



TOOLKIT FOR TEENS

Frederick Law Olmsted is the founder of American landscape architecture and is known for creating many of the beautiful parks that we still love today, such as Central Park in New York City or Emerald Necklace in Boston. Check out these activities to bring out your inner landscape architect and find beauty in the nature around you.

ACTIVITIES

Design Your Perfect Park

Frederick Law Olmsted designed some of our nation's best-known and most-loved parks and green spaces. Imagine your own perfect park: What would you put in your dream park? What are the most important things a park needs to be enjoyed by everyone? Sketch it out!



Park in a Box

Make your own mini park in a box! All you need is a shoebox, paper, glue, paints, paintbrushes, Scotch tape and any other material you might use to bring your park to life. Paint the park onto the back of the inside of the shoebox and then fill with other elements, like cardboard cut-outs of kids playing or leaves.

Virtual Field Trips

You don't have to go too far to have a park adventure! Check out these virtual field trips that can bring the park to you.

- [National Park Foundation Virtual Visits](#)
- [NPS Parks Through Your Screen](#)

Landscape Watercolors

Create a landscape with watercolors! The Olmsted firm's draftsmen often created

watercolor paintings to show clients what the completed landscape would look like. [Learn more!](#)



Organize a Park Clean-up

Help care for our parks and give back to the community by organizing a park clean-up day! Contact a local park superintendent to see how you might help.

Essay Challenge

Frederick Law Olmsted's life and career produced a meaningful legacy. For over 100 years, he and his successor firms completed thousands of landscape projects across America. Olmsted also viewed parks as a way to advance equity and inclusion. Read and learn about Olmsted and write an essay answering the question, "How should the life, legacy, and values of Frederick Law Olmsted inform 21st challenges?" Submit your essay to info@olmsted.org for a chance to be featured on our Shared Spaces blog.

BOOKS

Check your local library or bookstore for these books about FLO! You can find additional resources on our website under the Research tab.

[Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape - Charles Beveridge](#)

This timely volume presents the breadth of Olmsted's work in beautiful color photographs by Paul Rocheleau and illuminates Olmsted's role as an indefatigable administrator and social reformer.

[Genius of Place: The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted - Justin Martin](#)

The full and definitive biography of Frederick Law Olmsted, influential abolitionist, ardent social reformer and conservationist, and the visionary designer of Central Park

[A Clearing In the Distance: Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the 19th Century - Witold Rybczynski](#)

Discover Frederick Law Olmsted's role as a major cultural figure at the epicenter of nineteenth-century American history.

[Civilizing American Cities: Writings On City Landscapes - Frederick Law Olmsted](#)

These selections, expertly edited and introduced, are not only enjoyable but essential reading for anyone interested in the history—and the future—of America's cities.

FILMS AND VIDEOS

- [Olmsted's 'Parks for the People'](#)
- [Squire Boone Caverns and Louisville's Olmsted Parks](#)
- [Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing Western New York](#)
- [The Best Planned City in the World](#)

- [Buffalo's Richardson Olmsted Complex](#)
- [Olmsted and Chicago](#)
- [Changes and Challenges in Olmsted Parks](#)
- [The Campaign to Save the Olmsted Linear Park in Atlanta](#)
- [Louisville: From Olmsted to the 21st Century](#)
- [The Fall and Rise of Central Park](#)
- [Richardson Olmsted Campus History](#)
- [Photography and Design in Olmsted's Boston Parks](#)
- [Presidio Tunnel Tops: A Park for All](#)
- [Outside for All: Investing in Parks to Build Community Power](#)
- [Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America](#)
- [Olmsted & America's Urban Parks](#)