

Bringing the Planting Fields Cultural Landscape Report to the Ground: Main Drive Renewal Project

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Introduction

An emblem of the Country Place Era, historic Planting Fields in Oyster Bay, New York, benefits from a complex, expansive, creatively-shaped designed landscape. The property as we know it today was envisioned by William R. and Mai Coe and constructed from 1913 through 1955. The Coes secured leading landscape architects and architects, artists, and craftspeople to shape this remarkable estate. The earliest recorded mention of the name "Planting Fields" can be traced to a 1689 deed. Referencing the rich soils of the area, the name comes from the Matinecock, a division of the Algonquin Nation, who settled the area in the 1600s and celebrated the land for its fertility.

Today, the site exists as a place that is multidimensional, preserved and open to the public, yet is still a "hidden treasure" with many opportunities for enrichment and broader visitation. This naturalistic, highly choreographed former private estate continues to evolve as a public designed landscape, historic site, and arboretum. The landscape includes scenic passages, a remarkable collection of rare plant specimens and acres of increasingly important ecological systems and habitat. The landscape of Planting Fields is both history and prologue, past and future.



Figure 1. Aerial view of Planting Fields, 1990s, showing the core landscape of designed lawns and gardens (Courtesy New York State Parks, V Siureone).

Landscape History Overview

The historical sequence of the designed landscape begins with Helen and James Byrne who purchased Upper Planting Fields in 1904, adding more adjacent acreage through 1913 and worked with landscape architect James Greenleaf.

From 1913 to 1955 William R. Coe was the guiding force at Planting Fields with his children and spouses (Mai Coe, married 1920 until her death in 1924; Caroline Graham Slaughter, married in 1926 until his death in 1955) present as influencers and users. This period divides into three timeframes based on the members of the team:

1. 1913 to spring 1918- William R. Coe with A. Robeson Sargent, Guy Lowell, Office of Guy Lowell, Boston
2. 1918 to 1927- William R. Coe with James Frederick Dawson, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects
3. 1927 to 1955- William R. Coe with Superintendents

Upon Coe's death in March 1955, the property transferred immediately to New York State, and transitioned to a public institution from that date forward. In 1952 W.R. Coe established Planting Fields Foundation (PFF) and at the time of his death in 1955, the site was given to the people of the State of New York. Two periods of historic site use bring the property up to the present: 1955 to 1971- SUNY Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute, and 1972 onward to present day, New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP).

Unusual for an estate landscape, the original 409-acre footprint remains intact, nestled between Oyster Bay and Locust Valley on the North Shore of Long Island, only 30 miles from New York City. Planting Fields is a rare extant example of a largely intact, comprehensive Olmsted Brothers residential commission. The landscape embodies and displays the character and contributing features as documented in 1955, to a greater or lesser degree by location, expressing the vision of William R. Coe shaped by the Olmsted Brothers and Coe's grounds superintendents and staff. Evidenced by over 400 landscape architectural studies and plans, hundreds of historic photographs and correspondence, the Olmsted Firm was highly instrumental in shaping this landscape to express landscape beauty and feature botanical collections. Careful assessment of these archival materials yields clarity about the intent and outcomes of their vision, to embark on well-informed landscape preservation initiatives.

The public-private partnership of Planting Fields Foundation (PFF) and New York State Parks (NYS Parks) has persisted for seven decades and, like the landscape, has evolved. What remains constant is a shared commitment to stewarding the site for its many assets and for all those who seek to enjoy it. Since 2019, Planting Fields has undertaken major steps to gain a thorough understanding of the Olmsted Brothers landscape, to undertake a multi-year restoration, conservation and adaptation process that repositions this critical heritage to revitalize the human and nature-shaped designed cultural landscape to yield transformative results.

