

A SURVEY OF
ROCHESTER'S HISTORIC PARKLANDS



Prepared for:

The City of Rochester

Prepared by:

Bayer Associates

Landscape Architecture and Planning

The Landmark Society of Western New York

Katherine Eggers Comeau

Director of Preservation Services

Charles, A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR

The Cultural Landscape Foundation

Founder and President

December 18, 2009



City of Rochester, NY
Robert J. Duffy, Mayor

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Preface

FERTILE GROUND FOR DESIGN:

A CONTEXT FOR ROCHESTER'S PUBLIC PARK LEGACY

“Perhaps no city in the country has had equal advantages in soil, subsoil, natural drainage, tree-supply, and public spirit. If in summer we take a bird's-eye view of the town from the outlook pavilion in Highland Park, the houses seem to be nearly all hidden by the trees. The section where trees have given way to business is probably smaller than in any other city of its size.”

William McMillan, “Shade Trees in City Streets” *Garden and Forest*, February 8, 1893

By the 1850s the City of Rochester was well known in horticulture circles -- thanks to popular books, journals, nursery and seed catalogues, and specialized newspapers such as *The Horticulturist*, *The American Cultivator*, and the *Genesee Farmer* or *The American Agriculturist*. Reaching not only those in Central New York and the Hudson River Valley, but a diverse national audience, the contributors and/or editors of these publications included such celebrated Rochesterians as horticulturists George Ellwanger (1816-1906), Patrick Barry (1816-1890), and seedsman James Vick (1818-1882). In particular, through their richly illustrated publications, the grounds of Ellwanger and Barry's own Mount Hope Nursery (which came to serve as a school laboratory), these pioneering practitioner/authors were instrumental in disseminating and promoting ideals to a hungry middle-class suburban-homeowner constituency that took full advantage of what is referred to in the real estate world as, “location, location, location.”

A spotlight was also placed on the entrepreneurial city from another direction -- Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927), the first Director of Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, who dubbed Rochester a “city in a forest.” This celebrated fertile ground created an opportunity for the civic philanthropy that would soon follow, here in Rochester and other civic-minded cities who were on a quest to bring *Art Out of Doors*, the title of Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer's 1893 publication which drew upon many of her essays published in Sargents' *Garden and Forest*, which was published from 1888-1897.

During this time influential professional publications such as *Garden and Forest* went beyond the design of just residential Villas and Cottages -- Sargent, its founder and “conductor” moved away from a compartmentalization of both nature and culture, but viewed landscape in the context of other aesthetic and environmental systems. In the case of the city of Rochester this would include its robust forest of native chestnuts, oaks (black, red, and white), hickories; black walnuts; beeches; maples (red and sugar), basswoods; tulip trees, and white ash. To illustrate this idea of shared values, consider the 1888 design for Highland Park by F.L. Olmsted & Company that would have the park serve two purposes: first, it would provide a vista point overlooking the city with distant views in many directions; and second, it would be designed and built to promote horticultural traditions of the city by providing scientific plant collections to educate both professionals and the public.

Garden and Forest’s ten year stint not only began in 1888, the same year that Rochester began to develop its municipal park system – the two echoed and mirrored each other’s goals -- to promote best practices about botany, horticulture, city planning, civic art, scientific forestry, and scenic preservation. As landscape historian Ethan Carr has noted, “numerous professions trace their early development in part to the influence of *Garden and Forest*. But landscape architecture, which aspired to combine planning and design on many scales, enjoyed a special status in the magazine and influenced its editorial structure. Landscape architecture was not limited to the "planting of flower-beds and of ornamental shrubs," the *Garden and Forest* editors asserted in 1897, but was a "broad and catholic art . . . as useful in the preservation of the Yosemite Valley or the scenery of Niagara as it is in planning a pastoral park or the grounds about a country house."

The city’s connection and awareness of this journal can be evidenced in its founding year, when on December 5, 1888, *Garden and Forest* reported that a Park Commission of twenty-one members had been formed in the city and that “before acquiring any land it has separately taken the professional advice of eight men of experience in the management of public parks - Mr. H. W. S. Cleveland, of Minneapolis; Mr. Calvert Vaux and Mr. Samuel Parsons, Jr., of New York; Mr. F. L. Olmsted and Mr. J. C. Olmsted, of Brookline; Mr. William McMillan, of Buffalo, and Mr. W. S. Edgerton, of Albany.”

That same year the Rochester Board of Park Commissioners selected Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., to design a network of large parks and parkways for the city. Olmsted’s involvement with the city actually began with the Ellwanger and Barry lands that would become Highland Park in 1881, and concluded with a 1912 plan for Genesee Valley Park. In all, over this 31-year tenure, the Olmsted firm produced nearly 300 plans for a variety of city parks (e.g. Highland Park, Seneca Park), squares (e.g. Madison,

Brown) and parkways (e.g. Genesee Valley Parkway). In addition, their in-town consultations continued until 1930, largely the result of their work with the University of Rochester which spanned from 1925 to 1930 and resulted in over 300 plans of its own.

The Rochester Olmsted design legacy is part of an elite group – it was one of just four American cities that can boast a comprehensive system designed by Olmsted, Sr. (the other cities include Buffalo, NY; Boston/Brookline, MA and Louisville, KY). In addition to this significant distinction, along with Louisville, it is the longest involvement of the Olmsted firm, thus insuring that all three Olmsteds contributed to the overall design.

Initially conceived under the direction of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. (1822-1903) with continuity and leadership provided by John Charles Olmsted (1852-1920) the foundational ideas set out by the Rochester Commissioners and designed by Olmsted and his successor firm took full advantage of the dramatic and diverse passages of scenery that the parkland offered, with the Genesee River as the system's connective tissue. As with their designs for Louisville (which would begin three years later in 1891), the river and three large parks, each with their own unique character would inform and anchor the system. In Rochester this would include Highland Park, a promontory park that possessed unrivaled views in the setting of a world-class Botanical collection; Seneca Park with its picturesque passages of scenery along rugged terrain; and just south of downtown, Genesee Valley Park, the most pastoral land with gently rolling terrain and magnificent river views. These three parks, along with the smaller parks and parkways that dot the city and serve their neighborhood settings were a model for later work that would be done by the Olmsted Brothers in such cities as Seattle and Spokane, Washington; Denver, Colorado; and Baltimore, Maryland.

LOOKING AHEAD

In addition to the fertile ground that gave rise to the creation of the Olmsted design legacy by the original Park Commissioners in 1888, this comprehensive survey of 61 parks symbolizes an ever-increasing awareness of the heritage value of the city's diverse public spaces.

As with New York City, Boston and Seattle to name a few cities where the Olmsted design legacy has been preserved, protected and afforded National Register designation, Rochesterians, under the leadership of the Landmark Society with the support of a great network of volunteers began

documenting and evaluating these parks in 1998. The fruits of these labors and the value bestowed on them by present-day stewards and residents is well documented in the important September 26, 2003, National Register designation for Seneca Park. This designation, which included a multiple property nomination for the Municipal Park System provided the essential context for not only the Seneca Park nomination, but provided the critical foundation for the work that follows under cover.

The scope, breadth, and depth of this landscape survey for the first time provide the essential historic context that should not only lead to the designation of the entire Olmsted-designed park system to the National Register of Historic Places, but should also inspire a dialogue about the future prospect of National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation. Although there are only 60 or so NHLs with significance in Landscape Architecture at the time of this writing (out of some 2,700 properties), the multiple areas of significance for the Rochester/Olmsted design legacy make for a powerful argument. Where else is the development of the horticultural industry; Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.'s own involvement in a park system's design; the involvement of all three Olmsted's spanning a 31-year tenure all present but here in Rochester?

Finally, although this survey places a primary focus on the Olmsted design legacy, it also recognizes that the city is also blessed with at least one sterling example of Modernist landscape architecture – Manhattan Square Park, designed in 1975 by Lawrence Halprin (1916-2009). As with Halprin's earlier work in Portland and San Francisco, this park/plaza is an abstraction of nature, constructed of sculptural concrete forms and water. As noted in *Process Architecture*, No.4 (1978) it was "the most multi-purpose facility that Halprin has ever designed for a downtown area."

With this Presidential Medal of Arts recipient passing away just weeks ago, this design today is unquestionably eligible to the National Register of Historic Places where in the future it will hopefully take its place alongside the other eligible candidates outlined in this comprehensive survey. What city today with a population of slightly more than 200,000 can boast such significant and diverse works of landscape architecture that span over a century of design?

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR

December 2009

PARKS SURVEY SUMMARY

The following chart and map summarizes the findings of the project team regarding all 61 park sites. The chart outlines the current designation status and a preliminary eligibility status, as recommended by the project team, based upon the survey research included in Sections V and VI of this document. The site locations have been mapped on the “Map of Surveyed Park Sites” and correspond to the “MAP #” in the Summary Chart.

MAP #	PARK / SITE NAME	CURRENT DESIGNATION STATUS	2009 SURVEY ELIGIBILITY STATUS	POSSIBLE TREATMENTS				Further Study Needed	
				Preservation	Restoration	Rehabilitation	Reconstruction		
1	Aberdeen Square Park	None	Not Eligible						
2	Anderson Park	None	Not Eligible				●		Possibility of reconstruction based on inner loop status
3	Arnold Park Mall	C / L / NR	n/a	●					
4	Bldv. Parkway Mall	None	Not Eligible					●	Some potential for district; needs further study
5	Bronson Avenue Playground	None	Not Eligible						
6	Brown Square Park	None	*			●		●	* Park not eligible due to integrity; building may be eligible
7	Browncroft Rose Garden	C / NR	n/a			●		●	Opportunities to enhance / rehabilitate vegetation
8	Burke Terrace Mall	None	Not Eligible						
9	Campbell St Recreation Center	None	Not Eligible						
10	Carthage Drive Mall	C / NR	n/a						
11	Central Park Mall	None	Not Eligible						
12	Charlotte Cemetery / Ira Jacobson Cemetery	None	Eligible	●	●			●	Opportunities to restore some features, iron work
13	Cobbs Hill Park	I / L *	Eligible	●				●	Preservation of landscape elements (pines at entry, Washington Grove invasive species, Lake Riley). * Part or all locally designated.

C = Contributing feature in a historic district.
I = Individually listed.
NR = National Register designation.
L = Local designation.
 * See notes.

MAP #	PARK / SITE NAME	CURRENT DESIGNATION STATUS	2009 SURVEY ELIGIBILITY STATUS	POSSIBLE TREATMENTS				Further Study Needed	
				Preservation	Restoration	Rehabilitation	Reconstruction		
14	Congress Avenue Cemetery	None	Eligible		●				Restoration of gravestones, cemetery elements
15	Danforth called Lynchford Park	None	*			●		●	* Building appears eligible, landscape unlikely
16	Durand Eastman Park	None	Eligible	●	●		●		Restoration of plant collections, possible reconstruction opportunities
17	Edgerton Park	None	Not Eligible	●		●		●	Stardust Ballroom rehabilitation, preservation of stone piers
18	Exchange Playground	None	Not Eligible						
19	Festival Site	C / L / NR	n/a	●					Preservation of mill race infrastructure
20	Genesee Valley Park	None	Eligible	●	●				Restoration of bridges, landscape elements, red creek
21	Glendale Mall	None	Not Eligible						
22	Grand / Chamberlain Park	None	Not Eligible						
23	Granite Mills Park	C / L / NR	n/a						
24	High Falls Terrace Park	None	Not Eligible					●	
25	Highland Park	C / L / NR (portion)	n/a	●	●		●		Reconstruction of Children's Pavilion
26	Hillside Parkway	None	Not Eligible	●					Preserve stonework, vegetation
27	Huntington Park Mall	None	*					●	* Landscape is not individually eligible. Conflicting past determinations of district eligibility; needs further study.
28	James Madison / Frost Avenue Park	None	Not Eligible						
29	Jones Square Park	None	*		●	●			* Appears ineligible; further consultation with SHPO needed.
30	Kings Landing Cemetery	C / NR	n/a		●				Restoration of cemetery features, grave markers
31	Knickerbocker Mall	None	Not Eligible						

C = Contributing feature in a historic district.
I = Individually listed.
NR = National Register designation.
L = Local designation.
* See notes.

MAP #	PARK / SITE NAME	CURRENT DESIGNATION STATUS	2009 SURVEY ELIGIBILITY STATUS	POSSIBLE TREATMENTS				Further Study Needed	
				Preservation	Restoration	Rehabilitation	Reconstruction		
32	Lafayette Mall	None	*					●	* Landscape is not individually eligible. Conflicting past determinations of district eligibility; needs further study.
33	Lakeview Park Mall	C / NR	n/a	●	●				Restoration of ornamental plantings from Olmsted plan
34	Lower Falls Park	C / NR	n/a						
35	Manhattan Square Park	None	Eligible in future, or if Exceptional Significance	●	●	●		●	Future eligibility likely, preservation of modernist landscape and restoration / rehabilitation of important park features
36	Maplewood Park	C / NR	n/a	●		●			Rehabilitation opportunities for lower Maplewood, vegetation
37	Morrison Mall	None	Eligible					●	Appears to be eligible in a district extension
38	Mt. Hope Cemetery	C / L / NR	n/a	●	●				Restoration of chapel, walls, grave site stone and iron work, other landscape elements
39	No. 4 / Jefferson Terrace Park	None	Not Eligible						
40	Nunda Blvd. Mall	None	Eligible	●					Contributing feature in an eligible district
41	Ontario Beach Park	None *	Eligible	●					* Carousel is an individually designated local landmark.
42	Oxford Mall	None	Eligible	●					Eligible individually and/or within extended district
43	Plymouth Circle	None	Unlikely	●				●	Possible extension of district, preserve gazebo
44	Pont de Rennes Bridge	C / L / NR	n/a	●					
45	Portsmouth Terrace Mall	C / L / NR	n/a	●					
46	Pulaski Park	None	Not Eligible						
47	Raines Park Mall	None	Not Eligible						
48	Riverside Cemetery	None	Eligible	●	●			●	Monument restoration

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MAP #	PARK / SITE NAME	CURRENT DESIGNATION STATUS	2009 SURVEY ELIGIBILITY STATUS	POSSIBLE TREATMENTS				Further Study Needed	
				Preservation	Restoration	Rehabilitation	Reconstruction		
49	Rundel Park Mall	C / L / NR	n/a	●					
50	Schiller Park	None	Not Eligible				●		Possibility of reconstruction based on inner loop status
51	Seneca Park	C / L / NR	n/a	●	●	●			Restoration of some park elements, rehabilitation opportunities for additional river access points
52	Seneca Parkway Mall	I / L / NR	n/a	●					
53	Seth Green Park	C / NR	n/a						
54	Sibley Place Mall	C / L / NR	n/a	●					
55	Susan B. Anthony Park	C / L / NR	n/a	●					
56	Triphammer Park	C / L / NR	n/a	●					
57	Tryon Park / Palmers Glen	None	Not Eligible						
58	Turning Point Park	None	Not Eligible						
59	Wadsworth Square Park	None	Not Eligible				●		Possibility of reconstruction based on inner loop status
60	Washington Square Park	None	Eligible	●	●				Restore monuments, possibility of restoring original park boundary/dimensions
61	Werner Pk. Mall	None	Not Eligible			●			Rehabilitate existing mall

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I = Individually listed.
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Survey of Rochester's Historic Parklands

City of Rochester, New York
December 5, 2009

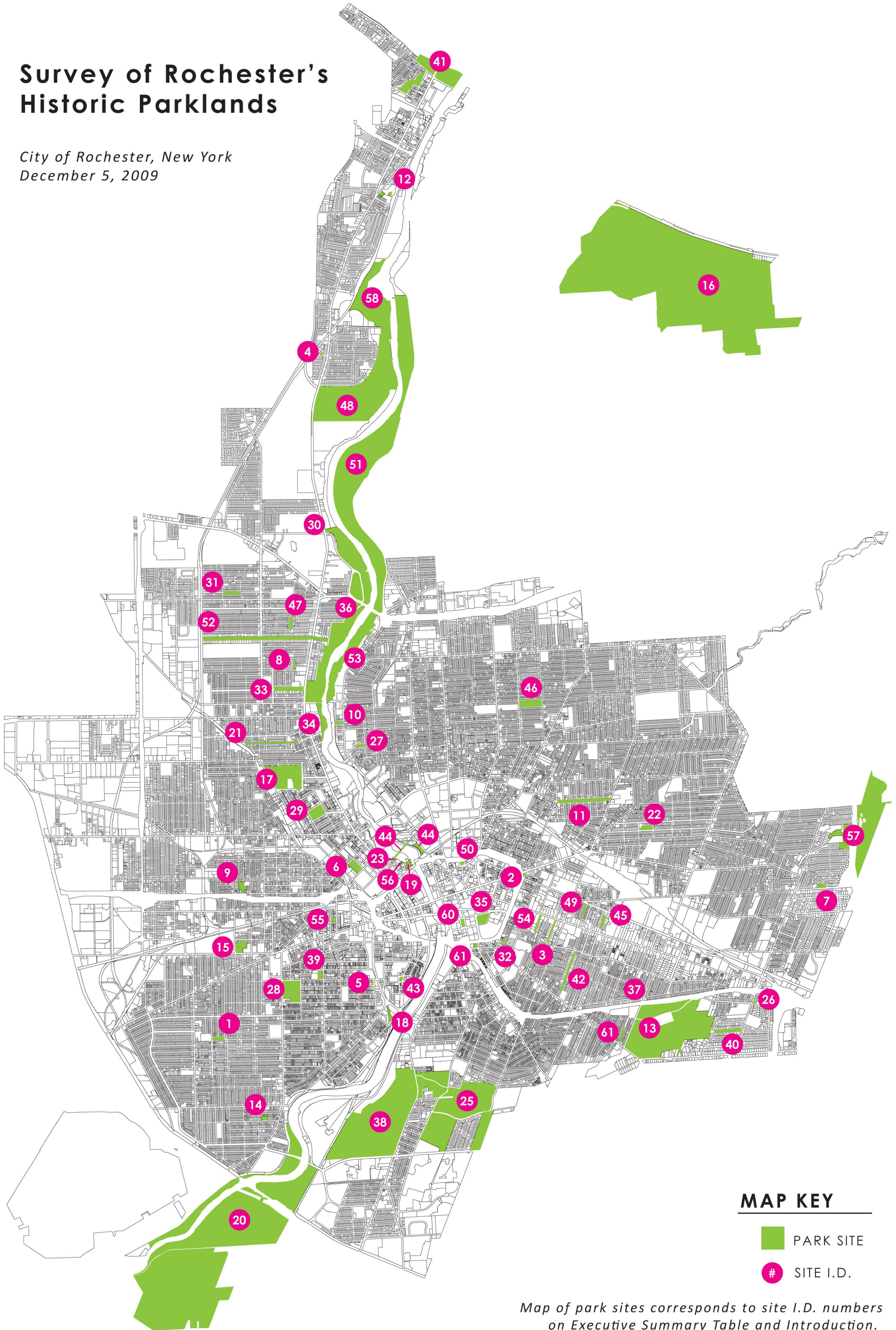


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460	Ontario Beach Park
474	Oxford Mall
482	Plymouth Circle/Charles Lunsford Park
494	Riverside Cemetery
504	Washington Square Park



I. INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Project Description and Background

Project Description

The City of Rochester Historic Parks Survey was developed to catalog and define the basic critical components of park sites within the Rochester park system that are more than 50 years old or that otherwise have historic significance. The survey includes 61 park sites within the City of Rochester, New York. Each park site has been individually assessed and investigated through historic plans, documents, maps, park records, photo files, and site visits. The surveys outline the historic nature of the various parks and identify their character defining components. Park surveys include brief review of each park's land use history, historic integrity, and a preliminary examination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Historic Parks Survey also includes central background information regarding the overall historical significance of Rochester's park system, including important Olmsted firm associations, early nursery industry influences, and descriptions of the various park movement eras and park types within Rochester.

Background

As part of an agreement arising from the alienation of parkland for the Brooks Landing development, the City of Rochester is required to survey components of the park system that are more than 50 years old or otherwise exhibit historical significance. Based on the survey, the City will determine appropriate measures of protecting and preserving historic components of the park system in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The report provides the City with information to update the existing Parks Management Plan, confirms the historic nature of the park system, and builds a body of data that may be used to prepare individual park or site applications to the National Register of Historic Places.

B. Report Organization & Survey Types

Organization

This report is divided into five sections: 1) *Introduction*, 2) *Survey Process*, 3) *Rochester Parks Overview*, 4) *Standard Surveys*, and 5) *Extended Surveys*.

The ***Survey Process*** section details the methodology used to complete each park inventory and assessment. It includes a brief narrative describing the difference between a significant and non-significant park parcel, and the resulting park surveys within the document.

The ***Rochester Parks Overview*** includes a detailed narrative about the history of the parks and park system in Rochester, including the factors that contributed to the creation of the parks commission and several park sites. The overview characterizes the important relationships that Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and his successor firm had with many of the sites within the developing park system, and includes an important description of significant thematic links to Rochester’s early nursery industry. This section also outlines the various historic park movement eras as they played out in Rochester, resulting in the park-type classifications.

The sections titled ***Standard Surveys*** and ***Extended Surveys*** contain individual survey forms for each park site in alphabetical order. The surveys incorporate several pieces of information for each, including basic site metrics, descriptions of existing conditions, historic resources, and an initial evaluation of a park’s historic significance and integrity. A comprehensive list of surveyed park sites is provided on the following page.

Survey Types

Two distinct surveys have been developed: a “*standard*” survey for park sites that do not generally hold historic significance or have already been listed in the National Register of Historic Places and/or designated local landmarks, or an “*extended*” survey for park sites that warranted further investigation for National Register consideration. (For more information on how the team determined which type of survey was appropriate for each site, please see Section IIA, Methodology).

The “*standard*” survey includes basic information, including parcel data and site metrics, and general narratives describing the park’s existing conditions, basic site history, and neighborhood context. Sites that contain considerable historical elements or are otherwise historically significant were surveyed using an “*extended*” form. The “*extended*” survey includes all basic park metrics from “*standard*” surveys, as well as an extended narrative regarding the site’s existing conditions, cultural/historic information, a brief statement of historical significance with respect to National Register criteria, and an evaluation of the integrity of park elements. In addition, the extended survey includes recommendations regarding future research and/or designation.

C. List of Surveyed Park Sites

The City of Rochester Historic Parks Survey includes parks over 50 years old or parks that have other significant historical significance (e.g. the work of a master). The list of 61 park sites provided by the City of Rochester, and includes:

<u>PARK / SITE NAME(S)</u>	<u>SURVEY TYPE</u>	<u>PARK / SITE NAME(S)</u>	<u>SURVEY TYPE</u>
Aberdeen Square Park	Standard	Knickerbocker Mall	Standard
Anderson Park / East Main & University	Standard	Lakeview Park Mall	Standard*
Arnold Park Mall	Standard*	Lower Falls Park	Standard*
Boulevard Parkway Mall	Standard	Manhattan Square Park	Extended
Bronson Avenue Playground	Standard	Maplewood Park	Standard*
Brown Square Park	Extended	Morrison Mall	Standard
Browncroft Park	Standard*	Mt. Hope Cemetery	Standard*
Burke Terrace Mall	Standard	No. 4/Jefferson Terrace Park	Standard
Campbell St Rec Center / School 14	Standard	Nunda Blvd. Mall	Extended
Carthage Drive Mall	Standard*	Ontario Beach Park	Extended
Central Park Mall	Standard	Oxford Mall	Extended
Charlotte Cemetery/Ira Jacobson Cemetery	Standard	Plymouth Circle/Charles Lunsford Park	Extended
Cobbs Hill Park	Standard	Pont de Rennes Bridge	Standard*
Congress Avenue Cemetery	Standard	Portsmouth Terrace Mall	Standard*
Danforth / Lynchford Park	Standard	Pulaski Park	Standard
Durand Eastman Park	Extended	Raines Park Mall	Standard
Edgerton Park	Extended	Riverside Cemetery	Extended
Exchange Playground	Standard	Rundel Park Mall	Standard*
Festival Site	Standard*	Schiller Park	Standard
Genesee Valley Park	Extended	Seneca Park	Standard*
Glendale Mall	Standard	Seneca Parkway Mall	Standard*
Grand/Chamberlain Park	Standard	Seth Green Park	Standard*
Granite Mills Park	Standard*	Sibley Place Mall	Standard*
High Falls Terrace Park / Falls Field	Standard*	Susan B. Anthony Park	Standard*
Highland Park	Standard*	Triphammer Park	Standard*
Hillside Parkway	Standard	Tryon Park / Palmers Glen	Standard
Huntington Park Mall	Standard	Turning Point Park	Standard
James Madison/Frost Avenue Park	Standard	Wadsworth Square Park	Standard
Jones Square Park	Extended	Washington Square Park	Extended
Kings Landing Cemetery	Standard*	Werner Pk. Mall	Standard
Lafayette Mall	Standard		

** Denotes parks that have been surveyed using the “standard” form because they have been previously designated as historic or is a feature within an existing historic district.*



II. SURVEY PROCESS



II. SURVEY PROCESS

A. Inventory Assembly Methodology

The City of Rochester Historic Parks Survey involved three phases. These phases include: **1) Historic Resources Collection / Documentation, 2) Initial Park Surveys** and, **3) Preliminary Eligibility Investigations and Evaluations.**

Phase 1: Historic Resources Documentation/Collection

The first phase of the Historic Parks Survey included the gathering and general review of various historic and non-historic resources related to park sites. Documents and history related to Rochester's parks history were reviewed. Historic data and documents on individual parks were also gathered for later determinations of significance. Phase 1 steps included:

- Locate / map Individual park sites within the City;
- Assemble and review historical information, mapping, and photographs for individual park sites
- Assemble and review reports, databases, and documents, historic or otherwise, related to the City parks system;
- Review park system history and historic significance, including history and parks associated with Frederick Law Olmsted or the Olmsted firm, the history and influence of nursery businesses within Rochester, and the history of residential subdivisions in Rochester; and,
- Review the Rochester Parks Multiple Property Documentation Form for designed landscapes, including descriptions of landscape types and features.

Historic documentation, materials, and resources include the following:

- Original plans
- Sanborn maps
- Historic park records
- Parks Commissioners reports and other municipal reports
- Rundel local history materials
- *Rochester History* periodical
- City of Rochester Historic Resources Survey (1986) and other existing inventories
- Park Management Plan database
- City photo files
- City map files
- Aerial photos
- Maintenance records

Phase 2: Initial Park Inventories

The second phase of the Historic Parks Survey included conducting initial site investigations for all 62 park sites, gathering basic data about each park, photographing general character and historic elements of each park site, and conducting research about the park's integrity, significance and eligibility. Phase 2 involved the following steps:

- Initial site reconnaissance/visits and physical site review of 62 park sites;

- Photographs of site character, historic elements or other notable features;
- Collect current aerial photos of each park site;
- Research, compile, and review historic information for each individual park site;
- Basic initial evaluation of designed landscape to determine preliminary significance;
- Develop standardized survey forms for parks without historic significance or already designated; *Standard Survey*;
- Develop standardized survey form for parks with historic significance; *Extended Survey*; and
- Collect basic park data, including specific parcel data, park origins

Phase 3: Complete Surveys and Determine Preliminary Eligibility

The third phase of the Historic Parks Survey involved completing individual survey forms, developing narratives of existing conditions, and developing a preliminary evaluation of the parks' historical elements and overall integrity. An initial determination of National Register eligibility was reached for each park site based on the results of the site visits. That determination, combined with research into the parks' existing designation status, indicated whether each park site would be evaluated using Standard or Extended surveys. Ultimately, the significance and overall likelihood of eligibility is evaluated and documented for each park. Phase three involved the following steps:

- Conduct investigative research into the general history of each park site;
- Document findings concerning individual site history, historic significance, and
- Determine park sites to be surveyed with *Extended* survey forms through either observable features and/or historic research;
- Additional site reconnaissance if needed for some parks;
- Conduct *Standard* surveys, including basic site information, current description, and historical narrative; and
- Conduct *Extended* surveys, including basic site information, cultural and historic narrative, existing conditions descriptions, integrity descriptions, statement of significance and eligibility evaluation.

B. Standard Survey Overview

Two survey forms were developed for the City of Rochester Historic Parks Survey, a *Standard* form and an *Extended* form. The *standard* form, for parks determined to have a low likelihood of National Register and those already designated, is divided into 9 sections and documents the following information:

Park Name: Located in the upper right-hand corner of the survey forms, the common park name as referred to on the original parks list as provided by the City of Rochester. Standard surveys are delineated in green (grey in B&W report copies) boxes. Extended surveys are delineated with maroon (black in B&W report copies) boxes.

Basic Site Information: Including current and historic site names/alternate names, parcel address location, UTM location coordinates, parcel tax ID number for each parcel within the park area, and a verbal description of the location.

Park Information: This section of the survey includes the park type (as listed in the Rochester Parks Multiple Documentation Form), the overall size (in acres), physical dimensions (if applicable), a topographic description, date of construction, principal designer or landscape architect, and current preservation status.

Current Description: This section includes an overall narrative describing the park's existing features, general character, and noteworthy elements.

Land Use History: This section includes a narrative describing the park's land use history, important historical significance, or other important events associated with the park or its features.

Evaluation of Eligibility: This section includes a brief evaluation of the park's eligibility for the National Register and a description of important contributing features.

Site Condition: Includes a brief rating or the overall site condition and the condition of any noteworthy park features.

Neighborhood Context: Includes a narrative describing the park's existing neighborhood context and adjacent land uses.

Sources of Information: Includes a listing of referenced reports, documents, photographs, maps, or other resources used in preparing the survey.

Records, Maps, Images, and Documents: Includes an aerial photo and delineation of each park site, excerpts of historic Rochester plat maps, existing site photos, and historic images portraying important or significant features.

C. Extended Survey Overview

The *extended* form, for parks not previously designated that were identified in initial phases of the project as having a high likelihood of historic significance, and/or a complex history, is divided into 8 sections and documents the following information:

The sections **Park Name**, **Basic Site Information**, and **Park Information** match the layout and properties of the *standard survey* form.

Cultural / Historic Information: Includes an overall narrative describing the park's land use history, important historical significance, or other narrative describing important events associated with the park site or park features.

Existing Conditions: Includes categorized descriptions of existing site elements and features. Categories have been developed to correspond to the Rochester Parks Multiple Property

Documentation Form, which describes landscape features typically found within particular park types. Categories include:

- Setting and Neighborhood Context
- Natural Systems and Features
- Spatial Organization
- Buildings and Structures
- Water features
- Materials / paving materials
- Vegetation
- Furnishings and monuments
- Circulation

Integrity: Includes a categorized narrative regarding the integrity of existing features with respect to the original park design. Categories have been developed to correspond to the Rochester Parks Multiple Property Documentation Form, which describes landscape features typically found within particular park types. Categories match those described within the Existing Conditions narrative and include:

- Setting and Neighborhood Context
- Natural Systems and Features
- Spatial Organization
- Buildings and Structures
- Water features
- Materials / paving materials
- Vegetation
- Furnishings and monuments
- Circulation

Statement of Significance and Eligibility Evaluation: Includes an overall narrative describing the park typology and a statement of significance, including an explanation of existing and historic park features that would be considered contributing and non-contributing elements. The section also includes a brief preliminary evaluation of National Register criteria and eligibility, and outlines any additional research that may be needed to nominate the park site.

Sources of Information: Includes a listing of referenced reports, documents, photographs, maps, or other resources used in preparing the survey.

Supporting Documents, Plans, and Photographs: Includes an aerial photo and delineation of each park site, excerpts of historic Rochester plat maps, existing site photos, and historic images.

D. Summary of Relevant National Register Criteria

Parks were evaluated with respect to relevant guidelines for the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service, which administers the National Register, has produced a series of publications that provided helpful guidance; these include:

- National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation*
- National Register Bulletin 16: *Guidelines for Completing the National Register of Historic Places Forms*
- National Register Bulletin 18: *How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes*

- National Register Bulletin 41: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places*
- National Register Bulletin 22: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years*

To be eligible for the National Register, a property must have both *significance* and *integrity*. General criteria for National Register eligibility are as follows:

*The quality of **significance** in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:*

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or*
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or*
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or*
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.*

The Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Municipal Park System of Rochester, New York (2003) established a historic context for the park system, including a specific set of guidelines and criteria for evaluating the eligibility of individual parks in Rochester with respect to National Register standards for both significance and integrity. The purpose of that document is to simplify the process of future nominations by providing the historical background necessary to understand and evaluate the parks. Relevant portions of that document are included in the following section.

While the National Register standards and the Multiple Property Documentation Form established the primary criteria under which the parks were evaluated, local landmark designation criteria were relevant in some cases. The City of Rochester’s landmark designation standards, established in the Charter and Code of the City of Rochester, Chapter 120, Article XXI, are as follows:

No structure, improvement, landscape feature or cultural site in the City shall be designated a Landmark... unless they shall have the potential to provide cultural and civic benefits for the people of the City by reason of prevalence of one (1) or more of the following standards:

- (a) The presence of significant character or historic or aesthetic interest or value as part of the maritime, architectural, economic or social heritage of the City, County, State or Nation.*
- (b) Identification with an historic person or event.*
- (c) Embodiment of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style.*

(d) Significance as representative of the work of a master builder, designer, architect or landscape architect.

(e) Significance as an established and familiar visual feature of the City because of a unique location or singular physical characteristic.

(f) Relationship to a distinctive area of the City, lakefront or riverfront.

(g) Presence or potential presence of information important to history or prehistory.

(h) Designated as eligible for inclusion or listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places.

With this framework serving as the foundation for the survey and analysis of the 61 Rochester Park sites, the report documents the historic nature of the parks and outlines the preliminary findings for national Register eligibility status. The findings lay the foundation for preparing national Register nominations and preserving important selected Rochester historic park sites.



III. ROCHESTER PARKS HISTORY



III. ROCHESTER PARKS HISTORY

The following narrative on Rochester Parks History is contained within the Multiple Property Documentation Form of the Municipal Park System of Rochester, New York.

A. Overview

In the early nineteenth century, Rochester, New York was a small young village in which parks and other facilities for public recreation were an unheard-of luxury. A few small city squares that had been created for other purposes were inconsistently maintained as the city's first public landscapes. By 1888, just 70 years after its incorporation as a village, Rochester had become a booming city whose wealth, foresight, and progressive social climate made possible the hiring of the country's preeminent landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, to design an ambitious park system. By World War II, this nucleus of public squares and Olmsted-designed pleasure grounds had developed into a comprehensive municipal park system with dozens of large and small parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers spread throughout the city.

Rochester's park system grew out of a wide variety of factors, including the growth and prosperity Rochester experienced due to the Erie Canal and the city's strong tradition of social progressivism and activism. Perhaps most influential was the city's nineteenth-century horticultural and landscape tradition; the parks maintained a strong emphasis on horticulture throughout the period of significance (1811-1951). The system is significant both for its role in the development of the city and as an outstanding example of an American comprehensive municipal park system. The system is also significant for its association with Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted Brothers firm. Elements within the park system exemplify the important eras in the growth of the city and in nationwide park planning trends, from the early pioneer squares to the reform parks and recreation centers of the early twentieth century.

This multiple property documentation cover form presents the local and national context in which the municipal park system of Rochester should be interpreted. This document draws heavily from *The Designed Historic Landscapes of Rochester, New York: An Historic Context Statement*, by Susan Maney O'Leary, written as a project of the Landmark Society of Western New York and the Historic Landscape Preservation Committee in 1997-98. Considerable information on national and statewide contexts and property types has been adapted from the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Historic Designed Landscapes of Syracuse, New York, particularly in Section F; the organization of the document is also based on this example.

B. Early Public Landscape Traditions in Rochester (1789-1865)

National and New York State Developments

The settlement of western New York occurred as the American population spread westward in the early nineteenth century. The first tentative settlements in the area that would become Rochester appeared in the very late eighteenth century, followed by permanent settlements early in the nineteenth century.

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At this time, western New York was seen as a remote wilderness, not easily accessed by waterways or overland routes.

In an era when undeveloped land was plentiful, Americans in the early Republic did not place a priority on conserving open space for public enjoyment. Such a concept was unheard-of even in Europe, where the first publicly owned parks would not be developed until the early 1840s. Although large parks were not found in American cities, small open spaces, usually in the form of the public square, were a common part of American town and city planning starting in the colonial period. Small public squares could be seen in the remarkably ordered plans of Savannah and Philadelphia, while the prototypical New England village incorporated an open green often surrounded by churches and public buildings.

As “westward-moving Americans got down to the serious business of creating towns, there was no room for greens and churches in the middle of the town.”¹ Settlers of frontier areas such as western New York were typical in that they focused their energies on basic survival amid conditions that could be harsh. Although most settlers in western New York came from New England, the town green tradition was not consistently conveyed to settlements there or in other frontier areas. In western New York, settlements typically developed around a prominent intersection rather than a public space. Communal spaces that were set aside addressed utilitarian needs, such as burial grounds. Individual owners of large tracts of land did on occasion set aside undeveloped parcels as an amenity to attract residents or for other purposes, and some of these later came to be considered public space.²

Rochester’s Origins and the First Public Squares

Native American tribes used the land along the Genesee River in the vicinity of Rochester for many centuries prior to European settlement, and influenced the landscape in important ways. The region that ultimately became the city of Rochester was primarily a hunting ground, with settlement by the Seneca and other tribes limited to temporary campsites, seasonal hunting grounds, and other uses. These left physical evidence, but not in the form of formal or designed landscapes.³

In the early pioneer days, beginning with the European settlers who established the earliest settlements in what would become Rochester and Monroe County in the late 1780s and 1790s, followed by more permanent communities in the 1800s and 1810s, life in Rochester was focused on physical and economic survival. The types of formal landscapes seen around this period at the estates of wealthy, well-established landowners farther east, such as Mount Vernon and Monticello in Virginia, Gore Place in Waltham, Massachusetts, and the Derby residence in Salem, Massachusetts, were not developed in

¹ Peirce F. Lewis, “The Northeast and the Making of American Geographical Habits,” in Michael P. Conzen, ed., *The Making of the American Landscape* (New York, HarperCollinsAcademic, 1990; New York: Routledge, 1994), 100.

² More detail on state and national landscape design trends may be found in Landscape & Prospect, *The Historic Designed Landscapes of Syracuse, New York*, National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1994. Because of the broader scope of that document, it contains information not directly relevant to the development of municipal parks, but nonetheless presents useful information on the early American landscape tradition.

³ Blake McKelvey, *Rochester: The Water-Power City, 1812-1854* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1945) (hereafter McKelvey, *Water-Power City*), 7-9.

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the frontier area of western New York.⁴

Surrounded by undeveloped land, the settlers had no reason to designate specific landscapes for preservation or improvement as scenic reservations. They did, however, need to set aside public space for one essential purpose: the burial of the dead. Of the several burial grounds established by the early pioneers, three survive: one at King's Landing (remnants of which may be seen off Lake Avenue near Ridge Road), the Rapids burial ground on at what was then the edge of the community at the foot of Brooks Avenue, and Charlotte Cemetery in that neighborhood (originally an independent village) where the Genesee River empties into Lake Ontario. Other early burial grounds included a two-acre site near the present intersection of Monroe Avenue and Alexander Street and the West Burying Ground, which was originally established on Sophia Street and was later moved to Buffalo Street (now West Main Street⁵). These grounds had a distinctive landscape character in accordance with their purpose as the resting place of the dead. They were simple in their overall organization and detail, however, and were not formally designed to the extent that the later Mount Hope cemetery was (see below).⁶

A second type of early public space in Rochester was the public square. Like the early burial grounds, these open spaces were not conceived as "parks" for recreational use, but instead were a manifestation of the settlers' practical needs as they created their new community. Early European settlement centered on Rochester's great natural asset: the Genesee River, its rapids and waterfalls perfectly suited to providing power to the early milling industry. Three competing settlements in and adjacent to what is now the downtown area of Rochester, all sited to take advantage of this natural power source, vied for the opportunity to become the nucleus of development in the region. The men who established these settlements anticipated that wherever the courthouse was constructed, residential and commercial development would follow. For this reason, the three major tracts of land that were laid out along the Genesee provided both milling operations and a large public square intended to be the site of a future courthouse.⁷

The settlement that ultimately became the center of the city was that of Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, who laid out village lots in 1811 on a parcel known as the "Hundred-Acre Tract" that he had purchased with two partners, Colonel William Fitzhugh and Major Charles Carroll, in 1803. This tract was centered on the intersection of a main highway (Buffalo Street, now Main Street), which was laid out leading west from the newly constructed bridge crossing the Genesee River, and a major cross-street, first called Mill Street and later Exchange Street. (This intersection, which quickly became the major business center in the community, was known beginning in the early nineteenth century as the Four Corners.) A one-acre lot west of this intersection, along Buffalo Street, was set aside for a courthouse.⁸ Dr. Matthew Brown

⁴ Susan Maney O'Leary, *The Designed Historic Landscapes of Rochester, New York: An Historic Context Statement* (Rochester: Landmark Society of Western New York and the Historic Landscape Preservation Committee, 1997-98), 1-2, 4.

⁵ The West Burying Ground was ultimately replaced by the City Hospital, which was built in the 1860s and later became Rochester General Hospital.

⁶ Richard O. Reisem, *Mount Hope: America's First Municipal Victorian Cemetery* (Rochester, New York: privately published, 1994), 5-6.

⁷ O'Leary, 4-6.

⁸ Blake McKelvey, *Rochester on the Genesee: The Growth of a City* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1993) (hereafter McKelvey, *Rochester on the Genesee*), 5.

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and his brother, Francis, also laid out a property in 1811 with the hope of attracting settlement. Their 200-acre tract was located just north of the Hundred-Acre Tract, along the west side of the Genesee River. A public square, designated as the site of a future courthouse, was at the center of the development. The third major early development was established in c. 1817 by Elisha Johnson, who laid out his 80-acre tract on the east side of the Genesee River with a public square (also intended for a courthouse) as one of its major features.⁹

Colonel Rochester's designated courthouse location ultimately was the one selected, but the lands set aside by the other competitors were retained as open squares, becoming the city's earliest public spaces. The Brown brothers' square became Brown Square, while Johnson's became Washington Square. These early public spaces and their successors in the Canal era (see below) predated the city's municipal park system, and ultimately became valued elements in that system.

The First American Boomtown and the Precursors of the Park System

The construction of the Erie Canal, which occurred in the Rochester region between 1821 and 1824, reshaped the landscape and turned the small village of Rochester into the nation's first major boomtown. The Canal, planned in part as a way to make New York City the "greatest commercial emporium in the world,"¹⁰ created a continuously navigable route from Lake Erie to the Hudson River, thereby connecting New York City with the fertile agricultural lands around the western Great Lakes. In the process, the Canal made the northern and western parts of New York State accessible for settlement and commerce. Towns and villages sprang up at significant sites, such as the places where the Canal route crossed pre-existing roads or waterways. One such waterway was the Genesee River. Only one feasible crossing of this river was identified in the pre-construction surveys: north of the southernmost waterfall within what was then the village of Rochester.¹¹ The crossing, located where the Broad Street Bridge crosses the Genesee River today (the bridge today incorporates an earlier aqueduct), brought the canal just south of the Four Corners intersection in Colonel Rochester's Hundred-Acre Tract, ensuring that this would be the nucleus of the growing community.¹²

The Canal began to affect the economies of the regions through which it passed while it was still under construction, creating demand for various goods and services for the canal builders along the entire route.¹³ The prosperity that came to the western New York region during construction was amplified

⁹ McKelvey, *Rochester on the Genesee*, 21; and Clark Patterson Associates et al., *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares* (Rochester: Prepared for the City of Rochester, [1994]).

¹⁰ DeWitt Clinton, quoted in Richard O. Reisem and Andy Olenick, *Erie Canal Legacy: Architectural Treasures of the Empire State* (Rochester: The Landmark Society of Western New York, 2000), 10.

¹¹ The terminology regarding the falls can be confusing, but the falls referred to here are what were known as the "rapids," which disappeared in the early twentieth century when the level of the river south of the city had to be raised to create an even level with the new Barge Canal crossing south of the downtown area.

¹² McKelvey, *Water-Power City*, 65-66. The original aqueduct was replaced in 1842; this second structure survives as the bottom deck of what is now the Broad Street Bridge. In the 1920s, after the Canal route was moved south of the city, the upper tier of arches was built atop the aqueduct to accommodate automobile traffic. A subway line occupied the canal bed in the lower level from the 1920s until 1956.

¹³ Blake McKelvey, "Rochester and the Erie Canal," *Rochester History*, Vol. 11, Nos. 3 & 4 (Rochester: Rochester Public Library, 1949).

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when the waterway opened as far west as Rochester in 1823 and statewide in 1825. New businesses, new residential areas, and a huge growth in population quickly followed the opening of the canal. Rochester had 5,000 residents when the Erie Canal opened in 1825, 9,200 when the city charter was signed in 1834, 20,000 in 1840, and 48,000 at the outset of the Civil War.¹⁴ Unranked among the 61 “urban places” in the United States in 1820, Rochester leapt to a ranking as the 25th largest “urban place” in the nation in 1830. By 1840, Rochester was the 19th largest city in the country, and it remained among the 25 largest cities through the end of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth.¹⁵ The 880-percent rate of growth Rochester experienced between 1818 and 1830 was unprecedented in American history.¹⁶

During this period of rapid population growth, new residential areas were created, and in some cases their proprietors reserved small areas for public use. Caledonia Square (also known as Plymouth Park and Lunsford Circle), Franklin Park (Schiller Park), Madison Square (Susan B. Anthony Square), Wadsworth Square, and Jones Square, were all set aside in this manner, joining the two earlier squares, Brown Square and Washington Square. These spaces were later donated to the city as public spaces. By 1837, there were 11 of these public spaces, of which the seven listed above survive in some form to the present day.¹⁷

In addition to spurring the residential development of Rochester, the canal spawned new enterprises related to shipping and travel, including barrel making, boat building, and the hotel business. But it was the milling of wheat into flour that set Rochester apart as the “Flour City,” from which 200,000 barrels of flour were shipped via the canal in 1826. Twenty years later, 700,000 barrels were produced by at least twelve mills powered by the Genesee River and its waterfalls.¹⁸ While flour would remain central to Rochester’s economy for much of the nineteenth century, the national depression of the 1830s prompted manufacturers to explore new industries. Rochester’s mills were still a dominant force in the flour markets nationwide, but local business leaders ventured into an increasing diversity of industrial production, developing prominent manufacturing facilities such as boat yards, lumber mills, cooper shops, carriage and furniture factories, and handcraft shops.¹⁹

One of Rochester’s most notable designed public landscapes had its origins during this period. The expanded population and a series of catastrophic epidemics in the 1830s led the city’s Common Council to consider a much larger and more rural site for the city cemetery. Mount Auburn Cemetery in

¹⁴ Joseph W. Barnes, “Historic Broad Street Bridge and the Erie Canal Sesquicentennial, 1825-1975,” *Rochester History*, Vol. 23, No.3. (Rochester: Rochester Public Library, 1975), 13

¹⁵ “Population of the 100 Largest Cities and Other Urban Places in the United States: 1790 to 1990,” United States Census, Population Division Working Paper No. 27, June 1998, <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0027.html>, Accessed 3 January 2002. The document includes detailed definitions of “urban places” at various points in time.

¹⁶ McKelvey, *Water-Power City*, 71.

¹⁷ All of the squares were put under the control of the Park Commission in 1894 by an action of the city’s Common Council, making them an official part of the park system. Many of these spaces were redesigned in the early twentieth century by the Olmsted Brothers (the sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, who continued in partnership after their father’s retirement and death). See Clark Patterson Associates et al. for detail on the squares relandscaped by the Olmsted firm.

¹⁸ Barnes, 13.

¹⁹ O’Leary, 6-7.

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Cambridge, Massachusetts (1831) provided a national model for a preferred type of burial ground, the rural cemetery. Rochester's own example, Mount Hope Cemetery, was established in 1838 as the first American rural cemetery planned, developed, and maintained by a municipality.²⁰ Mount Hope Cemetery eventually was expanded to include 200 acres and is still active today.²¹ As in other cities, the cemetery, designed in the mid-19th century Romantic style, provided not only a burial place, but also a beautiful landscape that the living could enjoy. In the absence of similar spaces designed for recreation, the cemetery became a popular destination for picnickers and others who wished to experience fresh air, natural and exotic vegetation,²² and unstructured recreational activities such as walking. The presence of this beautiful space heightened residents' awareness of a need to create places designed to provide recreational opportunities to city dwellers.²³

The Flower City: Rochester's Nineteenth-Century Horticultural Industry

Just before Mount Hope Cemetery opened and in the years immediately following, several events in the 1820s and 1830s heralded the emergence of the horticultural industry in Rochester. The horticultural industry thrived on the same conditions as the flour industry: fertile soil, Lake Ontario's ameliorating effect on temperatures, and the relative ease of shipping goods nationwide via the Erie Canal. The confluence of these factors created an ideal environment for the development of this industry, which in turn helped to create a high level of awareness of both horticulture and landscape design among Rochester's residents.

The industry got its start in the early days of the young village. Seeds were advertised for sale as early as 1820, and the Monroe County Horticultural Society was established in 1830. Another early indicator of the increasing importance of the local horticultural industry was the establishment of an important publication, the *Genesee Farmer*. Founded in 1831 by Luther Tucker, the *Genesee Farmer* published horticultural information as well as the catalogs for the early nurseries, thus serving to both promote and inform these local businesses. Naaman Goodsell edited the *Genesee Farmer* and established a nursery on Buffalo Street near the Four Corners. Several nurserymen, including Patrick Barry and James Vick (see below), later edited and wrote for the *Genesee Farmer*. These events set the stage for the development of Rochester's national reputation in the nursery and seed industry in the mid- to late-nineteenth century.

Rochester was fortunate to have talented nurserymen to shepherd the industry to national prominence, giving Rochester the nickname of the "Flower City" by the middle of the century. Asa Rowe's Monroe Garden and Nursery was the first commercial nursery established in Rochester (1833). Of the numerous

²⁰ Earlier examples of the rural cemetery type, such as Mount Auburn, were private ventures.

²¹ Reisem, *Mount Hope*, 13-14.

²² Nurserymen George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry (discussed in Section C, below) promoted the sophisticated horticultural character of Mount Hope Cemetery when they donated 50 shade trees, including European purple, fernleaf, and weeping beeches, Nikko fir, Caucasian spruce, Norway maple, and variegated sycamore maple trees, to the cemetery at its tenth anniversary in 1847. These specimen trees complemented the magnificent old red, black, and white oaks and other trees preserved as the original forest on the site was only partially cut to prepare the cemetery for burials. See Reisem, *Mount Hope*, 10.

²³ For an interesting discussion of the horticultural industry and Mount Auburn Cemetery as precursors to the parks movement and Olmsted park plans in Boston, see Cynthia Zaitzevsky, *Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1992), 15-17.

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successful and profitable nurseries in the area, the most notable was the Mt. Hope Botanical and Pomological Gardens (later known as Mt. Hope Nurseries), which grew out of the 1840 partnership of German immigrant George Ellwanger (1816-1906) and Irishman Patrick Barry (1816-1890).²⁴ The company's success was built on a reputation for accurately labeled, high-quality stock, and for having the greatest assortment of fruit and ornamental plants available. Ellwanger and Barry continually imported new propagating stock from Europe as they sold fruit trees to pioneers heading west.

Ellwanger and Barry's Mt. Hope Botanical and Pomological Gardens was in the forefront of a new trend in the 1840s: the creation of ornamental display grounds and arboreta within nursery grounds. Whereas earlier commercial nursery enterprises gave little consideration to the arrangement or display of plant materials, these new displays, along with illustrated catalogs produced by seedsmen to show grown plants and their optimal arrangements in garden layouts, provided homeowners with suggestions as to how to use plants from the nurseries in their own gardens. Publications by horticulturists "often became the homeowner's gardening 'bibles,' influencing taste and garden design during the great national horticultural awakening of the later Victorian decades."²⁵ The nurserymen also provided examples of landscape design trends in their private gardens.²⁶

Ellwanger and Barry were the most prominent of the Rochester area horticulturists, but others, including James Vick, Charles F. Crosman, Joseph Harris, Charles J. Brown, and more, also established significant nursery and seed businesses, contributing to Rochester's national importance in the industry. Rochester nurseries sold more than a half-million dollars worth of nursery stock in 1854. In March of 1856 the *Genesee Farmer* stated that "more nursery trees are grown in Monroe County than in all the United States."²⁷

The growth of Rochester's horticultural industry coincided with growing interest in residential and garden design nationwide during the industrial expansion of the mid- to late-nineteenth century. As a large middle class developed, more and more people had the time and money to improve their domestic surroundings. Nineteenth-century pattern books influenced middle-class taste, providing information on theory and design as well as specific house and landscape plans. The first such book was *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adapted to North America*, by Andrew Jackson Downing (1841). Downing's book, the first in America to approach the subject from an artistic, rather than horticultural, point of view, was highly successful at inspiring interest in residential landscape design. Popular books later in the century included *Beautifying Country Homes* (Jacob

²⁴ Patrick Barry, who trained at the Prince Nursery in Flushing, was considered the leading authority on fruit cultivation after the publication of his book, *The Fruit Garden*, in 1851. Horticultural historian U.P. Hedrick called George Ellwanger the "dean of American commercial horticulture" for his life service improving and promoting nursery standards and introducing new varieties to the market. Both men contributed to the city by their civic duties (serving on boards and committees) but ultimately made their most significant contribution to the city's future at the end of their long history together by donating twenty acres of land to form the nucleus of the park system in 1888.

²⁵ O'Leary, 12.

²⁶ The best surviving example of a nurseryman's private garden in Rochester is Ellwanger Garden, planted by George Ellwanger in 1867. Three generations of Ellwangers maintained the garden before it was bequeathed to the Landmark Society of Western New York in 1982. Now operated as a museum, it reflects its roots as an arboretum and display garden. See O'Leary, 25.

²⁷ U.P. Hedrick, *A History of Horticulture in America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1950; Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1988), 245.

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Weidenmann, 1870), and *The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds* (Frank Scott, 1881). The house and garden became realms where the middle-class homeowner could display fashionable taste and wealth. By providing examples of landscape displays in their nurseries and in their own gardens just as this trend was taking root, the local horticulturists had a profound and lasting effect on the awareness of landscape design among Rochester residents. This level of appreciation set the stage for high expectations of landscape quality in the public parks established later in the nineteenth century.²⁸

Progressive Social Trends in Rochester

Rochester's strong tradition of progressive political activism and enthusiasm for social movements also helped to set the stage for the creation of the park system in the late nineteenth century. Rochester was known as "a hotbed of 'isms,'" starting with the city's population boom of the 1820s and 1830s and continuing through the end of the nineteenth century.²⁹ Early manifestations of this local spirit were in the form of religious movements and religiously motivated social causes. The Erie Canal brought so many fervent religious revivals to the region that the Canal corridor came to be known as the "burned-over district." Religious activities such as foreign missions, Bible distribution efforts, and campaigns for Sabbath observance began in the early nineteenth century and continued through the middle of the century.

These religious movements fed into a wider variety of progressive social activities by the middle of the nineteenth century. The 1850s were:

a period of intense reform activity in Rochester, New York. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frederick Douglass and Amelia Bloomer were working tirelessly to gain public support for several separate reform movements: temperance, women's rights, and anti-slavery. Writing, lecturing, addressing a few supporters or a mass convention, these individuals were shaping the strategies and public discourse of reform.³⁰

Rochester also experienced a strong tradition of charity and philanthropy. One of the best examples of the city's early development of charitable institutions is the Female Charitable Society, one of the first women's organizations in the nation. Established in 1822, the Society began by promoting visits to the

²⁸ Rochester's nurseries came into the path of new development beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, as the city expanded. Ellwanger and Barry began dividing their land in 1856, when they formed the Ellwanger and Barry Realty Company to subdivide part of their land into affordable housing for nursery workers. The subdivision of nursery grounds into housing developments continued into the twentieth century, and explains why many streets and neighborhoods are named for either nurserymen (the Ellwanger-Barry and Browncroft neighborhoods, Vick Park A and B, etc.) or plants (Linden Street, Mulberry Street, etc.). Despite urban expansion into nineteenth- and early twentieth-century nursery grounds, the horticultural industry in Rochester has survived until the present day; the most notable example is the Harris family, which began in the horticultural business when Joseph Harris started a seed business in 1879. The family business lasted 100 years, until the seed portion of the business was sold to the Celanese Corporation; the family still runs retail garden centers in the Rochester area.

²⁹ McKelvey, *Water-Power City*, 282.

³⁰ Anne C. Coon, "The Magnetic Circle: Stanton, Anthony, Bloomer and Douglass," *Rochester History* LVII, No. 3 (Summer 1995): 3. These reformers became nationally prominent in their movements, often working together and supporting one another's causes. Most famously, Rochester was the location where Frederick Douglass published his abolitionist newspaper, the *North Star* (later called *Frederick Douglass' Paper*), beginning in 1847, and where Susan B. Anthony was arrested for voting in 1872.

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sick, and expanded into a wide range of other charitable activities. Among its other accomplishments, this group ran the City Hospital (constructed on the site of the old West Burying Ground) from the time it opened in 1864 until it was taken over by a Board of Lady Managers, appointed by the Society, in 1875. Many more charitable organizations were established even as Rochester boomed from a small village to a thriving Canal city. Among the causes the proliferating charities addressed were education, children's welfare (especially that of orphans) and relief for the destitute. Many of the charities were run by either women's groups or church congregations.³¹

While not all of Rochester's residents were active in these social and philanthropic causes, the fact that so many prominent citizens were involved in these activities created a climate of acceptance of new and forward-looking ideas. Many of these progressive leaders were among those who developed an early interest in another new approach to enhancing the quality of urban life, initially considered quite innovative: the creation of public parks.

C. Olmsted Parks in Rochester, 1888-1900

State and National Trends: The Park Movement

It was not until the creation of Central Park in New York City in 1858 that an American city had a dedicated public park, established as a means of bringing some form of the nation's natural wilderness into the middle of a large city. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, Central Park was a tremendous popular success even before its completion, prompting residents of other municipalities nationwide to clamor for the creation of large public parks in their cities as well.³²

Proponents of parks nationwide were motivated by a variety of concerns. Some, interested primarily in improving urban life, perceived the provision of pastoral open spaces that were open to the public as one solution to the problems they saw in American cities. Better physical health, relief from tedious working conditions, a respite from urban surroundings in rapidly industrializing cities, an appreciation for nature, and an opportunity to interact with other people of all social classes were among the benefits park advocates expected city dwellers to enjoy when parks were created. They promoted these first parks as ideal places for unstructured, wholesome recreation, including strolling, picnicking, field games, canoeing and the like. Proponents viewed these public spaces, stylistically known as pleasure grounds, as a contrast to other popular public venues of the day, such as beer gardens and amusement parks, which were commercialized and considered by many to be of questionable morality.

Other advocates saw the establishment of parks as a means to advance the residential and commercial development of their cities. It quickly became clear that the creation of a park boosted land values in the surrounding area, and business people sometimes anticipated being able to profit either directly

³¹ See Blake McKelvey, "Historic Origins of Rochester's Social Welfare Agencies," *Rochester History* IX, Nos. 2 & 3 (April 1947); and McKelvey, "A History of Social Welfare in Rochester," *Rochester History* XX, No. 4 (October 1958).

³² Laura Wood Roper, *FLO: A Biography of Frederick Law Olmsted* (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983), 144.

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from land speculation or more generally from the expansion of desirable urban areas. In addition, parks could improve the urban environment by replacing undesirable uses such as informal dumping grounds, squatters' residences, or former industrial sites, or by filling in sites that were unusable for other purposes due to conditions such as rocky terrain or poor soil.³³

Frederick Law Olmsted and the Emergence of the Field of Landscape Architecture

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822 - 1903) is widely recognized as the father of the profession of landscape architecture in the United States, and was a key figure in the pleasure ground movement. He was instrumental in the late-nineteenth century transformation of the field of "landscape gardening," which had essentially involved the design of flower gardens for the estates of wealthy people, into a broader field whose practitioners were professionals akin to traditional architects. Olmsted believed that because designed landscapes served an important social purpose, they should be accessible to the general public, not just the wealthy. Having established his reputation through the design of one site in particular, Central Park, Olmsted went on to work on many other types of sites nationwide. The designs and theories he developed for urban parks, residential communities, institutional campuses, national parks, and private estates were extremely important, both for their influence on the new field of landscape architecture and for their impact on the development of the communities in which they were implemented. In addition, his proteges became the first professionally trained landscape architects in the country, and went on to be prominent advocates for the field through their own careers.

Until the early nineteenth century, landscape gardening (as the emerging field was then known) was primarily a European profession limited to the design of private grounds. In the 1840s, two new parks in England became the first European landscapes specifically designed as pleasure grounds for the general public. Victoria Park, in the East End of London, was formally created in 1842 to provide open space in a crowded and impoverished urban neighborhood. Designed by architect James Pennethorne, this park was extremely significant in the growing movement to provide public parks. Birkenhead Park, in Liverpool, was designed by Joseph Paxton beginning in 1843. This park was profoundly influential on Frederick Law Olmsted, who visited it in 1850. While there, Olmsted noted the irony that the United States, for all its democratic ideals, had no counterpart to Liverpool's "People's Garden," where all classes of people were welcome to enjoy the park as equals.³⁴

One aspect of Frederick Law Olmsted's significance is in his role in the design of the first public park in the United States, which also was an important milestone in the formation of the profession of landscape architecture. Following close on the heels of the two new parks in England, the State of New York passed the First Park Act in 1851. This legislation led to the creation of Central Park in Manhattan. Olmsted had a long and often difficult association with this new park. In 1857, shortly after the acquisition of the barren land for Central Park, the nine commissioners of the park selected Olmsted over several other applicants as the park superintendent, in charge of clearing the land, constructing the park, and managing the park police. Shortly thereafter, the park commissioners decided to abandon the plan for the park drawn in 1856, and announced a competition for a new design. Architect Calvert Vaux asked Olmsted to collaborate with him on a design, and their plan, "Greensward," won the competition.

³³ Cranz, 159-63.

³⁴ Norman T. Newton, *Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture* (Cambridge, Mass., and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971), 223-232.

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Olmsted and Vaux had very few precedents from which to draw, but still managed to create a design that was highly acclaimed before it was completed and enormously influential on the urban parks movement nationwide. While not all aspects of Olmsted and Vaux's plan were implemented, the result of their work was a remarkable urban park that provided a variety of landscape experiences and became one of the most beloved features of Manhattan. It was while they were designing Central Park that Olmsted and Vaux first used the term "landscape architects" to describe themselves, thus creating the name by which the profession would be known.

With the success of Central Park, Olmsted – sometimes working with Vaux, sometimes working on his own, and sometimes as part of a firm – found himself much in demand as other cities strove to emulate the success of New York's park. His practice expanded from the design of individual parks to include the design of entire urban park systems, institutional campuses, subdivisions, and private estates. Over the course of his long career, Olmsted worked on dozens of projects all across the United States. Some of his most prominent projects included Prospect Park in Brooklyn, the U.S. Capitol Grounds in Washington, D.C., the park systems of Buffalo, Boston, Rochester, and Louisville, the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, and the campuses of Yale University, Stanford University, Trinity College, Smith College, Cornell University, the New York State Asylum for the Insane in Buffalo, and the Hartford Retreat for the Insane.

Olmsted was also influential in his work with the nation's first state and national parks. As a leading member of the Yosemite Commission, Olmsted prepared a set of recommendations for the land, and his vision for the huge public reservation influenced the management philosophy ultimately adopted at this and other national parks.³⁵ Olmsted emphasized that the government should pursue two main goals in its treatment of scenic reservations: make the spectacular scenery of the reservations accessible to the public and protect the natural environment from development and damage. While his specific recommendations for Yosemite in 1865 were not carried out, they influenced the later work of his son, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., who helped to write the legislation creating the National Park Service. Beginning in 1869 (coinciding with his work on the park system for Buffalo, New York), Olmsted was a leader in the movement to preserve the natural scenery of Niagara Falls, which had been encroached on by industry and private tourist attractions. He coordinated a campaign in the 1870s and early 1880s to raise public awareness of the issue and to pressure officials in New York State to acquire the land beside the falls as a public reservation; these efforts were finally successful in 1885 when the New York State Legislature appropriated the necessary money for the acquisition of the land as the Niagara Reservation, the first state park in the United States. In 1887, Olmsted and Vaux presented a report on their preferred treatment of the landscape, emphasizing naturalistic plantings and unobtrusive but safe overlook points. These highly public events were surely inspirational to park advocates in Rochester, who were actively promoting the creation of a park system at the same time Olmsted was working in Niagara Falls.³⁶

³⁵ The Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove were withdrawn from the public lands and ceded to California by President Lincoln in 1864, to be held for public use; 1,500 square miles of forest surrounding the valley and grove became a National Park in 1890; Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were added to the National Park when California ceded control over these areas to the federal government in 1906.

³⁶ Roper, 378-82 and 395-97; see also Niagara Frontier State Parks & Recreation Commission, "The Niagara Reservation – An Historical Perspective," at the website of the Niagara County Department of Planning, Development & Tourism, www.niagara-usa.com/pages/historyfacts.com, accessed 3 September 2002.

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Olmsted was enormously influential on the profession of landscape architecture through his own work, but his direct influence on those young landscape architects who worked in his office was at least as important to the profession's growth in practitioners and in prestige. These men, particularly Charles Eliot, John C. Olmsted, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., are considered the first in their profession to have received professional training, and became committed advocates for the field.

Charles Eliot decided at a young age that he wanted to become a landscape architect, and quickly found that there was no formal academic training available. He became an apprentice in Olmsted's office in 1883, and established his own practice in 1886. Eliot rejoined the Olmsted office (which then became known as Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot) in 1893, and was a significant contributor to the firm's work and to the field of landscape architecture, particularly in his writings about the creation of a metropolitan park system in Boston, until his death at the age of 37.³⁷

Olmsted's legacy was carried on even more importantly by his stepson, John C. Olmsted, and son, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. John C. Olmsted was a full partner in the firm by 1884, ultimately becoming senior partner, a position he held until his death in 1920. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., joined the firm in 1895, and was senior partner from 1920 to 1950. Under the leadership of both of the younger Olmsteds, the firm continued the same type of work at a consistently high level of quality. John C. Olmsted, the older of the two, worked on a variety of important projects including campus plans, residential subdivisions, public institutions, and parks and park systems. The Seattle park system was one of his most important projects. In addition, John C. Olmsted was often the member of the firm who worked on the ongoing implementation of the firm's designs for a given project (as was the case with the Rochester park system). Although Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., did not become part of the firm until around the time of his father's retirement, he became an important landscape architect in his own right. He was named to the Senate Park Commission (McMillan Commission), a group of four of the country's most important design professionals who created a new plan for the city of Washington, D.C., in 1901. He also worked on parks in and around Washington and elsewhere, residential communities, city plans (including a plan for Rochester), and scenic reservations such as Yosemite, Niagara Falls, and Acadia National Park. Influential spokesmen and promoters of the profession, both of the younger Olmsteds were founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Frederick Law Olmsted's Design Principles

Over the course of his lengthy career, Frederick Law Olmsted demonstrated a sophisticated grasp of landscape design and articulated many different design principles. Certain overarching principles remained constant in his urban park designs, from his earliest work in Central Park to his later park designs in Rochester and Louisville.³⁸

Olmsted's urban parks were intended, first and foremost, to contrast with the city. Like other advocates of the pleasure ground movement, Olmsted firmly believed that access to nature could be physically and psychically restorative to city dwellers. He stated that landscapes with the right combination of

³⁷ Newton, 318-32.

³⁸ These principles are described fully in many works on Olmsted's career; two of the most useful are Bruce Kelly, Gail Travis Guilet, and Mary Ellen W. Hern, *Art of the Olmsted Landscape* (New York: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Arts Publisher, Inc., 1981) and Charles Beveridge and Paul Rocheleau, *Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape* (New York: Universe Publishing, 1998).

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characteristics could “refresh and delight the eye and through the eye, the mind and spirit.” Olmsted was convinced that this restorative process could only work subconsciously, through exposure to an environment that appeared to be totally natural, even if it was actually manipulated to some degree. Therefore, “unnatural” designed elements such as elaborate flower beds or clearly exotic specimen plantings that drew attention to their artificiality would hinder rather than enhance the therapeutic value of exposure to the landscape.³⁹ Olmsted’s specific park design principles all served to advance this basic purpose of providing a socially beneficial, soothing, and restorative environment.

Olmsted identified three landscape types that were appropriate to public parks and that could induce the beneficial effects of access to nature: the pastoral, the picturesque, and the sublime. Each created a different emotional impression on the visitor. Pastoral landscapes, which Olmsted believed could foster relaxation, created an impression of unity and harmony. These combined gently rolling topography, meadows, trees, and water features. The second type was the picturesque, which Olmsted saw as more rugged, incorporating bold land forms and vegetation that appeared to be untamed. These landscapes, Olmsted felt, could inspire the viewer to contemplate the mystery and grandeur of nature. Landscapes classified as sublime, the third major type, were even more breathtaking than the picturesque, featuring unique and awe-inspiring natural wonders. Olmsted believed that the sublime could not be designed or enhanced by humans, but was present at such spectacular natural features as Niagara Falls, where the only role of the landscape architect was to provide safe access to the scenery.⁴⁰

Olmsted selected the landscape effect he sought for each specific site based on the natural topography. When he designed park systems, as in Rochester, he recommended the acquisition of several sites that naturally contained diverse landscape types, so that the system as a whole could provide varied experiences. This was important because Olmsted strongly believed that each park should have its own design theme, and that different landscape styles should be separated, never mixed. Olmsted wanted every element at every scale, such as plant selection, road and path location and design, water features, architectural elements, and so on, to contribute to the overall effect he sought to achieve. He defined a park as “a single work of art, and as such subject to the primary law of every work of art, namely, that it shall be framed upon a single, noble motive, to which the design of all its parts, in some more or less subtle way, shall be confluent and helpful.”⁴¹ Olmsted also wrote:

A park is a work of art, designed to produce certain effects on the mind of men. There should be nothing in it, absolutely nothing – not a foot of surface nor a spear of grass – which does not represent study, design, a sagacious consideration & application of known laws of cause & effect with reference to that end.⁴²

³⁹ Olmsted, Vaux & Co., “Report of the Landscape Architects,” 24 January 1866, in *Brooklyn, New York, Park Commissioners, Annual Reports . . . 1861-1873*, Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, cited in Beveridge and Rocheleau, 31.

