



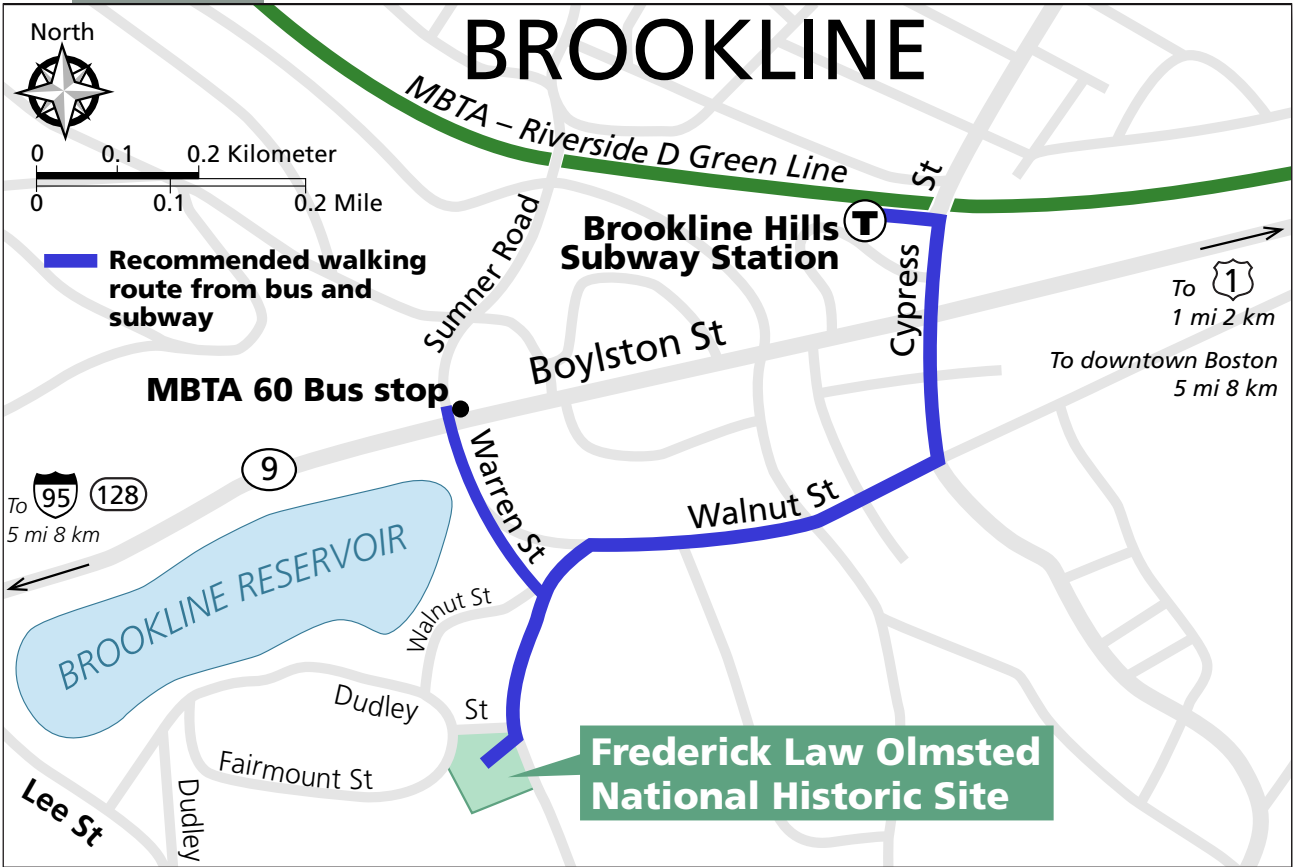
# Foundation Document

## Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

Massachusetts

November 2016





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# Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



*The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.*

## Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.





## Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

### Brief Description of the Park

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, at 99 Warren Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, preserves and interprets the home and office of pioneer landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his successor firms. Frederick Law Olmsted (1822–1903) is widely recognized as the founder of the American landscape architecture design profession and the nation's foremost park-maker. Congress established the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site as a national park system unit in 1979.

The original authorized boundary included the Olmsted house, with its attached office wing and barn, and 12 other historic structures, including an early 20th century storage vault containing a world-class collection of Olmsted plans, drawings, and associated materials, set on 1.75 acres of landscape designed by Olmsted and his sons. This picturesque complex was called “Fairsted” by Olmsted and his family. To allow the park to accept a gift of 5.31 acres of contiguous Green Hill conservation land, Congress revised the park's original boundary in 1998 and the National Park Service acquired title to this important parcel in 2001, thus preserving in perpetuity a crucial historic vista. The entire boundary of the park (which includes an access easement over 0.15 acres) now encompasses 7.21 acres.

