

OLMSTED 2022

presents

CLIMATE CHANGE:

WHAT WOULD OLMSTED DO?

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

WAS AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST, SOCIAL CRITIC, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR, AND LANDSCAPE DESIGNER. WORKING IN AN AGE OF URBANIZATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION, OLMSTED SAW PARKS AS THE "SELF-PRESERVING INSTINCT OF CIVILIZATION." AS A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, HE AND HIS FIRM WERE INVOLVED IN THE DESIGN OF ROUGHLY 5,000 PROJECTS IN 46 STATES AND SEVERAL COUNTRIES; INCLUDING CENTRAL PARK AND PROSPECT PARK IN NEW YORK CITY AND THE EMERALD NECKLACE IN BOSTON. HE DEVELOPED A SET OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL VALUES THAT GAVE SPECIAL PURPOSE TO HIS DESIGN WORK FOR PARKS AND LANDSCAPES. FOR EXAMPLE, OLMSTED DESIGNED THE SANITARY IMPROVEMENT OF THE MUDDY RIVER PORTION OF THE EMERALD NECKLACE IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC PUBLIC WORKS CHALLENGES AT THE TIME. THESE LANDSCAPES ARE NOT ONLY CULTURAL TREASURES, BUT CENTRAL TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THOSE WHO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT THESE CITIES.

OVER 100 YEARS LATER, HOW WOULD WE APPLY OLMSTED'S PRINCIPLES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE FACING OUR COMMUNITIES? ALL OF OUR LANDSCAPES, INCLUDING THOSE HISTORIC LANDSCAPES THAT WE HAVE LONG TRIED TO PRESERVE, WILL BE AFFECTED BY GLOBAL WARMING AND THE ASSOCIATED INCREASE IN FREQUENCY OF EXTREME DROUGHTS, FLOODING, AND TEMPERATURES THAT ARE EXPECTED TO OCCUR IN THE COMING DECADES. PARKS AND LANDSCAPES WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MITIGATING THESE CHANGES. HOW CAN PARKS AND LANDSCAPES BE PART OF THE SOLUTION? OLMSTED WAS A SOCIAL VISIONARY. HOW CAN WE USE HIS WORK AND FOUNDING PRINCIPLES TO INSPIRE SOCIAL ACTIVISM TODAY TO ADDRESS THE FAR REACHING AND POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE? COME AWAY BETTER PREPARED FOR THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT AND HOW WE MAY CHANGE OUR MODEL OF THINKING ABOUT LANDSCAPES AND OUR ROLE IN PRESERVING, PROTECTING OR ADAPTING THEM IN THE FUTURE.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2013

9:00 AM *Coffee & Check-in*

10:00 AM *Panel Discussion*

SIMMONS COLLEGE

300 *The* FENWAY, BOSTON



MODERATOR: TED LANDSMARK,
President & CEO of the Boston Architectural College

SPEAKERS:

ETHAN CARR,

Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

BRIAN SWETT,

City of Boston Chief of Energy and Environment

JHANA SENXIAN,

Founder and CEO of the Sustainability Guild International

NOON

BOX LUNCHEON PRESENTATION:
MUDDY RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

led by

MICHAEL KEEGAN

U.S. Army Corp of Engineer Project Manager

1:00 PM

Tours of

THE EMERALD NECKLACE

REGISTRATION FEE: \$10

INCLUDES COFFEE/TEA, AND BOX LUNCH

REGISTER AT EMERALDNECKLACE.ORG

OR CALL 617-522-2700 SEATING IS LIMITED

OLMSTED 2022 *Steering Committee*

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