Re-Viewing the Landscape of Mount Royal
4, 5, 6 November 2010
Montreal, Quebec

Sustaining Historic Public Landscapes
Decision Making for the Preservation of Historic Public Landscapes in the United States

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ICOMOS/IFLA Cultural Landscapes Committee
Heritage Landscapes
Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners
Renewing Historic Parks as Keystones of Livability: Recognize the Multiple Values & Functionalities of Parks

City Identity
- Historic Preservation
- Park Character
- Legacy & Uniqueness
- Adaptability & Innovation
- Aesthetics

Livability
- Sustainability
- Natural Resources
- Conservation
- Ecological Stewardship
- Habitat Diversity

Linkages
- Community Awareness
- Heighten Sense of Value
- Partnerships
- Volunteerism

Connections
- Presence of Parks

Quality of Experience
- Diverse Uses
- Use Conflicts
- Programs

Diverse Uses
- Programs
- Basic Services
- Public Safety
- Perceived Security

Aesthetics
- Heritage Landscapes
- Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners

Legend:
Historic Preservation Treatment Alternatives

Preserve - Steward what you Inherit
Rehabilitate - Respect with Current Use
Restore - Recapture Authentically
Reconstruct - Rebuild Accurately

Question – How can you use multiple preservation approaches in a complex landscape like Mount Royal?

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Advisory Tools

- Documentation of Tangible Community Heritage
- Documentation of Intangible Community Heritage
- Viewscape Mapping for City Public Character Retention
- Viewscape contour Map for Building Siting, Height
- Holistic Planning Process that incorporates Urban Heritage & Values
- Various types of plans for Conservation, Preservation and Management of Community Character and Individual Urban Features
- Plans that incorporate Heritage Values of Parks and Open Space, Transportation, Public-Rights-of-Way, Streets, Trees, Public Facilities
- Conservation Plans Natural & Cultural Resources

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Documenting Tangible Heritage of Cultural Landscapes

Character-Defining Processes and Features

- Natural Systems
- Land Uses, Patterns, Clusters
- Spatial Organization
- Visual Relationships
- Topography, Surface Drainage
- Vegetation
- Circulation Systems
- Water Features, Natural & Constructed
- Spatial Character, Form and Scale of Habitable Structures
- Landscape Structures, bridges, walls
- Vocabulary of Site Furnishings & Objects

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Documenting Intangible Heritage of Cultural Landscapes

- Worship
- Ritual
- Festivals
- Traditional music, dance
- Pilgrimage
- Commemoration of past events
- Traditional practices
- Local Foods, Culinary Arts
- Local craft work, exchange, sales
- Harvesting native plants
- Gathering craft materials
- Range of past & present uses
- Diversity of cultural groups

Documentation is a Baseline Process
Case #1 Inventory to Understand Character:
Riverside, Illinois Historic Designed Suburb

- Developed 1869 to 1940s
- High Integrity to Design
- Engaged Community
- Character Definition Needed
- Development Threats
- 1969 National Historic Landmark
- Incomplete, Update Needed
- Landscape Definition Required

Olmsted & Vaux, 1869 Plan for Village

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Riverside Community Character & Values

Tangible Character
• Land Uses and Activities
• Responses to Natural Systems
• Patterns of Spatial Organization
• Cluster Arrangements
• Visual Relationships, Views, Vistas
• Landforms and Topography
• Vegetation Types
• Circulation Systems
• Water Features and Drainage
• Buildings - Variable Setbacks
• Small-scale Features

Intangible Values
• Shared green space
• Community scale
• Neighborly exchange, courtesy
• Environmental quality

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Diagrams by Heritage Landscapes
Riverside, Illinois
National Historic Landmark Village

- Documented +200 contributing landscape features for National Landmark Amendment
- Detailed enumeration aids protection and management
- Listing includes parks, river, triangles, peninsulas, streets, sidewalks, street lights, bridges

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Case #2: Analysis to Guidelines Process
Richardson Olmsted Complex
Cultural Landscape Report - Buffalo, New York

- Therapeutic, Asylum Landscape Historical Context
- Landscape History & Evolution
- Existing Landscape Conditions
- Landscape Analysis
- Landscape Preservation Guidelines
Buffalo Asylum Origins Overview