⁴⁰ See Beveridge and Rocheleau, 34-36; and Marjorie Wickes and Tim O’Connell, “The Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted,” *Rochester History* L, No. 2 (April 1988): 7.

⁴¹ Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, “A Review of Recent Changes and Changes Which Have Been Projected, in the Plans of the Central Park,” January 1872, cited in Kelly et al., 9.

⁴² Frederick Law Olmsted, cited in Beveridge and Rocheleau, 48.

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This was an essential aspect of Olmsted's work that was frequently misunderstood or ignored, both within his lifetime and after his death, as various constituencies sought to eliminate or alter elements of his designs.

Olmsted selected sites with appealing natural features suggestive of the picturesque or pastoral type, and then enhanced these to create the precise effect he sought. He aimed to achieve a pleasing balance between land, vegetation, and water effects, altering any or all of those features as needed, but everything was to be done so that an inexperienced viewer would believe he or she was looking at a landscape that was virtually untouched by human hands. For example, Olmsted described his method of selecting plants as being similar to the process by which plants were selected in nature. Native plants were always appropriate, and exotic plants were always to be avoided. Nonnative plants could, however, be selected if they were in some way "fitting" to the site. His arrangement of these plants was always intended to look spontaneous and wild, never manicured.⁴³ Paths and carriage drives, usually separated from one another for greater safety and to avoid the distractions caused by dangerous intersections, were sinuous, following the topography, never straight.

These elements, each of which was individually designed to look natural, were also considered in terms of how the visitor would experience them as he or she moved through the landscape. Paths and roadways in an Olmsted park were not merely utilitarian means of moving around, but were central to the way Olmsted intended people to experience his landscapes. Someone walking or riding on the paths or carriage drives would experience "a series of landscape passages located and designed in strict sequence."⁴⁴ He or she would see an ever-changing progression of vistas, each designed with a specific visual and psychological effect in mind. There was always something more to explore, the possibility of another scene always lying just around the next bend in the winding road.

Walking and riding were intended to be the primary means of enjoying an Olmsted park. Other activities, such as sports, musical performances, and dining, were intended to be confined to areas at the edges of his parks, where they would not distract those engaged in contemplation of the scenery or detract from the unified effect Olmsted sought. Even in these peripheral areas, any built elements were designed so that they were subsumed within the landscape rather than standing out as dominant features. More importantly, within a park system, Olmsted advocated providing recreational facilities in small parks "so distributed through a large town that some one of them could be easily reached by a short walk from every house," and keeping them out of the major pleasure ground parks altogether.⁴⁵

While he believed parks should primarily be used for restful contemplation of nature, Olmsted recognized that there were benefits in having a place where people could congregate as a community.

That scenery which would afford the most marked contrast with the streets of a town, would be of a kind characterized in nature by the absence, or, at least, the marked subordination of human influences. Yet, in a park, the largest provision is required for the human presence. Men

⁴³ Beveridge and Rocheleau, 38-39.

⁴⁴ Frederick Law Olmsted to H.G. Stebbins, "Examination of the Design of the Park and of Recent Changes Therein," February 1872, cited in Kelly et al., 28.

⁴⁵ Frederick Law Olmsted, "Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns, American Social Science Association (Cambridge, Mass.: Riverside Press, 1870), 1-36; cited in S.B. Sutton, ed., *Civilizing American Cities: A Selection of Frederick Law Olmsted's Writings on City Landscapes* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1979), 73-74.

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must come together, and must be seen coming together, in carriages, on horseback and on foot, and the concourse of animated life which will thus be formed, must in itself be made, if possible, an attractive and diverting spectacle.⁴⁶

This view was related to Olmsted's belief in the value of parks as part of a democracy. He strongly believed that parks should be accessible to all people. He was particularly concerned about poor urban dwellers who lacked the time or money to travel away from the city, and expressed a special concern about lower-class women's need for parks, as he felt these women were particularly in need of opportunities to relax and experience something new. At the same time, he felt it was important that parks serve the interests of wealthier people, which he expected would happen as proximity to parks made adjacent residential areas particularly desirable. Olmsted believed that the availability of scenic parks where the wealthy could enjoy riding in their carriages might help keep the upper classes in the city. By addressing the interests of both the wealthy and the lower classes, Olmsted hoped his parks would serve as places where people of all social classes could meet and mingle.⁴⁷

The Creation and Design of Rochester's Municipal Park System

Rochester's Pro-Parks Movement

The men and women who advocated for the creation of a municipal park system in Rochester represented a diverse spectrum of interests: humanitarians, business leaders, philanthropists, public health advocates, and outdoor enthusiasts all contributed to raising awareness of the need for extensive public spaces. While these people approached the issue from varied perspectives, they all saw a need to augment (and, in some cases, replace) Rochester's limited recreational outlets with dedicated parks and/or elegant landscaped boulevards.

Among the most visible proponents of the creation of a park system in the mid to late nineteenth century were the growing numbers of outdoor enthusiasts. Outdoor recreational activities began to proliferate in and around Rochester during the period from the 1840s to the 1860s. The recreational facilities and organizations that existed prior to the formal establishment of the city's park system were generally geared toward specific activities, such as fishing, bathing, hunting, and horseracing. A few picnic groves, a fisherman's lodge, dressing booths at the beach, and a few racetracks were among the limited recreational facilities built in or just outside the city before the Civil War. Rochesterians interested in outdoor activities could play in one of two cricket clubs established in 1847, enter a sportsmen's association organized in 1849 for excursions to the Thousand Islands and other locales, join one of a number of baseball teams founded in the 1850s and 1860s, or row crew with the Resolute Regatta Club created in 1858. These and several other organizations established in the mid-nineteenth century reflected the growth in leisure time, a new interest in outdoor activities, and enthusiasm for community events. As Rochester historian Blake McKelvey noted,

Three significant aspects of this recreational activity began to emerge before the Civil War. On the one hand the players acquired a new conception of physical fitness, a new appreciation for

⁴⁶ Frederick Law Olmsted, cited in Beveridge and Rocheleau, 47.

⁴⁷ Beveridge and Rocheleau, 45-46.

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leisure, discovered the merits of teamwork, and began to re-evaluate life's objectives. Although the number who shared in the new forms of physical exercise was limited, crowds of spectators were attracted out to sunny fields where they felt the challenge of new loyalties, enjoyed new uses for leisure and new escapes from personal frustrations.⁴⁸

Many of these recreational pursuits were abandoned during the Civil War, although some activities continued, providing an escape from the realities of war. After the Civil War, baseball games resumed, as did excursions to lakefront resorts and picnic groves. Resorts and amusement parks along Lake Ontario, such as Ontario Beach Park and White City (also known as Windsor Beach) on Lake Ontario in Charlotte and Glen Haven on Irondequoit Bay, were becoming increasingly popular in the 1880s, as train lines offered an inexpensive way for city dwellers to enjoy the cooler air along the waterfront.⁴⁹

Sports enthusiasts who sought better venues for their new hobbies were joined by reformers and business leaders in their advocacy for parks set aside for public use. Dr. Edward Mott Moore, a local physician, was convinced that outdoor recreation offered immense benefits. His family was one of the first in Rochester to spend summers at Lake Ontario. Bishop Bernard McQuaid, first bishop of Rochester, meanwhile, was involved in humanitarian causes, most notably education, and was also in favor of the provision of public facilities for sports. Councilman George W. Elliott was a leader among a group of progressive businessmen who favored reducing city debt burdens by developing land at the outskirts, thereby increasing the tax rolls. As chairman of the Common Council's parks committee, he proposed the development of a system of parks linked by a parkway encircling the city. Similarly, nurserymen such as George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry, then involved in subdividing their nursery grounds into attractive housing lots as urban development spread, supported the creation of public parks as an amenity that would raise property values.

For all of these varied reasons, a number of notable citizens were united behind the idea of creating public parks in the post-Civil War era. As interest in the concept grew, Dr. Moore and other local residents visited Buffalo, New York City, and other cities on the forefront of park development and returned to urge their fellow Rochesterians to establish their own unified park system.⁵⁰ Most members of the Common Council and many other citizens, however, were very reluctant to spend tax money on the establishment of parks.⁵¹

Two offers of donated parkland in 1883 brought the growing wave of interest in parks to the forefront. The first offer came from D.D.S. Brown of Scottsville, who proposed to donate 30 acres at the western edge of the city if it could be named Lincoln Park and improved within two years. While the Common Council accepted the offer, it did not fulfill Brown's requirements by improving the park within the stated time period, resulting in the retraction of the gift. The land was ultimately developed

⁴⁸ Blake McKelvey, "Rochester Learns to Play: 1850-1900," *Rochester History* VIII (July 1946): 4-6.

⁴⁹ These resorts were often owned by the train companies and were used as enticements to encourage people to use the rail lines; Ontario Beach Park, for example, was owned by the New York Central Railroad.

⁵⁰ Blake McKelvey, *A Growing Legacy: An Illustrated History of Rochester's Parks* (Rochester: Monroe Reprographics, Inc., 1988) (hereafter Mckelvey, *Growing Legacy*), 13.

⁵¹ Blake McKelvey, "An Historical View of Rochester's Parks and Playgrounds," *Rochester History* XI, No. 1 (January 1949): 1-24.

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commercially.⁵² Also in 1883, Ellwanger and Barry offered 20 acres around the city water reservoir to the city for the development of a public park. On October 2, 1883, the Common Council adopted a resolution to appoint a five-member committee to confer with Ellwanger and Barry on the terms of their donation. The Council was politically divided and unable to reach a decision to accept the land until public pressure convinced them to vote to do so in 1887. The budget reported for the committee in 1886 – which included total receipts of \$500.25 and expenditures of \$488.45 – pales in comparison with the massive responsibilities the city was soon to undertake when the new park system was inaugurated.⁵³

The Establishment and Early Work of the Parks Commission

In April 1888, despite continuing opposition from the Common Council, which remained unwilling to spend public funds on park acquisition or improvements, park advocates convinced the state legislature to create an independent Board of Park Commissioners (generally called the Park Commission). Councilman George W. Elliott and others drafted legislation passed by the state legislature authorizing the independent commission “to float bonds for \$300,000 and to finance the purchase and development of desirable lands for a park system, which would be maintained with charges to the city not to exceed \$20,000 a year.”⁵⁴ The Park Commission operated independently of the city government, which continued to oppose its creation. Twenty-one members were appointed to the Park Commission, which first met on May 7, 1888. At that meeting, Dr. Edward Mott Moore, who was to continue to play an important role as a prominent park supporter until his death in 1902, was elected president. Among the park commissioners’ first actions was to contact their counterparts in Buffalo, which had begun the development of its extensive park system in 1868. The Buffalo park commissioners had two important pieces of advice: hire a professional landscape architect, and acquire land as soon as possible, before rumors of future park locations could drive up land prices.⁵⁵

In the fall of 1888, the Park Commission heard reports from five landscape architectural firms and individuals. Four of these reports – those of Calvert Vaux and Samuel Parsons of New York City (a joint report), William Webster of Rochester, William S. Edgerton of Albany, and H.W.S. Cleveland of Minneapolis, were published in the *Proceedings of the Common Council* for 1888-89. Frederick Law Olmsted gave his report orally, and his recommendations were not recorded as part of the published *Proceedings*. The four published reports were all strikingly similar, suggesting that the Park Commission had provided the designers with specific instructions, and may have directed their attention to particularly desirable or potentially available parcels during the designers’ brief visits to the area.

The land north of downtown Rochester that became Seneca Park figured largely in all four published reports, with the landscape architects extolling the dramatic beauty and unspoiled nature of the gorge scenery. All four urged the Park Commission to act quickly to preserve this land before it was encroached upon by development, and to make it a centerpiece of the new park system.

⁵² McKelvey, *Growing Legacy*, 13.

⁵³ *Proceedings of the Common Council*, 1883-84, 213; 1885-86, 52, 328, 403.

⁵⁴ McKelvey, *Growing Legacy*, 13-14.

⁵⁵ *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Rochester, N.Y., 1888 to 1898* (Rochester, 1898), 19-20; *The Public Parks of the City of Rochester, New York, 1888-1904* (Rochester, 1904), 13-16; and Blake McKelvey, *Rochester: The Flower City, 1856-1890* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1949) 265-67.

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Another point of emphasis in all the reports was the hilly land surrounding the reservoir, in what would become Highland Park. Because this area had already been donated, there was no question that this would be part of the new system. The landscape architects noted that the hillside below the reservoir could be improved with shrubs, trees, and carriage drives, and some suggested enlarging the area to be improved as a park, possibly linking it with the nearby Pinnacle Hill.

Three of the four published reports also suggested reserving land for a park in what would become the area of Genesee Valley Park.⁵⁶ The three proposals for this area diverged slightly in the exact size and location of the proposed park, but agreed that the general area provided scenery that would complement the more rugged park proposed to the north.

The landscape architects expressed a common desire to preserve the scenery of the Genesee River. Rochester's earliest settlers had recognized the scenic quality of the river, but necessity forced the pioneers to focus on the river's great waterfalls as the means to power mills and other early industry. By the end of the nineteenth century, as new forms of power made it possible for industries to be located away from the waterfalls, the opportunity arose to finally open up the river for recreational use and appreciation. The landscape architects were essentially encouraging Rochester's leaders to seize the opportunity to acquire lands along the river and preserve the scenic quality of the gorge.

In addition to these recommendations, individual proposals contained various suggestions for other parks or parkways. The proposals by Edgerton and by Vaux and Parsons pointed out that nearly the entire existing landscape around Rochester consisted of rolling land that would be suitable for drives, walks, and playgrounds, and declined to single out individual locations for additional parks. Noting that he had spent very little time in Rochester, Cleveland provided mainly general advice about park design, inviting the Commissioners to send a representative to Minneapolis to see the park work he had done there. Webster, who was most familiar with local conditions, provided the most detailed recommendations, including the proposal of a semicircular parkway network that would connect the reservoir (now Highland Park) to the northernmost park (now Seneca Park) via a broad loop around the eastern edge of the city.

Concentrating on the river was desirable not only from an aesthetic point of view, but also as a means to keep costs down, which was clearly a concern for park commissioners. Scattered throughout the four published reports were references to the cost of the various proposals. The landscape architects pointed out that concentrating the system near the Genesee River was economical not only because steep banks should be inexpensive but also because the city need not pay for the water, so the waterside parks would automatically appear larger. They also suggested that landowners might be willing to donate part of their land in the interest of raising the value of their adjacent property, and noted that the city already owned the reservoir and some of its surrounding land. In addition, several of the landscape architects noted that the best landscape treatment would involve minimal construction, which would also help to keep the costs down.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ The one report that did not suggest a park in the site of what became Genesee Valley Park was that of H.W.S. Cleveland, who proposed a park in southwest Rochester west of Genesee Street, where the neighborhood that became known as the 19th Ward ultimately developed instead.

⁵⁷ *Proceedings of the Common Council*, 1888-89 (Rochester, 1889), 462-71.

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As the report of Frederick Law Olmsted was transmitted orally, and was not recorded in the written records of the Park Commission, it is impossible to determine what it was about his proposal, evidently quite similar to the others, that persuaded the Commission to select him. Certainly they were already predisposed to choose his firm, as the Executive Committee had previously tried to do so; in addition, the Commissioners had seen his work in Buffalo and were evidently impressed. Olmsted's style, with its emphasis on the enhancement of natural features rather than the introduction of high-maintenance features, must have appealed to the Commissioners' need for economy.⁵⁸ All of the other consultants, influenced by Olmsted's illustrious work over the previous 30 years, proposed a similar approach, but perhaps the Commissioners felt most comfortable with Olmsted and his proven success in Buffalo and elsewhere.

Frederick Law Olmsted and the Rochester Municipal Park System

In designing the park system for Rochester, Olmsted focused on the three sites highlighted in the various consultants' reports to the Park Commission: the area along the river north of Lower Falls; the area in the rolling pastoral terrain south of the city, and the land surrounding the municipal reservoir. Olmsted was particularly interested in the first two sites, as they incorporated the river, a dramatic water feature, yet were completely different in character. The land around the reservoir presented a situation that was less typical of Olmsted's work, as the natural topography did not include water, which Olmsted considered an essential element in his landscape designs.⁵⁹ Since the land had already been donated by Ellwanger and Barry, the inclusion of this land in the system was not to be disputed, even though it did not fit Olmsted's usual criteria for the selection of a park site.

As in all of his parks, Olmsted's approach was to consider the natural features of a site and respect the "genius of the place," choosing a different landscape treatment for each park in keeping with its natural character. The existing terrain formed the inspiration for the landscape treatment; subtle changes in topography, new and enhanced plantings, and sensitively placed built features such as roads, walkways, and buildings were used to turn the existing landscape into a work of art.

Olmsted's approach to the Rochester park system exemplifies his technique in dealing with any landscape. While he could, on occasion, turn an undistinguished plot of land into a stunning composition, as was the case in many parts of Central Park, he much preferred to work with the type of terrain he found in Rochester, which was perfectly suited to the picturesque and pastoral ideals. Each of the Rochester parks exemplifies Olmsted's skill in employing the subtle variations of the pleasure ground type. When designing a park system, such as Rochester's, Olmsted preferred that each individual component have its own internally consistent design logic, so that as a group the parks would provide a variety of pleasing and psychologically restorative ways to experience nature.

Each of Rochester's three Olmsted-designed parks is a significant example of a mid-nineteenth century pleasure ground. As a whole, the system is significant, because it illustrates many of the design principles Olmsted developed over his long and prominent career, and that served as touchstones for his contemporaries; in addition; the system is an excellent example of Olmsted's large-scale public projects. As Olmsted himself noted, the Rochester park system, with more than 600 acres, represented

⁵⁸ Beveridge and Rocheleau, 33.

⁵⁹ Wickes and O'Connell, 11; and Kelly et al., 25.

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the first time that a city of Rochester's size had "entered upon so large an undertaking 'in the "park" way.'"⁶⁰

Implementation of the Olmsted Park Plans in Rochester, 1888-1900

Olmsted was selected by the Rochester Parks Commission in October 1888 to develop a park system over a period of three years for a fee of \$5,000. Even before the plans for the parks were finalized, the Parks Commission began acquiring land, prepared topographical plans and other survey work, and started the preliminary grading and clearing. This work was supervised by Calvin C. Laney, a civil engineer hired by the Parks Commission as the Superintendent of the Parks in 1889. In this capacity, he was in charge of assisting the Olmsted firm with the onsite work and implementing Olmsted's designs as they were completed.

The park Olmsted designed for the land donated by Ellwanger and Barry came to be called Highland Park. In Olmsted's design, the park had two main functions: it was to be an arboretum, as Ellwanger and Barry had stipulated when they donated the land, and a vantage point for viewing the city. Principal spaces in Olmsted's design were the Pinetum, a collection of coniferous trees on the north slope of the hill designed as a classic winding Olmstedian park drive; the Meadow, an open area with edges defined by surrounding masses of shrubs and trees on adjacent slopes; the Pinnacle, a prominent hill topped by a circular pavilion designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge in collaboration with Olmsted as a viewing platform and administrative center; and the Shrub Collection, on the south side of the hill, which included naturalistic masses of common shrubs surrounded by rarer specimens planted singly or in small groups. Olmsted suggested that shrubs form the majority of the horticultural collection at Highland Park because their low height would not block the vistas.⁶¹

The park south of the city, originally known as South Park, came to be known as Genesee Valley Park. This park encompassed gently rolling terrain along the Genesee River that epitomized Olmsted's ideal pastoral landscape. In keeping with Olmsted's desire to minimize the impact of built elements, recreational facilities, including boathouses and athletic facilities, were grouped on the west side of the river while the east side of the park was designed to retain a tranquil character with minimal interruption. An open meadow encircled by a gently winding carriage drive was a key feature in this pastoral composition; the romantic rural quality of the meadow was enhanced when the city provided a herd of sheep, at Olmsted's suggestion. Near the meadow were a deer park and picnic grove.

Seneca Park, as the park in the dramatic river gorge north of the downtown area came to be known, was designed as a linear park, encompassing the steep banks on both sides of the Genesee River extending approximately three miles from north to south. As he had done at the Niagara Reservation, Olmsted sought to provide safe access to the river scenery while protecting that scenery from destruction. Olmsted designed a continuous system of paths and drives along the edge of the gorge, with overlook

⁶⁰ Beveridge and Rocheleau, 94.

⁶¹ Highland Park has been expanded since its creation; sections of the current park west of South Avenue and south of Highland Avenue were added later and were not part of the Olmsted design. For more on the landscape of Highland Park, see Patricia M. O'Donnell, Charles A. Birnbaum, and Charles Eliot Beveridge, *Pinetum Drive, Highland Park, Rochester, NY: Historic Designed Landscape Research & Assessment Report*, Prepared for Monroe County Parks, n.d.; and Monroe County Parks Department, et al., *Highland Park Historic Landscape Rehabilitation*, 10 November 1994.

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sites to take advantage of the best river views and occasional paths descending to the water's edge. The forested gorge banks were to be supplemented with lush plantings that would enhance the density and variety of vegetation and prevent erosion while minimizing the threat of rock falls or other hazards to people descending into the gorge. In two locations above the rim of the gorge, one on the east side and one on the west, the park widened to encompass natural tablelands where the landscape effects were broader and more open, incorporating meadows, lawns, picnic groves, and water features.

It appears that work progressed most quickly at Highland Park. The circular hilltop pavilion was dedicated in September 1890 as the Children's Pavilion. Roads and walks were also constructed during the 1890s, but the most attention was paid to collecting and arranging plants, particularly evergreens and shrubs. By 1897, there were 1,100 varieties of shrubs alone in Highland Park; in 1898 the Park Commissioners reported that there were 109 species and varieties in the Pinetum alone. Highland Park was already drawing thousands of visitors a year, particularly when the most spectacular plant varieties were in bloom, and the Commissioners focused increasingly on providing the showy plants that most park visitors preferred, as opposed to nonflowering plants that were primarily of interest to specialists. The lilacs in particular were early public favorites; in 1897, for example, the Park Commission noted that park attendance was particularly large when the 100 varieties of lilacs in the park were blooming. The highest estimated attendance on a single day in 1898 was approximately 3,000.⁶²

The Park Commissioners also made substantial progress on implementing the designs for Genesee Valley Park, generally in accordance with the original Olmsted plans. Planting began right away in 1889; in that year alone, 62,500 trees were planted along the railroad line and along Westfall Road; 10,500 shrubs and 10,000 willows were planted in the forest and along the river, and over 200 trees were planted along the drives and river banks.⁶³ The work of planting, thinning, grading, seeding, and construction of recreational and other amenities continued through the decade, so that by 1898 the Park Commissioners could report that "the planting, a matter of primary necessity, has been essentially accomplished," although roads and bridges remained to be constructed.

Work in Seneca Park progressed more slowly than at the other two parks, due to difficulties encountered in obtaining the land and delays in the completion of the Olmsted plans. Work in the park began in earnest in 1891, and by the end of the decade most of the key features of the Olmsted plan, including the overall planting layout, the artificial lake in what was then called Seneca Park East, the roads and paths, and the refectory, were built in the areas where the city was able to acquire the land.

D. The Reform Park Movement in Rochester, 1890s-1929

By the early 1900s, the Olmsted designs for Highland, Genesee Valley, and Seneca Parks had substantially taken form, and during the first three decades of the twentieth century, Rochester's municipal park system experienced its heyday. The parks came to maturity during a period when parks were thriving nationwide, even as social and recreational ideals were undergoing a transformation. Rochesterians thronged to the parks year-round, to stroll, drive in carriages or automobiles, admire

⁶² Rochester Board of Park Commissioners, *The Public Parks of the City of Rochester, New York, 1898-1904* (Rochester: Board of Park Commissioners, 1904), 45-48.

⁶³ Rochester Board of Park Commissioners, 1904, 22-23.

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horticultural displays, picnic, swim, fish, boat, ice skate, sled, listen to concerts, or attend popular annual festivals. To accommodate activities not anticipated in the original design, changes in keeping with the prevailing ideology were planned and/or executed in the system's three large pleasure grounds and in some of the existing small parks and squares. The park system expanded with the addition of four major new parks, two new small parks, two street malls, and dozens of playgrounds.

State and National Developments: Shifting Trends in Park Ideals

By the late 1890s, the pleasure ground concept – in which parks were intended to provide city residents with a restorative experience reminiscent of the rural countryside – was beginning to lose popularity nationwide as a new theory of parks' social functions emerged. This new ideal, expressed in the Reform park movement, was one aspect of a widespread progressive social reform movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, aimed at countering the negative effects of urbanization and industrialization. Activists such as Jacob Riis and Jane Addams chronicled and worked to end poverty, child labor, and other social ills associated with urban life. The related new ideal emerging among park leaders and organizers held that parks could contribute to the improvement of society by promoting social goals such as citizenship, productivity, hygiene, cultural education, and cooperation.⁶⁴

This new park ideology, which dominated park advocates' thinking during the early twentieth century, was related to broad social changes of the era, as park historian Galen Cranz noted:

In the early 1900s larger incomes, earlier retirement, shorter work weeks, and longer vacations left more people with more time on their hands . . . One main line of reform thinking, which persisted well beyond the 1930s, was that this gap of free time generated a demand for increasing recreational service, and during the first three decades of the century demand in itself justified the sudden creation of municipal facilities, beaches, golf courses, stadiums, tennis courts, and picnic areas. Generally, for its advocates the reform park was a moral defense against the potential for chaos that they perceived in this new abundance of free time, just as the pleasure ground had been an antidote to the old lack of free space. Spare time, in short, was a threat to society. It could be as easily spent in the saloon, the dance hall, and the picture show as in the church, the YMCA, and the library, unless reform advocates competed to channel time their way.⁶⁵

The new park theory was manifested in new park programming. The "park leaders, play directors, and efficiency-minded experts in recreation" who promoted the new approach generally acted under the assumption that typical park users – children and working-class men – needed organized activities to structure their free time.⁶⁶ Reformers were particularly concerned about the health and moral education of urban children, and wished to promote their proper development. Children's natural instincts for play were to be channeled into supervised games and activities taught by leaders who could emphasize fairness and citizenship. This early focus on children broadened to include activities geared to people of all ages. Activities such as organized athletic tournaments, folk and social dancing, festivals and pageants, crafts such as miniature yacht and model airplane construction, gardening programs, and

⁶⁴ Cranz, 59-99.

⁶⁵ Cranz, 62.

⁶⁶ Cranz, 61.

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concerts proliferated. These activities were supervised and highly structured to maximize their educational value.

The structured activities that reform park advocates favored required a new conception of park design. An ideal Reform park would measure between 10 and 40 acres. It would be formally and symmetrically arranged, its organization the antithesis of the picturesque, meandering layout of the earlier pleasure grounds. The topography would be flat, with gravel surfaces for easy maintenance, and the park's boundaries would be fenced. At the center of the park would be a field house, containing separate locker and gym facilities for men and women, flanked by outdoor playground equipment. The emphasis of such a park would be on the creation of a sense of order, structure, and practicality.⁶⁷

Another park design ideal was the playground, a new type during this period. Reform park ideology held that areas specifically designed for small children should be generously distributed throughout a city, particularly in dense urban neighborhoods. Although play areas began appearing as early as the late 1860s, it was not until 1890 that Boston became the first city in the United States to dedicate an official playground. New York City followed suit with the creation of the Small Parks Commission in 1898; Chicago officially authorized playground creation in 1901. Official and unofficial playgrounds were established in Boston, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, New Haven, Providence, and San Francisco before 1900. The Playground Association of America was founded in 1906, demonstrating a high level of national interest.⁶⁸

Nationwide, the Reform park ideal led to the proliferation of relatively small parks and playgrounds in urban neighborhoods where they were more accessible to the average city dweller than the pleasure grounds, which often could be reached only by carriage. In addition, elements of the new park style were commonly inserted into existing pleasure grounds. Newly popular facilities and features of the Reform park, such as playgrounds, baseball and football fields, golf courses, museums, field houses, restaurants, bandstands, and patriotic statuary, were difficult to reconcile with the ideal of the pleasure ground as a landscape designed to look as if it were virtually untouched by human hands. Sometimes the new facilities were relatively unobtrusively sited at the edges of the existing parks, with sensitivity to the original design. In many cases, however, new elements provided in accordance with the new park ideal were inserted wherever there was room for them, often disregarding the original landscape design as utility was valued more highly than pastoral beauty by park administrators.⁶⁹

The Olmsted firm was undergoing a transition during the early part of the Reform period. Because of the office's daunting workload, junior members of the firm were taking on increasing responsibilities for design work and for supervising the implementation of the firm's designs. In 1895, his health and memory declining, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., retired, leaving the firm in the very capable hands of his proteges. John C. Olmsted in particular took on a leadership role; Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., who had only recently joined the firm, also developed into a leader. As it moved into the twentieth century led by a new generation, the Olmsted firm sought to balance new Reform Park trends with the aesthetic and social principles of its founder.

⁶⁷ Cranz, 87-93.

⁶⁸ Cranz, 63.

⁶⁹ Cranz, 85-87.

The Reform Park Movement in Rochester

Changes to Rochester's Olmsted Parks in the Reform Park Era

The Rochester park system was designed and developed just as the Reform park philosophy was taking hold nationwide. In the newly created pleasure grounds, the tension between Olmsted's design intent and the new approach was apparent from the very beginning. Olmsted intended the large parks to protect and provide access to varied types of scenery, but the Park Commissioners increasingly wanted the parks to furnish recreational amenities popular with park users. The Park Commissioners' attitude was perfectly summarized in their 1911 report, in which they noted that "it has been the purpose of the Park Commission to make the parks of Rochester not simply beautiful pictures, which would serve the people in a passive way, but to make them active agencies for social service."⁷⁰ The Park Commissioners noted that concerts of classical music performed by the park band were being used to educate the taste of Rochester residents, while at supervised playgrounds children were "mothered and fathered and . . . taught to play and many other good things." Lessons in sewing and industrial arts, nature, reading, sports, and music were common features in the playgrounds, including the playgrounds in the large parks. A growing zoo in Seneca Park was also seen as a valuable instructional tool, as were the other zoo facilities that developed later in the era in two new parks: Edgerton and Durand-Eastman Parks.⁷¹

Festivals, concerts, classes, and other special events brought thousands of visitors to the three parks on a regular basis. These organized activities for large groups of people reflected the reform park ideal that parks should promote values such as community spirit, patriotism, cultural appreciation, and good citizenship. The popularity of public events at the parks was first demonstrated in 1901, when three bands performed a total of 18 times, nearly all at Seneca Park and Genesee Valley Park. The concerts were paid for by a combination of Park Commission funds and subscriptions collected by the Rochester Chamber of Commerce. In 1902, the Park Commission paid for 19 concerts, and the Chamber of Commerce paid for several additional performances. One concert in Seneca Park that year was paid for directly by the Rochester Railway Company, which hoped to boost ridership. In 1903 the number of concerts at the three parks climbed to about 40, most of which were held at Seneca and Genesee Valley Parks. That year, an official Park Band was organized under the leadership of Theodore Dossenbach, who came from a noted musical family. Dossenbach led the Park Band until his death in 1924, when his brother Hermann took over for the next 21 years. By 1910, the Park Band was holding 80 concerts during the season.

The band concerts formed the backbone of a vigorous schedule of annual events in the parks. Two such events that were extremely popular in the early twentieth century were the water carnival held at Genesee Valley Park each July, and the music festival held at Seneca Park every August. The Park Commissioners noted that between 50,000 and 100,000 people attended these events, including not only residents of the Rochester area but visitors from outside the region. The water carnival was primarily a celebration of the river, with music, lights, and competitions among brightly decorated and lit canoes. More directly related to the reform park interest in encouraging civic virtue was the music

⁷⁰ Rochester Board of Park Commissioners, *Rochester Park Commission: The 1911 Report* (Rochester: Board of Park Commissioners, 1911), 29.

⁷¹ Rochester Board of Park Commissioners, 1911, 34-35.

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festival, which featured patriotic songs, selections from classical operas, and Christian hymns. Annual celebrations of May Day, Indian Day, Lilac Festival, Children’s Day, and others also drew huge crowds.⁷²

As the trend toward providing ever-larger and more structured activities in the parks grew in the early twentieth century, the Park Commissioners requested assistance with designs for bandstands, pavilions, sports facilities, and other new additions to the parks to accommodate new interests. Typed records of John C. Olmsted’s visits to Rochester in the 1890s and the first decade of the twentieth century show that he was repeatedly asked for advice on a wide variety of topics as the Park Commission sought to balance between the original pleasure ground designs and the increasing demand for Reform facilities.

Initially, the Olmsted firm’s correspondence with Rochester park officials was exactly in conformance with pleasure ground philosophy. When the Olmsted firm (then Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot) was asked to review blueprints of a proposed pavilion for Seneca Park, for example, the firm’s response, written in February 1894, exemplified the “pleasure ground” ideal:

[The architect of the pavilion] should understand that the building should not be designed to be a pretty thing in itself but to be a part of the scenery of the park, and that anything which attracts attention to itself by reason of its color or its decorations, and draws attention away from the surrounding verdure must be considered . . . decidedly impertinent and objectionable. The idea should be, therefore, to make the building as simple, quiet and subdued in color and design and as low and inconspicuous as the necessary requirements of convenience will permit, and any such building of necessarily large size should be placed where it will be unobtrusive. If it is desirable to have shelters on important points of view and where they will also be (in the nature of the situation) conspicuous, it is desirable that they should be small and low, and they would preferably therefore be isolated structures separated from the extensive provisions for public comfort which the present building is intended to provide.⁷³

As leadership of the firm passed to the new generation and as Reform Park concepts gained in popularity, the firm’s work in Rochester, as elsewhere, reflected changing trends. Although he tried to ensure adherence to the aesthetic ideals of his stepfather, John C. Olmsted was thoroughly attuned to Reform Park theory, in its ideological and practical aspects, and tried to help with the sensitive integration of newly popular park facilities into Rochester’s park system. For example, in a letter responding to a query from Laney as to the appropriate size of running and bicycle tracks, and whether these were likely to be short-lived fads or lasting interests, John C. Olmsted revealed a detailed knowledge of the requirements of the various sports and provided some guidance as to their implementation in Rochester. As one scholar has described it, the Olmsted firm under the leadership of John C. Olmsted was “reflective of the aesthetic tenets of his stepfather, yet responsive to the new social, economic, and political demands of twentieth-century cities,”⁷⁴ and the firm’s continued work in Rochester demonstrates this perfectly.

⁷² Rochester Board of Park Commissioners, 1911, 30-34.

⁷³ Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to A.R. Selden, 19 February 1894, cited in Environmental Design & Research, Patricia O’Donnell, and Charles E. Beveridge, *Seneca Park Master Plan* (Rochester: Prepared for the County of Monroe and the City of Rochester, November 1990) 3.

⁷⁴ Arleyn Levee, “Olmsted, John Charles,” in Charles A. Birnbaum and Robin Karson, eds., *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000), 283.

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Specific facilities were constructed in each of the parks to accommodate the new reform-oriented activities. In Seneca Park, a swimming hole, playground equipment, a golf course, and baseball fields were the major new athletic and play facilities added to the park. John C. Olmsted gave advice on the swimming hole site (Calvin Laney selected the site but asked Olmsted's opinion) and the location of restrooms, but at one of his visits found that the golf course and baseball fields had been installed without his input. The park was also the site of a zoo, beginning with the construction of a 9-foot-tall bird house and several other pens for small native animals in 1897. These early pens were essentially temporary caged areas where small animals, particularly native mammals and birds with a small collection of more exotic species, were housed. Olmsted first commented on these pens in 1901, noting that "it is very cheap-looking, but affords much amusement to visitors."⁷⁵ Genesee Valley Park, with its more level terrain and the existing recreational facilities planned by Olmsted, seemed to experience the most pressure for athletic facilities, and boat houses, baseball fields, a swimming pool, tennis courts, a golf course, bicycle and running tracks, and bicycle paths were the major new elements. John C. Olmsted was involved in the siting and design of most of these elements. The best example of the Olmsted firm's continued involvement in the planning and design of Genesee Valley Park occurred when the firm was asked to assist the Park Commission in planning for the rerouting of the Erie Canal, which was to take the waterway directly through the park. John C. Olmsted bemoaned the splitting of the park into two sections, but helped to minimize the disruption and tried to ensure that the Canal would be an asset to the park. Highland Park, the smallest of the three, was not easily adaptable to new park facilities due to its sloped terrain and small size; the move to respond to park users' heightened increase in more active forms of recreation mainly took the form of providing increasingly showy plant displays. The major new facility was the Lamberton Conservatory, constructed in 1911.

The Olmsted firm's involvement in the Rochester municipal park system ended when the Park Commission was abolished in accordance with a 1915 bill. The responsibility for maintaining and improving the city park system was given to a new Department of Parks, which, as an agency within city government, lacked the Park Commission's independence. After this point, much of the work of developing the parks was done internally by city staff rather than by outside consulting architects. Fortunately, the city staff in charge during the reorganization included a number of men with extensive experience in the park system who generally continued to follow the principles that had guided the Park Commission. Alexander B. Lamberton, named the second president of the Park Commission after the death of Dr. Moore in 1902, was retained as Commissioner of Parks; other key staff members who stayed on and made lasting contributions were William S. Riley, Calvin C. Laney, John Dunbar, and brothers Bernard and Patrick Slavin. These men led the continued development of the major parks, but

⁷⁵ The zoo was largely seasonal in nature, with monkeys and birds being moved to a zoo annex in the former No. 8 School on St. Paul Street during the winter of 1902-03; in following years, these tropical animals lived in the annex year-round. The collection of mammals in the park was intended to be limited to those indigenous to the region, while certain migratory and exotic birds that could tolerate the climate were also to be kept at the zoo. After the Park Commission acquired the site that was known as Exposition Park (later Edgerton Park; see below) in 1911, this site became the primary winter home for the non-native animals, who joined a collection of animals kept at Edgerton Park all year. A third, 200-acre zoo was located at Durand-Eastman Park (see below) from 1919 until 1962. See *The Public Parks of the City of Rochester, New York, 1898-1904*, 64, 78, 89; Lloyd E. Klos, *A Resident's Recollections* (Interlaken, N.Y.: Empire State Books, 1989), 95; John C. Olmsted, "Rochester Parks," 11 November 190[1?], Manuscript Collection, Library of Congress; and "Reminiscing Rochester: The Other Zoo We Used to Have," *Democrat & Chronicle* (Rochester), 3 July 1999.

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were most notable for their efforts in the development of the new city parks acquired in this era (see below).

Rochester's Small Parks and Playgrounds in the Reform Era

Reform-era trends in park programming and design were manifested particularly well in the city's smaller parks and playgrounds. The importance of the small Reform or neighborhood park in this period was expressed in the 1911 *City Plan for Rochester*, created by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., architect Arnold W. Brunner, and "traction expert in consultation" Bion J. Arnold. In Part III of that report, concerning the city's park system, the first section is dedicated to "Neighborhood Parks." These parks were to be within easy walking distance ("a distance so insignificant that it will not deter the little child, or the tired mother with a baby, from going to the park for half an hour's recreation when the chance comes") of every family in the city. Reflecting prevailing ideals of reform park composition, the authors noted that small parks should provide the following features:

- (1) Sheltered lawns and sand heaps where small children can romp safe from the dirt and danger of the street;
- (2) sufficient areas properly designed for the outdoor games and gymnastics of boys and girls and young men and women, accompanied by ample opportunity for indoor and outdoor bathing;
- (3) shaded walks and comfortable seats where mothers may sit and watch their children play, and where, on evenings or holidays, the people of the neighborhood at large may listen to a band concert, or merely rest or stroll amidst refreshing and spacious surroundings of green foliage and lawns; and
- (4) a central building or group of buildings, with indoor gymnasiums, baths, model sanitary arrangements, a branch of the public library, and sufficient rooms for concerts, lectures, club meetings, and similar social gatherings.⁷⁶

Small parks and playgrounds were at the heart of the Reform park movement in Rochester, as was the case nationwide, because they offered the best opportunity to incorporate the program and design goals of the reformers. In Rochester, this desire to bring Reform parks to every city neighborhood took two forms: the redesign of existing small squares and parks, often with Reform goals in mind; and the creation of new small parks and playgrounds.

Rochester already had several appropriately sized neighborhood parks: the early-nineteenth century squares. These were inconsistent in appearance, prompting the city to recreate them as expressions of new design trends. Because of their ongoing work with Rochester's major parks, the Olmsted firm was hired to provide new designs for the city's existing small parks and squares and for land newly acquired by the city for public spaces. These small parks and squares were an important part of the Olmsted park system, supplementing the major parks by providing easier access to parkland within neighborhoods across the city. Olmsted and his successor firms, although best known for large park designs, also designed small neighborhood parks like these in other cities, including New York City, Louisville, Buffalo, Baltimore, and Chicago.⁷⁷

Most of the Olmsted firm's designs were commissioned for existing parks in the city. In the 1890s, the firm prepared plans for Brown Square, Jones Square, Caledonia Square (then known as Plymouth Park,

⁷⁶ Arnold W. Brunner, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Bion J. Arnold, *A City Plan for Rochester: A Report Prepared for the Rochester Civic Improvement Committee, Rochester, N.Y.*, (Rochester, 1911), 33.

⁷⁷ Clark Patterson Associates, et al., 1-20.

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subsequently as Lunsford Circle), Franklin Park (Schiller Park), and Washington Square. The firm designed either new or revised plans for Brown Square, Jones Square, and Madison Square (Susan B. Anthony Square) in 1901-10. The firm also prepared designs for two squares acquired by the city in the early twentieth century: Riley Triangle (Anderson Park) and the Maplewood Grove.⁷⁸ In addition, the Olmsted firm sent plans for two street malls: Seneca Parkway (nominated as part of the Seneca Park East and West nomination) and Lake View Parkway. (These two street malls are considered part of the municipal park system because, unlike many other similar street malls, such as those on Oxford Street, Portsmouth Terrace, and Hazelwood Terrace, they were developed specifically as park land. The other street malls in Rochester were built by subdivision developers to enhance their new residential neighborhoods, and therefore were private, rather than municipal, undertakings.)⁷⁹

The firm's designs for the existing parks replaced the traditional system of diagonal and rectangular forms with plans that utilized curvilinear patterns and more varied plantings than had been present. In the new parks and parkways, the firm took a similar approach, favoring curvilinear pathways and varied plantings. The designs were regular, organized, and frequently symmetrical, although not rigidly geometric.⁸⁰

Coinciding with the Olmsted firm's work in the small parks and squares, Rochester's playground movement came to the forefront of public awareness in the early twentieth century. In February 1902, a talk was held at the Brick Church Institute "about the necessity of playgrounds for the children of Rochester especially for the congested sections." One suggestion made during the discussion was that Brown Square, one of the early squares landscaped by the Olmsted firm, would be a suitable location for a playground. This idea moved forward quickly, being accepted by the Parks Commission in May 1902. In 1903, Brown Square became the city's first official playground. New facilities, including a brick shelter, toilets, a wading pool, swings, teeters, basketball apparatus, and other playground equipment, were added. Rochester's reformers had adopted the view that playgrounds were meant to provide structured moral training, as a pamphlet describing the city's early parks shows:

During [the 1903] season satisfactory results could not be obtained on account of the lack of supervisors, who could teach the children how to play and how to respect the rights of each

⁷⁸ The city purchased the land of Maple Grove, which had long been an informal picnic area, from George Ellwanger in settlement of a lawsuit in 1903. Subsequently, the city received the land just to the south, along Driving Park Avenue, where the Maplewood Rose Garden was developed. Because the Olmsted firm was working for the Park Commission in a consulting capacity at the time, the firm prepared a plan for Maple Grove in 1904. The rose garden was at least partially in place by 1911. See *The Rochester Park Commission: The 1911 Report* (Rochester, N.Y.).

⁷⁹ Wadsworth Square may also be an Olmsted design, although research has not proven a connection between the curvilinear "X" pattern of the walkways, typical of the Olmsted firm's designs for the Rochester squares, and the Olmsted firm. See Clark Patterson & Associates, *Small Parks and Squares*.

⁸⁰ Three of the small squares designed by the Olmsted firm retain substantial integrity to this era of their history: Madison Square (Susan B. Anthony Square), Jones Square, and Washington Square. In these parks, the paths remain intact, and vegetation, street furniture, and other elements are generally in keeping with the character of the Olmsted firm's design, although the elements themselves are not necessarily original. Two of the parks, Riley Triangle (Anderson Park) and Franklin Park (Schiller Park) were reduced in size by expressway construction and do not substantially reflect the Olmsted firm's designs. Brown Square, which took on added significance as a model playground in the city (see below) also does not retain substantial elements of the Olmsted firm's design.

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other. So that while this was the season of the enacting of the playgrounds it was not until the summer of 1904 that the children were taught systematic playing.⁸¹

Following the creation of the city's first playground at Brown Square, the city acquired additional small parcels throughout the city for the creation of playgrounds. Thousands of children spent time in the playgrounds, where they participated in structured activities:

Doubtless the most obviously direct social service of the parks is done through the playgrounds. At Brown Square, where there are facilities for indoor work, this continues through summer and winter. All the playgrounds are supervised, which means that the children there are mothered and fathered and are taught to play and many other good things. There are lessons in sewing and raffia; there are lessons in industrial work, and there is nature study, reading and story-telling. There are interplay-ground athletic meets and ball games; and concerts on the home grounds. At Brown Square, Washington Playground, and Hartford Street – inner playgrounds in the congested district – there are 12,000 children a week in summer on the average; and sometimes 2,500 on a single day.⁸²

The number of playgrounds in Rochester grew through the 1910s. In 1915, the Bureau of Playgrounds and Recreation was created as part of the city's Park Department, taking control of the playgrounds and associated activities formerly divided among the Park Board, the Board of Education, and the Engineering Department. During the first year of this organization, the Bureau assigned a principal to each playground as the person taking primary responsibility for maintenance and programming, assisted by between one and five additional staff members, as well as eight special sewing, basketry, Boy Scout, dancing, library, and nature study instructors who conducted programs at all or several of the playgrounds. The Bureau organized athletic and skill competitions among the different playgrounds (with points deducted for "swearing, unsportsmanlike conduct, smoking, and malicious mischief") and organized schedules for rotating activities at the various sites. The 1916 report noted that 411,647 children (over 8500 per day) used the playgrounds in the summer of 1915, with thousands participating in folk dancing, sewing, basketry, scout work, hiking, and other activities. Recommending that the city establish at least two new field houses and four new playgrounds, the Superintendent of Playgrounds and Recreation, Robert A. Bernhard, summed up the purpose of Rochester's playground program by noting that:

The same sense of duty should impel the municipality to provide recreational activities which prompts it to provide schools. The perfection of body and spirit is accomplished largely during periods of recreation. Most of our social evils can be traced directly or indirectly to impropriety in the quest of happiness. To prevent vice, crime, delinquency, imbecility, inebriety, disease, etc., it is necessary to attack the source from which they come. We lead future citizens into happiness, through the development of their bodies, minds and spirits, making so far as we are able with the material at hand the finest type of American.⁸³

⁸¹ "The Origin of the Permanent Establishment of Playgrounds in the City of Rochester," undated manuscript at the Rochester Public Library, Local History Division.

⁸² Rochester Board of Park Commissioners, 1911, 34.

⁸³ Bureau of Playgrounds & Recreation, *First Annual Report of the Bureau of Playgrounds & Recreation, Department of Parks, City of Rochester* (Rochester, 1916).

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By 1929, there were 29 playgrounds in the city of Rochester, a figure that includes 10 playgrounds on school property, one on private property (at the University of Rochester, accessible to city children during summer vacation), and seven in the large city parks.

Rochester's New Parks in the Reform Era

The Reform Era also witnessed an expansion in the number of large parks under the supervision of the Parks Commission. Four substantial parks were added to the system: Durand-Eastman Park and Cobbs Hill Park in 1908, Exposition Park (now Edgerton Park) in 1911, and Ontario Beach Park in the early 1920s.

In 1907, Dr. Henry Durand, an accomplished local surgeon, convinced George Eastman, founder of the Eastman Kodak Company, to purchase land adjacent to Durand's lakefront estate in Irondequoit so that the two could together donate a major new park to the city. All told, the gift, made final in February 1908, encompassed 512 acres, including a substantial amount of beach land. The Olmsted Brothers firm provided design advice on the location of roads, grading, and a dam in 1908. Durand-Eastman Park was dedicated in 1909, and continuing development of the landscape took place over the next two decades, as the soil was improved, streams were dammed to form picturesque lakes, and tens of thousands of trees and shrubs were planted. After the Olmsted Brothers firm provided guidance on the landscape layout, implementation and further elaboration of the plan was done to the designs of Bernard Slavin, as assistant superintendent of parks from 1910 to 1926 and superintendent from 1926 to 1942. A self-taught horticulturist, Slavin took a particular interest in Durand-Eastman Park, which, of the parks acquired during this period, offered the most diverse natural landscape and needed the most extensive horticultural treatment. An article describing Slavin's many accomplishments in discovering and nurturing new plant varieties noted:

In 1908, when it was put into the hands of Slavin for development, it included 75 acres of natural woods and the rest "God knows what," in his own words. Abandoned farm lands, weedy fields, steep banks, raw cuts where roads had gone through, became the problem of Barney Slavin.

The new park was a desolate sight. Slavin remembers that a member of the then-functioning Park Commission, composed of city leaders, viewed the sorry domain with him and remarked: "I don't know why you bother with it, Barney. You'll never make anything out of it."⁸⁴

Slavin turned this barren area into a lush, naturalistic arboretum very much in keeping with Frederick Law Olmsted's picturesque aesthetic. The park flourished in the 1910s and 1920s, with the development of a nine-hole golf course in the mid-1910s (expanded to 18 holes in the 1920s, and redesigned by famed golf course designer Robert Trent Jones in the 1930s), a popular vacation camp for boys, a refectory, a large bathhouse with 1000 lockers, and a zoo. As was the case in the city park system overall, Durand-Eastman Park suffered when park appropriations were drastically reduced in the

⁸⁴ Elisabeth Keiper, "Woody Plants Unique and Notable in the Rochester Parks; A Survey and Appraisal of the Work of Bernard H. Slavin." *Journal of the New York Botanical Garden* 48, No. 576 (December 1947), 269-279. In RVF2, Parks: Durand-Eastman, Local History Division, Monroe County Public Library.

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1930s, but the park experienced an even more devastating blow when a flood-control dam built on the St. Lawrence River in the early 1940s raised the level of Lake Ontario and put the beach underwater.⁸⁵

Cobb's Hill Park was developed around a new city reservoir in a former quarry. The park was located in the southeast quadrant of the city on a prominent glacial hill. In 1908, the same year that the city began construction of the 144-million gallon reservoir, George Eastman donated 15 acres of land around the reservoir for the creation of a public park. Local residents donated money for the purchase of an adjacent forested area, now known as Washington Grove, and the city purchased additional land, for a total of 61.5 acres. The park was located just south of the Erie Canal and the eastern widewaters, a broader section of the canal. The primary intention behind the creation of the park was to provide an opportunity to view the city and region from atop the prominent hill. Plans created by the Olmsted Brothers for the reservoir area guided the plantings, grading, circulation system, and location of small buildings. Additional facilities in keeping with park Reform Park trends soon followed, including tennis courts, a winter skating shelter, and ball fields. The size of the park was expanded in 1922 after the creation of the Barge Canal system moved the canal's route south of the city, making extensive amounts of land available for other uses; the city purchased the old right-of-way near the park as well as the eastern widewaters, which now resembled a small pond. The right-of-way continued to be used as a transportation corridor, carrying the city's short-lived subway and then the Eastern Expressway (Interstate Route 490), and the widewaters and surrounding area became part of Cobb's Hill Park.

In 1911, the city acquired an unusual site as additional parkland in the city's northwest quadrant, at the intersection of Emerson Street and Dewey Avenue. This park, first called Exposition Park and now known as Edgerton Park, was originally the site of the Western House of Refuge, a reformatory school for boys (girls were admitted beginning in 1876) where juvenile delinquents were provided moral and literary instruction. The 42-acre site was filled with substantial residential and school buildings. The focus of education changed to technological instruction in 1886, when the institution was renamed the State Industrial School. In 1902, the institution began its move to a rural site in Rush, south of the city of Rochester. The move was completed by 1907, and the facility in Rochester was closed. In 1911, the city purchased the site and renamed it Exposition Park, removing the walls around the property and the administration building, and erecting new facilities such as a peristyle and bandstand. The park was conceived as a major cultural center for the city, with space for the Museum of Arts and Sciences (precursor of today's Rochester Museum and Science Center), a library branch and office space, and the Rochester Historical Society, as well as a bandstand, zoo, aquarium, buildings for industrial exhibits, a restaurant, midway, and large playground. These elements were added by a variety of designers and did not conform to an overall site or landscape plan. Expositions and other special events were held each year until 1938, when Depression-era cuts to private and public funding brought these events to an end. The buildings associated with the reform school and with the park's early development were gradually lost, with the exception of one former wing of the school that became an assembly hall for the expositions, then was used as a gymnasium before becoming part of a recreation center.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ Reimann.Buchner Partnership, *Durand Eastman Park, Rochester, Monroe County, New York: Final Report, Comprehensive Plan*, n.d. [mid-1980s], 11. See Catherine Salber, "Henry Strong Durand," *Rochester History* LXI, No. 2 (Spring 1999), for an overview of Durand's life and brief information on his relationship to the park.

⁸⁶ See Sean Kirst, "An arts center in Edgerton," *City Newspaper* (Rochester, N.Y.), 10 January 1985; Sean Kirst, "The cradle of culture," *City Newspaper* (Rochester, N.Y.), 12 April 1984; Bob Marcotte, "What was the Museum

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The last major park added to the system was developed on land purchased by the city in 1920. Ontario Beach Park in Charlotte, at the mouth of the Genesee River, encompassed a beach, providing free bathing facilities for Rochester's population. The area had long been a popular recreational destination for Rochester residents and visitors from elsewhere. The village of Charlotte and its adjacent beach became easily accessible when a railroad connected the village to downtown Rochester in 1853. Commercial attractions at the beach began to develop in the Civil War era when Marty McIntyre built a restaurant by the beach; to encourage a variety of pursuits, he rented out boats, fishing equipment, and bathing suits, and provided changing tents for bathers. Restaurants, hotels, and cottages developed in the 1860s and 1870s. To build ridership, the New York Central Railroad, which ran a line to the beach, purchased four acres of beachfront property in the mid-1880s and rented it to the Ontario Beach Improvement Company. The company built the Hotel Ontario and amusement concessions, opening in 1884. The beach and surrounding area gradually developed into "the largest, most extensive and most popular amusement park in Rochester," coming to be known as "the Coney Island of Western New York." The main attraction from about 1885 to 1907 was the carousel, but before the 1907 season, about half a million dollars worth of new rides and attractions were added, making the amusement park more popular than ever. The park featured rides such as "Slide the Bumps," "Helter Skelter," and "The Whip," as well as exotic architecture, large hotels, food stands, and an auditorium and band shell. Attendance of 70,000 was normal on a hot summer weekend, with stunts and concerts drawing particularly large crowds. The park thrived until 1919, when it closed, its buildings and rides having suffered in the late 1910s from a lack of maintenance and from several fires.⁸⁷ The City then purchased the park, demolished all of the rides except the carousel, and, in keeping with the principles that typically guided park development in the Reform Era, substituted what could be seen as more wholesome recreational pursuits – in this case, swimming, bathing, and picnicking – for the commercial activities. Research suggests that the design for the park developed gradually as the city transformed the commercial site into a public park, with no single designer responsible for the overall look of the park.

With the addition of Ontario Beach Park in the 1920s, the system encompassed a truly wide variety of landscape types. Rochester's unique geology, topography, and relationship to natural water features still formed the basis for the system, along with the principle of providing convenient park access to city dwellers of all classes. Particularly notable was the continuation of Rochester's strong horticultural tradition as an essential component of the park system. Leaders of the park system included several men with notable training or interest in horticulture. John Dunbar, born in Scotland, was a horticulturist trained in England who supervised the initial development of Highland Park before rising to the position of superintendent of parks in the early twentieth century. Bernard Slavin was a self-trained horticulturist who had begun his career in the park system in 1888 as a 16-year-old laborer, was in charge of the development of Durand-Eastman Park as deputy superintendent of parks from 1910 to 1926, and succeeded Dunbar as superintendent in 1926. Patrick Slavin, Bernard's brother, became director of the parks department in 1928. With parks leadership so attuned to Rochester's association with horticulture, it was no wonder that visitors continued to flock to Rochester to view the parks, particularly the well-established collection at Highland Park and the developing arboretum and

of Arts and Sciences?" *Democrat & Chronicle* (Rochester, N.Y.), 12 January 1998; and Arch Merrill, "Edgerton Park's Early 'School' – Leg Irons, Barred Windows," *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, 29 August 1965.

⁸⁷ Victoria Schmitt, "Once Upon A Carousel . . . In Rochester," *RMSC Focus*, undated clipping in Landmark Society files, 12-17; and "P.S.: On the beach," *Upstate Magazine*, 24 June 1984.

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landscape design at Durand-Eastman Park. Bernard Slavin's efforts at Durand-Eastman Park were particularly notable during this period. He acquired seeds and cuttings from Rochester's other parks and from collections elsewhere to develop a notable collection of plants, which he arranged so naturalistically that a newspaper account of a visit from Frederick Leissler, the assistant director of the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle, noted that "the essential beauty of the native woods has been concentrated and heightened here but so skillfully that it scarcely reveals the hand of man, Mr. Leissler remarked."⁸⁸

A 1928 article in the local *Democrat & Chronicle* noted the distinctiveness of Rochester's park system near the end of this phase of the parks' development, stating, "The Rochester parks have individuality and personality, and have gathered up with the years something of the rugged character of the men who have been most instrumental in developing them."⁸⁹ Well-appreciated by the public as a whole, the parks were enjoying an unprecedented level of popularity and support (with an annual maintenance budget of \$443,702 in 1928).

E. The Recreation Park Movement in Rochester, 1930-41

The final major phase in the physical development of Rochester's municipal park system was in the 1930s. During this period, despite drastic cutbacks to the city park budget, Federal work relief programs funded maintenance and construction work in the parks, which proved to be the last of the major park improvement projects. This period coincided with another nationwide shift in attitudes toward the purpose and management of urban parks, as the theory that parks should be active mechanisms to improve human welfare gave way to a greater emphasis on the efficient provision of facilities and services to meet increasing demand for leisure activities. While Galen Cranz described the entire period from 1930 to 1965 as a single era in park planning, for purposes of this study, it is more useful to divide the period into the Depression Era, 1930-41, and World War II and After (from 1941 until the end of the twentieth century).

State and National Developments: Recreation-Era Park Theory and the Great Depression

Park historian Galen Cranz described the period from 1930 to 1965 as the "Recreation Era" in American urban park history. During this period, the first half of which was a time of Depression and war, park managers no longer emphasized the potential of city parks to instill moral and civic virtues in park users. Leading park administrators such as Robert Moses, appointed as park commissioner in New York City in 1930, and C.P. Keyser, president of the American Institute of Park Executives, made no secret of the fact that they did not subscribe to the reform view. As Moses said in his first annual report as parks commissioner, "We make no absurd claims as to the superior importance and value of the particular service we are called on to render, and we realize that budget making is a balancing of comparative needs of numerous competing agencies."⁹⁰

⁸⁸ "Durand Scene Unexcelled, Expert Says," *Times-Union* (Rochester, N.Y.), 20 October 1936.

⁸⁹ "Distinct in Park Group," *Democrat & Chronicle* (Rochester, N.Y.), 15 April 1928.

⁹⁰ New York City, Department of Parks, *Six Years of Park Progress* (1940), p. 3, cited in Cranz, 101.

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Instead of seeking to justify park expenditures based on the parks' function in improving society, park administrators increasingly expressed the belief that the provision of parks and park facilities was simply accepted as an appropriate governmental function. In this view, urban neighborhoods were expected to include parks, along with shops, schools, residential streets, and so on. As Cranz notes,

The implicit message of such statements was that "the service" needed no particular justification, that park facilities were an expected feature of urban life. Park officials around the country adopted this attitude, repeating the claim that they no longer had to justify parks and that recreation had been accepted as an essential of life, like health, education, work, and religion. "Basic" [and] "universal" were almost as frequent as "essential" in describing the new ideologically denuded status of parks.⁹¹

The very term "recreation," which came into common use in many cities in the 1930s, reflects the view of many park administrators that they were fulfilling a demand rather than providing a social service aimed at particular social groups. Moving away from the Reform park's emphasis on "play," which implied a children's activity, and more particularly away from the type of supervised play that sought to educate children, the concept of "recreation" was inclusive of all ages and activities. The Recreation park specifically aimed to include middle-class and adult park users, not just the children and the urban poor the Reform park targeted. Cranz argues that an "emphasis on leisure" – on filling people's hours outside of work with activity for activity's sake – replaced the "ideology of reform." Unlike the Reform park philosophy, the Recreation ideology did not offer park administrators a clear sense of direction in park programming and design.

Part of the rationale behind this attitude, particularly in the early part of the period, was that park commissions were forced to contend with economic conditions that severely reduced their budgets. The justification for funding them, therefore, had to be unassailable. During the Depression, one strategy was to portray parks as "useful for employing large numbers of people and channeling potentially disruptive energies into constructive work."⁹² Federal, state, and local relief programs often funded park maintenance and improvement activities. Park systems Dallas, Philadelphia, Chicago, Milwaukee, San Francisco, and especially New York City were expanded and amplified during this period. Within municipal park systems, projects such as parkways, zoos, botanical gardens, parks, and beach improvements were particularly popular.⁹³

Park programming in the 1930s reflected the new economic realities, the new approach to park philosophy, perceived demands, and the influence of major world events. Depression-era activities often aimed to boost the morale of unemployed workers by providing pastimes, such as games and crafts, and/or maintenance or construction work. Large community events of all kinds – from Rhododendron Week in San Francisco to Easter sunrise services in Chicago – remained popular in this

⁹¹ Cranz, 101.

⁹² Cranz, 105.

⁹³ Phoebe Cutler, *The Public Landscape of the New Deal* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1985), 10, 21-27.

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era. Social and folk dancing were also promoted as suitable park activities during the Depression, when they were considered means to keeping otherwise idle people busy.⁹⁴

With austerity budgets in place, the most common sources of funding for park programming, construction, and maintenance projects were the state and federal work-relief programs. Park projects were seen as an appropriate use of workers from programs such as the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. State and national parks received the largest share of funding and manpower from these programs, setting an example for similar activities, at a smaller scale, at municipal parks.

Construction projects undertaken under the auspices of the various Depression-era work relief programs displayed certain common physical characteristics. Large projects, such as those at larger municipal parks, state parks, and national parks and forests, were characterized by elaborate engineering, the use of indigenous materials, and rustic references to Arts and Crafts ideals. Inspired by the efforts of park designers in the pleasure ground era to ensure that their modifications to the natural landscape were as unobtrusive as possible, the architects and landscape architects who designed these major park improvements developed a characteristic rustic style. Landscape architects at the National Park Service were particularly influential in developing what was considered an appropriate style for modernizing park facilities in keeping with the desired park character.⁹⁵ National and state parks in particular featured such distinctive elements as low fieldstone walls, log-cabin or similar construction, and simple wood picnic and restroom shelters. Projects were typically designed to integrate built features into the landscape, minimizing the distinction between built and natural features. Some projects focused on training people in traditional trades and materials. In other cases, industrially produced materials imitated natural, hand-crafted ones, as at Shenandoah National Park, where a shingle mill produced concrete tiles simulating wood shingles.⁹⁶ Large-scale, labor-intensive engineering projects, such as the construction of dams, were often undertaken in an effort to employ large numbers of workers.

At the municipal park level, designs were often less extensive than the massive projects undertaken by federal relief workers at state and national parks, but could utilize some of the same principles. New design elements in large municipal parks were commonly scaled-back versions of the type of rustic design elements found at state and national parks, and labor-intensive engineering projects similar to those undertaken by state and national relief workers were sometimes undertaken even in municipal parks. At the level of small neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and individual projects within parks, park designers were constrained by minimal budgets and compelled to work quickly due to uncertainty about the future availability of funding. Emphasizing a park's social function, not its aesthetic impact on its surroundings, designs at this scale were typically formal and relied on inexpensive materials that were easy to use and maintain. This resulted in a high degree of reliance on standardized plans that could be

⁹⁴ Cranz, 115-116.

⁹⁵ Ethan Carr, *Wilderness by Design: Landscape Architecture & the National Park Service* (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1998), 7.

⁹⁶ Reed L. Engle, "Shenandoah: Not Without the CCC," *Cultural Resource Management* 21, No. 1 (1998), 22.

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executed promptly and inexpensively; plans were often recycled from the projects undertaken in the Reform era, resulting in highly ordered spaces featuring classical design elements.⁹⁷

Rochester's Municipal Parks in the Great Depression

The Great Depression resulted in drastic reductions to Rochester's city park budget. Rochesterians' reactions to the economic crisis were mixed; there was a strong divide between those who favored welfare spending, including programs to put the unemployed to work, and those who preferred deep budget cuts. Efforts were made in both directions as the national crisis worsened in the early 1930s. The salaries of municipal employees were cut repeatedly, and cultural institutions, including the local museum, the library system, and the parks department were among the areas affected most deeply. In 1932, City Manager C. Arthur Poole enacted deep budget cuts that required nearly all parks employees to be laid off.

While parks represented a target for budget-cutting, they also presented an opportunity for employment through the many work-relief programs instituted at the local, state, and federal level. Patrick Slavin, who became city parks director in 1928, managed to obtain assistance from state and federal relief programs, including the Civil Works Administration (CWA), Works Progress Administration (WPA), Temporary Emergency Relief Administration (TERA), Emergency Work Bureau of Rochester and Monroe County, and National Youth Administration (NYA). Thousands of local men and women were employed through these types of programs in the Rochester area. For example, the Emergency Work Bureau of Rochester and Monroe County employed 16,000 people; the Civil Works Administration employed 6,500 as of November 1934; and 2,100 local boys were serving in Civilian Conservation Corps work camps by January 1934.

Parks projects were some of the most common outlets for these labor programs nationwide, and the same was true in the Rochester area. Together with volunteers, who took on some of the functions the city could no longer handle (such as event coordination and promotion⁹⁸), workers employed through the relief programs enabled the parks to stay open and to function at a basic level even after nearly the entire city park staff was laid off. Some of the men and women hired through these programs worked as playground supervisors, youth program coordinators, and maintenance workers, enabling at least some of the parks and playgrounds to remain open.

Other temporary workers were responsible for construction in the parks. Construction projects undertaken under the auspices of the relief programs included major buildings and structures (such as bandstands at Highland and Ontario Beach Parks and an observation tower and refectory at Cobbs Hill Park), smaller structures (picnic shelters, comfort stations, tables, grills, benches, and pavilions throughout the system), and landscape improvements (beach improvements, the enlargement of the Maplewood pond, the construction of a swimming pool at Seneca Park, and changes at Cobbs Hill Park around Lake Riley, including the construction of Norris Road, new plantings, and changes to the lake itself). Designs of the major projects were less innovative than the arts and crafts-inspired designs associated with this era at state and national parks, displaying an interest in classical architecture (seen, for example, in historic photographs of the Cobbs Hill refectory and observation tower). Smaller-scale

⁹⁷ Cutler, 15-22.

⁹⁸ McKelvey, *Growing Legacy*, 41.

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construction and landscape projects, meanwhile, reflected the era's typical attention to natural materials and labor-intensive engineering (the earth-moving projects undertaken at Durand-Eastman Park in this era are good examples).

F. The Recreation Park Era in Rochester, 1941-65

World War II marked the end of the park improvement programs undertaken during the Great Depression. After a hiatus in park acquisition and development during the war and in the immediate post-war period, these activities were resumed in the later 1950s and 1960s. At this time, the developments of the second half of the twentieth century, currently less than 50 years old, do not demonstrate exceptional significance. The year 1951 marks the end of the period of significance for the park system; this date encompasses the period when the development and cultural significance of the parks flourished in the first half of the twentieth century. In the future, after sufficient time has passed, parks developed in the post-war period, or alterations to existing parks made during this period, may be reevaluated.

State and National Developments: Municipal Parks During and After World War II

Rochester's situation paralleled that of many municipal parks in the United States during and after World War II. Projects undertaken during the Depression had usually sought to blend with or enhance the existing character of the parks. Many structures and landscape designs in the major parks during that era had harmonized with the original pleasure ground concept. Where individual projects sought a different aesthetic expression, they were nevertheless intended to be artistic statements in their own right. During and after World War II, changing aesthetic ideals and severely constrained budgets required a different approach. Projects in the parks were designed with utility, rather than beauty, in mind. In addition, parkland was often seen as "free" land for projects such as subsidized housing or expressway construction that were not related to park use, programming, or aesthetics.

While the new approach to park administration had its roots in the Depression, when budgets and staffing levels were severely curtailed, funding sources were still available through work-relief programs to allow high-quality park improvements to be made during that period. Wartime government budgets, however, eliminated all but the most vital expenses. Ordinary maintenance and expansion were generally not considered high-priority items.

Park programming could be justified only to the extent that it supported the war effort. Municipal parks sometimes pressed into service as the sites of training activities, morale-boosting rallies and other patriotic events, victory gardens, day-care centers for the children of defense workers, or even housing of soldiers or prisoners of war.

