NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL FRONT

For Olmsted and historic landscape professionals, scholars, enthusiasts, and community leaders, there is encouraging activity in many National Park Service programs that significantly affect historic landscape work.

Fairsted, the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, has launched an ambitious and much needed ten-year conservation program. Also, there is a competent new landscape architect concentrating on historic landscapes in the Park Service's Washington office. Finally, new initiatives are being taken in developing a landscape theme study, standards, publications, and training. All of these activities deserve our attention and support.

FAIRSTED

Essential in any Olmsted work is the availability of Olmsted drawings, maps, and plans at Fairsted, Olmsted's office in Brookline, MA, now run by the National Park Service. Unfortunately, insufficient funds, staff, space, and facilities at Fairsted have impeded much research in the past. However, there is promising news.

Fairsted, under superintendent Rolf Diamond, has embarked on an ambitious ten-year program to inventory, conserve, and microfilm the estimated 140,000 plans and drawings in the Olmsted archives, as described in the following article by Fairsted's archivist, Lee Farrow.

Fairsted received this current year a $300,000 appropriation. This made it possible to expand the curatorial staff at Fairsted to ten and hire four people this spring at the Springfield Armory where many Olmsted drawings and plans are housed as the conservation progresses at Fairsted.

Current funds, however, will run out at the end of September. Given the scope of the project, the highly skilled nature of the work, and the increasing public demand for access and use of the documents, funding continuity is essential. To complete the conservation work, minimizing loss and deterioration and increasing accessibility, $600,000 is needed in the next fiscal year and each fiscal year for ten years. This year Congress needs to ensure that Fairsted, the FLO National Historic Site, has stable and continuous funding for the entire ten-year project. The House and Senate Appropriations committees will begin hearings for the National Park Service in late February. They need to hear from you immediately. The members and their addresses are listed below:

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Mailing address:
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

✓Sidney R. Yates, Chicago, IL
John P. Murtha, Johnstown, PA
Norman D.icks, Bremerton, WA
Lee AuCoin, Portland, OR
Tom Bevill, Jasper, AL
✓Chester G. Atkins, Concord, MA
Ralph Regula, Navarre, OR
✓Joseph H. McDade, Clarks Summit, PA
Bill Lowery, San Diego, CA
PROGRESS AT FAIRSTED

by Lee Farrow, Archivist, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

When the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, MA, was established at Fairsted by the National Park Service in 1979 to preserve and interpret the home and office of Frederick Law Olmsted, Congress also authorized the purchase of the Olmsted archives.

The Olmsted archives, maintained at the Olmsted Site, document the enormous scope of landscapes designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., his sons, and their partners and associates. “The Archives document the work of a single firm for over 120 years,” notes Chief Curator Elizabeth Banks, “and comprise one of the largest collections of landscape architectural records in the world.”

The records include an estimated 140,000 to 150,000 landscape architectural drawings and plans, 33,000 photographic negatives, 60,000 photographic prints, 70,000 sheets of plant lists, 12,000 lithographs, financial records, job correspondence, reports, and models relating to over 5,000 individual design projects which date from the 1860s to 1980. There are also study collections on urban design, landscape architecture, and the fine arts in general, and a reference collection of maps and atlases.

To date, some of the archival collections have been processed and prepared for research use while others remain uninvetoried and may require conservation treatment. Steady progress has been made in processing the plant lists, lithographs, nitrate negatives, and post-1949 job correspondence. Last year, the Olmsted site began an intensive large-scale project to inventory and stabilize the Olmsted drawings and plans collection.

To inventory and treat the estimated 140,000 landscape architectural drawings and plans, a fully equipped processing lab has been established at Fairsted with six archives technicians who inventoried and conserved 4,000 drawings and plans last summer and fall. The archives technicians are chiefly concerned with recording essential information about each drawing and plan and stabilizing the condition of each. Under the direction of Diana Alper, Paper Conservator, the team has developed streamlined techniques to inventory, flatten, repair, and safely store each drawing and plan.

In 1990, the archives staff will inventory and conserve approximately 9,000 drawings and plans. To make this possible, an auxiliary drawings and plans processing area will be opened this summer at the Springfield Armory National Historic Site where a portion of the drawings and plans collection is temporarily stored awaiting treatment. Construction of the new area will begin in February. This year, we shall also develop a data base program to facilitate inventory of the collection and we shall undertake a micro-reproduction feasibility study to explore options for microfilming each drawing and plan. Microfilming the drawings and plans will produce an archival copy of each image and will greatly facilitate research use of the collection.

To improve storage of the drawings and plans collection, the Olmsted Site recently renovated the historic vault used to store the records. The Olmsted Site demolished all but the exterior shell of the drawings and plans storage vault and constructed a state-of-the-art interior for the vault,
fully equipped with environmental controls. New custom-designed flat shelving units have been installed in one of the vault's three floors and this year additional flat shelving units will be added so the storage capacity of the vault can be expanded.

We also plan to make improvements to the site's research facilities. We recently purchased a 2510 xerox machine capable of copying flat drawings and plans up to 35 inches wide. We also hope to begin steps to upgrade and reorganize the space used for reference activities at the Olmsted Site so that separate rooms will be available for reference work and archival/library storage.


Currently, the Olmsted Site archives staff continues to receive over 1,000 research requests annually. The majority of requests come from landscape historians, landscape architects, park and city planners, representatives of neighborhood park associations, and owners of private landscapes. Researchers frequently use the collection to document the history of significant landscapes, many of which are threatened by new development, and to plan for the preservation or restoration of Olmsted-designed landscapes.

