

Portrait of a young Frederick Law Olmsted., circa 1860.  
Courtesy of Olmsted National Historic Site, National Park

## Frederick Law Olmsted

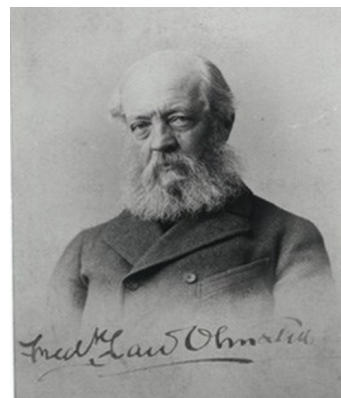
Frederick Law Olmsted, known as a co-designer of Central Park, was born on April 26, 1822 in Hartford, Connecticut. He was one of the first American landscape architects whose vision, sustained by his sons, inspired the Passaic County Parks System.

In his youth, Olmsted studied the works of famous European and American theorists who focused on using the features of landscapes to help the public engage with nature in a way that would benefit their physical and mental health. Influenced by John Ruskin and Andrew Jackson Downing, Olmsted created his own point of view in landscape design by making the democratic values of the United States accessible through the use of public parks. The lectures he attended in science, agriculture, and engineering at Yale University between 1842 and 1847, encouraged him to seek out more fulfilling work. As a result, he lived in England for two years to study pastoral farmlands and ended up finding inspiration at Merseyside's Birkenhead Park, the first public funded civil park in the world. Designed by Joseph Paxton, Frederick Law Olmsted observed how landscape design intended for public use was used by politicians to restrict social movement and playful collaboration between all residents.

In England Olmsted found himself in the company of Henry Raymond, co-founder of the New York Times. He used the opportunity to request to become a foreign correspondent covering the American South. From 1852 to 1855 he reported on the economic impact of slavery on the region. Later published as a book titled, *The Cotton Kingdom* (1861), the coverage is identified as an accurate portrayal of slavery and life in the South prior to the Civil War. Dr. Austin Allen, associate professor of landscape architecture emeritus at the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University summarizes:

*"Olmsted became more aware of the way African and African American slaves were shaping the American landscape. Slaves had an 'untold and impactful influence' on Olmsted's early conception of American landscape architecture."<sup>1</sup>*

Olmsted's experience in England and the American South merged with his new-found support of the abolition movement and gave meaning to his dream to "democratize parks." He envisioned Americans in segregated and industrialized cities using a public park as a way to interact outside of the expectations of government and society. He wanted everyone to use the space as they saw fit.



Carte-de-visite of Olmsted, 1893.  
Courtesy of Olmsted National Historic Site, National Park

<sup>1</sup>Roxanne Blackwell, Jared Green, and Lisa Jennings, "A Vision for Truly Inclusive Public Spaces Rooted in Olmsted's Core Values," Olmsted 200 (National Olmsted Parks Association, April 26, 2021), <https://olmsted200.org/a-vision-for-truly-inclusive-public-spaces-rooted-in-olmsteds-core-values/>.

## *Frederick Law Olmsted*

In 1857 Olmsted transitioned from the field of journalism and was named superintendent of New York City's planned Central Park. The Board of Commissioners were not satisfied with the original park plan and set up a contest to invite fresh perspectives of the designated space. Olmsted was approached by Andrew Jackson Downing's protégé, Calvert Vaux, to create "Greensward." Their design that had water features, meandering greenways, vast fields and hid the cross-town traffic from visitors, was selected.

It would take Vaux until 1865 to convince Olmsted to return to the field of landscape architecture. Together under the firm of Olmsted, Vaux & Co, they went to design Prospect Park in 1866; the parks and parkway in Buffalo, the grand necklace of parks in Milwaukee, and the Niagara Reservation at Niagara Falls. In 1872 the pair dissolved their partnership. While Olmsted went on to become the leading landscape architect in the United States, his collaboration with Vaux had a lasting impact on the way all residential areas were developed.



Frederick Law Olmsted (at left) and Calvert Vaux (second from right) with others responsible for building Central Park, 1862.  
Courtesy of The New York Public Library.



