

Frederick Law Olmsted Essential Texts Pwbooks

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) designed America’s most beloved parks and landscapes of the past century--New York’s Central Park, Brooklyn’s Prospect Park, the U.S. Capitol grounds, the Biltmore Estate, and many others. From the authors and photographer of the definitive book on Olmsted comes this condensed edition presenting the breadth of Olmsted’s work in expansive, beautiful color photographs. The engaging text illuminates Olmsted’s role as an indefatigable social resource.

Billions of American tax dollars go into a vast array of programs targeting various social issues: the opioid epidemic, criminal violence, chronic unemployment, and so on. Yet the problems persist and even grow. Howard Husock argues that we have lost sight of a more powerful strategy—a preventive strategy, based on positive social norms. In the past, individuals and institutions of civil society actively promoted what may be called “bourgeois norms,” to nurture healthy habits so that social problems wouldn’t emerge in the first place. It was a formative effort. Today, a massive social service state instead takes a reformative approach to problems that have already become vexing. It offers counseling along with material support, but struggling communities have been more harmed than helped by government’s embrace. And social service agencies have a vested interest in the continuance of problems. Government can provide a financial safety net for citizens, but it cannot effectively create or promote healthy norms. Nor should it try. That formative work is best done by civil society. This book focuses on six key figures in the history of social welfare to illuminate how a norm-promoting culture was built, then lost, and how it can be revived. We read about Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children’s Aid Society; Jane Addams, founder of Hull House; Mary Richmond, a social work pioneer; Grace Abbott of the Federal Children’s Bureau; Wilbur Cohen of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; and Geoffrey Canada, founder of the Harlem Children’s Zone—a model for bringing real benefit to a poor community through positive social norms. We need more like it.

The Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency, was founded in 1942 by William ‘Wild Bill’ Donovan under the direction of President Roosevelt, who realized the need to improve intelligence during wartime. A rigorous recruitment process enlisted agents from both the armed services and civilians to produce operational groups specializing in different foreign areas including Italy, Norway, Yugoslavia and China. At its peak in 1944, the number of men and women working in the service totaled nearly 13,500. This intriguing story of the origins and development of the American espionage forces covers all of the different departments involved, with a particular emphasis on the courageous teams operating in the field. The volume is illustrated with many photographs, including images from the film director John Ford who led the OSS Photographic Unit and parachuted into Burma in 1943.

First paperback printing includes “Bonus chapter.”

FLO, a Biography of Frederick Law Olmsted

A Modern Arcadia

The Cotton Kingdom

A Preliminary Report, 1865

Photographs

The Slave States

As the countries of Eastern Europe undergo the dramatic transformation to a market economy, waves of reforms, food shortages, massive unemployment and political upheavals continue to complicate an already bewildering situation. It has been a slow, difficult struggle, but the newly independent countries have made progress toward establishing capital markets and the democratic institutions to protect them. Cutting through the confusion that has surrounded privatization and capitalist enterprises in the East, Margie Lindsay here presents, in a succinct and straight-forward one-country-per-chapter approach, the essential facts, policies and problems surrounding this historic transition. Each chapter summarizes developments to date, examining banking, finance, money and capital markets, insurance, market supervision, emerging stock markets, secondary markets and other relevant topics specific to each country. Countries covered are: Albania; Bulgaria; Czechoslovakia; Hungary; Poland; Romania; and Slovenia. Summaries or complete texts of major legislation dictating privatization policy are also included. The book is rounded out with rich appendices that give useful contact names and addresses of financial institutions in the East. Developing Capital Markets In Eastern Europe serves as a valuable reference tool and guide for economists, businessmen, potential investors and academics alike through the maze of theories, legislation, and contradictions in the political and economic policy debates of the Eastern countries.

*Frederick Law Olmsted*Essential TextsW Norton & Company Incorporated

This work challenges dominant narratives of the concerns of nineteenth century literature to show how supposedly minor works of picturesque helped transform the American landscape, and create what we now recognize as the defining spaces of American life.

