

OLMSTED IN BUFFALO & NIAGARA: SELECTED SOURCES AT THE BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



[Scene in Delaware Park], circa 1900.
The George Nathan Newman Photograph Collection
Rare Book Room

KEY

* = Oversized Book
Buffalo = Buffalo Collection
GRO = Grosvenor Collection
NON-FICT = Non-Fiction
MEDIA = Located in the Media Room
*RBR = Rare Book Room, appt. needed
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WHAT DOES THIS GUIDE COVER?

This resource guide focuses on selected sources that describe, illustrate, or document Frederick Law Olmsted's park projects and legacy in Buffalo.

Olmsted's Buffalo influence goes beyond parkland, as he designed many other projects in WNY. Most notable are the grounds of the New York State Asylum for the Insane (the Richardson-Olmsted Complex).

This guide focuses on Olmsted Parks and Parkways in Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

Most of the items listed are in the Grosvenor Room's Buffalo Collection; these are reference items and must be used in the room. Circulating copies of some books may be found in the Non-fiction section of the Central Library or at another BECPL branch.

Biographical material on Olmsted is shelved in the Non-fiction section of the Central Library. FL Olmsted's writings on non-park subjects are also held in the Library collections.

Search the online catalog: <http://www.buffalolib.org/vufind/>

***Please note:**

Items in the RBR (Rare Book Room) must be viewed by appointment. Please call 716-858-8900.

OLMSTED IN BUFFALO

Buffalo's parks represent one of the largest bodies of work by master landscape architect **Frederick Law Olmsted** and his partner, **Calvert Vaux**. Designed between 1868 and 1896, the Olmsted portions of the Buffalo park system are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Original Park and Parkway System:

Parks and Pleasure Grounds:

- The Park (now Delaware Park)
- The Front (now Front Park)
- The Parade (redesigned by Olmsted as Humboldt Park in 1896, now Martin Luther King, Jr. Park)

Park Approaches

Parkways:

- Humboldt Parkway (lost to the Kensington Expressway)
- Lincoln Parkway
- Chapin Parkway
- Bidwell Parkway
- The Avenue (now Richmond Avenue)
- Porter Avenue
- Fillmore Avenue (partially completed, removed from Parks Board control and opened to commercial use in 1906)

Circles and Places:

- The Circle (now Symphony Circle)
- Soldier's Place (now Soldier's Circle)
- Bidwell Place (now Colonial Circle)
- Chapin Place (now Gates Circle, central portion redesigned in 1902 by Green & Wicks)
- Agassiz Place (now Agassiz Circle, heavily modified with the center island lost)
- Ferry Street Circle (at Richmond Avenue, center island restored in 2002)
- "The Bank" (at Niagara, Wadsworth and Sixth (now Busti Ave.) Sts. and Massachusetts Ave. (lost)

Smaller Grounds:

- Prospect Hill Parks (now Prospect and Columbus Parks)

Continued on next page...

OLMSTED IN BUFFALO

Later Olmsted-designed additions to the system:

Minor Parks:

- Day's Park
- The Terrace (lost)
- Masten Place (lost)
- Bennett Place (later Bennett Park, now lost)

Southern Parks:

- South Park
- Cazenovia Park
- [Heacock Park (pre-existing park, not designed by Olmsted)]

Southern Park Approaches: (conceptual design by Olmsted, implemented by Buffalo Parks Board staff)

Southern Parkways:

- South Side Parkway (now McKinley Parkway)
- Red Jacket Parkway

Southern Circles:

- Woodside Circle (now McClellan Circle)
- South Side Circle (now McKinley Circle, partially constructed, completed in 2002)

Northern Parks:

- Riverside Park

Northern Parkways: (conceptual design by Olmsted, partially implemented by Buffalo Parks Board staff)

- Scajaquada Parkway (lost)
- Roesch Avenue (not constructed)

This list adapted from <http://www.olmstedinbuffalo.com/> by Stanton M. Broderick.

