

Olmsted Parks in Transition: Respecting the Past, Planning for the Future



A CTASLA conference for landscape architects, architects, planners, preservationists, historians, concerned citizens, and anyone involved in the study, management, and stewardship of Olmsted parks and other historic landscapes.

Date: Friday, April 28, 2017 / 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
(with cocktail reception to follow!)

Location: [The Lyceum](#)

Address: 227 Lawrence Street / Hartford, CT



Program registered with LA CES for 6.0
PDH/HSW and AIA-CES for 6.0 LU/HSW

Cost: \$125 Member of ASLA, NAOP, AIA, APA, historical societies,
non-profit organizations, or government agencies
\$160 Non-members
\$ 40 Full-time students (with ID)

Includes continental breakfast, lunch, drink ticket, and hors d'oeuvres



[REGISTER ONLINE](#) OR complete the registration form on page 6 and mail back with payment by Tuesday, April 25. Questions? Contact Jeff Mills at executivedirector@ctasla.org or (860) 454-8922.

SCHEDULE & AGENDA

8:30 a.m. Registration Opens / Continental Breakfast / Exhibitors

8:55 Opening Remarks

9:00 On the Paths of a Genius: Finding Frederick Law Olmsted in Connecticut

Presenter: David K. Leff, Author

Hartford-born in 1822, Frederick Law Olmsted was the “father of landscape architecture” in the United States. Learn how his formative years in his native state influenced his brilliantly executed and far-seeing designs. No one calling Connecticut home should be surprised at feeling some nostalgia while walking through an Olmsted park, however far away. Discover how this master park maker was able to create a sense of nature in the densest urban areas, and why his designs are endearing and enduring a century-and-a-half later.

9:45 The Olmsted Legacy: Researching and Documenting Historic Parks

Presenter: Phil Birge-Liberman, Ph.D., UConn

How can historic parks maintain their character while being relevant for today’s park users? Focusing on the Olmsted legacy in Connecticut, this presentation will highlight methods to research and document historic parks. Topics will include historical development, character-defining features, management of parks, and changing social practices influencing park use.

10:25 Using Systems-Thinking to Steward the Olmsted Legacy in Hartford and Bridgeport

Presenter: Jill Allen Dixon, AICP, Sasaki

Cities with parks designed by historic visionaries are endowed with a legacy of generous open spaces. However, changing times have brought increasing pressures and fiscal challenges on parks and park systems. This session will explore how Hartford and Bridgeport are innovating within historic park visions to meet contemporary needs. Learn about creative strategies from two park system master plans to expand park use for current residents, increase connectivity, and tackle ever-growing budget challenges.

11:20 Break / Exhibitors

11:35 Programming Historic Parks in Modern Times

Presenter: William DeMaio, Town of Newington, CT

Just as the pastoral landscapes of historic parks evolve through the decades as plantings mature, so too do the needs and habits of stakeholders who utilize the parks change over time. How do you program historic parks in modern times to meet the needs of the community? Using Walnut Hill Park as a case study, the speaker will reflect on the challenges of maintaining the historic character of an Olmsted park while also creating a valuable modern asset to the city through programming.

12:00 Introduction of the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP)



12:15 p.m. Lunch / Networking / Exhibitors

1:00 Trees: Preserving Their Living Histories

Presenter: Allan Fenner, ASCA, SavATree Consulting Group

This will be a discussion of historic or heritage trees, the processes (and philosophy) involved in their preservation, and the benefits to the associated community.

1:30 Waveny Park, New Canaan: In Transition from Private Estate to Contemporary Public Park

Presenter: Keith E Simpson, FASLA, Keith E. Simpson Associates

Waveny Park's history and many transitions from woodland, to farmland, to an Olmsted firm-designed private estate will be described, as well as the ongoing changes now required to accommodate its new life as a heavily used public park.

2:15 The Enduring Olmsted Legacy of Valued Public Spaces

Presenter: Patricia O'Donnell, FASLA & Peter Viteretto, ASLA, Heritage Landscapes

More than 70 of Heritage Landscape's projects have involved Olmsted legacy parks, parkways, campuses and communities, including many of the nation's gems. This presentation will highlight the history, legacy, and enduring values of these democratic, inclusive public landscapes as cultural, social, environmental, and economic assets that are relevant to contemporary and future sustainable preservation and development toward uplifted urban quality of life.

3:00 Break / Coffee and Cookies / Exhibitors

3:30 Documentary — *Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America* (Open to the Public)

Introduction by director Lawrence Hott, Florentine Films/Hott Productions

Olmsted's efforts to preserve nature created an "environmental ethic" decades before the environmental movement became a force in American politics. With gorgeous cinematography, and compelling commentary, this film presents the biography of a man whose parks and preservation are an essential part of American life.

5:00-6:15 Cocktail Hour / Reception at Firebox Restaurant (next door)

Join your friends from CTASLA and the National Association for Olmsted Parks for hors d'oeuvres and conversation! (Drink ticket provided to registered guests / additional cash bar available.)

