

# A history of urban forests & trees Europe & North America



*The Ideal City by Fra Carnevale (1480-4)*

## Lecture based on

- *Forrest, Mary and Konijnendijk, Cecil. Chapter 2: A History of Urban Forests and Trees in Europe. In: Urban Forests and Trees. 2005.*
- *Ward Thompson, C. (2011). Linking landscape and health: The recurring theme. Landscape and Urban Planning, 99(3–4), 187–195.*

# Learning objectives

- *Identify important figures in the development of urban greenspace*
- *Discuss historical conceptions of greenspaces and their links to human health*
- *Identify important urban greenspaces through history*





Arthur B Davies. Elysian Fields



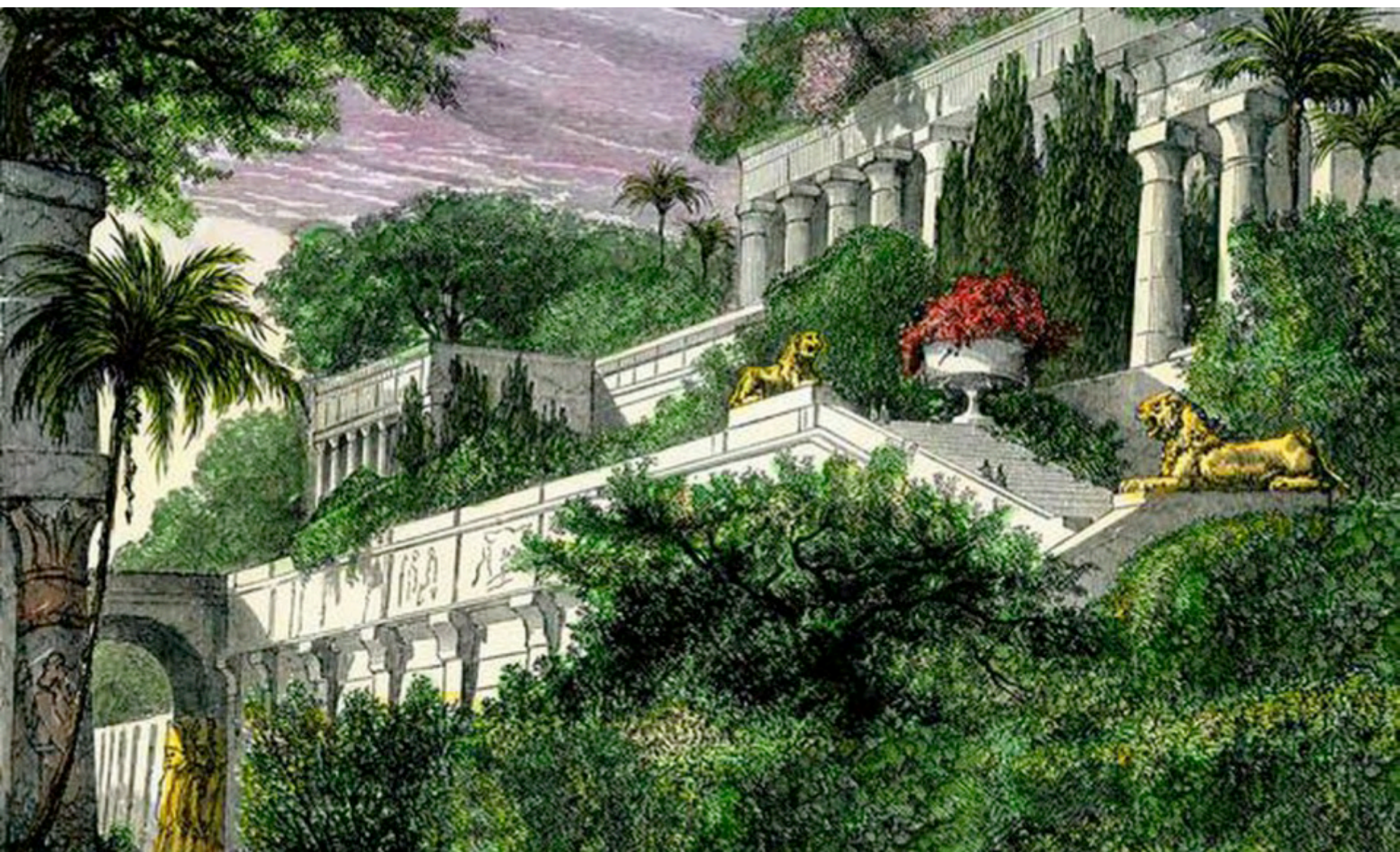


# Epic of Gilgamesh





# Hanging Gardens of Babylon





# Aeneid

*"They came to the pleasant places, the delightful grassy turf of the Fortunate Groves, and the homes of the blessed. Here freer air and radiant light clothe the plain, and these have their own sun, and their own stars.*

