United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information.

___X___ New Submission _____ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards (1903–68)

B. Associated Historic Contexts

None

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D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

_____ _____ _____
Signature of certifying official Title Date

_____
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

_____ _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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E. Statement of Historic Contexts

INTRODUCTION

Seattle was founded in the mid-nineteenth century and grew extensively through the twentieth century. The late 1800s were marked by a period of park development and acquisition managed by Seattle's city council, the board of park commissioners, and a series of superintendents, who were guided by the planning principles of the Olmsted firm founded by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., widely referred to as the father of landscape architecture. As Seattle's park system grew at the turn of the twentieth century, so too did its population, resulting in development pressures on the then 500-acre system. In 1902, Seattle contracted Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, which in 1903 prepared its first report in a series of engagements that would span almost forty years and laid the foundations for continued park development thereafter. The following contexts detail the development of Seattle's parks program in advance of the Olmsted influence, highlights the contributions of the Olmsted reports, planning, consultation, and design work, and describes the significant persons, events, and landscapes that defined Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards during the period of significance (1903–68).

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE (Temporal Context)

The period of significance for this multiple property document spans from 1903 to 1968 and is divided into three distinct periods.

Initial Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, 1903–7:

This is the period in which the City of Seattle adopted the first Olmsted Report on a Comprehensive System of Parks and Boulevards and began implementing many of the initial recommendations the Olmsted Brothers laid out in their 1903 Landscape Architects' report, which outlined specific goals for parks appropriation, acquisition, and treatment, as well as designs for a system of parkways and boulevards linking both established and proposed parks.

Supplemental Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, 1908–20:

The period included the expansion of Seattle through annexation, prompting a supplemental report for newly annexed areas that focused largely on playfields, larger shoreline parks, and wooded reserves with parkway connectors. This period also included the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909, which the Olmsted firm began designing in 1906. John Charles Olmsted (JCO), Seattle's principal parks designer (along with city staff), died in 1920.

Maturation of Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, 1921–68:

The period in which the Olmsted Brothers and its 100-year plan for Seattle continued to influence the city's developing park system but new acquisitions of Olmsted Brothers–recommended parks and boulevard land

were limited by a lack of funding. Although JCO, who served as the principal representative from the Olmsted Brothers firm, died in 1920, the firm sustained his legacy via the continued design guidance of Olmsted Brothers' partner, James Frederick Dawson (JFD). JFD, who first visited Seattle's park properties in 1904, designed the Washington Park Arboretum between 1934 and 1940, prior to his death in 1941.

In 1968, Seattle voters joined those in greater King County in supporting Forward Thrust, a massive bond measure that would employ new models for park planning and development throughout King County. According to Donald Harris, Property and Acquisition Services Manager for the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, Forward Thrust included significant funding for the acquisition of greenbelts throughout the city, and Olmstedian planning principles of distribution and access continued to guide the expansion of the park system as well as the renovation of existing Olmsted-associated parks and boulevards.[1] Olmstedian ideals gained additional prominence again in the late twentieth century when, for instance, Volunteer Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1976 and staff from the Seattle Parks Department participated in the founding of the National Association for Olmsted Parks in the 1980s.[2]

GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

The geographic boundaries of the multiple property document encompass the entirety of the City of Seattle, Washington.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The following historic context begins with background sections on the city's geography and prehistory; the early history of Seattle; and Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, JCO, and JFD. These sections set the stage for the development of the city's Olmsted system of parks and boulevards.

Background

Over time, human land-use patterns have changed with and adapted to the dynamic nature of environmental variables such as topography, geology, climate, and the availability of floral and faunal resources. Examining these key factors is necessary to understanding how past and present human habitation has affected the environment.

Topography and Vegetation

Seattle is located within the Southern Puget Sound Basin, a portion of the Puget Trough Physiographic Province.[3] The north–south trough of the Puget Lowland, which separates the Olympic Mountains to the west

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[1] Donald M. Harris, as conveyed to Chrisanne Beckner by the Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks, August 22, 2016.
[2] Elizabeth Walton Potter, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for Volunteer Park," entered May 3, 1976, http://npgallery.nps.gov/nrhp/AssetDetail?assetID=180be199-6961-4c87-b814-5c65cf9e4cf0.
[3] J. F. Franklin and C. T. Dyrness, "Natural Vegetation of Oregon and Washington," USDA Forest Service, General Technical Report PNW-8, 1973.

from the Cascade Range on the east, was carved out during the last major glaciation of western Washington, which ended approximately 16,000 years before present.[4] As glaciers retreated, they left thick sediment deposits. Between approximately 12,000 and 13,000 years ago, the region developed a much cooler and drier climate, which supported an ecosystem characterized by lodgepole pine, sedges, sage, and a variety of grasses and herbs. Roughly 12,000 years ago, the climate warmed while continuing to dry, and Douglas fir, western hemlock, and red alder joined the developing forest. By around 6,000 years ago, the climate of the region had cooled and moistened to levels comparable to today's maritime climate, producing the current western hemlock vegetation zone.

Prehistory and Ethnography

Seattle is located within the traditional territory of the Coast Salish cultural groups that traditionally lived in winter villages on the shores of Elliott Bay, Salmon Bay, Lake Washington, and Lake Union, as well as along the Black, Cedar, and Duwamish Rivers.[5] An "Indian Trail" depicted on an 1865 General Land Office (GLO) map connected Lake Washington and Lake Union.[6] This trail, along with one located slightly farther south—both likely canoe portage routes—is evidence of a heavily used transportation corridor stretching between Shilshole Bay and Lake Washington, bringing people from various neighboring tribes into and throughout the future city of Seattle and the surrounding region.[7]

Seattle's Early Development

The first Euroamerican settlers in what would become the city of Seattle were the Denny Party, who arrived in 1851, the year after the Donation Land Claim (DLC) Act of 1850 authorized married couples in the Oregon Territory to claim up to 320 acres.[8] The Denny Party, led by Arthur A. Denny, brought early settlers north from Oregon to Alki Point in what is now West Seattle. After scouting the region, the Dennys and members of their party, including the Borens, Bells, Lows, and Terrys, moved inland, choosing unsurveyed lands on the eastern shores of Elliott Bay, the present site of downtown Seattle.[9] In the 1860s, Arthur Denny received his first patent for the lands stretching from Denny Way south to E Spruce Street (St.) and from 15th Avenue (Ave.) west to

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[4] D. D. Alt and D. W. Hyndman, *Northwest Exposures: A Geologic Story of the Northwest* (Missoula, MT: Mountain Press, 1995); and Derek B. Booth, Kathy Goetz Troost, John J. Clague, and Richard B. Waitt, "The Cordilleran Ice Sheet," *Development in Quaternary Science* 1 (2003): 17–43.

[5] R. H. Ruby and J. A. Brown, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest*, rev. ed. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992); and Isaac I. Stevens, "Report on Tribes between the Head of Navigation of the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean: Indian Tribes West of the Cascades," *Message from the President of the United States to the Two Houses of Congress, Part 1* (Washington, DC: A. O. P. Nicholson, 1854), 392–459.

[6] USGS General Land Office Map, Township 25 North, Range 4 East, Willamette Meridian, 1865, on file at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Olympia.

[7] Jay Miller and Astrida R. Blukis Onat, "Winds, Waterways, and Weirs: Ethnographic Study of the Central Link Light Rail Corridor," BOAS, Inc., Seattle, WA, submitted to Sound Transit, 2004.

[8] Clarence B. Bagley, *History of Seattle, From the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time,* 2 vols. (Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1916), 1:17.

[9] Bagley, *History of Seattle,* 1:17–20.

the shores of Elliott Bay.[10] Arthur's younger brother David Denny and David's wife Louisa had "proved up" lands immediately to the northwest of Arthur's claim, encompassing the southern tip of Lake Union.[11] The Dennys were known for their generosity and, in 1861, David and Louisa Denny dedicated 5 acres for Seattle's first city cemetery.[12]

In 1884, after many of the burials in the city's first cemetery had been moved to Capitol Hill's Washelli Cemetery (later renamed Volunteer Park), the land was donated to the City of Seattle for its first city park. By ordinance, the City removed the remaining burials and the site was renamed Denny Park in honor of the pioneering family. The Denny's gift would launch a continuous period of park development and acquisition.[13]

That same year, Frank Osgood founded the city's first streetcar line with horses pulling cars full of passengers down Second Ave. for a nickel apiece.[14] Streetcars would soon crisscross the city, allowing developers to build connected communities farther and farther from the city's center on forested lands. In 1885, local citizens formed their own railway, the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad Company, to connect Seattle's coal and timber industry with markets in the east by way of Canada.[15] Seattle also passed new ordinances to supply city residents with power, water, and hospitals. As one historian noted, "all of these propositions were alike in several ways. Each was designed to meet some urgent need of the rapidly expanding city, and each benefited the city as a whole."[16]

The Olmsted Influence

While Seattle continued to grow on the West Coast, cities on the East Coast had already developed haphazardly into dense, often industrial and dirty, but dynamic places. Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. was an early advocate for the healing nature of naturalistic landscapes, and his ideas are still evident today in some of the nation's most beloved parks.

In general, the history of the Olmsted firms and their influence can be divided into three distinct periods based on firm management. In the first, the firm was associated specifically with Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. (1822–1903), widely referred to as the father of landscape architecture and the designer of some of the nation's best-

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[10] U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (USDI BLM), General Land Office (GLO), Arthur A. and Mary A. Denny Patent Details, Accession No. WAOAA 071723, March 6, 1866, http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=WAOAA%20%20071723&docClass=SER&sid=e2ryp3oa.0zu.
[11] USDI BLM, GLO, David and Louisa Denny Patent Details, Accession No. WAOAA 071710, January 11, 1866, http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=WAOAA%20%20071710&docClass=SER&sid=e2ryp3oa.0zu.
[12] Walt Crowley, "Denny, David Thomas (1832–1903)," HistoryLink.org Essay 1729, August 31, 1998, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=1729.
[13] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle, Washington* (Seattle: Pacific Press, 1909), 12.
[14] Walt Crowley, "Streetcars First Enter Service in Seattle on September 23, 1884," HistoryLink.org Essay 2688, October 2, 2000, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=2688.
[15] Heather MacIntosh, "Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad Company Is Incorporated on April 15, 1885," HistoryLink.org Essay 1735, October 13, 1999, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=1735.
[16] Mansel G. Blackford, "Reform Politics in Seattle during the Progressive Era, 1902–1916," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 59, no. 4 (October 1968): 177–85.

loved recreational spots, including New York City's Central Park. In the second, his sons, John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., ran the firm as Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects. In the third, after the death of both sons, the firm continued under longtime senior partners.

Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.

Olmsted Sr. spent his early adulthood traveling throughout the United States and Europe, writing about what he saw. He was restless and inventive. By 1857, however, he was frustrated by the world of publishing and struggling as a farmer. He decided to pursue a job as superintendent for the proposed but yet-to-be-constructed Central Park and came to work for the park's chief engineer Egbert Viele. Viele imagined the future Central Park as a formal, functional landscape. He submitted plans, but the park's board of commissioners found them uninspiring, even unimaginative, and Viele's plan was set aside.[17] As a result, New York's park board hosted a competition for a new park plan. The competition caught the attention of architect Calvert Vaux, who had come to America from England as an assistant to Andrew Jackson Downing, designer of country homes and landscapes. Vaux knew Olmsted Sr. and appreciated his familiarity with the swampy, inhospitable 800-acre site that would soon become Central Park. Late in 1857, Vaux asked the young superintendent to partner on a plan, and the pair won the park board's admiration, partly for their creative solutions to many of the site's flaws and challenges. Vaux and Olmsted Sr. designed a series of artificial lakes and streams for the park and added thoroughfares that channeled carriage traffic under picturesque pedestrian bridges to minimize disruption in the park and enhance traffic flow. They also recommended only a small number of buildings and features, noting that greenhouses, fountains, and even flower gardens were expensive and secondary to essentials like shaded walks, lawns, and drives.[18]

In April 1858, with the support of the park board, Olmsted Sr. began to supervise construction of the park he and Vaux envisioned.[19] While the park developed in phases, Olmsted Sr. and Vaux partnered on plans for other landscapes and parks. In 1865, the pair formed Olmsted, Vaux & Co., from which came what one historian has called "a dynamic and dynastic succession of firms bearing the name of Olmsted."[20] Before the partnership dissolved, the pair designed a number of major works, including Prospect Park and its associated parkways in Brooklyn and the nation's first citywide integrated park system in Buffalo, New York.

Buffalo's parks system, too, would prove a model for similar systems throughout the United States, including Seattle's. Instead of focusing on individual parks, Buffalo's parks link via a series of attractive, tree-lined boulevards and parkways that provided connection points throughout the city, allowing residents to move uninterrupted through miles of designed park landscapes.[21] Although there is no indication that Olmsted Sr.

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[17] Witold Rybczynski, *A Clearing in the Distance: Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the Nineteenth Century* (New York: Touchstone, 2000), 159.
[18] Rybczynski, *Clearing in the Distance*, 142–77.
[19] Lucy Lawliss, Caroline Loughlin, and Lauren Meier, eds., *The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857–1979* (Washington, DC: National Association of Olmsted Parks, 2008), 1.
[20] Catherine Joy Johnson, *Olmsted in the Pacific Northwest: Private Estates and Residential Communities, 1873–1959: An Inventory* (Seattle: Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, 1997), 64.
[21] Rybczynski, *Clearing in the Distance*, 285–89.

studied in Japan, there is a seeming correlation between traditional Japanese landscape architecture and the refined systems of linked parks and boulevards for which Olmsted Sr. became known. For example, the traditional Japanese stroll garden, implemented since the eleventh century, seems to have influenced the designs of boulevards and parkways, although obviously adapted for nineteenth-century transportation modes in a bustling urban context. In both stroll gardens and linked systems of parks and parkways, borrowed scenery extends the limits of the visual and conceptual experience, providing extension to and appropriation of landscapes near and far and utilizing aesthetics of geography and natural topography.

The concept of extension to and appropriation of distant landscapes, or of borrowing scenery (*shakkei*), focused attention on both garden features and outward views. *Shakkei* encourages a pictorial composition of space according to principles of foreground, middle ground, and background, extending the limits of the garden visually and conceptually.[22] These concepts were also seen in seventeenth-century Persian and French gardens, which incorporated monumental axes and vistas that merged with distant horizons: "large-scale views were part of the drama and idea of mobility that characterized Baroque styles."[23] The 1853 modernization of Paris, conducted by Baron Georges-Eugene Haussmann under Napoleon's order, is perhaps the most recognized and likely most contemporary case study for Olmsted Sr. to have encountered. The Paris plan upgraded existing infrastructure by adding tree-lined boulevards, road junctions, green squares, and parks.[24] Olmsted Sr., and later partners in the Olmsted firms, would come to personify these concepts in the United States.

In a speech published in the 1871 *Journal of Social Sciences*, Olmsted Sr. laid out his ideal park and what it provided to those who spend their days in town:

> We want a ground to which people may easily go after their day's work is done, and where they may stroll for an hour, seeing, hearing, and feeling nothing of the bustle and jar of the streets, where they shall, in effect, find the city put far away from them. . . . We want, especially, the greatest possible contrast with the restraining and confining conditions of the town, those conditions which compel us to walk circumspectly, watchfully, jealously, which compel us to look closely upon others without sympathy. Practically, what we most want is a simply [*sic*], broad, open space of clean greensward, with sufficient play of surface and a sufficient number of trees about it to supply a variety of light and shade. This we want as a central feature. We want depth of wood enough about it not only for comfort in hot weather, but to completely shut out the city from our landscapes. These are the distinguishing elements of what is properly called a park.[25]

These could also be called the defining characteristics of the quintessential Olmsted park—ideals that would guide park planning in the United States throughout the late nineteenth century and well into the twentieth.

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[22] Elizabeth Boults and Chip Sullivan, *Illustrated History of Landscape Design* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2010).
[23] Boults and Sullivan, *Illustrated History of Landscape Design*, 107.
[24] Boults and Sullivan, *Illustrated History of Landscape Design*, 201.
[25] Robert Trombly, ed., *Frederick Law Olmsted Essential Texts* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2010), 230.

Olmsted Sr.'s design principles are identified not only in Buffalo and New York City but also in the parks designed by the generations of Olmsted landscape architects that followed him. The use of borrowed landscapes, specifically, informed not only Olmsted Sr.'s designs but also those of later principals in the firm who trained under Olmsted Sr. himself and eventually traveled the United States, explored the great mountain regions of the American west, and came to park planning with an appreciation for the natural beauty of uninterrupted landscapes.

In 1873, the Northern Pacific Railroad (NPRR) chose the infant city of Tacoma, south of Seattle, as the western terminus for its new transcontinental rail route, setting up what would become a longtime rivalry between Tacoma and Seattle.[26] It was also in 1873 that an Olmsted first worked in Washington. The NPRR, having located its new terminus in a young and undeveloped city, set out to develop a plan for Tacoma's future expansion. Managers in NPRR's eastern offices hired Olmsted Sr. to design Tacoma. Olmsted Sr. was known to be unconventional when it came to town planning. His design for Tacoma shows curvilinear streets, with city blocks designed in odd shapes without right angles to take advantage of the site's natural drama, as if development were flowing down the steep contours of the city site like water toward the bay. His plan reflected an attention to the existing topography, a desire to preserve the best viewscapes, and a respect for existing natural features such as ravines. Northern Pacific officers ultimately rejected the plan, and the city developed in a more typical grid pattern.[27]

Although rejected in Tacoma, the elements of Olmsted Sr.'s early designs and signature projects—including utilizing existing topography, appropriating distant views, preserving natural features, and fostering connections between parks and boulevards—can be seen throughout the Olmsted-designed park systems of the United States. In the early twentieth century, JCO, nephew and stepson of Olmsted Sr., would rely heavily on parkways and boulevards to bridge parklands and create a system of connected naturalistic landscapes throughout the growing city of Seattle. Although the Olmsted firms would design park systems for other cities—most notably Buffalo and Boston but also Louisville, Birmingham, and Rochester—Seattle's parks and boulevard system would become one of the nation's most completely constructed and maintained Olmsted-designed systems. Built to JCO's exacting standards for a citywide "comprehensive scheme of parks and parkways," the system was designed to be accessible from all residential areas of the city, to highlight Seattle's incomparable views of water and mountains, and to preserve what remained of its evergreen forests.[28] In his plans, JCO accommodated many users, providing for recreational ball fields and playgrounds, as well as pleasure drives and neighborhood parks meticulously groomed to feature their best native trees, groves, and views. As noted by the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks,

> The Olmsted Brothers firm worked in Seattle for 34 years, designed 37 parks and playgrounds including Colman, Frink, Green Lake, Interlaken, Jefferson, Mt. Baker, Seward, Volunteer,

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[26] Heather MacIntosh, "Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad Company," HistoryLink.org Essay 1736, November 18, 1999, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=1736.
[27] Norman J. Johnston, "The Frederick Law Olmsted Plan for Tacoma," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 66, no. 3 (July 1975): 97–104.
[28] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 73.

> Washington Park and Arboretum and Woodland parks, as well as Lincoln Park (now known as the Bobby Morris Playfield), Hiawatha Playground, and Lake Washington, Magnolia, and Ravenna Boulevards. . . . Park planners across the country recognize Seattle's Olmsted park system as one of the best preserved and best designed in the United States. More importantly, while many eastern cities have only one or two Olmsted-designed parks, Seattle has an extensive multi-park plan linked by boulevards. It is this legacy that makes Seattle one of the most livable spots in the country.[29]

JCO and Olmsted Sr.

JCO (1851–1920) was born September 14, 1851. His parents, John and Mary Olmsted, were brother and sister-in-law to Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. John was in ill health as an adult. On his deathbed in 1857, he wrote to Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and asked him to care for his wife, Mary. After John died, the pair married, and Olmsted Sr. became stepfather to his brother's young children.

JCO spent two summers working as a surveyor in the Rocky Mountains before studying at Yale University and pursuing drafting and drawing with Thomas Wisedell and Frank Lathrop as well as arboriculture and horticulture with well-known landscape gardener O. C. Bullard. As a young person, he had joined his stepfather in the Yosemite Valley when Olmsted Sr. went to manage the Mariposa Estate. JCO kept detailed journals of the places he experienced, showing an early interest in the natural wonders of the landscape. In 1872, JCO joined his stepfather in the newly established firm, Frederick Law Olmsted, Landscape Architect, where he spent his early years as an apprentice and partial partner. Working closely with Olmsted Sr., JCO would sometimes finalize drawings based on the rough sketches his stepfather produced, as he did, for instance, for Boston's parks.[30] His colleagues would later credit JCO with much of the work of "designing and providing the great park system of Boston, and the Metropolitan Park System surrounding it."[31] In 1884, when the family and the business moved to Brookline, Massachusetts, JCO became a full partner in the Olmsted firm, maintaining a hectic travel schedule while he designed for communities around the United States.

Although JCO was prolific in his professional correspondence and wrote almost-daily letters to his wife while traveling, JCO published only occasionally. A small number of his articles in publications like *Garden and Forest* show that he was a meticulous, detail-oriented planner with a great fondness for the beauty he found in the natural world. In 1888, for instance, JCO provided a detailed argument against common methods of roadbuilding, arguing that when roads were higher than the surrounding landscape, the banks should be designed in graceful ogee curves to avoid a slope that resembled a steep inclined plane and was "stiff, formal, and plainly artificial." Natural-looking slopes, he argued, would become "varied and informal" over time, creating an "undulating surface," which would remain "in all cases informal and natural."[32] In 1889, he

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[29] David B. Williams, *A Brief History of Seattle's Olmsted Legacy*, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, electronic document, accessed July 8, 2016, http://www.seattle.gov/friendsofolmstedparks/FSOP/history.htm.
[30] Justin Martin, *Genius of Place: The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted* (Cambridge: Da Capo Press, 2011), 336.
[31] "Memoir of Deceased Member John Charles Olmsted," *Journal of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers* 7, no. 9 (1920): 269–71.
[32] John Charles Olmsted, "The Treatment of Slopes and Banks," *Garden and Forest* 1, no. 28 (1888): 326–27.

prepared another article with guidance for the homeowner: "There is one type of natural scene, the beauty of which is so generally recognized, that everyone who has the slightest opportunity desires to imitate it. It is that what is called a lawn." JCO equated private lawns with "openness, breadth, seclusion and repose, together with a subtle combination of contrast (between its openness and the shady mystery of the wood) with harmony (the sense of seclusion being common to both)." JCO's belief was that lawns should be kept open to maintain views and to let the eye "rest at or near the centre instinctively and easily." Since the turf is the characteristic and valuable thing, he noted, "no other object should be allowed so near the centre or be so conspicuous as to distract the mind from receiving the impression which the lawn is calculated to produce."[33] Through publications and voluminous correspondence, JCO shared his strong opinions on parks and boulevards design and documented the care and attention he paid to both natural landscapes and their future users.

JCO collaborated closely with Olmsted Sr. throughout the 1880s and early 1890s, a dynamic period in which the firm completed some of its highest-profile projects, designing for Stanford University and Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, and preparing a park system for Louisville, Kentucky.[34] The firm also worked on perhaps its best-known park system, the so-called emerald necklace in Boston, an NRHP-listed string of nine parks connected by parkways and waterways. In 1890, the Olmsted firm began working on an exciting new project in Chicago. Olmsted Sr. himself chose the site and consulted as landscape architect on the World's Columbian Exposition (also known as the Chicago World's Fair), which many contemporaries referred to as the "white city."[35]

Olmsted Sr. traveled extensively as projects drew him to cities including Atlanta, Louisville, Washington, DC, and New York. In 1892, he visited France and England to scout landscape ideas for Biltmore, a Vanderbilt estate in the Appalachian foothills, and the Columbian Exposition. By 1893, Olmsted Sr. claimed his son, JCO, was in charge of managing an office made up of fifteen to twenty draftsmen and clerks, while coordinating travel for the firm and communicating with clients. JCO, said Olmsted Sr., had contributed to half his projects "in an important degree."[36] Efficient, even-tempered, and detail oriented while still able to envision large-scale landscape planning, JCO was invaluable during a period when his stepfather's health was beginning to decline.[37]

For the World's Columbian Exposition, Olmsted Sr. designed a feature known as the wooded island, a natural retreat from the bustle of the world's fair. Although he sought to preserve the island as a landscape free of buildings, he relented when Chicago architect and the exposition's director of works Daniel Burnham urged him to accept a gift from Japan and place the elegant Phoenix Pavilion (Ho-o-den) on the wooded island. The pavilion, often considered the first Midwestern example of Japanese architecture, was influential, impressing and inspiring designers like Frank Lloyd Wright, who incorporated a horizontal emphasis, deep eaves, and other

[33] John Charles Olmsted, "Hints about Lawns," *Garden and Forest* 2, no. 48 (1889): 38.
[34] Lawliss, Loughlin, and Meier, *Master List*, 2–3.
[35] Rybczynski, *Clearing in the Distance*, 385–92.
[36] David Schuler and Gregory Kaliss, ed., *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted*, Vol. 9: *The Last Great Projects, 1890–1895* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015), 4.
[37] Schuler and Kaliss, *Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted*, 79.

elements of what became known as the "Prairie style" into his own work.[38] The direct influence of the Japanese pavilion on JCO is unknown, although this may be the moment in which he first encountered the concept of the Japanese stroll garden. JCO's eventual command of the linked systems of boulevards and parkways using borrowed landscapes bears a striking resemblance to the conceptual feeling of *shakkei* and similar though later influences of Baroque design, though on a greater scale and with a definite accommodation for the lifeways of the twentieth century.

Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects

In 1895, after more than twenty years working with JCO and other associates, Olmsted Sr. retired, leaving the firm in his stepson's hands. JCO then formed a new partnership with his half-brother, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. (Olmsted Jr.) (1870–1957), who had first joined the firm as an apprentice. The pair renamed the firm Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, and entered the firm's next phase, during which JCO would be the firm's primary designer of new parks and park systems, ultimately providing plans for cities in Maine, Washington, Oregon, and New Jersey, among others.[39] As noted by historian Arleyn Levee, JCO's approach to design was "innovative yet pragmatic; reflective of the aesthetic tenets of his stepfather, yet responsive to the new social, economic, and political demands of twentieth-century cities. His advice to clients, whether for public, private, or institutional projects, was to plan for the future, to acquire as much land as possible to enable a cohesive design, protecting scenery and yet fulfilling the functional requirements."[40]

Under JCO's leadership, Olmsted Brothers continued to thrive, growing from a small family firm to what one academic author has referred to as "the largest landscape architecture and planning office in the United States."[41] JCO traveled sometimes as much as nine months out of the year, growing the business from a few projects in California to a firm with projects up and down the West Coast and into Canada. To manage the burgeoning workload from the road, JCO relied on increasingly organized systems in the firm's home office, creating efficiencies that firms still use today.[42]

JCO and Olmsted Jr. were active as not only designers but also advocates for the profession of landscape architecture. JCO served as the first president of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) when it was formed in 1899 and belonged to numerous professional organizations, including, among many others, the Boston Society of Civil Engineers, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Boston Society of Architects, American Civic Association, American League for Civic Improvement, American Academy of Political and Social Science, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, American Association of Park Superintendents.[43] Olmsted Jr. was

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[38] Thomas N. Hines, *Burnham of Chicago: Architect and Planner* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979), 109.
[39] Schuler and Kaliss, *Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted*, 80.
[40] Arleyn Levee, "John Charles Olmsted: Landscape Architect, Planner (1852–1920)," National Association for Olmsted Parks, accessed November 9, 2016, http://www.olmsted.org/the-olmsted-legacy/john-charles-olmsted.
[41] Amy Brown, "Nature in Practice: The Olmsted Firm and the Rise of Landscape Architecture and Planning, 1880–1920" (Phd diss., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, 2002), 193, https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/8170#files-area.
[42] Brown, "Nature in Practice," 103.
[43] *Obituary Record of Graduates of Yale College: Deceased during the Year Ending July 1, 1920* (New Haven, CT: Yale University, 1921), 1525, https://books.google.com/books?id=A55GAQAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false.

also an ASLA founding member and served as president as well, first from 1908–9 and then again from 1919–23. He later taught landscape architecture at Harvard. Like JCO, he had extensive experience on large landscape and city-planning projects. He worked with Burnham and Root during construction of the Chicago World's Fair and sat in 1901 on the McMillan Commission, charged with preparing a twentieth-century redesign for the nation's capital, based on Pierre L'Enfant's plans.[44]

Both JCO and Olmsted Jr. were involved in various facets of parks, transportation, subdivision, and city planning during their careers during the early twentieth century. According to historian Ethan Carr, "landscape architects were expected to collaborate with engineers, architects, lawyers and others to devise a range of regulatory and design solutions to the problems of urban growth."[45] This is evident in JCO's work for Seattle. Not only did JCO site parks but he also designed an extensive transportation network among them, made land-use decisions for Seattle's newly annexed properties, and considered population and family dynamics when locating parks as tools for improving the quality of urban life. JCO also designed for private clients, planning subdivisions, campuses, and estates, all at a time when the profession of city planning was growing from early parks and transportation planning and using city and metropolitan park systems as guides.[46] For instance, in Seattle, JCO worked with some of the city's leading residents to create gated communities such as the Highlands, which were designed to fit the topography of the land with residences sited to take advantage of the woodland and water views around them.[47]

With a wide array of projects underway in the early decades of the twentieth century, the stepbrothers managed a firm that completed a dozen metropolitan park plans before the First World War, a frenetic period in which the Olmsted staff swelled to forty-seven people by 1917.[48] In this period, JCO designed park systems for cities including Portland, Oregon, and Seattle and Spokane, Washington, often with the support of future partner, James Frederick Dawson.[49]

James Frederick Dawson (1874–1941) was the son of Jackson Thornton Dawson, a horticulturist who served as superintendent of Harvard's Arnold Arboretum—designed by Olmsted Sr.—for its first forty years. JFD studied at Harvard and then apprenticed with the Olmsted Brothers before becoming an associate partner in 1904 and

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[44] Susan L. Klaus, "Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.: Landscape Architect, Planner Educator, Conservationist (1870–1957)," National Association for Olmsted Parks, accessed December 11, 2015, http://www.olmsted.org/the-olmsted-legacy/frederick-law-olmsted-jr.
[45] Ethan Carr, "City and Regional Planning and Improvement Projects," Olmsted Online: Plans & Projects of the Olmsted Firm. National Association of Olmsted Parks, accessed July 11, 2016, http://www.olmstedonline.org/Home/Glossary.
[46] Carr, "City and Regional Planning."
[47] Joan Hockaday, *Greenscapes: Olmsted's Pacific Northwest* (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2009), 74–76.
[48] Charles E. Beveridge, "The Olmsted Firm—An Introduction," National Association of Olmsted Parks, accessed November 30, 2016, http://www.olmsted.org/the-olmsted-legacy/the-olmsted-firm/an-introduction.
[49] Although he would occasionally design private estates in Washington, Olmsted Jr. does not appear to have been deeply involved in the firm's Seattle projects.

full partner in 1927.[50] He established the firm's West Coast office in 1920 and went on to prepare plans for Seattle's Washington Park Arboretum, among others.[51]

With the help of JFD and others, JCO and Olmsted Jr. ran the Olmsted Brothers firm until JCO died in 1920. Today, JCO is most commonly associated with projects in Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, and Hartford, as well as his work on the West Coast.[52] Throughout the 1920s, the firm turned its attention to residential subdivisions and private estates, while continuing to work with park boards across the United States.[53] Olmsted Jr. managed the firm until he retired from active practice in 1949 but continued to work with the firm in a reduced capacity until he died in 1957.[54]

With two generations of Olmsted family members at the helm, the Olmsted firm developed and maintained a national reputation for design. Even after Olmsted Jr. retired, the firm survived under the management of associates such as Edward Clark Whiting (1881–1962), whom the firm had hired in 1905, and William Bell Marquis (1887–1978), who joined the firm in 1919.[55]

Olmsted Associates

In its third period, the firm functioned without any Olmsted family members. Renamed in 1961, Olmsted Associates continued until 1979 under Artemas Partridge Richardson (1918–2015).[56] The National Park Service eventually purchased the Olmsted firm's longtime home and offices, known as Fairsted, in Brookline, Massachusetts, along with the firm's extensive archives.[57] Researchers continue to access the archives for invaluable information about the designs and intent of the Olmsted firms work across the country.

Between 1857 and 1979, various iterations of the Olmsted firm contributed to more than 6,000 projects, completing drawings and designs for 700 public parks and parkways; 2,000 private estates; 350 subdivisions and communities; 250 campuses; the grounds for nearly 100 hospitals and asylums; 100 libraries; 125 commercial or industrial buildings; and at least 75 churches.[58]

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[50] NAOP, "Chronology of the Olmsted Firm, 1857–1979," accessed November 2, 2016, http://www.olmsted.org/the-olmsted-legacy/the-olmsted-firm/chronology-of-the-olmsted-firm-18571979.
[51] Catherine Joy Johnson, "Dawson, James Frederick," *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1993), 39.
[52] *Obituary Record of Graduates of Yale College*, 1525.
[53] Lawliss, Loughlin, and Meier, *Master List*, 2–3.
[54] Lawliss, Loughlin, and Meier, *Master List*, 311–12.
[55] Johnson, *Olmsted in the Pacific Northwest*, 72. Note that other sources, including Lawliss, Loughlin, and Meier, give later dates for Whiting and Marquis. However, these sources reference the years when Whiting and Marquis became partners in the firm; in contrast, Johnson notes the years they began as apprentices and/or employees of the firm.
[56] David Grayson Allen, *The Olmsted National Historic Site and the Growth of Historic Landscape Preservation* (Lebanon, NH: Northeastern University Press, 2007), 12.
[57] National Association of Olmsted Parks, "Olmsted Archives at Fairsted, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, National Park Service," accessed January 27, 2016, http://www.olmsted.org/research/olmsted-archives.
[58] Lawliss, Loughlin, and Meier, *Master List*, 5–6.

Seattle's Early Park History

Back in Seattle in 1884, when the Dennys donated the first city park site, it caused a ripple effect in city government. The Seattle Common Council passed Ordinance No. 571 to regulate the city's acquisition of the site and its conversion from city cemetery to Denny Park. The council chose to manage the park and subsequent acquisitions with the help of park commissioners, including David Denny and James B. Metcalfe, who both served from 1884 to 1887.[59] Together, they chose to transform the old cemetery, once the burials were relocated, into a formal park with walks, sloping lawns, and flowers.[60]

As historian Clarence Bagley claimed, "as long as Seattle remained a doubtful village and sawmill town of slim population little could be expected in the way of parks. The citizens were still living in the wilderness or quite near to it and nature was a familiar object to them."[61] But with growth in the last two decades of the nineteenth century, Seattle entered into a period of increasingly intensive park acquisition and management, addressing the needs of its young families as it grew from a booming pioneer town to a mature city.

Among Seattle's early parks were Kinnear Park, donated to the city in 1887, and Lake View Park, acquired earlier but transformed into a park in 1887.[62] Kinnear Park was a 14-acre scenic tract on a high bluff overlooking Puget Sound. Lake View Park, the city's second cemetery (known as the old Washelli Cemetery), was located on a site heralded for its views of Lake Washington, Lake Union, Puget Sound, and the Cascade and Olympic Mountains. After moving the burials to yet another cemetery nearby, the city established Lake View Park, and later renamed it Volunteer Park on behalf of those who fought in the Spanish-American War.[63]

The city was able to make only scant improvements at these locations, however. On June 6, 1889, a pot of glue in a basement cabinetry shop burst into flames and started what became known as Seattle's Great Fire of 1889. Starting at the corner of First and Madison Streets, the fire spread quickly through Seattle's downtown, consuming wood-framed buildings, wharves, and depots and destroying brick buildings; ultimately eating up 64 acres of the city's central business district. The city was considered little more than what the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners referred to as "an overgrown saw mill camp" at that time, but the fire fueled a great rebuilding effort.[64] As the central city was redesigned, Seattle negotiated with Henry Yesler and other pioneers to acquire another park site, a small triangular tract of land on First Ave. now known as Pioneer Square.[65]

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[59] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *First Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, Seattle, Washington, 1884–1904* (Seattle: Lowman & Hanford, 1905), front matter.
[60] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *First Annual Report, 1884–1904*, 7.
[61] Bagley, *History of Seattle*, 1:273.
[62] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *First Annual Report, 1884–1904*, 7–9. Note that dates of donation, acquisition, dedication, and improvement can vary, sometimes leading to conflicting dates among primary and secondary sources.
[63] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *First Annual Report, 1884–1904*, 7–9.
[64] Greg Lange, "Seattle's Great Fire," HistoryLink.org Essay 715, January 16, 1999, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=715.
[65] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *First Annual Report, 1884–1904*, 7–12.

Statehood and the Parks Movement

In November 1889, Washington took another step forward, becoming the nation's forty-second state. By 1890, Seattle's population had blossomed to 42,837.[66] In October 1890, the City of Seattle gave up its charter, which the territorial legislature had developed in 1869, and citizens approved a "home rule" or "freeholder's" charter designed to govern the city into the future. Among other things, the charter established a new park commission. Five members, appointed by the mayor, would serve five-year terms, and earn $300 annually.[67] According to the charter, "the park commission shall have the full and exclusive power to control, manage and supervise the public parks of the city, to lay out and regulate the same, and shall alone have authority to spend the public park fund."[68]

On December 8, 1890, at the first meeting of the park board, Chairman Daniel Jones addressed new park commissioners W. E. Burgess, Abram Barker, W. E. Bailey, and Charles N. Evans, saying:

> Public parks are things for great cities, places for recreation and for rest. No city is fully equipped without some grounds for public resort. Every village and hamlet should have some free spot which all have a right to enjoy. If we have faith in the future greatness of our city we must use all our efforts to secure while we may, such lands as will be adequate to the wants of a large city. We must not fail to secure lands because it seems too costly nor because they are out of proportion to our present needs. . . . We must look forward to twenty or thirty years when the Queen City of Puget Sound will have a population of 500,000 or more and think what her wants will be.[69]

The sentiment that great cities needed great parks echoed throughout the United States. The nation was by then in the throes of a growing parks movement.[70] Cities of the western United States were unique in that they had not yet grown to their capacity and could still preserve the best of their green spaces should they so choose. Jones spent the rest of his address on the lessons to be learned from New York and Washington, DC, two dense, urban cities that had struggled to acquire and protect parks envisioned by the father of landscape architecture himself, Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. Jones noted that although some citizens complained that parks were little more than expensive tax schemes to benefit the rich—a fair argument, as real-estate developers often advocated for parks that increased the value of their own proposed developments—parks also attracted high-income residents to surrounding neighborhoods. Those residents paid higher property taxes that easily repaid the cost of

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[66] John Caldbick, "1890 Census—Eleventh Decennial Census Counts Washington as State for First Time; Illustrates Continuing Rapid Growth; All Ethnic Groups Except Chinese Show Significant Increases; More Women in Workplace," HistoryLink.org Essay 9621, November 15, 2010, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?displaypage=output.cfm&file_id=9621.
[67] *Charter of the City of Seattle, Commonly Known as the Freeholders' Charter, Article XIII, Department of Parks* (Seattle: Northwestern, 1890), 82.
[68] *Charter of the City of Seattle . . . Department of Parks*, 84.
[69] Minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners, December 8, 1890–March 8, 1894, Vol. 1, December 8, 1890, 9365-01, Seattle Municipal Archives, Seattle, WA (hereafter SMA).
[70] Ann E. Chapman, "Nineteenth Century Trends in American Conservation," National Park Service, accessed January 27, 2016, http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/massachusetts_conservation/Nineteenth_Century_Trends_in_%20American_Conservation.html.

park bonds. Jones concluded by saying that in other cities, publicly financed parks once criticized by the public had become "the best investments that could possibly have been made."[71]

In fall 1891, Seattle's first park superintendent, James Taylor, made his first report to the board. His requests were modest. He asked for a heated greenhouse and nursery for spring plants and requested that the board allow him to improve paths and grading in Kinnear Park and Denny Park. Taylor said he aspired "to provide natural scenery, pleasant walks, retired nooks, and green lawns, something to draw the people to the fresh air and to allure them for the time being from all business and domestic cares."[72]

The same year Seattle took these first tentative steps in parks planning, the city more than doubled in physical size, annexing lands to the north, including Magnolia, Green Lake, and the University District, expanding the city from roughly 13 square miles to almost 30 square miles. Annexations would continue to grow both the lands and the population of the city for generations to come, putting greater pressure on Seattle to create amenities like parks in those areas for its citizens.[73]

Over the next few years, Seattle's early park commission struggled to establish a plan for its citywide parks, employing not only Taylor (1891) but also subsequent superintendents Edward Otto Schwagerl (1892–95), Frank N. Little (1896–1902), and A. L. Walters (1902–4) before inviting the Olmsted Brothers to visit Seattle.[74]

Seattle's Board of Park Commissioners and the City Beautiful Movement

Schwagerl (1842–1910) took over as Superintendent of Parks in May 1892, after working in St. Louis, Cleveland, and Tacoma. Schwagerl laid out new plans for Kinnear and Denny Parks, as well as early plans for Volunteer Park.[75] He is perhaps best recognized, however, for preparing Seattle's earliest known parks plan. As Schwagerl explained in a public address to the Chamber of Commerce in the early 1890s, "this plan provides for a system of attenuated parks and boulevards. It embraces four main parks, each park consisting of a natural project of peerless scope, breadth and range at the four corners, as it were, of the city."[76] For his four future parks, Schwagerl identified the present sites of Seward, Discovery, and Magnuson Parks, as well as the original landing site of Seattle's early pioneers, Alki Point.[77] Schwagerl imagined a series of drives linking the four parks, two overlooking Lake Washington and two overlooking Puget Sound. He further incorporated existing parklands into his plan, including two privately held parks, Woodland and Ravenna, as well as the present-day university grounds. His plan, as he described it, "contemplates a network of boulevards, avenues and streets,

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[71] Minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners, 1, December 8, 1890, SMA.
[72] Minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners, 1, September 10, 1891, SMA.
[73] Greg Lange, "Seattle Doubles in Size by Annexing North-of-Downtown Communities on May 3, 1891," HistoryLink.org Essay 2214, January 1, 1999, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=2214.
[74] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, front matter.
[75] David A. Rash, "Edward Otto Schwagerl," in *Shaping Seattle Architecture: A Historical Guide to the Architects*, ed. Jeffrey Karl Ochsner (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1994), 52–57.
[76] E. O. Schwagerl, "Superintendent's Advisory Letter," *Second Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, to the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of Seattle for the Year Ending November 30, 1892* (Seattle: Koch & Oakley, 1892), 11.
[77] Schwagerl, "Superintendent's Advisory Letter," 11.

with easy grade and gentle alignment, uniting all the points of interest in and around the city, and a final development and retention of spots still in Nature's dress into places of public recreation."[78]

In many ways, Schwagerl's vision resembled an Olmsted plan. He promoted greenswards, the preservation of mature foliage, and an interconnected park system joined by parkways. Schwagerl also recommended swift acquisition, reflecting the Olmsted Brothers and others who had watched eastern cities struggle to create parks once their prized "woods, fields, and forests were destroyed."[79] Furthermore, he called for playgrounds, based on new and progressive ideas about childhood health and recreation, noting that "there are no public grounds more gratefully appreciated and utilized than such as are devoted to the use, benefit and pleasure of the children."[80]

However, Schwagerl approached park planning in a highly formal and prescriptive way. His address laid out a rigid typography of park types (romantic, sylvan, and picturesque), and he aspired to the ideals of each type, leaving little room for landscapes to retain their unique characters.[81]

In many ways, Schwagerl appears to have been a proponent of the budding City Beautiful movement, generally identified with the 1893 Chicago World's Fair's parkscape and its homogenous collection of fine, classical buildings all painted white. The City Beautiful movement grew out of the notion that cities could be aesthetic marvels as opposed to dirty, cramped, and depressing places. As industrialization advanced, more people left rural settings to seek employment in overcrowded urban hubs. Proponents of the City Beautiful ideal worked to reclaim grimy, neglected city streets; to establish efficient, lawful, municipal governments; and to construct public amenities like parks, libraries, and social clubs. In this way, the City Beautiful movement can be seen as an extension of other Progressive-Era policies that sought to create more humane living conditions for city dwellers from the 1890s through the 1920s. As historian William Wilson explains,

> Middle-class and upper middle-class people inspired and staffed the widely ranging progressive movement. Their aims included the spreading of middle-class values through the uplift of unfortunates and the establishment of their own cultural hegemony. They promoted the adoption of business efficiency in government and in private, nonbusiness realms such as reform and philanthropic organizations. They wished to tame the apparently disorganized, wildly growing city and to establish or restore a sense of community—that is, feelings of civic responsibility, of commitment to a common purpose, and of municipal patriotism. The progressives exuded hope, optimism, and a conviction of their own rightness. They believed they could reform through successive approximations of their urban ideal—a clean, beautiful, well-governed city—and eventually achieve a heaven on earth, secular in form though imbued with Christian principles.

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[78] Schwagerl, "Superintendent's Advisory Letter," 12.
[79] Schwagerl, "Superintendent's Advisory Letter," 12.
[80] Schwagerl, "Superintendent's Advisory Letter," 15.
[81] Schwagerl, "Superintendent's Advisory Letter," 14.

> They called their movement the "civic renaissance," the "civic awakening," and "the uplift in American cities," terms indicative of their lofty aspirations.[82]

Some historians have called Olmsted Sr. the personification of the City Beautiful movement for his interest in creating beautiful urban parks. Others argue that Olmsted Sr. and his colleagues rejected the City Beautiful ideal as artificial and prescribed, instead designing humane, naturalistic, open spaces that were peaceful, soothing, and antithetical to even the most beautiful city.[83] The conflict perhaps stems from City Beautiful's own antecedents in Europe. The 1853 Paris plan, for example, "came at the expense of the working-class neighborhoods, which were destroyed during the 'improvements.' Ironically, the ideal of social reform had the effect of displacing the poor, forcing them out of the city limits."[84] With City Beautiful, architects conforming to the same Baroque-influenced Beaux-Arts ideals proposed comprehensive urban plans for cities that were simultaneously praised and criticized for an emphasis on appearance rather than social responsibility.[85] Olmsted Sr. sought to encourage the respite of the working class in appropriated naturalistic landscapes within an urban context.

In Seattle, Schwagerl also sought to provide tranquil park spaces for an increasingly urban populace. Soon after he introduced his plan, however, the nation was plunged into an economic depression known as the Panic of 1893. The economic downturn gutted local businesses, threw many residents out of work, and slowed development. Schwagerl's plans were not immediately implemented. In 1895, he left his city position and returned to private practice in landscape design. In 1896, a new city charter transferred control of Seattle parks to the city council.[86] Thereafter, the City of Seattle named Frank N. Little Superintendent of Streets, Sewers, and Parks, a position he would hold until his death in 1902.[87]

While Seattle considered the future of its parks, Pacific Northwest progressives founded the Queen City Good Roads Club and the Owl Cycle Club, which worked to improve bicycling throughout Seattle. The Good Roads Club advocated for a broad network of bicycle paths, including along the shore of Lake Washington, and helped maintain them for the city's "wheelmen."[88] The city would later integrate some of the group's 8-foot-wide bicycle paths into Olmsted boulevards.

As the nineteenth century waned, Seattle was on the verge of another population explosion. On July 17, 1897, a steamship approached Seattle's Elliott Bay from Canada. Onboard were sixty-eight miners and more than a ton of pure gold mined from the banks of the Klondike River. When the *Portland* docked in Seattle, she and her cargo set off a stampede of new immigrants to the city. Miners, would-be miners, and those who sought to outfit

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[82] William H. Wilson, *The City Beautiful Movement* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989), 41.
[83] Wilson, *City Beautiful Movement*, 9.
[84] Boults and Sullivan, *Illustrated History of Landscape Design,* 186.
[85] Boults and Sullivan, *Illustrated History of Landscape Design,* 210.
[86] MAKERS architecture and urban design, Susan Black Associates, and Cathy Wickwire, *Historic Resources Plan*, Seattle Parks and Recreation, 2004. Held by the City of Seattle.
[87] "Services Most Impressive: Remains of Frank N. Little Interred this Afternoon," *Seattle Daily Times*, December 9, 1902, 2.
[88] "Good Roads," *Seattle Daily Times*, March 25, 1897.

or otherwise profit from them rushed to Seattle, determined to make a fortune off the Klondike Gold Rush.[89] Although many of the best claims had already been staked, in the first year of the gold rush, an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 gold seekers packed their gear along water and land routes from Seattle through Canada and Alaska on their way to the goldfields.[90]

The Klondike Gold Rush brought increased population, new money, and additional development pressures to the young city of Seattle, along with new appreciation for the cultures to the north. In October 1899, a Seattle delegation, including many scientists, returned from the Klondike to the city with a souvenir stolen from Tongass, a Tlingit village: a native totem pole that the *Seattle Daily Times* described as "about five feet through and sixty feet long, carved and colored in all the variegation of hideous hues and fantastic carving which the mind of the Northern savage is capable of."[91] The pole was installed in Pioneer Place.[92]

Seattle continued to acquire parks in this period, purchasing with the water department 11-acre Lincoln Park (now Cal Anderson Park), which was to include the city's low-service reservoir, in 1897; 125 acres for City Park (now Jefferson Park), where two reservoirs were to be built, in 1898; and Woodland Park, purchased from the estate of Guy C. Phinney in 1900, the biggest in the city's park system at 196 acres. When the City of Seattle acquired Woodland Park, it had been cleared, with walks and an irrigation system already installed. The park also included a small zoo with deer, elk, birds, bears, coyotes, and a raccoon.[93]

By 1902, it was clear that Seattle had made some progress on an integrated park system, linking parks through bicycle paths that acted somewhat like parkways for wheelmen. It is also clear that the park board struggled to move forward. Hampered by politics and tightly controlled by the city council, the board was unable to retain members, rotating through twenty-four commissioners within fifteen years.[94]

One concerned citizen took matters into his own hands. In a letter dated March 21, 1902, J. D. Blackwell of the Seattle Electric Company appealed to Percy Jones, an associate of Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects who would later assist JCO with field research in Seattle. Blackwell asked if the City of Seattle, which held 500 acres of parks by that time (440 of which belonged to Seattle and 60 of which belonged to the electric company), could secure the help of the firm in designing "a scheme of general improvement for the parks here." Blackwell claimed that "the natural park features of most of this land are as good as any I have ever seen and

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[89] Greg Lange, "Klondike Gold Rush Begins on July 17, 1897," HistoryLink.org Essay 699, January 15, 1999, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=699.
[90] National Park Service, "What Was the Klondike Gold Rush?" Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, Alaska, accessed November 13, 2015, http://www.nps.gov/klgo/learn/goldrush.htm.
[91] "Their Trip Ended: The Harrison Party Returns to this City," *Seattle Daily Times*, August 1, 1899, 11. Stories regarding the taking of the totem pole and the tribal members who sought to reclaim it can be found throughout the *Seattle Daily Times* in October 1899.
[92] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *First Annual Report, 1884–1904*, 12.
[93] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *First Annual Report, 1884–1904*, 11–14.
[94] Bagley, *History of Seattle*, 2:274.

with the proper treatment at the present time would place Seattle well to the front as a place of beautiful parks." However, he warned, "they are in danger of being butchered by persons unskilled in park work."[95]

Early Olmsted Parks: 1903–7

JCO was the senior partner of the Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, when the Seattle Electric Company first contacted Percy Jones. In a 1902 letter to the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, by way of introduction, the firm noted that, "Mr. J. C. Olmsted has been practicing the profession steadily from 1875 when he graduated from Yale University, and from that time until the retirement of Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted he was most closely connected with him in all of his professional practices."[96] The letter noted that JCO had recently prepared a park system for Essex County, New Jersey, "upon which millions of dollars have been expended."[97]

JCO entered into communication with members of the Seattle park board and Seattle Electric Company, and the City of Seattle laid out its goals. First, secure adequate appropriation to acquire land for parkways and boulevards. Next, perform necessary land surveys. Finally, hire a consulting expert "to advise us in the proper laying out of a system by which we can not only improve the land owned by us for park purposes, situated in the different portions of the city, but also to devise a series of roadways and parkways which will tie these isolated tracts together, as well as suggest an improvement of the squares and open places under our control."[98]

JCO offered to visit Seattle while he was in the Pacific Northwest working on a park plan for the City of Portland, Oregon. He offered to prepare a general report with recommendations.[99] The Olmsted proposal was accepted, and JCO and Jones prepared to visit the region in spring 1903.

The team worked simultaneously on both the Seattle and Portland plans. JCO worked on completing the writing of the Portland report when he was in Seattle in May. The Olmsted Brothers completed the Portland plan first, which included a series of guidelines that cities everywhere could use. Specifically, eighteen principles would form the basis for not only the success of Portland's plan but also that of other Northwest cities, including Seattle (1903; 1908) and Spokane (1908). These principles included:

1. Municipal parks are important, as "no city can be considered properly equipped without an adequate park system."
2. All citizens have a duty toward parks, as all citizens should aid "in every possible way to make the city more beautiful and more agreeable to live in and work in, and more attractive to strangers."

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[95] J. D. Blackwell to Percy Jones, March 21, 1902, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records, Library of Congress, Manuscript Collection, Washington, DC (hereafter Olmsted Associated Records).
[96] Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects to Charles M. Saunders, Secretary, Board of Park Commissioners, Seattle, December 23, 1902, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[97] Olmsted Brothers to Saunders, December 23, 1902, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[98] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners to Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., December 16, 1902, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[99] Olmsted Brothers to J. D. Blackwell, March 31, 1902, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.

3. Parks and park purposes should be defined in advance "to define and classify the various units on which the system is to be composed. . . . The units of a park system generally recognized are city squares, play grounds, small or neighborhood parks, large or suburban parks, scenic reservations, boulevards and parkways."
4. The parks of a city should be part of a system.
5. Park systems should be comprehensive.
6. Park systems should be well balanced.
7. Parks should have individuality.
8. Parks should be connected and approached by boulevards and parkways.
9. Parks and parkways should be located and improved to take advantage of beautiful natural scenery and to secure sanitary conditions.
10. Park systems should be in proportion to opportunities.
11. Parks and parkways should be acquired early
12. The land for park systems should be paid for by long-term loans.
13. Park systems should be improved by means of loans, special assessments and annual taxation.
14. Park systems should be improved both occasionally and continuously.
15. Park systems should be improved according to a well-studied and comprehensive general plan.
16. Park systems should be governed by qualified officials.
17. Park systems should be improved and maintained by specially trained men.
18. Park systems should be managed independently of city governments.[100]

In anticipation of his first visit to Seattle, JCO met with Captain John F. Pratt of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey on March 19, 1903, in Washington, DC. According to JCO's extensive notes, Pratt was once stationed in Seattle: "He said the country at and about Seattle is all glacial drift and the soil while good is very liable to slip. Also there are occasional quicksand deposits."[101] JCO learned that the city's pines and firs were tall and shallow rooted, that the undergrowth was luxuriant, and that the land on the banks of Lake Washington was highly valued. He also learned that there were plans being developed to cut a ship canal to provide access from the ocean to Lake Washington. He would have to design for a change in water level. As Jones later recorded in his own notes, this could leave a 100- to 150-foot-wide beach around Lake Washington and "would necessitate the city acquiring the riparian rights for at least from Bailey peninsula to the golf grounds [Laurelhurst]; otherwise, the whole length of shore would certainly be covered with small, cheap shanties."[102]

Pratt told Olmsted that the city's "better class of people" was mostly young, with families and hectic work lives. "The school population is unusually large and as the people have all their money in their business they rent their

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[100] Portland, Oregon Park Board, "Report of the Park Board, Portland, Oregon, 1903, with the Report of Messrs. Olmsted Bros, Landscape Architects, Outlining a System of Parkways, Boulevards, and Parks for the City of Portland," 13, accessed December 15, 2015, https://www.portlandoregon.gov/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=93560.
[101] JCO, "Conference with Mr. J. C. P.—19th, March, 1903," Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[102] Percy Jones, April 30, 1903—June 3, 1903, Seattle, Washington, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.

houses and have no horses and carriages." From this, JCO concluded that the first priorities for Seattle were to improve existing parks easily reached by electric streetcars, "in order to popularize the parks and win public opinion to more liberal park expenditures."[103] JCO also grasped that a city with 120,000 to 140,000 mostly young people could not expect to raise the money for massive park acquisitions. He concluded, "what the park commission hopes is that a plan can be adopted by the city for parkways so that all private and public land subdivisions hereafter adopted shall be made to conform to the parkway plan."[104] This would allow city officials time to raise the funds while securing the land it would develop in the future.

