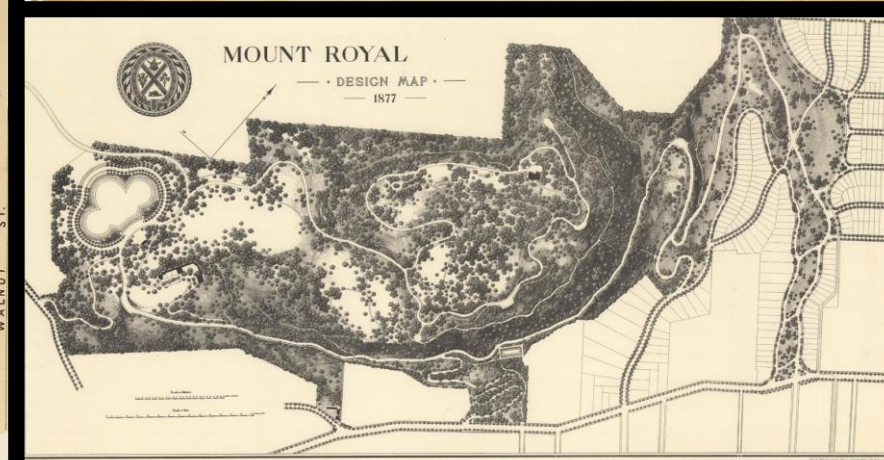
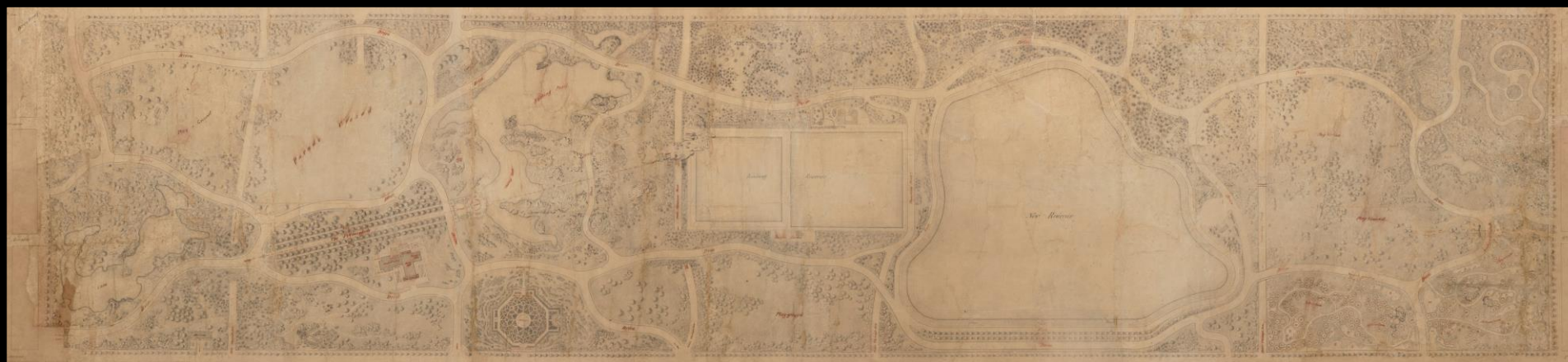


FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED: LANDSCAPES FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD



PLANTING FIELDS

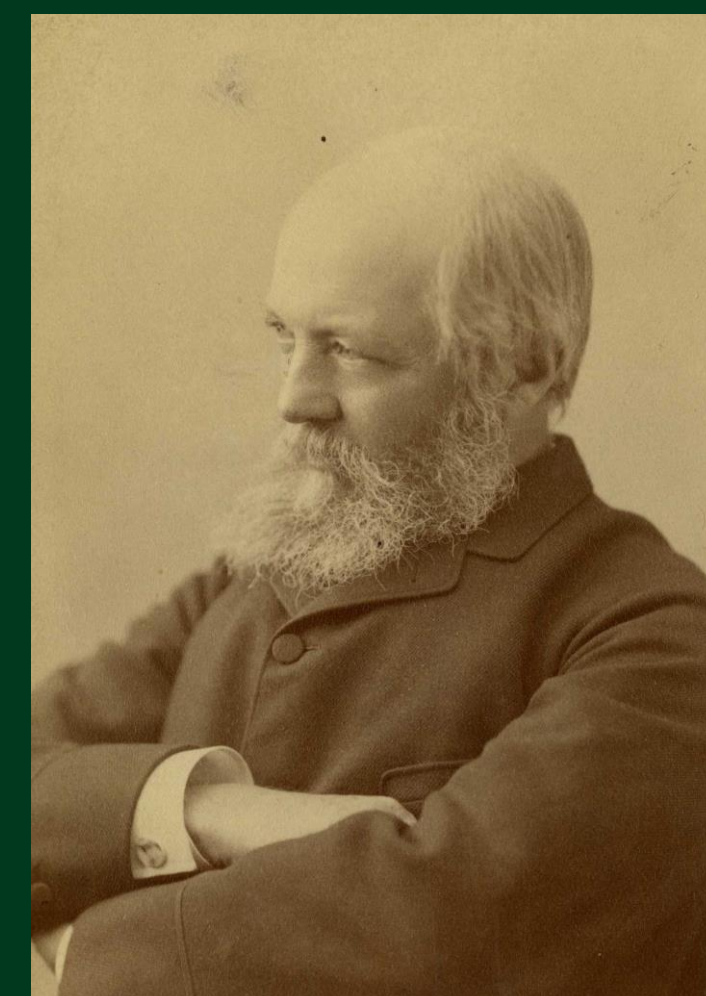


FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED: LANDSCAPES FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

The year 2022 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted—landscape architect, journalist, social reformer, and creative genius who transformed

the American landscape. During his life, Olmsted completed hundreds of landscape projects ranging from parks, parkways, and institutional campuses to urban and suburban areas and planned communities.

While his physical landscapes are remarkable, the values behind them are equally important. Olmsted believed that parks and landscapes are essential public spaces, belonging to all Americans. His democratic vision of public parks, and his insistence that human health and civic engagement depend on them, resonate more than ever today.



The Oak Spring Garden Foundation, in partnership with the National Association for Olmsted Parks and Olmsted 200, is proud to celebrate Olmsted's birth with this exhibition, which focuses on Olmsted's life story, his major landscape commissions, and their relevance for contemporary society. Also highlighted is Olmsted's trailblazing philosophy about the natural world and how to shape it for public benefit.

PARKS FOR THE AGES

Witness to a rapidly growing and urbanizing America, Olmsted understood that the future of the natural world would be threatened without more public-spirited intervention. Foretelling current environmental concerns, he predicted “woods which will soon be felled, streams which will be turned into sewers, meadows that will be built on, landscapes that may be shut off....” When Olmsted considered a landscape, he asked instead: “What improvements have you here that tend to insure permanent healthfulness and permanent rural beauty?”

Olmsted’s foresight is best illustrated by the landscapes he designed, which would not grow to maturity until decades later. Yet he anticipated and believed in the role they would play in the future. Today, Americans in cities throughout the country continue to enjoy and advocate for his legacy.