*Some exercise their bodies in a grassy gymnasium, compete in sports and wrestle on the yellow sand: others tread out the steps of a dance, and sing songs. . . among the fragrant groves of laurel, out of which the Eridanus's broad river flows through the woodlands to the world above"*

(Vergil's Aeneid. Kline, 2002, Book VI: 628–678).



# Ancient urban forests & trees



Agora, Athens

By DerHexer (Own work) [GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>) or CC BY-SA 4.0-3.0-2.5-2.0-1.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0-3.0-2.5-2.0-1.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons



# Ancient urban forests & trees

Rome, Italy



Giovanni Paolo Panini. *View of the Roman Forum*



# Ancient urban forests & trees



Rome, Italy

Reconstruction of the House of Vetti in Pompei  
Photo by: I, Sailko



# Medieval Forests



<http://www.visitessex.com/epping.aspx>

Medieval Forests near cities were common land for grazing, woodcutting  
1878 – Epping forest act. Wood pasture became a place for public recreation.



# Medieval forests & trees



Hunt in the Forest  
Paulo Uccello



# Medieval forests & trees

“... a herb garden, not only for food but also for recreation in the open air to aid the recovery of the sick and to preserve health and improve those fatigued by their spiritual studies.”

(Bonaventure, quoted in Montford, 2004, pp. 56–57)



# Medieval forests & trees





# Medieval trees

“Writing in the 13th century, Humbert (ex Master of the Dominican Order) instructed that some of the land surrounding the convent infirmary should include meadows and gardens for the recreation of the sick.”

(Ward Thompson 2011, p. 189)

Lewes Priory Herb Garden  
Photo by Magnus Manske



# Medieval trees



Lewes Priory Herb Garden  
Photo by Magnus Manske



# Link to mental health

“above we spoke of trees and herbs according to those that are profitable for the human body. But now we will speak of those that give pleasure to people and therefore preserve the health of the body as the state of the body affects the mind”

(Piero de'Crescenzi. Quoted in Ward Thompson, 2011, p.189)



# Medieval Forest Policy



Freiburg  
Photo by Luftfahrer ,



## Germany - Freiburg - Green City



- **Author:** [Regina Gregory](#)
- **Posted:** January 2011

Long famous for its cathedral, university, and cuckoo clocks, Freiburg is now also famous as a “Green City.” It excels in the areas of transportation, energy, waste management, and land conservation, and has created a green economy that perpetuates even more environmental progress.



Photo: Courtesy Freiburg Wirtschaft Touristik u. Messe GmbH

<http://www.ecotippingpoints.org/our-stories/indepth/germany-freiburg-sustainability-transportation-energy-green-economy.html>



