

THE CONTINUING RESTORATION OF THE AMELIA WHITE PARK

PHASE 1 (COMPLETED)

In 2022, The Garden Club of America (GCA) launched the FLO200 Initiative in honor of the 200th anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth, the father of Landscape Architecture. All member GCA clubs were tasked with identifying a project in their community to commemorate this landmark occasion.

The Santa Fe Garden Club (SFGC), not having any parks or areas designed or developed by Frederick Law Olmsted near-by, sought a public space that could be addressed in the manner of Olmsted.

Through an extensive search of the parks in Santa Fe, the SFGC landed upon the Amelia White Park, a jewel of a park located on Old Santa Fe Trail, to focus its efforts.

Working closely with the Parks and Open Spaces Division, and many other like-minded community partners, the SFGC undertook a complete transformation and restoration of the Central Courtyard. The Amelia White Park was rededicated by Mayor Alan Webber during a celebration of the park's renewal on June 16, 2023.

Subsequently, the Amelia White Park's application to the Archive of American Gardens at the Smithsonian Institution was successfully completed and accepted on September 16, 2024.

PHASE 2 (CURRENT)

In late 2024, members of the SFGC made an official statement to the Santa Fe City Council and met one-on-one with Mayor Webber concerning the continued need for collaboration with the city to further improve the Amelia White Park. Subsequently, city funds were allocated to the Amelia White Park for continuing improvements and combined with SFGC's Amelia White Park Fund money raised during Phase 1, Phase 2 commenced in early 2025.

Once again working closely with the Parks & Open Spaces Division, Phase 2 will see the refurbishment, repair and painting of the main structure of the Pergola, that runs 360 linear feet bisecting the park east to west; the removal of the severely deteriorated, damaged and dangerous *latillas*; and the installation of a new superstructure made of a composite, recycled material that will hold up to the elements of heat, cold and wind in Santa Fe for years to come.

PHASE 3 (FUTURE)

Phase 3, which is wholly dependent on the completion of Phase 2, will see the further enhancement of the park with the installation of a solar panel on top of the west end of the new *latilla* structure.

This solar panel will provide power (there is none in the park currently) to one of John Gaw Meem's original design features – the Fountain - which cannot currently function as it was intended. The Fountain will be cleaned, repaired and restored, surrounded by new plantings, and once again become a flowing water feature, providing much needed water for wildlife and even a canine companion or two out for a stroll in the park.

Restricted donations for the continued restoration and improvement of the Amelia White Park can be made through the Santa Fe Garden Club website.

<https://santafegardenclub.org>