



Yosemite Valley

# Parks, Places & People

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





“

**There is no substitute for the work [the Olmsted Network] has done toward our shared understanding and indeed our lived experience of the Olmsted legacy.”**

—Gary R. Hilderbrand, Principal, Reed Hilderbrand LLC; Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design

# Dear Friends,

In 2023, “new” and “invigorated” were our operative words. Building on bicentennial excitement and a powerful strategic plan, we adopted a new name, the Olmsted Network, launched a new website, stepped up our advocacy, increased our partnerships and sponsored a wide array of informative programming.

In ways, old and new, we lifted up Olmsted principles worldwide in service of thriving communities, mental and physical wellbeing, and ecological health. As our new tagline says, we are dedicated to parks, places and people.

We were indeed honored to have our impact recognized by the Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice, which presented us with a special award for our “efforts to preserve parks and green space... fundamental to the mental well-being of individuals.”

In these pages, you’ll get a sense of the breadth of our endeavors. You’ll learn about our robust advocacy for Olmsted parks and places threatened by development, neglect and climate change.

You’ll see how we educate park professionals and the park-loving public about the work and enduring principles of Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted firm.

The partnership of good friends like you is crucial to our mission. We thank you and hope you enjoy seeing what your work makes possible.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Neal Petri".

Anne “Dede” Neal Petri  
President and CEO,  
Olmsted Network



Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, WI.  
Credit: Annemarie Sawkins

# Mission, Vision and Values

In 2023, we adopted new Mission, Vision and Values Statements:

## Mission Statement:

Championing Olmsted parks, places and principles through advocacy, education and stewardship.

## Vision:

A world where communities are enriched by healthy, safe and inclusive green spaces inspired by the thoughtful advancement of Olmsted work and principles.

## Values:

- Beautiful, safe and well-maintained parks and landscapes;
- Stewardship informed by education and scholarship;
- Community building and engagement;
- Public and ecological health;
- Collaborative and comprehensive planning;
- Accessible spaces welcoming to all people.

We oppose the privatization of public space.

*Scores of Olmsted-inspired parks and landscapes can still be enjoyed coast to coast. But these parks and places need resources, education and stewardship. They need a national voice to advocate when local actions threaten. Their leaders need a place to share best practices. And they need a robust organization that can show the world the collective power of Olmsted assets.*

*That is the Olmsted Network.*



Biltmore, Asheville, NC. Credit: Victoria Vanhuss

# Meet Our Network Partners

Since 2019, our network has more than tripled in size. Hundreds of Olmsted parks and landscapes, park conservancies and preservationists are coming together to champion Olmsted work and principles.

We are proud to partner with these organizations who are on the front lines of caring for and protecting Olmsted landscapes across the globe.

To showcase the important—often volunteer—groups that protect Olmsted landscapes, we debuted the Partner Directory on our website. There, we dedicate a full page and many pictures to these great stewards and link to their own websites so that visitors can learn more.

Through our network, partners can connect with like-minded organizations and discuss the unique challenges of stewarding a historic landscape. They receive access to expert speakers, funding opportunities, advocacy toolkits, educational programming and more.

In 2023, we provided our members with exclusive presentations on:

- Lessons learned during Boston’s OLMSTED NOW bicentennial celebration
- Adapting heritage landscapes with Patricia O’Donnell
- Chickasaw Park history with Olmsted Parks Conservancy President Layla George
- Ideas for Olmsted birthday planning
- Public health and Park Score with The Trust for Public Land
- 2024 eclipse planning with the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
- A look at Hillside Park in Baltimore with Mary Page Michel
- John Charles Olmsted’s 40 Mile Loop in Portland with Jim Sjulín
- Regular reports from the field

Iroquois Park, Louisville, KY. Credit: Rhonda Kay Henderson



# Education

One of the three prongs of our mission is educating our partners, landscape practitioners and the park-loving public about Olmsted parks, places and principles. In 2023, we offered a rich array of panel discussions as well as single topic presentations.

## Webinars

Our popular Conversations with Olmsted webinar series dissected the Olmsted legacy while tackling timely issues like equity and public health. Our single-topic webinars offered in-depth looks at important facets of the Olmsted heritage. The programs enlisted media and Olmsted experts to explore:

**Green Gentrification with Ted Landsmark, Clyde Higgs, Robert Hammond and Jessica Henson**

**Olmsted Parks & Climate Change with Dinah Pulver (USA Today), Erin Chute Gallentine, Steven Thomson and Torey Carter-Conneen**

**Stewarding Olmsted Parks and Landscapes with Malina Walling (Associated Press), Victor Dover, Julia Raskin and Jennifer Ott**

**Parks for all People with Angele Latham (The Nashville Tennessean), Elaine Scarry, Ethan Carr and Rev. Timothy Findley**

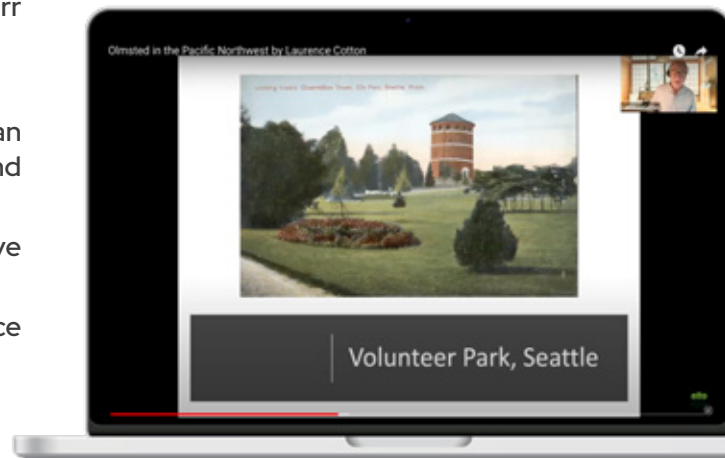
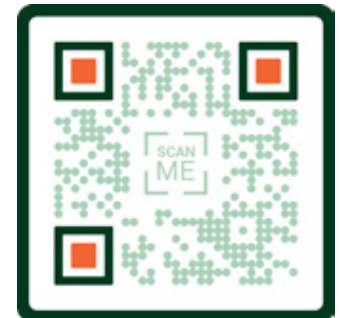
**Jacob Wrey Mould with Frank Kowsky**

**Designing America Panel Discussion with Morgan Monaco, Garrett Dash Nelson, Justin Martin and Sara Cedar Miller**

**Tracing Olmsted Roots in the West with Dave Zuckermann**

**Olmsted in the Pacific Northwest with Laurence Cotton**

These programs are available to watch on YouTube through the QR code on this page.