discussion



14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries



Rain in an Oak Forest, 1891  
Ivan Shishkin

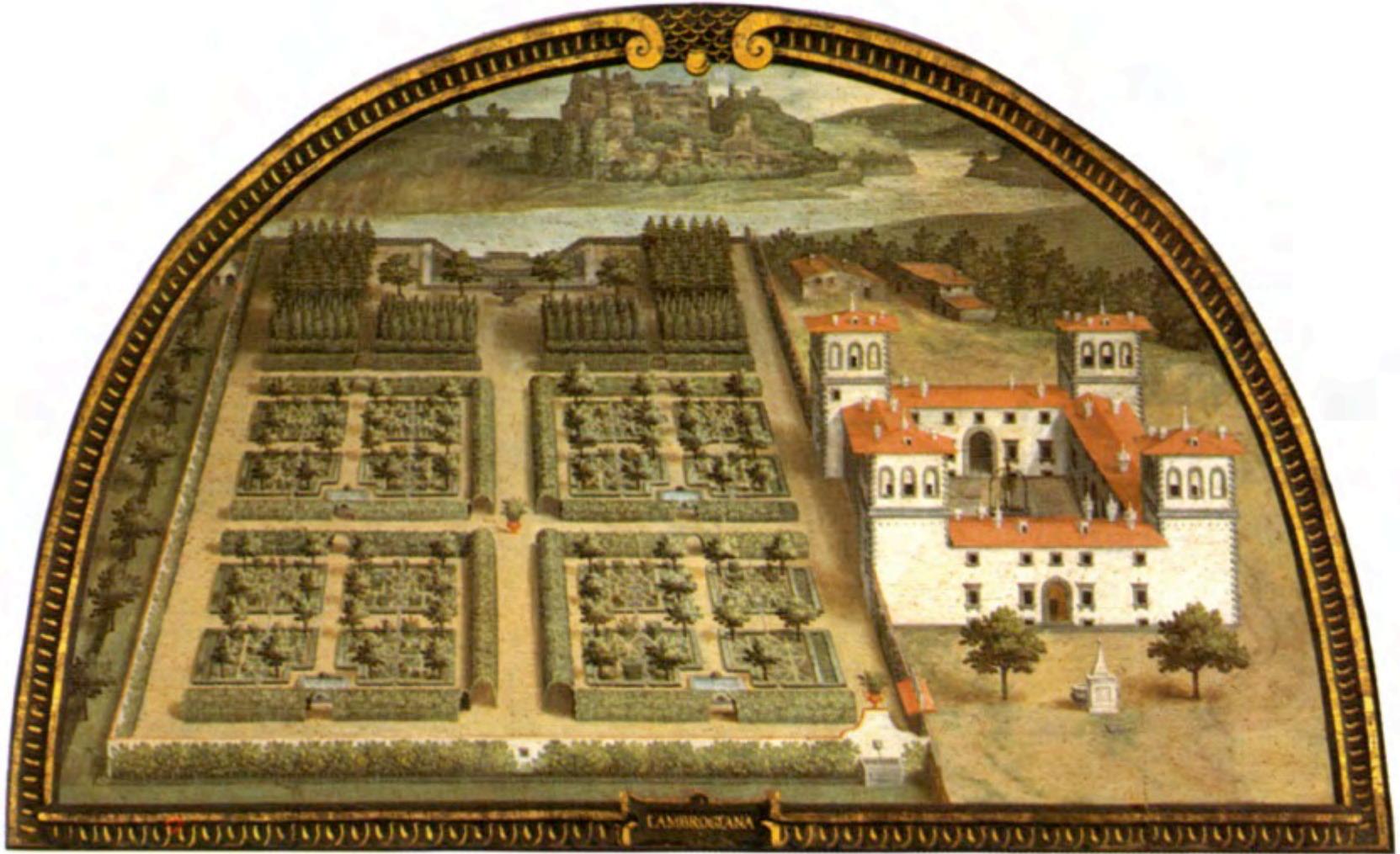


# Renaissance & Reformation





# Renaissance & Reformation



Villa medicea dell'Ambrogiana



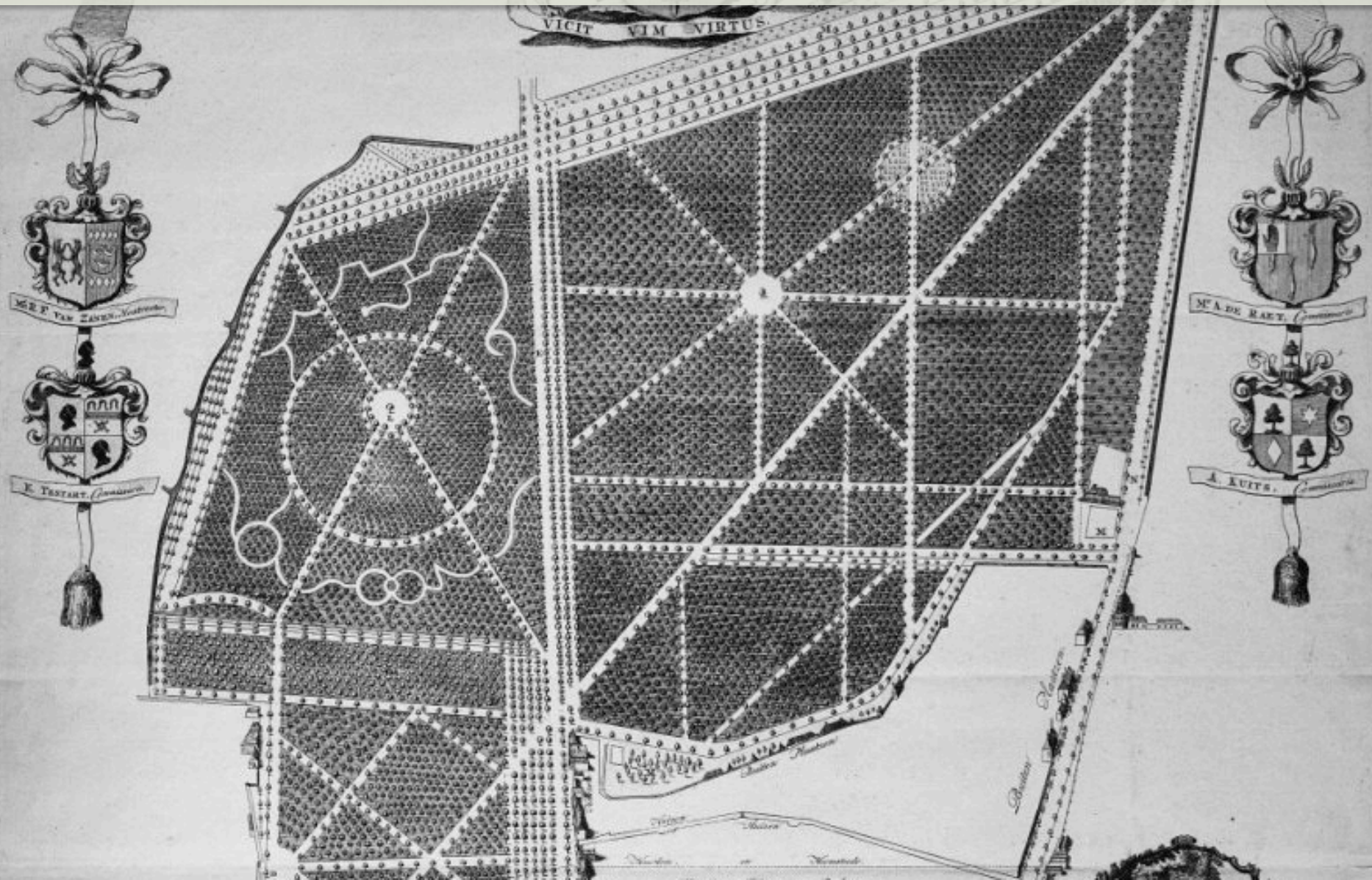
# Renaissance & Reformation



Jægersborg Dyrehave  
Theodor Siersted



# Renaissance & Reformation





# Green & Hyde Park: London





# The English Landscape Garden

18<sup>th</sup> century



*Landscape with Temple Ruins*  
Caspar David Friedrich



# The therapeutic nature of landscape experience



West Wycombe Park with Walton Bridge.”  
1757. Painting. Government Art Collections.



— Issues



Aesthetics, emotion, behavioural response





[nelsonsinengland.wordpress.com](http://nelsonsinengland.wordpress.com)

Active curiosity



# Capability Brown



*The Grecian Valley at Stowe. Image: National Trust/Andrew Butler*





[www.britishheritage.com](http://www.britishheritage.com)



discussion



# 19th and 20th centuries



<http://blogs.extension.org/mastergardener/2013/04/>



# 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris



Josh Hallett – Flickr: The Champs



# "Lungs of London"



[https://  
ideasinspiringinnovation.wordpress.com](https://ideasinspiringinnovation.wordpress.com)