The archives of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site are available for on-site consultation by appointment. We are pleased to announce that Joyce Connolly has accepted a promotion to the position of research coordinator for the archives. The reference staff will be glad to discuss each research request to determine what materials may be gathered for a given project at the present time. (Please note that due to the deteriorated condition of the collection and the current lack of finding aids and inventories for the unprocessed records, we cannot guarantee that all materials for a project can presently be located.) Interested researchers may call or write Joyce Connolly, Reference Archivist, for information and a research policy statement at 617-566-1689, Fairsteds, 99 Warren St., Brookline, MA 02146.

LANDSCAPE THEME STUDY

At this time, a landscape cannot be designated as a national historic landmark by the National Park Service, because no national landscape architecture theme study has yet been prepared. This also means that no landscape may be placed on the World Heritage List as a landscape, since it cannot be made a national landscape landmark. Landscapes that have been made national landmarks came in through different categories other than landscape architecture. For example, Central Park is listed as a landmark under Regional and Urban Planning.

The National Historic Landmarks program, which designates national landmarks, is different from the National Register of Historic Places, which lists properties of local, state, and national significance. Confused? It is a maze, but it boils down to the landmark program listing only national landmarks and the Register maintaining an ecumenical mix of landscapes having local, state, or national importance.

The Park Service, eager to correct this oversight, is now prepared to produce a landscape theme study as part of the National Historic Landmarks Program so that landscapes may be recognized for their own merits. The purpose of the theme study is to justify the national significance of landscape in the history of the country and then identify and document historic landscapes of national significance. Included in this study will be designed landscapes such as Central Park and Prospect Park, battlefields, ethnographic landscapes such
as Lancaster County, PA, and vernacular landscapes as found in New England towns. Historic-designed landscapes will be analyzed first.

The study will have three phases: 1) framing the context, evaluation of existing sources for designed historic landscapes nationwide, and identification of gaps; 2) additional state and local research by State Historic Preservation Offices and preservation groups to fill the gaps; and 3) comparative analysis of the theme at the national level and recommendations for landmark designations. While the Park Service will be directing the study, ASLA, NAOP, and others will be involved in the documentation, analysis, and preservation of these historic-designed landscapes.

Spearheading the work for this theme study has been an ASLA Committee on Historic Preservation co-chaired by Patricia O'Donnell and Noel Vernon, assisted by many others including NAOP's Charles Beveridge and Arley Levee.

It is estimated that the preparation of the theme study will take three years and cost $600,000; with the first phase lasting eight months and costing $125,000, the second phase lasting one year and costing $300,000, and the third phase lasting sixteen months and costing approximately $175,000.

As with Fairsteds budget, the funding for this theme study will be part of the National Park Service's budget to be considered by the Congressional Appropriation Committees in late February. Please write to members of both the House and Senate committees listed above and urge them to fund this study.

If you wish further information on the theme study, contact Patricia O'Donnell at 203-227-3310; Ben Levy, National Park Service History Division in Washington, DC; or Lauren Meier, NPS, Preservation Assistance Division at 202-343-9578.

NEW STAFF AND INITIATIVES IN WASHINGTON

At long last the Park Service has a landscape architect—and a competent one—working on historic landscapes in its Washington office. Lauren Meier, formerly of Massachusetts' Department of Environmental Management and supervisor of DEM's Moseley Estate with its Martha Brooks Hutcheson landscape on Boston's North Shore, has joined the Preservation Assistance Division in the Washington office of the National Park Service. Although she has only been with the Park Service for several months, things are starting to hum.

One of her first initiatives is to prepare standards and guidelines for the preservation of historic landscapes. Although the Department of Interior has standards for historic structures, they are not applicable to landscapes. Thus, there have been no standards specifically for historic landscapes whether they are independent or associated with significant buildings. In the process of developing these standards, the Park Service is now tackling the problems inherent in the variety of landscapes including the differences between designed and vernacular landscapes as well as the challenge of treating the dynamic nature of landscapes. This is basic and needed work for landscape preservationists.

Also on Ms. Meier's agenda are technical publications as well as training and educational programs in historic landscape preservation, all areas of interest to NAOP.

Since NAOP and the Park Service have so many mutual interests, NAOP is discussing the possibility of having a cooperative agreement with the Park Service whereby NAOP will participate in the Park Service's historic landscape preservation work such as standards, technical publications, and training programs. NAOP board member, Marion Pressley, is negotiating this cooperative agreement with the Park Service.

If you are interested in standards, technical publications, or training programs in historic landscapes, or other Park Service historic landscape preservation matters, do call Lauren Meier at 202-343-9578, or write to her at the:

US Dept of Interior
National Park Service
PO Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127
CONFERENCES

NAOP'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

The Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks and NAOP are sponsoring a tenth anniversary conference, A NEW DECADE OF PARKS, on May 4, 5, and 6 in Buffalo, NY, NAOP's birthplace. This is an occasion for us to celebrate the ten years of Olmsted Parks advocacy and look forward to a new decade of Olmsted park preservation and education. It is also an opportunity to visit and study Buffalo's park system, Olmsted's important first park system in this country.

Scholars, practitioners, and civic and political leaders will meet to discuss philosophy and strategy for green space preservation and expansion for the 21st century. Conference topics will explore the national Olmsted Parks' movement, application of Olmsted ideals to 20th and 21st century park planning, experience of the landscape, and restoration and expansion strategies through green connections. America's first park network—the Buffalo Olmsted Park and Parkway System—will serve as a model for conference topics. New planning opportunities for Buffalo's ninety-mile river and lake waterfront present exciting prospects for discussion. The conference will introduce the Olmsted Parks Preservation Directory, an important national listing of Olmsted advocacy groups and activities.

