YOU'LL LOVE NEW YORK—COME BE A PART OF IT

First International Conference on Olmsted Parks Convenes in New York on September 21

An eagerly awaited world conference on Olmsted parks will begin to gather in New York City on Wednesday, September 21, 1983, and continue through Sunday, the 25th, by which time more than 1,000 delegates and participants are expected to have become involved in some part of the five-day program. Seven hundred delegates are expected to hear New York’s Mayor Koch and editor Grady Clay at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Auditorium Plenary Session on the 22nd. Many more will enjoy one or another of the numerous exhibits, tours and special events included in the conference.

Registration for the conference is now open and a complete schedule of fees is being distributed together with the interim program.

Governor Mario Cuomo of New York State has been invited to address the conference and his staff have indicated his interest in doing so. His appearance and remarks will be a highlight of the conference.

This year’s conference is the NAOP’s first on an international scale, where both visitors from other nations have been encouraged to attend and the content will deal with various influences on Olmsted’s work, and the reverse influence he and his associates have had on some parks and open-space designs abroad.

It is sponsored by the Association in cooperation with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and more than seventy-five public agencies, educational institutions, and cultural and civic associations, including the National Park Service and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, The Parks Council, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Metropolitan Museum of Art and New York Botanical Garden, four of

Park Professionals Day Hosted by New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

The first day sets the mood. With this in mind, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation is planning a stimulating opening day at the first World Conference on Olmsted Parks. Designed specifically for persons directly engaged in running public parks, the Department will host “Park Professionals Day” on September 21.

Commissioner Henry J. Stern and top-level staff of the Department are planning a full day of activities for those park administrators, managers and professionals who attend.

The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. with registration and coffee at Tavern-On-The-Green, the landmark restaurant, originally a sheepfold, at Central Park West and 67th Street, just inside Central Park.

The Parks Commissioner and experienced parks officials will present an overview of the New York City Parks System and a general orientation to the Department’s administration, operations and management at the morning session. Informative discussions and presentations will ensue on the following subjects: budget and funding; concessions and revenue; maintenance and operations; horticulture and forestry operations; recreation and sports; visitor services; and design and construction. The program will be geared to those familiar with the realities of operating and preserving public parks and historic sites.

After lunch, the afternoon has been reserved for a series of tours led by teams of NYC park managers on various of the themes presented in the morning sessions. The tours will orient conference participants to the vast park system concentrating on the Olmsted legacy and its relationship to the rest of the network.

Paul Stanton

Continued on page 7
Brooklyn. A complete list of the topics and tours is being offered to facilitate planning and the selection of the best possible moderators and panelists. Advance indication of workshop preferences is being encouraged.

Another feature of the conference will be a series of late afternoon receptions planned for both pleasure and content. The first will be at The New-York Historical Society and will be sponsored by the Society and the Central Park Conservancy. It will provide an opportunity to review the master planning process which is in progress for Central Park and to learn more about both its methodology and its intent. The second, a Meet-the-Authors reception will be hosted by the Municipal Art Society, the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Urban Center Books. It will bring together some fifteen authors who have written extensively about Olmsted, parks and the role of open space in an urban society. Copies of all their works will be available for sale and autographing. The final wrap-up reception will be at the New York Botanical Garden, bringing together all conference participants and members of the various organizations which will have helped to make the conference a success.

Numerous other events have been planned as part of the conference, including the display of the original "Greensward" plan for Central Park, recently conserved, a balloon ascension from the Long Meadow in Prospect Park and the presentation of the 1983 Distinguished Service Awards. Balloon ascensions were one of Olmsted's favorite activities, and Malcolm Forbes, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Forbes magazine, is making one available for the festivities.

The Association is deeply indebted to the many individuals and organizations which have worked with NAOP both in the planning and execution of the conference. Without their interest and support, and their ideas for the content of the program, the conference could not succeed. In addition, the Association deeply appreciates those who have already made a financial contribution to the development of the conference. Without their early support the project would have never begun.

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Individual copies, $3.00 Annual Subscription, $5.00

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New York’s Mayor Koch Proclaims
September Park Appreciation Month In The Five Boroughs

The creation of Park Appreciation Month is another first stimulated by the National Association for Olmsted Parks, and provides opportunity to mobilize support for the important historic and recreational values of their urban parks. It can also be a time to reflect on the need for correct, ongoing maintenance of these unique and essential public resources.

In fact, almost any imaginative and constructive program can be built into Park Appreciation Month, and in the weeks ahead, communities from Boston to Chicago, Buffalo to Atlantic City will be asked to cooperate with New York in making this an effort worthy of the scores of historic parks, many planned by Olmsted and his associates, in the United States and Canada.

In New York the World Conference on Olmsted Parks will be the centerpiece, but by no means the only event, especially in the neighborhoods where local, often smaller parks are such an important part of the community. A pre-school clean-up is one especially appropriate undertaking. An attack on the graffiti on identification or regulatory signs is another.

In other cities—such as Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Seattle and San Francisco—the anticipated arrival of the American Tour of Olmsted Parks, departing from Great Britain on September 17, will provide another chance to bring people together, compare different park perspectives and experiences and increase the public commitment to the preservation of our parks and open spaces.

There are innumerable ways to observe and celebrate Park Appreciation Month, and the National Association would like to help communities with a valued Olmsted legacy to develop programs of local significance. NAOP would also like to help share ideas created elsewhere, and asks that any group planning any kind of program around this occasion describe it briefly in writing, and if possible send a picture or clipping of what is taking place. Who knows, yours may be just the idea to catch on countrywide and become, in time, a national institution.

DR. CHARLES E. BEVERIDGE WILL LECTURE AT PUBLICATION RECEPTION FOR “CREATING CENTRAL PARK,” VOLUME III OF THE PAPERS OF FREDERICK LAW OLMSFED.

A reception and lecture to celebrate the definitive volume on Central Park, The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, Volume III, Creating Central Park, 1857-1861, will be held on May 16, 1983 (see story).

Charles Beveridge will give a slide lecture on “The Rediscovery of Central Park” at the Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue, in cooperation with the Municipal Art Society, and Urban Center Books at 5:30 p.m. “I’ll contrast the unimproved Central Park site with the “Greensward” plan using the presentation drawings, compare that plan with what was actually carried out, and then examine the park as it was constructed and how it looks today,” said Dr. Beveridge.

Creating Central Park follows two earlier volumes of The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, entitled The Formative Years and Slavery and The South. It covers the period from August, 1857, when Olmsted attempted to become Superintendent of the Central Park under Chief Engineer Egbert Viele through June 1861 when he was appointed General Secretary of the U.S. Sanitary Commission.

