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of the National Park Service

FISCAL YEAR 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FISCAL YEAR 2015 GOALS

Cover Photos:

Top Left: Top Cottage at Home of FDR National Historic Site, 2014. (OCLP)

Top Right: National Park Service arborist team mobilized by the Olmsted Center to stabilize hazardous trees at Blue Ridge Parkway, 2014. (OCLP)

Bottom Left: Alice Puccio, Youth Team Supervisor, Olmsted Center, leading Prescott School students in a discussion during a field trip to the Charlestown Navy Yard, 2014. (OCLP)

Bottom Right: The Falling Gardens at Hampton National Historic Site, 2014. (OCLP)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
PLANNING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	5
Cultural Landscapes Inventory	7
Cultural Landscape Reports	9
Landscape Preservation Planning Technical Assistance	15
Cultural Landscape Mapping and Spatial Data Standards	17
PRESERVATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	19
Arborist Incident Response Team	21
Facility Management Software System	23
Historic Plant Preservation Program	25
Landscape Maintenance Field Projects	27
Landscape Preservation Maintenance Technical Assistance	29
EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	31
Arborist Training Program	33
Branching Out Youth Program	35
Career Academy Development and Training	37
Chainsaw Safety Operations	39
Landscape Maintenance Skills Development Program	41
Landscape Preservation Maintenance Education Curriculum	43
Cultural Landscapes Internship Program	45
Designing the Parks	
Summer Internship Program	47
Stephen T. Mather Building Arts and Craftsmanship High School	49
Volunteers in Parks	51
Witness Tree Project	53
OLMSTED CENTER FOR LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION STAFF	55





The White Bridge over Crum Elbow Creek, Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. (OCLP)

INTRODUCTION

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation supports national parks in the Northeast Region with preserving cultural landscapes. The Center provides a wide range of research, planning, stewardship, and education services, frequently in partnership with park staff, universities, and nonprofit organizations, in order to deploy specialized landscape preservation skills and expertise. Through these services, the Center works with parks to address critical preservation needs and enhance resource management capabilities. Based on their expertise, Olmsted Center staff members often participate in national initiatives and provide assistance to parks beyond the Northeast Region.

The Olmsted Center manages a variety of inventory and research projects that identify, document, and guide the preservation of park cultural landscapes. These projects support park planning, construction, facilities maintenance, and interpretation and education. To assist parks with deferred and cyclic cultural landscape maintenance needs, the Center coordinates field projects, manages a historic plant preservation program, and provides contracting assistance. In the Northeast Region, the Center is part of a network of partnership parks that support sharing of staff to assist in project work, such as historic orchard preservation, specimen tree management, historic trails rehabilitation, and plant replacement. To strengthen the cultural landscape stewardship capacity of national parks, the Olmsted Center offers training and career development opportunities that build and enhance employee knowledge, skills, and abilities in landscape preservation concepts and techniques. Finally, to develop and nurture life-long connections between the public and parks—especially for young people—the Center coordinates programs that engage youth in national park cultural landscape management learning experiences.

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OLMSTED CENTER FISCAL YEAR 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FISCAL YEAR 2015 GOALS

This report outlines the Olmsted Center's accomplishments during FY 2014 and goals for FY 2015 in response to the National Park Service's *A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*. The Center contains three integrated program areas: Preservation Planning, Preservation Maintenance, and Education and Training. The accomplishments and goals are presented according to twenty-one program activities that strengthen the capacity of parks to manage cultural landscapes.

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center provided an integrated program of services to parks in the Northeast Region. Eight completed cultural landscape inventories and three cultural landscape reports provide parks with vital baseline information, as well as treatment recommendations on how to best preserve landscape resources. Preservation maintenance projects and training programs have improved the condition of several cultural landscapes, along with providing opportunities to build park staff skills and abilities. Education programs expanded the Olmsted Center's engagement with youth, the future stewards of our national parks. These programs and activities resulted in published reports, field projects, web-based training, and cooperative relationships. The Olmsted Center accomplished much of this work through outreach programs and partnerships that engaged dozens of volunteers, interns, and students in educational, service, and career development opportunities.

The Olmsted Center has established ambitious goals for FY 2015. Staff will complete twelve new cultural landscapes inventories and finalize four cultural landscape reports. In partnership with the National Park Service Learning and Development Cultural Resource Academy, Olmsted Center staff will further develop and coordinate education programs for NPS staff in landscape preservation and stewardship, including the Arborist Training Program and Landscape Maintenance Skills and Development Program. In cooperation with the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training and other partners, the Olmsted Center will further develop a national curriculum in Historic Landscape Preservation Maintenance, and launch an innovative e-learning program for a national audience of cultural landscape stewards. Finally, the Center will continue to engage diverse youth in national park cultural resource management learning experiences through the Branching Out program and the Student Conservation Association. Through commitments to these existing and developing programs, the Olmsted Center will continue to serve as a national leader in cultural landscape preservation.



View across the Hudson River from Bemis Heights, Saratoga National Historical Park. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving America's Special Places

The Olmsted Center's Planning Program provides research, planning, and preservation compliance assistance to help parks inventory, understand, and plan for the management of their cultural landscapes.

PLANNING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation's Planning Program provides research, planning, and preservation compliance assistance to help national parks inventory, understand, and plan for the management of their cultural landscapes. Olmsted Center staff members undertake a variety of project work to document the history, existing conditions, and significance of landscapes. A majority of this baseline information is collected as part of the Servicewide National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory. Based on this information, staff works with parks in treatment planning to guide resource management decisions that protect and preserve cultural landscapes. In addition, Olmsted Center assists parks with compliance responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Specific Planning Program activities include:

- Cultural Landscapes Inventories
- Cultural Landscape Reports
- Landscape Preservation Planning Technical Assistance
- Cultural Landscape Mapping and Spatial Data Standards

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Blow-Me-Down Farm, a component of Saint Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire. Features include the Dance Hall (image left), and sweeping views west of the Connecticut River and Mount Ascutney. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving America's Special Places

Park Pulse 28

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system and one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI helps cultivate excellence in science and scholarship by serving as a foundation for park planning, policy, decision making, and education. Within the Northeast Region, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation manages the CLI Program.

The CLI evaluates all park landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. They may also be otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the National Park Service has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when the park superintendent concurs with the findings and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information and concerns about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and to integrate related data about these resources. The CLI also provides

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an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability. To date, 359 cultural landscapes or component landscapes have been identified in the Northeast Region's 78 national park areas.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center added eight cultural landscape inventories to the national database. This accomplishment resulted from the diligence of Olmsted Center staff who worked directly on the CLIs, with input from park staff whose resources were being inventoried, and from consultation with staff from other cultural resource disciplines. The eight CLIs include:

- Adams National Historical Park (Adams Birthplaces)
- Hampton National Historic Site (Hampton NHS Landscape, Hampton Mansion, Hampton Farm)
- Home Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site (Top Cottage, J.R. Roosevelt Place)
- Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (Sagamore Hill NHS Landscape)
- Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (Zane Grey House).

The Northeast Region CLI team also made significant progress on several additional CLIs, anticipating their completion during FY'15 at Gateway National Recreation Area (Fort Tilden), Minute Man National Historical Park (Fiske Hill and Meriam's Corner), Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (Corwin Farm and Roebling Bridge). The Northeast Region's Cultural Landscape Inventory Program also uploaded completed inventory records into the NPS IRMA web-based data repository, making this inventory data widely available.

Currently, 130 cultural landscapes in the Northeast Region have complete, accurate, and reliable inventories. This represents 36% of those identified in the CLI database for the region. Of the 130 completed CLIs, 85 (66%) of the landscapes are listed in good condition, 41 (33%) in fair condition, and 4 (1%) in poor condition. In addition, the Olmsted Center conducted condition reassessments for four previously completed

landscapes/component landscapes as required, based on the six-year cycle established by the national CLI Program.

PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

For FY 2015, the Olmsted Center has identified the following goals to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the national and regional CLI programs:

- Accelerate completion of the CLI beyond national goals.
- Improve efficiency in program implementation.
- Align priorities with related research efforts.
- Contribute to national management of the CLI Program.
- Strengthen interface between CLI and work planning systems.
- Expand the relationship between the CLI and GIS.

Twelve CLIs are scheduled to be completed this fiscal year, including:

- Booker T. Washington National Historic Site (Booker T. Washington NHS Landscape)
- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (Fairsted)
- Johnstown Flood National Memorial (Johnstown Flood Landscape)
- Longfellow National Historic Site (Longfellow NHS Landscape)
- Minute Man National Historical Park (Fiske Hill and Meriam's Corner)
- Richmond National Battlefield (Fort Harrison and Totopotomoy Creek)
- Salem Maritime National Historic Site (Salem Maritime NHS Landscape)
- Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (Corwin Farm and Roebling Bridge)

Two CLIs for the Acadia National Park Historic Hiking Trail System (Bar Harbor and Seal Harbor) will be undertaken in the summer of 2015 as part of the CLI summer field school and completed in 2016. In addition to the new CLIs, the Olmsted Center will complete condition reassessments for four landscapes/component landscapes based on the six-year cycle.