The detailed conference program is listed in the enclosed flier.

A gala opening reception will be held in the State Court of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, overlooking Olmsted's Delaware Park. On display will be original Olmsted drawings, part of an exhibition focusing on the plan of Buffalo and its architecture. Saturday evening a "Buffalo Style" buffet will be served under the glass dome of the 1898 Lord and Burnham-designed South Park Botanical Gardens.

Saturday, conference participants will receive the grand tour of Buffalo's beautiful and expansive Olmsted Park and Parkway System, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Four guided tours are being offered on Sunday: a trip to Rochester's Olmsted Parks; a tour of the Olmsted and Vaux-designed Niagara Reservation, including its jewel, Goat Island; a walking tour of Buffalo's important architectural landmarks; and a tour of Buffalo's historic grain elevator corridor which stretches along the Buffalo River.

This national conference is co-sponsored by the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, the Erie County Department of Parks and Recreation, and the New York State Association for Olmsted Parks. The conference is made possible with the additional support of the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, the New York Council for the Humanities, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens Society, and the State University College at Buffalo.

Complete conference information, applications, and keepsake posters are available by calling Susan West, Administrator, Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks at 716-649-5476.

YOSEMITE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

October 12-21, 1990

NAOP is affiliating with Yosemite National Park and the Natural Areas Association for a Yosemite centennial symposium, "Natural Areas and Yosemite: Prospects for the Future" at the San Francisco Civic Auditorium October 15-19, 1990. Weekend tours of Yosemite are planned for October 13-14 and October 19-21.

The symposium, which focuses on Yosemite's history and future as well as broader preservation, landscape, and natural resources concerns, will include NAOP speakers and
participants. NAOP Seattle board member, Katie Jo Johnson, has been coordinating NAOP’s participation.

NAOP participation in the Yosemite symposium and accompanying tours is logical and timely for not only was Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., head of the first commission to manage the public reservation at Yosemite, but The California Frontier, 1863-1865. Volume V of the Olmsted Papers, will be published later this spring. This volume contains four Olmsted reports on major design projects in California, including the "Preliminary Report upon the Yosemite and Big Tree Grove."

Yosemite Valley. Credit: Library of Congress.

NAOP YOSEMITE TOUR

The weekend following the symposium, October 19-21, NAOP is planning to conduct a long awaited tour of the Mariposa Estate, Olmsted’s proposed route into the Yosemite National Park, the Mariposa Big Tree Grove, and the Yosemite Valley, seen through his eyes as recorded in his writings at the time. This excursion will be led by Victoria Post Ranney, principal editor of Volume V of the Olmsted Papers, The California Frontier, 1863-1865, and Charles Beveridge, series editor of the Olmsted Papers.

If you are interested in attending the NAOP Olmsted Yosemite Tour on October 19-21, please fill out the form below. LODGE AND CABIN FACILITIES IN YOSEMITE ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED— and are often reserved two years in advance. The Yosemite concessionaire is currently holding rooms at Yosemite Lodge ($90 per night) and no-bath cabins ($40 per night) for NAOP, but they require an estimate of our needs IMMEDIATELY.

The return of this reservation will only indicate your interest. A firm reservation will require your check at least 30 days in advance. Please send this form to:

Ms. Linda Vanderwater, Sales Manager
Yosemite Park & Curry Co.,
Yosemite National Park Service, CA 95389

I/We prefer:
Lodge accommodations
Cabin accommodations
Name
Address

ESSEX COUNTY PARK WORKSHOP AND TOUR

NAOP and the Essex County, NJ, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs cosponsored a one day workshop/tour, "Olmsted's Landscape Architecture in Essex County's Historic Parklands: Restoration and Preservation of America's First County-Wide System of Parks, Parkways, and Reservations" on September 23, 1989.

Nicholas R. Amato, Essex County Executive, welcomed the NAOP board on Friday, September 22 and presented NAOP with a proclamation in recognition of the preservation and restoration efforts spearheaded by NAOP.

On Saturday, Kathleen P. Galop, former NAOP board member and Acting Director of the Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs of the Essex County Department of Parks, described the history of Branch Brook Park, the first park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in Essex County in 1867. This park, the jewel of the Essex park system, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, presents a dramatic bucolic contrast with downtown Newark, only a few miles away.

The conference inspected the ongoing state and county funded restoration and preservation of Branch Brook Park. Essex County’s plans to restore the Carriage Concourse in Branch Brook Park were described as well as the Library of Congress research which helped assure that the restoration...
was in accordance with the original 1890s plans. The proposed restoration plans were outlined by Claudia Thornton of Maplewood, NJ, a landscape architect with Quennell Rothschild Associates, New York City. Ms. Thornton explained how she incorporated her site visits and the original designs by Bogart and Barrett Landscape Architects and the Olmsted Brothers firm to arrive at an historically accurate restoration.

The workshop participants then toured a fascinating variety of parks throughout the extensive county park system including Anderson Park and Verona Park where the boathouse and lake are restored. The group also went to the Eagle Park reservation in Montclair, the first "mountain" to rise from sea level offering a spectacular view of the Manhattan skyline. The entrance gate of Llewellyn Park, an Olmsted residential design in West Orange, was admired by the group since public vehicles are prohibited in the neighborhood. The last stop was South Mountain Reservation, the largest park in the country which provided a view not only of Manhattan, but also Staten Island. Miriam Solomon, a trustee of The Friends of South Mountain Reservation, described the acquisition of the hundreds of parcels which make up the 2,000 acres of woods, streams, and meadows in the Reservation. She also gave a brief history of the formation of the Essex County Park Commission in 1895.

