

# PROTECTION



Our construction project planned for 2005-2006 will address serious and longstanding infrastructure and drainage issues at Olmsted National Historic Site.

## *What resources of Olmsted NHS will be better protected as a result of the construction project?*

Frederick Law Olmsted NHS preserves the home, office, landscape design records, and residential grounds of America's foremost landscape architect and his firm. It was here that Olmsted established the world's first full-scale office for the practice of landscape architecture in 1883, and it was also the Olmsted family residence during the last 15 years of FLO's professional life. Primary resources include:

➔ **The HOUSE**—a 2 1/2-story building with 25 rooms and a basement cellar. Constructed in 1810, it is believed to be the oldest building on the site and was extensively remodeled between 1883 and 1930 during the Olmsted family occupancy. The House was both a family residence and the location of Frederick Law Olmsted's principal office and sole workspace of the firm prior to construction of the office complex, which began in 1889.

➔ **The OFFICE**—comprised of 22 rooms in four interconnected, 2-story structures: Clerical Department, Planting Department, North Drafting Wing, and Plans Vault. Constructed between 1889-1925, this was the primary working office of the Olmsted design firm for nearly a century. Today an estimated 1,000,000 original landscape design records are housed within the Office, as well as an adjunct facility at Springfield Armory National Historic Site. These records document over 5,000 projects nationwide proposed or undertaken by the Olmsted firm between 1860-1980.

➔ **The BARN**—a 2 1/2-story structure located on the west side of the office complex. It consists of the original hay barn (pre-1883), carpentry shop (c.1884), and open storage shed (c.1910). The Barn was added to and extensively remodeled for office use by the Olmsteds and functioned variously after 1914 as a Modeling Room, Soil Testing Laboratory, Photographic Darkroom and Storage Area, etc.

➔ **The GROUNDS**—a 1.76 acre residential landscape managed by Olmsted and his sons which serves as a "living exhibit" of Olmstedian design ideals and craftsmanship. An additional 5.35 acres of woodland was added to the Olmsted NHS boundary through congressional legislation in 1998.



## MAJOR OBJECTIVES of the CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

### FIRE PROTECTION

- Replace historic c.1925 sprinkler system in Office and Barn with new, code-compliant fire suppression system and add new fire suppression system in House for complete coverage of buildings
- Replace existing Halon system in Office plans vault with new alternative water misting system
- Upgrade fire detection systems and emergency lighting throughout all buildings

### MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL & SECURITY SYSTEMS

- Provide heating, cooling, and ventilation systems to all buildings and dehumidification in archives research areas where feasible
- Provide new site utilities (gas, electrical, communications, sanitary, etc.) to serve new and existing mechanical systems and other functions in all buildings
- Upgrade existing security systems in all buildings

### DRAINAGE & WATERPROOFING SYSTEMS

- Upgrade inadequate site drainage systems to eliminate periodic flooding of buildings, grounds and archives research and storage areas

### STRUCTURAL REINFORCEMENTS

- Provide structural upgrades for all first story rooms in Office with exception of the plans vault

### BARN REHABILITATION

- Repair and rehabilitate historic Olmsted Barn to accommodate three-season use of the first floor for education programs and public meetings

