



The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan

Summer 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

- 7/23: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Akenside / Longcommon Triangle
- 7/31: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (North) at Riverside Train Station
- 8/27: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Indian Gardens
- 8/28: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (South) at Riverside Train Station
- 9/10: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Indian Gardens
- 9/17: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Indian Gardens
- 9/21: 7 PM – [Presentation](#): *At Home in Chicago* at the Riverside Public Library
- 9/24: 4 PM to 7 PM – [HopStop](#) at Riverside Train Station
- 9/25: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (North) at Riverside Train Station
- 10/9: AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Longcommon / Downing Triangle

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President's Letter



Yvonne Lucero
FLOS Board President

Dear Members,

Here we are in what the calendar says should be full summer; this means fireflies, chipmunks, weeds, and storms. For many of us, besides covering pots and gardens with hardware cloth or chicken wire to reduce marauders, some are still finding broken branches from Riversides' brief, unhappy encounter with wind and rain in June.

Mother Nature is not always kind, and she has now provided more sun to our streets and parks, but our landscape has paid a heavy price. Many of the freshly cut tree trunks give us a "new view" into how old these organisms were...certainly some of the losses included plantings from Riverside's early days. Beyond the shade we normally enjoy, the loss of habitat for our wildlife is huge. Birds, bugs, small animals, fungus, and other life-forms are impacted. A neighbor with a bat house on their garage now finds the red-bellied woodpecker is almost done reducing it to Swiss cheese, looking for insects since the storm. Even squirrels, destructive though they can be, are at some disadvantage for summer homes and winter nests-they may start to look to manmade structures for shelter (e.g., chimneys). It is probable the village has a working estimate of how many trees on our public lands are gone, but the total loss of canopy and associated plant matter would be hard to assess.

Tree removal and replacement goes on in the village continuously, but the task before us is going to take more than a generation to make significant progress. Residents of Riverside can help, not only by replacing trees in their own yards (look on the LAC website for advice on what to plant, and call JULIE for those utility grids!) but also by helping the FLOS Landscape Committee on its workdays. Much of their work is removal of waste and invasive species, but these efforts set the stage for successful planting of new specimens. Alternatively, consider donating to the FLOS's Tributes and Trees Program, to acknowledge an important person in your life (or an important animal? – I may need to check on this!). This fund will provide us with additional options for tree purchases.

Other ideas: put up more butterfly, bat, and bee shelters in your yard. Leave your sunflower heads and stems for overwintering, as well as leaf mulch on the ground. Plant more milkweed: pink, yellow, or white. More sun on your property than a month ago? It's not too late to plant some coneflowers. Buy a birdbath – they're on sale in late summer, and birds are not the only visitors.

Perhaps, most importantly, get out and see Riverside! Our village has more greenspace per resident than anywhere else in the country. Celebrate our readily accessible, beautiful landscape...take a tour with FLOS or wander on your own. It will enhance your well-being, and support peace of mind.

Happy Summer!



Old-time Baseball Rolls to Riverside

Saturday, July 30 at the Big Ball Park

Pull up your suspenders and grab those wooden bats. It's time to watch Vintage Baseball, a new tradition at [Riverside's Big Ball Park](#). The Chicago Salmon and Blue Island Brewmasters will face off on Saturday, July 30 at 1:00 PM. Admission is free for all.

Vintage baseball is a time-honored national sport where participating teams play by 1860s rules. Fittingly for Riverside, not only was Big Ball Park included in Frederick Law Olmsted's original design, but one of the first village developers was a founder of the Chicago White Stockings.

According to the national Vintage Baseball Association website, there were hundreds of baseball clubs competing in the 1860s in the Midwest and East Coast. The website notes that women were allowed to play baseball in the 1860s, and spectators will see women in bloomers and possibly hoop skirts playing during the Salmon vs. Brewmasters game. The Salmon's roster, for example, includes Second basewoman Katie "Flapjack" Baer and pitcher Madelyn "Man Hands" Grish.



Rules of the 1860s game are different from that of today. For example, the teams do not play on a standard baseball diamond but prefer an open field. Bats must be round and made of wood and of "any length to suit the striker." You can read the old-time rules on the [Salmon's website](#) or they will be available at the game.

Bring your chair and root for your favorite team. Updated information will be posted on the Frederick Law Olmsted Society's website, [olmstedsociety.org](#).

HopStop Craft Beer Festival Returns

Saturday, September 24 at the Riverside Train Station

Riverside Foods, in conjunction with the Olmsted Society are once again collaborating to bring you the HopStop craft beer festival. This year, HopStop makes a return to the newly renovated [Riverside Train Station](#).

We will be sampling offerings from local craft brewers and food will be available for purchase.

[Joyful Bubbles](#) will be on deck for children and live music will round out a wonderful outdoor family-friendly setting in the arboretum Village of Riverside.

Make use of the free bicycle valet, bring a designated driver, or take [Metra](#) – which drops you off right at the venue.

A commemorative tasting glass is provided with each ticket sold, and this will be a zero-waste event.

