



The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan

Spring 2020 Newsletter

Our Mission

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is dedicated to sustaining Olmsted's vision for Riverside for generations to come. Its members are guided by Olmsted's concern for humanity, nature, sense of community, and the innovative and thoughtful essence of his work.

The Olmsted Society invites residents and visitors to join us in learning, protecting the environment, and preserving our cultural and physical heritage.

Upcoming Events

- 3/7: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Big Ball Park
- 3/28: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Longcommon Common
- 4/1: [Poetry Contest](#) Opens
- 4/18: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Indian Gardens (near Scout Cabin) & Patriots Park
- 4/30: [Poetry Contest](#) Deadline
- 5/9: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Riverside Road
- 5/30: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Big Ball Park
- 5/31: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (North) at Riverside Train Station
- 6/11: 7 PM – [Presentation](#) at Riverside Public Library; "A Tree Guy in Shanghai: A Forester in a Foreign Land" by Mike Collins, Riverside Village Forester
- 6/20: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Big Ball Park
- 6/28: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (South) at Riverside Train Station

Inside This Issue

FLOS Board Officers & New Members

Meet the newest members of the FLOS Board of Directors. Also, a new secretary joins the three returning officers. [Page 3](#)

Poetry Contest

The FLOS Poetry Contest is back this year with the theme *Reflections on Riverside: Focus on Flora and Fauna*. [Page 4](#)

Mike Collins Presentation

Riverside Village Forester Mike Collins will present on his experiences as a speaker at a recent urban forestry conference in Shanghai. [Page 5](#)

Notice: Due to the risk of Coronavirus (COVID-19), some events listed here may be cancelled or rescheduled. Check the [FLOS Website](#) for the most current information. We will make every effort to notify FLOS members and supporters by email with any schedule changes.



President's Letter



Cathy Maloney
FLOS Board President

Were you able to come to our annual meeting this January? I so enjoy seeing everyone then, even though it's in the dead of winter. Really, we must do this more often!

Why wait for the annual meeting to get together with fellow Olmsted Society members? We have many events and opportunities throughout the year. Board members are always looking for ways to share the mission of our group. If you have only an hour or two, consider the following:

- Landscape workdays – a mainstay of our Society's work in keeping Riverside green.
- Poetry contest – brings Riverside youth into the heritage of our village. Be a contest judge or help out at the award ceremony at Brookfield Zoo.
- Walking tours: When was the last time you took a historical tour of our village? Come listen to the new stories Olmsted Society tour guides have researched, and share your own memories.
- Garden Design Rx: New this year! Partnering with Riverside's Farmer's Market, once a month, the Society will host a booth for residents to bring photos of their gardens for design and horticultural advice.
- Vintage Baseball Game: Watch hometown heroes Chicago Salmon team battle their opponents. Help serve lunch to both teams and watch the fun.
- Fourth of July: Got an hour to help with our float? What will it be this year? March with us, or help create the design.

What other ideas do you have? Frederick Law Olmsted encouraged community-building, and we hope, with your help to do just that. Join us in something different this year, and bring a friend!



With the return of warm weather, landscape workdays and walking tours resume. Shown here; the March 8 workday at the Big Ball Park. Walking tours begin May 31.





The 2020 FLOS Board of Directors

New Board Members

At the Annual Meeting in January, four new directors were elected to the FLOS Board.



Trisha Flassing works as the Digital Marketing Strategist at Latin School of Chicago and has lived in Riverside since 2002. She has two children at Hauser Junior High, two cats, and is married to Dave Flassing. She and Dave met while serving together in Peace Corps Guatemala. They love to travel and have been everywhere from Bonaire in the Caribbean to Snake Road in Shawnee National Forest.



Dave Flassing works as Chief Counsel for the IRS. Originally from Missouri, he has lived in Illinois since 1999 and in Riverside since 2002. He has two junior high aged children and is a Boy Scout leader for Troop 24. When he isn't camping with the Scouts or playing volleyball with his daughter, you will find him reading, watching professional soccer, or planning his next snorkeling adventure with his wife, Trisha.



Kim Freark moved to Riverside in 2015 when she bought her parents' house. She chooses to live in Riverside because of the marvelous sense of community and wonderful diversity of architecture.



Susan Worthington moved from Oak Park to Riverside two years ago because she was drawn to the peacefulness and small-town feel of the village. Susan enjoys watching the seasons change here and it's an added bonus that Riverside residents are friendly!

