

## Olmsted 200, with a challenge

**2022 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted.**

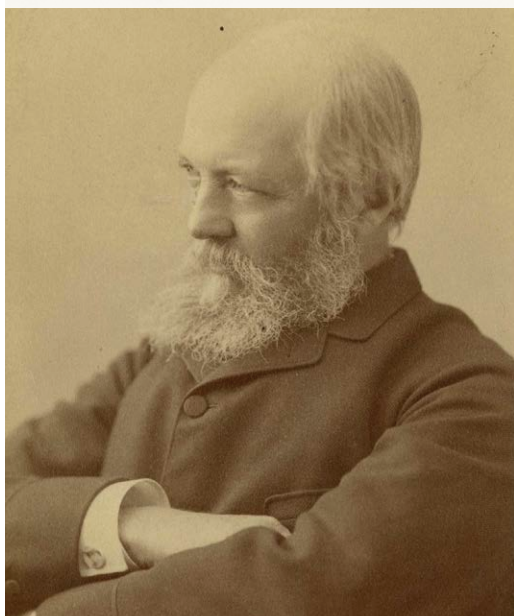


Image credit: via Olmsted 200: Frederick Law Olmsted, undated photograph, courtesy NPS

This year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted, the founder of our landscape architecture profession. Olmsted was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1822. He worked as a farmer, journalist, and public servant including working for the New York Times before he decided to devote himself to the field of landscape architecture.

Many organizations are promoting events and providing online information to honor Olmsted and celebrate his 200th birthday. The National Organization for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) is one of the lead organizations promoting this Olmsted 200th celebration. Other organizations including our national ASLA and The Cultural Landscape Foundation ([www.tclf.org](http://www.tclf.org)) also have events planned.

The RI Chapter of ASLA is also planning an event for June 2022 when we can gather safely outdoors to celebrate Olmsted's legacy. As part of this 200th celebration we are inviting Rhode Island landscape architects and firms to submit information about projects that they have completed or may be currently working on that have a link with Olmsted or the Olmsted Brothers firm.

*Continued on page 8...*

## Award Winners Announced!

### Receipients of the 2021 RIASLA Awards

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects continues to encourage and recognize excellence in the practice of landscape architecture. During the 2021 awards process many projects were submitted that demonstrated greatness and after a blind jury from the Oklahoma ASLA chapter three projects were selected as outstanding:



#### **HONOR AWARD**

Sakura Orihon, Lirio Landscape Architecture



#### **MERIT AWARDS**

Paradise Found, Katherine Field and Associates



Needham Accessible Trail, BETA

Thank you to everyone who submitted for the awards, we are proud of the quality of projects within our state and connected to RI landscape architects. To find out more about the Sakura Orihon Project turn to page 5 and keep an eye out for highlights of the other two award winners in coming newsletters.

*Continued on page 6...*



## Trustee's Report

Nathan Socha, ASLA

Greetings everyone,

As 2021 comes to an end, I am reflecting on our efforts during the year and thinking about creating even more meaningful engagement for our members in 2022. Next year marks the 36th year of the RIASLA chapter and the Executive Committee has been very fortunate to partner with a humble and dedicated group of people to sustain the organization.

The impressive efforts of the year include work of Past President, Andrew Pichette, in organizing and executing the Brent M. Narkawicz Memorial

Scholarship. I appreciate the work of Treasurer Josh Coroa ensuring that the chapter's books were organized and that taxes were paid and our communication chair, Ellen Biegert, for managing the website and newsletter. I want to recognize the community engagement efforts of Kristin Andel and Elena Pascarella for when they represented RIASLA at an Earth Day shore clean up, and their continual efforts to document the historic landscapes in our state. Finally, I want to give a special shout out for the fine work of our President, Steven D'Ambrosia, who consistently executes our board meetings effectively.

