

The Olmsted Effect: Shaping the Future through Landscapes
Guided bus tours on Friday, April 12, 2019

Three morning choices:

Depart from The Henry Clay at 9 am | Lunch provided | Return to The Henry Clay at 1:30 pm

1. The Parklands of Floyds Fork is a nearly 4,000-acre, systemic, world-class addition to Louisville's park system that includes four major parks linked by a park drive, a first-rate urban trail system, and a remarkable water trail, all tracing Floyds Fork, a classic Kentucky stream. 21st Century Parks, a 501(c)3 established in 2004, is responsible for the operations and maintenance of The Parklands of Floyds Fork. This public-private project is unique in the region and unlike anything currently in development across the country—truly a city-shaping model. The Parklands of Floyds Fork cuts right through the heart of the last major undeveloped section of Metro Louisville. Inspired by the Olmsted-designed parks in Louisville, it preserves a vanishing landscape while creating the finest urban edge in the country. Major construction ended in 2016 and since has had yearly attendance of over 3 million visits, becoming a community asset to Louisville and its surrounding areas.

The tour will take guests through the entire park system to learn about the vision, design, construction, and operations while stopping at popular public activity sites. These community favorites include contemporary gardens, restored meadows, and modern playgrounds in Beckley Creek and Broad Run Parks, plus the transformation of an old farm into the Brown Foreman Silo Center in Turkey Run Park.

2. Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest was established in 1929 by Isaac Wolfe Bernheim, who believed that all people, regardless of race, creed or economic status benefit from being in nature. Today, Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest comprises 16,137 acres dedicated to conservation and the mission of connecting people with nature. To fulfill this mission, Bernheim utilizes naturalistic landscapes, art, education, unique events and innovative science. Bernheim is recognized as a leader in sustainable and regenerative design, so the tour will include the platinum LEED certified Visitor Center and Living Building Challenge applicant Edible Garden.

In honor of the 90th anniversary of Bernheim's founding, the visit by the National Association for Olmsted Parks and their unique history, a brief ceremony will be held to rename the Holly and Cedar Ponds the Olmsted Ponds, after their original designers, the Olmsted brothers.

The morning will end with a fine meal provided by Isaac's Café where fresh, local and organic produce is always used—including produce from Bernheim's own Edible Garden.

3. Louisville's Olmsted Park System was developed under the leadership of the Louisville Board of Park Commissioners from 1891 to 1942. Louisville solicited Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and his firm to design and oversee implementation of the early park system, establishing the framework of three large regional parks and interconnecting parkways across the city. Continued collaboration with the successor Olmsted firms brought a total of 18 parks distributed in neighborhoods across the growing community.

Sites planned to visit during the morning tour include Northwestern and Southwestern Parkways, Shawnee Park, Chickasaw Park, Algonquin Parkway, Southern Parkway, Iroquois Park, Eastern Parkway and Cherokee Park.

Session leaders include:

- John Swintosky, Louisville Metro Senior Landscape Architect
- Major Waltman, Olmsted Parks Conservancy Project Director
- Arleyn Levee, Consulting Olmsted Historian
- Lucy Lawliss, National Association for Olmsted Parks Board Member and National Park Service Landscape Architect
- Martha Berner, Retired Louisville Parks and Recreation Landscape Architect
- Susan Rademacher, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Parks Curator and Olmsted Parks Conservancy Past President

Throughout the tour, session leaders will place the Olmsteds' Louisville work within the firm's history and national context, comment on the forces at work in the formation of the city, and discuss the specific Olmsted works in terms of design intent, change over time, and preservation strategies.

Three afternoon choices:

Depart from The Henry Clay at 2 pm | Return to The Henry Clay at 4 pm

1. River Heritage Conservancy How do we approach building a park along one of our nation's largest and most impaired rivers and do it within the context of climate change that will put even more pressure on the waterway and its shorelines? This discussion will explore the emerging park plan for a 400-acre park on the North Shore of the Ohio River in Southern Indiana. Perspectives on the project will be shared from the Master Planner, Cindy Sanders (OLIN) and the Owner/Operator, Scott Martin (River Heritage Conservancy).

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Before the creation of the **Waterfront Development Corporation** in 1986, Louisville's downtown riverfront was filled with scrap yards, heavy industrial uses, and abandoned industrial land and buildings. Over the past three decades, the Waterfront Development Corporation has reclaimed Louisville's waterfront for the people, transforming this once-blighted industrial wasteland into a world-class 85-acre park that has played a pivotal role in revitalizing downtown Louisville. Today, Waterfront Park plays host to more than 2.2 million visitors and 150 events every year, with an economic impact of \$40 million dollars annually. Plans are also underway for a 22-acre expansion of Waterfront Park, which will extend public open space along the Ohio River corridor and unite downtown and West Louisville along the waterfront. David Karem, the founding and presiding Executive Director of Waterfront Development, and Andy Knight, Principal with MKSK, will share the story of this epic transformation from wasteland to sustainable, resilient amenity for the community.

2. Louisville's Olmsted Neighborhood Parks were developed under the leadership of the Louisville Board of Park Commissioners from 1891 to 1942. Louisville solicited Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and his firm to design and oversee implementation of the early park system, establishing the framework of three large regional parks and interconnecting parkways across the city. Continued collaboration with the successor Olmsted firms brought a total of 18 parks distributed in neighborhoods across the growing community.

Sites planned to visit during the afternoon tour include Shelby Park, Tyler Park, Central Park and Victory Park.

Session leaders include:

- Matt Spalding, Olmsted Parks Conservancy Education and Volunteer Program Manager
- Lucy Lawliss, National Association for Olmsted Parks Board Member and National Park Service Landscape Architect
- Martha Berner, Retired Louisville Parks and Recreation Landscape Architect

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3. Park Living Participants will be led on a driving tour of residential subdivisions and other non-park sites designed by Olmsted and/or the Olmsted firm. Many of the sites surround Cherokee Park exemplify the relationships intended between this important public space and the land uses immediately adjacent to it. Session leaders will discuss these works in terms of design intent; it's relevance at varying scales and site conditions, and the contemporary influences that are driving change.

Session leaders include:

- John Swintosky, Louisville Metro Senior Landscape Architect
- Arleyn Levee, Consulting Olmsted Historian
- Susan Rademacher, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Parks Curator and Olmsted Parks Conservancy Past President