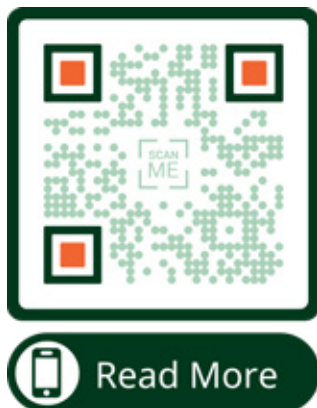
# Retracing Olmsted's Footsteps

In early 2023, as a finale to the Olmsted 200 bicentennial celebration, 12 intrepid pilgrims set out on a trek to retrace Olmsted's footsteps through England. Using Olmsted's own account— published in 1852 by his good friend George Putnam— we sought to see what Olmsted saw and to understand the various experiences that informed Olmsted's later placemaking. Helping us understand it all were the extraordinary duo of John Phibbs and Gilly Kitching.



Olmsted Network President & CEO Dede Petri recounts the trip of a lifetime in this Shared Spaces blog post at the QR code below.

Photo Credits: Dede Petri





# National Conference

2023 marked our first national conference since the pandemic. This one, in Wisconsin, focused on the work of Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted firm. While Olmsted is regularly associated with New York City and the East Coast, there is a rich Olmsted heritage in the Midwest.

In September, we gathered in Milwaukee and Lake Geneva to put Olmsted’s work in historical context, hear from officials on fiscal and other challenges and examine ways park professionals and friends groups can responsibly adapt Olmsted historic landscapes to current needs.



The Olmsteds in Wisconsin September 20-22, 2023 Milwaukee & Lake Geneva OLMSTED NETWORK PARKS, PLACES & PEOPLE



Credit: Leslie Jacobs

The event drew over 70 partners, supporters and scholars from across the globe, including a Beveridge Fellow from Paris. Highlights included tours of Milwaukee’s Olmsted parks, a visit to Yerkes Observatory and an exceptional residential property in Lake Geneva, as well as an awards dinner honoring our 2023 award winners. All presentations were recorded and may be enjoyed by going to the QR code on this page.



Credit: Annemarie Sawkins

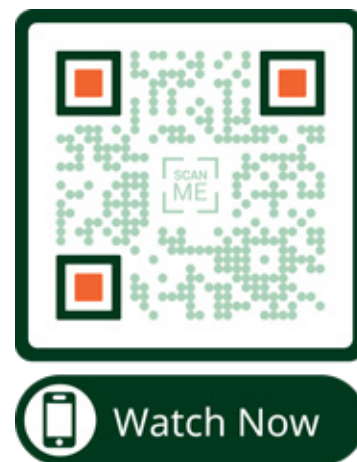
## Olmsted Exhibit

In Milwaukee, visitors to the conference were also able to see Frederick Law Olmsted: Landscapes for the Public Good. This bicentennial exhibit remains evergreen and is available for partners and friends. For more information, contact us at [info@olmsted.org](mailto:info@olmsted.org).

Big Head Fred was also on stage, ensuring a memorable visit to the Badger State.



Credit: Phil Schultz



“What a pleasure to be at the conference– stimulating panels, fun events and most interesting people. Loved the site visits. Many thanks!”





Fairsted, Brookline, MA.  
Credit: Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

# Research & Publications

From the beginning, the Olmsted Network has been dedicated to developing a permanent scholarly record of the work of Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted firm.

## Olmsted Papers Now Open Access

Frederick Law Olmsted left an invaluable resource of personal and professional papers, which provide a unique perspective on American society in the 19th century. Launched in 1972, The Frederick Law Olmsted Papers Project identified the most significant of these writings and presented them in a readable 12-volume format.

In 2023, the Papers became easier to access and use than ever before. Thanks to a generous subvention from the Olmsted Network, with support from The Caroline Loughlin Fund, Volumes 1-9 and Supplementary Series 1 are now open access.

“**American history and architecture have been cornerstone subjects for UVA Press and its Rotunda imprint,”** said Eric Brandt, Press Director, UVA . **“In Frederick Law Olmsted, whose pioneering landscape designs helped shape the nation, these themes come together in a profoundly significant way. It is an honor to work with the Olmsted Network to bring the writings of this visionary American to the public in an innovative open-access resource.”**



## The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm

The second edition continues to serve as a key resource for network members, Olmsted scholars and those interested in researching the vast work of the Olmsted firm— nearly 6000 projects in all. Created in partnership with the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and edited by former board chair and Olmsted Council member Lucy Lawliss, the Master List provides concise and informative summaries of the diverse work undertaken by FLO and the Olmsted firm for over 100 years.

## Working with Fairsted

Important Olmsted primary source materials are housed at Fairsted, known as the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. In 2023, we continued our long-standing partnership with Fairsted to assist in the digitization of thousands of plans, drawings, images and correspondence. With Olmsted Network support, an archivist scans these resources and adds them to Flickr.com for public use.



Historic image of Fairsted. Credit: Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site



## OlmstedOnline

In 2023, OlmstedOnline continued to offer a one-stop digital portal for landscape architects, scholars and the broader public interested in learning about Olmsted parks and places. This portal includes uploads and links to archival and scholarly materials, as well as current day images, geo-referenced plans and tour links. In 2023, the digital database added new job descriptions, as well as National Register nominations and Flickr folder links, focusing on Wisconsin and Illinois projects in conjunction with our annual conference.



Arnold Arboretum, Boston, MA.  
Credit: Mark Roessler

# Olmsted Action

Wherever Olmsted landscapes are threatened, we aim to bring a national voice. Over many years, the Olmsted Network has weighed in alongside local friends' groups and park stewards, seeking to protect and preserve Olmsted parks and places. 2023 was a busy year as the Olmsted Network took many prominent public stances.

