Chairman's Report

The growing interest in Olmsted, Olmsted projects come from every corner of the country; new Olmsted organizations are being formed; research, theses and books on Olmsted-related subjects are being generated at a welcome rate; and national organizations like ASLA are paying new attention to the historic landscape. (See ASLA conference program in the Calendar.)

All the Olmsted activity reflects a growing awareness of the significance of historic landscapes in this country. Until recently, landscape has been the forgotten stepchild in historic preservation, landscape architecture, and recreation. NAOP can take some credit for this overdue awareness of historic landscapes for in its six short years of existence, NAOP conferences, newsletters, and publicity about the pending inventory legislation have helped to stimulate interest in Olmsted, Olmsted parks, historic landscapes—and amenities of urban life. The Olmsted landscapes, parks, and systems of parks have often shaped the course of development in those cities, and certainly shaped the lives of many living in those cities. While NAOP's focus is on Olmsted landscapes and parks, we hope this new concern for Olmsted parks and landscapes will stimulate interest not only in other historic landscapes, but in new parks and park systems in burgeoning metropolitan areas.

NAOP at its annual meeting at Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina, on April 29-30 looked ahead to how it could continue to promote protection of Olmsted landscapes, serve as an effective clearinghouse, and encourage solid research. In this lovely setting, at a spectacular time of year when azaleas were in bloom, we were able to tackle a lot of business. First of all, we elected a new board of trustees.

Board of Trustees

Officers:
National Chairman: Ann Satterthwaite, Washington, D.C.
Past National Co-Chairman: Donald Harris, Seattle, Wash.
Vice Chairmen: Charles Beveridge, Washington, D.C.;
Arleyn Levee, Belmont, Mass.;
Tupper Thomas, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Treasurer: Loretta Neumann, Washington, D.C.
Assistant Secretary: Clyde Eller, Buffalo, N.Y.

Trustees:
Eleanor G. Ames, Cumberland, Me.
Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, New York, N.Y.
Joan K. Bozer, Buffalo, N.Y.
Betsy Shure Gross, Brookline, Mass.
Walter Hundley, Seattle, Wash.
Charles C. McLaughlin, Chevy Chase, Md.
Sanford Parisky, Hartford, Conn.
S. Christopher Scott, Boston, Mass.
Barry Tindall, Washington, D.C.
Marilyn Tuchow, Birmingham, Mich.
Dana White, Atlanta, Ga.
The newly elected trustees are:

Eleanor Ames of Portland, Me.
Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, Administrator, Central Park, New York, N.Y.
S. Christopher Scott, Director, Massachusetts Office of Cultural and Historic Landscapes (including Olmsted program), Boston, Mass.
Barry Tindall, senior staff, Commission on Americans Outdoors (on leave from National Recreation and Park Association), Washington, D.C.

Of the trustees, seven are in park administration, four are citizen leaders, and three each are in academic, political, and professional work. New England and the Mid-Atlantic states are best represented with the West, Midwest, and South following. This healthy mix of practitioners, scholars, politicians, and professionals bodes well for a productive year for NAOP.

Committees:

As discussed earlier at the fall 1985 NAOP meeting in Washington, D.C., committees were established to carry out our major activities. These committees and their chairmen are:

Education—workshops, conferences, education: chairman, Arleyn Levee, 51 Stella Rd., Belmont, MA 02178, (617) 489-1261

Communication—Newsletter: chairman, Dana White, Institute of Liberal Arts, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322, office (404) 727-4228, home (404) 633-4614


Membership: chairman, Donald Harris, Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation, 210 Muniipal Bldg., Seattle, WA 98104, (206) 625-5013

Organizational and community liaison: chairman, Tupper Thomas, 454 3rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215, office (718) 965-8951, home (718) 768-9195

Steering committee liaison: chairman, Marilyn Tuchow, 6115 Wing Lake Rd., Birmingham, MI 48010, (313) 855-9359

Technical information—clearing house, inventory, research, advisory team: chairman, Shary Berg, 469 Franklin St. Cambridge, MA 02139, office (617) 566-1689, home (617) 491-3727.

We see these committees as the backbone of our organization, and we hope you will volunteer to serve on a committee. Please write directly to the chairman of the committee on which you want to serve. As we are still interested in strengthening the professional and geographic distribution of the steering committee, please notify Marilyn Tuchow if you have suggestions for candidates for that committee.

Future Conferences

The board also decided at this annual meeting that NAOP would sponsor two conferences in 1986/87.

New York Workshop

On Nov. 8 and 9 a workshop will be held in New York City to investigate the different approaches to Olmsted park restoration taken in Central Park, Prospect Park, Riverside Park, and several other parks. As New York City is ahead of the rest of the country in its Olmsted restoration work, this study workshop, with field trips to each park and discussions run by the city-park staff and their consultants offers a chance to learn how different restoration approaches have worked. (See Calendar for further details.)

New Orleans Spring Conference

The NAOP board voted unanimously to accept the invitation of the Audubon Park Commission to host our annual conference in New Orleans for spring 1987. The Audubon Park and Zoological Garden, a combined work of John C. and Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., represents one of the firm's most significant efforts in the Southeast. The Audubon Park Commission is currently celebrating not only the park's centennial, but also recent efforts at its renewal and restoration. The Audubon Park and Friends of the Zoo have been unusually successful in garnering money and public support for the park as well as the zoo. Topics to be covered are the role of John C. Olmsted, zoos in Olmsted parks, building public support for parks, and the possible application of Olmsted concepts to a new New Orleans riverfront park. Details for this conference will be sent to you later in the fall.
Future Projects

This year NAOP hopes to publish an up-to-date inventory of Olmsted projects by state, a bibliography of published books and articles on Olmsted and the firm, as well as a list of research projects and theses on Olmsted currently underway at universities around the country. These basic data are long overdue. If you have ideas of other data or information for these projects, please let us know.

