

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Junior Ranger Activity Book

Name:

Explore, Learn, Protect

Be a Junior Ranger!



You are on your way to becoming a Junior Ranger!

Here's what you do:

- Tour the design office with a Park Ranger
- Explore the Fairsted grounds
- Ask lots of questions!

Here's how you do it:



Complete the
activities marked
with an elm leaf.



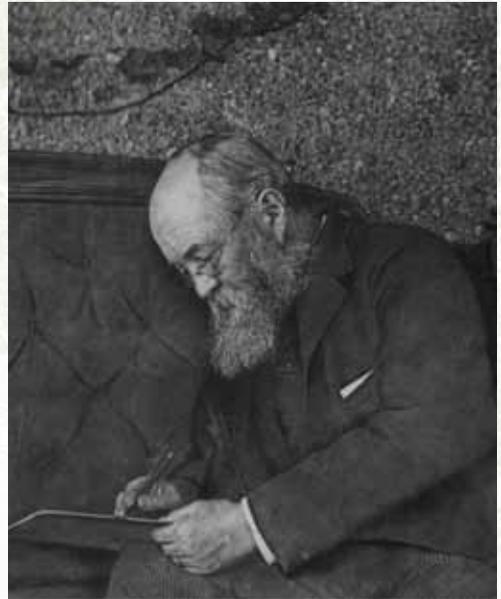
For extra fun, do
activities marked
with a plum bob.

Let's start learning!

INTRODUCTION

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site was the home and office of **FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED**, the nation's first landscape architect.

Meet Mr. Olmsted!



Frederick Law Olmsted in Fairsted's Plant Room



Fairsted, circa 1900. Job #00673, 673-91

Olmsted, his sons, and their partners worked here for almost 100 years. When Olmsted lived here, he called this place **Fairsted**.



Fairsted, circa 2010. Courtesy of Steven Sterbach

Today, Fairsted is one of more than 400 national parks in the United States. Help us care for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and all these special places by becoming a Junior Ranger!

LANDSCAPE

A **LANDSCAPE** is a view of an outdoor space. It is what we see when we stand in a particular place. Some landscapes are natural and some are designed by people.



Search for some features you may find in a landscape.
Look up, down, across, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.

T S H R U B U M T I O L
W X A D S F E O P R A T
F A R M A Z S U Q K E S
M N T O C Y U N E N G E
K Y N E Y R O T C A F R
I C D E R M H A D R L O
E R O A D F W I S I O F
F B A R N R A N E V W G
N S I D E W A L K E E T
S T J I H K C G L R R K
P L A Y G R O U N D S L
U M E A D O W F M O A R

BARN
FACTORY
FARM
FLOWERS
FOREST

GARDEN
HOUSE
LAKE
MEADOW
MOUNTAIN

PLAY-
GROUND
RIVER
ROAD
ROCK

SHRUB
SIDEWALK
TREE
WATERFALL

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

A **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT** is a person who designs outdoor places to be both useful and beautiful. Landscape architects design spaces like parks, college campuses, private estates, and neighborhoods.

When **Frederick Law Olmsted** moved to Fairsted in 1883, he worked in the North Parlor. As the office got busier, it expanded to fit more workers and equipment. Two of the people working in the growing business were Olmsted's sons, **John Charles Olmsted** and **Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.** When Olmsted retired in 1897, they continued the business. This became one of the largest and most famous landscape architect offices in the world.



John Charles Olmsted



Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.

Hi! My name is Rick. I moved to Fairsted when I was 13. I grew up and worked here. Follow my story throughout your tour of my home and office! The directions at the bottom of the pages will tell you where to go.



Unscramble the letters below to discover John Charles and Fred Jr.'s nicknames.

— — — — — — — — — —
E R C A H I L I R K C

HEAD UPSTAIRS WITH THE RANGER TO EXPLORE THE REST OF THE OFFICE.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD ROOM

The firm stored photographs in the **PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD ROOM**.

The firm took photographs to show how landscapes changed over time. There are more than 65,000 photographs in our collection today.

Our sister, Marion, loved to take pictures. She would go out and photograph landscapes. Photos could record places before and after our designs. But it wasn't easy. Check out this photo of photographs being taken in 1892.



Taking Pictures in Franklin Park, Boston, MA. Job #00918-61B



What do you use to take pictures today?

When in a landscape, what kind of things do you take pictures of?

Examine the photographs of Boston and Brookline MA's Muddy River (Job #00927). One was taken during construction in 1892. The other was taken in 1920. Compare the views.



