

Sources of Quotes

The park should, as far as possible, complement the town. Openness is the one thing you cannot get in buildings. Picturesqueness you can get. Let your buildings be as picturesque as your artists can make them. This is the beauty of a town. Consequently, the park should be the other. It should be the beauty of the fields, the meadow, the prairie, of the green pastures, and the still waters. What we want to gain is tranquility and rest to the mind.

Olmsted, "Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns," 1870.

Published in: Olmsted, Frederick Law. *Civilizing Americans Cities: Writings on City Landscapes*. Edited by S. B. Sutton. New York, Da Capo Press, 1997. 81.

. . . there is such a pleasure, common, constant and universal to all town parks, and that it results from the feeling of relief experienced by those entering them, on escaping from the cramped, confined and controlling circumstances of the streets of the town; in other words, a sense of enlarged freedom is to all, at all times, the most certain and the most valuable gratification afforded by a park.

Olmsted & Vaux, "Preliminary Report to the Commissioners for Laying out a Park in Brooklyn," 1866.

Published in: Fein, Albert. *Landscape into Cityscape: Frederick Law Olmsted's Plans for a Greater New York*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1968. 97-98.

The chief end of a large park is an effect on the human organism . . . like that of music, which goes back of thought, and cannot be fully given the form of words.

Olmsted, "Notes on the Plan of Franklin Park and Related Matters," 1886.

Quoted in: Beveridge, Charles E. "[Frederick Law Olmsted's Theory on Landscape Design](#)." *Nineteenth Century* 20.2 (2000): 32-37.

. . . the occasional contemplation of natural scenes of an impressive character, particularly if this contemplation occurs in connection with relief from ordinary cares, change of air, and change of habits, is favorable to the health and vigor of men and specially to the health and vigor of their intellect beyond any other conditions which can be offered them, that it not only gives pleasure for the time being but increases the subsequent capacity for happiness and the means of securing happiness.

Olmsted, "Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove: A Preliminary Report," 1865.

Published in: Olmsted, Frederick Law. *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, Volume Five: The California Years, 1863-1865*, Victoria Post Ranney, editor. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990. 502.