JCO received, along with details from Pratt, a map of Seattle that already included a red pencil line defining a proposed parkway system, reflective, in part, of Schwagerl's 1892 plan. JCO described the parkway system in his field notes as running generally north along Lake Washington from Bailey Peninsula, connecting to the present-day university, and then west to Green Lake. From there, he said, property rights intervened, but the parkway might make its serpentine way to the military reservation (Fort Lawton) and along Magnolia Bluff.[105]

JCO and his assistant Jones arrived in Seattle in April 1903 with a partially designed system in mind, a rudimentary plan for parkways, and a map of existing parks. They also carried with them a healthy skepticism. "I inferred," wrote JCO, "that the main effort at present would be to get parkways, as these would, some of them, benefit real estate schemes."[106]

To kick off a citywide tour, on the morning of April 30, members of the park board took JCO and Jones to the cupola atop the county courthouse on First Hill at Seventh and Alder to look over the city and its views. Jones, who took extensive notes during his field visits, wrote that from that elevation, it appeared there were few spots left in the thickly populated central city for playgrounds.[107]

In his field notes, Jones frankly criticized Denny Park as topographically monotonous with graceless plantings "too thick and too varied; no good groups of any one variety, but all mixed up together."[108] Kinnear Park he praised as one of the most finished parks in Seattle, with "many beautiful and natural effects, among others, some fine firs, and a very good row of madrone trees." The team took in a portion of the bike path at Fort Lawton, whose woodlands Jones admired. He also appreciated the views from Magnolia Bluff and the tower atop Queen Anne Hill. He found Ravenna Park beautiful, "with some extraordinarily large trees, and a generally pleasing underbrush." He was pleased to see that the banks of Lake Washington featured only sparse development between Leschi and Madison Parks. The site included good maples, firs, and places clearable for picnic grounds. "The topography of [Bailey] peninsula [now Seward Park] is sufficiently varied to be exceedingly interesting, and as a terminus to the system parkways it would be especially good." Walking

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[103] JCO, "Conference with Mr. J. C. P.—19th, March, 1903."
[104] JCO, "Conference with Mr. J. C. P.—19th, March, 1903."
[105] JCO, "Conference with Mr. J. C. P.—19th, March, 1903."
[106] JCO, "Conference with Mr. J. C. P.—19th, March, 1903."
[107] Percy Jones, typewritten field notes, April 30, 1903—June 3, 1903, Seattle, Washington, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[108] Jones, typewritten field notes, April 30, 1903—June 3, 1903.

around the west edge of Lake Union, however, Jones grew discouraged at seeing how many trees were being removed, noting that "men are already in here cleaning out, and in the course of a few weeks nothing will be left."[109]

JCO also took detailed field notes, documenting not only his travels but also the character of the landscapes through which he passed. These he supplemented with letters he wrote to his wife Sophia almost daily. Like Jones, he complained that Schwagerl, "a local landscape gardener," had done a poor job of designing Denny Park. "His walks are very crooked often and his banks steep and high and his plantings very mixed but pretty much the same selection for every place." JCO concluded that Schwagerl "seems to be no very considerable artist in his line."[110]

JCO and Jones surveyed the city's existing parks by streetcar, foot, and carriage, sometimes following the city's system of bicycle paths. JCO learned not only the city's topography but also its laws, recording in mid-May that the City of Seattle took in roughly $250,000 in licenses, 10 percent of which could be used for parks only at the city council's discretion. He also learned that the city only had borrowing capabilities up to about $500,000.[111] JCO's understanding of the city's limited funds influenced his Seattle parks plan from then on.

As he toured, JCO documented the quality and age of existing trees. He recorded the sites with the best lake views, and in some cases, noted where the City of Seattle should "take" or condemn land, identifying, for instance, steep slopes that were inhospitable to development. He noted the widths of streets, steepness of ravines, character of the woods and views, and relative condition of development.[112]

In May, as they became more familiar with the city, JCO and Jones began to record land values and to choose boulevard routes and park sites. They sat down with Park Commissioner Elbert F. Blaine, who was about to become the board's next president. According to JCO's notes, the team described for Blaine "the main system of parks and parkways forming a connected series from Bailey Peninsula and Beacon Hill Park to Fort Lawton, and including branches to Kinnear Park, Volunteer Park, and Queen Anne Hill Park, and three playgrounds nearest the center of the city." This initial, ideal plan, it seemed, would cost the City of Seattle an estimated $1,198,000, but JCO was prepared to scale back his ambitious design lessen the city's cost.[113]

On June 4, while they completed their recommendations, the Olmsted Brothers firm also submitted a new proposal to provide full designs for three of Seattle's most significant parks: Lincoln (Cal Anderson), Volunteer, and Washington, charging $25 to $29 per acre for design services and consultation through 1904.[114] When the final parks report was submitted in June, a personal note accompanied it: "The work has interested us

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[109] Jones, typewritten field notes, April 30, 1903—June 3, 1903.
[110] JCO to Sophia White Olmsted, May 4, 1903, B000 Series B, Correspondence Files, Box: B001a–B031a, Papers of John C. Olmsted, 1860 ca.–1920, Special Collections, Frances Loeb Library, Harvard Design School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, copies viewed courtesy of Anne Knight (hereafter Papers of John C. Olmsted).
[111] JCO, Seattle Parks, May 6, 1903, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[112] JCO, Seattle Parks, April 30, 1903–May 29, 1903, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[113] JCO, Seattle Parks, May 29, 1903, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[114] Olmsted Brothers to E. F. Blaine, June 4, 1903, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.

very much, and we have derived a great deal of pleasure, not only from our intercourse with the commission and city officials, but from an examination of the extraordinarily beautiful landscape and the delightful woods."[115]

JCO and Jones were clearly impressed with Seattle's natural features. The report praised Seattle's "extraordinary landscape advantages," mainly described as views of water, wooded hills, and snowcapped mountains, along with the remains of the region's original evergreen forests, which include large trees and "very dense and beautiful undergrowth."[116] JCO, like his stepfather, preferred contrast in parks, wild spaces, and room to wander. He liked to open up landscapes in order to highlight features in the visible distance, like lake or mountain views and to add walks and viewpoints as a means of giving visitors a deeper park experience.

Olmsted Sr., who spoke and wrote extensively about parks and park planning, explained the Olmsted design aesthetic and process thus: "we must study to secure a combination of elements which shall invite and stimulate the simplest, purest and most primeval action of the poetic element of human nature, and thus tend to remove those who are affected by it to the greatest possible distance from the highly elaborate, sophistical and artificial conditions of their ordinary civilized life." As Olmsted Sr. concluded, "if we cannot make it more graceful, more interesting, more convenient, then we are to do nothing." Olmsted Sr. manipulated park landscapes to focus the visitor's attention and heighten his or her appreciation. Additions to a park that added contrast, as long as they also served some other direct purpose, "will be proper and desirable within our enclosure, but they will not be the characteristic features of a park. It is chiefly important that they do not become of so much relative importance as to lose their character as accessories."[117]

JCO maintained these ideals in his designs for Seattle, prioritizing lake views and shorelines and adding in a concern for play areas and meadows that removed citizens from the daily bustle of city life. Within the Seattle system, pleasure derived from sequential movement through the spaces, from enclosed parks to framed views and vistas, with parks and the landscapes beyond simultaneously providing a sense of unity, continuity, mystery, anticipation, and containment. The overall treatment was not unlike the spatial relationships employed in European manor gardens, which also contrasted the close and far, utilizing the scale and proportion of borrowed landscapes and the aesthetics of the surrounding geography.[118] In the introduction to the 1903 report, JCO summarized his plan:

> In designing a system of parks and parkways the primary aim should be to secure and preserve for the use of the people as much as possible of these advantages of water and mountain views and of woodlands, well distributed and conveniently located. An ideal system would involve taking all the borders of the different bodies of water, except such as needed for commerce, and to enlarge these fringes at convenient and suitable points, so as to include considerable bodies of

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[115] Olmsted Brothers to E. F. Blaine, July 3, 1903, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[116] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 73.
[117] Trombly, *Frederick Law Olmsted Essential Texts*, 196.
[118] Catherine Dee, *Form and Fabric in Landscape Architecture* (London: Spon Press, 2001), 53.

> woodland, as well as some fairly level land, which can be cleared and covered with grass for field sports and for the enjoyment of meadow scenery.[119]

In detail, his plan offered the Olmstedian ideal: parks linked through parkways and boulevards that invited the populace to enter an uninterrupted park system from points across Seattle. The plan also included elaborate design recommendations for each of the city's existing parks. Furthermore, it recommended a series of parks on property the city had not yet purchased. Finally, the report offered up a trimmer, less expensive model to guide the first phases of the plan's development based on the "reduced system" he had discussed with Blaine.[120]

The 1903 park plan began with a recommendation for Lake Washington Boulevard (Blvd.). Ideally, JCO recommended, Seattle would acquire Bailey Peninsula before "the woods are injured" and secure boulevard space from Bailey Peninsula north to Washington Park and farther north to the university grounds. The plan recommended widening Washington Park and securing ownership of Foster Island. It also proposed a parkway running north from the present university grounds to Ravenna Park and from there to Green Lake. That parkway would continue all the way around Green Lake to connect with Woodland Park, then cross over Salmon Bay and head to Queen Anne, south through Interbay to Smith's Cove, and then northwest along Magnolia Bluff to drives through Fort Lawton. All told, the parkways would form a "pleasure drive" of more than 20 miles connecting Bailey Peninsula (Seward Park) to Fort Lawton (Discovery Park).[121]

JCO offered specific recommendations for Lake Washington Blvd. and other parkways. These, he said, should be laid out with "an unusually liberal width," as construction would cost nearly the same whether pleasure drives and paths were narrow or wide. Also, the parkways should meander. While some streets could follow relatively straight lines, "a pleasure drive laid out on a succession of straight lines would be exceedingly ugly, awkward and undesirable."[122] JCO also urged the city not to locate the drive so close to the lake as to destroy valuable shoreline trees and undergrowth. Finally, the plan warned that the city should expect landowners on Lake Washington to protest unless, as JCO suggested, they could be made to understand how their property values would benefit from being bordered by a well-designed, wide, and graceful pleasure drive.[123]

Although this impressive drive was to be the jewel of the city's park system, additional parkways were planned, including one to connect Mount Baker Park and City Park (now Jefferson Park). The firm's detailed recommendations offered examples of how the Olmsted Brothers dealt with city and transportation planning, noting that "the pipe line road in and south of Beacon Hill Park should eventually be widened and should have three roadways—the western one for ordinary traffic, the eastern one for a pleasure drive, and the middle one to

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[119] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 73.
[120] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 73.
[121] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 75.
[122] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 78.
[123] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 73–123.

be reserved for a speedway, the top of the ridge for two miles or more being sufficiently level for speeding horses."[124]

The plan also considered other recreational uses, suggesting that the low-lying land north of Union Bay up to the Seattle and International Railway could be used as a "meadow for field sports." The present-day site of Gas Works Park was recommended for acquisition, "because of its advantages for commanding views over the lake, and for boating and for a playground." Similar playgrounds were recommended at Fourth Ave. and Mercer St., at Jefferson and Thirteenth, and at the foot of Denny Way, all sites near the present-day city center. JCO recommended that playground sites, particularly, should be secured early because of the physical distance between the dense, populated sections of Seattle and the major park system.[125] In emphasizing playgrounds, the Olmsted plan responded to a growing playground movement, a Progressive-Era movement sometimes described as a response to increasing urbanization.

In its plan for a comprehensive system for Seattle, Olmsted Brothers veered away from its standard recommendations for cities in at least one respect. JCO did not see the need for a large urban park:

> Considering the extent of the land which should be secured in connection with the informal portions of the parkway above described, and considering the size and beauty of the several large natural bodies of water thus made available, and considering the existing parks and the semi-public pleasure grounds of the State University [University of Washington] and Fort Lawton [Discovery Park], it seems unnecessary to provide, for the period of a generation at least, one or more large parks corresponding in extent to the larger parks and reservations of many of the principal cities of the country.[126]

In addressing existing parks, JCO relied more generally on theories of design. Volunteer Park, located atop a hill, for instance, provided fine vistas in 1903, but JCO expected houses and street trees in time to "completely shut out all distant views" and thus recommended construction of an observation tower. Walks, he explained, should have two purposes: to offer views of the broadest possible lawns, which meant curved walks near the borders, and to afford convenient circulation throughout the park. Although he thought Volunteer Park was a Seattle gem, JCO recognized its imperfections: "formal beds are scattered promiscuously in portions of the ground, treated in other respects informally."[127] JCO recommended that Seattle embrace either a formal or an informal approach.[128]

However, any one recommendation could not necessarily be transferred to other parks. Each park, JCO advised, should retain its individuality.[129] For instance, at Denny Park, on the one hand, fir trees and other coniferous

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[124] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 75–78.
[125] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 75–78.
[126] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 78.
[127] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 115.
[128] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 113–16.
[129] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 116.

evergreens should be eliminated, as they were not expected to survive the smoke from nearby factories.[130] Ravenna Park, on the other hand, should be acquired specifically because the woods had sustained so little damage and the trees should be maintained. At Woodland Park, which included some early zoological collections, JCO recommended minimizing the "objectionableness" of the electric rail that nearly cut the park in two. He also recommended that only a portion of the upper park—if any portion at all—of Woodland Park be devoted to large animals.[131]

The Seattle Board of Park Commissioners received the Olmsted report in summer 1903 and responded enthusiastically, noting its thoroughness and value as a tool for public support: "we realize it will be a great assistance to us as an argument in convincing the people of the necessity of adopting the plan you have so ably presented. Copies of the report are now in the hands of the city council and it is our intention to have the same printed along with a report of our Board and distributed among the citizens."[132]

In the meantime, park commissioners relied on the Olmsted Brothers' experience in other cities to help them shape a more powerful position for themselves within Seattle. Because the city council controlled the budget, the park board struggled to secure funding for parks, prompting JCO to send a four-page letter to the park commission in December 1903, arguing that the commission should be independent of the city council and able to secure long-term municipal loans to acquire parklands. Competent real-estate professionals and lawyers should be entrusted with the bulk of the work, he recommended. Furthermore, the commission needed a "competent designer as to plans, and a competent superintendent for the execution of the designs and for maintenance."[133] In a dramatic reply, the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners notified JCO that after wrestling unsuccessfully with the city council for executive authority, the board had taken its request for independence to the people and secured 3,000 supporting signatures that would bring a new city charter amendment to a public vote.[134] In March 1904, what became known as the "Park Amendment" passed by 140 votes, and the park board was suddenly free to take firm control of funding, acquiring, and improving the city's parks.[135]

Happy with their previous efforts, the park commissioners continued to work closely with the Olmsted Brothers firm, both on plans for Washington, Lincoln (now Cal Anderson), and Volunteer Parks, and on park management. Now that it was independent, the board asked JCO to recommend a new park superintendent who could help them implement the Olmsted plan. JCO put forward three names. The board chose John W. Thompson, who left a position in Watertown, New York, and headed for Seattle, where he would serve the park board and Seattle for the next sixteen years.[136]

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[130] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 117.
[131] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 119.
[132] Charles W. Saunders to Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, August 14, 1903, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[133] JCO to Charles W. Saunders, December 11, 1903, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[134] Charles W. Saunders to JCO, February 5, 1904, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[135] Charles W. Saunders to JCO, March 11, 1904, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[136] J. W. Thompson to Olmsted Brothers, April 11, 1904, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.

The Seattle Board of Park Commissioners stayed in regular contact with the Olmsted Brothers, asking the firm to design a drive for Washington Park and to advise them on the management of parkland gifts. In some instances, JCO advised against accepting gifts if they came with unreasonable conditions, including expensive improvements.[137] JCO continued to emphasize the completion of a small amount of very good work over the completion of large amounts of ill-conceived work.[138]

Perhaps with this in mind, JCO sent his colleague, JFD, to consult with Thompson in August 1904. While there, JFD oversaw with architect Charles Herbert Bebb a competition for a new park shelter for Denny Park and preparations for the new drive through Washington Park. JFD also advised Thompson on planting and managing a number of small triangles or squares within the central city—including Pioneer Square, where he recommended removing the controversial totem pole.[139]

JFD found the park board struggling to raise money for new parks while still improving existing parks so that the public would maintain their enthusiasm for such projects. He was disappointed to find that the board had postponed purchasing proposed playgrounds and had allowed small houses to appear on the borders of Volunteer Park on lands identified for acquisition. To further complicate things, projects like building a drive through Washington Park were expensive and difficult and included the removal of massive tree stumps. While the park board looked for ways to cut costs to save money for acquisition, those cost-saving measures—like paving using gravel instead of macadam—threatened the quality of the work they were completing, which could damage their credibility and future ability to raise more money.[140] With the passage of the Park Amendment, the park board had gained greater authority but also inherited greater challenges.

In 1904, the Olmsted Brothers submitted a plan for Lincoln Park (now Cal Anderson), half of which was devoted to the city reservoir constructed beginning in 1899. JCO would ultimately surround the reservoir with tree-lined walks, and include a sloped lawn, play areas, and a ball field south of the reservoir. Plans for Volunteer Park, also first submitted in 1904, were dominated by a second city reservoir set into a ravine near the top of the hill paired with a wide concourse and viewpoint overlooking the reservoir, a bandstand, a music pavilion and pergola, and a conservatory. The remainder of the site was devoted to open lawns, walks, and clumps of trees with shrub beds. Design and construction work in Washington Park got underway in 1904, as the City of Seattle was eager to build its first pleasure drive. The Olmsted firm began with a plan for the pleasure drive, and continued their work within Washington Park as it transitioned to Washington Park Arboretum thirty years later.

By 1906, the park board appeared to have adjusted to its new role. After months of newspaper editorials in favor of the board and the Olmsted plan, a public election in March dedicated a half million dollars in park bonds for land acquisition. On the board's invitation, JCO visited the city's parks in October that year to advise

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[137] Olmsted Brothers to Charles W. Saunders, June 17, 1904, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[138] Olmsted Brothers to Charles W. Saunders, June 20, 1904, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[139] J. F. Dawson, typewritten field notes, Seattle Parks, August 1904, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[140] Dawson, typewritten field notes, Seattle Parks, August 1904.

on the next steps in parks planning and implementation. He proclaimed in a letter to the park board, "I am much gratified by the progress that has been made in the development of the Park System since my report on the comprehensive system made some three years ago." He noted that the greatest improvements had thus far taken place in Washington Park and Interlaken Blvd., which he found appropriate. He thought the proposed expansion of Washington Park along Union Bay to the university grounds, "of greater value to the Park System than any other which has been contemplated." His second priority was the extension of a parkway from Cowen Park to Green Lake. Through his experience with other cities, JCO knew it was necessary to buy open land while it was available and that large tracts of land would not be available for long. The City of Seattle should buy parkways and secure Mount Baker Park tract and Bailey Peninsula, he recommended. "In short, I distinctly advocate the expenditure of practically the entire half million dollar loan in parks having landscape advantages, mainly upon areas along the shore of Lake Washington, including also an area of Magnolia Bluff overlooking the Sound." He also advocated for temporarily delaying some playgrounds and playground improvements, in spite of public pressure, calling these projects "exceedingly expensive" compared to landscape parks and noting that the city's population was still manageably small and well served, even without additional playgrounds.[141]

By this time, JCO had also been asked to design Frink Park, Cowen Park, Pendleton Miller Playground, and the Hill Tract. His recommendations displayed his preference for long-term planning, his love for Seattle's forests and water features, and his sensitivity to the needs of small children and their parents. For Frink Park, with its lovely woodlands, JCO recommended purchasing land, even a little at a time, to ultimately connect the park to Lake Washington. The character of the park with its steep ravines should be maintained, he recommended, with only minor thinning of the alders. He imagined walks and staircases among the steep slopes. Cowen Park could be left virtually unimproved as well, he said, as the park's landscape was very attractive as it was. In the future, JCO imagined a dam that would help produce "pleasing water effects" through the ravine and a footbridge near the east corner. JCO recommended that Pendleton Miller Playground be reserved for small children, with walks and settees so adults could rest in the shade and watch children play on teeter-totters and swings and in the wading pool. In the Hill tract, JCO insisted on not letting older boys and men dominate the ball courts but allowing for as much lawn space as possible for young children to play.[142]

By the end of 1907, JCO had actively served Seattle's park board for four years. He had prepared a comprehensive plan for the city's park system; helped the board achieve autonomy from the city council; introduced the city to a new parks superintendent; designed a number of individual parks; and assisted with the initial implementation of his citywide parks and boulevard plan. In other cities, this may have been contribution enough. However, Seattle would continue to work with members of the Olmsted firms for another thirty years, as both the population and the parks system grew.

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[141] JCO to J. E. Shrewsbury, November 26, 1906, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[142] JCO to Shrewsbury, November 26, 1906.

Supplemental Olmsted Parks: 1908–20

The 1908 Report

JCO continued to visit Seattle in the years after completing his initial report, sometimes taking on private projects, including a 1907 advisory report for the development of a park at Golden Gardens on the north tip of Shilshole Bay.[143] While in Seattle in December 1907, JCO continued not only to advise on existing park matters but also to prepare a new parks and playgrounds plan that would supplement his original report by recommending new parks and boulevards for newly annexed lands outside of the original city boundary, including West Seattle, South Seattle, Ballard, and Ravenna.

Throughout his 1907 visit, JCO kept copious notes, as he was not only looking for playground sites but also found himself drawn into disputes among various park commissioners, the city engineer, and real-estate brokers. All had strong opinions about, for instance, a possible thoroughfare cutting through Woodland Park, which would essentially destroy some of the park's highly prized woodlands.[144] JCO detailed long meetings, interruptions, and disputes with stakeholders who in many cases had stopped asking his opinion and started demanding that he promote their point of view.[145]

At the same time, the Washington legislature took up a new bill in 1907 obligating cities to set aside one-tenth of all newly annexed private lands for parks and playgrounds. Although the bill attracted legislative support and passed both the House and Senate, Governor Albert E. Mead later vetoed it as unconstitutional.[146]

In spite of this setback, the playground movement continued to attract strong support in Seattle, especially under social reformer Austin E. Griffiths. Griffiths, after witnessing the veto, penned a treatise that touched on many of the most popular pursuits of the City Beautiful movement in the Progressive Era. Griffiths claimed that playgrounds, with their associated field houses, assembly rooms, and libraries, "would blend and harmonize our diverse population and develop them into one people with common associations and traditions and a spirit of national unity, competent for self-government."[147] To this end, a playground, he claimed, should be within walking distance of every child. He argued what many smart developers already knew: neighborhoods with strong parks and playgrounds saw increased property values and reduced rates of juvenile delinquency. Since the legislature had failed to secure a state mandate, Griffiths called on the chief cities of Washington to form their own playground associations, following in the footsteps of many other large cities. Griffiths would soon become the first president of Seattle's new Playground Association.

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[143] JCO to Edward B. Cox, June 3, 1907, Job 3348, Reel 190, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[144] Christopher W. Horr to Olmsted Brothers, September 4, 1907, Job 2694, Reel 96, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[145] JCO, typewritten field notes, December 1907, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[146] *House Journal of the Eleventh Legislature of the State of Washington Begun and Held at Olympia, the State Capital, January 11, 1909* (Olympia: E. L. Boardman, 1909), 101.
[147] Austin E. Griffiths, *Playgrounds and Legislation in Relation Thereto with Special Reference to the Washington Playground Bill Vetoed* (Seattle: Seattle Playground Association, 1908).

In January 1908, JCO proposed a list of parks for Seattle's newly annexed areas as part of his "Supplemental Report on Annexed Territories and General Development" (Table 1).[148] In Ballard, he recommended five new parks for a total of 71.65 acres, at an approximate cost of $212,975. This meant roughly 3 percent of the newly annexed lands in Ballard would be devoted to parks, a significant percentage of which would be devoted to playfields. Also in north Seattle, JCO strongly urged the city to acquire Ravenna Park (15.3 acres) for $30,000. In West Seattle, JCO proposed five new parks for a total of 75.85 acres, also roughly 3 percent of the newly annexed land, at a cost of $226,230. In southeast Seattle, JCO envisioned twelve new parks totaling 174.5 acres for a total cost of $414,195, or 2.66 percent of annexed land.[149] In this plan, JCO emphasized Seattle's need for playfields, which he thought should be an average of 20 acres—large enough that children's ball games would not endanger surrounding property and pedestrians—but no less than 7 acres.

The plan also laid out some guiding principles for future development, many similar to those found in the 1907 legislative bill that was on its way to final veto. JCO recommended that 5 percent (32 acres) of each square mile of city be devoted to parks. Seattle, before annexation, was at roughly 3.25 percent. JCO insisted that small parks were needed within a half mile of every home to accommodate mothers with babies; playfields were needed within a mile of every home to accommodate older children.[150]

The park board took JCO's recommendations seriously, adding new parks to annexed lands. In 1909, the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, as part of the city's promotion of the upcoming Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, gathered up the 1903 and 1908 Olmsted reports, along with all their detailed and various recommendations for existing and proposed parks, and released an annual report that celebrated the broad history of the park board since its founding in 1884. The report included a fond farewell to retired commissioner Blaine, "father of the Seattle Park System," who served from 1902 to 1908. It also looked backward, noting that public support for parks had grown to the point that a recent special bond measure that had passed almost unanimously had provided an additional $1 million for parks, playgrounds, and boulevards.[151]

The 1909 report congratulated the City of Seattle for following Olmsted recommendations and acquiring parklands early: "The acquirement and development of park properties has kept pace with the growth of the city to such an extent that there is probably no other city in the country of its size, regardless of age, which is better provided with parks, playgrounds and boulevards."[152] Furthermore, the board "planned to have a boulevard system of fifty miles practically belting the city, and a park system of over two thousand acres, and if the people of Seattle continue to endorse and support the park movement as enthusiastically in the future as they have in the past, the Olmsted plan in its entirety will have been accomplished within the next ten years."[153]

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[148] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 124.
[149] Olmsted Bros, Landscape Architects, Description of Parks, Recommended by Olmsted Bros. January 25, 1908, Job 2690, Reel 96, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[150] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 129.
[151] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 6.
[152] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 11.
[153] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 12.

Table 1. 1908 list of recommended parks from the Olmsted Brothers' "Supplemental Report on Annexed Territories and General Development."

Newly Annexed Lands	**Recommended Parks**	**Acreage**
Ballard	Ballard Bluff Park	45 acres
	Isaac Parker Playfield	6.8 acres
	Market St. Playfield	4.6 acres
	Open Bluff Park	2.6 acres
	Northeast Playfield	15.25 acres
West Seattle	Pigeon Point Park	1.5 acres
	Duwamish Head Park	2.79 acres
	Alki Point Park	9.4 acres
	Forest Park	52.5 acres
	West Seattle Playfield	9.66 acres
Southeast Seattle	York Playfield	24.9 acres
	Headland Park	49 acres
	Columbia Playfield	8.8 acres
	Bailey Peninsula Park	24 acres
	Graham Ave. Playfield	7.7 acres
Southeast Seattle (continued	Dunlap Canyon Playfield	19.7 acres
	City Park Addition to Atlantic City	6 acres
	Prichard Island	14 acres
	Rainier Shore Park	2.75 acres
	Rainier Playfield	2.16 acres
	Beacon Hill Playfield	5.7 acres
	Mount Baker Playfield	9.8 acres

In describing existing parks, the 1909 report noted the popularity of Woodland Park and the zoo and the successful addition of boulevards to Washington Park: "within its bounds we now have portions of Washington, Interlaken and University Blvd.s."[154] The report also called attention to Volunteer Park, with the highest vantage point in the city, "the most attractive and park like of all the city pleasure grounds."[155] Kinnear Park on Queen Anne Hill was completely improved by this time and considered one of the best viewpoints in Seattle.[156] The report also celebrated Denny Park, Seattle's oldest park, for its popular children's playfield. Other fully improved parks included Cowen, Frink, Schmitz, Mount Baker, Leschi, Madrona, Interlaken, Salmon Bay, and Denny Blaine. Unimproved parks included Jefferson, Colman, Green Lake, Evergreen, Dearborn, Columbia,

[154] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 16.
[155] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 19.
[156] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 21.