Shrinking budgets and rising construction costs required park departments to minimize construction and labor costs. To accomplish this, park departments nationwide relied increasingly on standardized park elements with minimal maintenance requirements. Paved surfaces were common due to their practicality for multiple uses and their easy maintenance. Modern architectural materials, such as concrete and cinderblock, were preferred over the Arts and Crafts aesthetic of the 1930s because they were inexpensive and easily maintained. Landscapes were often modified to improve safety, or the

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impression of safety, by, for example, removing dense understory shrubs and creating open, well-lit areas. Architectural and landscape designs were typically motivated by practicality rather than aesthetics. This approach, necessitated in part by austerity budgets during World War II, prevailed even after the end of the war, when park budgets were decreased while construction costs rose sharply. Park construction boomed again in the 1950s, when many local park systems added new playgrounds and small parks, often in conjunction with slum clearance and public housing projects, and the emphasis on efficiency, standardization, and ease of maintenance continued. Although the total amount of money spent on parks nationwide increased, park expenditures as a percentage of municipal budgets decreased in the postwar era, falling from 5% to 4.6% of municipal expenditures nationwide between 1955 and 1970.⁹⁹

War, Recovery, and Rochester's Park System

Rochester's park and planning leaders adopted the Recreation era view of park theory during this period, as was expressed in a document created by the City Planning Commission in the late 1940s:

One of the major considerations in the development of a master plan of a city is provision for adequate recreational facilities. No longer is recreation thought to be an agreeable luxury, but rather a necessity for the health and well-being of citizens, young and old.¹⁰⁰

Despite the recognition of the importance of the parks, however, demographic and economic changes challenged the park department's ability to continue the high quality of park development that had characterized the system through the 1930s.

The city of Rochester, which had expanded in a series of annexations from the 1810s to the 1920s, annexed its final parcel in 1926. As the city filled its permanent borders, there were no longer large parcels of land available for additional park development within city lines, and no more major parks were acquired after the acquisition of Ontario Beach Park.

Beginning in the 1930s, drastic reductions in city parks appropriations meant that park maintenance and improvement could no longer be high priorities, as they had been earlier in the century. While state, federal, and local relief programs made possible one last phase of significant park development in the 1930s, the end of those programs and the onset of World War II made further improvements to the parks impossible in the 1940s, as the city remained unable to fund large expenditures on wartime austerity budgets. Out of necessity, park maintenance and improvement was primarily driven by utilitarian concerns, a philosophy that continued after World War II as budgets remained low. Some construction was undertaken in the parks after World War II, such as improvements to the Maplewood Rose Garden in the 1940s and early 1950s and a new picnic and ice-skating shelter in Lower Maplewood Park in the mid- 1950s.

General lifestyle changes during this period affected the popularity of the parks, which in turn impacted the city's ability to place a high priority on the maintenance and development of the city park system. The advent of the automobile made areas beyond the city limits – including state and county parks –

⁹⁹ Cranz, 122-123 and 176-177.

¹⁰⁰ City of Rochester Planning Commission, *Public Recreation in Rochester* (Rochester: City Planning Commission, 1949), 1.

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more easily accessible to city and suburban residents. The automobile also changed the way park users visited the parks. Rather than riding a slowly moving carriage or walking through a park, visitors could now drive quickly through parks, an activity better suited to larger parks with extensive road systems. The unanticipated demands of the automobile forced physical changes to the parks as well. Genesee Valley Park was perhaps the most directly affected, as more roads were built and existing roads were widened. Some of this widening occurred as a result of repeated repaving, particularly since the roads did not have curbs.¹⁰¹ As park users who had previously arrived by mass transit started to drive to the parks, parking areas were added throughout the system, particularly around popular attractions such as the Seneca Park Zoo, the golf courses in Durand-Eastman Park, and the recreational complex in Genesee Valley Park.

The development of the Monroe County Park System, beginning with the creation of Ellison Park on land donated to the county in 1926, reflects new population and transportation trends. By the onset of the Depression, the county system also included Churchville, Mendon Ponds, Hamlin Beach¹⁰², and Powder Mill Parks. The system continued to grow after World War II, adding new parkland as Rochester's population spread outward through suburban growth. In 1961, the city and county came to an agreement whereby the County assumed responsibility for the operation and control of the city's major parks, with the exception of Cobbs Hill Park.

Some of the city parks were subjected to changes during the second half of the twentieth century that were detrimental to their historic character. The location of public housing developments in municipal parkland was one particularly egregious example of parkland, particularly the original "pleasure ground" parks where landscape design was intentionally subtle, being perceived as free land available for public purposes other than recreational use. Expressways built through Genesee Valley Park (I-390) and Seneca Park (Route 104, which traverses the Veterans' Memorial Bridge) were also examples of this attitude toward the parks. Less intrusive changes to the parks in the late twentieth century, such as the construction of unsympathetic maintenance buildings and recreational facilities, also suggested that concerns for utility were considered more important than the preservation of historic landscape characteristics.

By the 1980s and 1990s, however, a local resurgence of interest in the historic character of the parks coincided with a national awakening of interest in historic landscape in general and Frederick Law Olmsted in particular. Perhaps the best example was the restoration of Seneca Park, which occurred after the landscape was heavily damaged during a severe ice storm in 1991. The million-dollar landscape project involved careful study of the original character of the park and painstaking efforts to ensure that new plantings, pathways, and other features were in keeping with Olmsted's design. Another example is the movement to replicate the pavilion that graced the summit at Highland Park from 1890 until it was demolished in the 1960s.

¹⁰¹ Projects in the later twentieth century returned roads in Genesee Valley and Seneca Parks to their original alignments and narrowed them, adding curbs to prevent inadvertent widening and off-road parking.

¹⁰² Hamlin Beach Park was acquired by Monroe County in 1928 and became a State Park in 1938.



IV. ASSOCIATED PARK TYPES

IV. ASSOCIATED PARK TYPES

The following descriptions of park types, historic significance, and NR registration requirements are contained within the Multiple Property Documentation Form of the Municipal Park System of Rochester, New York.

A. Public Spaces

1. DESCRIPTION

Definition:

An area of public land within a settlement designed primarily for civic, economic, and/or utilitarian purposes and managed today as part of the municipal park system.

Subtypes and Landscape Features:

Public Square A planned public open space (generally less than 10 acres) within a settlement, often with adjacent residential, commercial, or civic buildings, designed to accommodate civic functions, commercial activities, and/or passive recreation.

Environment: Located within a settlement, often at or near the center

Setting: Usually surrounded by dense concentrations of civic and commercial or residential buildings. May be associated with a specific civic or commercial activity.

Natural Systems and Features: Typically a flat or sloping site. Natural topography and/or vegetation may be present.

Buildings and Structures: Typically not present as original features, but later additions such as gazebos, restrooms, and information booths may occur.

Vegetation: If present, generally lawn with shade trees, often including ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers.

Spatial Organization: Varies. Can be highly geometric or organic, usually in response to immediate context. Designed to accommodate a flexible program of activities. May be a single open space, or contain subspaces and/or focal points connected by pedestrian paths and separated by planted areas.

Circulation: Pedestrian circulation accommodated by paved pathways or broad paved areas. Sometimes the entire space is paved to allow unrestricted pedestrian movement. Vehicle access prohibited or highly controlled.

Water Features: Fountains common in later examples.

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Furnishings and Objects: Visual focal points such as monuments, sculptures, and flag poles, often present. Benches, lights, trash receptacles are common. May include other furnishings and objects related to specific activities.

Street Mall: An open space formed either at the juncture of two or more major vehicular streets or, more often, as the median of a parkway.

Environment: Typically urban.

Setting: Usually in the median of a road.

Buildings and Structures: Generally no buildings or structures

Vegetation: May be laid out in a formal organization to reinforce basic spatial geometry. Can include flower beds, grass areas, shrubbery, and specimen trees.

Spatial Organization: A confined, geometric space, typically symmetrical. Space is most often linear and bounded by traffic lanes on either side.

Circulation: Vehicle circulation occurs around the perimeter, although in long parkways, medians are divided at regular intervals by lanes designated for turning vehicles.

Water Features: Not generally present.

Furnishings and Objects: Furnishings such as benches and lighting are common.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

Public squares have been an important part of many human settlements for centuries. Drawing on precedents going back as far as ancient Greece, Spanish and English settlers in North America often incorporated a central open square or plaza into the designs of their new communities. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Savannah, Georgia, and New Haven, Connecticut, are particularly notable for their orderly grid plans with regularly spaced open squares. Other American settlements, particularly smaller towns and rural settlements, sometimes developed central open spaces in a more informal manner, often in response to a utilitarian need.

Some of the Rochester's public squares are significant for their association with the city's early settlement and with the pioneers who laid out the first tracts that became the city's earliest residential and commercial neighborhoods. As described in Section E (Statement of Historic Contexts), the first public squares in Rochester were laid out by men who acquired sizable tracts, which they then subdivided and attempted to promote. These early developers predicted that the location of the courthouse would determine which of the competing settlements would prevail as the future city center, and each set aside land in an effort to attract the courthouse. After one of the squares – the one set aside by Colonel Nathaniel Rochester – was selected as the courthouse location, the others, which came to be known as **Brown Square** and **Washington Square**, remained as open space that was ultimately transferred to city ownership. Later, as the Rochester area boomed during the Canal era, the

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creators of new residential areas created small public spaces as amenities. **Caledonia Square, Franklin Park, Madison Square, Wadsworth Square, and Jones Square** came about in this manner. These public spaces are associated with the city's original settlers and earliest residential neighborhoods. All of the squares became part of the park system in 1894 when the Park Commission was given control over their maintenance and development. Small public spaces developed in the first half of the nineteenth century are potentially significant under National Register Criterion A for their association with the initial settlement and development of the city of Rochester, and may be significant under Criterion C if they retain elements of an early landscape design.

The small squares that were later redeveloped by the Olmsted firm, as described in Section E, are significant primarily for their design. Most of the squares have been redesigned several times in accordance with changing park design principles. Several of the squares retain evidence of the designs implemented around the turn of the twentieth century, when the Olmsted firm sought to integrate the existing public spaces with the park system and to introduce fashionable design elements. In addition, the firm provided designs for new spaces acquired by the city, including the **Maplewood Rose Garden** and **Maple Grove** area and **Riley Triangle**. Those small squares that retain elements of the Olmsted design, or designs by other notable firms, are potentially significant under National Register Criterion C as the work of a prominent designer.

In the later nineteenth century, other types of public spaces developed. Most notable in this area was the parkway or boulevard, a street divided by a landscaped central median, called a street mall. This type of road was frequently adopted by developers of elegant subdivisions who viewed beautiful parkways as an amenity that would attract upper-class residents and boost property values. Frederick Law Olmsted and other park planners of the late nineteenth century advocated the use of parkways as a means to connect parks into an entire system; a notable example was Boston's park system, dubbed the "Emerald Necklace," which was conceived as a ring of parks and parkways.

In Rochester, developers of such streets as Arnold Park, Rundel Park, and Sibley Place adopted the street mall design in their subdivisions in the 1860s and 1870s. While these streets were soon lined with fashionable residences, lending certain neighborhoods a particularly elegant and parklike atmosphere, these and similar ventures by developers were isolated efforts, and did not represent part of the park system. Perhaps inspired by the success of these streets in attracting upper-middle class residents, some members of the Park Commission initially envisioned the municipal park system as a network of parkways that would open new areas to high-quality residential development. The Commission was persuaded to focus on developing parks before the parkways, but the concept of a ring of parkways was not abandoned. Certain elements of the parkway plan were put into place, notably **Seneca Parkway** and **Genesee Park Boulevard**. The ring was never completed, but those boulevards that were created with the intention of linking the parks remain as evidence of certain city leaders' early, ambitious vision. Designed by the Olmsted firm, Seneca Parkway in particular fulfilled one of the early commissioners' goals, in that it became the spine of a neighborhood known for its high-quality residences.

Small parks and parkways associated with the effort to ring Rochester with boulevards are potentially eligible under Criterion A, for their role in the development of the city, and Criterion C, for their design and, as appropriate, for the role of prominent landscape architects or other designers. Other small spaces owned by the city, such as traffic islands or small parks at intersections, could also be considered eligible if they were designed as part of the park or parkway system and retain elements of their original

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design.

3. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Public Squares

- A. Public squares must be a public open space set aside within an early settlement to accommodate a range of civic functions; property may have been set aside for construction of a public building, which did not occur.
- B. Property must exhibit integrity of location, design, materials, and feeling as noted in requirements that follow.
- C. Surrounding architecture or adjoining site-specific land use from the period of significance should be present.
- D. Visual focal points such as monuments, sculptures, flag poles and fountains can be present.
- E. Public squares can be the work of a master landscape architect, planner, or engineer.
- F. Elements of spatial orientation and circulation relating to the period of significance should be present.

Street Malls

- A. Street malls must have been designed as part of an envisioned network of parkways planned as part of the municipal park system.¹⁰³
- B. Property must exhibit integrity of location, design, materials, and feeling as noted in requirements that follow.
- C. Layout should be regular, and may be strictly symmetrical.
- D. Specimen plantings, benches, street lights, or other features can be present.
- E. Surrounding architecture or adjoining site-specific land-use from the period of significance should be present.
- F. Street mall can be the work of a master landscape architect, planner, or engineer.

¹⁰³ Street malls designed as private ventures to enhance residential subdivisions, while potentially significant, do not fall under the auspices of the present study.

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B. Pleasure Grounds

1. Description

Definition:

A distinct open space of emphasized scenic, naturalistic design and sufficient scale (generally +50 acres) to provide escape from the surrounding urban environment. Design rooted in clearly articulated social philosophy, i.e., availability of natural beauty ensures mental and physical health of all levels of society and raises urban life to a higher level of civilization. Individual elements are subordinated to overall design. Generally serves a large portion of a community.

Landscape Features:

Environment: Generally located within or immediately adjacent to a densely populated urban area.

Setting: Usually defined by a recognizable border area and land use patterns different from the park itself.

Natural Systems and Features: Usually varied natural or modified topography including rolling hills and broad spaces of greensward. Steep hills, ravines, stone outcroppings, etc., may be present and emphasized for scenic qualities.

Buildings and Structures: Generally in a rustic or other picturesque style and located to integrate into surrounding naturalistic landscape. Social gathering spaces may feature more classical designs. May include entrance gates, bridges, gazebos and various shelters. Site engineering systems are important.

Vegetation: Usually profuse, massed and layered plantings of native material varying in color and texture. Planted as screens at property boundaries. General absence of individual specimens, except in horticultural/arboretum areas.

Spatial Organization: Includes both natural and social activity areas. Usually asymmetrical in natural areas with some axial alignment in social gathering spaces. General irregularity of line and mass. Planned contrasts in sense of scale of adjacent spaces. Variety of internal and external views and vistas with spaces laid out to provide a sequential experience.

Circulation: Generally a curvilinear system of roads and paths planned with some reference to natural topography except in gathering spaces which may exhibit more formal, straight roads and walks. Routes for various circulation modes and activities may be separated with overall system integral to spatial organization. Materials may be both natural and fabricated.

Water Features: Usually present as prominent design elements. May include fountains, ponds, lakes, cascades, rivers, falls, and/or streams, either natural or constructed.

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Furnishings and Objects: May be present in great variety including fences, benches, urns, sculptures, etc.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

Large public parks were unknown in the United States until the creation of Central Park in New York City in 1858. Frederick Law Olmsted, the man most responsible for the initial development of landscape architecture as a profession in the United States, was inspired by the naturalistic landscape style then in vogue in England, and particularly by Birkenhead Park, one of two public parks created in the 1840s in London's crowded neighborhoods. In partnership with English architect Calvert Vaux, Olmsted devised a plan for Central Park that eschewed formal, visibly manipulated design in favor of a style that was meant to imitate and amplify nature. This new style of park, called the pleasure ground, became extremely popular. Pleasure grounds designed by Olmsted and his followers were expansive, usually located near the periphery of urbanized areas where land was easily available, and featured undulating terrain, sinuous road and path networks, and plantings arranged in informal masses rather than geometric flower beds. Anything that could interrupt the impression of naturalness, such as buildings or recreational equipment, was to be minimized and subservient to the overall landscape effect. The Romantic style that characterized these parks was usually expressed in one of two fashions: the picturesque, where the terrain was rugged and dramatic, or the pastoral, which featured gently rolling meadows and tranquil water features. These parks were designed as an antidote to crowded urban conditions. Park advocates believed that urban workers would achieve psychic restoration through contact with nature, and that designers could amplify these effects by enhancing natural topography and vegetation. (See Section E, Statement of Historic Contexts, for more detail on the early parks movement and Olmsted's career and design principles.)

Rochester's three major pleasure ground parks, **Genesee Valley, Highland, and Seneca Parks**, are the product of an ambitious effort by progressive leaders in Rochester to provide local residents with a world-class park system. Influenced by the renowned local horticultural industry, the example set by successful park efforts in other cities (particularly nearby Buffalo and Niagara Falls), the growing local interest in outdoor recreational activities, the perception that parks would stimulate profitable urban development, a strong local current of social progressivism, the opportunity created by technological changes to recapture some of the Genesee River's natural beauty, and the existence of the small public squares and an excellent landscaped rural cemetery, certain civic leaders devoted a great deal of energy to creating a system of parks and parkways in the "Flower City." (The factors that influenced Rochester's park movement leaders are described in more detail in Section E, Statement of Historic Contexts). After several years of struggle, in which the park advocates were pitted against conservative civic leaders averse to large expenditures, an independent Park Commission was created in 1888 with the authority to purchase and develop parkland.

The Commission sought the advice of a number of landscape architects, ultimately hiring Frederick Law Olmsted and his firm to develop the parks. Olmsted designed three parks, each with a different character: Genesee Valley Park, representing the pastoral landscape style; Seneca Park, representing the picturesque; and Highland Park, developed as an arboretum in keeping with the donors' stipulated conditions. The process by which the park system was developed, and the original design character of

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each park, is described in more detail in Section E. All three parks were excellent examples of the pleasure ground park type. In each, a single conception for the park guided the plan for every element within it. While individual pleasure ground parks were created by Olmsted and his followers in many cities, only four had entire park systems designed by Olmsted: Buffalo, Boston, Rochester, and Louisville. The physical development of Rochester's park system began in the late 1880s and continued through the early twentieth century, supervised by local park administrators with ongoing assistance from Olmsted's successor firm under the leadership of John Charles Olmsted.

Attractive residential areas developed around all three of Rochester's pleasure ground parks in the decades following their construction. Originally considered remote from the city, the parks became integral features in fairly densely developed urban areas. As their designer intended, they provided tranquil surroundings within the city and were greatly admired for their beauty by local residents and visitors alike. The parks were also the sites of extremely popular community festivals, holiday celebrations, concerts, and other events. Rochester's horticultural tradition, established in the city's renowned commercial nurseries in the early- to mid-nineteenth century, was continued within the parks, as park superintendents trained in horticulture propagated and popularized various species. This activity is particularly associated with Highland Park, designed as an arboretum, but has had a strong influence on the high quality and rich variety of vegetation found in all three of the Olmsted parks and in later parks added to the system.

Rochester's pleasure ground parks are significant under National Register Criterion A, for their association with the social and physical development of the city of Rochester in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They are also significant under National Register Criterion C, as excellent examples of the Romantic landscape style of the late nineteenth century, and of the work of master landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

3. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Pleasure Ground

- A. Property must be a public open space originally intended to provide relief from urban congestion through a design emulating nature.
- B. Property must exhibit integrity of location, design, materials, and feeling as noted in requirements that follow.
- C. Planned spatial sequencing related to the period of significance must be exhibited.
- D. Circulation system must be generally curvilinear, integral to spatial organization, and related to the period of significance.
- E. Topography must be varied and related to the period of significance.
- F. Plantings must exhibit varied, massed, and layered patterns related to the period of significance. Arboreta or other notable collections of plants, reflecting local horticultural history, may be present.

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G. Various water features related to the period of significance can occur.

H. A variety of buildings, structures, and furnishings generally in a rustic or other picturesque style can occur.

I. Property can be the work of a master landscape architect, landscape gardener, or engineer.

C. Reform Parks

1. DESCRIPTION

Definition:

A distinct open area designed to implement the Progressive political ideal of influencing moral development through structured recreational activities, often planned by social workers. Generally serves a neighborhood, often a working-class district; larger examples may serve an entire community.

Landscape Features:

Neighborhood Park: A small park or playground, generally 10 to 40 acres, designed to serve its immediate urban neighborhood.

Environment: Generally located in densely populated urban areas with site selection sometimes determined by population statistics and standard minimum space required for various organized activities.

Setting: Usually defined by a recognizable border area and land use patterns distinctly different from the park itself.

Natural Systems and Features: Predominantly large areas of flat topography to accommodate playing fields. Areas of more varied topography may be present.

Buildings and Structures: Generally includes a field house or other large central building and a variety of recreation and/or exercise apparatus. Other buildings and structures related to the period of significance may include dance halls, pool houses, amphitheaters, zoos, etc.

Vegetation: Usually decorative rather than naturalistic with trees as perimeter plantings and shrubs and flowers as edging for buildings and entrances. Plantings may accentuate linearity of park design. Vegetable and/or other specialized gardens may be present.

Spatial Organization: Generally simple, open, geometric layout, often symmetrical rather than complex spatial sequencing. Often some screening of vistas to surrounding urban environs.

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Circulation: Generally linear system of roads and paths, often organized along a formal axis leading from a central building to surrounding playing fields and other facilities. Materials generally fabricated rather than natural.

Water Features: May be present, usually as swimming or wading pools.

Furnishings and Objects: Usually present in great variety including fences, benches, play equipment, light fixtures, signs, etc

Large Reform Park: Sizable open space (usually 40 or more acres), often created to supplant existing commercialized recreation use, intended to be accessible to a population drawn from the surrounding region. Represents a transitional park type, combining elements of the earlier pleasure ground ideal with features common in the neighborhood reform parks.

Environment: Generally located in or at the outskirts of densely populated urban areas with site selection often determined either by donation or by municipal efforts to supplant existing commercial use.

Setting: Usually defined by a recognizable border area and land use patterns different from the park itself.

Natural Systems and Features: Central activity areas usually predominantly flat, with nearby areas of varied natural or highly manipulated topography.

Buildings and Structures: May contain rustic or picturesque elements, and/or monumental, classically inspired designs, typical of the colonial revival or classical revival styles. May include entrance gates, bridges, gazebos, and various shelters.

Vegetation: May include decorative plantings, in social activity areas, and naturalistic plantings, in more naturalistic areas. Trees may be used as perimeter plantings and shrubs and flowers as edging for buildings and entrances. Plantings may accentuate either linear or sinuous character of park design, as appropriate. Specialized gardens, such as arboreta, may be present.

Spatial Organization: Includes both natural and social activity areas. Usually asymmetrical in natural areas with some axial alignment in social gathering spaces. Often some screening of vistas to surrounding urban environs.

Circulation: In social activity areas, generally linear system of roads and paths, often organized along a formal axis leading from a central building to surrounding playing fields and other facilities. In naturalistic areas, a curvilinear system of roads and paths planned with some reference to natural topography. May include circulation elements designed for automobile or public transportation.

Water Features: May be present as swimming or wading pools, natural water features, and/or constructed water features.

Furnishings and Objects: Usually present in great variety including fences, benches, play equipment, light fixtures, signs, etc.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The Reform Park movement began to supplant the Pleasure Ground trend in the late nineteenth century. Progressive social reformers, concerned about the well-being of the poor, particularly poor children, perceived playgrounds and other small parks as the ideal solution to many urban ills. Children who were otherwise often unattended were particularly expected to benefit from easy access to supervised areas where they could play and learn at the same time. Activities in reform parks were highly structured, with trained instructors teaching children games, crafts, and other activities aimed at providing moral and civic instruction. These early efforts to provide socially beneficial activities for children were expressed in the creation of playgrounds in cities throughout the country, particularly in the first three decades of the twentieth century. The reform movement also grew to encompass adult activities, although the primary emphasis remained on children. Reform parks at the neighborhood scale, typically 10 to 40 acres, were distributed throughout the city, particularly in low-income areas, so that every neighborhood could have access to park activities and facilities. Features and programming typical of the reform park were also adopted within existing pleasure grounds, often in areas at the existing park's periphery or in central gathering spaces.

In Rochester, the reform park mentality was developing just as the pleasure grounds were being built. As a result, there was considerable pressure to include new facilities, most of which were unimagined in the original Olmsted plans, in the pleasure grounds as they were developed. In some cases this was done successfully, often with the input of John C. Olmsted, Frederick Law Olmsted's stepson, who took a leadership role in the firm as his stepfather approached retirement and after his death. In other cases, new park features contrasted with the pleasure ground design, to varying degrees. The influence of the reform park movement was seen more directly in the proliferation of playgrounds during this period and in the redesign of the small parks and squares by the Olmsted firm (see above). Reformers agitated for, and achieved, the creation of small parks throughout the city; the first playground was established at Brown Square in 1903, and by the end of the reform era, Rochester had 29 playgrounds.

In addition to the small neighborhood-oriented reform parks that are most typical of the movement, the municipal park system acquired four sizable new parks in this era: **Cobb's Hill, Durand-Eastman, Edgerton, and Ontario Beach Parks**. Edgerton Park, while larger than the typical neighborhood park and drawing from the community as a whole for the major events held there, was the most similar to the classic reform park in its amenities. Ontario Beach Park had long been a popular amusement park and resort area, which the city transformed into what reformers would consider a more wholesome, family-oriented attraction focused on bathing, with a few concessions and a carousel remaining as remnants of the park's earlier incarnation as "the Coney Island of Western New York." The transformation of a commercialized site into a free, easily accessible, family-friendly park was typical of the attitudes and strategies of reform park advocates. Cobb's Hill and Durand-Eastman Parks were both donated to the city, and both were initially developed largely in keeping with the earlier pleasure ground style, with input from the Olmsted firm. Longtime parks employees supervised the development of these parks in accordance with the park system's traditional emphasis on horticulture. The four large parks represent something of a transition or overlap between the pleasure ground ideal and the new reform park sensibility.

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Reform parks in Rochester, including both the small neighborhood parks and the large parks, are potentially significant under Criterion A for their association with social and political movements and the development of the city of Rochester in the early twentieth century, and under Criterion C, as examples of a new era in park planning and design. Parks and park elements associated with the Olmsted firm may also be significant as the work of an accomplished landscape architecture firm.

3. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Neighborhood Park

- A. Property must be a public open space originally designed to afford recreational opportunities to a neighborhood district.
- B. Property must exhibit integrity of location, design, materials, and feeling as noted in requirements that follow.
- C. Layout must be generally formal and geometric and related to the period of significance.
- D. Topography must be predominantly flat and the circulation corridor generally linear.
- E. A field house or other large central building related to the period of significance can occur.
- F. A great variety of furnishings and objects can occur.
- G. Property can be the work of a master landscape architect, horticulturist, or engineer.

Large Reform Park

- A. Property must be a public open space originally designed to afford recreational opportunities to the community as a whole.
- B. Property must exhibit integrity of location, design, materials, and feeling as noted in requirements that follow.
- C. Layout may be formal and geometric or naturalistic, or may combine elements of both approaches.
- D. Topography may be varied, including both flat and rugged terrain.
- E. Buildings or structures designed in either rustic or classical styles may occur; these may be sited in prominent locations in deliberate contrast to the natural surroundings.
- F. A great variety of furnishings and objects can occur.
- G. Property can be the work of a master landscape architect, horticulturist, or engineer.

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D. Recreation Parks

I. DESCRIPTION

Definition: A distinct open area, generally under 10 acres, designed as a multiple use facility to efficiently provide a variety of recreational opportunities for a small neighborhood community.

Landscape Features:

Environment: Generally located in densely populated urban areas, sometimes connected with schools or housing developments as part of larger city planning efforts.

Setting: Usually defined by a fence separating park from its context and/or by land use patterns distinctly different from the park itself.

Natural Systems and Features: Predominantly large areas of flat topography accommodating a variety of recreational activities.

Buildings and Structures: Often numerous, varied in function and noteworthy for manmade construction materials, particularly concrete, cinder block, brick, and tile.

Vegetation: Minimal plantings, generally confined to linear perimeter plantings of trees, with understory and flower beds noticeably absent.

Spatial Organization: Generally informal spaces. General absence of scenic views and vistas or distinctive patterns and sequencing.

Circulation: Generally linear system of roads and paths. Large paved areas to accommodate multiple recreational uses. Often extensive paved areas for parking.

Water Features: May be present, usually as swimming or wading pools or water slides.

Furnishings and Objects: Often includes standardized design elements (benches, fences, curbs). May include prefabricated, brightly colored play equipment. Chain link fencing common. Often extensive signage occurs as means of organizing park activities.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The Recreation Park era represented a new approach to park theory and design. Rather than believing parks could be the engines of social reform, park advocates who subscribed to this new theory viewed parks as simply being essential components of urban neighborhoods. Parks fulfilled a demand for recreational opportunities, much as commercial areas fulfilled a demand for shopping. While the theory behind parks was consistent throughout the recreation park era (1930-65), programming and construction trends changed throughout the era in response to national events. During the Depression, labor-intensive park improvement and maintenance projects were commonly undertaken by workers

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employed through federal, state, and local work-relief programs. Park programming provided activities for the unemployed, such as crafts classes. During World War II, construction projects came to a halt, but parks remained the preferred sites for morale-boosting events, victory gardening, physical fitness programs, and other events targeted to boosting the war effort.

In the post-war period, city parks had to contend with minimal budgets, competition from state and national parks and other sites newly accessible by automobile, new types of entertainment available through television and other media, and demographic changes wrought by the automobile, particularly the move of many middle-class and upper-middle-class families to the suburbs, away from city parks. Utilitarian concerns dictated park design during the era, as labor-intensive construction projects using indigenous materials in rustic styles during the Depression gave way to minimalist landscape and architectural designs using materials chosen for their ease of maintenance.

In Rochester, notable activity occurred within the parks during the Depression era, with workers participating in various work-relief programs constructing new park facilities ranging from buildings to picnic benches. Park projects undertaken during this era may be significant under Criterion A, for their association with Rochester's response to the Depression, and/or under Criterion C, as examples of Depression-era design and construction. This period of activity slowed considerably with the entry of the United States into World War II in 1941, as was the case in park systems nationwide at a time when municipal expenditures that did not advance the war effort ceased. No parks or park developments that are now fewer than 50 years old appear to have exceptional significance in accordance with National Register Criteria Consideration G. It is possible that in the future, parks and park developments that are now fewer than 50 years old may be evaluated and found to be significant examples of recreation-era parks and park facilities.

3. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Recreation Park

- A. Property must be a public open space originally designed as a multiple use recreational facility.
- B. Property must exhibit integrity of location, design, materials, and feeling as noted in requirements that follow.
- C. Spaces must be generally flat, open, and unadorned often including both paved and turfed areas, with a notable absence of complex spatial patterns.
- D. Equipment must occur in a variety intended to accommodate multiple forms of active recreation.
- E. Property can be the work of a master landscape architect or engineer.



V. STANDARD SURVEYS

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Aberdeen Square Park	Location Description:	
Location:	330 Post Avenue		Bounded by Aberdeen Street(s) on the north and south, Post Avenue on the west and Woodbine Avenue on the east.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:284734,4779703		
Tax ID:	120.720-0002-049.000		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street mall
Size:	1.52 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 506' x 126'
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed
Date of Construction:	1911-13
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Aberdeen Square Park is an elongated public square surrounded by residential homes, with Public School 16 located at the western end of the park, across Post Avenue. There are no buildings or major structures within the park. The park is geometrically shaped, with a broad central lawn surrounded by large shade trees. Lawn covers the entirety of the park area and large shade trees, planted in formal edge rows, surround the park's periphery. Other vegetation includes two planting beds located at the western and eastern ends of the park, with ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials.

There are no visual focal points or other structures internal to the site. However, the front façade of School 16 overlooks the square's central axis. A small traffic island is located off the eastern side of the park, merging traffic from the one-way streets Aberdeen and Woodbine. The traffic circle is planted with perennials and annuals. There is no apparent paving material or other furnishings located on the site.

LAND USE HISTORY

The 1910 plat map shows the area that would become Aberdeen Square sectioned off into lots (without houses) and labeled as "Helen M. Nivens Sub." The Nineteenth Ward, in which the park is located, was growing very rapidly at that time with the creation of many new residential subdivisions.

On September 26, 1911, the Rochester Common Council adopted an ordinance providing for the opening and extension of Aberdeen Street. While the park was not mentioned, the ordinance specified that between Woodbine and Post Avenue, the width of the street was to be 200 feet (versus 60 feet the rest of the length of the street). This encompassed the Helen M. Nivens subdivision shown in the 1910

plat book. Assistant City Historian Joseph Barnes noted, “Although the Helen M. Nivens subdivision was, in fact, subdivided into lots, it is difficult to see how its developer would have been able to sell them. The rectangle was simply too narrow for practical development. Perhaps this is why its owner, or owners, was glad to see it bought by the city.” The \$8,000 cost of opening and extending Aberdeen Street was assessed to owners in the vicinity.

Aberdeen Park was described in the 1929 *Survey of Recreational Facilities* as follows: “Aberdeen Park is improved with grass, shrubs and trees and is an attractive small neighborhood square which offers a place for adults to rest and small children to play. It also affords an attractive approach to school Number 16.” The 1991 Open Space Inventory described the park described as a “long, grassy field with a row of trees and saplings lining the northern and southern areas” that was used by School #16 students and surrounding neighbors.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Aberdeen Square does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register designation. It does not neatly fit any of the categories of National Register-eligible parks established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form. In its means of creation and subsequent treatment, it appears to be more of street mall than a park, although it is unusually late and large for a street mall. It appears to have always been an open, grassy space with scattered trees and no attempt to install more formal landscaping or facilities related to either Reform or Recreation park ideals. The immediately surrounding area does not exhibit sufficient architectural integrity to suggest the presence of a historic district to which the park could contribute, although it is near a potential historic district identified in the 1986 historic resources survey. While it does not appear to meet National Register criteria, it is valuable as a longstanding pleasant and welcome open space in a densely developed neighborhood, and as a traditional gathering place for neighborhood activities. It should be maintained as a neighborhood amenity.

SITE CONDITION

All existing features of Aberdeen Square Park are in good condition. The park is simple and well kept. The large shade trees surrounding the park periphery appear to be in good health.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The general character of the neighborhood and land uses surrounding Aberdeen Square Park is residential and institutional. Neighborhood exhibits architectural character from the early 20th century, though many houses have been heavily altered.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Barnes, Joseph W., to Mr. Robert Dispenza, 7 March 1973. Filed in Local History Clipping/Pamphlet Files, RVF2, Parks-General.

Open Space Inventory. City of Rochester. 1991.

Raitt, Charles B. *A Survey of Recreational Facilities in Rochester, N.Y.* [Rochester: J.M. Egloff, 1929].\

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

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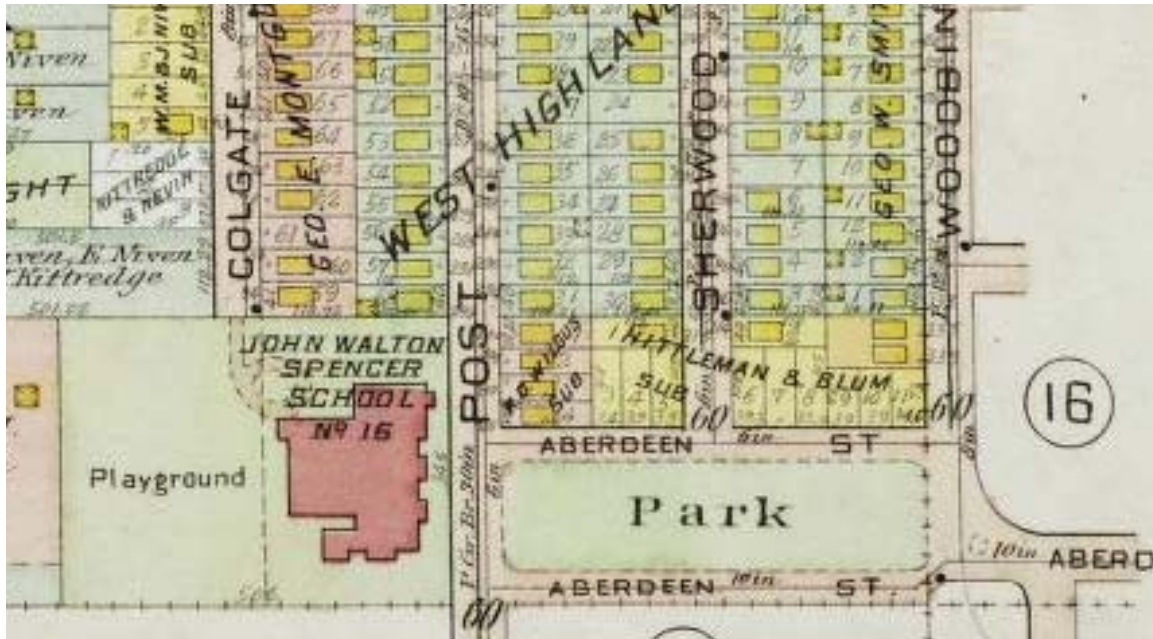
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Aberdeen Square Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1918 plat map



Aberdeen Square Park, looking west towards School 16, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Anderson Park Anderson Triangle Riley Triangle East Main & University	Location Description:	Triangle park median adjacent to inner loop, currently bounded by East Main St on the north, North Union St on the east, and University Ave on the southwest.
Location:	101 N. Union St		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:289038,4781789		
Tax ID:	106.820-0001-049.000		
Existing Zoning:	CCD (Center City District)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Public Square
Size:	0.31 Acres
Dimensions:	Triangle, +/- 160' x 160' x 225'
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	1904
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Olmsted Brothers Carrere & Hastings (oversaw plinth and placement of monument, since removed)
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Anderson Park includes the landscaped median area bounded by East Main, University, and North Union streets. The park is generally covered by a lawn area, with several shade and ornamental trees interspersed. A few small shrubs (Purpleleaf Sand Cherry) are located near the northeastern portion of the park. A small landscape bed with perennials and annuals is located at the northwestern corner. An RGRTA bus stop with shelter is located along East Main Street.

Benches sited along University Avenue at the park periphery are contemporary cast-concrete with wood planks. All lighting throughout the park site is full size cobra-head style fixtures on 25'+ galvanized steel poles. The park contains several large auto-oriented signs and a utility junction box.

LAND USE HISTORY

The history of Anderson Park (formerly Riley Triangle), with particular attention to its Olmsted connection, is related in *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares* (Clark Patterson Associates et al.).

The site for Anderson Park, originally Riley Triangle (not to be confused with another site, known as Riley Triangle, that was near the current Geva Theater), was purchased by the Park Commission in 1904 upon the urging of downtown businessmen. The Commission contacted the Olmsted firm in 1904 to request

a design for the park. The firm provided the city with several alternative designs, and in 1905-07 grading and planting were begun in accordance with the landscape architects' recommendations. John C. Olmsted visited in June 1904, and found that the Park Commission was primarily interested in "a central decoration of flower beds and such like so that there will be a feature to be seen from each and all sides."

Meanwhile, citizens of German descent were advocating for a statue of Friedrich Schiller, the German author, to be placed in the square. The park board worked with both the Olmsted firm and the architecture firm Carrere and Hastings on the siting of the statue and plinth. "The annual report from February 1907 indicates the desire of some German citizens to place a statue of Schiller in Anderson Park, formerly Riley Triangle. [On] January 10, 1908 the park board authorized erection of [a] Schiller monument in the west apex of Anderson Park, under the direction of Olmsted Brothers." (Small Parks & Squares, p. 24.) There was some discussion initially as to whether the statue would be more appropriate in this location or in one of the large parks; this location won out and the architectural firm of Carrere & Hastings oversaw the arrangements for the plinth and placement of the monument.

In 1929, the Raitt report described the park as "improved with grass and trees... It is a small park located at a very busy street intersection. With shade and benches it offers a resting place for adults and frequently is used for free play by children."

The neighborhood context, originally largely residential, was changing by the 1930s into a more commercial setting. The creation of the Inner Loop and reconfiguration of University Avenue in the 1950s-60s dramatically reduced the size of the park, leaving only about half of the original park in place. As a result, in 1964, the Schiller monument was moved to nearby Franklin Park.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Anderson Park/Riley Triangle does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing because it does not retain sufficient integrity. The park has been significantly altered since the early 20th century. Its size has been significantly reduced; its most notable feature, the Schiller statue, has been removed; no elements of the historic circulation system remain in place. It has lost its surrounding context and no longer conveys its original function or early design. A reconfiguration of the roadways surrounding the park, notably the Inner Loop, could present opportunities for reconstruction of the historic design.

SITE CONDITION

Anderson Park is generally in satisfactory condition. Benches are starting to show signs of wear and light poles show signs of rust. Park shade trees are in good condition. Two street trees planted within the western periphery sidewalk exhibit signs of stress or disease. A portion of University Avenue adjacent to the park site is currently undergoing reconstruction.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The current neighborhood character of Anderson Park reflects the significant change that the park itself has undergone through the past century. Historically, land uses surrounding the park were mostly residential in character and the park was used as a neighborhood park. Existing land uses that now

surround the park are mostly commercial or underutilized spaces related to the surrounding auto transportation infrastructure, including adjacent streets and the inner loop highway.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Clark Patterson Associates, et al. *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares: Park's History, Preservation Approach, Master Plan and Management Guidelines*.

Raitt, Charles B. *A Survey of Recreational Facilities in Rochester, N.Y.* [Rochester: J.M. Egloff, 1929].

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

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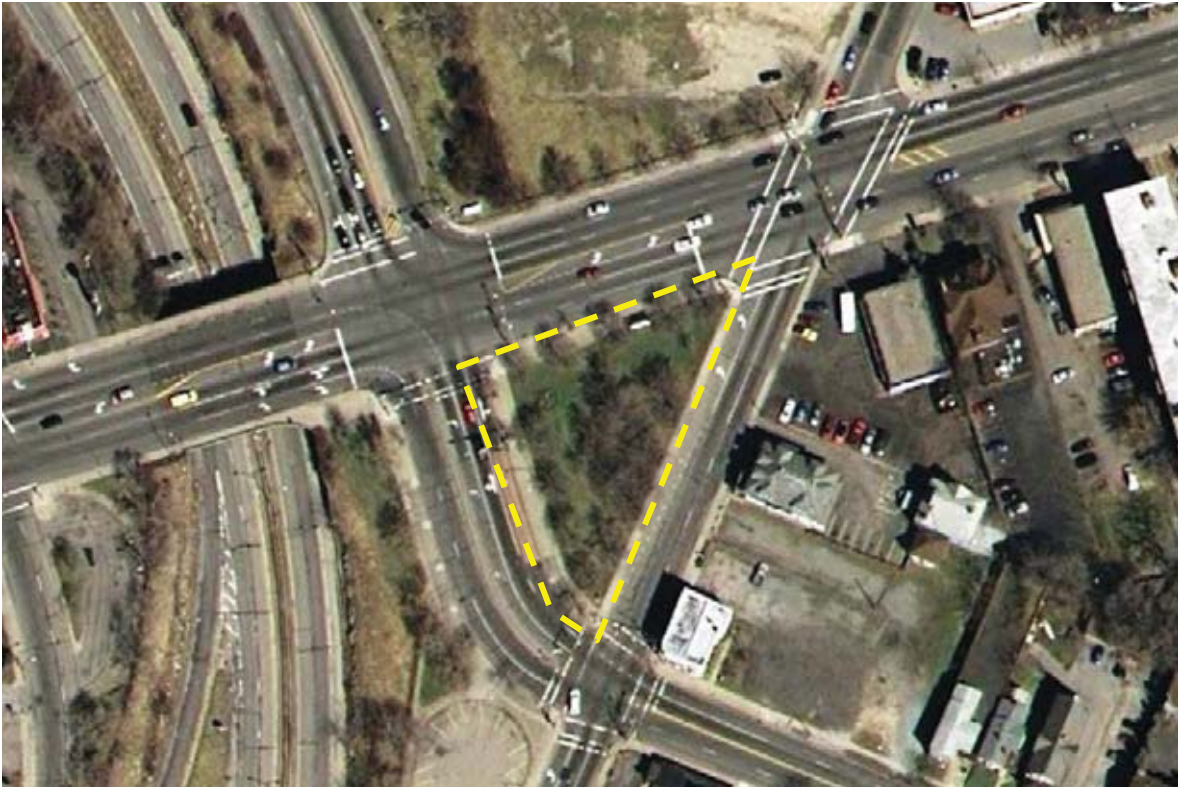
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

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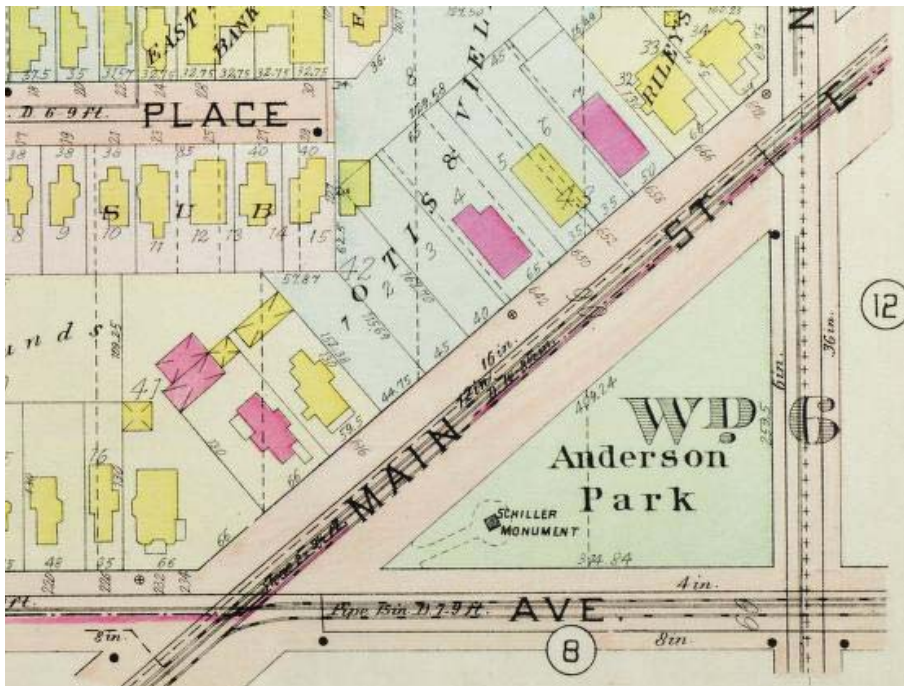
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Anderson Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1910 plat map



1935 plat map



Aerial view of Anderson Park, 1918. Rochester Municipal Archives/Rochester Images.



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Anderson Park, ca. 1931.



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Anderson Park, ca. 1931.



Anderson Park, looking northeast, 2009.



Anderson Park, looking north, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Arnold Park Mall	Location Description:	
Location:	Arnold Park between Park/East		Street Mall, extending along Arnold Park
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:289380,4780978		from Park Avenue to East Avenue.
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)		
Existing Zoning:	R-2 (Medium Density Residential) R-3 (High Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.24 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 940' x 11' (with turning breaks)
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	1853
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Laid out by William Arnold
Current landmark designation status:	Designated in the State/National Register-listed East Avenue Historic District, and in the locally designated East Avenue Preservation District. The gateways were separately designated a City Landmark in 1969.

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Arnold Park Mall is a curbed and landscaped street median running the length of Arnold Park, between East Avenue and Park Avenue. The street mall is somewhat narrow at +/- 11 feet, and contains one row of planted shade and ornamental trees located along the center of the mall. Notable features include medina stone curbing and period lighting. Lighting consists of period-style "acorn" globes on +/- 12' tall cast concrete poles. Lighting poles include decorative embellishments at the top and are flared at the base. A reconstructed entry gate is located at the north end of the street mall. The entry feature is cast concrete with decorative fish and cast iron finials on piers defining the entry into the street.

LAND USE HISTORY

In 1853, William Arnold created a subdivision off of East Avenue called the "Arnold Tract," filing the deed and map of the subdivision in September. The deed for the subdivision indicates "that the ground marked on said map 'Park'... shall be kept open and reserved as a park and never obstructed by buildings or other erections of any kind and in consideration of the advantages to be derived from this reservation the whole of the proprietors of the lots bounded on said park shall contribute rateably in properties to the value of their lots so bounded, for the purpose of keeping the same in order, after the improvements now making by said Arnold for beautifying and enclosing the same shall be completed." The deed went on to state that the fence around the park could not be changed except by consent of all

owners, and set out restrictions governing the construction and use of the houses within the subdivision. The first houses on Arnold Park appeared in the 1855 City Directory.

The 1875 plat map shows that originally, there was a small circular green space in the roadway near the south end of the street. This is labeled on the 1888 plat map as “C. A. Green Park;” this refers to the Charles A. Green Subdivision, which is labeled on the 1900 plat map. Between 1888 and 1900, the circular park was eliminated and replaced with an extension of the street mall.

In the late 19th century, as the East Avenue neighborhood developed as the most fashionable section of the city for elite Rochester families, Arnold Park was a highly desirable street. Most of the original houses on the street survive and reflect the wealth and taste of the residents.

The decorative gateways were original to the street, but due to deterioration and damage over the years, these were determined in 1992 to be beyond repair. They were reconstructed in 2004 to exactly match the original design.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

As a contributing element in the State/National Register-listed East Avenue National Register Historic District and the locally designated East Avenue Preservation District, Arnold Park Mall is significant under National Register Criteria A and C. It reflects the origins and subsequent development of this historically and architecturally significant neighborhood and is one of the city’s earliest street malls. The gateways were designated as city landmarks in 1969, predating the creation of the East Avenue district, and were listed as significant contributing elements when that district was created.

SITE CONDITION

Arnold Park Mall appears to be in good overall condition, with the existing historic features either reconstructed or intact. Medina stone curbing does show wear and breakage at turn around point. Existing light fixtures appear well maintained. Entry gate wall and related features are in excellent condition. A select few existing shade and ornamental trees show signs of stress and/or disfigurement.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Arnold Park Mall is classified by the City of Rochester as a “Group II” street mall, and therefore a neighborhood association actively maintains the park. The current neighborhood context of the majority of the street mall is single and multifamily residential, including notable examples of mid- to late-19th century domestic architecture in a variety of styles fashionable in that period. Institutional / religious uses (and related parking infrastructure) are located at the intersection of East Avenue. Neighborhood level commercial uses are located near the intersection with Park Avenue.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Declaration by William E. Arnold, Dated September 28, 1853; Liber 114 of Deeds, Page 142. Copy in LSWNY vertical files.

“East Avenue Historic District.” National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form. 1976.

Storms, Jo Ann. "Research on Arnold Park --- Owners, Present and Past." 1969. LSWNY vertical files.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

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Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

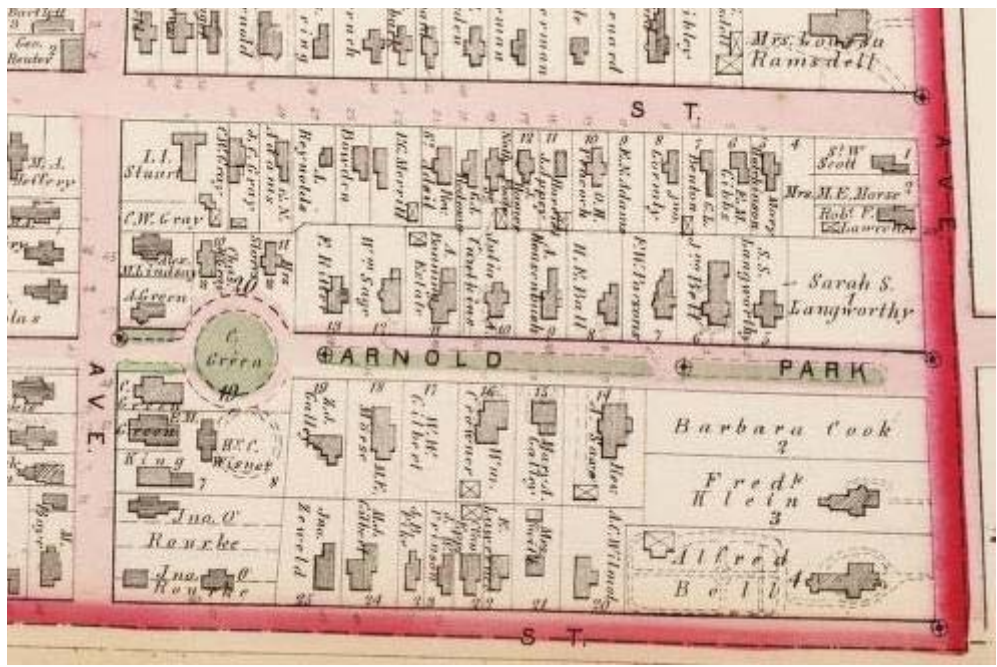
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Arnold Park Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1875 plat map



rpf00797.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Arnold Park gates, c. 1874



rpf00796.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

View of Arnold Park from East Avenue, c. 1874



rpc2480a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Historic postcard of Arnold Park, view from Park Avenue.



rpc2476a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Historic postcard, c. 1905, view from East Avenue.



Arnold Park Mall, entry gate from East Avenue, 2009.



Arnold Park Mall, light fixture, looking southwest, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Boulevard Parkway Mall Boulevard Park	Location Description:	Triangle park bounded by Boulevard Parkway (& West Boulevard Parkway) loop, off of Lake Avenue.
Location:	30 West Blvd Parkway		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286563,4789069		
Tax ID:	060.840-0001-016.000		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	0.25 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 84' x 149'
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	Ca. 1910s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Boulevard Parkway Mall is a triangle shaped median area surrounded by single-family homes. The park area contains mostly lawn area with large mature shade trees planted around the periphery of the park site. Trees are varied in species and generally contain maples and oaks. Three small planting areas are located at the triangle-shaped park corners. These planting beds contain a variety of small shrubs and perennials. The park functions as a street mall, but is not linear and does not contain any curbing at the edges of the roadway. A small raised concrete planter is centrally located within the triangle and contains planted annuals and perennials. A park sign, fire hydrant, and pet clean-up notification are located at the southeast corner of the park. No other features are known to exist.

LAND USE HISTORY

Boulevard Parkway first appeared on the 1918 plat map, but was not listed in the city directory's street index until 1922. Prior to development it was presumably undeveloped farmland, as was the case in this area generally; the 1902 map of Monroe County shows a fairly large parcel divided by the railroad tracks (the area that would become Boulevard Parkway is not shown on the 1910 city plat map because at that time it was in the town of Greece). The 1926 map shows only two houses on West Boulevard Parkway; by the time of the 1936 plat map, almost half of the lots had been built on.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Boulevard Parkway Mall does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register designation. As a small street mall developed as an amenity within a private residential subdivision, it is not individually

eligible as a component of the park system. The surrounding neighborhood consists of an eclectic mix of houses dating to the 1920s through the 1940s, many of which retain their historic integrity. The street mall is an original feature of the subdivision, and therefore would be a contributing feature if a historic district were to be established in this neighborhood; however, the findings of this survey do not indicate a strong potential for such a district in this location.

While it does not appear to meet National Register criteria, the street mall is valuable as a longstanding pleasant and welcome open space that enhances the character of this early-twentieth century residential enclave, and should be maintained as a neighborhood amenity.

SITE CONDITION

The general condition of the park is satisfactory. Shade trees are in generally good condition. The concrete raised planter located at the park center is currently broken. No significant historic site features are known to exist.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The neighborhood context of Boulevard Parkway Mall is exclusively single family residential, with houses fronting all sides of the park. Houses in the neighborhood reflect a variety of architectural styles, including some with historic features. The parkway is essentially a dead end residential street coming off of Lake Avenue. The park is currently classified as a “Group I” street mall, which is maintained by the City of Rochester.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Rochester City Directories.

Plat book of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1902.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

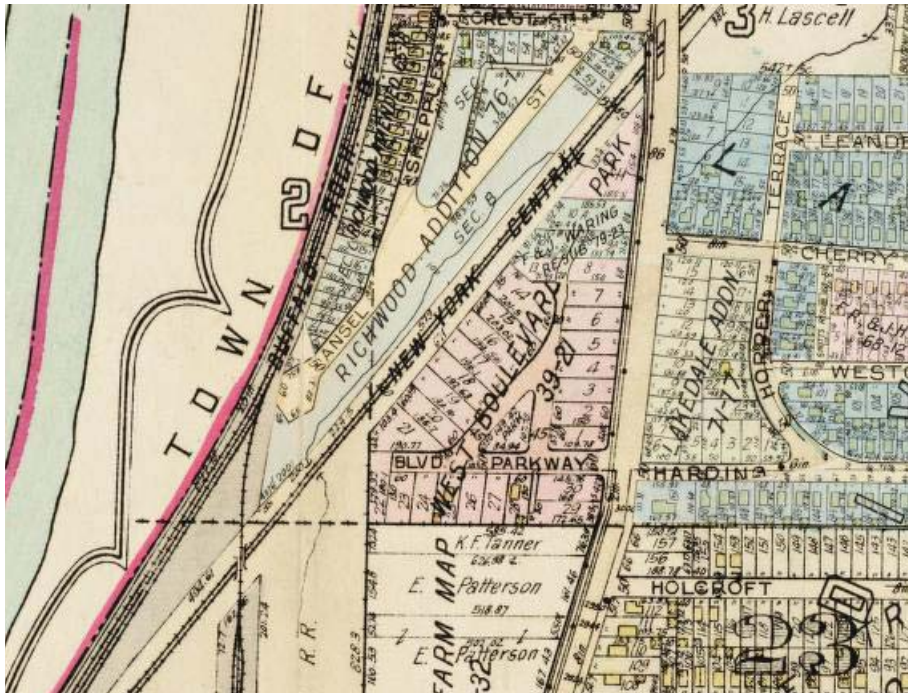
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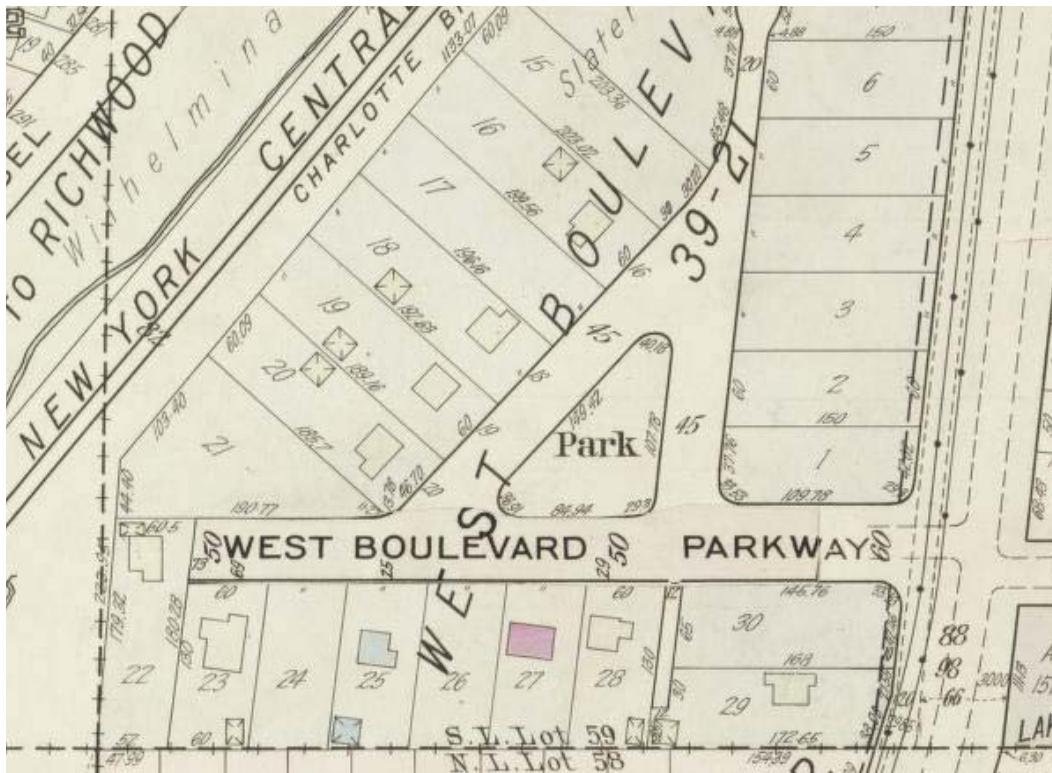
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Boulevard Parkway Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1926 plat map



1936 plat map



Boulevard Parkway Mall, looking northeast, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Bronson Avenue Playground Bronson Recreation Center	Location Description:	Playground bounded by Bronson Ave to the north, Olean St to the east, Cady St to the south, and the Montgomery Neighborhood Center building to the west.
Location:	15 Olean St		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286888,4780388		
Tax ID:	121.530-0001-018.000		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Reform-era playground
Size:	0.56 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 100 x 235' (playground parcel only)
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	1927
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Unknown
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Bronson Avenue Playground is adjacent to Montgomery Neighborhood Center on Cady Street. The park site includes a small playground area in the northwestern portion of the site, basketball court at the southeast corner, and open lawn area between. A 6' chain-link fence surrounds the north, east, and south boundaries of the site, at the sidewalk. Vegetation is limited to grass throughout the entire site, with the exception of previously existing tree stump remnants that are sprouting new growth. Two large street trees exist along Cady Street within the tree-lawn.

LAND USE HISTORY

Bronson Avenue Playground developed on land where a building had previously stood. The 1918 plat map identifies the building as the business of "Mrs. W.S. Kimball Florist." The playground was opened in 1927, with an average daily attendance that year of 342 children. As of 1929, there was a small frame shelter building with toilets; facilities for softball, basketball, volleyball, and horseshoes; as well as a variety of play apparatus including one "ocean wave," a slide, six swings, four "teeter boards," two sandboxes, and a winter slide. The playground and a small structure, presumably the frame shelter building referred to in the 1929 report, were shown on the 1935 plat map.

The 1958 *Plan for Public Recreation* proposed closing the playground, which was "very heavily attended" and "highly inadequate in size and facilities, and unable to provide an adequate recreation program." To improve the recreational opportunities in the area, the report recommended acquisition of at least four acres in the vicinity of Bronson Avenue and construction of a recreation building with a variety of facilities. It appears that construction of what is now the Southwest Community Center fulfilled this

need, and the playground site at Bronson and Olean remained a small playground. The adjacent Montgomery Neighborhood Center was not historically associated with the playground but was a separate settlement house established circa 1961.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

The Bronson Avenue Playground does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register designation. The playground developed during the Reform Era of city park development, and some features typical of that era were developed, notably a shelter and typical play equipment. It appears, however, that because the size of the park was found inadequate, it was not fully developed and was never a noteworthy example of the type. Those features that were developed are no longer extant, and the park has little or no integrity to the reform park era. It therefore does not have sufficient significance or integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register.

SITE CONDITION

No historic features are evident within the park site. The park is in generally poor physical condition. The basketball court has recently been resurfaced and is in good condition. The small playground has a small sitting area with two benches, and is in need of repair and general maintenance. The park has an overall lack of vegetation and shade trees. The park has a generally unappealing appearance.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The park is directly adjacent to Montgomery Neighborhood Center and across the street from a public library. The park has high visibility from the street but is unappealing and likely doesn't get many users. The contextual fabric of the neighborhood has changed significantly over the years. Currently the surrounding land uses are industrial, institutional (religious & civic), and some residential use to the south.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Raitt, Charles B. *A Survey of Recreational Facilities in Rochester, N.Y.* [Rochester: J.M. Egloff, 1929].

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

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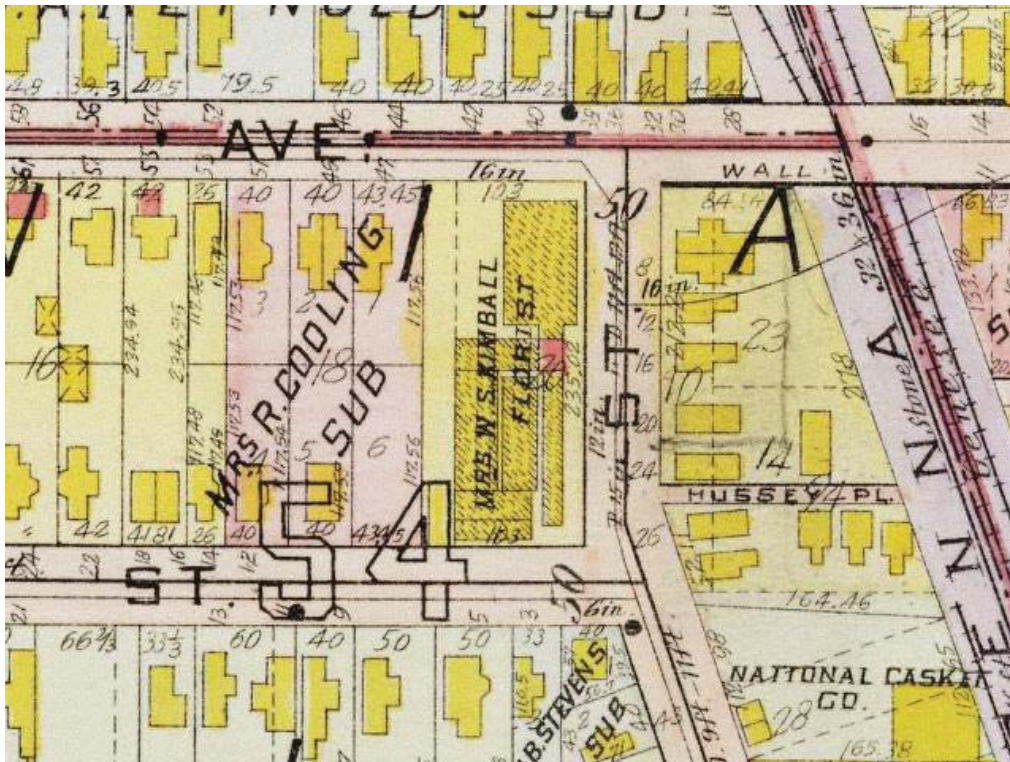
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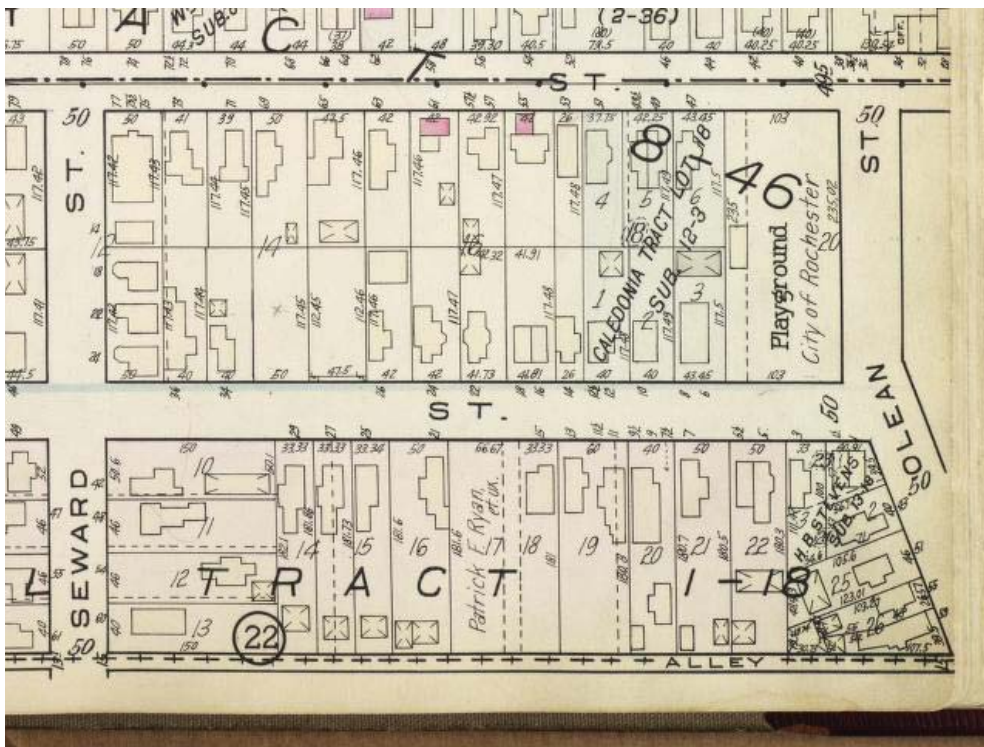
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Bronson Avenue Playground, aerial photo. (Google, NYS GIS Clearinghouse, 2005)



1918 plat map



1936 plat map



Bronson Avenue Playground, looking southeast, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Browncroft Rose Garden	Location Description:
Location:	37 Merchants Rd	Triangle park parcel bounded by Browncroft Blvd to the south, Merchants Rd to the north, and single-family residential properties to the west.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:293141,4781449	
Tax ID:	107.830-0001-034.000	
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Small Park
Size:	1.40 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 265' x 350 (triangle)
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	1919
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Browncroft Realty Company
Current landmark designation status:	Contributing element in the National Register-listed Browncroft Historic District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Browncroft Rose Garden is a small triangular-shaped park located at the intersection of Browncroft Blvd and Merchants Road. The park is highlighted by various formally designed plantings and features a central lawn area for passive recreation.

The park features decorative plantings, accentuating the overall triangle shape. Formal street trees and interspersed shade trees are prevalent around the park. Ornamental trees (crabapples) line the north and south interior edges of the park. A series of specialized plantings featuring roses, line a central lawn area. Several planting beds are located within the park, including evergreens, roses, and other shrubs.

The park features several name plates and memorials, including signage discussing the park origins, and dedicated tree plantings. A few painted steel and wood-slat benches are positioned near the western side and two small cast-stone benches are located adjacent to a planting bed near the Merchants Road intersection. No buildings or structures exist within the park. Residential homes bordering the western edge of the park have minimal fencing at the park boundary.

The park features no internal pavement or circulation areas, though city sidewalks line both the north and south sides of the park. Lighting includes cobra-head street lights along Merchants Road and Browncroft Blvd. No light fixtures were located internally.