1892



1920

List three things that are the **SAME**.

-
-
-

List three things that are **DIFFERENT**.

-
-
-



Looking at the pictures above, how did Olmsted make this landscape beautiful and useful?

ENGINEERING OFFICE



The **ARCHITECT/ENGINEER** designed the hardscape of a park. The hardscape is everything that is not alive. It includes sidewalks, roads, bridges, and drainage systems. The engineer also figured out where to move dirt to make hills and valleys.

Look at the tools on the engineer's desk. Think about how these tools would help design the hardscape.

Match the historic tools to what you would use today.





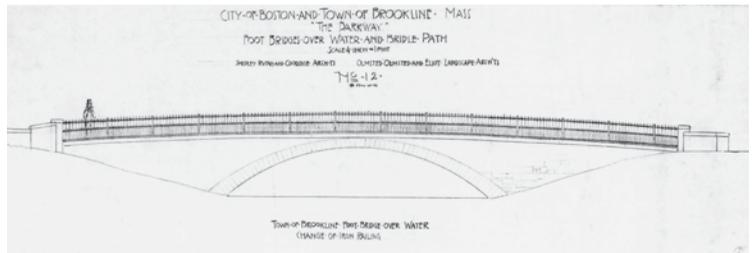
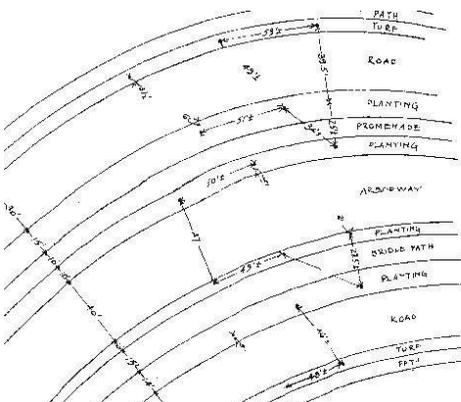
I didn't work in the engineering office, but the engineers that worked for our dad, and then for Charlie and me, were great problem solvers! In our office, engineers had to solve an important problem "how can everyone use the park safely?" Our parks were so popular, pedestrians, bicyclists, horses and carriages (and cars after that) all wanted to use them at the same time.

If you were designing a neighborhood park, what types of circulation (the way people move) would you have to include?



How could you design a space that everyone could safely use?

Take a look at some of the ways Olmsted solved this problem in Boston and Brookline Parks:



Different road ways along Arborway (left), and bridges and tunnels along the Muddy River (right).

FOLLOW THE RANGER TO THE UPPER DRAFTING ROOM.

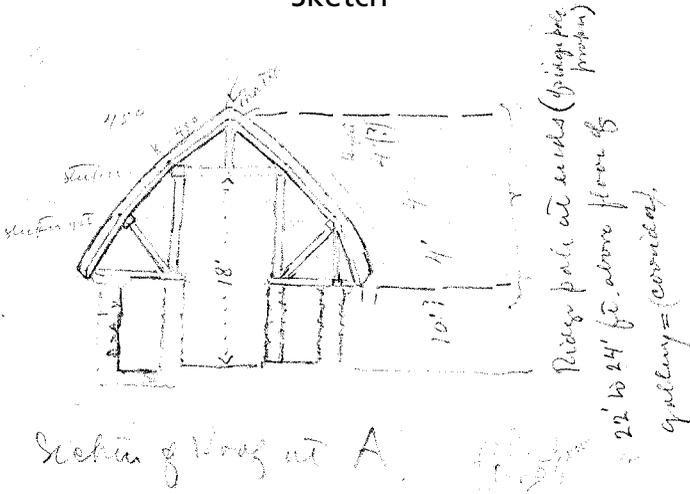
DRAFTSMAN ROOM



After the engineer decided where to put the hardscape, the **DRAFTSMAN** reworked the original sketch to come up with the final landscape plan. The plan was the “recipe” for the people building the landscape.

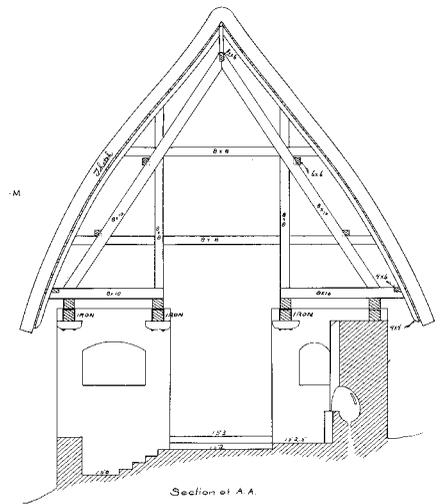
Take a look at the drawings of the shelter on Schoolmaster Hill in Franklin Park (Job #00918).

