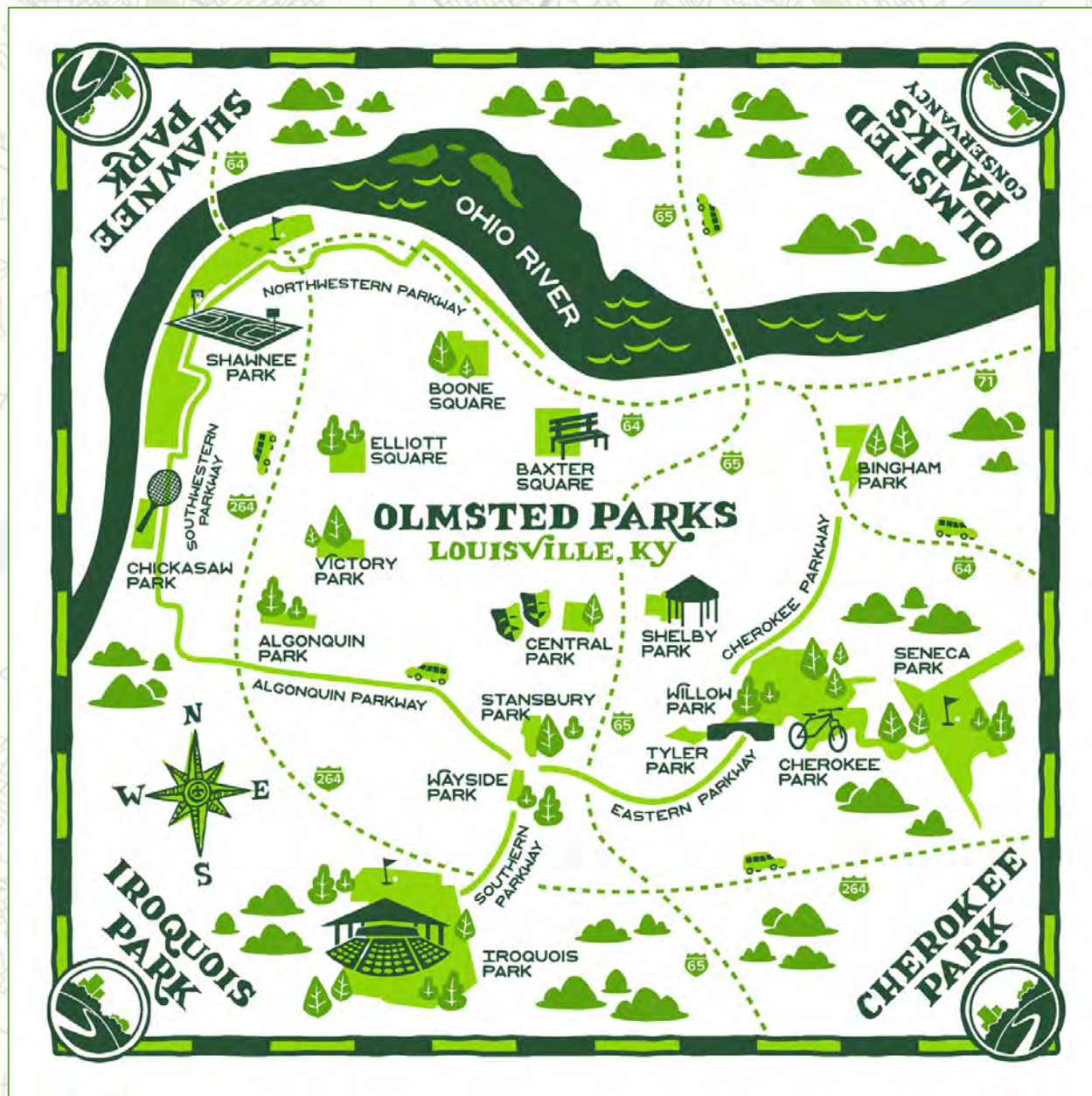




# OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY

Mary Grissom, President & CEO





Great public parks would function as the “lungs of the city” — green open spaces where city dwellers could breathe clean air.