Pan statue and Little Studio in the gardens at Aspet in Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

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21

Cultural Landscape Reports provide a treatment framework for future and long-term management of significant cultural landscapes based on a park's enabling legislation, NPS policy, and planning.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORTS

The National Park Service relies on cultural landscape reports as the primary documents to guide the management and treatment of cultural and historic landscapes. These documents provide parks with an understanding of the history, evolution, and significance of their properties to enable informed and thoughtful stewardship. Cultural landscape reports provide treatment guidance and cultivate excellence in science and scholarship as a foundation for park planning, policy, decision-making, and education. Though its contents focus primarily on a treatment framework and management priorities, a complete report typically includes a narrative site history, an inventory and assessment of existing conditions, an analysis of significance and integrity using National Register of Historic Places criteria and definitions, and recommendations for future landscape treatment.

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation has completed over one hundred cultural landscape reports for many different types of landscapes. Documented historic sites range from the packed earth yard in Virginia where Booker T. Washington first heard the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, to the windswept landscapes of the Dune Shacks of Peaked Hill Bars Historic District within Cape Cod National Seashore. Sites vary in scale from the expansive, 3,000-acre American Revolution battlefield in Saratoga, New York, to the carefully tended landscapes and gardens at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites further down the Hudson River. Issues and treatment approaches vary between historic vernacular landscapes such as a farmstead at the Weir Farm National Historic Site in Connecticut, and archeologically sensitive sites within the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area.

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The Olmsted Center works with an interdisciplinary team of landscape architects, architects, historians, archeologists, horticulturalists, and other related professionals to produce these reports. Researchers gather report information from primary and secondary sources found in local, state, national, park libraries and archives, and at agency regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The information collected provides a comprehensive examination of the historical development and significance of the landscape.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center published three reports:

- Cultural Landscape Report for Adams Birthplaces, Adams National Historical Park: Site History, Existing Conditions, Analysis and Evaluation, Treatment
- Cultural Landscape Report for Hampton National Historic Site, Vol. I: Site History, Existing Conditions, and Analysis and Evaluation, and Vol. II: Treatment and Record of Treatment
- Cultural Landscape Report for Rapidan Camp, Shenandoah National Park: Site History, Existing Conditions, Analysis and Evaluation, Treatment

The Olmsted Center initiated or advanced reports for eight parks:

- Acadia National Park
- Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
- Booker T. Washington National Monument
- Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park
- Gettysburg National Military Park
- Governors Island National Monument
- Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
- Salem Maritime National Historic Site

REPORTS PUBLISHED IN 2014

Completed three (3) cultural landscape reports to provide a treatment framework for future and long-term management of significant cultural landscapes based on a park's enabling legislation, NPS policy, and planning. These reports include:

Cultural Landscape Report for the Adams Birthplaces, Adams National Historical Park; Cultural Landscape Report for Hampton National Historic Site, (two volumes); and Cultural Landscape Report for Rapidan Camp, Shenandoah National Park. Each of these three reports includes detailed landscape treatment recommendations developed in collaboration with park staff and other allied resource professionals. The Olmsted Center also scoped and advanced reports for Acadia National Park, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Booker T. Washington National Monument, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park, Gettysburg National Military Park, Governors Island National Monument, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, and Salem Maritime National Historic Site.

Cultural Landscape Report for Adams Birthplaces, Adams National Historical Park

The Adams Birthplaces cultural landscape preserves the site of the birthplaces of two early presidents, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, and represents a vestige of the former 200-acre Penn's Hill farmstead and home of four generations of the Adams family. Located in the City of Quincy in Norfolk County, Massachusetts, the .34-acre site contains the two distinctive saltbox homes in a park-like setting of maintained lawns, shade trees, ornamental shrubs, stone walls, and wooden fences. The oldest presidential birthplaces and among the oldest homes in the country, the two buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and designated National Historic Landmarks.

The *Cultural Landscape Report for Adams Birthplaces* includes a detailed site history, documentation of existing conditions, analysis and evaluation, and recommendations for treatment. The site history documents the evolution of the landscape, from early pre-European inhabitants, through its long development under the Adams family, the major changes following the death of Charles Francis Adams in 1886 and the subsequent transfer to the Adams Real Estate Trust, and the stewardship of the National Park Service following its acquisition of the property in 1940. The existing conditions chapter documents the appearance of the landscape in 2013 through narrative and graphics, based on field inventory, the most re-



cent site survey and plans, and geographic information system (GIS) data. The report describes the landscape context for the birthplaces, adjoining properties, park operations, and the .72-acre park property, and documents the landscape characteristics that compose the sites existing conditions. The analysis and evaluation chapter provides an analysis of the historical significance and integrity of the Adams birthplaces landscape and an evaluation of its historic character based on the findings of the site history and existing conditions.

The treatment chapter provides recommendations for rehabilitating the landscape to reflect its appearance at the time that the Adams Real Estate Trust passed the property to the City of Quincy in 1940, while also allowing for ongoing use as an educational public property. The treatment approach of *rehabilitation* enables the park to repair and replace deteriorated and missing features, while simultaneously allowing compatible alterations and new additions to facilitate its continued use as a commemorative site. Treatment will allow the park to maintain fences along the current property edges, add durable walkways to facilitate movement through the landscape, add screen plantings and fencing along the northern edge of the property, and create opportunities for visitor engagement and comfort in a sheltered setting. The report also incorporates a prioritized implementation strategy that integrates current Facility Management Software System (FMSS) data.



Weir Farm. (OCLP)

Cultural Landscape Report for Hampton National Historic Site

Located in Towson, Maryland, just ten miles north of downtown Baltimore, the Hampton NHS landscape is comprised of two distinct components: the 48.02-acre mansion landscape, located to the south of Hampton Lane, and the 14.02-acre farm landscape, located to the north. Together, they depict the integration of a once sprawling residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial enterprise, and remain as tangible vestiges of the political, economic, and social changes that shaped the nation from 1745 to 1948.

The design and modification of the mansion landscape exemplifies residential design trends popular in the mid-Atlantic from the early eighteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The eighteenth century formal site layout and planting design gave way to picturesque design principles modeled after the English landscape style in the nineteenth century and later to Colonial Revival improvements in the early twentieth century. Within the mansion landscape, these styles are evident in the planting composition, planting style, grading, and layout of the grounds.

The farm was once at the core of the Ridgely family's extensive agricultural holdings and is an outstanding example of the *ferme ornée*, or ornamental farm, in which the practical aspects of the working landscape were combined in an aesthetically pleasing scene. Following the abolition of slavery, the farm was subdivided and worked by tenant farmers, transforming once vast fields into a patchwork of smaller plots. Today, the farm landscape represents the last remnant of the quarters system of agriculture employed at Hampton.

Volume I, Site History, Existing Conditions, Analysis and Evaluation

The Volume I report consolidates, revises, and updates a 2004 draft cultural landscape report to address the entire park property and integrate new research findings, updated National Register documentation, and changing landscape conditions. In three chapters, the report documents the historic evolution of Hampton's grounds over 203 years (1745–1948) and seven



generations of Ridgely family ownership, documents its existing condition, and provides an analysis of the significance and integrity of the landscape. This documentation and analysis is accompanied by an extensive specimen-level vegetation inventory of the entire park, which is already in use with resource management efforts.

Volume II, Treatment and Record of Treatment

The Volume II report articulates both general guidelines and specific recommendations to rehabilitate the landscape consistent with the vision outlined in park's recently finalized General Management Plan. Rehabilitation was selected as the primary treatment approach for its capacity to accommodate repair and replacement of deteriorated and missing historic features, while simultaneously allowing compatible alterations and new additions to the site to facilitate its continued use as a public park. The landscape character at the height of Hampton's physical development—in the pre to post-Civil War era—will serve as an objective benchmark for assessing change, as the park seeks to interpret the transition from slave labor to tenant farming that occurred at that time. The report addresses the needed for perpetuating historic vegetation, enhancing the rural character of the farm, and providing for universal access throughout the site, among many others. The Volume II report concludes with a record of prior landscape treatment completed in the falling gardens.

Cultural Landscape Report for Rapidan Camp, Shenandoah National Park

Located at the headwaters of the Rapidan River within Shenandoah National Park, Rapidan Camp is the site of President Herbert Hoover's summer retreat while he was in office from 1929 to 1933. During that period, the camp consisted of thirteen rustic cabins, including a comfortable cabin for the president and Mrs. Hoover that featured two bedrooms, a living room and sitting room, a study, and two large stone fireplaces. Other cabins included guest sleeping quarters, public spaces, and a dining area, arranged within a network of stone-lined paths, bridges, outdoor gathering spaces, and stone features. All of the cabins were of simple construction

designed to harmonize with the wooded setting and minimize the separation between inside and outside. The camp was nestled in a grove of hemlocks between two small mountain streams, Mill Prong and Laurel Prong, that converged to form the Rapidan River. Hemlock Run, a constructed stream channel, forked off of Laurel Prong and flowed through the heart of the camp, feeding waterfalls and small pools before rejoining the river.