FL Olmsted, Sr. writing in the Hollow, Fairsted.  
Courtesy of Olmsted National Historic Site, National Park

After 1886, Olmsted primarily focused on designing a vast system of parks and parkways for the cities of Boston and Brookline, Massachusetts, as well as working on a landscape rehabilitation project for Boston Harbor. In 1888, he was hired to design the grounds at Biltmore, the Asheville, North Carolina estate of George W. Vanderbilt, the grandson of railroad mogul Cornelius Vanderbilt. It was one of the final major works in the picturesque style by Olmsted. Olmsted was appointed to lead the landscape project for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair in the late 1880s. Olmsted retired in 1895 after recognizing signs of senility as he worked with clients. His firm was to his sons, John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. who renamed it the Olmsted Brothers.

Frederick Law Olmsted died under the care of the McLean Hospital on August 28, 1903 in Brookline, Massachusetts.

## *The Evolution of the Olmsted Brothers Firm*



Olmsted house and Firm offices Brookline, MA.  
*Courtesy of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.*

One unintended outcome of the collaboration between Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted was a decades long working relationship. In the fall of 1865 when they formed the firm of Olmsted, Vaux & Co. they secured a number of important commissions, including parks and parkways in New York and Chicago. Olmsted was also a partner in the Vaux, Withers & Co. Architectural business. By 1872, both of these partnerships dissolved.

For the following few years, Olmsted worked in New York City with the support of architect Thomas Wisedell and several other architects and engineers. His stepson, John Charles Olmsted, also began assisting him in his work as early as 1874, and his wife, Mary Perkins Olmsted, worked as copyist on occasion.

In 1884, John Charles Olmsted formally joined the firm of F. L. & J. C. Olmsted as a partner. Henry Sargent Codman, another protégé of Olmsted's, became a partner in 1889. Codman's death at the age of twenty-nine in 1893 brought an abrupt and tragic end to this partnership. The firm continued to plan the Boston's Emerald Necklace at this time, as well as designing park systems for Louisville, Kentucky, and Rochester, New York plus other significant commissions.

After Henry Codman's death, Olmsted convinced his former student Charles Eliot to join the firm, which was renamed Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot. Eliot brought to the firm his experience developing the park system around Boston, which he had designed during a decade of solo practice. In 1897 Eliot's career was cut short when, at the age of 37, he died of meningitis. After Eliot's death, the firm was renamed F. L. & J. C. Olmsted.

In 1895, Frederick Law Olmsted retired from active practice due to his memory and strength deteriorating. In 1898, John Charles and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. Established the Olmsted Brothers firm, which lasted until 1961. The firm remained a leader in landscape architecture forty years after John Charles's death in 1920 and four years after Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.'s death in 1957.

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and John Charles Olmsted, both founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects and were staunch supporters of the emerging profession of landscape architecture. Park systems were designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm for numerous major cities, including Atlanta, Boston, and Seattle. In the early twentieth century, the Olmsted Brothers were by far the largest landscape architecture firm in the United States.



John Charles Olmsted, 1907.  
*Courtesy of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.*



## *The Evolution of the Olmsted Brothers Firm*



Olmsted Brothers Employees at Brookline Offices.  
*Courtesy of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.*

Passaic County is indebted to the vision of Frederick Law Olmsted and the patience of the firm that carried on his legacy after his passing. It is no easy feat to establish and build a parks system during a global financial crisis. Yet, the steadfast way in which the Passaic County Park Commission and Percival Gallagher approached this project shows just how important the collaboration between the government and its citizens truly is.

The firm's work and employees grew dramatically in the first three decades of the twentieth century, reaching forty-seven employees by 1917 and up to sixty by the 1920s.

During the elder Olmsted's four decades in business, the company completed over 500 commissions, most completed in the 1890s. The years running up to the First World War were the busiest for the firm, with large park systems being planned for several cities. The number of commissions increased to 2,500 by the time the Great Depression hit in the 1930s. In 1926, following the lead of Essex and Union Counties, the Passaic County Park Commission petitioned the Olmsted Brothers firm to prepare a master plan to legitimize the public need for a park system. Under the leadership of the firm's third partner, Percival Gallagher, the firm evaluated potential sites to be acquired for parkland and prepared a report that could be used to generate public support. Percival Gallagher guided the parks project in Passaic County to promote the vision of the Olmsted Brothers.