An extensive pictorial essay on Central Park from 1859-1863 has been gathered for this volume, including the presentation views accompanying the “Greensward” plan, photographs of the newly planted park, stereopticon views, and “birds eye” lithographs of mid-nineteenth century New York City.

Like the preceding Olmsted Paper volumes, Creating Central Park will have an introduction by Charles Beveridge, a biographical directory, and a section of Olmsted’s letters and writings. The book is 464 pages, with 121 illustrations, and retails for $28.50.

Early registrants to the September conference will receive a 50% discount on Volume III when purchased through Urban Center Books. The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted are published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Charles Capen McLaughlin is Editor-in-Chief of the 12-volume series. The project is supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities among others, and is based at American University in Washington, D.C.

The introduction of Creating Central Park will discuss what Olmsted brought to his first park position, the design of Central Park, the story of its construction and politics, and then follow up on Olmsted and Vaux’s work in Central Park through the 1870s. Olmsted’s relationship with Calvert Vaux, Andrew Haswell Green, Mary Perkins Olmsted and Egbert Viele will be featured in the biographical directory.

The body of the volume will consist of Olmsted’s own words, including letters to his father, brother John Hull Olmsted, and prominent nineteenth-century figures; the complete text which accompanied the “Greensward” plan; reports to the Central Park Board of Commissioners on such subjects as drainage and planting; and his article on Parks in the New American Cyclopedia, in which he discusses the history of park design and the parks movements in America and Europe.

The publication reception and lecture will be held on the eve of the 125th anniversary of Olmsted’s appointment as Architect-in-Chief of Central Park.

Bow Bridge, Central Park’s virtual trademark, about 1863, as it looked in the early days more than 100 years before it needed restoration, is one of the many park pictures in Volume III of the Olmsted Papers. From the collection of Herbert Mitchell
THE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS OLMS TED PARKS IN FULL SWING

A pilot survey of Olmsted parks in Massachusetts is being conducted by the Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks (MAOP). Twelve parks across the Commonwealth will be examined, as the first part of the National Inventory and Assessment of Olmsted Parks initiated by the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP). The Massachusetts Inventory has been developed by the MAOP with faculty and students from several leading educational institutions.

The immediate goal of the Inventory is the preparation of a thematic National Register nomination for all extant parks designed by the Olmsted firm in Massachusetts. This project will serve as a model for the nationwide survey of parks, playgrounds, and public reservations designed by the Olmsted firm.

Of the more than 850 parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, his sons, associates and successors starting in 1858, approximately 280 are in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts survey is being executed by the Radcliffe Seminars Landscape Design Program, the lead institution; the Boston University Preservation Studies Program; the Harvard Graduate School of Design; the University of Massachusetts at Amherst’s Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, and the Rhode Island School of Design. Assistance is provided by the staff of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the Brookline Historical Commission.

The pilot survey will issue a Report of the Inventory Committee, documenting the 12 Olmsted parks, playgrounds and public reservations. It is scheduled for publication this spring. The publication will contain historical maps, plans, sketches, drawings and photographs illustrating the historical development of the park sites in Massachusetts including: Leverett Pond, Brookline; Charlestown Heights, Boston; Copp’s Hill, Boston; Elmwood Park, Holyoke; Fellsmere Park, Malden; South Park, Fall River; Buttonwood Park, New Bedford; Beaverbrook, Belmont; Blue Hills Reservation, Milton.

The Inventory project has special value as a research and preservation tool. It can be consulted by park administrators, architectural historians, community activists and other park users for valuable data. The report will offer guidelines for the study and evaluation of other Olmsted parks in Massachusetts and is designed to stimulate community interest in park preservation, rehabilitation and restoration throughout the country. The publication will serve as an educational tool at a series of regional workshops planned by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the MAOP. It will be available for national distribution at the NAOP Conference in September.

Initial funding for the nationwide survey has been provided to the NAOP by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); the

"Greensward" Plan Conserved

The design competition for Central Park officially closed on April 1, 1858. Messrs. Olmsted and Vaux submitted their "Greensward" plan on the last day (some say late), having worked on it far into the night. It, along with thirty-two other competing designs, was put on view at 637 Broadway and, on April 28, it was pronounced the winner of the $2,000 first prize. Considering its age, 125 years, and its size, 11' x 37" (343 x 109 cm), it is something of a miracle that the original paper plan is still alive and well, hanging until very recently at the Arsenal, Headquarters of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, 830 Fifth Avenue at 64th St., also the registration headquarters for September's conference.

Now the somewhat faded, fairly dirty, and partially torn and marked-on plan is starting on a new life. At NAOP's suggestion it was trucked by the Department's personnel to the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Massachusetts. There, under the careful eye of the Center's expert staff and Director Ann Russell, its condition is being studied and a conservation and exhibition plan is being prepared. Everyone hopes the work will be finished and the plan placed in an appropriate display case by September.

Releasing the plan was almost the last act as Parks Commissioner of Gordon Davis. Welcoming it back, ready for the next 125 years, should be one of Commissioner Henry Stern's more pleasant tasks. Joseph P. Breslin, the Department's Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Preservation and an active member of NAOP's Steering Committee, is in charge of the project. He is to be congratulated on its careful execution. Like others at the Arsenal, however, he may be having a little trouble getting used to the large, rectangular blank space on the wall where the "Greensward" has been hanging for as long as anyone can remember, possibly since it launched the partners Olmsted and Vaux on their illustrious careers.

Inventory in New York State has received support from the New York State Council on the Arts. The Massachusetts Inventory has been supported by the Beacon Hill Garden Club, which seeks through this grant to stimulate public interest and concern for urban parks. Additional funds for the pilot program have been provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the Hubbard Educational Trust, and the MAOP.

Directing the Massachusetts Inventory are Patricia Wesolowski, Inventory Committee
How Olmsted created Boston’s park system

FRÉDERICK LAW OLMS T ED AND THE BOSTON PARK SYSTEM

By Cynthia Zaitzevsky.
Harvard University Press. 262 pp. $30.

By Robert Campbell

The Boston park system is one of the triumphs of the 19th century and one of the disgraces of the 20th.

What was it that led our forebears to create, not only in Boston but in so many cities, in the latter half of the Victorian era the great American urban park systems? And what is it that leads us to drive highways through them, or fill them with zoos and hospitals, or abandon their beautiful bandstands, their delicate woody shelters, their thoughtful plantings?

The great park systems were settings for a public life, a life of urban people who wanted to mix and meet and stroll and show off to one another. They haven’t been wanted by our privatized society of people sealed into metal gasoline-powered capsules or hunkered in front of TVs.