Atlantic City, Phelps, Roanoke, Ballard Tracts, Pigeon Point, and "miscellaneous tracts," including Montlake Park, Union Bay Tract, Lincoln Beach Tract, Rainier Blvd. Tract, and Beacon Place. Parks under construction included Bailey Peninsula (Seward), Ravenna, and the Alki Point Bathing Beach. Of the small triangular parks or squares within the central city, the most important were identified as Pioneer Place, Fortson Place, Chief Seattle Place, and Franklin Place.[157]

The report also celebrated Seattle's new playgrounds, noting that within the previous two years, the Board of Park Commissioners had developed five distinctive playgrounds, was actively improving three others, had developed three playfields established in connection with parks, and had placed six large playgrounds under condemnation, with two others to be condemned in the future: "in other words, the close of 1909 will find Seattle possessed of nineteen playgrounds with an area of over one hundred acres."[158] Furthermore, these playgrounds were under a corps of supervisors and each was unique. Collins Playfield on the Hill Tract, for instance, was terraced into three planes, with a popular ball field on one; an indoor baseball diamond, automatic swings, sand courts, and teeter-totters for small children on another; and handball, basketball, volleyball, and gymnastics equipment for all ages on the third.[159]

The expanding boulevard system was another point of pride: "The Board has been working hard to have a connected system from Bailey Peninsula, on the south, to the Exposition Grounds, on the north, open to traffic for this Exposition year, and its efforts have been crowned with considerable success."[160] Property owners had donated over 1,000 acres of lake frontage along the lands approaching Bailey Peninsula, but by 1909, the connection between Bailey Peninsula and Lake Washington Blvd. had yet to be finalized. The report described Lake Washington Blvd., saying:

> the shore side of the boulevard remains in its natural condition with its beautifully wooded and shaded slopes interspersed with terraces or parkways from magnificent home sites on the hillside overlooking. Then comes the macadam roadway, thirty feet in width, and outside of the roadway and along the water's edge is the broad cement sidewalk for pedestrians, a parking strip with trees planted therein, being between the roadway and the sidewalk. Outside the sidewalk comes the concrete and rip-rap rock sea-wall, against which the waters of the lake splash, and, with the broad expanse of water to the east and the towering Cascades in the distance, the scene is beyond description.[161]

Other boulevards included Bailey Peninsula Blvd., Lake Park Drive, Mount Baker Blvd., Frink Blvd., Blaine Blvd., Washington Park Blvd. (called "the first extensive piece of boulevard building attempted by the Park

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[157] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 22.
[158] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 45.
[159] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 47.
[160] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 59. It appears that the board had equal jurisdiction of boulevards and parkways (roads) as they did parks; the reports treated the varying park types equally.
[161] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 59.

Board"), Interlaken Blvd., West Interlaken Blvd., and University Blvd.. Some of these, including Frink, Blaine, Washington Park, and University Blvds., would later be combined into Lake Washington Blvd..[162]

Seattle had followed an aggressive plan of parks acquisition and development in 1908 and 1909, not only to meet JCO's recommendations but also to prepare the city for what proved to be a world-class event, the long-awaited Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition: 1909

By 1909, JCO had established a long history with the present-day University of Washington campus. As early as May 1903, as the firm began its work on Seattle's park plan, JCO accepted an invitation to visit from the university's board of regents. Finding the university on high ground overlooking Lake Washington, with five permanent brick buildings located around an oval, JCO began a long process of advising the regents on how to plan for growth. He recommended that the university develop a guiding document, a general plan complete with standard principles that would help future campus leaders adhere to the regents' vision. JCO also recommended carefully developing the southern edges of the campus, which he claimed would become much more prominent once his system of parkways was built: "In due time, the parkway will become the fashionable drive of the city, and the bringing of wealthy citizens to or past the university cannot fail to be of advantage to it in various ways."[163]

JCO submitted his recommendations on January 9, 1905.[164] Although the regents did not respond immediately, they were not idle. In late 1905, three men became interested in creating a small Alaska exhibit in Seattle after seeing a similar, popular exhibit at the 1905 Lewis & Clark Exhibition in Oregon, otherwise known as the Portland World's Fair, which the Olmsted Brothers also designed. The idea grew until all three, William M. Sheffield, James A. Wood, and Godfrey Chealander, began to wonder if Seattle could host its own world's fair. Wood, the city editor of the *Seattle Daily Times,* began to promote the idea in his newspaper, and history and botany professor Edmond S. Meany of the University of Washington proposed holding the fair on campus. Meany presented the idea to the Washington legislature and received an appropriation. The world's fair would take place at the University of Washington, and the state would fund a number of permanent university buildings.[165]

On October 1, 1906, W. M. Sheffield of the Board of Trustees for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (AYP) Corporation requested that the Olmsted Brothers design the layout for the 250-acre fairgrounds.[166] On October

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[162] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 57–67.
[163] Olmsted Brothers, University of Washington report to A. J. Blethen, June 4, 1903, Job 0346, folder 1, box 1, UW-0170, Olmsted Brothers Records, University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, Seattle (hereafter UW Special Collections).
[164] Olmsted Brothers, University of Washington report to A. J. Blethen, January 5, 1905, Job 0346, folder 2, box 1, UW-0170, Olmsted Brothers Records, UW Special Collections.
[165] Bagley, *History of Seattle*, 2:523–29.
[166] W. M. Sheffield to Olmsted Brothers, October 1, 1906, Job 2739, folder 6, box 1, UW-0170, Olmsted Brothers Records, UW Special Collections.

9, JCO wrote to accept the proposition, offering to prepare a general plan showing principal features for $1,500 and travel expenses.[167] The board asked Olmsted to travel to Seattle at once.

A copy of Olmsted's report for the AYP included preferred transportation routes, a loop track for new street rail lines, approaches from the water, on both Lake Union and Lake Washington, and a plan for structures, including four permanent buildings that the university would inherit. The plan located buildings and features around a series of circles, attached by radials to a long, wide view corridor pointed directly toward snow-covered Mount Rainier. "One of the remarkable advantages of the site of the Exposition," wrote JCO, "is its command of views of mountain ranges and especially of Mt. Rainier. In order that the plan shall take the fullest advantage of this majestic natural feature, it is proposed to have the principal plaza or court of honor with its long axis directed to Mt. Rainier and so located that it will approximately bisect the most available area for extensive Exposition buildings above the railroad."[168] Olmsted's plan similarly incorporated *borrowed landscapes* (the use of near and distant features to ornament a park or landscape) on the other radials to capture views of Lake Union and Lake Washington for AYP attendees.[169] The overall effect was stunning. On the grounds, JCO recommended retaining the remains of the former forest. Although larger trees must be removed to allow for distant views, "smaller trees and dense undergrowth can all be left except on the narrow strip required for the actual roadway and its accompanying walks in the center of each of these avenues."[170] To further protect the existing growth, JCO recommended that architects design for trees and brush between buildings and roadways.

> Thus, in general, it would be desirable to leave the lower portions of the outer walls, except at entrances, comparatively plain, and to have the windows unusually high above the ground, and to concentrate decorative effects as much as possible around doorways, along the cornice lines and in the upper parts, such as pinnacles, towers, cupolas, domes and the like. It will often be preferable in effect to have broken sky lines with domes and pinnacles and towers than to have very simple, massive roofs, because such a treatment would better harmonize with the multiplicity of the spire-like fir trees.[171]

JCO was, in a sense, recommending a standardized architectural language, one that complemented the natural landscape. He followed on the heels of designers like Daniel Burnham and McKim, Mead & White, who recommended that the architects for the Chicago World's Fair design with Greek and Roman forms in mind and that all buildings be painted a consistent white. In his plan for Seattle, JCO also discussed architectural style,

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[167] JCO to W. M. Sheffield, October 9, 1906, Job 2739, folder 6, box 1, UW-0170, Olmsted Brothers Records, UW Special Collections.
[168] JCO to C. J. Smith, November 5, 1906, Job 2739, folder 6, box 1, UW-0170, Olmsted Brothers Records, UW Special Collections.
[169] The concept of the "borrowed landscape" appears in numerous contemporary references to Olmsted's work, including an article by Jennifer Ott entitled "The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (1909): The Olmsted Legacy," HistoryLink.org Essay 8873, December 23, 2008, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8873. Other references appear in contemporary articles found through the City of Seattle's parks department.
[170] JCO to Smith, November 5, 1906.
[171] JCO to Smith, November 5, 1906.

recommending the, "ancient Russian style . . . because the Exposition is largely for the exploitation of Alaska which was originally settled by the Russians. This Russian style, both in its simpler and cheaper applications, as in country churches, and in its more grandiose effects, as in the case of the Kremlin at Moscow, is particularly well adapted to the varied sky lines which we advocate as being needed to harmonize with the surrounding evergreen forest."[172]

In a contemplative mood near the eve of the AYP, JFD, who helped supervise construction, wrote to ask JCO what affect he thought the Chicago World's Fair had on the field of landscape architecture. The exposition, JCO replied, "introduced to the American people, in an impressive way, the charm and beauty of the formal treatment of grounds about large buildings. . . . I think it might be put down that the World's Columbian Exposition ushered in the formal style of gardening in this country."[173]

On June 1, 1909, the AYP Expo, which featured charming and beautiful "grounds about large buildings," opened its doors, welcoming almost four million visitors before it closed on October 16, 1909. As might be expected, the *Seattle Times* ran glowing articles on opening day, noting that "thousands joyfully hied themselves out to the prettiest fair, bar none, in the world's history. . . . It was a crowd that came expecting to be pleased and was not disappointed."[174]

Growth and Loss: 1910–20

In the years following the park board's 1909 annual report and the AYP, the Olmsted Brothers remained in contact with Seattle's park planners, made a number of visits, drew up a number of plans, and authored a number of reports. JCO visited Fort Lawton in 1910 before preparing a report for the extension of pleasure drives through the reservation and improvements for each element of the military base.[175] The firm also prepared a 1910 report that expanded its recommendations for playgrounds. This time, the firm advised the city that it should let the school board build play areas in association with its schools so that the park board could focus instead on a number of new neighborhood playgrounds. These included a new play area at Georgetown; new lands at South Park; a playground at Western Ave. and Denny Way—on a high spot that would long retain its views of the water; another on Pritchard Island; one at Mount Baker Park; one at Volunteer Park; another on Lake Union; and one on Elliott Bay at the western end of Denny Way: "the most available site for a small park on salt water, reasonably near the heart of the city."[176]

Support for parks continued to grow among Seattleites. After voting to issue bonds for the purchase of parks, parkways, and playgrounds in both 1906 ($500,000), and in 1908 ($1,000,000), the citizens did so again in

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[172] JCO to Smith, November 5, 1906. The fair's architects were not familiar enough with the "Russian style" and ultimately rejected Olmsted's recommendation.
[173] JCO to J. Fred Dawson, November 30, 1908, Job 2739, folder 12, box 1, UW-0170, Olmsted Brothers Records, UW Special Collections.
[174] "Everybody Takes in Seattle's Big Fair," *Seattle Daily Times*, June 1, 1909.
[175] JCO to Col. S. W. Miller, July 5, 1910, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[176] JCO, "Playgrounds," October 4, 1910, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.

1910, and the park board received another $2,000,000 in bonds.[177] That same year, Seattle stepped up its attempts to design both a "city beautiful" and a "city sensible."[178] Its new Municipal Plans Commission chose Virgil G. Bogue to prepare the city's first general plan, which incorporated the Olmsted Brothers' previous recommendations for a parks and boulevard system and combined it with other grand capital projects, including a new civic center north of downtown and a rail tunnel under Lake Washington. However, Bogue's *Plan for Seattle*, published in 1911, struggled to gather sufficient public support and ultimately failed in a 1912 city election.[179]

With new funds available, Seattle's park board oversaw additional improvements in Seattle's parks in 1910, including, for instance, the Olmsted-designed formal gardens, lily ponds, walks, drives, music pavilion, comfort stations, and children's shelter in Volunteer Park.[180] In Woodland Park, the board authorized a new animal house and made progress on filling the marsh south of Green Lake for a new athletic field.[181] The Seattle parks department added a public boathouse and pier to Mount Baker Park, and generally beautified Roanoke Park. In Jefferson Park, woods were cleared, and a new nursery and greenhouse were constructed.[182] The city council further authorized $10,000 for the care of the former AYP grounds. The completed work for 1910 cost a total of $57,081.74.[183]

That same year, according to the park board's annual report, the park board made "remarkable progress" on improving Seattle's playgrounds, acquiring nine additional sites and improving seven of them with play equipment. Although the board was unable to expand the boulevard system at that time, the park department macadamized a section of Lake Washington Blvd. between Denny Blaine and Mount Baker Parks and resurfaced Washington and Interlaken Blvds, efforts that became increasingly important as horses and carriages gave way to automobiles.[184] Parks Superintendent Thompson, who returned to serve the park board after the AYP closed, was pleased with the macadamized roadway, which he called "the most attractive section of the entire boulevard system."[185] Furthermore, the city retained a festive mood, having just hosted such a successful world's fair: "The Board felt that inasmuch as during the Exposition year our citizens had been treated to so much music, that a series of band concerts in the parks would be appreciated by our citizens." Various city neighborhoods hosted concerts, "on each night of the week except Saturday for a period of ten weeks from June 15th."[186]

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[177] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, Seventh Annual Report, 1910* (Seattle: Metropolitan Press, 1911), 10.
[178] Dotty Decoster, "Bogue, Virgil Gay (1846–1916)," HistoryLink.org Essay 9779, April 21, 2011, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=9779.
[179] Decoster, "Bogue."
[180] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seventh Annual Report, 1910,* 38.
[181] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seventh Annual Report, 1910,* 40.
[182] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seventh Annual Report, 1910,* 29.
[183] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seventh Annual Report, 1910,* 15.
[184] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seventh Annual Report, 1910,* 16.
[185] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seventh Annual Report, 1910,* 58.
[186] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seventh Annual Report, 1910,* 18.

Pioneer Square also received improvements. The park board claimed that two features had made the city famous with tourists: the totem pole from Alaska and the underground comfort station, constructed in 1909.[187] An ornate glass and iron pergola supported by iron columns sheltered the stairways leading to the comfort station, which garnered attention for both its lavish accommodations and its cleverness. An oft-cited review published in *Pacific Builder and Engineer* described the station in elaborate detail that year, claiming that the accommodations were designed "for the general idea of beauty and harmony in the landscape effect."[188]

By 1911, when the park board was asking for another $500,000 to complete its acquisitions goals, other projects proceeded due to residents' generosity.[189] Property owners in the Queen Anne neighborhood, for instance, by their own initiative agreed to have condemned (meaning, to exercise the power of eminent domain to transfer title of property from private ownership to the government) a scenic drive right-of-way 3.5 miles long around the crest of Queen Anne Hill, the cost of which (approximately $188,000) was assessed against their property.[190]

Among Seattle's 1911 acquisitions was Bailey Peninsula, purchased for $322,000 and renamed Seward Park after the secretary of state who oversaw the U.S. purchase of Alaska. The park board called Seward Park, "the largest and most beautiful park area of the system."[191] To improve the park, the park board was condemning a lakeshore drive between Seward and Mount Baker Park, so that Seward could one day anchor the southern tip of Lake Washington Blvd. At the same time, the Seattle parks department was completing Magnolia Bluff Parkway between Interbay and Fort Lawton; installing a golf course at Jefferson Park; replicating the Hiawatha field house, which had used Olmsted drawings as the basis for the design, at South Park playfield; installing a new flower conservatory in Volunteer Park; and improving Woodland Park, which was, "practically being reconstructed in accordance with the new Olmsted plan."[192]

A 1912 map of Seattle shows just how successfully Seattle had followed Olmsted's recommendations. By that time, Lake Washington Blvd. was nearly complete, a drive encircled Green Lake, and another ran along the top of Magnolia Bluff. Parkways and boulevards connected the university and the rest of the park system. Features such as Ravenna and Seward Parks (and numerous other parks along the western shore of Lake Washington), as well as a series of playgrounds in south Seattle, were either owned or in the process of being acquired—even before the lands around them were platted, in some cases. That year, the park system totaled more than 1,580 acres, with more than 25 miles of improved boulevards.[193]

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[187] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seventh Annual Report, 1910,* 65.
[188] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seventh Annual Report, 1910,* 71.
[189] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, Seattle, Washington, 1911* (Seattle: Smiley, 1912), 13.
[190] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Eighth Annual Report, 1911,* 17.
[191] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Eighth Annual Report, 1911,* 17.
[192] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Eighth Annual Report, 1911,* 19–21.
[193] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, Ninth Annual Report, 1912* (Seattle: Metropolitan Press, 1913).

As the park board crowed in its annual report for 1913, the "city beautiful idea" was flourishing in Seattle and the city had, within five years, appropriated $5 million in public funds and constructed, "more and better recreation facilities than any other city in the United States of even double its population."[194] Not only did the city own twenty-eight improved parks and twenty-two playgrounds (four of which were equipped with modern field houses), but it also had the only municipally owned bathing beach on the Pacific Coast. According to the 1912 annual report, more than 50,000 people utilized the bathhouse at Alki Point on Puget Sound during the summer, with hundreds of thousands more visiting the beach for band concerts and walks on the promenade.[195] Altogether, 1912 had been the busiest year ever for the park board and the parks department.

While the park board was proud of the work it had overseen, the City of Seattle was nearing the end of its period of greatest parks acquisitions and construction efforts. The bulk of bond funding had been spent; however, funds for maintenance and improvements were still sorely needed, especially for boulevards and drives. As Superintendent Taylor noted in his 1912 summary report, "up until the last few years these drives have proven very satisfactory, however, with the coming of the automobile I realize that they must be resurfaced and we will be compelled to rebuild a great portion of them."[196]

Throughout the next few years, the parks department did not significantly expand its holdings. The board added a small number of tennis courts and bridges to existing parks, improved drives, and kept up with necessary maintenance but stopped acquiring new property (except donations). The 1915 annual report stressed efficiency and economy as revenues from taxes and fees started to decline, from $254,294 in 1914 to $209,003 in 1915, with more decreases to come.[197] A changing of the guard was also occurring: in 1915, two long-term board members, J. M. Frink and E. C. Cheasty, both died, while R. C. McAllister resigned due to poor health. Two others, F. P. Mullen and R. M. Kinnear, resigned after only a couple months on the board.[198]

While the work of the park board began to wind down, a large project took shape on the University of Washington's borders. In 1916, completion of the Lake Washington Ship Canal transformed the university, as one historian noted, "from an isolated 'country estate' into a riparian property of shipping activity."[199]

Lake Washington Ship Canal connects Lake Washington through Lake Union to the Puget Sound by way of a mostly concrete-lined channel. The improvement not only provided those east of Lake Washington with water access to the sound but also lowered the level of Lake Washington—a condition for which JCO had planned in his initial 1903 investigations and ahead of which he had urged the city to secure underwater rights along Lake Washington. Funding for the AYP was partially secured through the sale of shoreline rights, except where city-

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[194] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Ninth Annual Report, 1912*, 9.
[195] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Ninth Annual Report, 1912*, 11–12.
[196] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Ninth Annual Report, 1912*, 63.
[197] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, 1914–1915* (Seattle: Washington Printing Co., 1916), 8.
[198] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, 1914–1915*, 10.
[199] University of Washington Alumni Association, *Three Quarters of a Century at Washington* (Seattle: University of Washington Alumni Association, 1941), 12.

owned parklands lay adjacent to the shorelands plat. Along those areas, the shorelands went to the city for parks. Among other outcomes, the receding waters revealed sloping property on the banks of Lake Washington. While this land would, in some cases, be converted to beaches, in 1916, it appeared as acres and acres of mud flats filled with debris that had to be removed or burned—an expensive task. In spite of the arduous cleanup, the park board was pleased to begin finalizing Lake Washington Blvd., which the City could now improve between Seward and Mount Baker Parks.[200]

Although funds were limited, the city's parks and playgrounds remained vibrant places, attracting music lovers to summer concerts, bathers, golfers, and other sports enthusiasts, including the families who came to watch their children play games or perform in plays, public presentations, and pageants. Parks often hosted dances, parties, festivals, and fairs; and attracted crowds for tennis and volleyball tournaments and other competitions.[201]

In April 1917, after acting as a supplier for its European allies for years, the United States joined what was then known as the Great War or World War. Washington had experienced an economic boom, supplying agricultural goods as well as wood and steel ships, as companies in Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver built or expanded their existing shipyards to meet wartime demands. While this ramp up was economically fruitful for industrialists, it led to unrest among the working population. Labor organizations such as the International Workers of the World (IWW) became active in Washington, occasionally engaging in violent conflicts throughout the Pacific Northwest.[202] War also changed the region, propelling a total of 60,617 Washington men to enlist, 1,642 of whom died serving their country. The toll was nearly equal to the number who died during the Spanish flu epidemic, which spread through the United States (and the world) in 1918.[203] At the University of Washington, Lewis and Clark Halls served as naval officers' hospitals, and new buildings supporting Army and Navy training bases were constructed on campus, including one built on the site of a former golf course.[204] At this time, Department of Forestry dean Hugo Winkenwerder began actively searching for a new arboretum site, having lost the campus's small plant nursery to the naval base.[205]

Against this backdrop, in 1917, the Olmsted Brothers sent JFD to visit Seattle and make new recommendations to the park board. He hoped to improve the entrance to Woodland Park by installing entrance gates, ideally to be donated by some civic-minded citizen. He recommended that some of the zoo's animals, including buffalo, deer, and elk, be moved to the southeast portion of the park to hide the "ugly" animal enclosures from the view

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[200] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Thirteenth Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, Seattle, Washington, 1916* (Seattle: Hess Press, 1917), 45–47.
[201] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Thirteenth Annual Report*, 45–47.
[202] David Wilma, "World War I in Washington," HistoryLink.org Essay 5732, August 20, 2004, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?displaypage=output.cfm&file_id=5732.
[203] Wilma, "World War I in Washington."
[204] UW Alumni Association, *Three Quarters of a Century at Washington*, 12.
[205] Little is currently known about associations in park development and the onset and duration of World War I. For this document, researchers were unable to find annual parks board reports for Seattle's parks during the period from 1917–21. Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards may have an as yet unexplored relationship to trends and/or events that defined the twentieth century (Criterion A significance), a context that will be explored further as individual parks are nominated under this MPD.

of a park meadow. He recommended clearing the meadow of its encroaching ball fields and refreshment stands and cutting through foliage to maintain the park's vistas. "We think it is one of the most important things your commission could do in the near future," he wrote.[206] JFD recommended pairing an existing island in Green Lake with a meandering, irregular channel and installing a parking lot on the shore west of the island. He suggested that the parks department add trees to the north and east boundaries of Jefferson Park (to shield future residences from the golf course) as well as the addition of undulating greens, clumps of trees, and varied plantings. At Seward Park, JFD wished to see vines and bushes where the land sloped toward the lake and more trails to allow pedestrian access to the shore.[207]

In 1920, JCO, who had left such a strong and enduring imprint on the design of Seattle and Portland's park systems, died at his home. The Olmsted Brothers firm had lost its senior partner. An article in *Landscape Architecture* noted his prolific career, the success of his father's firm under his management, and the growth of the field of landscape architecture for which he was partially responsible. The article also praised his unique gifts: "he had an extraordinary visual memory, the utmost independence of thought, great fertility of resource, a painstaking care for the details of his scheme, a thorough knowledge of his materials including plants, and exceeding skill in their arrangement."[208]

Also in 1920, the Seattle park board dismissed its longtime superintendent, J. W. Thompson, calling him "inefficient," although Thompson feared his removal had more to do with politics.[209] The board decided to replace him with an engineer, a move JFD called nearly criminal: "it has been contended for many years that it was impossible to make a good park superintendent out of a trained engineer."[210] JFD saw engineering as nearly antithetical to horticulture and wrote numerous letters calling for a parks manager, "whose first thought would be for the vegetation, that is, trees, shrubs, plants, and all that is beautiful."[211] By mid-1921, Ronald Chapman, who was not an engineer but the former director of agriculture in the Seattle public schools, had replaced Thompson.[212]

The Maturation of Seattle's Olmsted Parks: 1921–68

Automobiles became increasingly prolific in Seattle over the first two decades of the twentieth century. As a result, in the 1920s, Seattle's park board began to consider a new type of park landscape: the auto tourist camp. In 1922, the city opened its first "auto tourist camp" on Green Lake, welcoming nearly 15,000 people in its first year. Cars became increasingly common on Lake Washington Blvd. as well, and the park board complained that drivers were using the grassy strips alongside its boulevards as parking spaces. Ironically, the city's parks were

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[206] J. F. Dawson to Otto Roseleaf, December 15, 1917, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[207] Dawson to Roseleaf, December 15, 1917.
[208] James Sturgis Pray, "John Charles Olmsted: A Minute on His Life and Service Prepared for the Board of Trustees of the American Society of Landscape Architects," *Landscape Architecture* 12, no. 3 (April 1922): 129.
[209] J. W. Thompson to J. F. Dawson, December 6, 1920, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[210] J. F. Dawson to Charles W. Saunders, May 6, 1921, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[211] Dawson to Saunders, May 6, 1921.
[212] "New Seattle Park Superintendent," *Seattle Daily Times*, May 6, 1921, 13.

becoming victims of their own success. The board lamented that people had little respect for public property and had rendered temporary buildings and comfort stations almost irreparable. In addition, a small police force had to be added to the parks, primarily for the protection of children.[213]

According to the Seattle park board's 1922 annual report, golf had become increasingly popular since the founding of the Municipal Golf Links at Jefferson Park in 1915. "The popularity of golf in the vicinity of Seattle is attested by the fact that there are now adjacent to, or within the city limits, nine courses, having a total of 126 holes." However, the zoo remained the most popular feature of Seattle's park system in 1922, although all six of the zoo's buffalo had died suddenly and inexplicably that year.[214]

After JCO's death, the link between the City of Seattle and the Olmsted Brothers weakened. In 1925, the City of Seattle offered a permanent staff position to landscape architect L. G. Hall, who was not a member of the Olmsted firm. This move ignited a new flurry of correspondence between the park board and JFD. However, Hall espoused the general principles of Olmsted design, noting that each park should have a unique feature of note and that park views to the water and the mountains should be maintained and improved, while preserving the parks' native trees and shrubbery.[215]

In 1926, a new city charter amendment limited the park board's budget to only the money within the park fund.[216] At the same time, without the support of the board, Seattle's city council prepared to purchase tracts of land, notably Piper's Canyon, outside the city boundaries at that time, hoping to create large parks that would attract drivers out for a pleasure drive, a move to satisfy the emerging car culture. In one instance, the park board sent a letter to Seattle's community clubs asking them to pressure the council into prioritizing parks already within city limits. The letter noted that some parks were in deplorable condition and that the increasing number of cars on the road made maintenance difficult. The letter also outlined the park board's priorities: 1) that Green Lake be transformed into a modern municipal park, "worthy of its setting, its natural facilities, and the immense district which it serves"; 2) that Golden Gardens be transformed into a metropolitan resort; 3) that the city acquire Fort Lawton, its bathing beaches, woods, and bridle paths; and 4) that the city survey all parks within Seattle, identify pressing maintenance concerns, and find the funds to address those needs.[217] In spite of the park board's protest, the city council condemned Piper's Canyon and began to develop Carkeek Park..[218]

Signs of economic strain began to appear in Seattle. In the mid-1920s, the parks department began working with the Volunteers of America program, hiring roughly seventy-five men annually as a means of providing work for the region's single, unemployed population. Projects taking place at this time included, for instance, the

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[213] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seattle Board of Park Commissioners' Report, 1922* (Seattle: Lowman & Hanford, 1923), 21–27.
[214] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Seattle Board of Park Commissioners' Report, 1922*, 27.
[215] "New Park Architect Discusses Plans," *Seattle Daily Times*, October 4, 1925, 21.
[216] Shannon B. Lynch, Historical Note, Department of Parks Works Progress Administration Recreation Project Reports, 1936–1940, Archives West, accessed January 4, 2015, http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv50967.
[217] A. S. Kerry to All Community Clubs, September 29, 1928, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[218] City of Seattle, "History: Carkeek Park," accessed December 4, 2015, http://www.seattle.gov/parks/history/Carkeek.pdf.

construction of comfort stations and lockers at Seward Park in 1927, the same year the Redfield family built the Seward Park Inn.[219] In 1928, the Olmsted firm was requested to make a large-scale planning map of the Olmsted System of Parks and Boulevards with all current parkland shown. After the stock market crash of 1929, the city of Seattle, like the rest of the country, began to feel the effects of the economic depression, which would continue to deepen for years. By 1930, the parks department was continuing to employ seventy-five single men through the Volunteers of America and added an additional seventy-five married men from the Social Welfare League, but the number of unemployed continued to grow as shipping, construction, coal mining, and timber all declined, cutting hours and jobs.[220] Unemployment, which had reached roughly 11 percent in Seattle in 1930, would climb to 26.5 percent by 1935.[221]

By the time the Great Depression hit, the city's parks system had matured considerably, encompassing ten bathing beaches, forty-two parks (which included three recently acquired large tracts: Golden Gardens, Jackson Park, and Carkeek Park), forty-two playfields, one zoo, seven field houses, and sixty-two small parks including triangles and squares. In a letter, JFD had laid out all the plans that the Olmsted Brothers had yet prepared for Seattle's park board. They included plans for Pendleton Miller Playground; West Seattle, or Hiawatha Park; Seward, Jefferson, and Volunteer Parks; Green Lake Blvd.; Fort Lawton; Colman Park; Lincoln Park (now Cal Anderson Park); Washington Park; and Cowen, Frink, Schmitz, and Woodland Parks, along with plans for the citywide park system.[222] Some of the larger, natural parks were being transformed into recreational destinations, including Golden Gardens and the new Lincoln Park. At the same time, Volunteer Park had become "one of the real showplaces of the city," with additional greenhouses and park drives.[223]

Although the economy was struggling, Seattle continued to make some infrastructure improvements. In 1930, the park board revisited an old argument about how to increase travel speeds through Woodland Park. The Aurora Ave. Bridge had been built to move vehicles between Seattle and North Seattle and divert traffic from overcrowded existing bridges. The road could have been routed around Woodland Park on its way north, but on June 30, 1930, the city council voted to expand Aurora Ave. through Woodland Park, allowing for a high-speed thoroughfare north and south through the park that would again threaten prized woodlands. Of the eight councilors, only two voted against the proposition, infuriating vocal members of the park board and parks supporters throughout Seattle. However, when the issue was put to a public vote, Seattle voters agreed to

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[219] Cassandra Tate, "Seward Park (Seattle)," HistoryLink.org Essay 3141, September 3, 2010, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=3141.
[220] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of* Seattle, *1923–1930* (Seattle: Board of Park Commissioners, n.d.), 7–48.
[221] David Wilma, "Great Depression, 1929–1939," HistoryLink.org Essay 3717, March 6, 2002, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=3717.
[222] J. F. Dawson to A. S. Kerry, September 26, 1928, Job 2690, Reel 95, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[223] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, 1923–1930*, 15.

construct the speedway trough the park's woodlands.[224] This was just one of a number of decisions that prioritized car traffic, expediency, and development over park protections.