Niagara Falls

Olmsted also helped re-establish Niagara Falls as a natural scenic area. He led the "Free Niagara" movement, which called for New York State to buy back all the private land on American side of the falls, and preserve it for scenic public use. The "Niagara Reservation," known today as the Niagara Falls State Park became the first state park in the nation in 1885.

BOOKS: GENERAL WORKS ON OLMSTED	NOTES
<p>Books are listed in call number order. The items in the Grosvenor Room (Buffalo Collection & GRO) cannot be borrowed. In some cases, a circulating copy of a particular title is available. Some items are stored in Closed Stacks and must be retrieved by staff, which takes about 10 minutes.</p>	
<p>Buffalo HT167 .O44 Olmsted, Frederick Law, 1822-1903. Civilizing American cities: A selection of Frederick Law Olmsted's writings on city landscapes. Cambridge, Mass., MIT Press [1971]</p>	<p>Includes Olmsted's writings on plans for South Buffalo parks & parkways.</p>
<p>Buffalo SB470.O5 A2 1977 Vol. 7 Olmsted, Frederick Law Parks, politics, and patronage 1874-1882. <i>The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted.</i> Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, c 2007.</p>	<p>Letters & writings in chronological order. Covers many Buffalo projects.</p>
<p>Buffalo SB470.O5 A3 1997 Vol.1 Olmsted, Frederick Law Writings on public parks, parkways, and park systems <i>The papers of Frederick Law Olmsted. Supplementary series</i> Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press, c1997-</p>	<p>Olmsted's reports on plans for parks in North America: why parks are crucial in city life and how they should be managed. Covers many Buffalo projects.</p>
<p>Buffalo SB470.O5 B48 1987 The master list of design projects of the Olmsted firm, 1857-1950. New York, N.Y.: National Association for Olmsted Parks in conjunction with the Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks, 1987.</p>	<p>List of all projects in America, by location. Indicates if records can be found at the Library of Congress.</p>
<p>Buffalo SB470.O5 F32 Fabos, Julius Gy Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.: Founder of landscape architecture in America [Amherst] University of Massachusetts Press, 1968.</p>	<p>Focuses on major projects. Includes image of plan for South Park.</p>
<p>Buffalo SB470.O5 M37 2011 Martin, Justin Genius of place : The life of Frederick Law Olmsted Cambridge: Da Capo Press, c2011.</p>	<p>Biography. Includes some information on Buffalo parks and the State Insane Asylum.</p>
<p>Buffalo SB470.O5 T69 Olderr, Steven Toward a comprehensive bibliography of the landscaping and architectural work of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux... Riverside, Ill.: Riverside Public Library, c1982.</p>	<p>A list of sources for further Olmsted & Vaux research, Buffalo & beyond.</p>
<p><i>Further biographies and general works on Olmsted can be found by searching the online catalog with the subject of:</i> Olmsted, Frederick Law</p>	<p>http://www.buffalolib.org/vufind/</p>