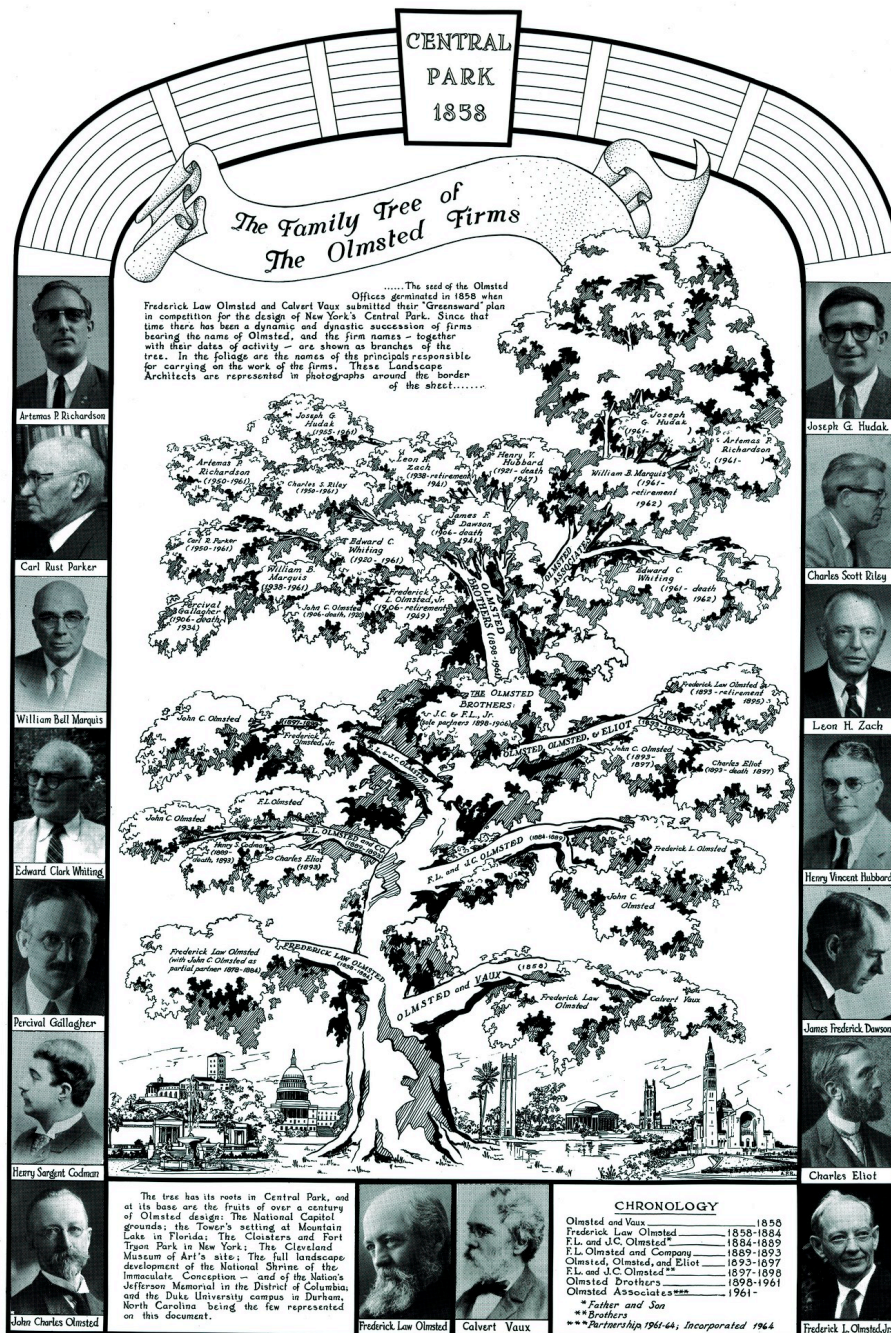
The County of Passaic archives are home to thousands of letters between the Passaic County Park Commission, Percival Gallagher, and other Olmsted Brother's staff members. The dedication to preserving historical and ecological landmarks were a priority. While the firm was intentional in restoring the gardens behind Dey Mansion, Washington's Headquarters to reflect the colonial era, they tried in earnest to keep the home assumed to be Lafayette's headquarters which they sadly had to demolish due to structural issues.



Stella Obst and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.  
*Courtesy of the Olmsted Archives, FRLA 45687g-10, Ca. 1930.*



