



FRIENDS OF
FAIRSTED

*supporting Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site |
Brookline, MA*

FY2024 & 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear Friends,

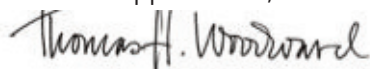
I am pleased to share the Friends of **Fairsted FY2024–2025 Impact Report and Donor List**, and to acknowledge—once again and with deep gratitude—the generous support that enables us to serve as the philanthropic partner of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. Now more than ever, the National Park Service relies on strong public-private partnerships to sustain essential education programs, preserve historic buildings, landscapes and collections, and engage the public in meaningful ways. We are honored to collaborate with the talented and dedicated staff at Fairsted, and are excited to share highlights of our recent accomplishments.

Over the past two fiscal years, your donations have helped fund many important projects:

- **Beveridge Research Grants**, supporting scholarship in landscape history, including the most recent cohort of outstanding recipients featured in this report.
- **Participation in the 125th Anniversary of the American Society of Landscape Architects** (ASLA) in Washington, DC—raising Fairsted’s national profile and strengthening ties across the landscape architecture community.
- **Two public programs** that explored the continuing relevance of Olmsted’s design principles and brought new audiences into conversation with Fairsted.
- **Direct support to the park**, including critical investment in the Olmsted Research Guide Online (ORGO 2.0), ensuring the continued stewardship of key digital and archival resources.
- **Continued financial support to the NPS education program**, Good Neighbors – Learning Through Landscapes, which teaches third graders about landscape design and community building, using Fairsted as a living laboratory.
- **A pilot education program for middle-school students**, offering hands-on learning in landscape design, environmental history, and civic engagement.
- **Art in the Park**, our beloved summer festival on the lawn at Fairsted, where families and neighbors gathered to celebrate creativity, community, and music.
- **A Holiday Open House**, welcoming visitors for seasonal refreshments and guided tours of the historic Design Office.
- **A special grant to the Library of American Landscape History**, made in honor of former Olmsted NHS Superintendent, **Rolf Diamant**, supporting the production of the new documentary *Olmsted and Yosemite*.

Your support makes this work possible. As we look ahead, we invite you to help us meet a crucial goal: raising \$30,000 to sustain the Beveridge Research Grants, which nurture the next generation of Olmsted scholars and landscape practitioners. While this is a top priority, we are deeply grateful for gifts of any size to any of our projects, especially now, when funding for the National Park System is increasingly in jeopardy. Your generosity ensures that Friends of Fairsted can continue to fill critical gaps, strengthening education, preservation, and public engagement. Thank you for being part of our community; together, we keep Fairsted a place of learning, inspiration, and public benefit for years to come.

With appreciation,



Thomas H. Woodward
President, Friends of Fairsted

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FREDERICK LAW OLNSTED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Jay Newman, Superintendent



Left: Scaffolding on the historic building; Top center: NPS staff; Lower center and right: invasive species management. Courtesy NPS, Olmsted NHS.

Building rehabilitation

An eighteen-month project to repair, rehabilitate, and paint the site's historic structures has begun at Fairsted. The project addresses significant portions of the historic fabric on the building façade and roof. Currently, the historic slate roof is currently being removed and replaced, which allows contractors to install a water membrane for better protection against water infiltration. Other metal and asphalt roofs will be repaired or replaced as needed and needed repairs to gutters, soffits, and fascia are underway. Exterior woodwork repairs will restore clapboards, casings, thresholds, and other wood features. Select windows will be restored, including repairs to window frames and sashes and the reglazing of windowpanes. Shutters are being repaired and painted for reinstallation. Once the woodwork is complete, the entire property will receive a fresh coat of its iconic red and green paint, just as Marion Olmsted requested of her brothers in 1896.

Visitor services

Our visitor services team explored new ways to connect with a variety of communities, expanded awareness of our site's mission, and hosted a number of special events. The site hosted its **4th annual Art in the Park** reaching record number visitation with over 350 visitors. The event is quickly becoming a summer staple for the community, and this could not happen without the creative partnership with the Friends of Fairsted. In the winter, the site opened its doors during the off-season to welcome hundreds for a **Holiday Open House**. The day was filled with laughter, crafts, and an open-house style tour of the historic design office.