Recognition and Future Shaping of the Olmsted Landscape Heritage through the Planting Fields Cultural Landscape Report

While the Planting Fields Olmsted heritage is at the center this landscape, it required several decades and an evolution of perceived values before Planting Fields Foundation set out to understand and celebrate this important and highly evident facet of Planting Fields. The single defining act that solidified our commitment to the Olmsted legacy and future at Planting Fields was the development of a Cultural Landscape Report. In the Spring of 2019, following a transition in leadership, Planting Fields Foundation engaged Heritage Landscapes LLC to bring a highly detailed Planting Fields Cultural

Landscape Report (PFCLR) to fruition. A group of individuals from PFF, NYS Parks and Heritage Landscapes formed the PFCLR working committee.

The PFCLR is a foundational document that gathers, illustrates, and communicates the cultural landscape origins, evolution, current and future directions, based on federal preservation guidance, integrated with site issues and imperatives. This PFCLR begins with documenting site history, acknowledging native peoples and studying in detail the evolution of the designed landscape. Mapping the existing landscape in detail and integrating the 2017 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) plant inventory enabled the comparison of the Olmsted Coe as-built landscape with the landscape of today. Analysis of landscape significance, integrity, continuity and change over time followed, leading to an exploration of appropriate preservation treatment. Selecting a rehabilitation preservation approach, recognized the values of both the designed landscape and the extensive arboretum while supporting consideration of visitor experience and safety, natural resources and habitat, and maintainability. It sets forth a landscape preservation approach and prioritizes detailed preservation treatment interventions and priorities for ongoing landscape revitalization and stewardship. The PFCLR efforts were enthusiastically supported by New York State Parks and the Division for Historic Preservation and the NYS team on site at Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park (PFASHP). The thorough PFCLR forms the foundation for future actions. The PFCLR assists PFF and NYS Parks in stewarding Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park as a vibrant asset for contemporary life now and in the years ahead.

History and period plans are shaped by documentation. Augmenting the research, documentation and mapping carried out by Christopher Flagg, Chief, Bureau of Historic Site and Park Services, Division for Historic Preservation, NYS Parks, Heritage Landscapes prepared a highly detailed 1956 plan. This critical moment closes the Coe Olmsted historic period. Documentation from multiple sources was employed, including FLONHS archives, historic aerial photographs, Planting Fields Foundation archival images, as well as careful field observations, to augment and clarify this as-built 1956 plan. That plan uses the 2019 plan as a base, adding, removing and refining as documentary sources direct. These two plans, 1956 and 2019, are readily overlaid and aligned as digital files providing for direct comparison of continuity and change.

To prepare a 2019 digital base plan in AutoCAD, Heritage Landscapes employed several source documents, as well as on-the-ground study. Flagg created an incomplete 2006 ACAD drawing and PFASHP carried out a 2017 vegetation inventory, locating some 9,000 plants digitally on an ESRI GIS platform. These digital files were employed to develop a detailed 2019 existing landscape base plan with an unusually complete arboretum capture.

Analysis builds on the period plan sequence and current mapping. Heritage Landscapes defined nine landscape character areas (LCAs). This geographic division of the Planting Fields property into character areas of the landscape is based on the 1955 landscape as completed under Coe and his team. The LCAs are also relevant to the current park property. These LCAs are:

- LCA 1 Coe Hall Gardens and Camellia House Lawn- series of gardens south of Coe Hall
- LCA 2 East & West Lawns and Collections- East Lawn basically open lawn dotted with a few trees and the Beech Copse of 19 trees, and the West Lawn carefully planted with sunlit specimen trees surrounded by gentle slopes, and collections positioned in wooded border
- LCA 3 Planting Fields Entry Drive Landscape- east entry drive bordered by offset double rows of beech trees with a border of articulating plantings facing down the woods
- LCA 4 Carshalton Gates and Drive Landscape- west entry beginning in hollow pre-1913, shifting to west edge off Chicken Valley Road with Coe purchase of English gates and Olmsted Brothers design of new drive and planted woodland margins
- LCA 5 Taxus Field and Collections-Open field shaped by Coe and Superintendents by moving large yew/Taxus species from other areas of the property

