

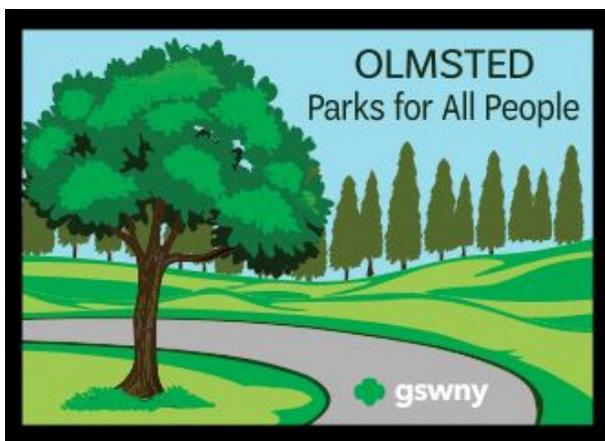
Council's Own Patch Program

Celebrating Olmsted: Parks for all People



- **Daisy Girl Scouts (grades K-1):** Complete 4 requirements
- **Brownie Girl Scouts (grades 2-3):** Complete 5 requirements
- **Junior Girl Scouts (grades 4-5):** Complete 6 requirements
- **Cadette/Senior/Ambassadors Girl Scouts (grades 6-12):** Complete 7 requirements

Have you ever been to a park? What kinds of things can you do in a park? Why are there parks in cities? We owe a huge thank you to Frederick Law Olmsted.



Purpose: To discover the importance of parks and learn about Frederick Law Olmsted, who created many parks across our nation and changed the way parks are valued. **The patch is available for purchase in our GSWNY shops or online at gswny.org/shop**

I - Introduction to Frederick Law Olmsted

- **Learn about Frederick Law Olmsted:** When and where was he born? What did he enjoy doing as a child and what were his challenges?
- **Many careers:** Olmsted was an author, a journalist, public official, and landscape architect. Do some research about his life, his many different careers, and his accomplishments. Make a list of his different careers.
- **Green Space:** What is green space and why was it important to Frederick Law Olmsted? He believed that the purpose of a green space was to “*refresh and delight the eye and through the eye, mind, and spirit.*” He believed that parks should be available for all people, and that their primary purpose is to serve and improve the health of the public. Find a definition of the words “Green Space.”
- **Find out why Olmsted is widely regarded as the “Father of Landscape Architecture.”**
- **Abolitionist:** As a journalist for the New York Times, he traveled the Southern states, before the Civil War, to observe and talk to people about slavery. He became an abolitionist. Find out what it means to be an abolitionist. Find a quote from Frederick Law Olmsted that describes how he felt about slavery.

II – Experience an Olmsted Park

- **Where are the parks?:** Frederick Law Olmsted believed that everyone should live within walking distance to a park. Find out where your closest park is and visit it.
- **Learn about the following design elements that can be identified in Olmsted planned parks:** Scenery, Suitability, Style (pastoral, picturesque), Subordination, Separation, Sanitation, and Service. Give an example of each in a park that you have visited.
- **Draw or make a model of your dream park:** Frederick Law Olmsted designed, planned, and built many parks using his beliefs about what parks should be to meet the needs of the city or community. What needs will your dream park address and how?
- **Visit an Olmsted park in your community:** Visit at least one of the several Olmsted Parks or planned communities within our GSWNY council area. Record your impressions of the park and think about the things that make it different from other parks you have visited.
[Buffalo Area Olmsted Parks](#) – [Cazenovia](#), [Front](#), [Delaware](#), [MLK Jr.](#)
[Rochester Area Olmsted Parks](#) – [Genesee Valley](#), [Highland](#), [Seneca](#), [Maplewood](#)
[Niagara Falls State Parks](#)
[Point Chautauqua](#)
- **Visit an Olmsted park in another place:** There are Olmsted parks all over the United States. If you are traveling to another city, check to see if there is an Olmsted park there that you can visit. Find other Olmsted parks using this interactive [Olmsted Parks Map](#).
- **Become a Park Advocate:** Plan and do a project that helps a local park, such as a clean-up, adding a bench or wildlife feeders, or starting/joining a “Friends of...” group that addresses a park’s needs and plans for the improvement of a park.

III - Olmsted and Girl Scout Values

- **Think about what you have learned about the importance of parks and the work of Frederick Law Olmsted.** Which parts of our Girl Scout Promise and Law are similar to the beliefs and actions of Frederick Law Olmsted?

Additional Resources:

[Buffalo Olmsted Map and Guide](#)

Celebrating Olmsted – prepared by Rebecca Quinn

Documentary: [Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing Western New York](#)

Books:

- Parks for the People: How Frederick Law Olmsted Designed America by Elizabeth Partridge
- A Green Place to Be: The Creation of Central Park by Ashley Benham Yazdani

Websites:

[Olmsted200 Celebrating Olmsted Parks for all People](#)

[Frederick Law Olmsted](#) – Wikipedia