## The Evolution of the Olmsted Brothers Firm



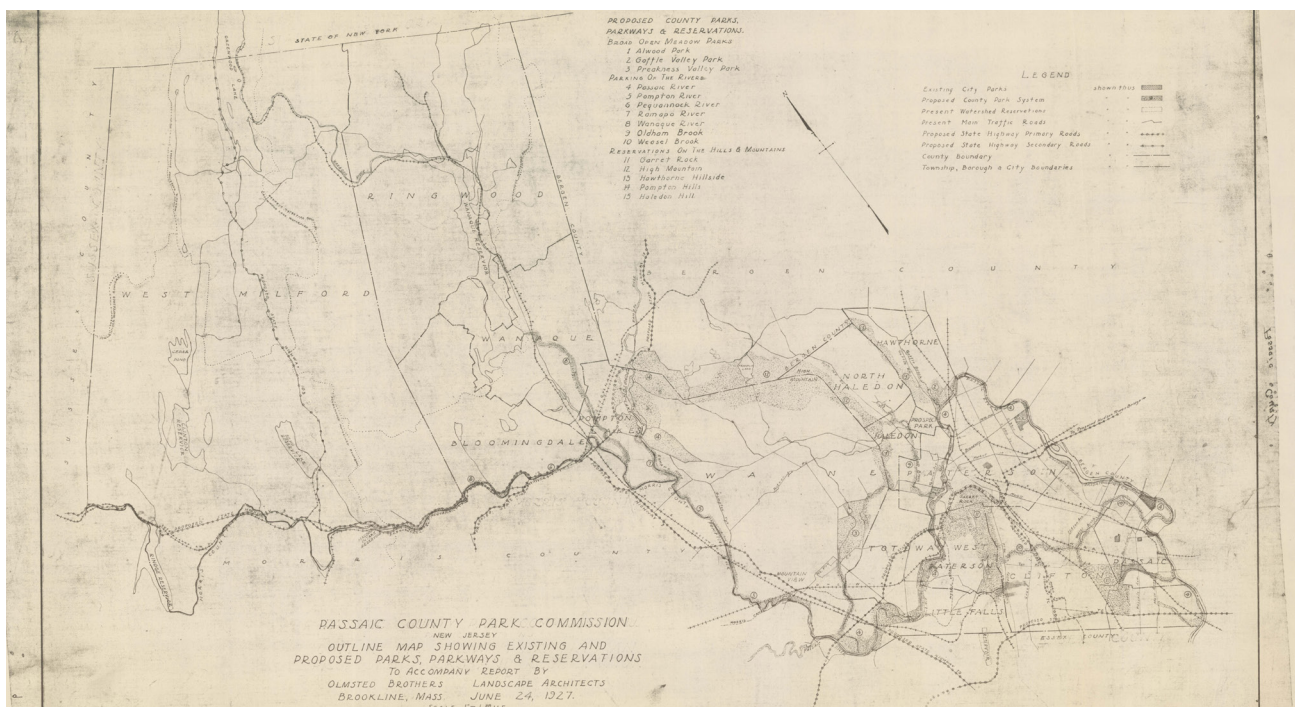
## *The History of the Passaic County Park Commission*

The establishment of the Passaic County Park Commission began at the annual meeting of the Passaic County Planning Association on May 26, 1925, in Clifton, NJ. At this meeting a resolution was adopted authorizing the appointment of "a committee of three with power to initiate a movement looking toward the creation of a county park commission for Passaic County."

The appointment of the preliminary Park Commission was made by Judge Charles C. Black and filed with the Passaic County Clerk on July 3, 1926. The first commissioners were Garret A. Hobart, Louis V. Hinchliffe, Robert D. Benson, Henry Van Riper Scheel and Miss Florence Halsey. The preliminary Commission organized on July 13, 1926, in the office of the Paterson Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Robert D. Benson was elected president, and Mr. Garret A. Hobart, vice-president, and Mr. Charles A. Winans was named secretary.

The preliminary Park Commission was tasked to hire the most prestigious landscape architects and planners in the United States — the Olmsted Brothers firm. This Commission had the authorization to spend up to \$10,000 in the creation of a survey. Following the lead of Essex and Union Counties, the Commission petitioned the firm to prepare a master plan to certify the public need for a park system, evaluate potential sites to be acquired for parkland, and prepare a report that could be used to generate public support.

The firm's report was submitted to the Commissioners on July 9, 1927. In the report, they identified the purpose for the investment of public funds in the creation of Passaic County's Park system was "to provide for the happiness and well-being of people..." and that "no other public expenditure tends to appreciate in value...with the passage of time, as do other public works." Percival Gallagher was the lead Landscape Architect representing the Olmsted Brothers firm.



Existing and Proposed Parks, Parkways, & Reservations, June 24, 1927.

Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.



## *The History of the Passaic County Park Commission*

In its work on the preliminary report, the commission made numerous tours of Passaic County to become familiar with its topography, the centers of population and opportunities afforded for a comprehensive park system. They were assisted in this work by Passaic County Engineer Garwood Ferguson.

