

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Frederick Law Olmsted was born on April 26, 1822, in Hartford, Connecticut. He developed a love and appreciation for nature early on in his life, traits that would inscribe themselves onto the landscape of our nation; and

WHEREAS: Although accepted into Yale College, Olmsted was unable to complete his studies and instead spent much of his time traveling and working around the world. These experiences had a significant impact on Olmsted's later designs; and

WHEREAS: Olmsted became superintendent of Central Park in New York City in 1857 and was joined by Calvert Vaux in preparing the winning submission for the design competition of Central Park; and

WHEREAS: Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, Olmsted left New York to serve as the first Executive Secretary of the United States Sanitary Commission, a forerunner to the American Red Cross. As Secretary, he spearheaded multiple health initiatives, including proper sanitation and good nutrition, and led the movement to repurpose military boats into medical ships, thereby saving countless lives; and

WHEREAS: In 1863, Olmsted moved to California to manage the Mariposa Estate and surrounding gold mines. There, he was asked to head a commission to oversee the newly established Yosemite Reservation. An avid conservationist, Olmsted's efforts helped lay the foundation for the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS: Olmsted frequently discussed the role of landscapes to the human condition. He stressed the importance of restorative areas, such as parks, to human health and environmental protection. According to Olmsted, parks were intended for everyone, regardless of race or class, and therefore served as democratic spaces. He would go on to design various parks, college campuses, and urban areas including Prospect Park, Stanford University, and the areas surrounding the United States Capitol; and

WHEREAS: As the Natural State and home to numerous national parks, Olmsted's influence on environmental protection has been essential to the preservation of Arkansas's namesake, and it is important to acknowledge the contributions he has made to our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as

**FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED DAY IN ARKANSAS**

and I encourage everyone to recognize Olmsted's legacy within landscape architecture and ecological conservation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the year of our Lord 2022.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State