OlmstedOnline.org Status

WELCOME TO OLMSSTEDONLINE.ORG
a project of the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP)

OlmstedOnline.org provides a comprehensive, accessible, digital discovery platform to support stewardship and understanding of the Olmsted legacy of designed landscapes. NAOP is populating this geographic-based website over time with selective inclusion and/or links to archive materials both nationally and locally.

With the goal of providing the context and tools for understanding the breadth and complexity of the Olmsted firm’s work, OlmstedOnline.org allows users to locate Olmsted jobs, compare archival materials with current-day maps and images, and visit the sites with a greater appreciation of the national treasure of Olmsted design heritage.

OlmstedOnline.org maps Olmsted Projects across the continent and includes the extant plan lists held at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. As these plans are scanned and made available online, links to the FLONHS Olmsted Archives digital collection are added to the Project Details page. Links have also been made to National Register documents and to The Cultural Landscape Foundation What’s Out There individual landscape pages.

OlmstedOnline.org was launched with funding from Washington State DOT, so Olmsted Projects in Washington State are populated with descriptions, images, documents and curated plan images, and serve as initial prototypes. More recent work, funded by a matching grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has showcased the Palos Verdes Library District collection of historic images and documents related to Olmsted projects in Palos Verdes, CA. Other Olmsted projects (see Uplands in Victoria, BC and Biltmore in NC as examples) have also been populated. Watch for additions and join us in helping build out the content in your area.

Current Effort

NAOP is currently seeking funds to continue building out the site. Once the jobs are populated for an area, a goal is to produce digital tours of key projects. NAOP will focus its populating efforts based on where there is local interest and, ideally, knowledge of the resources and available funding.
Sample Jobs

To view some sample jobs on OlmstedOnline.org, check out Job Numbers 02690, 02695 and 02699 in Seattle, Washington, to explore some of the capabilities that are available.

Georeferenced Plans

Click the green MAP button to switch to the map view. If there are georeferenced plans for that job, then you can adjust the transparency slide for the overlaid plan to see the map below.
Documents

Documents and links to documents related to Olmsted projects are included in the Document list. By entering NR as a Keyword in the Document advanced search box, it is possible, for example, to see a list of all the National Register of Historic Places documents currently available on OlmstedOnline.org.

Finding Current Day Images

There are sample images for some of the Washington State jobs uploaded to the image gallery. These can be selected by job and show both historic and current day images of the job sites.

The gallery can be searched by Keyword Terms (see FAQs in top banner) to help facilitate comparisons across projects.

NAOP will be building this gallery of current day images over time. If you have current day images to share that illustrate the Olmsted design and character of any Olmsted project site, or wish to participate in building out OlmstedOnline.org in any other way, please contact info@naop.org.

Be sure to return to OlmstedOnline.org to continue your exploration.