

The Frederick Law Olmsted Design Competition **in Riverside Illinois**

The historic Village of Riverside Illinois invites qualified landscape architects, landscape designers, architects and artists to explore designs that embody the values of Frederick Law Olmsted. We seek to create an attractive and eye-catching main entrance to the Village and its Central Business District. The entrance should include signage and landscaping appropriate for Olmsted's most significant landscaped community in America.

Designed in 1868 by Frederick Law Olmsted, the Father of Landscape Architecture, the Village of Riverside was one of the first planned communities in the nation. Riverside is a National Historic Landmark with worldwide recognition of its signature landscape. With its expansive green parkways, curvilinear streets, and landscape that harmonizes with nature, Riverside's planning ideals have been emulated in cities and towns around the world.

In his design for Riverside, Olmsted emphasized a reverence for nature wherein manmade structures were sublimated. Roads were curved to suggest the lines of the nearby Des Plaines River, and to offer pleasing and changing views to the traveler. Houses were set back from the street, and trees were planted on the parkways to further subordinate views of the built environment. Native plantings and generous public green areas were included to further the sense community with nature. In his Preliminary Report for Riverside, Olmsted used such phrases as: "Gracefully curved lines," "Charm of refined sylvan beauty," "Pleasant openings and outlooks," and "Quiet out-of-door recreation."

1. What will be designed
 - a. The entrance sign and landscape at the intersection of First Ave. and Forest Ave. in Riverside Illinois.
 - i. Project must include lighted signage, removal of all invasive species from site, landscaping appropriate for this historic village, and all safety considerations for this very busy intersection next to a school.
2. Rules and parameters of competition
 - a. Designs shall be submitted no later than March 6th.
 - b. Use the history and values of Frederick Law Olmsted to guide your design process.
 - c. Use the 'Guide to Landscaping in a Historic Village' to gauge the current mindset of the residents but do not let it restrict you in the design process.
 - d. You must obey all current ordinances for the sign.
 - i. Lighting for the sign is required.
 - ii. Link: http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=610
 - e. All site documents are available electronically at www.fredinriverside.org

- i. Site survey
 - ii. G.I.S.
 - iii. Topographical map
 - iv. Photographs
 - v. Guide to Landscaping in a Historic Village
 - f. The intent at this time is to build the entire project in phases but there is no commitment from the Village or District to either build the project or use the winning design.
 - i. Total budget for the Village entrance sign build is \$30,000-\$40,000.
 - 1. Budget is just an estimate. Project may expand or contract depending on availability of funds.
 - ii. Total budget for the School District sign build is \$30,000-\$35,000.
 - 1. Budget is just an estimate. Project may expand or contract depending on availability of funds.
 - g. Designs should consider ecological sustainability and ongoing maintenance.
- 3. Judging Process:
 - a. FRED Steering committee reviews all submissions and narrows down to top eight for judging.
 - b. Riverside Village Commissions will vet the designs, narrowing down to five final designs.
 - c. Final Designs are judged by a five member judging panel (July 16 – July 30, 2012) with one person representing each of the following organizations.
 - i. Judge Panel:
 - 1. FRED Steering Committee (20% of vote)
 - 2. Frederick Law Olmsted Society (20% of vote)
 - 3. Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (20% of vote)
 - 4. American Society of Landscape Architects (20% of vote)
 - 5. Riverside public (20% of vote)
 - a. The public vote is the tiebreaker
- 4. Submitting Designs
 - i. Please submit all designs and documents to:
 - info@fredinriverside.org
 - 1. One to three 24"/36" presentation quality graphic presentations
 - 2. A one page narrative
 - 3. Preliminary budget numbers
 - 4. Three examples of previous work related to the intention of this project.
 - ii. There will be a site meeting on 2/7/12 and 2/15/12 at 9:00 am to answer questions and review the site.
 - iii. Please direct all additional questions to:
 - competition@fredinriverside.org
- 5. Prizes
 - a. \$1,000 First Prize

- b. A plaque with the winners name and company
 - c. Publicity
 - d. The intent of the FRED steering committee is to have the winning design built. The timeframe for the build will depend on available funding, and may be built in phases.
6. Dates
- a. January 26, 2012 – First notice sent to potential designers.
 - b. February 7, 2012- 9:00 am Site Meeting
 - c. February 15, 2012- 9:00 am Site Meeting
 - d. February, 2012 - Designs developed.
 - e. March 12, 2012 – Submissions due and reviewed.
 - f. April 26, 2012 – Roll-out date in conjunction with FRED's kickoff event. Press comes to view designs.
 - g. April 29, 2012 – FRED steering committee narrows down to top five to eight design candidates.
 - h. April 30, 2012 - Notify finalists and schedule presentations to Riverside Commissions.
 - i. May, 2012 – Five to eight designs vetted by Riverside Commissions in order to narrow field to 3 Final Designs
 - i. May 3, 2012 – Economic Development Commission Meeting
 - ii. May 8, 2012 – Landscape Advisory Commission Meeting
 - iii. May 10, 2012 – Preservation Commission Meeting
 - iv. May 15, 2012 – Historic Commission Meeting
 - j. June 11 to July 30, 2012 – Designs displayed at Library and on the FRED and Village of Riverside websites for public voting purposes.
 - k. August 1, 2012 – Winner determined; winner's plaque ordered
 - l. **August 18, 2012 – Winning design unveiled to public and designers; prizes awarded.**