Olmsted Parks in Person: A Tour of Notable Olmsted Sites in Greater Hartford



Date: Saturday, April 29, 2017

Bus pickup: [CTfastrak Station](#) at 470 New Park Avenue,
West Hartford (free parking) OR at
[Homewood Suites](#), 338 Asylum Avenue, Hartford



Tour registered with LA CES for 3.0
PDH/HSW and AIA-CES for 3.0 LU/HSW

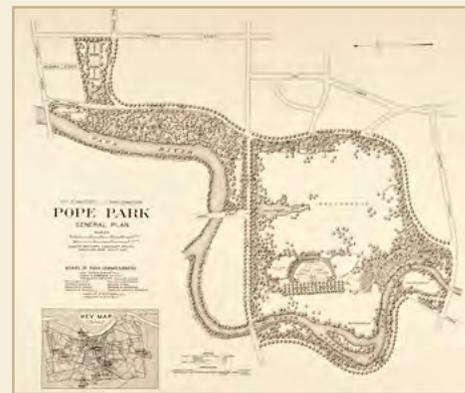
Cost: \$60 (includes box lunch)

The Olmsted firm created many parks and pastoral landscapes in central Connecticut that continue to be relevant public spaces for gathering, relaxing, and play. What were the general design principles employed by the Olmsted firm? How were these parks intended to make nature accessible for working communities, facilitate social interactions, and benefit human health? How have these values changed over the decades because of new city demands and budget constraints? How can we best manage and utilize these spaces in 21st century?

Join CTASLA and the National Association for Olmsted Parks as we tour several parks in Greater Hartford to explore how the Olmsted firm's legacy remains visible and viable here. We will outline and examine the key characteristics that define the Olmsted design rationale — manipulation of natural land forms to enhance scenery and provide for sequences of spaces for different uses. You will learn how to “read” the intended park designs even in their frequently altered modern settings. Parks officials, historians, and Olmsted advocates from across the country will help us explore the origin of these sites, why people still enjoy them today, and how we can work to preserve and adapt these historic landscapes in the context of modern times.

Tour stops include:

- **Old North Cemetery** (Olmsted family burial site)
- **Keney Park**
- **Bushnell Park / Hartford Capitol Grounds**
- **Pope Park**
- **Walnut Hill Park**



Schedule:

- 8:00-8:30 a.m.** — Load bus at CTfastrak Station, West Hartford
- 8:45-9:00** — Load bus at Homewood Suites, Hartford
- 9:00-12:30** — Touring
- 12:30 (approx.)** — Box lunch with lecture
- 1:30-3:30** — Touring
- 3:30** — Join us for an optional reception as the bus moves on to the Olmsted family home in Cheshire, CT...OR you may take a CTfastrak bus from New Britain back to the West Hartford or Hartford pickup locations
- 6:40 (approx.)** — Bus returns to West Hartford CTfastrak Station
- 7:00 (approx.)** — Bus returns to Hartford

Our docents will include:

- Arleyn Levee, National Association for Olmsted Parks
- John Alexopoulos, ASLA, University of Connecticut
- Herbert Virgo, Friends of Keney Park
- Leah Glaser, Central Connecticut State University

Bus Sponsor:



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ABOUT OUR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

David K. Leff, CTASLA's 2006 Connecticut Olmsted Award Winner, is an essayist, Pushcart Prize-nominated poet, and former deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. He is the author of four nonfiction books, three collections of poetry, and a novel in verse. His work focuses on the surprisingly intimate relationship of people to their built and natural environments. Recently he was tapped by the National Park Service to be poet-in-residence for the New England National Scenic Trail (NET), the first ever such designation for any of the country's 11 such trails established by acts of Congress. David's journals, correspondence, and other papers are archived in the Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Massachusetts Libraries in Amherst. He is the town historian and town meeting moderator of Canton, CT where he also served 26 years as a volunteer firefighter. His work is available at www.davidkleff.com.

Phil Birge-Liberman, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in Residence at UConn's Urban & Community Studies program where he teaches courses at the intersection of urban redevelopment, sustainability, and parks. His research and writings include an urban-geographical history of the creation, deterioration, and restoration of Olmsted's Emerald Necklace park system in Boston. He has also written about the ways in which urban parks, like the High Line, act as environmental amenities, and how park creation and restoration help open up urban spaces for investment with the intention of bringing the middle classes back to the city.

Jill Allen Dixon, AICP is a senior urban planner at Sasaki who is passionate about large-scale projects that address landscape as a primary driver. Jill's experience across the country includes downtown plans, climate adaptation and resiliency, regional planning, and parks, greenways, and park system plans. She also has extensive experience in community outreach and enjoys finding opportunities to integrate diverse voices into planning concepts. Jill holds a Master in Urban Planning from Harvard's Graduate School of Design and dual degrees in architecture and economics from Clemson University.



