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Aris Stalis, ASLA
Trustee, Connecticut Chapter, ASLA
Senior Project Manager, BSC Group
180 Glastonbury Boulevard, Suite 103
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Dear Aris:

I am very pleased to support the nomination of the National Association for Olmsted Parks for the ASLA's Medal of Excellence. As a landscape architect involved with historic preservation projects and a member of the ASLA's Historic Preservation PPN for many years, I have been familiar with and benefited from their work.

In 2005 a grass-roots interest in Frederick Law Olmsted, a native son of Connecticut, grew into an interest in starting a non-profit organization that would recognize his life and contributions to our state. I had long been a member of the NAOP and went to them for assistance. The staff, the Board of Trustees, and other members were all extremely generous with their knowledge based on their long and varied experiences with similar start-up organizations.

In 2006 the CT Chapter of the ASLA and the newly incorporated CT Olmsted Heritage Alliance sponsored the first Olmsted Day in Connecticut conference. Our main speakers were Charles Beveridge, Tupper Thomas, and Faye Harwell, all people who have been leaders in the NAOP. Their generosity and that of others in the NAOP helped to make this conference, which was very important to us, a success and gave us a great deal of credibility in the state.

The many publications that the NAOP has supported are of the very highest quality of scholarship. These publications and the conferences held by the NAOP have been extremely important in helping the public to understand the profession of landscape architecture. They are also a valuable resource for those doing serious research, and for those who want to save and protect their local parks and landscapes.

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The NAOP's generosity and thorough knowledge has set the very highest standard for our new organization. The National Association for Olmsted Parks is most deserving of the ASLA's Medal of Excellence.

Sincerely,

Norma E. Williams

Norma E. Williams, ASLA



ASLA Board of Trustees
C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Medal of Excellence Nomination for the National Association for Olmsted Parks

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees:

It is my pleasure to write in support of the nomination of the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) for the Medal of Excellence of the American Society of Landscape Architects. NAOP was founded in Buffalo in 1980 and I participated in that founding meeting where a small but determined group began an effort that has thrived gaining the involvement of many citizens, professionals and public officials over the years. That originating groups saw the benefit of park stewards and advocates from many cities joining together for the purposes of raising awareness of the values of our historic urban parks to our communities and our nation, learning from each other and drawing more resources to this invaluable but neglected American legacy.

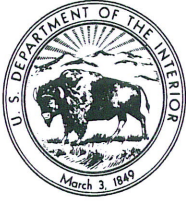
Over a quarter of century of that critically important advocacy work has sown and harvested an impressive crop of recognition and action on behalf of our cities, towns and counties in both a heightened sense of the value of local historic parks and parkways and direct improvements to these public treasures as a result. The work of NAOP has reflected well on the profession of landscape architecture, certainly in the broader recognition of the Olmsted Legacy of our nation, but also in recognition of other public park and parkway pioneers such as Warren Manning, Arthur Shurcliff, Jens Jensen, Ossian Simmonds, and many others who contributed to the shaping of our public landscapes. It is these public landscapes that contribute immeasurably to the quality and livability of our towns and cities.

The work of the pioneers of landscape architecture has been placed under a welcome spotlight and gained both recognition and needed resources due to the efforts of the NAOP. I fully support and endorse the National Association for Olmsted Parks a highly appropriate recipient of the ASLA Medal of Excellence for a partner organization with an outstanding and valued record of achievements.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. O'Donnell, FASLA, AICP, Principal, Heritage Landscapes

H e r i t a g e L a n d s c a p e s
P r e s e r v a t i o n L a n d s c a p e A r c h i t e c t s & P l a n n e r s
PO Box 321 Charlotte, Vermont 05445 802-425-4330 34 Wall St. Norwalk, Connecticut 06850, 203-852-9966



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site
Longfellow National Historic Site
John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
Headquarters
99 Warren Street
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

Aris W. Stalis, ASLA
President, Connecticut Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
Senior Project Manager, BSC Group
180 Glastonbury Blvd., Suite 103
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Dear Mr. Stalis,

As Superintendent of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, I am writing to express my strongest support of your chapter's nomination of the National Association for Olmsted Parks for the American Society of Landscape Architects' Medal of Excellence. During the past twenty five years, the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) has truly been a national leader in advancing public understanding of the history and significance of Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted firm's landscape legacy.

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (Olmsted NHS) and the National Association for Olmsted Parks were both established in 1980. Since then, we at the National Park Service have had many opportunities to observe and benefit from NAOP's crucial national leadership role. NAOP has mounted national conferences, created a network which it has served with various publications including a newsletter, and been a strong advocate for struggling or threatened landscapes across the country. In addition, over the years we have participated in several welcome collaborations with NAOP which have allowed us to join in its efforts to broaden public understanding of the Olmsted firm's work. For example, in the past decade we have worked closely with NAOP to develop and mount the Olmsted Research Guide Online, an internet-accessible database of information about the voluminous Olmsted design records located at both Olmsted NHS and the Library of Congress. Currently our organizations are working together to republish the *Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857-1950*. Over the years, whenever Olmsted NHS has been engaged in developing exhibits, publications and public and education programs, we have benefited enormously from the expertise, scholarship and creativity provided by NAOP's Board members and its membership.

