

ASLA

Potomac Chapter

Ms. Carolyn Mitchell
Coordinator, Honors and Awards
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: Olmsted Medal Nomination

AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS

P.O. Box 18184
Washington, DC
20036-8184

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

The Potomac Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects is honored to nominate Dr. Charles E. Beveridge for the ASLA Olmsted Medal in 2005.

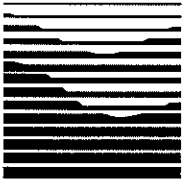
Charles Beveridge is the world's leading authority on the work of Frederick Law Olmsted. As a preeminent author and scholar, Dr. Beveridge has dedicated his 40-year career to the study of Olmsted's philosophies and his masterful achievements in landscape architecture.

Dr. Beveridge's vast commitment to the publication of Olmsted's writings is a labor of love that has itself spanned more than 30 years. As series editor of *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted*, a 12-volume collection, Dr. Beveridge is to be credited with making an extraordinary contribution to our professional knowledge, and for bringing much of the Olmsted genius into the public eye. Today, Olmsted's legacy is broadly respected and emulated throughout the world. Dr. Charles Beveridge has ensured that Olmsted's ideas and his body of work have achieved the acclaim—and protection—that they so richly deserve.

As the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers Research Professor in the Department of History at American University, Dr. Beveridge is the foremost expert on Olmsted. In serving as editor of the expansive and much-referenced collection, *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted*, he has produced the world's first comprehensive edition of the work of a major landscape architect. The series has received high praise and has clearly set the standard for scholarly presentation of such material to the general public.

Dr. Beveridge is also the author of the widely acclaimed, award-winning *Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape*. Created in collaboration with the esteemed photographer Paul Rocheleau, this book was the first major publication to chronicle a range of Olmsted's views on issues of landscape architecture and the environment. *Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape* significantly heightened Olmsted's stature internationally, broadening his popularity and strengthening support for publication of the Olmsted stamp by the US Postal Service in 1999—an effort for which Dr. Beveridge served as an advisor.

Dr. Beveridge has presented over 200 lectures on Olmsted, consulted on films and documentaries, served as co-curator of numerous exhibitions, and discussed his work on public radio and television. He was a historical advisor to *National Geographic* regarding the magazine's March 2005 feature article on Olmsted, and consulted on an Olmsted-focused broadcast on HGTV in 2001.



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His advocacy for the Olmsted legacy and our profession in general has resulted in his leadership and participation in many landmark forums on landscape architecture and land preservation. In 1985, at the centennial observances for the Niagara Reservation, Dr. Beveridge gave a plenary presentation and organized a series of presentations by noted historians. In 1990, he also lectured and organized presentations for the Yosemite Centennial Conference sponsored by the US Park Service.

Dr. Beveridge has made Olmsted's published and unpublished writings available to aid in numerous preservation and restoration efforts, and has served as a historical consultant and advisor on the restoration and rehabilitation of more than 40 Olmsted parks, public grounds, and other designs. He has worked closely with landscape architects and communities throughout the US and Canada to ensure the preservation and ongoing stewardship of Olmsted's work.

These projects have included Boston's "Emerald Necklace" of parks and the current work to revive and restore the city's Muddy River and Back Bay Fens; the Olmsted Walk at the National Zoo in Washington, DC; the park systems of Atlanta, Rochester, and Louisville; Prospect Park in Brooklyn; Cadwalader Park in Trenton; Riverside Village in Illinois; the Midway Plaisance in Chicago; Branch Brook Park in Newark; and Mount Royal Park in Montreal. Dr. Beveridge has also provided counsel to two major estates designed by Olmsted: the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina and Moraine Farm in Massachusetts.

Dr. Beveridge, featured in the "Shared Wisdom" section of *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, (November 2001), is the recipient of numerous honors and citations, including awards from the National Association for Olmsted Parks, the Georgia and Illinois Chapters of ASLA, the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, and the New York State Preservation League. He received the Frederick Law Olmsted Award from Historic Massachusetts, and the Garden Club of America Medal for Historic Preservation.

A magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University, Dr. Beveridge earned his Ph.D. in History from the University of Wisconsin. Fittingly, his dissertation was entitled, "Frederick Law Olmsted: The Formative Years, 1822-1865."

Dr. Beveridge is a highly accomplished and distinguished scholar who has made an unprecedented contribution to the profession of landscape architecture, to the preservation and understanding of the genius of Frederick Law Olmsted, and to the enhancement, stewardship and integrity of Olmsted's master works nationwide. As landscape architects, we are greatly indebted to Charles Beveridge, and believe that he is remarkably deserving of the ASLA's prestigious Olmsted Medal.

Sincerely,
Kristi Farnsworth

Potomac Chapter President
American Society of Landscape Architects