Frederick Law Olmsted was the great landscape architect who with his colleagues created Franklin Park, the Back Bay Fens, the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Park, Marine Park, Copp’s Hill Terraces and part of Commonwealth avenue — a ring of parks around the city, the Emerald Necklace, as it came to be called.

Cynthia Zaitzevsky’s book tells the story of a park system that was once perhaps the finest in the nation. This is a model of what such a book should be. It’s full of scholarly history, yet readable and fresh, filled with illuminating maps and plans and with achingly lovely period photographs of the magical places Olmsted created out of what had previously been, so often, dreary wastelands.

Zaitzevsky describes the process of making each of the parks, discussing Olmsted’s landscape philosophy and design methods, and sketching the social and political background.

One statistic shows the decline in caring from the 1880s to our own time. In the part of the Back Bay Fens that Olmsted called the “Beacon Entrance,” he planted 100,000 new trees, shrubs and flowers in 2½ acres. This is the area that today lies beneath the Charlesgate overpass.

In New York an effort is well under way to restore Olmsted’s Central Park to something like its original state. Undoubtedly this fine book will encourage the Olmsted movement that has long been growing in Boston. With all its other virtues, “Olmsted” is an unusually satisfying example of book design; the design is Gwen Frankfeld.

Robert Campbell is The Globe’s architecture correspondent.

Olmsted and Vaux Bibliography Compiled and Maintained by Riverside Public Library

The comprehensive Olmsted and Vaux bibliography compiled by the Riverside Public Library will soon be computerized so that it can be updated easily and citations quickly retrieved. The task of entering the raw information will be completed this summer.

The bibliography began as an in-house reference tool to identify Olmsted and Vaux materials for acquisition by the library. So many materials were uncovered by researchers Steve Olderr and Patricia Heuel that it became obvious the information should be shared. It was then they decided to publish it. The research project was funded by the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside. The Riverside Friends of the Library provided funds for the publication.

The enthusiastic response to the bibliography encouraged the library to computerize it and to keep it up to date. When the project is complete, it will be possible to retrieve information by title, author, publisher, publishing date, form of publication, subject heading, or any word or number in the citation.

Toward a Comprehensive Bibliography of the Landscape and Architectural Work of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux Inclusive to January 1, 1981 is the complete title of the bibliography, which includes a list of indexes and publications scanned for data, and a listing of bibliographic sources according to geographic area, and individual.

There are already about 50 items which have not been included in the original bibliography, and these will be added to the data base and made available. It is hoped that addenda can be printed from time to time to update all interested parties.

Some of these additional items have been uncovered in the course of routine library work, but most have come either through individuals or through the NAOP. The library hopes to uncover more materials in the future by contacting groups and organizations interested in Olmsted and Vaux, but relies on the interest of individuals to keep current and to expand. There is a special need to fill out incomplete citations in the original bibliography and correct any errors that may have crept in. Copies of articles are especially useful since they can be catalogued fully and dates verified.

Any questions or comments should be sent to Steve Olderr, Head Librarian, Riverside Public Library, 1 Burling Road, Riverside, IL 60546. (312) 442-6366. The Olmsted and Vaux bibliography is distributed by NAOP and is available for $2.50.

By Steven Olderr
Grady Clay, Editor, Speaker, Keynotes World Conference in New York

Grady Clay, Editor of Landscape Architecture Magazine and internationally acclaimed environmental lecturer and author, will present the keynote address at the World Conference plenary session on Thursday, Sept. 22, in the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Clay's topic, "The Manufacture of an Ideal Landscape," will include some of the history of parks and the park movement in America and integrate the past with new planning and design trends and changing urban recreational needs. He will be joined on the stage by New York's Mayor Edward I. Koch, Conference Co-Chairmen Arthur Ross and Donald Bruckman, N.Y.C. Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern, Bess Meyerson, Cultural Affairs Commissioner, Central Park Administrator Elizabeth V. Barlow, and other distinguished guests, including those from abroad and the 1983 winners of NAOP's Distinguished Service Awards.

The speaking date was arranged for NAOP during a recent visit to Louisville by Executive Director Allport, and grew out of Clay's visit to the conference in Boston in 1981. Shortly thereafter he wrote suggesting that he had attended the founding of a major new movement for park preservation and the improvement of our urban environments and that he had been deeply moved and inspired by the conference.

In addition to being Editor of Landscape Architecture, Clay is past-president of the American Society of Planning Officials and an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Landscape Architects. He has published numerous volumes on urban affairs and environmental topics, including Closeup: How to Read the American City; Alleys: A Hidden Resource; Water in the Landscape; and Landscapes for Living. In 1981, Clay was chairman of the jury which chose the winning design for the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, D.C. He has served on the President's Task Force on Suburban Problems and on the White House Conference on Natural Beauty. As a Guggenheim Fellow, he developed a method for metropolitan cross-section analysis which later became a television documentary, "Unknown Places: Exploring the Obvious."

Numerous Historic Park and Olmsted Exhibitions Will Highlight Conference

A multitude of exhibitions will inform and delight the conference visitor and the citizen of New York during autumn as various cosponsoring organizations prepare or commission exhibitions ranging from Olmsted's historic involvement with the parks to plans for restoring and managing those parks in the 21st century.

"How to Manage and Restore a Historic Park: Design Issues in Historic Landscapes," will be the focus of an exhibition at The New York Historical Society. A reception for the conference will open the show at 6 pm on Wednesday, September 21. The show will run through October 15. Prepared by the Central Park Conservancy, the Central Park Administrator's Office and the Historical Society, the show will examine the master planning process by exploring 11 study areas used in assessing a park. Central Park is in the midst of developing its management and restoration plan, which will focus on all areas of the park as they relate to the whole. Such concerns as public use, soil, vegetation, security, wildlife and architecture will be explored through maps, photographs, archival objects and even cartoons.

A satellite exhibition on the restoration and management plan for Central Park will be organized at the Dairy in Central Park. Geared to the general public, park visitors will be able to manipulate variables to devise their own solutions to park problems. A puzzle or game format will be used in the show, which will be on display from September 20 to early December. School groups will also be welcome.

Across the New York Harbor at the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, "Art of the Olmsted Landscape," an exhibition prepared by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, will return to New York after a two-year tour. It will be on view from September 18 to October 30, and focuses on Olmsted's New York parks by surveying the concepts which determined their design.

A companion exhibition at the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences will display 19th-century Staten Island landscapes by artists such as Jasper Cropsey. Consisting primarily of oil paintings and drawings, this exhibition will show the Staten Island which Olmsted knew during his various residences there in the 1850s and 1860s, "Art of the Olmsted Landscape" and the 19th-century Staten Island landscapes will be seen during a "Victorian Tea" sponsored by the Institute on Sunday, September 25, as the finale of the Special Events Day tour to Staten Island.

