



# ACTIVITIES

for grades 6-12

**OLMSTED**  
**200**  
CELEBRATING PARKS  
FOR ALL PEOPLE



## Activities for Older Students (Middle School and High School)

### U.S. History

Olmsted was an author, a journalist, public official and landscape architect. Students could study and report on different facets or stages of Olmsted's life and career or use him as a window to explore significant trends in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century America. They can study Olmsted's views on the roles parks can play in urban environments as democratizing spaces that contribute to public health and welfare.

### Science

Parks are living laboratories where students can view the life cycles they study in the real world. More than that, in keeping with FLO's views, students can study how accessible greenspace contributes to public health, both individually and through mechanisms such as helping take the pressure off aging stormwater infrastructure.

### Art

Public greenspaces can serve as inspiration for art, whether through photography, still-lives, or Plein-Air Painting. The parks themselves can be works of art. Students can study the design principles that FLO helped establish.

### DESIGN A PARK

Teach your students the basic principles of Olmsted park design. Have them familiarize themselves with the information on this website about FLO's life, work and legacy. Then let them unleash their creativity and imagination by designing their own parks, either free-hand or using a free 3-D software design program like [Tinkercad](#). This could be a single session or the topic of a whole stand-alone class. Encourage your students to share their visions with us! They can post their designs to social media and use the hashtags #CelebrateOlmsted or #ParksForAll.

### REPORT ON A PARK

Students could select a local or national park and use it to explore topics like the role of parks in urban spaces or the history of the surrounding community. This lends itself to honing research and analysis skills and using multimedia to enliven a presentation.

### FIELD TRIP TO A PARK


This could be an integral part of a report on a park, conducted as part of a science unit, or an opportunity to find inspiration for creative writing or artwork – a still life or a Plein Air Painting.

### ORGANIZE A PARK CLEAN-UP

This is a terrific opportunity for older students, especially to give back to the community. Contact a local park superintendent to see how you might help.

### POST ABOUT A FAVORITE PARK

Do your students have a favorite park or perhaps a perfect spot in the local park? As a class art project, the students could assemble collages or show photos and paintings of their favorite park spots. Encourage them to share it by posting a picture on social media. They can use the hashtag #CelebrateOlmsted and #ParksForAll.





### **OLMSTED PARK VISIT CHALLENGE**

Which student has visited the most Olmsted-designed parks? Have your students research FLO parks and compare to see who has been to the most. They can even compare their experiences with their peers from around the country using social media and the hashtag #FLOchallenge.