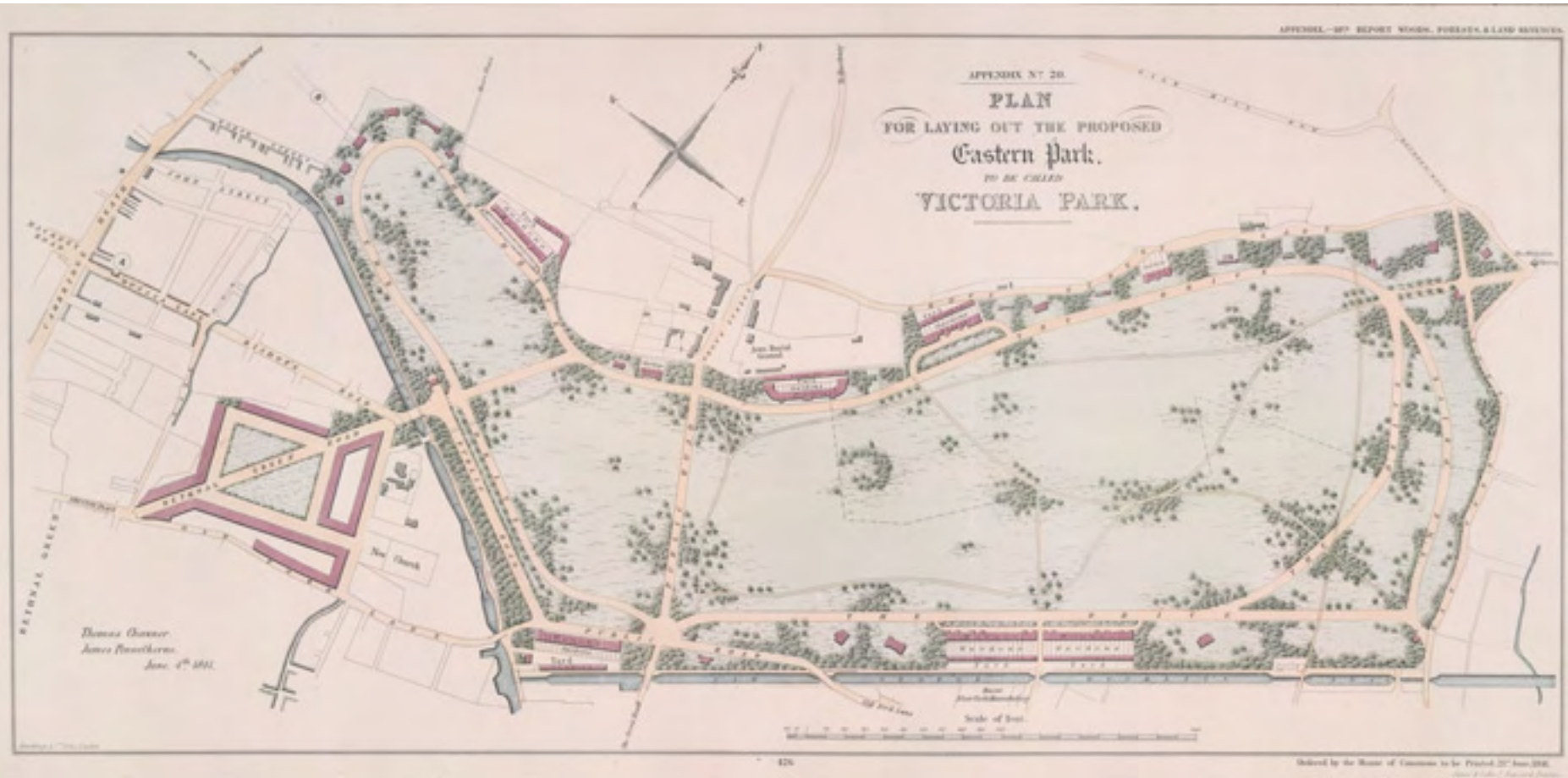
# Birkenhead Park: 1843



[http://www.snipview.com/q/Birkenhead\\_Park](http://www.snipview.com/q/Birkenhead_Park)



# Victoria Park 1845





“the pale mechanic and the exhausted factory operative might inhale the freshening breeze and some portion of recovered health”

(Warpole. Quoted in Ward Thompson, 2011, p.191)