"Olmsted and the Essex County Park System" will document the evolution of the first county park system in the U.S., Essex County, New Jersey, through historic photographs, models, plans, narrative descriptions and literature. The original conceptions of the parks will be displayed along with master plans for their continued management. This exhibition will hang in the Newark Public Library from August through October, and will be featured as part of the American Tour of Olmsted Parks, and as a Special Events Day feature on Sunday, September 25.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Association will mount an exhibition of the Central Park Stereographic Photos from the private Herbert Mitchell Collection. These rare views of the park in the 1860's through the 1880's include the original landscape in its early years and many now-demolished park structures planned by Olmsted, Vaux and Jacob Wrey Mould. The exhibition site has not yet been determined at press time, but it will be

Continued on page 16
Urban Park Rangers Plan Equestrian Tours, Among Others, For Conference

It's early morning in Central Park. The orange-yellow glow of sunrise filters through the lush canopy of maple, oak, and linden trees. Joggers in gaudy nylon suits rustle past beneath graceful cast-iron bridges, as a chorus of early-autumn bird calls fills the air. Outside the park, the city is already awake and thundering, but here, in the tunnels of green, there is only the muffled clip-clop of horse hooves.

That's the setting for a guided horseback tour of Central Park, one of nearly a dozen tours to be offered by the New York City Urban Park Rangers to Olmsted conference participants. The Rangers, a co-sponsor of the conference, will provide free walking and mounted tours of most of the parks in New York designed by Olmsted and Vaux, and will offer glimpses of other historical parks as well.

The Highlights already scheduled include:

—A Wednesday early morning tour of Central Park
—Three tours of Central Park Thursday afternoon
—A Friday early morning mounted tour of Prospect Park
—A Friday morning foot tour of Prospect Park
—Two twilight tours on Saturday evening—one begins in Battery Park at the tip of Manhattan, crosses the Brooklyn Bridge (100 years old this year) and arrives at the Brooklyn Heights Promenade just in time to see Manhattan don its nighttime mantle of lights. The other tour will trace the history and design of Riverside Park as the sun sets over the New Jersey Palisades.

—A workshop on Saturday on how to set up and run an Urban Park Ranger program.

Tours of other, non-Olmstedian, city parks will also be offered to conference participants during the week. The two mounted tours will be limited to 20 participants each, and riders will have to rent (or bring) horses for the tours. The tours will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Conference participants should indicate their interest in the mounted tours on the preference sheet of Tours and Workshops.

For the Rangers, the challenge of the conference will be to present the history, design and restoration of the Olmsted legacy in a fresh light for a knowledgeable audience of Olmsted scholars and admirers.

Educational programming, in the form of public walks, outdoor ecology classes, in-school demonstrations, and slide-shows and environmental fairs, has been the primary mission of the Rangers since the division was formed as a pilot project by Parks Commissioner Gordon J. Davis in 1979. Based on the National Park Service Rangers (even to the Smokey the Bear hat), the city Rangers provide a wide variety of visitor services from giving directions and minor first aid to crowd control at al fresco concerts for 500,000. They also help the police to apprehend suspects. On a busy summer weekend, a Ranger might bandage a dozen scraped knees, find a lost child, direct a hundred people to bathrooms and play host to thousands of park guests.

City-wide the Ranger force numbers about 70 during the winter, and expands to about 110 during the summer. There is a Ranger outpost in each of the city's five major parks, including Central, Prospect, Van Cortlandt (Bronx), Flushing Meadow (Queens), and Silver Lake (Staten Island).

There are also units of mounted Rangers in Central and Prospect Parks, as well as a special contingent of Rangers funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior for one year in the South Bronx's Crotona Park.

Conference participants can expect to see Rangers every time they visit a city park. An additional security presence will be provided by the Park Enforcement Patrol (PEP), a division of Rangers empowered to make arrests and issue summonses. The Rangers and PEP officers (who number about 60 city-wide) are both part of the newly created Bureau of Environmental Services.

The Rangers plan to keep the conference alive and stimulated with tours and programs. All participants need to bring is energy, a camera and a pair of walking shoes.

Adrian Benepe – Director of Programming, Urban Park Rangers.

PARK
PROFESSIONALS DAY
For Registration Information Write:  
Mr. Paul Stanton  
Park Professional Day  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10021

LANDSCAPE
DESIGNERS DAY
For Registration Information Write:  
Ms. Gail Guillot  
Landscape Designers Day  
National Association for Olmsted Parks  
175 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10010
Memories of Chicago Conference
Stir Interest in New York

1. The Des Plaines River curves through park-like Riverside. Expertly guided tours on the horticulture and architecture of this model community highlight a sunny Saturday.

2. Chicago's Mayor hosts an elegant cocktail party in the stained glass and mosaic rotunda of the Library Cultural Center.

3. Martin W. Reinhart, Conference Chairman and Board Member of the Friends of the Parks, receives a citation for his leadership from NAOP Co-Chair Betsy Shure Gross.

4. The handshake cements an Urban Park Ranger alliance between Boston Park Commissioner Robert McCoy and New York Parks Department of Environmental Services Ranger Angiolillo.

5. Welcome to Riverside, where conference participants spend an idyllic afternoon hearing talks and strolling through Olmsted and Vaux's first planned community.

6. Cornelia Hanna McMurtrie accepts NAOP Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Charles W. Elliot, II, from NAOP Co-Chair Charles McLaughlin. Mr. Elliot's association with the Olmsted firm transcends 60 years.

7. Chicago Historical Society's exhibition of early park system plans and photographs provides the background for a reception for conference participants and guests.

8. Olmsted, anyone? NAOP National Co-Chair Betsy Shure Gross distributes literature at the Midland Hotel conference HQ.

9. Frederick Law Olmsted looks over Buffalo Architectural Historian Frank Kowky's shoulder as he lectures on the legacy in that Great Lakes port city.

10. Nancy Anderson Stevenson, one of Dr. McLaughlin's former students, renew her interest in Olmsted as Honorary Co-Chairman of the Conference.

11. You can pass for a New York City Park Ranger. Mayor Jane Byrne. Commissioner Gordon Davis sends an Urban Park Ranger hat to Chicago to invite all Chicagoans to the 1983 World Conference in New York.

12. 1982 Conference Coordinator Sandra Higgins welcomes visitors aboard the bus for Riverside, and makes everyone feel happy along the way.

13. Only she knows what's for lunch. Mary Decker, then Executive Director of the Friends of the Parks, sends conferencees off to tour Chicago parks with a boxed repast.