FLOS Board Officers for 2020

Also at the January Annual Meeting, the officers for the FLOS Board of Directors were elected for the 2020 calendar year. They are:

- President: Cathy Maloney (returning)
- Vice-President: Cindy Kellogg (returning)
- Secretary: Joanne Rogers (new)
- Treasurer: Theresa Pelletier (returning)



“Reflections on Riverside: Focus on Flora and Fauna” Poetry Contest



Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga
Poetry Contest Chair

Each April, in celebration of National Poetry Month, the Olmsted Society invites students in grades 1-12 to reflect upon Riverside’s national landmark landscape and to express their impressions with poetry. This year, which marks the culmination of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, students are asked to focus their reflections on Riverside’s plants and animals. Riverside is a “go-to” place for nature lovers, birders and hikers because of the refuge created by Olmsted’s 1869 design. With more than 40% green space and ample natural areas along the river, Olmsted’s winding paths compel us to observe and appreciate our surrounds. This benefits humans and non-humans alike: Riverside today is home to many diverse species of plants and animals that have been crowded out by development elsewhere.

Students might begin to explore this year’s contest theme by heading out onto the riverbanks, or into the parks or green spaces to experience the sights and sounds of nature. What surprising plants or animals can you find? What do you notice about them? What do you think about them? Why? (These questions are just idea starters – poems of any style or length exploring this year’s theme are welcome.)

The Olmsted Society will award first place winners \$100 in the High School division, \$50 in the Junior High division (grades 6-8) and \$25 at each grade level 1-5. All poets will be invited to read their poems at a special ceremony to be held at the Brookfield Zoo.

To enable our poets’ reflections to reach an even wider audience, our partner in poetry, the Brookfield Zoo, is offering a unique honor: lines from the students’ poems may be incorporated into an outdoor art exhibit on biodiversity planned for this summer. The power of expression – combined with the phenomena of selfies and tagging world leaders on social media – will help keep biodiversity a topic of discussion even as the UN’s Decade on Biodiversity draws to a close.

Contest rules and entry forms may be found at www.olmstedsociety.org starting **April 1**. While the deadline is **April 30**, we encourage students to get out and explore Riverside’s landscape and get creative with their reflections as soon as weather permits!

Biodiversity in Riverside

Interested in learning more about Riverside’s flora and fauna?

- Riverside is an *arboretum*. Every tree in Riverside’s public spaces has been mapped, identified by botanical and common name, and is searchable here: www.riverside.il.us/375/ArbNet-Accreditation
- Riverside is an Important Bird Area. To learn more about this designation from Audubon Great Lakes, which studies the Mississippi Flyway, and more about birding in Riverside, see: www.riverside.il.us/485/Birding
- Over 200 plant and animal species were found in Riverside in a one-day Bioblitz co-sponsored by the Olmsted Society last year. Explore the interactive map with photos and identifications at www.inaturalist.org – just select **Explore** and enter **Riverside, Illinois**.



Walking Tours of Historic Riverside

Let Us Share Our Hometown Pride with You!

Docent-led walking tours are offered at 2:00 PM on the last Sunday of the month from May to October. Tours depart from the [Riverside Train Station](#) (main train station, east side of platform) at 2:00 PM. Tours last about two hours ending by 4:00 PM.

The regularly scheduled tour dates for 2020 are:

Date	Tour Area
May 31	North Division
June 28	South Division
July 26	North Division
August 30	South Division
September 20	North Division
October 25	South Division

No reservations required for regularly scheduled tours. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$15 for Seniors (age 62+) and Olmsted Society members. Special custom tours are available for \$25+ per person based on your requirements.

Phone 708-447-7635 or email tours@olmstedsociety.org. For further details and to purchase tickets, see the [Historic Walking Tours page](#) on the FLOS website.

The Olmsted Society of Riverside hosted their first walking tour of the 2020 season on February 22nd. A group of ten students and their professor came from Valparaiso University. They were enrolled in a class studying the American suburb. What a great way to start off the class than with a tour of America's first planned suburb

Presentations Report

Olivia Barraza & Dan Murphy
Presentations Co-chairs

A Tree Guy in Shanghai: A Forester in a Foreign Land

Thursday, June 11 at 7:00 PM in the Riverside Public Library Great Room

Riverside Village Forester Michael Collins was recently invited to participate in exchange activity overseas in Shanghai, China. In this illustrated presentation, Michael will review his week-long trip and provide a pictorial journey of his experiences in China. He will share some of his insights into forestry in China and discuss some of his observations from abroad.



Michael Collins has been Riverside's Village Forester for over 15+ years. He received his B.S. degree in Forestry at the University of Wisconsin - Madison and his M.S. in Natural Resources at University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign. He is a certified arborist and municipal specialist with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and trained for Tree Risk Assessment Qualification. Michael is also co-chair for the Tree Stewardship and Planting workgroup as part of the Chicago Region Trees Initiative. Prior to his arrival in Riverside, Michael worked at The Morton Arboretum and Cantigny Gardens.