## Lake Wales, FL

In Florida, Olmsted parks and principles received a boost. After testimony by former Olmsted Network chair Lucy Lawliss, the Lake Wales municipal board approved a visionary plan, Lake Wales Envisioned, that will realize designs developed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and philanthropist Edward Bok in the 1920s and 30s. Bok and Olmsted, whose picture graces a mural in downtown Lake Wales, understood the important role a thoughtfully designed environment plays in creating livable communities. Lake Wales Envisioned will extend this natural vision into the community which adjoins Bok's magical nature sanctuary, Bok Tower.

## Buffalo's Humboldt Parkway

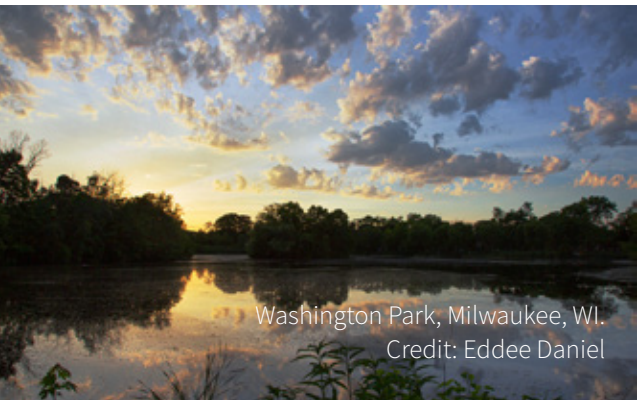
Destroyed in the 1960s in the name of urban renewal, Olmsted's Humboldt Parkway is now front and center in a major battle in Buffalo. Early in 2023, New York Governor Kathy Hochul and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg announced the availability of public funds to "restore [Olmsted's] Humboldt Parkway." In succeeding months, the national Olmsted Network, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, academics and community groups banded together to oppose the plan, saying that the cap proposed by NYSDOT will not restore the Parkway and will simply perpetuate historic divides and inequities.

The Olmsted Network filed public comment, joining with the Preservation League of New York State,

Eastside Parkways Coalition, Congress for New Urbanism, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy and Preservation Buffalo Niagara. In it, we called for a new plan that would reject the cap and create a one-road solution that would restore parkway connectivity and address matters of racial injustice that have plagued the city for decades.

This is an important local story, but it's also a national one because the issue reaches far beyond Buffalo. Similar debates are occurring in other Olmsted cities— Milwaukee, Atlanta and Detroit— and the Olmsted Network is focused on all of them.

# Washington Park, Milwaukee, WI



Just weeks after the Olmsted Network’s successful conference in Milwaukee, the city’s rich Olmsted heritage received long-overdue recognition. After testimony by Olmsted Network chair Phil Schultz, Washington Park was designated a Milwaukee County Historic Landmark by the Milwaukee County Landmarks Committee.

In designating the park, the Landmarks Committee noted the park’s design by Frederick Law Olmsted and the “standard of excellence” that “continues to influence landscape architecture in the United States to this day.” This designation is just the first in a multi-pronged effort to protect and preserve this historic asset.

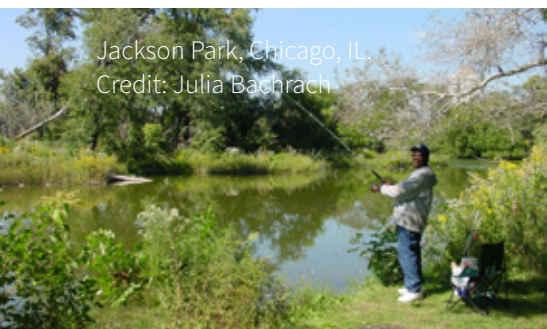
# Emerald Necklace, Boston

Olmsted’s Emerald Necklace is on the National Historic Register and is a Boston landmark. Yet this extraordinary greenway faced multiple and continuing threats in 2023. Proposals for high-rise buildings in the Longwood area and a massive mental health center and overhaul of White Stadium in Franklin Park currently threaten the Necklace’s ecological sustainability and Olmsted’s design.

In multiple comments and appearances, the Olmsted Network has argued that preservation, social services and economic development are not mutually exclusive. We’ve called on city leaders to find alternative areas for development and to protect their Olmsted assets before it is too late. As we entered 2024, threats continued.

## Solution in Franklin Park is to remove the Shattuck altogether

Updated December 17, 2023, 2:20 a.m.



# Jackson Park, Chicago, IL

While we’ll never be able to recover Frederick Law Olmsted’s Jackson Park now that the Obama Presidential Center construction is underway, we remain on alert to continuing threats. In the summer of 2023, our hard-hitting op-ed appeared in the Chicago Tribune and called on the Obama Foundation to stop plans for a professional golf course that would destroy existing flora and fauna and further privatize the lakefront.

# Mount Royal, Montreal, Canada

Olmsted’s design for Mount Royal addressed circulation and access—issues the community continues to debate. In 2023, municipal leaders announced their plans to close the Camillien Houde to autos and open it exclusively to pedestrians and bicyclists. After consulting with local experts, including former board member Daniel Chartier, the Olmsted Network urged caution and a full airing of plans. In a prominent op-ed in the Montreal Gazette, we called on leaders to listen to Olmsted: “...The planning process needs to include experts in landscape architecture and Olmsted design, working with the local park team.”





Hillside Park, Baltimore, MD.  
Credit: Mary Page Michel

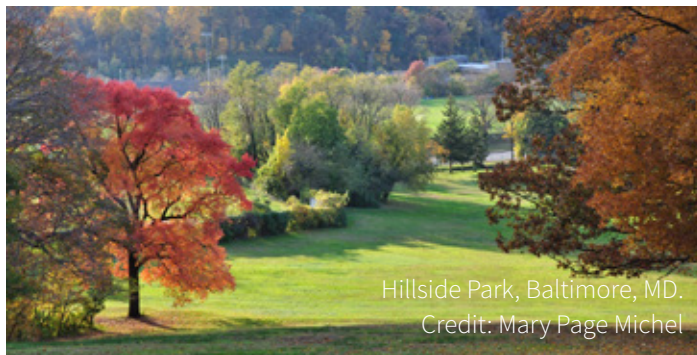
# Stewardship

More and more communities are starting to revisit and embrace Olmsted’s design ideas as a way to find greater community and connection. The Olmsted Network is showing the way.