BOOKS: BUFFALO & NIAGARA PROJECTS	NOTES
<p>Books are listed in call number order. The items in the Grosvenor Room (Buffalo Collection & GRO) cannot be borrowed. In some cases, a circulating copy of a particular title is available. Some items are stored in Closed Stacks and must be retrieved by staff, which takes about 10 minutes.</p>	
<p>GRO microfilm cabinet Buffalo related selections from: Frederick Law Olmsted: A Register of his Papers in the Library of Congress 1777-1952. Manuscript Division, Library of Congress. MSS35121</p>	<p>Photocopies from microfilm. Includes Olmsted's original letters and writings on Buffalo, some newspaper articles, published reports.</p>
<p>GRO F127.N6 O65 Olmsted, Frederick Law, 1822-1903. General plan for the improvement of the Niagara Reservation New York: Martin B. Brown, 1887.</p>	<p>See also Map 39M-18.</p>
<p>GRO F127.N78 N57 2011 Still Film Photographers of Greater Buffalo. Niagara Falls State Park: Olmsted's park celebrates its 125th anniversary. [San Francisco, CA]: Blurb, c2011</p>	<p>B&W images taken in 2009.</p>
<p>GRO F127.N8 D614 1985 Buscaglia - Castellani Art Gallery The Distinctive charms of Niagara scenery: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Niagara Reservation Niagara Falls, N.Y.: Niagara University, c1985.</p>	<p>Catalogue of an exhibition held during the Niagara Reservation Centennial, 1885-1985.</p>
<p>GRO F127.N8 N275 2001 New York (State). Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. Niagara Gorge access project: Niagara Reservation State Park, city of Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York: Final environmental impact statement. Albany, N.Y.: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, 2001.</p>	
<p>GRO F127.N8 P89 1960 Power Authority of the State of New York. Niagara Reservation: 75th anniversary [New York], 1960.</p>	<p>American Rapids Bridge opening; Niagara Parkway section opening; Niagara Parks: a history; Niagara Power: a history; Niagara Power Project; Niagara: related improvements.</p>
<p>*RBR F129.B8 B916 Buffalo (N.Y.). Park Commission. The Buffalo park system: September, 1881 Buffalo, N.Y. : Matthews, Northrup & Co., 1881.</p>	<p>RBR copy 2 accompanied by a letter from Buffalo park superintendent William McMillan to Mr. Shepard, Jan. 6, 1893</p>
<p>F129.B87 D47 2011 Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy. Design guidelines for new construction and landscape features...of the Olmsted parks, parkways, & historic streetscapes of Buffalo, New York. [Buffalo, N.Y.] : Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, [2011]</p>	<p>Guidelines for construction in and around park/parkways, including homes, landscapes, and plants.</p>

BOOKS: BUFFALO & NIAGARA PROJECTS	NOTES
Buffalo F129.B87 F76 1996 Wales, Brad. Response to the proposed January 1996 master plan for The Front [Buffalo, N.Y.: Lower West Side Resources and Development Corp.], 1996.	Front Park planning.
Buffalo F129.B87 O46 2008 Shibley, Robert G. The Olmsted city: the Buffalo Olmsted park system: Plan for the 21st century. [Buffalo, N.Y.] : Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, [2008]	History of park system, modern issues and plans.
Buffalo F129.B87 P37 1988-1998 Buffalo Friends of Olmstead Parks. Parks report. Newsletter of the Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks Buffalo, N.Y.: BFOP	Newsletter of parks and progress, 1988-1998.
Buffalo NA737.V4 K68 1998 Kowsky, Francis R. Country, park & city : the architecture and life of Calvert Vaux New York: Oxford University Press, c1998.	Focuses on Vaux; includes work in Buffalo.
Buffalo NA9015.B83 B87 1991 Kowsky, F. R., et. al.(1991). The best planned city: The Olmsted legacy in Buffalo. Buffalo, N.Y: Buffalo State College Foundation, 1991	History, plans, images of Olmsted & Vaux's work in Buffalo.
Buffalo SB482.N7 K69 2013 Kowsky, F. R. The best planned city in the world: Olmsted, Vaux, and the Buffalo park system. Amherst : University of Massachusetts Press ; Library of American Landscape History, [2013]	History, plans, images of Olmsted & Vaux's work in Buffalo. Detailed & expanded version of <u>Best planned city</u> , 1991.
Buffalo SB470.O5 S63 2011 Schneekloth, Lynda H., Robert Shibley, and Thomas Yots Olmsted in Buffalo and Niagara Buffalo, NY: Urban Design Project, c2011.	Images, plans, maps of major Buffalo parks and Niagara Falls and Niagara Reservation.
Buffalo SB470.O5 O36 1979 O'Donnell, Patricia Marie Survey of Buffalo's Olmsted Parks : summer 1979, for National Register of Historic Places nomination [Buffalo, N.Y.?] : The Author, c1979.	Detailed information on major parks and parkways. B&W images and maps.
Buffalo SB483.B9 A2 [Buffalo (N.Y.). Park Commission.] Preliminary Report respecting a public park in Buffalo...authorizing its establishment. Buffalo : Printing House of Matthews & Warren, 1869	1869 preliminary report to establish Parks Commission. Includes Olmsted's report.
Buffalo SB483.B9 A2 Buffalo (N.Y.). Park Commission. [Buffalo Park Annual Reports] 1870-1914 Buffalo: Press of the Courier Company, 1871-	Early years include Olmsted's written plans, maps & plans, financial information, and progress of early parks.