- LCA 6 Manor House Garden and Landscape- designed in 1955 and constructed by 1956, a Modernist landscape accompanying the new Manor House
- LCA 7 Productive Gardens and Main Greenhouse- vegetable gardens, paddocks and some display gardens arranged in a geometric pattern of rectangles
- LCA 8 Farm Fields- open fields to the south
- LCA 9 Woods and Trails-larger woodlands to east and west with other small woodland fragments

In terms of designed landscape history, LCAs 1 to 7 were all laid out purposely, thoughtfully designed, one or more times. LCA 8, farm fields and LCA 8 woodlands express general continuity of land use with recent modification of the fields to provide large event parking. The LCAs serve as a basis for analysis of integrity to the as-constructed character and for discerning continuity and change over time.

It is neither feasible nor desirable to restore the details of the Olmsted Coe landscape throughout the 409 acres, rather the goal was preservation of what remains and a focus on landscape character recapture to the degree possible while suiting all five future vectors. These overlapping directions to be addressed in each preservation, implementation, presentation, and ongoing care recommendation include:

- Restore Historic Design
- Expand, Manage Collections
- Present Ecology, Scenery
- Enhance Visitor Experience, Learning and Services
- Pursue Active Functions

To define the way forward, a holistic understanding of place, evolution and current and future needs and desires anchors the decision-making processes to address historic landscape character renewal, robust engaged uses and programs, and focused landscape management and maintenance. The landscape history is carefully considered in preservation of historic features and also in stewardship of valued contemporary additions, particularly the significant plant collection. Decades of landscape evolution through different ownership and uses created layered importance and meaning. The Olmsted and arboretum landscape recommendations navigate diverse values, current conditions and future harmony-guiding initiatives, funding, and actions. Based on the knowledge gained in the process and collaboration of PFF, PFASHP and NYS OPRHP, the PF CLR brings forward logical, achievable recommendations to preserve, present and enhance this landscape treasure.

PUBLIC LANDSCAPES = SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL & NATURAL HERITAGE ASSETS

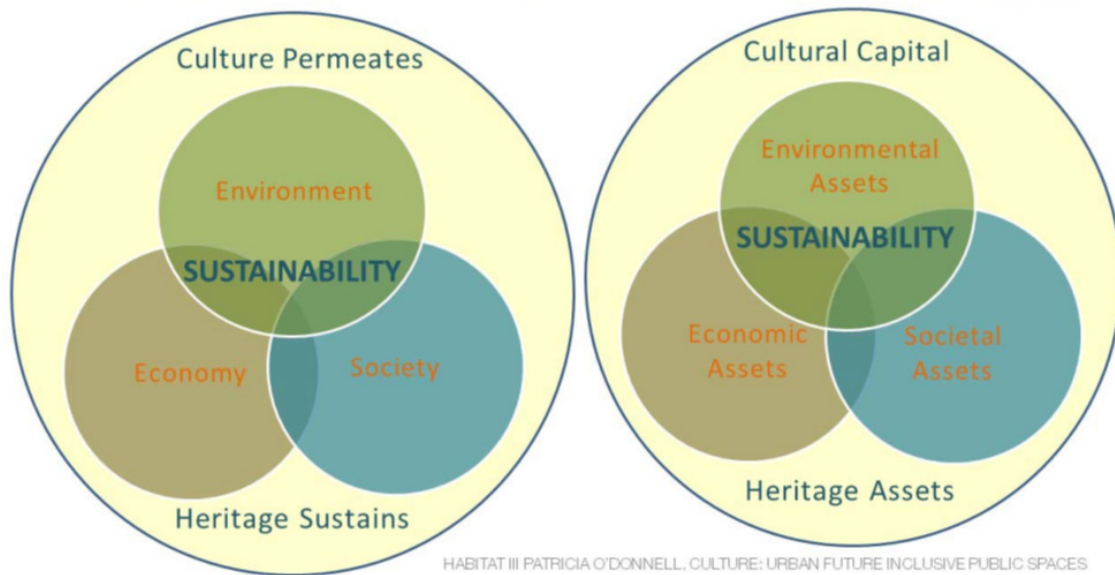


Figure 2. Sustainability diagram addressing environment, economy and society as permeated by culture, and the shift from thinking about sustainable resources to conceiving as assets, with inherent value.