I also want to recognize several of our members are moving on this year: Rebecca Nolan, Richard Sheridan, and Jenn Judge. Member at Large, Rebecca Nolan is stepping down as she and her partner recently welcomed a baby boy, Alden Reid Scanlon. Member at Large, Richard Sheridan, is stepping down this year after taking on the role of the Landscape Architecture Department Chair at the University of Rhode Island. Also, Trustee, Jennifer Judge, is stepping down after 6 years as the Trustee. We greatly appreciate their outstanding contributions to our Profession and the RIASLA chapter.

The RIASLA put on the 2021 -2022 Design Awards this past November. The awards were judged by the Oklahoma Chapter. Three entries were given awards out of nine submissions. Sakura Orihon, by Ron Henderson won an Honor Award. Paradise Found by Kate Field and Associates won a Merit Award and Needham Accessible Trail by BETA Group also won a Merit Award. We congratulate the RIASLA award winners and thank those who submitted. This winter, we will be planning for the year ahead. The Ex-Com is putting together a list of ideas and we will make some decisions in January. New ideas from members are welcome, please feel free to email myself or [rhodeislandasla@gmail.com](mailto:rhodeislandasla@gmail.com) if you would like to contribute your thoughts and/or feel free to reach out to request a link to the next remote ex-com meeting and join in the discussion.

As one of my first activities as Trustee, I attended the National Convention in Tennessee. I was able to connect with other New England Trustee members, and there were some conversations about trying to organize a regional event. We received a verbal commitment from our national ASLA CEO, Torey Carter Careen, to join us in person if we did have such an event. These connections have created momentum and we are working together with the other chapters and hope to get survey out to the membership to solicit interest and volunteers.

*Continued on page 3...*

### 2021-2022 Rhode Island Chapter ASLA Executive Committee

#### President

Steven D'Ambrosia  
[sdambrosia@beta-inc.com](mailto:sdambrosia@beta-inc.com)

#### Past President

Andrew Pichette  
[apichette@beta-inc.com](mailto:apichette@beta-inc.com)

#### Trustee

Nathan Socha  
[NSocha@BETA-Inc.com](mailto:NSocha@BETA-Inc.com)

#### Secretary

Lisa Frazier  
[lisa@matherpage.com](mailto:lisa@matherpage.com)

#### Treasurer

Josh Coroa  
[joshuacoroala@gmail.com](mailto:joshuacoroala@gmail.com)

#### Communications Chair

Ellen Biegert  
[ebiegert@horsleywitten.com](mailto:ebiegert@horsleywitten.com)

#### Emerging Professionals Chair

Alyssa Gomes  
[AGomes@beta-inc.com](mailto:AGomes@beta-inc.com)

#### HALS Liaison

Elena Pascarella  
[v@landscapeelementsllc.com](mailto:v@landscapeelementsllc.com)

#### Member at Large

Kristin Andel  
[kandel@quonset.com](mailto:kandel@quonset.com)

#### Member at Large

John Luca  
[jluca@traversela.com](mailto:jluca@traversela.com)

---

### 2021-2022 URI Student Chapter Officers

#### President

Reed Johnson, Student ASLA

#### Vice President

Paige Shepard, Student ASLA

#### Social Media Coordinator

Rosa Adimari, Student ASLA

#### Treasurer

Seth Boyce, Student ASLA

#### Secretary

Maria Church, Student ASLA

A few highlights from National ASLA:

Over 4,000 people were registered for the 2021 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture in Nashville in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. On December 7, ASLA received great news from TN Health, the provider of COVID-19 testing and monitoring. It was reported by the monitor that ASLA had ZERO cases of COVID-19 and no contact tracing is required.

The ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture education program featured over seventy 60- and 75-minute education sessions, 13 field sessions, nine deep dive sessions, three workshops, and one general session with nearly 275 speakers contributing to the program.

ASLA issued multiple statements to the media as part of United Nations' COP26 conference in Glasgow, Scotland. At the start of the conference, ASLA issued a statement calling for greater investment in nature-based solutions, and another [statement](#) at COP26's conclusion expressing disappointment in the lack of progress. [Additional statements](#) were issued on ASLA social media channels related to global agreements on reducing methane

emissions and ending deforestation along with support for House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer's legislative proposal to fund land conservation and reforestation in developing countries.

