

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan

Spring 2022 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

- 4/23: 9 AM – 1 PM: [Olmsted Overlook Tree Planting](#)
- 4/30: [Poetry Contest](#) Deadline
- 4/30: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Indian Gardens
- 5/1: 2 PM – [Presentation](#) *Frederick Law Olmsted: Bringing Nature to the City* with Laurence Cotton at the Riverside Public Library
- 5/14: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Harrington Park
- 5/29: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (North) at Riverside Train Station
- 6/25: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Patriots Park
- 6/26: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (South) at Riverside Train Station

Inside This Issue

FLOS Board Officers & New Members

New board officers and new members elected at our annual meeting. [Page 3](#)

Olmsted Overlook Tree Planting

Volunteers needed to plant a community legacy. [Page 4](#)

Frederick Law Olmsted Day in Illinois

Illinois Houses passes resolution honoring Olmsted. [Page 4](#)

Olmsted Birthday Events in Riverside

Mark your calendar for April 26! [Page 4](#)

Student Poetry Contest

The annual FLOS Poetry Contest celebrates *Riverside's Roots*. [Page 5](#)

Frederick Law Olmsted: Bringing Nature to the City

Laurence Cotton, historian, writer & producer presents on Olmsted's legacy. [Page 8](#)



President's Letter



Yvonne Lucero
FLOS Board President

Spring Thoughts from the President:

Standing in the drizzle, watching one of our trees being removed (dangerously dead after 80-plus years), a line of Chaucer came to mind: “when April with his showers sweet, the draft of March has pierced to the root...” so I went inside to restore some fuzzy college memories. Indoors is also a better place to contemplate April showers, less windy and damp.

Between 1387 and 1393, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote his famous *Canterbury Tales*, a lengthy poem that depicts the springtime urge towards activity, mainly in the form of various people traveling on a religious pilgrimage to Canterbury, in the south of England.

Here we are, about 700 years later, with many people still making springtime pilgrimages, often to warmer climes, with sun-worship on their minds. Some go to spend time with giant artificial mice, ducks, dogs, and rollercoasters. However, Chaucer makes some observations of the natural world at this time of year, as well. He remarks upon little birds being restless, hence singing to one another. Likewise, warm breezes push the land to produce crops and flowers. Not much has changed in all the time since quill pens were a writer's best friend. Reams of paper have been used for prose, poems and songs aimed at capturing these feelings – Wordsworth had his daffodils, Paris has April, and so forth. Spring brings a sense of restlessness to most people, we long to toss away our earmuffs and wooly socks; gardens sometimes sprout premature greenery after only a day or two of pleasant weather, and birds build new nests.

The Riverside area is full of birds, migratory and local; more rabbits and foxes are visible, early butterflies have been around for over a month, the occasional turtle can be seen when the sun is strong. Needless to say, there are already dandelions in our lawns!

Enjoy this new season – yard waste is being picked up again! Garage sales will be announced. Time to clean out our own nests!



On Saturday, April 9, FLOS Landscape Workday volunteers cleaned out some overgrown areas at the Big Ball Park.



The 2022 FLOS Board of Directors

New Board Members

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



Chris and Erin Wieland met at the College of Design at Iowa State University in 2003. Chris graduated with his BA of Architecture, and Erin earned my BA of Landscape Architecture with a minor in Horticulture.

Chris's senior year college project bloomed into a startup Wi-Fi technology firm that grew to be one of the leading technology providers to every major hotel chain.

After college, they moved to downtown Chicago where we lived for 15 years. During that time, Erin worked for a landscape architecture design firm, a small design build company and a couple of garden centers in the downtown area. She also achieved an Illinois Master Gardener credential.

Erin was familiar with Riverside from her Landscape Architecture studies and had visited the town growing up. In 2020, Erin and Chris, along with their three children, moved to the Lender's Residence (Riverside landmark #15). They are delighted to be part of FLOS.



Lisa Lambros and her husband Nick have lived in Riverside for 21 years. Lisa has been on the Landscape Advisory Commission for the past four years and in October took on the position of Chairperson. I am a Mentor with the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, where I have had a mentee for the last 4 years.

Lisa has traveled globally for business and pleasure since in my twenties. She has worked in the electronic components market for 35 years and is currently with Sumitomo Electric Interconnect Products. As the Central Regional Sales Manager and the Business Development Manager for Commercial Vehicles and Heavy Trucks, Lisa collaborates with the engineering team to specify components for various markets, including the automotive, commercial/military aerospace, and rail & transit markets.

