

Olmsted NEWS

FRIENDS OF SEATTLE'S OLMSTED PARKS

Spring 2011

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Park History Talk - April 26

Join FSOP Vice President Sue Nicol on **April 26th at 7:00 p.m.** for a presentation about the history of Green Lake, Cowen, and Ravenna parks. The talk will be held in the Board Room of The Hearthstone, located at 6720 E. Green Lake Way N. Green Lake Park will be the site of our first walking tour of the year, on May 14th (see below for details).



Green Lake Park, 1913,
Courtesy Seattle Municipal Archives, Item No. 29173

Green Lake Park Walking Tour - May 14

The first of this year's monthly walking tours will be at Green Lake Park, on **May 14th**. We will meet at **10:00 a.m.** at the north entry of the Green Lake Community Center, 7201 E. Green Lake Drive N.

John C. Olmsted included Green Lake Park in his plan for Seattle's Parks and Boulevards in 1903. It has been part of the park system since 1905 and has undergone a number of changes - including losing nearly 100 acres of the lake to filling! Come hear about Olmsted's plan for the park and how it has been implemented.

Walking tours last approximately two hours. See page 4 for a complete list of the 2011 tours.

Seward Park Centennial

Seward Park celebrates its centennial this year. The Friends of Seward Park is planning a series of events to celebrate the anniversary in collaboration with the Seward Park Environmental and Audubon Center, Lakewood-Seward Park Community Club, and Seward Park Clay Art Studio.

An Earth Day celebration, scheduled for **April 23rd**, will feature: a presentation on the history of the Japanese lantern and torii history; guided tours of the park featuring the eagle nests, native plants and the oak prairie, the history of park stewardship, and the earthquake scarp; a cherry tree planting ceremony; a presentation by Cornish and Seattle University students about their research in the park; and a fish hatchery tour.

On **June 4th**, members of the Duwamish Tribe will dedicate the recently renamed Squebeqsed (pronounced "skuh-BUHK-suhd") Trail. FSOP will lead a walking tour of the park at **10:00 a.m.** We will meet at the Seward Park Environmental and Audubon Center.

The Centennial Festival, on **July 16th**, will start with a Centennial Walk at **10:00 a.m.** The day's events will continue with a classic car exhibition, a historic-fashion show, an antique hydroplane show, and an art sale. The following day the art sale will continue and there will be a home and garden tour.

For more information about all these events, visit www.sewardparkcentennial.org/home.



Seward Park
Bathing Area,
1936
Courtesy
Seattle
Municipal
Archives,
Item No.
10554

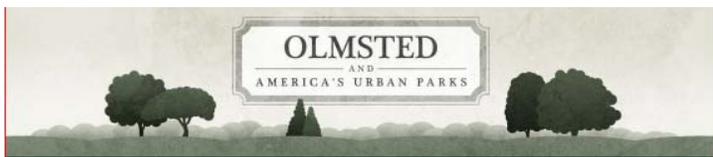
SR 520 Update

Efforts to protect Lake Washington Boulevard, Montlake Boulevard, and Washington Park from negative impacts from the State Route 520 project continue.

FSOP is party to the Programmatic Agreement, developed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires that federal agencies consider the effects of their projects on historic properties and mitigate for those effects, when possible. FSOP and other involved parties have asked for a number of mitigations and expect to see many of them in the final document, which is due to be signed on May 18.

Discussions continue regarding the “WSDOT peninsula,” the land under the unused R.H. Thomson Expressway ramps. WSDOT will no longer need the land for highway right-of-way, so the city could regain ownership. Maintenance costs are a source of concern for the city.

Traffic calming changes to Lake Washington Boulevard through Washington Park will begin this month. Phase 1 includes a marked crosswalk at Arboretum Drive, speed cushions (which are larger and shallower than speed bumps) in two places, and crosswalk maintenance at Boyer Avenue East. This summer, a raised sidewalk at Interlaken Drive and a landscaped curb bulb and striping improvements at Foster Island Road will be installed. Radar speed signs may be installed.



Olmsted Documentary on KCTS

A new documentary, *Olmsted and America's Urban Parks*, will air on KCTS 9 on **April 24th**, at **4:00 p.m.** The one-hour film will discuss Frederick Law Olmsted's life and career, including “the visionary urban planner and landscape architect's impact on the development of America's first great city parks in the late 19th century.”

A companion website, www.theolmstedlegacy.com, features a list of Frederick Law Olmsted-designed landscapes and video clips of interviews with Olmsted scholars and park advocates.



Northern State Hospital, Sedro Woolley, Courtesy Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Northern State Hospital Listed

Northern State Hospital, a mental health facility in Sedro Woolley, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. According to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the hospital's historic significance stems from its, “connection to the broad patterns of institutionalizing the mentally ill at the turn of the 20th century as expressed in the Pacific Northwest.”

The state DAHP also notes that the hospital is a

Resource that represents the work of several notable regional architects and... a major project of the Olmsted Brothers landscaping firm. Landscape architect, John Charles Olmsted considered the project a major accomplishment of the firm. The near complete execution of the plan makes Northern State Hospital a rare intact example of the Olmsted design work purposefully merging health care and agricultural functions. The Olmsted firm collaborated with the Seattle architectural firm of Saunders & Lawton ...ensuring integration between the built environment and the landscape.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation has a short history of the site on its website (tclf.org/landslides/northern-state-hospital) that explains the hospital's development and the challenges facing the site today.

