

# *Frederick Law Olmsted*

## Father of American Landscape Architecture



Presented by: *“Not the Smith’s”*

Maria Abbamont, Karen Gaudioso,

Robert Lacivita and Bill Vollmerding

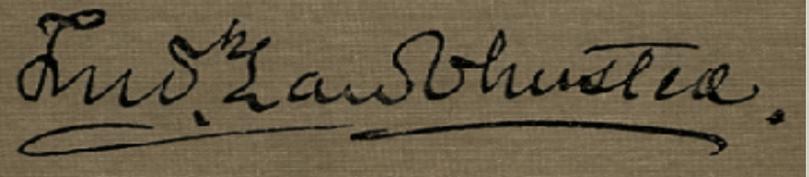




# *Frederick Law Olmsted*



“I have all my life  
sacrificed...  
immediate success  
and applause to that  
of the future”

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred<sup>l</sup> Law Olmsted."



# *19<sup>th</sup> Century Renaissance Man*



Circa 1860

- ❖ Born in Hartford, Conn., on April 26, 1822
- ❖ His travels to China and England as a young man helped shape his future career

*Frederick Law Olmsted*



# *Scientific Farmer*

- ❖ His first two farms were cultivated not to produce crops, but for its physical beauty and to investigated tree species, drainage systems and land conservation



Bridge in  
Central Park



# *Visionary*

- ❖ Architecture always took second place in parks and communities Olmsted planned



Montreal's Mt. Royal Park

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*Fred. Law Olmsted.*



# *Influences*



## Jefferson's Beloved Monticello in the Fall

- ❖ Our third president, Thomas Jefferson was one of America's leading horticulturists of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries
- ❖ He was a plantation and slave owner, something Olmsted was strongly against

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "And<sup>rs</sup> Jackson Olmsted", written in black ink on a light-colored background.



# *Writer / Social Reformer*



- ❖ Olmsted studied and wrote about the plantation system
- ❖ He already had strong political views against slavery before he began traveling to the Deep South in 1852

Jackson Park, Illinois

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*Fred. Law Olmsted.*



# *Oak Alley Plantation*



- ❖ One of many plantations Olmsted visited while traveling and writing about slavery in the Deep South