Photos by Xardi
Hartford, CT Bushnell Park, in the center of downtown Hartford, is one of the country’s first public parks. It was established more than a century ago through the efforts of the theologian Horace Bushnell, a neighbor and friend of the Olmsted family. Bushnell dreamed of his park as “an opening in the heart of the city itself.” It was designed not by Olmsted, but by Jacob Weidenmann, who did much work for Olmsted and eventually was associated with him. Today it is visited by more than 750,000 people annually.

When the Bushnell Park Foundation was established in 1981, stimulated by the work of the National Association for Olmsted Parks, it developed a five-year plan, costing several million dollars, to bring beauty and elegance back to Bushnell Park. How to raise the money was a question, however, until The Hartford Courant joined the Foundation’s efforts with an advertising campaign to help tell the story widely. As their contribution twenty-four area agencies prepared full-page ads depicting the plight of Bushnell Park and conveying the message that “you can help.” In turn the Courant ran the ads, also at no cost to the Foundation, and now the Bushnell Park Foundation has raised an outstanding $479,000 for work in the Park. Much of it will be used for the repair of the Pond, an important feature of the Park.

Pond Memories, was the slogan for one of the ads. A Poor Reflection of Hartford, was another, featuring a picture of modern Hartford reflected in the waters of the neglected and deteriorating pool. Hartford is Having a Heart Attack declared one ad, remembering Bushnell’s vision for his park. Let’s Keep Bushnell Park Pond Afloat urged an ad featuring a graphic, step-by-step lesson in folding a paper boat. We Need A Home Improvement Loan featured a feathered family of ducks at the edge of the Pond, obviously distressed at its condition. Remember when you were a kid, the fun you had feeding the ducks? asked another using the same theme, but followed quickly with the statement, Now it’s time to feed the kitty. A final ad, entitled simply Best of Friends, listed all those who gave to the campaign and in so doing became members of the Bushnell Park Foundation.

“We Need a Home Improvement Loan,” one of the donated advertising slogans used in the Bushnell Park Foundation’s drive to raise $500,000 for restoration projects and repair of the Park’s duck pond. Design by Keiler Advertising

Keney Park in Hartford, CT, as it was taking shape under the direction of Charles W. Eliot in 1897, partner in the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot. Too rare the chance to observe a park’s terrain before a master shaped it to his artful design. Photo courtesy John Alexopoulos

Atlanta, GA Southerners may be noted for their warm hospitality, but the reception the city of Atlanta accorded FLO Papers Editor Charles Beveridge and NAOP Executive Director Alexander Allport was certainly something beyond the normal hand of friendship. Four days of receptions, speeches, interviews and substantive meetings resulted in the founding of an Atlanta Association for Olmsted Parks and an ambitious goal of helping to preserve and restore the Olmstedian legacy in Druid Hills and Piedmont Park with a combination of public and private funds and a demonstration of determination that negates the stereotype of an easy-going Southerner.

The focus of all the attention was Druid Hills, an aging residential area, which Esquire Magazine categorized as “Not the poshest residential area in the South, but perhaps the most pleasant.” Today Druid Hills is an expanse of towering trees and mini-parks complemented by the stately elegance of the turn-of-the-century mansions and numerous attractive row-condos which are increasing substantively the park population of the area. In 1979 about 1,300 acres of the area were accepted into the National Register of Historic Places.

But in honor of the NAOP visit, the City Council and Mayor Andrew Young, no stranger to Central Park himself, declared
“Frederick Law Olmsted Day” and the Georgia House of Representatives, then sitting, issued a proclamation urging all citizens to join in recognizing the “vision and enormous talent of Frederick Law Olmsted and the special contributions he made to the Atlanta community.”

Capacity crowds, twice numbering more than 300, attended the opening reception hosted by the Druid Hills Civic Association, a lecture at Emory University given by Dr. Beveridge and a presentation at the Atlanta Preservation Center by Mr. Allport. The final event, on a rather cold Saturday morning, was a walking tour of the Olmsted parks along Ponce de Leon Avenue, each with its own name...Springdale, Brightwood, Shady Side, Dellwood and Deepdene... but all forming one inter-connected park system uniting the entire community in a concern for the preservation of the unity and integrity of its parks.

Visits to other Atlanta parks, a meeting with Mayor Young and Parks Commissioner Geraldine Elder, another with Congressman Elliot Levitas, and one with Jack H. Pyburn of EDAW, the nation-wide architectural and landscaping firm, and others rounded out the busy four-day schedule. As luck would have it, the current issue of Atlanta magazine carried a lead story entitled “The Great Park Controversy,” outlining all the perspectives on putting a road through Druid Hills’ park. Through this visit to Atlanta by two of its senior and most experienced representatives, NAOP was able to understand the issues involved and, hopefully, to build some bridges between the competing points of view, a necessary step in the preservation of this Olmsted park.

Old and New? Which bridge is more suited to the restoration of the Niagara Reservation is an issue between modernists and historic preservationists. NAOP’s comments on the Master Plan for the area received serious consideration. Photo by Xandi

Niagara Falls, NY Pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has compiled a programmatic Final Environment Impact Statement on the Niagara Reservation. The master plan for the area, entitled “Niagara Reservation: Options of the Future,” involved restoring the natural features of the park by increasing landscape areas and reducing on-site parking, but also improving vehicular access and enhancing visitor services.

NAOP’s preservation consultant and Trustee, Gail Guillet, prepared a report to the Association which was endorsed by the Board of Trustees and in part accepted by OPRHP, for which the NAOP is most grateful. Under the original concept plan, the visitor center was to be provided in a new 20,000 square foot structure. However, due to the numerous concerns expressed during the environmental review process regarding the impacts of this new building and associated food concessions, OPRHP will re-evaluate another alternative and reduce the scale of food concessions. The agency will conduct schematic studies to determine the feasibility of expanding and, adaptively reusing the existing Administration Building as a visitor center, one of the 17 recommendations made by NAOP.

The other 16 recommendations also adhere closely to the original Olmstedian concept for the Falls, and stress the natural values of the area as opposed to more structures and man-made intrusions. Once more, returning to the conceptual source of a natural scenic area has provided a useful guide to its future restoration.

Continued on page 12
Portland, OR Following on Marlene Salon’s participation in the 1982 Chicago Conference, her boss, Park Commissioner Charles R. Jordan, paid a visit to New York and to the National Association late in the year. His schedule included time with the 6'5" Gordon J. Davis, his counterpart in New York, who was surprised to find himself looking up to the man from Oregon. Comm. Jordan, a former Police Chief, was also vitally interested in the Urban Park Ranger program and met with other officials in the New York system in Manhattan and Brooklyn. A brief tour of Manhattan’s parks led him to write, “While I’m steadfast in my devotion to this ‘Western paradise,’ Manhattan and her sister boroughs do put one’s commitments to the test.”