The 2025 public season welcomed thousands through the doors of Olmsted. We were fortunate to host a

fantastic team of three seasonal rangers – two brand new to NPS – who eagerly jumped into the world of Olmsted and landscape architecture. The team worked alongside four visitor center volunteers to provide daily tours, conduct research, and developed new ways to connect the site to visitors of all ages.

Our archives staff remains busy caring for our archival and museum collections and providing research access to the public. The Western Office and California Office correspondence files have been fully digitized, and finding aids are available to support public research. The staff has continued to engage with the Olmsted family after receiving a very generous gift of family papers and photographs. Our archivists are currently appraising this accession and will soon begin processing the papers to make them available for public research. **ORGO 2.0** has launched, and for the first time, catalog information and images of the plans and drawings are brought together in a single research platform.

The grounds continue to thrive thanks to our staff gardeners, youth interns, and Master Gardener volunteers. A much-needed contract is underway to address hazardous trees and perform rejuvenative pruning on both the core property and the Green Hill parcel. In September, a volunteer corps worked alongside staff to remove invasive plants from the Green Hill parcel. This event was part of **National Public Lands Day**, and volunteers were recognized with a fee-free coupon that waives entrance fees at fee-collecting national parks or public land agencies.

We are looking ahead to a new year of welcoming and training new seasonal rangers for public engagement and offering education programs to our local schools.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FRIENDS OF FAIRSTED



ASLA Field session attendees, 2024. Left: at the White House. Right: In front of the U.S. Capitol grounds.

125th Anniversary of ASLA in Washington, DC

In October 2024, Friends of Fairsted joined the Olmsted Network and National Park Service in Washington DC to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Highlights included a popular and successful field session titled Looking Back/Looking Forward: Celebrating and Adapting the Olmsted Legacy in Washington, DC. On a gorgeous fall day, the field session featured two iconic Olmsted landscapes in DC – the U.S. Capitol and White House grounds. With Fairsted staff, the Friends developed



educational panels illustrating Olmsted NHS, the role of the Olmsted firm in the founding of ASLA (John Charles Olmsted was its first president)

and landscape architecture profession, key Olmsted-designed landscapes in the DC area, and the work of the Friends to support that legacy.

Beveridge Research Grants

The Beveridge Research Grants embody Friends of Fairsted's commitment to fostering rigorous scholarship and fresh perspectives on the Olmsted legacy. Established to honor Charles Beveridge—preeminent Olmsted scholar and longtime editor of the Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted—the program supports emerging scholars and practitioners whose work deepens our understanding of landscape history, democratic design, and the stewardship of public spaces. In an era when parks, civic institutions, and shared landscapes face unprecedented pressures, these grants remain essential. They ensure that new voices, new questions, and new discoveries continue to illuminate how Olmsted's ideals can guide us toward a more just, resilient, and beautifully designed world.

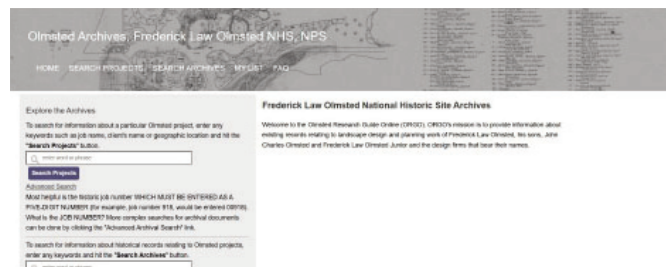


2025 Beveridge Research Grant was awarded to **Bernardo de Magalhães e Menezes**, whose research explores the enduring influence of Olmsted's design vision on the academic development of landscape architecture—both in Boston, where Olmsted lived and worked, and internationally. His project offers fresh insight into how Olmsted's ideas helped shape the discipline as it evolved through the 20th century and beyond.



In addition to the primary award, **Joseph James** received a special grant for his creative endeavor: a graphic novel that brings the story of Franklin Park to life. Through illustration and narrative, James aims to engage new audiences with the cultural and ecological significance of one of Olmsted's most ambitious urban park projects.

These awards underscore the continuing relevance of Olmsted's work and its power to inspire scholars, practitioners, and the public alike.