Act Locally Think Globally United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) for Planting Fields

The CLR recommendations fill the spectrum from micro to macro, and simultaneously ensure that the site is part of a larger context in the area of sustainability issues. This is a unique characteristic of Heritage Landscapes' work, which ensures that sites are looking inward and outward concurrently.

There is a widespread misconception that sustainability focuses solely on the environment. However, the three pillars of sustainability are Economy, Society, and Environment, intertwined with Culture. Planting Fields, aligning to its mission, can become a robust platform for demonstrating all these facets of sustainability. It is an easy shift to see economy, society, environment, and culture as interrelated groups of assets. At Planting Fields these assets enable landscape heritage to drive sustainable action including climate resilience. Through implementation of this PFCLR integrated plan, Planting Fields is activating their potential, employing resource assets to more deeply connect people to place aligning projects and management with the UN SDGs global objectives. The specific sustainability goals relevant to Planting Fields include:

Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being - *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*; Planting Fields offers healthy outdoor experience and a focus on wellness can be enlarged.

Goal 11: Safe, Sustainable Cities - *provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces*; Planting Fields can become a place of resilience, incorporating all three pillars of sustainability- environment, society and economy, with the particular target of 11.4 which directs the protections of cultural and natural resources. Moving forward as combined assets of bio-cultural diversity acts on an integrated vision for the lands and habitats Planting Fields. Benefit of access to the green spaces of Planting Fields was evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, where visitation to the site tripled in peak months, as visitors sought safe outdoor space.

Goal 13: Climate Action - *take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact*;

Stewarding trees and landscape are climate action strategies, and Planting Fields has to identify what it contributes, in terms of cooling, oxygen, storm water, etc. toward combatting climate change. In particular, carbon sequestration of the woodlands and all the trees is an important climate action for Planting Fields.

Goal 15: Life on Land - *protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems; Steward healthy productive land at Planting Fields enhancing biotic diversity and habitat. Advancing the quality of the groundplane vegetation, to move beyond sterile turfgrass toward native edges and wildflowers, is a vector for Planting Fields to enhance the habitat.*

Goal 17: Partnerships - *global partnerships for sustainable development; mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources;* The basis of Planting Fields is a private-public partnership between Planting Fields Foundation and NYS Parks. Continuing and enriching that partnership as well as building collaborations with other like-minded entities will advance Planting Fields in the broader community.

There are also other aspects of the UNSDGs 2030 Agenda that can support Planting Fields’s future vectors. The 17 goals and 169 specific targets serve as a touchstone as the property advances. The global 2030 Agenda directives proposed for local application can be effectively aligned to purpose and mission to shape a clear path forward for this landscape. This coincidence of objectives between local and global would bring forward Planting Fields as a thought leader and innovator.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Figure 3. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and related measurable targets, approved in September 2015, form the global agenda for 15 years, to transform our shared planet. Courtesy UNESCO, add note on publication rights.

Planting Fields CLR Implementation

Planting Fields has a multi-layered design evolution requiring a balanced approach to the presentation and preservation of two distinct facets, the historic designed landscape shaped by the vision and wishes of the Coe Family and the significant contemporary hardy and greenhouse grown plant collections. In the late 1950s, William R. Coe’s vision and legacy for the site shaped the botanical

collections as an educational asset. A key step at the outset of the PFCLR process was to develop guiding statements that would underscore the work we set out to accomplish. These statements were dual, encompassing the need to balance the historical significance of the Olmsted Coe landscape and the evolved arboretum, situating the preservation and stewardship of the designed historic landscape of the private ownership period and the stewardship of post-Coe collections as equally valued. This baseline consensus-building has enabled the collaborative partners, PFF and NYS Parks, to understand the value of the Planting Fields landscape in a well-integrated and inclusive way. The PFCLR prepared and agreed operational text to guide landscape preservation, use and management philosophy and approach:

- To preserve, restore, and steward the private ownership periods of Planting Fields designed historic landscape, for overall landscape character, within the context of current and future needs including presentation and learning.
- To steward the valued post-Coe collections and landscapes for presentation and learning, managing compatibility into the future.