Lisa has many hobbies including gardening, entertaining/cooking, travel, architecture/interior design, glass fusing, glass mosaics, reading, sewing, painting, and welding. She is honored to have been asked to join the FLOS Board and looks forward to becoming an active member in this great organization.

FLOS Board Officers for 2022

Also, at the January Annual Meeting, the officers for the FLOS Board of Directors were elected for the 2022 calendar year. They are:

- President: Yvonne Lucero (returning)
- Vice-President: Jim Petrzilka (new)
- Secretary: Susan Worthington (new)
- Treasurer: Kim Freeark (new)



Olmsted Overlook Tree Planting

Volunteers Needed Saturday, April 23, 2022, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The Olmsted Overlook is a once-in-every 200 years chance to plant a living legacy in honor of Riverside's genius, Frederick Law Olmsted. Celebrating his 200th birthday Anniversary, we will plant a grove of trees overlooking the Des Plaines River. Be part of history!

- Where?** On the [bluff on Fairbank Road](#), between the Riverside Presbyterian Church and the bridge to Lyons at Millbridge Road.
- What?** A grove of native trees professionally designed to blend with nature and showcase the view of the Des Plaines River.
- Who?** We need you to help plant! Meet us on the bluff with your shovel, gloves, and water bottle!

Frederick Law Olmsted Day in Illinois

Illinois Houses Passes Resolution with Support of FLOS

The Illinois House just passed a resolution declaring April 26, 2022 "Frederick Law Olmsted Day," in honor of Olmsted's 200th Birthday. You can read the resolution here: [HR0654 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY \(ilga.gov\)](#).

This resolution was spearheaded locally by Congressman Mike Zalewski and the Frederick Law Olmsted Society, in concert with other kindred Olmsted groups including:

- Chicago Parks Foundation. Willa Lang, Executive Director
- **Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside, Illinois. Cathy Maloney, Board Member** [emphasis added]
- Chicago Friends of the Parks. Juanita Irizarry, Executive Director
- Glessner House. William Tyre, Executive Director and Curator
- Julia Bachrach Consulting, LLC. Julia Bachrach, Principal
- Preservation Chicago. Ward Miller, Executive Director
- University of Chicago. Professor W J T Mitchell, Gaylord Donnelley Distinguished Service Professor

A copy of the Illinois House resolution will be on display in Riverside at these two celebratory events held in Riverside on Tuesday, April 26.

Olmsted's Birthday Events in Riverside – Tuesday, April 26

Olmsted Birthday Party

The Riverside Historical Commission presents live music, refreshments, and crafts for kids!
4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Riverside Train Station, [90 Bloomingbank Road](#)

Olmsted 200 Gift Presentation to the Riverside Library

FLOS and artist Shilin Hora present a museum-quality botanical box to the library displaying locally gathered seeds!
7:00 PM at the Riverside Public Library, [1 Burling Road](#)



Reflections on Riverside Student Poetry Contest



Trisha Flassing
Poetry Contest Chair

Entries Welcome for Our 2022 Student Poetry Contest

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth. In honor of this milestone and Olmsted's enduring influence on the American landscape, we've selected a special theme for this year's poetry contest: "Riverside Roots." Students in grades 1-12 are invited to spend time in Riverside's national landmark landscape and to incorporate reflections upon *Riverside Roots* into their poems.

Explore this theme by heading outside! Stroll along the riverbanks and spend time in Riverside's parks and green spaces. Look slow. Listen long. Observe, reflect, and share. 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 outdoor ceremony to be held later in the year.

The contest is open April 1 to April 30. Please email entries by April 30 to poetrycontest@olmstedsociety.org.

For more details visit our website: olmstedsociety.org.

We look forward to reading your inspired poems!





Tributes & Trees Program

Linda LaBelle & Sandie Petrzilka

Tributes & Trees Co-Chairs

The Olmsted Society's *Tribute & Trees* program allows you to make donations that recognize others. If you would like to memorialize or recognize someone important to you, please visit the [Tributes & Trees Program page](https://www.olmstedsociety.org/tributes-trees) on the FLOS website to make your donation. All donations are put to good use since they go directly towards enhancing Riverside's landscape. If you have any questions, please write tributes@olmstedsociety.org.

