

**CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES \* OLMSTED PROJECT COVER SHEET**

Please submit completed form to: Architectural Survey Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development  
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT 06103

<b>I D E N T I F I C A T I O N</b>	<b>PROPERTY NAME</b> (Current/Historic)		
	Veterans Memorial Park / Sunset Ridge Memorial Park		
	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>TOWN/CITY</b>	<b>VILLAGE</b>
	Hartford	East Hartford	
	<b>JOB NUMBER</b>		
	Primary: 09850 Related Job Numbers:		
	<b>Landscape Type</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park, Parkway, Recreation Area. Scenic Reservation <input type="checkbox"/> City/Regional Plan, Improvement Project <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision, Suburban Community <input type="checkbox"/> College/School Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Residential Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Public Building <input type="checkbox"/> Private Estate / Homestead <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery / Burial Lot / Memorial / Monument <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Commercial / Industrial Building <input type="checkbox"/> Country Club / Resort, Hotel, Club <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Church <input type="checkbox"/> Arboretum, Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition, Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous		
	<b>DATE OF ORIGINAL PROJECT:</b> 1949-1951  <b>SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS:</b>		

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**DESIGNER(S) (primary)**

- ☐ Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
- ☐ John Charles Olmsted
- ☐ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- ☐ Other firm member(s):
- ☐ Other notes:

Other Designers (prior to or following Olmsted project):

**Repositories consulted with source materials**

- ☒ Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Olmsted Archives (online albums)
- ☒ Library of Congress
- ☒ Olmsted Online (OlmstedOnline.org)
- ☐ National Archives and Record Administration
- ☐ Connecticut State Library
- ☐ Hartford History Center
- ☐ Other:

**Observations regarding features characteristic of Olmsted firm design**

Sunset Ridge Memorial Park is a narrow rectangular public park space that parallels Interstate 84 in East Hartford. The park features the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse, a circa 1930 Tudor Revival residence sited atop an elevated knoll initially used by the Sunset Ridge Country Club until they filed for bankruptcy in 1937. Additional features of the park include a curving entrance drive that terminates near the entrance to the clubhouse in a circular turnaround, a flagpole, benches, commemorative markers, and a large parking area connected with a narrow asphalt road that extends toward the interstate.

The park was designed by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects as an active recreation park in 1949-1951. Site plans prepared by the firm indicate proposals for softball and baseball fields, a picnic area, cabins, sledding hill, chip golf course, tennis courts, children's play area, basketball courts, shelter, and swimming pool. The existing residence was indicated to remain as the clubhouse. The site was designed in part for day camp use.

Surviving elements of the plan today include the access drive and circular terminus at the clubhouse, parking area, flagpole, clubhouse use of the historic building, and access road leading downhill. The area

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indicated for sledding is maintained in mown open hillside as is the hillside along the access drive as it approaches the clubhouse. Otherwise, none of the active recreation or proposed built features are present on site today. The park thus possesses limited integrity for the Olmsted design. A large cellular communications tower is located in the parking area that is a later intrusion on the landscape. There is a commemorative marker that is also a later addition.