Today, three of the thirteen original cabins remain, including the President's Cabin and two guest cabins. Also present are trails, paths, stone footbridges, a stone fountain, a massive outdoor stone fireplace, and the constructed stream channel. The exteriors of the cabins have been restored in recent years, and the interior of the President's Cabin has been meticulously restored to period conditions using original, period (substitution), and reproduction furniture. Management of the cultural landscape at Rapidan Camp is challenged by a number of factors that have altered its appearance and threaten its valuable resources. Disease and pests, including the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*), have killed or damaged many of the trees, opening the canopy to sunlight and encouraging pioneering young birch, maple, and tulip poplars. The majority of the stately hemlocks that once shaded the camp are dead, some still standing as ghostly snags and more still clogging the stream channels. Storms and floods have scoured the stream and river beds, eroding their banks and threatening the cabins and other features. Finally, the remote location and rugged terrain hinder the maintenance of the structures, many of which are of simple, insubstantial construction and materials.

The treatment strategy for Rapidan Camp is focused on enhancing visitor experience and understanding of the landscape's historic character and revealing camp structure and organization through feature repair, vegetation management, and interpretation. Treatment efforts include reestablishing a thriving forest canopy over the camp, cultivating a woodland garden character as imagined by Lou Henry Hoover, repairing and rehabilitating water features, clearing and interpreting the location of missing cabins, and reestablishing historic circulation patterns. In addition to these efforts, treatment will ensure that the surviving historic structures and landscape features



are preserved and protected from damage from vegetation and the risk of fire, and that non-historic features are adequately screened from view. The treatment strategy balances the preservation of the camp's historic character with management of the natural systems of the camp and its environs. Treatment considers the site's native ecosystems, endangered species, invasive non-native species, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and hydrology. Treatment recommendations are designed to be adaptive to changing environmental conditions, including the loss of the hemlock trees in camp and the continued threat of the hemlock woolly adelgid, and responsive to threats such as fire and floods.

PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

For FY 2015, the Olmsted Center has identified the following six goals to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of cultural landscape reports:

- Assist parks with defining preservation planning needs and scoping projects through the Project Management Information System (PMIS)
- Improve distribution of cultural landscape reports through Integrated Resource Management Applications (IRMA).
- Collaborate with the Regional History Program and Historic Architecture Conservation & Engineering Center to update analysis and evaluation data related to the National Register and the List of Classified Structures.
- Contribute to Service-wide cultural landscape report methodology.
- Strengthen Interface between cultural landscape report treatment tasks and Facility Management Software Systems (FMSS).
- Expand the Relationship between the cultural landscape maps and data and geographic information systems (GIS).

For FY 2015, the completion of four cultural landscape reports is anticipated, all of which were started in FY2014 or earlier.

These are:

- Acadia National Park (*Historic Motor Road Vista Plan Update*)

- Booker T. Washington National Monument (*Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan for the Historic Core*)
- Shenandoah National Park (*Cultural Landscape Report for Big Meadows*)
- San Juan National Historic Site (*Cultural Landscape Report for San Cristobal Outworks*)

Cultural landscape reports with continuing work in 2015 include:

- Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park (*Cultural Landscape Treatment Implementation Plan for Appomattox Courthouse NHP*)
- Denali National Park (*Cultural Landscape Report for the Kantishna-Wonder Lake Area*)
- Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park (*Cultural Landscape Report for the Chancellorsville Battlefield* and *Cultural Landscape Report for Chatham Manor*)
- Cultural Landscape Report for the Woodlawn Tract
- Gettysburg National Military Park (*Cultural Landscape Preservation Plan for Gettysburg NMP* and *Cultural Landscape Report for Gettysburg National Cemetery*)
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area (*Cultural Landscape Report for Forts Barry, Baker and Cronkhite*)
- Governor's Island National Monument (*Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan for Governors Island National Monument*)
- Martin Van Buren National Historic Site (*Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site*)
- Muir Woods National Historic Site (*Cultural Landscape Report for Muir Woods National Historic Site*)
- Salem Maritime National Historic Site (*Cultural Landscape Report for Salem Maritime NHS*)
- Yellowstone National Park (*Cultural Landscape Report for Mammoth Hot Springs - Fort Yellowstone*)
- California Department of Parks and Recreation (*Cultural Landscape Preservation Maintenance Plan for Hearst Castle*)

Cultural landscape reports scheduled to be initiated in 2015:

- Petersburg National Battlefield (*Cultural Landscape Report for the Crater Battlefield*)



- Richmond National Battlefield (*Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan for Rural Plains*)
- Martin Van Buren National Historic Site (*Cultural Landscape Agricultural Management Plan for Martin Van Buren Farm*)



Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, one of the newest units within the National Park Service. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving America's Special Places

Landscape Preservation Planning Technical Assistance provides treatment and planning guidance to parks. The ability to as a team to address complex resource management issues is key to achieving a standard of excellence in resource stewardship Servicewide.

LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation provides cultural landscape and landscape architectural expertise to parks working to preserve and manage cultural landscapes. This expertise is made available to supplement the in-house abilities of park staff and is accompanied by a shared sense of mission toward resource preservation and visitor experience. Technical assistance includes landscape treatment specifications, on-site problem solving, and case-by-case Section 106 Compliance consultations.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center:

- Served as a national leader in the creation of compliant geospatial cultural resource data. The Olmsted Center has shared expertise with WASO Cultural Resources GIS as part of a project to develop consistent geospatial data standards for all cultural resource disciplines.
- Assisted the WASO cultural landscapes program with development of website content, including landscape stories, landscape stewards, places, preservation, climate change, and sustainability.
- Contributed to the WASO “Cultural Resource Academy” effort to develop on-line content for cultural landscapes training and skills development. This included developing draft scripts for two instructional videos presenting landscape preservation maintenance skills and also managing landscapes for preservation of essential landscape character.

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- Revised and refined national guidance with SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry for integrating cultural landscape characteristics and features as “assets” into the Park Service’s computerized facility management software system (FMSS).
- Jointly provided services to parks from the Planning and Maintenance Program staff in development of facility management hierarchies of landscape assets. This will aid in funding ongoing maintenance and preservation of landscape resources through the NPS FMSS system.
- Provided services to approximately one half of NER park units as Section 106 landscape advisors in consultation on various park projects. Additionally, all NER parks were consulted in order to provide technical assistance with the Servicewide Comprehensive Call and assisted many parks with development of PMIS project statements.
- Provided support to the NER park “Foundations” documents.
- Contributed to the “Connect Historic Boston” effort with NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, Northeast Region and the City of Boston to develop pedestrian and bicycle connections between transit hubs and NPS sites and the city’s Rose F. Kennedy Greenway.

Other notable short-term technical assistance projects included:

- Northeast Regional Office: Provided administrative support to the ongoing “*State of the Parks*” effort.
- Acadia National Park: Advised park regarding the proposed multi-use path project along the Fraser Creek Bridge at Schoodic Peninsula (PEPC 44815).
- First State National Monument: Provided assistance in acquisition and organization of baseline resource data.
- Patterson Great Falls National Historical Park: Participated with development of General Management Plan, advising on landscape implications of proposed alternatives.
- Springfield Armory National Historic Site: Collaborated with NPS Historic Architecture Conservation and Engineering Center (HACE) on new site grading and drainage improvements.

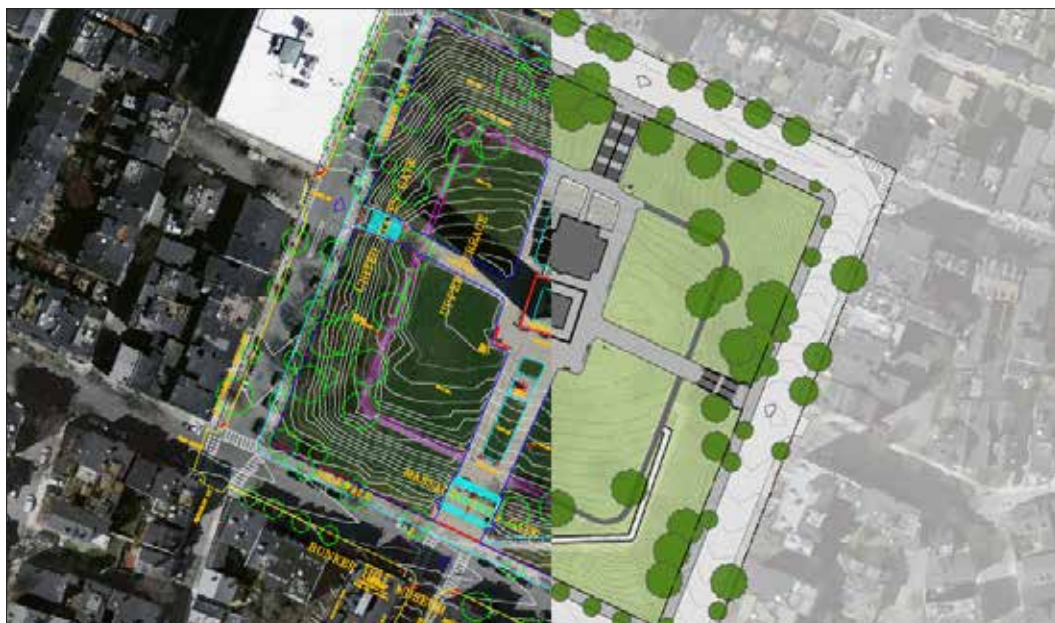
PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will:

- Continue participation and support for “Foundations” park planning and “State of the Parks” (#28) effort.
- Expand numbers of parks served by Olmsted Center staff as Section 106 landscape advisors, consulting with parks to fill vacancies in the advisor rolls.
- Continue support of the national cultural landscape program through our WASO partners.
- Continue service to parks toward incorporation of landscape assets into the FMSS facility management system.