The preliminary commission filed their report advocating for a county parks system with Justice Charles Black on September 10, 1927. Justice Black issued an order directing the question of a permanent commission with the authority to establish a county parks system to a referendum vote at the next General Election on November 8, 1927. The referendum was passed and the preliminary commission issued their final report to the Supreme Court and submitted their resignations.

On November 18, 1927 Justice Black appointed Robert D. Benson, Garret A. Hobart, Louis V. Hinchliffe, LeGrand Parish, and William B. Gourley to serve without compensation as a permanent Passaic County Park Commission. At its first organization meeting on December 3 Robert D. Benson was elected president, Garret A. Hobart vice-president and Louis V. Hinchliffe treasurer. The office of the new parks commission was established at 45 Church Street in Paterson and the commission hired Frederick W. Loede Jr. as executive engineer and secretary.

In view of the previous work done by Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Mass., for the preliminary Commission, it was decided to continue their services as consulting landscape architects. The Olmsted Brothers is one of the oldest firms of its kind in the country and their reputation combined with the valuable experience gained in laying out the Essex and Union County Park systems, influenced the Commission in deciding that employing them would lead to the development of a park system closely linking the adjoining systems of Union and Essex Counties.



Lambert Tower at Garret Mountain Reservation.  
Courtesy of the County of Passaic Archives.

The Commission was fortunate in having the continued service and advice of Percival Gallagher, one of the partners, who attends meetings of the Commission and works with the Engineer and Secretary in the field and in the preparation of maps and designs for the various projects.

The Commission's first year was spent in studying the situation as a whole before any park land was acquired. This study consisted largely of engineering field work and consideration of the report made by Olmsted Brothers to the temporary Commission. Even in the brief time between the preparation of the preliminary report and the organization of the permanent Commission, physical changes had occurred in various sections of the County which prevented the Commission from following the early recommendations in their entirety.

The finest example of public spirit towards the establishment of a parks system was shown in the offer of Mr. and Mrs. Le Grand Parish, of Mountain View, (Wayne) to deed as a gift to the Park Commission approximately forty-eight acres of land with a frontage of nearly 1,500 feet on Preakness Road in Wayne Township. LeGrand Parish is a member of the Park Commission. This property adjoins the Preakness Valley Park and golf course.





Left: James Frederick Dawson, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and Percival Gallagher, Courtesy National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.



Garret Mountain Reservation, Courtesy of the County of Passaic Archives.

Gallagher worked on the design of the park systems for Union and Essex Counties, New Jersey, including Rahway River Park. His most extensive estate work took place on Long Island, including Ormston, the George Baker estate, and the H.H. Rogers estate. These latter projects show a range of inspiring planting plans. His ease with a stylistic positioning of plants and buildings is well shown at the Oldfields estate in Indianapolis, now part of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

In 1926, a preliminary Park Commission in Passaic County was empowered to hire the Olmsted Brothers firm to prepare a master plan to certify the public need for a park system, evaluate potential sites to be acquired for parkland, and prepare a report that could be used to generate public support. The firm's report was submitted to the commissioners on July 9, 1927.

Percival Gallagher guided the parks project in Passaic County to promote the vision of the Olmsted Brothers. He worked on the designs of Goffle Brook Park, Garret Mountain and Weasel Brook Park. He wrote the final survey that decided on the final location of the War Memorial at Pennington Park in Paterson. Gallagher offered his services to the city of Paterson in 1930 to determine a location for a municipal stadium, which later became Hinchliffe Stadium.

Gallagher died on January 8, 1934, in Brookline, Massachusetts.

## Percival Gallagher

Percival Gallagher was born in South Boston in on August 18, 1874. He was the lead landscape architect for the Passaic County Parks System design.

He studied horticulture at Harvard's Bussey Institute, where he met Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. After graduating in 1894, Gallagher joined Olmsted, Olmsted, & Eliot. In 1902, he led the renovations of the capital grounds in Washington, D.C. In 1904, he attempted to open his own firm with landscape architect James Sturgis Pray. Gallagher would return to the Olmsted Brothers two years later as he felt the Olmsted Brothers firm provided more opportunities to collaborate with clients.

Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. acknowledged Gallagher for his artistic talent, horticultural knowledge, and whimsical sense of humor. These attributes contributed to his appointment as partner to the Olmsted Brothers firm in 1927. There, he assisted in the design work for Bryn Mawr College, Haverford College, Swarthmore College, Vassar College, and Duke University. When the Phillips Andover Academy has been rebuilt, he was in charge of the landscaping work there and was also the designer of the sesquicentennial exposition grounds at Philadelphia in 1926.