LAND USE HISTORY

The Browncroft Rose Garden was developed as part of the Browncroft Subdivision, created on the former nursery grounds of the Brown Brothers Continental Nursery. The family created Browncroft Realty Corporation in 1914, the year that this section of Brighton was annexed by the City of Rochester, and began subdividing its nursery grounds for residential development. The company maintained the tree lawns as well as two public spaces: Browncroft Park, along Winton Road, and the rose garden, at the intersection of Browncroft Boulevard and Merchants Road. The rose garden was planted on land that had been part of the farmstead of John Charlton until his death in 1918, after which the family gave the triangular plot at the corner of Merchants Road and Browncroft Boulevard to the City of the Rochester. The 1918 plat map shows that as of that date, there were outbuildings on the plot; by the 1926 plat map the land was shown with no buildings and under the ownership of the City of Rochester.

According to the National Register nomination for the Browncroft Historic District, "Situated on a triangular plot of land at the intersection of Merchants Road and Browncroft Boulevard, the Rose Garden was donated to the City of Rochester by the John Charlton family and dedicated in 1919. The land was formerly occupied by farm outbuildings associated with the Charlton farmhouse at 116 Browncroft Boulevard. One of the barns was relocated, and currently stands behind the residence at 89 Merchants Road."

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

The Browncroft Rose Garden is already listed in the National Register as a contributing site in the Browncroft Historic District. That district should also be considered for local designation status, which would afford protections to this significant collection of architecture and landscapes. The history of the plantings in the rose garden should be investigated in greater detail, as there appear to be excellent opportunities for restoration and/or rehabilitation of the historic landscape.

SITE CONDITION

The overall condition of Browncroft Park is generally good, with various site features, plantings, and other elements all exhibiting well maintained character.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The park is located in a densely populated urban residential area at a heavily trafficked intersection. The park has a well-defined border area and is a significant landmark within the historic Browncroft neighborhood. The park maintains the historical spatial relationships to the surrounding residential structures.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Bloemendaal, Sharon. "Browncroft: A Beautiful Section of a Beautiful City."

"Browncroft Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. 2003.

O'Leary, Susan Maney. *The Designed Historic Landscapes of Rochester, New York: An Historic Context Statement*. January 1997.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. *Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity*. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

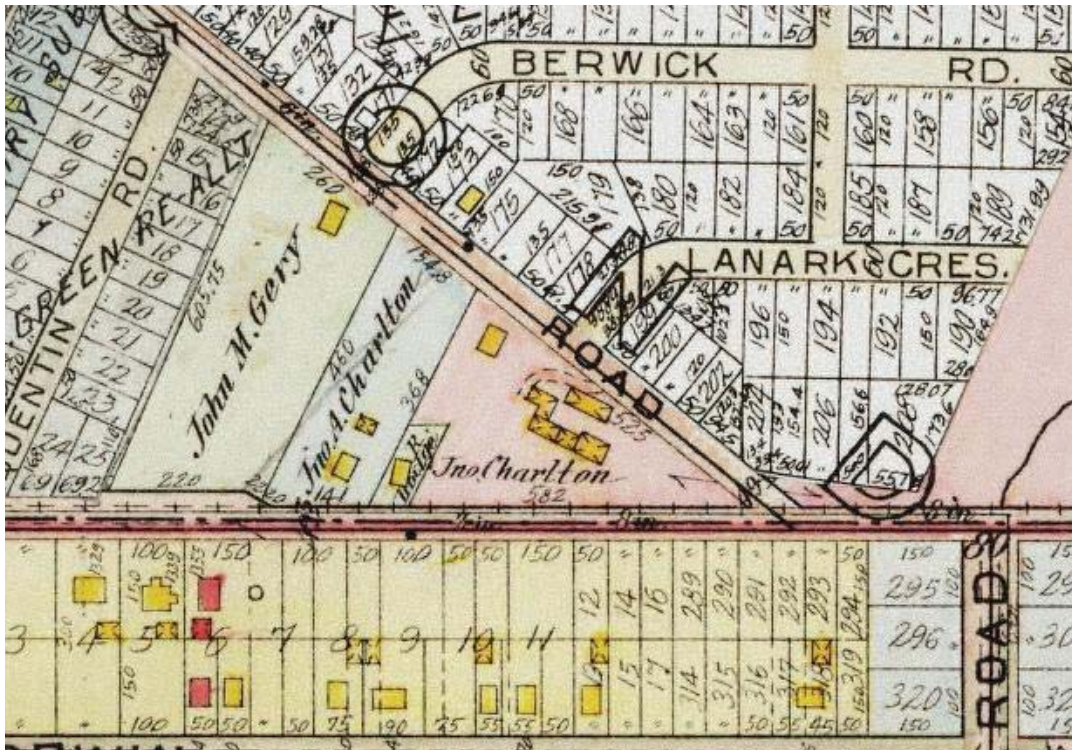
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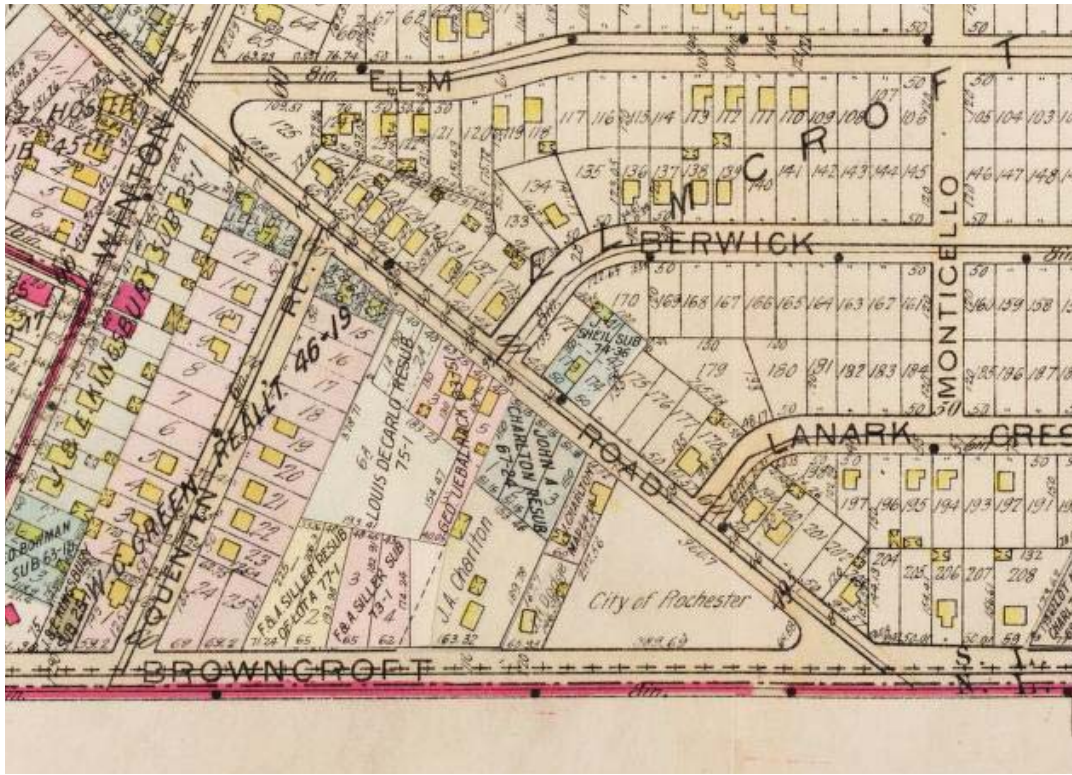
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Browncroft Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1918 plat map



1926 plat map



Browncroft Park, looking east, 2009.



Browncroft Park, looking east, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Burke Terrace Mall	Location Description:	
Location:	Burke Terrace and Birr Street		Street mall located on Burke Terrace,
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286008,4784802		between Augustine St on the north and Birr St on the south.
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.13 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 22' x 258'
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	1880s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Burke Terrace Mall is a street mall running along a 250' long stretch of Burke Terrace. The street mall is a curbed and landscaped median approximately 22' wide and includes two smaller vestiges of street mall/median at the south end of the street. The mall features lawn ground cover, a small shrub at the south end, and ornamental crabapple trees planted along the center line of the median. The mall is surrounded by granite curbing. The two smaller islands each contain lawn and a single Crabapple tree, with similar granite curbing. No other features are located on the park site.

LAND USE HISTORY

Burke Terrace Mall was laid out in the 1880s as part of a subdivision called Burke's Park. The land on which it was built had belonged to A. A. Vanderbreck as of 1875. Burke Terrace first appears on the 1888 plat map, where the street is divided by a mall labeled "Terrace." No houses were yet built on the street. The street was not listed in the city directory's street listings until 1899. Burke Terrace was one of many small street malls in this part of the city, inspired by Lake View Park and Seneca Parkway, both of which were laid out by the Olmsted firm.

By 1900, the street mall had been divided, with two small islands appearing at its south end. This presumably facilitated traffic, as the configuration shown on the 1888 map must have been awkward for people traveling along Birr Street to navigate. This layout has remained in place.

The 1991 Open Space Inventory noted that the mall was well tended and lined with cherry trees, and was used by residents of the east side of Burke Terrace, who do not have yards.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Burke Terrace Mall does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register designation. Because of its origins as an enhancement to a private residential subdivision rather than as a public park, it is not individually eligible as a component of the park system. The immediate surrounding neighborhood does not appear to have sufficient architectural distinction or historic integrity to qualify for designation as a historic district. As an amenity to the streetscape for over 100 years, and as part of a set of similar street malls that developed in this part of the city in the late-19th century, the mall has value to the neighborhood and should be maintained.

SITE CONDITION

The park site is in generally good condition. Lawn, ornamental trees, and curbing all appear to be intact and maintained. The park is classified as a “Group I” street mall and is maintained by the City of Rochester.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The immediate neighborhood is residential in character, with both single-family and multiple-family residential structures adjacent to the street mall. Residential homes front the length of Burke Terrace and an apartment complex is located to the southeast of the park site.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

City of Rochester directories.

Open Space Inventory. City of Rochester. 1991.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

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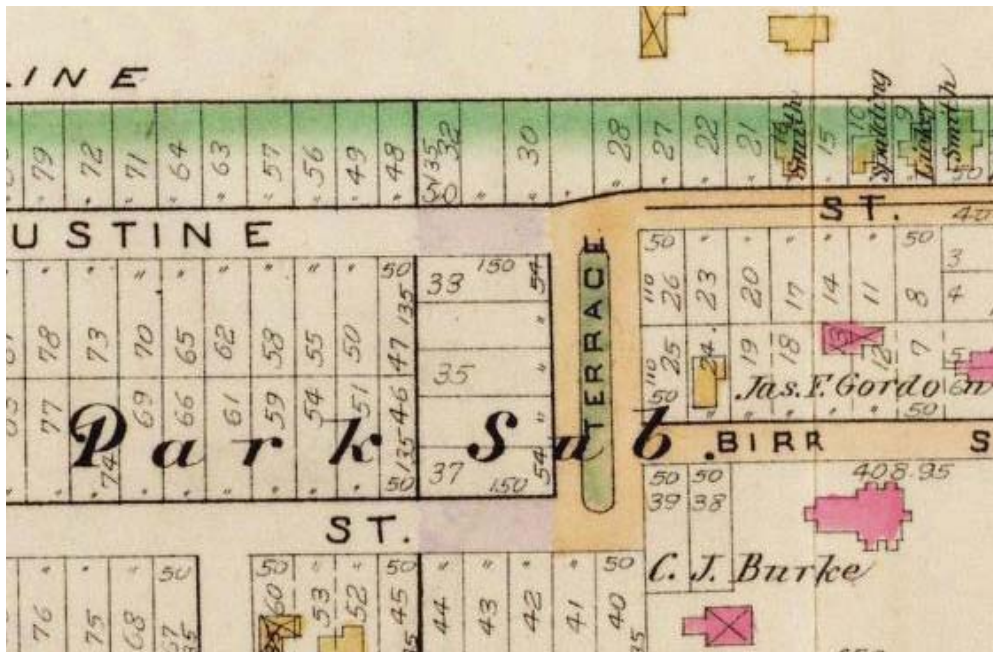
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Burke Terrace Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1888 plat map



1900 plat map



Burke Terrace Mall, looking south, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Campbell Street Recreation Center School 14/Campbell Rec Center School 21 Playground	Location Description:	On Campbell Street, bounded by residential properties fronting Jay St on the north, Ames St to the west, and Colvin St to the east.
Location:	524 Campbell St		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:285147,4781798		
Tax ID:	105.810-003-035.004		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Reform Playground
Size:	1.43 Acres (City GIS/Parcel data), 5.4 Acres (parks data)
Dimensions:	+/- 502' x 124'
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	1915
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

The Campbell Street recreation Center includes a contemporary cinderblock recreation center building and associated recreation space, with a baseball diamond, basketball court, small playground, and small garden area. The site is located on the interior of a residential block, with residential properties surrounding the majority of the site boundary, with the exception of the former Jonathan Child Elementary School #21 building (Now converted to Jonathan Child Apartments, Family Service of Rochester, Inc.) in the north east corner of the site.

A baseball diamond is located in the northwest corner of the site, with a small parking lot to the south. The grass field and baseball diamond takes up the majority of the site. On the eastern side of the park is a basketball court, and small playground feature.

The park site contains few trees, except a handful scattered trees located at the site boundary. A small garden (the Peace Garden) is located directly south of the Jonathan Child Apartment building, showcasing various small shrubs and perennials. The Peace Garden is a memorial garden and features a monument declaring the garden dedication in memory of Stacy Washington in 2006. Two newly planted deciduous shade trees are located near the memorial garden and building’s planting bed.

Flood-style lights are mounted on 35'+ steel poles at the parking lot periphery. Various fence types surround the property, with the majority being chain link and wood stockade-style. The community center building has a small concrete plaza space and planting bed associated with the main entry which contains a contemporary-styled bike rack and trash receptacle.

No other significant or historical features are known to exist on the site.

LAND USE HISTORY

The 1916 *First Annual Report of the Bureau of Playgrounds & Recreation* (1916) noted:

“A new playground was established at School No. 21 on Colvin Street near Jay, June 15th, and has proved to be a great success, as is shown by the attendance. The grounds were leveled and covered with stone dust. Two tennis courts were built, a baseball diamond laid out, and basketball standards erected. The other apparatus consisted of one 8 razzle giant stride, one pair parallel bars, one sand box, five teeters, one outdoor gymnasium, eight baby swings, sixteen chain swings, one pair jumping standards, two summer slides, and one large winter slide.”

In 1929, the Raitt report indicated that the park was 1.3 acres in size with an average daily attendance in 1927 of 690. The park had one small frame shelter house with no toilets; a drinking fountain; an enclosure fence, one softball field, one basketball court, one volleyball court, and play equipment including one giant stride, one children’s slide, 20 swings, five teeter boards, two sandboxes, and one winter slide. Raitt recommended expanding the park to the west and south to create a four-acre park with an entrance from Jay Street. The original frame shelter was replaced in 1935 by a 1,737 square foot shelter with office and restroom space. A wading pool, indicated in city recreation records as a WPA project (as the shelter may have been as well) was constructed the same year.

In the 1950s, the park doubled in size to 2.6 acres. The 1958 *Plan for Public Recreation* again recommended enlarging the park, and also recommended construction of a multi-purpose gymnasium, new play equipment, and a spray pool. The present recreation building appears to date to the 1960s or later. It appears that with the closure of the adjacent elementary school, the space came to serve a more general recreation function.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

The Campbell Street Recreation Center does not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, based on a lack of significant historic features. It was one of many small playgrounds developed in the city in the 1910s, an era when playgrounds were considered particularly important for the moral and social development of urban children. Like many others, this one developed in conjunction with a school. It does not appear to have any particular historical significance, nor does it retain historic features. It has been expanded and the early shelter and equipment replaced with more modern facilities.

SITE CONDITION

The overall condition of the Campbell Street Recreation Center park site is satisfactory. With the exception of the play equipment located within the small playground area, the site features appear to be in good condition and maintained. Playground equipment is somewhat deteriorated and plywood has been used to block access to one piece of play equipment. The memorial garden is well maintained. Two recently planted shade trees are located near the center’s entry and the memorial garden.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The neighborhood context is generally mixed in character. Land use directly adjacent to the Campbell Street Recreation Center is predominately residential. This includes single-family homes and apartments. A handful of commercial, religious, or other institutional uses are located in the surrounding neighborhood. The I-490 expressway runs parallel to Campbell Street to the south and acts as a significant barrier to adjacent neighborhoods.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

“Parks, Maps, and SBL’s,” binder in City of Rochester Recreation offices.

Plan for Public Recreation, Rochester, New York: Report of the Recreation Advisory Committee. July 1958.

Public Recreation in Rochester. Rochester: City Planning Commission, January 1949.

[Raitt, Charles B.](#) *A Survey of Recreational Facilities in Rochester, N.Y.* [Rochester: J.M. Egloff, 1929].

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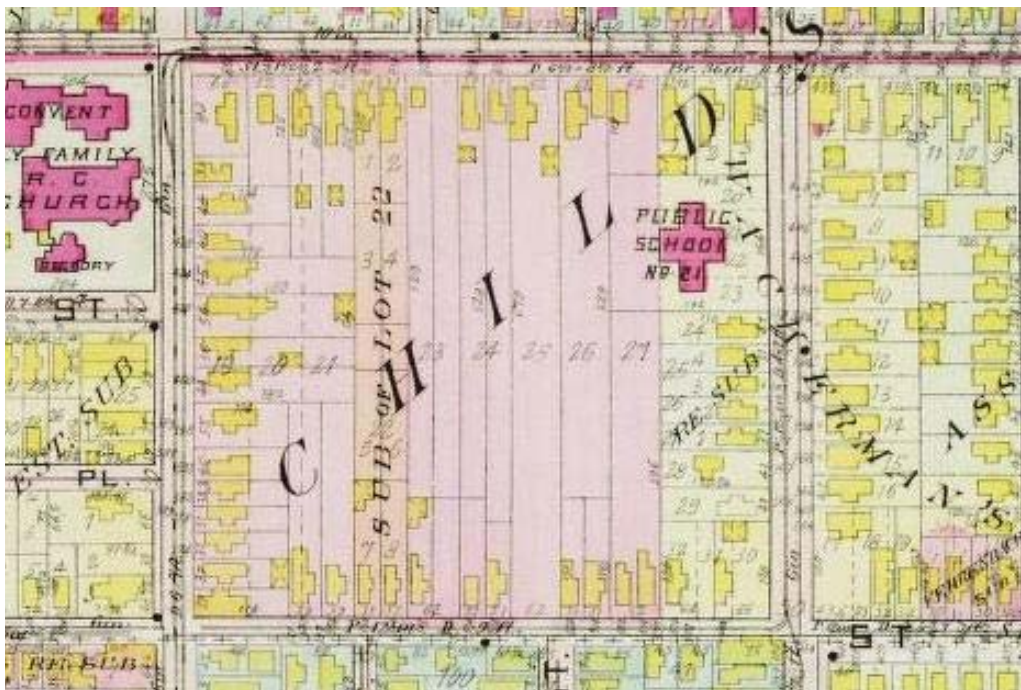
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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. *Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York.* Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

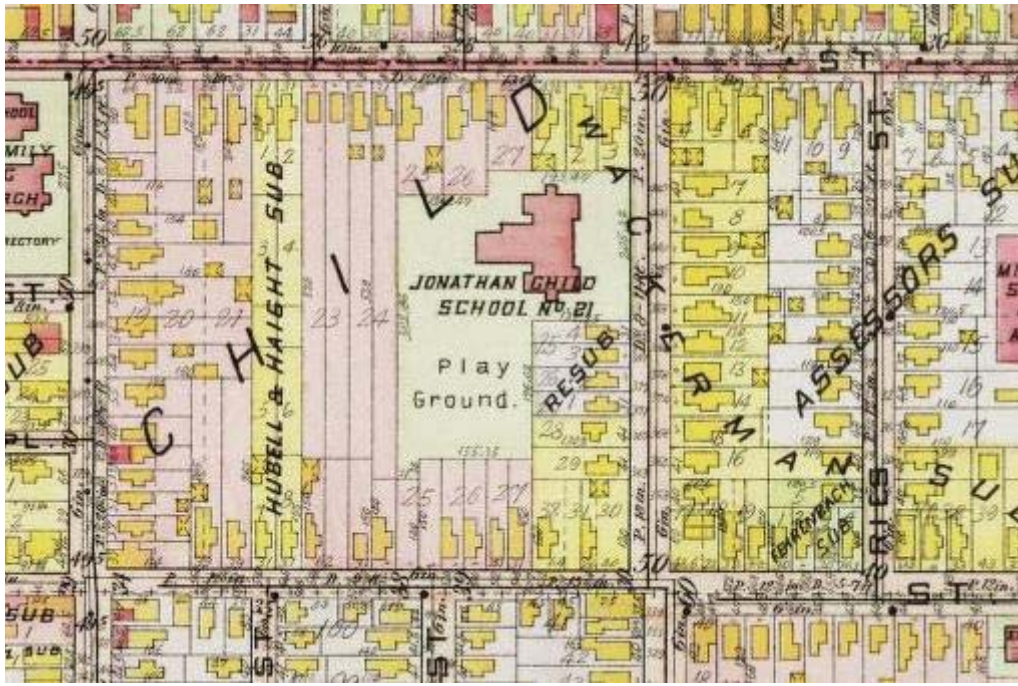
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



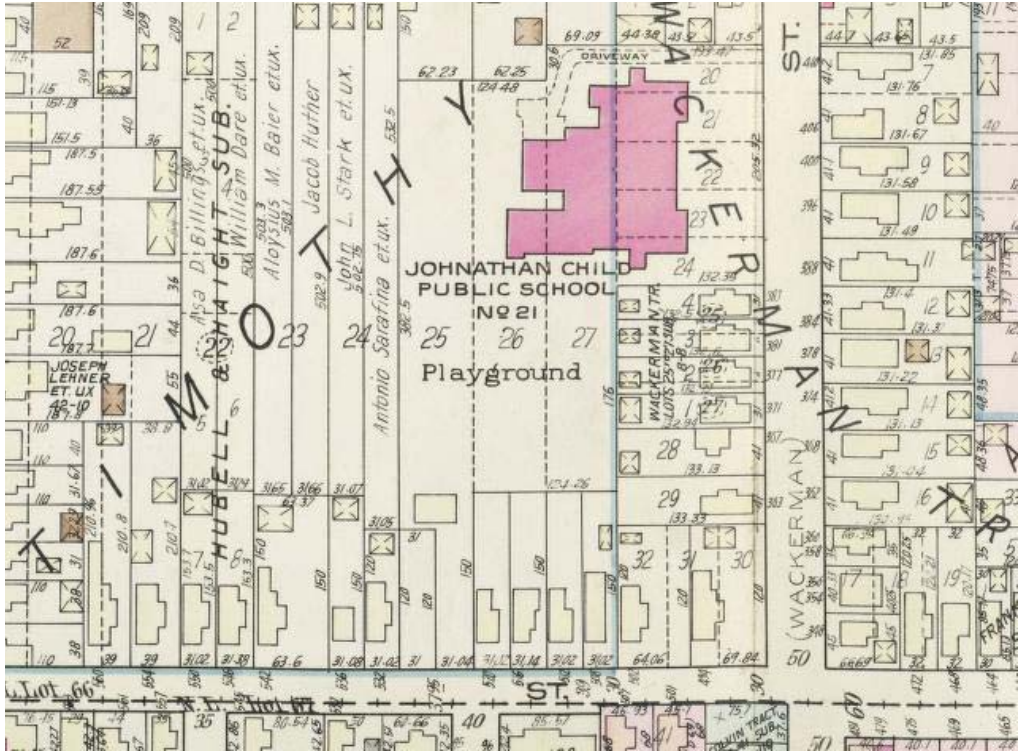
Campbell Street Recreation Center, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1910 plat map showing future location of Campbell Street Recreation Center (behind School No. 21)



1918 plat map



1935 plat map



Campbell Street Recreation Center, looking south, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Carthage Drive Mall	Location Description:	
Location:	Carthage off 1241 St. Paul		Street mall located on Carthage Drive,
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286611,4783977		between St Paul St and the Genesee River.
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)		
Existing Zoning:	R-2 (Medium Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.11 Acres, 0.3 Acres (parks data)
Dimensions:	+/- 18' x 248'
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	Designed 1893
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Frederick Law Olmsted
Current landmark designation status:	Listed in the State/National Register as part of the Seneca Park East and West nomination

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

From the National Register nomination form for Seneca Park East and West:

The southernmost component of Carthage Drive is one block long and aligned east-west, perpendicular to St. Paul Street. It has a generous width comprised of a central raised, planted median flanked by street area, planting strips and sidewalks. Each street area accommodates one travel and one parking lane; the central median and curbside planting strips contain a mix of shade and flowering deciduous trees. At the western edge of the block, the road alignment shifts to north-south and generally follows the gorge rim. Here the parkland is extremely narrow, extending from the curbside planting strip on the east to the gorge rim on the west. This segment of roadway is paved and has no curbs. Contemporary stylized streetlights line the corridor. Between the paved road and rim is a slender band of lawn with scattered deciduous trees; a chain-link fence covered by vines and shrubs marks the gorge edge.

The street mall has several larger linear planting beds within the landscaped median area, which include several species of shrubs, grasses, and other plantings. Street lighting along the mall consists of contemporary dual cobra-

head style fixtures on +30' galvanized steel poles. Planted trees include ornamental, evergreen, and deciduous shade trees.

LAND USE HISTORY

Carthage Drive, named for the pioneer settlement of Carthage along the Genesee River, was shown on the 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park as one of the entrance parkways radiating out from the park. Like the others (Seneca Parkway and Maplewood Drive), this was intended to be a formal entrance corridor, extending the benefits of the park into the neighborhood while providing an effective transition from the city to the naturalistic park setting. The Park Commissioners originally hoped to develop a network of parkways throughout the city, but this idea was abandoned when the park commission lost its power to condemn land for parkways.

On the General Plan, Carthage Drive, at the southernmost end of Seneca Park East, is a one-block street with a treed central mall and landscaped tree lawns, leading west from North St. Paul Street toward the gorge, where it links to the terminus of the park's circulation system. The first plat map to show this clearly is the 1918 map, where "Carthage Road" is shown to resemble the Olmsted design, with a central mall and a direct link to the park's circulation system.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Carthage Drive is a component of the Road System in Seneca Park, which was listed as a contributing element in the National Register nomination form for Seneca Park East and West.

SITE CONDITION

The overall condition of Carthage Drive Mall is average. The street mall is intact and appears to be maintained. Asphalt pavement layers have been added over the years, rising to meet stone curbing that exists around the planted median and streetscape. Stone curbing is missing in some areas. The mall is classified as a "Group I" street mall and is maintained by the City of Rochester.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The surrounding land use is residential and includes at least one early home from the Carthage pioneer settlement. Land to the west of Carthage Drive Mall includes Seneca Park and consists of natural wooded sloped, adjacent to the Genesee River.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

"Seneca Park East and West." National Register Nomination Form. 2003.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

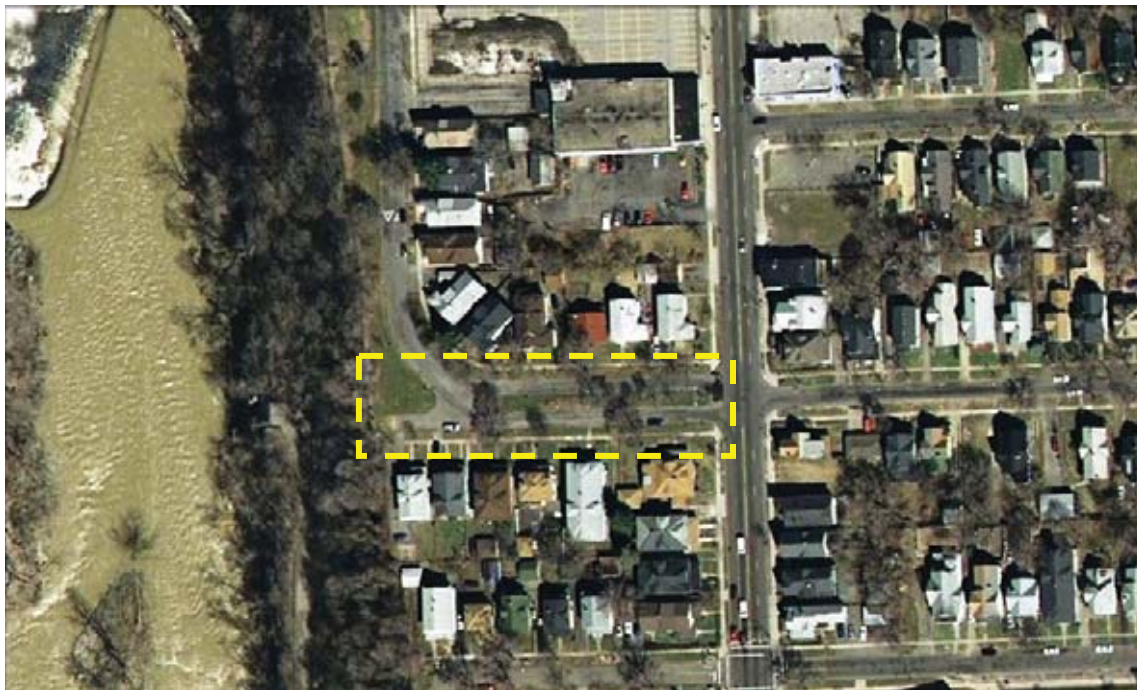
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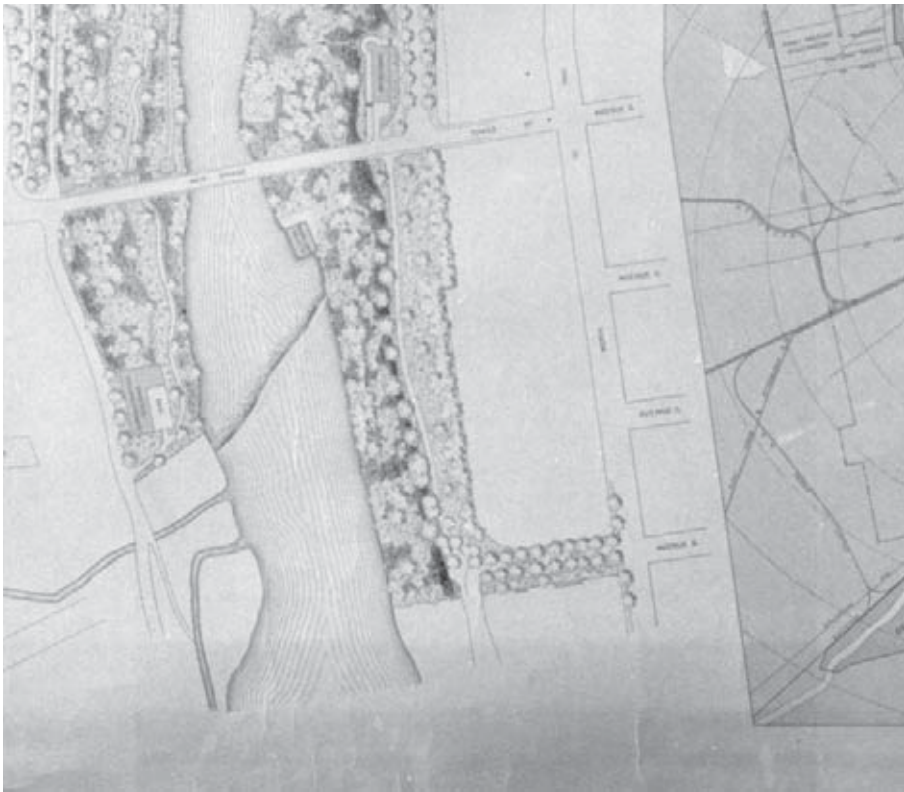
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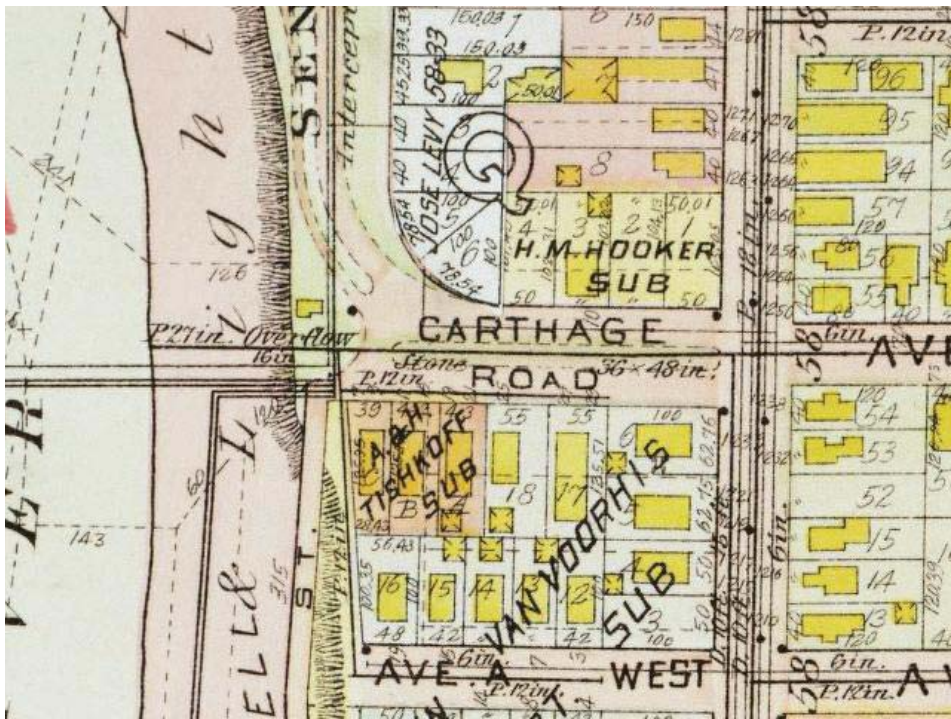
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Carthage Drive Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Detail from the 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park, showing Carthage Drive at the south end of the park, east of the river.



1918 plat map



Carthage Drive Mall, looking east, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Central Park Mall	Location Description:
Location:	Central Park, between Union and Goodman	Eight block long center median street mall along Central Park, extending from North Union Street to North Goodman Street, and crossing 1 st through 7 th avenues.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:289872,4782764	
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W)	
Existing Zoning:	PMV (Public Market Village) R-2 (Medium Density Residential) C-2 (Community Center District)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 1.8 Acres
Dimensions:	+/-45' wide, 2370' long (including cross-street breaks)
Topographic Description:	Flat, landscaped & curbed median
Date of Construction:	Ca. 1874
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Central Park Mall includes the streetscape and 8-block long central planted median from North Union Street to North Goodman Street. The street mall contains a mixture of informally planted ornamental trees, deciduous shade trees, and evergreen trees. Medina stone curbing surrounds the majority of the mall, and also lines residential and commercial structures fronting Central Park. Contemporary telephone poles / power lines are located centrally along the planted median area and extend the length of the park. Sidewalks cross perpendicular to the planted median at cross streets, linking avenue sidewalks on both the north and south sides of Central Park. Recycled plastic benches are interspersed along the sidewalks within the median area.

A concrete plaza space, approximately 45' square, is located within the Central Park Mall between North Union Street and 1st Street. The plaza covers the width of the street mall and is located in front of what is now a rehabbed apartment building (formerly a school). No other structures or significant features are located within the street mall.

LAND USE HISTORY

Central Park first appeared in the 1874 City Directory, and is seen on the 1875 plat map, where it is the centerpiece of a large subdivision labeled the "Fourteenth Ward Association Tract," bounded by Bay Street to the north, Goodman Street to the east, Pennsylvania Avenue to the south, and Union Street to

the west. Most of the north-south streets are given numbers rather than names, an unusual practice in Rochester. All lots were of equal size, measuring 40 by 120 feet; unlike some of Rochester's other neighborhoods with street malls, lots along Central Park were not larger than those of other streets in the subdivision. Only a handful of houses had been built in the subdivision as of 1875. By 1888, the plat map shows that nearly all lots had been purchased (the 1888 map, unlike later maps, indicates owners' names for each property), and most of them contained modestly sized single-family houses. Based on the names on the map and the presence of two German Lutheran Churches at the corner of Fourth Street and Central Park, it appears that residents were primarily of German descent.

By 1910, a streetcar line ran down the median of Central Park. This can be seen in a turn-of-the-century photo and on the 1910 plat map. The street mall at that time was nearly devoid of vegetation apart from grass and a few saplings; the mall was bisected by the streetcar lines and associated utility poles and overhead power lines.

In 1980 and 1982, a beautification program resulted in the planting of over 50 saplings, improvements to the lawn, and installation of benches. It was noted in the 1991 *Open Space Inventory* that overhead powerlines obstructed the beauty of the area, although that had been the case since the turn of the century due to the streetcar line.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Central Park Mall does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register. Because of its origins as an enhancement to a private residential subdivision rather than as a public park feature, the Central Park Mall is not individually eligible as a component of the park system. Surrounding buildings lack both architectural distinction and historic integrity, and therefore do not appear to constitute a potentially eligible historic district. While the street mall does not appear to meet National Register criteria, it nevertheless has importance to the neighborhood as an amenity and as a feature that helps to convey the history of this neighborhood, and should be maintained.

SITE CONDITION

Central Park Mall is in generally good condition. The variety of plantings, both evergreen trees and large deciduous shade trees, are in good health and provide the mall with significant natural character. Sidewalks and other pavement areas are intact and maintained. Some benches have been vandalized and at least one bench was missing, showing only the buried footing/posts. Medina stone curbing is in excellent condition in many places.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The land uses surrounding Central Park mall are residential and commercial. The original character of the neighborhood is somewhat intact. Residential structures front the majority of the park and businesses are located near the park's east and north ends, near larger commercial intersections. While homes continue to front Central Park, the neighborhood has been beset by urban vacancy and several vacant residential lots now front the Central Park Mall.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

City of Rochester Directories.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

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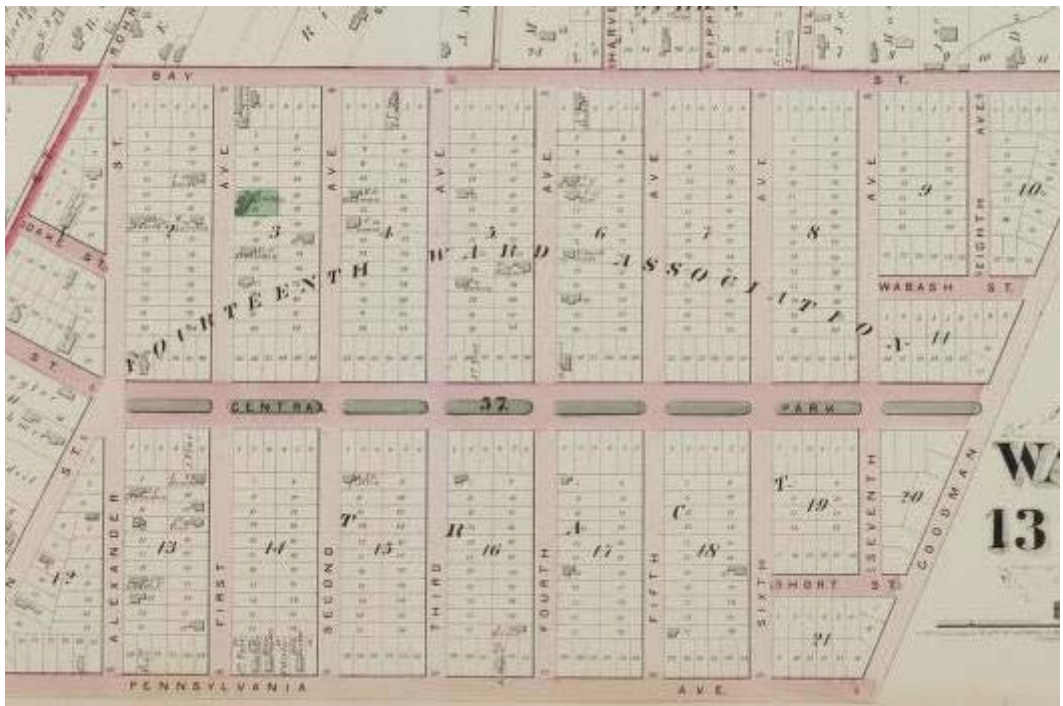
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

Open Space Inventory. City of Rochester. 1991.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Central Park Mall, aerial photo (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1875 plat map



e0000474.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

Central Park Mall, ca. 1900



Central Park Mall, looking west, 2009.



Central Park Mall, looking west, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Charlotte Cemetery Ira Jacobson Cemetery	Location Description:	Charlotte Cemetery fronts River Street, with parking lot to the north and commercial development to the south. Ira Jacobson Cemetery sits slightly northeast, on north side of Ira Jacobson VFW Post.
Location:	58 River Street		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone:18T E/N:287485,4791238 (Charlotte) UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone:18T E/N:287599,4791217 (Ira Jacob.)		
Tax ID:	061.210-0001-024.000 (Charlotte) 061.220-0001-006.000 (Ira Jacob.)		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space, both parcels)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Early Cemetery
Size:	0.83 Acres (Charlotte), 0.53 Acres (Ira Jacobson)
Dimensions:	197' x 183' (Charlotte), 132' x 213' (Ira Jacobson)
Topographic Description:	Sloping toward river street, slight rolling at wooded edges and back towards Genesee River
Date of Construction:	Ca. 1810
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

The Charlotte / Ira Jacobsen Cemetery site consists of two distinct cemetery sites adjacent to one another.

The Charlotte Cemetery fronts River Street and includes a small decorative iron fence that runs along the River Street sidewalk. The cemetery includes a significant number of headstones and other grave markers, with varied sizes, scattered through the site. Several plot areas include ornate historic iron fencing around the grave marker or family plots. Vegetation within the Charlotte Cemetery site includes lawn ground cover and various large deciduous trees scattered around the site. Minor perennials are located near some grave sites and natural growth of woody shrubs species are at the rear boundary. A formal row of white birch trees runs along the River Street frontage and is a significant design element within cemetery.

The Ira Jacobson Cemetery site is located directly northeast of Charlotte Cemetery, to the north of the Ira Jacobson VFW post. By comparison, Ira Jacobson Cemetery lacks formal rows of headstones and grave markers. Relatively few grave markers are located within the site and are clustered in the north and northeast portions. Vegetation is similar to the Charlotte Cemetery site, with various large deciduous shade trees spread throughout the site. Some grave markers are located within a portion of

the cemetery that has no ground cover, consisting of a wooded and compacted soil ground plane. The site is adjacent to the Genesee River gorge, which slopes steeply down from the eastern site boundary.

LAND USE HISTORY

Charlotte Cemetery was one of the earliest cemeteries established in Rochester, created as the final resting place for the settlers of the village of Charlotte at the mouth of the Genesee River, established in the 1790s.

The earliest graves in the cemetery, appearing in lists of burials as dating to the 1810s, are in the portion closer to River Street. Many of those buried in the cemetery were members of the Latta family, which was an important pioneer family in the Charlotte area. The most famous person buried there was Sam Patch, the nationally known daredevil who died leaping over the High Falls of the Genesee River on November 13, 1829. His body was recovered in the river near Charlotte the following spring and buried here. The headstone dates to the mid-20th century.

In 1888, the Charlotte Cemetery Association was formed “for the purpose of procuring and holding lands to be used exclusively for a cemetery or place for the burial of the dead.” The association immediately acquired a five-acre parcel that had been offered by Benjamin Davis of Charlotte to the northeast of the existing cemetery. This land was deeded to the cemetery association on September 1, 1888 for \$2,000.

An online inventory of gravesites lists 271 interments in the two sections of the cemetery.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Charlotte Cemetery / Ira Jacobson Cemetery appears to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register as one of the city’s early pioneer cemeteries.

Having become part of the city park system due to a state law requiring the municipality to assume maintenance responsibility for otherwise unmaintained burial grounds, Charlotte Cemetery / Ira Jacobson Cemetery does not fall within the parameters of the Multiple Property Documentation Form guidelines for the Municipal Park System of Rochester, NY.

Instead, the cemetery must be evaluated in accordance with the guidelines established in National Register Bulletin 41, “Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places.” The cemetery appears to be eligible under National Register Criterion A, as a very early pioneer cemetery associated with the first European settlers of what became the village of Charlotte. Cemeteries eligible under Criterion A must also meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration D: “A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.” According to Bulletin 41, a cemetery that derives its importance from associations with a community’s early period of significance, or reflects important aspects of community history, can meet this criteria consideration. To qualify for its age, the cemetery must date from an early period within its geographic and cultural context, which, dating from the very early days of European settlement in the Rochester area, the Charlotte Cemetery/Ira Jacobson Cemetery does.

The presence of the grave of Sam Patch is also of historical interest, although according to National Register guidelines, “a birthplace or grave of a historical figure is eligible if the person is of outstanding importance and if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life.” More research would be needed to determine whether the cemetery’s association with Sam Patch meets these guidelines.

The cemetery merits further research and nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, restoration of gravestones and iron fencing is recommended.

SITE CONDITION

The Charlotte Cemetery site is in generally good condition. A few of the grave markers have been broken or damaged and tipped over, yet the majority of the grave sites are intact. The iron fencing at the River Street boundary is contemporary and is in good condition. Ornate iron fencing that runs through the cemetery and surrounds some plots is somewhat rusted, but is generally intact and is a noteworthy feature of the cemetery.

The Ira Jacobson Cemetery site has very few intact gravestones and it is unknown whether a considerable amount of the grave markers are missing. Some existing grave markers have fallen off foundations or are broken. Existing large shade trees with shallow root structures have made it difficult for lawn ground cover to grow in some areas. These areas have grave markers sitting on bare soil. The wooded edge near the river gorge has a considerable amount of forest ground cover and tree debris. Household trash and other waste is scattered through the forest floor on the hillside.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Land uses near the cemetery sites vary. Adjacent to River Street, near the intersection with Lake Avenue, are a handful of neighborhood level commercial uses mixed with residential homes. A fire station is located across River Street. The Ira Jacobson VFW Post is located east of Charlotte Cemetery and south of Ira Jacobson cemetery. Between the two cemeteries is a parking lot associated with the multifamily residential tower to the north. Industrial activity related to boat repair and storage is located to the east of the cemetery sites, down near the Genesee River banks. However, the steep wooded river edge between the cemeteries and the riverside industrial use is effectively screened by forest cover and topography.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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Charlotte Neighborhood Association. Timeline of Charlotte History. Accessed online at <http://www.charlottecca.org/history.html>, 8 November 2009.

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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

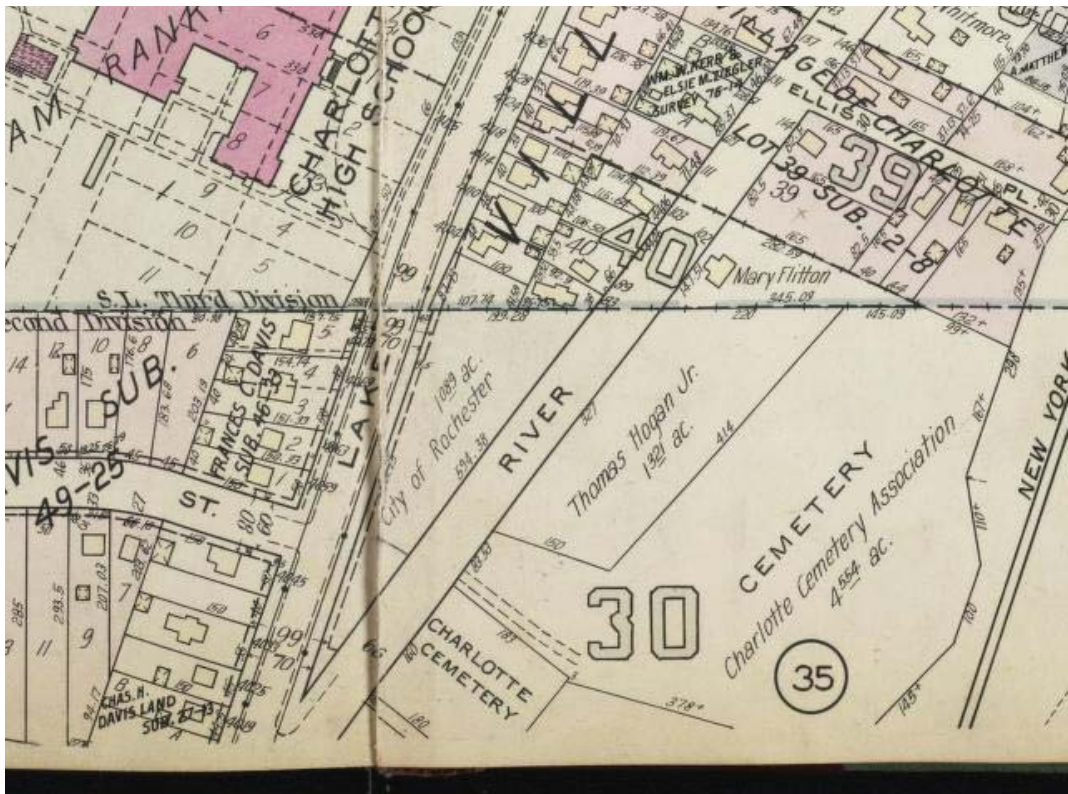
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Charlotte Cemetery (left)/Ira Jacobson Cemetery (right), aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Beers, F.W. (Frederick W.). Atlas of Monroe Co., New York. 1872.



1935 plat map.



Charlotte Cemetery, looking south, 2009.



Charlotte Cemetery, iron fencing detail, 2009.



Ira Jacobson Cemetery, looking west, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Cobbs Hill Park	Location Description:	
Location:	80 Culver Rd		Large park located on hill and surrounding lands, bounded by Culver to the west,
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:290715,4779553		Monroe Ave and Highland Ave to the south,
Tax ID:	122.700-0001-001.000 122.710-0001-001.000 (east parcel)		I-490 to the north, and residential properties fronting Cobbs Hill Drive to the east. Norris Dr is contained within the park.
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Reform Park
Size:	160 Acres (City parks database), 109 Acres (City park listing)
Dimensions:	Varies
Topographic Description:	Varies (Pinnacle range, steep topography, flat areas and water bodies)
Date of Construction:	1908
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Olmsted Brothers (reservoir area)
Current landmark designation status:	Local landmark designation in 1972 and 1974 appear to encompass most or all of the park

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Cobbs Hill Park is spatially divided into many different use areas. Separate vehicular entrances lead users inside of two distinct park areas, including the elevated Cobbs Hill Reservoir area and the lower recreation and play fields located around the north and western base of Cobbs Hill.

A wooded drive enters the park from Highland Avenue, heading northeast, up through a thick pine grove. This entrance leads to a one-way circular drive that continues around the Cobbs Hill Reservoir. On the north side of the reservoir is parking areas, waterworks infrastructure and radio towers. Several smaller passive recreational spaces are located along the loop road, including trails down into Washington Grove. On the western side, the loop road passes the historic waterworks structure (dated 1908), which overlooks a broad expanse of rolling lawn, continuing down to Monroe Avenue.

The park also includes a lower vehicular entry along Culver Road, known as Norris Drive. Norris Drive enters the park from the western low lands, and continues west past the lake Riley Lodge, various playfields, and an apartment complex that is wholly surrounded by park lands. Norris Drive then continues to the northeast, past park facilities and maintenance areas, the Monroe County Water Authority building, and School No. 1, before turning into Hillside Avenue. The lowland areas include designed horticultural show area and tennis courts along the western boundary.

Several buildings and structures are located throughout Cobbs Hill Park. The lower park area includes the Lake Riley Lodge, a depression-era building that is rentable to park user groups. Several baseball diamonds, tennis courts, basketball courts, and small parking areas are also clustered in this corner of the park. Apartment buildings located along the lower Norris Boulevard section of the park are privately owned. A second rentable lodge known as the Tay House is located up a short drive behind School No 1. Two large steel water tanks remain within the wooded boundary between the lower and upper Cobbs Hill park areas. It appears that these water tanks are no longer in use.

The upper plateau area of Cobbs Hill Park features prominent buildings related to the park's use as a municipal water supply. A historically noteworthy gatehouse is located at the western edge of the reservoir and remains a significant feature of the park. Below the gatehouse, along Monroe Avenue, are two pump house waterworks buildings.

Water features within Cobbs Hill Park include the Cobbs Hill Reservoir, which holds nearly 150,000,000 gallons of water, and Lake Riley, a pond located within the lower park which is approximately 450' in diameter.

Paving materials are varied throughout the park. Roadways and vehicular circulation routes are consistently asphalt paved. Cobbs Hill Reservoir also features an asphalt paved walking path around the reservoir's circumference. Other paved pedestrian pathways through the park are generally concrete. Stone curbing, approximately 18" in height, is featured around the interior of the upper reservoir loop road. The park also features cast-stone monuments, stone dust and gravel walking paths, and dirt trails. A cobble stone entry feature and landscape wall is located at the park's southwest corner, adjacent to a concrete walkway and bus stop. Cobble stone piers with ball-finials frame the entrance off Highland Avenue.

A significant variety of vegetation can be found within the Cobbs Hill Park area. Washington Grove features a large expanse of ecologically significant urban forest, with many native hardwood species such as oak, hickory, cherry, and even American Elm that have avoided Dutch Elm Disease. The grove also includes a considerable amount of invasive species, such as Norway maple. The entrance road leading to the park's reservoir features a large pine grove.

Other large deciduous shade trees are scattered throughout the park's open lawn areas, woody buffers, and general park lands. A horticultural noteworthy area of ornamental plantings and original tree plantings, including several showy lilacs, is located on the western side of the lower park lands. Several planting beds are sporadically located near park features, including the corner bus drop off at Monroe Avenue and Highland Avenue and around some building foundations throughout the park.

The park includes several monuments, many of which are related to important structures, such as the reservoir and related buildings. The reservoir is surrounded by a +/- 6' high decorative iron fence. Globe-style light fixtures mounted upon arching wrought iron poles line the fence that surrounds Cobbs Hill Reservoir. Other globe-style fixtures are located on top of cast concrete pillars at the reservoir gatehouse, framing the view towards the architecturally important structure. Period harp-style lighting fixtures mounted on +/- 14' cast concrete poles line the Highland Avenue entry area, which also includes

several cobble monument walls and signage. Wooden bollards line many of the park's drives, including the majority of the loop road around the reservoir. The park also includes several memorial monuments at the base of several trees.

The park's primary circulation routes consist of the two vehicular roadways, accessing the distinctive upper and lower portions of the overall park. Norris Boulevard connects from Culver Road on the west, and extends through the park, towards the east, accessing most of the parks recreational features. The other main circulation route is the entry off Highland Avenue and the loop road around the park's plateau and reservoir. Several hiking trails and pedestrian pathways connect the park's features, including trails through Washington Grove, which link the lower and upper portions of the park. The park can also be accessed by the roads and neighborhoods bounding it, most notably Monroe Avenue, Culver Road, and Highland Avenue. The park is also accessible from Nunda Boulevard Parkway on the eastern side of Washington Grove.

LAND USE HISTORY

Cobb's Hill Park was developed around a new city reservoir in a former quarry. The park was located in the southeast quadrant of the city on a prominent glacial hill. In 1908, the same year that the city began construction of the 144-million gallon reservoir, George Eastman donated 15 acres of land around the reservoir for the creation of a public park. Local residents donated money for the purchase of an adjacent forested area, now known as Washington Grove, and the city purchased additional land, for a total of 61.5 acres. The park was located just south of the Erie Canal and the eastern widewaters, a broader section of the canal. (This was one of four basins in the Rochester area created in the 19th century when the canal was straightened, creating a more efficient route; widewaters occurred "where the old canal weaved in and out of the straighter enlarged canal alignment." (Grasso and Rosenberg-Naparsteck, 8.))

The primary intention behind the creation of the park was to provide an opportunity to view the city and region from atop the prominent hill. Plans created by the Olmsted Brothers for the reservoir area guided the plantings, grading, circulation system, and location of small buildings. Additional facilities in keeping with park Reform Park trends soon followed, including tennis courts, a winter skating shelter, and ball fields.

The park was expanded in 1922 after the creation of the Barge Canal system moved the canal's route south of the city, making extensive amounts of land available for other uses; the city purchased the old right-of-way near the park as well as the eastern widewaters, which now resembled a small pond. The right-of-way continued to be used as a transportation corridor, carrying the city's short-lived subway and then the Eastern Expressway (Interstate Route 490), and the widewaters (renamed Lake Riley) and surrounding area became part of Cobb's Hill Park.

During the Great Depression, relief programs sponsored construction of an observation tower and refectory, Norris Road, new plantings, and changes to Lake Riley. During World War II, German and Italian prisoners were housed in a POW camp in the park; the barracks were converted to public housing for senior citizens after the war, and additional housing units were constructed.

When I-490 was built in the 1950s, some of the fill was used to reduce the size of Lake Riley.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Cobbs Hill Park appears to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register as an example of a Large Reform Park, as defined in the Multiple Property Document for the Municipal Park System of Rochester. It is significant under Criterion A for its association with social and political movements and the development of the city of Rochester in the early twentieth century, and under Criterion C, as an example of a new era in park planning and design. Features associated with the Olmsted firm, specifically the waterworks and surrounding landscape, are also significant as the work of an accomplished landscape architecture firm; features associated with Depression-era relief programs are also potentially significant for their association with this notable period in park development. This is in accord with the findings of the 1993-94 Cultural Landscape Preservation Assessment for the Communications Center and Signal Tower at Cobbs Hill Park, which identified two periods of significance for the park: 1907-1910 and 1931-35.

Documentation regarding the site's listing as a local landmark is somewhat confusing, but it appears that the majority of the park was included within two landmark designations, approved in 1972 and 1974. The first focused on the structures related to the waterworks, with the surrounding landscape as the associated site encompassed within the designation. The second designated the northern portion of the park, including Lake Riley, bounded by I-490, Culver Road, and Norris Drive.

The two landmark designations extend local protection to most or all of the park, but were focused on the significance of individual elements (the waterworks structures, as historic structures associated with the Olmsted firm, and Lake Riley, as a remnant of the Erie Canal) rather than the park as a whole.

While most or all of the park is recognized and protected by local landmark designation, Cobbs Hill Park merits more detailed study as a landscape, and appears worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

SITE CONDITION

The overall condition of Cobbs Hill Park is generally good, with various site features, plantings, and other elements all exhibiting well maintained character. Some areas near Lake Riley are in need of aesthetic improvements, including the pond and park area surrounding the pond.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Cobbs Hill Park is located on lands at the crossroads between several neighborhoods. The park is a known landmark through the City's skyline due to the elevation of the park's hill area, which is part of the Pinnacle Hill range and visible from many areas throughout Rochester. The Upper Monroe neighborhood is located directly west of the park, and the 12-corners area of Brighton (along the Rochester boundary) is located south of the park. Residential neighborhoods generally surround the park and the I-490 expressway bounds the northern side. The park setting varies between thickly wooded groves, open grassy meadows, man-made ponds and reservoirs, and sports fields.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Landmark Nomination Forms for Cobbs Hill Park (approved March 6, 1972) and for the northern portion of Cobbs Hill Park (approved September 16, 1974).

Landscapes (Patricia M. O'Donnell, ASLA, Principal). *Communications Center & Signal Tower, Cobbs Hill Park, Rochester, New York: Cultural Landscape Preservation Assessment*. 1993-94.

Lehr, Terry. "Not in Our Back Yard: POW Encampment at Cobbs Hill." *Rochester History* Vol. LVI, No. 3 (Summer 1994).

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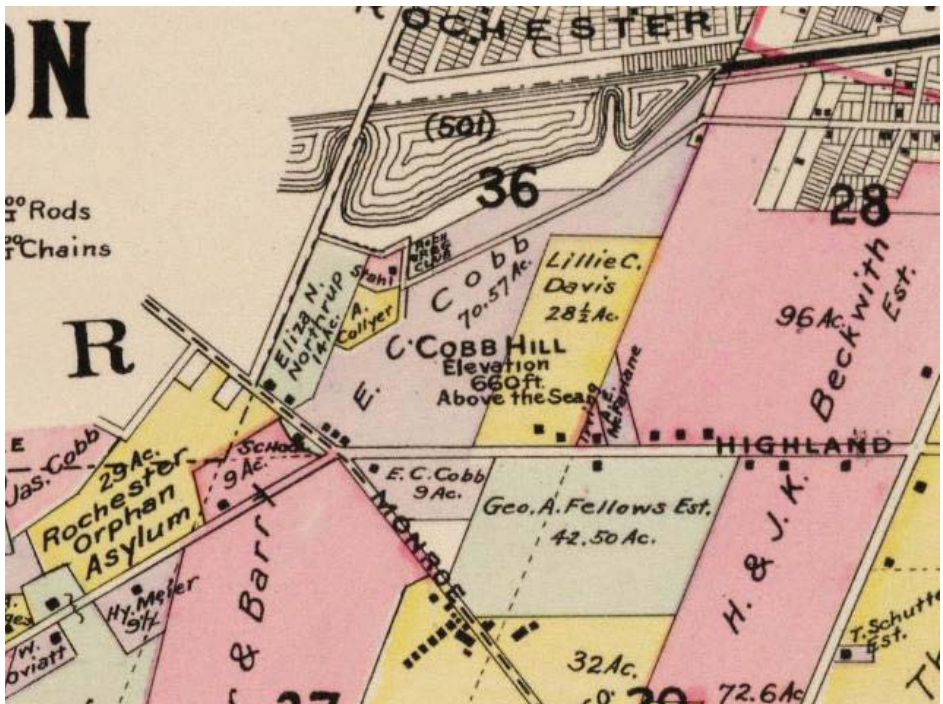
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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Cobbs Hill Park, aerial photo. (internal boundary is private multi-family residential)
(Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



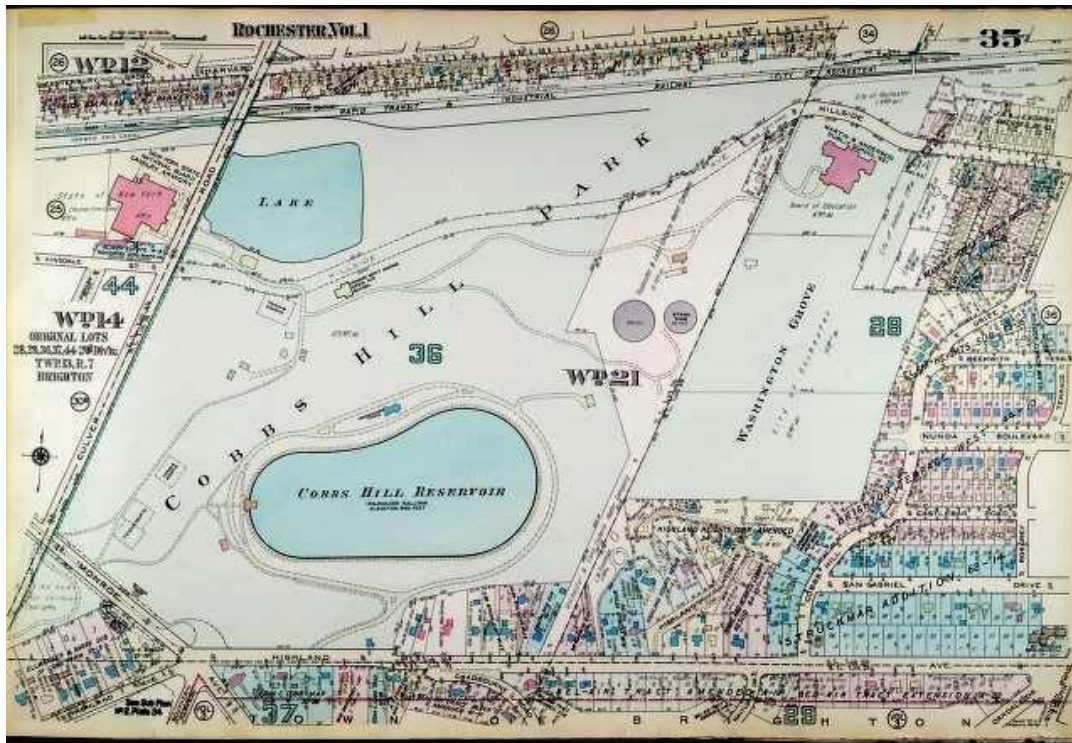
The site of Cobb's Hill Park, seen on the 1902 county plat map.



1910 plat map



1918 plat map; note purchase of Washington Grove property



1935 plat map



rpc1461a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Cobb's Hill Gatehouse, Early 20th-century postcard



rpc1462a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Cobb's Hill Park, early 20th-century postcard



rpf00757.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

View of Eastern Widewaters from Cobb's Hill, ca. 1920s



Cobbs Hill Park, reservoir fence and loop road, 2009.



Cobbs Hill Park, view from gatehouse west towards Pinnacle Hill, 2009.



Cobbs Hill Park, pump house buildings near Monroe Avenue, 2009.



Cobbs Hill Park, contemporary cobble wall feature near Monroe and Highland, 2009.



Cobbs Hill Park, Washington Grove, 2009.



Cobbs Hill Park, Lake Riley, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Congress Avenue Cemetery, Rapids Cemetery	Location Description:	North Side of Congress Avenue, midway between Custer Street and Genesee Street.
Location:	84 Congress Ave		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:285319,4778570		
Tax ID:	135.420-0001-088.000		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Early Cemetery
Size:	1.28 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 285' x 200'
Topographic Description:	Flat, slightly rolling grounds, sloped up from Congress Avenue
Date of Construction:	Ca. 1810
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Congress Avenue Cemetery is a small cemetery located parallel to Congress Avenue. The site includes several scattered grave markers and headstones. The site is slightly higher in elevation than the surrounding streets and residential properties, sloping up from the Congress Avenue sidewalk. Remnants of an entry feature or entry stairway, featuring four stone posts, is centered along the site adjacent to the sidewalk. The 6" x 6" posts were likely related to a stairway or other fence-type feature that no longer exists and include bored holes on the interior sides.

The remainder of the cemetery is generally lawn area and includes very few visible vertical grave makers, many of which are broken or fallen from the foundations. No shade trees or other vegetation is located within the interior of the cemetery. A wooded perimeter along the rear (north) boundary buffers the cemetery from the rear of residential properties.

LAND USE HISTORY

Congress Avenue Cemetery, originally Rapids Cemetery, is one of the oldest pioneer cemeteries in Rochester. It was established circa 1810 by James Wadsworth, who owned vast landholdings stretching from Rochester to Geneseo.

In 1800, Wadsworth built a tavern and store at the Rapids, where the river sped up and went around a bend; in this location settlers forded the river. The settlement, known as Castletown, grew in the first

two decades of the 19th century, but was eclipsed by Rochesterville when the Erie Canal was constructed. Rapids Cemetery was the burial place for the settlers of Castletown.

Once Castletown lost its transportation function as a river crossing, it stagnated, with little development until the construction of the Elmwood Avenue bridge in 1888. The new accessibility of the area resulted in subdivision into residential lots. In 1902 the area was annexed by the city of Rochester.

The cemetery was tended by the Rapids Cemetery Association from 1881 until the 1950s. In the absence of a cemetery association, the cemetery came under the purview of the city parks department.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Congress Avenue Cemetery appears to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register as one of the city of Rochester's earliest pioneer cemeteries and as one of the only remnants of the pioneer settlement of Castletown.

As a pioneer cemetery that became part of the city park system due to a state law requiring the municipality to assume maintenance responsibility for otherwise unmaintained burial grounds, Congress Avenue Cemetery does not fall within the parameters of the Multiple Property Documentation Form guidelines for the Municipal Park System of Rochester, NY.

Instead, the cemetery must be evaluated in accordance with the guidelines established in National Register Bulletin 41, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places." The cemetery appears to be eligible under National Register Criterion A, as a very early pioneer cemetery associated with the early settlement of Castletown and perhaps the only remaining vestige of that community. Cemeteries eligible under Criterion A must also meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration D: "A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events." According to Bulletin 41, a cemetery that derives its importance from associations with a community's early period of significance, or reflects important aspects of community history, can meet this criteria consideration. To qualify for its age, the cemetery must date from an early period within its geographic and cultural context, which, dating from the very early days of European settlement in the Rochester area, the Congress Avenue Cemetery does.

More detailed documentation of the cemetery, with the goal of restoring damaged and/or missing features and listing it in the National Register of Historic Places, is recommended.

SITE CONDITION

Congress Avenue Cemetery is generally in poor condition, with very few intact features. A considerable portion of the site is simply lawn ground cover and many of the grave markers are overturned, broken, or otherwise disfigured. Four stone posts are all that remains of what seems to be a former entry feature.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The existing neighborhood context is wholly residential in character, consisting of single and multifamily residential homes. Some light commercial uses exist to the east, along Genesee Street. The surrounding neighborhood street grid is fully intact, though some vacancy is evident along nearby streets.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Atlas of Monroe Co., New York: From actual surveys by and under the direction of F.W. Beers. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1872.

Rosenberg-Naparsteck, Ruth. "At the Rapids on the Genesee: Settlement at Castletown." *Rochester History* Vol. LIV, No. 3 (Summer 1992).

