

# OLMSTED

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, 99 Warren St., Brookline, MA



## NEWS from FAIRSTED . . .

### *Visitor Outreach*

*Olmsted NHS joins partners old and new in offering a selection of programs in 2003 that illuminate the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted, his sons, associates and successors.*

Fairsted recently played host to two enormously popular performances of "Frederick Law Olmsted: Passages in the Life of an Unpractical Man" - a one-man play conceived and presented by longtime park advocate Gerry Wright. Visitors were enthralled as Wright took them on a "journey of discovery" through the many phases of Olmsted's life and career. Audiences from as near as Boston and as far away as Russia have thus far enjoyed Wright's new play.

Park Rangers continue to offer a variety of programs and events this fall commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of Frederick Law Olmsted:

- ✦ 9/13 *Olmsted's Brookline*
- ✦ 10/4 *Walk Along the Strand*
- ✦ 10/19 *Arnold Arboretum Tour*
- ✦ 11/23 *Leverett Pond Bird Walk*

For program details and directions, visit our website at [www.nps.gov/flra](http://www.nps.gov/flra) or call (617) 566-1689.



*Park advocate Gerry Wright entertains visitors with his performance of "FLO: Passages in the Life of an Unpractical Man"*



### *Public Relations*

*Media attention focused on Fairsted and the Olmsted landscape legacy as Americans marked the anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted's death in August, 1903.*

Television and radio coverage included:

- ✦ July 1 OLMSTED'S VISION  
"The Connection" National Public Radio
- ✦ August 14 EMERALD NECKLACE  
"Greater Boston" WGBH Channel 2
- ✦ August 29, OLMSTED'S LEGACY  
"Marketplace" Public Radio International

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National Park Service  
&  
National Association for Olmsted Parks



National Park Service  
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## Visitor Education

*Olmsted NHS continues to expand its education programs, piloting a new program for 8th grade students and including an option for families with young children in the popular Junior Ranger program. This fall, the park will also begin work on a Comprehensive Education Plan that will guide the development of sustainable, curriculum-based education programs.*

“Tracing the Brook Line: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Design of the Muddy River” engages students in learning about the steps involved in landscape design and challenges them to consider FLO’s rationale for designing and advocating for urban green spaces. Students tour the historic Olmsted Office and use facsimile plans, drawings, and photos to “explore” the Riverway dividing Boston and Brookline as a model landscape. Ultimately, they discover how landscape affects human thought and feeling, and how landscape architecture can enhance quality of life.

Young visitors to Fairsted ages 5–8 now have an opportunity to become Junior Rangers! This new program was first launched at Fairsted in 2002 for children ages 9–12. At the elementary level, youngsters are introduced to the historic Olmsted design office and landscape grounds. Children who complete a series of exploration activities in their Discovery Book earn a Junior Ranger badge and certificate. More importantly, they join a growing cadre of young people committed to learning about and stewarding our national parks!



## Planning & Facility Improvements

*Olmsted NHS builds on the past and plans for the future!*

Planning and design work is currently underway for a major construction project to rehabilitate the park’s aged fire suppression, heating and drainage systems. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2005.

Also in 2005, Olmsted NHS anticipates launching a process to update its 1983 General Management Plan. This amendment will enable the park to strategically plan for the future, with particular focus on its resource management and visitor goals.

## Museum Services

*Olmsted NHS is nearing the finish line! In 2004, the park expects to complete an intensive program begun in 1990 to catalog and stabilize 140,000 historic plans and 950,000 associated textual records in the Olmsted Archives.*



Cataloging and stabilization of the Olmsted plans and drawings collection continues, with over 10,000 plans processed in 2002. A recent survey of the remaining plans undertaken by archives staff revealed that only 6,500 plans are still in need of processing, including design documents from such nationally-significant Olmsted firm projects as the California State Park System, Metropolitan Museum of Art (NY), The Frick Museum (NY), Rock Creek Park (DC) and the American Horticultural Society. Completion of this project will ensure that the entire collection of plans will be cataloged, stabilized, and made available to the public for research.

The Olmsted Archives is proud to announce its most recently-processed collection, now available to researchers. The NAB/NAC Reference Collection consists of a wide range of materials that were apparently used by Olmsted firm employees in search of inspiration or practical information on design-related topics. Materials come from numerous sources – magazine articles and plates, photographs, published studies, landscape architectural plans, promotional brochures, souvenir publications, newspaper clippings, and original memos and correspondence.

The NAB/NAC Reference Collection provides a comprehensive look at trends in the fields of landscape architecture, architecture, and horticulture. Topics range broadly from housing and cemeteries to picnic benches and sand dune planting. Factors affecting landscapes and buildings (traffic, pollution, irrigation, pests, insecticides, etc.) are covered in the collection, as well as matters specific to landscape maintenance such as tree moving and pruning.

The collection also includes the “NAB/NAC Card File” and “NAB/NAC Card File, Geographic” – indices created by the Olmsted firm and processed by the National Park Service in 1984.✪

Visit our website at [www.nps.gov/frla](http://www.nps.gov/frla)