Briefly traces Olmsted’s career, and recounts how his firm designed Boston’s parks, including their bridges, gate houses, fountains, and planting plans

Civilizing American Cities

A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States

Frederick Law Olmsted, Landscape Architect, 1822-1903

How Frederick Law Olmsted Designed America

Frederick Law Olmsted and the Origin of National Parks

The Last Great Projects, 1890-1895

An updated edition of the Riczoi classic to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of this seminal American landscape designer. A landscape architect, city planner, and creative genius who transformed the American landscape, Frederick Law Olmsted was a man of passionate vision and drive. He defined the profession of landscape architecture and designed America’s most outstanding landscapes, many gorgeously illustrated here, including New York’s Central Park, Brooklyn’s Prospect Park, the U.S. Capitol grounds, and the Biltmore Estate. During a remarkable forty-year career that began in the mid-1800s, Olmsted created the first major urban parks and park systems in this country, along with widely influential suburban residential communities. He was a pivotal figure in the movement to create scenic reservations and national parks, such as Niagara Falls, Yosemite, and Yellowstone, and he contributed to the design of many academic campuses, including Stanford University. A comprehensive view of the man and his work, this updated edition of the Riczoi classic marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of this seminal American landscape designer and includes new photography of Olmsted’s masterworks Central and Prospect parks, as well as a new introduction and new final chapter by the author that examines Olmsted’s ongoing influence.

The final chronologically arranged volume in the series, it will present the last stage of Olmsted’s career, with a firm that included his former students Henry Sargent Codman and Charles Eliot as new partners. During this time Olmsted concentrated his energies on his two last great commissions: one was the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 on the site of the Chicago South Park that he and Vaux had designed in 1871, with subsequent redesigning of Jackson Park and the Midway; the other was the extensive Biltmore Estate in North Carolina. There will also be correspondence concerning the development of the park systems of Louisville, Kentucky, and proposals for park systems in Milwaukee and Kansas City. The volume will present some of the remarkable retrospective letters he wrote to Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer and his son, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. It will conclude with several undated and unfinished writings on the history and principles of landscape design.

“The author retraces Frederick Law Olmsted’s journey across the American South in the 1850s, on the eve of the Civil War. Olmsted roamed eleven states and six thousand miles, and the New York Times published his dispatches about slavery and its defenders. More than 150 years later, Tony Horwitz followed Olmsted’s route, and whenever possible his mode of transport—rail, riverboats, in the saddle—through Appalachia, down the Ohio and Mississippi, through Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, and across Texas to the Rio Grande, discovering and reporting on vestiges of what Olmsted called the Cotton Kingdom.”

In 1853, Frederick Law Olmsted was working for the New York Times when he journeyed to the southern slave states of the U.S. and wrote one of the most important pro-abolition discourses. The Cotton Kingdom recounts his daily observations of the curse of slavery; the poverty it brought to both black and white people; the inadequacies of the plantation system; and the economic consequences and problems associated with America’s most “peculiar institution”. Disproving the opinion that “Cotton is King”, Olmsted examined the huge differences between the economies of the northern and southern states, contrasting the more successful, wealthy and progressive north with the stubborn south, convinced of the necessity of slavery. Hailed as one of the most convincing and influential anti-slavery arguments, Olmsted’s work was widely praised with London’s Westminster Review declaring, “it is impossible to resist his accumulated evidence.” Frederick Law Olmsted was an American landscape architect, journalist, social critic, and public administrator. He is popularly considered to be the father of American landscape architecture. Through his work as a journalist for the New York Daily Times (New York Times), he became interested in the adverse economic effects of slavery and The Cotton Kingdom is a result of this. He died in 1903.

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Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. & the Plan for Forest Hills Gardens

Frederick Law Olmsted: Landscape Architect, 1822-1903

A Journey in the Back Country

The Power of Scenery

The Early Boston Years, 1882-1890

The Power of Scenery tells the story of how the world’s national parks came to be, with Frederick Law Olmsted’s insights and energy serving to link three American jewels: Yosemite National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and Niagara Falls State Park.

When Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan visited Yosemite National Park, they both called out Fredrick Law Olmsted as a major influence and inspiration for their documentary film, “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea.” To celebrate Mr. Olmsted and his contributions to our National Parks, the Yosemite Conservancy, in partnership with Heyday Books, has reprinted “Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove: A Preliminary Report, 1865” with a new foreword by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns. This seminal book is a must read for anyone interested in the National Parks and our public lands. The first eloquent expression of the need for conservation in 1865 is found in this remarkable and prescient report by Frederick Law Olmsted. No statement since has been so cogent or powerful. Pristine natural landscapes, Olmsted observed, provide people with “refreshing rest and re-invigoration.” They are good – perhaps essential – for the soul. Which is why, he noted, that from time immemorial they have most often become the exclusive domain of any society’s most privileged classes, “a monopoly, in a very peculiar manner, of a very few, very rich people.” Olmsted believed a great democracy had a greater obligation: to provide means of protection for all its citizens in the pursuit of happiness.” That meant, he argued, that “the establishment by government of great public grounds for the free enjoyment of the people. . . is thus justified and enforced as a political duty.” Olmsted gave additional reasons for creating public parks, including that they are undeniably good for the local, state, and national economy because of the tourist business they engender. His report also included practical advice about building roads and shelters, as well as instituting regulations to zealously protect the “dignity of the scenery.” All of his points are as pertinent today as they were when he first read them to his fellow Yosemite commissioners nearly 150 years ago. But in deliberately borrowing from our nation’s founding document, which proclaims that the “pursuit of happiness” is among the inalienable rights of every human being, and in attaching that notion to why Yosemite (or any other future park) should not be allowed to become “a rich man’s park,” Olmsted infused the national park idea with its most enduring principle.”