## Hillside Park, MD

Dubbed Hillside Park, this brand-new public greenspace—the first of its size in more than a century— is showing how the work and values of Frederick Law Olmsted have relevance today.

In 2021, the Roland Park Community Foundation (RPCF) announced the purchase of 20 acres from the Baltimore Country Club for a new park. The park creators were inspired by Olmsted’s tenet of designing parks for all people as well as the surrounding neighborhood’s connection to the Olmsted Brothers firm.



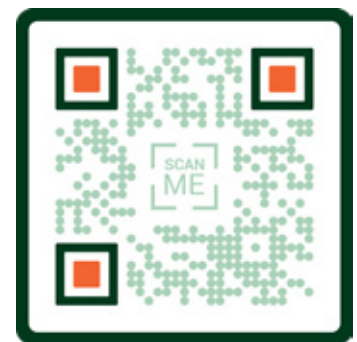
Hillside Park, Baltimore, MD.  
Credit: Mary Page Michel

Hillside Park is expected to open in 2024.

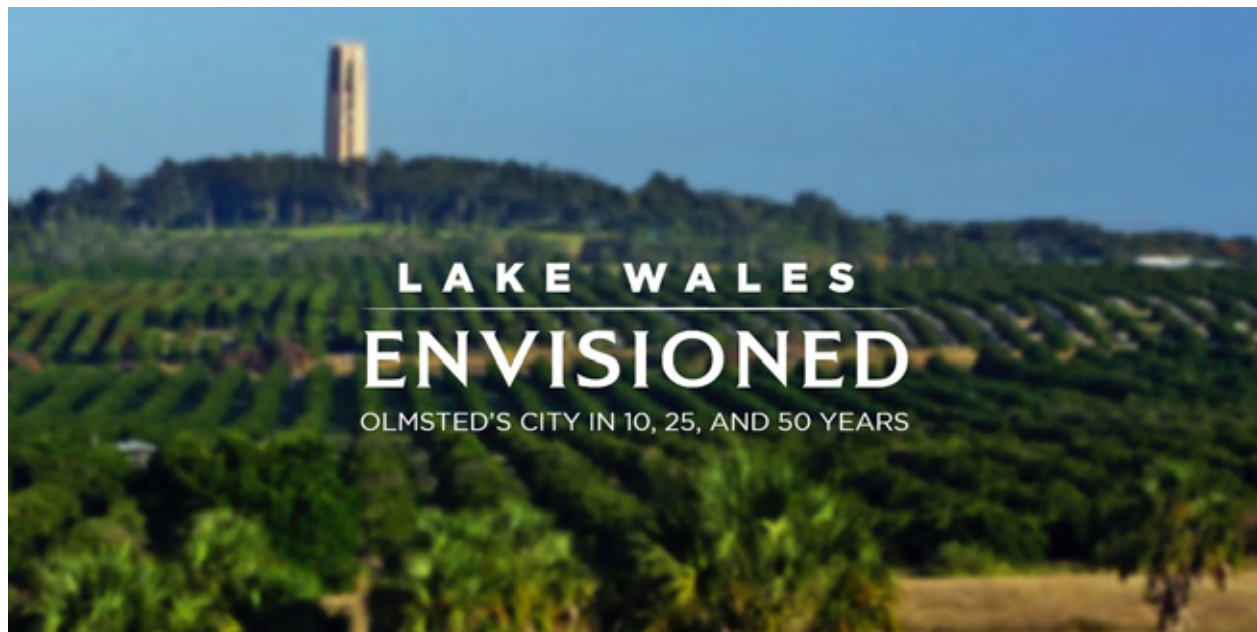
“Hillside Park is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enhance green space in Baltimore City to be enjoyed by the public forever,” said Mary Page Michel, Chair of the RPCF, who addressed the Olmsted Network on the park plans in 2023.

“

We simply could not have moved forward without the support and resources of the Olmsted Network. They connected us with other Olmsted park leaders who have helped us develop our plans and look to the future. Parks and public spaces like ours need a place to learn more, share best practices and find common cause with others stewarding Olmsted landscapes. The Olmsted Network makes that possible.” - Mary Page Michel



# Lake Wales Envisioned



As Florida communities struggle with uncontrolled development, Lake Wales is showing how thoughtful design can produce beautiful and livable cities. The plan, known as *Lake Wales Envisioned*, embraces the city’s Olmsted heritage and shapes a future of thoughtful expansion that can serve as a model for not only the state but the country.

This plan— devised by Miami-based town planners at Dover Kohl & Partner— adopts key principles of design first laid out for Lake Wales in the 1920s by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

In October, the City seized the opportunity to reinvigorate and extend this natural vision in Lake Wales, which adjoins Bok Tower Gardens (also

designed by the Olmsted firm). Scores of neighbors, citizens and organizations have been included in the ongoing process, including the Olmsted Network.

Lake Wales Envisioned, and the documentary by the same name, show how, using Olmsted principles, Florida cities can adopt thoughtful zoning and planning to produce thriving, vibrant and healthy communities. Yes, good design matters to the state and the country – and Olmsted designs provide continuing inspiration. In these deeply divided times, the Olmsted vision of green, open and welcoming urban space is needed now more than ever.



“

**Cities have real and urgent opportunities to reimagine walkable communities,” Victor Dover said. “With the support of the Olmsted Network, we were able to show how design ideas from the Olmsted firm today offer exciting ways to foster community as well as physical and mental well-being.”**



## Renewal in Bridgeport

Seaside Park was the first park designed by Olmsted and Vaux outside of metropolitan New York. From the beginning, the designers realized the value of providing a public pleasure ground for health and recreation.

In recent years, both the park and the city of Bridgeport have been challenged. But thanks to a coalition of committed partners led by Barbara Geddis, FAIA, and Beth Santa, the park is seeing exciting renewal.