Historic wrought iron fences mark the entrance to Mark Ellen Kramer Park, a broad promontory overlooking the Falls at Paterson Great Falls NHP. (OCLP)



Blended map layers and aerial imagery for Bunker Hill Monument, Boston National Historical Park. The Olmsted Center continued to serv as a leader in the creation of standardized geospatial data in 2014. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving America's Special Places

The Cultural Landscape Mapping and Spatial Data Standards aligns cultural landscape mapping with the national spatial data standards, creating a baseline of spatial data that can inform planning and management decisions and can be shared with a broad audience.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE MAPPING AND SPATIAL DATA STANDARDS

Working with the Cultural Resources Geographic Information System Program (CRGIS) and the Cultural Resource Spatial Data Transfer Standards, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation has refined procedures to create compliant geospatial data as part of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory, an effort to advance and complete the inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system. The quantity of resources included in the Cultural Landscapes Inventory and the formal efforts to prepare instructional documentation has established the Olmsted Center as a leader in creating geospatial data for cultural resources in the Northeast Region. Its geospatial data program improves the transfer of resource knowledge by using new mapping technology.

Mindful of federal and National Park Service requirements concerning geospatial data, the Olmsted Center began exploring new methods for cultural landscape mapping in 2010. This process reviewed various software packages and procedures, commonly available sources for cultural landscape mapping, and staff skill sets. Rather than focusing on a single software application, the Olmsted Center defined two goals for cultural landscape mapping and spatial data standards. First, the Olmsted Center seeks to produce maps featuring illustrative qualities that communicate landscape character for Cultural Landscape Reports and the Cultural Landscapes Inventory. Second, the Center seeks to produce maps that are interoperable with GIS software, adhere to spatial data standards, and contain data useful for client parks and regional resource managers. These goals led to mapping procedures that utilize AutoCAD, ArcGIS, and Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, to prepare maps and create and distribute spatial data.

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ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, Olmsted Center staff integrated GIS practices that adhere to the NPS geospatial data standards for final products related to the production and distribution of spatial data. Significant progress was made in converting its Cultural Landscape Inventory site plans to comply with current geospatial data standards. A total of 109 CLI landscapes were identified for conversion to a compliant GIS format, and supplied existing mapping data and coordinated with parks on providing additional data to the legacy data conversion effort. Olmsted Center staff reviewed converted CLI spatial data to verify locations, double-check contributing status and landscape characteristic, check for geometry type corrections, and check for miscategorized feature classes. The Olmsted Center's efforts captured over 4,800 contributing resources including resources that are cross-referenced on the NPS List of Classified Structures.

PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will:

- Complete the data transfer for the Cultural Landscapes Inventories finished in FY 2014.
- Complete a draft Standard Operating Procedures detailing specific procedures and steps for mapping and spatial data standards.
- Pilot the transfer of preservation maintenance project data to the Cultural Resource Spatial Data Transfer Standards and develop a geo-database template to expedite the transfer of future data.



The Bubble Pond Carriage Road within Acadia National Park. (OCLP)



Rehabilitating a historic trail at Valley Forge National Historical Park. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving America's Special Places

The Olmsted Center's Preservation Maintenance Program provides preservation maintenance support for park cultural landscapes through field projects, technical assistance, and training opportunities.

PRESERVATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation's Preservation Maintenance Program provides timely landscape preservation maintenance assistance to parks. The Olmsted Center works in close collaboration with site staff to identify landscape maintenance needs and recommend emergency and cyclic preservation work to halt and mitigate landscape deterioration. This collaboration helps parks meet their management objectives, improve the condition of significant cultural landscapes, and preserve historic integrity. Specific Preservation Maintenance activities include:

- Arborist Incident Response Team
- Facility Management Software System
- Historic Plant Preservation Program
- Landscape Maintenance Field Projects
- Landscape Preservation Maintenance Technical Assistance

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Mitigating storm damage to cultural resources in the historic Chalmette National Cemetery, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving America's
Special Places

Invest Wisely **24**

The Arborist Incident Response Team provides parks with the skills and capacity to respond to natural disasters in a manner that minimizes damage to cultural resources.

ARBORIST INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

Established by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation in collaboration with parks and regional offices throughout the National Park Service, the Servicewide Arborist Incident Response (AIR) program consists of five regional teams of tree care professionals skilled in hazard tree assessment, arboriculture, and cultural landscape preservation. AIR team participants are trained and mobilized, as needed, to effectively mitigate tree damage resulting from natural events such as hurricanes, floods, and ice storms, while carefully integrating cultural landscape preservation, stabilization and resource protection principles with arboriculture practice. The program works through the National Park Service Emergency Incident Coordination Center (EICC) at Shenandoah National Park.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center:

- Coordinated technical skills development training for program participants hosted by the Southeast Region AIR Team in conjunction with a hazard tree stabilization project at Blue Ridge Parkway.
- Created and conducted three webinars to provide program participants with information on applicable emergency response and resource sensitive arboriculture techniques as well as updates on program activities.
- Continued to coordinate, and work with, regional AIR Team Leaders to develop strategies and procedures for effectively responding to incidents.

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PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will further develop and manage the service-wide program AIR Team. Specific goals include:

- Support the Arborist Incident Response (AIR) Team's role in the NPS Incident Management Program to stabilize, protect, and repair impacts to significant resources from natural disasters.
- Collaborate with WASO- Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science to develop park-based planning materials that serve as a quick reference guide for incident responders to focus attention on stabilizing and protecting the most significant resources.
- Obtain official recognition as a NPS emergency response and resource protection program.
- Provide specialized field based training to enhance participant incident response skills.
- Coordinate technical skills development for Southeast Region AIR Team participants in conjunction with a historic vista restoration project at Blue Ridge Parkway.
- Assist Fire Island National Seashore with the suppression of an infestation of invasive Southern Pine Beetle which is resulting in the loss of hundreds of pine trees and disruption of the ecosystem at the park.
- Provide technical skills development training for program participants in conjunction with a tree removal project at Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreation River.



Measuring stone bench planters as part of inventorying maintained landscape features at Gettysburg National Military Park. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving America's Special Places

Park Pulse 28

The FMSS Maintained Landscape component assesses the overall status of park cultural landscape assets and uses this information to improve park priority setting and assist in securing maintenance and treatment funding.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE SYSTEM

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation provides National Park Service leadership in the development and refinement of the Maintained Landscapes Component of the National Park Service Facility Management Software System (FMSS). Spanning nearly eight million acres, Maintained Landscapes are one of the largest and most complex asset types managed in the National Park Service FMSS portfolio. The Olmsted Center FMSS assists parks with establishing quality landscape FMSS data to support resource stewardship.

In collaboration with the National Park Service Park Facilities Management Division (PFMD), Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, and the Northeast Regional Office Facility Management Network Team, the Olmsted Center helps to ensure that Servicewide Maintained Landscapes data is pertinent to support park operational needs. To assist park staff with effectively applying and using Maintained Landscapes data within FMSS, the Olmsted Center creates data hierarchies with carefully organized landscape information that meets parks' objectives.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In 2014, the Olmsted Center collaborated with WASO-Park Facility Maintenance Division to effectively guide further Servicewide development, implementation, and training for Maintained Landscapes Component of FMSS. Specific assistance included:

- Collaborated with WASO to finalize the Maintained Landscape Asset Tools, Business Practice, Business Management Practice, Inspection Guidance and ML Location and Asset

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Specification Templates, for service-wide rollout.

- Provided support and assisted with further developing and implementing a multi-phased national project to capture all Nationally Significant Cultural Landscapes in FMSS.
- Assisted the Washington Office - Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program with finalizing a technical publication on connecting information between cultural landscape reports, the cultural landscapes inventory and FMSS.