We are pleased to support the nomination of the National Association for Olmsted Parks for ASLA's Medal of Excellence for its outstanding contributions to our collective understanding of the Olmsted landscape legacy across the country.

Sincerely,

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Superintendent

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Aris W. Stalis, ASLA

Senior Project Manager, BSC Group

180 Glastonbury Boulevard, Suite 103

Glastonbury, CT 06033

Dear Aris:

I was delighted to hear that the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects has nominated the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) for the ASLA's Medal of Excellence. I highly endorse this nomination.

NAOP has been instrumental to our work in Prospect Park since we began our effort to restore this Olmsted masterpiece 27 years ago. As you may know, Prospect Park was in terrible condition in 1980. Over the years, NAOP and its network of scholars, historic landscape preservationists and citizen activists have been an incredible informational resource for our staff. They have educated us on the Olmsted design philosophy and worked closely with our landscape architects to interpret the few remaining original plans and documents so that we could preserve the design integrity of this magnificent work of art.

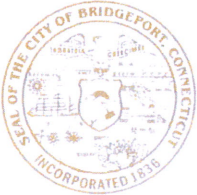
The NAOP network has also been a great source of guidance for me as we at Prospect Park Alliance address the pressures of maintaining a park designed in the 19th century with the cultural and social needs of the 21st century. I have been able to receive and share best practices and information with other leaders of historic urban parks around the country who face similar challenges. In turn, the cities of Louisville, Newark, Buffalo and New York- to name a few- have been able to protect and revitalize their parks and surrounding communities.

Most significantly, NAOP's on-going commitment to and vigilance on behalf of the grand legacy of Olmsted landscapes has benefited the citizens of Brooklyn. For many of our residents this 537 acre oasis of woodlands, open meadows and lakes is their only access to nature. The preservation of the park has contributed immeasurably to their health and well-being.

The success of our park and so many others nationwide could not have been realized without NAOP's leadership in landscape architecture research, education, planning and design. Their work to advance the principles of Olmsted and the legacy of irreplaceable parks is never more important than today, as we struggle to preserve the last remaining open space in urban environments for children today and generations to come. The National Association for Olmsted-Parks is most deserving of this award.

Warm regards,


Tupper Thomas



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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BILL FINCH
Mayor

March 20, 2008

Mr. Aris W. Stalis, ASLA, President,
Connecticut Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
Senior Project Manager, BSC Group
180 Glastonbury Boulevard, Suite 103
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Dear Mr. Stalis:

As Mayor of the City of Bridgeport, and a founding member of the Connecticut Olmsted Heritage Alliance. I am writing to express my strongest support of your chapter's nomination of the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) for the American Society of Landscape Architects' Medal of Excellence.

I have the great fortune to live adjacent to Beardsley Park, one of Olmsted's great gems in our state. The pleasure it has brought me and my family and neighbors spurred me to champion legislation to recognize Olmsted's legacy in his home state. This effort was aided by the encouragement and assistance of the NAOP. Their generosity, knowledge, and experience have considerably helped our efforts in Connecticut to understand and protect our Olmsted legacy. Their leadership in research and education is a continuing aid to us as we proceed in our work.

The assistance and model of the NAOP is invaluable to us as we strive to preserve our legacy of parks so that they may continue their role in improving the lives of all who use them as Olmsted envisioned. I am very pleased to support the nomination of the National Association for Olmsted Parks for the ASLA's Medal of Excellence for its' outstanding contributions to the greater appreciation of Olmsted's legacy in Connecticut and in our country.

Sincerely,

Bill Finch
Mayor

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LALH

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Aris Stalis, ASLA
President, Connecticut Chapter, ASLA
Senior Project Manager, BSC Group
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Glastonbury, CT 06033

Dear Mr. Stalis,

It is a pleasure to write to you in support of your chapter's nomination of the National Association of Olmsted Parks for the ASLA Medal of Excellence. It is a superb idea.

Since its inception in 1980, NAOP has operated at the very highest level of integrity, maintaining staunch support for preservation of important parks, park systems, parkways, and other public landscapes throughout the United States through its conferences, publications, and other educational endeavors. Recently, NAOP made the successful transition from a grassroots, volunteer initiative to a national organization with a high profile and a strong professional infrastructure to support its important mission.

The Library of American Landscape Architecture and NAOP have contemplated a collaboration that goes beyond the mutual support and exchange of information that has occurred with great regularity since our founding in 1992. I am confident that we will soon formulate such a project, possibly in the form of a book series or a research initiative like that we have recently launched to investigate the existing projects of Warren H. Manning, who was an assistant to Olmsted from 1888 to 1895.

The expanding budget, board, staff, and dedication to quality evident at NAOP bode extremely well for the future of this organization. I am personally acquainted with much of the Leadership Council, with many members of the board of trustees, and with the current executive director. The quality of this organization is reflected in the quality of these individuals—as scholars, preservation advocates, and longtime supporters of the Olmsted vision.

Thank you for taking the lead in this nomination. I cannot think of a more deserving organization.

Yours truly,



Robin Karson
Executive Director