NAOP has been located conveniently adjacent to the Olmsted Papers’ new office on Wisconsin Avenue in Washington, D.C. The Olmsted Papers project, which is connected with American University, and NAOP have been negotiating with American University to establish an Olmsted Center where we could have seminars, conduct research, and support academic fellows. It is quite advantageous for NAOP and the Olmsted Papers to be together.

Thanks to all your contributions we were able to match the Arthur Ross Foundation grant. Mr. Ross has generously offered to match $10,000 again this year, so please continue your generosity. All contributions to NAOP will help us match this significant grant which will assist NAOP’s administrative and clearing-house work.

Finally, your suggestions for NAOP programs and projects are most welcome, so do write or call us with your ideas.

--Ann Satterthwaite, Chairman

However, time is short—one month until Congress recesses. Your letters and telegrams to both the committee members and your senators are needed now. This is our last hurdle, and we need your help. A host of other national organizations including American Society of Landscape Architects, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Recreation and Park Association, Garden Club of America, and National Parks and Conservation Association is backing the bill.

The committee and subcommittee for the bill are:

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, James A. McClure, Idaho, Chairman

Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water, Malcolm Wallop, Wyo., Chairman
Chic Hecht, Nev.; Pete Domenici, N.M.; Lowell Weicker, Conn.; Frank Murkowski, Ala.; Dale Bumpers, Ark.; John Melcher, Mont.; Bill Bradley, N.J.; Jeff Bingaman, N.M.

These senators can be reached by writing them at U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 or by calling (202) 224-3121. Please write them today.

THE OLMSTED BILL

THE OLMSTED BILL IS ALIVE AND WELL—
BUT NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW

The Olmsted Heritage Landscape Act (HR 37) is on its way in the Senate. Having passed the House handily with over eighty sponsors, HR 37 was slowed down in the Senate by the New York Hospital problem. A senator on the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Waters has agreed to take the lead in the Senate as Senator Moynihan found his sponsorship politically difficult. The new sponsor requested that his name be withheld until he could discuss the bill with Senator Moynihan when Congress returns from recess. Senator Lowell Weicker (R-Conn), also on the subcommittee, will lend key support.

CALENDAR

September 28 Greensward Foundation, New York City Tour of the New York Hospital’s Westchester Division’s 130-acre, Olmsted-designed grounds and key hospital buildings in White Plains. The grounds of this 1892 hospital, once known as the Bloomingdale Asylum, have been targeted for a controversial, dense-commercial, joint-venture development by N.Y. Hospital and Westchester developer, Robert Martin. If interested in this all-day tour, call (212) 473-6288.
October 10-11 New York State Association for Olmsted Parks, Albany Meeting, "The New York State Legacy."

"Washington Park," David Barnet, October 10, 7:30 p.m.

"New York State Legacy," Charles Beveridge and Frank Kowsky, October 11, 9:30 a.m.

Tour of Washington Park, October 11, 11:00 a.m.

For further information, please write or call:

Joan Bozer (716) 881-1639 or Clyde Eller (716) 875-4713, NYSAOP, P.O. Box 590, Buffalo, NY 14205

October 15-19 National Trust for Historic Preservation's Annual Conference, Vista International Hotel, Kansas City, Kansas

Saturday, October 18, 2:15 - 5 PM, "On the Boulevard," tour of Kessler parks and boulevards

For further information on full program, registration, and housing, call or write:

Conference Center
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 673-4087

October 17-20 National Recreation and Parks, Association's Annual Convention, Anaheim, California

For further information, write or call:

Convention Manager
NRPA
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302
(703) 820-4940

November 3-6 National Symposium on Urban Wildlife, National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, MD

Conference on ways of incorporating wildlife habitat in urban areas.

For further information, write:

Dr. Lowell W. Adams, program chairman
Urban Wildlife Symposium
10921 Trotting Ridge Way
Columbia, MD 21044

November 8-9 NAOP Workshop on the restoration process and techniques of Olmsted parks in New York City.

This two-day workshop includes field trips to Central, Prospect, Riverside parks where park staffs and consultants will discuss their different approaches to the restoration of these important Olmsted parks. As these New York park restorations are farther advanced than any other Olmsted park restorations in the country, this workshop provides an opportunity to learn firsthand how the different approaches have worked. The workshop is designed as an intensive, low-cost weekend, so bring your park director, board members, professional staff members, and consultants.

More complete information will be mailed to NAOP members. For further information now, please write or call:

Tupper Thomas, Workshop Coordinator Administrator, Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215
(718) 965-8951

November 22-25 American Society of Landscape Architects, Annual Convention, Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA

This year ASLA has several sessions which should be of interest to NAOP members. They are:

"Plant Materials for Historic Landscapes," by Patricia O'Donnell, Walmsley & Co., and NAOP steering committee member. Tues., Nov. 25, 8:15 a.m.

"FLO in Person," Don Marquardt, Oxnard, California, Tues., Nov. 25, 1 p.m.

"Renovating Older Landscapes," Russell Beatty, University of California at Berkeley, Sun., Nov. 23, 3:30 p.m.

"Historic Analysis of Stewardship," Bob Scarfo, Clark University

"Historic Lands of the Pacific Rim," Cary Dawson, University of California at Davis, Michael Laurie, University of California at Berkeley, Robert Melnick, Univ. of Oregon
FEATURES

TOWARD A DEFINITION OF OLMSTEDIAN
PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

THE SEVEN S’s

SCENERY: Design of "passages of scenery" even in the smallest spaces and in areas intended for active use. Creation of designs that give an enhanced sense of space: indefinite boundaries, constant opening up of new views. Avoidance of hard-edge or specimen planting, creating instead designs that have either "considerable complexity of light and the shadow near the eye" or "obscurity of detail further away."