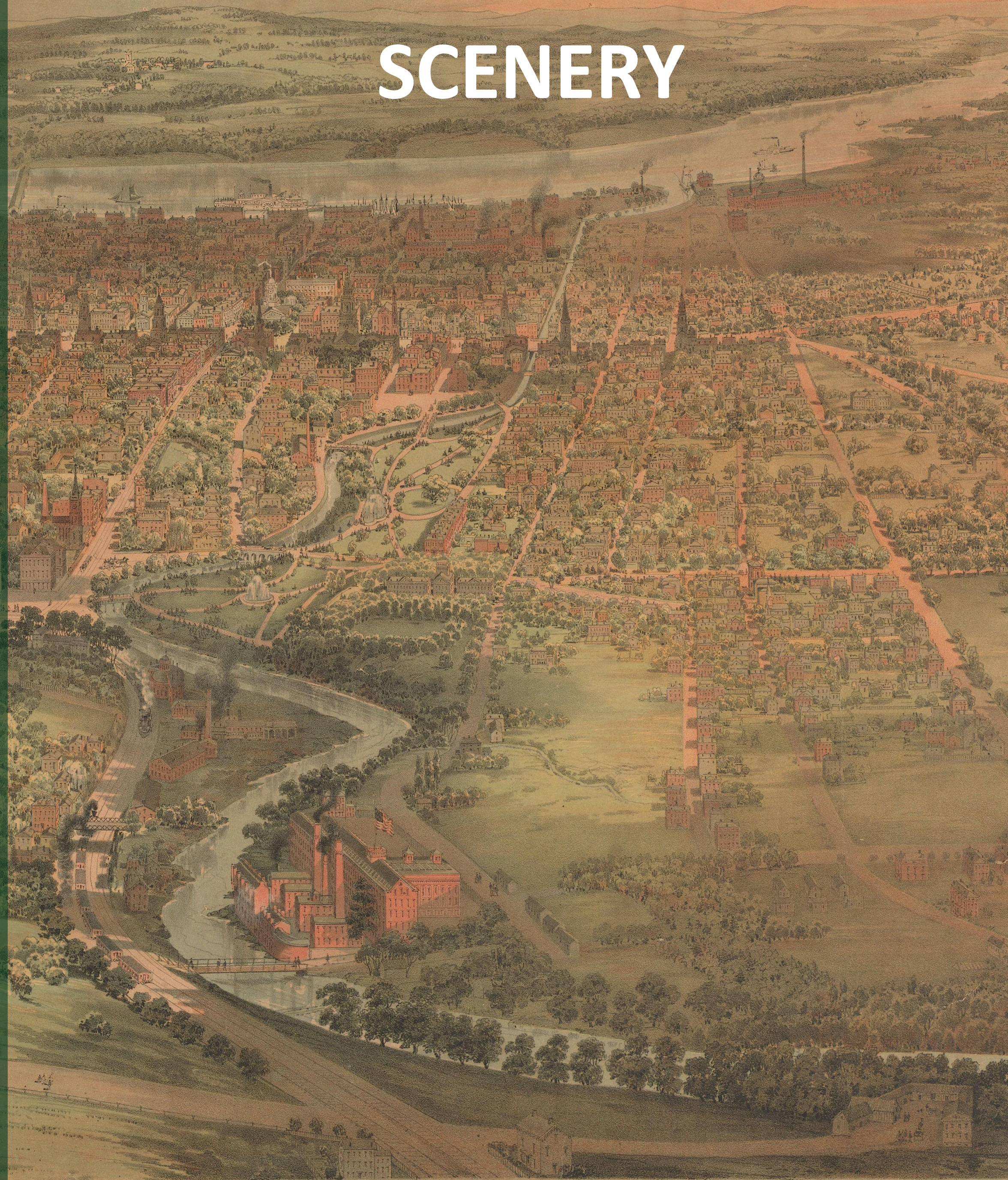


Olmsted's deep appreciation of rural scenery formed early in childhood, shaped by his father's extensive collection of British and European landscape prints. The family also enjoyed frequent countryside jaunts in search of picturesque views near their home in Hartford, Connecticut. At a young age, Olmsted discovered the works of the leading English landscape theorists William Gilpin, Uvedale Price, and Humphry Repton. While Gilpin, Price, and Repton sought to improve views on private estates, Olmsted adopted and applied their naturalistic landscape principles to public parks.

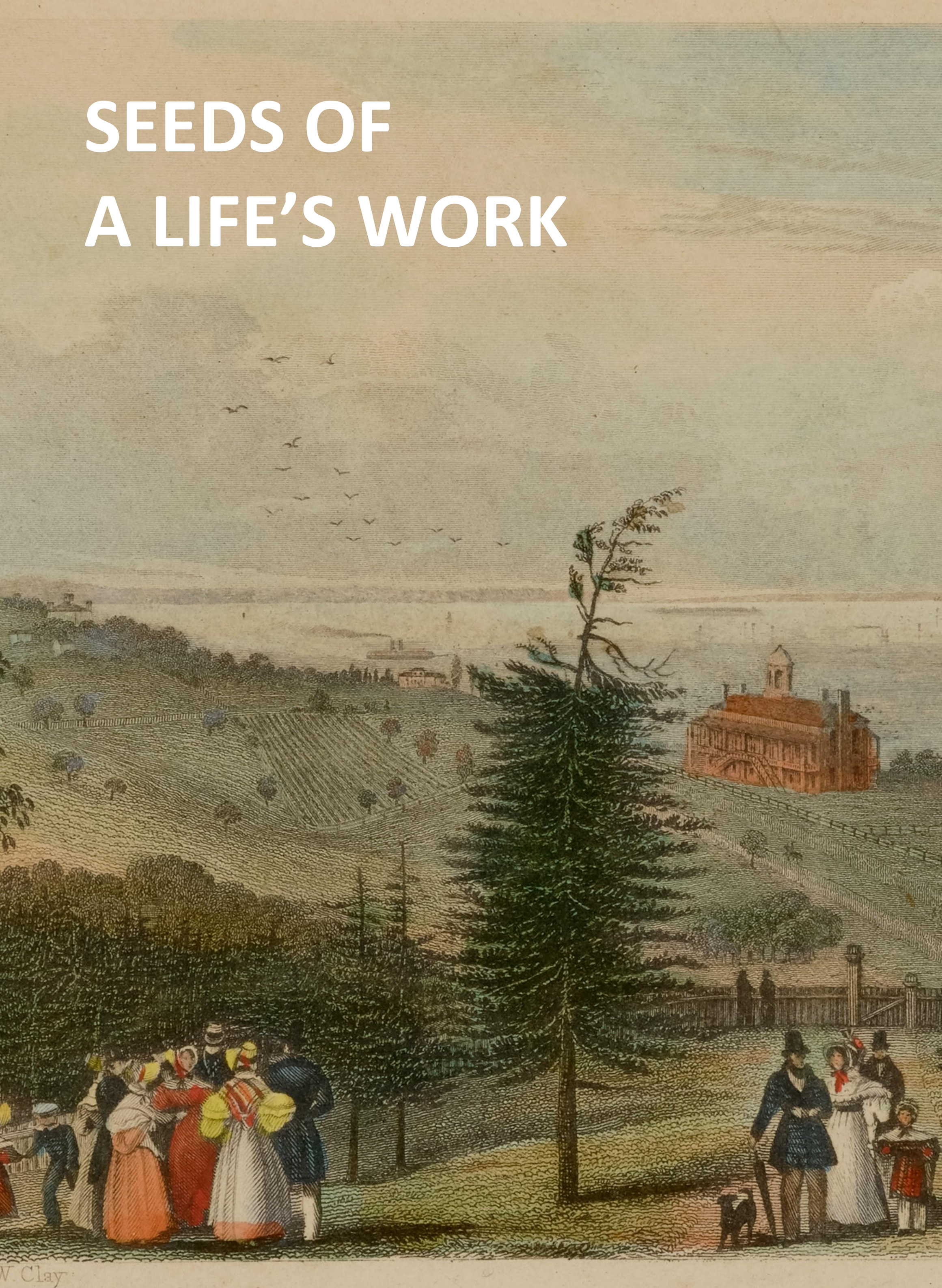


Olmsted's thinking was especially influenced by Humphry Repton's picturesque compositions. Respecting and enhancing a site's natural features became fundamental to Olmsted's landscape designs. For Olmsted, enhancing "the genius of the place" could bring about a powerful effect on the viewer, whether through "dark, picturesque, rugged ravines" or pastoral meadows.

APPRECIATION OF SCENERY



SEEDS OF A LIFE'S WORK



As a young man, Olmsted showed few signs that he would come to define and dominate the nascent field of landscape architecture during the second half of

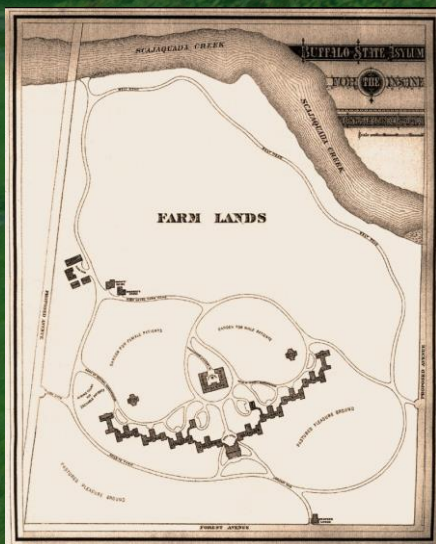
the nineteenth century. He worked as a dry goods clerk, seaman, scientific farmer, writer, and managing editor of an influential literary and political magazine. He also traveled extensively, publishing insightful accounts of his journeys through England and continental Europe. Four books, based on articles published for the *New York Times* chronicling his travels through the pre-Civil War South, were influential in opposing slavery.