The workshop participants learned what an extensive and varied Olmsted park system exists in Essex County and what interesting Olmsted restorative work is underway, all within a short radius from the troubled core of Newark.

Essex County Park staff and NAOP's Nicholas Quennell.

NEW URBAN PARK GROUP ORGANIZED

A new organization, America's Great Urban Parks, has been mobilized to support the passage of The American Heritage Trust Act. This is a non-partisan, non-profit, organization comprised of community-based park support groups representing cities like Boston, Rochester, Nashville, Tulsa, Oakland, San Jose, and New Orleans.

1990 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the enactment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), intended to provide a predictable and steady source of funding for critical acquisitions in national parks, forests, recreation, and wildlife areas. The fund would also provide matching grants to states and localities for the acquisition of open space and recreation land, and the planning and development of recreation facilities.

The concept behind the Fund and its smaller companion, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), was to reinvest revenues derived from the liquidation of the nation's natural resources into long-term capital assets. The LWCF now automatically receives $900 million a year in such revenues derived from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing and from the sale of surplus real estate. Similarly, HPF now receives $150 million a year.
At present, given current law, these commitments are not a working reality. Appropriations have sharply declined from year to year decreasing drastically from authorized levels. For example, since 1983, HPF grant appropriations have averaged only $30 million a year.

The President's Commission on American Outdoors recommended in their findings that: "The Land and Water Conservation Fund be succeeded by a dedicated trust--providing a minimum of $1 billion a year--to help pay for federal, state, and local land acquisition, and state and local facility development and rehabilitation. Congress should consider creating an endowed trust, which, over time, would be self-sustaining."

In fact, Congress has considered creating such a trust. In February of 1989, Rep. Morris Udall and Senator John Chafee reintroduced American Heritage Trust (AHT) bills first considered in 1988. AHT which now has 221 co-sponsors in the House and 39 co-sponsors in the Senate would not increase authorized funding levels. AHT would establish a self-perpetuating Trust that would ensure a return to the original funding commitments.

The House bill (H.R. 876) was approved by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in July of 1989. It is hoped that, early this coming spring, its companion bill in the Senate (S. 370) will be reviewed by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Approval by this committee is of critical importance to the bill's passage.

For further information, please contact:
America's Great Urban Parks
C/O Fairmount Park Commission
Management & Development
Memorial Hall, West Park
Philadelphia, PA 19131
215-685-0045

--Andrew Spielman

BOOK REVIEWS

THE LITERARY OLMSTED
--by Dana White

Prior to the explosion of Olmstediana during the 1970s, standard reference sources in American literary history customarily neglected or undervalued the writings of Frederick Law Olmsted. His name will not be found in the History volume of the Literary History of the United States (3rd ed. rev.: MacMillan, 1963), edited by Robert E. Spiller, Williard Thorp, and others, albeit he was cited twice in the Bibliography volume of that same work. In the first instance, the LNUS noted that "Honest representation by a northern visitor will be found in the writings of Frederick Law Olmsted," with his three travel accounts and The Cotton Kingdom volume listed (p. 344). In the second instance, his Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England was included in a series of American views of England "which deserve mention" (p. 359)--but nothing more.

The biographical sketch of FLO in The Oxford Companion to American Literature (3rd ed.: Oxford, 1956), edited by James D. Hart, identifies Olmsted as a "landscape architect and conservationist," and commends his "unbiased travel books" (p. 549). Still, the emphasis here was on the former "role" rather than on the latter "works."

In The Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature (Crown, 1962), edited by Max J. Herbst, Olmsted was identified as "landscape architect, author" and "a highly observant writer who reported his conclusions about the South in three separately published volumes that were combined as The Cotton Kingdom. He also wrote An American Farmer in England (p. 830). The mistitling of the latter suggests the seriousness with which Olmsted's writings were addressed a generation ago.

With the publication of the Columbia Literary History of the United States (Columbia, 1988), edited by Emory Elliott, Olmsted has finally been elevated to what literary scholars proclaim as "The Canon." Well, almost.
In a section entitled "Social Discourse and Nonfictional Prose," Carolyn Porter places FLO's *The Cotton Kingdom* in the genre of "travel narrative," together with the works of Henry David Thoreau, Herman Melville, Walt Whitman, Richard Henry Dana, Jr., and Francis Parkman—with the distinction that Olmsted was less committed to narrative than to a set of extensive sociological observations and investigations (p. 362).

Olmsted's "investigations" were vast and various, but they served always to demonstrate that the conjunction of cotton and slavery bred poverty—economic, social, and cultural. Best known for designing New York City's Central Park, Olmsted was also general secretary of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, which served as the springboard for the postwar bureaucratizing of organized charity—charity being understood as something to control, not to dispense. Olmsted, then, was one of the nation's first and most effective bureaucrats. Perhaps more decisively than any other single book, *The Cotton Kingdom* registers the voice of the dominant white North that would prevail after the war. Olmsted's belief that "the prosperity of a country can be estimated from the character of the road" became a fixed principle; Henry Adams was still appealing to it fifty years later. But the principle itself simply expressed the difference between North and South on which the entire book relied.

A relentless observation of this difference marks *The Cotton Kingdom*, as does a continual distaste for sights such as that of "swine, hounds, and black and white children . . . commonly lying very promiscuously together on the ground" around Southern homes. Notably, the term "promiscuous" was also applied to audiences in which both men and women were present. Such assemblies, like anything that threatened boundaries, offended gentlemen of property and standing like Olmsted, who repeatedly noted a "closeness of intimacy" between the races in the South "that would have been noticed with astonishment, if not with manifest displeasure, in almost any chance company in the North."