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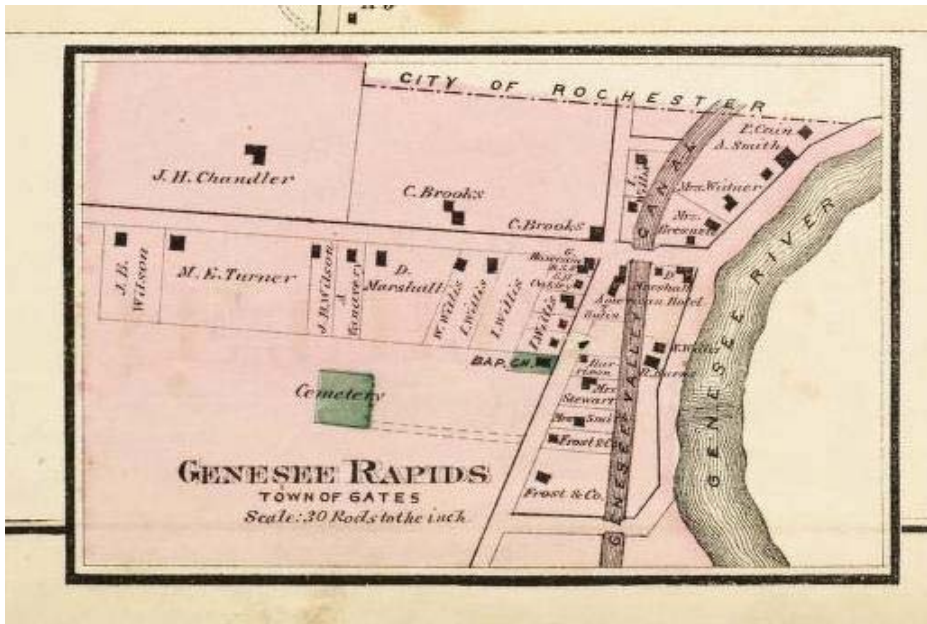
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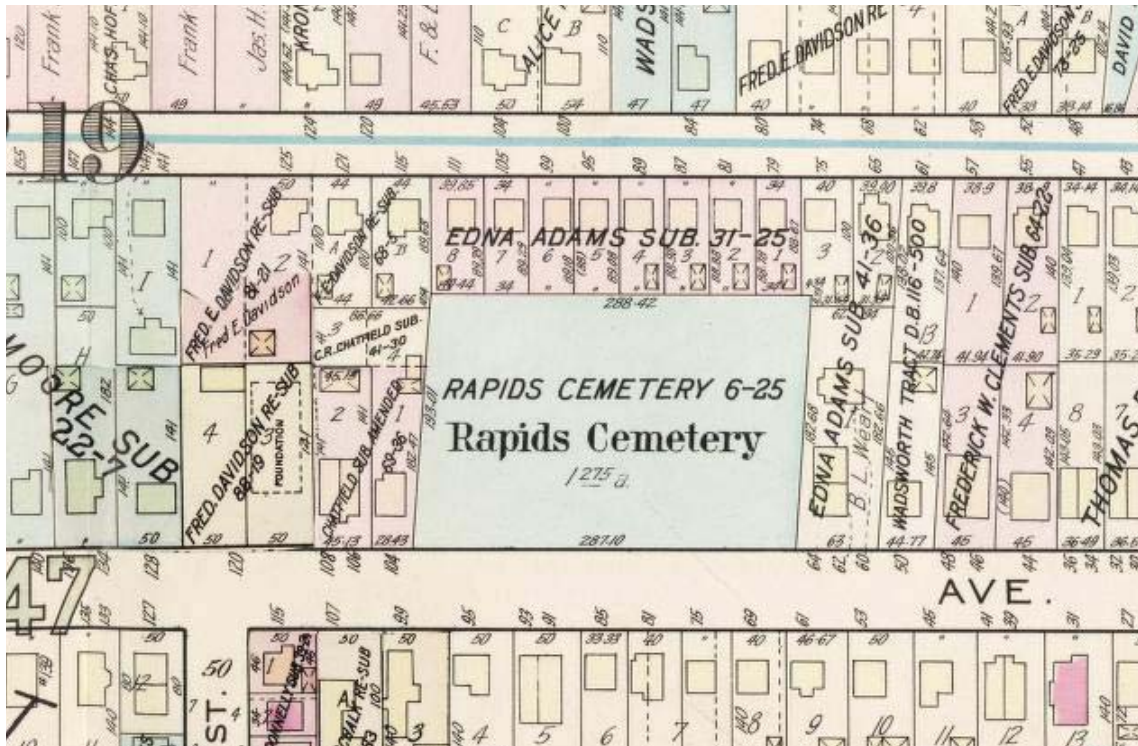
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Congress Avenue Cemetery, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1872 Atlas of Monroe County



1935 plat map



Congress Avenue Cemetery, looking northeast, 2009.



Congress Avenue Cemetery, stone posts, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Danforth/Lynchford Park Danforth Community Center Lynchford Park	Location Description:	Two parcels: Danforth Recreation Center is bounded by West Ave on the south and Ames St on the west, with residential properties and Lynchford Park to the north, and residential towers to the east.
Location:	200 West Avenue (Danforth CC) 175 Danforth St (Lynchford Park)		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone:18T E/N:285078,4780964 (Danforth) UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone:18T E/N:285132,4781024 (Lynchford)		
Tax ID:	120.410-0001-061.000 (Danforth) 120.410-0001-044.000 (Lynchford)		
Existing Zoning:	Danforth: O-S (Open Space) Lynchford: R-1 (Low Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Recreation Park
Size:	4.543 Acres (Danforth), 0.349 Acres (Lynchford Park)
Dimensions:	+/- 500' x 435' (Danforth), +/- 146'x112' (Lynchford)
Topographic Description:	Flat, some depression area, slightly raised at Lynchford
Date of Construction:	1848 (Danforth house constructed) 1930 (Lynchford dedicated) 1956-57 Community Center addition constructed
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Danforth/Lynchford Park includes the grounds associated with the Danforth Community Center and a small pocket park between Lynchford Park A and Lynchford Park B, known as Lynchford Park. The sites are contiguous and are spatially and visually part of the same landscape.

The Danforth area includes the historic house and contemporary community center addition, with a parking lot directly to the west. The front area of the Danforth house features slightly rolling topography, with small grass mounds and naturalistic berming. Several large deciduous and evergreen trees are located within the mounded lawn portion. An asphalt drive links the main western parking lot and a smaller front parking area located directly in front of the Danforth house. East of this lot is a narrow drive that curves southeast out to West Avenue. A small sitting area is located between West Avenue and the front parking lot. The sitting area features contemporary wood-salt benches with ornamental crabapple trees adjacent. A narrow asphalt pathway links the small front parking lot to the sidewalk along West Avenue.

At the rear of the community center is a large play-field area. A large rectangle-shaped portion of the play field has been graded lower than the surrounding land and may have been used as a ice skating area due to the size. A small garden and sitting area with benches is located behind (north) the community center addition and may be used by residents of the residential tower adjacent to the site. A baseball diamond backstop is located at the northeast corner of the play field, but shows no side of use. The ground plane near the backstop has been graded lower, creating an uneven playing field.

Lynchford Park is located directly north of the Danforth play field, between two short stub streets (Lynchford Park A and B). Lynchford Park does not contain any structures, historic features of other infrastructure. Several very large shade trees are located within the park site and the remnants of a shrub row run the boundary line between Lynchford Park and the Danforth play fields. Medina stone curbing lines the park and adjacent residential properties.

LAND USE HISTORY

The land that is now Danforth/Lynchford Park was part of the 19th-century estate of George Danforth. Mr. Danforth a local lawyer, built the house in 1848; from 1879 to 1889 he served as Associate Judge for the Court of Appeals in New York State. The land upon which Mr. Danforth built his house was at that time in the town of Gates, until that section of Gates was annexed by the city in 1874. The house remained in the ownership of Danforth's children and grandchildren until the 1940s, when it was deeded to the City of Rochester. The city opened a recreation center here in 1951, providing activities for seniors.

The 1958 *Plan for Public Recreation* described the site as follows:

The increasing recreation needs of senior citizens has [*sic*] become an important factor in planning for adult recreation. It is estimated that by 1962, 47,000 people residing in Rochester will be sixty-five years of age or older. At present the Danforth Recreation Center, under the direction of the City Recreation Division, offers a variety of activities for all city residents over sixty-five years of age. Opened in 1951, the center now has a registration of 1,013 members and, during the last year, had an attendance of over 22,000. The Danforth Center includes such facilities as game, craft and lounge rooms, an auditorium and a kitchen. Programs include concerts, dramatics, lectures, dancing, outdoor excursions, croquet, horseshoes, gardening, picnicking and numerous special events such as holiday celebrations, card parties, pie socials, etc. The members actively participate in planning their own recreation programs and have their own orchestra and monthly newspaper.

The popularity of the Danforth program has pointed up the need for similar programs to be developed in other sections of the city. (*Plan for Public Recreation*, 91.)

The activities described do not suggest that any extensive or formal alterations to the landscape were made to accommodate its new use as a senior center. According to Jim Farr at the City of Rochester, there was a skating area at one point; this topography is still visible.

The house was described on a Landmark Society architectural inventory form as “one of the few remaining local examples of Gothic Cottage type, popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing, which is a pure example of the American Gothic Revival style deriving its forms and details from the ecclesiastical architecture of the Gothic period in England during the Middle Ages.” The octagonal tower roof, eave decorations and front porch were removed between 1945 and 1973, and a contemporary enclosed entrance porch was added to the south façade. This porch was subsequently removed, and a smaller open porch added. A brick addition was constructed in 1956-57 to accommodate its new use as a recreation center. In 1965 the City deeded the eastern portion of the site to the Rochester Housing Authority, and in 1967 Danforth Tower opened on that property.

Lynchford Park was formally deeded to the city in 1930, but was set aside earlier; it is seen between the short roads Lynchford Park A and Lynchford Park B on the 1918 plat map. All of the houses facing this small park were built by 1926.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

The Danforth House was identified in a Landmark Society survey as individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It appears that it still meets the criteria for National Register listing as a rare and mainly intact example of Gothic Revival architecture and as a rare surviving example of a mid-19th century estate on the west side of Rochester. More detailed investigation of the architectural integrity of the house should be pursued to determine whether it retains its eligibility, and if so, the house should be nominated for National Register and/or local landmark designation in order to recognize and protect this historic resource.

The subsequent development of the site as a recreation center for senior citizens is of historic interest, but the site does not appear to have been extensively developed in accordance with that use, nor does it retain substantial integrity to that period. Because the site is primarily significant due to the house rather than the park, the period of significance would encompass its ownership by the Danforth family, likely ending with its transfer to the city. Danforth/Lynchford Park, as a park, does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing.

SITE CONDITION

The overall site condition of both the Danforth area and Lynchford Park is satisfactory. The park has not been extensively landscaped and does not contain any significant historic features. The grounds appear to be maintained. The baseball diamond backstop is no longer used and is in poor condition. Several benches throughout the Danforth and Lynchford sites are in poor condition.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The existing neighborhood context of the Danforth and Lynchford Park site is highly varied. A small pocket of residential homes is located directly to the north, connected to a larger residential neighborhood just to the east. Industrial uses, including a major rail corridor, are located beyond the small residential pocket to the north. Additionally, a former industrial site is located across Ames St, to

the west. The site was a former factory that has since been removed and is now completely barren, featuring a massive expanse of asphalt and gravel only.

Two multifamily residential towers are located to the immediate east, on lands formerly associated with the Danforth house. Drive access onto West Avenue is shared by the Danforth Community Center and residential towers. Commercial and light industrial uses typically line the north side of West Avenue, while residential structures line the south.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Hecker, Amy. "George Danforth House," *Historic American Buildings Survey* documentation, 1973.

Landmark Society vertical files and survey files.

Plan for Public Recreation, Rochester, New York. Report of the Recreation Advisory Committee, July 1958.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



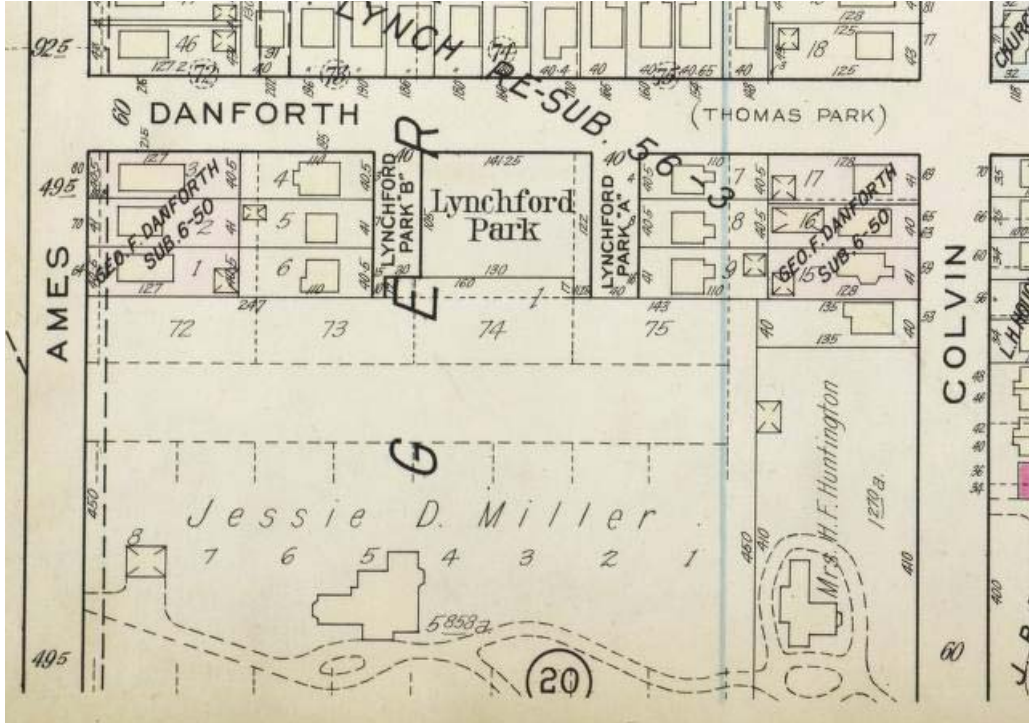
Danforth (bottom) / Lynchford (top) Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1875 plat map



1910 plat map



Danforth House and Lynchford Park plat map, 1935



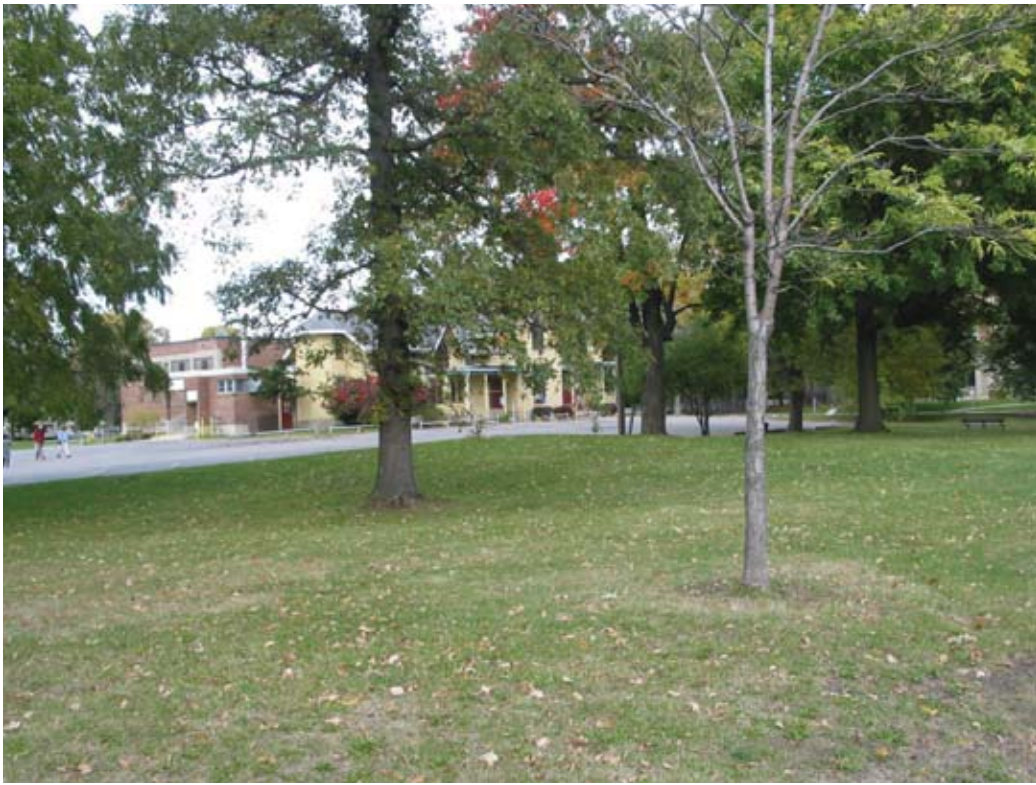
rpf01235.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Danforth House, circa 1939



m0000464.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

Danforth House / community center, from West Ave, 1952



Danforth Community Center looking northeast from West Ave, 2009.



Danforth Community Center, former Danforth house, 2009.



Danforth play fields, looking east, 2009.



Lynchford Park, looking southeast from the corner of Lynchford Park A and Danforth St, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Exchange Playground	Location Description:
Location:	719-775 Exchange St	Bounded on the southeast by Exchange St, with a linear park area, extending northward and fronting the intersection of Plymouth and Ford St.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:287116,4779893	
Tax ID:	121.620-0001-039.001	
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Playground
Size:	+/- 2.00 Acres
Dimensions:	Varies (+/- 90' wide x 400' long gully section + 200' x 300' triangle area)
Topographic Description:	Slightly rolling topography with small gully area along trail
Date of Construction:	Unknown; likely 1960s (related to former apartments now torn down on SW side?)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Exchange Playground consists of a small triangle-shaped pocket park fronting Exchange Street, with a shallow gully section and curvilinear pathway extending northwest to the round-about intersection at Plymouth Avenue and Ford Street. The main portion of the park area fronts Exchange St and includes a small playground with contemporary play equipment, path system, lighting, grove of trees and retaining wall. An asphalt curvilinear path system connects from the Exchange Street sidewalk past the small playground area, and links to a small looping path. The looped pathway slopes down in grade and extends around a grove of trees. Within the tree grove is a retaining wall, likely delineating the routing area of the former Genesee Canal and subsequently a railroad line, which ran through the site from northwest to southeast. Though not seen from the street, a significant defining feature to the park is the linear retaining wall within the wooded grove.

A short connector path links south of the tree grove to a new infill housing development on the southwest. From the looped pathway, an asphalt path continue northwest through a narrow wooded portion of the playground park. This pathway opens up to a lawn area with a connector path to the back of the former fire station and residential tower. Within the open grass area, then path widens to a small asphalt plaza space with minor landscaped bed and two bench sitting areas. The asphalt path continues to the northwest, eventually linking to the Plymouth Avenue sidewalk approximately 25 meters south of the round-about.

Other site features include recycled plastic benches bordering the playground equipment, cobra-head style street lighting fixtures through the park and pathway, and a few planted shade trees and ornamental trees.

LAND USE HISTORY

Little documentation was found regarding the history of this playground. It encompasses a section of the former right-of-way of the Genesee Valley Canal, which was authorized in 1836 and opened in sections, starting with the portion from Rochester to Mount Morris in 1840. The canal only operated until 1878, and was subsequently sold for railroad use.

The 1875 plat map shows the canal near the end of its operation, while the 1888 plat map is the first to show the railroad. Subsequent plat maps all show the railroad running through this site, with a lumber yard adjacent to it to the north.

Additional research would be necessary to determine when the railroad right-of-way was transformed into a park. The site is not listed in the 1958 *Plan for Public Recreation* or shown as parkland on any of the maps in that document.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Exchange Playground does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register designation, as it has no visible historic features pertaining to its use as parkland. The site's potential historical significance as part of the Genesee Valley Canal/railroad line right-of-way should be explored in the larger context of that resource and may offer future opportunities for linkages to other canal-related resources; however, apart from the topography, there are no visible features related to that aspect of its history. As an element of the park system, it is not historically significant, as it has been a park for less than 50 years and lacks any historic park features.

SITE CONDITION

The overall site condition of Exchange Playground is satisfactory. The playground equipment at the east side of the park, fronting Exchange Street, is worn and needs updating. The majority of pathways are well maintained and clear. The sitting areas and overall infrastructure within the park is simple and no historic features are evident. Some weed trees and other invasive vegetation is growing at the periphery, adjacent to nearby buildings. The majority of the park is a pleasant winding pathway through open lawn and woody groves.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The contextual fabric of the neighborhood surrounding Exchange Playground has changed many times over the years. The playground is likely related to the development of a former urban renewal apartment complex immediately southwest of the park site, which has now been replaced with new duplex units that resemble the design character of older single family homes. Commercial industrial uses bound the northern periphery, and light industrial/commercial exists across Exchange Street, fronting the Genesee River.

Additional new infill development has been completed in conjunction with the realignment and reconstruction of the Plymouth Avenue and Ford Street Intersection. This new development is multifamily apartments and is located across Plymouth Avenue from the western park entrance. The park is underutilized and could be a significant asset to the infill housing and other redevelopment opportunities in the immediate area.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Plan for Public Recreation, Rochester, New York. Report of the Recreation Advisory Committee. July 1958.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

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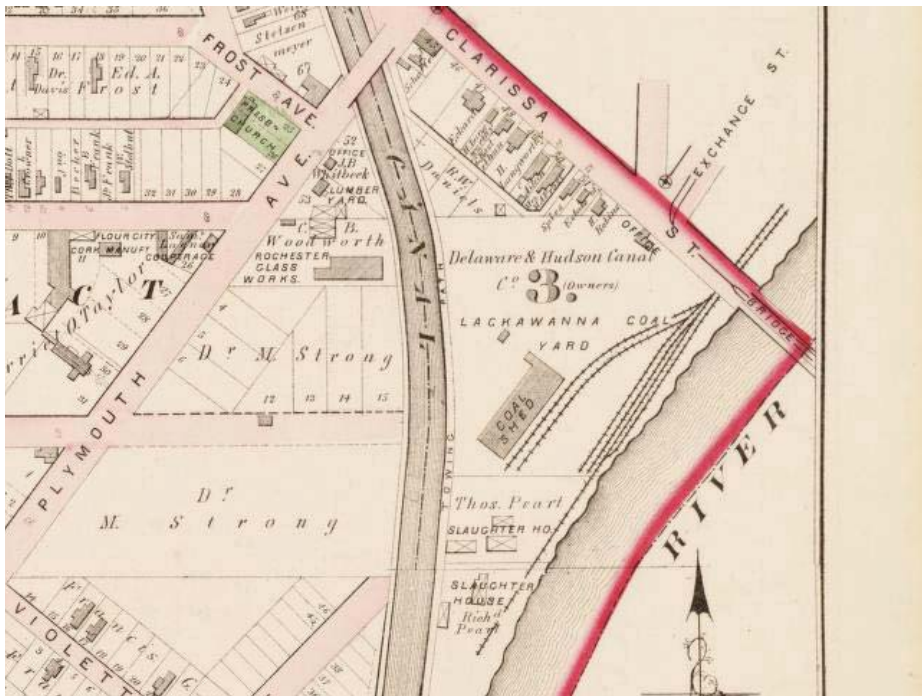
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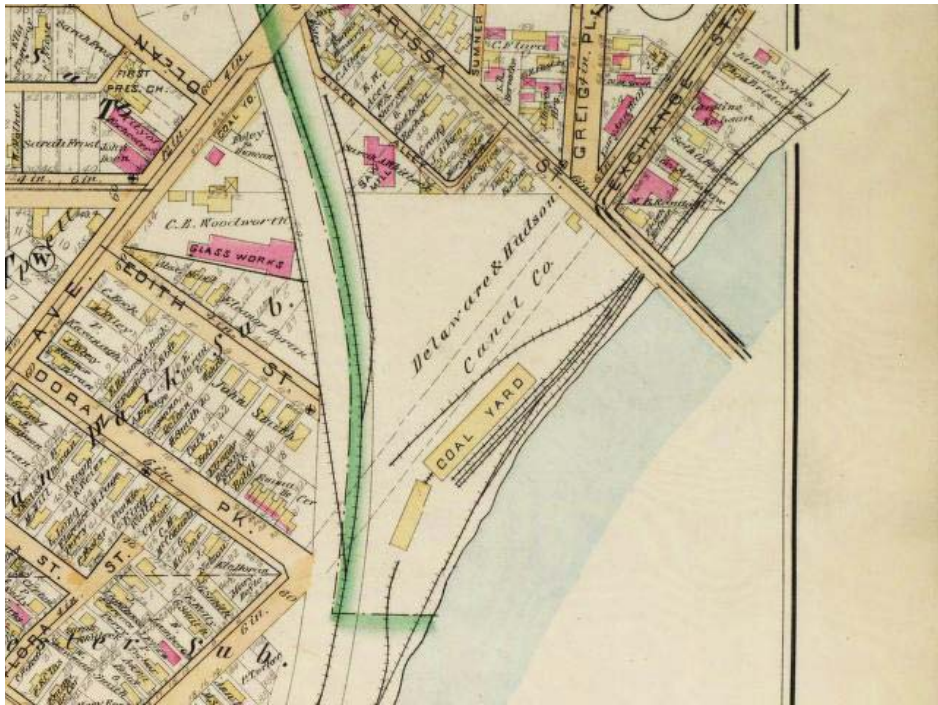
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



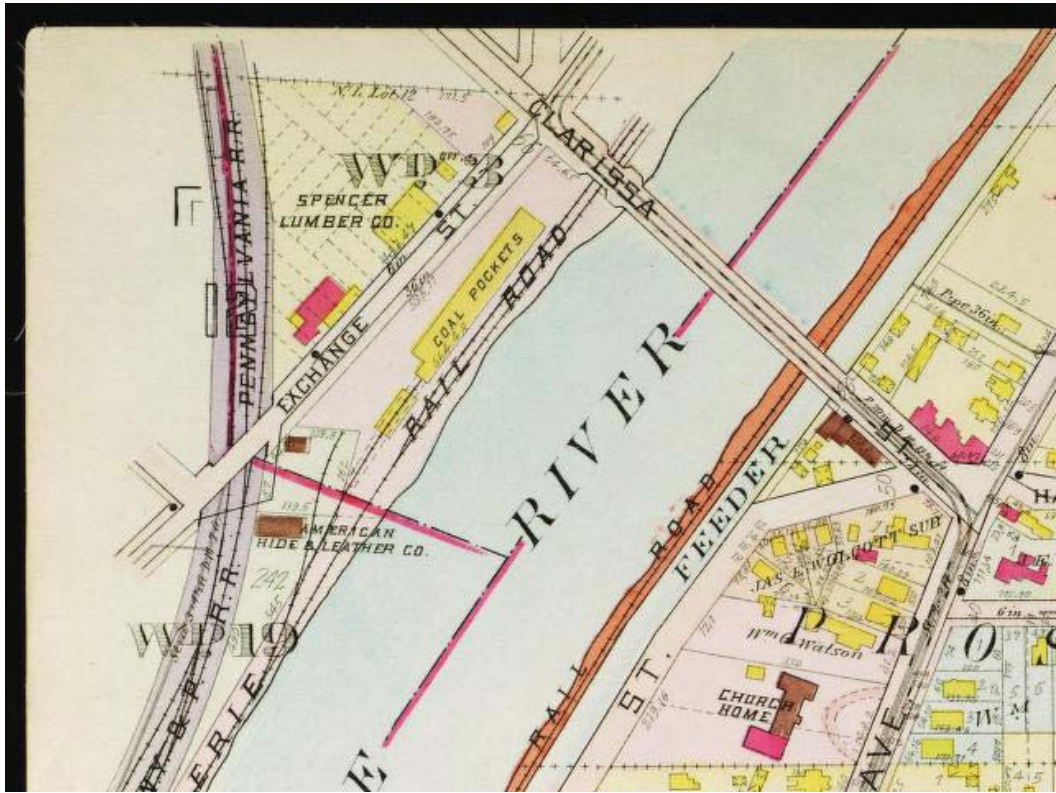
Exchange Playground, aerial photo, 2009.



1875 plat map



1888 plat map



1910 plat map



Exchange Playground, looking northwest from Exchange Street, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Festival Site High Falls Festival Site	Location Description:	Plaza area bounded by office use and High Falls to the east, RR tracks & Inner Loop to the south, with site vehicular entrance located at intersection of Browns race and Commercial St.
Location:	40 Commercial St (1) 42 Commercial St (2)		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:287447,4781975		
Tax ID:	Two parcels: 106.700-0001-008.012 (1) 106.700-0001-032.000 (2)		
Existing Zoning:	CCD (Center City District)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Urban / Cultural Park
Size:	Total Area: +/- 1.654 [1.333 Acres (1), 0.321 Acres (2)]
Dimensions:	+/- 206' x 274'
Topographic Description:	Flat, paved parking area, raised plaza area (stairs & ramp)
Date of Construction:	Transformed into public space 2000
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Bero Associates
Current landmark designation status:	In the locally designated Brown's Race Preservation District and the National Register-listed Brown's Race Historic District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

The High Falls Festival Site consist of a shared central parking area and plaza space, as well as several other small subspaces, including overlooks to the falls, seating areas, landscaped medians, and a structural canopy over former industrial building relics. The site's vehicular and pedestrian entry is located off the southern terminus of Brown's Race in the High Falls district. The entrey features decorative concrete pavers, granite curbing, and a contemporary steel / aluminum gate. South of the main entry gate is a small seating plaza with a built in concrete seat wall, and two wooden slat benches. A grassy planting island bounds a small parking area, facing the entry drive, with three columnar deciduous trees. Concrete paver sidewalks continue at the drive periphery, to the northeast towards a linear plaza overlooking the High Falls gorge.

The linear plaza space along the gorge includes young trees planted in decorative tree grates, surrounded by concrete pavers. Several small planting beds are scattered around the overlook plaza, with trees and shrubs. The linear walk continues east towards the river and existing building, where two sets of stairs line a accessible ramp leading to an upper plaza space.

The upper plaza space extends out to the edge of the river gorge's rock face. Wall remnants of a former historic industrial building line the upper plaza's periphery, with window casements intact along the

walls, allowing users to view out into the High falls gorge. The paving in the upper plaza consist of square concrete pavers, embed into a larger grid patterns of darker and lighter paver colors. A contemporary free standing elevator is located in this plaza, taking visitors down into offices built below the plaza level.

The northeast corner of the upper plaza features a large portico structure covering a cavernous hole, leading down through floors of a former industrial use, ultimately extending into the gorge's rock foundations. An opening in the gorge wall face links to the building remnants and cavern, where water from the river below flows and drips

South of the upper plaza is a 6-story rehabilitated office building, once an industrial use along the Genesee River and falls. Adjacent to the linear plaza and the 6-story building is the main festival site space, which, by day, functions as a parking area for office and other uses in the area.

Lighting and furnishings throughout the site include wooden slat benches on steel supports and contemporary trash receptacles and light fixtures. The light fixtures are similar to fixtures throughout the high falls district.

LAND USE HISTORY

The Festival Site was developed in 2000 on the site of part of the Gorsline Building, which was partially demolished with the remainder being rehabilitated. The Gorsline Building, originally T-shaped, was constructed in the 1880s as a shoe factory.

The Festival Site incorporates some remaining wall sections from the Gorsline Building as well as a pit that shows the race that once powered the building.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

The Festival Site is within the locally and National Register-designated Brown's Race Historic District/Preservation District. The district as a whole was nominated under National Register Criteria A, C, and D. Because the Festival Site was developed after the National Register documentation was completed, there is no mention of the park in the nomination; the Gorsline Building and some parts of the surrounding site were called out as contributing elements while other parts of the site were called noncontributing.

Park elements that developed in 2000 (i.e. the plaza) would now be considered noncontributing elements due to age; remnants of the Gorsline Building and archaeological elements, which contribute to the historical and archaeological significance of the Brown's Race district, would be classified as contributing sites and/or objects and should be preserved.

SITE CONDITION

The overall condition of the High Falls Festival Site is good. Most of the plaza spaces are predominately paved areas and concrete pavers appear to be in good condition. Pavers throughout the site have experiences some fading, but are overall intact. The site's historic infrastructure, including remnants

and relics related to the former industrial uses at the site, appears to be in good condition. Many walls surrounding the upper plaza space have been stabilized and reconstructed, and appear very well maintained. The upper plaza's covered cavern relic is decaying over time, with many layers of building materials and other rubble continuing to degrade. However, the display methodology features interpretive signage and a well maintained cover, which is purposefully displaying the entropic state of much of the historic infrastructure.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The current neighborhood context of the High Falls Festival Site would be considered mixed use. The surrounding district was conceived as a contemporary entertainment district. The area has been a directed redevelopment area for many years and appears to recently be increasing the number of residential units. Additional offices, art galleries, and both owner-occupied and rental residential units have increased the neighborhoods contextual diversity.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Landmark Society vertical files.

The Landmark Society of Western New York. "High Falls/Brown's Race Historic District Tour." Accessed online at <http://www.landmarksociety.org/tours/index.html?tourID=4>.

National Register nomination for the Brown's Race Historic District.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

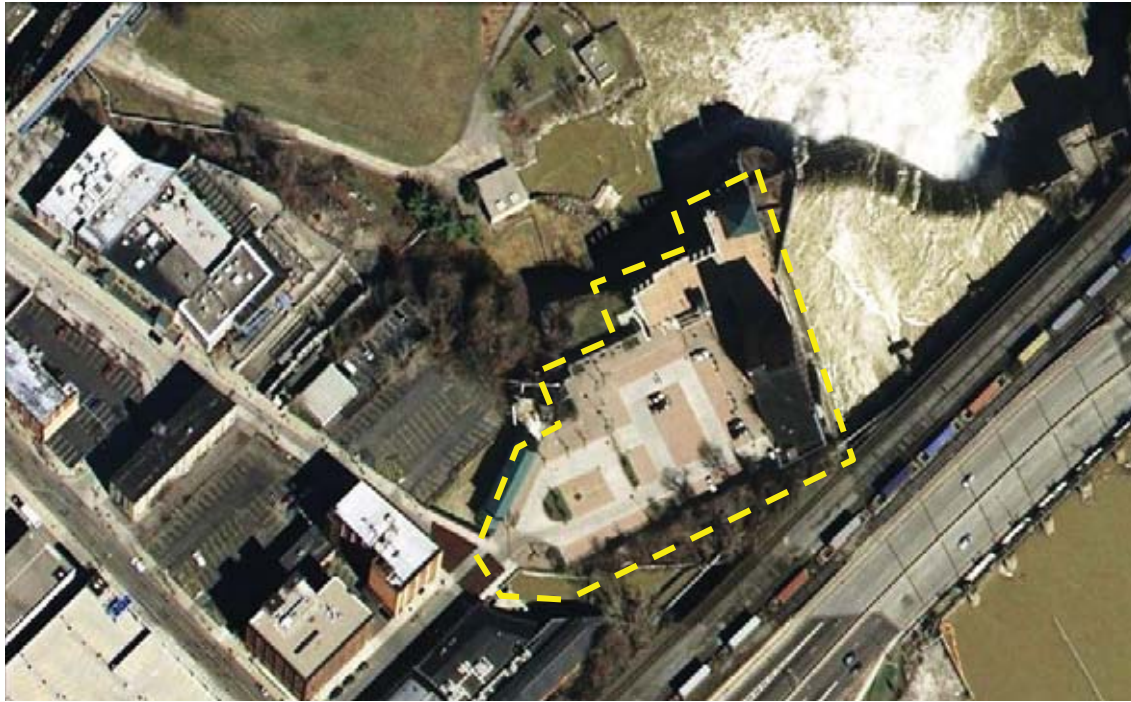
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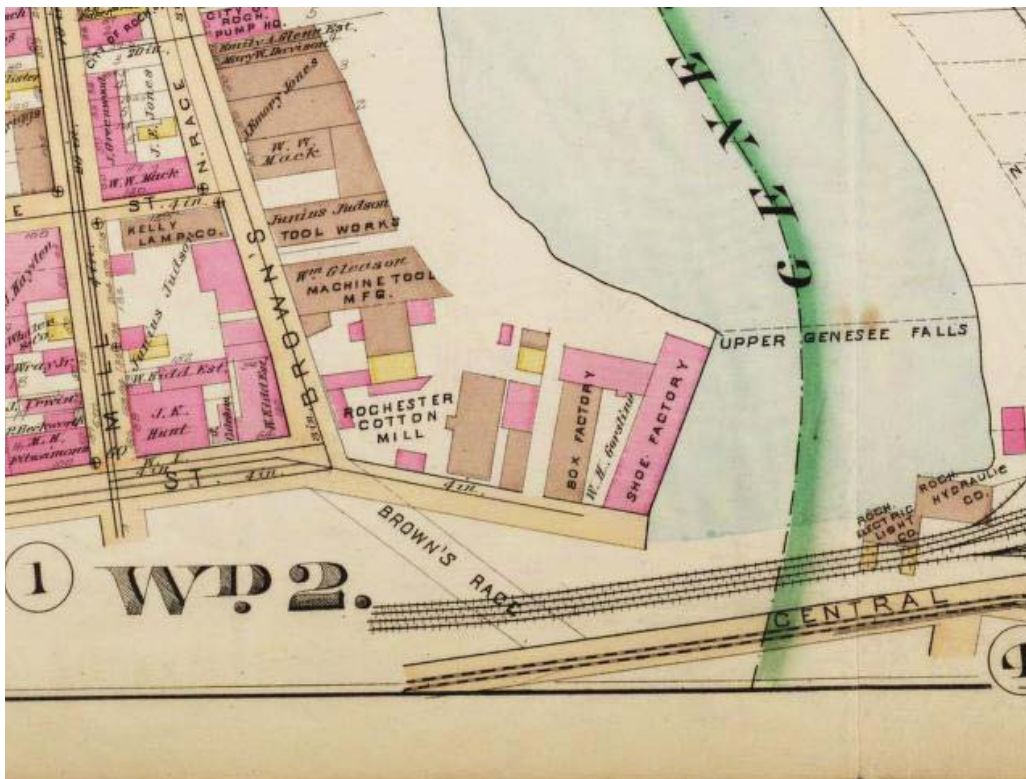
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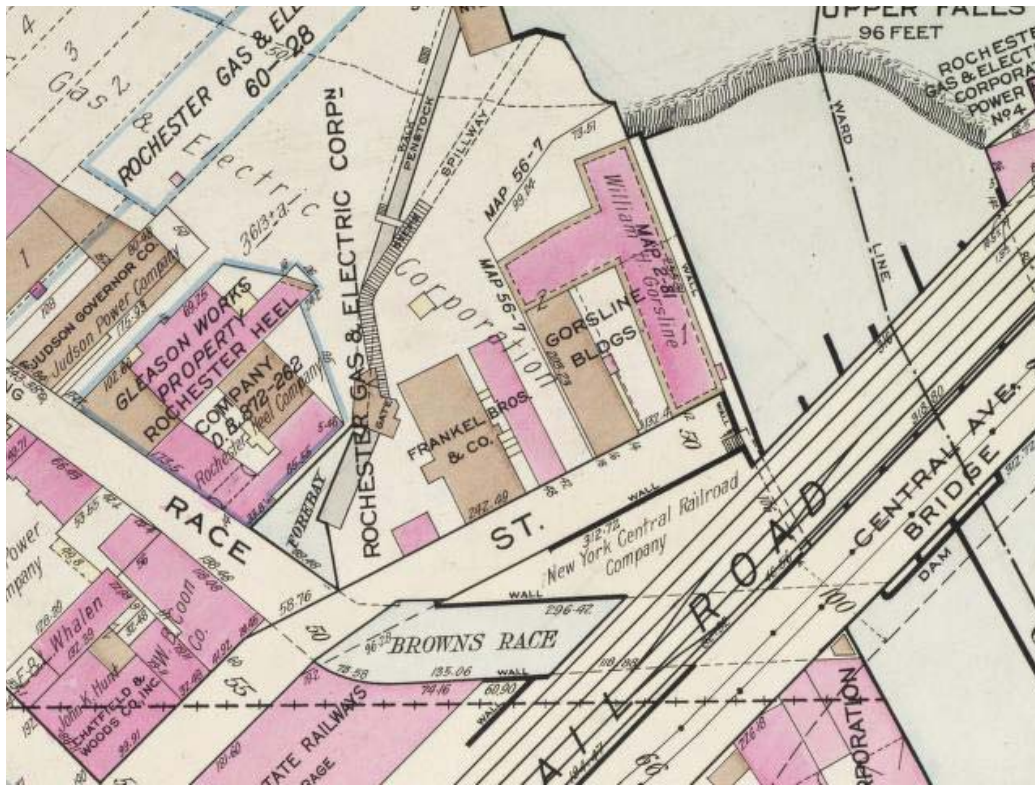
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



High Falls Festival Site, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1888 plat map. The Gorsline Building is marked "Shoe Factory" at the edge of the river.



1935 plat map



High Falls Festival Site, entry area, looking east towards into festival site, 2009.



High Falls Festival Site, linear plaza along river gorge, 2009.



High Falls Festival Site, structural canopy over industrial remnants, 2009.



High Falls Festival Site, remnants of former industrial building and mill, 2009.



High Falls Festival Site, industrial wall remnants, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Glendale Mall Glendale Park	Location Description:	Street mall run the length of Glendale Park, from Oriole St to Malvern Street, crossing Dewey Avenue.
Location:	Glendale Parkway		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:285607,4783740		
Tax ID:	N/A (Street R.O.W.)		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	1.5 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 10' x 2240' (includes cross streets and turn arounds)
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	Ca. 1890s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Glendale Mall consists of a narrow median running the full length of Glendale Park. The mall is narrower than many of comparable period within the Rochester area. The mall features medina stone curbing and various planted shade trees, perennials and annuals in sections. The curbed mall features many breaks for vehicular cross access to side streets and driveways.

LAND USE HISTORY

The street that is now Glendale Park appeared on the 1875 plat map as "Champion Street," part of a subdivision labeled Glenwood. There is no street mall indicated. The 1888 plat map shows the street as "Glenwood Park," but still without a street mall. The 1900 plat map is the first to show the mall, which extends from Maryland Street to Tacoma Street. By 1910, the mall extends the full length of the street.

The fact that the mall was installed after the street was laid out would explain why it is unusually narrow; most of Rochester's street malls were laid out when the streets were created. No historic photographs of the street were located in this investigation.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Glendale Mall does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing. Because of its origins as an enhancement to a private residential subdivision rather than as a public park feature, it is not individually eligible as a component of the park system. Despite some notable architecture, the surrounding neighborhood does not retain sufficient historic integrity to justify the creation of a historic

district in which the street mall could be a contributing feature. Although it is not eligible for the National Register either as an individual landscape or as a contributing feature in a district, the street mall is a pleasant amenity that has enhanced the streetscape for over 100 years, and should be maintained.

SITE CONDITION

The general condition of Glendale Mall appears to be satisfactory. Planted trees and perennials along the median are in generally good care. However, the lawn ground cover appears to be bare in many places, likely due to the narrowness of the median and some trees with shallow root structures. A significant amount of trash had collected on the median along a selected few segments.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The general neighborhood context of the Glendale Park street mall would be single family residential homes. A few former residential parcels have been affected by urban vacancy, but the street as a whole appears to have a considerable amount of pedestrian activity. The mall areas adjacent to Dewey Avenue feature some multifamily buildings and minor commercial space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

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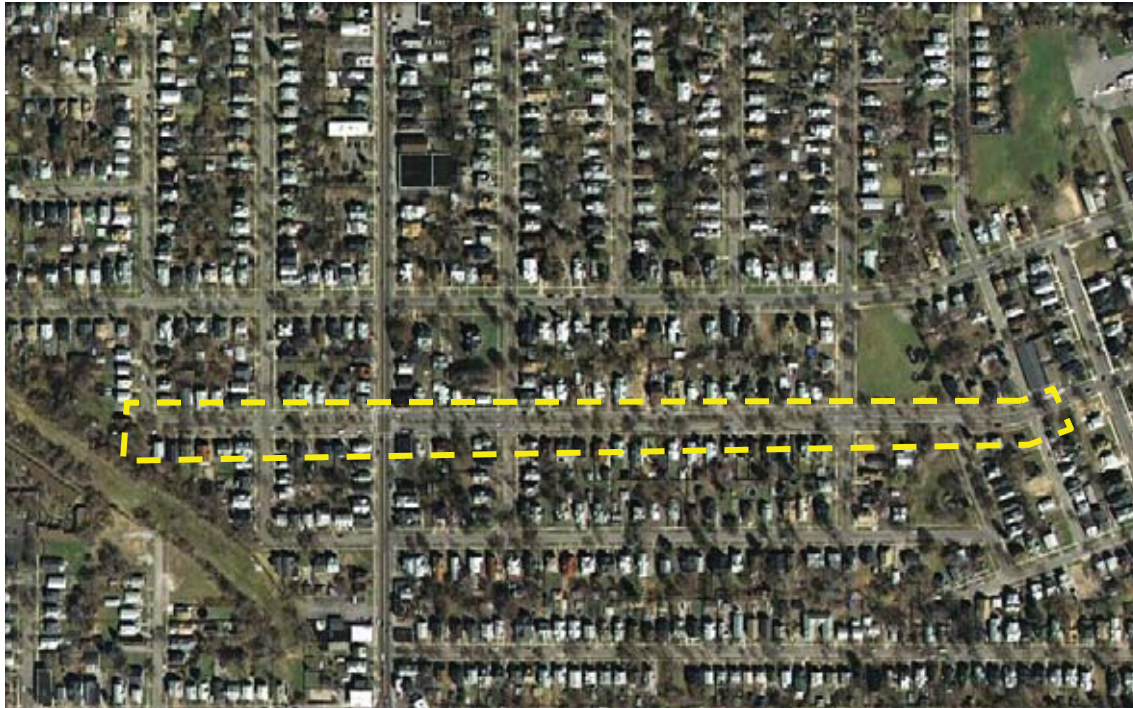
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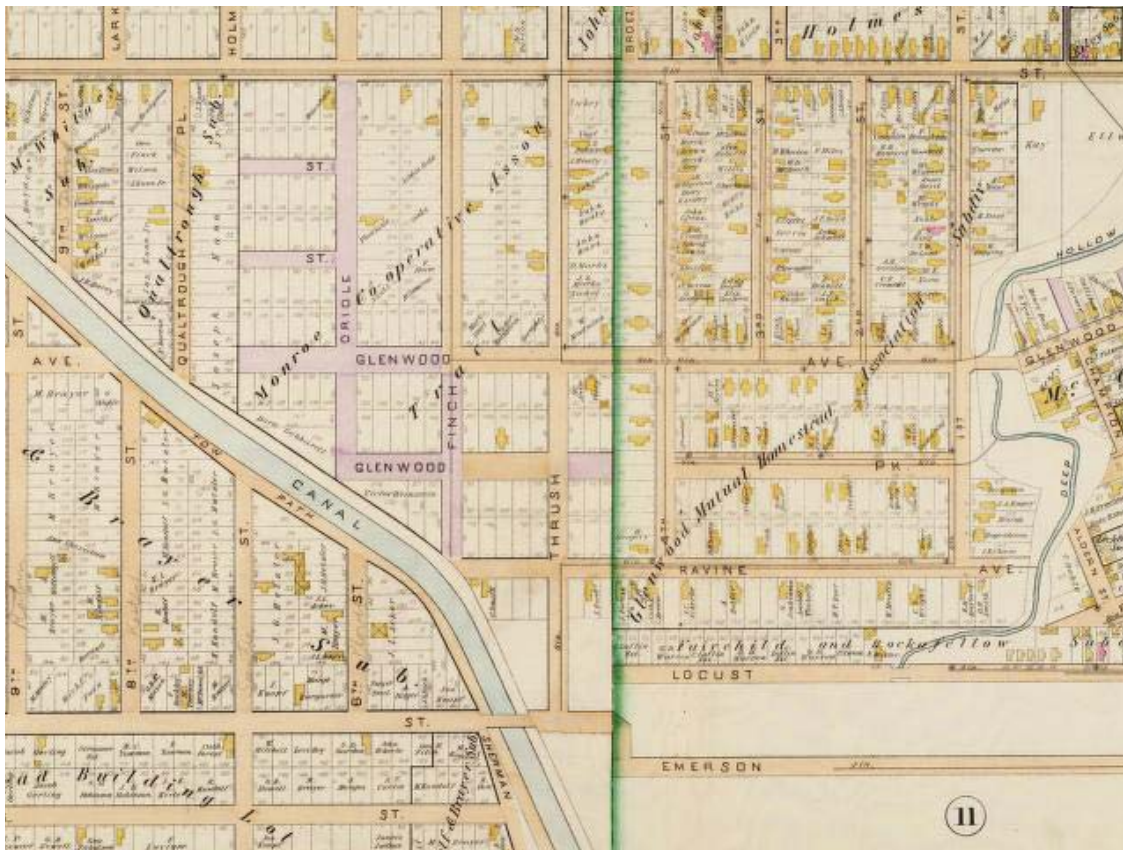
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Glendale Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1875 plat map (Champion Street is the future Glendale Park)



1888 plat map (Glenwood Park is the future Glendale Park)



1900 plat map



1910 plat map



Glendale Mall, looking west, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Grand Avenue Park Chamberlain Park Grand Avenue School/Park	Location Description:	Park site bounded by Chamberlain St to the west, Grand Avenue to the south, Stout St to the east, and residential properties fronting Parsells Ave to the north.
Location:	250 Grand Avenue		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:290734,4782347		
Tax ID:	107.610-0001-035.001		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Playground
Size:	2.02 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 605' x 175'
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	Unknown
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

The Grand Avenue / Chamberlain Park consists of a half-block sized open space area fronting Grand Avenue. The park is a vestige of the landscape associated with a former school once located on the site. A portion of the Grand Avenue street frontage features extremely wide sidewalks, likely part of the front drive area of the school ground. The park is generally lawn ground cover with large shade trees planted at the periphery. The park area includes a small playground with contemporary steel and plastic equipment, a few picnic tables, and a small freestanding cooking grill. Lighting fixtures are cobra-head style on galvanized steel poles and a rubber trash receptacle is located along Grand Avenue. No other significant or historic features were located on the site.

LAND USE HISTORY

The site that is now Grand Avenue Park was historically the site of the Audubon School No. 33. The site was acquired in 1890, and the school was built in 1891-92, on what is now the west end of the park site. Additions were constructed in 1896, 1900, 1921, and 1930.

Additional research would be needed to determine the date when the site became a city playground. School No. 33 was not included in the list of existing or recommended playgrounds in the 1958 *Plan for Public Recreation*.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Grand Avenue / Chamberlain Park does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register. The existing site has no significant historic features relating to any of the park types or eras identified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Municipal Park System of Rochester, nor does it have visible historic features suggesting any other possible context. Architecture of the immediate surrounding area does not have architectural distinction or integrity suggesting the existence of a potential historic district. The park therefore does not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places either as a park or as part of a potential historic district.

SITE CONDITION

The general condition of the park appears to be satisfactory. Play equipment in the small playground was currently being used by children; however, it is somewhat faded and should be updated. Trees appear to be in good health, though the site has an overall lack of vegetation. No other features are known to exist within the park.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The neighborhood context of the park is residential. A few older industrial / commercial buildings exist nearby on cross street intersections and a large apartment building resides on the same park block.

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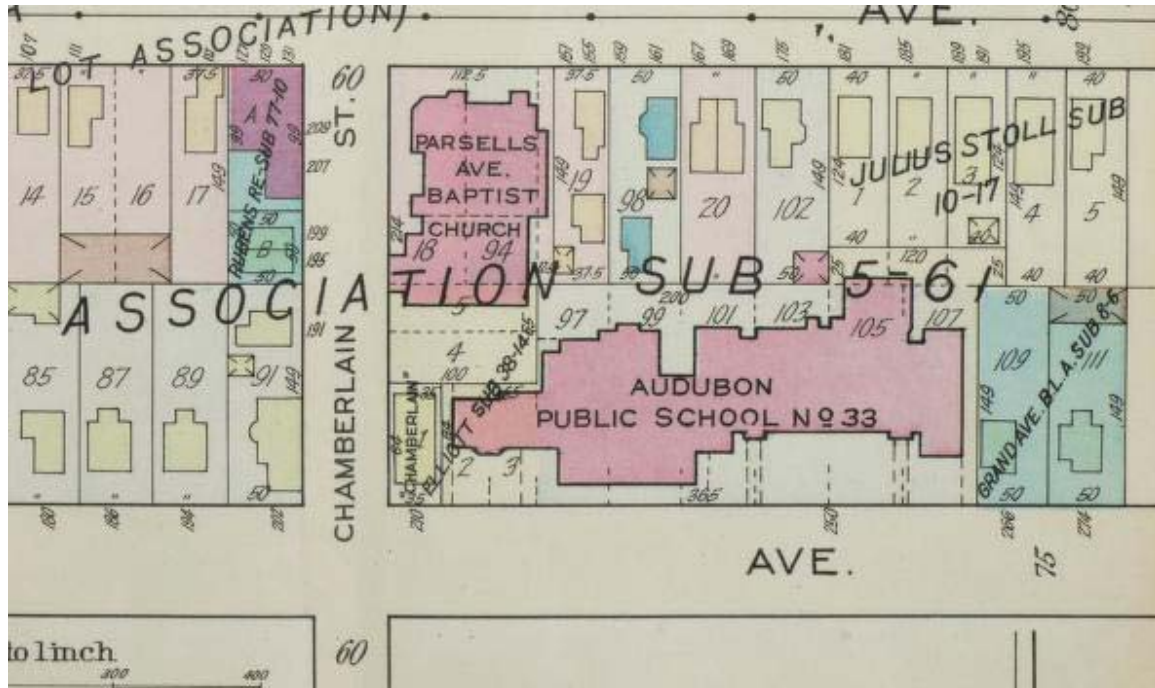
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Grand Avenue Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1888 plat map. The future park site is near the upper right, the block bounded by Grand, Oswego (later Chamberlain), Leighton (later Stout), and Parsells.



1935 plat map showing Audubon School No. 33.



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Audubon School No. 33, ca. 1922.



Grand Avenue Park, looking east along Grand Avenue, 2009.



Grand Avenue Park, looking northwest towards playground area, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Granite Mills Park	Location Description:	
Location:	82 Brown's Race		Plaza space with western frontage on
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:287259,4782063		Brown's Race, bounded by the western
Tax ID:	106.700-0001-008.002		entrance to Pont de Rennes Bridge to the
Existing Zoning:	CCD (City Center District)		north, commercial building(s) to the south,
			and the Genesee River to the east.

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Urban Cultural Park
Size:	0.154 Acres
Dimensions:	54' x 122'
Topographic Description:	Flat, paved plaza
Date of Construction:	1835 (Granite Flour Mill); 1993 (Granite Mills Park)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	EDR
Current landmark designation status:	Contributing site in the National Register-designated Brown's Race Historic District and the locally designated High Falls/Brown's Race Preservation District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Granite Mills Park consists of a small pedestrian plaza near the corner of Browns race and the entrance to the Pont de Rennes Bridge. The plaza includes a mostly paved area, with decorative concrete pavers. A seating area in centrally located that includes contemporary red benches and shade trees, planted in a bosque formation. The plaza is built within the foundation area of the former Granite Flour Mill.

A formed concrete wall separates the plaza space from Browns Race, with wood deck planking bridge leading to the park. A paved entrance is located adjacent to the Pont de Rennes Bridge. The plaza is roughly square and includes a historic millstone set into the pavement, near the northern wall.

A linear narrow lower plaza space is located on the plaza's eastern boundary, overlooking the Genesee River. Three concrete steps lead down to the lower space, which functions as an overlook, with generous views of the river gorge.

LAND USE HISTORY

Granite Mills Park is the site of the Granite Flour Mill, built in 1835, which was at one time one of the city's most productive flour mills. According to the National Register nomination for the Brown's Race Historic District, the building was razed circa 1924; however, the 1935 plat map shows that the building was still standing by that date. The National Register nomination indicated that the site has a high potential of producing foundation walls, wheel pits or other remains from the Granite Mill. At the time

of the designation of the Brown's Race Historic District, this site was an unpaved parking lot. The site became a small urban park in 1993.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

The Granite Mills site is already designated both locally and in the National Register as a contributing structure in the Brown's Race Historic District/Preservation District. The district as a whole was nominated under National Register Criteria A, C, and D; the Granite Mills site, then an unpaved parking lot, was identified as a contributing element due to its archaeological significance, in accordance with National Register Criterion D (applicable to sites "that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history"). The landscaping on the site is noncontributing due to age; the significance of the site is in its archaeological potential. For more detail, please see the National Register nomination for the Brown's Race Historic District, which provides a thorough narrative of the historic and archaeological significance of the Granite Mills site and other buildings, structures and sites in the district within the context of Rochester's 19th-century industrial development.

SITE CONDITION

The park condition appears to be good. Trees appear to be in good health and all benches are intact and well maintained. The concrete pavers are exhibiting minor heaving in areas, leaving portions of the plaza uneven. The stone walls of the former building foundation were likely retooled and pointed with the creation of the park and appear in excellent condition.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The current neighborhood context of the Pont de Rennes Bridge would be considered mixed use. The surrounding High Falls district was conceived as a contemporary entertainment district. The area has been a directed redevelopment area for many years and appears to recently be increasing the number of residential units. Additional offices, art galleries, and both owner-occupied and rental residential units have increased the neighborhood's contextual diversity.

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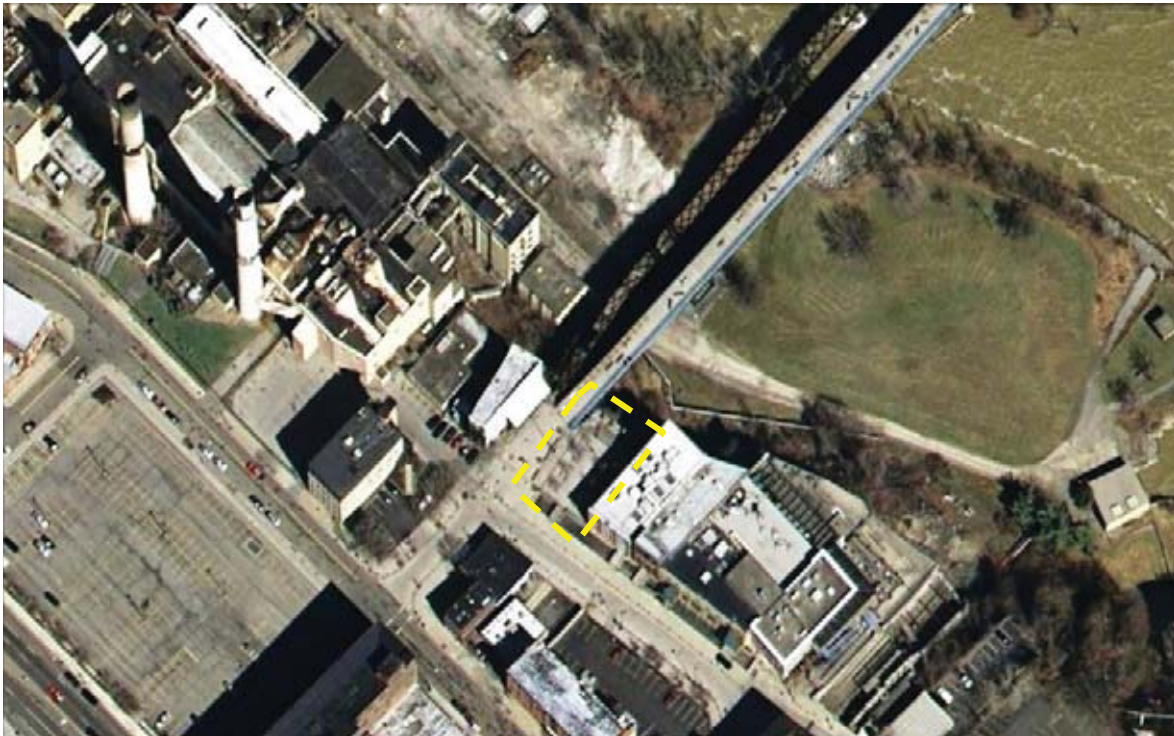
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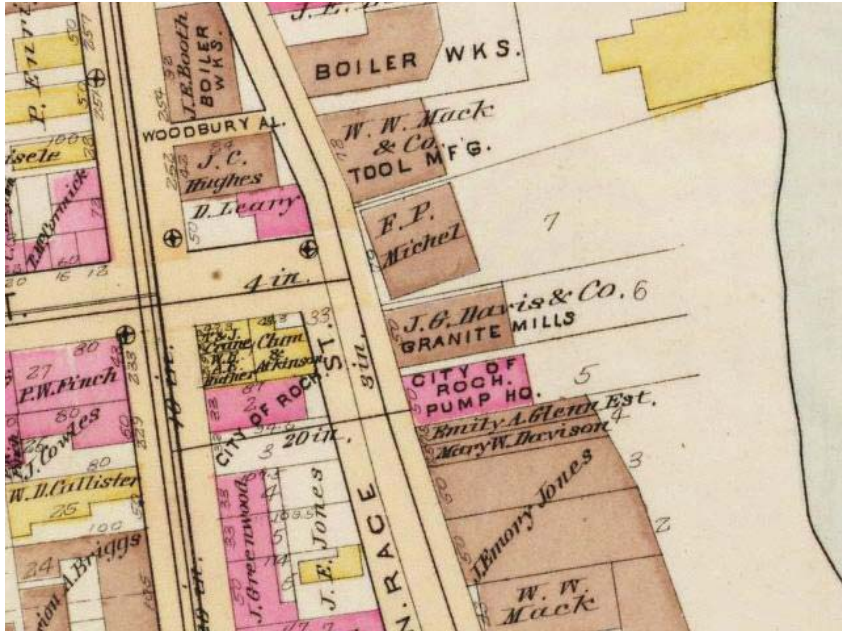
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



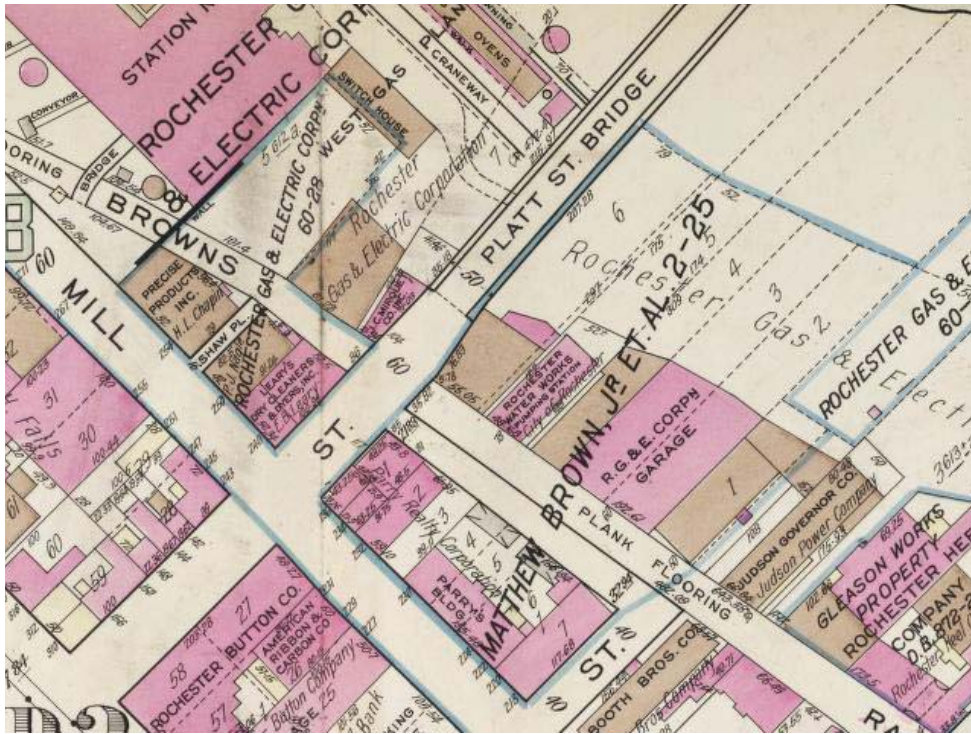
Granite Mills Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1875 plat map (Geo. Whitney Granite Mills)



1888 plat map



1935 plat map (Granite Mills building is just to the right of the Platt Street Bridge)



Granite Mills Park, view of park looking west from Pont de Rennes Bridge, 2009.



Granite Mills Park, view of plaza seating area, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	High Falls Terrace Park Falls Field Upper Falls Park Genesee Falls Park	Location Description:	Park site bounded by Genesee River to the west, St Paul St to the east, Genesee Brewing Co. to the north, RR tracks and Inner Loop to the south. Abandoned RR tracks (owned by New York Central Lines, LLC) bisects park site from north to south.
Location:	305-365 St Paul St (1) 369 St Paul St (2)		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:287608,4782206		
Tax ID:	106.700-0001-027.000 (1) 106.700-0001-029.000 (2)		
Existing Zoning:	CCD (City Center District)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Urban / Cultural Park
Size:	2.150 Acres (1), 1.255 Acres (2)
Dimensions:	+/- 547' x 603'
Topographic Description:	Flat. Slightly sloping up toward falls overlook, stairs & ramps
Date of Construction:	Became a city park in 1976
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Bill Price (1990s)
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

High Falls Terrace Park includes three general parts. A linear pathway segment leads from the eastern landfall of the Pont de Rennes Bridge, south, towards a main lawn covered park site and a platform viewing area. The linear pathway runs south, adjacent to a vacated railroad bed, with the east rim of the Genesee River gorge and High Falls on the path’s west side. The path leads to a concrete ramp, which extends up towards a viewing platform, having been built on top of a utility station, showcasing excellent views of High Falls.

The main park site extends east of the linear path and viewing platform, with pathways links crossing over the abandoned rail line, connecting to a curvilinear asphalt path system. The path leads users through a curvilinear triangle at the south end of a small parking lot. The pathway eventually extends across the central lawn area, south, towards a small plaza entry area. The small plaza entry features benches and shrubs. An identical plaza is located further north along St Paul St, marking another entrance into the park landscape from the sidewalk.

A significant number of planted tree species are located in the park, including various shade, ornamental, and evergreen trees. Lighting consists of box lighting fixtures on +/-35’ square steel poles. Infrastructure related to the City of Rochester’s High Falls laser-light shows is located along the river edge, near the linear path way. A monument is located along the grassy St Paul frontage,

commemorating the site as the “gateway to Mount Allegro” neighborhood, as recalled in a literary work by Jerre Mangione.

LAND USE HISTORY

In the 19th century, this area, known as Falls Field, was an undeveloped tract that served as an amusement destination and a popular spot from which to picnic and view the Upper Falls. It was the site of annual circuses and other traveling amusements, as well as spectacles such as balloon launches and daredevil acts. Thousands gathered here to watch Sam Patch’s fatal leap over the Upper Falls in November 1829. In the 1840s, a beer garden was opened at Falls Field. John Meinhard operated an amusement park on the site starting in the late 1870s, which supposedly attracted Rochester’s first merry-go-round. A bicycle track opened on the site in 1883, taking advantage of the new popularity of this activity; when roller skating became a fad the next year, the track was appropriated for that use. The land was given over to industrial development by the late 19th century; the loss of this potential park site was an impetus for the protection of other riverfront sites through the creation of the park system. As long-time city historian Blake McKelvey wrote, “the city lost an opportunity to safeguard its choicest park site when the chance to buy Falls Field slipped by.”

On May 11, 1976, a groundbreaking ceremony marked the inauguration of a new park, constructed as part of the Upper Falls urban renewal project that transformed the area bounded by St. Paul, the Conrail tracks, Upper Falls Boulevard, and Joseph Avenue. Several housing developments, the new School No. 9, and a community center were also part of this multi-million dollar undertaking. The park cost \$200,000, half of which was provided by the city and half by a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Improvements to the park at the time included an observation deck, lighted walkways, benches, and landscaping.

According to City of Rochester Senior Landscape Architect JoAnn Beck, the park was redesigned in the mid-1990s by the City, with Bill Price as the landscape architect.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

High Falls Terrace Park does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing due to age and lack of historic features.

The Falls Field site was a significant site in the Rochester’s cultural history, having been the site of many public events, a scenic viewing spot, and a predecessor of the park system. It seems that the site historically referred to as “Falls Field” was north of the current park. The loss of the Falls Field open space to industrial development was a significant factor influencing those who urged the city to actively pursue protection of other riverfront sites for public access as parkland.

When it was a popular destination in the 19th century, Falls Field was an undeveloped open space that hosted temporary attractions. Because it was not built upon at that time, and was subsequently developed for industry before being turned into a park in the 20th century, there are no historic resources associated with its 19th-century use. As it does not have historic integrity relating to its period of significance, it does not qualify for National Register listing, yet its function as passive open space is

historically appropriate. As time passes, the park should be evaluated further within the context of Rochester's urban renewal period, which may be found to have significance at some future point.

SITE CONDITION

The park site appears to be in generally good condition. Features within the park are well maintained. Tree species appear healthy and small entry plazas are clean and free of vandalism. The asphalt connector pathway leading from the small parking area to the linear pathway along the river gorge edge must cross abandoned railroad tracks and appears to not meet ADA guidelines. Asphalt paving on pathway leading from Pont de Rennes Bridge needs some maintenance or replacement.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The current neighborhood context of High Falls Terrace Park would be considered industrial / commercial. The High Falls district, on the opposite side of the river gorge, was conceived as a contemporary entertainment district. The High Falls Terrace side of the river gorge features a large industrial presence including the High Falls Brewery, directly north of the park site. The site is also in proximity to various other underutilized industrial buildings along the St Paul corridor. Some residential apartment blocks have been built east, across St Paul, and the area is a promising redevelopment opportunity due to the significant underutilized industrial architecture in the area.

