

Olmsted

CENTENNIAL NEWS

1909 AYP 2009
ALASKA - YUKON - PACIFIC
EXPOSITION

March 2009 Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks ~ Celebrating the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition ~ 1909-2009 Seattle, Washington



JACKSON FAMILY POSTCARD COLLECTION

Celebrating the Centennial of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition 1909-2009

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition elevated Seattle and the region onto the world stage in 1909. One hundred years later the City of Seattle and organizations throughout the region have joined together to celebrate the A-Y-P Centennial. Each organization has explored the elements that highlight and relate to its own work. The websites ayp100.org and www.aype.org have calendars of events and activities where one can learn about the fair from many different perspectives, just as the A-Y-P brought so many diverse experiences together for all to enjoy.

Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks has chosen to focus on the Olmsted design of the Exposition grounds and its lasting legacy for the University of Washington. Contained in this second edition of the Olmsted Centennial News are reprints of articles from the first decade of the 20th century when Seattle was taking bold steps in planning for its future. The articles cover the development and adoption of Olmsted's 1903 park and boulevard plan and the preparations for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition starting in 1906. Olmsted's 1908 supplemental park and boulevard report, focused on Seattle's newly annexed areas of the city, is also included.

Together these articles provide an insight into the first years of the 1900s when Seattle and its civic leaders undertook major projects to make Seattle a beautiful city and encourage others to join in building its future.

As part of the 2009 A-Y-P Centennial, the University is printing a walking tour brochure, installing interpretive signs, and hosting exhibits at Suzzallo Library and Architecture Hall. The Burke Museum is mounting an exhibit described in the next column. Explore all of these when on campus to join FSOP on one of its monthly Saturday A-Y-P walking tours. Across the ship canal, MOHAI is hosting an exhibit "Photographing the Fair," as well as several conferences and workshops. MOHAI and the Seattle Architecture Foundation are also leading evening walking tours on the first Thursday of the month, starting May 7. Additional web tour information can be found at historylink.org and depts.washington.edu/aypwalk/.

Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks will produce a brochure *Guide to the Olmsted Legacy on the University Campus* available at FSOP walking tours and other venues. Join us for these exciting events to learn more about the legacy of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.

Olmsted Legacy of the A-Y-P at University of Washington Campus

Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks Walking Tours

Last Saturdays ~ April-September 2009 ~ 10am-Noon

Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks is leading free walking tours to explore the Olmsted legacy of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and the evolution of the University of Washington campus. The Olmsted Brothers, the renowned landscape architecture firm from Brookline, Mass., prepared campus plans for the University and designed the layout and landscape for the 1909 A-Y-P Exposition. The tours will start with a slide presentation to give an overview of the development of this legacy. The first walking tour on April 25 will start at Cunningham Hall (on Stevens Way near 40th Street entrance) - one of the few remaining structures from the A-Y-P Exposition. Cunningham Hall will close for moving in May 2009, so tours May through September will start at the Burke Museum. Space is limited for the tours, so please reserve your place at Friends@SeattleOlmsted.org or call 425-885-3173.

The centennial program of Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks includes walking tours, presentations and the Olmsted Legacy brochure that are made possible in part by a Humanities Washington grant. The starting locations for the walking tours is provided courtesy of the UW's Cunningham Hall Women's Center and the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture.

Additional Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks Events for the A-Y-P Centennial

- Dunn Gardens June 5 & 6, 2009
Step Back in Time: Stroll an Historic Garden. See an Historic Ship As part of the Dunn Gardens program, FSOP will speak on the Olmsted design of the A-Y-P grounds and the tie to private estates and gardens. Info: dunngardens.org
- Historic Seattle/MOHAI/FSOP June 20 & 21, 2009
Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Symposium
This symposium, hosted at MOHAI, will set the stage for understanding the A-Y-P Exposition in the context of previous and subsequent fairs and important nationwide civic and parks movements. Info and registration: historicsattle.org
- Forum (details to be announced) October 15, 2009
The Future of the Legacy

The Burke Museum May 30 - November 29, 2009
Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition: Indigenous Voices Reply
The Burke Museum marks the A-Y-P Centennial with an exhibit examining the representation of indigenous peoples at the fair, looking at how the fair shaped the history of the Burke Museum, and providing a forum for native indigenous voices of today to reply. Historic photo enlargements, cultural objects displayed during the fair, and contemporary artwork and video commentary along with texts will be used to present and explore the story. This exhibit challenges us all to consider how we have changed or stayed the same after 100 years.