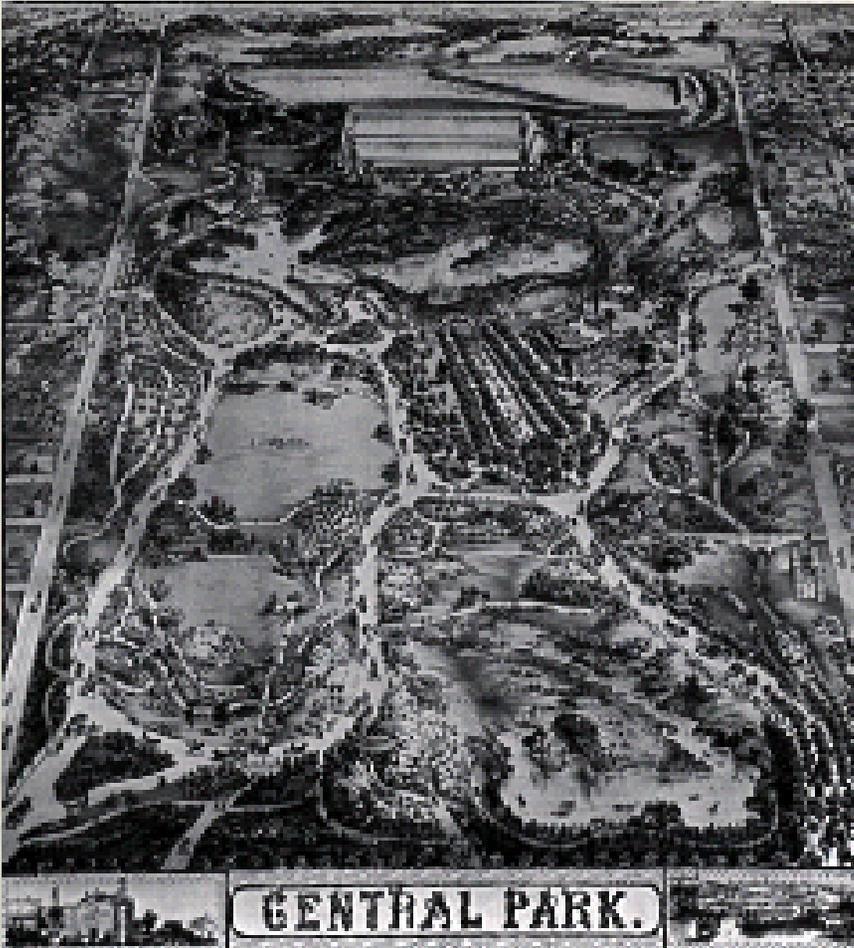
The Antebellum South

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A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fred Law Olmsted", written on a piece of aged, textured paper.



# *Designer of Central Park*



- ❖ Olmsted took the position of superintendent, and later, chief architect of Central Park in 1857
- ❖ It was the largest public works project to date