Tributes & Trees Recognizes

Honoree: Tony Pecelunas

"A good friend and a wonderful Tour Guide"

Donors: Thomas & Constance Guardi

Honoree: Myron "Mike" Wimmer

"A wonderful man"

Donors: Thomas & Constance Guardi

Honoree: John Farneda

"He is greatly missed"

Donors: Thomas & Constance Guardi

Honoree: Patricia Majestic

"A wonderful mother"

Donors: Thomas & Constance Guardi

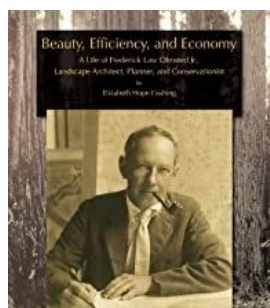


Library Committee

Constance Guardi

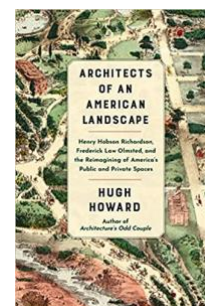
Library Committee Chair

Two books have been added to the Olmsted Collection in the Riverside Public Library.



The first, *Beauty, Efficiency, and Economy: A Life of Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., Landscape Architect, Planner, and Conservationist*, is a biography of Olmsted's son, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. He played a vital role in continuation of The Olmsted Company, which was renamed the "The Olmsted Brothers" after his father died.

The second book *Architects of an American Landscape: Henry Hobson Richardson, Frederick Law Olmsted, and the Reimagining of America's Public and Private Spaces* is a fascinating study of the collaborations between Olmsted and the structural architect, Henry Hobson Richardson.





2022 Walking Tours of Historic Riverside

Let Us Share Our Hometown Pride with You!

It's the 200th anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth, and what better way to celebrate than to take a walking tour of Olmsted's Riverside, America's first planned suburb and a National Historic Site.

Today, this magical place of lush landscaping, curving streets, gas lamps, and charming parks still fulfills Olmsted's dream. It has since inspired architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan to create some of their most beautiful works. Over 70 landmarked structures representing over 150 years of American architecture dot the village.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside invites you experience this very special American place, a place with a hidden history that may surprise you.

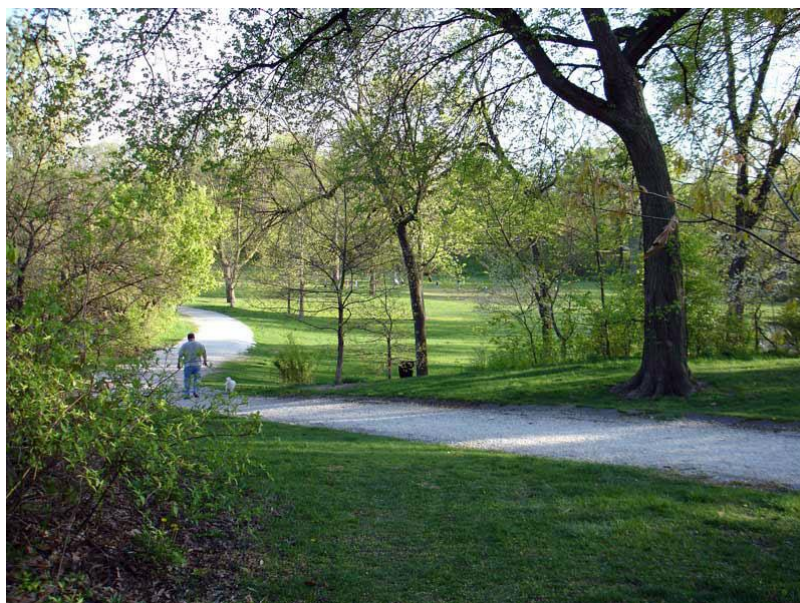
Two separate docent-led tours alternate monthly on the following Sundays.

Date	Tour Area
May 29	North Division
June 26	South Division
July 31	North Division
August 28	South Division
September 25	North Division
October 30	South Division

Tours depart at 2:00 PM from the main [Riverside Train Station](#) on Bloomingbank Rd., south of the BNSF railroad tracks, on the east side of the platform.

Tickets are \$20 per person (\$15 for seniors 62+ and Olmsted Society members). Only PayPal or credit card payments in advance are accepted on the [Historic Walking Tours page](#) of our website.

