

Design Neighborhoods as if they were Parks.

THE IDEA OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND URBAN OPEN SYSTEMS.

Character neighborhoods have extensive areas and lands devoted to parks and open spaces. When systematically organized, the collection of parks, plazas, school grounds, stormwater ponds, protected wetlands, lakes, streams, private lawns and gardens becomes a holistic, integrated system of lands and waters devoted to the resident's health, recreation and welfare.

NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN SPACE SYSTEM COMPONENTS.

1. **Public Parks and Gardens.**
2. **Stormwater Ponds.**
3. **School grounds and ball fields.**
4. **Lawns and Grounds hosting Private Buildings.**
5. **Urban Trails.**
6. **Wetlands, Conservation Lands, Water Bodies.**
7. **Plazas and Hardscape Settings.**
8. **Really "Complete Streets".**

PLAN THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD AS A PARK.

If you want to think big, think of the entire neighborhood as a "park" with passive and active spaces linked together with trails and streams. Many of the components listed above are found in neighborhoods or nearby. They may be in rough condition but even so, they can be refurbished and returned to the inventory of valued neighborhood assets.

Think of the neighborhood as a park.

Let the green space define the neighborhood.

Parks are designed to be beautiful; to be places for repose, for mingling, for fun, for activity, for enjoying the out-of-doors.



The neighborhood ballfield is an important place.

Designing the neighborhood with the same care and attention given to a highly visible, highly active public park requires the same balance of aesthetics and function.

Private homes, apartments and condominiums, the neighborhood school and park and the nearby shopping district all have [potentially] the elements of beauty, public enjoyment and a collective functionality that serves the interests of the neighborhood and its residents.

When designing a park system, the "masses and voids" would be connected with paths, quiet streets, transitways and, when available, water courses. The pathways and public venues would be the organizing elements. Information, security and wayfinding systems would serve the park's visitors. Neighborhoods can be designed with the same care and sense of purpose.

LEVERAGE ALL NEIGHBORHOOD VENUES TO MAKE IT FEEL LIKE A PARK.

Design and site every building and space to maximize its aesthetic impact on the neighborhood. Stormwater ponds can be beautiful. Markets can be colorful.



A public garden is a memorable personal place.

Wedding venues can be romantic. Public art can express the personality of the neighborhood. Use everything to create a neighborhood that inspires its residents to enjoy life and contribute to the common well-being.



A park, a pathway and a pond for stormwater.



Enjoy the neighborhood center market.

Olmsted's Philosophy

Neighborhood parks and open spaces achieve Olmsted's goals that he stated as follows: *"Olmsted's main goal, no matter what he was doing was to attempt to improve American society. He had visions of vast recreational and cultural achievements in the hearts of cities. He did not see parks as just vast meadows, but rather he saw them as places of harmony; places where people would go to escape life and regain their sanity. He wanted these parks to be available to all people no matter what walk of life the person followed."*

<http://www.fredericklawolmsted.com>



Art represents...

Creating places and spaces for happy memories is an important neighborhood function.