SUITABILITY: Creation of designs that are in keeping with the natural scenery and topography of the site: respect for, and full utilization of, the "genius of the place."

STYLE: Designing in specific styles, each for a particular effect. Primarily in the "Pastoral" style (open greensward with small bodies of water and scattered trees and groves) for a soothing, restorative atmosphere, or in the "Picturesque" style (profuse planting, especially with shrubs, creepers, and ground cover, on steep and broken terrain), for a sense of the richness and bounteousness of nature, with chiaroscuro effects of light and shade that produce a sense of mystery.

SUBORDINATION: Subordination of all elements, all features and objects, to the overall design and the effect it is intended to achieve. The "Art to conceal Art."

SEPARATION: Separation of areas designed in different styles, so that an "incongruous mixture of styles" will not dilute the intended effect of each; separation of ways, in order to insure safety of use and reduce distractions for those using the space; separation of conflicting or incompatible uses.

SANITATION: Provision for adequate drainage and other engineering considerations, not simply arranging superficial decoration. Planning of designs so that they promote both the physical and the mental health of users.

SERVICE: Creation of all designs so that they will serve a "purpose of direct utility or service;" that is, will meet fundamental social and psychological needs: "So long as considerations of utility are neglected or overridden by considerations of ornament, there will be no true Art."

---Charles E. Beveridge, Editor, Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted

ETCHED IN STONE . . .

Retired State Department specialist in Japanese affairs and Washington resident, Ernest Kroll is the only living author whose work has been "inscribed in the granite" of the District's Western Plaza along Pennsylvania Avenue. Inscribed there are lines from his poem "Washington, D.C.": "How shall you act the natural man in this Invented city, neither Rome nor home?"

The Washington poet is also a self-confessed "Olmsted idolator," whose "Homage to Frederick Law Olmsted" was published first in the Saturday Review (May 17, 1969) and will be republished in Mr. Kroll's forthcoming book City in Amber.

HOMAGE TO FREDERICK LAW OLMS TED

Not kingdoms, or provinces, but city greens dropped from his pocket where he stepped across the continent, rallying life to catch a breath of air. It was there my parents, gasping--dumped on a beachhead of the ghetto world, set like the seal of disease on the wilderness--dragged me, feet off the ground, to one of his clearings wedged in the forest of man.

It was there that I learned to breathe.

It was there that I felt the shock of Marc Chagall, touching the earth of Provence, not that, as for him, it suited ceramics, but that, for me, it suited existence.

Oddly blessed, the devisers of parks, not that they enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but that they establish, here, a plausible copy without having glimpsed the original.

---Ernest Kroll
HISTORIC LANDSCAPES:
FROM CONSERVATION & LIBERATION
TO RESTORATION & RECLAMATION

The movement to save old and important buildings and spaces is called historic preservation. Politically, this umbrella designation makes sense; conceptually, it requires clarification. An obvious beginning is the recognition that buildings and spaces differ generically. Less obviously, since spaces themselves vary considerably by type and usage, and according to their potential for treatment, no one strategy for preservation will apply to them all. Thus, their variations—sometimes self-evident, at other times subtle—determine strategies for their survival and demand recognition.

The initial distinction among old and important spaces is that between the crafted and the natural. Pristine mountains, canyons, forests, rivers, deserts—the "Natural Wonders of the World" for nineteenth-century Romantics—require protection of the natural against the man-made, the survival of Nature against the onslaught of Civilization. So compelling has been this Gospel of Nature, that it is now part of the conventional wisdom. Its rule is stewardship, the management of natural sites so that the incursion of the man-made is minimized. Its method, then, is not preservation, but conservation.

Preservation has to do with crafted or consciously manipulated spaces, but even here vital distinctions are in order. The first subcategory is the vernacular, shared, common, or everyday landscape. The English landscape architect Jane Brown has captured its spirit in the title of her book, The Everywhere Landscape (London: Wildwood House, 1982). The imperative here may range from keeping the land as it is, to highlighting or "interpreting" its special significance, or to securing more of it. These goals, particularly the provision of more usable open spaces in cities involves not preservation, but liberation, the "opening up" of cities into everywhere landscapes.

Landscaped parks take us beyond conservation and liberation to preservation, but even here distinctions are necessary. "Firstly," Jane Brown offers, "... I must make it clear that there are parks—and Parks." Of late, I have been observing efforts at preserving one of each.

If ever there was a capital-P landscaped urban space, Prospect Park is it. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in 1866, the Brooklyn park measures up to the high standards set by New York's Central Park; in fact, many would argue that this later Olmsted-Vaux effort surpasses its more famous Manhattan antecedent and stands as the ultimate realization of the Romantic tradition of landscape design in urban America. If ever a city park was a true work of art then Prospect Park is it.

The effort to "rebuild the park for the 21st century," as its chief planner describes the task, began in 1980. Thus far, interdisciplinary professional teams of landscape architects, historians, architects, engineers, foresters, conservators, aquatic biologists, and the like have produced five Historic Landscape and Structure Reports for five specific areas of the park. Essentially, these reports provide the conceptual framework for an $80 million fifteen-year Master Plan for restoration and reconstruction. (In the meantime, work proceeds on an area-by-area basis.) Although there are essential differences in scale, materials, and usage—its 580 acres are alive with grass, trees, water, and animals, as well as the multitudes who utilize its spaces for an amplitude of activities—Prospect Park's restoration most closely approximates that of a structure in landscape terms, it is as close as we can get to historic preservation as generally conceived. That it is more the exception than the rule, however, can be seen in one final example.

While there are too few "Parks" in this class with Brooklyn's Prospect Park, there are all too many "parks" like Baltimore's Druid Hill Park. For the exception, the task is restoration; for the rule, the challenge is reclamation.

