



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION for
OLMSTED
PARKS

Ways to Engage *Olmsted 200* Opportunities for Colleges and Universities

April 26, 2022 marks the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted – author, journalist, public official, urban planner and founder of American landscape architecture. Olmsted and his successor firms designed thousands of landscape projects across the country, transforming American life and culture. His democratic vision of public parks and their capacity to bring communities together is more important than ever.

*The national **Olmsted 200 campaign** is asking colleges and universities to engage students in exploring the many ways in which Olmsted’s work and values can address today’s challenges. We are urging institutions across the country to use the Bicentennial to educate about this American visionary.*

The following outlines various opportunities – for students, faculty and administrators. If you have questions, contact Dede Petri at petridede@naop.org.

For Students

- 1) Read and explore the resources in the Library about Frederick Law Olmsted.
- 2) Explore the website of the National Association for Olmsted Parks, www.naop.org, www.olmstedonline.org and Olmsted 200, www.olmsted200.org (coming January 2021).
- 3) Consider writing a paper about Olmsted in one of your courses. If your school has an Olmsted landscape, see below for special research opportunities.
- 4) Enter the Olmsted 200 essay competition. See below.

Extracurricular Opportunities

- 1) Discuss the Olmsted Bicentennial on the radio or in campus publications. Consider creating special programming to celebrate the Olmsted Bicentennial. For example: an Olmsted Travelthon visiting Olmsted parks and landscapes virtually across the country.
- 2) Sponsor a Cleanup day on the grounds of the school.
- 3) Promote student engagement of the Bicentennial through one or more of the existing student organizations or organize an ad hoc Olmsted Club.

- 4) Visit a park in a local city, learn about its history, design, and uses, volunteer to help clean it up, and enjoy its facilities.

ENTER THE OLMSTED 200 ESSAY COMPETITION.

The National Association for Olmsted Parks and Olmsted 200 are sponsoring an essay competition to encourage independent scholarship about Olmsted.

Open to currently-enrolled undergraduate and graduate students in any discipline related to the work of Olmsted.

Deadline. January 15, 2022

All winners will receive a copy of *The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm*, membership in the NAOP Network, and publication of their papers on the *Olmsted 200* and NAOP websites. Winners will also be invited to the Olmsted 200 Birthday party in Central Park, April 26, 2022.

For more information, go to Olmsted 200, www.olmsted200.org/ Resources.

For Students in Institutions with an Olmsted Connection.

www.olmstedonline.org

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89105768915&view=1up&seq=2>

See [*The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm*](#).

- 1) Examine the Olmsted Firm plans for your campus and find out what exists – and what doesn't – in the landscape today.
 - a. For example: Colgate:
<https://www.olmstedonline.org/Job/Details/00679?jobName=Colgate+University&location=&jobNumber=&jobType=>
 - b. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mss5257100710>
 - c. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mss351210426>
- 2) Examine contemporaneous documents and find out institutional reaction to the Olmsted Firm plans: Trustee minutes, student newspaper, etc.
- 3) Examine the Olmsted firm's plans for adjoining properties, if any, and consider a way to work with others to shed historical light on these plans and the Olmsted firm's involvement.
- 4) Write about what you learn or create an exhibit.
- 5) Work for signage on your campus about Olmsted and the Olmsted design principles.

- 6) Organize public tours of the campus to explore the Olmsted design – what happened and what didn't. What would the campus look like today if the Olmsted firm's designs had been fully followed?
- 7) Ask the trustees officially to recognize Olmsted as part of the campus history and to set aside a day to celebrate Olmsted 200.
- 8) Familiarize yourself with Olmsted Firm plans for other school campuses
- 9) Create a field trip to other sites with Olmsted designs, especially those at other school campuses.

For Faculty and Administrators

- 1) Incorporate Olmsted into the American history and science curricula. Develop a special curricular unit for 2022.

Example: [*Cotton Kingdom, Now*](#) A course by Sara Zewde at Harvard's Graduate School of Design examines Frederick Law Olmsted's reportorial trip through the South for the New York Daily Times and lessons for today.

- 2) Promote a Park Design competition for students; winning designs to be displayed in 2022.
- 3) Promote the National Olmsted 200 Essay Competition once it is announced.
- 4) Prepare an Olmsted exhibit in the Library or elsewhere on campus. See below for a special exhibit offering being made available by Olmsted 200.
- 5) Promote a series of lectures on Olmsted by visiting scholars. Ask NAOP for a list of speakers. Make it available to the public and promote it on the Olmsted 200 national calendar, www.olmsted200.org.
- 6) Sign up for a special zoom lecture by Harvard Professor John Stauffer. See below.

OLMSTED EXHIBIT

The National Association for Olmsted Parks and Olmsted 200, in conjunction with the Oak Spring Garden Library, are pleased to offer an Olmsted Exhibit, curated by University of Maryland Professor Caroline Hingham, for all schools and institutions.

The exhibit consists of 23 panels and accompanying text –downloadable -- to create an on-site exhibit for your school, library, or town hall.

Participating institutions must register for the exhibit at xxxx. There is no cost except for reproduction of the panels and text. Institutions are invited to add local material related to the exhibit.

Sign Up!
Olmsted lecture and Q and A session with John Stauffer,
Professor of English, American Studies, and African American Studies at
Harvard University.

Professor Stauffer writes and lectures on the Civil War era, anti-slavery, social protest movements, and photography. The lecture will be scheduled in early 2022. To sign up, contact info@olmsted200.org and indicate your interest.

Visit Fairsted

For those in the Boston area, plan a trip to Fairsted, the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. Reservations must be made in advance by contacting Supervisory Park Ranger, Brianne Cassetta, brianne_cassetta@nps.gov.

Participate in *Olmsted 200* events
across the country.

Events, lectures, tours and activities are scheduled across the country. For the latest schedule, please visit: www.olmsted200.org. Schools as well as students and their families are invited to events from the fall of 2021 throughout 2022.

Olmsted 200 is managed by the National Association for Olmsted Parks, along with the American Society of Landscape Architects, The Garden Club of America, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, City Parks Alliance, National Recreation and Park Association, The Cultural Landscape Foundation, The Trust for Public Land, American Public Health Association, and the Landscape Architecture Foundation. For more information, tools and resources, visit www.olmsted.org.

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