The Olmsted Center also collaborated with Northeast Region's Facility Management Program to assist parks with the implementation of Maintained Landscapes Component of the Facility Software Management System (FMSS). Specific assistance included:

- Reviewed and revised Maintained Landscapes data for fourteen parks in the Northeast Region.
- Assisted Appalachian National Scenic Trail with developing strategies for developing maintained landscape data hierarchies and asset inventories along the full length of the trail system.
- Provided input on clarifying interface between data management of Maintained Landscapes, maintained archaeological sites, monuments/memorials, roads, trails, and other potentially overlapping FMSS asset types.



Collecting data in the orchard at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site. (OCLP)

- Integrated information from cultural resource inventories and reports into FMSS Maintained Landscapes data.
- Recommended the creation of four new landscape locations and streamlined data management needs for park records.

PLANNED IN FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue assisting with planning, coordinating, and implementing the Maintained Landscapes component in FMSS. Specific goals include:

- Collaborate with WASO–Park Facility Maintenance Division to effectively guide further Servicewide development, implementation, and training for Maintained Landscapes Component of FMSS. Support, guide and assist with the WASO–Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program to capture all nationally significant landscapes in FMSS.
- Collaborate with Northeast Region's Facility Management Program to assist eleven parks with the implementation of Maintained Landscapes (ML) component of the Facility Software Management System (FMSS), increasing the percentage of NER parks with comprehensive ML data to 61%; develop and pilot process to assist parks with ML condition assessment, preparation of work orders and associated funding requests to correct ML deficiencies.
- Assist WASO–Park Facility Maintenance Division with the development of ML Total Cost of Ownership calculator that will assist parks with determining annual and cyclic operational costs for landscape management.
- Provide support and assistance to WASO–Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program with a servicewide initiative to capture nationally significant landscapes in FMSS.



Replanting a missing apple tree in the historic orchard at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving America's Special Places

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The Historic Plant Preservation Program focuses investments on high priority historic plants and helps correct safety, environmental, and deferred maintenance deficiencies.

HISTORIC PLANT PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Cultural landscapes often contain a rich palette of vegetation. Many of these plants have unique associations with historic events, such as the Sycamore at Petersburg National Battlefield that provided shade for Ulysses S. Grant's headquarters cabin during the American Civil War, or with people, such as the Magnolia at the White House, planted by Andrew Jackson in 1835. Many plants in cultural landscapes also have unique botanical qualities related to their origin, propagation, cultivation, and distribution that contribute to the understanding of cultural landscape histories.

To preserve historically significant plants, the Olmsted Center developed a methodology for propagating and, cultivating in a nursery, genetically authentic replacements for deteriorated original specimens. The Olmsted Center coordinates this program in collaboration with the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and Historic New England to assist parks with:

- Documenting historically and botanically significant plants in cultural landscapes.
- Assessing condition of significant plants for determining replacement priorities.
- Stabilizing and preserving significant historic plants.
- Propagating and growing in-kind replacements for deteriorating historic plants.

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Apple tree propagule ready for planting at Boston National Historical Park. (OCLP)

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center collaborated with the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and Historic New England to manage a Historic Plant Preservation Program that assist parks with investments on high priority historic plants and helps correct safety, environmental, and deferred maintenance deficiencies. During FY 2014, the program:

- Propagating six deteriorated historic fruit tree specimens from the historic orchards at Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.
- Maintained an inventory of sixty-one plants for twelve national parks in the historic plant nursery.
- Assisted Historic New England with improving plant propagation facilities through the creation of a climate controlled propagation room.
- Replanted twenty missing orchard trees at Morristown National Historical Park.

PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue to work with the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and Historic New England to assist national parks with propagating historically significant plants as in-kind replacements for original specimens in cultural landscapes. Specific goals include:

- Collaborate with the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and Historic New England to continue managing the Historic Plant Preservation Program that assist parks with investments on high priority historic plants and helps correct safety, environmental, and deferred maintenance deficiencies.
- Work in collaboration with park staff to assess cultural landscapes, identify preservation maintenance needs, and improve resource condition by coordinating and implementing field projects with multi-park landscape maintenance teams.



Removing a hazardous tree adjacent to the historic Logan Log House at Ninety Six National Historic Site. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving America's
Special Places

Invest Wisely **24**

Landscape Maintenance Field Projects focus investments on critical deferred maintenance needs of high priority park landscape assets.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FIELD PROJECTS

National Parks often do not have the necessary resources or staff with specialized knowledge and skills needed to effectively care for cultural landscapes. This results in deteriorating landscape condition and an increase in deferred maintenance. To assist, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation coordinates and mobilizes multi-park landscape maintenance teams who assist with identifying landscape preservation maintenance needs and plan, manage and implemented field projects for stabilizing deterioration and improving the condition of cultural landscapes at parks throughout the country.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, The Olmsted Center coordinated and implemented nine field projects that assisted national parks with evaluating and improving cultural landscape condition. These projects included:

- Hazardous tree stabilization at Petersburg National Battlefield.
- Invasive vegetation removal from the historic canals and adjacent to historic structures at Lowell National Historical Park.
- Hazardous tree stabilization at Blue Ridge Parkway.
- Lifting and resetting trees at Salem Maritime National Historic Site.
- Historic tree preservation at Devil's Den/Gettysburg National Military Park.
- Vista management at Springfield Armory National Historic Site.
- Tree pruning and invasive vegetation removal at Saugus Ironworks National Historic Site.
- Tree planting at Dorchester Heights/Boston National Historical Park.

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- Assessed tree condition and stabilized hazardous conditions at Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.
- Fruit tree stabilization and replacement at Morristown National Historical Park.
- Hazardous tree removal at Boston National Historical Park.
- Historic hedge restoration at Chatham Manor, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

PLANNED IN FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue to assist parks with planning, coordinating and implementing landscape maintenance field projects that support the preservation of cultural landscapes. In particular, these projects will:

- Develop and apply concepts and techniques of sustainable landscape management.
- Address resource stabilization and preservation treatment needs identified in park Cultural Landscapes Inventories and Cultural Landscape Reports.
- Strengthen the integration of information on landscape preservation maintenance field projects into the Facility Management Software System (FMSS).
- Enhance the education and training aspects of field projects to provide learning opportunities for a broader audience of National Park Service employees.
- Adapt the use of geographical information systems and global positioning systems to the planning and documentation of field projects.
- Historic tree and shrub pruning at Hampton National Historic Site and Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine.
- Orchard Pruning workshop at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites.



Inspecting historic trees for the presence of Asian Longhorned Beetle infestations at Adams National Historical Park. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving America's
Special Places

Invest Wisely **24**

Landscape Maintenance Technical Assistance provides support to parks on landscape maintenance issues, focusing their investments on deferred maintenance needs of high priority landscape assets.

LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation supports specialized, critical, time sensitive technical assistance to parks in the Northeast Region to assist with mitigating damage to and deterioration of cultural landscapes caused by unanticipated impacts. Landscape maintenance technical assistance provided by the Olmsted Center assists park managers with effectively preserving important cultural landscapes while meeting park management objectives. Support provided to parks includes inspection and evaluation of resource impacts and associated damage, development of remedial treatment and mitigation recommendations, scopes of work, and specifications, guiding landscape stabilization procedures, and implementing corrective measures that halt further deterioration and improve resource condition.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center responded to twenty-five park requests for emergency technical assistance. Work included:

- Provided tree climbing and rigging training and assistance to Acadia National Park trails crew.
- Assisted Longfellow House Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site with inspecting comprehensive tree assessment and maintenance recommendations.
- Assisted Morristown National Historical Park with planning Rutgers University assessment of Wick Farm Orchard.

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- Assisted Cumberland Island National Seashore with identifying management options for historic palms and cypresses.
- Assisted Independence National Historical Park regarding sustainable landscape/turfgrass management program development.
- Updated landscape condition assessment in GIS for Adams National Historic Site.
- Assisted Nicodemus National Historic Site with historic shrub preservation guidance.

PLANNED IN FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the OCLP will continue to assist parks by providing specialized technical assistance on unanticipated issues and impacts that threaten the preservation of cultural landscapes. In particular, assistance will include:

- Inspection, evaluation, assessment, and mitigation of sudden and unpredictable damage to important landscape features.
- Help stabilize deterioration and prevent the loss of resources while long-term management strategies and plans are developed and implemented.



Olmsted Center Branching Out Youth Program participants assisting with removing invasive vegetation from a newly replanted slope in the historic formal gardens at Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence

The Olmsted Center's Education and Training Program provides education, training, and networking opportunities in cultural landscapes to current and future generations of national park stewards.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Olmsted Center's Education and Training programs provide a variety of educational opportunities in cultural landscape preservation principles and practices. These programs help to broaden participants' knowledge and understanding of landscape preservation concepts and strengthen their stewardship skills. Educational opportunities include workshops, conferences, hands-on projects, temporary assignments, and internship and volunteer positions. These programs are available to National Park Service and historic property staff, students, recent graduates, and cultural landscape preservation practitioners. Specific Education and Training activities include:

- Arborist Training Program
- Branching Out Youth Program
- Career Academy Development and Training
- Chainsaw Safety Operations
- Landscape Maintenance Skills Development Program
- Landscape Preservation Maintenance Education Curriculum
- Cultural Landscapes Internship Program
- Stephen T. Mather Building Arts and Craftsmanship High School
- Volunteers in Parks
- Witness Tree Project

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Olmsted Center Arborist Training Program participants learning professional tree climbing and rigging techniques during a field workshop at Blue Ridge Parkway. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence

Tools of the Trade

30

The Arborist Training Program provides employees with the tools, training, and development opportunities needed to build knowledge and skills in tree care within the context of cultural and natural resource management.