As of December 6, eight states remain convened for legislative session. ASLA Staff has tracked [215 occupational licensing bills](#). Occupational licensing legislation, during 2021, largely focused on reducing mobility barriers to occupations that require a license to practice. The greatest concern of occupational licensing legislative proposals are the one-size-fits-all "universal licensing" bills. The State Government Affairs team is preparing for 2022 legislative sessions and beginning to track pre-filed legislation.

Nate Socha, ASLA  
RIASLA Trustee







## President's Letter

Steven D'Ambrosia, ASLA

There was an [interesting article](#) that came out a couple of weeks ago that focused on the increasing likelihood of Rhode Island towns like Warren, Barrington, and Bristol having to deal with significant flooding both due to storms and ocean rise. While the report primarily focused on those three municipalities,

being a Rhode Islander, it's impossible to not think of all the other low-lying coastal cities and towns that will also be impacted. The billion-dollar question that it seems that people are only just starting to take notice of is what do we do with these areas?

Much like the movie, "Don't Look Up," the general populace and policymakers don't seem to worry about such large-scale questions because they don't think that they can see these things happening either in real-time or even in their lifetimes. But, like the impending comet, climate change is happening and we've been warned and we are going to have to deal with some very big questions.

The threat is global too, Bangladesh, a very dense, low elevation country stands to have over 15 million of its people displaced with only one meter rise. In Miami, one of the richest coastal cities in the world, stands to lose \$3 Billion of real estate by 2040 according to a [NY Times article](#) 'Miami Says It Can Adapt to Rising Seas. Not Everyone is Convinced.' In that article ideas from putting buildings on stilts, filling the land, and finally focusing growth further inland on higher ground. The tax revenue plays a major role in determining how much effort is put into these solutions. More sparsely populated areas will be left high and dry, because they don't create enough tax revenue to make it worthwhile for the state. Now imagine all the areas around the world that have coastal settlements and do not have the means to save even the richest of homes.

Currently, home prices are incredibly high and coastal homes even more so, homeowners also must carry substantial flood insurance as well. Barrington, Bristol, and Warren all have very expensive homes sitting in future inundated lands. At some point, these homeowners will need to move, but won't be able to sell their homes and will in more than one sense be underwater. Does the government have the ability to pay out coastal homeowners to abandon their properties? Can you imagine the cost to do that? The economic impact of millions of homeowners up and down the east coast losing their homes with no way to recuperate their losses would

be staggering. Also, you have to assume that at some point insurance companies will no longer service homes in what will be considered to be facing impending doom.

Lastly, as the time draws nearer to having to actively deal with this situation, the question that I have been thinking about for years is how do we abandon the built environment to make way for the sea? We can demolish buildings (or nature will handle that on its own) we can remove roadways and pavement, but can we do that on such a large scale? And what do we do about infrastructure located in these danger zones, from piers, to water treatment plants, to gas and oil tanks underground, septic systems, etc.? To leave this all would be an environmental disaster.

In the coming decades, a niche in Landscape Architecture and allied professions may develop that solely deals with dismantling the built environment and re-wilding and future coastal mitigation for these areas to prepare for the changes and challenges ahead. We won't be able to mitigate this on our own, someone smarter than I will have to figure out how to convince people to leave, how to provide them with fair economic provisions, and how to do it in a way that can be done on a large scale. At the end we can probably quote President Orlean from 'Don't Look Up' to determine what will be done: "OK, let's bottom line this. What is it gonna cost me? What is the ask here?"

Steven D'Ambrosia, ASLA  
RIASLA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDA", written in a cursive, stylized font.



Canada ©153909.

Patents pending.