National Book Award finalist Elizabeth Partridge reveals the life and work of Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of Central Park, the United States Capitol building’s landscape, and more. Nobody could get Frederick Law Olmsted to sit still. He was filled with energy, adventure, and dreams of changing the world. As a boy, he found refuge in the peace and calm of nature, and later as an adult, he dreamed of designing and creating access to parks for a growing and changing America. When New York City held a contest for the best park design for what would become Central Park, Olmsted won and became the father of landscape architecture. He went on to design parks across America, including Yosemite National Park and even the grounds for the United States Capitol. This scenic biography is lavishly illustrated by Becca Stadlander, and National Book Award finalist Elizabeth Partridge brings her renowned lyricism and meticulous research to the visionary who brought parks to the people.

A new kind of city park has emerged in the early twenty-first century. Postindustrial parks transform the derelict remnants of an urban past into distinctive public spaces that meld repurposed infrastructure, wild-looking green space, and landscape architecture. For their proponents, they present an opportunity to turn disused areas into neighborhood anchors, with a host of environmental and community benefits. Yet there are clear economic motives as well—successful parks have helped generate billions of dollars of city tax revenues and real estate development. Kevin Loughran explores the High Line in New York, the Bloomingdale Trail/606 in Chicago, and Buffalo Bayou Park in Houston to offer a critical perspective on the rise of the postindustrial park. He reveals how elites deploy the popularity and seemingly benign nature of parks to achieve their cultural, political, and economic goals. As urban economies have become restructured around finance, real estate, tourism, and cultural consumption, parks serve as civic shields for elite-oriented investment. Tracing changing ideas about cities and nature and underscoring the centrality of race and class, Loughran argues that postindustrial parks aestheticize past disinvestment while serving as green engines of gentrification. A wide-ranging investigation of the political, cultural, and economic forces shaping park development, Parks for Profit reveals the social inequalities at the heart of today’s new urban landscape.

Spying on the South

Genius of Place

Designing the American Landscape

A Traveller’s Observations on Cotton and Slavery in the American Slave States, 1853-1861

Historic Landscape Design and Construction

Andrew Jackson Downing: Essential Texts

Frederick Law Olmsted is arguably the most important historical figure that the average American knows the least about. Best remembered for his landscape architecture, from New York’s Central Park to Boston’s Emerald Necklace to Stanford University’s campus, Olmsted was also an influential journalist, early voice for the environment, and abolitionist credited with helping dissuade England from joining the South in the Civil War. This momentous career was shadowed by a tragic personal life, also fully portrayed here. Most of all, he was a social reformer. He didn’t simply create places that were beautiful in the abstract. An aweesome and timeless intent stands behind Olmsted’s designs, allowing his work to survive to the present day. With our urgent need to revitalize cities and a widespread yearning for green space, his work is more relevant now than it was during his lifetime. Justin Martin restores Olmsted to his rightful place in the pantheon of great Americans.

The Olmsted Papers project is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the National Trust for the Humanities, the National Association for Olmsted Parks, as well as private foundations and individuals.

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) planned many parks and park systems across the United States, leaving an enduring legacy of designed public space that is enjoyed and defended today. His public parks, the design of which he was most proud, have had a lasting effect on urban America.