The site serves as a historic museum with exhibits and tours, a national center for children's educational programming in landscape, and the principal archive for the study of the Olmsted's vast portfolio of landscape designs.

**Historic Museum and Landscapes:** At Fairsted, self-guided exhibits and a film interpret the career of Olmsted Sr., the projects and philosophies of the Olmsted firm, and the legacy of the Olmsted's in landscape and environmental design and city planning. Tours of the Olmsted design office, with its original furniture and equipment, and of the surrounding landscape enrich the visitor's time at Fairsted. Guided walks of nearby Olmsted parks allow visitors to experience the wide impact of the design principles that were launched from Fairsted.

**Center for Children's Educational Programming in Landscape:** The award-winning educational program: “Good Neighbors: Landscape Design and Community Building” reaches 1,200 local students each year. In collaboration with the National Association for Olmsted Parks, it is being offered as a replicable model to other organizations educating children and caring for Olmsted landscapes across the country.

**Major Archival Resource:** Serious study of an Olmsted landscape requires research in the Olmsted archives, available onsite and increasingly accessible electronically. The archives document more than 5,000 projects undertaken by the Olmsted firm between 1859 and 1979. They include more than a million records: 139,000 drawings and plans, 70,000 planting lists, 90,000 photographic prints and negatives, 12,000 lithographs, extensive financial and administrative records, and many other categories of items.

Visitation at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in 2015 was 9,473 with 1,200 third grade students participating in the Good Neighbors program. The Olmsted archives serve thousands of researchers through various on-line platforms, with staff routinely scanning and transmitting plans and other documents in response to researcher requests.

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site also serves as park headquarters for Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site (Cambridge, Massachusetts) and John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site (Brookline, Massachusetts).

## Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on October 12, 1979 (see appendix A for enabling legislation). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

*FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED NATIONAL  
HISTORIC SITE preserves and interprets for  
the benefit, inspiration, and education  
of present and future generations, the  
historic ensemble of the home, office,  
landscape, and archival collections  
associated with landscape architect  
Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and the  
Olmsted firm.*





## Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site:

1. **Ideas and Influence.** Synthesizing aesthetic theories and social reform ideals, Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. created a landscape design philosophy that sought to improve the health and well-being of individual people and society as a whole. Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and his successors played a central role in defining landscape architecture, city planning, and scenic preservation in the United States and significantly shaped the American landscape.
2. **Historic Design Office.** Fairsted was the center of activity for a business that played a seminal role in the emergence and evolution of the professions of landscape architecture and city planning in the United States. The Olmsteds trained early and influential practitioners in those fields, developed multidisciplinary design processes that helped define the professions, and planned and designed internationally significant landscapes, including parks and park systems, grounds of major public buildings and expositions, residential communities, school campuses, and private estates.
3. **Archives.** The Olmsted archives, including original plans, photographs, and plant lists associated with the 5,000-plus landscape design projects on which the Olmsted firm worked between 1859 and 1979, is a unique resource that reflects the history of landscape architecture and city planning in the United States. This actively used collection offers insights into the design processes and thinking that produced some of the most treasured landscapes in the United States.
4. **Landscape.** The Fairsted landscape, including borrowed views of adjacent properties, features signature examples of Olmsted's design principles and allows visitors to experience Olmsted's particular concept of the restorative influence designed landscapes can have on human thought, feeling, and interactions.
5. **Ensemble.** The ensemble of cultural resources at Fairsted (structures, landscape, archives) offers a unique opportunity to experience the work of a family of prominent designers, consciously envisioning and shaping their home and work environments over time.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site:

- Frederick Law Olmsted House, Offices, Vault, Barn, and Shed
- Fairsted Landscape
- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archives and Museum Collections
- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Viewshed and Neighborhood Setting

## Other Important Resources and Values

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as "other important resources and values" (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site:

- Green Hill Conservation Land (Formerly Part of Gardner Estate)
- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archeological Resources

## Related Resources

Related resources are not owned by the park. They may be part of the broader context or setting in which park resources exist; represent a thematic connection that would enhance the experience of visitors; or have close associations with park fundamental resources and the purpose of the park. The related resource represents a connection with the park that often reflects an area of mutual benefit or interest, and collaboration, between the park and owner/stakeholder.

