

Kane, Brittany

From: Kim Schneider <paperbark.co@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 1:08 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Cc: Kim Schneider
Subject: The Conservation & Development Appropriations Subcommittee Wednesday (2/20) at 6:30 p.m. in Room 2C

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Good Afternoon,

As we move towards the 100th anniversary of our state park system, I thought it appropriate to express my support for it's financial support.

Let me begin with just one simple word. History. Englishmen John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843). A long range and large scale thinker. Mr. Loudon acknowledged landscape as nature, art and science. Joseph Paxton (1801-1865) a main commission for Mr Paxton were the first private developers who saw the relationship between communal pleasure grounds and the surrounding real estate in ECONOMIC terms. In 1847 Birkenhead was opened as a public park. Approximately 124 designated out of 200 for parkland. Birkenhead was the first park to use public funds for the acquisition and development of the parkland and the first to use the proceeds from the sale of the adjacent lands to pay back the funds. And our American forefathers. Thomas Jefferson (1743-1825) his vision of of the unfolding landscape was an unimaginable rich resource, a bounty for future generations. "Where has nature spread so rich a mantle under the eye? Mountains, forests, rocks, rivers. With what majesty do we ride above the storms! How sublime to look down into the workhouse of nature, to see her clouds, hail, snow, thunder, all fabricated at our feet! And the glorious sun when rising as if out of distant water, just gilding the tops of the ,mountains and giving life to all nature." Thomas Jefferson. And then ahead to Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852). His reformer's cry championed the public park as the fundamental civilizing institution of American democracy. A citizen's advocate Downing points out that there were no royal academies. Public parks and public libraries and museums, educational and cultural institutions founded by the vision of individuals. The actions of community organizers with the will of legislators that were elected by the people. Downing was of course a main visionary of Central Park. If not for his untimely death it would be he whose name is synonymous with Central Park, not Olmstead. Prior to public parks cemeteries were used as places for strolling. One of the most famous cemeteries in New England Mount Auburn was just that. Now let me end with the great Central Park. In 1853 the land was acquired. The rest is history.

So much more could be said of the history of our landscape and it's importance is numerous ways. Please don't forget these great men and women who had visions of our land so many years ago. And whose visions have proved to be valuable to all of us. Economically, culturally, and socially.

Thank you for taking the time to present and listen to my thoughts.

Kim Schneider
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