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



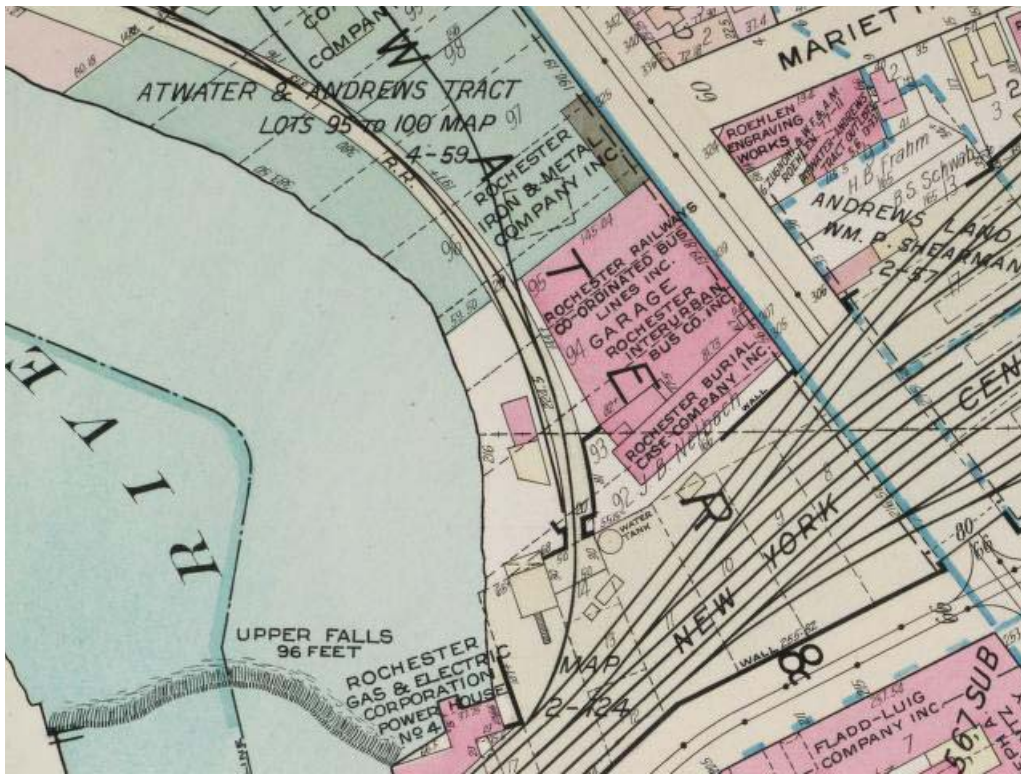
High Falls Terrace Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



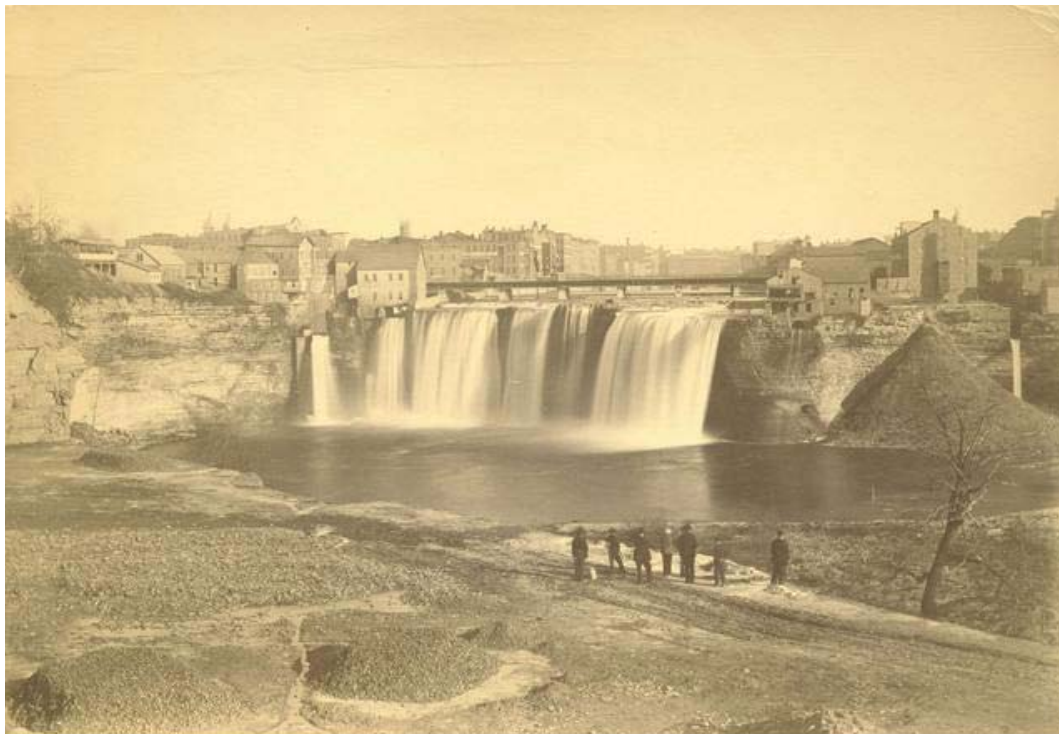
1875 plat map



1900 plat map



1935 plat map



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View of Upper Falls, c. 1900



High Falls Terrace Park, looking northeast at park from falls viewing platform, 2009.



High Falls Terrace Park, entry seating area near St Paul St, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s): Highland Park
Location: 450 Highland Ave
Coordinates: UTM: (Datum: WGS-84)
 Zone:**18T E/N:288235,4778755**
Tax ID: 136.320-0001-001.000
 136.400-0001-001.000
 136.230-0002-001.000
 136.390-0001-020.001
 136.470-0001-001.001
 136.310-0001-005.000
 136.310-0001-001.000
 136.310-0001-012.000
 136.310-0001-011.000

Location Description:
 Large park site includes upper and lower sections, separated by Highland Avenue. Upper park bounded by Highland Avenue to the south, Goodman Street to the east, residential properties fronting Gregory Hill Road to the north, and Mt hope Avenue to the west. South of Highland Avenue, the lower park includes the area bounded by Elmwood Avenue to the south, South Avenue to the west, and homes fronting Meadowbrook Rd to the east. A linear extension of the park also continues south of the upper park area along Couth Goodman Street to Elmwood Avenue.

Existing Zoning: O-S (Open Space)

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type: Olmsted Pleasure Ground
Size: 150.95 Acres
Dimensions: Varied (+/- 1850' x 1750')
Topographic Description: Varied (Flat, hilly, and some steep slopes, part of Pinnacle Range geology that includes Cobbs Hill Park).
Date of Construction: General Plan 1891; construction 1890s; expanded in 1907
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s): Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
Current landmark designation status: In the State/National Register-listed Mt. Hope-Highland Historic District, and the locally designated Mt. Hope/Highland Avenue Preservation District. Both designations include only the sections of the park north of Highland Avenue.

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Highland Park includes the topographically diverse area of land along the Pinnacle Range hill formation, which rises in elevation above the above the surrounding cityscape. The large park contains several designed spaces extending across the varied terrain of the park, many with significant horticultural value. Several vehicular entrances connect park drives as that extend through the park, principally east-west, often crossing local collector streets, including South Goodman and South Avenue.

On the northeastern boundary, a park entrance leads users from the hilly portion of South Goodman Street into a large pinetum. The park drive arcs eastward, past significant evergreen collections, rhododendrons, and azaleas, which line the roadway and a pedestrian stairway leading further into the parks center. From the pinetum, an intersection leads users either northwest, to the parks edge along

Doctor's Drive, or up in elevation towards the park's high reservoir plateau to the south. Highland Reservoir is located centrally within the upper portion of the park, along the park's high points. A small parking area and gatehouse are located between the drive and the reservoir's fenced edge.

East of Highland Reservoir, a large circular open gathering space features asphalt pathways and seating around a significant overlook to the southeast. Extending out below the gathering space and overlook is a noteworthy collection of flowering shrubs, ornamental trees, and specimen plantings, all lining the rolling grassy slopes as an asphalt pathway switchbacks down towards Highland Avenue. The horticultural collection continues at the base of the slope, with a large flower bed and the beginnings of a large lilac collection that extends westward along the upper park's Highland Avenue frontage.

A second reservoir gatehouse is located at the reservoir's west end. Tree-lined Reservoir Avenue continues west from the reservoir, past significant shade tree specimens, toward South Avenue. Lamberton Conservatory is located along the north side of Reservoir Avenue, which showcases plant collections from many climates. Paths extend south through the Poet's Garden and cross Highland Avenue to the southern portion of the park.

The park's southern portion features less topographical variation and includes a winding network of pathways linking various planting collections, memorials, an entry drive and drop-off area, restrooms, and an office for the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Memorials in the south section of the park include the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Aids Remembrance Memorial, and a Victim's Rights Memorial.

East of the park's northern portion is a wooded park area with a low gully and varied topography. This wooded grove and meadow exists between South Avenue and Mt Hope Avenue, with Robinson Drive winding through the park area. On the south side of Robinson Drive, near South Avenue, is a large concert / performance space known as the Highland Bowl. The band-shell structure features art-deco styling and sits within a sculpted natural amphitheatre. A lily pond is located adjacent South Avenue, on the north side of Robinson Drive. A small pavilion and baseball diamond sit immediately west of the pond.

The final portion of the park includes a linear band of passive recreation area and horticultural display along South Goodman Street. This strip of park extends south of Highland Avenue towards Elmwood Avenue and includes a park office and maintenance facilities.

LAND USE HISTORY

In 1883, Rochester's leading nurserymen, George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry, offered 20 acres of land from their nursery grounds, surrounding the city reservoir, to the City of Rochester for the development of a public park. The Common Council, however, was politically divided and unable to reach a decision to accept the land until public pressure convinced them to vote to do so in 1887. It was this gift and the ensuing public pressure, led by notable citizens including Bishop Bernard McQuaid, Dr. Edward Mott Moore, and Councilman George W. Elliott, that spurred the state legislature to create the Rochester Parks Commission, which guided the development of the park system until 1915.

Highland Park was one of three large public parks in Rochester designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., upon his selection to design a comprehensive park system for the city. Highland, lacking a natural water feature, might not have been a site Olmsted would have selected, but since the land had been given to the city, he did not have the option of guiding the site selection process as he did with Genesee Valley and Seneca Parks. Ellwanger and Barry had stipulated that the park they donated would become an arboretum, in keeping with their horticultural interest.

As noted in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Municipal Park System of Rochester, NY:

The park Olmsted designed for the land donated by Ellwanger and Barry came to be called Highland Park. In Olmsted's design, the park had two main functions: it was to be an arboretum, as Ellwanger and Barry had stipulated when they donated the land, and a vantage point for viewing the city. Principal spaces in Olmsted's design were the Pinetum, a collection of coniferous trees on the north slope of the hill designed as a classic winding Olmstedian park drive; the Meadow, an open area with edges defined by surrounding masses of shrubs and trees on adjacent slopes; the Pinnacle, a prominent hill topped by a circular pavilion designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge in collaboration with Olmsted as a viewing platform and administrative center; and the Shrub Collection, on the south side of the hill, which included naturalistic masses of common shrubs surrounded by rarer specimens planted singly or in small groups. Olmsted suggested that shrubs form the majority of the horticultural collection at Highland Park because their low height would not block the vistas...

It appears that [of the three Olmsted-designed parks] work progressed most quickly at Highland Park. The circular hilltop pavilion was dedicated in September 1890 as the Children's Pavilion. Roads and walks were also constructed during the 1890s, but the most attention was paid to collecting and arranging plants, particularly evergreens and shrubs. By 1897, there were 1,100 varieties of shrubs alone in Highland Park; in 1898 the Park Commissioners reported that there were 109 species and varieties in the Pinetum alone. Highland Park was already drawing thousands of visitors a year, particularly when the most spectacular plant varieties were in bloom, and the Commissioners focused increasingly on providing the showy plants that most park visitors preferred, as opposed to nonflowering plants that were primarily of interest to specialists. The lilacs in particular were early public favorites; in 1897, for example, the Park Commission noted that park attendance was particularly large when the 100 varieties of lilacs in the park were blooming. The highest estimated attendance on a single day in 1898 was approximately 3,000.

Implementation of Olmsted's design was carried out by talented local parks employees, notably Calvin Laney and John Dunbar. Laney, a civil engineer hired by the Parks Commission as the Superintendent of the Parks in 1889, was in charge of assisting the Olmsted firm with the onsite work and implementing Olmsted's designs as they were completed. As Highland developed into a first-class arboretum, horticulturist John Dunbar was brought to Rochester to supervise its development. He was particularly

interested in expanding the lilac collection, developing many new hybrids, as well as the Pinetum and the hawthorn collection. Dunbar later rose to the position of superintendent of parks in the early twentieth century. These men ably directed the implementation of the design, coming to understand its principles so well that they and their successors would successfully design additional parks in the 20th century in harmony with Olmsted's principles.

Highland Park as built closely matched the Olmsted design, and due to its hilly terrain and character as an arboretum, it was not pressured, as Genesee Valley and Seneca Parks both were, to accommodate newly popular uses in the Reform Park era. The most notable additions to the park not anticipated in the Olmsted plan, but carried out in harmony with the original design, were the construction of Lamberton Conservatory, built in honor of Alexander B. Lamberton and opened in 1911; and the expansion of the park with the addition of new parcels. The first was the former Warner Estate, which was added in 1907. Additional land to the south of Highland Avenue was added in the 20th century and is not part of the historic design for the park, although that site has its own archaeological significance as the historic site of the Monroe County Penitentiary.

A notable historic feature that was lost was the Children's Pavilion, the circular pavilion designed as a focal point and observation deck at the highest point of the park. This was demolished in the 1960s.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Highland Park is already listed in the National Register and in a locally designated preservation district. While the park was not described in detail in either the local or State/National Register nomination forms, both of which were prepared at a time when much less detail (particularly regarding landscapes) was expected than would be the case today, it is clear that the park was considered a contributing element in both, as the district boundary lines were drawn to encompass the park.

Highland Park is significant under National Register Criterion A, for its association with the social and physical development of the city of Rochester in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Additionally, it is significant for its role in the horticultural history of Rochester, as an important local arboretum. It is also significant under National Register Criterion C, as an excellent example of the work of master landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

The Olmsted-designed portions of the park exhibit a high degree of integrity, with key features such as the topography as enhanced by Olmsted, the historic reservoir and associated structures, many historic plant materials, the circulation system, and spatial organization largely intact. These would be considered contributing elements.

As one of the most significant parks in Rochester, Highland Park is worthy of a high level of historic documentation that would define its history and significance more clearly than the existing nominations do, and would facilitate protection of its historic features. The existing National Register nomination and/or the local designation should be amended to provide much more information about the park. The potential reconstruction of the Children's Pavilion, fundraising for which is underway, would be an appropriate project as it would bring back a historically and architecturally significant park element.

SITE CONDITION

The overall site condition of Highland Park is good. The park is well maintained and has an active user base, important horticultural links, historic structures, and high-profile park events such as the internationally known Lilac Festival. The park's historic features, which include plant collections and specimens, are well cared for and make a significant contribution to the overall varied experience of the setting as a pleasure ground.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Highland Park's large size and varied topography create many sub-spaces within the park, each adjacent to varied land uses. Many surrounding streets contain single family residential homes, some early 20th century and some contemporary. On the north end of the park is a residential district of gridded streets, with Highland Hospital on the west end. East of the park is the hillside and park-like setting of Colgate Divinity School, which visually functions as an extension of the park. Southeast of the park is a large contemporary apartment community and an established older neighborhood. Bounding the southern end of the park's south portion is a large collection of institutional structures, including Al Sigil Center / School, and the sprawling campus of the New York State office of Mental Health. The park's western extension is bordered by residential uses and Mt. Hope Cemetery is located to the west.

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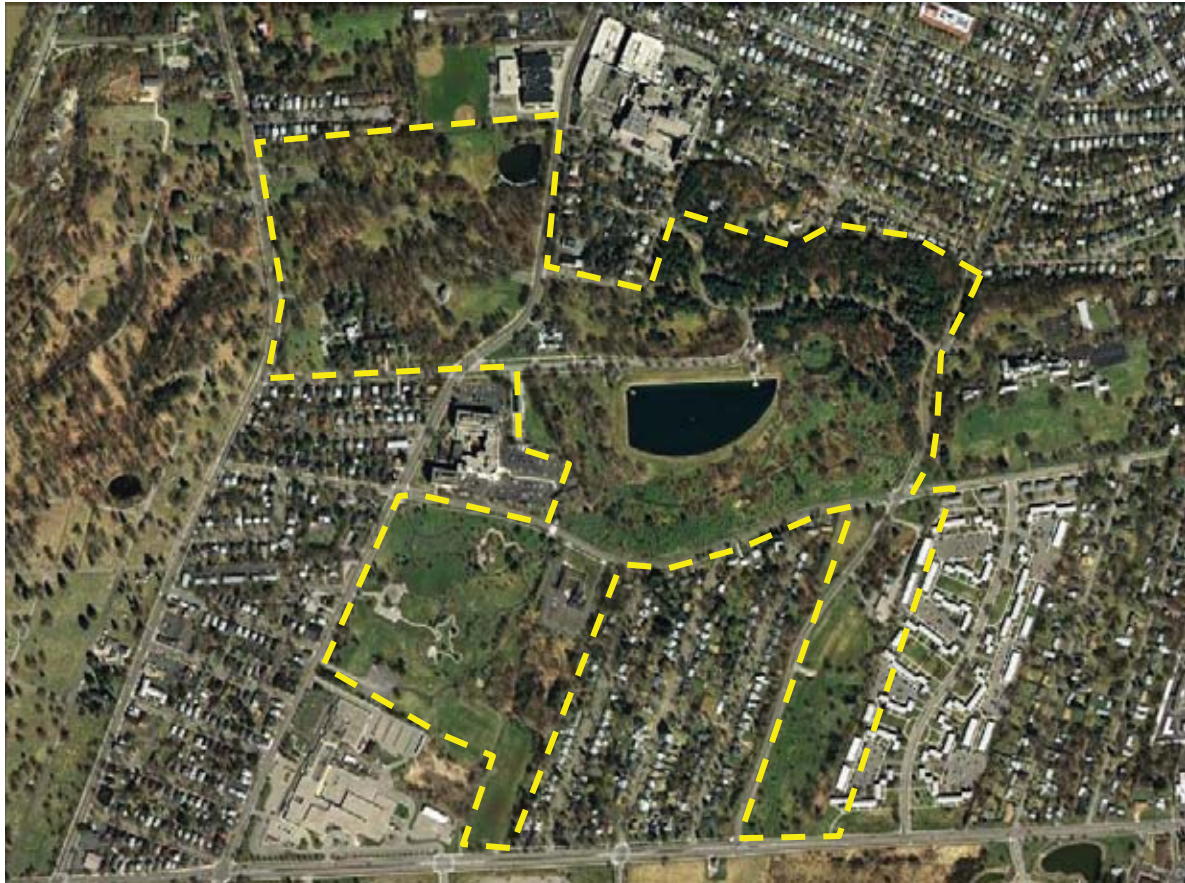
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Highland Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



rpf00065.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Highland Park, c. 1900



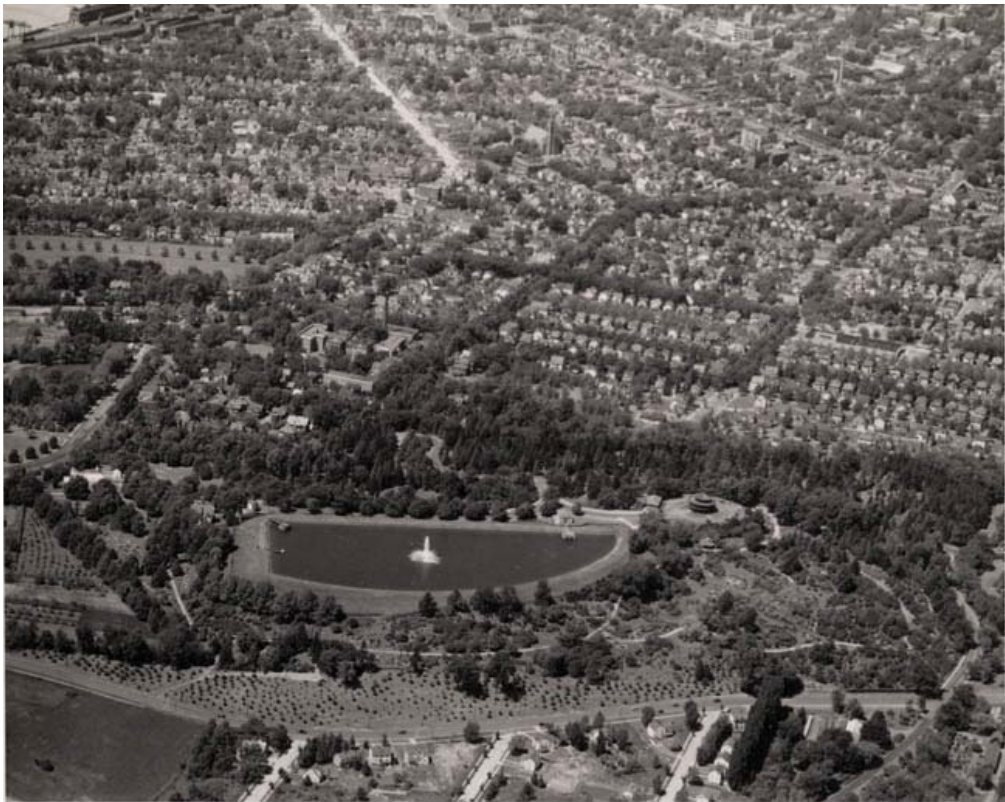
rpc1805a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Historic postcard, c. early 20th-C.



brm00241.jpg Brighton Municipal Historian Collection

Aerial photograph, c. 1930



rp102709.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Aerial photograph, c. 1940



Highland Park, park drive through the Pinetum, 2009.



Highland Park, gardens near Lamberton Conservatory, 2009.



Highland Park, park area along Reservoir Drive, 2009.



Highland Park, canopy over Robinson Drive, 2009.



Highland Park, Lilac collection along Highland Avenue, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Hillside Parkway Hillside Avenue Mall	Location Description:	Street mall located at intersection of Hillside Avenue and Winton Road, with Aberthaw Road and Cathaway Park terminating adjacent to the mall.
Location:	110 S Winton Rd		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:292133,4779887		
Tax ID:	122.650-0001-075.000		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.315 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 70' x 160'
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	Ca. early 1920s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Hillside Parkway is a triangle-shaped street mall and contains a variety of plantings. Site features include medina stone curbing, lighting, and semi-formal plantings. Large shade trees exist on the site, including Maple and London Plane. Ornamental plantings include crabapple trees, Euonymus and Mugo Pine shrubs, limited perennials, large arborvitae, and lawn ground cover. Cobblestone piers with concrete caps are located at the northwest Hillside Avenue entry, formalizing the entrance. Lighting consists of standard City of Rochester colonial-style fixture on a 14' fiberglass pole.

LAND USE HISTORY

The street mall at the intersection of Hillside Avenue and Winton Road appears to have developed as an effort to enhance an awkward leftover space when an existing street was merged with a new subdivision in the 1920s. The 1918 plat map shows Cathaway Park intersecting Winton Road at a right angle. By 1926, a new subdivision, Fordham Heights, was laid out, with curvilinear streets converging just east of what had been the intersection of Cathaway Park and Winton Road. On the map, this is shown as a large street with no street mall. The 1935 plat map shows the triangular street mall in place. The mall was subsequently enlarged to the east to its present configuration.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

The Hillside Avenue street mall does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing. Because of its origins as an enhancement to a private residential subdivision rather than as a public park feature, the Hillside Avenue street mall is not individually eligible as a component of the park system.

The immediate surrounding neighborhood does not appear, upon initial investigation, to have sufficient architectural distinction or historic integrity to qualify for designation as a historic district. As an amenity to the streetscape, the mall has value to the neighborhood and should be maintained although it does not meet the criteria for designation. The stone piers are historic features that should be maintained.

SITE CONDITION

All site features and vegetation in the park are found to be in good condition, except portions of the medina stone curbing, which have been replaced with rolled asphalt in areas. The cobblestone piers at northwestern Hillside Avenue entry are in excellent condition and are a major contributing element to the character of the street mall.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Land uses surrounding Hillside Park street mall are primarily single family residential homes. The integrity of the surrounding homes and the neighborhood has been well preserved over the years. Temple Beth El, a religious facility, is located southwest of the street mall. It has been operating in that location since the 1950's.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

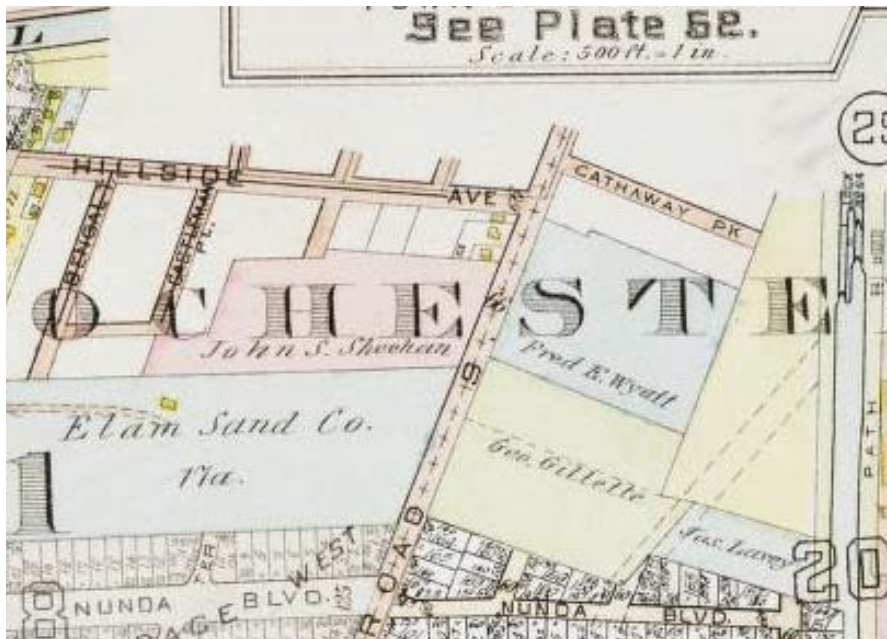
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Hillside Parkway street mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse, 2005)



1918 plat map.



1926 plat map



1935 plat map



Hillside Parkway street mall, looking east, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Huntington Park Mall	Location Description:	
Location:	Huntington Park & Harris St		Street mall on Huntington Park, between St
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286872,4783649		Paul St and Harris St
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W)		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.144 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 22' x 285'
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	1890s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Huntington Park Mall is a planted central median extending along a short distance of Huntington Park, between St Paul and Harris Street. The park starts near the Harris Street intersection and continues only a short distance compared to many area street malls. The park consists of an approximately 22' wide planting median with evergreen, ornamental, and deciduous shade trees. The park median features a heavily landscaped bed at either terminus, with ornamental grasses, shrubs, and perennials.

The median is surrounded with medina stone curbing and small boulders have been placed along the center of the mall. A linear planting bed of rose shrubs is located along the western side.

LAND USE HISTORY

Huntington Park was the centerpiece of the Huntington Subdivision, created in 1890 out of the estate of Elon Huntington, a businessman who held positions in several firms and later became a sugar merchant. He was also a lifetime trustee for the University of Rochester. In 1890, he divided the southern portion of his estate into moderately-sized residential lots. Huntington Park was embellished by the creation of a street mall, which appears on the 1900 plat map divided into two sections. At this point, only a few houses had been built in the subdivision, none of them facing Huntington Park. The north side of Huntington Park was the south boundary of Elon Huntington's estate, which had a large house, several outbuildings, and a curving drive. This section of the city grew rapidly between 1890 and 1915, as many immigrants settled here and new industries were located in the northeast part of the city. New water systems, streetcar lines, and other improvements supported this residential growth. St. Paul Street and Huntington Park were fashionable addresses for the founders and top executives of companies located

in the northeast part of the city; these included Henry Bausch, who built his house at the northeast corner of St. Paul Street and Huntington Park in 1895. Houses along Huntington Park were “large-scale, high quality homes for upper-middle income families;” many of the houses were architect designed.

By 1910, the two sections of the Huntington Park Mall were joined into one long mall extending just west of the curve of Huntington Park, and a few houses had been built along the street. The lots and houses on Huntington Park were larger than those on most surrounding streets, although not as grand as the mansions that lined St. Paul Street. On the 1918 plat map, the street mall was labeled “private.” The Huntington property had been further subdivided, with lots along the north side of Huntington Park east of the curve. Most of the lots facing Huntington Park had been built up, with houses built of either frame or masonry construction. The western portion of the street, west of the street mall, was somewhat slower to develop, as the Huntington property was gradually subdivided.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Huntington Park Mall does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing as an individual landscape. As an amenity created to enhance a residential subdivision, the mall does not meet the criteria established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for eligibility as a street mall associated with the Municipal Park System of Rochester.

The street mall could, however, be a contributing site in a historic district. A St. Paul/Huntington Historic District, consisting of 40 residential properties and one ecclesiastical property, was identified in the 1986 *City of Rochester Historic Resources Survey* as being eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its intact historic architecture and historical significance. While not specifically mentioned in the report, which dealt solely with architecture, the boundaries of the eligible district encompassed the street mall, and it seems clear that the street mall should be considered a contributing element as an original component of the subdivision. The 2001 *Report on the 1986 Historic Resources Survey*, however, determined that the district was no longer eligible for National Register status. Since that date, several houses on Huntington Park have been appropriately rehabilitated, and the district may again qualify for National Register listing. A more thorough architectural evaluation and consultation with SHPO would be needed to make this determination.

Regardless of the district’s eligibility status, the street mall is an important neighborhood amenity that enhances the streetscape, and should be maintained.

SITE CONDITION

The Huntington Park street mall appears to be in good overall condition. The planting beds are a significant contributor to the overall aesthetic of the mall and are well maintained. The street mall is classified as a “Group II” street mall, with maintenance done by the neighborhood association. Additional layers of road asphalt have nearly covered the Medina stone curbing in some areas.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The neighborhood context of the street mall is residential, with a considerable number of houses having excellent historic features. A number of houses along the street have recently been rehabilitated and the street is pleasant in character.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

City of Rochester Historic Resources Survey, 1986.

Open Space Inventory. City of Rochester. 1991.

Report on the 1986 Historic Resources Survey, 2001.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

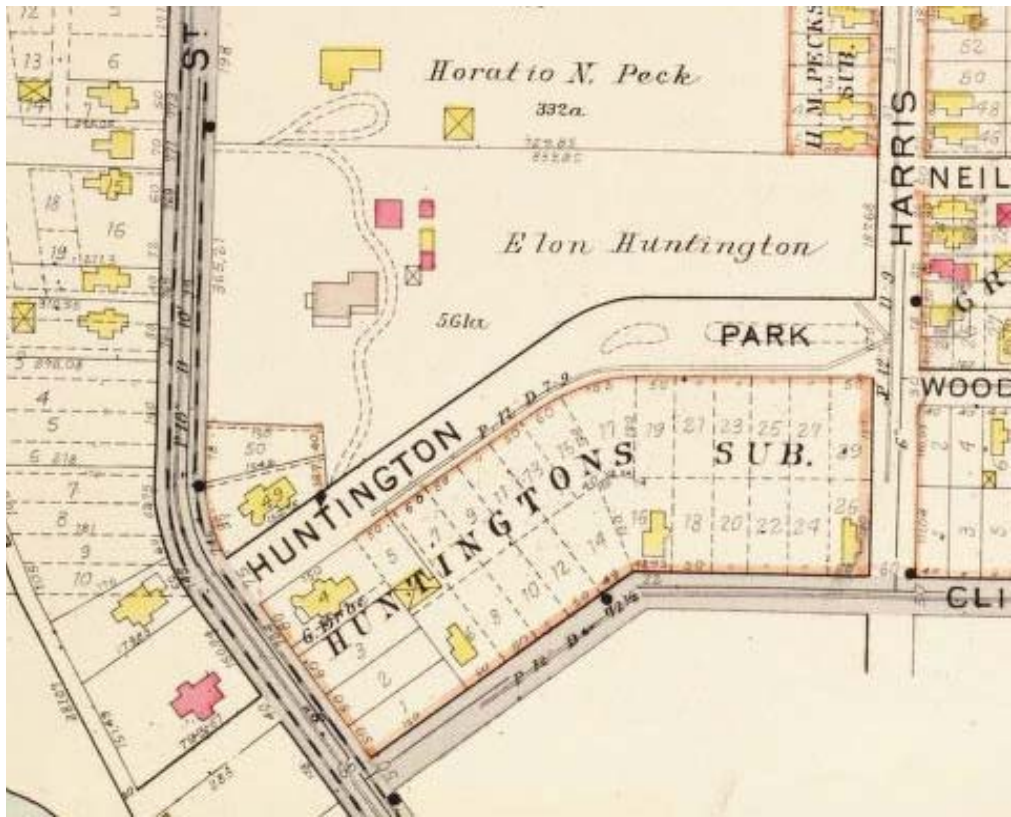
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Huntington Park Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1900 plat map



Huntington Park Mall, looking east, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Frost Avenue Park James Madison High School Wilson Park Pike's Quarry	Location Description:	Full block (except privately owned properties in SW corner), bounded by Bronson Ave to the north, Epworth St on east, Frost Ave on the south, and Genesee St on the west.
Location:	200 Genesee Street		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:285806,4780297		
Tax ID:	120.590-001-082.000		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Playground, Sports Fields (High School)
Size:	16.331 Acres (includes school)
Dimensions:	+/- 960'x775' full block (remove 365'x180' private SW portion)
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	Unknown (school renovation in 1997)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark preservation status:	None

KEY DEFINING FEATURES

James Madison / Frost Avenue Park consists of land associated with James Madison High School, including a baseball diamond, football field with bleachers, track and field facilities, a basketball court, a tennis court, and a playground with contemporary modular play equipment. The James Madison High School building and parking facilities generally cover the western half of the site, with basketball, tennis, and playground infrastructure clustered near the eastern boundary. Concrete walkways, with small entry plazas containing brick piers and decorative fencing, allow pedestrian entry from the site periphery and merge centrally, near the eastern side of the school. Vegetation is limited to lawn and scattered shade trees, mostly clustered at the center of the site along a concrete pedestrian pathway. Street trees line the southern half of the site, along Epworth Street. A coated chain-link fence surrounds the majority of the site, ranging from 3' to 6' in height. Lighting includes +/- 25' high contemporary shoe-box style fixtures near interior pathways and older cobra-head style street lights near site boundaries. Furnishings include aluminum bleachers, recycled plastic benches, and oil-drum style trash receptacles.

LAND USE HISTORY

The site now known as Frost Avenue Park/James Madison High School was informally known in the 19th century as Pike's Quarry, and for many years was used as a dump. At some point between 1910 and

1918 the dump was filled in. The city acquired the property in 1913, and it was put under the control of the parks department in 1921 and transformed into Wilson Park. In 1922, Madison Junior High (later Madison High School) was built at the north end of the site, along Bronson Avenue. A photograph taken around that time shows the park in the foreground as an open, grassy space with little or no vegetation.

The plat maps do not show Pike's Quarry or the dump, but historic photos in the Stone Collection document the process of filling it. Those photos, accessible in the Rochester Images database, have captions with a tentative date of 1909, but given the plat maps it seems more likely that this took place somewhat later, perhaps after the city acquired the property in 1913.

The Raitt report in 1929 stated, "This park is centered in a built up section where residents are fairly well-to-do. Here is a beauty spot which is available for community use, but is not at present being used to the best advantage." Similarly, the 1958 Plan for Public Recreation recommended the development of a Community-School Recreation Center with a comprehensive recreation program.

Madison High School was closed in 1981 and demolished in 1983; it was subsequently replaced by a new building to the west, which now serves as Wilson Foundation Academy. The site where the 1922 school stood is again open space.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

James Madison/Frost Avenue Park does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register due to age and a lack of historic features. The park has been through several transformations, from a dump to a park to a school, and then back to a park. The present configuration dates to the 1980s when the former Madison High School was demolished and the new school built to the west. The portion of the park to the south, where the track is today, has been parkland since at least 1922, but the facilities that are there today are relatively new and do not reflect the early-20th century character of the park. The park does not retain historic features that would justify eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

SITE CONDITION

Existing site features are generally in good condition. Concrete walks are newer – likely related to the relatively recent school renovations. No historic landscape features are evident on the site.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The James Madison / Frost Avenue Park occupies a large block with a variety of surrounding land uses. The site was formerly a series of smaller residential blocks, with Wooden Street continuing through the block, connecting to Frost Avenue. Many area streets are lined by single-family residential structures. Some intersections include light commercial and institutional uses such as small grocers or religious structures. The neighborhood character has been affected by some vacancy, specifically the residential street directly east of the park site.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

McKelvey, Blake. "An Historical View of Rochester's Parks and Playgrounds." *Rochester History* Vol. XI, No. 1 (January 1949).

Plan for Public Recreation, Rochester, New York: Report of the Recreation Advisory Committee. July 1958.

Raitt, Charles B. *A Survey of Recreational Facilities in Rochester, N.Y.* [Rochester: J.M. Egloff, 1929.]

Rochester Images database: captions for Stone Collection photographs of the transformation of Pike's Quarry into Wilson Park. <http://www3.libraryweb.org/home2.aspx>. Accessed 11 November 2009.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

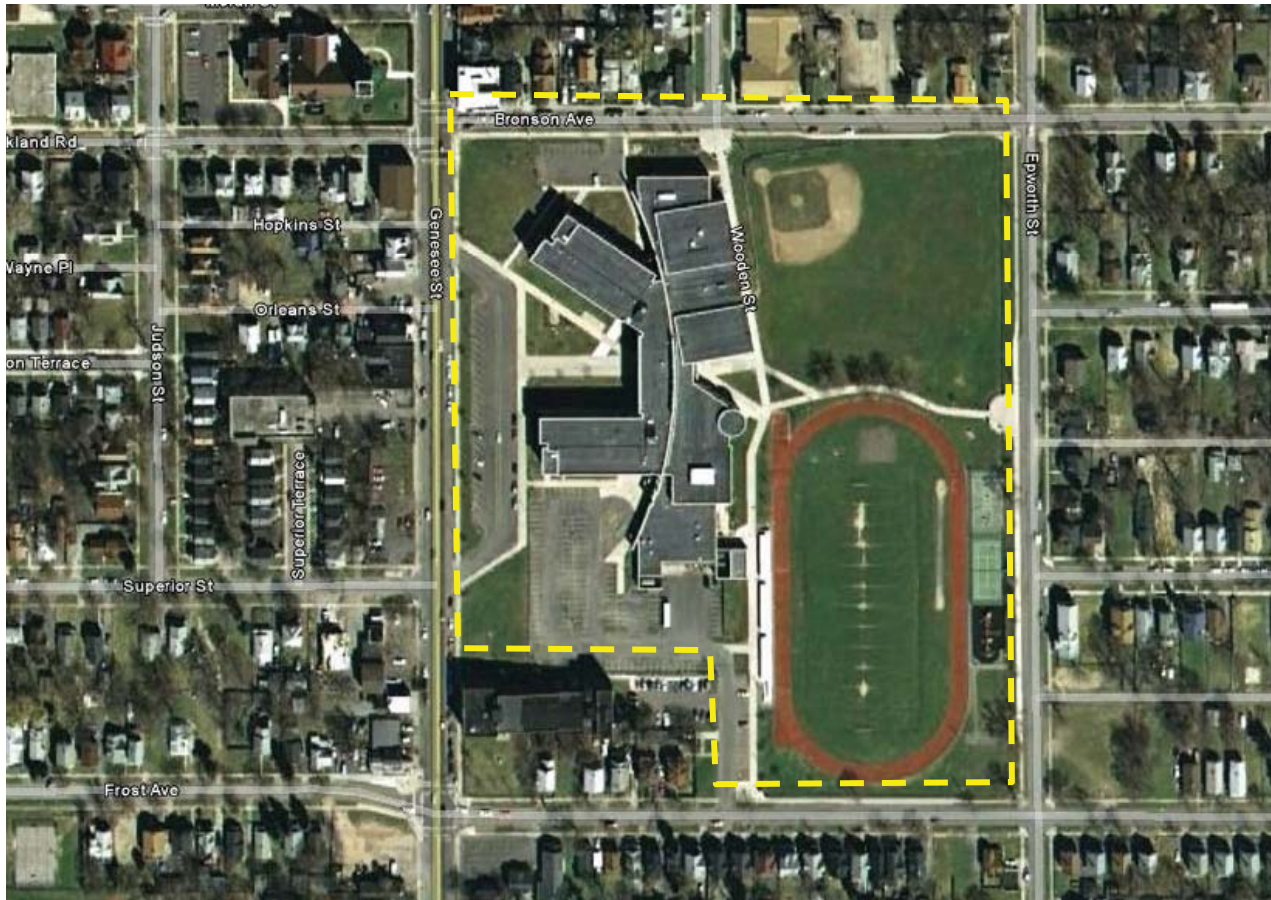
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

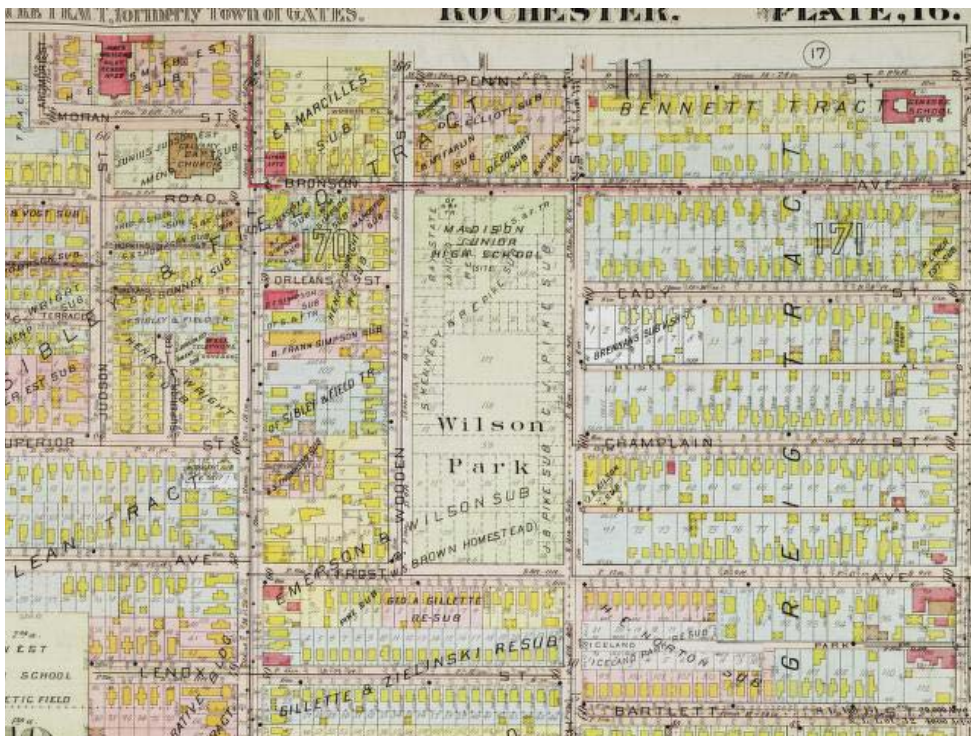
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



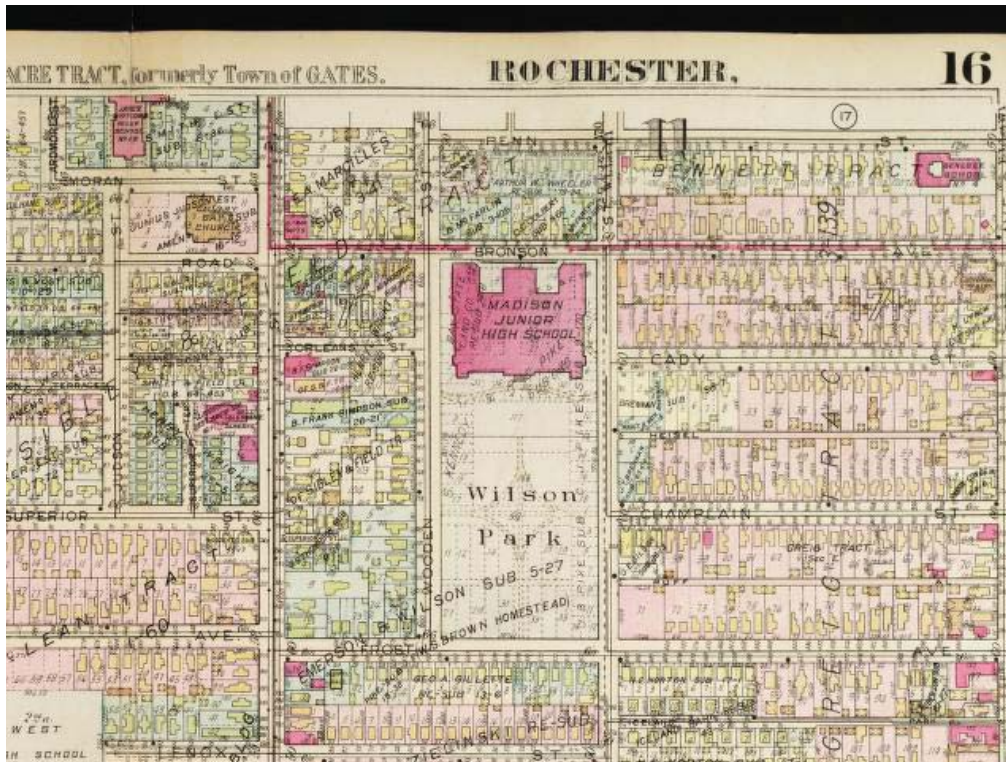
James Madison / Frost Avenue Park aerial. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse, 2005)



1900 plat showing future James Madison/Frost Avenue Park site, bounded by Bronson, [Epworth], Frost, and Wooden streets. Site of current school is on the block to the west bounded by Bronson, Wooden, Frost and Genesee streets.



Wilson Park (now James Madison/Frost Avenue Park), 1918 plat map.



1926 plat map



Wilson Park, ca. 1922, with Madison High School in the background.



James Madison / Frost Avenue Park, looking northwest, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Kings Landing Cemetery Hanford Landing Cemetery	Location Description:	
Location:	Lake Ave and Eastman Ave		Cemetery located on northeastern corner of Lake Avenue and Eastman Avenue.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286539,4786622		
Tax ID:	075.840-0001-002.000		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Early Cemetery
Size:	1.023 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 190' x 160'
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	1790s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	Listed in the National Register as part of Seneca Park East and West

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

From the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West:

“At the northern terminus of Maplewood Drive is the final space within this section, as well as Seneca Park West. Although surrounded on the north, south and west by paved streets and parking lots, the Cemetery derives a sense of containment from the dense canopy of several extremely mature deciduous trees and the thick successional vegetation along the gorge rim at its east. The gently rolling lawn is also dotted with a number of simple grave markers, most of them word headstones with one small obelisk also present. The paved rim path follows the undulating line of the gorge edge, which is marked by chain link fence, and ends near the north boundary of the nominated area. Broad vistas into the gorge are available from the path, while views into the former burial area are available from surrounding public streets. The fence along the north side of the cemetery marks the northern boundary of the park.”

Several large deciduous shade trees are scattered throughout the site. There are currently no points of vehicular access or parking for the cemetery site. Pedestrian access is available from the surrounding streetscape or from the trail along the western side of the Genesee River. No other structures or historic features are known to exist.

LAND USE HISTORY

“Rochester’s oldest cemetery was at King’s Landing, now Hanford’s Landing on Lake Avenue opposite Kodak Park. Soon after the Kings settled at the Lower Falls landing in the 1790s, ‘Genesee fever’ killed several family members and the first cemetery was established. The Hanford brothers bought the Landing a few years later and some of their family members are buried there, too. Though the exact gravesites have been lost, it is known that a number of Revolutionary War veterans were also buried there.” (Thomas and Rosenberg-Naparsteck)

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

King’s Landing Cemetery is listed in the National Register as a contributing part of the Seneca Park East and West designation because it was within the area indicated by Frederick Law Olmsted as Seneca Park West. As elsewhere in the park, Olmsted’s design took advantage of the presence of existing open spaces as a means to achieving his goal of protecting both sides of the Genesee River banks from development. While the park does not contain Olmsted-designed features, it contributes to the overall landscape character of Seneca Park West (now Maplewood Park).

The cemetery can also be evaluated in accordance with the guidelines established in National Register Bulletin 41, “Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places.” The cemetery appears to be eligible under National Register Criterion A, as the first pioneer cemetery in the Rochester vicinity and the only remaining vestige of the King’s Landing settlement. Cemeteries eligible under Criterion A must also meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration D: “A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.” According to Bulletin 41, a cemetery that derives its importance from associations with a community’s early period of significance, or reflects important aspects of community history, can meet this criteria consideration. To qualify for its age, the cemetery must date from an early period within its geographic and cultural context, which, dating from the very early days of European settlement in the Rochester area, the Kings Landing Cemetery does.

SITE CONDITION

Kings Landing Cemetery is in satisfactory condition. The park does not include any notable features other than historic headstones and grave markers. It is presumed that many markers may be missing, damaged, and worn.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The context of Kings Landing Cemetery is generally industrial land uses. Industrial office buildings and parking lots related to the Kodak Park complex surround the cemetery site on all sides except the east. The eastern side of the cemetery is adjacent to the Genesee River gorge and is naturalistic wooded area with steep slopes. The overall neighborhood context of the cemetery is somewhat unpleasant due to the large volume of traffic on roads surrounding the site.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

“Seneca Park East and West.” National Register Nomination Form. 2003.

Thomas, W. Stephen and Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck. “Sleepers’ City: The Sesquicentennial History of Mt. Hope Cemetery.” *Rochester History* Vol. L, No. 4 (October 1988).

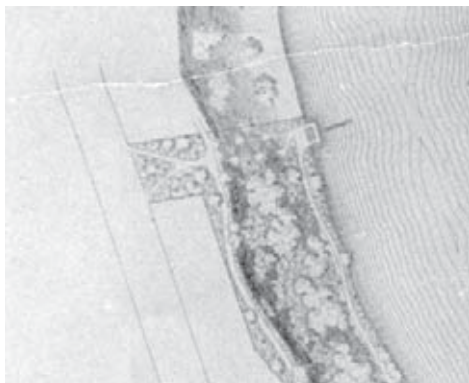
Olmsted, Frederick Law. *General Plan for Seneca Park*. 1893.

Plat book of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1902

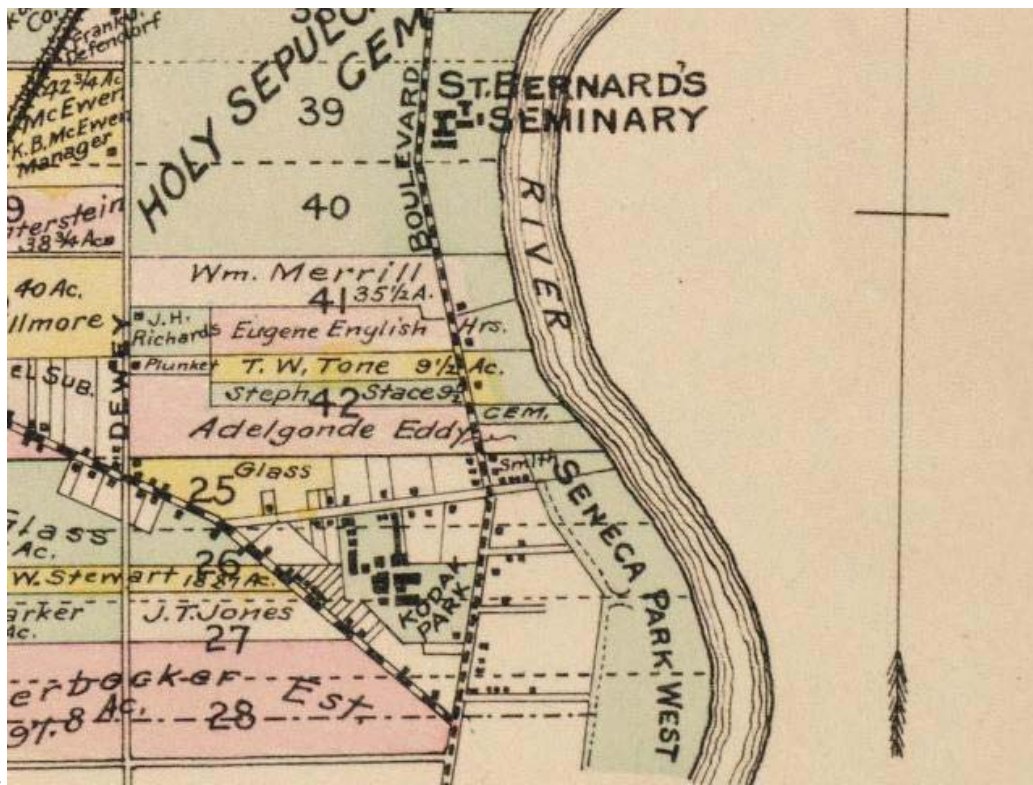
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Kings Landing Cemetery, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Detail of 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park by F. L. Olmsted & Co., showing King's Landing Cemetery



Kings Landing Cemetery (marked "CEM.") 1902 Plat book of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1902



Kings Landing Cemetery, looking south, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Knickerbocker Mall Summit Grove Park	Location Description:	Street mall, bounded by Knickerbocker Ave on the north, Aster St on the west, Summit Grove Park on the south, and Sunrise St on the east.
Location:	Knickerbocker Ave and Aster St		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:285192,4785827		
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.75 Acres (median area)
Dimensions:	+/- 820' x 40'
Topographic Description:	Curbed median sloping west towards Aster Ave
Date of Construction:	1910s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Knickerbocker Mall consists of a curbed and landscaped street mall extending approximately 800 lineal feet along Knickerbocker Ave and Summit Grove Park. The mall is unusual in that two-way streets bound both sides of the landscaped median area. The mall also features a considerable amount of topography, with a natural hill crest limiting views down the entire length of the street mall.

Vegetation includes generally large deciduous shade trees, with a considerable amount of species variation. Informal areas have also been planted with small shrubs and ornamental trees, including flowering crabapple.

The street mall is surrounded by stone curbing. Interior lengths of linear curbing have been set tilted at an angle, essentially creating a mountable curb. The tilted curbing is an unusual feature and is only known to be at this particular street mall. The significance and purpose of the tilted curbing is unknown.

LAND USE HISTORY

Knickerbocker Mall developed relatively late for a city street mall, not appearing until the 1918 plat map. Knickerbocker Avenue was named for the Knickerbocker family, whose 97-acre estate in this area was shown on the 1902 Monroe County plat map. The estate was then in the town of Greece, just over the northern city line; annexation brought the land into the city in the 1910s.

On the 1918 map, Summit Grove Park appears as a single long street mall. Modest houses line Knickerbocker Avenue, to the north of the mall, and Summit Grove Park, to the south. The creation of

these streets and the street mall were part of the very rapid development of this area, as turn-of-the-century farmland rapidly transformed into residential subdivisions as nearby Kodak Park developed in the early 20th century.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Knickerbocker Mall (Summit Grove Park) does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register. Because of its origins as an enhancement to a private residential subdivision rather than as a public park feature, the street mall is not individually eligible as a component of the park system. The immediate surrounding neighborhood does not appear to have sufficient architectural distinction or historic integrity to qualify for designation as a historic district. As an amenity to the streetscape, and as part of a set of similar street malls that developed in the northwest part of the city in the late-19th century, the mall has value to the neighborhood and should be maintained.

SITE CONDITION

The street mall appears to be in good overall condition. The park is classified as a “Group I” street mall, with maintained provided by the City. Vegetation appears to be in good condition, however, some small ornamental trees have been damaged by mowing and exhibit disfigured growth characteristics.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The land uses and character surrounding Knickerbocker Mall appear to be wholly residential in character. Some industrial / warehouse uses are located northwest of the mall, along Aster Street.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Plat book of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1902

Rochester City Directories

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. *Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York.* Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

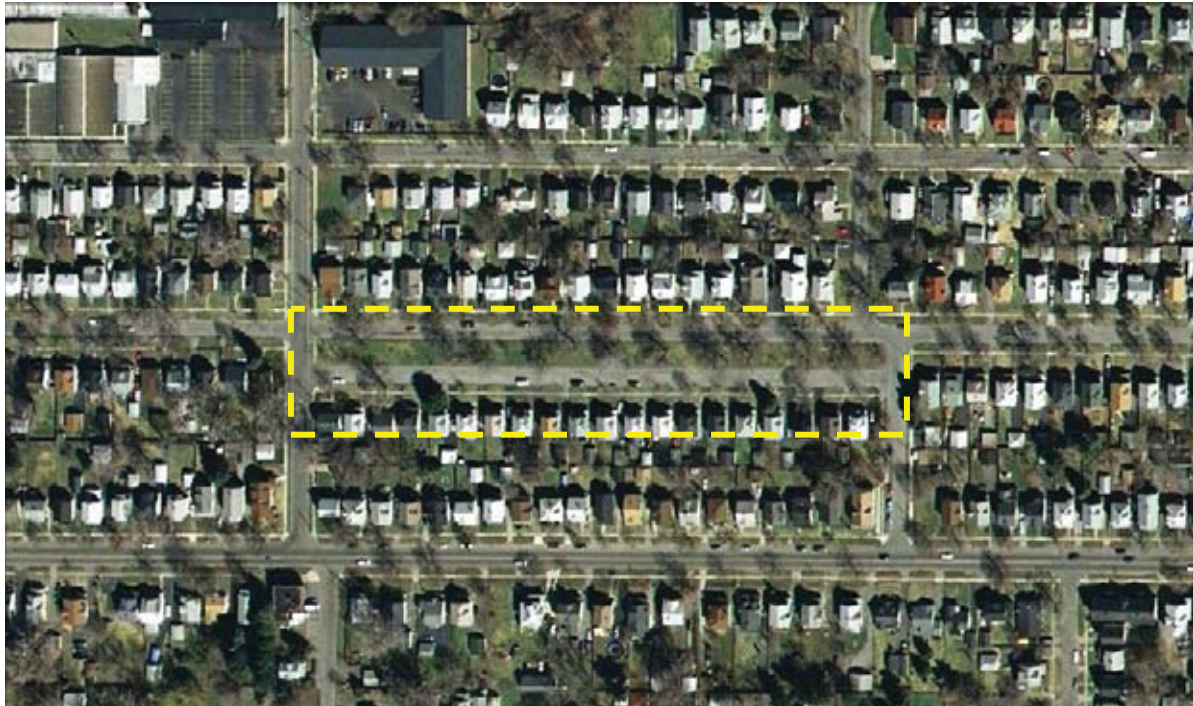
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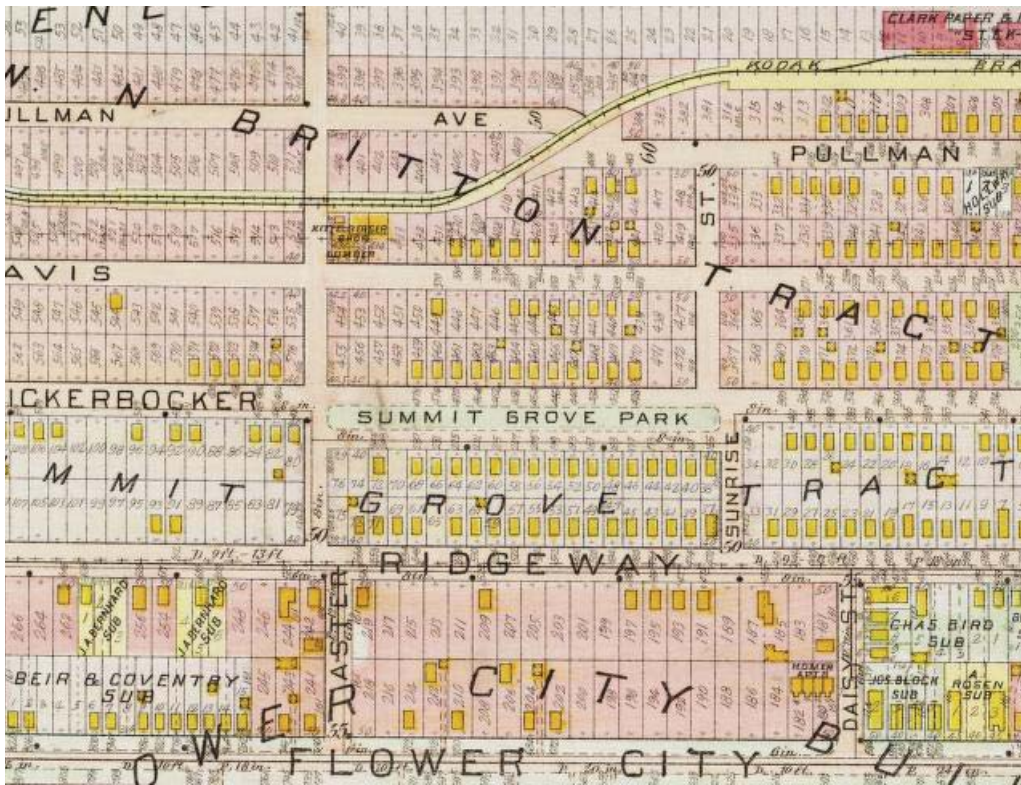
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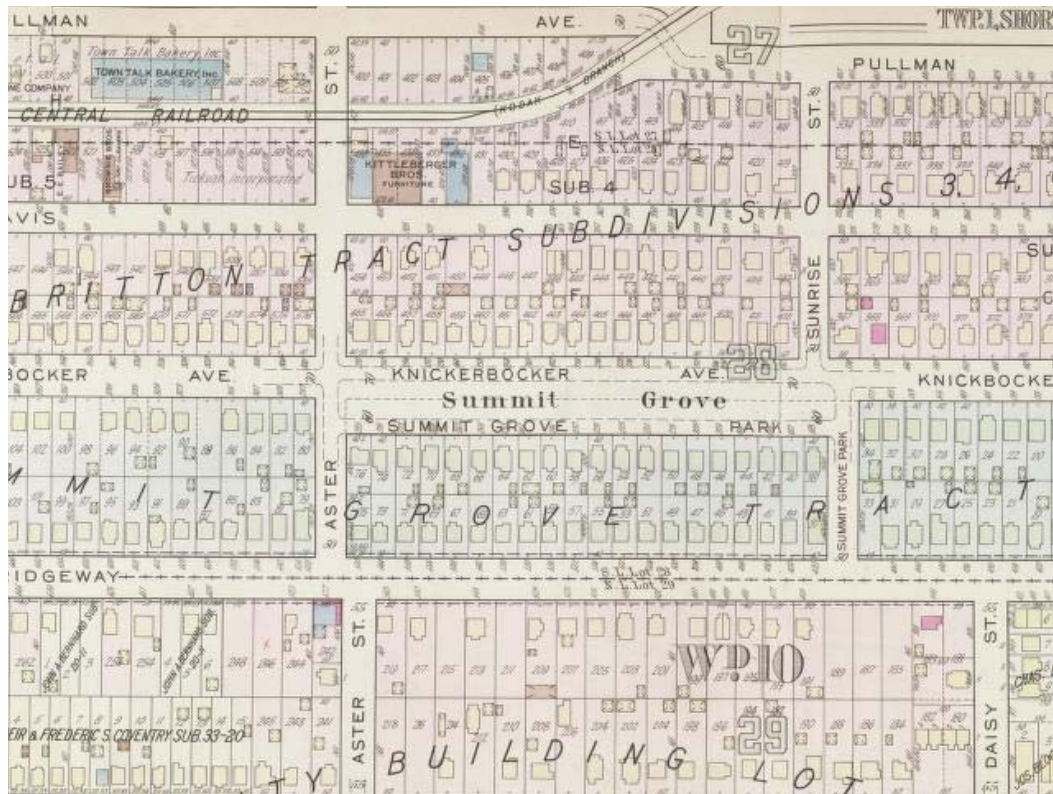
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Knickerbocker Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1918 plat map



1936 plat map



Knickerbocker Mall, looking west, 2009.



Knickerbocker Mall, angled curbing, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Lafayette Mall Lafayette Park Mall Union Park	Location Description:	Street mall located on dead-end Lafayette Park, off of Union Street, near the merging on Howell and Union.
Location:	Lafayette Park at Union St		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:288716,4780879		
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W)		
Existing Zoning:	CCD (Center City District)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	0.052 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 255' x 10'
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	c. 1873
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Francis G. King (developer)
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Lafayette Mall includes the landscaped median located along the dead-end loop of Lafayette Park. The street mall features several large shade trees, stone curbing, ornamental landscaping, raised planting boxes, and street lighting. The median is comparatively narrow at +/- 10' in width.

Wooden post bollards are located at the end of the mall fronting South Union Street. Several small raised planting boxes (approximately 8' x 8') constructed of pressure treated lumber are centered on the median. A large boulder that appears to be demolition material is also centrally located along the grassy median. Curbing along the straight portions of the street mall are medina stone, while some portions of the mall's turn around areas and terminus have been replaced with granite. Several small planting areas are located near turnaround sections, consisting of euonymus shrubs and other small perennials and annuals. Street lighting consists of City-standard colonial fixtures placed upon a +/- 14' galvanized steel pole.

LAND USE HISTORY

The history of the Lafayette Park subdivision is described in detail in the 1986 *City of Rochester Historic Resources Survey* and summarized below.

Lafayette Park is part of the historic South Union Neighborhood, which was within a 60-acre tract of land purchased by Elisha Johnson in 1825. The neighborhood's greatest period of development was in the last quarter of the 19th century. Lots on small side streets laid out by developers were rapidly purchased

for residential construction. Lafayette Park, originally Union Park, was an example of this type of development. It was laid out by Francis G. King, who filed a subdivision map in 1873. He sold all but two of the lots on Union Park between 1873 and 1875. The houses on Lafayette Park were built between 1873 and 1888 in diverse architectural styles.

The South Union neighborhood was a stable, middle-class residential area in the early twentieth century. Nearby Monroe Avenue became gradually more commercial, and larger single and double houses, followed by larger apartment buildings, were built in the vicinity. Urban renewal policies in the 1960s hastened the transformation of the neighborhood, most notably the construction of the Inner Loop, which increased traffic and noise in the area. South Union Street became a primary thoroughfare. The neighborhood declined in the 1960s and 1970s before starting a gradual turnaround in the late 1970s.

At the time of the 1986 survey, it appeared that the neighborhood might be about to experience revitalization. It appears from the current conditions, and from the results of the 2001 survey, that that has not happened, and instead the buildings along Lafayette Park have experienced a decline in maintenance and an increase in incompatible alterations. A homeowner reported to the survey team that two of the houses on the street are still owner-occupied, with the rest rental, in most or all cases multifamily.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Lafayette Park Mall does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing as an individual landscape. As an amenity created to enhance a residential subdivision, the mall does not meet the criteria established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for eligibility as a street mall associated with the Municipal Park System of Rochester.

Lafayette Park, as a residential subdivision, was determined eligible for the National Register in the 1986 *City of Rochester Historic Resources Survey*. According to that survey, “the district is significant as the first such subdivision laid out in the neighborhood” and as a “significant collection of high style and vernacular Italianate, high Victorian Italianate, Eastlake, Queen Anne and Stick style structures built between 1873 and 1888 in Rochester’s South Union neighborhood.” Also according to the 1986 report, the “set-back appearance of the houses and the district as a whole is significantly enhanced by the shrubbed and treed mall located in the center of the street.” At that time, the neighborhood was a rare surviving example of a “completely intact concentration” of the type of owner-occupied, single-family residences that historically predominated in this area.

The 2001 survey update, however, determined that the houses in the subdivision had lost too much integrity to qualify for National Register eligibility.

At the time of this survey, it appears likely that the 2001 conclusion is still correct and that the neighborhood does not qualify for National Register status. A more thorough architectural evaluation and consultation with SHPO would be needed to confirm this determination.

Regardless of the district's eligibility status, the street mall is an important neighborhood amenity that enhances the streetscape, and should be maintained. Removal of contemporary bollards and planting boxes would be appropriate.

SITE CONDITION

The overall condition of the remaining portion of the street mall is generally good. All trees, shrubs, plantings and other site features appear to be well maintained and healthy. Sections of the raised planters have recently been replaced with new wood.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The neighborhood surrounding Lafayette Mall has been heavily modified due to the construction of the Inner Loop. The immediate contextual fabric still includes period residential homes along Lafayette Park, with 10 homes remaining along the street mall. Many of these homes have been modified and/or deteriorated over time. The adjacent neighborhood contains a heavy mix of commercial, retail, and office uses. Former vacant parcels on the corner of Lafayette Park and South Union Street have been redeveloped to feature luxury town townhomes. The Strong Museum of Play and associated parking lot is located directly across the Inner Loop from the park site and has a considerable visual presence.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

City of Rochester Historic Resources Survey. 1986

Report on the 1986 Historic Resources Survey. 2001.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

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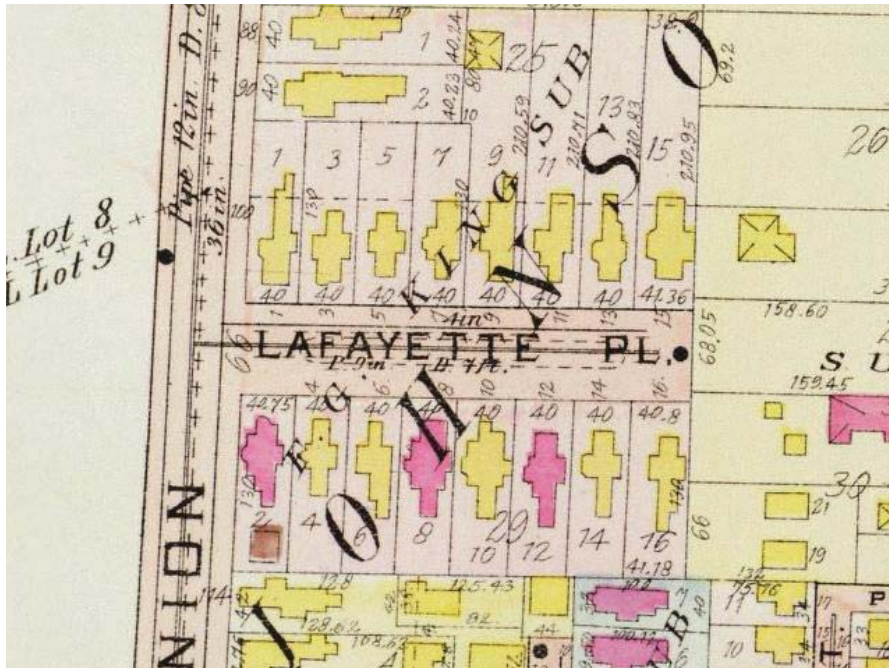
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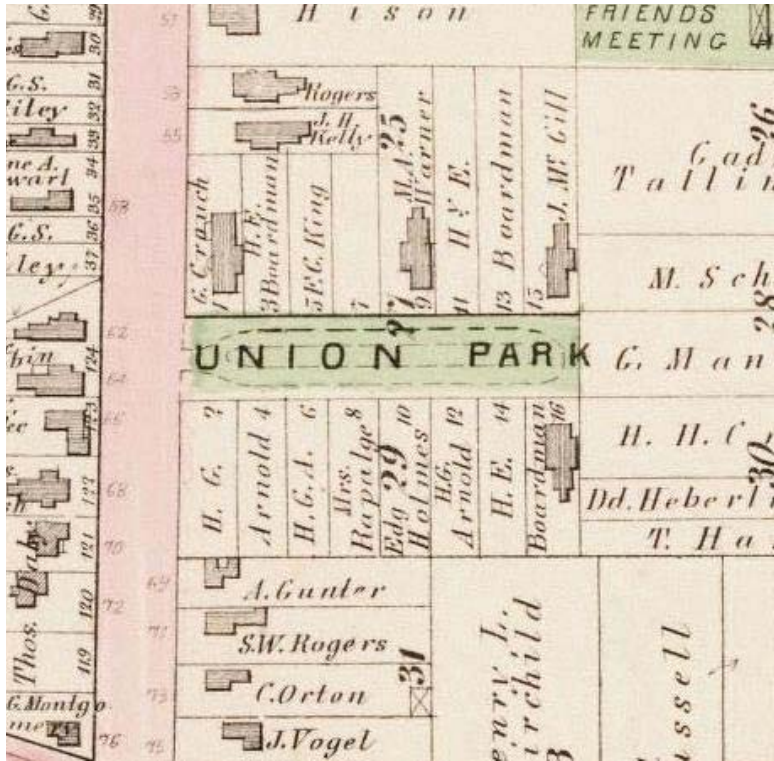
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Lafayette Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1910 plat map



1875 plat map (Lafayette Park then known as Union Park).



