



**Olmsted Biographies and Career** Frederick Law Olmsted has been described as one of the most complex and influential figures to emerge from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It's no wonder that many authors have attempted to penetrate his life and enduring legacy. Over the last 150 years, Olmsted's multi-faceted life has spawned numerous biographies and other publications which explore a wide array of topics.

*FLO—A Biography of Frederick Law Olmsted.* Laura Wood Roper. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1973.

*Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape.* Charles Beveridge and Paul Rocheleau. Rizzoli International, New York, 1995. *An updated edition of the Rizzoli classic was issued in 2021 to mark the Olmsted Bicentennial.*

*Olmsted and Yosemite: Civil War, Yosemite and the National Park Idea.* Rolf Diamant and Ethan Carr. Library of American Landscape History, 2022. The 1865 Yosemite Report is reprinted here.

*The Power of Scenery: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Origin of National Parks.* Dennis Drabelle, Bison Books, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2021.

*Architects of an American Landscape: Henry Hobson Richardson, Frederick Law Olmsted and the Reimagining of America's Public and Private Spaces.* Hugh Howard. Atlantic Monthly Press, NY, 2022.

*This Land Was Saved for You and Me: How Gifford Pinchot, Frederick Law Olmsted and a Band of Foresters Rescued America's Public Lands.* Jeffrey H. Ryan. Stackpole Books, Lanham, MD, 2022.

*The Topography of Wellness: How Health and Disease Shaped the American Urban Landscape.* Sara Jensen Carr. University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, 2019.

*Experiencing Olmsted: The Enduring Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's North American Landscapes.* Charles A. Birnbaum, Arleyn A. Levee and Dena Tasse-Winter. The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Timber Press, 2022.

*Genius of Place, The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted.* Justin Martin. Da Capo Press, Cambridge, 2011.

*A Clearing in the Distance: Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the Nineteenth Century.* Witold Rybczynski. Scribner, New York, 1999.

*Frederick Law Olmsted: The Passion of a Public Artist.* Melvin Kalfus. New York University Press, NY, 1990.

*Park Maker: A Life of Frederick Law Olmsted.* Elizabeth Stevenson. McMillan, NY, 1977.

*Olmsted's America: An "Unpractical" Man and his Vision of Civilization.* Lee Hall. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1995.

*Frederick Law Olmsted and the American Environmental Tradition.* Albert Fein. Braziller, NY, 1972.

*Frederick Law Olmsted, Landscape Architect, 1822–1903.* Ed. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Theodora Kimball, New York, B Blom, 1970 (1922–28).

*Frederick Law Olmsted Partner with Nature.* Johanna Johnston. Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1975.

*Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.: Founder of Landscape Architecture in America.* Julius Gy. Fabos, Gordon T. Milde, and V. Michael Weinmayr. The University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, 1968.

*The Man Who Made Central Park.* M.M. Graff. Greensward Foundation, Inc., New York, 1982.

*The Nature of Recreation: A Handbook in Honor of Frederick Law Olmsted Using Examples from His Work.* Richard Saul Wurman. MIT Press, Cambridge, 1972.

*Olmsted South: Old South Critic/New South Planner.* Editors Dana F. White and Victor Kramer. Greenwood Press, Westport, Connecticut, 1979.

*Looking Southward*. An essay by John Stauffer. 2005

Forthcoming: *Boston's Franklin Park: Olmsted, Recreation and the Modern City*. Ethan Carr. Afterword by Gary Hilderbrand. Library of American Landscape History. Expected 2023.



### **Resources for Children**

Frederick Law Olmsted was a college dropout and a reluctant student. But he gathered experiences and ultimately became a visionary social reformer and founder of American landscape architecture. His life story has appeal for all “late bloomers” and offers a “personal” introduction for children to this creator of extraordinary parks and landscapes.

[Parks for the People: How Frederick Law Olmsted Designed America. Elizabeth Partridge. Viking Books for Young Readers, NY, 2022.](#)

*A Green Place to Be: The Creation of Central Park.* Ashley Benham Yazdani. Candlewick Press, 2019.

*The Man Who Made Parks: The Story of Parkbuilder Frederick Law Olmsted.* Frieda Wishinsky. Tundra Books, 2009.

*Parks for the People: A Story about Frederick Law Olmsted.* Julie Dunlap. Carolrhoda Books, Minneapolis, 1994.

FLO The Musical. Find info on our website: [www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org)

*Frederick Law Olmsted Partner with Nature.* Johanna Johnston. Dodd, Mead & Company, NY, 1975.



## **Works about Colleagues & Members of the Olmsted Firm**

### **Calvert Vaux**

Read Calvert Vaux's bio on our website: [www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org)

- *Country, Park, and City: The Architecture and Life of Calvert Vaux*. Francis R. Kowsky. Library of American Landscape History, 2003.
- Forthcoming: *Calvert Vaux, Landscape Architect*, Francis R. Kowsky. Library of American Landscape History, 2024.