David Leff



Phil Birge-Liberman



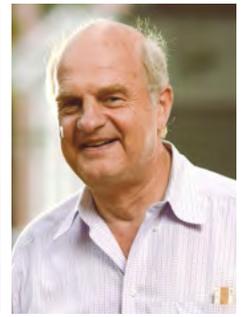
Jill Allen Dixon



Bill DeMaio



Allan Fenner



Keith Simpson

Bill DeMaio, CPRP has been in the professional parks and recreation field for over 37 years. He was the Director of New Britain parks for several years and renovated and programmed for Walnut Hill Park for more than three decades. Bill is now Superintendent of Parks and Recreation for the town of Newington, where he grew up. Bill earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Recreation from Springfield College.

Allan Fenner is an ISA CT and ASCA Consulting Arborist working for the SavATree Consulting Group. He has over 20 years experience in arboricultural consulting on a wide variety of design and construction projects that involve the development and implementation of specifications and strategies that preserve trees and their living histories. Allan has a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from the University of RI and a Masters of Science from Central Connecticut University. He has helped to preserve or restore landscapes at many parks or universities through out New England including UMass Amherst, MIT, Yale, Norwalk & Three Rivers Community College, Bushnell Park, Connecticut College and the University of Connecticut. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Tree Protective Association.

Keith Simpson, FASLA, principal of New Canaan-based Keith E. Simpson Associates, Inc., was elected an ASLA Fellow in 2007. He is a former president and trustee of the Connecticut Chapter of ASLA. Since 1982 his office has designed a diverse range of projects in Connecticut and other states (as well as some overseas), and has received numerous design awards. He is a graduate (MLA) of UMass, Amherst and has lectured at many universities.

Patricia M. O'Donnell, FASLA, AICP, ICOMOS, IFLA, founded Heritage Landscapes LLC, Preservation Planners and Landscape Architects, in 1987. Dedicated to a vibrant future for communities and cultural landscapes, the firm has worked on more than 500 projects (including more than 40 U.S. National Historic Landmarks) that address stewardship with heritage assets as a platform and enabler of economic, environmental, and societal sustainability. Heritage Landscapes has contributed to the renewal of several Olmsted firm designed projects, including urban park systems and



Patricia O'Donnell



Peter Viteretto



Lawrence Hott

civic spaces in Washington DC, Chicago IL, Pittsburgh PA, Louisville KY, Rochester NY, Buffalo NY, Baltimore MD, Atlanta GA, and Hartford, CT. Patricia is a frequent speaker and contributor, nationally and internationally, on issues of culture and heritage. She holds a masters degrees in landscape architecture and urban planning and is licensed in 16 states.

Peter F. Viteretto, ASLA, Senior Associate, Heritage Landscapes, has been with the firm since 1993. He manages the firm's Connecticut office in Norwalk and is project landscape architect and manager for landscape preservation implementation commissions. Peter participates in all phases of project tasks and is responsible for managing staffing, reconnaissance, planning reports, and presentations.

He is skilled in providing coordination for construction documentation and construction administration. His work over the past 25 years has focused on public landscapes, creating and enhancing their value as part of the communities they serve. Many of his projects were planning and revitalization of Olmsted-designed landscapes. A graduate of the University of Connecticut at Storrs, Viteretto is a licensed landscape architect and actively participates in the advocacy of landscape architectural principles and values as the CTASLA representative on the Merritt Parkway Advisory Committee and member of the Norwalk Tree Advisory Committee.

Lawrence Hott formed Florentine Films/Hott Productions (with Diane Garey) in 1981. Since then the company has produced two dozen films for national PBS broadcast as well as several productions for web and educational distribution. Awards include an Emmy, two Academy Award nominations, a duPont-Columbia Journalism Award, the Erik Barnouw History Award, the George Foster Peabody Award, five American Film Festival Blue Ribbons, and 14 CINE Golden Eagles. The company's films have also been broadcast internationally and involved in programs in such countries as Canada, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Algeria, Great Britain, and Vietnam.



Showing Friday at 3:30 p.m. (open to the public), with introduction by director Lawrence Hott / Runtime: 55 minutes

REGISTRATION FORM

[Register online](#) with your credit card or complete this form and return with your check (payable to "CTASLA") and mail to:

CTASLA
c/o J.M. Communications
35-31 Talcottville Road, Ste. 318
Vernon, CT 06066

Name: _____

ASLA or AIA Member Number (if applicable) for CEU filing: _____

Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Deadline: April 25, 2017
(Note: no refunds after April 25)

CONFERENCE – Friday, April 28:

___ Member(s) attending @ \$125 each = \$ _____ total

___ Non-Member(s) attending @ \$160 each = \$ _____ total

___ Full-time student(s) with ID @ \$40 each = \$ _____ total

___ Olmsted Film ONLY (3:30 p.m.) – FREE

BUS TOUR – Saturday, April 29:

___ Attending @ \$60 each = \$ _____ total

Total Enclosed:

\$ _____