In another blow to the ongoing implementation of the Olmsted plans, in 1932, the city agreed to accept a donation from the Fuller family, a mother and son who wanted to locate the Seattle Art Museum across from the reservoir in Volunteer Park at the site of the original bandstand and pergola. While JCO had opposed the possibility of such intrusions when he was developing his original plans for Volunteer Park, Seattle accepted the gift and allowed local architects Bebb and Gould to design an understated Moderne building for the site.[225] Also in 1932, the Hiawatha playfield, once the largest playfield in Seattle, was altered when the running track was moved from one side of the park to the other, resulting in other changes to the original design.[226]

In spite of these modifications, JFD maintained a friendly relationship with certain park board members throughout the early 1930s. In September 1934, after years of economic depression, JFD heard that Seattle might hire his firm to plan a new park amenity: Washington Park Arboretum. JFD was thrilled and dashed off a quick telegram to the park board saying that the Olmsted Brothers would be honored to accept the assignment.[227] His telegram was premature, however, as the city had just begun to envision an arboretum. Nonetheless, JFD prepared to visit as soon as possible after visiting Louisville, Kentucky, which was considering a redesign of its parks system. JFD wrote candidly to Seattle park board member Charles W. Saunders, saying "We are all excited in the office and I hope it is the beginning of a recovery, as it is the first new job that we have had for a long time."[228] Even the Olmsted Brothers firm had suffered through the Great Depression.

In December 1934, Seattle's city council officially passed an ordinance to create a new arboretum for Washington Park. In March 1935, stories appeared in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* regarding a unique new partnership between the University of Washington and the City of Seattle, both of which would collectively own and manage the new arboretum.[229] That same month, using $3,000 secured from the Seattle Garden Club with the help of a private client, Sophie Krauss, JFD began preparing a report and preliminary plan covering the general character of the development, including the arrangement of arboretum collections, locations of open and planted areas, building sites, transportation corridors, and circulation patterns.[230]

The firm had extensive experience with similar facilities. The Olmsted firms had designed a number of them, but were particularly proud of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, established in 1872 and designed by Olmsted Sr. in association with Charles Sprague Sargent.

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[224] Kit Oldham, "Seattle City Council Votes to Build Aurora Avenue through Woodland Park on June 30, 1930," HistoryLink.org Essay 8093, February 17, 2007, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8093.
[225] Potter, Volunteer Park NRHP Nomination Form, entered May 3, 1976.
[226] Seattle Parks and Recreation, "Hiawatha Playfield: History," accessed January 5, 2015, http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=456.
[227] J. F. Dawson to Charles W. Saunders, September 12, 1934, Job 2699, Reel 96, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[228] J. F. Dawson to Charles W. Saunders, October 26, 1934, Job 2699, Reel 96, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[229] "U.W. Accepts $3,000 Gift for Arboretum," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, March 6, 1935, 12.
[230] J. F. Dawson to Hugo Winkenwerder, March 29, 1935, Job 2699, Reel 96, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.

As planning for Seattle's new arboretum progressed, the Olmsted firm participated in many phases of the negotiations, recommending engineers to perform initial surveys, visiting other arboreta as part of their research, and offering advice on who should sit on the board (plant lovers of large means) and who should act as director (someone both knowledgeable about plants and independently wealthy enough to raise money, give speeches, and advocate for the arboretum).[231] JFD recommended either Aubrey L. White, Spokane's park board president, or Hugo Winkenwerder, dean of the University of Washington's College of Forestry. Winkenwerder soon became the arboretum's acting director.[232]

In 1935, JFD finally received authorization to begin the project. Immediately, project leaders asked to release plans to guide the seven hundred men dedicated to the project under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which had been active in Seattle parks throughout the 1930s. Seattle relied on WPA labor to build new playfields and improve existing ones with new wading pools, fencing, and ball fields. The WPA developed an eighteen-hole golf course in West Seattle; built shelter houses at numerous parks and bathhouses at bathing beaches; landscaped the shores of Green Lake; and laid water mains and sewers.[233] The WPA also built salmon-rearing ponds, a seawall, and a park shelter at Seward Park.[234] The city even tasked WPA workers with supervising games and sports activities at various parks.[235]

As a large, complex construction project, the arboretum promised jobs for hundreds of WPA workers, all of them anxious to begin. By February, Winkenwerder was insisting on seeing plans for at least some portion of the planting plan or the location of the greenhouse. Otherwise, he feared the workers, who had been cleaning up the site since 1935, would, due to eagerness and lack of direction from the Olmsted Brothers, begin projects that would interfere with JFD's plans.

On April 2, 1936—although political bickering, needless cost overruns, and delays hampered him—JFD sent Seattle his plan for the arboretum. In it, he described the philosophy with which he had approached the work:

> For botanical reference and for the broader public purposes of a tree museum, the Arboretum as a whole must aim to provide a comprehensive and orderly collection of woody plants. Grouping the plants by families and genera or other recognized relationship is clearly desirable. . . . And if the "museum" is to fulfill the broader function of showing not only the specimen plants but also their values for human enjoyment, systematic arrangements may be further modified in favor of artistic combinations of color and form, appropriate settings, and pictorial relationships.[236]

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[231] J. F. Dawson to Mrs. Arthur J. Krauss, January 11, 1935, Job 2699, Reel 96, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[232] Dawson to Krauss, January 11, 1935.
[233] Works Progress Administration, "A Report on Community Progress," January 9, 1937, "WPA," Box 36, Folder 11, Department of Engineering Unrecorded Subject Files, 2602-02, SMA.
[234] A search of the SMA photograph database reveals numerous images of WPA construction projects and laborers at work: http://clerk.seattle.gov/~public/phot1.htm.
[235] Southern Division Report, April 25, 1939, Box 2, Folder 4, WPA Recreation Program Weekly Reports, 5807-01, SMA.
[236] J. F. Dawson to Hugo Winkenwerder, April 2, 1936, Job 2699, Reel 96, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.

JFD argued for the use of the Adolph Engler and Karl Pranetl botanical system over the G. Bentham and J. D. Hooker system that the Arnold Arboretum followed. In keeping with other arboretums developed in the 1930s, JFD would organize the plants based on their ancestral relationships to other plants. "Therefore," he wrote, "we have started the arrangement of the plant families with the Ginkgo, Taxus and Pine families in the northwest portion of the old section of Washington Park." Ferns, he felt, could provide great masses of ground cover to special effect. "This arrangement places the Willows, Walnuts, and Beeches . . . on lake-bottom land at the extreme north," wrote JFD, but "gives an exceedingly good location in the proper botanical sequence for such an important family as the Rosaceae family. . . . It also provides excellent locations for such important families as Hollys, Camellias, Rhododendrons, Magnolias, Lilacs, Elms, and Beeches."[237]

Aside from the planting plan, JFD proposed digging lagoons at the northern end of the property and regrading an existing city dump into gentle slopes and covering it with topsoil. Perhaps reflecting on the controversial routing of Aurora Ave. through Woodland Park, JFD also proposed moving the proposed Lakeside Blvd. to the north end of the arboretum property to "avoid having this portion of the land cut in two by a public highway." In considering circulation patterns around and within the arboretum, he continued, "it seemed that there would be a better distribution of drives through the property if one drive, in addition to the existing drive on the west side, was provided through the upper and easterly side of the property." The old speedway, a former racetrack, should be shrunk from 40 feet wide to a wide turf path of roughly 16 feet, on either side of which would be a more or less continuous planting of Japanese cherries "backed up with native and eastern Dogwoods, with the various varieties of Azaleas as an undergrowth."[238] This was the beginning of Azalea Way, one of many park amenities at the arboretum constructed by workers with the WPA and other relief agencies.[239]

Other special features of JFD's park plan included a large, central rose garden with columns and trellises for climbing roses; a wider path for the creek to allow for small lagoons; and a complete system of walks that included straight gravel paths for quick access, paired with meandering turf paths throughout the various plant families. JFD also liked the idea of having administrative buildings, the library, and the herbarium clumped together at the northwest corner of the park, with the understanding that these buildings could be expanded as time and money allowed. He wanted them close to the entrance for users' convenience; greenhouses he grouped along existing roadways, again for ease of access.

By April 22, 1936, the university's board of regents had approved JFD's plans. Work progressed in fits and starts, sometimes under opposition from political leaders, including the mayor of Seattle. In 1938, JFD visited the arboretum to check on the city's progress; he lamented in his field notes that slopes were changed and walks were wider than he had recommended. However, JFD agreed to continue planning for the arboretum, and in

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[237] Dawson to Winkenwerder, April 2, 1936, Job 2699, Reel 96, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[238] Dawson to Winkenwerder, April 2, 1936, Job 2699, Reel 96, MSS52571, Olmsted Associated Records.
[239] BOLA Architecture and Planning, "Washington Park Arboretum Historic Review," September 2003, https://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/docs/arbhistory.pdf.

March 1939, he submitted his plan for revitalizing the aged speedway within the park. Completed in 1940, Azalea Way included 500 trees and 2,100 azaleas along its edges.[240]

The arboretum was one of JFD's final projects. His death in 1941 signaled the end of a nearly forty-year period of regular interaction between the City of Seattle and the Olmsted Brothers firm.

On December 7, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, and the United States entered World War II, bringing a swift and decisive end to the Great Depression in Seattle. As the region's ship and airplane builders shifted into high gear along with the timber industry, new workers poured into the region. Women swelled the local work force to replace men drawn overseas by the war effort.[241] Seattle's parks responded to a variety of local needs. The department expanded its programs to serve a growing force of local military personnel and their families, and in some cases, as in Delridge Field, dedicated its playfields to wartime housing for steel-mill workers.[242] In Jefferson Park, the nine-hole golf course was replaced with the U.S. Army's Jefferson Park Recreation Center, which included barracks, a canteen, and facilities and equipment for bicycling, baseball, tennis, golf, and more.[243]

Although much of the work previously planned for Seattle's parks stalled during the war years, by 1946, the city's park board was preparing a postwar plan for park improvements, with $1 million provided by the State of Washington. Projects that year were generally limited to maintenance, restoration of deteriorated features, and a few improvements in recreational areas. Private gifts, including those made by two rose societies, helped restore Washington Park's rose gardens. Parks including Duwamish Head, Highland Park Playground, and South Seattle Playground had to be resurfaced as the U.S. military had used them during the war. At Highland Park, staff had to remove or repair trenches, dugouts, towers, and gun pits.[244] Even at this time, almost fifty years after the Olmsted firm began refining the city's park system, City Engineer C. W. Hall recalled the central tenets of the Olmsted report, referred to the city's historical efforts to plan and implement those park designs responsibly, and suggested that the Olmsted Brothers' ideals remain the parks department's guiding light. In 1948, a $2.5 million bond was approved for the improvement of the city's worn-out parks. It would be the last bond passed for many years; those proposed throughout the 1950s would go down in defeat.[245]

By the mid-1950s, the Seattle region was again enjoying population growth, and despite a lack of bond money, the city's park board called actively for increases in acquisitions to maintain the minimum acreage of parks for

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[240] Jennifer Ott, "Washington Park (Seattle)," HistoryLink.org Essay 10243, January 10, 2013, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=10243.
[241] James R. Warren, "World War II Home Front on Puget Sound," HistoryLink.org Essay 1664, September 13, 1999, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=1664.
[242] Don Sherwood, Sherwood Park History Files: Delridge Playfield, Seattle Parks and Recreation, accessed January 29, 2016, http://www.seattle.gov/parks/history/DelridgePF.pdf.
[243] Richard C. Berner, *Seattle Transformed: World War II to Cold War* (Seattle: Charles Press, 1999), 137.
[244] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Annual Report, Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, 1946* (Seattle: Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, 1947), 5.
[245] Seattle Parks and Recreation, "Park History: Funding, Grants, Bonds & Major Gifts," accessed December 28, 2015, http://www.seattle.gov/parks/history/bonds.htm.

the growing city. New park opportunities emerged, particularly when the U.S. military recommended that Fort Lawton be designated surplus property in the mid-1960s. Citizens advocated for a park on-site as JCO had once recommended.[246]

The 1960s proved to be a dynamic era in Seattle. The 1962 World's Fair, which left Seattle with its iconic Space Needle, energized the city. Other improvements, including the completion of Interstate 5 and the increasing growth of local industries, promised new jobs and a boom in population. Seattle's leaders began to think regionally, collaborating with King County and other cities to the east on metropolitan projects like cleaning up Lake Washington. The city also prepared to manage growth by protecting open spaces, improving the region's aging parks, pursuing the preservation of historic buildings, and increasing transportation options.

Many of these ideas were embedded in what became known as Forward Thrust, a progressive bond measure put before the voters in 1968 that planned to fund 820 million dollars' worth of expensive public improvement projects with property taxes. According to historian William Mullins, Forward Thrust echoed the voices of the Progressive Era and brought forward many of the same quality-of-life ideals. "The main goal was to create an urban landscape that would 'maximize for all the residents of this area the opportunities for fulfilled living and preserve the natural quality of the region.'"[247]

After two years of extensive study, a group of two hundred individuals, mainly businessmen and attorneys, worked with Forward Thrust's planning and action committee to finalize a list of projects. Included in the final bond measure were proposals for light rail, the largest single project on the ballot; a new stadium for downtown Seattle; new parks and open spaces throughout the county; new fire stations; a youth center; low-cost housing; and the separation of storm and sanitary sewers, among other sewer system upgrades. In spite of the massive price tag, King County voters approved Forward Thrust in 1968.[248]

Along with other elements of the measure, voters approved a total of $118,000,000 for acquisition and development of public park and recreation facilities in King County. For Seattle, approved projects included deferred maintenance and the construction of new park amenities in the city's existing parks. Funding was made available for new paths and a comfort station in Lincoln Park, a new loop road and bicycle paths in Seward Park, a wading pool, comfort station, and pathway surfacing in Volunteer Park, a new irrigation system in Woodland Park, and a perimeter walkway and concession building at Green Lake Park. The bond also paid for new pools, tennis courts, playgrounds, golf courses, and ball fields.

Forward Thrust also allotted funds for the acquisition and improvement of many new and previously planned parks, including Genesee Park on the former Wetmore Slough, Gas Works Park, and decommissioned Fort

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[246] Duane Colt Denfeld, "Fort Lawton to Discovery Park," HistoryLink.org Essay 8772, September 23, 2008, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8772.
[247] William H. Mullins, "The Persistence of Progressivism," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* (Spring 2014), http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Articles/Mullins/ForwardThrust.html.
[248] Mullins, "Persistence of Progressivism."

Lawton.[249] Throughout the last half of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first, Discovery Park at Fort Lawton grew into Seattle's largest park, at 534 acres, most of which have been restored to their natural state.[250] Although the plan changed slightly during the twelve years during which the Forward Thrust program was implemented, many of these projects were completed on time, providing an expanded parks and recreation system for the still-expanding city and county.[251] According to the history compiled by the Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks, "Seattle park area grew by over a third, including many new neighborhood parks."[252] These new parks included William Grose, Alvin Larkins, Edwin T. Pratt, Jose Rizal, and Hing Hay Parks, as well as Kobe Terrace.[253]

Although Forward Thrust had a significant impact on Seattle's parks, it was not designed as a program specifically for forwarding the Olmstedian vision. Instead, the forward-looking program served the needs of a growing population by expanding the capabilities of the city's existing parks system and encompassing all of King County's. Even when parks the Olmsted Brothers had once envisioned, like Gas Works Park, were developed under Forward Thrust, they typically reflected the design vocabulary of the late twentieth century.

For instance, while JCO recommended the "point of land between the northeast and northwest arms of Lake Union" for a local park with a playground and boating, today's Gas Works Park is much more than that.[254] A unique cultural landscape developed by landscape architect Richard Haag, Gas Works Park intentionally preserved and reused the architectural relics of the site's former gas-manufacturing plant as a series of play structures. Boating, swimming, and the other water sports JCO envisioned are prohibited because of health issues associated with the pollution from the gas works plant. As noted in the park's NRHP nomination, "Haag's unique design . . . challenged the orthodox view of a park, reaching beyond the 19th Century Olmstedian prototypes, thus shedding the preconceptions of landscape architectural design."[255]

Those implementing Forward Thrust in Seattle did, however, keep in mind the Olmsted Brothers designs and recommendations, particularly for Olmsted Brothers–designed parks, as they continued to evolve through the last half of the twentieth century. Throughout Seattle, parks obtained new amenities for children or made way for new transportation routes as the city faced denser development, increased traffic, and the construction of more bridges over the city's various water bodies. Other Olmsted policies, including those related to park planning, distribution, and access, continued to guide the expansion of the park system, even as park

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[249] King County Resolution No. 34571.
[250] Seattle Parks and Recreation, "About Discovery Park," accessed January 5, 2016, http://www.seattle.gov/parks/environment/discovery.htm.
[251] Robert V. Graham, "Report of Examination, Park Acquisition and Development Fund (Forward Thrust) City of Seattle–King County, Washington," December 31, 1977, Washington State Library, Olympia.
[252] Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks, "Regreening of Seattle: The Development of Seattle's Park System," a system of interpretive panels displaying parks history in Seattle, on file with Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks.
[253] Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks, "Regreening of Seattle."
[254] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 77.
[255] Patricia Tusa Fels and Christy Edstrom O'Hara, "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Gas Works Park," as revised by DAHP, April 2012, accessed June 9, 2016, https://secureaccess.wa.gov/dahp/wisaardp3/api/api/resultgroup/186585/doc/1465496600249.

management evolved. Some changes were procedural: a 1967 city charter amendment established the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the long-time Board of Park Commissioners was made an advisory body to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, whose members the mayor appointed for four-year terms.[256] When combined, the changes in park administration coupled with the shift in park planning as implemented via Forward Thrust served to close the Olmsted-designed period in the history of Seattle's parks.

Local advocates for Seattle's Olmsted parks note that Olmsted Brothers–designed landscapes were taken somewhat for granted in the mid-twentieth century. Olmsted Sr. remained the most prominent and famous member of the firm, while his sons were less well-known. However, in Seattle, as a result of their careful work with Forward Thrust projects in Olmsted-designed parks, Parks Department staff were familiar with the Olmsted legacy and continued to protect and promote Olmsted parks and the Olmsted system. By the 1980s, Seattle park fans and advocates began to rediscover the value of their Olmsted Brothers parks and research their history. This led to new public interest in protecting and restoring these landscapes.[257] In the 1980s, members of the Seattle Parks Department used their management history with Olmsted-designed parks to help found the National Association of Olmsted Parks. Between 2003 and 2005, Lincoln Park (now Cal Anderson Park), was extensively altered when the reservoir was lidded, but Seattle citizens and the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks worked for a sensitive and respectful remodel. In 2010, the city opened the 1.8-acre Lake Union Park on land along South Lake Union, a location that even a century prior JCO had thought would make an ideal park.[258] Other restorations continue to respect the original Olmsted vision and to project that vision into the future.

As noted by historian David Williams, JCO and the Olmsted Brothers left a great legacy in Seattle: a citywide parks and boulevard system that protects so much land, is so complete, and is so well designed, that it has remained intact for more than one hundred years. "Equally as important is that the Olmsteds also gave the city a philosophy that protecting our natural scenery was and still is important."[259] Seattle's Department of Parks and Recreation continues to protect that legacy today.

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[256] Seattle Municipal Archives, "City Officials," accessed January 4, 2016, http://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/seattle-facts/city-officials.
[257] Anne Knight, interview by Chrisanne Beckner, December 31, 2015, Seattle, WA.
[258] Peter Blecha, "Lake Union Park Opens in Seattle on September 25, 2010," HistoryLink.org Essay 9603, October 1, 2010, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=9603.
[259] David B. Williams, *A Brief History of Seattle's Olmsted Legacy*, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, accessed July 8, 2016, http://www.seattle.gov/friendsofolmstedparks/FSOP/history.htm.

F. Associated Property Types

The original report of Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, which Seattle's city council adopted in 1903, focused primarily on securing and preserving water and mountain views and remaining woodlands and designing a comprehensive system of parkways with which to connect Seattle's preexisting and proposed parks.[260] The report recommended specific locations for parks and parkways based on Seattle's natural assets, and the Olmsted Brothers' recommendations formed the basis for Seattle's growing park and boulevard system. The system, as a whole, consists of a number of park types, each with individual characteristics. For this MPD, a typology is necessary to identify park type and to understand how these types worked together to form an integrated system of parks and boulevards that has continued to grow and change over more than one hundred years.

While the 1903 Portland and Seattle park plans provide extensive details regarding park types, the 1908 supplemental report for Seattle specifically defined six classifications for types of parks:

- *smallest parks:* loosely defined as those parks that afford spaciousness and beauty to their locality but are too small to divide with pathways
- *ornamental squares:* parks in which the encompassed and surrounding landscapes are combined with walks and resting areas
- *small playgrounds:* designed primarily for active recreation of young children
- *playfields*: for active recreation of school-age children on designed playfields within a bordered parkscape
- *small parks:* which may encompass aspects for active recreation but wherein landscaped beauty is the primary focus
- *natural landscapes:* either preserved natural or manmade features to capture remarkable topographic and scenic advantages with minimal urban distraction.[261]

The report also defined *boulevards* as generally 200-feet-wide formal streets of uniform width and formal design; and *parkways,* two-lane avenues either bisected by a strip of informal gardening or natural scenery or with such located along one side, or a street along the shore of a lake, river, or sea.

The supplemental report did not recommend locations for either smallest parks or ornamental squares, believing that they would be located organically via street-planning and public-engagement efforts. Nor did the report recommend locations of small playgrounds, noting that the area required for such was generally small and could

[260] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 73.
[261] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 124–27.

therefore be designed only in a limited fashion; they further recommended that school or charity boards would provide more appropriate stewardship of such playgrounds than the city's parks department. Finally, the report did not provide examples or suggestions for natural landscapes, and in fact noted that Seattle had none of this classification. The supplemental report called into question the necessity of such parks, which would generally be 500 acres or more, given Seattle's tremendous natural advantages in regard to the sound and lakes; the 1903 report had expressed a similar sentiment for large parks (also called reservations).[262]

The supplemental report did provide specific recommendations for playfields to be well distributed around the city; for small parks, which, when possible, should adjoin the lakes and sound so as to command distant views; and for boulevards and parkways, noting the tremendous opportunity for such in what were then recently annexed districts of the city.

Currently, Seattle Parks and Recreation maintains eight classifications for parks:

- *mini parks/pocket parks:* small parks in dense urban areas that provide green space and other ornamental or recreational uses
- *neighborhood parks:* multi-use parks primarily in residential areas that generally occupy a city block
- *community parks:* parks that link multiple neighborhoods, preserve unique landscapes, and provide group recreation facilities
- *downtown parks:* developed sites in Seattle's city center, often with historic significance, that provide places for respite, performances, and vendors
- *regional parks:* destination parks that supplement neighborhood and community parks by providing programs for broad recreational needs
- *natural area/greenbelt:* which serve to protect wildlife, habitats, and other natural systems
- *boulevards/green streets/greenways:* which provide vehicular and pedestrian routes as well as recreation opportunities for jogging and bicycling
- *special-use parks/specialty gardens:* individual parks designed for a particular use such as a zoo, arts center, or camp

Within each category, the city provides definitions for the physical size, built assets, natural environment, and programs.[263]

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[262] Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards of Seattle*, 78.
[263] Seattle Parks and Recreation, "Park Classification System," effective January 9, 2015, accessed December 22, 2015, http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Publications/policy/parks_classification_policy.pdf.

The city's definitions are based on management and funding needs and are subject to change based on those factors. The current citywide classification system provides details on how the city manages Olmsted-associated parks but is not closely aligned with the Olmsted Brothers' original goals for Seattle. Conversely, the Olmsted property types, though loosely defined, clearly reflect the intentions for park development per their recommendations.

This multiple property documentation (MPD) incorporates both into a streamlined typology that accounts for historic and present-day conditions. Property types eligible as contributing under this MPD include:

- *landscape parks*
- *recreation parks*
- *boulevards and parkways*

In many cases, parks may qualify under more than one associated property type. The details of the property types are listed below. In additional to meeting one or more of the property types above, properties eligible under this MPD must meet the definition of a *designed historic landscape* as described in National Register Bulletin (NRB) 18: *How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscape*.[264]

Designed Historic Landscapes

Designed historic landscapes, as a category of resources, can include a variety of landscape types, including private estate grounds, subdivisions, campus and institutional grounds, and churchyards. However, this MPD specifically covers public, Olmsted-associated parks and boulevards proposed for or designed for Seattle's parks and boulevard system. Designed historic landscapes eligible under this MPD are landscapes that:

- have significance as a design or work of art;
- were consciously designed, or laid out to a design principle, or using a recognized style or tradition, or in response to a recognized style or tradition
- have a historical association with a significant person, trend, or event in landscape gardening or landscape architecture, specifically that of JCO and the principles elucidated by the generations of the Olmsted firms, as laid out in specific parks and boulevard plans, designs, or correspondence.

Some designed historic landscapes eligible under this MPD may incorporate several of the landscape types listed in NRB 18.[265] In nominating properties to this MPD, the nominator should closely review NRB 18 to

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[264] J. Timothy Keller and Genevieve P. Keller, "National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes," U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, n.d., https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb18.pdf.
[265] Keller and Keller, "National Register Bulletin 18," 2.

determine the most general type that applies. Likely types eligible under this MPD include arboreta, botanical and display gardens; zoological gardens and parks; plaza/square/green/mall or other public spaces; city planning and civic design; parks; commemorative parks; grounds designed or developed for outdoor recreation; fair and exhibition grounds; and parkways, drives and trails, though others may also be appropriate.