Canonization, it seems, can be a mixed blessing. Porter's ahistorical interpretation links Olmsted with practically all the evil "-isms" in American life—racism, sexism, classism, etc.—during the half century following the publication of *The Cotton Kingdom*, with the strong suggestion that their roots will be found in its pages. Her portrait of FLO as manipulative bureaucrat and consummate road hog, in truth, evokes association not with Olmsted but with that later great park maker, the greatest Moses since Moses, Robert Himself.

Well, at least the Columbia Literary History got the spelling of his name right, if little else.

**REGIONAL NEWS**

**REGION I—NEW ENGLAND**

**PARKS IN NEW HAVEN AND HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, IMPROVED THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Two historic Connecticut parks, Hartford's Bushnell Park and New Haven's Green, have received major financial support for their restoration through local public-private partnership groups. Established with the support of local officials, these non-profit organizations have provided the leadership and financial know-how for funding and implementing multi-million dollar improvements in these two cities. These projects demonstrate what can be accomplished for parks through professionally managed public-private partnerships.
In New Haven, the non-profit Foundation for the New Haven Green—led by a retired CEO and a board consisting of forty-two business, civic, and government members—developed a $4.9 million restoration plan for the Green, a sixteen-acre park located in the heart of the business district, opposite Yale University. Laid out in 1638, when the New Haven Colony was originally divided into nine square blocks (the central square being the Green), this open space has remained remarkably consistent over its 350-year history, despite various recommendations through the years, including Cass Gilbert's and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.'s, in 1910 for civic buildings to frame the Green and replanting, drainage, and lighting improvements. Much of the Green's original character is apparent today.

With a 1985 leadership grant from the New Haven Foundation, a restoration plan was developed for the Green by Quennell Rothschild Associates, landscape architects and Parisky Associates, management and development consultants. The plan addresses four contemporary problems: impact of cars and buses, safety and security, maintenance, and previously uncoordinated improvement efforts.

Since initiating a capital fund drive in 1986, the Foundation has recently been implementing this plan. Four park entrance ways have now been rebuilt, turn-of-the-century lighting fixtures have been installed throughout the park, and major pedestrian, vehicular, and transit safety and design improvements have been made.

New Haven's public-private partnership group has raised over $4.6 million from public and private sources for the Green restoration project. The campaign includes an endowment fund held by the New Haven Foundation with over $300,000 earmarked for often neglected future maintenance of the Green.

In Connecticut's capitol city of Hartford, the non-profit Bushnell Park Foundation—led by a board of thirty-two neighborhood, civic, cultural, business, and government leaders—developed a two-phased capital campaign for Hartford's premier park. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this thirty-seven-acre park was established through a referendum in 1853, making Hartford the first city in the nation to vote for public funding for a municipal park. The taking of land for this park, made possible by a city charter revision, was the first example of urban renewal in Connecticut.

The park's original design reflects the early vision and political perseverance of its lone proponent, Reverend Horace Bushnell, and, later, the recommendations to the Parks Commission in 1858 by Frederick Law Olmsted who grew up in Hartford. Preoccupied with designing New York's Central Park at that time, Olmsted suggested that Swiss-born architect and horticulturist, Jacob Weidenmann of New York, be retained to create a public park for Hartford. Today, the park reflects Weidenmann's distinct style, featuring smoothly sculpted and undulating contours and graceful paths which follow the land forms. Weidenmann selected 157 varieties of trees and shrubs, making the park botanically interesting. In 1943, the Olmsted Brothers firm of Brookline, MA, was retained to prepare a landscape design and planting plan, which removed the park's major water feature, the Park River, and redesigned the pedestrian entries.
Today, the park is used by more than a million people annually, from picnicking, jogging, and socializing to concert going. Surrounded by an expanding central business district and the State Capitol, Bushnell Park was seriously deteriorating in the 1970s from heavy vehicular traffic on adjacent streets, increased use, and fiscal pressures delaying necessary routine maintenance. In 1981, the non-profit Bushnell Park Foundation was created so concerned citizens could address the park’s pressing problems. Following the publication of the "Bushnell Park Improvement Plan," funded by a local insurance company, the group carried out nearly a dozen restorations of the park's highly visible architectural features: The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, the Pump House, Corning Fountain, the Pond, four brownstone entrances to the park, park furnishings, and lighting.

"Trees in Trust" program—the name Bushnell Park Foundation has given to rehabilitation efforts to save large specimen shade and flowering trees, lawn conservation work, and the replanting of the more than 1,000 trees, lost over the park's 134-year history. A total of $1.6 million is needed to protect this landscape. According to Sandra Sharr, Foundation President, "Without the Bushnell Park Foundation's intervention to protect this landscape, large lawn areas and whole sections of shade trees are at risk; it's a silent crisis."

For further information on Connecticut's two successful public-private partnership models for park restoration, write: Parisky Associates, 750 Main St, Hartford, CT 06103 Tel. 203-522-3668.

—Sanford Parisky

BOSTON UPDATE, THE EMERALD NECKLACE

As 1990 begins, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department is challenging the austerity imposed by the state's budget deficit. Parks Commissioner Lawrence A. Dwyer (appointed March 1989) has noted, "Although the financial picture is stark, we must pursue creative ways to revitalize the Emerald Necklace."