By Laurence Fredric White Laurencefwhite - Own work, CC BY 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1986957>



discussion



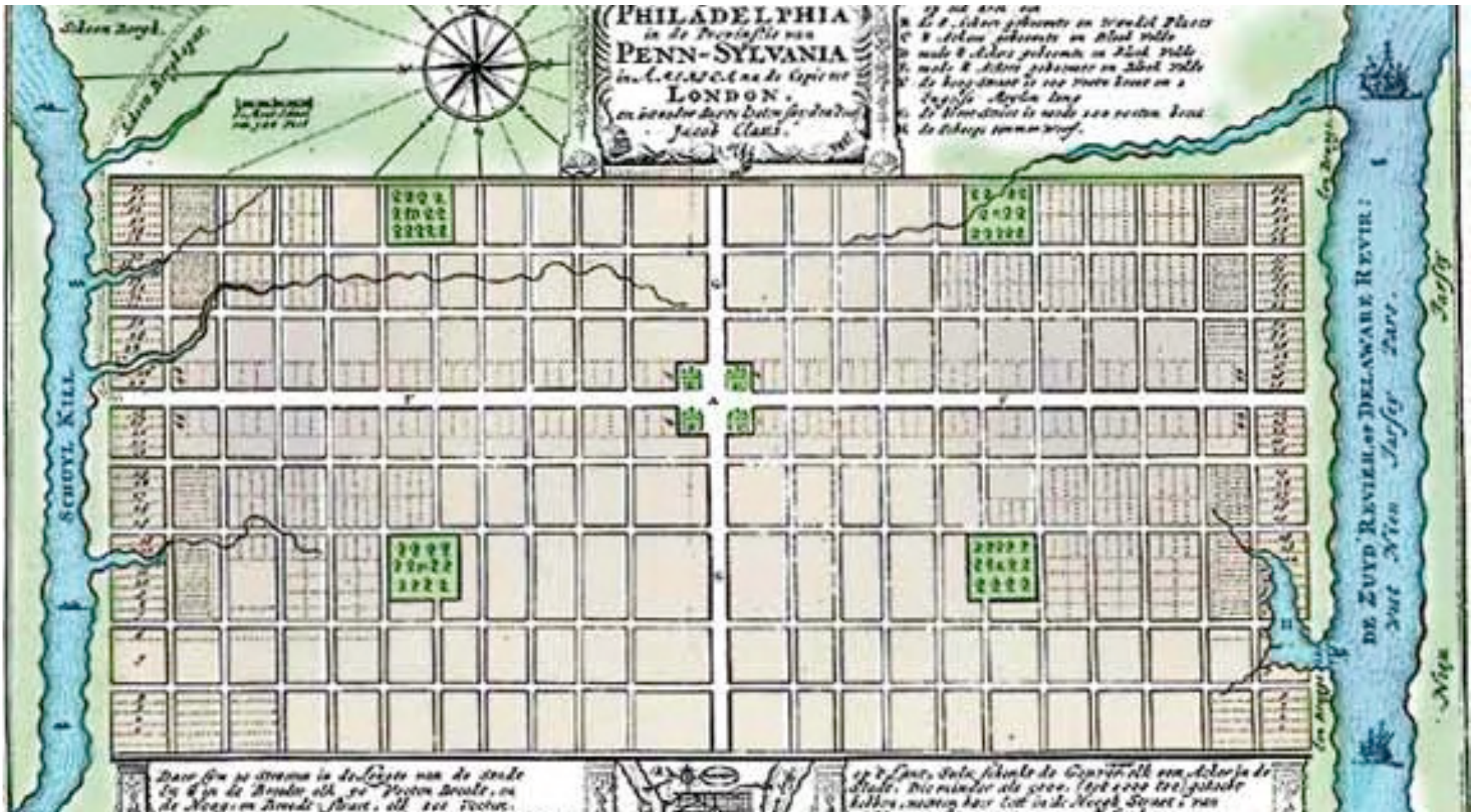
# North America: Boston Common 1634



*Lithograph by P. Hyman and David Bigelow, National Archives*



# Philadelphia: William Penn 1682





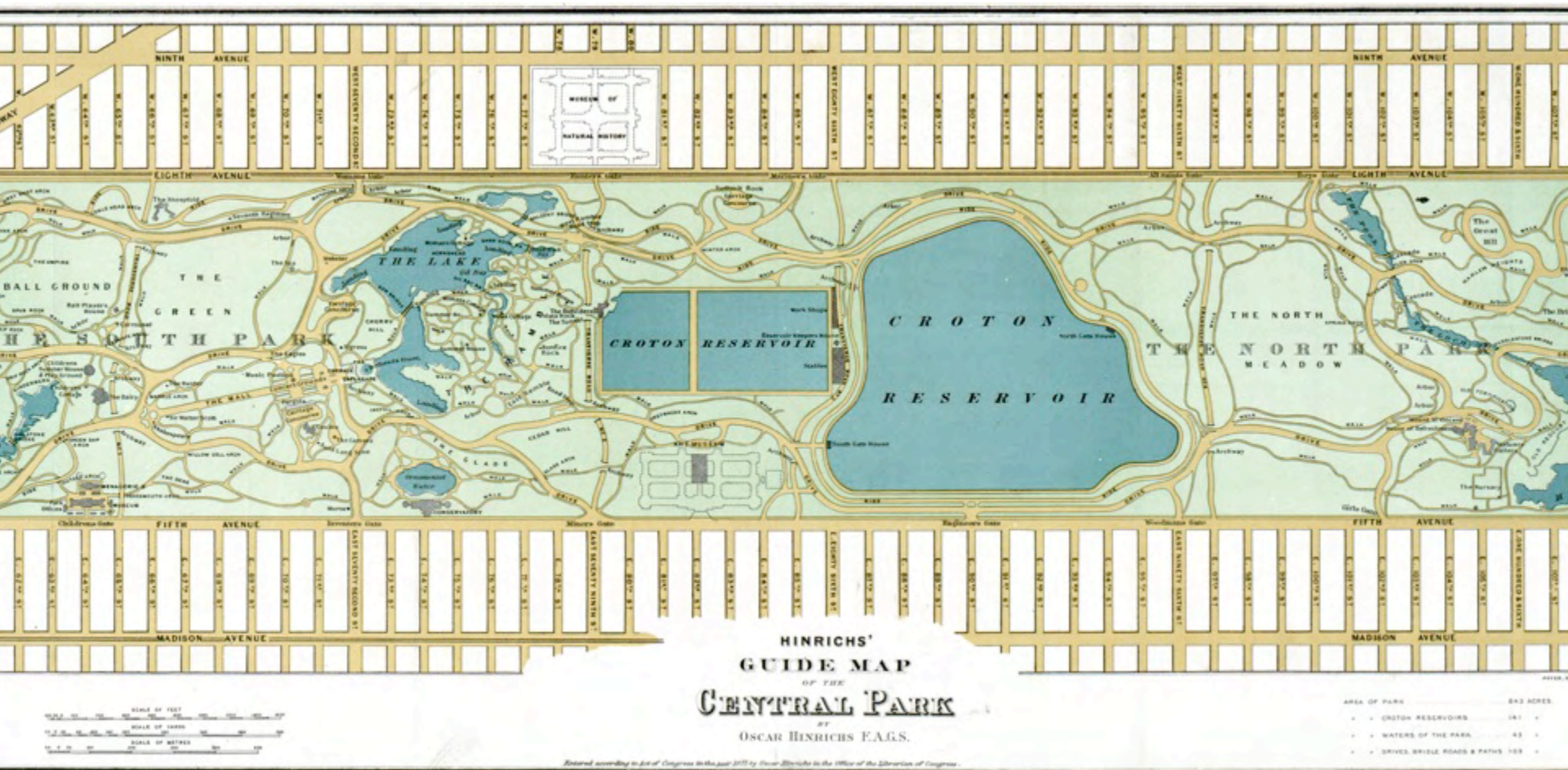
# Grant park: Chicago 1844



Credit: becca\_ca\_ca/Flickr



# Frederic Law Olmstead & Calvert Vaux





# Central Park, NYC



By Ingfbruno (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons



# Central Park










# City forestry: spiritual & bodily hygiene

Cecil C. Konijnendijk



## The Forest and the City

*The Cultural Landscape of Urban Woodland*

 Springer



<http://www.nycgovparks.org/about/history/bicycling>



# Post war suburbs





# 21<sup>st</sup> Century



<http://centerforactivedesign.org/superkilen/>



# Millenium Park Chicago 2004



[Filippo Diotalevi Flickr](#)



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century

0 9 8 6 1 6 5

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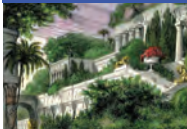


# 21<sup>st</sup> Century





Classical



The Middle Ages



Renaissance & Reformation



Enlightenment



Industrial Revolution



20th century



21st century