FSOP will lead a walking tour of the hospital's grounds on **Saturday, August 20, 2011**. Check our website (www.seattleolmsted.org) after June 1 for more details.

Seattle Parks Update

Parks and Green Spaces Levy projects and other capital projects are currently underway in Seattle's Olmsted parks.

Washington Park Arboretum - New Zealand Focal Forest. Design of the New Zealand Focal Forest is complete. The plants are currently being propagated from seed of known provenance. These plants will reach maturity for planting in the fall of 2012; therefore, construction will start in the summer of 2012. A public meeting will be scheduled in the spring of 2011 to give an update on the implementation of the Arboretum Master Plan highlighting this project.

Washington Park Arboretum – North Entry and Multi-use Trail. This project provides scoping and conceptual design for a redeveloped North Entry to Washington Park Arboretum and a multi-use trail from the intersection of East Madison to the North Entry and the Montlake and University neighborhoods beyond. The design will renew the sense of entry at the North end of the park, assuming the demolition of the SR 520 ramps.

Jefferson Park Beacon “Mountain.” This is a community-initiated project funded in part by the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. The “Mountain” is intended to be an ecologically oriented playscape in Jefferson Park and is envisioned as a climbable collection of slopes and boulders with on-grade slides. A spray park “park-sized sprinkler” for summer cooling and fun will figure prominently as part of a water exploration zone. This project will go out to bid by April 2011, with construction taking place in summer/fall 2011.

Jefferson Park Playfield Project. The Jefferson Park Playfield, funded by the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy, intends to renovate an existing deteriorated, natural turf field into a synthetic turf field with lighting. It is anticipated that the project will go to bid later this Spring.

Golden Gardens Park Play Area. Work is anticipated to begin in May on the removal of the old play area and the construction of a new play area to the east of the Bathhouse. Construction will take about 2 months. Funding for this project is from the Parks and Green Spaces Levy.

Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund. After a thorough process, the Parks and Green Spaces Levy Citizens Oversight Committee adopted nearly \$7 million in citizen-initiated projects. One project is in Kinnear Park, which is a park that was listed in the Olmsted Plan. The goal of the “Lower Kinnear Park Enhancement Plan” is to “create enhancements that improve trails and signage,

restore the native vegetation and make connections to other trails in the Seattle Parks system.” For more information on specific projects, please go to the Levy webpage: <http://seattle.gov/parks/levy/opportunity.htm>.

Seattle Parks and Recreation 2011 Development Plan. Currently, Parks is planning its acquisition and development projects for the upcoming six years and identifying the demands, needs and priorities for public outdoor recreation facilities in Seattle. A goal of this 2011 Plan is to establish eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. The Board of Park Commissioners will be briefed on the draft plan in May. A public hearing will follow (date TBD). More information is available at: <http://seattle.gov/parks/Publications/DevelopmentPlan.htm>.

If you have any questions about these projects or plans, please contact Kathleen Conner at Seattle Parks: Kathleen.Conner@seattle.gov or 206-615-1299.

E-Newsletter Coming Soon!

Send an email to
friends@seattleolmsted.org
to receive future newsletters
via email. Please include the name
and address from your newsletter
mailing label.

Wilder & White Days - August 3-7

This year is the centennial of the design of the Capitol Campus in Olympia. The Olmsted Brothers designed the grounds and Wilder & White, the architecture firm of Harry White and Walter Wilder, designed the buildings.

On **August 3rd - 7th**, the “Wilder & White Days” on the Capitol Campus will celebrate the centennial. There will be a bring-your-own-picnic and lemonade social on Sunday, August 7th. FSOP Secretary Susan Olmsted will be giving a walking tour of the grounds. For more details, check the Washington State General Administration website ([//www.ga.wa.gov/Events/index.html](http://www.ga.wa.gov/Events/index.html)) and choose “Capitol campus activities and events” as the date approaches.



FRIENDS OF SEATTLE'S OLMSTED PARKS

P.O. Box 9884, Seattle, Washington 98109
www.seattleolmsted.org, friends@seattleolmsted.org
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Membership Information

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to raising the awareness and protection of Seattle's Olmsted park and boulevard system. We depend on members' dues and donations to support our efforts. Dues for individuals are \$25/year and households \$50/year, which helps defray program, newsletter, and mailing expenses.

Address Correction Requested

2011 Walking Tour Schedule

Please join us for a series of walking tours of Olmsted-designed parks and boulevards this year. All tours (except Northern State Hospital) begin at 10:00 a.m. and last approximately two hours.

DATE	LOCATION	MEET AT:
May 14	Green Lake Park	North entrance of the Green Lake Community Center
June 4	Seward Park	Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center
July 16	Interlaken Park	Northwest entrance of the park, where Interlaken Boulevard meets Delmar Drive
August 20	Northern State Hospital Sedro Woolley, WA	TBD, see www.seattleolmsted.org after June 1 for details
September 17	Woodland Park	Lower Woodland parking lot, east of Aurora, entrance off 50th St.
October 15	Colman Park	Colman Park parking lot at Lake Washington Boulevard