*Receptacles that control waste. Including wastes of time.*

**INTRODUCING VICTOR STANLEY RELAY™**

*Never make a half-full collection again. A wireless sensor and service that continuously monitors fill level, system temperature, weight, location and collection status, Relay is invisible to the public eye but you can log in and see how to maximize efficiencies in collection planning scheduling, and routing. Victor Stanley is the only company that manufactures both the sensor and the receptacles that they fit (or retrofit). Innovative thinking we've been known for since 1962.*

Contact Charlene Vera at [charlenev@victorstanley.com](mailto:charlenev@victorstanley.com)



**VICTOR STANLEY RELAY™**

STREET LEVEL SENSING™ & WASTE CONTROL SERVICE

**VICTOR  STANLEY®**

*Create a timeless moment.®*

[VICTORSTANLEY.COM](http://VICTORSTANLEY.COM)



## Sakura Orihon, Lirio Landscape Architecture

I wholeheartedly agree with Toru Mitani's assessment of freehand drawing as "intuitive and essential." This image ... makes me wish I could hold and flip through them. Each one is a journey. -- Chris McGee, LAM Art Director



Fifteen orihon (ori=folding, hon=book) accordion-fold sketchbooks from the landscape architect's National Endowment of the Arts / Japan-US Friendship Commission Fellowship in Japan were the subject of a solo exhibition at the US National Arboretum in the Springs of 2018 and 2019. The exhibition will be installed again from February - April 2022. Following the cherry blossoms from south to north, the landscape architect recorded pilgrimages to famous venerable trees and documented horticultural practices (branch crutching, rope tenting, etc.) that embody the culture of cherry trees in Japan. The landscape architect has been drawing in orihon sketchbooks since 1994. The format of these sketchbooks allows extended horizontal drawings that are particularly valuable for landscapes, maps, diagrams of linear travel paths, and experiential sequences.

The landscape architect was invited by the Director of the United States National Arboretum to exhibit the sketchbooks as the Arboretum's contribution to the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. -- a festival celebrating Japan's 1912 donation of the Tidal Basin cherry trees and organized by representatives of business, civic, and governmental organizations that welcomes more than 700,000 people each year to admire and study the historic cherry trees -- whose blossoms herald the beginning of spring in the nation's capital. The exhibition was held at the Arboretum in the

galleries of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum which welcomed approximately 30,000 visitors during each run of the Sakura Orihon exhibition.

The Sakura Orihon exhibition was comprised of five custom mahogany and glass vitrines designed by the landscape architect to display and secure the sketchbooks, 49 printed and mounted panels at 30" x 40" in an upright folded configuration, and 2 wooden stamps (stampu, in Japanese) for visitors to print commemorative cherry blossom stamps on handmade washi paper. The most difficult work of the exhibit was defining the







facets of the travels and observations; then, presenting them in a clear sequence. The exhibit focuses on, and is structured around, three narratives: cherry blossom culture, notable Japanese cherry trees, and Japanese horticulture techniques.

The exhibition was accompanied by a public lecture, *Sakura Orihon: Diary of a Cherry Blossom Journey*, and an invited forum, *A Healthy Long Life: Horticultural Practices for Cherry Trees in Japan*, with plant biologists, horticulturists, and arborists from the US National Arboretum and the capital region. In total, over two hundred people participated in public events around the exhibition. The exhibition at the US National Arboretum was augmented by a simultaneous exhibition, *Seeing Cherries*, at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Museum, for which the landscape architect was consulting curator and contributed one sketchbook to accompany books from the Dumbarton Oaks Rare Books Library. The Washington

Post, *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, and other journalistic venues (as well as extensive social media coverage) have published the sketchbooks and the exhibition.

The sketchbooks reveal the broad range of scholarship on sakura: botanical, ecological, cultural, aesthetic, philosophical, urbanistic, political, economic, etc. The fellowship during which the sketchbooks were completed provided an opportunity to research and record the complexity and richness of all these aspects of sakura and their significance in the culture of Japan. Conversations with noted horticulturists, gardeners, foresters, cultural historians, chefs, and others enriched the research. The sketchbook entries also document the role of urban rites and rituals — such as o’hanami (cherry blossom viewing festivals), remembrance and passage (the coincidence of school graduations with blossoming times), and seasonality (expressed in food and fashion) — that are centered on the blossoming of the cherry trees.