Related resources associated with Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site include:

- **Olmsted-Designed Parks and Landscapes in Brookline, Boston and Surrounding Metropolitan Area, Massachusetts.** The Emerald Necklace system of parks, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted (though not managed by Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site), is interpreted by the park through occasional ranger-led tours. The Emerald Necklace parks are masterpieces of Olmsted's landscape design, some of which are within one mile of Fairsted. Other Olmsted-designed landscapes in Brookline include the Beacon Street corridor and the Fisher Hill Subdivision. Olmsted firm-designed landscapes in Boston's surrounding metropolitan area include the Boston Metropolitan Park System.
- Olmsted-Designed Parks and Landscapes Nationwide

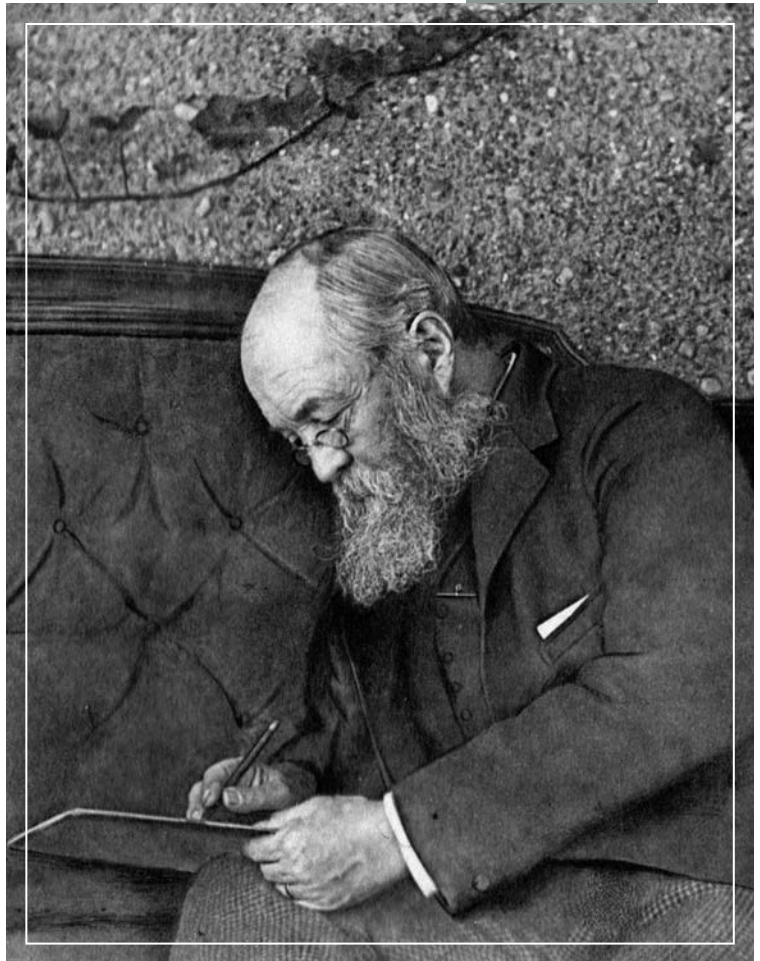
## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site:

- **Olmsted Sr.'s Fairsted Years.** Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.'s years at Fairsted (1883–1895) represent a remarkably productive period of his professional life. The culmination of diverse life and work experiences and the full maturation of his design philosophy and social ideals resulted in projects of major significance. At Fairsted, he also focused on mentoring the next generation of landscape architects and planners who would carry his legacy forward.
- **Olmsted Brothers Years, 1895–1949.** Olmsted's sons, John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., continued and expanded the firm's landscape architecture practice as the Olmsted Brothers, building on its solid reputation and playing an important role in the professionalization of landscape architecture and city planning.
- **Olmsted Design Office an Index of Historic Work Practices.** The rooms of the Olmsted design office, filled with historic equipment and furnishings, reveal the work practices of this influential firm and how they evolved over the decades as the profession of landscape design grew and changed.
- **Olmsted Archives Relevant Today.** The Olmsted archives are a rich collection accessed by thousands of researchers annually for information on specific Olmsted projects or historic topics in American landscape design, city and regional planning, and other areas of research interest.
- **Fairsted's Landscape.** The Fairsted landscape, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and assisted by John Charles Olmsted, is an intimate example of the design aesthetic and principles found in the full range of Olmsted Sr.'s works.





## Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

### Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.