*Fred. Law Olmsted.*

# *General Secretary of the Sanitary Commission during the Civil War*

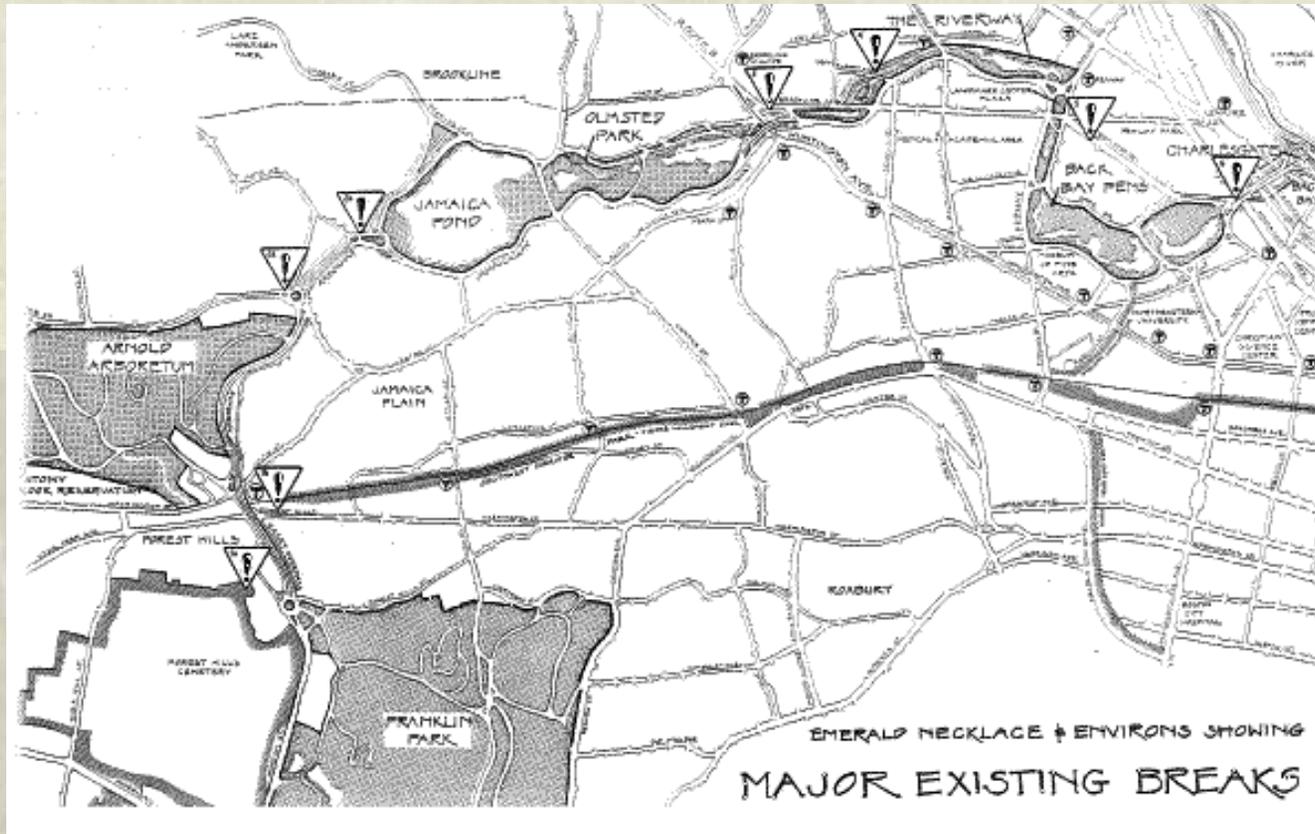


- ❖ Olmsted took a leave from Central Park in 1861 to run this private organization
- ❖ Its mission was to provide aid and comfort to Northern soldiers during the Civil War

*Fred. Law Olmsted.*



# *The Emerald Necklace*

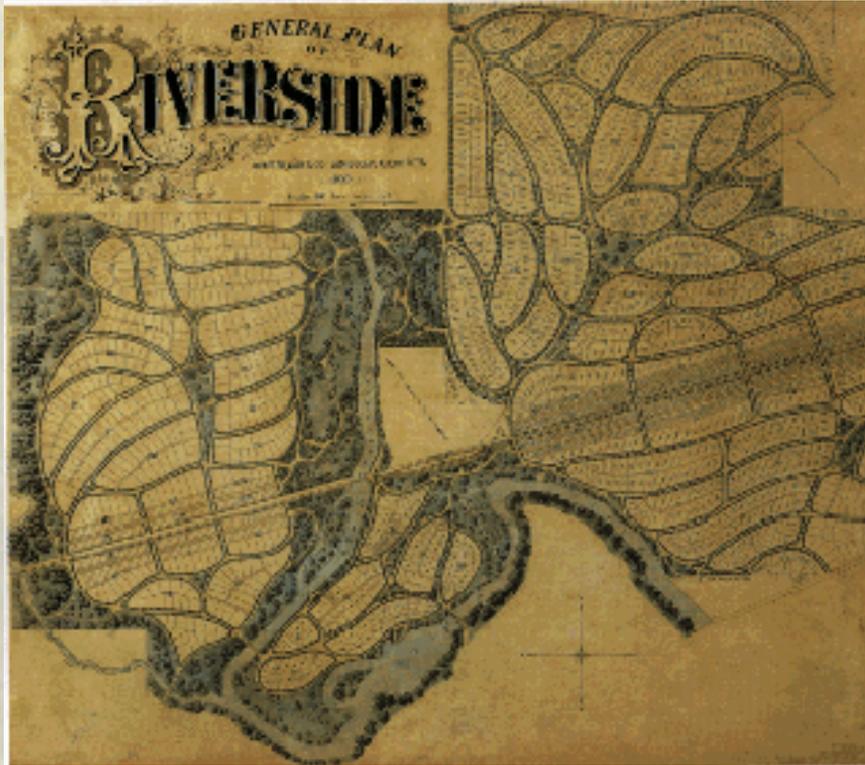


Olmsted connected a string of nine parks he had designed in Boston via a parkway system called the Emerald Necklace

*Frederick Law Olmsted*



# *Riverside, Illinois*



Note: No “right-angle”  
intersections.

- ❖ First Planned Urban Development
- ❖ No right angle intersections and parkways followed the natural curvature of the land
- ❖ By avoiding right angles more public spaces were created

