

# FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED'S DRUID HILLS

Deepdene Park, Atlanta, GA

## Meet Frederick Law Olmsted

In a career spanning half a century, Olmsted designed some of the most celebrated landmarks in the United States, ranging from Central Park in New York and the Emerald Necklace in Boston to the U.S. Capitol Grounds in Washington, D.C. and Jackson Park in Chicago. He is remembered as the preeminent 19th-century landscape architect and founder of the profession, but he was also a multifaceted visionary and social reformer. His experiences as a farmer, journalist for The New York Times, administrator, public servant and health advocate all influenced his later thinking and career.

His sons, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and John Charles Olmsted, followed in his footsteps. Over a period of almost 100 years, the Olmsted firm had nearly 6,000 projects throughout the United States, Canada and other countries.

Learn more about the life, work and living legacy of America's premier landscape architect by visiting [www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org).



**"The enjoyment of scenery employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it; tranquilizes it and yet enlivens it; and thus, through the influences of the mind over the body gives the effect of refreshing rest and reinvigoration to the whole system."**

## Olmsted in Atlanta

In 1890, Olmsted traveled by train, streetcar and then horseback to reach 1,400 acres of woodland and scrub farmland in Atlanta, GA. There, he envisioned the "ideal residential suburb" with spacious lots along curvilinear streets and a linear park and parkway as the centerpiece of his design.

In the 1980s, the integrity of the Olmsted plan was threatened by a proposed roadway. This launched the neighborhood into a decade-long fight, marked by protests, arrests and court cases, and birthed [Olmsted Linear Park Alliance](#), the organization that continues to steward this Olmsted masterpiece.

Read more about this history:

[www.olmsted.org/sites/druid-hills-olmsted-linear-park](http://www.olmsted.org/sites/druid-hills-olmsted-linear-park)

PS- There are other Olmsted landscapes in Atlanta! Grant Park, Piedmont Park, Springvale Park and more all have ties to the Olmsted firm.



# OLMSTED NETWORK & PUBLIC HEALTH

Dellwood Park, Atlanta, GA

## About Olmsted Network

Founded in 1980, the Olmsted Network— formerly the National Association for Olmsted Parks— is the first and only national organization focused on protecting parks and places designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted firm. Following our role as managing partner of the Olmsted 200 bicentennial celebration in 2022, we have continued to champion Olmsted parks, places and principles through advocacy, education and stewardship.

### Our network of partners includes...

- Central Park Conservancy in New York City
- Emerald Necklace Conservancy in Boston, MA
- Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC
- ...and nearly 100 more!

Learn more about our international network of partners:

[www.olmsted.org/partner-directory](http://www.olmsted.org/partner-directory)



## A Commitment to Public Health

Frederick Law Olmsted believed parks function as “lungs of the city,” offering spaces that foster physical and mental health. He was an early member of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and understood humans’ need for access to nature and the critical connection between a thoughtful built environment and social, health and ecological well-being.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the world acknowledged public green spaces as critical health infrastructure. Yet, issues of development and disinvestment still threaten parks and the communities they serve. Data from the Trust for Public Land found that many, including low-income communities and communities of color, face serious barriers when it comes to equal access.

There is still a lot to be done to ensure safe and equitable access to parks and green space for all. That’s why we partner with organizations like APHA and continue to bring in practitioners and scholars to discuss these important issues.



# EXPLORE & LEARN MORE

Dellwood Park, Atlanta, GA

## Resources for Review

In 2021, APHA Executive Director Georges C. Benjamin, MD, joined the Olmsted Network and the National Recreation and Park Association for [Conversations with Olmsted: Parks, Equity and Public Health](#) to discuss the impact of park equity on public health.

More recently, we hosted a panel discussion, [Promoting Public Health, Equity, and Inclusion in our Parks](#), at our annual conference in Milwaukee, WI, and on Tuesday, November 14, we'll be participating in "Emerging Topics in Environmental Health" at the 2023 APHA Annual Meeting & Expo.

Find all of these resources and more at <https://linktr.ee/olmstednetwork>, and visit [www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org) to explore our national calendar, lively blog and toolkits for partners, park advocates and universities.

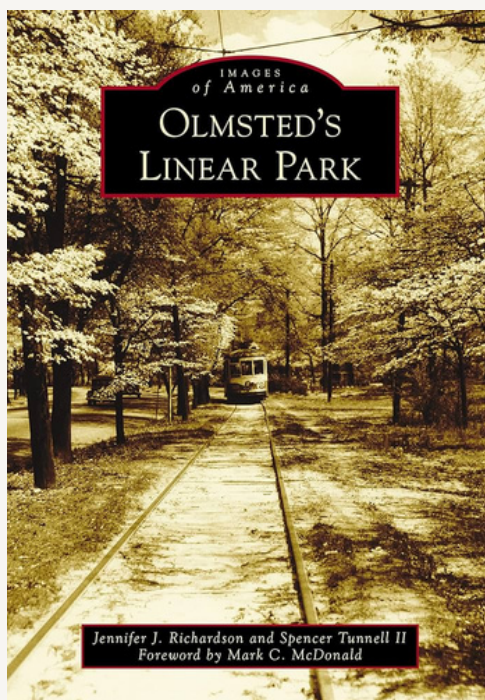
If you'd like to help support our work of championing Olmsted's vision of "Parks for All People," please donate at <https://bit.ly/donate2olmsted>.

**"The environments in which we live, learn, work and play significantly impact our health. Having access to safe, quality parks can lead to beneficial health impacts, from increased physical activity to improved social cohesion and better mental health to reduced water, air and noise pollution,"** wrote APHA Senior Program Manager Kate Robb in a [blog post, Parks Benefit the Public's Health in Myriad Ways](#), for the Olmsted 200 bicentennial celebration.

## Olmsted Linear Park Alliance

[Olmsted Linear Park Alliance](#) works to protect and preserve Olmsted Linear Park by engaging and educating the public to treasure and invest in the improvement of this historic, landmark asset, and to champion the teaching and legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted in creating thoughtful, well-designed green space to enhance urban living.

[www.atlantaolmstedpark.org/donate](http://www.atlantaolmstedpark.org/donate)



Dive deeper into the history of Olmsted Linear Park with [Images of America: Olmsted's Linear Park \(2022\)](#) by Jennifer J. Richardson and Spencer Tunnell.

Richardson and Tunnell will both guide us through Druid Hills on November 11.

Purchase the book on site by bringing \$25 in cash or on Amazon: <https://bit.ly/45ZFmFi>