Living on a Staten Island farm purchased by his father, Olmsted explored agriculture—growing fruits, vegetables, and trees. He named the farm Tosomock and hosted lively gatherings there with his beloved brother John and their friends. Concern for the future of Staten Island prompted him to help found an agricultural improvement society. Taken together, Olmsted's disparate experiences prepared him for his life's work and strengthened his sense of duty to the public good.





For Olmsted, the natural world was essential to maintaining well-being and renewing health, a discovery he made through personal experience. Exhausted and undernourished after a yearlong stint on a merchant ship to China, Olmsted recuperated with long walks in the woods. He found further validation of nature's healing power in the work of Swiss physician and philosopher Johann Georg Zimmermann. Zimmermann's *Solitude Considered* promoted rural pursuits and scenery to heal malaise and melancholy, as an antidote to the ills of urban living.



Olmsted drew on the healing power of nature in designing parks as well as hospital grounds for mentally ill patients. He believed that tranquil landscapes and pathways in nature had an unconscious calming influence on patients' mental health and relieved the anxiety of urban life.

HEALING POWER OF LANDSCAPE



PARK FOR THE PEOPLE: BIRKENHEAD PARK

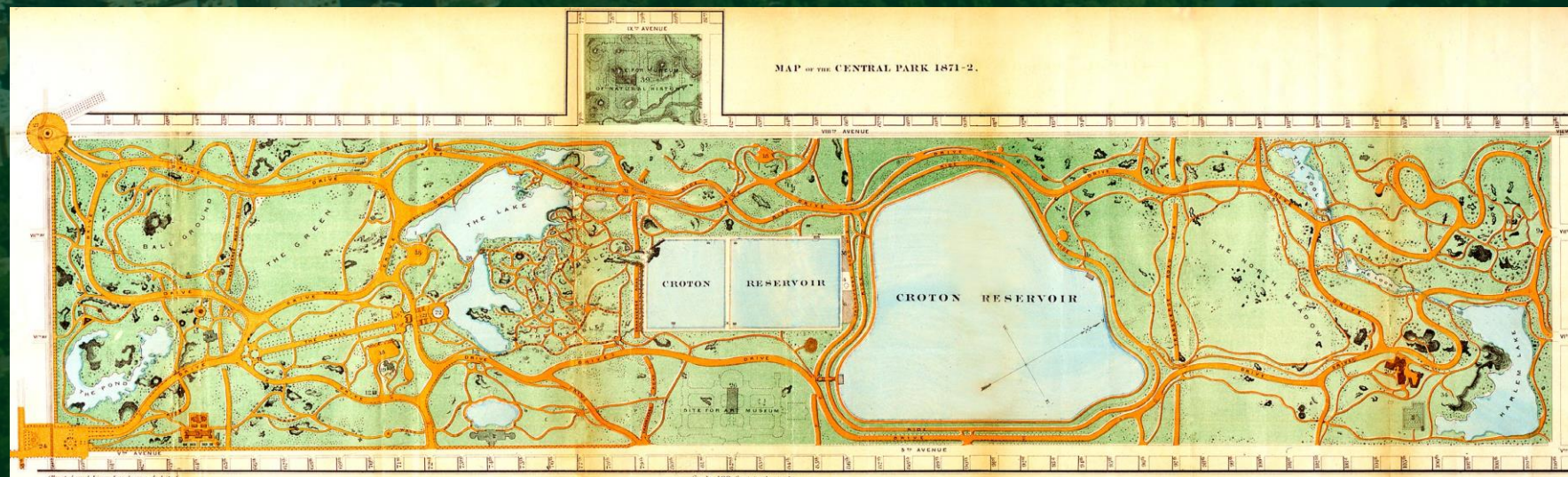


During his 1850 walking tour of the British Isles, Olmsted visited the newly opened Birkenhead Park outside Liverpool. Familiar with privately owned parks on family estates, he was struck by this oasis created for public enjoyment. The park's artistic design and social value prompted Olmsted to "admit that in democratic America, there was nothing to be thought of as comparable to this People's Garden." Olmsted employed these forward-looking principles in the planning and design of Central Park, his first professional landscape project.



Olmsted's insights into English landscapes and his ideas about social reform were published in his first book, *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England* (1852). He dedicated it to New York State farmer George Geddes, from whom Olmsted had learned scientific farming methods. The book reflected Geddes's egalitarian sensibilities, which honed Olmsted's vision and its practical application.

Olmsted's commitment to the public good is evident in Central Park, an 843-acre oasis in the heart of Manhattan. He and Calvert Vaux, a British-educated architect and landscape designer, envisioned a people's park, for the pleasure of "the poor and the rich, the young and the old." Olmsted understood the ability of nature and scenic views to counteract urban ills and promote recreation. His persistence overcame city leaders' continuing schemes to fill the park with buildings and commercial activities. Central Park was to be Manhattan's lungs, providing fresh air and green space for all.



In 1858 Olmsted and Vaux won the design competition for Central Park, which became the first landscaped public park in the United States. Their plan, called Greensward, integrated naturalistic and formal settings with architectural and recreational features, such as a pedestrian mall, water terrace, and lake for boating and ice-skating.

CENTRAL PARK: PLANNING A DEMOCRATIC LANDSCAPE



LANDSCAPES OF SLAVERY & WAR



In the 1850s, Olmsted traveled through the American South as a correspondent for the *New York Times*. Galvanized by what he saw, he published a book, *A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States* (1856), to expose the injustice and economic bankruptcy

of slavery. Harriet Beecher Stowe called it “the most thorough exposé of the economical view of this subject which ever appeared.” British novelist Charles Dickens lauded Olmsted’s accounts for their accuracy and careful reflection. Just before the American Civil War broke out, Olmsted published *The Cotton Kingdom* (1861), which he hoped would influence British public opinion along pro-Northern lines.

Olmsted left his post as superintendent of Central Park to aid the war effort. From 1861 to 1863, he served as general secretary of the US Sanitary Commission, a forerunner of the Red Cross that supported Union troops. He considered it his patriotic duty to improve soldiers’ welfare. Olmsted lobbied Congress for funds to build modern hospitals, organized an efficient system for distributing supplies, outfitted ships as floating hospitals, and promoted fresh vegetables for soldiers’ rations. Operating tirelessly near the front lines of the Peninsula Campaign outside Richmond, Virginia, Olmsted improved supplies and sanitation to benefit the health of soldiers.



PROSPECT PARK, BROOKLYN



In 1865 Vaux convinced Olmsted to return to New York to codeign a park for Brooklyn, then the country's third-largest city. The result was Prospect Park, which

Olmsted thought an even more successful design than Central Park. It seamlessly blends pastoral vistas in its Long Meadow with a lake, drives and walkways, and wilder features—such as the Ravine, a steep, forested gully carved from rock, with pump-powered flowing water. Visitors coming from “the confinement and bustle of crowded streets” could find “the suggestion of freedom and repose,” either through communal recreation or solitary contemplation of nature.

As vice president of the New York Charities Aid Society during the 1870s, Olmsted promoted his view that parks were meant to nurture the spirit of all people. He wrote to physicians and ministers describing the healthful benefits of both Central Park and Prospect Park, and posted notices about these benefits in tenement houses.