With over 250,000 visitors annually, there is an urgent need to improve the visitor experience from the lens of access, aesthetics, and topical diversity. This Olmsted landscape can fulfill the functions Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. highlighted in 1870, in a speech about how parks counteract town life. He suggested in this speech several types of recreation, which can be brought forward to contemporary times as exercise through exertion, working the mind and the body, mental calming through time within an apparently natural place, social or gregarious experience sharing a place with other people in a friendly manner. Olmsted also notes in other documents and works the importance of public landscapes for learning, particularly the study of plants in Olmsted-designed arboretums. These four functions can all be well served at Planting Fields today and into the future.

In 2021, Planting Fields Foundation launched a transformative initiative to redefine the ways visitors experience and understand Planting Fields. To achieve these goals, the organization embarked on a campaign to secure \$1.5 million by 2022, to coincide with Olmsted 200, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted. Early action steps were developed that are both ambitious and practical. This implementation campaign aims to recapture and renew the original monumentality and distinctive pastoral design of the site. This first phase will reimagine the value and impact of Planting Fields by tackling first impressions. This project seeks to advance the restoration of the quintessential sense of place inherent to this and other Olmsted legacy sites, presently muted at Planting Fields with a revitalization of the Andrew R. Sargent and Olmsted Brothers design for the Main Entrance Drive adding an ADA accessible path system, to replace currently confused visitor arrival and progression. Parallel initiatives are implementing multilingual wayfinding and interpretive signage to reinforce the project work. These efforts enable more effective welcoming of all visitors in a seamless and sustainable sequence, elevating their understanding and experience of Planting Fields, as a vibrant historic and contemporary site.

Main Entry Landscape Project

Heritage Landscapes, in collaboration with PFF and NYSP, is advancing high priority action to revitalize the Landscape Character Area 3- Main Entry Drive as a formal feature, that simultaneously respects the botanical collections while updating the Olmsted constructs to enhance habitat value and reduce maintenance efforts. The work adheres to and innovates on the Olmsted design concepts and character to include unified composition, orchestration of movement and perception, comprehensive approach, and sustainable design. For example, in many Olmsted legacy landscapes careful grading raises the green vegetated ground to view while limiting views of circulation. Adding a new accessible visitor path, the design documents employ this Olmsted technique to drop the path into the grade,

below the adjacent lawn and drain it effectively while visually emphasizing the trees, ground plane and plantings. Recapturing view framing and focal elements aligned to the design scale, and selecting durable, sustainable materials are also applications of Olmsted design constructs.

For the implementation of the PF CLR, the Main Entry Drive project ranked as a high priority due to the diminished character of arrival, widespread losses of the historic beech allée and allée margin plantings, and lack of universal access, as well as changes in arrival prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Research indicated that Coe planted the formal beech allée in a tight, dense pattern while the Olmsted Brothers detailed design enhancements to the plant palette and seasonal effects directly adjacent to each side of the four-tree-wide beech formal feature. During the state university and park eras, changes to the drive caused gaps in the composition, while disease vectors for European beech trees led to the demise of dozens of original trees. Thorough discussion of approaches to entry renewal engaged issues of restoration versus rehabilitation, to integrate species disease, pest and climate pressures, limited access, edge plantings character, diversity and change over time. The PFCLR committee determined that oaks would replace beech, and further that white oaks were preferred over red oaks. Detailed discussions, fields review, and preservation philosophy dialogue led to clear directions to incorporate in any staff undertaking or capital project:

- Target a 100-year project lifespan
- Integrate limited maintenance requirements to align with staff levels and skills
- Spread tree spacing to foster tree longevity while reinstating historic formal character
- Reverse road widenings to recapture the strong entry choreography of offset double tree rows
- Renew drive margin plantings to enhance beauty, seasonal interest and biodiversity
- Insert new accessible path to clarify arrival and wayfinding direction for everyone
- Think through the carbon footprint of the project components toward net positive outcome

What Trees to Plant?