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I D E N T I F I C A T I O N	<b>PROPERTY NAME</b> (Current/Historic) Veterans Memorial Park / Sunset Ridge Memorial Park (Job #09850)		
	<b>COUNTY</b> Hartford	<b>TOWN/CITY</b> East Hartford	<b>VILLAGE</b>
	<b>STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)</b> 100 Sunset Ridge Drive		
	<b>OWNER(S)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRIBAL <input type="checkbox"/> EASEMENT East Hartford Parks		
	<b>LAT/LONG COORDINATES</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Center Point <input type="checkbox"/> Polygon 41.771664, -72.590853		
	<b>PARCEL INFORMATION</b>		
	<b>Acres:</b> 18.21	<b>PID(s):</b>	<b>MBLU(s):</b> 57-134
	<b>USE (Present)</b> Public park		<b>(Historic)</b> Public park; private residential estate
	<b>SURVEY TYPE</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reconnaissance-Level <input type="checkbox"/> Intensive-Level		
	D E S C R I P T I O N	<b>LANDSCAPE TYPE</b> (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designed <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Ethnographic <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Linear <input type="checkbox"/> System/Multi-Site <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional <input type="checkbox"/> Maritime <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park- Active Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Park-Passive Recreation or Commemorative <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify:	
<b>DATE OR PERIOD</b> (Include source of date) 1949-1951 (Olmsted Research Guide Online)			
<b>DESIGNERS</b> (Entities that created, designed, constructed, or shaped the landscape) Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects			
<b>DESIGN SCOPE</b> (For designed landscapes, explain what work was commissioned) The park designed by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects featured various active recreation elements and children's day camp needs, an access road system and parking			
<b>LOCATION OF DRAWINGS/IMAGES/SOURCE MATERIAL</b> Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site; Library of Congress			
<b>VISUAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY</b> (Check boxes for the qualities that are key features of this landscape. If attaching descriptive narrative, consider these categories.)  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Layout &amp; Spatial Relationships</b> (site plan for extensive recreational park program)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Circulation</b> (access roads and parking)  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Topography</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Plantings/Vegetation</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Views &amp; Vistas</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Boundaries</b> </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Water Features</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Drainage</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Buildings/Structures/Objects</b> (cabins)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Recreational Space</b> (various)  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Design Style:</b> </div> </div> <p>A paved access drive enters the park after passing through a residential neighborhood. The drive splits, with the right hand portion leading to a clubhouse, within a historic home, atop a knoll, and fronted by a circular turnaround and a flagpole. The left hand portion leads to a parking area that parallels a sloped open hillside. The park is edged to the north by Interstate 84.</p>			

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<b>C O N D I T I O N</b>	<b>EXISTING CONDITION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Recognizable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Extant/Not Recognizable Changes: Nearly all of the site plan elements proposed in the Olmsted plan are no longer present; Interstate 84 is a later addition that has impacted the site with traffic noise		
	<b>POTENTIAL THREATS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None Known <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onsite Development <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Development <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism <input type="checkbox"/> Overuse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deferred Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental – specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify: _____		
<b>E N V I R O N M E N T</b>	<b>SETTING</b> (One sentence description) The property is located within a residential neighborhood		
	<b>VEGETATION</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintained Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Open Land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodland/Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Specimen Plants <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify: _____		
	<b>SLOPE</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level/Nearly Level <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Slope <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steep Slope    Elevation (ASML): 220'		
	<b>CONNECTICUT PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE (Eco-Region)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Highlands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Uplands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Coastal Slope <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Uplands Soil Description: Site dominated by well-drained Wethersfield loam soils.		
<b>H I S T O R Y</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b> (Provide a brief overview in this space. More detailed narrative can be attached.) The park was designed by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects as an active recreation park in 1949-1951. Site plans prepared by the firm indicate proposals for softball and baseball fields, a picnic area, cabins, sledding hill, chip golf course, tennis courts, children's play area, basketball courts, shelter, and swimming pool. The existing residence was indicated to remain as the clubhouse.		
	<b>NATIONAL REGISTER RECOMMENDATION</b> Entered by: Liz Sargent HLA <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended Eligible (Criterion <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated Explanation: The park does not possess sufficient integrity for listing NR Listed: <input type="checkbox"/> District-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> District-Non-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Documentation		
<b>R E P O R T E D B Y</b>	<b>NAME</b> Liz Sargent and Maeve Corcoran	<b>ORGANIZATION</b> Red Bridge Group	<b>DATE</b> December 2021
	<b>ADDRESS</b> 2100 Green Street, San Francisco, California 94123		
	<b>PHOTOGRAPHER</b> Liz Sargent	<b>DATE</b> September 14, 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permission to use photographs (public domain)
	<b>SURVEY METHOD</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Visit/In-Person Walkover <input type="checkbox"/> Drive-through/Windshield <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Review Only		