BOOKS: BUFFALO & NIAGARA PROJECTS	NOTES
Buffalo SB483.B9 A25 Buffalo (N.Y.). Park Commission. Minutes of the Buffalo Board of Parks Commissioners.1898 [Buffalo (N.Y.). Park Commission, 1898]	Information on parks, related projects, structures, individuals, and even zoo animals in 1898.
Buffalo SB483.B9 A26 Buffalo (N.Y.). Dept. of Parks and Public Buildings. Locations, data, divisions and dimensions of the parks, parkways, and minor places. Buffalo: Bureau of Receptions, 1923.	1923 Statistical information on parks and recreational areas.
Buffalo SB483.B9 B9 Buffalo Municipal Research Bureau. The Bureau of Parks: A survey of the administration of the Bureau of parks of the Department of parks and public buildings of Buffalo, N.Y. [Buffalo, N.Y., Buffalo Municipal Research Bureau, Inc., 1927]	1927 Statistical information on the parks and recreational areas.
Buffao SB483.B9 D4 Buffalo (N.Y.). Dept. of Community Development Delaware Park comprehensive development plan: Summary report [Buffalo? : s.n.], 1973.	Delaware Park plans & proposals
Buffalo SB483.B9 D44 Wendell Design: Buffalo, N.Y. Interim report on the Ring Road circulation for the Delaware Park Master Plan: Buffalo NY, December, 1991 [Buffalo: Wendell Design, 1991.]	Delaware Park report.
Buffalo SB483.B9 K68 1987 Kowsky, Francis R. Municipal parks and city planning: Frederick Law Olmsted's Buffalo Park and Parkway system. Reprinted from the <i>Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians</i> , March 1987.	Overview of Olmsted's work in Buffalo. Maps, plans, photos.

LOCAL HISTORY FILE
This is a card index of newspaper and periodical articles, books, and other resources. Covers people, places, and events in the Buffalo area. Search under these headings:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy • Niagara Falls – Parks • Olmsted, Frederick L. • Parks – General • Parks – [Specific Name] • Parks -- History • Parks -- New York State • Vaux, Calvert