On May 30, 2009, as part of the opening of the exhibit at the Burke Museum, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks will lead two additional walking tours for exhibit attendees. For info and times: washington.edu/burkemuseum/exhibits

FSOP EVENTS FOR A-Y-P CENTENNIAL

- April 25 - Walk (10:00 am at Cunningham Hall)
- May 30 - Walks (10:00 am at Burke Museum)
- June 5/6 - Talks at Dunn Garden
- June 20/21 - Historic Seattle/MOHAI/FSOP Symposium
- June 27 - Walk (10:00 am at Burke Museum)
- July 25 - Walk (10:00 am at Burke Museum)
- August 29 - Walk (10:00 am at Burke Museum)
- September 26 - Walk (10:00 am at Burke Museum)
- October 15 - Forum (details TBA)

REGISTRATION FOR EVENTS

FSOP Walks at: Friends@SeattleOlmsted.org or 425-885-3173 (limit 40 spaces)
June 20-21 Symposium at: historicsattle.org or 206-622-6952

THE SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER
NOVEMBER 18, 1906

GROUND PLAN OF FAIR NOW READY

Landscape Artist Olmsted Completes His Work for the A.-Y.-P.

DESCRIPTION OF DESIGN

Mount Rainier Avenue, Principal One, Points Directly at Washington's Great Peak

At last the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition has materialized into something that at least suggests the glory and the splendor of the finished reality. The many months of hard and faithful labor on the part of the exhibition board and its employees, may be said to have culminated in the ground plan of the fair, herewith reproduced. All the work hitherto had led up to this first definite outline of the road as whole and stands the wonderful "City of Gold" that is to be.

The plan here given is the work of Mr. John C. Olmsted, of Olmsted Bros., of Brookline, Mass. Mr. George P. Cottrell has worked in conjunction with Mr. Olmsted. The plan has been submitted to the grounds and building committee and the university regents, and has been approved by them. But it must be understood that this plan is not by any means final. It gives a general outline, and all probability will be followed, but there may be many minor alterations.

For instance, there will be employed an architect and a supervising architect. These, in conjunction with the fair management, may alter the shape, may exchange the sites of the different buildings, and may abolish some altogether and supply their places with others yet to be thought of. But as a general rule, as far as can now be seen—the plan as given will be followed.

The main avenue of the fair is to point direct at Mount Rainier. Thus the line is the landscape, forms the landmark which the exposition will have. The other avenues are parallel or at right angles, or connect in some well-defined and commonly-accepted geometrical figure with the avenue along whose entire length the mounts may be seen.

Many of the names on the map may be changed. For instance, what "The Fair Struck" is a suitable name for what "The World's Fair" was in St. Louis was "The Pike," and in Chicago was "The Midway," has yet to be discussed. The exact dimensions of the grounds of the athletic grounds, and of various other areas, may be slightly altered, and one may gain at the expense of the other, but as already intimated the general design will be preserved.

There will be four principal gateways, "North Parkway," "Service" and "Omnibus," with of course the railway entrance that is approached by the subway, and in accordance with the plan for a graceful curve toward Lake Washington. The plan here given is the work of Mr. Olmsted, and is a lengthy report. Much of it is technical, but a portion will be of great interest. Mr. Olmsted says:

Free Water Transportation
"It is hoped that the approaches by water both on Lake Union and on Lake Washington, may prove as popular as they are attractive. It would not seem unreasonable for the street railway company itself to provide water transportation in connection with the fair, and which carry passengers to Lake Union and back to the city, and to be located in order to make these routes popular. The plan here given is the work of Mr. Olmsted, and is a lengthy report. Much of it is technical, but a portion will be of great interest. Mr. Olmsted says:

"In determining upon the disposition of the buildings and other improvements, we were directed to have them as nearly as possible in accordance with the plan for the extension of the university buildings, with the exception of the permanent portions adopted. It is expected that portions at least of four of the exposition buildings will be of such material and construction that they will be reasonably permanent and can be readily adapted, with a few alterations, to the university. Thus it is intended that the art building and the auditorium, the library of the university, that a portion of the machinery hall, and the power and heating plant, will be subsequently used by the university. The auditorium of the exposition would be used for the same purposes by the university, and a portion of the Alaska-Yukon building would be used by the university for a lecture room building or for a scientific museum."

It is proposed by our plan that the auditorium on the university plan for the library. This block is situated on the west by Fifteenth avenue, on the north by a road in extension of Forty-first street, east by straight road parallel with Fifteenth avenue, the position of which is determined by the intersection of the center line of Forty-first street with the center line of the roadway. In front of the present administration building and across the street, on the south this block will be bounded by straight road in extension of Fortieth street.

"It is proposed that the auditorium should form part of a quadrangle of buildings on the university plan. It is a block south of that above described, and similarly bounded by extensions of the main described, except on the south, where a new straight road is to be laid out extending eastward from Fifteenth avenue, from a point on its intersection. To accord with the university plan, it is proposed to locate the permanent portion of the Alaska-Yukon building east on the block on which will stand the auditorium, and with its east and west axis coinciding with that of the auditorium. It will front west, toward the auditorium, and will be 150 feet from it.

"Machinery hall, including also the transportation and electrical exhibits, it is proposed to place immediately south of the railroad building on the site to be used and overlooking Lake Washington."

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Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks

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