Commissioner Jordan hopes to attend the conference in September and can make a very significant contribution to it. The Olmsted legacy in Portland includes the concept of the 40-Mile Loop connecting a series of parks. Though first proposed in 1904 by the Olmsted Brothers, it is being actively promoted by its enthusiasts today.

Riverside, IL Backing up a serious commitment to landscape preservation, the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside has invested more than $2,000 to restore and improve its parks. The restoration effort represents a thoughtful interpretation of the principles which guided Olmsted and Vaux, who planned Riverside in 1868. Native plants, which they favored, have been extensively used, including winterberry, witch hazel, blackhawk, arrowhead and spice. Fifteen new trees have also been purchased, including shingle and red oaks, sugar maples and beeches.

Riverside’s Olmsted Society was founded in 1968 by a group of residents interested in maintaining the historic value of the village and the beauty of its landscape. Due to their efforts, the entire town was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1970.

Buffalo, NY Now that the Buffalo Parks System, Olmsted’s first, is on the National Register of Historic Places, civic leaders are intent on making it more widely known within the community. A new brochure and an educational slide presentation have been developed by the Buffalo Friends of the Olmsted Parks, with the help from the University of Buffalo and other enthusiastic friends. The project, partially helped by the New York State Council on the Arts, is one more tool in popularizing Buffalo’s parks and in making those who would debase them take notice of their history and significance in the growth and development of New York State’s western metropolis.

Boston, MA An exhibition at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design featured “Rebuilding Central Park,” the drawings for many of the restoration projects now underway, including those of Philip Winslow, the American Society of Landscape Architects’ representative on the NAOP Steering Committee.

The Franklin Park Coalition is using a recent $10,000 grant to expand its membership, and thereby expand its support throughout the community. The drive will include posters on public transportation and a direct mail drive and will continue for the next five to seven months. “Our goal,” says Richard Heath, the Coalition’s executive is to become a management partner in the park.” In accepting the NAOP’s Distinguished Service Award, Charles W. Eliot wrote, “Over the past sixty years it has been my privilege and pleasure to work in the ‘cause’ of the Association in New England, the National Capitol, and all across America to California and Washington. My first job—sixty years ago—was at the Olmsted Office in Brookline for the summer of 1922, where I worked as a draftsman on projects of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., Henry V. Hubbard and other partners in the firm. Prof. Hubbard and FLO, Jr., more than anyone beside my grandfather shaped my career.” The grandfather happened to be President Eliot of Harvard, who, upon hearing of the birth of his grandson, announced simply that he would become a landscape architect and continue the work of his late uncle, the Eliot of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot. Such extended traditions gave added meaning to NAOP’s efforts at park preservation today and the Association is honored by Mr. Eliot’s acceptance of its highest award.

Among recent grants reported by the Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks were: one of $2,500 from the Hubbard Educational Trust to assist with the publication of the Inventory Report; and one from the Henderson Foundation of $20,000 to fund the restoration of bridges in Olmsted parks and permit some landscape restoration in the Boston Commons. Considering the MAOP’s rather humble origins, a child of NAOP’s 1981 conference in Boston and Brookline, these are impressive statistics for one so young.

Louisville, KY What do you get when you cross a tornado with a helicopter? An Olmsted Festival, that’s what, and a first-rate video film of the Olmstedian legacy in a city where both Olmsteds, Senior and Junior, worked their magic and created Cherokee, Iroquois and Shawnee Parks as well as little Boone Square, an inner-city site now undergoing extensive renovation with part of the $175,000 that Louisville’s Eleanor Bingham Miller, an NAOP Steering Committee member, raised to create the Festival.

Another substantial part of the money went to the production of “Louisville’s Parks: An Olmsted Legacy,” a 30-minute tape produced for public television, which will be

A cleanup in Franklin Park during summer work projects involves the gathering of trash, cutting, pruning and weeding, and a general cleaning of the undergrowth, accomplished at the instigation and with the supervision of the Franklin Park Coalition. Photo courtesy Franklin Park Coalition.
touch down again.

The Olmsted Festival was funded in part by the National Park Service, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kentucky Arts Council, Kentucky Humanities Council and numerous individuals and local foundations and corporations. Its unique format and creative execution are one more example of the interest and enthusiasm Olmsted generates today, and the critical importance of citizen participation in the preservation of these historic parks.

**New York, NY**

One of the most pleasant gathering sites for those attending September's conference will be the Belvedere, that fantasy-world castle sitting atop Vista Rock in the center of Central Park, or almost. In anticipation of the conference (that is not entirely true either), the New York City Parks Department, with the help from the Vincent Astor, Coles, Mertz-Gilmore and Frederick W. Beinecke Foundations, has restored it very close to its original grandeur, an undertaking actually begun ten years ago in 1973 when the first set of restoration drawings were commissioned to architect James Lamanita.

Designed by Calvert Vaux in 1876 as a focal point in the Park's landscape, the rugged Gothic tower also provided visitors with a bird's-eye view of the surrounding park, city and countryside. Words can not adequately describe the Belvedere today, and few pictures can do justice to its multi-faceted facade, embellishments and varied structures. Limitations of space prevent reproduction of the entire set of views. So, there is little choice but to do what millions have been doing for years, come and see it for yourself.

Sometime soon the Belvedere will also have been restored to a functional purpose, a Learning Center made possible by grants from the Charles Hayden Foundation and the Sperry Corporation, a place where educational programs will be held for young children, their parents, school groups and the general public. Visitors will be able to climb the tower to observe the weather equipment in use, and once again enjoy the "beautiful view" atop Central Park. Well, not quite, but as close to it as possible without a balloon.

**Rochester, NY**

Only New York City and Buffalo, in New York State, can lay greater claim to an Olmsted legacy than Rochester, NY, a city known widely for its University, photography and increasingly for its Olmsted parks—Seneca, Highland, Durand Eastman, Lakeview and Genesee Valley—several of which are attributed to the Senior Olmsted. In addition the Olmsted firm's involvement in Rochester includes a number of smaller squares and playgrounds.

Uniquely, these major parks are owned by the City of Rochester, but maintained by Monroe County with its wider jurisdiction and greater resources. An initial visit by NAOP Executive Director Alexander Allport, and later speaking engagements there by him and by Dr. Charles Beveridge uncovered a welcome reservoir of interest in the preservation of these historic parks, which like too many others have been divided by highways and other intrusions.