MAPS	NOTES
Stacks 33M-9 Olmsted, Frederick Law Study of plan for improvement of Niagara Square [n.p., 1875?]	Published in the Fifth Annual report of Buffalo Park Commissioners, January 1875. Niagara Square
GRO 33M-13 Revised plan for the North Street Circle [Buffalo, N.Y. : Warren, Johnson & Co. , 1875].	North Street Circle
GRO 33M-18 Olmsted's sketch map of Buffalo showing the relation of the park system to the general plan of the city Buffalo, N.Y., Matthews, Northrup & Co., Engrs. & Prs., [1874]	
*RBR 33M-18A Olmsted's sketch map of Buffalo showing the relation of the park system to the general plan of the city Buffalo, Matthews, Northrup & Co., Engrs. & Prs., [1881]	
GRO 33M-20 [1869 Map of Delaware Park] Buffalo : Printing House of Matthews & Warren, 1869	From: Preliminary report respecting a public park in Buffalo, ... authorizing its establishment. Delaware Park.
Stacks 33M-24 Delaware Park : preliminary plan for quarry and vicinity [Buffalo, N.Y. : Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, 2003].	Reproduction of the map by the Olmsted Brothers, circa 1898. Delaware Park.
GRO 34M-192 Map of the Front, Buffalo, New York showing proposed new improvements [F.L. Omsted, 1891]	From: Buffalo Parks Commission Annual Report, Buff. SB 483 .B9 A2 vol. 2. Front Park
GRO 34M-193 City of Buffalo. Park Commission plan for additions to the Front F.L. Omsted and Co., Dec. 1891.	Front Park
*RBR 34M-239 General plan of Cazenovia Park Brookline, MA, Olmsted and Eliot, Landscape Architect, May 1896.	Removed from: Buffalo Park Commissioners Report Buffalo, N.Y, Baker, Jones & Co., 1897. Cazenovia Park
Stacks 35M-85 Buffalo Olmsted Park System map & guide [Buffalo, N.Y.]: Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, 2005?	Sheet map; includes brief history of Frederick Law Olmsted and the Buffalo Parks System plus maps of the city and various parks.
Stacks 37M-13 Design map of South Park [Buffalo] City of Buffalo Park Commission, 1888.	South Park
Stacks 39M-18 General plan for the improvement of the Niagara Reservation, 1887	Removed from: General plan for the improvement of the Niagara Reservation, 1887. Niagara Falls
<i>Many reproductions of maps and plans can also be found in the books listed in this guide.</i>	

MEDIA: DVDs	NOTES
<p>These items can be found in the Media Room in the Central library, and other BECPL branches: http://www.buffalolib.org/vufind/</p>	
<p>DVD SB470.O5 O46 2012 Olmsted and America's urban parks [United States] : PBS Distribution, 2012</p>	<p>Examines Olmsted's impact on the development of America's first great city parks. Told in large part through Olmsted's own words, this film weaves his poignant personal story and pioneering vision with contemporary footage of the masterpieces he left behind.</p>

NEWSPAPERS
<p>The <i>Buffalo Courier</i> and the <i>Buffalo Commercial Advertiser</i> frequently published full minutes or summaries of the Buffalo Board of Parks Commissioners meetings.</p> <p>For other newspaper articles, see the Local History File for citations, Scrapbooks for articles, Vertical Files for miscellaneous recent articles, and the <i>Buffalo News</i> online database for articles 1989 to the present.</p>

JOURNALS & PERIODICALS		
<p>Older periodicals are shelved in Closed Stacks; please see a librarian for assistance.</p>		
Call Number	Title/Dates	Notes
<p>Stacks SB1 .G2</p>	<p>Garden and Forest: A journal of horticulture, landscape art and forestry. 1888-97</p>	<p>Search & Browse through the Library of Congress: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/maohtml/title/gndf.html</p>

PHOTOGRAPHS & ILLUSTRATIONS
<p>Images & a few photographs circa 1900 can be found in: Vertical File/Photo File: Parks</p>
<p>Images circa 1900 will be found in the books listed in our Buffalo Illustrations guide: http://www.buffalolib.org/content/grosvenor/guides-publications#12</p>
<p>Continued on next page...</p>
<p>The Buffalo History Museum possesses the largest collection of photographs relating to the Buffalo parks and the individuals who played key roles in their design and construction.</p> <p>Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy has a digital collection of postcards & other images: http://www.nyheritage.org/collections/buffalo-olmsted-parks-postcards-stereo-views</p> <p>Other institution's collections may include photographs. See Where else can I research...?</p>

SCRAPBOOKS	NOTES
<p>The Buffalo scrapbooks were compiled from 1900 to 1960, and are comprised largely of local newspaper clippings and ephemera. All are indexed in the <i>Local History File</i>. The following volumes are of particular interest to Olmsted researchers.</p>	
<p>*SB483.B9 B88 v.1-2 Parks in Buffalo</p>	<p>News articles on various parks, circa 1900-1960s.</p>

