

December 7, 2018

Historic Preservation Commission  
City of Milwaukee, Zeidler Building  
841 N. Broadway, Room B-1  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Commission Members:

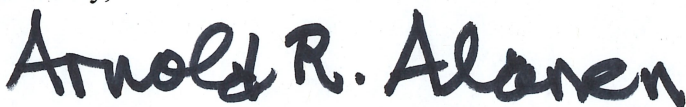
I wish to lend my support to the designation of Washington Park as a Milwaukee Historic District. Before continuing, I should mention that I taught courses in both the history of landscape architecture and cultural resource preservation at the UW-Madison for 35 years. I also worked on numerous projects throughout the Midwest, including several National Park Service properties, which resulted in the identification and documentation of cultural landscapes—those places and spaces that merit recognition and protection because of their design attributes or associations with particular people, groups, events, or activities. It is within the context of my work as an educator and researcher that I became familiar with Washington Park and its local and national significance.

Landscape historians know Milwaukee's park system because of its associations with Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and key members of his firm, including Warren Manning, John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Manning, for example, provided many of the planting designs for Milwaukee's parks during his formative years as a landscape architect with the Olmsted firm, including the ones designed by Olmsted. Recently recognized in an award-winning biography that provides an overview of Manning's major work, the book includes a chapter about Manning's work for Milwaukee's parks, including Washington, Lake and the city's other early parks.

It should also be mentioned that the National Association for Olmsted Parks, based in Washington D.C., has representatives from several cities where the Olmsted firm designed and carried out landscape projects. Having an Olmsted park, or even more importantly, an Olmsted park system, gives these cities immediate attention and recognition because of their important connections to the "father" of landscape architecture in the United States.

From my perspective, Washington Park is key candidate for historic designation. Such action will bring immediate local and national attention to an important Olmsted project and legacy, and assist in future efforts to restore and maintain this iconic example of a designed cultural landscape. I urge the commission to support this nomination.

Sincerely,



Arnold R. Alanen, Ph.D., Honorary ASLA  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of Planning & Landscape Architecture  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Co-editor of *Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.

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