OLPA Honored by Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation

The Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) received two prestigious preservation awards on April 20, 2012. The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation selected OLPA as recipient of an Excellence in Rehabilitation Award, which honors projects that have contributed to the excellence of preservation in Georgia. The awards were presented at the Georgia Trust’s conference in historic Roswell, Georgia.

The Trust said, “Planned by Frederick Law Olmsted and his sons as part of the Druid Hills subdivision at the start of the 20th century, the Olmsted Linear Park is now enjoying a fresh beginning to its second century. The Park fell into disuse and disrepair in recent decades as it was threatened by highway development and otherwise viewed as an expendable resource in the ever-growing city of Atlanta. The rehabilitation of this park, its landscapes and structures, over the past 13 years has proved to be a wonderful healing process both for the land and for the community, and the project has inspired other community design efforts in the city.”

On hand to accept the award were OLPA founder Sally Harbaugh, past president Tally Sweat, current president Kirk Elifson, landscape architects Matt Sussman and Spencer Tunnell, and board members and past presidents of the Olmsted Parks Society, Lynn Kerpel and Jennifer Richardson.

The Marguerite Williams Award was also won by OLPA and was accepted on its behalf by Sally Harbaugh. The Williams Award is one of the highest presented by the Trust. It’s given to a project that has had the greatest impact on preservation in the state of Georgia. OLPA is honored by these awards.
Volunteer and Enjoy the Olmsted Linear Park

By George Ickes

This year, spring came early as our January Jasmine bloomed in December. The park is full of beautiful blooms and every day there are new surprises. (Go to our web site and click the ‘T’ icon and enjoy the tweets by Naka Nathaniel.) Hundreds of oak trees sprouted from acorns that dropped all over the park. On one corner of the playground we filled three large bags with fledgling oak trees!. In Deepdene, we planted new bushes, trees, and decorative grasses and put in a fence along Ponce de Leon at the Meade. This improves safety by stopping balls, dogs and errant children from going into the street.

In the past three years, OLPA has planted 1,000 trees and shrubs throughout the linear park. We’ve also planted hundreds of daffodils in Oak Grove and Dellwood—their blooms were spectacular this spring. Of course, more planting means more trimming, raking, mulching and weeding. That’s where you can help us.

Imagine the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the six segments of the Olmsted Linear Park while also volunteering to ensure that the park remains in optimal condition.

We’re interested in expanding our volunteer base and invite you to come assist with the park maintenance. You’ll meet interesting people, make new friends, and know you’re helping a worthy cause. Please e-mail olpa.atl@att.net or call 404-723-3118.

OLPA on Social Media

Thanks to our webmaster, Geoff Walker, and our media-savvy new advisory director, Naka Nathaniel, OLPA has joined Twitter and Facebook. The Twitter feed is keeping the website fresh with updates from the park. OLPA is easy to find on Facebook and OLPA’s Twitter handle is @OLPA_ATL. Please “friend” and “follow” us!

New Information Kiosks

OLPA has installed new information board kiosks in Springdale and Deepdene segments of the Linear Park. Check these boards for the latest announcements on what’s happening in the park. You’ll see our current newsletter and a 1905 map of the linear park from the Olmsted Brothers Firm. Information on volunteering in the park and information on memberships, naming opportunities and other chances to join with OLPA and support its mission will also be located at the kiosks.

If you want to purchase a 1905 map or volunteer, call George Ickes at 404-723-3118.
2012 OLPA Gala Photos

Lynn Kerpel, Suzanne Carr, Mary Dabbs and Wayne Richardson

Philip Thompson and Robin Chalmers operated the front desk at the gala. Philip also designed the floral arrangements.

Christen Larsen, Katherine Fritts, Steven Cappel and Cloe' Larsen.

Lynn Kerpel won this hand crafted bowl made by Roman Stankus.

Becky and Scott Bracewell

Gus and Elaine Persons (left and far right) won this painting of a bridge in Deepdene by local artist Rod Pittam.

Left, Gail King and Marguerite Ingram. Right, Kevin Steward.

Walter Weimar and 2012 Gala Chair, Connie Weimar

Jane Kelly and Jennie Richardson
Spencer King, Betsy Block, Peter Block and Gail King

Jari and Doug Grimm

Debbie Sinex, Gale Walldorff, Tim Ralston and Andy Hall

Gerrit Hagman and Mary Ann Hite

Kim Storbeck and Renie Faulkenberry

Allison Barnett and Alida Silverman

Tally Sweat and Alicia Phillip

Spencer King, Betsy Block, Peter Block and Gail King

Shed Harrison, Gus Persons, Debbie Harrison and Elaine Persons.