Evidence of this is the fact that master plans are being developed for three of them. Independent consultants working under the guidelines of the County and City Departments of Parks have been chosen for Genesee Valley Park and Durand Eastman and someone will be chosen for Seneca in the near future. One of the results of this, we hope, will be an accurate accounting of just what work was done by the Olmsted, and just what was not, a question of historic interest which is still not fully clear. Rochester's consultants will be invited to participate in the first conference peer-group day for landscape designers in historic preservation, hosted by James Marston Fitch, and to share their experiences with others engaged in similar efforts in New York City and elsewhere.

**San Francisco, CA**

"It's Time to Restore Our Older City Parks," states Amy Meyer, Vice President of the City and County of San Francisco's Recreation and Park Commission, in a recent issue of Sierra, the conservation magazine with a circulation of some 200,000. "The Olmsted-era parks," she writes, "may well be the crowning achievement of the recreation and park movement at the municipal level. All of these parks would benefit from improved irrigation, reforestation, restoration of historic buildings, reduction of automobile traffic ... and elimination of nonconforming use. But for these things to happen, long range policies for the management and preservation of the parks must be developed."

We welcome Mrs. Meyer's initiative, which may lead to a leadership conference aimed at writing new guidelines for Federal help to our cities' aging parks. Developing a national consensus on these important questions is one of the goals of NAOP, and everyone's participation is vital to its success.

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**REGISTER NOW FOR NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER**

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**Boston Park Commissioner Robert McCoy and NAOP Co-Chair Betsy Shure Gross share the symbol of the Urban Park Rangers, a Brown Bear Hat, with visiting New York Parks Department Assistant Commissioner Maurice Nixon.**
NEWS FROM FAIRSTED

VAULT REHABILITATION PLANNED AT
FAIRSTED—ARCHIVES TO CLOSE TEMPORARILY

Anyone who has visited the vault at Fairsted remembers the impressive sight of 115,000 rolled plans by Frederick Law Olmsted and the succeeding Olmsted firm, plans dating back as far as the 1860's. Anyone with a sensitive nose, however, will also remember the overwhelming smell of mold and mildew, especially in the lower portion of the vault. For the past twelve years, it's been without a furnace and the temperature and humidity match the outside air. This makes for difficult working conditions and is equally hard on the plans, causing them to become brittle and vulnerable to paper-eating critters.

A team of consultants working with the National Park Service has prepared a plan for rehabilitating the vault which includes a modern climate control and storage system. With proper care, the plans will still be in good condition one hundred years from now. After rehabilitation a small section of the picturesque cubby-hole storage used at the site will be saved for viewing through a glass door. The majority of the vault, however, will be converted to flat shelving for drawings up to 6' long while even longer plans will remain rolled.

However, during vault rehabilitation, the plans will be stored offsite in Springfield, MA. Rehabilitation work may as long as three years, depending on funds.

The archives are scheduled to close to public use on June 1, 1983; they will reopen in October for access to lithographs, photographs, periodicals, models, books, reports and other objects stored there. Anyone with requests for archival information should contact the site as soon as possible so that research time can be scheduled. During the rehabilitation work, the house and grounds will continue to be open.

For further information write to FLONHS, 99 Warren Street, Brookline, MA 02146.

Lectures Popular

ASLA, NAOP, MAOP, FLOP, FLOA, and a number of academic institutions, including Harvard, Long Island University, Berkeley, Texas A & M, University of Virginia, State University of New York and Yale, gathered for the day to consider the future of the Historic Site and its importance to both scholars and the even larger constituency of park users and preservationists.

There was not much question that, while there were alternatives to what Fairsted could become, how it is to be managed and
Growing Network Raises More Than $1-Million for Local Park Preservation and Public Education Efforts

The concept of an independent community affiliate for park preservation is not as widely known as it might be, and among more traditional national HQ/local chapter structured organizations it is an almost as alien as E.T. Yet, for whatever reasons, it works for NAOP, and a rough calculation indicates that such diverse entities as the Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks, the Bushnell Park Foundation, the Buffalo Friends of the Olmsted Parks, the Friends of the Olmsted Papers, and the Olmsted Festival, have gone right ahead and raised more than $1-million for their diverse programs since mid-1981.

Each community park-preservation group, whether limited to one city or embracing a region or entire state, remains autonomous of NAOP. It builds its own Board of Trustees, writes its own By-laws, seeks its own incorporation in its own state, applies for its own tax-exempt status, raises its own funds, recruits its own members and develops its own program to meet what it perceives to be the most pressing local park needs. As an "Affiliate," however, it benefits from NAOP's national experience, group creativity, public recognition, full-time staff and direct access to some of the major sources of information about Olmsted and the parks he, his sons, associates and successors built across America.

Working together, through its Board of Trustees, National Advisors, geographically representative Steering Committee, its conferences and publications and frequent visits by NAOP representatives, the Association continually encourages a consensus on where it should be going and what it should achieve. Then, by releasing local, community-based, individual energy, and being as supportive of it as possible, it becomes the catalytic agent for park preservation suited to the needs of each community, and best managed and funded within each community.

For additional information about NAOP's efforts at community organization for park preservation and how your group might qualify as an affiliate, please write NAOP, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

PARK DESIGNERS DAY HOSTED BY CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preservation of the "built" environment has become such a pervasive idea that examples of adaptive-reuse abound across the country. Courses are taught, symposia convened—to examine the political, social and economic basis for historic preservation. What is not as clearly recognized is that our urban parks are also part of our "built" environment.

As part of the first World Conference on Olmsted Parks, a group of landscape architects, planners and historic preservation professionals will gather to discuss the topic "Design Issues in the Historic Landscape." The format of the day will be a series of presentations with contrasting viewpoints concerning what the design issues are and how we should approach them, combined with ample opportunity for discussion and comment. The meetings will be accompanied by an exhibition, described elsewhere, which focuses primarily on the pioneering work currently under way in Central Park.

Host for the program is James Marston Fitch, founder of the Historic Preservation Program at Columbia University's School of Architecture and Planning and author of Historic Preservation: Curatorial Management of the Built Environment. While involved with all aspects of historic preservation, James Marston Fitch has a special relationship to Central Park, having been its Curator for two years. He is now a consultant to the Central Park Conservancy Planning Team.

In addition to an address by Prof. Fitch, there will be presentations by the Central Park Master Planning Team, which includes landscape architects Marianne Cramer, Judith Heintz, Bruce Kelly and Philip N. Winslow, and by the landscape architect for the Prospect Park Ravine Study, Tony Walmsley. Presentations are also planned to illustrate English landscape preservation philosophy and techniques, the rationale for the development of a new park in the Romantic style, and the ideology behind the redesign of a historic landscape in the modern mode.