Drawing of Richard D. Benson, *Courtesy of the Passaic Daily News - September 4, 1931.*

## *Robert D. Benson*

Born on May 14, 1861 in Brewerton, New York, Robert Dix Benson was a leader in the American petroleum industry. He ran one of the oldest and most successful corporations engaged in the production, transportation, manufacture and marketing of petroleum. Benson grew up in Titusville, PA.

Benson was educated in the public schools of Titusville and upon graduation, at the age of nineteen years, he entered the employ of the Tide Water Pipe Company, as secretary to his father, who was president. After one year in that position, he went one year as a special student to the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1883 he became president of the Solar Oil Company, operating a small refinery located at Buffalo, New York.

In 1888 he was elected manager of the Tide Water Pipe Company and a director of the Tide Water Oil Company. In 1896 he was elected Vice President of the Tide Water Oil Company and in 1908, Benson was chosen President of the Tide Water Pipe Company and the Tide Water Oil Company. The business of the Company is principally an export trade in case oil, shipped to South America and Asian countries.

Benson lived in Passaic, New Jersey, where he has served on the city council. He was the director in the Peoples Bank and the Trust, Guarantee Mortgage and Title Insurance Companies of Passaic and a director of the Muskogee Electric Traction Company and the Shawnee-Tecumseh Traction Company.

He was also vice president of the Associated Producers Company and the Okla Oil Company. Robert Benson was married on October 11, 1888, to Harriet Granger and they have three children: Byron D. Benson, Robert Granger Benson, and Olive Benson. He belonged to the Union League Club, of New York, and the Yountakah Country Club of Passaic.

Benson's many interests brought him in contact with thousands of people in industry, religious work, banking, philanthropy and civic improvement. He was best known for his sponsorship of both the City of Passaic and Passaic County Park systems. He was known as the "Father" of Passaic Parks. He was also the president of the Passaic Board of Education for eleven years.

In 1926 Robert D. Benson became the first president of the Passaic County Parks Commission where he oversaw the appointment of the landscape architectural firm Olmsted Brothers to conduct surveys of lands for potential parks and prepare a comprehensive plan for the development of the Passaic County Parks System. He served in that position until his death in September 1931.

## *LeGrand Parish*



Portrait, Courtesy of the Passaic County Historical Society.

Parish's property took in most of the area bordered by Prospect Street, now known as Alps Road on the north, Maple Avenue and Lower Preakness Avenue on the east Lower Preakness Avenue on the south, and the D.L. & W. railroad tracks and Old Pompton Turnpike on the west.

During the Great Depression, many of his neighbors sought his assistance. LeGrand Parish was more than eager to help them. In the words of his former secretary:

*"Most of the produce of the fan and dairy herd maintained by the estate were given to the towns needy. I vividly recall the 'magic figure' of eight-hundred dollars. That was the amount of cash he liked to have in his pockets at all times to help out destitute neighbors. It seems that I was constantly running to the bank. As soon as his pockets were emptied, off I'd go to the bank again."*

On April 13, 1866, LeGrand Parish was born in Friendship, New York. "Le Grand" means "The Great" in his French ancestors' language. Thomas Edison Laboratories was where he began his profession. Many railroad patents were owned by Parish, including steam circulation and lining systems for fireboxes, a unique air brake coupling device, and a train car door latch. He worked with railroads after leaving Edison Laboratories and became president of the Lima Locomotive Works in Lima, Ohio. Parish grew wealthy because of his numerous innovations, and he utilized his fortune to help his community. He contributed land for the community club and firehouse in Wayne later in life, as well as a ball field in Mountain View that is now known as the Parish Oval and the Passaic County Golf Course.

In 1896, LeGrand Parish married Madge L. Little, in Chicago. Madge's family had been residents of Passaic County for many generations. After a few years, the couple relocated to New York City before settling in Wayne's Mountainview neighborhood in 1914. They remodeled a house that had been in Mrs. Parish's family for over one hundred years. The house was located at the foot of Lower Preakness Avenue which is now known as Parish Drive. Their former residence is now the home of the Lakeland Unitarian Fellowship.



Parish Family Home, Courtesy of the Wayne Museum.