Landscape Workdays



Cindy Kellogg & Holly Machina

Landscape Co-Chairs

Help Beautify Our Public Parks

In 2020, we are teaming up with the Village of Riverside to help beautify our green spaces.

Frederick Law Olmsted designed the parks in Riverside to provide changing vistas for both pedestrians & vehicles. His plan can be better realized by reducing shrub overgrowth, eliminating weeds and opening up the river view. The parks along **Riverside Road** and around **Indian Gardens** follow the meandering Des Plaines River. **Scottswood Common & Longcommon Common**, including **Big Ball Park**, serves as the backbone of Riverside's landscape architecture. Both were intended to be part of a green space stretching all the way to downtown Chicago. The triangle at **Longcommon & Downing** is one of the largest and most visible triangles in Riverside. It is complemented by the nearby triangle at Longcommon & Kent with its majestic Oak trees. Harrington Park, along Harlem Avenue, is the most recent green space to be designated as a public park. **Patriots Park**, along 26th Street, is the newest playground constructed. Join us as we tame, and then maintain your public parks of Riverside.

All workdays are scheduled for **Saturdays from 9 AM to 12 PM**. Look for the Riverside Public Works dump truck. Come for an hour or three, whatever your schedule allows. Supervised children are welcome. Service hour credits are available. Bring your favorite **work gloves and a water bottle**. All other supplies and snacks will be provided.

For more information, see the [Landscape Workdays page](#) on the FLOS website.

Date	Location	Projects
March 28	Longcommon Common	Weeding
April 18	Indian Gardens (Scout Cabin area) & Patriots Park	RB Day of Service
May 9	Riverside Road	Weeding
May 30	Big Ball Park	Mulching
June 20	Big Ball Park	Mulching
July 18	Scottswood Commons	Weeding & mulching
August 1	Longcommon & Downing Triangle	Weeding
August 29	Patriots Park	Weeding
September 12	Scottswood Commons	Planting native grasses & sedges
October 3	Longcommon & Downing Triangle	Weeding
October 24	Riverside Road	Collecting seeds
November 7	Longcommon Common	Weeding & mulching

For more information or to be added to our FLOS landscape committee e-list, please contact:

- Holly Machina & Cindy Kellogg
FLOS Landscape Committee Chairpersons
workdays@olmstedsociety.org
708-447-0226
olmstedsociety.org/events/landscape-workdays/
- Michael Collins
Riverside Village Forester
mcollins@riverside.il.us
708-442-3590 x 502
riverside.il.us/publicworks



Membership Report



Linda LaBelle
Membership Chair

2020 Membership renewals are off to a great start. Thank for your continued support. There are many fantastic activities planned throughout 2020.

Please consider renewing your membership or becoming a member. The Olmsted Society invites residents and visitors to join us in learning, protecting the environment and preserving our cultural and physical heritage.

Membership is open to all interested individuals for a minimum \$35.00 tax-deductible contribution by check or you can subscribe or renew online:

[FLOS Membership Renewal Form](#)

If you prefer, print and mail the form below:

Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside
PO Box 65
Riverside, Illinois 60546

Thank you for your continued support!

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BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY OF RIVERSIDE

Founded in 1968, the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the original plan for Riverside. The town was developed in 1868 by Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his business partner Calvert Vaux.

Membership is open to all interested individuals for the current calendar year (Jan. 1- Dec. 31), and is tax deductible. It includes your immediate family members living in your household. Please return this form with your **check payable to the Frederick Law Olmsted Society PO Box 65, Riverside, IL 60546** or join online at www.olmstedsociety.org and select the Membership tab.

<p>MEMBERSHIP:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reliable Redbud</i> \$35-\$49 \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hearty Hickory</i> \$50-\$124 \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sugar Maple</i> \$125-\$249 \$ _____ (includes 2 walking tour tickets)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mighty Oak</i> \$250 + \$ _____ (includes 4 walking tour tickets)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>	<p>COMMITTEES: <i>Put your talent to work & your energy to good use by joining a committee!</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education & Tours</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising events: <input type="checkbox"/> Hop Stop</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Housewalk</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July Parade Float</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Workdays</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Library</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive a receipt for my tax deductible donation</p>
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The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is a registered 501c3 organization. The Society is dedicated to sustaining Olmsted's vision for Riverside for generations to come.

Its members are guided by his concern for humanity, nature, sense of community, and the innovative and thoughtful essence of his work.

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Subscribe to our newsletter by emailing us at:
newsletter@olmstedsociety.org

Check out our social media links for information on upcoming events:

 facebook.com/RiversideFLOS

 twitter.com/RiversideFLOS

Visit the Olmsted Society website at:
www.olmstedsociety.org