

Design Contest Rules

The Garden Club of Hartford (GCH), a member club of the Garden Club of America (GCA), in collaboration with Hartford's Department of Public Works, is embarking on a multi-year project to restore pollinator-attractive native plantings at Keney Park's five entrances. In addition, the project includes an invasive plant species monitoring/management plan with direction for managing rare or endangered plants within a defined pilot area at the Barbour Street entrance.

The city of Hartford values historic sites such as this park, designed by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects in 1898, and enthusiastically supports restoring the entrances in particular, to be more colorful and inviting so that the public will use and understand the park more fully. At the time the park was designed, it comprised 522 acres; it now encompasses 693 acres, and there are five entrances. John Olmsted wrote "...it is essential to preserve and to encourage wildness of vegetation, planting only native trees and shrubs or at least none that will be noticeably foreign or garden-like... constructing needed buildings, fences, bridges, benches, etc., in a rustic rather than in a formal style."¹

The Garden Club of Hartford invites currently enrolled Landscape Architecture and Landscape Design students to compete in its design contest by submitting conceptual designs for all five entrances. The design for the Barbour Street entrance is to be immediately implementable. Judging will be based on the total package submitted by each contestant. Prizes will be awarded for 1st place (\$1,500) and for Runner-up (\$1,000).

The Competition: Create conceptual landscape designs (30 scale) for each of the five entrances to include native plants from the Olmsteds' original plant list, with an emphasis on pollinator-attractive species. The designs should be in keeping with John Olmsted's vision of the park's style and vegetation (see paragraph above), plants specified in the designs should offer multi-season color/interest and designers should assume limited financial and manpower resources of the city's Department of Public Works. Permanent structures at the entrances, e.g., pillars, fences, gates, paved roadways and walkways, may not be changed or removed. The gardens should provide both an educational and recreational experience for visitors of varying ages and botanical knowledge.

For the Barbour Street entrance, a 10 scale implementable design must be submitted. Students should demonstrate knowledge of existing invasive plants and rare or endangered species (see accompanying list of species identified summer 2014) and suggest a program for their management within the specific focus area for plant management at the Barbour Street Entrance.

Contestants must register their intent to enter the contest by December 1, 2014. Each contestant will be assigned a unique code to identify *all* parts of his/her submission in order to maintain anonymity during the judging process. Electronically submitted designs must be accompanied by a plant list, specifying the cultural requirements of each plant, its size at maturity, and color(s)/ special features of the plant in each season. A statement of the guiding principles of each design is encouraged. Lists and statements must be printable on 8 1/2" x 11" standard paper.

Submissions should be sent electronically to p4pkeneypark@gmail.com by March 31, 2015. Judging will be completed by April 30, 2015, and the winner and the runner-up will be notified immediately after they are selected. The Garden Club of Hartford reserves the right not to award prizes in the event the judging panel deems contest submissions inappropriate for the overall vision for Keney Park.

¹John Alexopoulos, "The Nineteenth Century Parks of Hartford: A Legacy to the Nation", p. 63