*Frederick Law Olmsted*

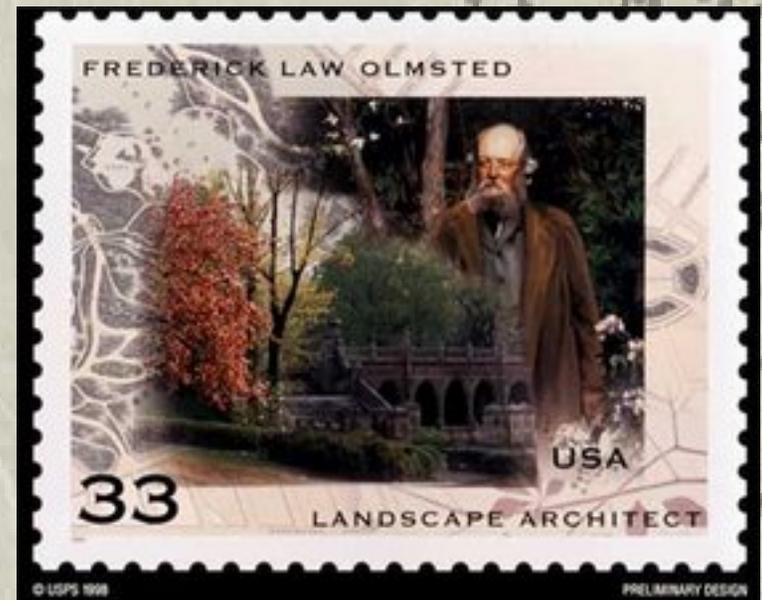
# Frederick Law Olmsted



Jackson Park, Illinois



His home in Mass.



Postage stamp in his honor

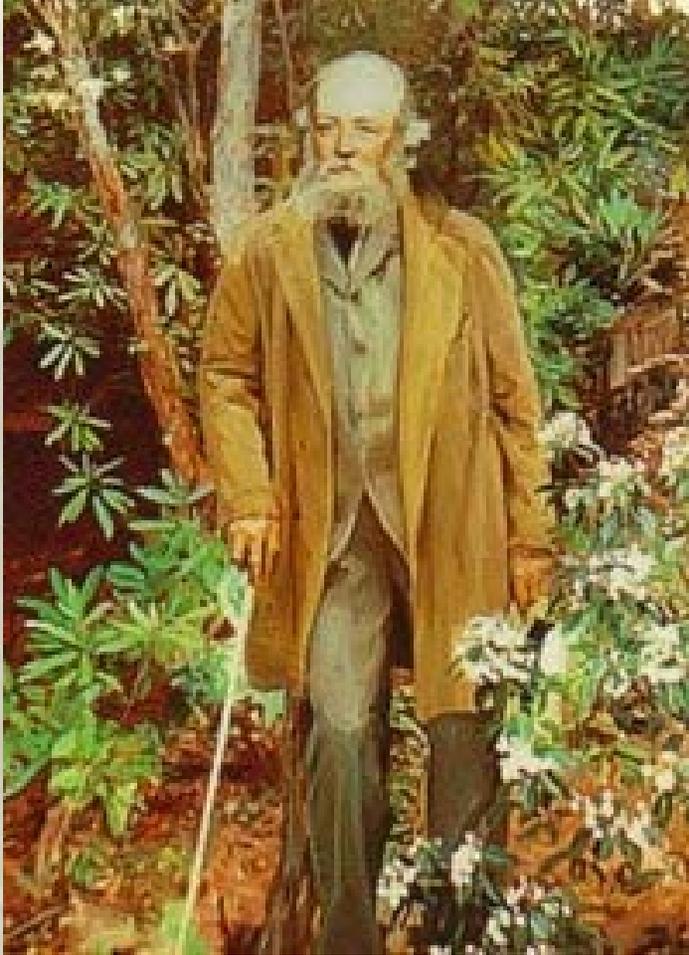


# *Frederick Law Olmsted*



- ❖ Olmsted died on August 28, 1903.
- ❖ His sons and their successors continued the landscape architecture firm he founded until 1980
- ❖ His home and office were purchased by the National Park Service and are now a museum

# *Frederick Law Olmsted's Legacy*



Olmsted at Biltmore Estate,  
1895

- ❖ Traveler
- ❖ Writer
- ❖ Farmer
- ❖ Social Reformer
- ❖ Sought to design with nature
- ❖ Friend of the common man
- ❖ Teacher