The dialogue around the allée replanting began with the consideration of using the original species, European beech/*Fagus sylvatica*. The original planting in 1918 employed 85 beech trees in an offset double row to the east side of the uniform 18 to 20-foot wide gently curving entry drive and 87 beech trees west. The tree spacing was quite tight at about 45-feet between the trees of each row and about 12-foot spacing between the two alternating rows. That spacing brought the beech branches into a cramped touching distance earlier than the 1950s. Sequential decline followed over time with ongoing replacement, leading to the current condition where only a few original beech trees remain and the current allée lacks all sense of formality and continuity. The PFCLR recommended replacement of the entry allée in a formal arrangement but not replacement in-kind with European beech.

The several current European beech diseases were to be avoided as beech were used at the Carshalton Gate and elsewhere in the collections, importing more disease-prone trees was not a sound approach. With the objective of reinstating a strong sense of arrival along a formal approach, a number of tall maturing canopy trees could be used. The dialogues around entry allée tree selection addressed choosing appropriate species, selecting either monoculture or diversity of species, rejecting trees with current disease of pest vectors, and focusing on tree types for vigor, form, durability, and spacing for mature size. The issue of diversity of species is less critical at Planting Fields as the plant collections are extremely diverse throughout the property. The issue of longevity was an uppermost criterion to address.

Consideration of replacement species focused on long-lived, stately, deciduous canopy trees. Addressing a 100-year target for retention, and seeking an ecological benefit tree, the choice of white oaks species was considered. A site visit to a large nursery led to the selection of oaks. With the trees

selected, consideration of planting renewal along the drive margins, ground plane planting under the trees, and, to secure the allée space, reinstating a uniform entry drive to improve visitor arrival and wayfinding, constructing a new accessible walk were planned. Well-grown oak trees of two types, white oak/*Quercus alba* and Chinkapin oak/*Quercus muehlenbergii*, have been secured for planting in the spring of 2023. The front row of 44 Chinkapin oak, will be planted at 5-inch caliper and over 20 feet in height to allow branching to be lifted to a least 7 feet for clearance and to provide an immediate presence. The Chinkapin oak will be positioned at 15 feet off of the drive and 75 to 80 feet apart. While the Chinkapin oak matures at about 40 to 50 feet tall the white oak can grow 50 to 80 feet tall. The white oaks, planted at 2 ½ inch caliper, will be positioned as the second row of the allée, 25 feet behind and between the front row of Chinkapin oaks, also at 75 to 80 feet apart. This enlarged spacing, from 25-feet between and 12-feet apart as planted in 1918, to 40 feet between and 25 feet part for planting in 2023, provides room for this oak allée to thrive together for the long-term, which addresses the requested 100-year project lifespan. The durability, grandeur, longevity of these oaks and the fact that good examples are already thriving at Planting Fields affirms this direction for reinstating a formal entry allée.

A final aspect of the renewed oak allée will be the replacement of turf with a no-mow mixed fescue for the early years when the area below the tree canopies is in relatively full sun. Further, early spring naturalizing bulbs, such as Siberian squill/*Scilla siberica* or Glory of Snow/*Chionodoxa forbesii*, reflecting Coe era crocus massing, will be planted under in the no-mow turf. Crocus replacement would be ineffective as these tasty bulbs would be eaten. As the trees mature and part-shade predominates, the intent is to shift to Pennsylvania sedge/*Carex pensylvanica*.

Renew the Margin Plantings Behind the Allée

In 1918 James Frederick Dawson prepared an annotated inventory of the plantings at the margins of the original beech allée. This inventory of edge plantings and notes on what to remove and add captures the character of these mixed flowering tree, pine and broadleaf evergreen shrub plantings that provided a dense, floriferous character at the back of the allée. Design and material studies are informing those aspects of the project work. This presentation will provide an up-to-date perspective and a series of best practices in historic preservation, inclusion, and climate action.