Olmsted believed that carefully planned, suburban communities would provide the most beneficial environment for American domestic life and contribute

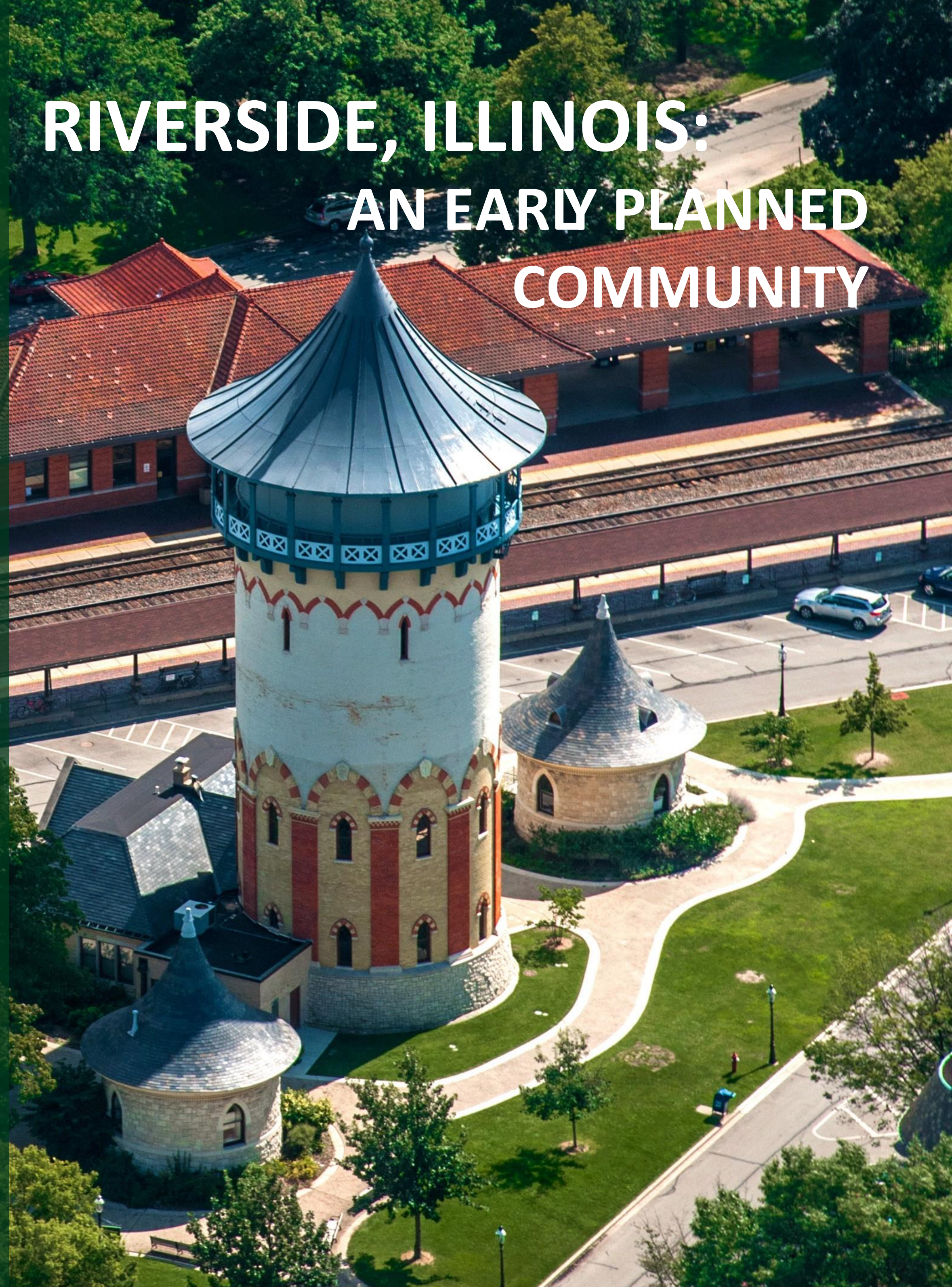
to a stable democracy. Suburban villages could avoid the crowded squalor of the city and overcome the isolation and lack of services of rural areas.

They would bring about “the ruralizing of all our urban population and the urbanizing of our rustic population.” Olmsted’s designs for residential communities demonstrate his desire to safeguard the land’s natural scenic resources, while providing recreational areas for the enjoyment of the whole community.

Olmsted and Vaux’s 1868 plan for Riverside, Illinois, represented their first fully developed residential community. Situated along the Des Plaines River west of Chicago, nearly one-third of the 1,600-acre tract preserved streamways, scenic views, and wooded areas for public use. Olmsted’s holistic design approach is evident in the carefully graded, curving roadways, which provide ease of movement for physical and psychological benefit.