- Frederick Law Olmsted

# Louisville's Park History

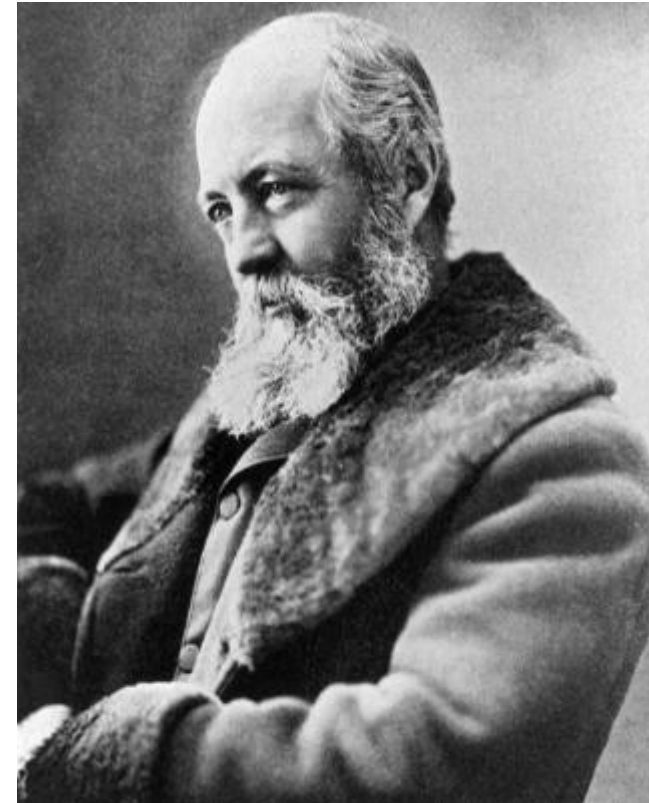


Circa  
1855

# Frederick Law Olmsted, 1822-1903

*“He paints with lakes and wooded slopes; with lawns and banks and forest-covered hills; with mountainsides and ocean views....” – Daniel Burnham*

- Parks in New York: Central Park, Prospect Park, Niagara Falls
- Parks in Chicago: Jackson Park, Washington Park, Midway at 1893 World’s Fair
- Parks in Boston: Emerald Necklace park system including The Fens, Boston Commons and Jamaica Pond.
- Colleges: Stanford University, U of Chicago, Cornell, Berkeley, Yale, Trinity
- US Capitol Grounds, National Zoo, Biltmore Estate
- LOUISVILLE!



# What Made Olmsted So Great?

- He wanted you to have a break from city life, a place for rest.
- His landscape designs were as much for societal reasons as for aesthetic.
- Olmsted's parks literally determined community development. Cities were shaped around the parks.



# Olmsted Brothers

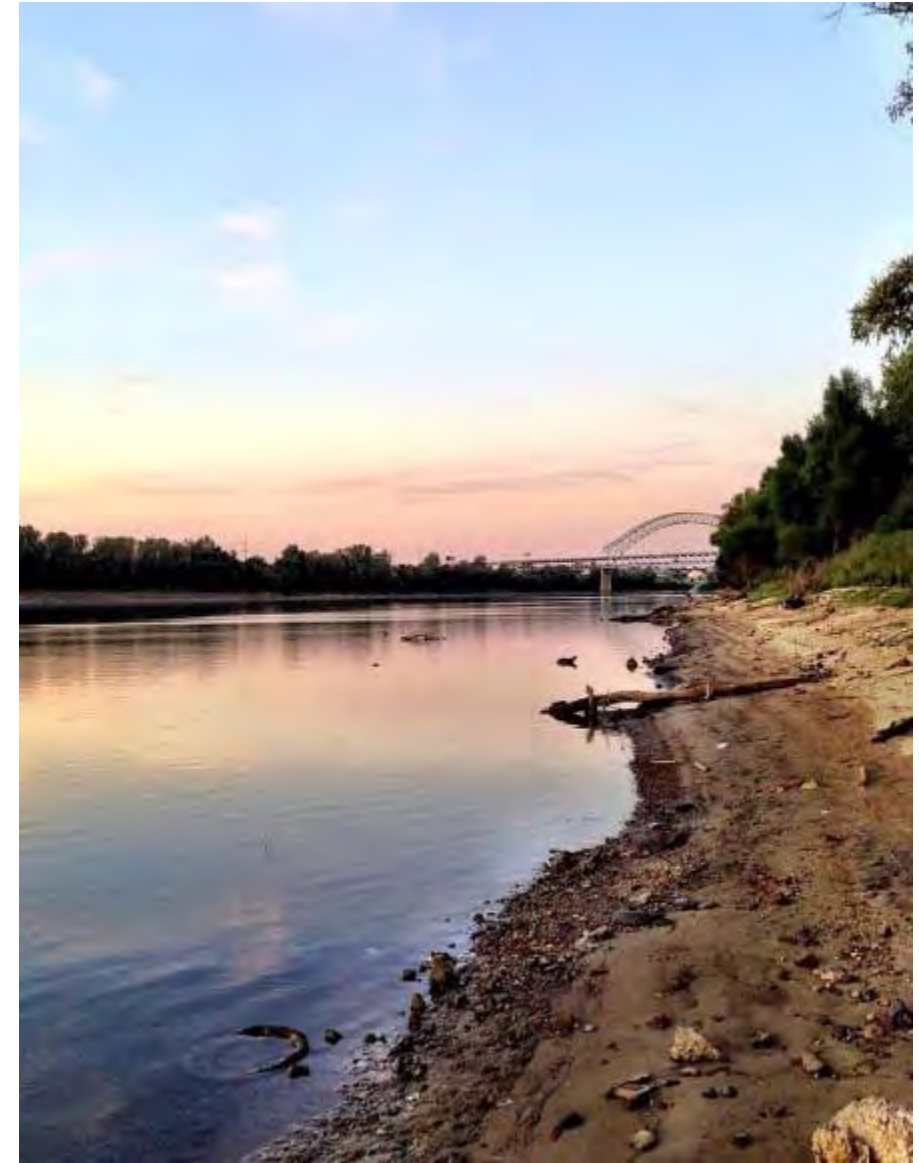
- Late 1890s: Frederick Law Olmsted turned the firm over to his sons.
- Olmsted Brothers Firm designed in Louisville until 1960.
- 17 Olmsted-designed parks; 6 parkways; many other projects: U of L campus, Public Library, City of Anchorage, Cherokee Gardens, Indian Hills, private estates around Cherokee Park and along River Road, Southern Baptist Seminary, Bernheim Forest...and many more.

