

Olmsted Park examples for Milwaukee
January 14, 2019

South Park - Buffalo, NY

Frederick Law Olmsted design 1894

Area: 156 acres

Features: 21 acre constructed lake, woodland, golf course, open greensward, active and passive recreation areas and adjacent Conservatory

Buffalo South Park Arboretum Restoration Feasibility Study (April 2018)

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy

<https://view.publitas.com/bopc/sparp-feasibility-study-full/page/1>

Excellent example of comprehensive planning based on detailed evaluation of Olmsted plan, park evolution, and current status of character-defining Olmsted features, vegetation composition and lake condition. Recommendations for restoration actions & phases, all based on fidelity to the Olmsted design intent.

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy cultivates community engagement through volunteering and financial contributions. It “promotes, preserves, restores, enhances and ensures maintenance of Olmsted Parks and Parkways in the greater Buffalo area to guarantee Olmsted park experiences for current and future generations.”

<https://www.bfloparks.org/>

Branch Brook Park - Newark, NJ

Nation’s first county park (1895) – F.L. Olmsted-conceived 1867; Olmsted Brothers redesign 1900

Area: 360 acres

Features: 24 acre constructed lake, linked streams & pools, woodland, meadows, groves, flowering cherries, concert lawn, ball fields, golf course, 4-mile curvilinear park drive

Cultural Landscape Report, Treatment and Management Plan (2002)

Another excellent example of comprehensive planning based on detailed evaluation of Olmsted plan, park evolution, and current status of character-defining historic features, hydrology & vegetation. Recommendations for restoration actions & phasing, honoring Olmsted design intent.

<http://www.branchbrookpark.org/about-us/culturallandscapereport.html>

The Branch Brook Park Alliance “is a public/private partnership organized in 1999. It provided design expertise and funding support to help Essex County restore and revitalize the park. Currently it supports the Care of the Park movement to maintain the park’s distinctive plantings and landscape features.”

<http://www.branchbrookpark.org>

Cherokee Park – Louisville, KY

Frederick Law Olmsted design 1891

Area: 387 acres

Features: 2.4 mile scenic loop following creek valley, trails, constructed pond, open greensward, hills & vistas, designed woodland & edge plantings, active recreation area, golf course.

Master Plan for Louisville’s Olmsted Parks & Parkway – Chapter 5 Cherokee Park (circa 1980)

Extensive documentation & analysis of historic and existing conditions with many illustrative maps; detailed landscape management recommendations and breakout of specific “renewal projects.”

Olmsted Park examples for Milwaukee

January 14, 2019

https://www.olmstedparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/mpchapter5cherokeepark_0.pdf

Olmsted Parks Conservancy formed in 1989 “to work closely with the city and its citizens to raise needed funds and guide revitalization of seventeen Olmsted-designed parks and six parkways—local government simply could not take this on alone... Projects are executed for community wellbeing, environmental protection & historic restoration. Oftentimes fulfilling multiple objectives at once, plans enhance the parks for the physical, social, economic & cultural health of the park user and the entire community.” It was inspired by model of groundbreaking Central Park Conservancy in NYC. It runs a year round Junior Park Steward program & environmental summer camp with Louisville Nature Center.

<https://www.olmstedparks.org>

Franklin Park - Dorchester (Boston), MA

Frederick Law and John Charles Olmsted plans 1885 - 1917

Area: 527 (now 485) acres

Features: Anchor & largest park of Boston’s “ Emerald Necklace” system; extensive meadows & woodlands, scenic drives, passive greensward, active recreation facilities, golf course, zoo (added, not part of Olmsted plan).

Franklin Park Master Plan Weinmayr Associates (1980)

Related master plans:

The Emerald Parks Master Plan for Back Bay Fens, The Riverway, Olmsted Park and Jamaica Pond
Walmsley/Pressley Joint Venture (1984-1989)

Emerald Necklace Parks Master Plan - Back Bay Fens to Jamaica Pond (2001)
(no links)

Franklin Park Coalition is “a non-profit organization dedicated to involving the community to work, play, & engage in Franklin Park, Boston’s largest green space.” Its mission is to serve as a voice for Franklin Park, a 527-acre historic green space located in the geographic heart of Boston and surrounded by some of the city’s most diverse neighborhoods [and] to engage all park users and community members through advocacy, programs, and restoration.”

<https://www.franklinparkcoalition.org>

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is a private non-profit stewardship organization founded in 1998 that “connects people and parks and conserves the Emerald Necklace through projects and programs to enrich the visitor experience and restore and renew the landscape, waterways and parkways.” And “To steward the Emerald Necklace’s 1,100 acres of parkland extending from Boston’s Back Bay through Brookline and Jamaica Plain to Franklin Park in Dorchester, the conservancy works in collaboration with its partners on advocacy, maintenance and restoration, education and access, and promoting park stewardship through volunteer and youth programs.” Oversees several youth environmental programs.

<https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/about-us/>