Completed in 1860, six years before the planning of Brooklyn's great landscape
space, the Baltimore park approximates Prospect Park in size and resembles it, somewhat, both in its contours and internal ordering. There, the resemblances end. Originally the work of rural architect-landscape gardener Howard Daniels, who placed fourth in the earlier competition for the design of Central Park—but first among the contestants not already under contract to the New York Park Commission, Druid Hill Park evolved into a miscellaneous planning effort during its subsequent century-and-a-quarter. Thus, for example, as a result of their work during 1903-04 in developing a comprehensive park plan for Baltimore, the Olmsted Brothers contracted with the city for work on Daniels' park. What the Olmsteds accomplished in Druid Hill Park, whether theirs was a task of restoring or reshaping the original design, has still to be determined.

What is painfully clear and what makes the Baltimore park so unfortunately representative of its type nationally is that many of its subsequent "improvements" have been anything but. Foremost among the park's despoilers have been our contemporary Caesars, road builders seemingly intent upon stretching their imperial paths endlessly across our urban landscapes. In Druid Hill Park, they have been overachievers; in recent years, faced with a surplus of roads, park authorities have had to block off a number of them with (fittingly) concrete barriers. Then there are their compatriots, the pyramid builders and megalith raisers, those memorialists of the fleeting fame of faceless civic heroes, politicos, and dubious artistes—all immortalized with pigeon-decorated statues, sculpture, and plaques. Finally, there are the recreationists who would fill the park with "fun" things to do. Bonding the three constituencies together is the conviction that park land is open space waiting to be "used." Used equals abused: such has been the developmental equation for Druid Hill Park.

The reclamation of this historic site from the concrete ribbons stretching across it, things scattered about, and a menagerie mushrooming within is happily under way, but its path, unlike the straightforward restoration of Prospect Park according to the original Olmsted-Vaux plan, promises to be a more circuitous one. It began in May 1984, when the National Endowment for the Arts supported the efforts of Sugarloaf Regional Trails, Inc. in suburban Maryland in selecting a typical or representative city park that had experienced significant change over time, with the goal of organizing and completing a major revitalization effort on that site that might then be used as a demonstration project nationwide. Some of us toured the United Kingdom to discuss the project with counterparts there, others surveyed the professional literature and sites from coast-to-coast in this country, and then we selected as our test case the Baltimore park. Some of us negotiated with the city, others organized a design competition among East Coast firms that attracted twenty-six applications, from which eight outstanding finalists were chosen. On a festive evening during October 1985, in a carnival tent set up near Druid Lake with bubbly corks a-popping in the background, the mayor of Baltimore announced the prize winners and promised that work on the rejuvenation of Druid Hill Park would begin soon.

The competition winner, Walmsley & Co. of New York, also holds the contract for the restoration of Prospect Park. Thus, as the Brooklyn and Baltimore parks are paired in these paragraphs, so too will they be in their revival. How they progress, separately and in tandem, should prove of real interest for park planners, preservationists, and proprietors—the urban citizenry. Although my attention will be on the progress of both, my heart will be with the underdog. It has been so abused; it has so far to go; and yet, it has so much going for it. After all, it is in the heart of that vibrant city of horseplayers, purveyors of maritime delicacies, bird watchers, and downtown rejuvenators—the inimitable "Bawlamer." Should, then, Druid Hill Park overcome its ravages, it could take the lead in reclaiming our landscape heritage. Perhaps, in fact, the city of his birth will provide the cure for the malady diagnosed by its famous son, H. L. Mencken, the American "libido for the ugly"—"the love of ugliness for its own sake, the lust to make the world intolerable."

Perhaps what has started in Baltimore will even find its way to other cities.

--Dana White, NAOP Trustee, Atlanta, Ga.
LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATE ACTIVITIES

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

ATLANTA DESIGN AWARD

An Award of Excellence from the Atlanta Urban Design Commission was presented to Sally Harbaugh and the Olmsted Parks Society by Mayor Andrew Young on June 12. This award was given to Sally Harbaugh, as president and founder of the Olmsted Parks Society of Atlanta, for her and the organization's success at "increasing public awareness of the work of Frederick Law Olmsted." The Olmsted Parks Society along with other Atlanta organizations have led an impressive battle with Mayor Young and many Georgia politicians and bureaucrats to prevent the construction of the "Presidential Parkway," the highway to President Carter's library slated to run through Atlanta's prized Olmsted Ponce de Leon Park and Druid Hill Park.

At the design award ceremony, Mayor Young was booed when he said that he hoped someday the controversial "Presidential Parkway" would receive an Urban Design Commission award. Mayor Young had lost preservationist friends when earlier he stated that "Atlanta had no character." The Urban Design Commission, the city agency charged with design and preservation, was surprised that the mayor appeared at the design award presentation as his office had informed the Design Commission the day before that Mayor Young would not be able to make the long-scheduled appearance.

Maybe it was Sally Harbaugh's stirring acceptance speech on Olmsted's parks and social commitments that helped Mayor Young pledge himself to be more supportive of preservation and admit that "Atlanta had enormous character."

ATLANTA MAP PRESENTATION

Atlanta's Olmsted Parks Society has recently copied maps stored at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts. The maps were made after Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and his firm were employed by Joel Hurt and the Kirkwood Land Company in 1890 to design what became Druid Hills. The maps, dated 1893 to 1905, show the centerpiece of the Druid Hills community, the Ponce de Leon park and parkway system, the only public park in the Deep South designed by Olmsted Sr. With the exception of the 1905 maps, these historically important maps have not been readily available to Olmsted scholars in the Atlanta area for at least the past fifty years.

Sally Harbaugh, president of the Olmsted Parks Society and NAOP steering committee member presented the maps to Secretary of State Max Cleland for the State Archives at a public ceremony in the State Capitol Rotunda.