This program intends to provide a chance for professionals to exchange ideas and information concerning opportunities in the rapidly expanding field of open-space preservation and to make them more aware of the issues which must be addressed when dealing with an historic landscape. The site of the gathering will be The New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at 77th Street. Its Director, Dr. James B. Bell, has generously donated the space for the day. The program will be followed by a reception and exhibition for the participants in each of the three peer-group meetings, early registrants to the conference and invited guests. NAOP National Co-Chairs Dr. Charles C. McLaughlin and Betsy Shure Gross will officially open the World Conference on Olmsted Parks at this time.

Membership Dues Reflects Expanding Program

In 1980, when NAOP was more of a dream than a going organization, individual membership was set at an unrealistically low dues of $25.00 for three years. Some 500 people quickly took advantage of the opportunity, and now they, like an astute investor, will profit from having bought in "at the bottom." As it were. Most of these memberships will expire in 1984, however, and we hope that some of the early joiners will want to start their annual dues remittances before then.

However, for those who did not leap at the opportunity in 1981 and 1982, the dues, since January 1, 1983, have been established at $25.00 per year, a fee more realistic in the light of conference and publication discounts, special services and benefits, and opportunities to participate offered. Institutional Membership has also been established at $100 per year, but is more than equal to four individual memberships in terms of benefits received. Among other things Institutional Members, as they join or renew, will receive free the latest volume of the Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, Volume III, "Creating Central Park, 1857-1861."

WORLD CONFERENCE ON OLMS TED PARKS
NEW YORK CITY
SEPTEMBER 21-25
FINAL CONFERENCE MEETING CONvenes AT THE DAIRY IN CENTRAL PARK MAY 16

When 76 organizations, institutions and municipalities join together in planning a conference, you almost have a conference each time they gather to talk about their future plans. And so it was on September 20 and again on January 10 when some fifty people representing the majority of sponsors and co-sponsors of September’s conference met to develop guidelines for the entire program, share ideas on their individual participation and offer help to NAOP in completing the thousands of details involved in an effort of this magnitude.

Following both meetings a full report was sent for comment to all those involved. The result is the interim program, list of speakers, tours and workshops, the poster and the registration application which are now being distributed across the country and abroad.

But, the work of the planning group is not over yet, and the last of the three meetings will again be at the Dairy in Central Park on Monday, May 16, from 10 am to 3:30 pm. It will be decision time: on speakers; tour itineraries; organizational participation; and a host of other details which have to be settled before the final program can be printed, to augment the interim program now available. Fortunately NAOP is in touch with representatives from most of the participating organizations on an ongoing basis, so that new ideas can be incorporated into the conference program and problems handled.

A major contribution of the planning group has been in conceptualizing the conference. Nearly everyone agreed the conference should focus primarily on the parks themselves, the real products of the Olmsted talent, and the real problems in terms of preservation and maintenance today. They wanted the conference to be city-wide and not confined to one hotel or even one borough. They wanted it to be as inexpensive as possible, hence the flexible, if slightly complex, registration procedures. They wanted workshops that really work, and an opportunity for the ideas to flow freely between them. And they wanted a chance to demonstrate the progress New York City is making in park preservation.

Obviously there could not be total agreement on every detail of the conference. But, for now at least, what you see is only part of what you'll get. There is more, much more, to come and members of the planning group will be working all summer to make this gathering the most memorable coming together of historic park people ever to gather in America.

Henry J. Stern Appointed NYC Parks Commissioner, Succeeding Gordon J. Davis

Gordon Davis, a welcome presence at the Department of Parks and Recreation since 1978, recently announced the time had come to move on to other things. Commissioner Davis’ tenure is longer than any previous commissioner since August Heckscher, who resigned in 1971, and ended a long, and generally unfortunate streak of revolving door appointments. Here again, gone again, had become a habit, one we hope is now broken.

The appointment of Henry J. Stern as Commissioner Davis’ successor shows an appreciation for the need to appoint an experienced public servant to the job, one familiar with both New York’s vast network of parks, and with the workings of the city itself. Almost every municipal agency impacts in some way on New York’s parks—over them, under them, around them or through them. Being able to work closely with these agencies can make the difference between success and failure in park management.

Henry J. Stern is no stranger to our parks, having served as executive director of them in the administration of Commissioner Thomas Hoving. As a director of The Parks Council, the private watch-dog organization which is a co-sponsor of the conference, and as Manhattan’s Councilman at Large for the past nine years, Mr. Stern has frequently been involved in park-related issues. He is also thoroughly aware of NAOP’s work, having been one of the primary sponsors of a City Council resolution in support of the 1983 conference and urging all who could do so to participate in it.

Best wishes for his future success must be extended to Commissioner Davis, who leaves an enviable record of achievement in our parks. A similar wish for every success goes also to Commissioner Stern, who has an opportunity to build on the work of his predecessor and to consolidate the strong public-pro-park constituency which exists in New York, of which NAOP is a part, and to make it work for him and for the preservation, rehabilitation, wise use, safety, sound management and public enjoyment of one of New York’s greatest assets, its parks.

Exhibitions Abound

in a facility associated with the conference. The photo-panel exhibition is designed to travel, but its final resting place will be the NAOP office.

The New York City Parks Department plans to exhibit the newly conserved “Greensward” plan for Central Park (see story page 6) and historic maps, plans and photographs of other historic New York City parks on the third floor of the Arsenal during September. The permanent exhibitions for the Belvedere will be open for visitors at the end of April and feature displays on the history of the castle, the geology of the building and its site on Vista Rock, the Gill or steam which Olmsted designed to meander through the Ramble, the weather station equipment still in active use, and the factors affecting New York City weather.

In Brooklyn, Grand Army Plaza's Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch at the head of Prospect Park features a graphic display and models on the planning, construction and early years of the park. This may be augmented by studies and drawings for the renovation of the Long Meadow and the Ravine in Prospect Park.

The New York Public Library, a Co-sponsor, maintains an outstanding print and document collection of Olmstediana, and is planning an exhibition. Mary Ellen W. Hern

Inside Fairstede

staffed, and how it should relate to the public, the need for an Archival Resource Center, one which would develop and grow over the next decade, was central to the interests of those involved. In the process of becoming such a center, Fairstede could serve several other purposes, and serve them well, but it should not lose sight of the ultimate objective—to house, protect, preserve and make available for public use and study the vast legacy of Olmsted documents to which it is the heir.

AMERICAN TOUR OF OLMSTED PARKS

For Registration Information Write: Ms. Sandra Higgins American Tour of Olmsted Parks Suite 1114 175 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10010