

Prospect Park: Olmsted and Vaux's Brooklyn Masterpiece

By David P. Colley, Elizabeth Keegin Colley

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Right in the heart of one of the nation's most densely populated urban areas sits an idyllic realm of graceful meadows, dense woods, placid lakes, and fresh air. Brooklyn's 585-acre Prospect Park offers a rural refuge to thousands of visitors every day. Created nearly 150 years ago by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert B. Vaux, designers of New York's Central Park, the duo considered Prospect Park their true masterpiece. *Prospect Park*, the first monograph on this exquisite public space, makes it easy to see why. Presenting a wealth of archival and newly commissioned photography and insightful text, David P. Colley and Elizabeth Keegin Colley trace the park's colorful history from its creation in the mid-nineteenth century to its decline in the 1970s and restoration in the 1980s, up to the park's new Lakeside Center facility, scheduled to open in 2013.

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Editorial Review

Review
"A big, lusciously photographed volume that's destined to become the Brooklyn house gift of the year." -- New York magazine

"The most beautiful photographs of Prospect Park you've ever seen." -- Brooklyn magazine

"Prospect Park is one of New York City's most cherished green spaces. Its recent revitalization led by the Prospect Park Alliance is a terrific example of what can be achieved when the public and private sectors work together. Through its stewardship, the Prospect Park Alliance has provided a national model of park development and restoration, and its efforts will help ensure that Prospect Park will remain a New York City treasure for generations to come." -- Michael Bloomberg, New York City Mayor

"Prospect Park is New York City's urban emerald, a beautiful oasis in Brooklyn's heart and the embodiment of Brooklyn's soul. When Olmsted and Vaux designed Prospect Park, they achieved perfection, creating a true masterpiece that would enrich the city of Brooklyn and serve as a sanctuary and great equalizer for the many diverse communities of New York. When David and Elizabeth Colley put together this book about Prospect Park, they captured that perfection, illustrating the unique history and enduring appeal of one of our city's greatest treasures." -- Marty Markovitz, Brooklyn Borough President

"In many ways, Prospect Park is Brooklyn, a melting pot of immigrants and longtime residents, athletes and readers, artists and bankers. It is a place for our quietest reflections or our happiest celebrations. And like Brooklyn, the whole of Prospect Park is even greater than the sum of these wonderful parts." -- Spike Lee, Film Director

"Beautiful photographs capture every season, and accompanying text describes the artwork that went into creating what Sen. Charles Schumer calls 'Brooklyn's backyard.'" - Metro US

"This ode to a New York treasure explores the park's origins and continuing restoration... As Adrian Benepe, the former city parks commissioner, writes in his introduction, this 'rambunctious, bulging diamond' is Brooklyn's heart and magnet. In many respects, it is more impressive than Central Park, its older sibling." -- New York Times

About the Author
David P. Colley is the author of seven books, including *Blood For Dignity* (named to the *New York Times* summer reading list and its New & Noteworthy column) and *The Road To Victory*, which received the Army Historical Foundation's Distinguished Writing Award. Colley has appeared on various History Channel programs. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *American Heritage*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Historic Preservation*, and many other publications. A former journalist, Colley is the recipient of numerous awards for excellence in news reporting.

Elizabeth Keegin Colley is a photographer specializing in work for non profit organizations including universities, park systems and libraries. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *New York* magazine, *Newsweek*, *Business Week* and many other publications, and has taken her to Europe, South America and Africa.

Users Review

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Johanna Hernandez:

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