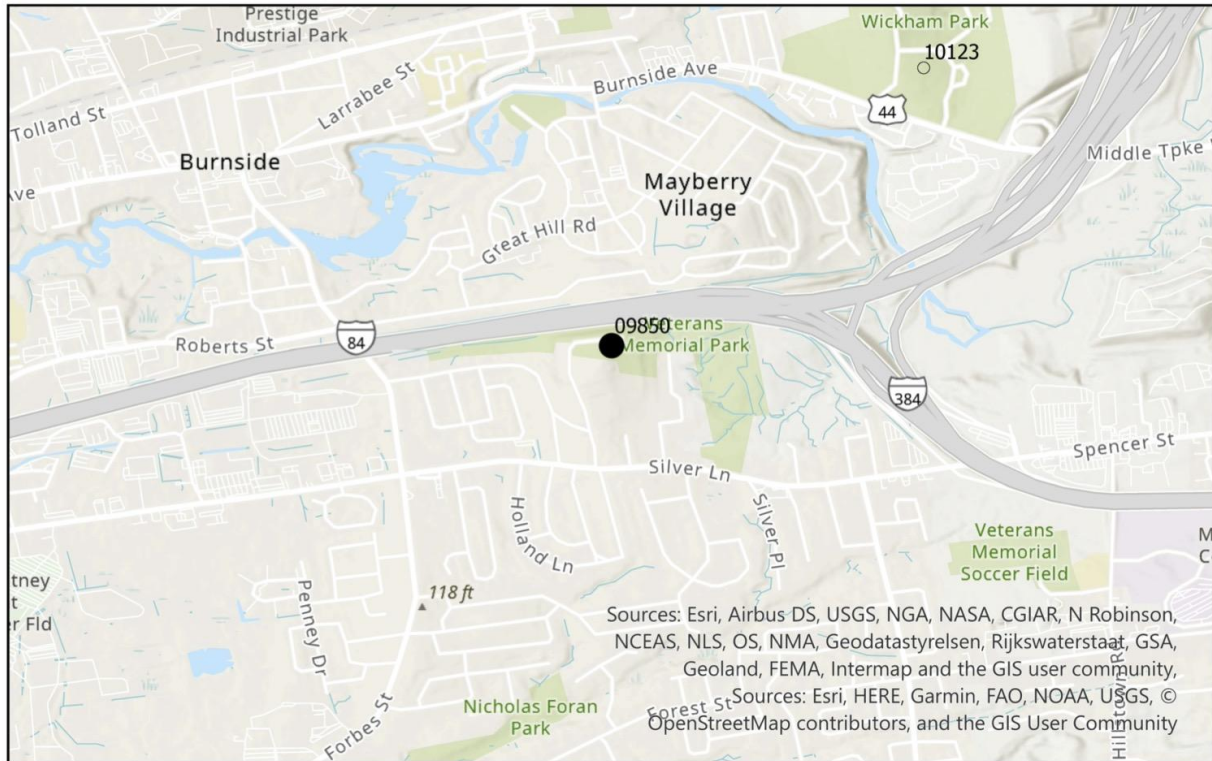
**ATTACHMENTS (Include the following items in the PDF)**

- ☒ Location Map    ☒ Site Map    ☒ Photographs with captions    ☒ Historic Images (if applicable)  
☐ Narrative Description of Property    ☐ Historical Narrative of Property    ☐ References

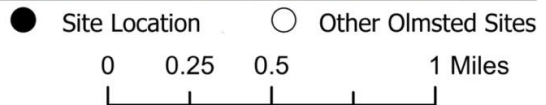
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CONTINUATION SHEET Sunset Ridge Memorial / Veterans Memorial Park (#09850) / 100 Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford

### GRAPHICS



JOB: 09850 LOCATION: East Hartford



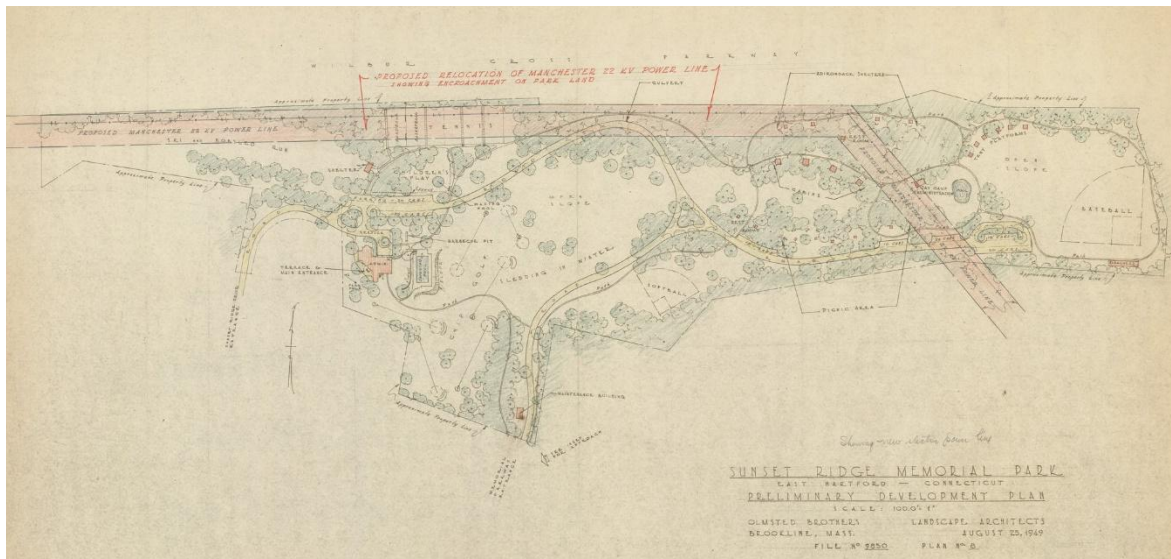
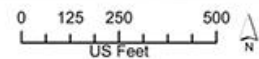


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JOB: 09850 LOCATION: East Hartford PROJECT: Sunset Ridge Memorial Park

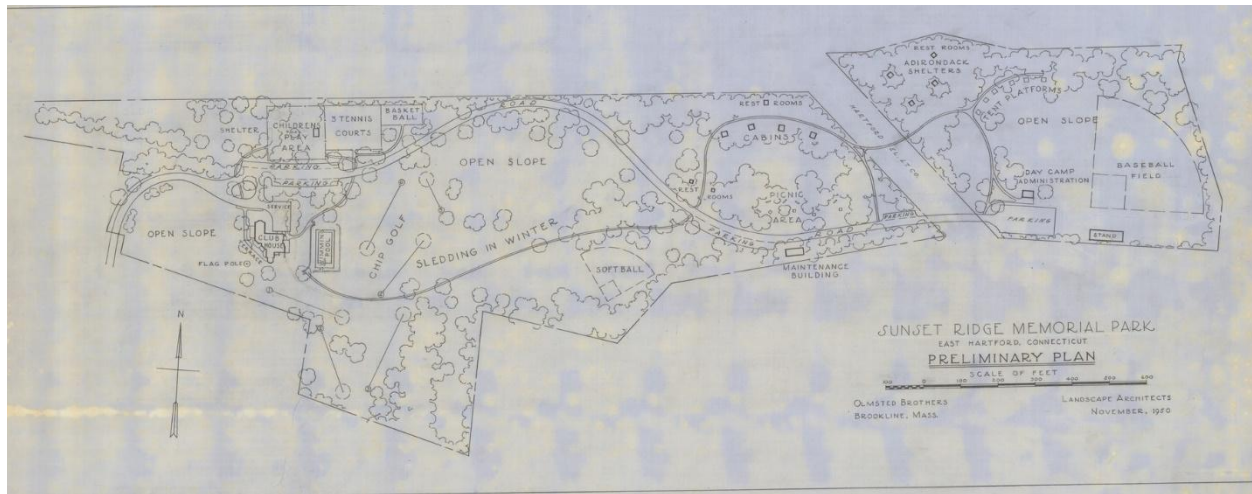


Preliminary Development Plan for Sunset Ridge Memorial Park prepared by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects in 1949. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

