

1608-D Beekman Place, NW
Washington, DC 20009
February 15, 2005

Executive Committee
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: 2005 Olmsted Medal

To the Committee:

I am writing to declare my enthusiastic support for nominating Dr. Charles E. Beveridge to receive the 2005 Olmsted Medal of the American Society of Landscape Architects. I have known Dr. Beveridge for over thirty years. During that time, I have seen him at various landscape architecture and historic preservation professional events and meetings, most often where he was a featured speaker or participant, and have also been pleased to have recommended his publications to receive National Endowment for the Humanities grants. He has always been an advocate for both the profession of landscape architecture and stewardship of the land and quality of life, as espoused by Frederick Law Olmsted and his vision of the profession.

For over 30 years, Dr. Beveridge has edited the papers of Frederick Law Olmsted. Seven volumes of these seminal writings about America's natural and urban environment have been published to date. The eighth volume has recently gone to press. As acknowledgement of the excellence of these publications, Dr. Beveridge has been honored nationally and internationally as the foremost scholar of Olmsted's work, including being featured in Landscape Architecture Magazine's 'Shared Wisdom' column (LAM November 2001), and has received awards from numerous organizations, including the National Endowment for the Humanities. His award winning book, *Frederick Law Olmsted, Designing the American Landscape*, published by Rizzoli, New York City in 1995, was the first of its kind to bring Olmsted's vision and the importance of his work to the general public.

In addition to educating professionals and the public through his written works on Olmsted, Dr. Beveridge has fostered far-reaching recognition of the value and need for protection and stewardship of designed and natural landscapes in America, by lecturing extensively to architects, landscape architects, public agencies, and private foundations, in the United States and abroad, about the value of Olmsted's philosophy and vision of democratic use of open space, and the value of landscape experience in relief of urban stress. He has also brought to public consciousness Olmsted's active pursuit of stewardship of such natural national resources as Yosemite National Park, the Niagara Reservation, and many other cherished parks and open spaces.

Dr. Beveridge's published works, his national lecturing, and his consulting on landscape preservation and restoration projects with scores of landscape architectural firms and architectural firms nationwide for over 25 years, have profoundly influenced and shaped a generation of environmental professionals in the public and private sectors to advance their understanding of the characteristics and design principles embodied in Olmsted's built works, and the stewardship of his great design legacy. He has ensured the furtherance of this legacy as a founding member of the National Association for Olmsted Parks, and as a vocal and spirited advocate for the protection and stewardship of natural and designed landscapes, as much a part of his work as providing access to Olmsted's writings. In 2004, Dr. Beveridge was granted honorary membership in ASLA in recognition of these contributions.

Now Dr. Beveridge has my unqualified support to be awarded the Olmsted Medal. I can think of no one more deserving of the ASLA medal named for Olmsted than one who has spent his career advancing Olmsted's legacy. I look forward to having the Committee bestow this honor on Dr. Beveridge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darwina L. Neal". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Darwina L. Neal, FASLA

Past President, ASLA (1983-4)