100% of the proceeds from HopStop go to the Olmsted Society to help foster a sustainable future in our community and celebrate the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted.

Tickets go on sale midnight, July 20th at [Brown Paper Tickets](#).





The Olmsted Overlook – A Gift for the Ages

Thanks to Volunteers, Professionals, Neighbors & Village Officials

On Saturday, April 23 of this year, a group of FLOS members and friends planted a grove of trees [overlooking the river on the west side of Swan Pond bluff](#). The grove, dubbed the “Olmsted Overlook,” commemorates the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted.

Designed by local landscape architect, Shawn Sinn, the Olmsted Overlook features native trees, consistent with Riverside’s focus as a certified arboretum. It was important to have a design for the grove since Olmsted himself launched the profession of landscape architecture. Landscape contractor Tom Lupfer also provided crucial work crews to help move the trees and dig holes.

The volunteer efforts will continue through this summer and the next two growing seasons as team members water the newly planted trees. The Village of Riverside has also gifted FLOS with a park bench, to be positioned under the shade of the new trees and offering a beautiful view.

Many, many people were involved in this effort, and although we cannot list them all, here is a huge thank you! This grove is a lasting, living legacy that will grace our village for decades to come.

In addition to those named above, many thanks to:

- **Olmsted Overlook Committee:** Rob Dixon, Bob Finn, Trisha Flassing, Cindy Kellogg, Linda LaBelle, Rick LaBelle, Yvonne Lucero, Cathy and Mike Maloney, Dan Murphy.
- **Watering “Bucket Brigade:”** Boy Scout Troop 24, Peter Boutsikakis, Rob Dixon, Bob Finn, Trisha Flassing, Kim Freeark, Rick and Linda LaBelle, Lisa Lambros, Cathy and Mike Maloney, Dan Murphy, Yvonne Lucero.
- **Fairbank Road neighbors** who graciously supported this project.
- **Village of Riverside** including Village Forester Mike Collins and Public Works Director Dan Tabb.

If you are interested in learning more about the Olmsted Overlook, or joining the “Bucket Brigade,” please contact Cathy Maloney at cjmaloney1@ameritech.net.

FLOS members and other volunteers planted 20 native trees at the Olmsted Overlook on Saturday, April 23.



(Above) Landscape architect and Olmsted Overlook designer, Sean Sinn (third from left), speaks to the volunteers.



Reflections on Riverside Poetry Contest Winners Announced



Trisha Flassing
Poetry Contest Chair

The Olmsted Society's "Reflections on Riverside" Student Poetry Contest is held each April in celebration of National Poetry Month. Inspired by the 200th Anniversary of Olmsted's birth, our theme this year focused on *Riverside Roots* – and more than 120 area students rose to the challenge!

We wish to recognize everyone who adventured outdoors and wandered our restorative landmark landscape. You thoughtfully considered how Riverside spreads its roots and influence, what lies hidden in the ground or in ourselves, and what anchors us all. Our judges were impressed by your reflections!

This year, we were able to present some of the awards at the schools' year-end ceremonies. Our poetry co-chairs were happy to share kudos and congratulations with the D96 school communities. Certificates and prizes (cash, flower seeds, pencil, eraser, notebook, and custom Aunt Diana's chocolate) were distributed to our talented winners. On behalf of the Olmsted Society, it is our sincere hope that we brought each poet a little joy!

We are pleased to announce to the community the overall winners of the Poetry Contest, at each level:

The Foundation of Riverside

Trees
Lining the streets
Filling the green spaces
Cleaning the air
Thousands of trees
Standing tall and proud
The roots keeping them sturdy
Keeping them healthy
Trees swaying side to side
With the breeze
In the wind
A home for Robins, Cardinals
And many more
Laying their eggs
As Happy as can be
People enjoying their company
Hearing and seeing trees
From their home to the flowing river and beyond
From Blue Ash to Hackberry
They are there
Rooted in Riverside

Josie C.
Grade 5
Central Elementary School

Level	Student	School	Poem Title
1 st Grade:	Robin B.	Central	<i>What's In Riverside</i>
2 nd Grade: (a tie)	Kai A.	Central	<i>Thriving</i>
	Tamzin D.	Blythe Park	<i>Branches</i>
3 rd Grade:	Gabriel M.	Central	<i>A Hike in the Riverside Forest</i>
4 th Grade:	Maya A.	Central	<i>From the Roots Up</i>
5 th Grade:	Josie C.	Blythe Park	<i>The Foundation of Riverside</i>
Jr. High 1st:	Ella B.	Hauser	<i>Roots</i>
Jr. High 2nd:	Vincenzo G.	Hauser	<i>My Roots of Riverside</i>
Jr. High 3rd:	Mykhailo R.	Hauser	<i>Representing Riverside</i>

Read Junior High School student Ella B.'s winning entry, *Roots*, on [page 8](#).



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. Please visit the [Tributes & Trees Program page](#) on the FLOS website to learn more about this program and make your donation to recognize someone you care about! All Tributes & Trees donations are used specifically to enhance our Olmsted-designed parks, whether it be plantings or supplies. If you have any questions, contact tributes@olmstedociety.org.