CONTRACT | HOSPITALITY | SITE | RESIDENTIAL

# Designed to Make an Impression

**COUNTRY CASUAL TEAK®**

Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects  
[rhodeislandasla@gmail.com](mailto:rhodeislandasla@gmail.com) | [www.riasla.org](http://www.riasla.org)

## Olmsted 200, with a Challenge (Continued)

Olmsted online (OlmstedOnline.org) has an accessible, digital platform that showcases the Olmsted legacy of designed landscapes. Olmsted online has 365 sites listed in Rhode Island as having been designed by Frederick Law Olmsted or the Olmsted Brothers firm. The breadth of these sites are noted on the map in this newsletter.

Using the prompts below or the questionnaire on the RIASLA website, please tell us about your work. Have you worked on an historic documentation of an Olmsted landscape? Or have you worked to “update” an Olmsted landscape so that the site is adapted to current needs, codes and ADA compliance.

We are interested in how your work continues the Olmsted legacy to address social needs, environmental crises, and cultural challenges.

We look forward to hearing from you. Help us Celebrate Olmsted 200!

Elena M. Pascarella  
Historic American Survey Liaison  
Rhode Island Chapter ASLA

### For the Olmsted 200 Challenge Please submit:

- Name of Olmsted project
- Location
- Original design date
- Description of original and current design (100-300 +/- words)
- Info on your firm
- Photos and graphics



A copy of this information can be found on the [RIASLA website](https://www.riasla.org). All submissions can be sent directly to [rhodeislandasla@gmail.com](mailto:rhodeislandasla@gmail.com).

---

## Call for Programs: RI Cemetery Weeks

We welcome your program proposals for RI Historical Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks. Programs will take place between April 1 and May 31, 2022 at historic cemeteries across Rhode Island. All events will be free and open to the public. Please share your ideas by February 25. Thank you!

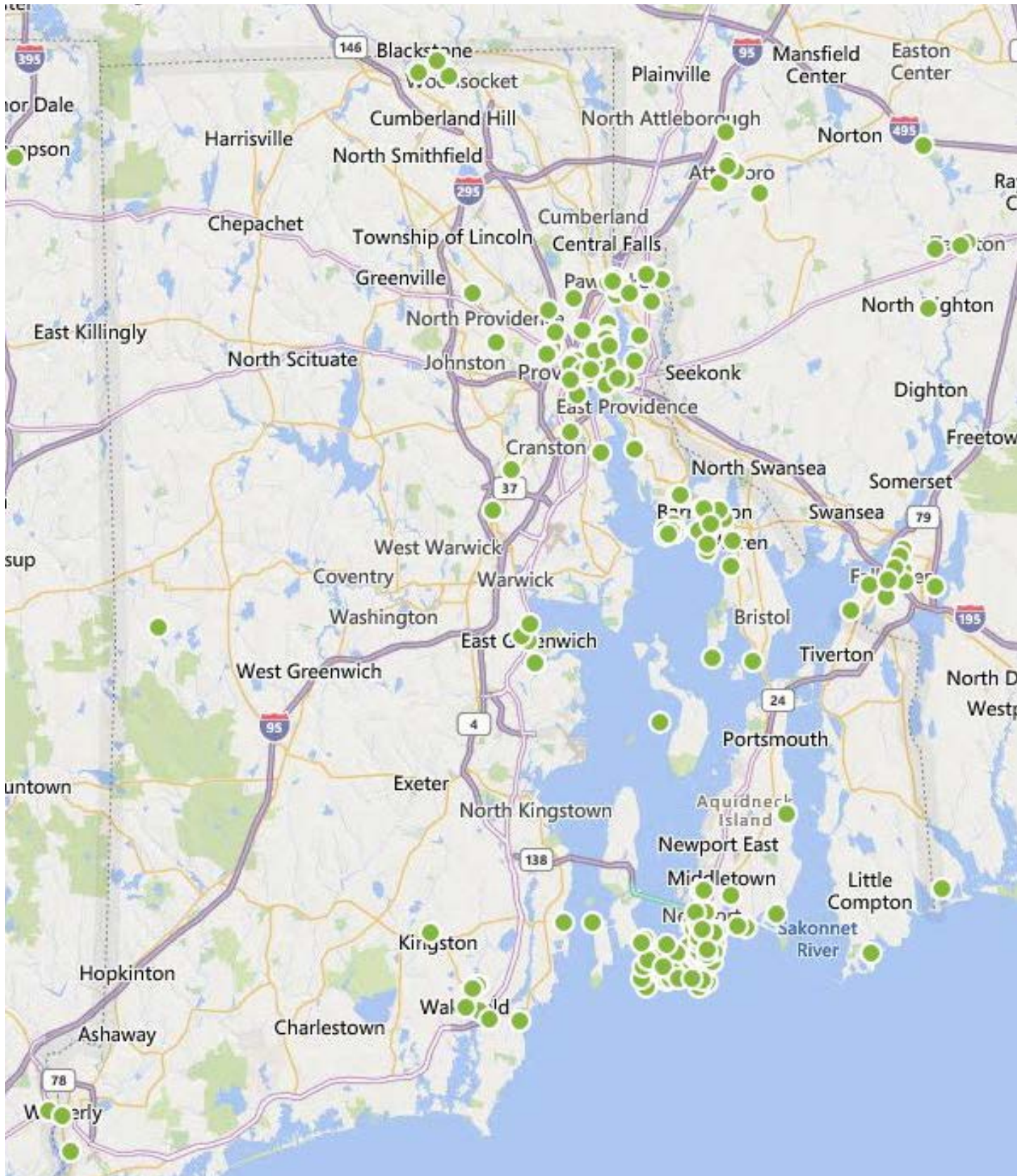
If you would like to propose a cemetery clean-up, please contact Christine MacWilliams of the RI Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries.