#### Special Mandates

- **Olmsted Archives.** The enabling legislation, signed on October 12, 1979, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the former home and office of Frederick Law Olmsted at 99-101 Warren Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, “together with such adjacent lands and interests therein as the Secretary deems necessary, for establishment of the Site.” The enabling legislation also specifically authorized acquisition of “all or any portion of the documents, equipment, drawings and other materials comprising the Olmsted archival collection.” The enabling legislation further authorized the Secretary “to enter into a cooperative agreement with an appropriate entity for the management of the archival collection acquired for the purposes of this Act.”
- **Green Hill Conservation Land.** The enabling legislation was amended on November 2, 1998, authorizing the Secretary to “acquire, through donation only, lands with associated easements situated adjacent to the Site owned by the Brookline Conservation Land Trust” in order to “preserve and maintain the historic setting of the Site.” The amendment states that “these lands are to be used for educational and interpretive purposes and shall be maintained as part of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.”

#### Administrative Commitments

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site is cooperatively managed together with Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, in Brookline, Massachusetts. The sites share one superintendent and some support services, including maintenance, administration, and educational programming.

## Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

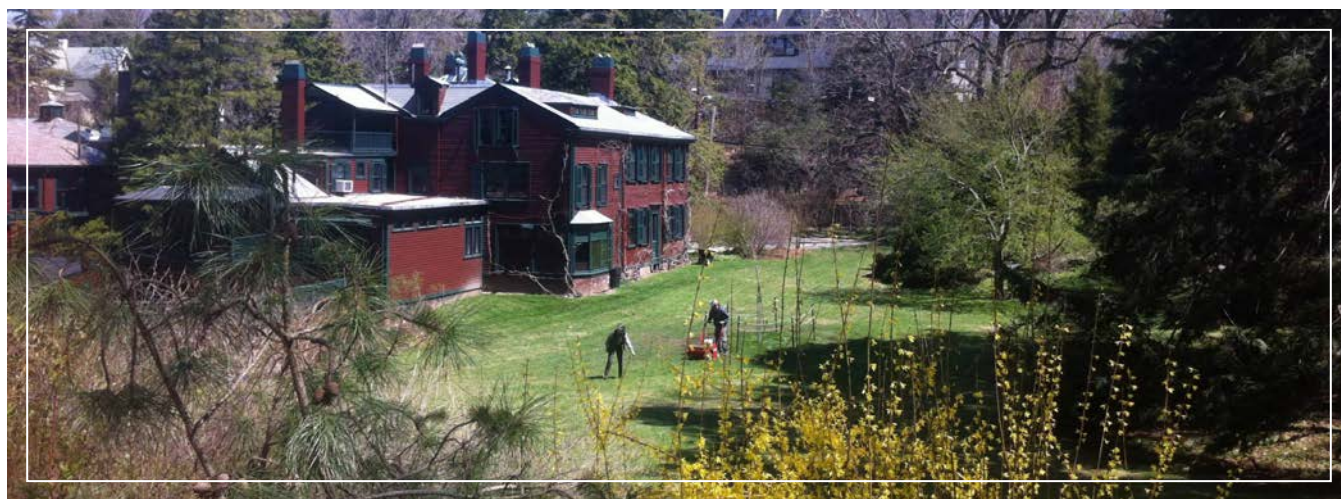
The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

### Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Frederick Law Olmsted House, Offices, Vault, Barn, and Shed
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1, 2, and 3.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first floor of the Olmsted house is used for visitor interpretation and exhibits. The second floor is used as administrative offices for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, and Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site. In the historic office wing, the archives room is used for research and offices for the archives staff; the vault and lower drafting room are used for storing the archives; the shipping room as well as the print room and upper drafting room are interpreted to the public on tours. The recently rehabilitated barn is used as a school classroom and for public presentations and the shed is used for maintenance storage.</li> <li>• A line item construction project completed in 2012 added fire suppression to the house and rehabilitated the historic fire suppression system existing in the office wing and barn. A closed loop geothermal system brought cooling to and upgraded heating in the house and historic office wing. Other improvements included 3-phase electrical service, rehabilitation of the barn for educational use, and extensive reconfiguration of drainage systems to eliminate periodic flooding. The ground floor of the house has been rehabilitated with wall treatments from the period of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and new exhibits have been installed. As of 2012 the List of Classified Structures found the house, office wing, vault, barn, and shed to be in good condition.</li> <li>• The self-guided exhibits are universally accessible. The first floor of the house, the barn, and landscape are wheelchair accessible. The historic office wing, including the archives research space, is not wheelchair accessible; however, video and audio tours are available.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The award-winning Good Neighbors Program, which was initiated in 2007, provides opportunities for local third-grade students to learn about landscape architecture and the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted and his firm. Approximately 1,200 Boston and Brookline students take part in the program each academic year using the renovated barn. The program is being launched nationally through a partnership with the National Association for Olmsted Parks in 2016.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Frederick Law Olmsted House, Offices, Vault, Barn, and Shed
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site house continues to age there will be ongoing structural and safety issues. Because there are many visitors and staff members, there can be significant wear and tear on the fabric of the buildings.</li> <li>Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site shares leased maintenance facilities with Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site and John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site. The sites must resolve the need for a permanent facility for the three sites' maintenance operations. It is important that the new facility effectively support the operations of the three parks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new multimedia exhibits at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site use a range of interpretive approaches to engage the public.</li> <li>The Friends of Fairsted support the historic site with volunteer assistance and help organize programming and public outreach, and provide fundraising and financial assistance.</li> </ul>
Planning/Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An updated comprehensive interpretive plan.</li> <li>A planning charrette is needed to address ways to provide for the three sites' long-term need for a permanent maintenance facility.</li> </ul>
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> <li>Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>"Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li><i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li><i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation &amp; Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings</i></li> <li><i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i></li> </ul>