Further, there are characteristic features of each type of designed historic landscape that a property must possess to be considered a good representative of an Olmsted-designed park within Seattle. A researcher approaching a nomination to this MPD should evaluate the Olmsted principles established by both Olmsted Sr. and, later, JCO, which formed the basis for Seattle's plan. These include, broadly, utilizing existing topography, appropriating distant views, preserving natural features, and utilizing connections between parks and boulevards, though other aspects of Olmstedian designs may also be appropriate.

In nominating properties under this MPD, again, researchers are encouraged to review NRB 18 for guidance on adequately describing the features and functions of a designed historic landscape. Though the general physical attributes for each property type are expressed below, narrative descriptions of parks and boulevards should include how these physical attributes inform the spatial relationships, vegetation, structures, and other elements of the designed landscape as prescribed by the Olmsted Brothers.

To qualify for the National Register as a designed historic landscape under this MPD, the property must meet one of the historic landscape types, be a good representative of a characteristic Olmsted-designed landscape, and retain integrity (see below).

Type 1: Landscape Parks

Landscape parks are derived from the Olmsted definitions of smallest parks, ornamental squares, small parks, and natural landscapes. *Landscape parks* may include public spaces such as squares, mini parks and pocket parks, local neighborhood, downtown, or community parks, regional parks, park reserves, special-use parks, specialty gardens, natural areas and greenbelts, or other park types as classified by Seattle Parks and Recreation. *Landscape parks* are primarily those parks in which landscaped beauty is the defining characteristic, intentionally designed to preserve and maintain environmentally sensitive features, significant views, and wildlife habitats and corridors. *Landscape parks* are located within residential or other communities; may be located along boulevards and parkways; and were designed to provide natural scenery and unique features in a pleasing environment, while also providing for active and passive recreation.

Physical Attributes

Landscape parks may include a number of built resources or programmed spaces like ball fields, but are primarily associated with geographical or environmental features, including topographic features, native plant layers, and passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, paths, viewpoints, and designed gardens. Within the Seattle park system, they will vary in size (acreage) and design but will generally be sited around one or more natural features, such as waterways (ponds, streams, springs), geologic elements (rock formations, cliffs, canyons), or other environmentally sensitive features that have been included in a larger built environment. The

plan of the park will focus the visitor on the experience gained from the natural features as opposed to any specific sport or other recreational pursuit. Specifically, vistas and viewsheds—the "water views and views of wooded hills and distant mountains and snow-capped peaks"—will be utilized, with *landscape parks* also likely to adjoin bodies of water. Built structures in landscape parks are constructed in a manner that depicts both the workmanship and artistry of the craftsperson and/or the function of the resource while fading into the scenic setting.

The definition for *landscape parks* is derived from the Olmsted plan's definitions for small parks, ornamental squares, small parks, and natural landscapes. *Landscape parks* are defined as those that may encompass active recreation but in which landscaped beauty is the primary focus, including preserving and maintaining environmentally sensitive features, significant views, and wildlife habitats and corridors, while affording spaciousness and beauty to their locality. To be eligible under this nomination, a *landscape park* must retain the physical attributes necessary to meet this definition.

Associative Attributes

A *landscape park* is most likely to have been designed or designated around a specific geologic or natural feature, view, or vista, or a specific recreational or neighborhood need. Additionally, it is likely that each *landscape park* eligible under this listing has a varied history and may be associated with important activities related to the settlement of Seattle; the growth of the city; the influence of important citizens; or other events or activities that led to the designation of the park and its role in the community both past and present. Cultural affiliations will likely center on European American settlements, but may also include associations with events important to Native American, African American, Chinese, Japanese, and/or other populations. Such associations should be explored and elucidated when relevant to the historic contexts presented here. The presence of natural features and resources that helped to determine the park's location in the historic period will be especially relevant for landscape parks and should remain evident on the landscape in spite of park maturation or outside development over time.

Geographical Information

As with the associative attributes, the geographical relationship of the property to natural and topographical resources will likely be most important with *landscape parks* as opposed to other property types, especially as it relates to park development over time. The siting of the park within an existing or proposed community or neighborhood development will likely be a secondary geographic consideration. The location, form, design, function, and use of materials within *landscape parks* should be examined in concert with physical and associative attributes.

Type 2: Recreation Parks

Recreation parks are derived from the Olmsted definitions of small playgrounds and playfields. *Recreation parks* may include regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, or other facilities as classified by Seattle Parks and Recreation. *Recreation parks* are located within residential communities or commercial areas

and are destinations for both local users and tourists. *Recreation parks* are designed to provide some scenery in a pleasing environment but focus on an active recreational experience.

Physical Attributes

Recreation parks include a large number of built resources, including but not limited to active recreational facilities such as tennis courts, ball fields, and play structures for children; aquatic recreation facilities; arboretums; art and community centers; picnic facilities and comfort stations; and golf courses. Within the Seattle park system, they will vary in size (acreage) and design, but generally will be sited based on the facility's recreational needs. The park plan will focus the visitor on an active recreation experience, be it sports, community engagement, or a specific learning environment. Built structures in *recreation parks* are purpose driven, focus on active recreation, will be within a bordered park landscape, and may or may not depict workmanship and artistry in addition to the function of the resource.

The Olmsted plan formally defined *small parks* and *playfields* as parks for the active recreation of young and school-aged children within a bordered parkscape. To be eligible under this nomination, a *recreation park* must retain the physical attributes necessary to meet this definition.

Associative Attributes

Recreation parks may not always have been designed or designated around a specific geologic or natural feature, or a specific recreational need. Instead, it is likely that each park eligible under this listing has a varied history that may include important activities related to the settlement of Seattle; the growth of the city; the influence of important citizens; or other events or activities that led to the designation of the resource and its role in the community both past and present. Cultural affiliations will likely center on the growth of Seattle as a thriving community but may also include associations with early settlement. It is unlikely that the presence of natural features and resources helped determine the park's location; this may be relevant in some cases, though perhaps not immediately visible on the landscape due to park development or vegetation growth over time.

Geographical Information

As with the associative attributes, the geographical relationship of the property to natural and topographical resources will likely be less important with *recreation parks* than with other property types, especially as it relates to park development over time. Instead, the siting of the park within an established or, in some cases, speculative community or neighborhood development will likely be the most important geographic consideration. The location, form, design, function, and use of materials within *recreation parks* should be examined in concert with physical and associative attributes.

Type 3: Boulevards and Parkways

Boulevards and *parkways* include boulevards, green streets, and greenways as classified by Seattle Parks and Recreation. *Boulevards* and *parkways* are located within parks, residential, industrial, or commercial areas, and

serve as rights-of-way that connect scenic features, trails, and/or parks. *Boulevards* and *parkways* will incorporate a roadway and have a specific landscape treatment related to the context of the facility and may include pedestrian paths.

Physical Attributes

Boulevards and *parkways* are roadways (structures), but may include other associated structures (such as bridges), buildings, sites, or objects; in such cases, they may be nominated as districts. Boulevards and parkways, both individually or when nominated as part of a district, are located within the public right-of-way. They may include design elements specific to the boulevard or parkway itself (e.g., those not designed as elements of an adjoining park, garden, or private development).

Within the Seattle park system, parks and boulevards will vary in size and design but generally be sited based on the transportation needs of a community, for recreational or other purposes, and/or a geologic or natural view. The plan of the *boulevard* or *parkway* will focus the visitor on the experience gained from the journey, be it from a neighborhood to a commercial core, to or from a scenic viewpoint, or, most likely, between or through parks.[266] The built structures associated with *boulevards* and *parkways* are purpose driven (e.g., for transportation or safety), and may or may not depict workmanship and artistry in addition to the function of the resource. They will, however, be suitable for pleasure driving and/or walking either due to a captured viewshed or a designed landscape.

In the 1908 supplemental report for Seattle, the Olmsted Brothers formally defined *boulevards* as ideally 200-feet-wide formal streets of uniform width and formal landscape design. The Olmsted plan defined *parkways* as two-lane avenues either bisected by a strip of informal gardening or natural scenery or with such located along one side, or a street along the shore of a lake, river, or sea. In spite of these definitions, the boulevards and parkways constructed within Seattle vary depending on the character of their surrounding environments, be they residential, naturalistic, or formally designed. Variation of this type does not disqualify a resource from listing in the NRHP under this MPD.

Associative Attributes

Boulevards and *parkways* may not always have been designed or designated around a specific geologic or natural feature, or even an established transportation route. Instead, each *boulevard* and *parkway* eligible under this listing likely has a varied history that may include important activities related to the settlement of Seattle; the growth of the city; or other events or activities that led to the designation of the resource and its role in the community both past and present. Cultural affiliations will likely center on the growth of Seattle as a thriving community. It is likely that the presence of natural features and resources helped determine the *boulevard* or

[266] Boulevards and parkways that travel between or through parks may be nominated individually to the MPD or as part of a district, including the adjacent park, assuming both the boulevard and park meet the requirements of this MPD.

parkway's location, and if so, those features should remain visible on the landscape regardless of development over time.

Geographical Information

As with the associative attributes, the geographical relationship of the property to natural and topographical resources will be important with *boulevards* and *parkways*, as they were often sited to take advantage of water, mountain, or woodland views. The geographical relationship is especially important as it relates to park development over time. The siting of the boulevard or parkway within an established or proposed community or neighborhood development will likely be just as important as any geographic consideration. The location, form, design, function, and use of materials within *boulevards* and *parkways* are examined in concert with physical and associative attributes.

Locational Patterns

Seattle parks and boulevards are located throughout the city. As described in the three associated property types, physical, associative, and geographical attributes will affect locational patterns. However, as these are subjective to each individual park, there are no useful generalizations that can be constructed about the likely location, occurrence, or distribution of the property types.

Boundaries

In most cases, the boundaries for a park eligible under this listing will be the current boundaries of the park as defined by the City of Seattle. However, certain instances may exist where the historic and current boundaries are not the same and where modern construction would serve to exclude the property from eligibility under this listing. In such instance, a boundary may be scaled back from the current parcel to an appropriate historic-period boundary representative of the resource.

It is unlikely that a boundary for this listing would be larger than the current boundaries of a given park or boulevard as the city defines it. However, in some cases, two or more individual parks or boulevards within the city's system may be continuous, and thus joined to create the boundary for a listing under this nomination. Examples of this may include a park and attached boulevard; a park and attached trail; or any combination of two or more attached resources that share a historic context and significance.

Variations

There are many variations within Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, both among the individual property types and within the individual parks. In all instances, however, variations should be able to be categorized within a period of significance, historic context, and associated property type and meet the registration requirements outlined below to be eligible under this listing.

Condition

Seattle is currently acting as steward of 6,200 acres of parks and recreation space, about 11 percent of the city's total land area. Not all of the approximately one hundred individual parks within the Olmsted system of influence will meet the eligibility requirements of this listing. Those that do should retain roughly the same physical characteristics within the social and natural environment now as they did during the eligible period of significance. Neglect may detract from the overall condition, for example, but would not preclude eligibility. Similarly, a change from one property type to another (e.g., from a scenic park in the historic period to a playfield currently) would not necessarily result in a loss of eligibility. However, in such instances, an appropriate argument must be made for the Olmsted influence being the primary driver of the park's development over time.

Specific Locations

Seattle currently maintains upward of one hundred parks, boulevards, and recreational facilities designed, influenced, or recommended by the Olmsted Brothers; only those designed by the Olmsted Brothers are eligible for nomination as individual historic properties under this listing. Table 2 provides a brief summary of those known individual parks that may meet the eligibility requirements of this MPD, including name, location, date established, and size. Information for this table was provided by Seattle Parks and Recreation, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, and HRA's background research into the history of the Olmsted Brothers in Seattle.

Table 2. Olmsted–designed parks, boulevards, and parkways of Seattle.

Parks, Boulevards, and Parkways	Date Park Appeared in Olmsted Park Plans	Year Acquired by City of Seattle	Acreage	Historic Name	Address
Cal Anderson Park (including the Bobby Morris Playfield and Broadway Reservoir)	1903	1901	11	Lincoln Park and Reservoir (1901–22); Broadway Playfield (1922–80); Bobby Morris Playfield (1980–present); Cal Anderson Park (2003–present)	1635 11th Ave., 98122
Cheasty Greenspace (GS)	1903	1998	43		Mountain View Dr. S, 98108
Collins Playfield	1907	N/A	3	Hill Tract	14th Ave. S and Main St., 98144
Colman Park	1910	1907	24.3		1800 Lake Washington Blvd. S, 98144
Cowen Park	1907	1907	8.4		5849 15th Ave. NE
Frink Park	1903	1907	17.2		398 Lake Washington Blvd. S, 98144
Green Lake Park	1903	1905	323.7		7201 E Greenlake Dr. N, 98115
Hiawatha Playfield	1908	1910	10.3	West Seattle Playfield	2700 California Ave. SW, 98116
Interlaken Park	1903	1905	51.7	Volunteer Hill Parkway	2451 Delmar Dr. E, 98102
Jefferson Golf Course	1912	1909	120.68		4101 Beacon Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98108
Jefferson Park	1903	1909	45.2	City Park	3801 Beacon Ave. S, 98108
Kinnear Park	1903	1889	14.1		899 W Olympic Pl., 98119

Table 2. Olmsted–designed parks, boulevards, and parkways of Seattle.

Parks, Boulevards, and Parkways	Date Park Appeared in Olmsted Park Plans	Year Acquired by City of Seattle	Acreage	Historic Name	Address
Lakeview Park	1903	1908	4.5		340 37th Ave. E, 98112
Madrona Park	1908	1890	31.2		853 Lake Washington Blvd., 98122
Magnolia Greenbelt	1908	1982	2.7		W Howe St. and Dartmouth Ave. W, 98199
Mount Baker Park	1903	1907	21.7		2521 Lake Park Dr. S, 98144
Schmitz Preserve Park	1908	1908	53.1	Forest Park	5551 SW Admiral Way, 98116
Seward Park	1903/1908	1911	300		5900 Lake Washington Blvd. S, 98118
Volunteer Park	1903	1876	48.3	Washelli Cemetery (1885–1887); Lake View Park (1887–1901)	1247 15th Ave. E, 98112
Washington Park	1903: widening	1900	230		2300 Arboretum Dr. E, 98112
Washington Park Arboretum	1936	1900	230		2300 Arboretum Dr. E, 98112
Woodland Park	1903	1899	90.9		1000 N 50th St., 98103
Boulevards and Parkways:					
Cheasty Blvd.	1903	1910		Jefferson Blvd. (pre–1914)	
Green Lake Blvd.	1903				
Hunter Blvd.	1910				
Interlaken Blvd.	1903				
Lake Washington Blvd.	1903			Washington Blvd.; Washington Park Blvd.; University Blvd.; Blaine Blvd.; Frink Blvd.; Lake	

Table 2. Olmsted–designed parks, boulevards, and parkways of Seattle.

Parks, Boulevards, and Parkways	Date Park Appeared in Olmsted Park Plans	Year Acquired by City of Seattle	Acreage	Historic Name	Address
				Washington Blvd. East; Lake Washington Blvd. S	
Magnolia Blvd.	1903			Magnolia Bluffs Parkway	
Montlake Blvd.	1908			University Parkway; University Blvd.	
Mount Baker Blvd.	1903				
Schmitz Blvd.	1908				
17th Ave. NE	1903			University Parkway	

Property Type Significance

Each of the three property types may be significant within the historic contexts presented here; no other known historic contexts are applicable to resources in this listing.

As previously elucidated, Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards include resources throughout the city designed and constructed between 1903 and 1968. These resources may be significant under Criterion A for association with events that made a significant contribution to the development of Seattle. They may also be significant under Criterion C as designed historic landscapes. Properties contributing to this MPD are not expected to be eligible under Criteria B or D.

In nominating a park or boulevard to this listing under Criterion A, the significance of the property should relate to one or more of the contexts presented in Section E. The nomination should include an expanded context that considers the important dates, events, activities, persons, associations, and developmental trends specific to the park, in association with one or more contexts outlined in Section E of this document, as well as any additional aspects specific to the eligible property. Any direct relationships to the contexts presented in Section E should be considered, as should indirect or nonconforming relationships that may indicate a heretofore unknown or underdeveloped context within the overall Seattle Olmsted Parks and Boulevards system.

For properties eligible under Criterion C, the design, intent, and social issues reflected in and on the landscape should be discussed as they relate to the overall historic context and the specific influence of the Olmsted Brothers. Properties eligible under Criterion C must retain integrity as a designed historic landscape specifically prescribed by the Olmsted reports or designed by the Olmsted firms. Architectural and landscape characteristics may include buildings, structures, objects, and sites constructed by local or other architects, engineers, or designers; these will be eligible and contribute to the historic property if and only if they are compatible with the Olmsted plans.[267]

Level of Significance

Seattle's parks and boulevards are part of a larger, Olmsted-designed citywide system, one of the few, along with Buffalo and Boston, that remains relatively intact. The system, while arguably significant on a national level, is composed of discrete parts, namely individual parks and boulevards developed independently over time, as planning, funding, and land acquisition allowed. Under this listing, individual parks and boulevards that make up this system are significant at the local level. Though the influence of the Olmsted Brothers can be evaluated on a national scale, their efforts in Seattle were part of a continued and established practice of landscape architecture that began with Olmsted Sr. as early as 1857. Olmsted Sr.'s influence on individual parks and, soon after, citywide planning for recreation, transportation, and greenspace, had been tested in New York,

[267] For example, Volunteer Park includes the 1933 Seattle (Asian) Art Museum, the siting of which was opposed by JCO. Volunteer Park, which was individually listed in the National Register in 1976, is eligible under this MPD. The museum may be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C and is a designated Seattle Landmark. However, for the purposes of this MPD, the museum is considered noncontributing to Volunteer Park.

Chicago, Connecticut, Kentucky, and other locales by the turn of the twentieth century. The national reputation of the succession of Olmsted firms, including the Olmsted Brothers, brought them to the Pacific Northwest in 1903. At that time, Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects simultaneously worked on commissions for Portland and Seattle, using the aesthetic and value systems Olmsted Sr. had handed down.

An argument could be made for a statewide influence, as the presence of the Olmsted Brothers in Seattle likely influenced the decision of the City of Spokane's park board to retain the firm (in 1906). Alternately, Spokane, like Seattle, was well aware of the Olmsted reputation by the turn of the twentieth century. Indeed, Olmsted Sr. appeared in Washington in 1873, when he designed the plan for Tacoma—a plan that the city ultimately rejected, proving that not even the venerated Olmsted Sr. was without fail. The influence of the Olmsted Brothers in Seattle, which already had well-established parks prior to their arrival, and within which the plans of the Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects would have been in their infancy in the early 1900s, likely played only a cursory role in the decision and execution of Olmsted plans in other locations in Washington. These include plans and reports created for Aberdeen, Olympia, Bellingham, Walla Walla, Everett, Wenatchee, and Spokane, among others.

The original Olmsted plan for Seattle, which focused on retention of woodlands and the extraordinary views of the mountains and water, could only be achieved in Seattle. Capitalization of the individual landscape itself was a practiced tenet of the Olmsted Brothers, and while the treatment in Seattle was necessarily unique, the principles (typology of parks, connection via boulevards, recommended number of park to city acres, and so on) were not. As such, while the Olmsted Brothers' influence, designs, and recommendations were obviously vital to the continued development of Seattle throughout the twentieth century—an influence still readily visible today in its matured form—it does not appear that any of their specific treatments for Seattle were revolutionary for the time. As such, state and national significance are not appropriate to this MPD, whereas the local significance of the Olmsted Brothers was obvious and impactful.

Registration Requirements

Parks and boulevards eligible under this listing must be associated with the activities of Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects. They must have been recommended via the Olmsted original and/or supplemental reports, and designed or directly influenced by the Olmsted Brothers as they developed over time.[268]

[268] Associations with the Olmsted Brothers that are too distant or loose are not eligible. For example, the 1903 report recommended a park at the present-day location of Gas Works Park. Though a park was placed in that location in 1975, the design was not one directly prescribed by the Olmsted Brothers and is therefore not eligible under this MPD as it is not a good or characteristic example of an Olmsted designed historic landscape. Gas Works Park was individually listed in the NRHP in 2013. Other similar parks resources may also be individually eligible, even if they do not qualify under the MPD.

Criteria for Evaluation[269]

Criterion A

Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards represent an investment on the part of public and private organizations and the local government in the development of Seattle. Seattle evolved not just as a portal to the last frontier of Alaska, as it was during the Klondike Gold Rush, but as a destination in the American West that would grow into Washington's Queen City, as early settlers envisioned it. Individual designation of parks and the later implementation of a comprehensive parks plan helped create an idealized city that welcomed speculators and settlers. Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects were commissioned in a series of engagements that spanned almost forty years and laid the foundations for continued park development thereafter. Eligible parks are significant for their association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local history tied to community planning and development in Seattle and the community's recreational needs. Integral to the growth of the city and refined via the principles and designs of a nationally renowned landscape architecture firm, a Seattle Olmsted park or boulevard established and/or designed between 1903 and 1968 is eligible for listing in the NRHP under this MPD and under Criterion A as long as it meets the following requirements.

- The park or boulevard was either designed by a member of the Olmsted Brothers firm or was constructed following detailed recommendations documented in one of the firm's Seattle park system plans or reports.
- The Olmsted Brothers firm designed or recommended the park or boulevard as a public amenity and the resource remains publicly owned and publicly accessible today.
- The park or boulevard continues to contribute to the citywide Olmsted park system. To meet this requirement, a park or boulevard must arguably meet the Olmstedian ideal for one of the three major park types: landscape parks, recreation parks or boulevards and parkways, as described above and detailed in one or more of the Olmsted Brothers' Seattle park system plans.

Criterion C

Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards may also be eligible under Criterion C for their significance as a designed historic landscape, either as a landscape whose design is itself a work of art or as a landscape designed by a master using a recognized style or tradition or in response to such. More specifically, Seattle's Parks and Boulevards meet Criterion C because of association with the productive career of a significant figure in

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[269] Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards are not known to be collectively associated with the lives of significant persons other than the Olmsted Brother and therefore are not eligible under Criterion B. They are not known to be collectively associated with information that would contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory and therefore are not eligible under Criterion D.

American landscape architecture, John Charles Olmsted.[270] In the case of Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, the original design intent was to complement significant topographical or geological features, which were then interwoven into a broader designed landscape including active and passive recreational opportunities. The designs were linked to social issues of the time, most obviously those of the needs of working- and middle-class families to recreate in fresh air and open environments not overly distant from downtown and residential cores, as prescribed in one of the Olmsted reports. Other social issues—such as the desire to protect sensitive natural areas from the threats of rapid development—may also be apparent, dependent upon the park; its historic, temporal, and geographic contexts; and the park's design intent. Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards will meet Criterion C for a designed historic landscape if all of the following are met:

- The park or boulevard's design is directly associated with a design prescribed in the Olmsted Report and/or a subsequent site-specific design of the Olmsted firm (or a designer recommended by the Olmsted firm that follows Olmsted principals and intent);
- The park or boulevard maintains the presence of highly skilled craftsmanship or use of particular materials in the construction of buildings, structures, objects, and other landscape elements that create a cohesive aesthetic; and
- The park or boulevard maintains evidence of distinguished design and layout that results in superior aesthetic quality and constitutes an important artistic statement or development intent.

Evolution of parks over time, specifically to the built environment but also to landscape treatments and plant palettes, are expected. Changes over time do not preclude eligibility under this criterion, so long as the above bullets are met.

For example, an Olmsted report may have recommended American elm (*Ulmus americana* L.) as a specimen tree (a focal point) in a specific site location, which was subsequently decimated due to disease and replaced with similarly suitable plant stock. If the design intent was to provide a shaded area for rest overlooking a playground, then the change to the plant palette does not alter the character-defining features of the site; in this example, an area defined by a tree as a focal point that creates a ceiling effect near a playground location. The site is intact and counts as a contributing resource as opposed to individual plantings. The same could be said for a building or structure that was altered or replaced over time but which meets the original design intent. While these later changes to a building or structure may or may not affect the resource's eligibility as contributing, they should be compatible and not diminish the integrity of an eligible property.

Summary

Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards include properties that were designed and constructed between 1903 and 1968. These properties are significant under Criterion A, for association with events that made a significant

[270] Keller and Keller, "National Register Bulletin 18," 6.

contribution to the development of Seattle. They may also be significant under Criterion C, as designed historic landscapes.

Property Ownership

In most cases, properties eligible under this listing will be currently owned and operated by Seattle Parks and Recreation. Properties that were once owned or operated by the City of Seattle but are no longer within public ownership may be eligible, assuming that they meet all other registration requirements and are significant within one or more of the historic contexts presented in Section E.

Property Category

Properties eligible under this listing may be buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts. A *building*, such as a bathhouse or community center, may also include historically and functionally related units and still be categorized as a building. For example, a community center building with minimal surrounding landscape may appropriately be classified as a building. *Structures* are different from buildings in that they are not habitable. A boulevard, the roadway of which is categorized as a structure, may include a minimally landscaped walking path. In some cases, a property eligible under this listing may be an *object*, such as an individual monument, fountain, sculpture, or statue on a small parcel devoid of other built components but associated with a specific setting or environment. Although it is not clear that the Olmsteds designed specific buildings, structures, or objects for Seattle, it is possible that they collaborated with architects or engineers on such resources, which would then potentially qualify for listing under this MPD as long as they meet the criteria for one of the three eligible property types.

The vast majority of properties eligible under this listing, however, will be *sites*. For the purposes of this listing, a site is the location of a significant event, historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, where the location itself possesses historic or cultural value regardless of the value of any existing structure. Under the auspices of this MPD, eligible Seattle Olmsted Parks and Boulevards will likely be sites that include a number of contributing or noncontributing buildings, structures, and objects.

If a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects is present, a collection of these may be nominated as a *district*. Districts are united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development and derive their importance from being a unified entity. In the case of Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, the identity of a district results from the interrelationship of its resources conveying the visual sense of the overall historic environment. For example, a boulevard that links numerous parks might be appropriately nominated as a district, or a boulevard and its associated bridges, pedestrian overpasses, and other associated structures might be nominated as a district, assuming that the boulevard and its associated resources are physically and historically connected in the present in a manner that conveys their collective historic significance.

Integrity

Integrity is the ability of the property to convey its significance and is grounded in an understanding of the property's physical features and how they relate to significance. "The clearest evaluation of integrity is based on the presence of identifiable components of the original design. To evaluate the historic integrity of a designed historic landscape, it is useful to compare the present appearance and function of the landscape to its historical appearance and function."[271] For Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, the most important aspects of integrity are likely to be location, design (specifically, design intent), setting, and feeling, which most directly convey the why, where, and when of the property's significance. Other important aspects to consider are materials, workmanship, and association.

Because parks feature living entities, including trees, shrubs, and plants, there is an expectation that design, materials, and workmanship may evolve over time. It is better to evaluate integrity of properties eligible under this MPD in terms of the survival, condition, and appropriateness of the original design intent within its period of significance compared to current conditions. "A designed historic landscape need not exist today exactly as it was originally designed or first executed if integrity of location and visual effect have been preserved."[272]

Location

Location is the place where a historic property was constructed or the place where a historic event occurred. For Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, the historic location must match that of the existing park. Park boundaries may have expanded or contracted over time, in which case a justification should be made for the nominated boundary of the park and how it relates to the historic or current boundary.

Design

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. For Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, the design will reflect historic functions and aesthetics, as well as the original conception and planning of the property, especially as reflected in its landscape architecture as designed or directly influenced by the Olmsted Brothers. The organization of space, ornamentation, proportion, technology, and materials may have evolved over time, a reflection of the evolving entity that is a park property. With regard to design, however, significance is directly related to a specific plan or recommendation the Olmsted Brothers prescribed. Those aspects of design should be retained on the landscape in the spatial relationship between major features. A woodland that has been overwhelmed by new construction dating from outside its period of significance, for instance, cannot be said to retain integrity of design.

Setting

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property and is a direct reflection of the character of the place in which it played its historic role. In the case of Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, this is arguably the

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[271] Keller and Keller, "National Register Bulletin 18," 6.
[272] Keller and Keller, "National Register Bulletin 18," 7.

most important aspect of integrity to consider. The property's siting and its relationship to surrounding geologic and natural features, communities, and/or other open spaces should reflect the basic physical conditions under which it was originally built. The way in which the property is positioned in the environment is likely to reflect Olmstedian concepts of nature, recreation, and aesthetics, though later designers/developers may have been the actual executors of the design.