Special customized tours are available by appointment, For more information call 708-447-7635 or e-mail tours@olmstedsociety.org.





Presentations Report



Dan Murphy
Presentations Chair

Frederick Law Olmsted: Bring Nature to the City

Sunday, May 1 at 2:00 PM at the Riverside Public Library

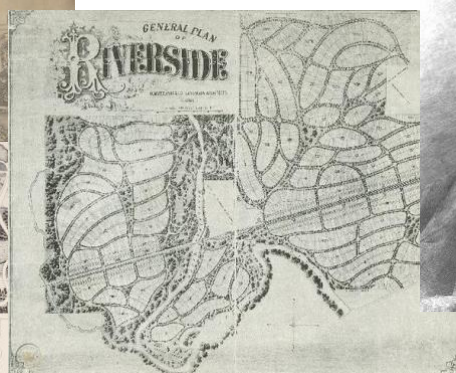
April 26, 2022, marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted, the master designer of public parks and a founder of the field landscape architecture. Join historian and filmmaker Laurence Cotton (originator of and consulting producer to the PBS special “Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America”) as he does a deep dive into the remarkable life and career of the Renaissance-man Olmsted--writer, philosopher, social reformer, advocate for the preservation of natural scenery, and creator of some of the most beautiful public and private parks and gardens in all of N. America.

In his presentation, Laurence will talk about the influences of design traditions, aesthetics and philosophies that influenced Olmsted's thought—including English garden design, the Hudson River School and Transcendentalism. As he tells it, since he began his research into the Olmsted legacy in 2006, his exploration has become a lifelong process--visiting and revisiting Olmsted sites, collecting resources, digging into archival materials, and meeting with scholars and landscape design practitioners.

Laurence will also give a visual tour of representative masterful landscapes designed by Olmsted, Senior, as well as his two sons and the Olmsted Bros. landscape architecture firm, as the footprint of their works literally stretch across the entire continent of N. America. His Riverside presentation will include additional material that focuses on the upper Midwest and the Great Lakes states.



Laurence Cotton, currently based in Portland, Oregon, a city that benefits from an Olmsted-master planned park system, originally hails from Boston, renowned for its Olmsted landscapes and the home base for generations of landscape design practitioners working for the Olmsted Bros. firm. A practicing public historian, and writer/producer of historical films for PBS, Mr. Cotton was trained as a cultural anthropologist and brings that lens to bear on much of his work. He has worked with the tribal populations on throughout the Columbia River watershed and has also worked on open space acquisition and the designs of parks and trails in Pacific Northwest. He also brings training as an interpretive naturalist, is a birder and a photographer. His visit to Riverside would be one of many such stops on his 2022 tour of the U.S. to present programs about the Olmsted legacy.





Landscape Workdays



Cindy Kellogg & Holly Machina

Landscape Co-Chairs

Help Beautify Our Public Parks

For 2022, 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. 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**. Bring your own **work gloves and a water bottle**. All landscaping supplies and snacks will be provided.

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

Date	Location
April 9	Big Ball Park (exact location TBD)
April 30	Indian Gardens (near the Scout Cabin)
May 14	Harrington Park (Delaplaine & Gage Roads)
June 25	Patriots Park (576 W. Parkway Road)
July 23	Akenside/Longcommon Triangle
Aug 27	Indian Gardens (near the Scout Cabin)
Sept 10	Indian Gardens (near the Scout Cabin)
Sept 17	Indian Gardens (near the Scout Cabin)
Oct 1	Longcommon/Downing Triangle
Oct 15	Longcommon (exact location TBD)
Oct 22	Riverside Road (exact location TBD)
Nov 5	Longcommon/Downing Triangle

If you have questions or want 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

- Michael Collins
Riverside Village Forester
mcollins@riverside.il.us
708-442-3590 x 502



Membership Report



Linda LaBelle
Membership Chair

2022 Membership renewals are off to a great start. Thank for your generous contributions. 2022 is a new year and activities will be planned based in accordance with state and community Covid-19 guidelines.

Please consider renewing, becoming a member or giving the gift of membership. The Olmsted Society invites residents and visitors to join us in learning, enjoying Riverside's landscape 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!

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: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hop Stop <input type="checkbox"/> Housewalk </div> </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:



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