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*“Our Whole Country a Park”  
Community Days and Civic Horticulture in  
Warren H. Manning’s Modern Planning Practice*

BY KEVAN KLOSTERWILL

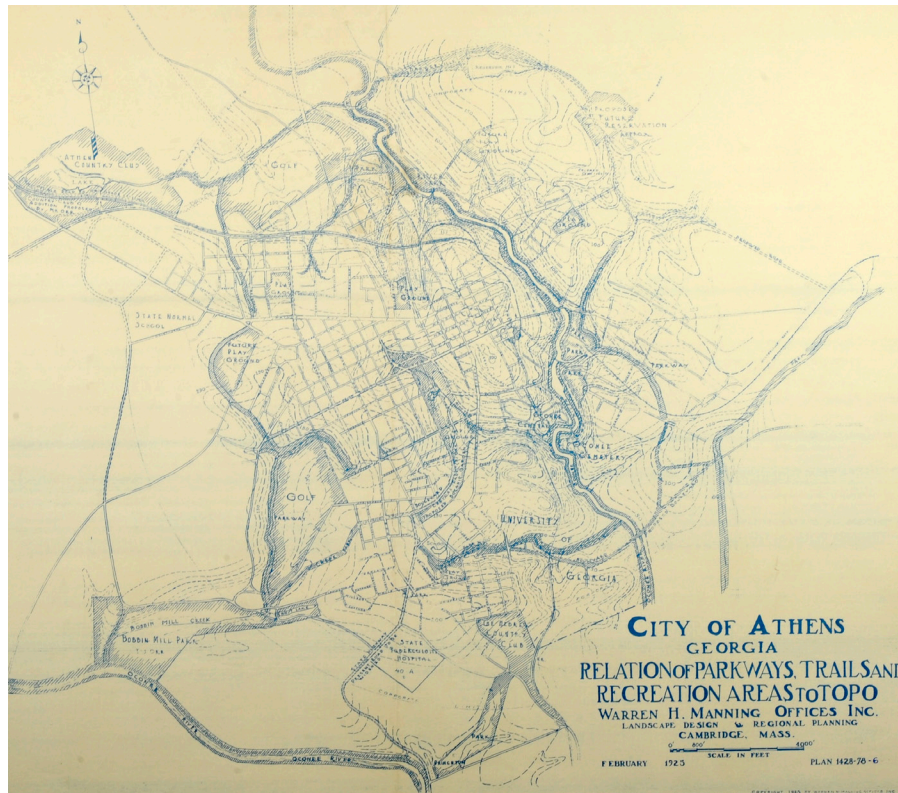
The Boston-based landscape architect Warren H. Manning (1860 – 1938) forged an innovative approach to city, regional, and national planning that paired modern planning techniques with nineteenth-century ideals of rural life. Designing landscapes at every scale, Manning’s visionary goal was to make “our whole country a park.”

In towns and cities throughout the eastern and southern United States, Manning implemented plans that preserved scenic resources for future citizens. He believed that close association with plants and experiences of natural beauty could improve individuals, their homes, parks, and towns, and American society as a whole.

Throughout his long practice, Manning orchestrated “Community Days,” gatherings that brought together hundreds of local volunteers who cleared brush, planted trees, and created trails and ballfields for new public parks and playgrounds. He also turned to volunteers to gather information. In Athens, Georgia, Manning enlisted Boy Scouts to help count city street trees.



Wildwood Lake (formerly Wetzels Swamp), Harrisburg, PA. Photo by Carol Betsch.



Plan courtesy Warren H. Manning Papers, Special Collections Department, Iowa State University Library.

In the forthcoming LALH book, Kevan Klosterwill charts the evolution of Manning's experimentation with these ideals at ever more complex scales, illuminating the advantages as well as the pitfalls of his expansive practices. These explorations are especially timely, as landscape architects today seek to engage communities in plans that meet the environmental and social equity challenges of the twenty-first century.

Kevan Klosterwill contributed to *Warren H. Manning, Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner* (LALH, 2016). His writing has also appeared in *Landscape Journal*, the *Journal of Architectural Education*, and *Landscape Architecture*.

All donations of \$250 or more received by May 25 will be acknowledged in the book.  
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