Fundamental Resource or Value	Fairsted Landscape
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1, 4, and 5.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The grounds of Fairsted—the Carriage Turn, Hollow, Rock Garden, and South Lawn—exemplify certain types of landscapes Frederick Law Olmsted designed for parks around the country.</li> <li>Since 1991, the National Park Service has implemented a “period plan” to restore the Fairsted grounds to their appearance circa 1930, when the Olmsted firm was at its busiest. Nonhistoric trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants have been replaced with plantings that would have been there circa 1930.</li> <li>The “Olmsted Elm,” dating from the time of Frederick Law Olmsted’s residence, was stricken by age and disease so that it was removed in 2011. Two years later, the park replaced it with a three-year-old Jefferson elm, an American elm cultivar that is resistant to Dutch elm disease. Storm damage in 2014 required replacement of that tree in 2015. The current large healthy specimen is also a Jefferson elm.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the Fairsted landscape is not carefully maintained to follow the period plan, it could easily lose its period appearance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is broad support from the Friends of Fairsted and other stakeholders for preserving the Fairsted landscape designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and his son John Charles, with minor refinements by their successors.</li> </ul>
Planning/Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> <li>Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”</li> <li>“Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800)</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management”</li> <li>Director’s Order 28: Cultural Resource Management</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archives and Museum Collections
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1, 2, 3, and 5.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site archives cover the projects designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and his successors between 1859 and 1979. The Olmsted archives contain more than 1 million records documenting the firm's work, including 139,000 drawings and plans. Also included in the collection are photographic prints and negatives, financial and administrative records and reports, correspondence, lithographs, planting lists, and design models dating from the 1860s to 1980. The Olmsted firm library includes 800 books.</li> <li>• The National Park Service recently improved conditions for archive storage and research by upgrading heating, adding cooling, and upgrading fire suppression, electrical, security, and fire detection systems. In 2014, new archival, mobile shelving was installed in the lower drafting room to improve and increase archival storage, and new furnishings were added to the archives reference area to facilitate staff and researcher use of the archival collections.</li> <li>• An in-house program to digitize the Olmsted archives is underway. Smaller materials (up to 56 inches wide) are digitized by staff using high-quality scanners (purchased 2015). As funding is made available, larger materials are digitized by private vendors through contractual services. Once digitized, the materials can be sent to researchers electronically. Long-term plans call for all digitized materials to be readily accessible through the Internet.</li> <li>• The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site archives have extensive stakeholder interest across the country. The National Association for Olmsted Parks has many members who use the Olmsted archives for maintaining and restoring parks. Landscape architects, planners, historians, park advocates, and others use the Olmsted archives extensively.</li> <li>• The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site museum collections include artifacts from the historic house and offices, such as furniture, drafting equipment and supplies, and machinery used for copying plans and drawings. Some of the furnishings are on display and some are stored at the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. A small number of architectural objects are stored at the park's maintenance facility in Brighton, Massachusetts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the past decade, technology has quickly altered how Olmsted archives research is conducted. Rather than hundreds of researchers seeking appointments in the Archives, most now receive plans and documents scanned and transmitted electronically by Archives staff. Today actual visits to the archives average 1–3 per month, while the number of scanned plans, photographs, and planting lists, etc., provided electronically to researchers in 2015 exceeded 10,000. As the Olmsted archives exceeds 1 million items, piecemeal scanning by Archives staff still leaves the need for a comprehensive plan and funding for full digitization of the archives, especially the large-format plans and drawings, and for wide public access through an Internet platform that facilitates research.</li> </ul>
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because the wood-frame structure of Fairsted can never be made completely fireproof, nor can the requisite environmental conditions be fully achieved, a new storage solution is needed.</li> <li>• Because of space constraints, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site has been able to store only two-thirds of the collection's plans and drawings on-site. The remaining archival collections are stored at Springfield Armory National Historic Site, 90 miles away. This distance complicates management of the archives and can cause wear and tear on documents being transported between the two sites.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archives and Museum Collections
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Study of Space Needs for Collections (2011)</i>, prepared by the architectural firm of Einhorn Yaffee Prescott (EYP), found that the current collections storage facilities at Fairsted and at Springfield Armory National Historic Site are inadequate to properly preserve and make available for research the Olmsted archives. The EYP study stated that neither the existing Fairsted facilities nor a state-of-the-art facility attached to Fairsted would maintain Fairsted's historic integrity, nor would they accommodate the entire Olmsted collection. The EYP study recommended creating an off-site facility to permanently house the Olmsted archives, either in a fully renovated existing structure or new construction. The new facility should be easily accessible to Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, and Fairsted should still maintain a research facility.</li> <li>• The Northeast Document Conservation Center's <i>Needs Assessment for Comprehensive Digitization of Olmsted Archival Collections (2012)</i> recommends that all original materials at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site be digitized and moved to an off-site storage facility. Digital surrogates, an on-site virtual collection center, and online user interfaces should replace the current practice of working with original materials in all but the most necessary instances. Despite careful application of appropriate handling techniques by trained Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site staff, the original materials inevitably suffer damage from use as the primary reference materials and need to be protected.</li> <li>• If the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site archival collections are consolidated at a single state-of-the art facility near Fairsted, the museum collections not on display should be moved to the new facility as well.</li> </ul>
Planning/Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a plan and funding strategy for digitizing the Olmsted archives and creating an on-line platform for ready access to the digitized materials, following up on the <i>Needs Assessment for Comprehensive Digitization of Olmsted Archival Collections (2012)</i> and building on the subsequent experience of the archives staff.</li> </ul>
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> <li>• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>• Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79)</li> <li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III</li> </ul>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Viewshed and Neighborhood Setting
<b>Related Significance Statements</b>	Significance statements 4 and 5.
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Brookline neighborhood where the Olmsted family lived and where the Olmsted landscape architecture firm operated maintains its historic appearance and is essential to the park's setting. The Brookline setting for Fairsted reflected an "ideal" suburb for Olmsted, who sought a well-designed community where people could express their individuality while feeling connected to nature, family, neighbors, and the city nearby.</li> <li>The adjacent Clark Sisters Cottage (1883), 12 Fairmount Street, which was designed by John Charles Olmsted to house the previous occupants of Olmsted's house, is important to the viewshed. To convince the Clark sisters to sell him their ancestral home, which was built in 1810, John Charles Olmsted designed them a shingled cottage on the northern edge of the property. The two-and-one-half-story shingled cottage is located on property once owned together with Olmsted house/office. The house was designed to fit into the Victorian garden suburb of South Brookline and serve as part of the architectural and landscape ensemble at Fairsted.</li> <li>Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site is situated between two Brookline historic districts that are in the National Register of Historic Places—Town Green and Green Hill. The Green Hill Historic District has 24 of "the more historically and architecturally distinguished single family homes in Brookline," according to the National Register of Historic Places nomination. Green Hill is named after the Gardner family estate, one of the earliest estates in Brookline. The Town Green Historic District has been the historic and geographical center of the community dating to its establishment in the 17th century. The Town Green Historic District includes 58 houses, the First Parish Church, Brookline Cemetery, and Lincoln School. Many of the homes are late 19th-century and early 20th-century estates, which have striking architectural features designed by prominent Boston architects. The Olmsted Firm was responsible for landscaping several neighboring estates.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the location of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in a developed historic neighborhood, the fabric of the surrounding cultural landscape, which is outside the park boundary, is beyond the control of the National Park Service. This landscape is vulnerable to encroachment and change that can occur in a suburban environment. In recent years, there have been subdivisions on nearby house lots and tear-downs of homes that have led to the construction of modern-style houses in the historic Green Hill neighborhood. With no preservation protections on the Clark Sisters Cottage, it is susceptible to demolition or radical redesign.</li> <li>Although Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site adjoins two national register historic districts—Green Hill and Town Green—those designations do not guarantee historic preservation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Town of Brookline has an interest in preserving the historic neighborhood around Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. Property owners in the neighborhood are stakeholders in the preservation of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and the surrounding neighborhood.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Planning/ Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a boundary adjustment study to determine the feasibility of incorporating the Clark Sisters Cottage, 12 Fairmount Street, Brookline, into the park boundary and either acquiring the property outright or obtaining a preservation easement.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development in the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site neighborhood must follow Town of Brookline land use regulations</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified</li> </ul>

## Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Green Hill Conservation Land
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2001, the National Park Service acquired by donation 5.31 acres of adjacent land (with an additional 0.15 access easement) from the Brookline Land Conservation Trust. The original park authorizing legislation was amended to expand the boundary to accept this gift. The land has a long frontage on Warren Street. According to the deed, the National Park Service can create a small parking area for up to four staff vehicles in a specified zone near Warren Street.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the Green Hill Conservation Land is not carefully maintained, it could appear to be neglected space.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site has not as yet created the four allowed parking spaces on this parcel, its right to do so remains in the deed.</li> </ul>
Planning/Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the National Park Service determines to create the allowed parking area in the location designated on the deed, a number of planning and design steps would need to be taken, several involving the Town of Brookline.</li> </ul>
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> </ul>



Other Important Resource or Value	Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archeological Resources
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site has seven sites with Archeological Sites Management Information System records. These sites include one related to shaping the park's landscape, four related to extant structures, a historic period deposit predating the Olmsted occupation, and one related to the park drainage system. These are described in the park's latest national register documentation.</li> <li>The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site collections include archeological objects discovered at the park. Several boxes of archeological items are stored at the NPS Northeast Regional facility at the Boott Mill in Lowell, Massachusetts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site archeological sites are susceptible to disturbance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information regarding the archeological resources could provide new interpretive perspectives for park visitors. If the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site archival and museum collections are consolidated at a single state-of-the art facility near Fairsted, the archeological artifacts should be moved to the new facility as well.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning/Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing archeological research, survey, and testing will assist the park in planning for National Historic Preservation Act section 106 and 110 responsibilities, and may contribute to interpretive programs.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> <li>Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979</li> <li>"Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79)</li> <li>"Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i></li> <li>NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III</li> </ul>





## Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental or other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Audience Development.** Building on the recent rehabilitation of the site and installation of self-guided exhibits, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site seeks to expand its annual visitation and to interest a more diverse audience in the relevance of the Olmsteds, their work, and their ideas.
- **Landscape Treatment.** Continue to maintain Fairsted's landscape to a high standard and address the landscape maintenance issues presented by the Green Hill Conservation Land.
- **Olmsted Collections and Archives.** The Olmsted archives need to be moved to a state-of-the-art storage facility in order to ensure their long-term preservation. Fully digitize the Olmsted archives in order to make them more readily available to the public and create preservation copies in digital form. Create an on-line platform to allow ready public access to the digitized materials and facilitate research use.
- **Comprehensive Interpretation Plan.** With new exhibits installed in Fairsted in 2014, an updated comprehensive interpretive plan is warranted.
- **Transportation Upgrades.** The park should reevaluate the recommendations of the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center's transportation study (2011) for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and determine which remain feasible and prudent for implementation.
- **Preservation of the Neighborhood Setting.** Work with the Town of Brookline to ensure the long-term preservation of the historic neighborhood setting for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. Preservation easements and a local historic district designation could provide some preservation protections. The easements could be held by local government or a nonprofit entity.
- **Preservation of Clark Sisters Cottage.** Ensure the sensitive preservation of the Clark Sisters Cottage, which abuts the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, through a boundary adjustment allowing for acquisition of the property or holding of a preservation easement to maintain its historic appearance.
- **Permanent Home for Maintenance Function.** The lack of a permanent home for the maintenance function supporting the three park sites makes it very difficult to sustain a comprehensive, high-quality maintenance program over time. A permanent home for that function is a profound planning need.
- **Coordinate with Local Olmsted-Designed Parks and Landscapes.** Integrate the Emerald Necklace parks and other Olmsted-designed landscapes in Brookline and Boston more comprehensively into the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site visitor experience. Provide an interpretive experience that helps visitors better appreciate the role of parks and landscape design in their own communities.
- **Improve Outreach and Partnerships.** Build a stronger community presence through partnerships with appropriate local, regional, and national organizations. Current partners include the Friends of Fairsted, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and the National Association for Olmsted Parks.

## Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Planning and Data Needs				
Related to an FRV?	Planning and/or Data Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Planning or Data/GIS	Notes
Yes	Boundary adjustment study to determine whether the Clark Sisters Cottage, 12 Fairmount Street, Brookline, should be incorporated into the boundary of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and acquired by the National Park Service	H	Planning	Study related to preservation of Clark Sisters Cottage and preservation of neighborhood setting.
Yes	Olmsted archives digitization and electronic access plan, including funding strategy, following up on the <i>Needs Assessment for Comprehensive Digitization of Olmsted Archival Collections (2012)</i>	H	Planning	Digitization and electronic access plan would ensure the creation of preservation copies of archival documents and facilitate public access to archives.
Yes	Comprehensive interpretive plan	H	Planning	Plan would improve the visitor experience.
Yes	Conduct a charrette to consider maintenance function requirements and alternative approaches to solving the need for a permanent home	H	Planning	Charrette would include park and regional staff and GSA representatives.

## Part 3: Preparers and Workshop Participants

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Alan Banks, Supervisory Park Ranger  
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## 2010 Foundation Workshop Participants

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### Olmsted Scholars

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## Photo Credits

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# Appendixes

## Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Amendment for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

PUBLIC LAW 96-87—OCT. 12, 1979

Public Law 96-87  
96th Congress

7. Frederick Law Olmsted

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide for the commemoration of the Oct. 12, 1979 efforts of Goodloe Byron to protect the Appalachian Trail and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

\*\*\*\*\*

### TITLE II

SEC. 201. (a) In order to preserve and interpret for the benefit, inspiration, and education of present and future generations the home and office of Frederick Law Olmsted, the great American landscape architect and designer, there is hereby established the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (hereinafter referred to as the “Site”).

(b) The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) is authorized to acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, the property comprising the former home and office of Frederick Law Olmsted at 99-101 Warren Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, together with such adjacent lands and interests therein as the Secretary deems necessary, for establishment of the Site. The Secretary may also acquire for the purposes of the Site all or any portion of the documents, equipment, drawings, and other materials comprising the Olmsted archival collection.

(c) It is the express intent of the Congress that the Secretary should substantially complete the acquisition program authorized by this Act within two years after the date of its enactment.

SEC. 202. (a) The Secretary shall administer the property, Site, including personal property composing archival collection, acquired for the purposes of this Act in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535) as amended and supplemented, and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended.

(b) The Secretary is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with an appropriate entity for the management of the archival collection acquired for the purposes of this Act.

(c) Within three years of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, a general management plan for the Site pursuant to the provisions of section 12(b) of the Act of August 18, 1970 (84 Stat. 825), as amended. Within six months of the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a written report to the same committees relating the state of progress of his acquisition and provisions for management and permanent protection of the archival collection. He shall submit a similar report within one year of the date of enactment of this Act to the same committees indicating the final management and protection arrangements he has concluded for such collection.

SEC 203. (a) Effective October 1, 1979, there are authorized to be appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund such sums as may be necessary for the acquisition of lands and interests therein.

(b) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, effective October, 1, 1979, an amount not to exceed \$514,000 for the acquisition of the archival collection; an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for development; and an amount not to exceed \$1,230,000 for the preservation of the archival collection.

\*\*\*\*\*

Approved October 12, 1979.

### **PUBLIC LAW 105-343**

105th Congress

An Act

To amend the Act which established the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by modifying the boundary, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That section 201 of the Act of October 12, 1979 (93 Stat. 664), is amended by adding at the end thereof a new subsection to read as follows:

“(d) In order to preserve and maintain the historic setting of the Site, the Secretary is authorized to acquire, through donation only, lands with associated easements situated adjacent to the Site owned by the Brookline Conservation Land Trust. These lands are to be used for educational and interpretive purposes and shall be maintained and managed as part of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.”

Approved November 2, 1998.





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**Northeast Region Foundation Document Recommendation  
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site**

November 2016

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This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Northeast Regional Director.

*Myra F. Harrison*

*11/2/2016*

RECOMMENDED

Myra Harrison, Superintendent, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

Date

*Brian Struck*

*11/07/2016*

APPROVED

*for* Michael A. Caldwell, Regional Director, Northeast Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

FRLA 486/127500

November 2016

## Foundation Document • Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