In 2023, project leaders as well as representatives from the University of Bridgeport and Yale Health celebrated the opening of the Seaside Gateway. Park visitors can now enjoy a new walking trail, new native trees and an underground irrigation system dedicated to providing equitable access to nature and a resilient landscape design.

The Olmsted Network was honored to showcase and support the project early in its gestation. You can hear more from project director Barbara Geddis on our YouTube channel (@OlmstedNetwork).



# Organizational Developments

In line with the strategic plan, the Olmsted Network undertook a number of organizational changes in 2023 to modernize our brand, secure our financial future and strengthen governance practices. 2023 saw the sunseting of the Advisory Council and the launch of a new body, the Olmsted Council, to support the implementation of the strategic plan. The Olmsted Network also added two new board members— Bronwyn Nichols Lodato and Wyman Winston— with multi-faceted experiences and skills.



## Olmsted Council

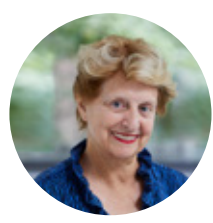
Council members serve as advocates and ambassadors for the Olmsted Network. They actively support ON's mission of educating and building the next generation of individuals, organizations and funders dedicated to the living legacy of Olmsted and the Olmsted firm.



Austin Allen



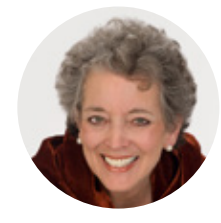
Adrian Benepe



Eugenie Birch



Stephen Gill



Betsy Shure Gross



Lucy Lawliss



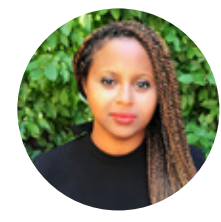
Philip Loughlin



Diana Pickering



Ann Satterthwaite



Sara Zewde



# Board



**Philip Schultz**  
Chair, Fox Point, WI



**Doug Luetjen**  
Vice Chair, Seattle, WA



**Stephanie Crockatt**  
Secretary, Sarasota, FL



**William Bell**  
Treasurer, New York, NY



**Arleyn Levee**  
Watertown, MA



**Lane Addonizio**  
New York, NY



**Mark Buscaino**  
Washington, DC



**Ray Chambers**  
Arlington, VA



**Steven Livengood**  
Washington, DC



**Spencer Tunnell**  
Atlanta, GA



**Bronwyn Nichols Lodato**, Chicago, IL

Bronwyn Nichols Lodato currently serves as President of the Midway Plaisance Advisory Council (MPAC), and Chair of the Board of Friends of the Parks, Chicago’s city-wide park advocacy organization. Nichols Lodato received a B.A. from Northwestern University, an M.A. in International Relations, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Human

Development from the University of Chicago. She is an energetic proponent of parks as accessible, public spaces integral to the city’s infrastructure and vital to its citizens’ health.



**Alida Silverman**  
Atlanta, GA



**Wyman Winston**, Cudahy, WI

Wyman Winston is Chairman of the 30th Street Industrial Corridor and former Executive Director of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority. Born and raised on the south side of Chicago, he received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Before moving to Wisconsin, Winston served at South Shore Bank of Chicago, the first community development bank in the US, and later as Deputy Director and COO of the Portland

Development Commission and Deputy Director of the Atlanta Development Authority Tax Increment Division.

# Staff



**Anne Neal Petri**  
President and CEO



**Leslie Jacobs**  
Office Manager



**Victoria Vanhuss**,  
Director of Communications  
and Outreach



**[The Olmsted Network] is truly the most significant voice in the nation for Olmsted values, principles and practices.”**

**—Susan Rademacher,  
Executive Director, River  
Heritage Conservancy**

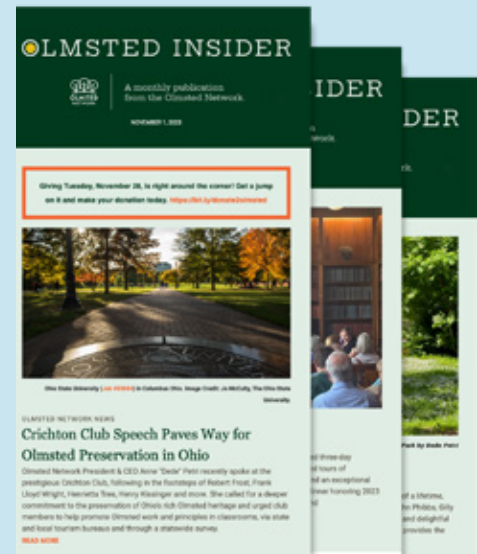
# Communications and Outreach

To advance the Olmsted legacy, regular and inspiring communication is important. 2023 marked a year of robust communications, including a brand new website and revamped newsletter.

## NEW! Olmsted.org

In July, our website, Olmsted.org, and a “re-skinned” www.OlmstedOnline.org debuted with an eye-catching new look but the same rich content of years past. The Olmsted.org website is the hub for all things Olmsted— people, places and principles. Visitors can quickly connect to definitive essays by Dr. Charles Beveridge. They can link to the Master List of Design Projects and its helpful chapters on design types from parks and parkways to special exhibitions. They can connect directly to the online Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted at the University of Virginia Press and explore Olmsted landscapes from coast to coast by visiting our new Olmsted Trail.

The website offers easy access to the Olmsted Network’s advocacy work as well as a rich new offering, the Partner Directory, which profiles our Olmsted partners around the country.



## Olmsted Insider

In 2023, we refreshed our primary newsletter, combining Bulletin and Field Notes into a monthly publication, now known as the Olmsted Insider. These e-newsletters feature everything from upcoming events and advocacy efforts to partner initiatives and local project updates.

# Social Media



Today, the Olmsted Network has a digital community of 10,000 friends across the country— more than double its reach three years ago. In 2023, our following on Twitter and Facebook saw immense gains, doubling in just one year.

