carolyn Etter (continuing)
Vice Chair, Publications - Lucy Lawliss (continuing)
Secretary - Alida Silverman (continuing)
Treasurer - Charles (Mac) McClure
Trustees elected to 3-year term (see bios below): Donald Harris, Susan West Montgomery

Donald M. Harris
Donald, newly-elected co-chair of NAOP (he previously held this position with Ann Satterthwaite in 1986) is the Director of Environmental Programs for the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation. Donald was involved in the formation of the NAOP in 1980, was on the first steering committee, and has been a trustee. Donald was also instrumental in the formation of the Seattle's Olmsted Parks and is an ex-officio member of that organization's Executive Board. He is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound and the University of Washington with a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

Susan West Montgomery
Susan is President of Preservation Action, the national grassroots lobby for historic preservation. Prior to that, she worked as Executive Director of the Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks in Buffalo, New York. In Washington, D.C., Susan became a Research Fellow for the Institute for Urban Development Research at George Washington University. She is on the Editorial Advisory Board for the National Trust's Forum. Susan is a Masters Candidate in the Historic Preservation Program at George Washington University.