Sketch



1890

Plan



1920

Compare the sketch with the final plan.

List two things that are the **SAME**.

-
-

List two things that are **DIFFERENT**.

-
-



Look at the postcard of the shelter on Schoolmaster Hill created around 1900.

Wonder what this place looks like today?

Next time you're in Franklin Park, stop and explore Schoolmaster Hill. Does the shelter look like the sketch, plan, or postcard?



Use the space below to draw a picture of what you see on your visit.

PRINTING DEPARTMENT

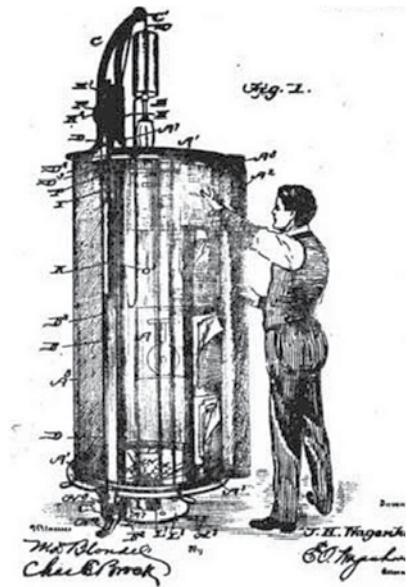
The **PRINTER** made copies of the plans. He sent copies to clients and construction teams for review.



Listen to the ranger and watch how copies were made.

Why did they call the copy a blueprint?

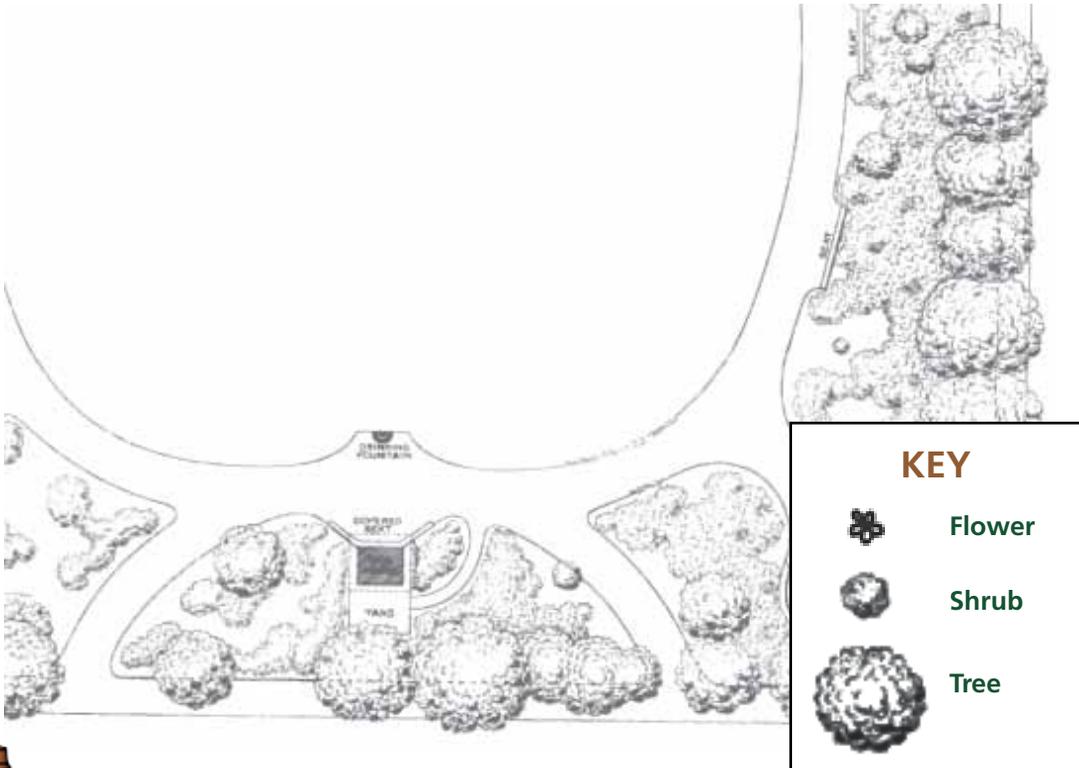
Why were the Olmsteds eager to buy a Wagenhorst for the office?