If you have questions about the form or would like to talk over a program idea, please contact Sarah Zurier at RIHPHC.

For more information go here @ Call for programs: [RI Cemetery Weeks](#) | [Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission](#)



## Olmsted 200 Inveractive Map (Linked)



## Sponsorship Opportunities

The Rhode Island Chapter of ASLA provides a number of opportunities for vendors to reach the RIASLA members, allied professions and the general public who utilize the services of landscape architects. We have a full range of sponsorship and advertising opportunities available in Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Levels. Please reach out with any questions or ideas.

### PLATINUM LEVEL - \$2000

**Website Benefits** - Premium Large Logo on RIASLA website and full page ad in quarterly blog, sponsor link to your website and your logo as a sponsor on the Parking Day Website held in September.

**ASLA Member Communication** - Social media 'Meet a Sponsor' Spotlight feature (annually), Social media product feature (2 per year) and Large logo in all email communications.

**Direct Member Contact** - Virtual Lunch & Learn / Continuing Education session (paid for / hosted by the sponsor but promoted by RIASLA)

**Signature Event** - Four tickets to RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event, Table at Awards Event (for promotional material), Recognition at RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event as a Platinum Sponsor.

### GOLD LEVEL - \$1500

**Website Benefits** - Medium Logo on RIASLA website and half page ad in quarterly blog. Sponsor link to your website.

**ASLA Member Communication** - Social media 'Meet a Sponsor' Spotlight feature (annually), Social media product feature (1 per year) and Medium logo in all email communications. Medium font on event handouts / signage (Parking Day, Holiday / Awards Party, etc.)

**Direct Member Contact** - Virtual Lunch & Learn / Continuing Education session (paid for / hosted by the sponsor but promoted by RIASLA)

**Signature Event** - Three tickets to RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event, Recognition at RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event as a Gold Sponsor.

### SILVER LEVEL - \$1000

**Website Benefits** - Small Logo on RIASLA website, sponsor link to your website.

**ASLA Member Communication** - Medium logo in all email communications.

**Signature Event** - Two tickets to RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event, Recognition at RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event as a Silver Sponsor.

### Bronze LEVEL - \$500

**Website Benefits** - Small Logo on RIASLA website, sponsor link to your website.

**ASLA Member Communication** - Small logo in all email communications.

**Signature Event** - One tickets to RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event, Recognition at RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event as a Bronze Sponsor.