ATLANTA'S PRESIDENTIAL PARKWAY

The Jimmy Carter Library has been completed and will be dedicated on October 1. However, its controversial approach highway, the Presidential Parkway, has not been built, nor can it be built now due to the effective legal and environmental actions of the groups protecting the important parkland which it would traverse.

The current legal issue hinges on whether Georgia's Department of Transportation, the agency interested in building the proposed road, has complied with section 4(f) of the Federal Transportation...
Act. Section 4(f) states that federal funds may not be used for projects which take parklands or historic sites unless a "feasible or prudent alternative to their use does not exist" and all possible planning has been undertaken to minimize damage to such lands as a result of the use. This 4(f) issue has set in motion another round of legal and administrative actions: DOT has issued another addendum to the Environmental Impact Statement, the local coordinating opposition group, CAUTION, rebutted, the Library entered an amicus brief, and now a decision is awaited from U.S. District Judge O'Kelley.

In the next stage of legal activities, the parkway supporters will have trouble arguing that the Carter Library cannot function without this controversial approach highway now that the library will be open. The supporters of the "no-build" alternative may have proved their point. Let's hope so.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management has announced the selection of nine nationally recognized historic park restoration teams to prepare master plans for twelve Olmsted parks throughout the Commonwealth.

The master planners selected through this Program, in conjunction with the municipalities, are multi-disciplinary teams headed by landscape architects and complemented by specialists in diverse areas of expertise such as environmental/civil/structural engineering, masonry conservation, arboriculture, horticulture and maintenance management. As a foundation for the planning process, the Olmsted program has commissioned reports from landscape historians documenting the design and development of the parks, archeological surveys on the pre-history of the parks, and base mapping for all the parks. Unlike many planning studies, these Olmsted projects include the historian as an integral member of the team for the length of the project. All consultants are listed below.

Franklin Park, City of Boston

The Halvorson Company, based in Boston, was selected for its work in historic public spaces, large-scale master planning expertise applicable to this park's 535 acres, and its experience with community participation.

Landscape Historian: Dr. Cynthia Zaitzevsky, Brookline.
Archeologist: Museum of Afro American History, Boston

Emerald Necklace Parks, City of Boston and Town of Brookline (Jamaica Pond, Olmsted Park, The Riverway, and Back Bay Fens)

Walmsley & Co. of New York, N.Y., and William Pressley and Associates of Cambridge, as a joint-venture team, were selected for their extensive experience in historic park restoration including the restoration of New York City's Prospect Park. Also on the team are Pressley and Assoc., a Massachusetts firm, and maintenance management specialist, Cobham Resource Consultants from Oxford, England.

Landscape Historian: Dr. Cynthia Zaitzevsky, Brookline
Archeologist: Museum of Afro American History, Boston
Daniel Waldo (D. W.) Field Park, City of Brockton
Child Associates, Inc. of Cambridge was selected for their outstanding team and quality of their previous historic landscape restoration and work. Of particular note is the firm's restoration plan prepared for the Stan Hywet Foundation in Akron, Ohio, originally designed by Warren Manning, an associate of Frederick Law Olmsted.

Landscape Historian: Robert Toole, Saratoga Springs, NY
Archeologist: Public Archaeology Lab, Inc., Providence, RI

Kennedy (South) Park, City of Fall River
The firm of Albert Verri and Associates of Providence, RI, was selected for its focus on the restoration of the park as part of the City's revitalization, and the strength of its multi-disciplinary consultants. Past projects include the Fall River Heritage State Park, the Roger Williams Park and Zoo, and Roger Williams National Memorial in Providence, RI.

Landscape Historian: Arleyne Levee, Belmont
Archeologist: Public Archaeology Lab, Inc., Providence, RI

Lynn Woods and High Rock Reservation, City of Lynn
Bruce Kelly & Associates were selected for their work in historical park restoration and master planning in New York's Central Park over the past thirteen years. Their experience in identifying funding sources for on-going park improvement and protection will be directly relevant to the 2,200 acres of Lynn Woods.

Landscape Historian: Dr. Keith Morgan, Boston University
Archeologist: Dr. Ricardo Elia, Boston University

Buttonwood Park, City of New Bedford
The Walker-Kluesing Design Group of Boston was selected to undertake planning and design for this ninety-seven-acre park which includes a zoo. The firm is now preparing a landscape restoration plan for a Olmsted landscape at McLean Hospital in Belmont.

Landscape Historian: Joy Kestenbaum, New York, NY
Archeologist: Public Archaeology Lab, Inc., Providence, RI

Forest Park, City of Springfield
Johannes Heinrich Wagner & Associates of Ashland was selected for Springfield's 735-acre park because of Mr. Wagner's leading multi-disciplinary design teams.

Landscape Historian: Ann L. Marston, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Archeologist: Dr. Mitchell Mulholland, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Elm Park, City of Worcester
The design team for this sixty-acre park is led by Rudy J. Favretti of Storrs, CT, who has worked in historic landscape preservation for the past thirty years including work on Monticello, Old Sturbridge Village, and Strawberry Banke, NH. The Berkshire Design Group of Northampton will assist.

Landscape Historian: Rudy J. Favretti, Storrs, CT
Archeologist: Dr. Mitchell Mulholland, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

All Parks: Base Surveying and Mapping has been prepared by Bryant Associates of Boston.

massachusetts association for olmsted parks

The Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks publishes the MAOP NEWS UPDATE. For information, contact MAOP, 120 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116 (617) 247-2000.

The Ohio Arts Council, the Ohio Historical Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society, and the American Society of Landscape Architects/Ohio Chapter sponsored the exhibition "Beatrix Farrand: American Landscapes: Her Gardens and Campuses" at the Ohio Historical Center from March 14 through April 13.
VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, may have been one of the last projects (or the last) designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., although it is not listed as one of his designs in the register of his works prepared by the Library of Congress. Early local literature about the town credits the design to FLO, Sr.