We also saw growth on Instagram, topping the 1,500 mark. One of the most popular programs was a live stream from the U.S. Capitol

Grounds, documenting the planting of a Kentucky coffeetree in honor of Frederick Law Olmsted. In these and other ways, we leverage our social media platforms, driving people to our websites through blog posts, event listings and educational material.



Dede Petri stands with leaders from the American Society of Landscape Architects at the tree planting.

*Are you following along?*

Find us on social media  
@OlmstedNetwork



# Speaking Engagements

The Olmsted Network welcomes opportunities to share information about Olmsted and the Olmsted Network. In 2023, we had scores of speaking engagements—both virtual and live—seizing the opportunity to educate audiences about the Olmsted firm and how to protect their Olmsted Legacy.

Presentations took us to Lawrence, KS; Columbus, OH; Milwaukee, WI; Atlanta, GA; Rochester, NY; Richmond, VA; Portland, OR; Columbus, OH; and Washington, DC.

Dede Petri speaks in Rochester, NY.



# Coalition Building

We also continued our partnerships with key members of our Olmsted 200 coalition. In early 2023, we co-hosted a program on Landscapes of Exclusion at the National Building Museum with the American Society of Landscape Architects. Board member Bronwyn Nichols Lodato addressed the crowd.

We also hosted a program on green gentrification at the national conference of the American Public Health Association in Atlanta. To bring our message home, attendees were invited to tour Druid Hills' Olmsted Linear Park. The tour was curated by board members Spencer Tunnell and Alida Silverman and Olmsted Linear Park Alliance Executive Director Sandra Kruger.



# Olmsted Forward

In 2022, the Olmsted Network launched Olmsted Forward, designed to introduce students and professionals under 35 years old to Olmsted. In 2023, we went to the LABash conference at Kansas State University, where staff and Big Head Fred met with budding landscape architects from around the country.



# Honoring Olmsted Champions

A key priority of the Olmsted Network is to recognize individuals and organizations whose initiatives and efforts further our purpose. Awards help us encourage new talent and reward achievements that can serve as models for our members.

In 2023, we acknowledged Olmsted champions at a gala dinner at the Grohmann Museum in downtown Milwaukee. Award winners and their families, board members and friends gathered to celebrate significant achievements.

## The Caroline Loughlin Volunteer Service Award

Created in 2005 by the board in honor of former board member Caroline Loughlin, this award recognizes extraordinary dedication and commitment.

- 2005 **Caroline Loughlin**
- 2007 **Charles Beveridge**
- 2008 **Jerry Baum**
- 2009 **Jim Rollins**
- 2009 **Lauren Meier**
- 2013 **Anne Knight**
- 2017 **Piera Weiss**
- 2018 **Newton Levee**
- 2018 **Lauren Meier**
- 2019 **Susan Frey Rademacher**
- 2020 **Gerry Wright**
- 2022 **Lucy Lawliss**
- 2023 **Constance Guardi**



Constance Guardi receives the Caroline Loughlin Volunteer Service Award from Phil Schultz. Credit: Leslie Jacobs

In 2023, the award was presented to Constance Guardi. Connie has been a champion of Frederick Law Olmsted for 38 years, working with the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside, IL, and the Riverside Historical Commission. During those years, she has engaged in ongoing— and sometimes extraordinary— efforts to preserve the unique nature of Olmsted’s first planned community, including expanding Riverside’s National Historic Landmark footprint, participating in volunteer workdays to clear invasive plants and maintain trees, bushes and shrubs and conducting tours of the architectural and landscape treasures.

# Olmsted Stewardship Award

The Olmsted Network Stewardship Award recognizes an individual or institution for outstanding stewardship of the living legacy of landscapes designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and his sons, associates and successor firms. Honorees have shown a sustained commitment to and a record of accomplishment in researching, managing, preserving and interpreting Olmsted landscapes for future generations.

- 2016 Marion Pressley
- 2017 Jean McKee
- 2019 Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Louisville
- 2020 David Schuyler, posthumously
- 2023 Arley Levee



In 2023, we awarded the prize to long-time preservationist and scholar Arley Levee. Levee has been studying and writing about members of the Olmsted firm for more than five decades. Much of her research has centered around the extensive nationwide oeuvre of John Charles Olmsted and the design contributions made by less recognized partners and firm members. Thanks to her life’s work, scholars and the park-loving public have an array of Cultural Landscape Reports and accessible research materials – including the sumptuously illustrated *Blue Garden*– which provide important insights into the Olmsted firm and aim to inspire future scholarship.



Credit: Millicent Harvey Photography  
Blue Garden, Newport, RI

# The President’s Award

Established in 2022, the President’s Award recognizes exemplary service in championing Olmsted work and principles.

- 2022 Adrien Benepe  
Mike Messner
- 2023 Friends of Olmsted-Beil House



Olmsted-Beil House, Staten Island, NY.  
Credit: Adriano Chinellato

In 2023, we were pleased to present the award to the Friends of Olmsted-Beil House. When few others paid attention, the Friends of Olmsted-Beil House came to the rescue of a grand but deteriorating landmark, the Olmsted-Beil farmhouse on Staten Island. Despite designation on both the state and national historic registers and protection under the NYC Landmarks legislation, the Olmsted-Beil House had been abandoned for nearly 40 years. In the face of incredible challenges, including repeated vandalism, these hearty volunteers have dedicated both time and resources to saving the house and farm where Olmsted once experimented with many of the ideas that later transformed the American landscape.



Presented by Wyman Winston (right), Julia Bachrach and Duane Savage accept a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Washington Park Camera Club, Archives Committee. Credit: Leslie Jacobs.



Joanne Barndt accepts a Certificate of Appreciation from Bill Bell on behalf of Lake Park Friends. Credit: Leslie Jacobs.

## Certificates of Appreciation

The Olmsted Network also presents Certificates of Appreciation to acknowledge important initiatives. In 2023, certificates were awarded to:

### *Washington Park Camera Club, Archives Committee*

Founded in 1955 in an Olmsted landscape, the Club is the oldest predominantly African-American Camera Club in Chicagoland. During the Olmsted bicentennial, the Archives Committee realized the visual arts could tell Frederick Law Olmsted’s story in unique and provocative ways. Employing the Chicago Park District’s large collection of archival photographs, Yvonne Cary Carter, Duane Savage and fellow Camera Club members created South Park Then and Now, a photographic exhibit with memorable pairings of photographs, from yesterday and today, which capture personal and park history in moving ways.