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Frederick Law Olmsted: Writings on Landscape, Culture, and Society

The Passion of a Public Artist

An Odyssey Across the American Divide

Olmsted and Yosemite

Writings On City Landscapes

Olmsted’s Texas Journey

With more than eight hundred sprawling green acres in the middle of one of the world ’ s densest cities, Central Park is an urban masterpiece. Designed in the middle of the nineteenth century by the landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, it is a model for city parks worldwide. But before it became Central Park, the land was the site of farms, businesses, churches, wars, and burial grounds—and home to many different kinds of New Yorkers. This book is the authoritative account of the place that would become Central Park. From the first Dutch family to settle on the land through the political crusade to create America ’ s first major urban park, Sara Cedar Miller chronicles two and a half centuries of history. She tells the stories of Indigenous hunters, enslaved people and enslavers, American patriots and British loyalists, the Black landowners of Seneca Village, Irish pig farmers, tavern owners, Catholic sisters, Jewish protesters, and more. Miller unveils a British fortification and camp during the Revolutionary War, a suburban retreat from the yellow fever epidemics at the turn of the nineteenth century, and the properties that a group of free Black Americans used to secure their right to vote. Tales of political chicanery, real estate speculation, cons, and scams stand alongside democratic idealism, the striving of immigrants, and powerfully human lives. Before Central Park shows how much of the history of early America is still etched upon the landscape of Central Park today.

Olmsted and Yosemite

Generously illustrated, this collection profiles the bold innovators in turn-of-the-century landscape architecture who developed a new style of design celebrating the native midwestern landscape.

Examines the economy and it’s impact of slavery on the coast land slave states pre-Civil War.

Before Central Park

Who Killed Civil Society?

Parks, Politics, and Patronage: 1874 – 1882

Civil War, Abolition, and the National Park Idea

A Life of Frederick Law Olmsted

Building the National Parks

Describes the life of the landscape architect responsible for New York’s Central Park and Boston’s Emerald Necklace including his lesser-known time spent as an influential journalist, early voice for the environment and abolitionist, all overshadowed by a tragic personal life.

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) designed New York City’s Central Park, Brooklyn’s Prospect Park, Chicago’s South Park and Jackson Park, Montreal’s Mount Royal Park, the park systems of Boston and Buffalo, and many others. But Olmsted also designed parkways and neighborhoods, reshaping cities around their parks. He thus reinvented the American urban landscape as a democratic outdoor setting that encouraged a new kind of participation in city life. Olmsted was one of the most gifted of American writers of his generation: prior to designing Central Park, he had written five important books, including The Cotton Kingdom (an account of his travels in the slave states), and his writings on American landscapes are unfailingly lively, eloquent, and passionate. Civilizing American Cities collects Olmsted’s plans for New York, San Francisco, Buffalo, Montreal, Chicago, and Boston; his suburban plans for Berkeley, California and Riverside, Illinois; and a generous helping of his writings on urban landscape in general. These selections, expertly edited and introduced, are not only enjoyable but essential reading for anyone interested in the history—and the future—of America’s cities.

Both Central Park in New York and Yosemite Valley in California became public parks during the tumultuous years before and during the Civil War. Rolf Diamant and Ethan Carr demonstrate how anti-slavery activism, war, and the remaking of the federal government gave rise to the American public park and concept of national parks. The authors closely examine Frederick Law Olmsted’s 1865 Yosemite Report—the key document that expresses the aspirational vision of making great public parks keystone institutions of a renewed liberal democracy.

A reporter’s account of the people, culture, and terrain of Texas in the mid-1800s. Frederick Olmsted was a journalist when he made his journey through Texas. Tasked with covering the state of slavery during the quiet years before the Civil War, he took copious notes about the people, places, and cultures of the Texas of his day. These notes, in the form of a journal, would become his seminal work, Olmsted’s Texas Journey. In Olmsted’s Texas Journey, the reader gets to travel back in time and witness Texas as it once was, and see how today’s Texas, with its variety of peoples and traditions, still shares a deep connection to the richness of its past. But his great Texas Journey was in fact so much more. As he made his way to that great state, he took copious and wonderful notes of all the others he passed through. From Maryland to California, and Ohio to Louisiana, Olmsted’s great history chronicles every detail that he observed. This truly is a classic piece of American literature.

The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted

Midwestern Landscape Architecture

The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted

Park Maker

Selling Nature in the City

Frederick Law Olmsted

Frederick Law Olmsted relocated from New York to the Boston area in the early 1880s. With the help of his stepson and partner, John Charles Olmsted, his professional office grew to become the first of its kind: a modern landscape architecture practice with park, subdivision, campus, residential, and other landscape design projects throughout the country. During the period covered in this volume, Olmsted and his partners, apprentices, and staff designed the exceptional park system of Boston and Brookline—including the Back Bay Fens, Franklin Park, and the Muddy River Improvement. Olmsted also designed parks for New York City, Rochester, Buffalo, and Detroit and created his most significant campus plans for Stanford University and the Lawrenceville School. The grounds of the U.S. Capitol were completed with the addition of the grand marble terraces that he designed as the transition to his surrounding landscape. Many of Olmsted’s most important private commissions belong to these years. He began his work at Biltmore, the vast estate of George Washington Vanderbilt, and designed Rough Point at Newport, Rhode Island, and several other estates for members of the Vanderbilt family. Olmsted wrote more frequently on the subject of landscape design during these years than in any comparable period. He would never provide a definitive treatise or textbook on landscape architecture, but the articles presented in this volume contain some of his most mature and powerful statements on the practice of landscape architecture.

