



good neighbors

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & COMMUNITY BUILDING

Real-world learning for 3rd graders

Successful Learners

Confident Individuals

Responsible Citizens

“The Good Neighbors program provides opportunities for integrating the curriculum... All learners can connect with and engage in this project in a meaningful, relevant way.”

— Gretchen Albertini, 3rd grade teacher



Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site



Actual brochure opens here.

Learning through Landscapes

“It was real special to walk in the footsteps of the celebrity who designed the Emerald Necklace, and to see and learn what he did to make the world a better place.”

– Joshua, 3rd grade student

Good Neighbors brings learning to life through a series of carefully sequenced, hands-on activities that unleash imaginative minds and address grade 3 learning standards in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Using the thematic focus of *Parks for People*, and Fairsted as a learning laboratory, students solve real-world problems using knowledge and skills from language arts, science, art, mathematics, and social studies. This integrated approach engages all learners, and provides a myriad of opportunities for acquiring and applying higher order thinking.

Participating students learn why parks are important for people, and begin to imagine their own role in the care and stewardship of these special landscapes.

At Fairsted, students:

Explore the restored landscape to learn how different design decisions affect the look, feel, and function of a place.

Investigate the Olmsted design office to learn about the tools, steps, and people involved in park-making.

Create a 3D park model based on client needs to better understand how thoughtfully-designed parks strengthen communities.

Teachers receive pre-visit materials to prepare students for their field experience and post-visit activities that extend learning and encourage students to apply their new skills and understandings to their personal lives.



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Parks for People

“A sense of enlarged freedom is to all, at all times, the most certain and the most valuable gratification afforded by a park.”

– F. L. Olmsted, 1866

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) revolutionized the nation’s thinking about public parks. In the mid-19th century, as industrial enterprise took hold and cities sprang up around the country, Olmsted turned his attention to designing public parks which he viewed as the logical antidote to the stresses of crowded city living. Olmsted designed parks to promote the physical health and spiritual well-being of individuals, and build a sense of community among the parks’ diverse users. For Olmsted, public parks – open to people regardless of race, class, education, and country of origin – both expressed and cultivated the nation’s democratic ideals.

After witnessing his pioneering work on New York’s Central Park (1858), cities throughout the nation clamored for an Olmsted-designed park. Olmsted moved to Brookline, Massachusetts in 1883, in part to design the Boston/Brookline park system known as the “Emerald Necklace.” Here, at “Fairsted,”

he established the first full-scale professional landscape design office. During the next century, Olmsted’s sons and successors perpetuated his design philosophy and ideals, and developed plans for hundreds of parks, parkways, and recreation areas nationwide.

Today, Fairsted is managed by the National Park Service. The site – with its restored landscape, tool-cluttered design office, extensive archives, and hands-on model making shop – is alive with real-world learning opportunities.



Courtesy of the NPS, Olmsted NHS



Photo by Matt Griffing, Courtesy of the NPS, Olmsted NHS

“I loved exploring the landscape – especially the Rock Garden, but my favorite part was designing parks for our clients. I wish the clients could see all of our model designs.”

Thank you very much for inviting us to Fairsted!”

– Sofia, 3rd grade student

For more information visit www.nps.gov/frla. To schedule a program, contact the Education Department at 617.566.1689.

Frederick Law Olmsted
National Historic Site



“(Good Neighbors) is a natural fit with the grade 3 curriculum. It is an easy, relevant and smart place to start teaching research, science, environment, geography, structure, career, art, math, biography... and an opportunity for young people to see themselves as stewards and empowered citizens with a place in the world.”

– Ana Maria Caballero-McGuire, 3rd grade teacher

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