## *LeGrand Parish*

Mr. Parish's extensive business experience and civic outlook made him the most logical choice for appointment by former Supreme Court Justice Charles Black to the Passaic County Parks Commission which was in the process of organizing. Parish was one of the five appointees to the permanent board following the adoption of the park referendum in November 1927. He succeeded Garret A. Hobart Jr. as vice-president of the commission in September 1931, when Hobart advanced to the presidency upon the death of Robert Dix Benson. Mr. Parish took an active interest in the development of the park system. It was his aim to see it reach a standard equal to similar projects in Essex, Union, and Hudson counties.

In 1930, when the commission was engaged in the construction of the twenty-seven-hole Passaic County golf course, in Wayne township, Parish oversaw the work. Appearing on the grounds as early as the workers, taking no more than thirty minutes for lunch and remaining at the scene until the workday had ended. When the work was not moving fast enough Parish ordered his own steam shovel moved from his estate to the golf course property and there it remained until the construction work was completed. He also sent, with his steam shovel, his own operator who remained on his personal payroll.

Not long thereafter Parish and his wife donated to the parks commission forty-eight acres of land along the Preakness Road in Wayne township, a gift then valued at \$50,000. This property adjoins Preakness Valley Park, and it became a valuable addition to the county park system.

In acknowledgment of his service, Parish was named chairman of the Preakness Valley Park Committee and once the golf course was opened on July 1, 1931, he became a daily visitor and studied the playing trends and course maintenance of the golf course. Even when he was ill towards the end of his life, he requested that the daily record of golf course play be brought to him. He mingled with the golf players and sought their comments on how to make the golf course better.

He was also chairman of the Garret Mountain Reservation Committee and a member of the of the Goffle Brook park and planting committee.

LeGrand Parish died on May 10, 1933.



Aerial Image of the Preakness Valley Golf Course.  
*Courtesy of the County of Passaic Archives.*



Golfers enjoying the course, Clubhouse is featured in the background.  
*Courtesy of the County of Passaic Archives.*

## Garret Augustus Hobart, Jr.



Portrait of Garret A. Hobart Jr., *Courtesy of the Passaic County Historical Society.*

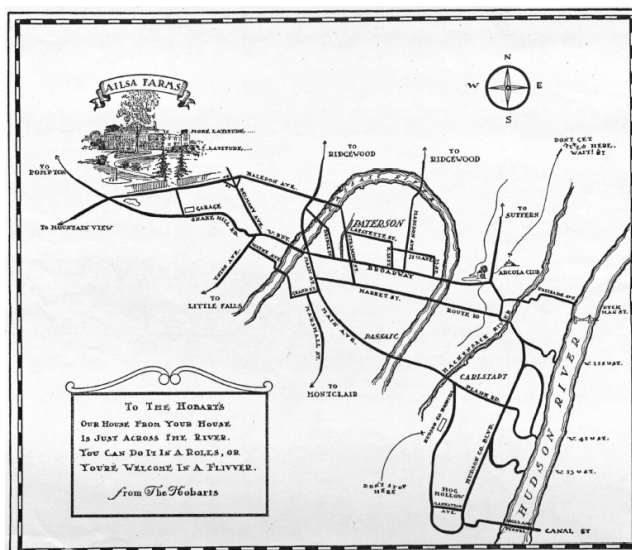
The firm's report was submitted to the commissioners on July 9, 1927. In the report, they identified the purpose for the investment of public funds in the creation of Passaic County's Park system was "to provide for the happiness and well-being of people..." and that "no other public expenditure tends to appreciate in value...with the passage of time, as do other public works."

Following the adoption of the park referendum in the General Election held on November 8, 1937, Hobart was once again appointed to the permanent commission and was elected Vice-President. On September 14, 1937, he became the President of the Passaic County Parks Commission following the death of Robert Dix Benson.

Garret A. Hobart Jr. died at the family estate Ailsa Farms in Wayne on September 29, 1941. Hobart Manor remains a prominent feature on the campus of William Paterson University.

On August 31, 1884, Garret A. Hobart Jr. was born in Paterson, New Jersey to parents, Garret A. Hobart and Jennie (Tuttle) Hobart. The young Garret was named after his father, who was the 24th Vice President of the United States under President William McKinley, and lived at the Hobart family home Carroll Hall on the corner of Carroll and Ellison Streets in Paterson. Hobart had a private pilot's license and did considerable flying. Late in his life Hobart took up the hobby of photography. He was also credited with owning one of the first automobiles in Paterson and was said to have given President McKinley his first ride in an automotive vehicle. The vehicle was said to have been powered by electric batteries. Hobart married Caroline Frye Briggs on June 6, 1906 and they had three children, Garret A. Hobart III, Catherine, and Elizabeth Hobart.