Efforts along the Muddy River will complement investments made under the Massachusetts Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program. Work completed before the state put the Olmsted program on hold included: tree care throughout the system, restoring and replanting Agassiz Bridge in the Fens, converting the bridle path to a bikeway along the Jamaica (phase I of a system-long loop), and phase I edge restoration at Jamaica Pond.

In 1990 the Emerald Necklace Maintenance Operations Program will marry the academic approach of the Olmsted master plans and the field proven skills of the Parks Maintenance Unit to community resources, both physical and fiscal. Pragmatically, the program places day-to-day tasks and capital-scale projects within a yearly planning cycle. It focuses on vegetative management, from optimal mowing schedules for grass and invasive weeds to care for understory plantings and further Olmstedian planting projects in partnership with community groups.
The missing link in the Necklace, the former Sears parking lot on the Riverway, will return to Boston Parks' ownership early in 1990. (This is a major accomplishment! Editor's note) The Sears parcel's developer will provide $1.1 million for phase I park reconstruction, guided by a community and greenspace advisory group. The park is due to open July 1992. Meanwhile, parking operations will help provide for park costs.

Boston is very pleased to announce that all Emerald Necklace parks under its jurisdiction are now city landmarks. The recent designation of Jamaica Pond, Olmsted Park, and the Riverway has set new standards for landmarked landscape protection.

Research concerning Olmsted parks in other cities has helped expand Boston's sign program for historic parks. Phase I signage for major entrances to the Fens, Riverway, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond, and Franklin Park is scheduled for 1990. This will complement signs already in place in the Common, Garden, Commonwealth Avenue Mall, and the Arboretum.

In Franklin Park cooperation between the Olmsted team and other groups helped integrate new zoo and golf course renovations into master planning. These amenities greatly increased the use and vitality of the park in 1989. Now, in concert with the community, the goals are to safeguard these investments, make more improvements guided by the master plan such as at Schoolmaster Hill and Forest Hills entrance, and increase visitor services. The city has redesigned the cross-country running course and wants to bring back horseback riding.

At the pre-Olmsted end of the Necklace, a Boston Common Management Plan is nearing completion to protect the country's oldest public open space (1634). The plan's four subject areas are: the Common's legacy, physical maintenance, administrative management, and capital plan implementation. The process began with a series of public issues forums held in spring 1989. In the face of new development surrounding the Common, the Plan must prevent potential adverse effects, such as shadows, and mitigate effects of overuse. Just as the Emerald Necklace Maintenance Program does, the Common Management Plan aims to coordinate public and private contributions to provide above-standard care.

The Emerald Necklace has a Regional Administrator and dedicated maintenance crews. The Common also has an on-site administrator. Boston's primary park effort for the 1990s is to ensure that smart management prevails and care does not falter, even when funding does.

For further information: call Ellen Lipsey, 617-725-4505.

REGION 11—MID-ATLANTIC

BROOKLYN

PROSPECT PARK

The Prospect Park Alliance, founded in April 1987 to support and supplement the publicly funded restoration of Prospect Park, has raised over $1 million.

Restoration of the Park's early 20th-century handcarved wooden carousel has been one of the Alliance's most ambitious jobs. Closed since 1983, the carousel will reopen in October 1990 after a $550,000 restoration job by Denver artisan and conservator, Will Morton, VIII. Over $300,000 has been raised, but the Alliance continues to seek funds and offers individuals the opportunity to adopt and name a horse by contributing $5,000.

Three historic markers from around 1920, which had disappeared during the 1970s, have been refabricated and replaced through Alliance contributions. Two of the markers were at the site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Long Island and the third was a marker dedicated to Theodore Roosevelt by the Boy Scouts of Prospect Heights.
The Alliance also sponsors cultural and educational programs in the Park; in fact, Prospect Park offers more public programs than any park in the city. These include "Hot Prospects" summer program and "New Prospects," the Park's premier indoor performing arts series.

The Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks prepared a master plan proposal for Delaware Park, Buffalo's premier park, which outlines review criteria, professional qualifications, and recommends community participation in the planning process. "In a park with so many conflicting demands," the BFOP states, "the drafting of a master plan is the only way to insure long-term and comprehensive solutions."

That proposal met with the approval of the Delaware Park Steering Committee, members of the Common Council, and the Buffalo News. "If the time was ever right for doing a master plan, it is right for the Buffalo Parks Department now," according to the Buffalo News editorial of September 24, 1989. "A system-wide plan could help sort out the many competing uses and visions of busy Delaware Park. It could introduce innovative ideas."

A system-wide master plan was also recommended by the Buffalo Environmental Management Commission, of which Gretchen Toles of BFOP is one of the two citizen members. The EMC 1989 State of the Environment Report recommends "a comprehensive master plan for the parks be undertaken which assesses the condition of the historic landscapes, review park use, horticulture, maintenance, security, architecture, original design intent, and other issues and problems. The completed master plan would provide a logical plan for improving and restoring the landscapes, guidelines for restoration of horticulture and design elements, prioritizing goals and projects schematics and cost estimates, as well as suggestions for continued maintenance and solutions to management, security, and funding questions. The plan would also provide a conceptual framework for assessment and ongoing needs and use demands, helping us to determine appropriate siting and design for park uses throughout the city's open space network." Bravo!

Aside from this very important planning initiative promoted by BFOP, there are many other interesting projects from the transformation of Delaware and Cazenovia Park casinos and the Buffalo Botanical Garden to the newly organized Horizons Waterfront Commission, which is charged with revitalizing the lakefront, now cut off from the city and the park system. This is a city with a remarkable Olmsted heritage, an active Olmsted organization, and some fascinating projects underway. Come see them at the BFOP/NAOP Conference on May 4-6.