### **Charles Eliot**

For an overview of work by Charles Eliot, read his bio on our website: [www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org)

- *Charles Eliot, Landscape Architect: An Introduction to His Life and Work*. Keith N. Morgan. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst.
- NAOP Workbook: *Held in Trust: Charles Eliot's Vision for the New England Landscape*, by Keith Morgan
- *Charles Eliot, Landscape Architect*. Charles William Eliot. A republication of the 1902 edition published by Houghton Mifflin, Boston, with an introduction by Keith Morgan. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, 2000.
- *Experiencing Olmsted: The Enduring Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's North American Landscapes*. Charles A. Birnbaum, Arleyn A Levee, and Dena Tasse-Winter. The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Timber Press, 2022.
- *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. Eds. Charles Birnbaum and Robin Karson. McGraw-Hill, NY, 2000.

### **Henry Sargent Codman**

For an overview of work by Henry Codman, read his bio on our website:

[www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org)

- *Experiencing Olmsted: The Enduring Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's North American Landscapes*. Eds. Charles A. Birnbaum, Arleyn A Levee, and Dena Tasse-Winter. The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Timber Press, 2022.
- *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. Eds. Charles Birnbaum and Robin Karson. McGraw-Hill, NY, 2000.

*How closely Frederick Law Olmsted's successors adhered to his principles in the face of changing technology, social conditions and recreational needs, has yet to be determined. While there is some research available, attention to the Olmsted firm members has been minimal. There is much to be learned about the significance of the Olmsted firm and practical knowledge to be gained to protect and preserve the designs of Olmsted and his successors.*

### **John Charles Olmsted**

For an overview of his work and reference to park reports, read JOC's bio on our website: [www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org)

- *Greenscapes: Olmsted's Pacific Northwest*. Joan Hockaday. Washington State University Press, Pullman, 2009.
- Coming soon: a new biography by Joan Hockaday.
- *Experiencing Olmsted: The Enduring Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's North American Landscapes*. Charles A. Birnbaum, Arleyn A Levee, and Dena Tasse-Winter. The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Timber Press, 2022.
- *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. Eds. Charles Birnbaum and Robin Karson. McGraw-Hill, NY, 2000.

### **Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.**

For an overview of his work and reference to park reports, read FLO, Jr.'s bio on our website: [www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org)

- [\*Beauty, Efficiency and Economy: A Life of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., Landscape Architect, Planner and Conservationist\*](#). Elizabeth Hope Cushing. Northern Liberties Press, Philadelphia, 2021.
- *A Modern Arcadia: Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and the Plan for Forest Hills Gardens*. Susan L. Klaus. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst in Association with the Library of American Landscape History, 2002.
- *Experiencing Olmsted: The Enduring Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's North American Landscapes*. Charles A. Birnbaum, Arleyn A Levee, and Dena Tasse-Winter. The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Timber Press, 2022.
- *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. Eds. Charles Birnbaum and Robin Karson. McGraw-Hill, NY, 2000.

### **Warren Manning**

- *Warren Manning: Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner*. Eds. Robin Karson, Jane Roy Brown and Sarah Allaback. LALH in association with the University of Georgia Press, Athens, 2017.

- *Experiencing Olmsted: The Enduring Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's North American Landscapes*. Charles A. Birnbaum, Arleyn A Levee, and Dena Tasse-Winter. The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Timber Press, 2022.
- *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. Eds. Charles Birnbaum and Robin Karson. McGraw-Hill, NY, 2000.
- Forthcoming: "Our Whole Country Park" -- *Community Days and Civic Horticulture in Warren H. Manning's Modern Planning Practice*. Kevan J. Klosterwill. Library of American Landscape History.

### **Arthur A Shurcliff**

- *Arthur A. Shurcliff, Design Preservation, and the Creation of the Colonial Williamsburg Landscape*. Elizabeth Hope Cushing. Library of American Landscape History, 2014.
- *Experiencing Olmsted: The Enduring Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's North American Landscapes*. Charles A. Birnbaum, Arleyn A Levee, and Dena Tasse-Winter. The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Timber Press, 2022.
- *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. Eds. Charles Birnbaum and Robin Karson. McGraw-Hill, NY, 2000.

### **Others**

To learn more about other members of the Olmsted firm, visit our website:

[www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org)

- *Experiencing Olmsted: The Enduring Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's North American Landscapes*. Charles A. Birnbaum, Arleyn A Levee, and Dena Tasse-Winter. The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Timber Press, 2022.
- *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. Eds. Charles Birnbaum and Robin Karson. McGraw-Hill, NY, 2000.