Olmsted principles determined Louisville's development and quality of life — geographically, aesthetically and socially.



Louisville is responsible for stewarding a  
legacy of national importance

# Shawnee Park



# Cherokee Park

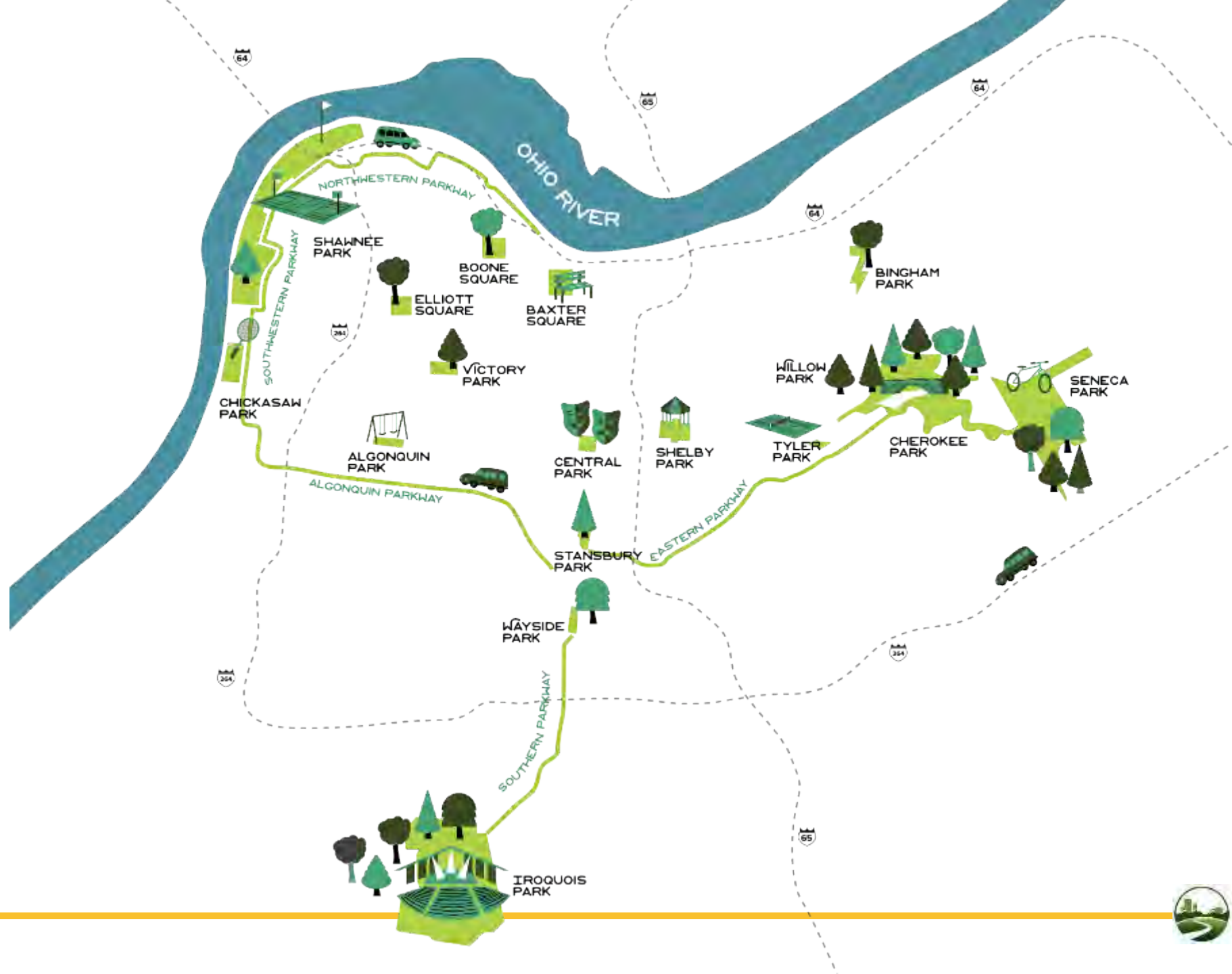


# Iroquois Park



# Olmsted Parkways





# Twentieth Century: Parks at Risk

- Neglect, disrepair of green spaces.
- 1937 Flood and floodwall response
- I-64 interstate through Cherokee and Seneca Parks
- 1974 Tornado
- Long-term maintenance costs
- Economics (and politics) of landscape preservation.
- 1980s: Friends of Olmsted Parks



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## OUR MISSION

Enhance, restore and protect Louisville's Olmsted-designed parks and parkways, connecting nature & neighborhood while strengthening our community's well-being.