ARBORIST TRAINING PROGRAM

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation's Arborist Training Program provides park staff with education and field experience in tree care. The Olmsted Center developed the program in collaboration with the National Park Service Learning and Development Maintenance Academy to build professional knowledge and skills necessary for meeting facilities management needs while strengthening the capacity of parks to improve resource condition. This program provides employees with necessary training to manage their parks' resources, and enhances professional excellence through recruiting and developing National Park Service leaders in arboriculture. The Arborist Training Program curriculum introduces participants to fundamental arboricultural concepts and practices, such as chainsaw use and tree climbing; sequentially advancing participants through enhanced field skills such as rigging and condition assessment. The program has now provided training to over one hundred agency employees in professional tree care and management. Many former participants serve as instructors and mentors in the Arborist Training Program and participate as members of the National Park Service Arborist Incident Response Team to assist parks with addressing emergency resource stabilization issues. The educational framework for the program parallels the training requirements identified by the International Society of Arboriculture and includes:

- Classroom sessions that introduce participants to principles of arboriculture such as tree biology, field diagnostics, integrated pest management, and tree nutrition.
- Field training projects that engage participants in climbing, pruning, tree identification, condition assessment, equipment operation and safety, cabling, lightning protection systems, and pest identification.

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- Distance learning programs and independent studies that effectively reach a national audience.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center Coordinated education programs for NPS staff, including the Arborist Training Program and Landscape Maintenance Skills and Development Program, with maintenance project funded work in parks.

Initiated the ninth Arborist Training Program class with an orientation training session at Blue Ridge Parkway. Specific training events included:

- Completed transition of program delivery from the prior curriculum-based training approach to a framework of competency assessments.
- Implemented a trainee-mentorship program to assist participants with identifying individual training needs and developing specific arborist competencies.
- Created and delivered a monthly Arborist Webinar Series that provides information and education on arboricultural principles and practices.
- Provided field skills-building projects on pruning concepts and techniques, tree climbing methods, and felling and dismantling trees.
- Developed and implemented competency assessments to assess participants' knowledge and skills in arboriculture principles and practices.

PLANNED IN FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue to coordinate and implement the Arborist Training Program in collaboration with the National Park Service Learning and Development Maintenance Academy.



Branching Out youth field team learning how to care for historic gardens at Adams National Historic Site. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Connecting People to Parks

Step by Step 2

Branching Out creates deep connections between a younger generation and parks through a series of diverse park experiences focused landscape management and national park stewardship.

BRANCHING OUT YOUTH PROGRAM

The Branching Out Youth Program engages young people between the ages of 15 – 25 in learning the concepts and techniques of National Park Service resource management and stewardship practices. Through park-based educational workshops and hands-on experiences, participants engage in a variety of learning opportunities that can lead to higher education and career placement. Youth participants work alongside agency staff and professional experts to protect park resources and acquire knowledge and skills in the field of landscape management.

The goals of Branching Out are to:

- Offer youth experience in the field of resource management and park stewardship.
- Provide pathways for participants to pursue employment and education.
- Introduce participants to the National Park Service and its mission.
- Provide resource management support to national parks and associated sites.
- Forge connections between young people, their community landscapes, and the outdoors.



Branching Out youth improving conditions in the Derby Garden at Salem Maritime National Historic Site. (OCLP)

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ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center engaged seventeen young people in learning about and caring for National Park Service landscapes. The team included four youth supervisors, four park-based interns, and eight field team participants. In partnership with Student Conservation Association, and Groundwork USA, Branching Out youth worked alongside park staff to learn about and assist with cultural landscape stewardship at Saugus Ironworks National Historic Site, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Minute Man National Historical Park, Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, Longfellow House – Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site and Adams National Historical Park. Program highlights include:

- Developed and implemented a school year learning program to keep students actively engaged in park stewardship throughout the entire year.
- Initiated connections between Branching Out and the Stephen T. Mather Building Arts and Craftsmanship High School in New York City.
- Received 115 applications from youth seeking an opportunity to participate in the program; marking an all-time high of annual applications received.
- Outreach efforts reached fifteen high schools including Boston Public Schools, Regional High Schools, and Vocational/Technical High Schools.
- Offered several enrichment workshops for youth professional development including National Park Service Career Day and Resume Building, and Jobs Fair.
- Provided career development opportunities for prior program participants through the Pathways program, seasonal position placement, and work exchange programs with partner organizations.
- Co-facilitated the 2014 Northeast Region Youth Summit which hosted 200 NPS youth program participants.
- Provided fourteen school-year programs for youth on NPS landscape stewardship and youth professional development
- Collaborated with university partners to connect students to park resources and landscape preservation practice;

partner with Acadia National Park and State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, to host Summer Field School.

PLANNED IN FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue to:

- Collaborate with the Northeast Regional Youth Programs Coordinator to expand the Branching Out Youth Program to engage a broader diversity of young people from local communities in meaningful connections to national parks.
- Further develop pathway opportunities for youth completing the program who are interested in pursuing advanced education and/or careers with the National Park Service.
- Engage fifteen young people in park-based internships and field team experiences to gain and strengthen landscape management and park resource stewardship knowledge and skills.
- Assist seven parks in the Northeast Region with improving landscape condition through meaningful field-based learning projects completed by Branching Out youth.

Branching Out Blog

<http://NPSBranchingOut.wordpress.com/>

Branching Out on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BranchingOutNPS>



Branching Out youth, staff and park employees after rehabilitating a historic pathway at Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. (OCLP)



Creating a training video at Cane River Creole National Historical Park that introduces techniques for maintaining cultural landscapes. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Enhancing Professional
and Organizational
Excellence

Tools of the Trade

30

The Career Academy Development and Training provides employees the tools, training, and development opportunities needed to recruit and develop leaders in cultural landscape preservation.

CAREER ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Working with the National Park Service Learning and Development Program, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation is contributing to the development of two National Park Service learning academies: Cultural Resources and Maintenance. The academies are a current focus of the National Park Service education program designed to provide employees with education and career development opportunities. Each academy will utilize a variety of learning opportunities (classroom training, on-line programs, self-study, field experiences, mentoring, etc.) to effectively reach employees across the Service. In collaboration with the National Park Service Learning and Development Program, Historic Preservation Training Center, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, cultural resources subject matter experts and facility managers, the Olmsted Center is assisting with creating educational curricula and content for cultural landscape preservation and management.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center:

- Assisted the Cultural Resources Academy with review and revision of the Preservation and Treatment of Cultural Resources Training Program.
- In collaboration with Vanishing Treasures, developed and delivered a pilot course on the fundamentals of cultural resource management for field staff.
- Worked with the Maintenance Academy to create a pilot e-learning program on sustainable landscape maintenance practices in partnership with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

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PLANNED IN FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue to work in close collaboration with the Cultural Resources and Maintenance Academies to further develop educational curricula and deliver training. Specific goals include:

- Complete training videos on “Managing for Historic Landscape Character” and “An Introduction to Cultural Landscape Preservation Maintenance.”
- Initiate the development of additional training videos on cultural landscape preservation principles and practices.
- Provide broader educational opportunities for NPS employees in cultural landscape preservation maintenance and tree care.
- Finalize recommendations for implementing a Service-wide policy for chainsaw safety and operation and develop associated training course content and delivery methods.



In 2014, the Olmsted Center assisted National Park Service leadership with developing and piloting a national training program in Chainsaw Safety, Maintenance and Operations for park employees. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence

Play it Safe 32

The Chainsaw Safety Operations Policy and Training empowers employees to use critical thinking skills in daily risk management decisions and encourages employees to embrace safety as part of their professional identity.

CHAINSAW SAFETY OPERATIONS

Chainsaws are used throughout the National Park Service to support many operations ranging from emergency response to trails maintenance; arboriculture to carpentry. However, there is currently a lack of agency policy and standards to guide chainsaw safety and operator training for non-wildland fire applications. Recognizing this shortfall, the National Park Service Leadership Council and the Servicewide Maintenance Advisory Committee (SMAC) recommended the establishment of a multi-disciplinary National Park Service Chainsaw Safety Working Group to evaluate existing chainsaw operator and safety training programs available to employees, develop recommendations for establishing and implementing updated Servicewide policies and guidelines, and identify options for standardizing evaluations of chainsaw operator competencies across the agency.