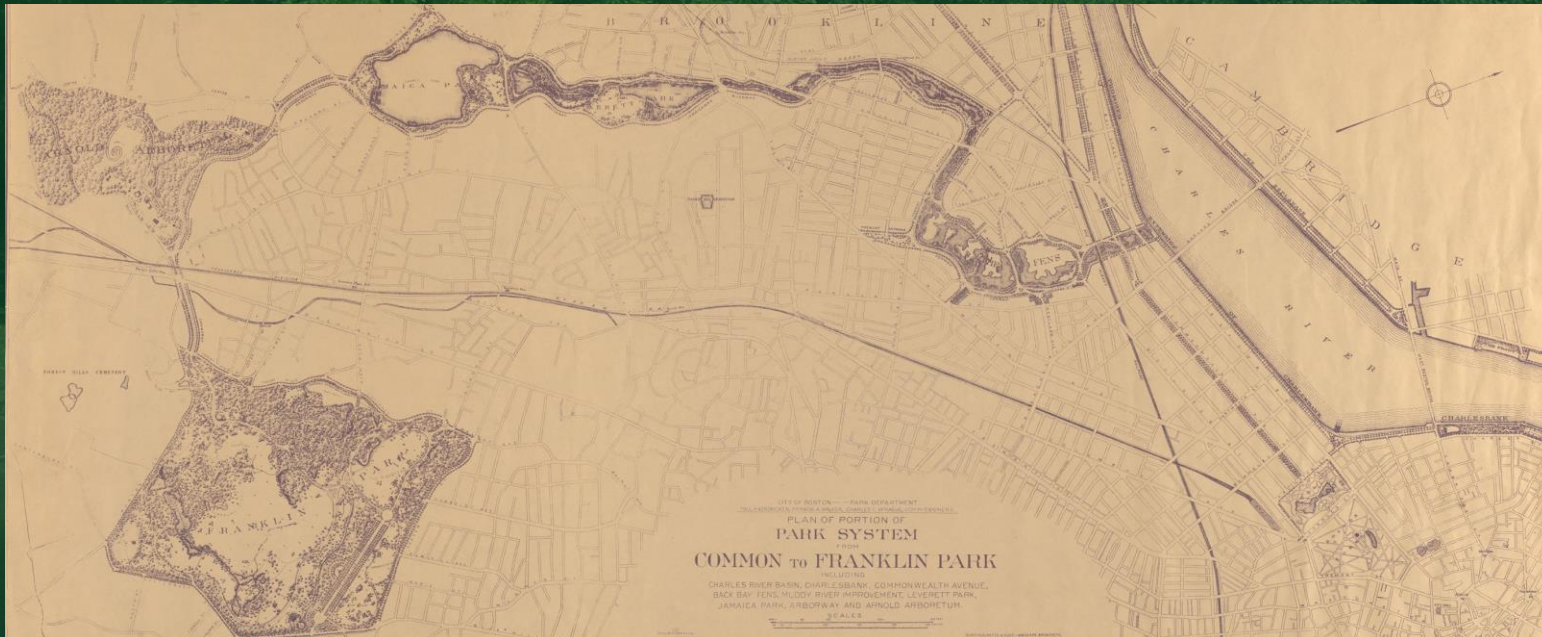


RIVERSIDE, ILLINOIS: AN EARLY PLANNED COMMUNITY

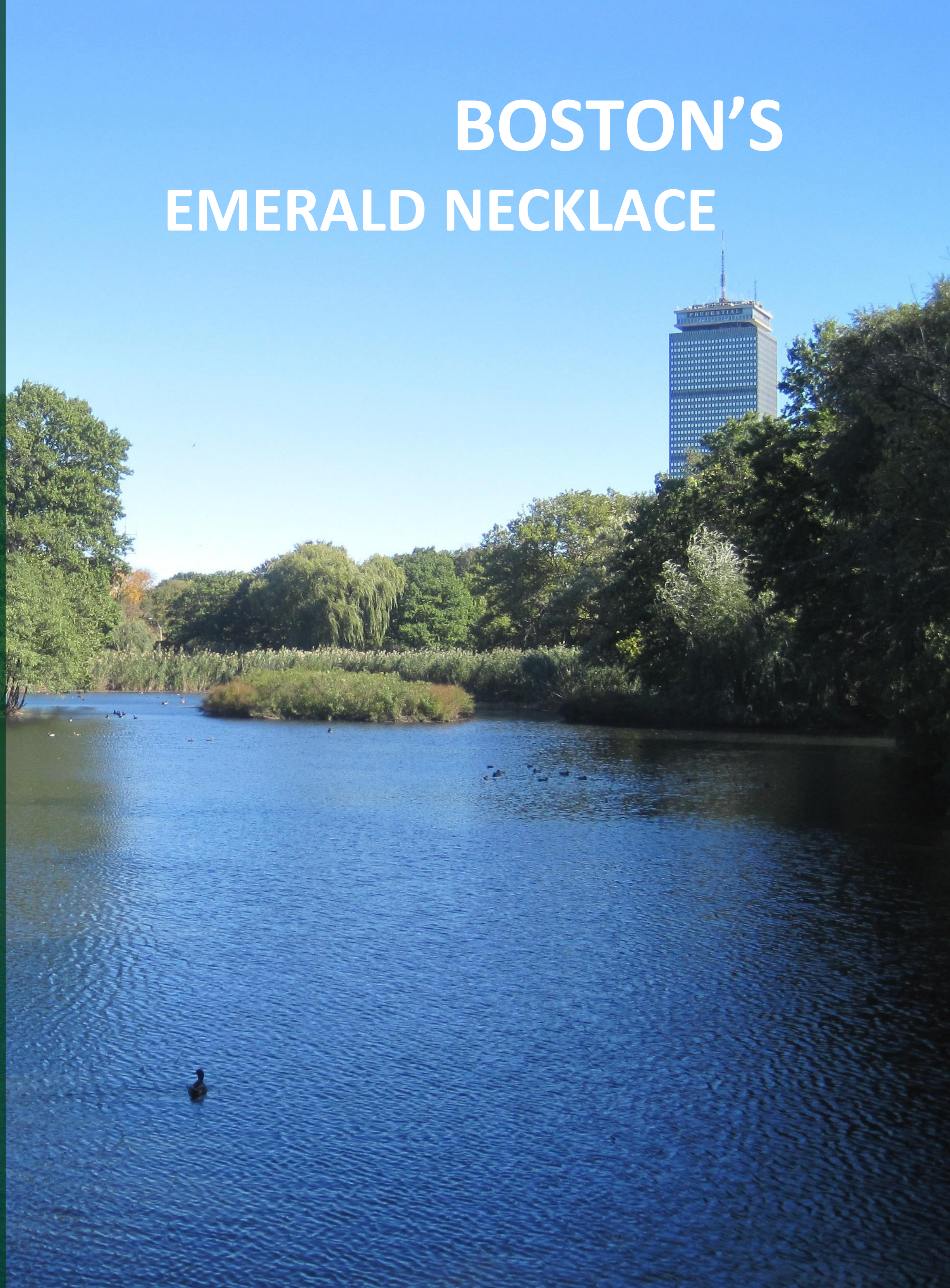


BOSTON'S EMERALD NECKLACE

In 1878 Olmsted began planning an ingeniously varied park system for Boston. Stretching nearly seven miles, it encompassed the colonial-era Common and the 1837 Public Garden, as well as Back Bay Fens and Muddy River, Jamaica Pond, Arnold Arboretum, and Franklin Park. With parkways and green spaces knitting together these landscapes and waterscapes, the system became known as the Emerald Necklace. Olmsted preserved the natural beauty of a large, glacial kettle hole, Jamaica Pond, enhancing it with new trees, shrubs, and walkways. Negotiating a joint enterprise between Harvard University and the city, he integrated the fledgling Arnold Arboretum into his design.



The Back Bay Fens, likely the nation's first wetlands restoration, was an aesthetic and sanitary challenge. The boggy land, then a fetid basin for Boston's refuse, had originally been a salt marsh. Olmsted reconfigured the marsh in a sinuous line, installed basins and tidal gates, and reintroduced salt-tolerant plants along the banks, thus restoring ecological vitality and creating a habitat for waterbirds.



BILTMORE ESTATE: PRIVATE LANDSCAPE, PUBLIC GOOD



Beginning in 1888, Olmsted realized his vision of a private landscape as a sustainable and environmentally sound enterprise. He viewed Biltmore—George Washington Vanderbilt's estate near Asheville, North Carolina—as a prime

opportunity to plan for the public good: “a private work of very rare public interest in many ways.” Olmsted convinced Vanderbilt to invest in additional tracts of forest in order to establish a national model for scientific forestry, and he tasked Gifford Pinchot—later first head of the US Forest Service—with supervising the undertaking. The project brought about the Biltmore Forest School, founded in 1898, while eighty thousand acres of the estate became the Pisgah National Forest in 1916.



Olmsted poured his expertise into designing Biltmore's grounds, a monumental setting with an extensive natural reserve and

an imposing château designed by architect Richard Morris Hunt. He blended formal gardens with varied, naturalistic vistas and a three-mile-long, sinuous approach to the house. Biltmore was Olmsted's final great project and remains a testament to his enduring vision.



A NEW GENERATION OF OLMSTEDS



In 1882 Olmsted relocated his family and business to “Fairsted” in Brookline, Massachusetts. There, he continued to design great works and trained his son Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., stepson John Charles Olmsted, and others, including Henry Sargent Codman and

Charles Eliot. When Olmsted was forced to retire due to declining health in 1895, John Charles and Olmsted Jr. established Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects. The distinguished Olmsted firm practiced from Fairsted until closing in 1979. The property, buildings, and collections are now the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, part of the National Park Service.

Olmsted’s legacy lives on in vital ways. The National Association for Olmsted Parks helps organizations around the country to protect these historic landscapes. Johns Hopkins University Press has published a twelve-volume set of Olmsted’s significant writings from 1839 to 1895. In 2022 *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted* will appear in digital form, providing a valuable resource for the future.



PLANTING FIELDS: AN INTEGRATED COMPOSITION FOR ALL



In 1918, the Olmsted firm was hired to complete the Coe family's Long Island landscape. Covering 409 acres, the design of this once-private estate reveals Olmsted's

principles in practice. Without sacrificing details to the whole, the landscape of Planting Fields creates a distinct sense of place. Here the Olmsted Brothers blended formal gardens with naturalistic vistas and dramatic approaches to the main house, just as their father had done at Biltmore. Pastoral lawns and picturesque gardens combine in a unified composition. The resulting landscape not only suited the estate's original private function but also its present identity as a public park and historic site meant to nurture the minds and spirit of all people.

English immigrant and businessman W.R. Coe and his wife, Standard Oil heiress Mai Rogers, purchased Planting Fields in 1913 and enjoyed many seasons in Oyster Bay with their family. In 1918 they hired architects Walker & Gillette and the Olmsted Brothers landscape architects to design a fully integrated built and natural environment. The Coes' love of art, architecture, and horticulture, can be seen across the site to this day.