Tributes & Trees Thanks

Honoree: Phyllis Pecelunas

"Thanks for coming to our rescue!"

Donors: James & Sandra Petrzilka

Tributes & Trees Remembers

In memory of: John Salzinski

"With deep Sympathy"

Donors: Thomas & Constance Guardi

In memory of: Doris & Bill Miller

"Honoring your love for Riverside"

Donor: Margaret Miller



This year, Riverside's Arbor Day Tree, a yellow birch, was purchased with donations made to Tributes & Trees. We thank Village Forester Mike Collins and Landscape Workday volunteers for getting the tree off to a good start.





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 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
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
Oct 22	Riverside Road
Nov 5	Longcommon / Downing Triangle



If you have questions or want to be added to our FLOS Landscape Committee email 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





Walking Tours of Riverside

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
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.

Here is another winning entry from this year's *Reflections on Riverside Poetry Contest*.

ROOTS

On the side of a river is where we stand
Our nature is so plentiful, beautiful and grand.
This land, my home, filled with love
Our roots grow deep, we walk above.

While this small piece of Mother Earth grows roots-
We do too.

Each generation before us grew
And generations to come will continue that bloom.
Like the little indigo flowers that pop up everywhere
And the daffodils that show Spring is in the air.
Love them, for it shows care.
If there is not care I've paved my own path to doom
So the wisdom I absorb will be shared and adored.
The plants that thrive, the river that rushes, so luscious.
The cardinals that sing their beautiful tune.
At night in the sky the moon shines so bright.
The crickets sound their chirp-chirp.
The foxes, most quiet, dash through fences.
When I witness this, I stop.

All these things bundled up into this little town-
But to me it's big.

Full of love and charming as can be.
I know I do, but do you see the things we take for granted?
A world without these things
I see slanted.

*Ella B.
Grade 7
L.J. Hauser Junior High School*



Presentations Report



Dan Murphy
Presentations Chair

At Home in Chicago: A Living History of Domestic Architecture

Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 PM at the Riverside Public Library

Author Patrick F. Cannon and photographer James Caulfield will present an inside look at some of the Chicago area's most distinctive and architecturally-significant residences – including Riverside's Coonley Estate.



This presentation, based on Cannon and Caulfield's recently published book, *At Home in Chicago: A Living History of Domestic Architecture*, will span the history of Chicago residential architecture. The authors travelled across the metropolitan region to create an eye-opening look at the city's 200-year history through different home styles. They inspected houses built before the 1871 Great Chicago Fire, walked through the mansions that rose during the Gilded Age, explored apartments finished before the Depression, and scrutinized mid-century and new-century homes. Frank Lloyd Wright's Coonley Estate is featured in their book and will be given special emphasis for this Riverside presentation.

Patrick F. Cannon had a long career as a publicist, journalist, and editor and has led tours of Chicago-area architecture for more than four decades. After retiring, Patrick decided to build upon a long interest in architecture by writing about Chicago area architects and architecture. Since the publication of his first book, *Hometown Architect: The Complete Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright in Oak Park and River Forest*, in 2006, he has since published five more books in collaboration with one of Chicago's preeminent architectural photographers, James Caulfield. Their combined effort on *The Space Within: Insider Great Chicago Buildings* received the Gold Medal in the Independent Publishers Book Awards.



James Caulfield has been a professional photographer for more than 40 years, creating compelling images of people, places, and things both in the U.S. and abroad for advertising and direct clients alike. His interest in architectural subjects grew out of his own efforts restoring a Fromann & Jepsen-designed bank in Chicago, a mid-century modern home in Glencoe, and a bungalow in Berwyn. This passion for preservation led James to volunteer his services to the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust in Oak Park by documenting the buildings on the Trust's annual house walk, Wright Plus. There, he met architectural writer Patrick F. Cannon in 2004 and the two have collaborated on six books. Their most recent is *At Home in Chicago*.

Join us for a visually engaging presentation of Chicago homes that spans the decades with varied architectural styles from Richardson's Glessner House and Wright's Robie House to van der Rohe's 860-880 Lake Shore Drive and Jeanne Gang's Aqua tower.



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.

MEMBERSHIP:

☐ *Reliable Redbud* \$35-\$49 \$_____

☐ *Hearty Hickory* \$50-\$124 \$_____

☐ *Sugar Maple* \$125-\$249 \$_____
(includes 2 walking tour tickets)

☐ *Mighty Oak* \$250 + \$_____
(includes 4 walking tour tickets)

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

☐ Gift Membership

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

COMMITTEES:

Put your talent to work & your energy to good use by joining a committee!

- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Education & Tours
- ☐ Fundraising events:
 - ☐ Hop Stop
 - ☐ Housewalk
- ☐ 4th of July Parade Float
- ☐ Landscape Workdays
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Public Relations
- ☐ Website

☐ I wish to receive a receipt for my tax deductible donation



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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:
olmstedsociety.org