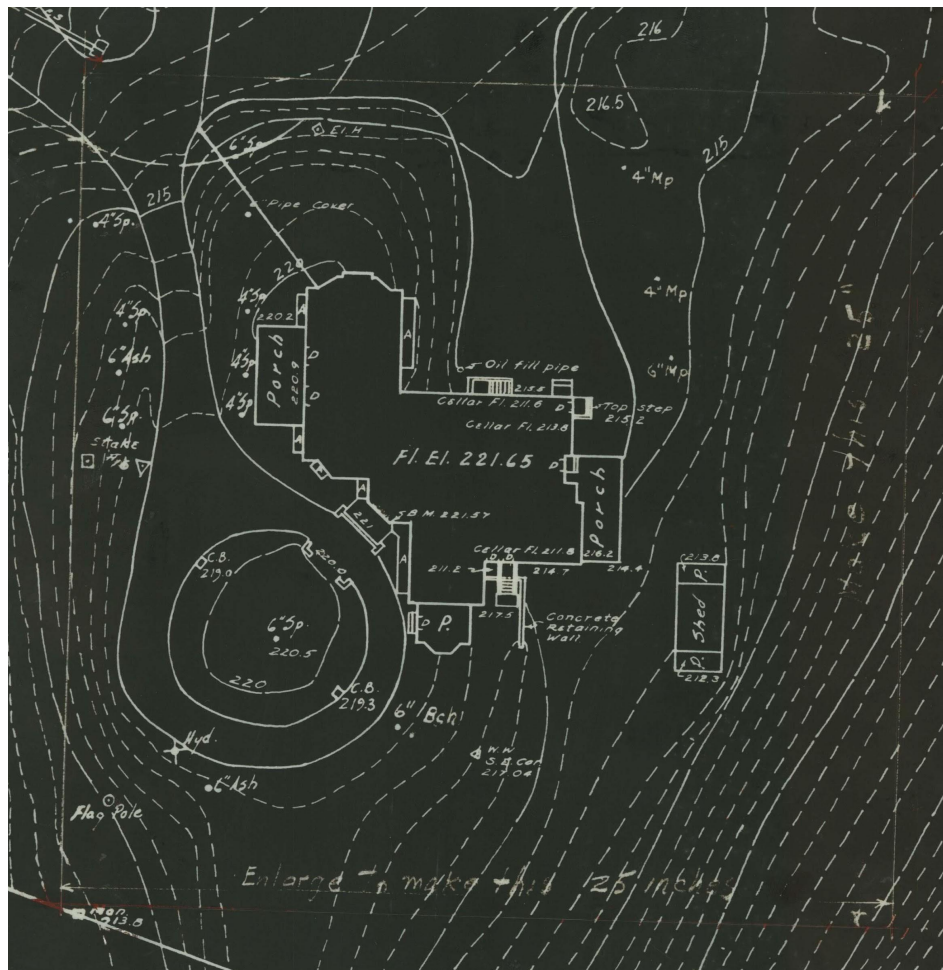


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Plan for Sunset Ridge Memorial Park prepared by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects in 1950.  
(Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