### *Lake Park Friends, Milwaukee, WI*

Over the last two decades, Lake Park Friends have undertaken maintenance projects that sustain Milwaukee’s historic park. Their many and significant initiatives include restoring the Waterfall Ravine, replacing the Locust Street ravine wooden bridge, and replanting trees to replace those devastated by the emerald ash borer. In the face of organized and sustained opposition, the Friends stood firm to demand the restoration and preservation of the Ravine Bridge, a major connector between the north and south areas of the park. Thanks to their commitment, this great bridge has now been recognized by the American Society of Civil Engineers for the quality of the restoration.

## Olmsted Network Receives National Award

In 2023, the Olmsted Network received a significant award. We were delighted to be recognized by The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice for “efforts to preserve parks and green space ... fundamental to the mental well-being of individuals.”



Olmsted Linear Park, Atlanta, GA. Credit: Victoria Vanhuss

# Gifts to Olmsted Network

We aim to acknowledge all our friends and supporters. If we have inadvertently missed you, please let us know.

## Olmsted Champions (\$1,000 and above)

Lisa Allen  
Bartlet Tree Experts  
Robert Bartlett Jr.  
Dr. Eugenie Birch  
Pamela Breeman  
Ray Chambers  
M. Eliza Davidson & Randolph Urmston  
Christy Edstrom O'Hara  
Katherine Eggers Comeau  
The Stephen and Margaret Gill Family Foundation  
Marjorie Greville  
Betsy Shure Gross  
Victoria Jensen  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Kathryn Fuller  
The late Herbert Kohler/Kohler Company

Arleyn Levee  
Philip Loughlin/The Caroline Loughlin Fund  
Douglas & Sherry Luejten  
Stella Boyle Smith Trust/Cathy and Mike Mayton, Trustees  
Jean McKee  
Michael and Jenny Messner  
Milwaukee Preservation Fund  
Bronwyn Nichols Lodato  
Diana Pickering  
Ann Satterthwaite  
Philip Schultz & Melissa Mooney  
Alida Silverman  
Sarah Vance  
Winnetka Garden Club  
Wisconsin Preservation Fund



## Donors Over \$250

Joanne Barndt  
JoAnn Beck  
William Bell  
Adrian Benepe  
Charles Beveridge &  
Faye Harwell  
Marlene Breene  
Skip Burck  
Sandra Carlo  
Laurence Cotton  
Eddee Daniel  
Laura DeGolier  
Rolf Diamant  
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Deborah Vanhuss  
Wyman Winston  
Dave Zuckermann



Central Park, New York City, NY. Credit: Mark Roessler



# Donor Focus

Ferry Circle, Buffalo, NY. Credit: Zhi Ting Phua

## Philip Loughlin, Olmsted Council Member



Phil Loughlin is a member of our inaugural Olmsted Council whose wise counsel and support advance the Olmsted legacy in extraordinary ways. A businessman and retired professor, Phil has long been an Olmsted aficionado. He is the first to admit that his interest is due to his late wife, Caroline, who dedicated her energy and intellect to building the National Association for Olmsted Parks. Caroline was a valued trustee, officer, editor – and she was indefatigable in her advancement of the Olmsted Papers Project directed by Dr. Charles Beveridge.

In her honor and memory, Phil continues to support the work of the Olmsted Network. In recent years, his generous gifts have helped kick off and sustain the Olmsted Bicentennial, digitize the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers and make them open access, and finance a five-year strategic plan that guides our efforts today. Phil, like Olmsted, thinks big – and we are grateful to him.



## Pam Breeman and Fenella Heckscher, Donor Activists

Pam Breeman and Fenella Heckscher are donors, activists, and key players in Newburgh, NY where they are dedicated to the protection and preservation of Downing Park, the last great project of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.

Pam is a leader in The Garden Club of America and fellow club member Fenella received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Olmsted Network in 2022. These two—and The Garden Club of Dutchess and Orange Counties—have been focused on the renewal of Downing Park for more than two years, working closely with the Olmsted Network.

Over many years, Downing Park has suffered, from lack of resources, public appreciation and crime. But thanks to efforts now underway, there is hope.

In April 2022, the Olmsted Network keynoted a widely-attended birthday event in the Park, recognizing the history of the place, and the economic, cultural and health benefits of healthy public parks. Now we are headed to the park for our 2024 national conference where we will showcase “Roots for Trees”—an innovative program launched by the garden club that provides local students with hands-on involvement as well as a historical understanding of the park.

## Ethan Carr, Engaged Scholar



Ethan Carr is a former board member, editor and scholar. He is also one of the world’s great experts on Frederick Law Olmsted. His incisive commentary and lively books vividly underscore the relevance of Olmsted principles to today’s challenges. He is just one exceptional contributor to the Olmsted Network’s far-ranging educational programs which seek to instill partner and public understanding of the Olmsted legacy.

In 2022, he and coauthor Rolf Diamant published a ground-breaking book on Olmsted’s creation of the national parks, *Olmsted and Yosemite*. In 2023, the Library of American Landscape History released Ethan’s latest – this one on the jewel of the Boston Emerald Necklace – *Franklin Park*. There, Ethan offers helpful insights on Olmsted’s views of active and receptive recreation – and how Olmsted parks today can find that balance.

You can watch Ethan examining the First Amendment role of Olmsted parks in one of our 2023 programs. Thank you, Ethan!

## Stephen Gill, Great Grandson



Stephen Gill is a distinguished engineer and mathematician. For those of us at the Olmsted Network, he wears another important hat – great grandson of Frederick Law Olmsted and thoughtful supporter of Olmsted work and principles.

Stephen and his late wife, Margaret, have been critical players in the Olmsted sphere for many decades, supporting the revival of the Olmsted Woods at the Washington National Cathedral, the creation of a new park in Baltimore, and underwriting invaluable new biographies of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and soon, John Charles Olmsted.