Lafayette Mall, looking southeast, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Lakeview Park Mall Lake View Park	Location Description:	Lakeview Park between Lake Ave and Pierpont Street.
Location:	Lakeview Park and Lake Ave		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:285905,4784474		
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 1.900 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 1380' x 60'
Topographic Description:	Curbed median, sloping east toward Lake Ave
Date of Construction:	1872 (laid out); 1897 (Olmsted firm design)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot
Current landmark designation status:	Contributing Site in the State/National Register-listed Maplewood Historic District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

A contributing feature within the Maplewood Historic District and linked on the east to the Maplewood Park rose garden, Lakeview Park street mall extends along Lake View Park from Lake Avenue to Pierpont Street. At 60' wide, the landscaped street mall is comparatively large. The median features broad landscaped areas, planted with large shade trees and smaller flowering ornamental trees. Unlike Seneca Parkway, Lakeview Park Mall does not currently contain formal planting rows of shade trees. Tree species are planted sporadically across the linear site areas, with a liberal amount of flowering ornamentals. The mall is surrounded by medina stone curbing and

The eastern and western terminus of the street mall contains concrete pedestrian sidewalks linking to cross streets. The mall contains a generally flat area from the western terminus to Fairview Heights cross street. Past Fairview Heights, the street mall gently slopes down, increasing grade before intersecting with Lake Avenue. Street lights are located in tree lawns, across travel lanes from the actual median area.

LAND USE HISTORY

The National Register nomination for the Maplewood Historic District provides the following summary of Lakeview Park's history:

An 1875 plat map of Rochester shows "Lake View Park" with the road providing access to a complete surround of residential lots with the single median forming a central green space.

Lakeview Park was originally a private street. Following the public acquisition of the street in 1897, the city commissioned the Olmsted firm of Brookline, Massachusetts to prepare plans for landscape improvements. By 1910, the once continuous park area had been divided by three intersecting side streets, Lakeview Terrace, Raines Park, and Fairview Heights, creating four separate central islands.

The street mall's origins date to 1872, when a Union and Advertiser newspaper article "announced the availability of a 'grand choice in homesteads' in 'Lake View Park.' At that time each of the fifty lots in the fifteen acre subdivision were to be sold for \$1,500." (Clark Patterson et al.)

Having originally functioned as a private street, Lake View Park was opened as a public street in 1896 and came under the purview of the parks department. Calvin Laney, superintendent of parks, wrote to Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot in 1897 to ask them to prepare a plan for the improvement of the street mall. The firm prepared a series of plans that fall, showing lushly planted, irregularly shaped shrub beds, a variety of trees, and bulbs. A fountain was proposed for the intersection of Fairview Heights and Lakeview Park. In 1901, John C. Olmsted noted that the park was completed "but only three beds of shrubs at east end were put in. The trees were thinned elsewhere, and the surface seeded to grass."

City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares report provides considerably more detail on the history of the park and the Olmsted firm's role; please refer to that document for more information.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Lakeview Park Mall is listed in the National Register as a contributing site in the Maplewood Historic District. The nomination, which was prepared in 1997 and is very detailed, specifies that Lakeview Park contributes to the district's eligibility under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture, as the work of the Olmsted firm.

SITE CONDITION

Lakeview Park Mall is in generally good condition. The street mall is classified as a "Group II" mall, with maintenance provided by the surrounding neighborhood association. Some flowering ornamental trees appear to be damaged and exhibit disfigured growth habit.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The park is a contributing landscape feature within the Maplewood Historic District. The surrounding district is generally residential in character, but does contain a small number of commercial and institutional uses. The immediately adjacent streetscape is well cared for and exhibits a number of architecturally historic homes.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Clark Patterson Associates, et al. *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares: Park's History, Preservation Approach, Master Plan and Management Guidelines*.

"Maplewood Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 1997.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

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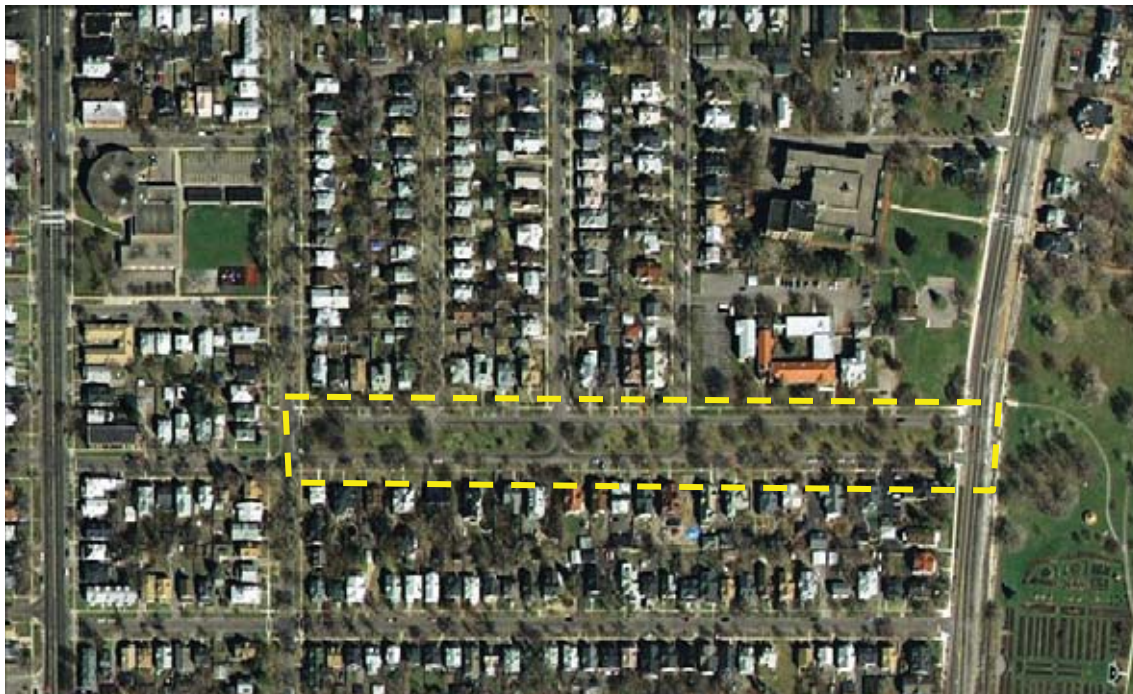
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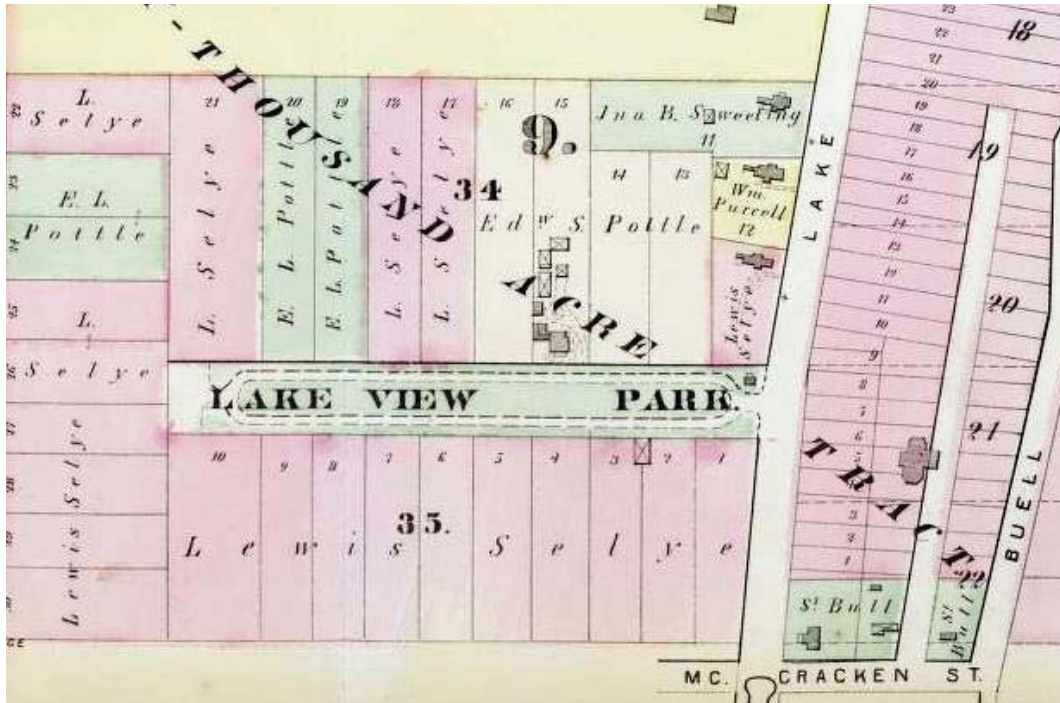
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Lakeview Park Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1875 plat map



e0000274.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

Lake View Park from Lake Avenue, 1897.



rpc2511a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Lake View Park, early-20^t C. postcard



Lakeview Park Mall, looking west towards Raines Park cross-street, 2009.



Lakeview Park Mall, looking east with slope towards Lake Avenue, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Lower Falls Park	Location Description:
Location:	190 Hastings Street 50 Hastings Street	Park site is located south of Driving Park Avenue, on the west bank of the Genesee River overlooking the lower falls.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286363,4783997	
Tax ID:	090.830-0002-016.000 (2.13 acres) 105.280-0002-001.000 (0.24 Acres) 105.280-0002-002.000 (2.85 Acres)	
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Associated with Olmsted pleasure ground
Size:	5.22 Acres
Dimensions:	Varies
Topographic Description:	Varies (river embankment, flat landscape area, trails)
Date of Construction:	Varies (19 th century industry/archaeology; Olmsted plan 1893; current landscape design 2001)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	JoAnn Beck
Current landmark designation status:	Included in the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

From the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West:

Located south of the Driving Park Bridge, Lower Falls Park consists of about five acres on an upper terrace that provides spectacular views of the gorge, the bridge, early-twentieth-century power facilities, and the Lower Falls of the Genesee River. The Sculpture Terrace is at the extreme south. It is a somewhat round space enclosed on the west by the nearly vertical slope to the highest uplands; the gorge rim defines the other edges. An asphalt paved pedestrian path encircles a central open area; the interior edge of the path is lined with a mix of young deciduous trees and contemporary groupings of over-scale boulders are sporadically located along the outside edge. The focal point of this space is a modern sculptural work composed of four principal blocks, each roughly 10' tall, each in the approximate shape of a broad obelisk of dark stone carved with faces and hands that appear to emerge from the blocks. It sits on a small section of stone paving and is surrounded by scattered benches made of roughly textured stone. Between this central piece and the loop path are deciduous trees and shrubs in open lawn. The area between the path and gorge rim contains similar mixed plantings; the rim itself is edged by contemporary guide rail comprised of stone piers with horizontal metal pipe rail between. At its northeastern most edge, the path broadens into an overlook providing the previously noted unobstructed views and vistas.

Northwest of the overlook, the loop path connects to the only other space in this park section, the Service Road. This narrow linear corridor, defined on both the east and west by the steep slopes of the gorge bank, is essentially a service drive that provides access to Driving Park Avenue/Bridge; as a pedestrian route it marks the beginning of the rim path that continues throughout Seneca Park West. Because of the extreme gradient of the banks, coupled with dense successional vegetation, views are limited to along the centerline of the corridor. The road has a gentle grade, is paved with asphalt, and is lined on the east by a low metal guide rail. A contemporary swinging metal gate extends across the road at its northern terminus as a vehicular barrier. Where the loop path and service road meet, a third path branches to the northeast, traversing the gorge bank and providing a connection to the next park section.

LAND USE HISTORY

The history of Lower Falls Park was laid out in great detail in a thesis by Mark H. Bayer, "Lower Falls Park," January 1987. An excerpt follows:

The sequence of development at the Lower Falls is typical of many sites in Rochester that exploited Genesee water power. The development of the area called "McCrackenville" began with the construction of a mill race about 1826 that attracted early industries to the site. These industries evolved and expanded over the next seventy-five years to accommodate the local and regional markets. By the turn of the century hydroelectric power began to replace the mills and factories as the primary users of the river's water power. The riverfront between the Lower and Middle Falls was soon largely controlled by companies which were later consolidated into the Rochester Gas and Electric Company. The appearance of Barnard and Simonds Furniture Company at the Lower Falls about 1915 renewed the site's use as a manufacturing area. However, the thriving industrial era of the Lower Falls had passed by this time. Like many other areas along the river's urban course, the Lower Falls experienced a period of decline over the next sixty years. Today only a few reminders of the water power era are visible on the site.

Part of the area that is now Lower Falls Park was the southern terminus of Frederick Law Olmsted's plan for Seneca Park, as seen on the 1893 General Plan. For this reason, the park was included in the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West.

The city acquired the north end of the park in 1903 from George Ellwanger as part of the acquisition of lands for Seneca Park West. An additional parcels was acquired in 1934 and dedicated as part of Maplewood Park; in 1973 and 1974, two more parcels were acquired. The land was not developed at that time.

The current landscape design, which focuses on passive recreation and interpretation of the site's industrial history, dates to 2001.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Lower Falls Park is already listed in the National Register; it was included within the Seneca Park East and West National Register Nomination in 2003 because it is on land that was within the original Olmsted design of Seneca Park. The specific landscape design is too recent to be a contributing element to that nomination. The park also has potential significance under criterion D for its archaeological significance, which was well documented in Mark Bayer's master's thesis in 1987.

SITE CONDITION

The overall condition of Lower Falls Park appears to be good. Pathways, seating areas, sculptural elements, and other features of the park appear to be well maintained. Some park elements, such as concrete retaining walls or other infrastructure has markings of vandalism and graffiti. Some stone piers located at overlook sites have broken caps or are missing caps altogether.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Though the cultural history of the site includes a considerable amount of early mill and later industrial development related to energy production, the Lower Falls Park area would generally be considered within a naturalistic immediate context. A substantial amount of industrial fabric has been overlaid and redeveloped throughout the site's history, and Industrial uses, both existing uses and historic remnants, are within the general proximity and viewshed of the park.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Bayer, Mark Harold. *Lower Falls Park*. Cornell University Master of Landscape Architecture thesis, 1987.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

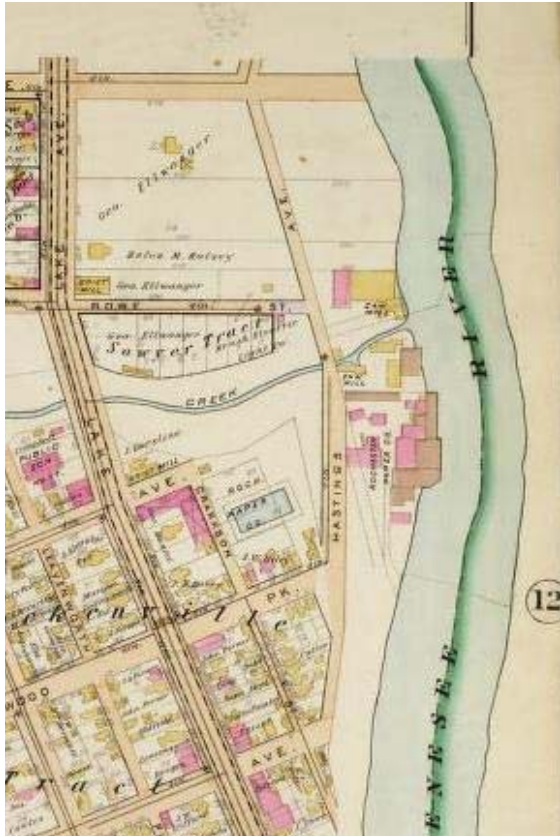
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Lower Falls Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Detail of 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park by F.L. Olmsted & Co., showing current site of Lower Falls Park on the west side of the river.



1888 plat map (Driving Park Avenue is at top)



1935 plat map



e0000024.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

Lower and Middle Falls, ca. 1890s



Lower Falls Park, looking east towards falls overlook area, 2009.



Lower Falls Park, looking west towards park sculpture, 2009.



Lower Falls Park, looking south towards seating area, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Maplewood Park Maplewood Rose Garden Seneca Park West North Park	Location Description:	Maplewood Park extends along approximately two miles of the western bank of the Genesee River between Driving Park Avenue and extending north past Ridge Road (104)
Location:	350 Maplewood Drive		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286271,4784463		
Tax ID:	091.290-0001-001.000 090.680-0001-002.000		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Olmsted pleasure ground
Size:	+/- 110 Acres (Maplewood Park and Maplewood Rose Garden)
Dimensions:	Varies (extends +/- 2 miles along Genesee River)
Topographic Description:	Varies (flat park areas and step river embankments)
Date of Construction:	1890s (1893 General Plan for Seneca Park East and West)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Frederick Law Olmsted
Current landmark designation status:	Entire park is included in the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West; portion is included in the National Register nomination for the Maplewood Historic District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Maplewood Park is comprised of two sections: Upper Maplewood Park, located between Driving Park Ave and the Vetrans Memorial Bridge, and Lower Maplewood Park, located north of the Bridge.

From the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West:

Upper Maplewood Park

Upper Maplewood Park begins at the Driving Park Bridge and extends north to Seneca Parkway. This wide section of upland, with its gently rolling topography, is bordered on the east by the gorge rim and on the west by Lake Avenue. There are three spaces within this park section, with one extending the length along the east boundary.

The most notable space is the Maplewood Rose Garden at the southwest, a fairly flat open area bounded by a gentle up-slope at the southwest corner and along the west boundary; the western gradient has a narrow mid-slope terrace. A sheared deciduous shrub hedge and a vertical metal picket fence, broken at the southeast, south central, southwest and northwest by pairs of

distinctive sandstone piers, line the entire perimeter. Those at the west flank stairs made of the same sandstone. The historic main park road enters through the south central piers and gates, widens into a paved and curbed parking lot, and is truncated just beyond the northern edge of the lot. The planted area of the Rose Garden is open in character, with generally unobstructed views into the Park and surrounding neighborhoods. The layout is rigidly geometric, with unedged planting beds taking various forms; plants include 5,000 bushes and 250 varieties of roses and consist of tiny miniatures, huge hybrids, climbing roses, tree roses, old-fashioned roses, double roses, and wild roses. Midway along the east edge of and incorporated into the bed area is a rust-colored stone fountain in a semicircular concrete pool flanked by simple marble benches. Scattered throughout the Rose Garden are various small-scale features, including benches and garden objects; over-scale single and double head “cobra” lights also are present. A very small contemporary gazebo is located at the northeast corner of the rose garden.

The next space to the north is Maple Grove. The Grove’s open character affords a broad vista south into the Rose Garden, as well as enframed views of the surrounding neighborhoods under the substantial tree canopies. A pedestrian path sweeps through the space in loose arcs and connecting at the southeast to the road and at the west to stairs with a pair of stone piers, leading to a public sidewalk. In the southeast corner of this space is a gazebo of identical construction to the one in the rose garden but much larger. At the northwest corner of the space is another pair of sandstone piers adjacent to a flight of steps leading from the grassy edge of the grove to the Lake Avenue sidewalk.

The third and final space in this park section is the Rim Edge, running to the east of both the Rose Garden and Grove along the gorge rim and continuing north to the next section. At the south this space is defined by the perimeter fence and contiguous public sidewalk; at the north it abuts the next park section. Unlike the other two spaces in Upper Maplewood Park, the Rim Edge is narrow and enclosed. The paved rim path enters through the southeast sandstone piers and parallels the gorge edge, which is marked by chain-link fence; within the southern third access is provided to the bank path that connects to Lower Falls Park. There is a distinctive group of mature conifers in this same area, with the remainder of the space containing somewhat dense clusters of deciduous trees. The latter, coupled with thick successional growth on the bank just beyond the rim, limits views to short distances down the bank slopes. This space also contains the Dove Cote; designed to resemble a military blockhouse, this structure is aligned at an angle to the both the rim path and park road/parking lot within the southern section of the Rim Edge. It is of frame construction with a randomly laid fieldstone foundation, an asphalt shingle roof, and walls of fieldstone (first floor) and stucco (second floor). The second story overhangs the first story and is bracketed. The structure has a hip roof with projecting eaves. The main doorway (east façade) features a stone lintel. Other features within the space include contemporary park benches and two small, contemporary storage sheds. The smaller of the two is a shallow gable-roofed shed with a pair of swinging garage doors on its west façade and no other openings. The larger, a short distance north of the smaller, has a square footprint, hip roof, and a combination of doors, overhead rolling doors, and small windows. Both buildings are clad in asphalt, have asphalt-shingled roofs, and are inconspicuous due to their dark color and modest surrounding shrubbery.

Between Upper Maplewood Park and Seneca Parkway, the Rim Edge Space is a continuation of the paved rim path, which follows the edge of the gorge east of Maplewood Avenue. Only for a short stretch along Maplewood Avenue is there any upland development, and that is limited to a single row of mature oaks planted between the road curb and gorge edge. For the purposes of this survey, Maplewood Park includes the Open Lawn area with tennis courts that is bounded by

Maplewood Dr, Park View St, and Riverside St. This are listed on the National Register as a portion of the Seneca Park district.

The Open Lawn is a wide triangle-like space that extends from the gorge rim on the east to Park View Street on the west; its southern and eastern boundaries are defined by the edge of the gorge, roughly parallel to the sweeping curve of Maplewood Drive, and its northern edge by Riverside Street. The land slopes almost unnoticeably from southwest to northeast, with the middle portion appearing flat. While the entire space is open rather than enclosed, it is this central area that appears most expansive; it is characterized by broad lawn with scattered deciduous trees. Along the contiguous streets and sidewalks are more formal plantings, with rows of primarily mature oaks lining these edges in a single, regular row. At the center north the space contains two pairs of tennis courts, side by side; these recreation features have asphalt playing surfaces and perimeter chain-link fence. The paved rim path is adjacent to the Open Lawn space, entering at the extreme southeast and continuing along the gorge edge east of Maplewood Drive; a thin band of lawn lies between the path and the curb of Maplewood Drive. Views from the Open Lawn space are extensive, with the surrounding residential buildings being the focus of all but those to the east and southeast; in these directions the subject is the gorge, although the view is often disrupted by vehicular traffic on the two-lane Maplewood Drive. Aside from contemporary highway-style street-lights that extend over Maplewood Drive and contemporary stylized streetlights near the other two streets, there are no light fixtures or other site furnishings in the Open Lawn.

Lower Maplewood Park

Lower Maplewood Park extends from the undeveloped uplands north of Upper Maplewood Park to north of the Veterans Memorial Bridge. This section of the Park includes a series of discontinuous spaces that first hug the gorge rim and then move away from it. The southern most of these spaces is the South Bridge Space; it begins north of the Riverside-Maplewood Drives intersection and extends under the Veterans Memorial Bridge. This small, compact piece of land is characterized by small groves of deciduous trees to the south and extremely dense successional vegetation to the north, along the bridge approaches. At the south the space is somewhat flat, but the terrain slopes down from southwest to northeast as one approaches the bridge. The three-lane wide Bridge View Drive is both the main park road and a local high-volume city street, making it virtually impossible to access the adjacent parkland from this busy thoroughfare; in addition the eastbound on-ramp for the bridge effectively isolates this space from the parkland to the north. The road is separated from the paved path by a solid stone wall about 5-6' tall. As the path goes under the bridge, the chain-link fence along the rim ends, and a sturdier, taller iron fence stands between the path and the rim of the gorge. Both the rim path and Bridge View Drive pass under the Veterans Memorial Bridge, providing extremely dramatic vistas of the gorge and bridge. Among the features of the bridge visible from the path and roadway is a pair of stairways that descend the sides of the bridge, providing a pedestrian connection from one side of the bridge to the other, but this feature is not accessible from the rim path due to the stone wall.

The North Bridge Space begins under the bridge and continues north to where the Maplewood Drive alignment angles northwest. This upland area lies between Bridge View Drive and the gorge rim; it provides access from the paved rim path to ramps and stairs leading to the pedestrian bridge over the river. Bridge View Drive separates this small space from the remainder of Lower Maplewood Park; both the rim path and the Drive provide dramatic views to the east, but offer limited views west. Elements of the Pure Waters Structure are present at the north end of this

space and include two small concrete-and-metal structures largely screened from view by vegetation. Contemporary benches also are present in this area and help to screen the structure as part of a landscaped seating terrace.

The Open Glen, the final space in this park section, is physically, and to some extent visually, separated from the previous spaces. It is bordered by the expressway ramps on the south, Bridge View Drive on the east, and Maplewood Drive on the west. Both Maplewood Drive and the expressway are higher in elevation than this broad open area, which slopes down from southwest to northeast. The change in elevation coupled with mature trees along these edges creates a subtle sense of sheltered enclosure. As in the other spaces within Lower Maplewood Park, Bridge View Drive acts as both the main park road and a local city street, with a high volume of fast-moving traffic. The core of the space has gently rolling topography at the north and west, with a small irregular-shaped, human-made pond toward the far northwest corner. A paved path crosses the space from east to west along a curving alignment, in part following the south edge of the pond. Vegetation immediately around the pond includes several water-tolerant species, while the balance of the space has open lawn with scattered deciduous trees. Contemporary play equipment is located south of the pond; and site furnishings such as benches, grills, and light fixtures mounted on utility poles are placed sporadically nearby. Along the east side the land has been graded to accommodate a mid-size surface parking lot and a City Police Department substation. The L-shaped concrete-block building is one-story with a flat roof and the parking lot has pressure-treated wood bollards along its north and south ends. Topography, vegetation and volume of traffic on the surrounding streets keep most views internal to the space, although there are some distant, partially obscured vistas east towards the gorge.

LAND USE HISTORY

Adapted from the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West:

The rugged topography of the Genesee River gorge north of downtown Rochester was created by a sequence of prehistoric geological events, including the shifting course of glaciers that resulted in the creation of the steep gorge and more level terraces.

No Native American settlements have been found within the city of Rochester, although evidence of camp sites and trails have been found along the gorge, including in what is now Maplewood Park. European pioneers subsequently established several settlements along the river, McCrackenville, at the Lower Falls; Kelsey's Landing, less than a mile north of the falls; King's Landing (also known as Hanford's Landing) a mile north of Kelsey's Landing.

Although the Erie Canal ensured that the settlement of Rochester would eclipse the communities to the north, the Lower Falls remained an important industrial site. Industry here included flour mills, carpet and furniture manufacturing, a tannery, and paper mills, centered around the area known as McCrackenville, on the west side of the river. Industrial production along the river near the Lower Falls continued through the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth.

As water power gave way to electricity and the railroad became the dominant mode of industrial transportation, business owners found it possible and increasingly desirable to locate their factories along railroad lines instead of by the river. This created an opportunity for other activities to develop

along the river, and for Rochesterians to envision the river as a scenic and recreational rather than purely industrial asset. Leading citizens began to urge the city to develop a park system before all the prime scenic and recreational sites were lost to development. This movement culminated in the selection of Frederick Law Olmsted to design a park system for the city in 1888.

Despite the local park advocates' initial stipulation that they wanted a system of parkways to enhance property values, Olmsted insisted that the city should focus on acquiring land for large parks along the Genesee River, the city's most scenic asset.

The park now known as Maplewood Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted as Seneca Park West, and shown on the 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park. Olmsted's design for Seneca Park East and West was intended to protect both sides of the dramatic Genesee River gorge north of the city from encroaching industrial development, and to provide safe public access to the gorge. While skeptics doubted that a park so far from the densely settled areas of the city was necessary or useful, Olmsted foresaw that urban growth would make large expanses of public land increasingly difficult to acquire and protect.

Olmsted's design approach used subtle manipulation of topography, naturalistic plantings, and curvilinear paths and walks to create enhance the natural character of the land, which he called the "genius of the place." Because the chief goal of Seneca Park East and West was protection of the gorge scenery – and also because the Park Commission had limited funds with which to acquire property – most of the park consisted of the gorge banks themselves with a narrow strip of land at the top on which Olmsted designed a system of curvilinear drives and paths. At what is now Lower Maplewood Park, Olmsted took advantage of a natural tableland to create a broader section of the park with picnic groves and a manmade pond.

In 1904, the City acquired the former Maple Grove, a picnic and recreation spot partially developed by George Ellwanger at what was then the end of the Lake Avenue streetcar line. Subsequently, several lots east and south of Maple Grove were donated to the city by George Eastman, founder of the Eastman Kodak company and a major philanthropist, and Walter B. Duffy, the city's leading distiller and founder of the Rochester-based New York & Kentucky Company. The city demolished the buildings on the lots and created additional parkland, which was combined with Seneca Park West; the park was then renamed Maplewood Park.

From this point forward, Seneca Park East and Seneca Park West developed separate identities, although they remained functionally interdependent as they preserved opposite banks of the river and were connected by the Driving Park Bridge (originally called the Seneca Park Bridge) and, later, the Veterans' Memorial Bridge.

The Park Commission promptly asked the Olmsted Brothers firm to develop a landscape plan for the newly acquired land. Many of the firm's recommendations, summarized in a report by John C. Olmsted, echoed the approach that had guided the initial development of Seneca Park East and West.

In addition to proposing a continued emphasis on gorge scenery and naturalistic effects, the Olmsted firm advised the Park Commission on ways to accommodate new facilities in this section of the park,

where they would not interfere with an existing design. The Park Commission did not always follow the firm's advice, and as a result, the new introductions were often more conspicuous than the Olmsted firm would have liked. By 1910 a classical bandstand and brick field house, surrounded by play equipment, had been built near the south side of the original grove. A dovecote near the rim of the gorge, slightly north of Driving Park Avenue, and a simple pavilion built on a terrace in the gorge below the dovecote (possibly built on or near the foundations of the old Glen House elevator) were added later in the period. Historic maps show a network of paths that was considerably more elaborate than anything seen in the original plan for Seneca Park East and West, although the paths were generally asymmetrical and curvilinear in layout, reflecting the sloping terrain, rather than formal or rectilinear. By 1911, a rose garden had developed at the south end of the newly acquired property, just north of Driving Park Avenue. The formal, symmetrical arrangement of showy flowering plants was reflective of classical trends of the early twentieth century and a departure from the romantic style that had guided the design of the original sections of Seneca Park. The evolution of Maplewood Rose Garden and the Maple Grove is described in more detail in the National Register nomination for the Maplewood Historic District.

The last major period of development of Maplewood Park was the 1930s. During this period, the Veterans Memorial Bridge was constructed, bisecting Lower Maplewood Park. While the bridge disrupted the continuity of the park on both sides of the river, the efforts to beautify the bridge and its approaches and to create elegant pedestrian-oriented amenities showed an interest in ensuring that the bridge would be an enhancement rather than an intrusion.

In Maplewood Park, the best remaining example of Depression-era construction is the Dovecote near the Maplewood Rose Garden. This structure was built to resemble a military blockhouse.

The most notable post-World War II project in the park was the renovation and redesign of the Maplewood Rose Garden in Seneca Park West. This took place in the late 1940s, when a cooperative effort between the City Bureau of Parks and the Rochester Rose Society resulted in the establishment of a terraced formal garden with new drainage and irrigation systems. The redesigned rose garden was dedicated on June 24, 1951.

In 1955, a skating and picnic shelter was built next to the pond in Lower Maplewood Park; this is a noncontributing feature in the Seneca Park East and West designation. Also noncontributing are the small structures associated with the Pure Waters facility.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Maplewood Park is already listed in the National Register as part of two nominations. Part of the park is designated in the National Register as a contributing site in the Maplewood Historic District. The entire park is listed in the National Register as Seneca Park West (in the designation of Seneca Park East and West), one of the notable Pleasure Ground parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. It meets National Register Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture. For more detail on the history, design, and significance of the park, including detailed lists of contributing and noncontributing features, please see

the very detailed National Register nomination forms for the Maplewood Historic District and Seneca Park East and West.

SITE CONDITION

The overall condition of Maplewood Park is varied. Most elements within the park areas are in good condition, with typical wear exhibited on park furnishings and other components. The Maplewood Rose Garden portion of the park is very well maintained. Much of the river trail portion of the park is naturalized.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Due to the size and length of the park, the surrounding context is varied. A majority of the surrounding land uses are residential in character. Light commercial uses are located at major intersections and industrial development is often within the viewshed of many portions of the park. The area has an intense history of industrial use along the river in some sections.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

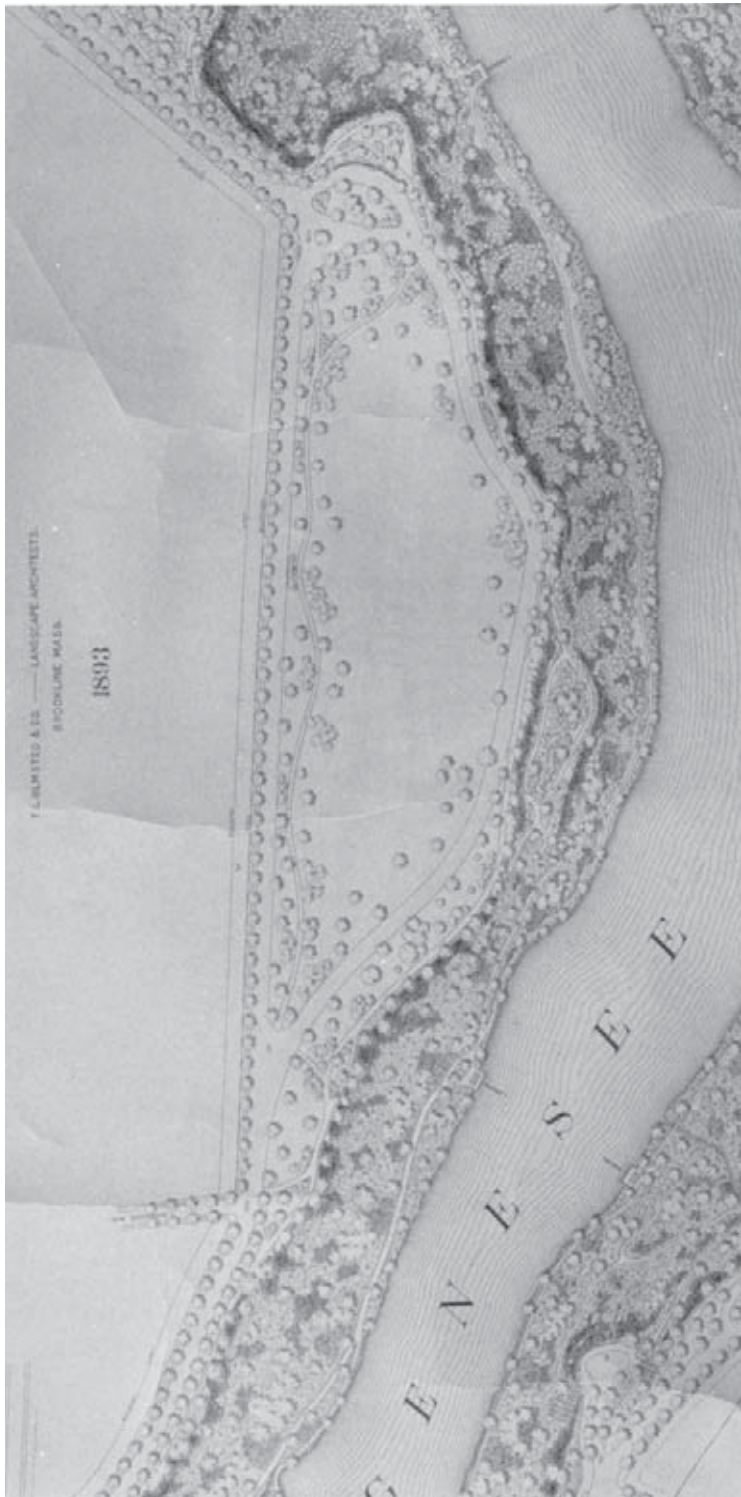
“Maplewood Historic District.” National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 1997.

“Seneca Park East and West.” National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 2003.

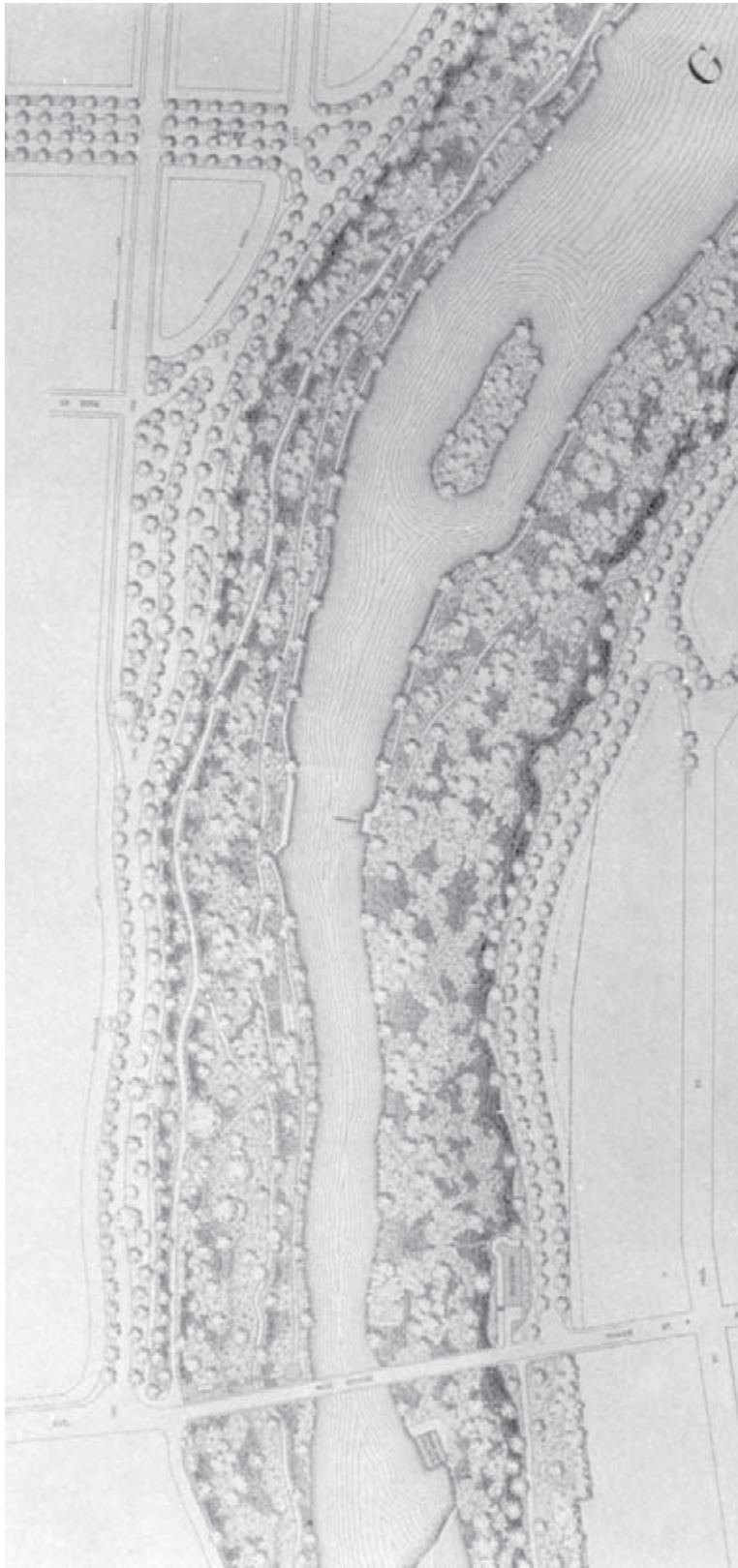
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Maplewood Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Detail of the 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park by F. L. Olmsted & Co., showing what is now Lower Maplewood Park.



Detail of the 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park by F. L. Olmsted & Co., showing what is now Upper Maplewood Park.



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Aerial view of a portion of Maplewood Park and the Veterans Memorial Bridge, c. 1930s



rpc1847a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Historic postcard view of Maplewood Rose Garden, c. 1915.



Maplewood Park, looking east over rose garden area, 2009.



Maplewood Park, looking west towards Lake Avenue, 2009.



Maplewood Park, looking south along river gorge walkway, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Morrison Mall Morrison Park	Location Description:	Triangle street mall / park area bounded by Culver Road on the west, and Harvard Avenue on the south and north.
Location:	184 Culver Rd		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:290645,4780037		
Tax ID:	122.530-0003-028.000		
Existing Zoning:	R-3 (High Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	0.098 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 42' 107'
Topographic Description:	Flat, slight slope away from Culver
Date of Construction:	Ca. 1900-1910
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Morrison mall consists of a wedge-shaped planted median at the intersection of Harvard and Culver Rd. The street mall is well landscaped and features a variety of ornamental trees, annuals, and perennials. The narrow east end of the street mall is capped by a perennial/annual planting bed. The street mall widens towards the west, and includes a small brick paver plaza centered in the street mall. The small plaza / patio space is book ended by ornamental trees, with perennials planted around the plaza edge. A water spigot is located in the southeast corner of the plaza space. The center of the plaza contains a small planting bed that is approximately 2.5' square. The patio space appears to be a contemporary addition. The western end of the street mall borders Culver Road and features a few medium sized shrubs (Yew) and ornamental trees. Medina stone curbing surrounds the street mall. A utility junction box is located on the southwest corner.

LAND USE HISTORY

The origins of Morrison Mall are unclear. The 1900 city plat map showed the subdivision of land north and west of what is now Morrison Mall. The Erie Canal was still present in its original route (where I-490 is today, parallel to Harvard Street in this location), and lots south of Harvard Street were not subdivided at that time. Harvard Street took a northward jog at this point to meet Culver at a 90-degree angle rather than continuing straight to Culver Road (see 1900 plat map, below).

It appears that the street mall was created simply as a result of the unusual geometry of the intersection, rather than as a designed or intentional subdivision element. It is therefore not a typical

street mall designed to enhance a subdivision, but more or a leftover space that gradually became a small pocket park.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

As a small street mall, Morrison Mall would not meet the criteria for National Register listing as an individual landscape. It may, however, qualify for designation as a contributing site in a National Register-eligible district. Morrison Mall is within the area identified in the 1986 *Historic Resources Survey* as a National Register-eligible extension to the East Avenue Historic District. The district's eligibility was confirmed in the 2001 *Report on the 1986 Historic Resources Survey*. While the street mall was not specifically called out as a contributing feature, it appears that it would qualify as a contributing feature in the district due to its age

SITE CONDITION

Morrison street mall is appears to be in generally good condition. The mall features a brick patio and plantings that seem to be well maintained. Medina stone curbing has been patched in some areas.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The land use characteristics in the immediate neighborhood are generally residential. The neighborhood contains a mixture of single-family homes and converted multi-family properties. The street mall is near the high traffic intersection of Culver Road with the I-490 expressway. Cobs Hill Park is located across the expressway to the south.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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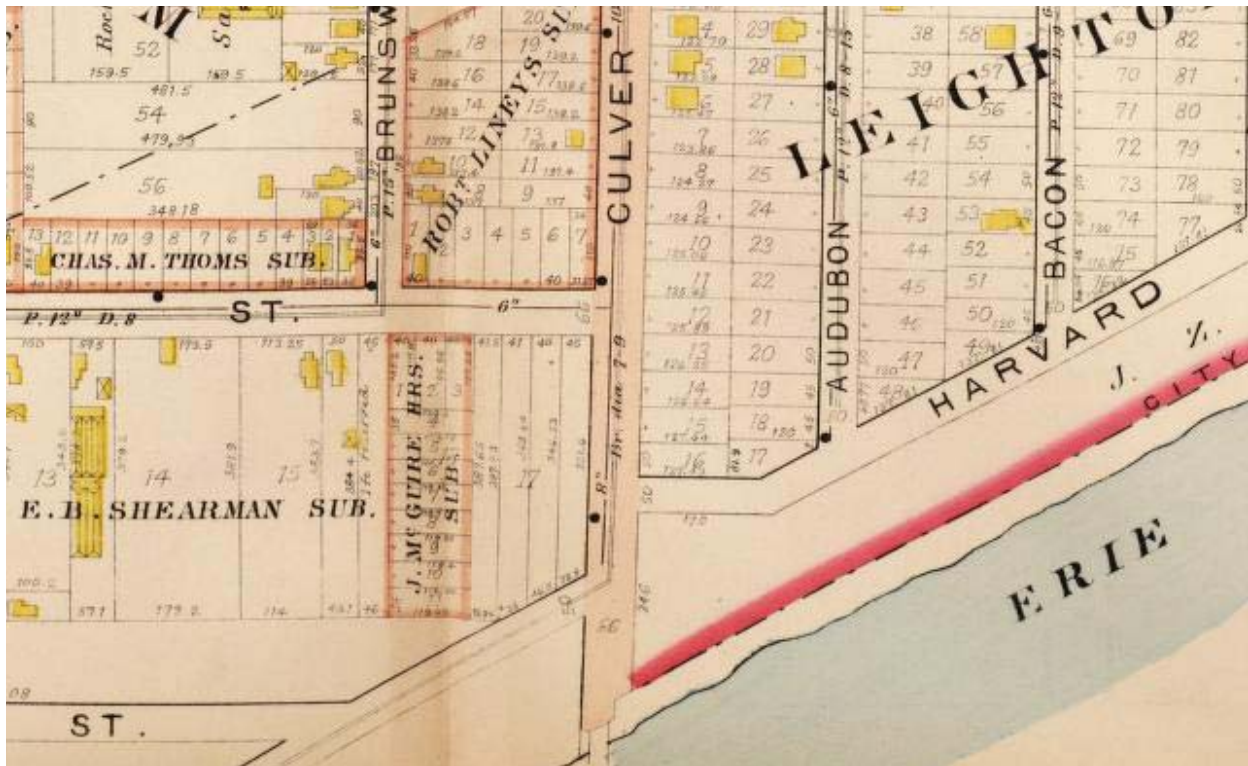
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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



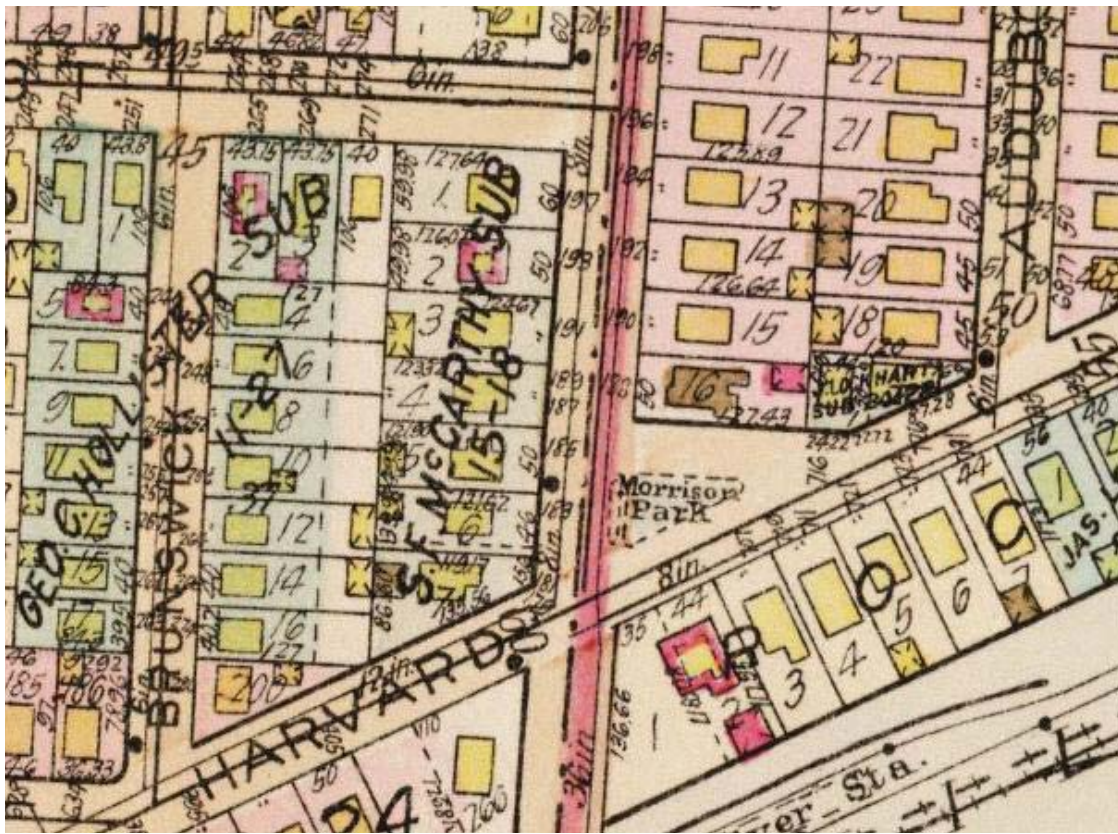
Morrison Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1900 plat map; future Morrison Mall site is just south of the intersection of Harvard and Culver.



1910 plat map



1926 plat map



Morrison Mall, looking west towards Culver Road, 2009.



Morrison Mall, central plaza / patio space, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Mount Hope Cemetery	Location Description:
Location:	1133 Mt Hope Avenue	Cemetery bounded by Mt Hope Avenue to the east, Elmwood Avenue to the south, U of R Intercampus road and Genesee River to the west, and residential properties fronting a portion of McLean St to the north.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:287153,4778778	
Tax ID:	136.370-0001-001.000	
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Picturesque Cemetery
Size:	+/- 192 Acres
Dimensions:	Varies
Topographic Description:	Varies (Cemetery is portion of Pinnacle Range that includes Cobbs Hill Park and Highland Park)
Date of Construction:	1838
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Silas Cornell, George D. Stillson
Current landmark designation status:	Contributing site in the National Register-listed Mt. Hope/Highland Historic District and the Mt. Hope Preservation District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Mount Hope Cemetery is a large historic municipal cemetery featuring highly varied terrain at the end of the Pinnacle range of hills, adjacent to the Genesee River. The cemetery incorporates several entrances along Mt Hope Avenue and an entrance along Elmwood Avenue. Spatially, the park is divided into two sections. The southern half of the cemetery includes a newer gridded layout, with mostly contemporary burials. The northern portion of the cemetery features many historic burial sites and a highly varied path system, characterized by narrow, twisting cobble and asphalt drives around significant land forms, valleys and hills.

At the north end of the cemetery, along Mt. Hope Avenue, the cemetery's original gatehouse is located left of an ornamental park entry gate. The entry drive continues west into a parking courtyard within a steep-walled glen. A noteworthy ornamental fountain exists in a grassy area of the glen, fronting a the cemetery's original chapel and crematory, which has been partially built into the hillside. From this courtyard glen, cobble drives snake up in elevation around the glen's perimeter, leading to a twisting assortment of secondary pathways that continue around the parks unusual topography.

The entire cemetery contains a considerable variation of funerary sculpture, wrought iron work, and landscape masonry. Many crosses, statuettes, draped urns, and obelisks dot the parks small peaks, topographic depressions, and hillsides. Slopes have been slightly terraced in many places, forming curving bands of clustered burial plots, family plots, stairways, and viewing platforms. Winding paths

continue towards the rear of the cemetery (west) and south towards the more gridded and flat burial sections along Elmwood Avenue.

The cemetery also features an exemplary collection of plant species, including massive pastoral shade trees, wooded groves, hedgerows, and flowering ornamental trees.

LAND USE HISTORY

Mount Hope Cemetery is significant as the first American rural cemetery planned, developed, and maintained by a municipality. Dedicated in 1838, it is an early and influential example of the rural cemetery, laid out in a picturesque style. Other early examples include Mount Auburn, in Cambridge, Massachusetts (1831), Laurel Hill, in Philadelphia (1836), and Greenwood, in Brooklyn (1838). Rural cemeteries, which were located on a city's outskirts in a naturalistic setting, helped to popularize a new, romantic landscape style and also provided much-needed open space in growing cities, often serving as unofficial picnic grounds prior to the establishment of city parks.

The land on which Mount Hope was created is naturally dramatic, composed of rugged terrain created by glaciers. Despite some early concerns that such hilly land was unsuitable for burials and difficult to access, the city purchased the land from Silas Andrus in 1836 and began laying it out. The city surveyor, Silas Cornell, acted as the first landscape architect, deciding on the placement of roads and clearing trees. The cemetery was dedicated on October 3, 1838, featuring a dedication address that praised the natural beauty and practical advantages of the site.

In 1847, George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry donated 50 shade trees from their nursery, which was located right across Mount Hope Avenue. These trees set the stage for what became a significant collection of horticultural specimens.

Architecture in the park likewise demonstrated the highest quality. The chapel dates to 1862 and was designed by local architect Henry Robinson Searle. The existing gatehouse, the third on the site, was designed in 1874 by Andrew Jackson Warner, a prominent Rochester architect. An ornamental fountain and gazebo were added near the entrance in 1875. A.J. Warner's son, J. Foster Warner, also a notable local architect, designed the crematory in 1912.

The cemetery is the final resting place for numerous local leaders and other locally significant figures, as well as several nationally significant people. Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, Isaac and Amy Post, John Bausch, Henry Lomb, both A.J. and J. Foster Warner, George Ellwanger, George Selden, Hiram Sibley, James Cunningham, Seth Green, Lewis Henry Morgan, Daniel Powers, and G. Hartwell Carver are just a few of the many notable people laid to rest here.

There are also many examples of significant funerary art in the cemetery, including the Dr. Hartwell Carver monument, the Ellwanger and Erickson monuments designed by Italian sculptor Nicola Cantalamessa-Papotti, several monuments by innovative local architect Claude Bragdon, and the Firemen's Monument.

The fact that the cemetery was a municipal, rather than private, venture, attracted notice; 19th-century historian William F. Peck noted that "Mount Hope has received name and fame, widespread, not only

for its loveliness of aspect, but from the confidence that no fiscal embarrassment would cause neglect that would dim its beauty or make insecure its possession.”

For more information, please see the very detailed *Mount Hope Cemetery Cultural Landscape Report, Tree Inventory and Management Plan*, prepared by Heritage Landscapes LLC et al. for the City of Rochester and Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, May 2009.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Mount Hope Cemetery is listed in the National Register and is locally designated as a contributing site in the Mt. Hope Highland Historic District/Preservation District. While its designation status is already assured, this site would be worthy of individual landmark designation and could even rise to the level of National Historic Landmark status, as described in the statement of significance in the 2009 Cultural Landscape Report for the cemetery:

The unique historic significance of Mount Hope Cemetery is locally and nationally recognized and protected through incorporation in one of Rochester’s preservation districts and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The entire northern half of Mount Hope Cemetery and a portion of the southern half are included in the National Register-listed Mount Hope-Highland Historic District. The 1974 NRHP nomination includes a 19th and 20th century period of significance, although it does not indicate specific dates. It also identifies significance in the areas of landscape architecture, architecture, commerce, social/humanitarian, transportation, and urban planning. It should be noted that both the period and areas of significance indicated refer to the entire historic district rather than just the cemetery...

The Mount Hope Cemetery cultural landscape incorporates historic significance to varying degrees under all four National Register criteria for determining the historical significance based on association and integrity. The cultural landscape of the cemetery is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of United States history. The historic landscape remains as a testament to the history of the shifting perceptions of death and burial and the spread of the rural cemetery movement in the United States. The cemetery is also associated with the lives of persons significant in the past including: notable designers, architects Henry Searle, Henry Robinson Searle, Andrew J. Warner, and J. Foster Warner; Italian sculptor Nicola Cantalamessa-Papotti; and figures notable in local and national history, including Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, Fletcher Steele, Frank E. Gannett, and Lewis Henry Morgan, among many others. The cultural landscape of the cemetery continues to embody distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. The cultural landscape of Mount Hope Cemetery exists as a surviving early example of the rural cemetery type as implemented in the United States where the use of grounds was designed not only as a functional cemetery, but as a picturesque setting for quiet reflection and passive recreation. The landscape may contain archaeological sites with the potential to yield evidence of prehistory or history, particularly as the major ridgeline, Indian Trail Avenue, served as an important Native American route through the area. Overall the landscape of Mount Hope Cemetery is significant under criterion A as an example of the evolution of burial practices in the United States; criterion B for its association

with numerous prominent designers and historical figures; criterion C as a landscape distinctly characteristic of the rural cemetery movement; and to a lesser degree, criterion D for potential archeological remains. The historic significance and high integrity of Mount Hope Cemetery indicates that the landscape is eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places and potentially as a National Historic Landmark as well.

For more information, please see the Cultural Landscape Report, which provides great detail on the significance and integrity of the cemetery.

As one of the most significant landscapes in Rochester, Highland Park is worthy of a high level of historic documentation that would define its history and significance more clearly than the existing nominations do, and would facilitate protection of its historic features. The existing National Register nomination and/or the local designation should be amended to provide much more information about the park. If national-level significance can be documented, as suggested above, then National Historic Landmark designation could be pursued as well.

SITE CONDITION

Mount Hope Cemetery includes a vast number of historic elements; including buildings, memorials, and funerary sculpture. The conditions of the park's historic features vary extensively. Some burial plots have stonework or other features in complete disrepair, while the majority of the park's elements are in satisfactory or excellent condition. Overall, considering the age and number of features, the park is in good condition. Park buildings, including the former chapel, gatehouse, and contemporary buildings located in the southern portion of the cemetery, are well maintained and in good condition.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The neighborhood context of Mount Hope Cemetery includes a variety of residential, commercial, and institutional uses immediately adjacent to the park's boundary. The western portion of Highland Park lies adjacent to Mt Hope Cemetery's original main gate and gatehouse, along Mt Hope Avenue. Residential neighborhoods with commercial activity fronting Mt Hope Avenue continue along the cemetery's eastern periphery. The southern section of the cemetery lies adjacent to Strong Memorial Hospital and medical complex. The cemetery's eastern boundary links to the University of Rochester campus, on the banks of the Genesee River.

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Mt. Hope Cemetery, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1888 plat map



rpf01757.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Mount Hope Cemetery, engraving by J.E. Young, 1838.



Mt. Hope Cemetery, entry gate, 2009.



Mt. Hope Cemetery, fountain and former chapel, 2009.



Mt. Hope Cemetery, burial markers and varied topography, 2009.



Mt. Hope Cemetery, glacial kettle formation, 2009.



Mt. Hope Cemetery, southern portion of cemetery with less terrain variation, 200

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Jefferson Terrace Park Playground at School No. 4 George Mather Forbes Playground	Location Description:	Park area bounded by Tremont St to the north, Jefferson Ave to the east, Bronson St to the south, and School No. 4 to the west.
Location:	198 Dr Samuel McCree Way		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286177,4780510		
Tax ID:	Seven total parcels: 120.510-0003-023.000 120.510-0003-024.002 120.510-0003-029.000 120.510-0003-028.000 120.510-0003-027.000 120.510-0003-026.000 120.510-0003-025.000		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential) R-2 (Medium Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Playground
Size:	+/- 2.03 acres
Dimensions:	+/- 230' x 385'
Topographic Description:	Flat, slight mounding and berming at boundary
Date of Construction:	1937; 1968-70
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

The park area consists of a large open grassy area and associated playground, located on the east side of George Mather Forbes Elementary School . The northern half of the park site is mainly open lawn area and functions as a recreation space and play field. An asphalt path runs from the western side of the park site to the southeastern corner of the park, near the intersection of Jefferson and Bronson Avenues. The asphalt pathway passes through a playground space that includes a rubberized surface play area with contemporary equipment and two galvanized steel swing sets within a grassy area. The rubberized playground space is approximately 80' x 60' in size and includes a large cluster of cataloged equipment.

The park’s western and northern perimeters feature sculpted topography, forming informal grassy mounds that slightly enclose the park space from Tremont Street and softening the building edge. The park’s southern boundary includes a wooden post and rail fence, squaring off a buffer space that

features several large shade and ornamental trees along Bronson Avenue. A small cluster of trees is located adjacent to the school building. The park site has various tree shade tree plantings at the periphery of the sidewalk on most sides, giving a sense of enclosure to the playground. A chain link fence runs down the back of sidewalk along a portion of Jefferson Avenue. The playground area contains one contemporary bench and a trash receptacle.

LAND USE HISTORY

The site that is now Jefferson Terrace Park was historically occupied by houses and the old Genesee School No. 4, which was built in 1874. At the time of the 1935 History of the Public Schools in Rochester, School No. 4 was the city's oldest school still in use. Shortly thereafter, a new School No. 4 was built just west of the old school site. The 1874 building was demolished, and its site became a playground. This configuration is shown on the 1935 plat map. A 1941 photograph also shows the playground site, the school, and the remaining buildings south of the playground.

The 1959 *Plan for Public Recreation* indicated that the playground had basketball and baseball facilities, playground apparatus, and a fenced tot lot, and was used by elementary school children. The playground was supervised, but the report recommended discontinuing this supervision due to limited size and facilities. It appears from city records that between 1968 and 1970 the rest of the parcels that now make up the park were acquired, and the portion of Jefferson Terrace (originally Penn Street) just east of Jefferson Avenue was closed, to expand the park to its current configuration.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

School No. 4/Jefferson Terrace Park does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register due to age (it did not take on its current configuration until circa 1970) and lack of historic features.

SITE CONDITION

The site appears to be in satisfactory condition overall. Most features of the park, including trees, pathways, wood fencing, and sculpted grassy mounds appear in good condition and contribute to a quality character of the park. The playground equipment appears intact and maintained, however, it is faded. Additionally, the rubberized surface of the playground is curling and cracked and generally appears to require replacement. The swing set has some vandalism and paint across the structural components, but appears well used and intact.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The character of the neighborhood is generally mixed use in the immediate vicinity of the playground. The park area was once the site of the Genesee School No. 4, which included a smaller playground on a portion of the existing park area. Residential homes generally surround the park site and neighboring streets. Several commercial and religious structures are located nearby, with a neighborhood-level commercial cluster located at the southeast corner of the park. The neighborhood has experienced some urban vacancy over the decades and vacant properties remain within the vicinity of the park.

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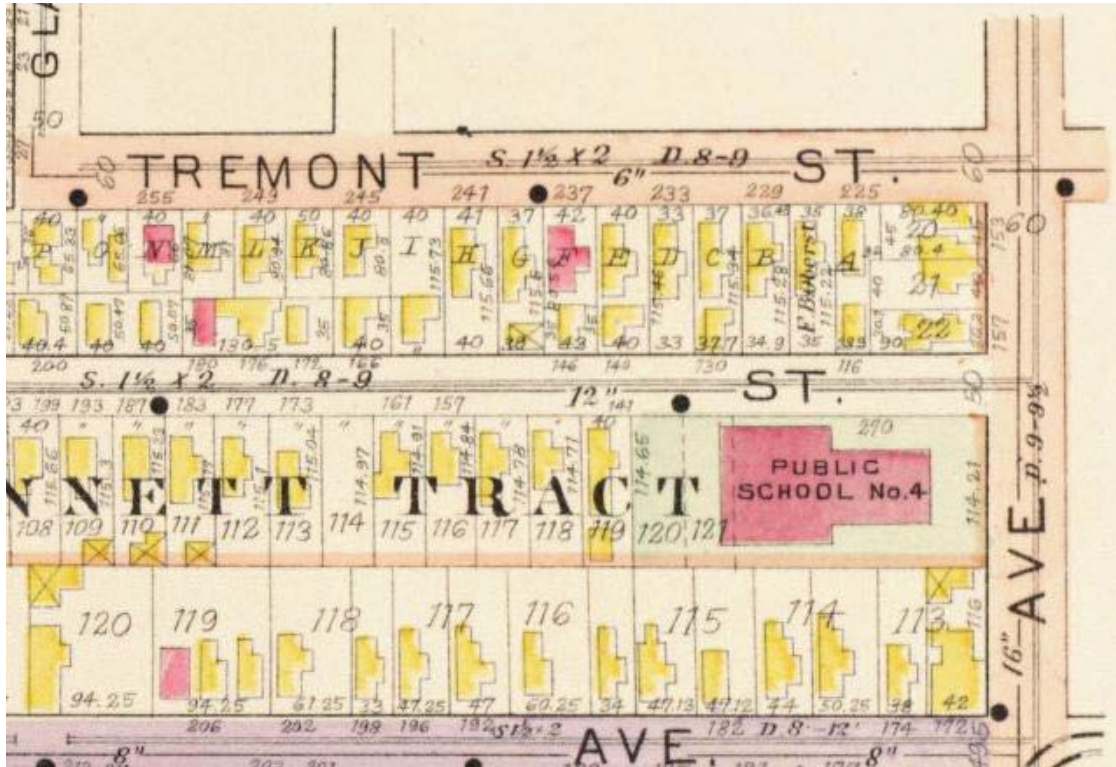
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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

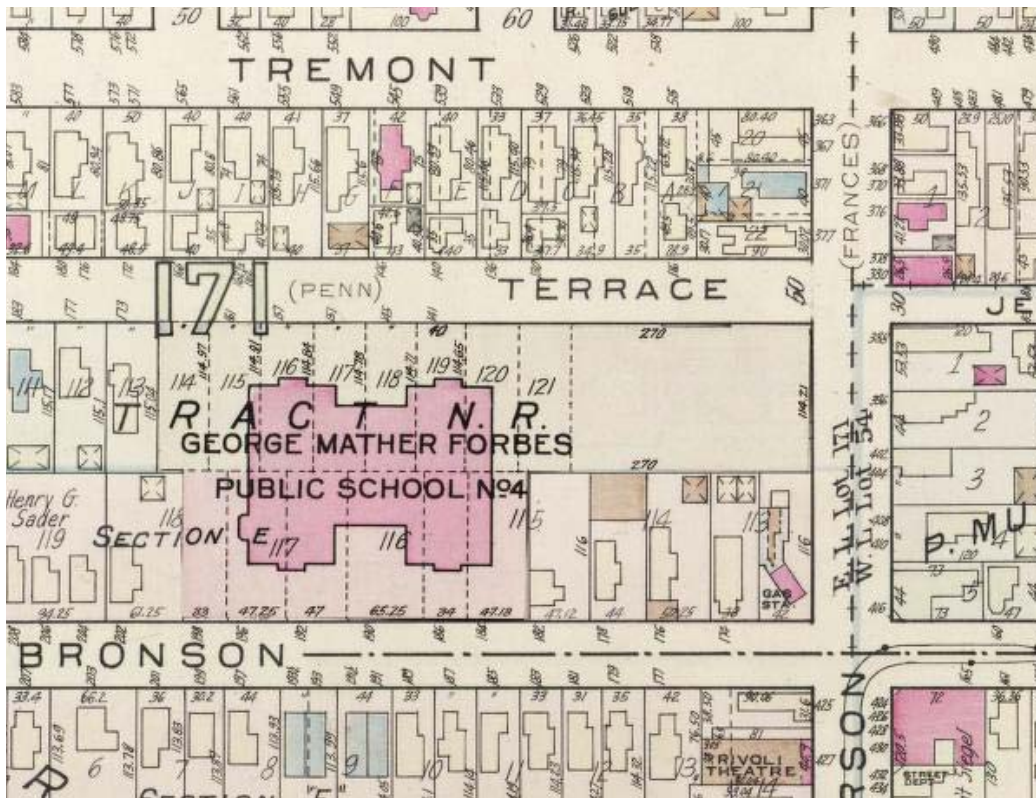
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Jefferson Terrace Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Future site of Jefferson Terrace Park, 1900 plat map.



1935 plat map



m0000331.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

1941 photograph, view across Jefferson Avenue. School No. 4 is in the background.



Jefferson Terrace Park, looking northeast towards the playground area, 2009.



Jefferson Terrace Park, looking northeast, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Pont de Rennes Bridge Platt Street Bridge	Location Description:	Bridge over the Genesee River starting at intersection of Platt St and Brown's Race, continuing over to Morrie Silver Way on the eastern side of the river.
Location:	Over Genesee River at Platt St.		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:287343,4782170		
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)		
Existing Zoning:	CCD (Center City District)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Structure (Pedestrian Bridge)
Size:	+/- 0.483 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 958' x 22'
Topographic Description:	Flat (paved bridge span)
Date of Construction:	1891
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Rochester Bridge & Iron Works
Current landmark designation status:	Contributing structure in the National Register-listed Brown's Race Historic District and in the locally designated High Falls/Brown's Race Preservation District.

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

From the National Register nomination form for the Brown's Race Historic District:

The Platt Street Bridge is a double intersection lattice deck truss bridge consisting of five iron trusses on trestle bents. Overall length of the bridge is 858 feet. The Platt Street Bridge has been converted to pedestrian use and retains its original cast- and wrought-iron pedestrian railing.

The Pont de Rennes bridge includes a concrete walkway deck over the Genesee River. The concrete promenade includes some decorative paving, benches, interpretive signage, and pedestrian lighting. Benches are wood slats on steel supports, and are painted purple. The concrete deck features patterning, with alternating diamonds of colored/stained concrete adjacent to sitting areas. Lighting is period-style lighting with dual bell-shaped fixtures on a black steel pole, centered along the concrete deck. A commemorative plaque describes the bridge's contemporary nomenclature as the Pont de Rennes bridge, named for Rochester's first sister city – Rennes, France.