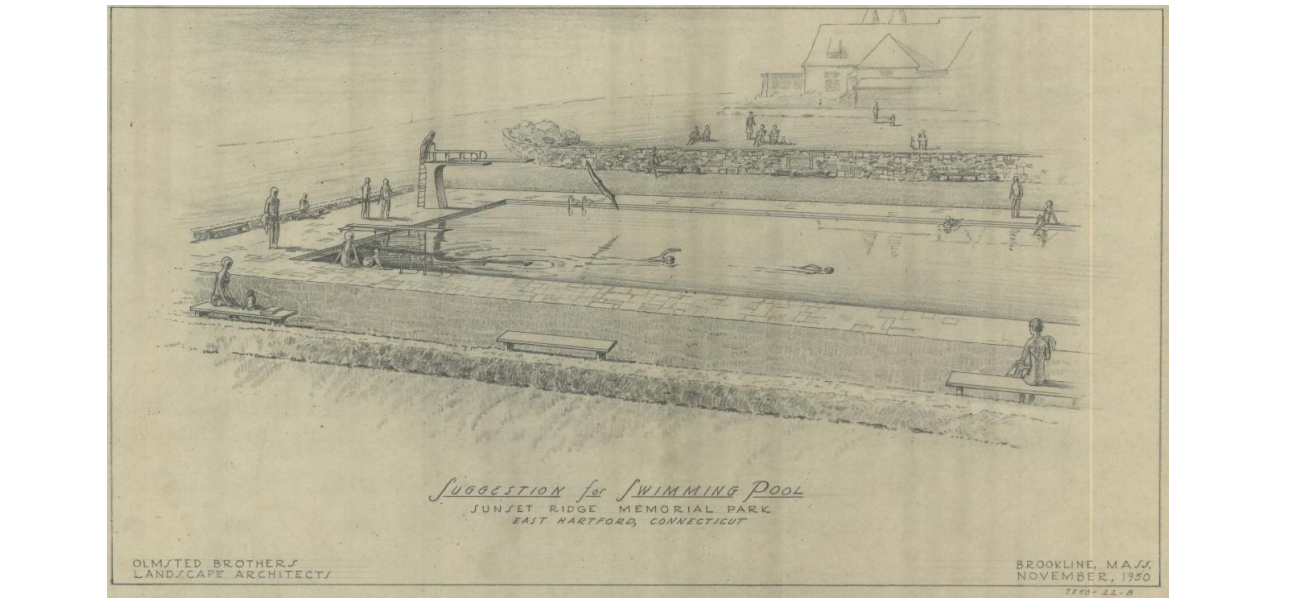


Plan for the terminus of the access drive at the clubhouse prepared by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

