

Hearing Date: 4/26/2005
LPC Docket Number: 055457
Manhattan, Block: 1254, Lot: 1

Riverside Park between West 83rd Street and West 91st S - Scenic Landmark Historic District

An English Romantic-style park built in 1873-75 and designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, with modifications and additions built in 1934-37 and designed by Clifton Lloyd and Gilmore Clarke.

Application is to construct a bicycle and pedestrian path from West 83rd to West 91st Street.

HDC Testimony

The design of the proposed bicycle and pedestrian path within Riverside Park, one of New York's most beautiful and significant scenic landmarks, must be held to the highest standards of what will make for an appropriate design. This path will be heavily trafficked, and highly visible from both land and water.

Unfortunately, HDC's Public Review Committee was not convinced that this application presents an appropriate solution.

The proposed path will inelegantly jut out over the water, and is not at all reflective or contextual to either the park or the highway in its design. These sharp curves will make for a very awkward situation, both visually and functionally.

Furthermore, in addition to the clumsiness of these curves, we fear that that the design, which also includes steel piles as supports, will negatively impact views of the shoreline.

We are of course in support of making this area of the park pedestrian and bike accessible, and we understand the conflict presented by having to conform to controls set by the Department of Environmental Conservation, but we do believe that the most appropriate solution has not been presented today. We recommend that the applicants revisit the 1998 proposed plans for this bike path. This application was far more graceful, and we believe more appropriate for this scenic landmark.

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