The town, located some forty-four miles northeast of Pittsburgh, was designed in 1895-96 as a steel town, a "workingman's paradise." Laura Wood Roper alludes to the town—but not by name—on page 469 of her book, FLO: A Biography:

His fixed habit of industry had not begun to slaken, and he looked forward to the possibility of laying out a manufacturing village near Pittsburgh.

Increased local awareness of our Olmsted legacy has led to the following projects:

1. A meeting of the Alle-Kiski Historical Society last fall focused on the Olmsted connection to Vandergrift.

2. A Vandergrift-Olmsted museum is in the planning stage. The Borough of Vandergrift has donated a room in the Municipal Building for such a museum.

3. We are preparing an application for a state historical marker for submission to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Such a marker would tell of the Olmsted role in designing the town, possibly the only town in Pennsylvania designed by FLO, Sr.

4. We are researching an exhibit of Olmsted's works done for the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, in which a scale model of Vandergrift was included. We would like to hear from anyone who has information about this exhibit.

--Eugene F. Iagnemma, Historian, St. Gertrude Church, Vandergrift, PA

NEW YORK

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR OLMSTED PARKS FORMS

The New York State Association for Olmsted Parks held its organizing meeting in Rochester, New York, April 5, 1986. Participants heard a special presentation, "The Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks: A Successful Model for New York," made by S. Christopher Scott, Director, Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, and Barbara Whiting Drew, former founding trustee of the Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks. Successes in Massachusetts have led to increased statewide recognition and support for Olmsted parks in Massachusetts, and the assembled group was enthusiastic about prospects for New York State.

Marianne Koller and Marjorie Wicks of Rochester's Olmsted Task Force welcomed the group and provided local background on Olmsted's work in Rochester. The focus of the meeting was Rochester's Seneca Park, a linear pleasure ground designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, which could be greatly affected by an inappropriate use of park land. We were guided on a walking tour which clearly demonstrated the potential threat to Seneca Park, if a proposed zoo expansion were to go forward as planned.

The New York State Association for Olmsted Parks has formed to preserve and protect New York's rich legacy of Olmsted landscapes. The group recognizes that our parkland can be counted as a major public amenity in New York, contributing to the state's economic, cultural, and recreational vitality.

A meeting was held in White Plains, New York, on Saturday, June 14. Ann Applebaum, President of the Concerned Citizens Committee, organized this meeting, which was be devoted to the New York Hospital, whose grounds were designed by Olmsted.

In October, a meeting is to take place in Albany. If you want additional information about the activities of the New York State Association for Olmsted Parks, contact either Joan Bozer (716) 881-1639 or Clyde Eller (716) 875-4713, NYSAOP, P.O. Box 590, Buffalo, NY 14205
Prospect Park, Brooklyn’s 526-acre Olmsted park, has just launched its first major landscape reconstruction project—the south end of the Long Meadow. The project will cost $2.1 million of New York City’s capital funds. Park enthusiasts will be pleased to know that the much-lauded Olmsted and Vaux vistas will be restored by the removal of bleachers and chain-link fences and the repositioning of the ballfields.

Additionally, the Helmle-Huberty designed boathouse, dating from 1905, has been rebuilt in faithful detail. It was reopened for the summer season of 1985, and serves as a park information center, a gallery space for art exhibits, and as the Urban Park Ranger headquarters.

In the spring of 1986, the Teahouse or Oriental Pavillion, was completed. It follows the original Vaux design with hipped roof and rounded corners, and is supported by eight cast iron columns. The roof was finished with a decorative, metal shell duplicating the original design.

Also in Brooklyn, Fort Greene Park, an early Revolutionary War site and later the site of the Olmsted and Vaux parks will be rehabilitated. Funds have been allocated for a four-phase study preceding reconstruction of the park. The study will detail the existing physical and environmental conditions, develop alternative concept plans, a phased schematic plan with cost estimates, and develop the preliminary documents for the first phase of the project.

Morningside Park in Manhattan, scheduled for complete reconstruction beginning in late 1986. Commencing with the south end of the park, chain-link fences will be removed and ballfields will be relocated. The gym site and district headquarters scheduled for renovation will include a newly designed playground. Total costs are estimated at about $3 million.

At The Top Tier, Riverside Park’s Olmsted design, capital improvements continue. However, one of the most obvious improvements has been the relandscaping of the entrances at Riverside and 110th, 83rd, and 91st streets by park employees. Slopes have been reconstructed and planted with dwarf forsythia, barberry and Acahophan mass plantings which include Viburnum, prunefolium, mock orange and Viburnum dentatum will provide color and fragrance in future seasons.

Two new lawns of approximately six acres have been planted, according to Ben Fieman, landscape architect. Personnel are being trained in lawn maintenance as well as in use of newly purchased equipment for that purpose. Fieman was proud to report that New York’s 1985 drought did not result in losses of new plantings because the park was able to use sub-potable water. This substantial additional effort was well rewarded.

Paul Berizzi, past assistant to the Prospect Park administrator, was appointed the administrator of Pelham Bay Park and Van Cortslandt Park in the Bronx. His appointment was made in July 1985. He is certainly missed in Prospect Park but already making a difference in the Bronx.

Central Park has received two prestigious awards this year. The New York Chapter of the AIA presented the Conservancy and the Parks Department with a special citation for “the excellent example they have set in the area of public/private sector cooperation,” and at the AIA convention in San Francisco, Central Park was awarded the C. Purth 1985 Institutional Honor as a "landmark urban design."

A variety of Central Park restoration projects were completed in 1985. These include:

1. Loeb Boathouse which now contains a restaurant serving lunch and dinner on Sundays;
2. The Chess and Checkers House has reopened with ten indoor and twenty-four outdoor tables for play;

3. Trefoil Arch, Pinebark Arch, and Greywacke Arch which have had structural clean-up and landscape work this year;

4. The Cop-Cot or Summerhouse has been reconstructed in the original red cedar with bark. It contains interior seating and will be enjoyed year round for its scenic views from the highest rock outcropping in the southern section of the park;

5. Strawberry Fields was opened October 9 representing a one million dollar project, the gift of John Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono.