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation is chairing the Chainsaw Safety Working Group and working with other National Park Service programs and employees to:

- Document the full range of non-fire tasks and associated levels of complexity involved with using chainsaws in the National Park Service.
- Recommend Servicewide options for effective assessment of non-fire NPS chainsaw operator competencies and a process for authorizing appropriate level of chainsaw use for individual employees.
- Identify options for meeting all chainsaw operator training needs.
- Develop proposals for establishing Servicewide non-fire chainsaw operator safety standards and policies.

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- Recommend considerations for establishing and maintaining measurable performance metrics to evaluate and track program effectiveness.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014 the Olmsted Center and Chainsaw Safety Working Group:

- Developed a draft NPS Safety and Use Policy for Non-wildland Fire Chainsaw Operators to be distributed Servicewide for review.
- Identified competencies for Sawyer and Faller proficiency levels of chainsaw operators.
- Developed a required e-course for all agency Non-wildland Fire Chainsaw Operators.
- Revised draft training materials for the Chainsaw Safety Maintenance and Operations Sawyer program.
- Began development of training materials for the Chainsaw Safety Maintenance and Operations Working Faller program.
- Conducted a “Train-the-Instructor” two-week workshop for National Capital Region chainsaw users.

PLANNED IN FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue as co-chair of the Chainsaw Safety Working Group and will:

- Finalize training materials for the agency’s Chainsaw Safety Maintenance and Operations Sawyer training program.
- Further build training and assessment materials for advanced chainsaw applications.
- Implement a training program to establish a cadre of qualified instructors.
- Finalize NPS Chainsaw Use and Safety Standards, to be incorporated into RM-50B and/or additional agency policies.



Classroom instruction as part of the Chainsaw Safety, Maintenance, and Operation Training at Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park. (OCLP)



Participants learning about historic stone wall construction, repair and maintenance during a workshop held at Weir Farm National Historic Site. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

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Excellence

Tools of the Trade

30

The Landscape Maintenance Skills Development Program provides employees the tools, training, and development opportunities needed to strengthen their landscape management knowledge, skills, and abilities.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Landscape Maintenance Skills Development Program is a Servicewide training opportunity for National Park Service employees seeking to strengthen their landscape management knowledge and abilities. The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation coordinates the program in collaboration with the National Park Service Learning and Development Maintenance Academy.

Participants take part in skills development field projects at national parks, attend workshops, and complete independent study assignments. They develop skills in a variety of landscape maintenance topics including turf care, ornamental tree and shrub care, planting, plant identification and selection, plant health care, plant and garden bed maintenance, integrated pest management, and construction and management of built features such as masonry walks, wooden fences and stone walls.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Landscape Maintenance Skills Development Program provided over 2,700 hours of training on landscape management topics for National Park Service employees and partners. Specific training events included:

- Historic Boxwood Management, Pruning and Replacement at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park.
- Tree Climbing and Rigging Techniques at Acadia National Park.

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- Historic Orchard Care and Preservation at Gettysburg National Military Park.
- Historic Fruit Tree Stabilization and Replacement at Morristown National Historical Park.
- Sustainable Turfgrass Management Workshop at Independence National Historical Park.
- Skid Steer Operation and Safety at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historical Park.
- Tree Cabling and Bracing at Upper Delaware National Recreation Area.
- Tree Risk Assessment and Advanced Planning for Weather Incidents with the New Jersey Historical Commission.
- Online Webinar on Conducting Tree Condition Assessment.



Participants in classroom session on cultural landscape maintenance techniques at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. (OCLP)

PLANNED IN FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue to coordinate and implement the Landscape Maintenance Skills Development Program in collaboration with the National Park Service Learning and Development Maintenance Academy. Specific goals include:

- Further develop, deliver, and evaluate the use of distance learning options for capturing and sharing course content.



Participants learning about equipment safety, maintenance, and operation at George Washington Birthplace National Monument. (OCLP)

- Review and revise the educational curriculum and course delivery methods to reach a broader diversity and number of NPS employees seeking training offered through the program.
- Incorporate broader concepts and practices of sustainable landscape maintenance into the program's curriculum and courses.
- Strengthen the interface between this training and other cultural landscape preservation maintenance education initiatives of the Olmsted Center and other National Park Service programs.
- Historic boxwood management and maintenance in collaboration with National Capital Region and Mount Vernon.
- Grounds equipment maintenance and repair workshop in collaboration with Saratoga National Battlefield.
- Introduction to Sustainable Landscape Maintenance in collaboration with Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and NPS Learning and Development Program – Maintenance Academy.



National workgroup discussing topics for including in a landscape preservation maintenance education program for field staff. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence

Tools of the Trade

30

The National Education Curriculum in Landscape Preservation Maintenance will provide employees with the training and development opportunities to reach their full career potential.

LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION MAINTENANCE EDUCATION CURRICULUM

In collaboration with the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) and the Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation is creating an education program that provides participants with an opportunity to develop essential knowledge required for understanding the concepts, principles, and techniques of landscape preservation maintenance. The program expands on currently available education opportunities through collaboration with a network of partners and by providing online training materials. The content of this program is critical to ensure that field staff has the knowledge and abilities to successfully preserve authentic historic character and important features of cultural landscapes.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center Partnered with the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) to develop a national curriculum in Historic Landscape Preservation Maintenance. Specific accomplishments include:

- Reviewed/revised web based e-learning framework for program delivery and participant assessment.
- Drafted learning outcomes for educational units.
- Researched and evaluated e-learning programs for self-guided multi-media presentations.
- In partnership with NCPTT, established an agreement with Northwestern State Univer-

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sity to coordinate and deliver a workshop with sessions aligned with the curriculum for supporting content development.

PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue to work with NCPTT and the Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program to further develop a national curriculum in Historic Landscape Preservation Maintenance, create assessment tools for gauging program needs, and launch an innovative e-learning program for a national audience of cultural landscape stewards.



Olmsted Center intern assisting with the care and management of 200-year-old boxwood hedges at Adams National Historical Park. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Connecting People to Parks

Step by Step 2

The Cultural Landscapes Internship Program creates deep connections between a younger generation and national parks through a series of diverse park experiences.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, in partnership with the Student Conservation Association, offers internships in cultural landscape preservation for high school, undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students. Each year, the Olmsted Center offers several six month to one year internships that broaden participants' understanding of landscape preservation concepts and practice through project experience, educational programs, and self-study. Working alongside Olmsted Center staff, interns assist with: preparing cultural landscape reports, cultural landscape inventories, and preservation maintenance plans; completing field landscape maintenance projects, such as historic orchard pruning, aged tree replacement, and correcting deteriorated historic trails, to improve the condition of cultural landscapes; and, developing, coordinating, and delivering education programs and training sessions for youth and park staff.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center hosted seven interns with backgrounds in education, horticulture, landscape architecture, and environmental science. Specific accomplishments include:

- Creating field team and park-based internship experiences for participants in the Olmsted Center's youth program Branching Out: Youth Exploring Landscape Management.
- Engaging interns in the development and delivery of content for a national educational curriculum in cultural landscape preservation maintenance, training programs and videos on landscape preservation topics, and the Stephen T. Mather Building Arts and Craftsman-

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ship High School.

- Revising the Olmsted Center's Internship Handbook and associated supervisor's/ mentor's handbook.
- Highlighting activities and accomplishments through a blog: <http://npsbranchingout.com/category/olmsted-center-for-landscape-preservation/>

PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

During FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will host interns who will:

- Partner with the Student Conservation Association, Groundwork USA, and other youth serving organizations to offer a variety of internship opportunities in cultural landscape preservation including Branching Out and Designing the Parks.
- Continue to collaborate with university partners to connect students to park resources and landscape preservation practice and partner with Acadia National Park and State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, to host Summer Field School.



Designing the Parks summer intern team with Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.

A CALL TO ACTION

Connecting People to Parks

Step by Step 2

The Designing the Parks summer internship program provides high school and college students an opportunity to participate in park planning.

DESIGNING THE PARKS SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

During the summer of 2014, the Olmsted Center again hosted a local Boston *Designing the Parks Summer Internship Program* directed toward college students and recent graduates. The internship program offered students and new professionals an opportunity to participate in the design process through involvement with the Olmsted Center's project work.

The *Designing the Parks* program aims to reinvigorate the design of national parks and bolster the National Park Service's role as a leader in public park design. The program emerged from two park planning and design conferences held in 2008; the first examined lessons from past approaches, and the second focused on the present and future state of our parks. The *Designing the Parks* program engages five principles:

- respect place
- engage all
- model sustainability
- design beyond boundaries
- communicate clearly

The students shared their experiences and reflections in creative and thoughtful blog posts which can be found hosted at: www.designingtheparks2014.wordpress.com

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Excerpts:

It was really great to work on First State and to think about how the landscape reveals American history – how the historical fence lines revealed how large parcels were subdivided among large family lineages. The work is incredibly challenging and thoughtful and requires a curious detective-like mind. – 2014 Designing the Parks Intern, Ms. Grace Ng.