- 1870: 203 acres set aside
- Olmsted & Vaux worked closely with architect H.H. Richardson
- Landscape and architecture together created an integrated complex
- Layout and design were essential components of patient care
- Patients actively engaged in the park-like landscape
Analysis of Landscape Theme by Landscape Zones

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Analysis by Existing Landscape Features

Remaining Historic Landscape Character

Spatial Organization  Views  Topography  (Intangible?)
Circulation Paths & Drives  Vegetation  Furnishings

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Landscape Integrity

U.S. National Register of Historic Places Guidance

Seven Aspects of Integrity:

- Location: High
- Design: Low
- Setting: Moderate
- Materials: Low
- Workmanship: Low
- Feeling: Low
- Association: Low
Landscape Treatment By Unit
Landscape Preservation Treatment

Framed by Character-Defining Feature:
- Spatial Organization
- Visual Relationships
- Topography
- Vegetation
- Circulation
- Constructed Water Features
- Structures
- Small-Scale Features
- Site Furnishings
# Landscape Treatment Guidelines

### Character Defining Features: Site Level

#### Visual Relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Significance</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Integrity</th>
<th>Deficiencies</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual Relationships, Viewsheds &amp; Vistas</td>
<td>Scenic views and vistas both into the asylum grounds from surrounding streets and across the landscape remain important landscape features. The visually dominant landscape feature is the main building complex, specifically the central Administration Building. Views are defined by existing landscape features, notably vegetation, alignment of circulation features, and spatial organization of built elements.</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Views and visual relationships are not as prominent as during the historic period due to decline and loss of site vegetation and alterations to circulation features, including the addition of parking lots that have become visually dominant.</td>
<td>Preserve and retain historically significant views, particularly to the central towers. Enhance the visual entry sequence from Forest Avenue defined by shifting views of the building complex and broader landscape. Rehabilitate primary views of the grounds with the use of framing vegetation and by relocating parking areas out of primary viewsheds. Replant additional trees as needed to frame and recapture historic views. Consider historic views when placing new features in the landscape.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Instances

- Historic Viewsheds
- View from Forest Avenue entrance
- View from Elmwood Avenue entrance
- Parking lots have become visually dominant
- View across open field to main building
- View into former farmlands area
Landscape Treatment Recommendations

**RESPECT** remaining historic features through sound stewardship

**ENHANCE** historic character through replacement or recapture

**CONSIDER** appropriate new development that reflects historic landscape character
Case #3: Application
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
George Washington’s Headquarters

- 1777-1778 Winter Encampment
- Forged the Army
- Helped to Win Independence
- National Historical Park Today
- 3,000 acres
- Visitor Issues - Interpretation, Context, Story, Wayfinding
- Poor Quality of Experience
Valley Forge, WHQ  2006  Existing Conditions

Source:
Digital base map of existing conditions in 2000 with 2 ft contour interval, obtained from Valley Forge National Historical Park, XLEKCON, LPL.
Heritage Landscapes fieldwork, 2005-2006.
Valley Forge, WHQ Landscape Treatment Phase 1
Remove Center Road, Recapture Open “Pasture” Meadow

- Limitation of Disturbance
- Machinery Specifications
- Tree & Soil Protection
- Soil Tests, Amendments
- Soil Re-Use, Erosion Control
- Storm Water Management

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Sources:
Digital base map of 2006 existing conditions with 2 ft contour interval, obtained from Valley Forge National Historical Park, XERESOX.dwg.
Heritage Landscapes on site fieldwork, 2005-2006.
Sustainable Public Landscapes – Why?

• Cultural Landscapes are Valued Global Resources
  – Conserving What We Inherit
  – Sustaining Uniqueness
  – Renewing Cultural & Bioregional Identity
  – Safeguarding Tangible & Intangible Values

• Sustainable Components of Cultural Landscape Renewal
  – Reuse of a Place is Inherently Sustainable
  – Containing Human Impacts
  – Fostering Ecological Health of Water, Soils, Plants
  – Selecting Materials based on Carbon Footprint
  – Enhancing the Health of Urban Populations

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Merci!

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Charlotte, Vermont     Norwalk, Connecticut     Ashville, North Carolina

Stewarding heritage places to a vibrant future through holistic planning & design

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