Stephen is just one of many extraordinary Olmsted family members who advance the Olmsted legacy of beauty, equity and social justice.



US Capitol Grounds, Washington, DC.  
Credit: Architect of the Capitol

# Our Founding Mothers: Women of Olmsted

Yes. Women of Olmsted.

Back in 1980, a group of committed individuals – largely women – banded together to help create and support the friends groups and conservancies that sustain Olmsted landscapes across the country. From there, the National Association for Olmsted Parks was born.

While there were many significant players, Joan Bozer, Gail Guillet, Betsy Shure Gross, Caroline Loughlin, Tupper Thomas, Carolyn Etter, Betsy Barlow Rogers, Arleyn Levee, Ann Satterthwaite, Noni Ames and Vicky Ranney were a few of the key “founding mothers.” Faced with places in disrepair, decay and underappreciated, these activists took to the ramparts.

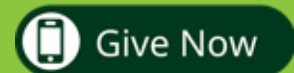
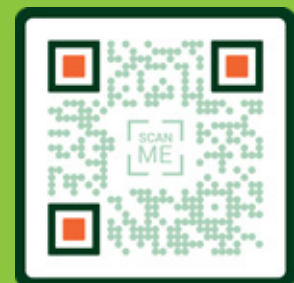
Thanks to them, there is a network of organizations across the country created and nurtured to preserve and protect Olmsted parks and places. Thanks to them, there is an organization dedicated to supporting these green spaces and those who steward them: the Olmsted Network.

Emerald Necklace. Boston, MA.  
Credit: Evan Bradley



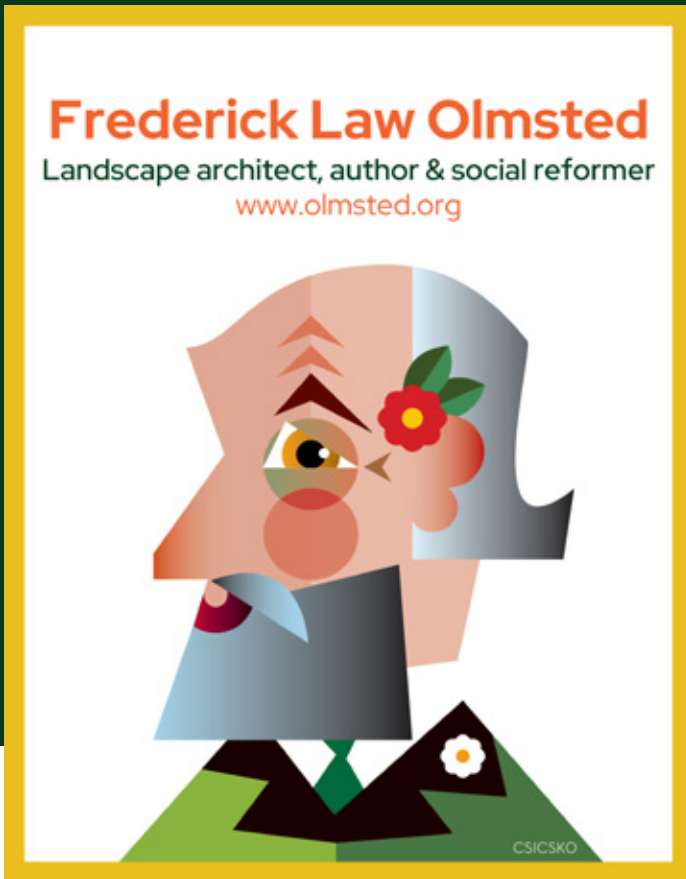
In 2023, we profiled Betsy Shure Gross. In 2024, we plan to profile even more of these amazing women. We hope you will make a tribute gift in their honor to support our work:

<https://bit.ly/donate2olmsted>



Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ. Credit: Phil Schultz

# Big Head Fred



“Big Head Fred” is an artistic creation of the combined talents of illustrator David Lee Csicsko and puppet and costume maker Randy Carfagno. Csicsko designed the original FLO head 2D illustration and Randy adapted this drawing into one of his signature “Big Heads.”

The FLO Big Head is available to Olmsted Network partners for use at their events. If you are interested in booking our seven-foot mascot to enliven your gathering, please contact us at [info@olmsted.org](mailto:info@olmsted.org).





Stanford University, Stanford, CA. Credit: Jan Teppin

# Looking Ahead: Webinars and More

Help us make 2024 great! Join us in person for one of our new “pop-up” travel trips or virtually for one of our Olmsted webinars. You can learn more about these exciting opportunities by going to our website calendar: [Olmsted.org/events/](https://Olmsted.org/events/)

**Conversations with Olmsted:  
Nature, Mental Health and the Campus  
Experience**

**May 21**

**Pop-Up Seattle**

**June 21**

**Pop-Up Staten Island**

**July 19-20**

**Olmsted on Staten Island**

**July 28**

**Conversations with Olmsted  
Embracing the Arts in Olmsted Parks**

**August 20**

**Exploring Olmsted’s Buffalo with  
Clinton Brown**

**October 13**

**Pop-Up Buffalo**

**October 30-November 1**



Dunn Gardens, Seattle, WA.



Downing Park, Newburgh, NY.

# Looking Ahead: 2024 Annual Conference

## 2024 Annual Conference

### Landscapes of Renewal: Olmsted, Vaux and Downing

**September 13-15, 2024 / Hudson River Valley**

In 1851, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux first met at Andrew Downing’s home, Highland Gardens, in Newburgh, NY. Drawn together by a shared aesthetic and democratic vision, the three pursued careers often centered around Hudson River landscapes and architecture. In addition to Downing Park, Olmsted and Vaux worked on a range of projects across the region, together and individually.

From September 13-15, the Olmsted Network’s annual conference will explore the lives and varied works of these individuals. We’ll visit Olana State Historic Site in Hudson, Downing Park in Newburgh and Vassar College in Poughkeepsie and will be joined by expert speakers including Sara Zewde, Frank Kowsky, Yvonne Elet, Howard Frumkin, Vassar President Elizabeth Bradley and more.

**Registration will open in May 2024.**



Biltmore, Asheville, NC. Credit: Biltmore



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