PHILADELPHIA

FAIRMOUNT WATERWORKS

For all of us who sit on the east side of Amtrak trains so we can catch that magnificent view of the Schuylkill River, its boathouses, the prominent art museum, and the glorious Greek revival Fairmount Waterworks, there is good news. The Fairmount Waterworks is undergoing extensive restoration, thanks to the Fairmount Park Commission, the Fairmount Park Association, Philadelphia's Water Department, and the Junior League.

The Waterworks, the first municipal waterworks in this country, was begun in 1812 and hailed in the 19th century for not only its neoclassical buildings and gardens, but also for the powerful efficiency of its turbines and pumps. The city was supplied water from the waterworks until 1909. From 1911 until 1962 it was an aquarium. Finally
it was closed due to neglect and city politics. In 1980 it was listed as an Endangered National Historic Landmark. And by 1984 the buildings were in such shocking disrepair that there was fear portions of them might collapse.

A $7.5 million three phase restoration program is underway which began with emergency repairs to the roofs of the seven buildings in the complex and includes restorations of all the buildings. So far two phases have been completed, the first completed in 1988 involved restoring the Old Mill House, the roof of which contains the columned Greek Pavilion and two entrance houses. Fiber-glass reproductions of William Rush's allegorical sculptures, Schuylkill Chained and Schuylkill Freed, are perched on the roof of the entrance houses. The third phase will concentrate on the Engine House for which the city is seeking a long-term lease for restoration of the buildings and development of a year-round restaurant. The city's Water Department plans to develop an interpretative center explaining the engineering of this remarkable 19th-century public works. Extensive work on the river wall and the mill race remains to be tackled.

Interior of the Waterworks showing breast wheel. Courtesy of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

These restoration efforts, overseen by the architectural firm of John Milner Associates, will certainly be appreciated by those of us who sit on the east side of Amtrak trains, as well as by all of us interested in urban design.

--Andrew Spielman


REGION III—SOUTH

ATLANTA

NEW MAYOR AND OLD HIGHWAY PROBLEMS

Maynard Jackson won a landslide mayoral election October 3, 1989, and shortly afterwards announced his strong opposition to the highly controversial Presidential Parkway, planned to connect President Jimmy Carter's Library to downtown Atlanta. Jackson said he was not going to fight the highway; he was going to kill it.

The proposal for the Presidential Parkway has been around for a long time. Its intent was to speed visitors to Carter's Library, but its path would gobble up land in Olmsted-designed Candler, Goldsboro, Shade Side, and Dellwood parks, and cut through Druid Hill Park residential neighborhood, also an Olmsted design. Atlanta's Olmsted Parks Society and NAOP have joined many other local and national groups in opposing the Presidential Parkway. The opponents' legal actions have stalled construction of the highway so far despite the vigorous support of Georgia's DOT, ex-mayor Andrew Young and, of course, President Carter. The Atlanta City Council voted to fight the condemnation of the Presidential Parkway, a measure vetoed by ex-Mayor Young. More recently, there have been unsuccessful attempts at mediation. The pending legal issue is the constitutionality of a law allowing Georgia's DOT to condemn city-owned park land.

Now that anti-Presidential Parkway Maynard Jackson is mayor again, it is a new ball game for the highway opponents. At the first meeting of the City Council this year, Councilman Bill Campbell introduced a bill outlining the city's opposition to the Presidential Parkway and directing the city attorney to fight the state's attempt to condemn city-owned land for the Parkway. As Councilman Campbell said, "IT'S NOT OVER TILL IT'S OVER." But at least the highway opponents have some friends in high places; so who knows what the next chapter will be.

REGION IV—MID-WEST

OHIO

Legislation has been introduced in both the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives that would authorize the Ohio Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society to review state actions that affect state-owned historic resources.

These bills, S244 and H720, would provide "a mechanism for state agencies to consider historic preservation questions early in the planning stages," according to Dr. W. Ray Luce, State Historic Preservation Officer. The bills would also enable counties and townships to establish historic preservation ordinances in the same manner as municipalities. A state grant program for historic preservation projects is another section of these bills, which have strong endorsement of thirty-four preservation, park, and history organizations.

REGION V—FAR WEST

SEATTLE

In 1984 citizens of Seattle voted for a $28 million rehabilitation project of the city's park lands, a project now 99 percent complete according to NAOP's Donald Harris, Director of Project Development, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation.
A significant part of this rehabilitation project was the renewal of Olmsted parks and boulevards. Major work was done on Lake Washington Boulevard ($3.1 million) and Interlaken Boulevard ($1.2 million). Also included were Volunteer Park (Capitol Hill); Washington Park Arboretum, Leschi, Coleman, Mt. Baker and Seward parks (all connected to Lake Washington Blvd.); Green Lake (north central Seattle); Discovery Park (site of Ft. Lawton); Queen Anne Blvd.; and its adjoining Kinnear Park on Queen Ann Hill.

Seattle's Kinnear Park.

Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks celebrated the reopening of Kinnear Park with a 100th birthday party on October 1, 1989. A plaque was dedicated in honor of park donors, George and Angie Kinnear. Great grandson, Grant Kinnear, came to the reopening and recalled boyhood thoughts about the park. "I thought it was mine because of the name. But then you get older and learn the truth."

Residents of the community of Queen Anne, who think it is theirs, are raising money to renew the playground.

Restoration and ongoing maintenance of Seattle's parks will not end with the 1984 $28 million bond funds. "What went with this was a commitment to continue," promises Harris. We are already working on PARPAC, another comprehensive plan, and a major focus will be our historic Olmsted parks.