Support to Olmsted NHS – ORGO 2.0 Improving Accessibility to the Olmsted Archives

Friends of Fairsted is proud to support ORGO 2.0, the National Park Service's vital initiative to update and modernize the Olmsted Research Guide Online and expand access to this unparalleled archival resource. By investing in this next-generation platform, we help ensure that scholars, students, and the public can more

easily explore the breadth of Olmsted's work and its continuing relevance today. Our support strengthens a tool that not only preserves history, but also empowers new research, interpretation, and understanding of the landscapes that have shaped the American experience.

Over twenty years ago, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (Olmsted NHS) launched the —a groundbreaking online catalog that unified project-related records from Olmsted NHS and the Library of Congress. Created with support from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, the Olmsted Network (formerly NAOP), the Library of Congress, Friends of Fairsted, and a dedicated group of scholars and supporters, ORGO became a vital research tool—reuniting historically separated collections and providing detailed microfilm information for materials held at the Library of Congress.

Key improvements include integrated digital images, direct access to Library of Congress materials, and personalized research tools.

Public Programs and Lectures



NPS Photo

A Path Forward: Identifying Accessibility Challenge and Solutions for Historic Landscapes

Alexa Vaughn, ASLA, FAAR;

Laurie Matthews, FASLA;

Monica Rhodes, FAAR

June 2024

Friends of Fairsted board member Ian Scherling, ASLA, PLA, and Associate Principal, Landscape Architect at Sasaki, moderated a conversation by landscape experts about the successful methods used in projects that bridge the gap between historic preservation and accessibility with case studies from National Parks and Olmsted-designed landscapes.

The Olmsted in All of Us

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR,

Cultural Landscape Foundation

November 2023

Birnbaum's presentation reflected forty years of professional practice, incorporating big ideas and anecdotes, lifting the veil on those in Olmsted's practice and his successor firms from 1857-1979 who carried his legacy forward. The presentation addresses how the Olmsted practice served as the definer of the profession of Landscape Architecture and how the firm came to define what a corporate practice should look like and how it should function. It concluded with a reflection on how we can steward Olmsted's ideas and built works today — from deeper and broader cultural contexts to supporting and collaborating with individuals and organizations who are working in their communities to engage with Olmsted and his legacy.



NPS Photo

Art in the Park — July 2024 and 2025

Friends of Fairsted and the National Park Service hosted "Art in the Park" on the South Lawn of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in July 2024 and 2025. This annual festive day is now drawing over 350 visitors to Fairsted. The programs for both years included music for young visitors and their families by



Juventas New Music Ensemble

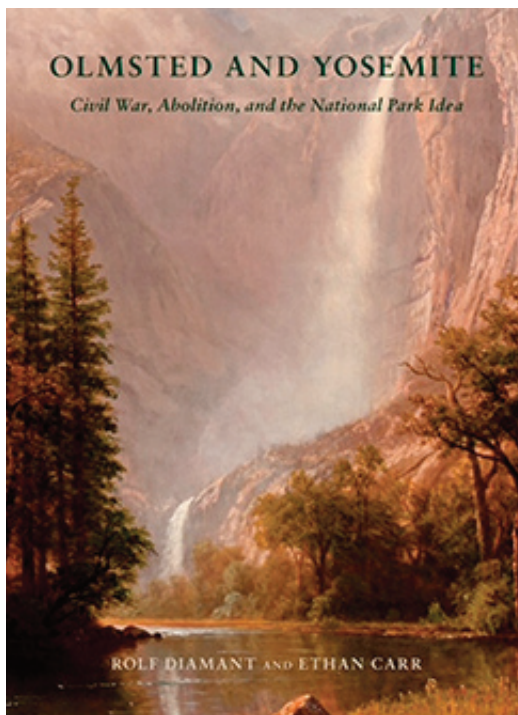
Vanessa Trien and the Jumping Monkeys and in the afternoon, Juventas New Music Ensemble enchanted audiences with original classical music compositions. Visitors of all ages enjoyed art-making activities like watercolor painting, sun-printing, and a “Design a Park” station, while seasonal staff led tours of the historic

design office, offering an up-close look at Olmsted’s archives. We extend special thanks to the Brookline Commission for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council for their generous grant support for the July 2025 presentation of “Art in the Park”.

Olmsted and Yosemite Film Grant



Map of Yosemite Valley, Yosemite National Park, 1929, Plan 8099-1015 pt.1, NPS, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.