My project was to complete a cultural landscape inventory for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. This gave me the opportunity to research Harriet Tubman’s life and involvement in Dorchester County. . . . As architecture major. . . . I was under the impression landscape architects only focused on plotting and organization of vegetation though I was wrong. This ten week internship has proved the many avenues incorporated in landscape design including structures, roads, trails, and hydrology. This leads the designer to think further about visitor experience and views on site. Landscape architecture includes many of the same skills demanded for structural design and maybe even more with extensive research of the land including tree and plant species

present. – 2014 Designing the Parks Intern, Mr. Andre Thomas.

The summer program was accomplished through a collaborative effort between the National Park Service Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation the Student Conservation Association and National Park units providing the subject matter and learning experience for the participants. Due to continued success of this collaboration, the Olmsted Center hopes to continue to participate in the *Designing the Parks* program in the future.

Designing the Parks Blog

www.designingtheparks2013.wordpress.com

Designing the Parks on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/designingTheParks2013>



Designing the Parks interns shared their designs with members of the partner agencies at a final presentation. (OCLP)



Olmsted Center Education Specialist, Celena Illuzzi, introducing students at Stephen T. Mather High School to fundamental concepts of landscape stewardship. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Advancing the NPS
Education Mission

Next Generation
of Stewards

17

The Stephen T. Mather Building Arts and Craftsmanship High School is preparing high school students for careers in historic preservation.

STEPHEN T. MATHER BUILDING ARTS AND CRAFTSMANSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

The National Park Service is partnering with the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) to offer a unique educational opportunity for high school students in the field of historic preservation trades. Located in New York City, Stephen T. Mather Building Arts and Craftsmanship High School (Mather HS) engages students with interdisciplinary experiences in preservation trades of carpentry, masonry, decorative finishes and landscape management. Mather HS students take core college preparatory academic classes as well as participate in field activities and internships that provide an opportunity to apply concepts and skills from the classroom to the care of actual historic structures and landscapes managed by the National Park Service. Working in collaboration with NYCDOE, the National Parks of New York Harbor, and the Northeast Regional Office of Historic Architecture, Conservation and Engineering, the Olmsted Center is developing education curricula and content for classes with an emphasis and specialization on high-quality craftsmanship and historic preservation so that students are prepared to enter college, an apprenticeship or the workforce.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center worked closely with National Park Service and NYDOE colleagues to create Landscape Stewardship education curriculum framework and content for ninth through eleventh grade. The Olmsted Center worked alongside Mather High School teachers and faculty to develop and deliver unit and lesson plans that introduced students to understanding the values and qualities of landscapes and the skills associated with landscape

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management. In partnership with the Prospect Park Alliance, the Olmsted Center coordinated a field based learning experience for students in landscape evaluation and condition assessment. In addition, the Olmsted Center continued to work with school faculty to provide professional development opportunities for teachers to build knowledge and skill in landscape preservation and stewardship.

PLANNED IN FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center will:

- Work with Mather High School faculty and teachers to finalize the landscape stewardship curriculum framework for ninth to twelve grades.
- Develop student learning assessments to be reviewed and certified by the New York State Department of Education.
- Provide teacher development opportunities for building competencies in cultural landscape stewardship and preservation for effectively developing and delivering content for topics identified in the curriculum framework.
- Assist with creating meaningful landscape stewardship learning experiences at national parks in greater New York and partner organizations.
- Provide teacher support and deliver classroom and field sessions on landscape stewardship topics.
- Develop and initiate a summer internship program in historic preservation for Mather High School students in collaboration with the Student Conservation Association.



Volunteers assisting with replanting a tree on Arbor Day at Adams National Historical Park. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Connecting People to Parks

Step by Step 2

The Olmsted Center's Volunteers in Parks Program develops and nurtures life-long connections between people and the parks through engaging them with a variety of cultural landscape preservation activities.

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation's Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Program offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for people interested in learning about and assisting with cultural landscape preservation and education in national parks. Volunteers with an interest in landscape architecture and park planning assist historical landscape architects with researching and documenting the history of cultural landscapes, evaluating their significance, and preparing preservation treatment and management recommendations. Those interested in the care and maintenance of cultural landscapes work alongside National Park Service horticulturists, arborists, and gardeners on projects for parks that improve the condition of trees, gardens, orchards, and trails. Volunteers with experience or interest in education assist with developing, coordinating and delivering training programs in landscape preservation and management.

ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, the Olmsted Center was fortunate to work with eleven outstanding volunteers who contributed nearly 6,678 hours on park cultural landscape preservation planning, maintenance, and education programs and projects.

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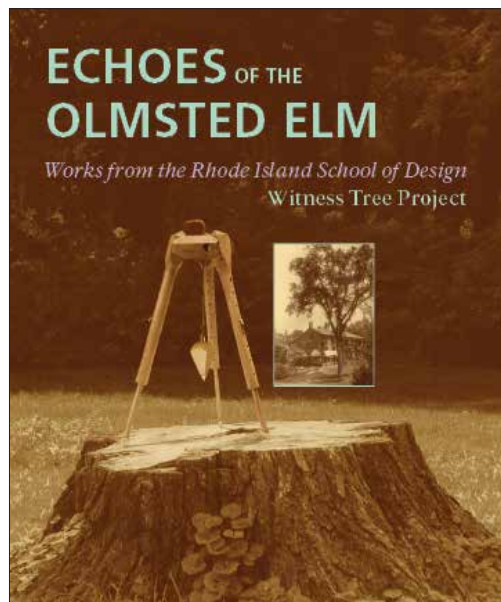
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PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue to work with volunteers in all program areas and:

- Continue to offer a diversity of cultural landscape preservation opportunities for volunteers.
- Enhance volunteers' experience by coordinating educational site visits to local parks to gain a broader awareness of and stronger connections to the National Park Service.



The 'Olmsted elm', circa 1900, at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, was removed from the landscape due to deteriorated condition. Front cover of the exhibition guide on artwork created from original 'Olmsted elm' wood by students from Rhode Island School of Design. (OCLP)

A CALL TO ACTION

Connecting People to Parks

Arts Afire 10

The Witness Tree Project showcases the meaning of parks to new audiences by engaging students in learning about national history through the creation of artwork from wood of historic trees.

WITNESS TREE PROJECT

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation works in partnership with the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) to offer the Witness Tree Project to RISD students. The Project engages students in learning about and applying national park history and associated themes by creating artwork with wood harvested from important historic trees that must be removed due to severely deteriorated. Historic trees in national parks are often prominent landscape features that have direct associations to significant events, trends, and people in American history. Often referred to as "Witness Trees" many of these iconic specimens are aging, deteriorating, and require intensive efforts to sustain them in cultural landscapes. When stabilization is no longer effective, historic trees are removed and replaced in-kind to preserve the character of cultural landscapes.

Typically, the removal of park trees involves cutting, chipping, and disposal to accommodate replacement planting. The Witness Tree Project repurposes historic plant material into student art work that interprets and preserves the tree's history. RISD students, enrolled in a joint history seminar and design studio, interpret the history associated with the trees and create relevant objects from the wood. In addition to classroom study, students participate in educational field trips to national parks, guest lectures, and other events that highlight the significance of material culture, landscape, and design. Culminating with an exhibition of students' work at each park, the experience engages participants and the visiting public in learning about history, conservation, and cultural resource preservation; serving as a powerful example of how collaboration among historians, curators, designers, and parks can enhance the role and educational value of American history.

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ACHIEVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In FY 2014, RISD students explored the history and extraordinary national contributions of Thomas Alva Edison while working with wood from historic red oak and maple trees removed due to damage caused by Hurricane Sandy at the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in West Orange, New Jersey. RISD faculty structured the students' experience by using a park visit as a means of exploring manufacturing and marketing development in the 19th century. The curriculum provided students with learning opportunities for understanding of the lives of inventors and the factory workers that made their products. The project culminated in a showing of student's creative work at an art exhibit in collaboration with Valleyarts Firehouse Gallery and Valleyarts, Inc. entitled *Transformed: Looking at the Age of Edison through the Witness Trees of Glenmont*.

PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

In FY 2015, the Olmsted Center will continue to work in partnership with the Rhode Island School of Design to offer the Witness Tree Project to RISD students, providing an opportunity to engage students in learning about and applying national park history and associated themes by creating artwork with wood harvested from important historic trees that must be removed. The Olmsted Center will:

- Explore a partnership with the National Park Service Artist-in-Residency Program and consider an artist-in-residency opportunity for the Witness Tree Project at a



Artwork made from the Olmsted Elm by RISD students.



Camera and tripod made by RISD students from Olmsted Elm materials.

host park.

- Evaluate opportunities to broaden the diversity of schools, art institutions, students, youth, and parks engaged in the program.
- Develop web-based exhibit materials to share students' work and their connections to history and national parks.
- Collaborate to document the program's existing framework and create a replicable model for use in other areas of the country.



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