How do you think landscape architects make copies today?

PLANTING DEPARTMENT

Remember the hardscape, designed by the engineer?
The **PLANTERS** designed the softscape of a park. The softscape is everything that is living. It includes trees, shrubs, flowers, vines, and grass.



Take a look at the open space in the landscape above. The engineers have done their work with the hardscape. Now it is your turn as the planter to finish designing the softscape. Use the key to show your client where you want to plant trees, shrubs, and flowers.

FOLLOW THE RANGER DOWNSTAIRS TO THE VAULT.

THE VAULT

To protect the valuable papers stored in the vault, the National Park Service keeps the temperature at about 65 degrees and the humidity at about 45%. This climate controlled environment preserves the plans and drawings, photographs, letters, and other office documents.



Most of the office wing is built of wood, but not the vault.

What is it made of?

Why?

The Olmsted office stored original plans and drawing in the **VAULT**. The National Park Service still stores plans inside the vault. There are almost one million pieces of paper in the Olmsted collection.



FOLLOW THE RANGER BACK TO THE FRONT DESK. HEAD TO THE LIBRARY OR ASK TO SEE A COPY OF *THE MASTER LIST OF OLMSTED LANDSCAPES*.

FAMILY LIBRARY

Use the index in "The Master List of Olmsted Landscapes" to figure out if there is an Olmsted designed park in your town!

The people who worked in this office created landscapes across the United States and even internationally!

Frederick Law Olmsted, his sons, and their partners worked on about 6,000 landscapes from 1857-1979. These design projects are listed in **THE MASTER LIST OF OLMSTED LANDSCAPES.**

No parks? How about another type of landscape?
No landscapes in your town? How about a place nearby?



Your town/city:

Type of landscape:

Name of landscape:

Job Number (#):

Have you visited this landscape?

IT'S TIME TO SEE A PIECE OF OLMSTED'S WORK,
GO OUT AND EXPLORE THE *FAIRSTED LANDSCAPE.*

FAIRSTED LANDSCAPE

Welcome to the **FAIRSTED** landscape. Olmsted and his sons designed this place when they moved to Brookline.



Explore the landscape like Charlie and Rick would have.



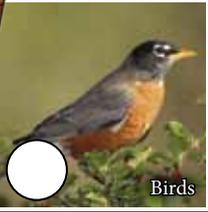
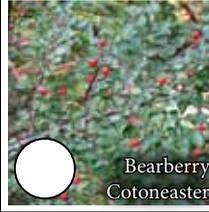
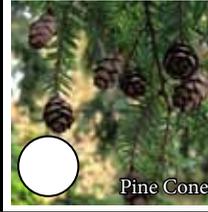
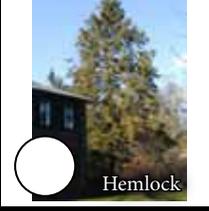
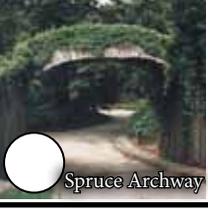
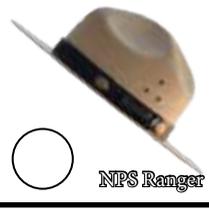
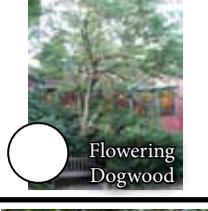
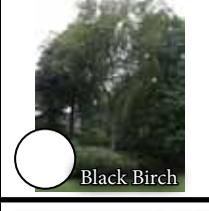
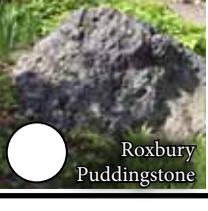
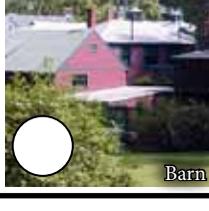
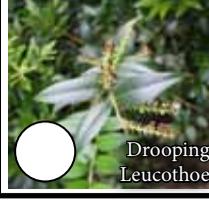
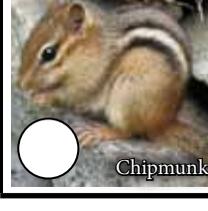
Draw your route.

Fairsted Bingo!

While exploring the landscape keep a look out for the details Olmsted took care in placing in his landscape for all to enjoy!

Can you find these plants, animals, and structures in the landscape?