Library of American Landscape History

The Friends of Fairsted awarded a special grant to the Library of American Landscape History to support production of the film *Olmsted and Yosemite*, based on the acclaimed book by Rolf Diamant and Ethan Carr. We made this grant in honor of Rolf Diamant—former superintendent of Fairsted—whose leadership and scholarship have strengthened public understanding of the Olmsted legacy and the National Park System. The project also pays tribute to the foundational role the Olmsteds played in shaping the National Parks. By supporting the production and premiere of the film, we help bring their enduring vision for public lands to wider national audiences.

FINACIALS FROM FRIENDS OF FAIRSTED

FY2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024

Investment

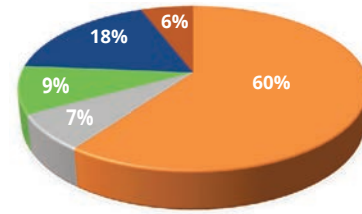
Starting Balance	\$ 2,262.70
Ending Balance	\$ 2,270.60

Operating

Starting Balance	\$ 81,320.51
Revenue	\$ 22,826.04
Expenses	(\$ 20,643.00)
Net Revenue	\$ 2,283.05
Ending Balance	\$ 83,503.64

Expense Detail

Programs, Projects	\$ 12,382.21
Grants to NPS	\$ 1,443.24
Beveridge Fellowship Grants	0
Other Grants	0
Communiucations	\$ 1,937.50
Administrative	\$ 3,680.05
Fundraising	\$ 1,200.00
Total Expenses	\$ 20,643.00



FY2024 Expenditures

- Programs, Projects
- Grants National Park Service
- Communications
- Administrative
- Fundraising

FY2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Investment

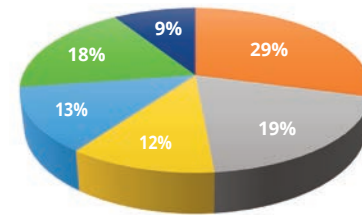
Starting Balance	\$ 2,270.60
Ending Balance	\$ 2,269.78

Operating

Starting Balance	\$ 83,503.64
Revenue	\$ 20,041.96
Expenses	(\$ 39,343.34)
Net Revenue	(\$ 19,301.38)
Ending Balance	\$ 64,202.26

Expense Detail

Programs, Projects	\$ 11,475.26
Grants to NPS	\$ 7,626.45
Beveridge Fellowship Grants	\$ 4,500.00
Other Grants	\$ 5,000.00
Communiucations	\$ 7,181.23
Administrative	\$ 3,560.40
Fundraising	0
Total Expenses	\$ 39,343.34



FY2025 Expenditures

- Programs, Projects
- Grants National Park Service
- Beveridge Fellowship Grants
- Other Grants
- Communications
- Administrative



Spruce pole fence and arch. Courtesy NPS, Frederick Law Olmsted NHS.

FY2024 & FY2025 DONOR LIST

(gifts and gifts-in-kind received between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2025)

Gifts of \$1,000 or more

Brookline Commission for the Arts
 Rolf Diamant & Nora Mitchell
 Robert & Evelyn Doran
 Stephen & Margaret Gill Family
 Foundation
 Jane Gill-Shaler
 Marjorie Greville
 Lauren Meier, FASLA
 Massachusetts Cultural Council
 Massachusetts Master Gardeners
 Association
 The National Park Foundation
 Noanett Garden Club
 Andrew J. & Kirsten N. Shilling
 Tom Woodward & David LaPere

Gifts of \$500 – \$999

Sarah Freeman
 Gary Hilderbrand
 Arleyn Levee
 Margo Miller
 Ann Whiteside
 Kyle Zick, KZLA

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 Sheila Donahue
 Tanya Cushman
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 Michael Zimmerman
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 Catherine Zusy & Sam Kendall

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Art in the Park

Brookline Commission for the Arts
 Massachusetts Cultural Commission

Fairsted Landscape Improvements

Noanett Garden Club
 Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association

Thoughtful People, Thoughtful Parks

The National Park Foundation

Olmsted Archives

Stephen & Margaret Gill Family Foundation

Olmsted and Yosemite Film

Lauren Meier

In-kind Contributions

Akea Cader
 Florrie Everett, Everett Design
 Wendy Machmuller
 Tom Woodward

Special Thanks to Retiring Directors

Phyllis Andersen
 Steven Pendery