Hobart was appointed by Justice Charles C. Black to the preliminary Passaic County Parks Commission. Hobart pushed for the commission to hire the most prestigious landscape architects and planners in the United States, the Olmsted Brothers Association. This Commission had the authorization to spend up to \$10,000 in the creation of a survey to certify the public need for a park system, evaluate potential sites to be acquired for parkland, and prepare a report that could be used to generate public support.



Map of Ailsa Farms, *Courtesy of William Paterson University Archives.*

<sup>2</sup>Paterson and Its Environs, p 149-150

<sup>3</sup>Newspaper Article: "Private Funeral Rites Wednesday for G.A. Hobart", The News (Paterson, NJ) September 30, 1941 pg 25; 36.

## Florence Halsey



Florence Halsey Passport Photo, Courtesy of Ancestry.

Florence Halsey was a founding member of the Passaic County Parks Commission and one of the leaders of the suffragette movement in New Jersey.

Florence was born in Mahwah, New Jersey on September 3, 1875 to Lewis B. Halsey and Sarah Frances Sheffield. After graduating from Princeton University, Lewis founded Sheffield Farms which became one of the largest dairy companies in the world. Florence attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts where she was a member of the history club, the tennis team, and the Phi Sigma Fraternity. Halsey traveled to France during the first World War and served as a Red Cross ambulance driver for eighteen months. Starting in 1914 Halsey became active in the women's suffrage movement and was a member of the New Jersey Woman's Suffrage Association. During a push for a referendum in New Jersey in 1915, she drove suffrage speakers around the state and produced a press release that read:

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***"Men of New Jersey be just! One hundred thousand of your women are asking you today for the right of self-government. They do not ask that you give up your right or any privilege that is yours. They ask only for the same right that long ago was made a free gift to all American men, white or black."***

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In 1919, she was chosen president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. In 1929, she was elected chairman of the New Jersey Women's International League for Peace and Freedom's Northern division. Following the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote, Florence Halsey became president of the New Jersey League of Women's Voters. She also started and served as editor of The New Jersey Civic Pilot, a journal that educated women on voting processes.

Halsey was also active in progressive politics outside of the League of Women's Voters, particularly during the 1920s, and she gave several lectures promoting world peace and women's participation in civic affairs. In July 1926, while living on Goffle Road outside of Hawthorne, Miss Halsey was appointed by Justice Charles C. Black to the preliminary Passaic County Parks Commission. The commission was empowered to hire the most prestigious landscape architects and planners in the United States — the Olmsted Brothers Association. This Commission had the authorization to spend up to \$10,000 in the creation of a survey for the establishment of a County park system.

In 1927 Justice Black moved to make the Passaic County Parks Commission permanent which would have included Florence; however, she rejected her appointment.

Florence retired from her position as an appointed member of the State Board for Old Age Pensions and Board Revisions of State Tax Law in 1933 and moved to Coleman Station, NY where she lived until her death in 1945 at the age of 69.





Portrait of Louis V. Hinchliffe, Courtesy of the Passaic County Historical Society.

## *Louis V. Hinchliffe*

Born on November 25, 1887, in Paterson, NJ Louis V. Hinchliffe came from an illustrious family which gave Paterson two mayors, his uncle, John Hinchliffe, who also served as state senator, and John V. Hinchliffe, his brother. His father, James C. Hinchliffe, is active in the civic, cultural, and business life of Paterson.

The young Hinchliffe was educated in the Paterson public schools and then went to Fordham Preparatory School, and then entered Fordham University. Later, he would study law at the New York Law School. He opened an office for himself in the United Bank Building and took an active interest in politics early on. He was a candidate for the Assembly on the Democratic ticket, and in 1916 he was elected a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He organized the Passaic Democratic Club in 1916 and was unanimously elected president.

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On November 18, 1927, Justice Black appointed Robert D. Benson, Garret A. Hobart, Louis V. Hinchliffe, LeGrand Parish, and William B. Gourley to serve without compensation as a permanent Passaic County Park Commission. At their reorganization meeting on September 3, 1927, Hinchliffe was elected treasurer of the permanent Passaic County Parks Commission.

Hinchliffe served as a Judge of the District Court and Passaic County Court for 23 years. He practiced law in Paterson about 48 years. During his third term, Judge Joseph A. Delaney retired from the County Court and Hinchliffe was appointed as Delaney's successor in 1947. He was given another five-year term in 1952 and remained on the bench until 1957 when he retired.