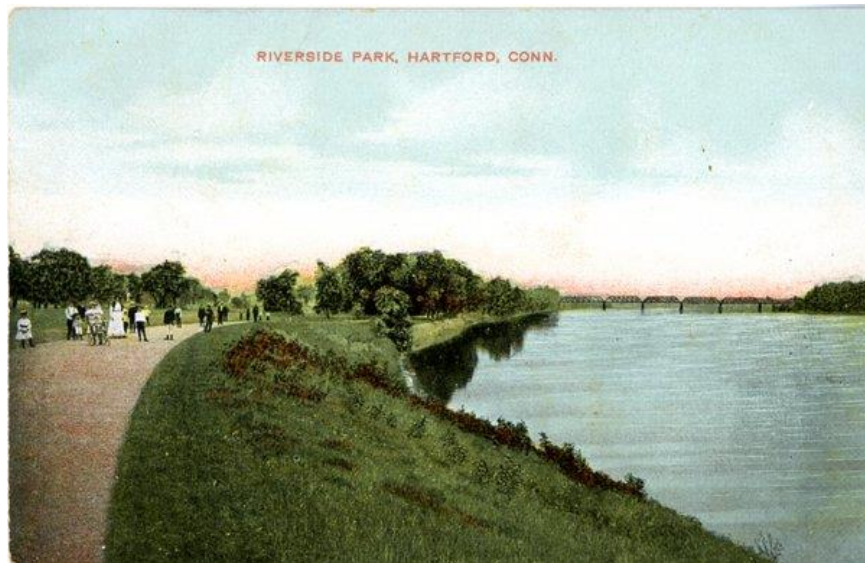




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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS 'OLMSTED 200' EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTING HARTFORD NATIVE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO CITY PARKS

*Display honoring landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted part of
national celebration*



(Hartford, CT) – As the country celebrates Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th birthday this month, the Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library will host a new exhibit highlighting the famed landscape architect's contributions to Hartford's city park system.

Olmsted, who was born in Hartford on April 26, 1822, is perhaps best known for his work helping to design New York City's Central Park, but his firm's credits in Hartford include Goodwin Park, Keney Park, Pope Park and Riverside Park, as well as the grounds of the Institute of Living (now part of Hartford Hospital) and Trinity College.

"Frederick Law Olmsted was a pioneer in urban park design and this exhibit highlights the many contributions he made to the City of Hartford. He was born here and is buried here and we embrace him as our Hartford story," **said Hartford Public Library Executive Director of**

Culture and Communication Brenda Miller. “Our city has a truly amazing collection of parks, each with its own identity, and we are proud to highlight his Hartford roots. This selection of photographs and drawings from our Parks Collection shines light on Olmsted’s life and legacy and we are pleased to tell that story.”

The exhibit, entitled “Returning Home to Hartford – Frederick Law Olmsted: Landscapes for the Public Good,” will be on view on the third floor of Hartford Public Library’s Downtown Library (500 Main St.) from **April 18 through June 9**. An opening program featuring John Alexopoulos, associate professor of landscape architecture at UConn, will be held **April 21** from 4-6 p.m.

Images were selected by parks friends groups as well as Barbara Yaeger of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The exhibit was curated by Caroline Mesrobian Hickman, a professor of American architecture, urban planning and historic preservation at the University of Maryland in conjunction with the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. Printing costs were funded by The Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The exhibit builds on work done in 2021 to digitize thousands of photographs from Hartford’s parks that were donated to the Hartford History Center. A selection of those photographs is available for viewing in the online exhibition “Hartford Springs Into Summer” at hartfordparks.omeka.net.

The national Olmsted 200 campaign engages a creative coalition of landscape architects, design professionals, city planners, public health professionals, conservationists, community leaders, historians and educators to explore the many ways in which Olmsted’s values can address today’s challenges. Rooted in Olmsted’s values of universal access to parks and the health and environmental benefits of open space and resilient designs, the celebration will examine the life, leadership and enduring influence of this American visionary. For more information visit www.Olmsted200.org.

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About The Hartford History Center

The Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library is a non-circulating, multimedia collection that reflects community life in Hartford from the 1630s to the present. Located on the third floor of the Downtown Library on Main Street, the center opened in May 2008. As the official repository for the Hartford City and Town Clerk archives, nearly 400 years of governmental records are chief among the holdings. A significant number of digital objects are available online at the Connecticut Digital Archive, which can be accessed through hhc.hplct.org. For more information, please call 860-695-6297 or email us at hhc@hplct.org.

About Hartford Public Library

With roots dating to 1774, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. www.hplct.org.