



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION *for*  
OLMSTED  
PARKS

## Olmsted 200 -- Student Paper Competition

To celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903), the National Association for Olmsted Parks and *Olmsted 200* announce the Olmsted **Student Paper Competition**.

Over the course of a varied career, Olmsted worked in a New York dry-goods store and took a year-long voyage in the China Trade. He studied surveying and engineering, chemistry and scientific farming, and ran a farm on Staten Island. He published books and worked as a reporter for the *New York Daily Times*. As a writer, Olmsted opposed the expansion of slavery and argued for its abolition. Olmsted worked as a partner in a publishing firm and a managing editor of a literary and political journal. And that was all before he invented the career that made him famous: landscape architecture.

For over 100 years, he and the successor Olmsted Firms completed thousands of projects across America. He and his colleagues designed large urban parks, urban parkways and park systems, scenic nature reserves, residential suburbs, institutional campuses, government buildings and country estates. They literally transformed the face of America.

The Bicentennial Celebration, *Olmsted 200*, is dedicated to connecting the foundational principles of Olmsted's democratic vision, values and resilient designs to contemporary challenges. Papers entered in the competition must address the following question:

**How should the life, legacy and values of Frederick Law Olmsted inform 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges?**

**Eligibility | Two Divisions: 1) secondary school students (9-12) and 2) currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students in any discipline related to the work of Olmsted.**

**Deadline for submissions is January 15, 2022.**

Contest entries can be submitted in one of the following formats: (1) An essay of no less than 1500 words and not more than 2,500 words, supplemented with a bibliography and endnotes. Entries may be submitted in either of the following forms: Microsoft Word document or PDF document. (2) A documentary or PowerPoint presentation that reflects the ability to communicate the subject's importance as well as skills in using photographs, video, graphic presentations, etc. Documentaries should not exceed more than 10 minutes and sources used should be credited through a bibliography.

All entries should be emailed to [petridede@naop.org](mailto:petridede@naop.org). (Please type "Olmsted Essay Contest" in the subject line and indicate the Division in which you are entering. Submissions will be judged by a special jury of scholars selected by the NAOP. Submissions will be evaluated on original research, with particular weight given to those using primary sources (including the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers, NAOP resources, [www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org), [www.olmstedonline.org](http://www.olmstedonline.org) and local park resources), as well as synthesis of secondary materials, clarity and structure, persuasiveness of argument and overall effect. Winners will be announced by March 15.

**Prizes | Three prizes are available for the winning essays in each Division:**

**1st Prize -- \$1000; 2nd Prize: \$500; 3rd Prize- \$250.**

Additionally, all winners will receive a copy of the *Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm* and publication of papers on the *Olmsted 200* website. Winners will also be invited to the Olmsted birthday celebration in Central Park on April 26, 2022.