**NIAGARA RESERVATION**

Orin Lehman, commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, has appointed a six-member committee to advise him on future treatment of the Niagara Reservation. Of particular concern is the preservation of the scenery on Goat Island that Olmsted so admired, while meeting the problems of administering a scenic reservation for today's visitors. The committee consists of chairman Francis R. Kowsky, a member of the state Board for Historic Preservation, chairman of the department of Fine Arts at Buffalo State College, and an NAOP steering committee member; Catherine Boericke, co-chairwoman of the Niagara Reservation Centennial Committee; Gretchen Toles, chairwoman of the Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks; Ann Perry, a Buffalo architect well versed in historic preservation; Eric A. Randall, a professor of biology at Buffalo State College; and Armand Castellani, local business executive and donor of the Buscaglia-Castellani Art Gallery at Niagara University, which sponsored the 1985 exhibition and catalog, "The Distinctive Charms of Niagara Scenery: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Niagara Reservation." The committee will hold its first meeting in September. Plans are also underway for a symposium at Niagara in 1987 to mark the centennial of the Olmsted and Vaux report and plan for the reservation.

**BUFFALO, NEW YORK**

The Friends of Olmsted Parks publishes its own newsletter: the BFOP POST. For information write P.O. Box 590, Buffalo, NY 14205.

**RHODE ISLAND**

**RHODE ISLAND ASSOCIATION FOR OLMSTED LANDSCAPES**

The RIAOL in cooperation with the Department of Landscape Architecture, Rhode Island School of Design, began its Fall/Winter lecture series with a slide-talk by Professor Derek Bradford on two country houses and gardens by the nineteenth-century English designer Philip Webb, and ended in January with the first public presentation of the Roger Williams Park Master Plan by Robert Weygand and Associates, the Rhode Island-based firm hired to complete phase two of this management/maintenance restoration plan of the state's premier historic landscape. A picnic/walking tour of Roger Williams Park co-sponsored by RIAOL and the Providence Preservation Society was held on October 12, 1985, in honor of the presentation by H. W. S. Cleveland to the Board of Park Commissioners of a plan for the improvement of Roger Williams Park on that date in 1878. It was both a surprise and a pleasure to discover that NAOP board member, Katie Johnson from Seattle, Washington, had joined us for this event.

The Winter/Spring RIAOL Program held a lecture in April on Beatrix Farrand's landscapes in Newport by Eleanor McPeck at the Newport Art Museum. Activities wound up in June with a guided tour of Malbone, a nineteenth-century Newport estate designed by A. J. Davis with grounds by A. J. Downing. The purpose of these activities was to raise consciousness as to the legacy of the historic/built landscape in Rhode Island and to organize a constituency which is willing to work to protect and preserve it for future generations. RIAOL, with the State Historic Preservation Commission, will sponsor a bill in the Rhode Island State Legislature for the implementation of a state-wide inventory of designed landscapes. This is the second attempt to enact this legislation and the organization has sharpened up considerably legislative
and political skills needed for the passage of this type of bill. The inventory is key to RIAOL purposes. Without it we are simply shooting in the dark as to what the actual landscape legacy is and what landscape conditions prevail. We are considering other avenues of support should the legislation not prevail.

Other events and activities happening in Rhode Island were an important exhibit at the Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design on the tradition of landscape painting in Rhode Island entitled, Rhode Island: An American Eden/Landscape Painting 1820 to 1920. The show ran from January 24 to April 27, 1986. The exhibition was complemented with a full program of lectures and tours. The show focused on the extraordinary environmental legacy in Rhode Island; far more than one could ever imagine in such a small land area. The recently formed Rhode Island Parks Association, established to improve the statewide parks system, has hired a part-time director to build membership and to fundraise for restoration projects in the various parks and woodland areas under the state's jurisdiction. Also, a newly formed group, the Rhode Island Association of Landscape Architects, has offered a cooperative hand to RIAOL in future programs and activities.

Plans include a day-long conference with Butler Hospital (the site of H. W. S. Cleveland's first landscape effort in Providence) and a weekend-long conference on the Providence Metropolitan District Parks System, c. 1903, in the fall of 1986. Inquiries can be addressed to: D. E. Riley, President RIAOL, P.O. Box 775, Narragansett, RI 02882

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

GOOD NEWS FROM CHICAGO

The Chicago Parks District has a new president—and an excellent one, too. Walter Knetsch, formerly of the architectural firm, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, has been appointed recently to the Parks District by Mayor Washington. This imaginative appointment was challenged unsuccessfully by the previous Parks District president, who had a lackluster seventeen years in the job. Knetsch, aside from being a nationally recognized architect has served on many boards including a recent presidential appointment on the Commission of Fine Arts in Washington. His past record of hard work, commitment, integrity, design awareness, social concern, and perseverance auger well for Chicago’s parks. NAOP congratulates Mayor Washington for this appointment and the Park District for bringing on board its staff NAOP steering committee member, George Cooley.

SOUTHERN DROUGHT

The recent, record-breaking drought in the South is wrecking havoc with agriculture, water supplies, vegetation—and Olmsted landscapes. At the Biltmore Estate, for example, many of the important plant trees like rhododendron and large oak trees, so critical in creating the visual impressions Olmsted sought, have already died. And the full toll will not be known for several years.

RECENT OLMS TED-RELATED LECTURES, SYMPOSIA, AND EVENTS

The Newport Art Museum and the Rhode Island Association for Olmsted Landscapes jointly sponsored Eleanor M. McPeck's illustrated lecture on "The Gardens of Beatrix Farrand, Pioneer Landscape Architect," at the museum on April 4.