Physical features to consider are both natural and manmade and include topographic features; vegetation; and the relationships among these and other features, such as buildings, structures, sites, views, and open spaces. Assessing integrity of setting also requires taking into account the surroundings: regardless of whether the park or boulevard is located in a residential or commercial neighborhood, part of the downtown cityscape, or a natural viewpoint, the current setting within the park and surrounding the park should match or at least evoke the historic setting. A boulevard that was originally designed to meander along an undeveloped bluff with views of the water and mountains, for instance, cannot be said to retain integrity of setting if these views have been entirely lost behind the construction of a wall of high-rise apartment buildings. In other words, the setting of the resource must continue to meet the Olmsted's ideals, as they were laid out in reports, plans, or correspondence.

Materials

Materials are the physical elements that were combined in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. For parks and boulevards, one can expect that materials will have changed over time. For example, pathways and walking trails may have been paved historically in asphalt or concrete; with time and new aesthetics, these may be reconfigured and then landscaped in natural materials such as bark chips or permeable pavers. Likewise, plantings and planned gardens may evolve from human intervention (e.g., changes in fads from exotic to native plants) or natural intervention (e.g., blight, fire, or drought). Some parks nominated under this MPD may have a stronger focus on plantings, the details of which should be specified in individual nominations. Plantings and plant palettes will often be viewed as part of an overall resource's characteristics. It is not the intent of this listing to focus on each specific planting or materials for landscape features. Instead, integrity of materials for Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards will be reflected in the contributing resources (defined below) that date from the historic period. Integrity of materials will be especially important for those properties eligible under Criterion C, where the use of particular materials results in a superior and cohesive aesthetic quality.

Workmanship

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history. For Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, workmanship is more likely to be reflected in individual contributing resources as opposed to the property as a whole. Workmanship will be expressed primarily in the specific aesthetic principle reflected in the landscape architecture of a park or boulevard, but may also be reflected in the built environment as it relates to an Olmsted or Olmsted-inspired design.

Feeling

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. For the purposes of this listing, a park or boulevard should retain sufficient physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character in regard to its historic and current property type. The feeling of a historic park in the period of significance should remain tangible in the present.

Association

Association is the direct link between an important historic event and a historic property. Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards retain association if the property conveys the relationship of the park to its historic context. For the purposes of this listing, a park or boulevard must retain sufficient physical features to convey association with the Olmsted Brothers, either via design or direct recommendation. Because evaluating integrity of association is dependent upon individual perceptions, it may be difficult to quantify; however, integrity of association to the Olmsted Brothers is arguably the most important aspect of integrity for this MPD.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

Common resources within Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards include *buildings*, including comfort stations, bathhouses, offices, and community centers; *structures*, including greenhouses, gazebos, picnic shelters, ball fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, bridges, fences, rock walls, pedestrian pathways and trails, railways and tracks, vehicular roadways, parking lots, gates, and barriers; *objects*, including sculptures, statues, fountains, monuments, and memorials; and *sites*, including topographical and geological features; designed and named gardens; landscape features; open spaces, such as lawns, turf, and golf courses; and some water features (both natural and designed) that are not structures or objects, such as lakes, ponds and streams.

To be contributing, a resource must have been designed, constructed, or planned within the MPD's period of significance and retain sufficient integrity to convey its associated historic contexts. Those buildings, structures, objects, or sites not designed or recommended by the Olmsted Brothers firm must be compatible with the overall design principles espoused by the Olmsted Brothers in their original design or recommendation for a park or boulevard in which these resources appear.

Noncontributing resources include those built or added outside of the period of significance for the specific park or those that do not convey the associated historic context. This might be a facility built outside of the period of significance of an eligible park or one that has been altered to such an extent that it no longer conveys significance within its historic context.

Note on Excluded Resources

Some features can be automatically excluded from resource counts, as they will be ubiquitous on most landscapes, for example most signage throughout parks and boulevards. Over the years, parks have had numerous types of signs and interpretive panels, which have ranged in size, shape, and style from simple, painted wood signs on wood poles to more elaborate signs on laminated panels. Signs are expected to change

periodically. A full inventory of all signs within a park is considered outside the scope of a nomination and, with the exception of contributing monuments and markers, should not be included in the resource counts for a listing.

Additionally, while Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards are obviously dependent upon their natural and designed landscapes and the features intended to fulfill the purpose of the park or boulevard for their significance, a complete inventory of plants and plantings, urns, benches, planters, garden beds, arbors, and most pedestrian pathways and trails, vehicular roadways, parking lots, gates and barriers, and public utilities and amenities such as lighting, trash cans, picnic tables, barbeque pits, and grills will not be required. There are obvious exceptions, such as in the instance of designed boulevards and parkways where the resource directly contributes to a property's type and integrity, or an object such as a planter around which a specific and significant landscape was designed. It will be the job of the nominator to include appropriate resources in the resource count, both contributing and noncontributing, and to distinguish them from those too ubiquitous to include.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible within this listing, a property must:

- Be constructed between 1903 and 1968.
- Be significant within one or more of the three historic contexts presented in this nomination: either as an early Olmsted park, a supplemental Olmsted Park, or as a park associated with the maturation or later implementations of recommendations in the Olmsted reports, designs, and correspondence.
- Be significant under Criterion A, for association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local history; and/or be significant under Criterion C, as a designed landscape.
- Be definable within at least one of the three associated property types, specifically landscape park, recreation parks, or boulevards and parkways.
- Meet the registration requirements, including retaining sufficient integrity to convey historic significance within its given period of significance.

G. Geographical Data

Properties eligible for Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards Multiple Property Listing extend throughout the city limits of Seattle, Washington.

H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Beginning in September 2015, HRA architectural historians Natalie K. Perrin, MS, and Chrisanne Beckner, MS, conducted background research on the history of Seattle Parks. Perrin and Beckner utilized a combination of local, state, and federal repositories to examine the history of the city's park system, including the natural and prehistoric land use of the area as it informed the topography of Euroamerican development; public and private land acquisition; the beginning of public and private parks in Seattle; evolution of the parks system over time; influence of local, state, and national designed landscape movements on the city's parks; the history and influence of the Olmsted family on landscape architecture and public planning throughout the United States; the influence of the Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects on Seattle park development and evolution; and present-day park use and development.

Perrin and Beckner utilized research materials collected by Anne Knight, Jerry Arbes, Catherine Joy Johnson, and Jennifer Ott of the Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks (FSOP), including materials from the National Association of Olmsted Parks, Library of Congress, and Frances Loeb Library at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. HRA also consulted research materials in our own archives, including historic maps (Sanborns, Metskers, General Land Office, U.S. Geologic Survey, etc.), aerial photographs, and historic-era records from Seattle Parks and Recreation, among others. They also examined records and literature on file at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Washington State Library, Seattle Municipal Archives, University of Washington Special Collections, Seattle Public Library, and electronic collections, including historic *Seattle Times* articles, maps and plans at OlmstedOnline.org, articles on HistoryLink.org, and other historic resources as available.

In September 2015, Perrin and Beckner conducted an intensive-level survey of Lake Washington Blvd. and a reconnaissance-level survey of Seattle parks and boulevards including the Washington Park Arboretum, Lake View Park, Denny Blaine Park, Viretta Park, Madrona Park, Leschi Park, Frink Park, Colman Park, Mount Baker Park, Genesee Park, Stan Sayres Memorial Park, and Seward Park. In October 2015, led by the FSOP, Perrin and Beckner toured thirty-five Olmsted designed, inspired, or influenced parks. Examination of these components of Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards system enabled the researchers to make informed decisions about the associated property types; their physical, associative, and geographical attributes; and the types of contributing and noncontributing resources that might be found within an eligible property.

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Parks Table Continuation Sheet

The following table includes all known parks designed, influenced, or recommended by the Olmsted Brothers. Compiled from data provided by Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks and the Seattle Parks Department, this table should be considered a living document that is not yet complete and can be revised or expanded by future researchers exploring the history of Seattle's Olmsted parks and boulevards.

Resource Name	Date Resource Appeared in Olmsted Park Plans	Year Resource Acquired by City of Seattle	Acreage	Historic Name of Resource	Address/location of Resource
17th Ave. NE	1903	1909		University Parkway	
Alki Beach Park	1908	1910	135.9	Alki Beach; Luna Park, including Powers Natatorium and Bathhouse (1907-1913)	1702 Alki Ave. SW, 98116
Atlantic City Park [Boat Ramp]		1907	6.39		8702 Seward Park Ave. S, 98118
Ballard Playground	1908	1909	3.4		2644 NW 60th St., 98107
Beacon Hill Playground		1907	3		1902 13th Ave. S, 98144
[Louisa] Boren Park		1914	7.2		1606 15th Ave. E, 98112
Cal Anderson Park (with Bobby Morris Playfield and Broadway Reservoir)	1903	1901	11	Lincoln Park and Reservoir (1901-1922); Broadway Playfield (1922-1980); Bobby Morris Playfield (1980-present); Cal Anderson Park (2003-present)	1635 11th Ave., 98122
Cascade Playground	1910	1926	1.9	Pontius Playground	333 Pontius Ave. N, 98109
Cheasty Blvd.	1903	1910	19.34	Jefferson Boulevard (pre- 1914)	Cheasty Blvd. S & S Della St, 98144
Cheasty Greenspace (GS)		1998	43		Mountain View Dr. S, 98108
City Hall Park		1890	1.3	Fortson Square	450 3rd Ave., 98119
Collins Playfield	1907			Hill Tract	14th Ave. South and Main St.
Colman Park	1910	1907	24.3		1800 Lake Washington Blvd. S, 98144
Columbia Park		1907	2.1		4721 Rainier Ave. S, 98118
Cowen Park	1907	1907	8.4		5849 15th Ave. NE, 98105
Dearborn Park	1903	1887	7.7	Somerville Park (pre-1907)	2919 S Brandon St., 98126
Delridge Playfield	1910		14	Youngstown Park	4458 Delridge Way, 98106
Denny Blaine Park		1901	0.19		200 Lake Washington Blvd. E, 98112
Denny Park	1903	1884	4.63	Denny Cemetery (1864-1883)	100 Dexter Ave. N, 98109
Discovery Park		1972	534	Fort Lawton	3801 Discovery Park Blvd., 98199
Fairview Park		1994	0.8		2900 Fairview Ave. E, 98102
Frink Park	1903	1907	17.2		398 Lake Washington Blvd S, 98144

Resource Name	Date Resource Appeared in Olmsted Park Plans	Year Resource Acquired by City of Seattle	Acreage	Historic Name of Resource	Address/location of Resource
Garfield Playfield [Playground]		1911	19.4	Walla Walla (pre-1923)	537 25th Ave, 98122
Gas Works [Gasworks] Park	1903	1963	19.1		2101 N Northlake Way, 98103
Genesee Park and Playfield	1908	1947	57.7	Headland Park (1908); Wetmore Slough (pre-1917);	4316 S Genesee St., 98118
Gilman Playground	1908	1931	3.9	West Woodland Playground (1928-1932)	923 NW 54th St., 98107
Golden Gardens Park		1923	87.8		8498 Seaview Pl. NW, 98117
Green Lake Park	1903	1905	323.7		7201 E Greenlake Dr. N, 98115
Green Lake Blvd.	1903				
Greenwood Triangle		1895	0.1	Greenwood Park	304 NW 55th St., 98107
Hamilton Viewpoint Park	1908	1914	16.9		1120 California Ave. SW, 98116
Hiawatha Playfield	1908	1910	10.3	West Seattle Playfield	2700 California Ave. SW, 98116
Howell Park		1901	0.9		1740 Howell Pl., 98122
Hunter Blvd.	1910	1909	1.2		
Interbay Athletic Complex [Field]	1910	1965	7.4		3027 17th Ave., 98144
Interlaken Blvd.	1903				
Interlaken Park	1903	1905	51.7	Volunteer Hill Parkway	2451 Delmar Dr. E, 98102
James St./35th St.					
Jefferson Golf Course	1912	1909			4101 Beacon Ave. S, 98108
Jefferson Park	1903	1909	45.2	City Park	3801 Beacon Ave. S, 98108
John Muir Elementary Playground					3301 S Horton St., 98144
Kerry Park (Franklin Place)		1927	1.26		211 W Highland Dr., 98119
King Street Station					303 S Jackson St., 98104
Kinnear Park	1903	1889	14.1		899 W Olympic Pl., 98119
Lake Union Park	1908/1910		12		860 Terry Ave. N, 98109
Lake Washington Blvd.	1903		116.6	Washington Blvd.; Washington Park Blvd.; University Blvd.; Blaine Blvd.; Frink Blvd.; Lake Washington Blvd. East; Lake Washington Blvd. S	Washington Park to Seward Park,
Lakeview Park	1903	1908	4.5		340 37th Ave. E, 98112
Lakewood Triangle		1907			3114 Cascadia Ave. S, 98144
Leschi Park		1888	18.5		201 Lakeside Ave. S, 98122
Licton Springs Park		1960	7.6		9536 Ashworth Ave. N, 98103
Lincoln Park	1908	1922	135.4	Fauntleroy Park (pre-1922)	8011 Fauntleroy Way SW, 98136

Resource Name	Date Resource Appeared in Olmsted Park Plans	Year Resource Acquired by City of Seattle	Acreage	Historic Name of Resource	Address/location of Resource
Longfellow Creek GS: North		1995	2685		SW Thistle St., 98106
Madison Park		1890	8.3		4201 E Madison St., 98112
Madrona Park	1908	1890	31.2		853 Lake Washington Blvd., 98122
Magnolia Blvd.	1903			Magnolia Bluffs Parkway	
Magnolia Greenbelt	1908	1982	2.7		W Howe St. & Dartmouth Ave. W, 98199
Magnolia Park	1908	1910	12.1		1461 Magnolia Blvd. W, 98199
Marshall Park		1960	0.78	Phelps Place (1909-ca.1930)	1191 7th Ave. W, 98119
McGraw Square [Monument]		1910	0.01		Westlake Ave. N & Stewart St., 98101
Mercer Street Playground (ONHS)					
[Pendleton] Miller Playground		1906	1.68 (?)		330 19th Ave. E, 98112
Montlake Blvd.	1908		0.3		2811 Montlake Blvd. E, 98112
Mount Baker Blvd.	1903				
Mount Baker Park	1903	1907	21.7		2521 Lake Park Dr. S, 98144
Myrtle Edwards Park	1903/1910	1970	4.8	Elliott Bay Park (pre-1976)	3130 Alaskan Way, 98121
Observatory Courts		1911	0.8		1405 Warren Ave. N, 98109
Pioneer Square Park	1903	1889			100 Yesler Way, Seattle, WA 98104
Pritchard Island Beach	1908/1910	1935	19.1		8400 55th Ave. S, 98118
Puget Boulevard Commons			9		5200 26th Ave. SW, 98106
Puget Park		1912	158.6		4767 Puget Way SW, 98106
Queen Anne Blvd.	1903	1910	31.2		Encircles Queen Anne Hill
Rainier Playfield	1903/1908	1910	9.5	Columbia Playfield (pre-1928)	3700 S Alaska St., 98118
Ravenna Blvd	1903	1905	6.4		NE Ravenna Blvd to E Green Lake Way N,
Ravenna Park	1903	1911	49.9		5520 Ravenna Ave. NE, 98105
Roanoke Park		1908	2.2		950 E Roanoke St., 98102
[David] Rodgers Park	1903	1907	9.2		2800 1st Ave. W, 98119
Rogers Playground		1907	1.9		2516 Eastlake Ave. E, 98102
Salmon Bay Park		1890	2.8		2001 NW Canoe Pl., 98117
[Stan] Sayers Memorial Park		1912			3308 Lake Washington Blvd., 98118

Resource Name	Date Resource Appeared in Olmsted Park Plans	Year Resource Acquired by City of Seattle	Acreage	Historic Name of Resource	Address/location of Resource
Schmitz Blvd.	1908		2.39		5717 SW Stevens St., 98116
Schmitz Preserve Park	1908	1908	53.1	Forest Park	5551 SW Admiral Way, 98116
Seward Park	1903/1908	1911	300		5900 Lake Washington Blvd. S
Seward Park Ave.					
South Park Playground	1908/1910	1910			738 S Sullivan St.
[Victor] Steinbrueck Park		1970			2001 Western Ave., 98121
Sunset Hill [Viewpoint] Park		1907	2.7		7531 34th Ave. NW, 98117
Union Station Square		1929	0.04		316 S Jackson St., 98104
University of Washington campus					Seattle, 98105
University Playground		1910	2.7		4745 9th Ave. NE, 98105
Viretta Park		1901	1.8		151 Lake Washington Blvd. E, 98112
Volunteer Park	1903	1876	48.3	Washelli Cemetery (1885-1887); Lake View Park (1887-1901)	1247 15th Ave. E, 98112
Washington Park	1903: widening	1900	230		
Washington Park Arboretum	1936	1900	230		2300 Arboretum Drive E, 98112
Washington Park Blvd.	1903				
Washington Park Extension	1903				
Woodland Park	1903	1899	90.9		1000 N 50th St, 98103

Figures Continuation Sheet

Photographs of Seattle's Olmsted parks can be found in local, state, and national archives. For photos that track the history of park development, visit the Seattle Municipal Archives. For photographs, maps, and plans prepared by the Olmsted Brothers firm, visit the Olmsted Archives at the Olmsted National Historic Site.

Figure 1. 1903 photograph at Lake Washington. Left to right: E. F. Blaine, Captain Pratt, E. F. Fuller, J. C. Olmsted, P. R. Jones, C. W. Saunders, J. E. Shrewsbury, A. L. Walters, courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.

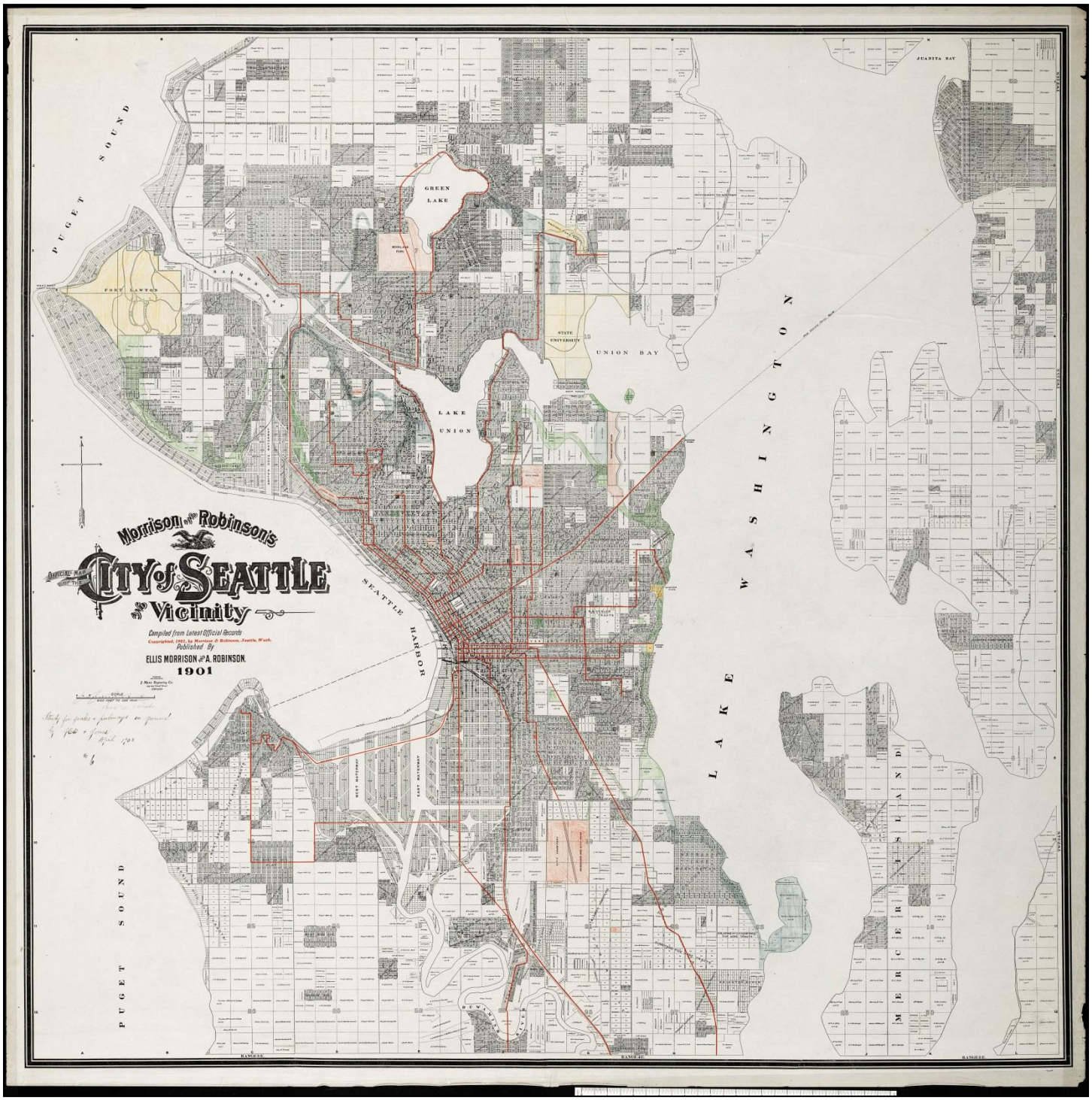

Figure 2. 1903 field map of Seattle with JCO and Percy's notes regarding future parks and boulevards, courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.

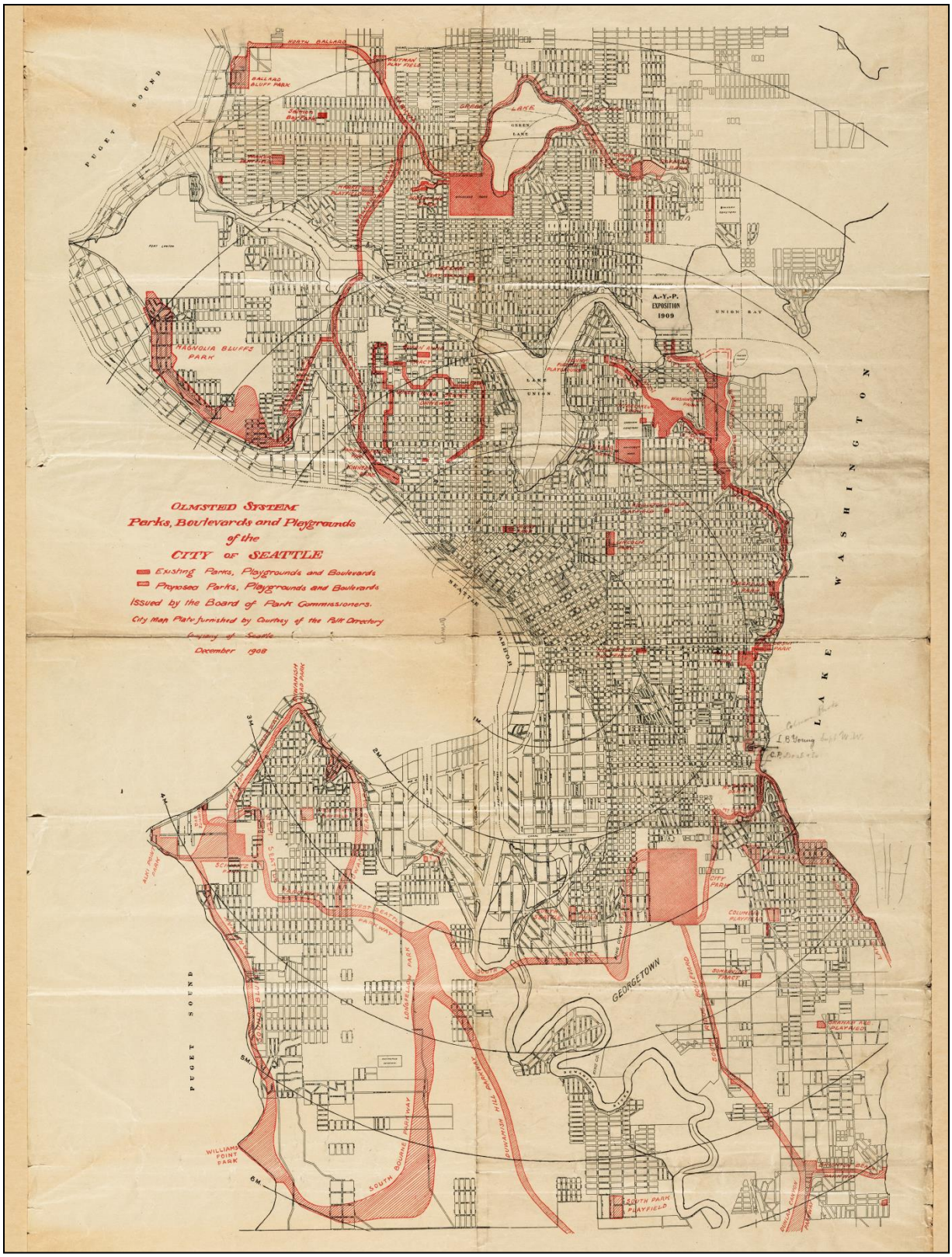

Figure 3. 1909 map of the Olmsted Brothers System of Parks and Boulevards, courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.

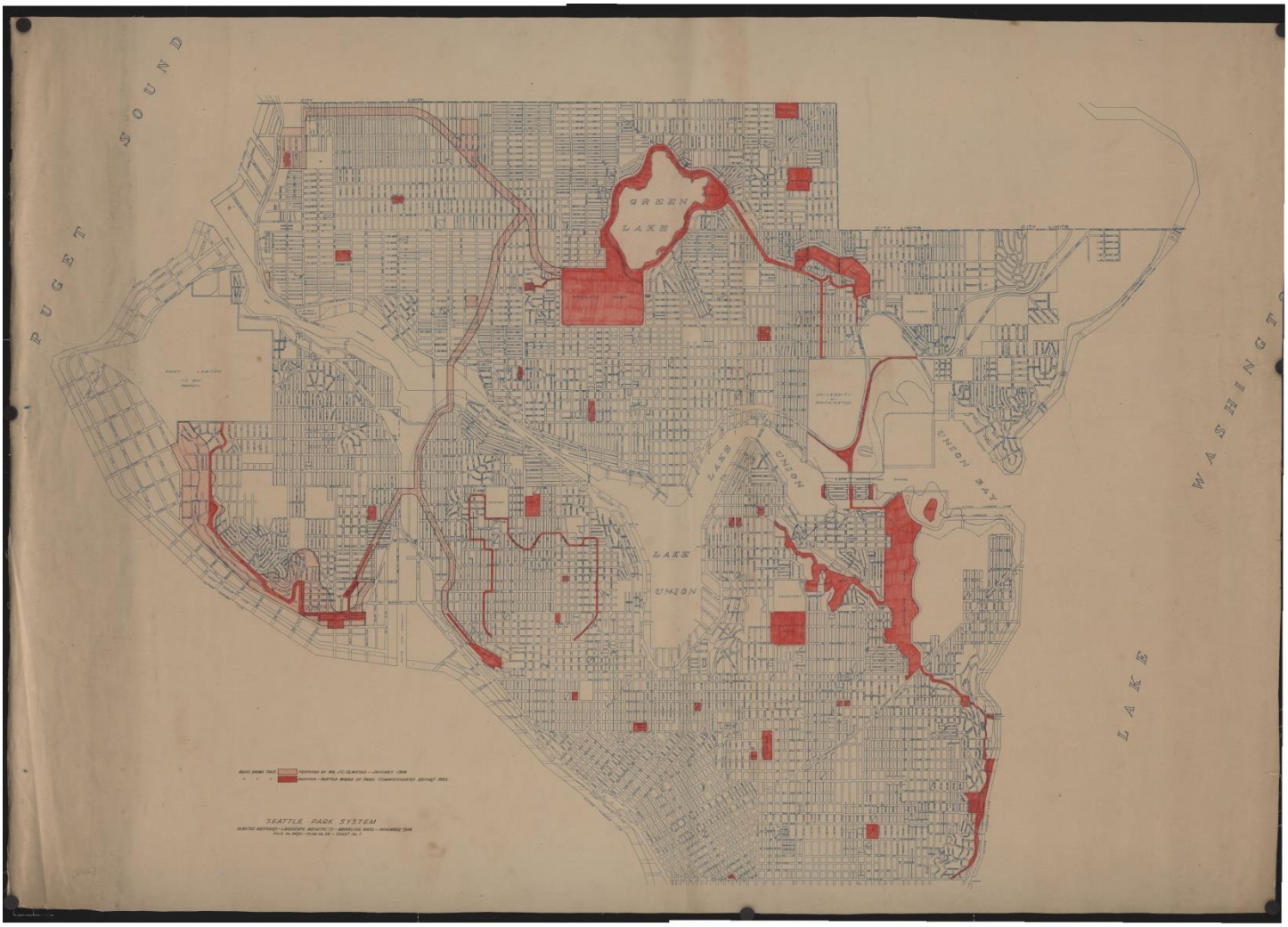

Figure 4. 1928 map of north Seattle's proposed and completed parks and boulevards system, courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.