SELECTED WEBSITES	NOTES
<p>http://www.olmstedinbuffalo.com/ Olmsted in Buffalo</p>	<p>A wealth of information and images on Olmsted's Buffalo projects.</p>
<p>www.bfloparks.org Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy</p>	<p>Official website for Buffalo's Olmsted Park System.</p>
<p>http://www.nyheritage.org/collections/buffalo-olmsted-parks-postcards-stereo-views Buffalo Olmsted Parks Postcards & Stereoviews</p>	<p>418 postcards, photographs & stereoviews of the Buffalo Park System.</p>
<p>http://buffaloah.com/a/archs/ov/hp.html Olmsted Park and Parkway System</p>	<p>Good overview resource; a compilation of histories, maps & images.</p>
<p>http://www.nps.gov/frla/olmstedarchives.htm National Park System Olmsted Archives</p>	<p>Archives include plans, scale models, photographs. See finding aids and research guides.</p>
<p>http://www.loc.gov/rr/mss/ Frederick Law Olmsted Papers & Olmsted Associates Records Manuscript Division, Library of Congress</p>	<p>Papers, correspondence, etc. See finding aids.</p>

VERTICAL FILES
<p>Files include articles, pamphlets, and loose clippings. Ask a librarian to see the following files:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks – General • Parks – Cazenovia Park • Parks – City Parks – with individual names (not Olmsted) • Parks – Delaware Park • Parks – Erie County and New York State • Parks – Front Park • Parks – Martin Luther King, Jr. (previously known as the Parade and Humboldt Park) • Parks – Olmsted Park System – general information • Parks – Olmsted Parks – Individual Names • Parks – South Park
<p>See also Vertical photo/image file: Parks</p>

ONLINE CATALOG & SEARCH TERMS

<http://elibrary.buffalolib.org/>

Our online catalog helps you find the books, magazines, CDs, videos, maps, and manuscripts owned by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. It includes the Grosvenor Room, all departments in the Central Library, and every town and branch library. Anyone may access it for free on the internet at the address above.

To find additional Olmsted-related items in our collection beyond those listed in this guide, try these Subject and Author searches.

Buffalo (N.Y.). Park Commission.
 Buffalo (N.Y.) Parks.
 Buffalo (N.Y.). Dept. of Parks and Public Buildings.
 Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.
 Olmsted, Frederick Law
 Vaux, Calvert.

WHERE ELSE CAN I RESEARCH FREDERICK LAW OL MSTED IN BUFFALO?	NOTES
<p>Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy 84 Parkside Ave Buffalo, N.Y. 14214 (716)-838-1249 http://www.bfloparks.org/</p>	<p>BOPC archives have digital copies of park plans, physical plans and drawings, photographs, and other reference materials for Buffalo's Olmsted parks.</p>
<p>Buffalo History Museum Research Library 1 Museum Court Buffalo, NY 14216-3199 library@buffalohistory.org 716.873.9644 x 306 http://buffalohistory.org/Learn/Research-Library.aspx</p>	<p>Collection includes parks photographs, original plans for parks & structures, and publications. See this list for books: FLOlmsted or https://www.worldcat.org/profiles/BECHS/lists/775241</p>
<p>Buffalo State College Butler Library Archives & Special Collections E. H. Butler Library 1300 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo NY 14222 716-878-6308 dilanddm@buffalostate.edu http://bsclib01.buffalostate.edu/library/archives/</p>	<p>The papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, 1777-1952. Collection consists of journals, correspondence, letterbooks, business papers, legal and financial papers, maps, drawings, reports, speeches, lectures, essays, articles, book manuscripts, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous items. Numerous family papers are also included.</p>
<p>Search for Olmsted works in Worldcat to discover items and collections in libraries and institutions nation-wide.</p> <p>See also Websites for the National Park Service and the Library of Congress.</p>	<p>www.worldcat.org</p>