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The annual Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour, focusing on "Lullwater: The Lingering Legacy, 1893-1896," was conducted in Atlanta on April 11 and 12.

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The Massachusetts Historic Landscape Program held "community presentations" this spring and summer in each of the eight cities with Olmsted parks selected for planning and restoration in the program. The presentations, describing each park's history, design intent, and relation to Olmsted's overall work, were made by historians and consultants for each park and by Charles Beveridge, editor of the Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted.

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The Fine Arts Department and the Art History Club of Buffalo State College, in cooperation with the Preservation Coalition of Erie County and the Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks, sponsored Dr. Francis Kowalsky's lecture on "H. H. Richardson and His Friends" on April 27.
NAOP, ASLA, and the Potomac Chapter of ASLA sponsored a lecture series, "The Genius in the Garden: Restoring Landscape Masterpieces" at the Smithsonian Institution's Resident Associate Program in May and June. This series, organized by landscape architect and NAOP steering committee member, Piera Weiss, included lectures by Ralph Cobham on Blenheim, Tony Walmsley on Prospect Park, Diane McGuire on Dumbarton Oaks, Chris Scott on The Emerald Necklace, Faye Harwell on The Olmsted Walk at the National Zoo, and William Beiswanger on Monticello.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Historic Site in Brookline, Mass., runs an interesting program of walks and talks on Olmsted parks in the Boston area. This summer, Wednesday evening and Sunday walks were at Muddy River, Jamaica Pond, Backbay Fens, and the Charles bank.

NAOP's annual meeting took place at Biltmore, Asheville, N.C., on April 29 and 30. Saturday was devoted to a board meeting, the steering committee meeting, and a dinner hosted by Biltmore's owner, Mr. William Cecil. On Sunday, we had a morning symposium with lectures on Biltmore by Charles Beveridge, Ralph Cobham of Oxford, who prepared a management plan for Biltmore, and Bill Alexander, Biltmore's horticulturist. In the afternoon we toured the grounds--really only a small portion of the 6,000 acres. About fifty people enjoyed a stimulating meeting, interesting people, spectacular chateau and setting, pleasing Olmsted landscaping, and lovely spring weather. Susanne Brendel-Pandich, curator of Biltmore and NAOP steering committee member, was exceedingly helpful in coordinating all the arrangements for NAOP.

The Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress ran a series of five workshops on preservation technology in winter and spring 1986. Two related to landscape preservation: one, Technology for the Preservation of Planned Landscapes and other Outdoor Sites, was chaired by Patricia O'Donnell, NAOP steering committee member and attended by Ann Satterthwaite, NAOP chairman, and Loretta Neumann, NAOP trustee, who was instrumental in organizing the workshops. The other, Technology for Physical Protection of Prehistoric and Historic Sites, was attended by NAOP trustees Tupper Thomas and Loretta Neumann. A draft report has been distributed and the final report should be issued in late September. If you would like a copy, write Publications Office, Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress, Washington, DC 20510.

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The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers held their annual meeting in Boston in late June. Loretta Neumann, a NAOP trustee and congressional staff member, attended. The Boston contingent of Betsy Shure Gross, Arlyn Levey, and Shary Berg went to the reception.

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NAOP trustee, Sanford Parisky, spoke to the Olmsted(a)nd Family Reunion in Hartford on July 10 about Olmsted park restoration work in the country. As Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., was born in Hartford, this city was a logical place to discuss Olmsted's accomplishments and recent activities to protect them.

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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation gave American University's Olmsted Papers a three-year, $250,000 grant to continue its twelve volumes of Olmsted's writings, "one of the university's finest scholarly enterprises," according to American University president, Richard Berendzen. The funds provide partial course release for Charles McLaughlin, editor-in-chief, as well as salaries for associate editors, research assistants, and staff. The grant, which also establishes a graduate research fellowship, secures $56,000 in matching funds for the project from the National Endowment for the Humanities. American University also announced the appointment of Charles Beveridge, editor of the project, as research professor.

In the past nine years, McLaughlin and Beveridge have directed the publication of four volumes of Olmsted's papers, all published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. They estimate that the ambitious project, drawn from the 10,000 known documents written by Olmsted, will take another ten years to complete.
Theodore Timreck, a filmmaker in New York City, is producing a film on Olmsted with financial assistance from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Timreck has completed films on Charles Ives, Franz Boas, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and Thomas Eakins that pay very careful attention to the historical accuracy of both visual elements and script. For the Olmsted film he is utilizing the reliable historical consultant team of McLaughlin and Beveridge.

The film will deal primarily with Olmsted’s early career, through the designing of Central and Prospect parks, and will present his general theory of landscape design. It will be shown nationally on public television, and it is hoped that a number of cities will produce films on their own part of the Olmsted-firm design legacy, coordinating their work with Timreck and his team. NAOP members will hear more concerning this undertaking directly from the participants.

NOTICES

Rhodeside & Harwell, Incorporated, new firm offering services in landscape architecture and planning has been established. Previously, Mr. Rhodeside was vice president and Ms. Harwell a senior associate with EDAW, Inc. The principals of Rhodeside & Harwell, Incorporated have extensive experience in all phases of planning and landscape architecture ranging from environmental and user needs analysis to site design, landscape construction documents preparation and construction supervision. Mr. Rhodeside and Ms. Harwell have nearly eight years experience working with renovations or re-use studies of Olmsted parks including the Niagara Reservation, Niagara Falls, N.Y., and the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. Ms. Harwell has made presentations of her work on the Niagara Reservation and the Olmsted Walk at the National Zoological Park to NAOP at its fall 1985 meeting and its 1983 board meeting. The firm’s offices are at 110 North Royal Street, Suite 312, Alexandria, VA 22314.