This city money will couple well with the King County Open Space bond money for greenbelts, trails, natural areas, and other critical spaces, a referendum for which passed in November's election by a 68 percent vote. Seattle's share of this county money is $41 million. The city has targeted 277 acres scattered around the city for acquisition and has begun acquisition of land adjacent to Mt. Baker Blvd., a broken segment of the Olmsted boulevard system.

Recent Director of Seattle Parks and Recreation Walter Hundley (NAOP Board 1983-87), his successor Holly Miller, and King County officials have been sensitive to Olmsted concerns and have cooperated with FSOP in open public meetings. The project design firms, Walsley & Associates, The Portico Group, and EDAW have also made presentations.

Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks has grown from its visibility and has gained new members from communities where park rehabilitation has taken place. These include four new board members, Robert Kildahl, Magnolia; Chris Senn, Leschi; and Sandra Tausend, Ravenna; also, our 1989-90 president, David Roberts of Portico.

FSOP under President Roberts is interested in the development of a set of objectives and standards for evaluating proposed projects which have the potential to affect Olmsted landscapes. Another protective measure for Olmsted parks and boulevards. Roberts recommends, is nominating them as historic landmarks.

Come to Seattle and see our reopened view corridors and replaced historic pylons in Interlaken; sit on Central Park benches in Kinnear; view Lake Washington from the newly created scenic overlook on the upper boulevard; and enjoy the addition of trees along the boulevards, including a red oak (Quercus rubra), a gift from FSOP in memory of former Seattle Arborist, Marvin Black, at the south exit of the Arboretum.

--Katie Jo Johnson
FOR THE TRAVELER:

If near New York City, enjoy Newark's Olmsted Park and Cherry Blossoms.

In April thousands will come to Branch Brook Park in Newark, NJ, to see the blossoming of 3,000 cherry trees—more than in Washington, DC. In fact, Newark has been called "The Cherry Blossom City—USA."

In 1927 Caroline Bamberger Fuld, an ardent gardener and philanthropist, gave 2,000 cherry trees to Essex County, after visiting Washington, DC's blooming cherry trees. Mrs. Fuld defrayed the cost of planting saplings of single blossom, double blossom, and weeping varieties. Additional trees were planted at the end of the 1940s, as existing trees reached maturity, giving Branch Brook Park the largest number of cherry trees outside of Japan.

Since 1980 Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs has celebrated the blossoming of the trees with a Cherry Blossom Festival, where Japanese dancers and musicians and Western jazz and swing musicians bring together East and West. Other cultural institutions, including the Newark Museum and the Sacred Heart Cathedral also offer Japanese related cultural programs, which expand the sense of festivity throughout the city. (The Newark Museum with its new addition is worth a visit. Editor's note)

This year the Cherry Blossom Festival will begin with a Twilight Walk through the cherry blossoms, followed by a reception and musical entertainment at Branch Brook Park Visitors Center at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 19 (rain date April 20).

On Saturday, April 21 at noon, several musical groups will perform, and at 3 p.m., the Newark Museum will present a Japanese children's folk opera in the Museum's auditorium.

On Sunday, April 22, at 9 a.m., Essex County will sponsor its annual 6.2 mile Cherry Blossom Run for all age groups. Musical events take place at the awards ceremony and in the afternoon.

The Cherry Blossom Festival in Branch Brook Park is open and free to all. If you would like a brochure on the 1990 Cherry Blossom Festival, please write: Cherry Blossom Festival, Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, 22 Fairview Avenue, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009. Attention: Karen Bokert, or call 201-857-5290.

—Kathleen Galop

IN REMEMBRANCE:

PHILIP WINSLOW
Landscape Architect and NAOP Member

On July 19, 1989, Philip N. Winslow, a landscape architect whose work is seen throughout Central Park and a member of the New York City Art Commission, died at the age of 48. He was the landscape architectural consultant for the new Central Park Zoo and designed the planned restoration of the Mall. He was one of several authors of Rebuilding Central Park: A Management and Restoration Plan, published by M.I.T. Press in 1987. Among his projects outside New York City, master plans were designed by Mr. Winslow for schools in Chattanooga, TN, and Lawrenceville, NJ, as well as residential projects in East Hampton and Southampton, LI.
CHERIE KLUESING
Former Professor, Belmont Landscape Architect

Cherie Kluesing died of cancer at age 43 early last summer. Her advocacy of integrating art works and landscape gained her a national reputation. The restoration plan she and her partner did for Frederick Law Olmsted’s Buttonwood Park in New Bedford won a merit award in 1988 from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects. Her legacy also includes a master plan for the restoration of Larz Anderson Park in Brookline. She left incomplete a management plan for the Boston Common, a plan aimed at enhancing the oldest public space in the country.

HAROLD M. OLMSTED

Harold M. Olmsted, a stalwart supporter of NAOP, died last summer in Fairfax, VA.

CALENDAR

JANUARY 22
Earthday’s Twentieth Anniversary. Check your state environmental organizations for events in your state.

JUNE 5-7
Preservation Challenges for the 1990s: A Conference for Public Officials
Washington, DC
for information write:
Preservation Challenges Conference
National Park Service, 424 P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013
202-343-9578

JULY 14-17
Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation Annual Meeting
Seattle and Olympic National Park, Washington
for information, contact:
Tim Keller, President:
804-295-3880
Cathy Gilbert, NPS:
206-442-0791

AUGUST 10-12
NAOP Conference
Yosemite National Park, CA
(In conjunction with the Yosemite Centennial)

for information, write
NAOP, Suite 308
5010 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20016