## OUR VISION

Elevate our parks to bring the restorative power of nature to all.

OLMSTED PARKS  
CONSERVANCY

# Ecological Stewardship



# Park Planning & Projects



# Community Outreach & Advocacy



A scenic overlook in Cherokee Park featuring a stone wall and a paved area with a star and the name 'CAMPBELL OVERLOOK' engraved on it. The background shows a grassy hill and trees with autumn foliage.

Campbell Overlook,  
Cherokee Park

CAMPBELL OVERLOOK

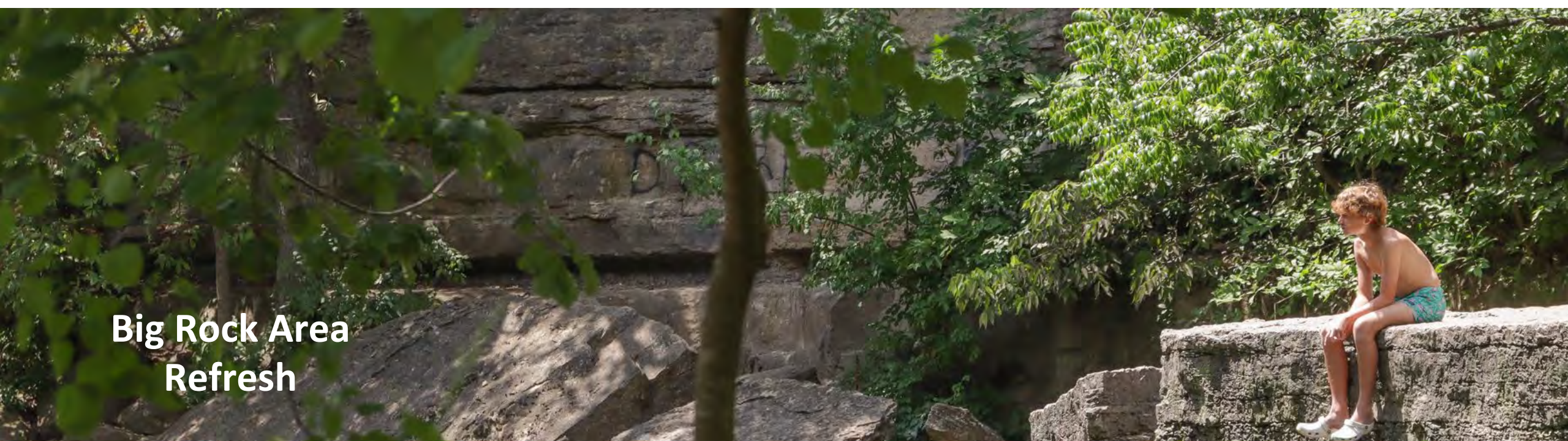


Central Park  
Improvements



# Chickasaw Park Restoration





**Big Rock Area  
Refresh**

# Bingham Park Renovation





# New Iroquois Park Nature Play



# Thank you for your time & support!

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