An anthology of the key writings of the best-known and arguably most prolific landscape architect in U.S. history.

The biggest and best single-volume collection ever published of the fascinating and wide-ranging writings of a vitally important nineteenth century cultural figure whose work continues to shape our world today. Seaman, farmer, abolitionist, journalist, administrator, reformer, conservationist, and without question America’s foremost landscape architect and urban planner,

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822–1903) was a man of unusually diverse talents and interests, and the arc of his life and writings traces the most significant developments of nineteenth century American history. As this volume reveals, the wide-ranging endeavors Olmsted was involved in—cofounding The Nation magazine, advocating against slavery, serving as executive secretary to the United States Sanitary Commission (precursor to the Red Cross) during the Civil War, championing the preservation of America’s great wild places at Yosemite and Yellowstone—emerged from his steadfast commitment to what he called “communitiveness,” the impulse to serve the needs of one’s fellow citizens. This philosophy had its ultimate expression in his brilliant designs for some of the country’s most beloved public spaces: New York’s Central Park, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Boston’s “Emerald Necklace,” the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, garden suburbs like Chicago’s Riverside, parkways (a term he invented) and college campuses, the “White City” of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition, and many others. Gathering almost 100 original letters, newspaper dispatches, travel sketches, essays, editorials, design proposals, official reports, reflections on aesthetics, and autobiographical reminiscences, this deluxe Library of America volume is profusely illustrated with a 32-page color portfolio of Olmsted’s design sketches, architectural plans, and contemporary photographs. It also includes detailed explanatory notes and a chronology of Olmsted’s life and design projects. From the Hardcover edition.

Olmsted’s youth and intellectual development are discussed in addition to the diversity of his career and his lifelong concern for his country’s welfare

Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the 19th Century

Frederick Law Olmsted’s Landscape Masterpiece

Relighting the Torch of Freedom with America’s Gutsiest Troublemakers

Parks for the People

Picturesque Literature and the Transformation of the American Landscape, 1835-1874

"Bright, cheerful houses, well arranged, well trimmed lawns, hedging carefully cut... distinctly joyous," wrote architectural critic Herbert Croly in 1914 about the Forest Hills Gardens community in Queens, New York. The New York Tribune agreed, reporting that the place was a "modern Garden of Eden, a fairy tale too good to be true." Conceived as an experiment that would apply the new "science" of city planning to a suburban setting, Forest Hills Gardens was created by the Russell Sage Foundation to provide housing for middle-class commuters as an alternative to cramped flats in New York City. Although it has long been recognized as one of the most influential planned communities in the United States, this is the first time Forest Hills Gardens has been the subject of a book. Susan L. Klaus's illustrated history chronicles the creation of the 142-acre development from its inception in 1909 through its first two decades, offering critical insights into American planning history, landscape architecture, and the social and economic forces that shaped housing in the Progressive Era.

In a brilliant collaboration between writer and subject, Witold Rybczynski, the bestselling author of Home and City Life, illuminates Frederick Law Olmsted's role as a major cultural figure at the epicenter of nineteenth-century American history. We know Olmsted through the physical legacy of his stunning landscapes -- among them, New York's Central Park, California's Stanford University campus, and Boston's Back Bay Fens. But Olmsted's contemporaries knew a man of even more extraordinarily diverse talents. Born in 1822, he traveled to China on a merchant ship at the age of twenty-one. He cofounded The Nation magazine and was an early voice against slavery. He managed California's largest gold mine and, during the Civil War, served as the executive secretary to the United States Sanitary Commission, the precursor of the Red Cross. Rybczynski's passion for his subject and his understanding of Olmsted's immense complexity and accomplishments make his book a triumphant work. In A Clearing in the Distance, the story of a great nineteenth-century American becomes an intellectual adventure.

Parks for Profit

Biltmore Estate

Plans and Views of Public Parks

With Remarks on Their Economy

A Journey Through Texas, Or, A Saddle-trip on the Southwestern Frontier, with a Statistical Appendix

Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System