 <input type="checkbox"/> Birds	 <input type="checkbox"/> Common Yew	 <input type="checkbox"/> House	 <input type="checkbox"/> Bearberry Cotoneaster	 <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Cone
 <input type="checkbox"/> Hayscented Fern	 <input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson Elm	 <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Laurel	 <input type="checkbox"/> Hemlock	 <input type="checkbox"/> Common Periwinkle
 <input type="checkbox"/> Spruce Archway	 <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese Pachysandra	 <input type="checkbox"/> NPS Ranger	 <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Pieris	 <input type="checkbox"/> Hollow Staircase
 <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Wisteria	 <input type="checkbox"/> Flowering Dogwood	 <input type="checkbox"/> Cucumber Magnolia	 <input type="checkbox"/> Black Birch	 <input type="checkbox"/> Catawba Rhododendron
 <input type="checkbox"/> Roxbury Puddingstone	 <input type="checkbox"/> Catawba Rhododendron	 <input type="checkbox"/> Barn	 <input type="checkbox"/> Drooping Leucothoe	 <input type="checkbox"/> Chipmunk

We didn't just work at Fairsted with our dad, we lived here with our mom, Mary, and sister, Marion. We enjoyed our landscape year round. Here are some of our family pictures.



Olmsted Jr. & Charlotte on South Lawn



Olmsted Sr. with Perkins Family on the South Lawn



Olmsted Sr. writing in the Hollow



Mary, Marion, and friends on South Lawn
Courtesy of Loeb Library



Charlie, Marion, Rick in Rock Garden -
Courtesy of Loeb Library



Boys with Fire Wagon on South Lawn - Courtesy of Loeb Library



Sarah and Charlotte - Rick's wife & daughter



Draw yourself and what you would like to do in your favorite part of the landscape.

AFTER YOU ARE DONE EXPLORING, FIND A SUNNY OR SHADY PLACE
AND LET'S THINK ABOUT THE **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND ALL PUBLIC LANDS!**

NATIONAL PARKS & LANDS

The Olmsteds not only worked hard to design landscapes; they also worked hard to preserve and protect **NATURAL LANDSCAPES.**

During the 1860s, Olmsted Sr. traveled to California where he was amazed by the scenery of Yosemite Valley. He thought it should be protected as a natural place forever, and open to everyone. He wrote an important report trying to convince others of these ideas. His report helped create Yosemite National Park.



Yosemite Board of Expert Advisors Wm. Colby, Olmsted Jr., and John P. Buwalda 1951.

Our dad taught Charlie and me that designing and protecting places was a gift for future generations. I moved to California to help protect a place I love. Here I am in Yosemite National Park all grown up and working to preserve the natural beauty across the county.



Have you visited other National Parks?

If yes, which ones?

In 1916, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. (Rick) helped write the "Organic Act," the law that created the National Park Service. Today, we still follow the mission he created:

"...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife...to provide for [their] enjoyment... [to] leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."



What place would you protect?

Why do you want to protect it?

Charlie and I were designers, but we couldn't have made parks alone. We needed the help of photographers, engineers, draftsmen, printers, and planters, to make our designs possible. Each one of them had different talents and skills to make the parks you visit and play in a reality. How are you going to use your talents to make big ideas happen?

The National Park Service was created in 1916. The National Park Service manages many different parks under one "team name" and one mission, which Olmsted Jr. helped write. In 1951, this team known as the National Park Service got an official logo, the Arrowhead. The Arrowhead uses symbols to represent the diverse sites we protect:

the sequoia tree
represents all plants;



the bison
represents all animals;



the mountain
represents all land forms;



the lake
represents all waters;



the arrowhead outline
represents culture and history.



Become part of our team and fill in the NPS Arrowhead. Draw what you would protect!

*Wow! The National Park Service works hard to protect a lot of different places!
I hope you had fun exploring where I grew up and worked.
Thanks for visiting and congratulations on becoming a Junior Ranger!*

**ALMOST DONE! RETURN TO THE *FRONT DESK* WITH
YOUR COMPLETED JR. RANGER BOOK.**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

HAS COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE A

JUNIOR RANGER

of

**FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

**As a Junior Ranger, I pledge to teach others about
what I learned today, explore other parks and
historic sites, and help preserve and protect these
places so future generations can enjoy them.**

OFFICIAL SITE STAMP

RANGER SIGNATURE

DATE



After completing this activity booklet you have successfully started an important first step towards being involved with the NPS! There are other opportunities for you to become more involved and active with the National Park Service.

What will you try next?

