

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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April is National Landscape Architecture Month — Several Recognitions and Celebrations Planned by the Connecticut Chapter of ASLA —

April is **National Landscape Architecture Month**. Several events are being planned by the Connecticut Chapter of ASLA to recognize the month-long celebration, including:

- **A full-day educational conference on the Merritt Parkway**, scheduled for **Friday, April 9** at the **Oronoque Country Club in Stratford**. The Merritt Parkway, a winding, 37.5-mile highway in Fairfield County, is one of the only roadways listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This program will feature presentations and panel discussions by influential decision-makers involved in the oversight and preservation of this revered roadway, designed by influential landscape architect W. Thayer Chase in the late 1930s (the Parkway will officially turn 70 in 2010). Adapting to modern traffic demands has been an ongoing challenge faced by those who manage this historic resource. Recent construction projects on the Parkway, as well as its nomination to the World Monuments Fund 2010 Watch List, have brought this landmark to the forefront of roadway planning and historic preservation efforts in Connecticut.

More information about the April 9 program, "The Merritt Parkway: An Historical, Cultural and Technical Look at a National Landscape Treasure," can be found at www.ctasla.org. Registration deadline is April 6.

- The Legislative Office Building in Hartford will play host to a **display of landscape architectural works** by members of CTASLA from **April 19-30**. This exhibit will feature Connecticut Design Award winners as well as other poster boards showcasing the contributions of landscape architects to the built environment and sustainable landscapes. Free parking is available in the LOB garage.

- 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the original Earth Day, and CTASLA will help celebrate by **exhibiting at the Department of Environmental Protection's Earth Day celebration** on **April 22** at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, highlighting the tremendously positive impacts that landscape architects have had on the Connecticut landscape.

- CTASLA will recognize **Frederick Law Olmsted Day** this year by co-sponsoring a program on **April 26** exploring the history and current state of the Hartford Park System, recently designated by the Cultural Landscape Foundation as a culturally significant at-risk landscape. The focus of this event will be on Keney Park, a 600-acre

park designed by Charles Eliot, who wanted to convey a sense of the local countryside. The program will include lectures, a tour of Keney Park, and birthday cake for Frederick Law Olmsted, who was born in Hartford on April 26, 1822. The state legislature established Frederick Law Olmsted Day in 2005 to commemorate the contributions of this Connecticut native, widely considered the father of the modern profession of landscape architecture.

Organizers and co-sponsors of the April 26 program include the Connecticut Olmsted Heritage Alliance, The City of Hartford, and Friends of Keney Park. Registration deadline is April 19th. For more information, see www.ctasla.org.

- Members of CTASLA will also participate in **career day events** at area high schools throughout the month to help young people learn more about the profession of landscape architecture, a discipline that combines science, ecology and creativity, and contributes to the greening of the planet. For the third year in a row, *U.S. News & World Report* has named landscape architecture among the best career choices.

About ASLA: “Green since 1899,” ASLA is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 16,000 members in 48 professional chapters. ASLA promotes the profession of landscape architecture and advances its practice through advocacy, education, communication and fellowship.

Landscape architecture is a comprehensive discipline of land analysis, planning, design, management, preservation and rehabilitation. Landscape architects protect public health, safety and welfare through environmentally conscious planning and design. Like engineers and architects, landscape architects are licensed in the state of Connecticut.

Learn more about landscape architecture online at <http://www.asla.org>. To learn more about the Connecticut Chapter, see <http://www.ctasla.org>.

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[supporting photographs available on request]