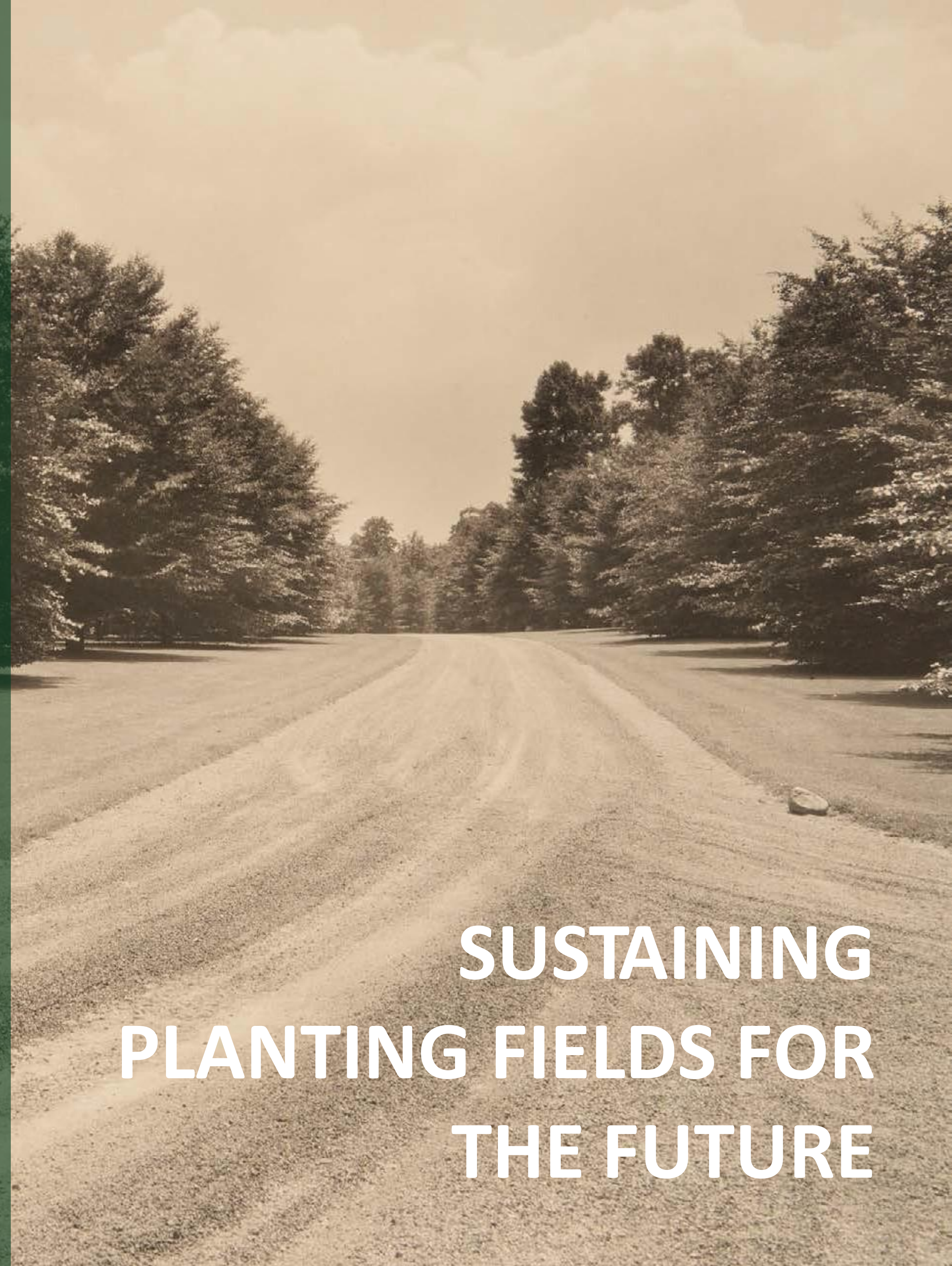




In 2022, to advance the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted, Planting Fields embarked on a multi- year project to restore the quintessential sense of place inherent to all Olmsted sites, which had been muted over the years at Planting Fields. With an eye toward sustainability and accessibility, Planting Fields is restoring the site's original monumentality and distinctive pastoral design, reinvigorating the spirit of the original Olmsted Brothers landscape for future generations to enjoy.



A complete restoration of the Olmsted Brothers design for the Main Entrance Drive, upgraded with ADA-accessible pathways and sustainable oaks, will welcome all visitors to Planting Fields.

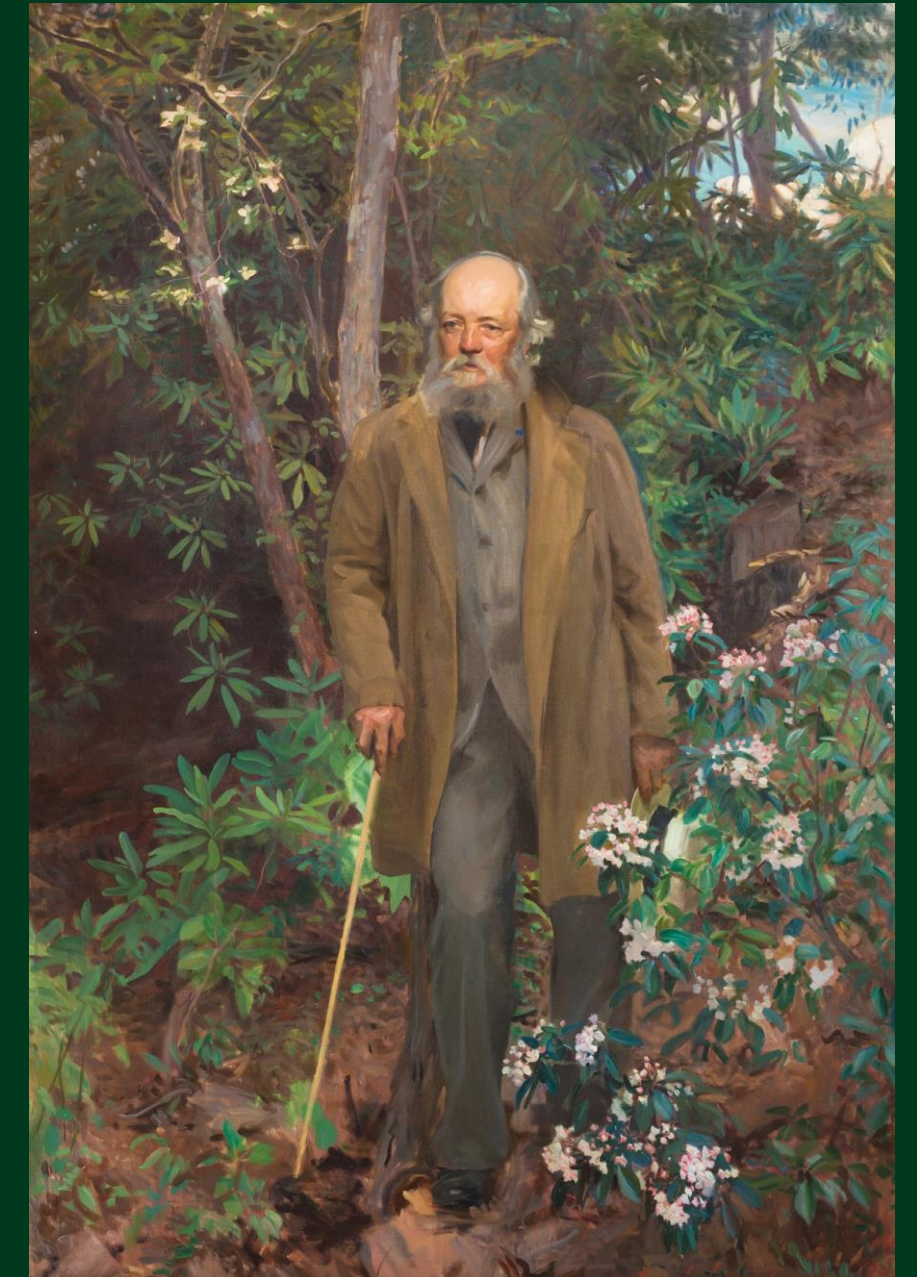


SUSTAINING PLANTING FIELDS FOR THE FUTURE



OLMSTED'S ENDURING LEGACY

Nearly two centuries ago, Frederick Law Olmsted tackled critical social and environmental challenges: disease, pollution, and deep social, racial, and economic divisions. These were profound concerns in the late nineteenth century, just as they are today. Olmsted understood the powerful connection between thoughtful landscape design and solutions to these pressing societal problems. And his prescriptions—democratic spaces, healthful connections to nature, and sustainable landscapes—remain vital in addressing the similar challenges that we face today.



In the face of a pandemic, Olmsted's parks and places have proved more important than ever and his visionary designs have endured because of generations of dedicated stewardship. We invite you to join Olmsted 200, the bicentennial campaign, to help us sustain and reimagine these essential public spaces. If you live near an Olmsted-designed park, consider how you might help. Check out ideas at Olmsted200.org.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Olmsted 200 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted. To learn more, visit: www.olmsted200.org.

Founding Partners

Olmsted 200 is managed by the National Association for Olmsted Parks, along with founding partners: American Society of Landscape Architects, the Garden Club of America, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, City Parks Alliance, National Recreation and Park Association, the Cultural Landscape Foundation, the Trust for Public Land, Landscape Architecture Foundation, and American Public Health Association.

Exhibit Development

Special thanks to the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP), managing partner of Olmsted 200 for spearheading the exhibit; and to Oak Spring Garden Foundation (osgf.org), Upperville, Virginia, for collaborating on and funding the project.

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Graphic Designer: Max Smith, Head of Communications, Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville, VA

Exhibit Coordinator: Catherine Muckerman, Events Coordinator, Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville, VA

Editors: Peter Crane, President, Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville, VA; Francis R. Kowsky, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, and Fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians; Francie Muraski-Stotz, freelance writer and exhibit developer; Magda Nakassis, freelance copy editor; and Anne Neal Petri, President and CEO, National Association for Olmsted Parks, Managing Partner, Olmsted 200.

Institutions and Individuals Providing Images

Institutions that provided images are not alphabetized but are listed according to the number of images they provided and the amount of time they spent in providing images.