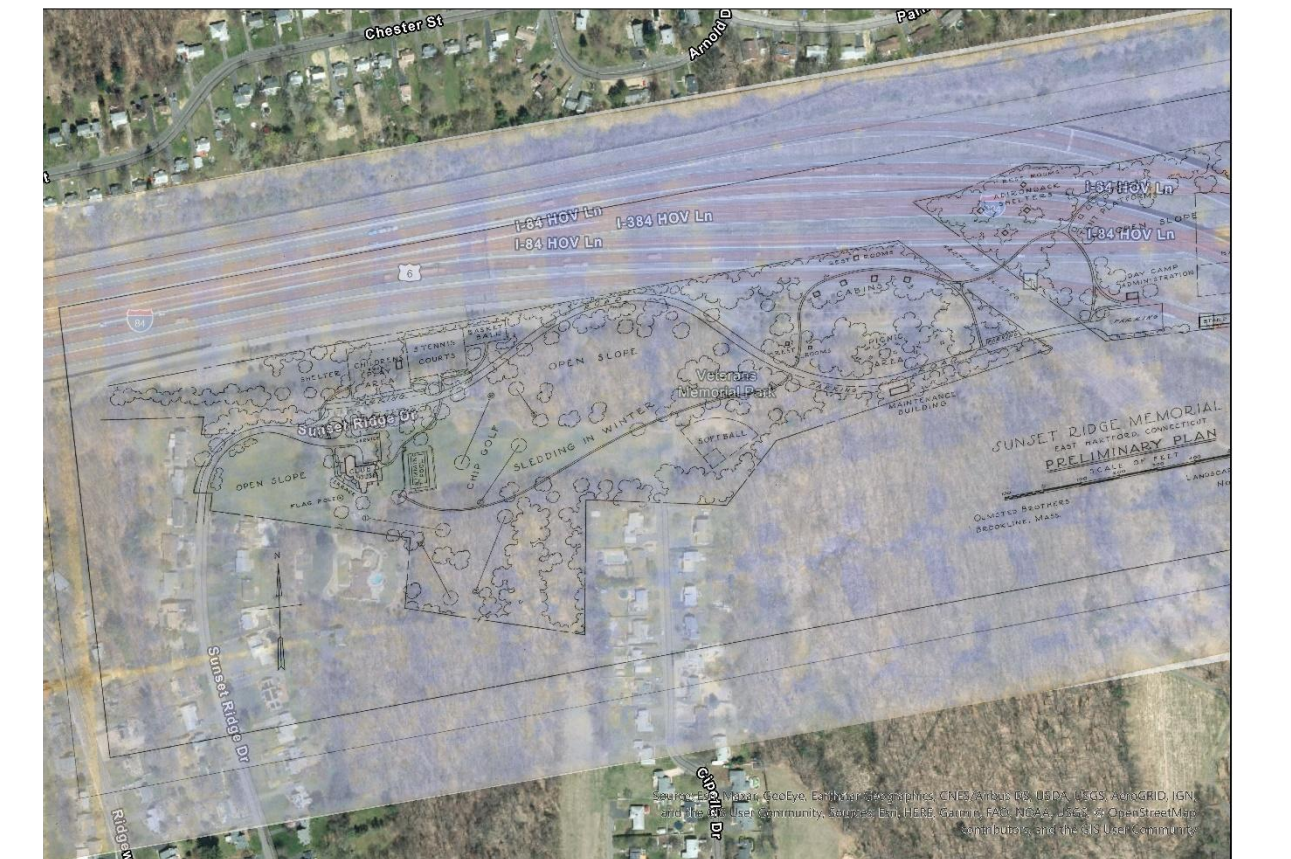


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Rendering of proposed swimming pool. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)



JOB: 09850 LOCATION: East Hartford PROJECT: Sunset Ridge Memorial Park



Aerial photograph overlaid with historic plan for Sunset Ridge Memorial Park. (Source: Kevan Klosterwill)



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View north toward the clubhouse from the circular turnaround at the terminus of the access road. (All photographs taken by the authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)



View east past the clubhouse to the maintained grass hill beyond.



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View north along the access drive with the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse to the right and the flagpole to the left.



View west from the access road toward the adjacent residential neighborhood.



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View east down the cleared hill where sledding was proposed in the Olmsted plan.



View east of the cellular communications tower at one end of the park parking area.

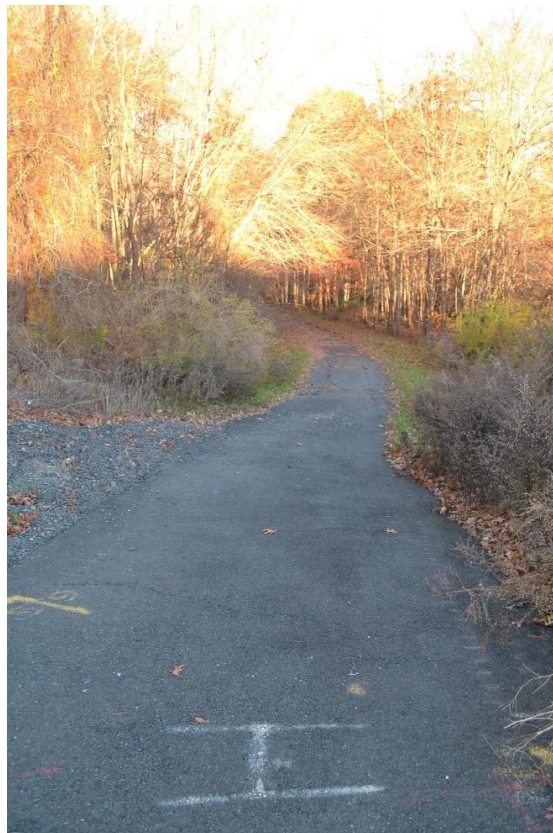


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The commemorative marker near the clubhouse.



View east along the paved asphalt road that survives from the Olmsted plan.