The background of a fully planted and carefully curated woodland face background planting bordering each side of this tree allée is an important aspect of the entry drive historic design. Comparison of the existing planted margin and the 1918 field annotated design study yielded detailed information about the historic flowering trees of five types, with an overall count of 127 and a 2022 count of 55 flowering trees in the space behind the allée to the east and west. The renewal of these planted margins, shifted back to accommodate the wider spacing of a new oak tree allée, seeks to add flowering trees, singly and in clusters, along the margins. Recapturing a ground plane of broad leaf evergreen shrubs and the seasonal interest of various flowering trees aligns to the character of the drive margins, without the strict application of the precise trees inventoried in 1918. This dense edge also screens views to provide a sense of separation when exploring the adjacent rhododendron collocation to the west and screens the parking lots to the east.

Refine and Augment Circulation

The entry drive circulation system also requires attention. Daily visitors to Planting Fields are required to park in parking lots off of the entry drive, while staff and site tenants are allowed access further on. Due to the widening for an entry booth and a drop-off at the Synoptic Garden path, the drive width varies, creating obstacles to full allée replacement. A 2022 project will reinstate a regular width drive. Today the west side of the drive is curbed with a row of mortared cobblestone to deter

visitors from pulling onto the adjacent lawn. From the entry to the parking to turning that cobblestone curb will be continuous.

Today the pedestrian paths from the parking lot to enter the landscape and proceed to desired destinations are not only confusing, they are not compliant with disabled access requirements. Careful study on site provided adjusted routing, at under five percent gradients, for crossing walks from two parking lots to west side along the tree allée. After crossing, an entirely new accessible path will be constructed behind the tree allée at the edge of the margin planting. In this position the walk will clearly define the edge of the allée and margin planting beds easing maintenance. The new walk employs Olmstedian grading of the path surface into the grade so that the green no-mow turf and the margin plantings will be visually dominant. The path layout will provide enhanced fully accessible access to Coe Hall, rhododendron collections, Synoptic Garden and more.

The historic beech allée along the entry drive from Planting Fields created a dramatic property entrance. Replacement of this formal rhythmic entry experience will uplift the arrival while the oaks will provide an enduring feature and the new path system provides clearer, more intuitive and safer wayfinding, as well as the habitat, carbon sequestration, stormwater capture and shading benefits of the new trees.

In Conclusion

Designated on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, Planting Fields is one of the largest extant residential projects ever realized by the Olmsted Firm, creating a unique opportunity to position the site as a destination. Returning to the original intent of the 409-acre site, originally created as an integrated cultural landscape composition, this combined work of nature and humanity merges thorough, thoughtful historic preservation approaches with sustainable design elements, maintenance streamlining, and visitor experience.

As a part of the Olmsted 200 celebration, Planting Fields Foundation is launching a year of all things Olmsted. In addition to the Main Entry Drive project, the Olmsted Brothers Heather Garden is currently undergoing restoration with an opening date slated for the official kick-off of Olmsted 200 on April 26, 2022. The Foundation is the awardee of an unprecedented \$177,210.45 from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation to present four projects that will serve as a catalyst for the broader awareness of the Olmsted heritage at Planting Fields and on Long Island. The four projects funded by the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation include a multi-day symposium, *Situating the Residential Projects of the Olmsted Firm*, in partnership with the National Association for Olmsted Parks and the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site on October 19-21, 2022; an exhibition titled *Still Life Photography and Designed Landscape*, which celebrates the work and impact of female photographers such as Mattie Edwards Hewitt and Frances Benjamin Johnston who dominated the field of landscape and architecture photography; a partnership with The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) to publish a guidebook highlighting Olmsted properties and launch a two-day program touring various key Olmsted sites throughout Long Island; and lastly, the development of a Planting Fields monograph integrating much of the research that will be developed by the symposium.