

From the Planners' Bookshelf...

Frederick Law Olmsted at 200.

Designing an American Landscape

National Historic Site Massachusetts

LINK: <https://www.nps.gov/frla/index.htm>

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) is recognized as the founder of American landscape architecture and the nation's foremost parkmaker. Olmsted moved his home to suburban Boston in 1883 and established the world's first full-scale professional office for the practice of landscape design. During the next century, his sons and successors perpetuated Olmsted's design ideals, philosophy, and influence.

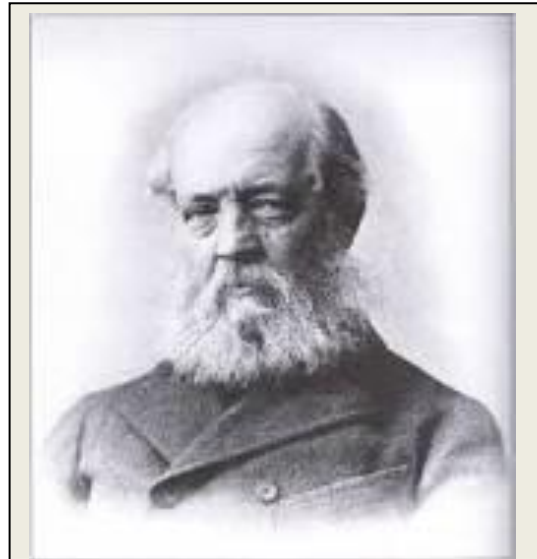
National Association for Olmsted Parks

Across the nation, "the Olmsted's work reflects a vision of American communities and American society still relevant today—a commitment to visually compelling and accessible green space that restores and nurtures the body and spirit of all people, regardless of their economic circumstances. The Olmsteds believed in the restorative value of landscape and that parks can bring social improvement by promoting a greater sense of community and providing recreational opportunities, especially in urban environments. **LINK:** <http://www.olmsted.org/the-olmsted-legacy/about-the-olmsted-legacy>

The Olmsted Brothers' 1918 Report on Washington D.C.'s Rock Creek Park: America's First National Park General Management Plan.

Video Link:

<https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=A5D6B886-F2A3-41ED-9357-72515DF79609>



Frederick Law Olmsted

American landscape architect

Frederick Law Olmsted was an American landscape architect, journalist, social critic, and public administrator. He is considered to be the father of landscape architecture. Olmsted was famous for co-designing many well-known urban parks with his partner Calvert Vaux.

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Law_Olmsted

Olmsted's Philosophy

"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."

Source: <http://www.fredericklawolmsted.com>