Left and right: photos on the OLPA website from Twitter followers. Thank you!
Sharing the Park
By Kirk Elifson

Did you notice the buzz in the Olmsted Park? On April 13 and 14, the Atlanta Foundation for Public Spaces held its Festival on Ponce in the Springdale and Virgiliee segments of our park. Visitors had the opportunity to stroll past 140 kiosks, many of which were filled with beautiful art. Among those curious to explore the event were President and Mrs. Carter. Like many others, they moved slowly through the crowd for a few hours. At that time I was judging the art and able to identify seven winners, all of whom proudly displayed their ribbons. How amazing that our wonderful green space not only allowed for continued growth of trees and bushes, but also supports the development of emerging artists.

OLPA did not invite the festival into the park, but rather was informed of its occurrence by the Mayor’s Office of Special Events. We apparently do not have the option to decline such occasions, but we can remind all of the importance of using the park in responsible ways. You may have noticed that some of the grass along the narrow paths was temporarily damaged, not being used to so many pedestrians. Or, a few areas were trampled as festival-goers created shortcuts. We are working hard to address these drawbacks of a prominent event and are also delighted that the public has discovered our lovely park. In the meantime, we also are working with the Office of Special Events in the Mayor’s Office to alert them to our ability to facilitate only a limited number of such popular events. A second festival is scheduled for September 15 and 16.

Patrick Dennis of The Atlanta Foundation for Public Spaces, Mrs. Roselyn Carter, President Jimmy Carter, and OLPA President, Kirk Elifson enjoy the recent art festival in Springdale and Virgiliee Parks. Kirk was judge of artwork awarded ribbons by the Foundation.

Breaking News: Another Award

As the Newsletter goes to print, OLPA has received word that it has won an Award of Excellence from Atlanta’s Urban Design Commission. The UDC Award will be presented at a ceremony on June 20th at Atlanta’s City Hall. Many thanks go to Beth Grashof, who prepared the nomination for this award.
Memberships and Donations

January 1 to May 31, 2012

Platinum:
Naka Nathaniel

Gold:
Jonathan Shakespeare

Silver:
Honor Cobbs
David Montgomery

Bronze:
Rob Dretler & Muffie Michaelson
Paul & Lynn Farnum
Brian Adams
Susan Baker & Rick Gilkey
Cathy & Bo Bradshaw
David Bower
Martine Brownley
David & Christine Cofrin
Winston and Teresa Cagle
Paul & Lynn Farnum
Jean Finney
Steven & Susan Forte
Gates Foundation
Nick Germanotta
Jim & Sue Heerin
Mary Ann Hite
Kenneth & Carolyn Johnson
Evan Lindsay & Nancy Cox
Lorraine Loftis
Bruce & Dell MacGregor
Annette & Steven McBrayer
David McCauley
Jane Shepherd Miller
Perry Mitchell & Pam Woodley
Sally Morgens
Donald & Helen O'Shea
Mark & Jill Rosenberg
Sandra Stuart Krueger
Springdale Elementary School PTO

Family:
Shawn & Edward Alshut
Jesse & Deborah Austin
James Buehler
Paul Cathcart
Nicolette & Brandon Forde
Bill & Pat Graves
Leslie & Judy Klempner
Howard & Faith Levy
Chuck & Betsy Marvin
Sue Pickens
Sug & Pat Patton
Connie Weimar
Brown & Marjorie Whittington

Individual:
Robert Callner
Robert & Jean Gerwig
Joan Lom

In Memory of Marge Swindell Hayes, mother of Gail King:
Cathy Bradshaw
Judith A. Clairmont
Judy Clements
Mary Dabbs
Selma Filker
Heather Fenton
Sally & Norman Harbaugh
Lynn Kerbel
Jennifer & Wayne Richardson
Tally Sweat
Gale Walldorff

In appreciation for Kirk Elifson & Spencer Tunnell:
George Ickes
Lynn Kerbel
Jennifer Richardson

The Board of Directors of OLPA extends sympathy to:
Gail and Spencer King and family on the death of Gail’s mother. Dr. King is on the OLPA Advisory Board., and the King family are long-time donors to OLPA’s work.

Rhonda Mullen on the death of her mother. Rhonda is a former board member and chair of the OLPA Gala.

Spencer Tunnell, on the death of his mother. Mr. Tunnell is the landscape architect for OLPA.