National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA: Jill Trebbe, Caitlin Burke, Michele Clark

Central Park Conservancy, New York, NY: Mary Caraccioli

The Biltmore Company, Asheville, NC: Jill Hawkins, Hannah Parks, Ellen Rickman

Library of American Landscape History, Amherst, MA: Sarah Allaback

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Buffalo, NY: Stephanie Crockatt, Zhi Ting Phua, James Mendola

Frederick Law Olmsted Society, Riverside, IL: Cathy Maloney

Prospect Park Alliance, Brooklyn, NY: Amy Peck

Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Boston, MA: Karen Mauney-Brodek, Veronika Trufanova, Declan Battles

Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Louisville, KY: Matt Spalding, Janelle Wilhelm

Architect of the Capitol, Washington, DC: Leslie Matthaiei

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Municipal Archives, City of New York, New York, NY: Ken Cobb, Cynthia Brenwall

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Stanford University, Stanford, CA: Pamela Moreland

Historic New England, Boston, MA: Donna Russo

Brooklyn Public Library, Center for Brooklyn History, Brooklyn, NY: Sarah Quick

Williamson Art Gallery & Museum, Birkenhead, UK: Philip Eastwood, Colin Simpson

The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Washington, DC: Nord Wennerstrom

Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville, VA: Tony Willis, Max Smith

WorldsFairChicago1893.com: Scott Cummings, Randall Hercey

Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library, Boston, MA

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Buffalo, NY

Riverside Historical Museum, Riverside, IL: Constance Guardi

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, Frederick Law Olmsted Papers; Prints & Photographs Division

Pressley Associates Landscape Architects, Newton Centre, MA: Marion Pressley.

Photographers: Andy Olenick, Zhi Ting Phua, Brandon Bartoszek, Chris Neumer (twentysevenandahalf.com), Şefik Akkurt, John Phelan, Joel Veak, Niagarafrontier.com.

Selected Sources

[The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted](#)

The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, volumes 1–9 and supplemental series 1–3, are published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Volumes 1–7 and supplemental series 1–3 are also available via HathiTrust Digital Library (hathitrust.org).

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Defending the Union: The Civil War and the U.S. Sanitary Commission, 1861–1863. Volume 4, edited by Jane Turner Censer. 1986.

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IMAGE CREDITS AND SOURCES OF CITATIONS

Images are grouped by their corresponding panel and are listed from left to right unless specified. Photographers and dates of images are listed where known. All plans are by Olmsted unless specified.

Panel 1—Frederick Law Olmsted: Landscapes for the Public Good

Collage of Olmsted plans

Plans are courtesy of the National Park Service (NPS), Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (FLOHNS), Brookline, MA, unless specified.

Clockwise, from top:

Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, *Greensward Plan of Central Park, New York*, 1858, courtesy Municipal Archives, NYC Departments of Records and Information Services

Genesee Valley Park, Rochester, NY, 1890

Preliminary Rendering of Belle Isle Park with Ferry Docks, Detroit, 1882

Mount Royal, Montreal, 1877

General Plan of Lake Park, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1895

General Plan for Shawnee Park, Louisville, Kentucky, 1893

Frederick Law Olmsted, undated photograph, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

Panel 2—Parks for the Ages

Collage of people enjoying Olmsted parks and other landscapes

Clockwise from top:

Lake in the Fall, Central Park, courtesy Central Park Conservancy, New York, NY

Ranger with Students as Part of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site's Education Program "Good Neighbors: Landscape Design and Community Building," Joel Veak, photographer, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

Pink Flamingo Paddle Boats (also known as "FLOATmingos," added to the fleet at Hoyt Lake in Delaware Park, Buffalo, NY), Zhi Ting Phua, photographer, 2021, courtesy Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Buffalo, NY

Lilac Sunday, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, MA, John Phelan, photographer, 2011, https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lilac_Sunday_Arnold_Arboretum_Jamaica_Plain_MA.jpg

Citation for Quoted Passage—Parks for the Ages: "A Letter Introductory from Messrs. Olmsted, Harris, Trowbridge and Richardson," December 22, 1870, page 12, published with the Staten Island Improvement Commission's *Report of a Preliminary Scheme of Improvements* (New York, 1871).

Panel 3—Appreciation of Scenery

Water at Wentworth, Yorkshire, plate from Humphry Repton, *Observations on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (London: printed by T. Bensley for J. Taylor, 1805), courtesy Oak Spring Garden Foundation Library, Upperville, VA

City of Hartford, Connecticut, detail, John Bachmann, lithograph (Hartford, CT: J. Weidenmann, printed by F. Heppenheimer, New York, 1864), map reproduction courtesy Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library

Citations for Quoted Passages—Appreciation of Scenery: "genius of the place" as in Alexander Pope, "Epistle to the Right Honourable Richard Earl of Burlington" (London, 1731), line 35: "Consult the Genius of the Place in all"; "Dark, picturesque, rugged ravines" from Frederick Law Olmsted, *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England* (New York: G. P. Putnam, 1852), 2:156.

Panel 4—Seeds of a Life's Work

Bay and Harbour of New York from Staten Island, A. Rolph, engraver, ca. 1840, courtesy Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC

Charles Trask, Charles Loring Brace, Frederick J. Kingsbury, Frederick Law Olmsted, and John Hull Olmsted, New Haven, CT (left to right), ca. 1846, courtesy Historic New England, Boston, MA

Frederick Law Olmsted, *Sketch of His Staten Island Farm Tosomock*, ca. 1848, courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Panel 5—Advocating for a Democratic Society

Concert in Central Park, Benjamin J. Falk, photographer, ca. 1910, courtesy Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Washington, DC, LC-USZ62-66374

Skating at Wallman Rink, Central Park, detail, 2020, courtesy Central Park Conservancy, New York, NY

New York Philharmonic Concert in the Park (conducted by Music Director Jaap van Zweden), detail, Chris Lee, photographer, 2019, courtesy New York Philharmonic Leon Levy Digital Archives, New York City

Citations for Quoted Passages—Advocating for a Democratic Society: "make myself useful": FLO to Frederick Kingsbury, June 12, 1846, in *Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted* 1:243; "There's a great work": FLO to Charles Loring Brace, July 26, 1847, in *Papers* 1:69; "Government should have in view": FLO to Brace, December 1, 1853, in *Papers* 2:235.

Panel 6—Healing Power of Landscape

Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, D. Appleton, from Appleton's Journal (June 4, 1870), courtesy Prospect Park Alliance, Brooklyn, NY

Olmsted & Vaux, *General Plan, Buffalo State Asylum*, 1872, courtesy Library of American Landscape History, Amherst, MA

Richardson Olmsted Complex (Buffalo State Asylum), Brandon Bartoszek, photographer, 2017, Flickr.com

Panel 7—Parks for the People: Birkenhead Park

Aerial View of Birkenhead Park, Şefik Akkurt, photographer, courtesy Şefik Akkurt

Plan of Birkenhead Park (designed by Joseph Paxton), 1846, courtesy Williamson Art Gallery & Museum, Birkenhead, UK

Opening of the Park, wood engraving, from *London Illustrated News* (April 1847)

Citation for Quoted Passage—Parks for the People: Birkenhead Park: "admit that in democratic America": *Walks and Talks*, 1:9.

Panel 8—Central Park: Planning a Democratic Landscape

Olmsted and Vaux, *As-Built Plan of Central Park*, 1871, foldout map from the *Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks for the Year Ending May 1, 1871* (New York: William C. Bryant, 1871–72), courtesy Central Park Conservancy, New York, NY

Aerial View of Central Park, New York, courtesy Central Park Conservancy, New York, NY

Citation for Quoted Passage—Central Park: Planning a Democratic Landscape: Frederick Law Olmsted, "Description of the Central Park, with an Explanation of the Purposes of the Work Already Done Upon the Site, and of That in Immediate Contemplation," January 1859, in *Papers* 3:213.

Panel 9—Central Park's Varied Landscapes

Bethesda Fountain, Central Park, courtesy Central Park Conservancy, New York, NY

The Ramble, Central Park, courtesy Central Park Conservancy, New York, NY

Citations for Quoted Passages—Central Park's Varied Landscapes: "hundreds of thousands": FLO to Central Park Board of Commissioners, May 31, 1858, in *Papers* 3:196; "wild garden": FLO to W. L. Fischer, March 14, 1875, in *Papers* 3:44n57.

Panel 10—Landscapes of Slavery and War

Five Generations on Smith's Plantation, Beaufort, SC, Timothy O'Sullivan, photographer, 1862, courtesy Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Washington, DC, LC-B8171-152-A

Washington, DC, Field Relief Wagon and Workers of the United States Sanitary Commission, James Gardner, photographer, April 1865, courtesy Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Washington, DC, LC-B817-7711

Citation for Quoted Passage—Landscapes of Slavery and War: "the most thorough exposé": "Anti-Slavery Literature," *Independent* (New York), February 21, 1856, 57, quoted in Laura Wood Roper, "Frederick Law Olmsted in the 'Literary Republic,'" *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* 39 (December 1952): 71.