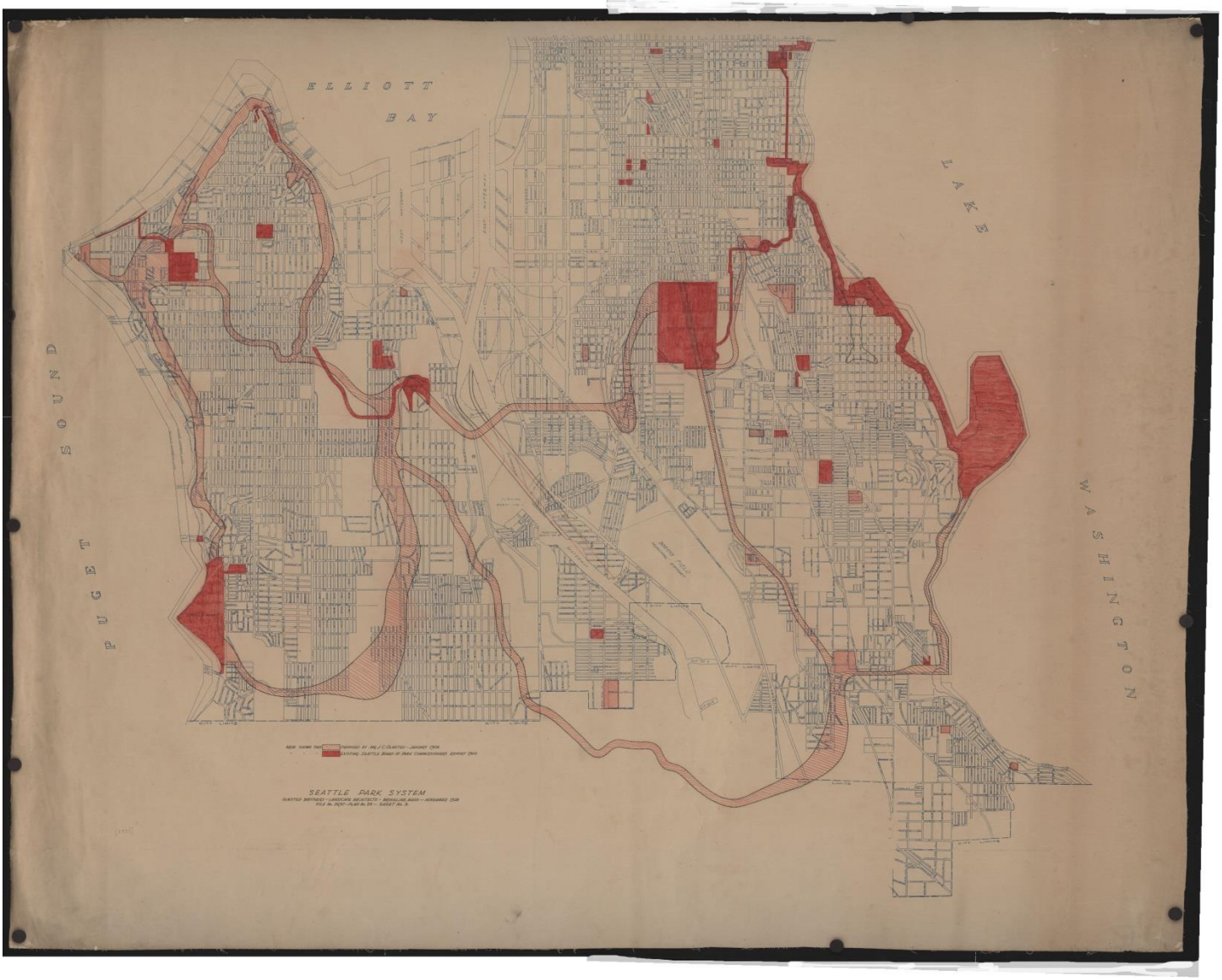

Figure 5. 1928 map of south Seattle's proposed and completed parks and boulevard system, courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.

Figure 6. 1909 photograph of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition grounds, courtesy of the University of Washington Special Collections.

Figure 7. 1908 photograph of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition grounds, courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.

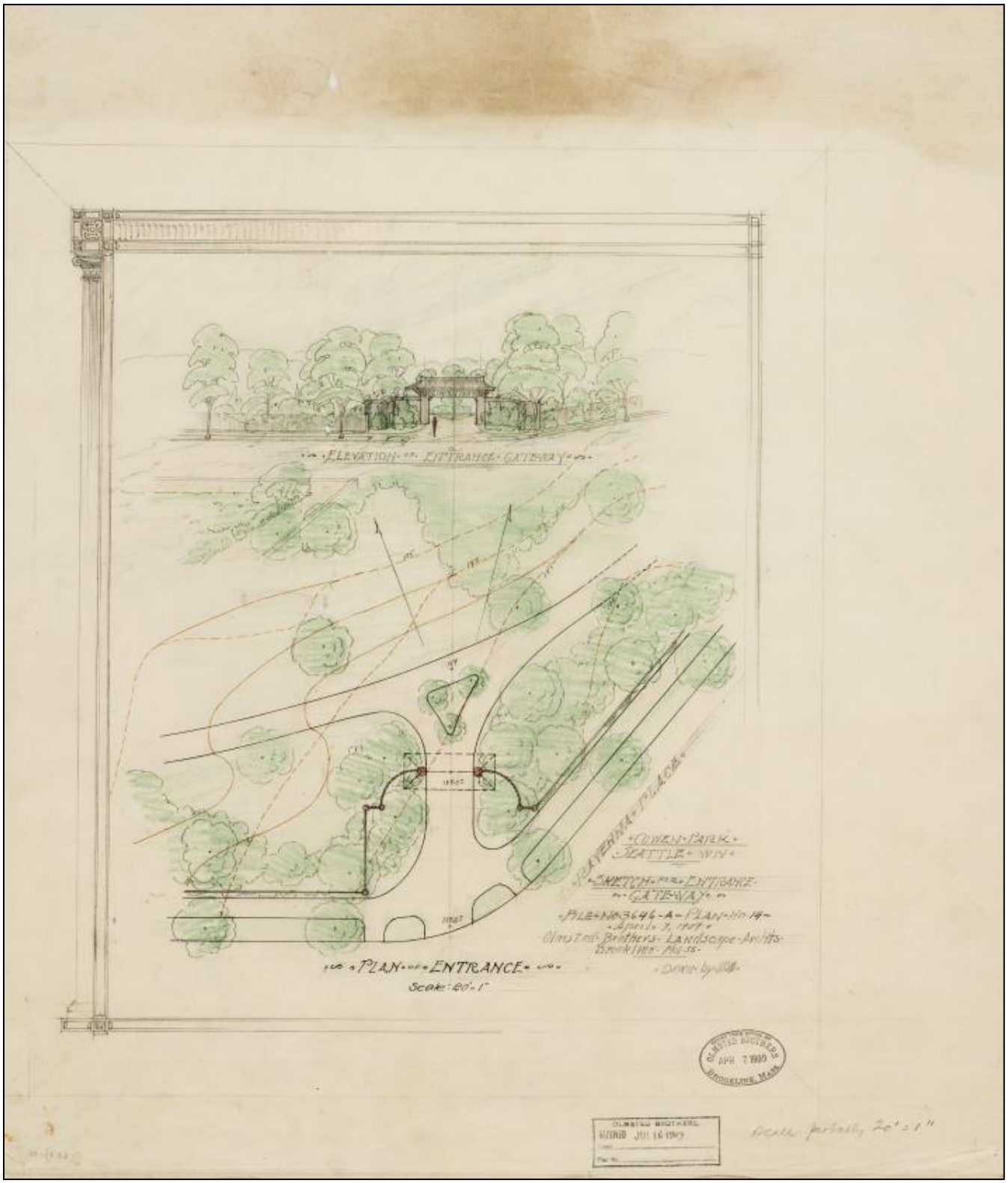

Figure 8. Olmsted Brothers' 1909 sketch for Cowen Park Gateway, courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.

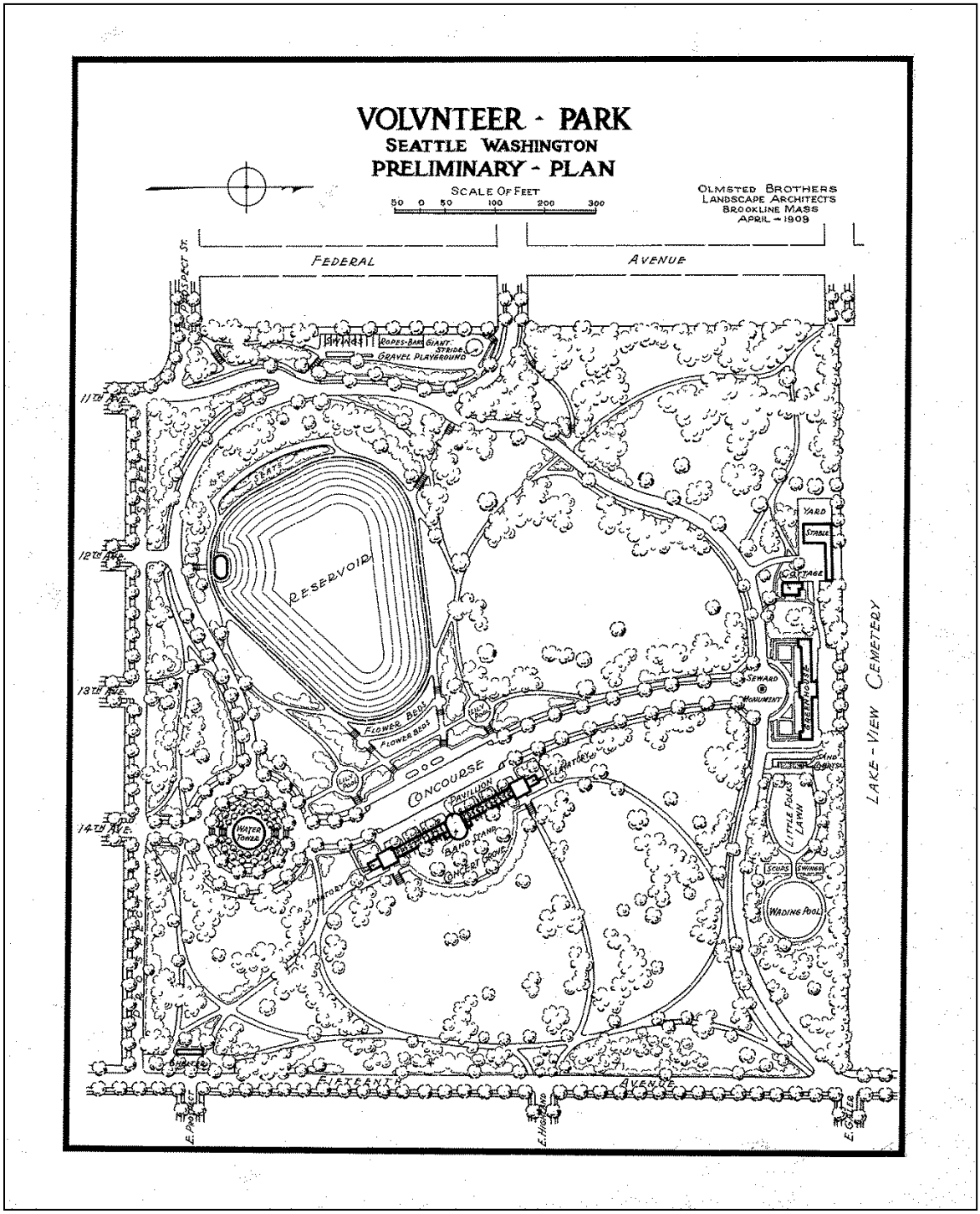

Figure 9. Olmsted Brothers' 1909 preliminary plan for Volunteer Park, courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.

Figure 10. 1913 photograph of Volunteer Park, courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.

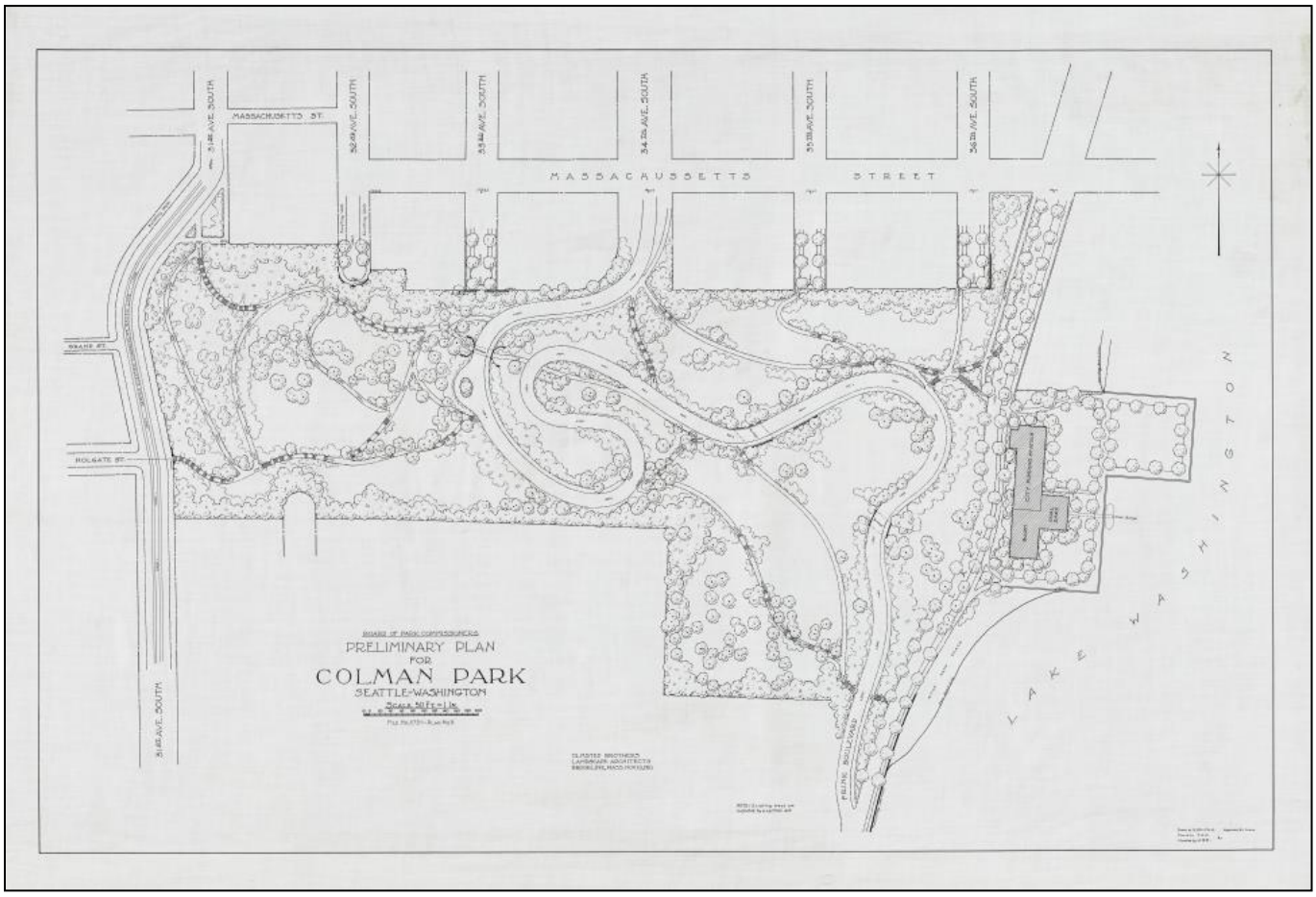

Figure 11. Olmsted Brothers' 1910 preliminary plan for Colman Park, courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.

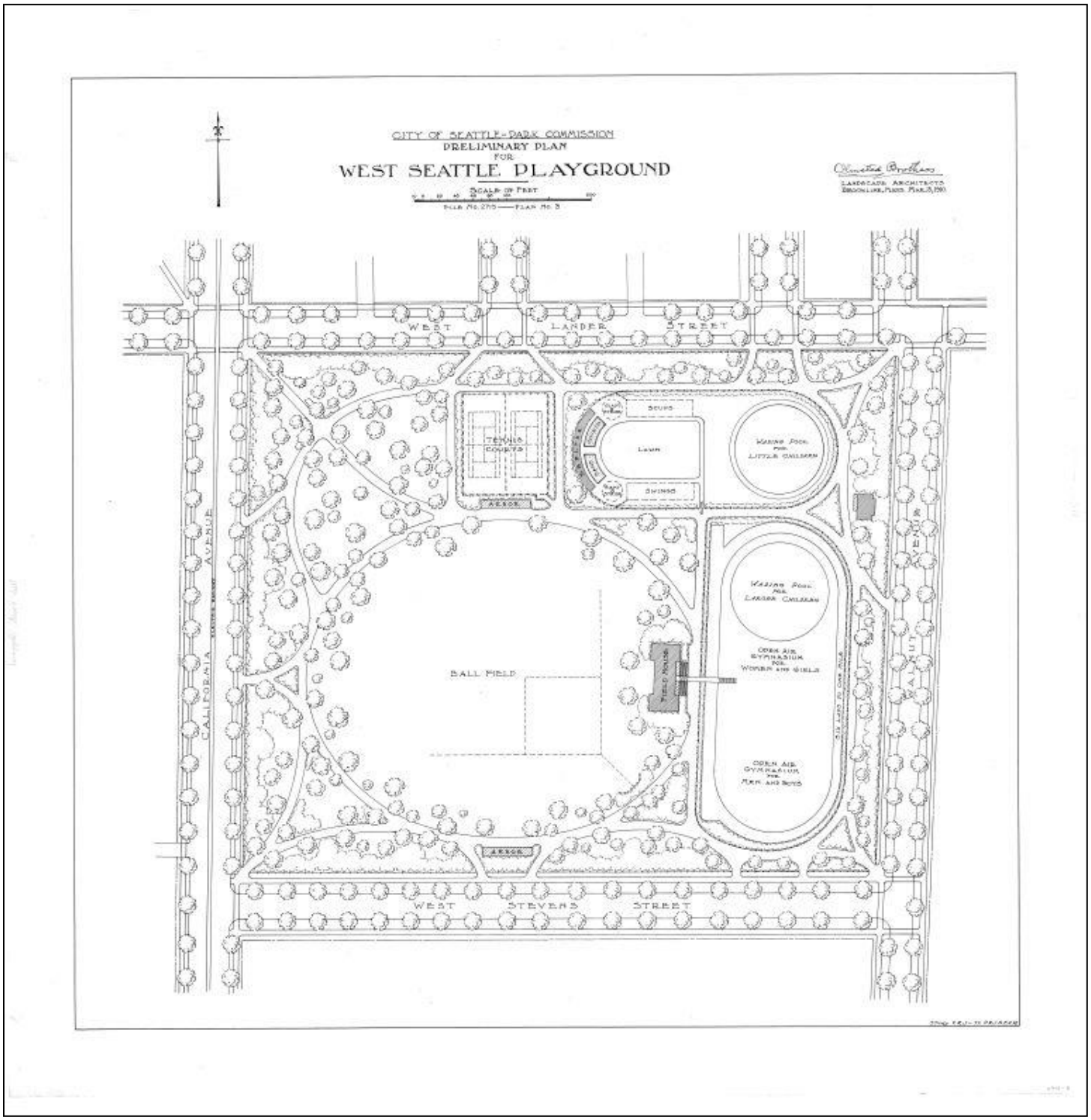

Figure 12. Olmsted Brothers' 1910 preliminary plan for West Seattle Playground, courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.

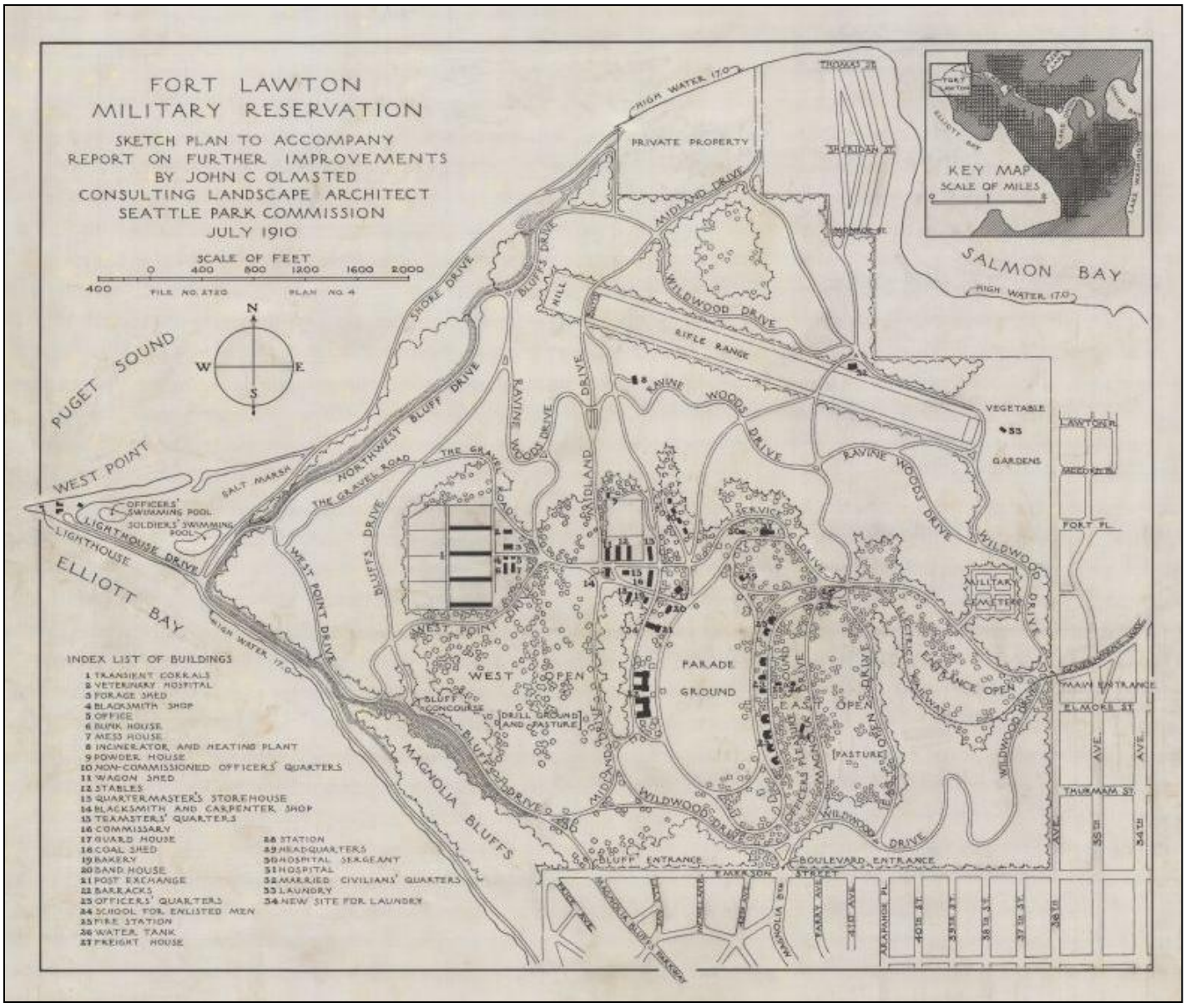

Figure 13. Olmstead Brothers' 1910 plan for Fort Lawton Military Reservation, courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmstead National Historic Site, Brookline, Massachusetts.

Figure 14. 1910 photograph of Schmitz Park, courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.

Figure 15. 1911 photo of Ravenna Park, courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.

Figure 16. 1912 photo of Interlaken Blvd., courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.

Figure 17. 1926 photo of Seward Park bathing beach, courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.

Figure 18. 1930 photograph of Washington Park, courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.

Figure 19. 1950 photograph of Woodland Park rose garden, courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.

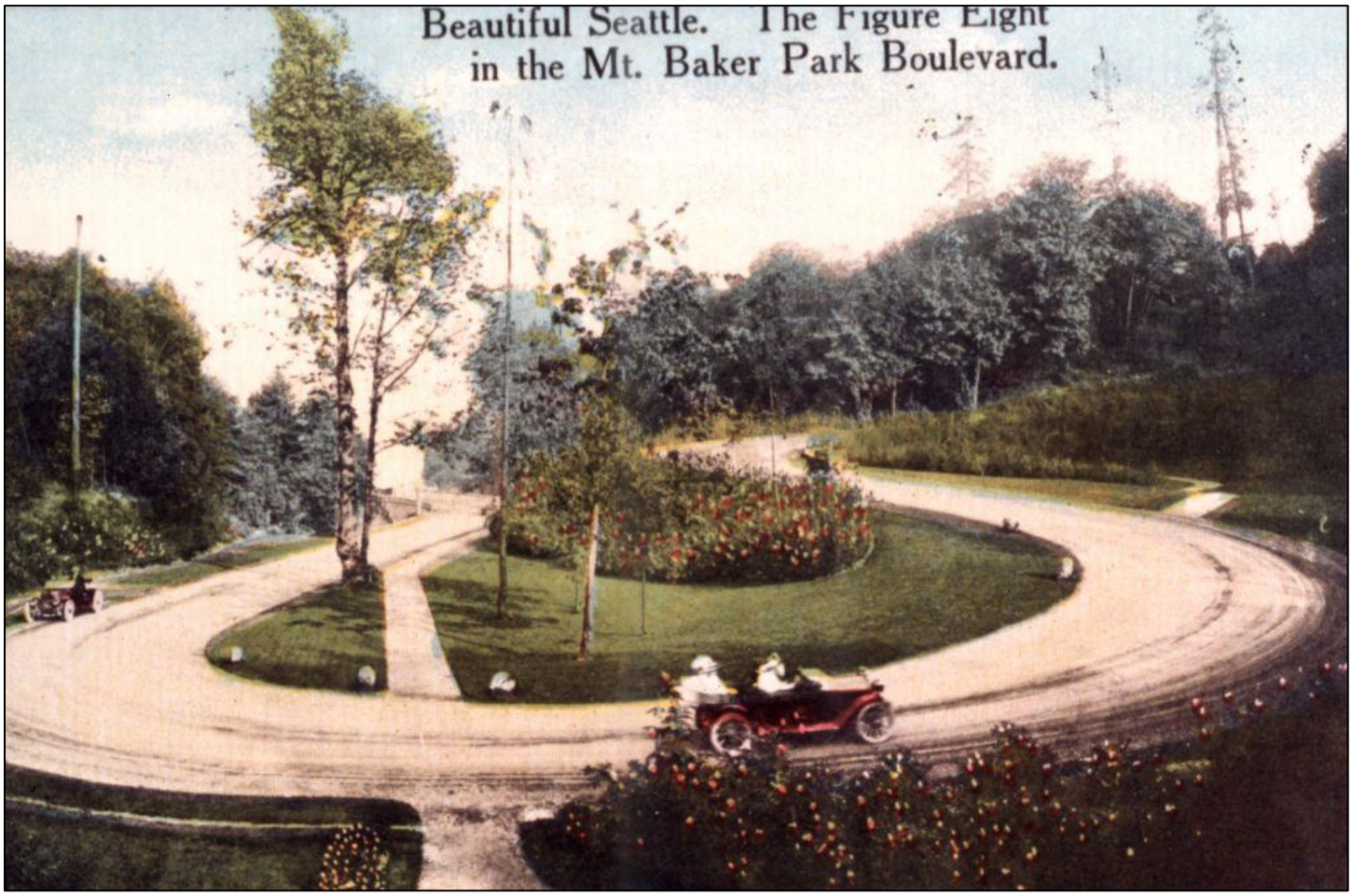

Figure 20. Undated postcard of Colman Park, courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.