Panel 11—Preserving Yosemite for the American People

Albert Bierstadt, *Merced River, Yosemite Valley*, 1866, oil on canvas, courtesy The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, gift of the sons of William Paton, 1909

The Calfax Party in the Yosemite (showing Olmsted in front row, second from left, with fellow Yosemite commissioners and members of a visiting delegation led by US House Speaker Schuyler Colfax), Carleton Watkins, photographer, August 1865, courtesy National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, YOSE 19450

Citation for Quoted Passage—Preserving Yosemite for the American People: "distinguished strangers": FLO to Mary Perkins Olmsted, November 20, 1863, in *Papers* 6:137.

Panel 12—Prospect Park, Brooklyn

View of the Long Meadow Looking South, Prospect Park, 1902, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

Skating at Prospect Park, Walter H. Nelson, photographer, ca. 1886, Brooklyn Public Library, Center for Brooklyn History, Early Brooklyn and Long Island Photograph Collection, V1972.1.817

Olmsted, Vaux & Co., *Design for Prospect Park*, 1871, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS, Prospect Park Alliance, Brooklyn, NY

Citation for Quoted Passage—Prospect Park, Brooklyn: "confinement and bustle": Olmsted and Vaux, *Report on Prospect Park* (1866), in *Papers* 3:183n19.

Panel 13—Parks and Parkways for Buffalo

Olmsted's Sketch Map of Buffalo, 1881, courtesy Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Buffalo, NY

Aerial View of Gates Circle and Chapin Parkway, Andy Olenick, photographer, 2012, specially commissioned for Francis R. Kowsky's *The Best Planned City in the World: Olmsted, Vaux, and the Buffalo Park System* (Amherst, MA: Library of American Landscape History), 2013; © Andy Olenick

Hoyt Lake in Delaware Park, Zhi Ting Phua, photographer, 2018, courtesy Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Buffalo, NY

Citation for Quoted Passage—Parks and Parkways for Buffalo: "would be more park-like than town-like": FLO to William Edward Dorsheimer, October 1, 1868, in *Papers*, supplementary series 1:166.

Panel 14—Riverside, Illinois: A Planned Community

Olmsted, Vaux & Co., *General Plan of Riverside, IL*, 1869, courtesy Riverside Historical Museum, Riverside, IL

L. Y. Schermerhorn House (1869), Cathy Maloney, photographer, 2021, courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted Society, Riverside, IL

Aerial View of Town Square, Riverside, Illinois, Showing the Historic Water Tower and Train Station, and the Des Plaines River, Chris Neumer, photographer, 2014, courtesy Twenty Seven and A Half Photography, twentysevenandahalf.com

Citation for Quoted Passage—Riverside, Illinois: A Planned Community: "ruralizing of all our urban population": FLO to Edward Everett Hale, October 21, 1869, in *Papers* 6:346.

Panel 15—United States Capitol Grounds

Frederick Law Olmsted, *General Plan for the Improvement of the US Capitol Grounds*, 1874, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

Spring at the US Capitol, 2011, courtesy Architect of the Capitol, Washington, DC

Citations for Quoted Passages—US Capitol Grounds: "cool and pleasant resting place": Frederick H. Cobb (Capitol Grounds engineer) to FLO, June 11, 1877, Records Management Department, Architect of the Capitol, Washington, DC, in *Papers* 7:432n2; "much used as a public park": Frederick Law Olmsted, "The Present Design," *Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1882), 17.

Panel 16—Boston's Emerald Necklace

Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot, *Park System, Common to Franklin Park*, 1894, courtesy Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library

Riverway between Boston and Brookline, MA, Alex MacLean, photographer, 1983, courtesy Marion Pressley and Associates, Newton Centre, MA

Back Bay Fens, Charles A. Birnbaum, photographer, 2010, courtesy The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Washington, DC; © Charles A. Birnbaum

Panel 17—Saving Niagara Falls

Thomas Cole, *Distant View of Niagara Falls*, 1830, oil on panel, courtesy The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL Olmsted & Vaux, *General Plan for the Improvement of the State Reservation at Niagara*, 1887, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

View of the Mill District, Niagara Gorge, 1891, courtesy www.niagarafrontier.com/milldistrict.html

Citations for Quoted Passages—Restoring and Preserving Niagara Falls: "mills and factories everywhere": Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/frla/learn/historyculture/places.htm>; "indigenous perennials and annuals": "Notes by Mr. Olmsted ca. 22 March 1880," appendix to James T. Gardner, *Special Report of New York State Survey on the Preservation of the Scenery of Niagara Falls...for the Year 1879*, in *Papers* 7:478.

Panel 18—Sustainable Designs for the Semiarid West

Perspective Sketch of Stanford University, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

Map of San Francisco with Olmsted's Plan for Public Pleasure Grounds Superimposed, from Olmsted, Vaux & Co., *Preliminary Report in Regard to a Plan of Public Pleasure Grounds for the City of San Francisco* (New York, 1866), in *Papers* 7:519

Science and Engineering Quad, Stanford University, Linda A. Cicero, photographer, courtesy Stanford News Service, Stanford, CA

Citation for Quoted Passage—Conservation Designs for the Semiarid West: "The absurdity of seeking": FLO to Henry S. Codman, July 30, 1892, in *Papers* 5:451n10.

Panel 19—Chicago: Jackson Park and the World's Columbian Exposition

Bird's Eye View of the Wooded Island, from W. B. Conkey, *Picturesque World's Fair: An Elaborate Collection of Colored Views* (Chicago: W. B. Conkey, 1894), courtesy <https://worldsfairchicago1893.com>

Olmsted, Vaux & Co., *Plan for South Park, Chicago*, 1871, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

Panel 20—Biltmore Estate: Private Landscape, Public Good

View of the Approach Road to Biltmore House, used with permission from The Biltmore Company, Asheville, North Carolina

The Builders of Biltmore (from left to right: purchasing agent and agricultural consultant Edward Burnett, architect Richard Morris Hunt, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, George Washington Vanderbilt, and architect Richard Howland Hunt, son of Richard Morris Hunt), used with permission from The Biltmore Company, Asheville, North Carolina

Aerial View of Biltmore House and Gardens, used with permission from The Biltmore Company, Asheville, North Carolina

Citation for Quoted Passage—Biltmore Estate: Private Landscape, Public Good: "This is to be a private work": FLO to W. A. Thompson, November 6, 1889, Frederick Law Olmsted Papers: Correspondence, 1838–1928; 1889, October–December, Library of Congress Digital Collections

Panel 21—A New Generation of Olmsteds

Fairsted (now Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site), 2016, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

Olmsted Brothers Employees Outside of Fairsted, 1898, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

Drafting Room at Olmsted Office, Fairsted, courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

Panel 22—Olmsted's Enduring Legacy

Collage of volunteers and students at Olmsted parks

From upper left, clockwise:

Tree Huggers, Canopy Classroom, Emerald Necklace Outdoor Education, 2016, courtesy Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Boston MA

Volunteers Planting Trees at Tyler Park, Matt Spalding, photographer, 2019, courtesy Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Louisville, KY

Contemporary Model of the Original 1890 Children's Pavilion in Highland Park, Rochester NY, J. R. Gaudioso, photographer, 2017, courtesy Highland Park Conservancy. All paths led to the Pavilion: it offered panoramic views, and Olmsted intended it as a place for the city's children to play and breathe fresh air. Highland Park Conservancy is working to reconstruct Olmsted's Pavilion.

A Grade Three Student Documents Plant Material in the Fairsted Landscape as Part of "Good Neighbors: Landscape Design and Community Building," courtesy NPS, FLOHNS

Volunteers at Cazenovia Park, Buffalo, NY, Zhi Ting Phua, photographer, 2019, courtesy Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Buffalo, NY

John Singer Sargent, *Frederick Law Olmsted*, 1895, oil on canvas, reproduced by permission of The Biltmore Company, Asheville, North Carolina

Panel 23—Oak Spring Garden Foundation and National Association for Olmsted Parks

Aerial View of Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville, VA, James Thorpe, photographer, 2021, courtesy Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville, VA

Map Showing Olmsted Firm Jobs, 2021, courtesy National Organization for Olmsted Parks: OlmstedOnline.org



PLANTING FIELDS