LAND USE HISTORY

Constructed in 1891 for pedestrian and horse-drawn vehicular traffic, the Platt Street Bridge had a wooden deck which remained until the bridge was converted for pedestrian use in 1983, when a concrete cap was added. The bridge greatly facilitated travel between Brown's Race and the burgeoning

industrial area across the gorge. It was converted from vehicular to pedestrian use in 1983 when a concrete deck was poured. The original railings were retained.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

The Pont de Rennes (historically the Platt Street Bridge) is already designated both locally and in the National Register as a contributing structure in the Brown's Race Historic District/Preservation District. The district as a whole was nominated under National Register Criteria A, C, and D; Criteria A (association with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history) and C (embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction) are relevant to the bridge. For more detail, please see the National Register nomination for the Brown's Race Historic District, which provides more information of the significance of the Platt Street Bridge and other structures and sites in the district within the context of Rochester's 19th-century industrial and transportation development.

SITE CONDITION

The overall condition of the bridge's promenade related elements appears to be good. The promenade is well maintained, lighted, and clean. The structural condition of the bridge is unknown.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The current neighborhood context of the Pont de Rennes Bridge would be considered mixed use and industrial. The surrounding High Falls district, to the west side of the bridge was conceived as a contemporary entertainment district. The area has been a directed redevelopment area for many years and appears to recently be increasing the number of residential units. Additional offices, art galleries, and both owner-occupied and rental residential units have increased the neighborhoods contextual diversity.

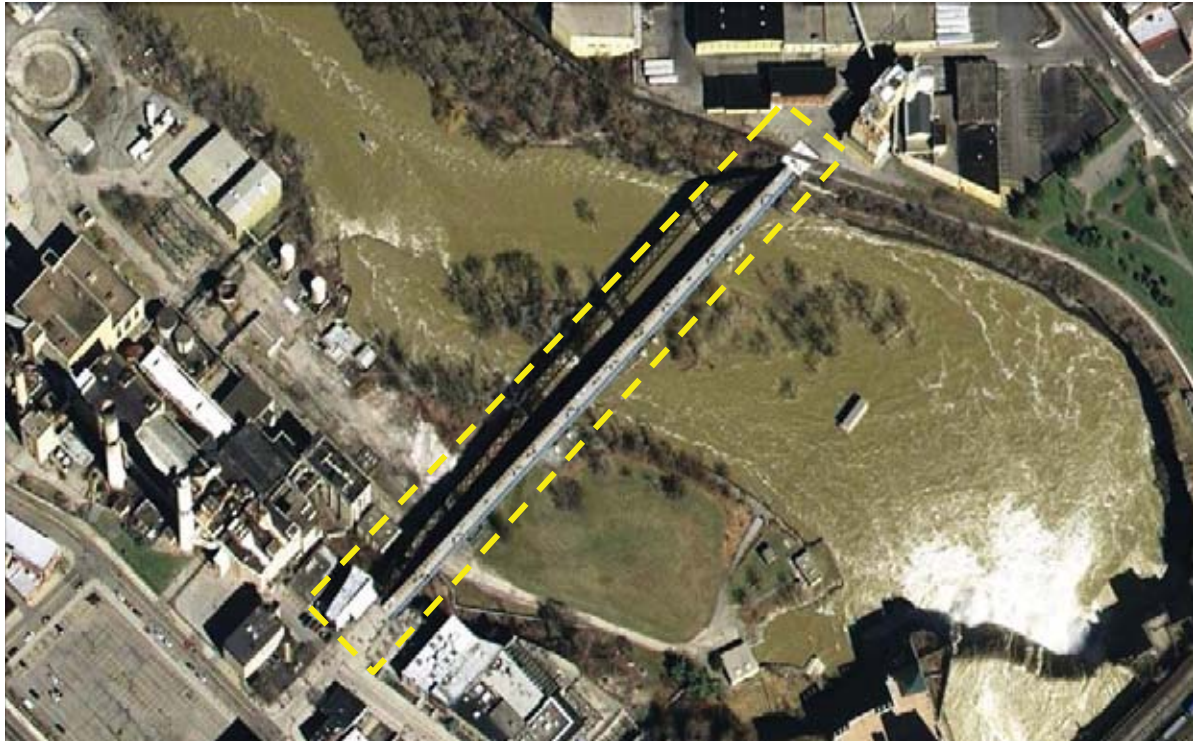
The east side of the bridge is more industrial in character, with the High Falls Brewery facility located at the bridge's eastern terminus.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

"Brown's Race Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. 1989.

"Brown's Race Historic District." Application for Designation of Preservation Districts, Rochester, New York. 1990.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Pont de Rennes Bridge, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

The Upper Falls and Platt Street Bridge, c. 1917



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N. Y.

The Platt Street Bridge, c. 1925



Pont de Rennes Bridge, looking east across bridge promenade, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Portsmouth Terrace Mall	Location Description:	
Location:	Portsmouth between University Ave and East Ave		Small rotary-style street mall located on Portsmouth Terrace midway between University Avenue and East Avenue.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone:18T E/N:290092,4781079		
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)		
Existing Zoning:	R-2 (Medium Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.086 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 90' x 42'
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	1880s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	In the National Register-listed East Avenue Historic District and the local East Avenue Preservation District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Portsmouth Terrace Mall is an oval-shaped planted median located centrally along Portsmouth Terrace, between University Avenue and East Avenue. The street mall features ornamental tree plantings with various deciduous and evergreen shrubs located in a centered oval planting bed. Plantings include flowering cherry, flowering crabapple, rhododendrons, yew, among others. A wide grassy strip surrounds the planting bed and contains two street lights and traffic signage. The mall is surrounded by medina stone curbing. Street lights are Rochester-standard colonial style fixtures on 14' fiberglass poles. A water connection is located on the malls northern end.

LAND USE HISTORY

Portsmouth Terrace Mall is one of several late-19th century street malls that were developed to enhance the desirability and economic value of residential properties along side streets off of East Avenue, Rochester's most prominent street at the time. It first appeared on the 1888 plat map, which indicated the presence of the oval street mall as well as the wide green tree lawns between the houses and the street. Like nearby streets like Oxford, Sibley Place, Arnold Park, and Rundel Park, Portsmouth Terrace was lined with large houses that attracted upper-middle-class families, and the generous landscaping, in the form of the street mall and tree lawns, created a park-like setting.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Portsmouth Terrace is already designated at the local and national level, because it is within the boundaries of the local East Avenue Preservation District and State/National Register-listed East Avenue Historic District. As a landscape feature that reflects the origins and subsequent development of the neighborhood, it is a contributing element in the East Avenue district at both levels. While specific planting materials have changed, the overall effect recalls the historic period and contributes strongly to the character of the street and the district.

SITE CONDITION

The mall appears to be in good condition and is well maintained. All trees and shrubs appear to be in good health. The mall is classified as a “Group I” street mall and maintenance is done by the City.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The neighborhood context of Portsmouth Terrace Mall is wholly residential in character. The mall is comparatively small and residential homes line the immediate street frontages. The George Eastman House and associated parking infrastructure is located adjacent to residential properties on the southeast side of the street mall.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

“East Avenue Historic District.” National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form. 1976.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Portsmouth Terrace Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1888 plat map



e0000244.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

Portsmouth Terrace, c. 1890s, before completion of street mall landscape



rpc2605a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Portsmouth Terrace in the early 20th century, showing landscape character of lawns and mall



Portsmouth Terrace Mall, looking southwest, 2009.



Portsmouth Terrace Mall, looking northeast, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Pulaski Park Carter Street Park Holbrook Park	Location Description:	Site bounded by North St on the west, Avenue D on the north, Carter St on the east, and Gothic St on the south.
Location:	Avenue D between North & Carter		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:289226,4784130		
Tax ID:	091.820-0002-073.000		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Park (no Multiple Property Documentation Form category)
Size:	6.86 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 1020' x 285'
Topographic Description:	Sloped and rolling at SW, some flat areas
Date of Construction:	Became park in 1909 First appears on 1911 Sanborn map
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Unknown
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Pulaski Park encompasses an entire street block, with a long east-west axis and slightly varied and rolling topography. The park is generally lawn ground cover surrounded by adjacent streets. The park features a simple spatial design, with a large expanse of grass bordered on the north and south by wide concrete walkways. The walkways extend the length of the park, from east to west, connecting to the sidewalk network of the surrounding streetscapes at the park corners. Pathways are slightly curvilinear in form and appear to be consistently 10' wide along the entire length.

Many older deciduous shade trees line the park periphery, some planted on the outside of concrete pathways and others within the central lawn space. The central lawn space is generously wide and open, without any plantings other than the lawn ground cover. A few smaller ornamental trees are interspersed along the park boundary and pathway system. A few large evergreen trees are located near the park's south west corner, which also is the park's high elevation point. Slightly rolling topography continues across the length of the park with the central lawn area becoming increasingly flat near the eastern boundary.

Lighting within the park consists of contemporary highway lighting, with large cobra-head style fixtures on +/-35' high galvanized steel poles. A small planting bed surrounds a park sign on the western park perimeter.

LAND USE HISTORY

The park is located in a neighborhood that developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as the center of Rochester's Polish-American community. St. Stanislaus Kostka, the parish church for Polish-American immigrants in Rochester, was incorporated in 1888 and constructed at the corner of Hudson and Norton streets, attracting many Polish Americans to settle in this neighborhood. At that time, there were large tracts of undeveloped land in this area, including the land that later became the site of Pulaski Park, which was shown on the 1900 plat map as belonging to John Stroup. Land for the park was purchased and turned over to the parks commission in 1909. The park appears on the 1911 Sanborn map with the name "Holbrook Park," but thereafter was known as Carter Street Park.

The 1929 Raitt report noted:

This park, classed as a city square, may reasonably be placed in the small park group. It is an attractive neighborhood park and affords opportunity for wholesome outdoor recreation."

Although no special facilities are provided, children and adults use this area extensively for unorganized games and free play. In the winter months there is some coasting on the hill at the southwest corner...

Plans for using a portion of the park as a children's playground and also for building a swimming pool are under consideration. A better arrangement would be to acquire land for a play ground across the street to the west or two blocks south, and east of Carter Street. The latter location would be more suitable as the playground would be available for use of children during school hours...

Removal of the shrubbery and placing of the lights around the edge would eliminate the moral problems which concern the people of the community.

As the presence of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church attracted Polish immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Hudson Avenue, south of the church, developed as the commercial center for Polish businesses. In 1930, two petitions were submitted to City Council requesting that the name of Carter Street Park be changed to General Kazimierz Pulaski Park, in honor of the Polish-born soldier who became a hero in the American Revolutionary War. This was one of a number of efforts in Rochester and elsewhere to memorialize this war hero, whose contributions to the Revolutionary cause were a point of pride for the Polish-American community. The park was so renamed in October 1940, at a ceremony attended by 2,000 citizens. As Polish immigrants and their children assimilated, linguistic and religious ties to this neighborhood weakened, and after World War II the Polish community largely dispersed throughout the region.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Pulaski Park does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing. As an element of the park system, it does not fit any of the categories established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form. In scale and age, it relates to the Reform Park era; however, it appears it was never developed with the typical features of a Reform Park, such as play equipment or facilities for supervised activities. It

appears to have been a simple open space set aside but never extensively developed beyond the installation of sidewalks. It therefore does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria as an individual landscape, nor does it appear to have the potential to be part of a historic district, due to the lack of architectural distinction and the prevalence of exterior alterations of the surrounding properties. It does have historical links to the Polish-American community and further study could reveal more details about its use by and significance to this community.

The park is a pleasant neighborhood amenity that has been a feature of this community for 100 years, and should be maintained.

SITE CONDITION

The park appears to be in generally good condition. The park is extremely simple in materials and overall form, and there are no features or major infrastructure located in the park. Some trees along the park periphery are very old and require some maintenance. Concrete pathways appear to be intact. However, weeds are consistently growing within the center expansion joint of the pathway, giving the concrete walkway a two-track appearance.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The park is within a residential district with houses completed at the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries. A few commercial uses are located in proximity, mainly at nearby intersections. A handful of religious institutions are also located within the surrounding area. Single family houses line the north and south periphery of the park, across Avenue D and Gothic Street, respectively. The rows of houses are a noteworthy backdrop to the park and have considerable impact on the open feeling of the park.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Open Space Inventory. City of Rochester. 1991.

Raitt, Charles B. *A Survey of Recreational Facilities in Rochester, N.Y.* [Rochester: J.M. Egloff, 1929.]

Robinson, E. Rochester Plat Map. 1888. Plate 24.

Rochester Dept. of Parks. *Parks and Playgrounds, Rochester, N.Y.* January 1 1919.

Urbanic, Kathleen. *Shoulder to Shoulder: Polish Americans in Rochester, NY, 1890-1990*. Polonia Civic Centre, Inc., 1991.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

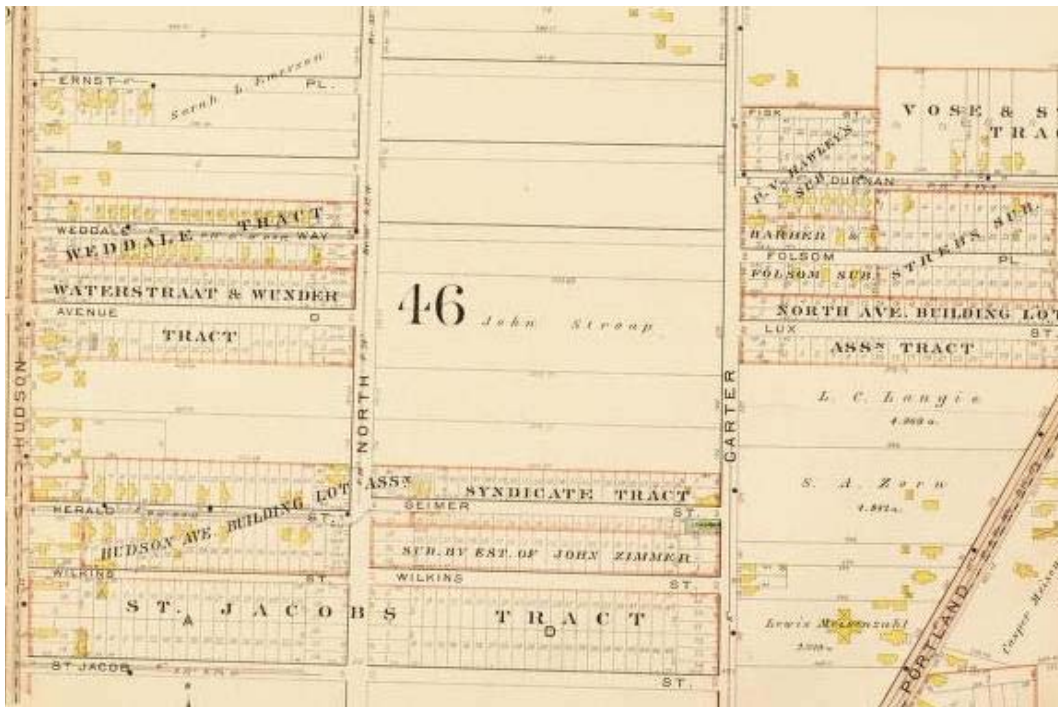
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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

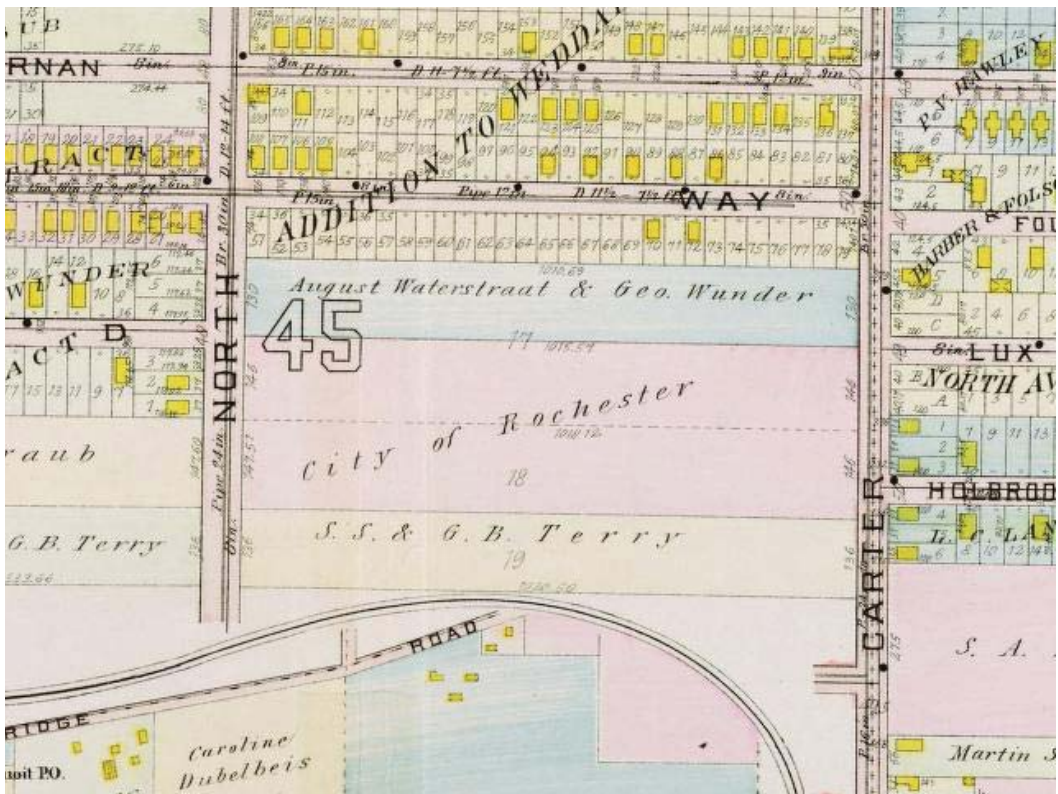
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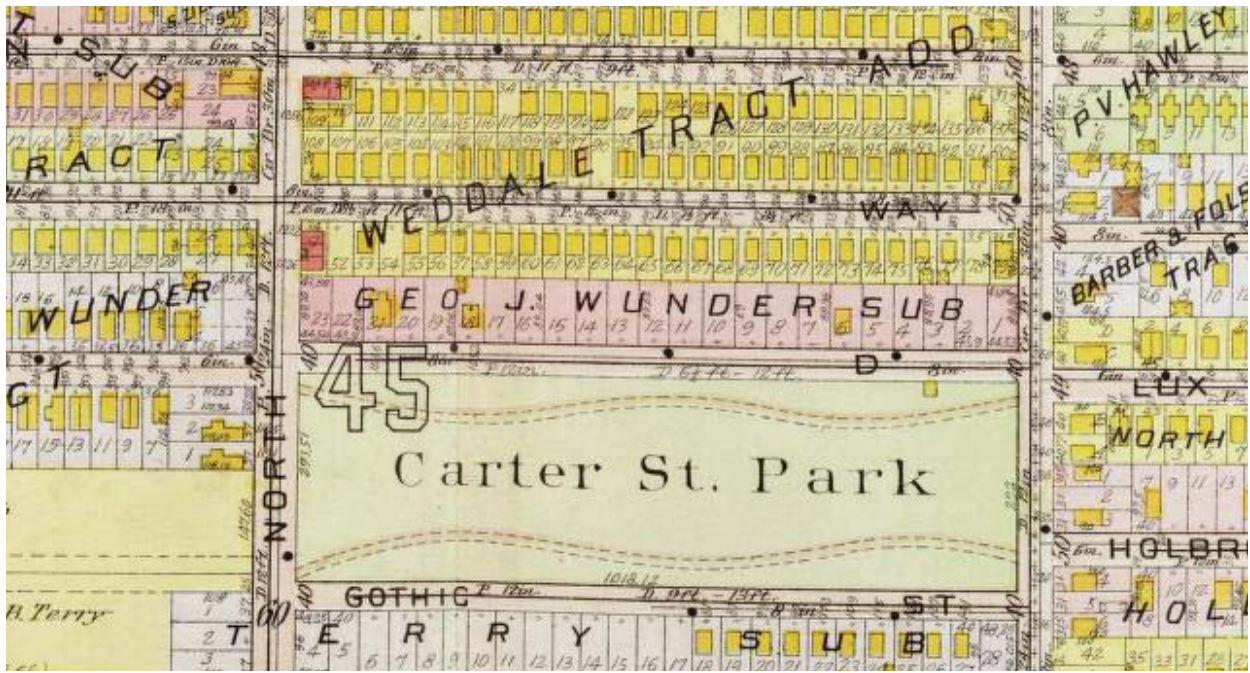
Pulaski Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1900 plat map (future park site is within the land marked as “John Stroup”)



1910 plat map (future park site indicated as “City of Rochester”)



1918 plat map



Pulaski Park, looking east along pathway, 2009.



Pulaski Park, looking northwest towards intersection of North St and Avenue D, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Raines Park Mall	Location Description:
Location:	Raines Park between Magee & Clay	Street mall running north-south on Raines Park, bounded by Magee Ave on the south and Clay Ave on the north. Mall is at eastern terminus of Electric Ave.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:285982,4785363	
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)	
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.331 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 380' x 38'
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	1890s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Unknown
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Raines Park Mall consists of a curbed and landscaped median, thickly planted with large deciduous shade trees. The park's axis follows Raines Park, north-south, and is near 40' in width. The mall is only one segment long and does not feature any turn around areas or cut sections for cross streets. Furthermore, Electric Avenue, extending from the west, terminates into the street mall on its western side and does not continue through the street mall. The mall features densely planted shade trees, which are especially thick on the park's north end. Some flowering ornamental trees have been planted sporadically throughout the street mall.

The ground plane is covered with lawn and no other vegetative features are located on the site. The mall includes historic stone curbing at the boundary, although the stone is not traditional rose-hued Medina – as seen in many other nearby street malls.

LAND USE HISTORY

Raines Park Street Mall was developed between 1888 and 1900 as part of a subdivision labeled on the 1900 plat map as the "McKee Tract," one of a number of large subdivisions laid out but with very few houses constructed (none on Raines Park) by that date. Raines Park Street Mall is one of several street malls in the vicinity of Maplewood Park, probably laid out by developers inspired by the examples set by early predecessors Lakeview Park and Glendale Mall, which attracted high-quality residential development. On the 1910 plat map, there are still no houses on Raines Park. By the time of the 1918 plat map, both sides of the street were lined with houses.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Raines Park Mall does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing. Because of its origins as an enhancement to a private residential subdivision rather than as a public park feature, the street mall is not individually eligible as a component of the park system. The surrounding neighborhood does not appear to meet the criteria of significance and integrity to qualify for National Register listing as a historic district. This small street mall, which is over 100 years old, is nevertheless an amenity to the neighborhood and streetscape, and is part of the context for the architecturally significant Prairie-Style house at its south end on Magee Street. It should be maintained as a neighborhood amenity.

SITE CONDITION

The street mall appears to be in generally good condition. The vegetative materials appear to be healthy, though a select number of trees require routine maintenance. The park is categorized as a “Group I” street mall, being maintained by the City.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The street mall is located in a neighborhood featuring early 20th century single-family homes, which all show as being constructed between 1910 and 1918. The area is predominantly residential with the Flower City School behind houses fronting Clay Avenue, to the north.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Open Space Inventory. City of Rochester. 1991.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

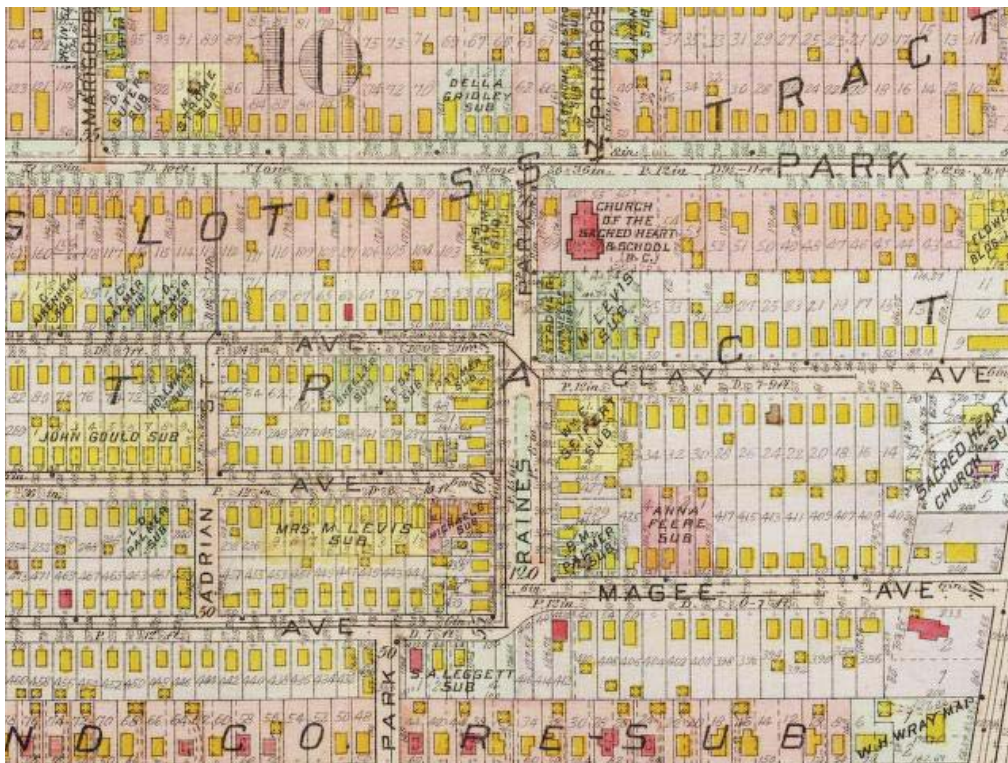
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Raines Park Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1900 plat map



1918 plat map



Raines Park Mall, looking north towards Clay Avenue, 2009.



Raines Park Mall, looking south towards Magee Avenue intersection, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Rundel Park Mall	Location Description:	
Location:	Rundel Park, between University Ave and Upton Court.		Street mall located on Rundel Park, between Upton Court at the southern end and University Avenue at the northern end.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:289834,4781227		
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)		
Existing Zoning:	R-2 (Medium Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.0398 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 694' x 28' (including turnaround areas)
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	Ca. 1875
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	In the State/National Register-listed East Avenue Historic District; in the locally designated East Avenue Preservation District; and individually designated as a local landmark in June 1971

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Rundel Park Mall consists of a landscaped and curbed median between two one-way drive and parking lanes of Rundel Park. The mall is segmented, with generous paved turnaround areas between three overall street mall sections. The mall is approximately 28' in width and includes granite curbing around the mall's periphery. Deciduous shade trees are planted in informal rows along the mall, combining with shade trees from the residential tree lawns to create arching canopy over the Rundel Park drive and parking lanes. The park includes period lighting, consisting of painted cast iron harp fixtures on cast concrete poles, approximately 14' in height. The end of the street mall at the intersection with University Avenue features a medina stone landscape entry wall with clay lettering tiles, spelling out the street name. A short decorative iron fence tops the wall, with small stone piers book-ending the fence. The stone piers features pyramidal-shaped concrete caps colored to match the stone. A landscaped bed with various shrubs and perennials exists behind the entry wall.

LAND USE HISTORY

From the city landmark designation application for Rundel Park:

The street first appears in the Rochester City Directory as Culver Place in 1875. In 1885 the name of the street is given as Culver Park. The present name, Rundel Park, was adopted by resolution of the City Council on October 26, 1886, to avoid confusion with several other streets

also bearing the name Culver, and to honor Morton Wellington Rundel. *The Union Advertiser* noted on its editorial page on October 28, 1886:

A VERY PRETTY STREET

Rundel Park, formerly Culver Park, is one of the nicest and pleasantest streets in this city. The change of name was made at the last meeting of the Common Council in order to obviate the trouble arising from having two streets bearing the same name, and the new name was chosen to show the appreciation of the residents of the work done by Mr. Rundel in making the street one of the most desirable in the city.

Historically, Rundel Park is the last remnant of a bold and inspiring city plan shown on maps of Rochester from 1875 through 1886... Malls with trees upon them then were not only in the center of Rundel Park, but extended from East Avenue on Upton Park, and on the present site of University Avenue to a point at the approximate present location of Strathalan [sic] Park. It is indeed regrettable that all of these arboreal malls except the three in Rundel Park no longer exist.

On November 20, 1899, Marvin A. Culver and his wife deeded to the 35 lot owners of Rundel Park a strip of land at the southern boundary of the park, along its eastern extension from Upton Court to Oxford Street (then Zoe Street). According to the indenture, a copy of which is attached, this gift was made with the understanding that “No right of way is to be given to any one to cross the strip of land hereby conveyed for any purpose without the unanimous consent of the property owners of Rundel Park.”

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Rundel Park is already designated at the local level and is listed in the National Register: it is an individual local landmark and is within the borders of both the East Avenue preservation district and the National Register-listed East Avenue Preservation District. Its designation as an individual local landmark occurred before the East Avenue neighborhood was designated at either the national or local level. As a landscape feature that reflects the origins and subsequent development of the neighborhood, it is a contributing element in the East Avenue district, and should be understood primarily in that context and maintained as a significant component of the district.

SITE CONDITION

The street mall appears to be in generally good condition. Trees and other elements appear to be well maintained. The planting bed located behind the front entry wall feature also appears to be well maintained. The park is classified as a “Group II” street mall, with maintenance being conducted by the neighborhood association.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The park is located in the vibrant University Avenue area. Residential homes line the length of the mall and the majority of the land uses within the area are residential. At the mall's northern end is University Avenue, which includes several active neighborhood-level commercial establishments. A small plaza is located across University Avenue from the Rundel Park entrance, in front of the redeveloped flat iron building. The surrounding neighborhood has seen increased redevelopment opportunities over the last two decades and is known as an epicenter of the arts community.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Application for Designation of a Landmark, Landmark Site or preservation District: Rundel Park, from 90 Oxford St. to University Ave. 28 May 1971.

Smith, Sue. "How to Keep a Narrow Street." *Times-Union*, 26 July 1971.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

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Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

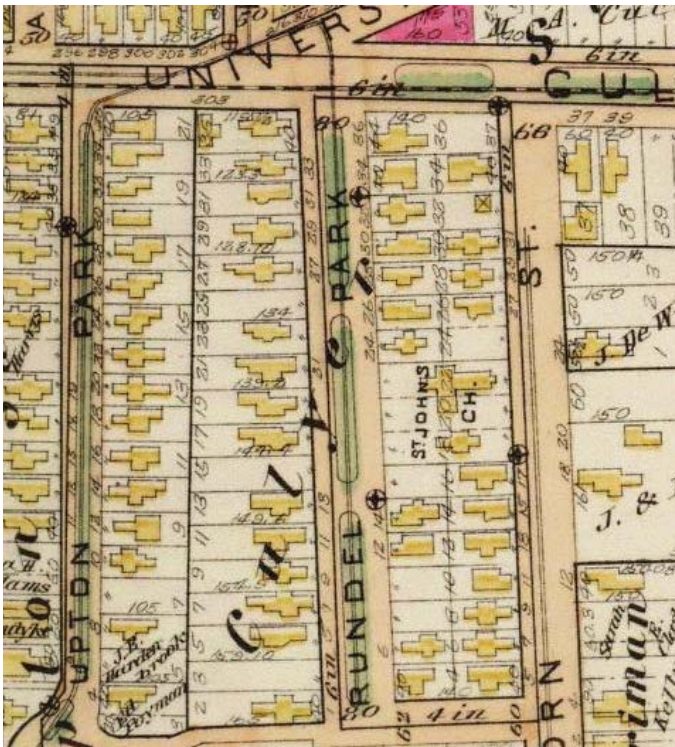
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Rundel Park Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1888 plat map



Rundel Park Mall, looking north toward University Avenue, 2009.



Rundel Park Mall, landscape wall entry feature, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Schiller Park Franklin Park Franklin Square	Location Description:	Park site bounded by Andrews St to the south, Franklin Square St to the east, and the inner loop to the north. Northern terminus of Franklin St ends at Schiller Park site on Andrews St.
Location:	350 Andrews St		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:288191,4781964		
Tax ID:	106.720-0001-081.000		
Existing Zoning:	CCD (City Center District)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Early Square
Size:	0.474 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 155' x 175'
Topographic Description:	Flat, raised platform at center
Date of Construction:	Ca. 1826 (acquisition by subdivision dedication); 1894 (Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Schiller Park consists of a square park area bounded by urban streetscape and highway within Rochester’s center city area. The park is formed by the surrounding square street grid, but internally maintains an overall oval form due to a concrete pathway circumnavigating the park’s periphery. The park is spatially divided into three area. Two small street-side plaza areas with raised concrete planters are located at the parks corners along Andrews Street. These corner spaces each include short concrete paths surrounded by decorative brick paving, linking to an oval-shaped walkway that circumnavigates the southern half of the park site.

At the parks center, along Andrews Street, the oval outer path continues and intersects with the park’s main north-south axial path. This concrete pathway features curvilinear edges and large flared widths at either end. A large monument has been located upon a stone platform in the center of the main axial pathway. The large monument features a bust of the poet Friedrich von Schiller and associated in scripted text and plaques. The stone platform includes built-in benches to the left and right of the monument.

The park also contains a secondary east-west axial concrete pathway along the existing northern boundary. The pathway has been cut in places and ends abruptly and oddly, which is a remnant of the park’s former circulation network. The park has been essentially cut to half of its former size due to construction of the Inner Loop expressway on the former northern half of the park site.

Two large half ovals of lawn area are located on either side of the main axial pathway and monument space. Large pine shrubs (*Pinus mugo*) have been planted in either side of the Schiller monument. The outside edges of the lawn areas are bounded by the circumnavigating pathway. Maples have been tightly planted along the inside of this pathway and form a very distinct oval bosque formation.

LAND USE HISTORY

The history of Schiller Park (Franklin Square) is related in detail in the *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares* report.

This park, originally called Franklin Square, is one of the city's oldest public squares, acquired by the city in about 1826 by subdivision dedication. In the mid-19th century it was a popular spot for baseball as well as political rallies.

The 1875 plat map shows the square with four paths, two connecting the four corners and two crossing to connect the midpoints of each side. The paths all intersect in a central oval. The same layout appears on the 1888 plat map.

The Olmsted firm provided a redesign of the park in 1894, at the same time that the firm redesigned Brown, Jones and Madison Squares. The Olmsted firm's design included a new walk configuration, with curving paths forming a central ellipse. This is the circulation system seen in early-20th century photographs of the park. According to the *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares* report, plantings seen in the early 20th century views do not correspond to the Olmsted design.

The shape of the park was modified between 1910 and 1918. While the 1910 plat map shows a similar configuration to that seen in the 1900 map, in the 1918 map, the park has a new oval form. This is also seen in a 1918 aerial photograph. In 1929, the Raitt report, reflecting the diminishment of this formerly elegant public space, described the square as "more of a street embellishment than a park," consisting of mostly grass with some shrubs and trees.

In 1964, the Schiller monument that had stood in Anderson Park since 1908 was moved to Franklin Park, which was subsequently renamed Schiller Park.

Construction of the Inner Loop destroyed most of the park. The remaining fragment of the park retains some elements of the historic path configuration.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Schiller Park does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing due to a loss of integrity. The park as it exists today is a fragment of the historic Franklin Park. While the park has historic significance as an early public square and as an Olmsted firm design, alterations to its shape and character have substantially altered what was once a much larger neighborhood square with a formal, symmetrical spatial organization and circulation system. The Schiller monument, which is now over 100 years old, has historic value, although it was moved from its original setting in 1964.

If the Inner Loop were ever removed and filled, there could be opportunities to reconstruct the park in its historic configuration; the fragment that remains does retain parts of the historic circulation system that could be rebuilt.

SITE CONDITION

The overall park condition appears to be poor due to a number of factors. While individual elements within the park appear to be reasonably maintained, the park itself has been heavily modified and does not relate to the existing urban fabric that surrounds it. The park is fundamentally cut off from the City's dense urban fabric, including significant civic buildings, by parking lots and the Inner Loop expressway. Since the northern half of the park was removed to construct the expressway then remaining vestiges of park infrastructure have been left to deteriorate along the park's northern boundary. Concrete pathways appear to dead end and show significant deterioration. Trees and other vegetative materials within the park appear to be in good health. Raised concrete planters near the park's Andrews Street boundary show signs of wear, including exposed rebar.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The entirety of the immediate contextual fabric has changed considerably since the park was originally designed. A dense network of residential, commercial, religious, and otherwise active/vibrant urban land uses once surrounded the park on all sides. Many areas surrounding the park are now surface parking lots. A few period-buildings remain standing alone in the vicinity but have been heavily altered. The construction of the Inner Loop cut off access to neighborhoods and civic uses north of the park site, including the central post office.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Clark Patterson Associates et al. *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares: Park's History, Preservation Approach, Master Plan and Preservation Guidelines*.

Raitt, Charles B. *A Survey of Recreational Facilities in Rochester, N.Y.* [Rochester: J. M. Egloff, 1929.]

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

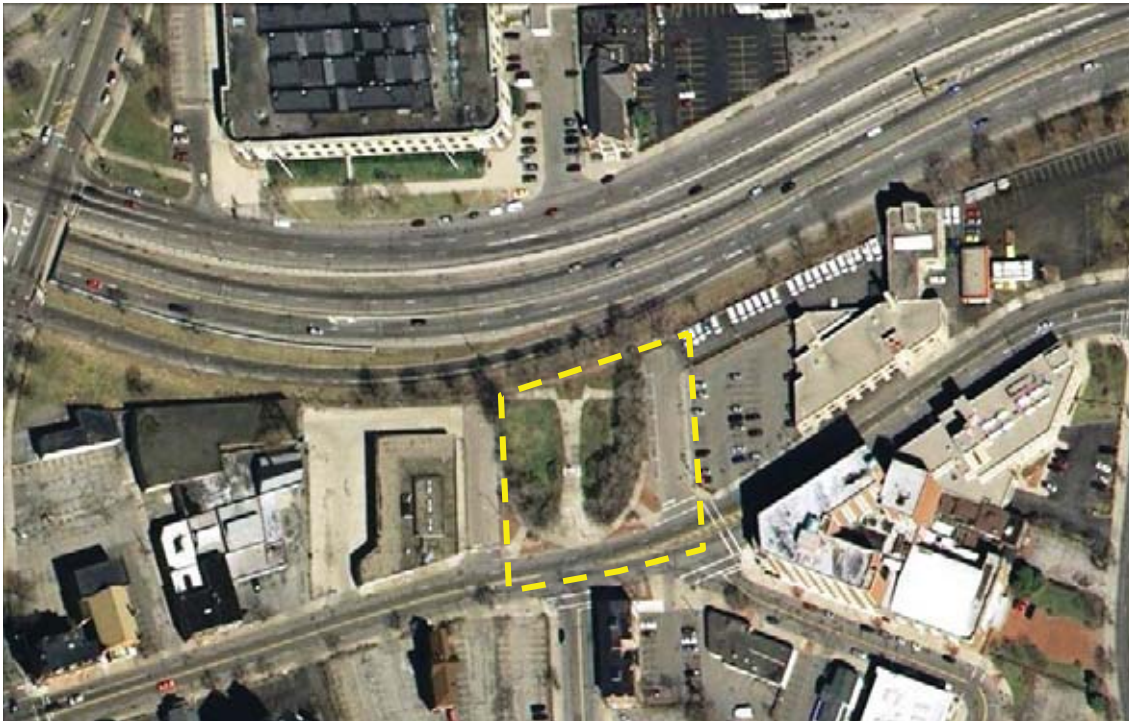
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

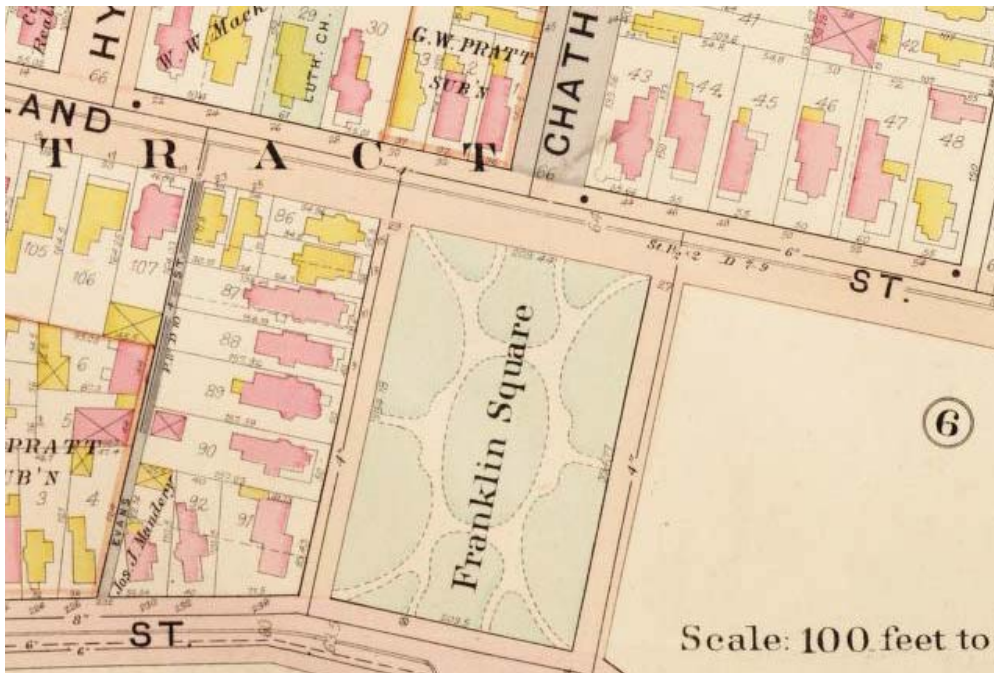
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



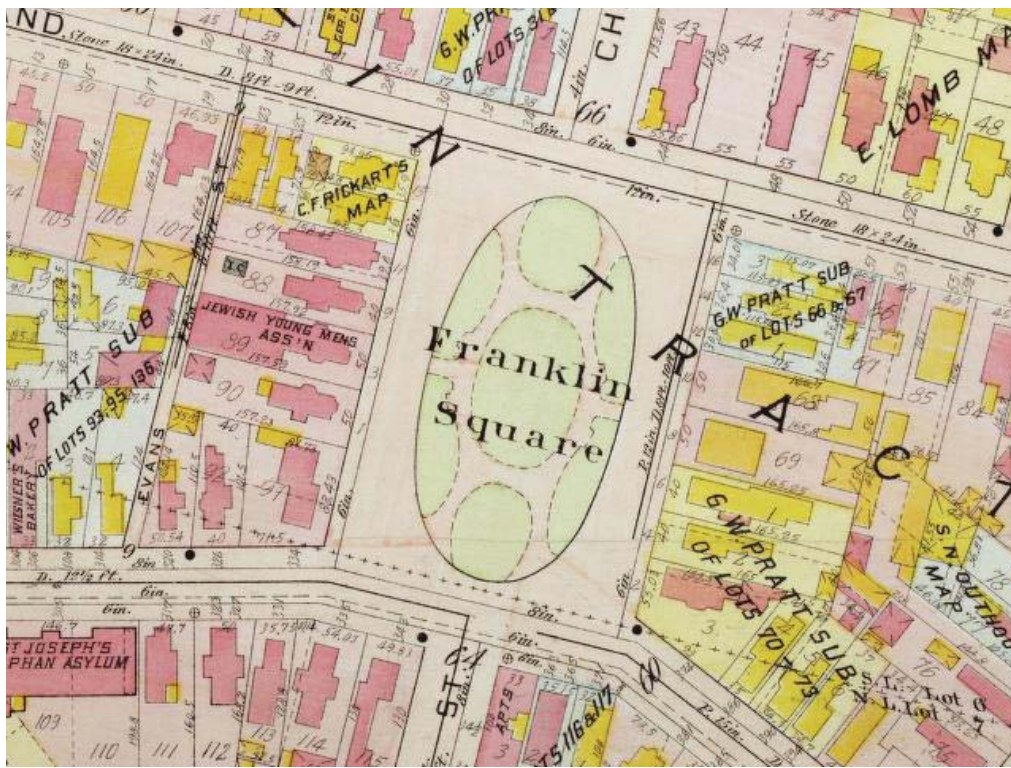
Schiller Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1875 plat map



1900 plat map



1918 plat map



rpf00062.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

View of Franklin Square, 1906



e0000112.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

Aerial view of downtown Rochester (Franklin Square at top), 1918.



Schiller Park, looking north toward Schiller monument, 2009.



Schiller Park, looking northeast across main entry along Andrews Street, 2009.



Schiller Park, north end of park showing remnants of former circulation network, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s): Seneca Park
Location: 2222 St Paul Street (varies)
Coordinates: UTM: (Datum: WGS-84)
 Zone:**18T E/N:286795,4787271**
Tax ID: 090.680-0001-003.001
 075.680-0001-001.000
 061.780-0001-002.000
 061.780-0001-003.000
 061.780-0001-004.000
 061.700-0001-001.000
 061.700-0001-002.000
 061.700-0001-003.002
 061.700-0001-004.000
 061.620-0001-002.000
 061.540.0001-001.000
 061.460.0001-001.000
 061.380-0001-002.000
Existing Zoning: O-S (Open Space)

Location Description:
 Seneca park is located along the eastern bank of the Genesee River, from the Seth Green Drive portion of the park at Ridge Road, north towards the Port of Rochester

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type: Olmsted Pleasure Ground
Size: +/- 325 Acres (City of Rochester database)
Dimensions: Varies (significant length of rive,+/- 3 miles)
Topographic Description: Varies (river gorge, meadow, ponds, steep embankments)
Date of Construction: Designed 1888-1893
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s): Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
Current landmark designation status: Entire park is individually listed in the National Register as part of the Seneca Park East and West nomination; a portion is also individually designated as a city landmark

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

From the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West:

The National Register lists Seneca Park (east) as composed of four major sections. Starting from the south, these are the Seth Green/Carthage Drive Area (Seth Green Area), the Entry and Upper Drive (Upper Drive), Upper Tableland/Zoo, and Lower Seneca Park. The Seth Green Area is a narrow strip of parkland that includes Carthage Drive, a short landscaped parkway south of Driving Park Bridge, and the land between Driving Park Bridge and Veterans' Memorial Bridge. This park section is surveyed as *Seth Green Park* in this document.

North of the Seth Green Area is the Entry and Upper Drive, a narrow, relatively flat section of parkland between the east park boundary and the river from Veterans' Memorial Bridge to the Zoo and Lower Park entrances. The next park area is the Upper Tableland/Zoo. This somewhat broad, gently sloping section lies between the eastern park boundary and the park road. The final section, Lower Seneca Park, begins along side the southern end of the Upper Tableland, between the park road and the river, and extends to the northern park boundary. It is the widest area within the Park. The three sections north of Veterans' Memorial Bridge are linked by the park's continuous circulation system, which consists of the gently curving main park drive and a path generally following the rim of the gorge.

The principal determinant of the Park's layout is the underlying geomorphology of the gorge, leading to three main park components: the river edge, the gorge banks, and the uplands. The river edge, generally inaccessible from the higher elevations, is paralleled in a few locations by discontinuous, informal pedestrian paths. These contemporary paths generally have been established by use patterns rather than formal design and construction, and are little more than cleared areas of compacted soil. They provide direct access to and broad vistas along the water. In Seneca Park East at the extreme north there are wooden landings at the terminus of stairs that meet the path. *[Note: since completion of the nomination these stairs have been removed.]* River-edge vegetation throughout the Park consists of native wetland species, including trees, shrubs and herbaceous material.

The gorge banks are dramatic slopes having significantly steep grades and dense indigenous vegetation cover. At the southern end of Seneca Park West the gorge bank includes significant terraces separated by steep slopes, while the remainder of the river banks on both sides of the river are generally uninterrupted from base to rim. A limited number of roads and paths traverse the banks and provide access to the water. At the extreme southern end of Seneca Park East a paved road, now used as a path providing river access, cuts along the steep gorge, while the Carthage Path, which has a switchback alignment, connects the upper elevations at Seth Green Drive with the river edge. Further north in Lower Seneca Park two paths incorporating rustic wood stairs and handrails lead down to simple wooden landings along the water. In Seneca Park West an asphalt-paved path, lined by metal pipe guiderail, traverses the bank passing under Driving Park Bridge and connecting Lower Falls Park and Upper Maplewood Park. The remains of an early building are visible from the northern end of this path. Remnants of other designed trails and desire paths leading down the gorge banks and along the water's edge exist intermittently throughout the park. All of these bank paths offer filtered views into and across the gorge. Through modest physical alterations both the river edge and gorge banks were transformed into park use, while more extensive intervention was undertaken to incorporate the uplands.

On both sides of the river, the uplands have a linear organization that provides park users with carefully planned, strongly sequential experiences. Within the framework of the natural topography, these elevated areas contain meandering drives and paths, natural and introduced vegetation and water elements, and complimentary buildings, structures and site furnishings. In combination these features afford users a variety of views and vistas along the river, within native woodlands, and in conjunction with contrived landscape scenes. While modifications have taken

place over time, the original spatial layout and significant individual features still are evident. The following text provides a more detailed description of the uplands.

A detailed description of the park's many features can be found within the *Seneca Park East and West* National Register Nomination Form.

LAND USE HISTORY

The history and development of Seneca Park was described in great detail in the 2003 National Register nomination for Seneca Park. The following is the introduction to the significance section of that document (Section 8). For more detailed history, please refer to the full nomination.

Seneca Park East and West, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., in 1888-93, is significant for its design and for its historical role in the development of the city of Rochester. The creation of this park, straddling the Genesee River north of downtown Rochester, heralded Rochesterians' growing interest in the river as a scenic and recreational asset and their desire to protect its dramatic gorge from encroaching development. The park built in pursuit of this goal is an excellent example of a nineteenth-century urban Pleasure Ground park in the picturesque or romantic style. As an individual park and as part of a municipal park system, it is an important example of the work of Frederick Law Olmsted and other members of his firm, notably John Charles Olmsted. Within a few years of its creation, Seneca Park became one of the centerpieces of Rochester's cultural life, as the setting for annual festivals, musical performances, and other special events that could draw thousands to the park, and as part of a park system that was a source of great civic pride. The park, which evolved primarily in the early-twentieth century, contains significant elements from three eras of park planning and design: the Pleasure Ground, Reform, and Recreation eras.

The period of significance for Seneca Park, 1888-1951, encompasses three major eras of development in the park. The first period coincides with the inception and implementation of the Olmsted design, from c. 1888 to 1904. This period also includes the acquisition of most of the land Olmsted identified for the park's development. The second period, representing the reform era in Rochester's park system, overlaps the first slightly, lasting from c. 1901 to 1930. This was a time when Rochester's parks became important venues for Rochesterians. Seneca Park enjoyed high daily use, and drew tremendous crowds for special events such as pageants, festivals, and concerts. During this period many new elements were introduced into the park, in keeping with the nationwide Progressive Era and its Reform Park movement. The third major era of development in Seneca Park was the 1930s, when recreational facilities then in vogue throughout the country were introduced into the park, generally under the auspices of federal, state, and local work-relief programs.

By 1939, as national attention turned toward the growing crises in Europe and eventually national defense, substantial improvements to Seneca Park slowed considerably, thus ending a long history of substantial public investment in the property. Not until the post-World War II years was the park once again impacted by national trends in planning and design. The period of significance ends in 1951, when the last major improvement to a section of the park – the renovation of the Maplewood Rose Garden and installation of the stone terraces that give it its form today – was completed. Changes made after 1951, such as the construction of the Keeler Street Expressway (NY Route 104) over the Veterans'

Memorial Bridge, were primarily made in response to transportation and engineering advances rather than representing a new way of park planning and design.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Seneca Park is already listed in the National Register, as “Seneca Park East and West,” and a portion of the park is an individually designated local landmark.

From the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West:

Seneca Park East and West, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., in 1888-93, is significant for its design and for its historical role in the development of the city of Rochester. The creation of this park, straddling the Genesee River north of downtown Rochester, heralded Rochesterians’ growing interest in the river as a scenic and recreational asset and their desire to protect its dramatic gorge from encroaching development. The park built in pursuit of this goal is an excellent example of a nineteenth-century urban Pleasure Ground park in the picturesque or romantic style. As an individual park and as part of a municipal park system, it is an important example of the work of Frederick Law Olmsted and other members of his firm, notably John Charles Olmsted. Within a few years of its creation, Seneca Park became one of the centerpieces of Rochester’s cultural life, as the setting for annual festivals, musical performances, and other special events that could draw thousands to the park, and as part of a park system that was a source of great civic pride. The park, which evolved primarily in the early-twentieth century, contains significant elements from three eras of park planning and design: the Pleasure Ground, Reform, and Recreation eras.

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Street Expressway (NY Route 104) over the Veterans' Memorial Bridge, were primarily made in response to transportation and engineering advances rather than representing a new way of park planning and design.

The park meets National Register Criterion A, for its association with the social and physical development of the city of Rochester in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and Criterion C, as an excellent example of the Romantic landscape style of the late nineteenth century, and of the work of master landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

SITE CONDITION

Seneca Park features a wide variety of important contemporary and historic features. The park is well used and well maintained. Many of the park's remaining historic features are in good condition. Pathways, roads, hiking trails and other park circulation corridors seem to be well maintained, especially in high use areas. Lower level activity/use areas, including the Veterans Memorial Bridge overlook, which is only accessible by footpath, have deteriorated from original designs. Some wear and vandalism is evident near infrastructural installations, such as the footbridge and concrete walls in proximity.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The neighborhood context of Seneca Park is extremely varied, due in large part to the size and length of the park along the Genesee River Corridor. Much of the park remains in a naturalistic setting within the river gorge landscape. Views towards various large active and dormant industrial uses can also be experienced along many of the parks trails and activity spaces.

Seneca Park's eastern boundary follows the top of the river gorge, somewhat inland in wider areas, adjacent to various land uses along the St Paul corridor. From the northern tip of the park to the 104 Veterans Memorial Bridge on the south, the park generally bounds various residential land uses.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Olmsted, F.L., & Co. "General Plan for Seneca Park." 1893. Reproductions may be viewed at City Archives or at the City Photo Lab.

Rochester Images database, accessible at <http://www.rochester.lib.ny.us>, has many historic photographs of the park.

"Seneca Park East and West." National Register nomination form. 2003.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Seneca Park (East), aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Early 20th-century aerial photograph showing most of Seneca Park. Landmark Society files.



rpf01695.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

View of gorge-edge trail and gorge overlook, c. 1890s



rpc1993a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Lower Park, c. 1900



rpc2002a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Lower Park, c. 1900



Seneca Park, park drive, 2009.



Seneca Park, looking northwest across pond, 2009.



Seneca Park, view of pedestrian bridge and river gorge, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Seneca Parkway Mall Seneca Park Mall	Location Description:	Mall portion extends approximately 5,750’ through the length of Seneca Parkway, east from the RR right of way (adjacent Lily St) to Maplewood Drive along the Genesee River. Crosses Dewey Ave and Lake Ave.
Location:	Seneca Parkway from Genesee River beyond Dewey Ave		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:285778,4785181		
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.) 090.680-0001-002.000 (open lawn area along Maplewood Drive)		
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential) R-3 (High Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Olmsted Parkway, Street Mall
Size:	+/- 7.6 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 58’ x 5,780’ (includes turnarounds and cross streets)
Topographic Description:	Generally flat, sloping towards the east (river)
Date of Construction:	Appears on 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Frederick Law Olmsted
Current landmark designation status:	Portion listed in the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West; entire parkway included in the National Register nomination for the Maplewood Historic District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

The Parkway Corridor extends more than 5,600’ along the east-west aligned Seneca Parkway from Park View Street on the east, past Dewey Avenue, ending at railroad tracks on the western terminus. At the north and south its physical boundary lies at the interior edge of the public sidewalk, although visually the space extends to the front facades of the residential buildings lining the block. The Parkway Corridor is characterized by an expansive width comprised of an extremely broad, central raised and planted median flanked by street area, planting strips and sidewalks. Existing plantings include various ornamental and shade trees, including crabapple, maples, London plane, lilac, and oak trees. The planning pattern is mostly formal rows, however many ornamental trees have been interspersed within the central area of the median. Each street area accommodates one travel and one parking lane; the central median and curbside planting strips contain a mix of shade and flowering deciduous trees. The only site furnishings in this space are streetlights, which are contemporary stylized fixtures set between the curb and sidewalk. No streetlights or other site furnishings are within the median.

LAND USE HISTORY

Seneca Parkway first appeared on the 1875 plat map, where it was labeled “Lake Avenue Park” west of Lake Avenue, and Paine Street between Lake Avenue and the river. There was no street mall indicated. The street mall was developed shortly after the Park Commission passed a law in 1892 enlarging its power to condemn land for parkways. The Olmsted firm of Brookline, Massachusetts prepared plans for Seneca Parkway (as part of the *General Plan for Seneca Park*) in 1893 which depicted four formal rows of trees along the street, with two at each side of the central median and two on the grass verge in front of the residences.

Seneca Parkway subsequently developed as the premier residential street in the Maplewood neighborhood, lined with elegant residences in the popular historical revival styles of the turn of the century.

For more detail, please see the National Register nomination forms for the Maplewood Historic District and for Seneca Park East and West.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Seneca Parkway is already listed in the National Register as part of two different nominations: it was listed as a contributing site in the National Register nomination for the Maplewood Historic District, and as a component of the contributing road system in the Seneca Park East and West National Register nomination. As such, it meets National Register Criterion C, relating to properties “that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction,” in the area of landscape architecture. It is significant as the work of Frederick Law Olmsted (the portion east of Lake Avenue) and his successors (the portion west of Lake Avenue), as a distinguished example of landscape design, and as an integral component of the Maplewood Historic District.

SITE CONDITION

Seneca Parkway street mall appears to be in generally good condition. Trees planted in the formal rows, creating the arching canopy over the parkway drives, have been continually replaced in order to preserve that feature. Some flowering ornamental trees appear to have suffered damage by mowers or other disfigurements.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Seneca Parkway is generally surrounded by residential land uses. The park extends a significant distance west from Maplewood Park and the Genesee River gorge on the eastern side. The open meadow and park setting of a portion of Maplewood park lines the eastern terminus of Seneca Parkway, connecting the street mall to the larger park system. Continuing west through Lake Avenue, the parkway is lined by residential homes. Several other nearby religious and civic uses are within the parkway’s proximity, but do not have frontage on the parkway.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

“Maplewood Historic District.” National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 1997.

“Seneca Park East and West.” National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 2003.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

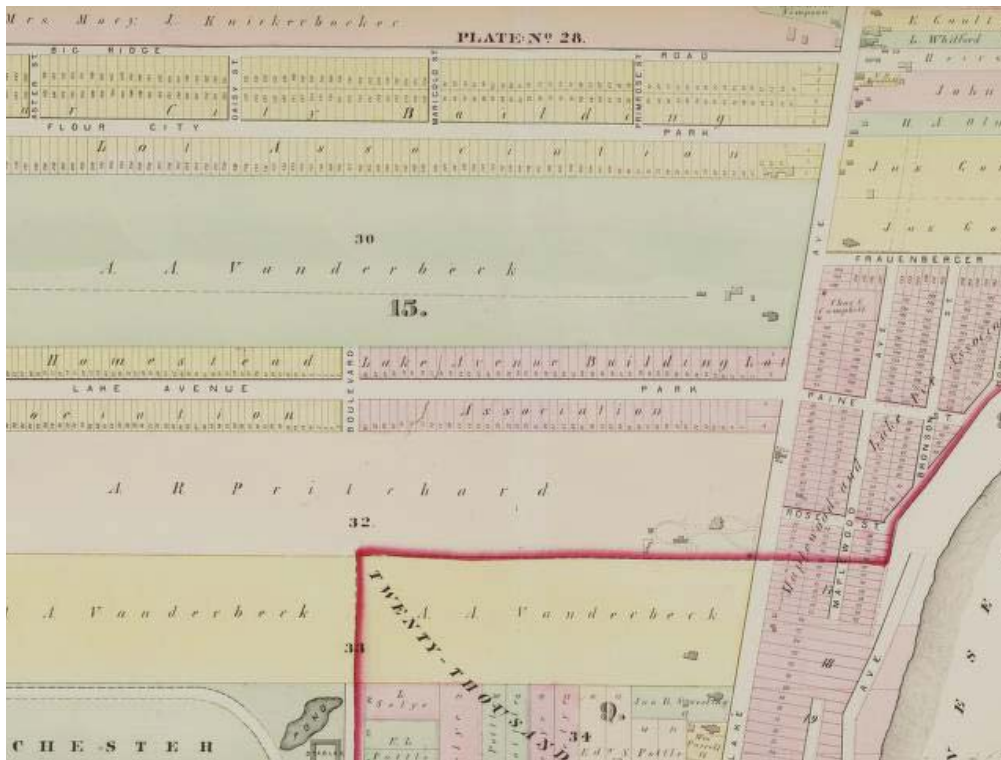
Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



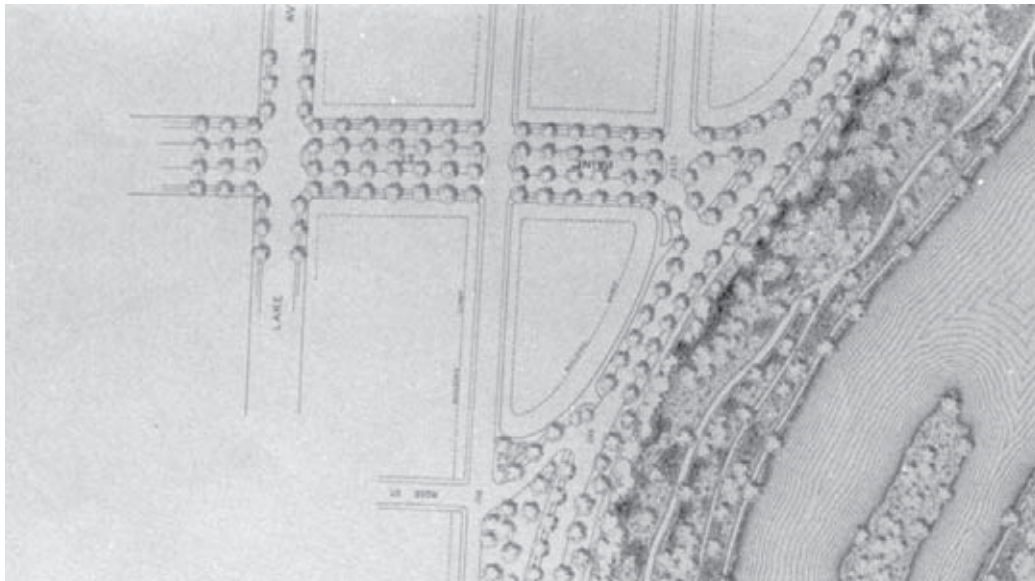
Seneca Parkway Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



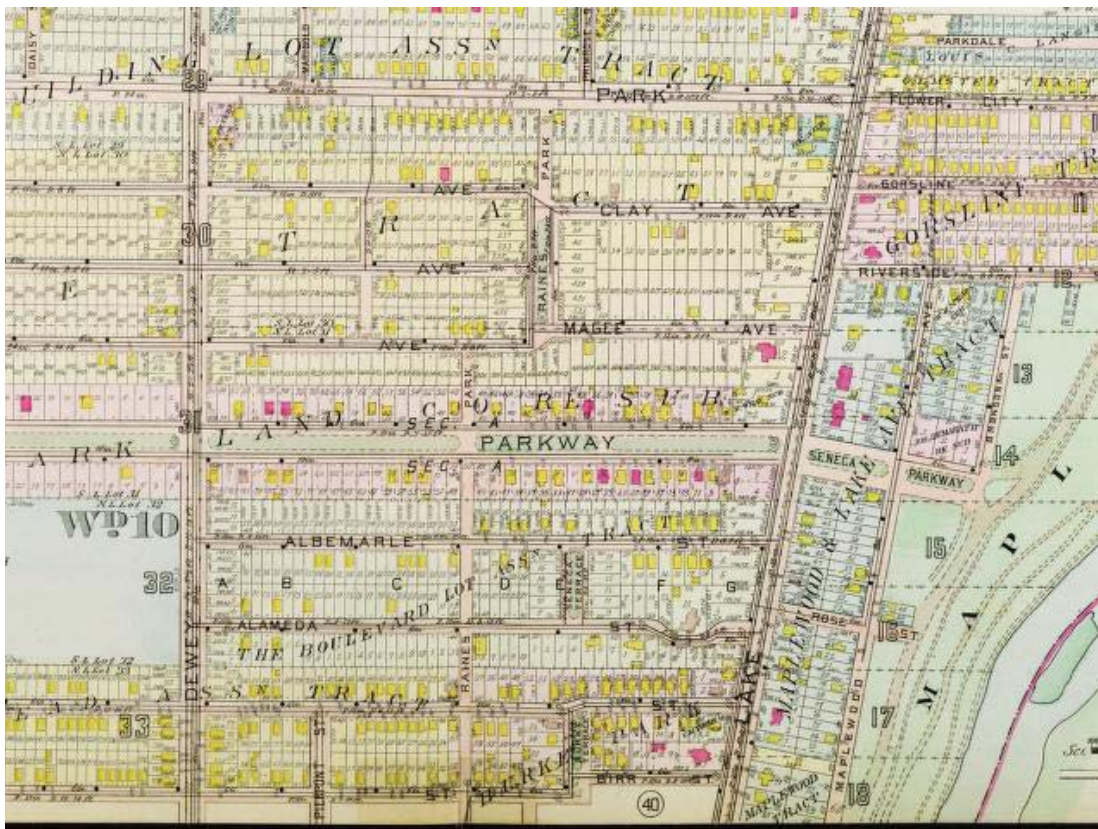
1875 plat map ("Lake Avenue Park/Paine Street" is the future Seneca Parkway)



1888 plat map ("Lake Avenue Park/Paine Street" is the future Seneca Parkway)



Detail of the 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park by F.L. Olmsted & Co., showing the eastern end of Seneca Parkway.



1910 plat map showing portion of Seneca Parkway and relationship to Maplewood Park



Seneca Parkway Mall, looking west, 2009.



Seneca Parkway Mall, looking east, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Seth Green Park Seth Green Trail Seth Green Fishing Access Site Seneca Park	Location Description:	Park is portion of Seneca Park, located on the east side of Genesee River, along Seth Green Drive. Park area and trail continues from Driving Park Bridge, north to Ridge Rd (Hwy 104) Veterans Memorial Bridge.
Location:	10 Avenue E Approx. 92 Seth Green Drive		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286802,4784939		
Tax ID:	090.680-0001-003.001		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Associated with Olmsted Pleasure Ground (Seneca Park)
Size:	+/- 38 Acres
Dimensions:	Varies (Genesee River gorge area)
Topographic Description:	Steep, gorge terrain from rivers edge to Seth Green Drive.
Date of Construction:	Included in 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park; 1950s access road
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Frederick Law Olmsted (General Plan for Seneca Park)
Current landmark designation status:	Listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Seneca Park East and West nomination

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

From the National Register nomination for Seneca Park East and West:

Seth Green Park is comprised of the area immediately west of the Seth Green Drive-St. Paul Street intersection. It is open rather than enclosed and principally defined by the surrounding contemporary buildings and gorge rim, as well as the topography that gently slopes down from southeast to northwest. Lawn and scattered deciduous trees lie between the paved road and rim; and as in the previous space a chain link fence covered by vines and shrubs marks the gorge edge. At the southwest corner of this space a road provides access down across the bank to an RG&E facility; the road and steep gorge cliffs are within the Park, but the RG&E facility is outside the Park's south boundary.

The next space within this park section is Seth Green Drive. This narrow corridor is defined by the paved roadway, the sidewalk to its east and a band of lawn to its west, and it extends north to Seneca Towers at the Veterans Memorial Bridge. Within the lawn along the gorge rim is post and cable guiderail; while most posts are concrete, several are contemporary pressure-treated wood. Contemporary stylized streetlights line the street. Near the northern end of the corridor is the Carthage Path, which provides access from this space across the gorge bank to the river edge.

Beyond this point, the corridor widens into the surface parking lots of the Seneca Towers, effectively separating the parkland along the rim from that along St. Paul Street and prohibiting continuous vehicular access north to the balance of Seneca Park East.

The final space in the Seth Green Area is the South Memorial space. Adjacent to the south side of the bridge and its egress ramp, this space is extremely open. A small, somewhat circular space lies to the east of the bridge and is connected by paths to the parkland along St. Paul Street; it is defined by cast stone walls and benches, a memorial, and contemporary formal plantings. A viewing terrace built into the east end of the bridge (see below) is accessed from this space.

The South Memorial space is bounded on the north by the approach to the Veterans Memorial Bridge; the bridge is also a feature in the North Memorial Space and in the North and South Bridge Spaces in Seneca Park West (see below). The bridge's monumental character is due to its handsome materials, symmetrical, classic design, and refined detailing. Faced in large, smoothly finished blocks of light gray granite, the bridge is composed of a series of seven arches that are graduated in height from the largest central arch to the small arches adjacent to the gorge banks. The bridge carries four lanes of traffic in each direction, divided by temporary concrete barriers, plus a sidewalk on either side, flanked by low balustrades and lit by contemporary stylized light fixtures. At each of the bridge's four corners is a viewing terrace that provides unobstructed views of the bridge, river, opposite bank, and uplands.

LAND USE HISTORY

The land now known as Seth Green Park was part of the area Frederick Law Olmsted indicated as Seneca Park and is seen on the 1893 General Plan. Olmsted's plan for the gorge edge consisted of the densely forested, steep banks. This section of the park appears to have remained undeveloped and forested, as Olmsted intended, until the RG&E Access Road was created in the 1950s.

Seth Green, for whom the park was named, lived in the early Genesee River settlement of Carthage as a child, and fished in the area around the Lower Falls. He became known as the "father of fish culture," founding the Caledonia Fish Hatchery, the first fish hatchery in the western hemisphere.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Seth Green Park is listed in the National Register as part of the Seneca Park East and West designation because it was within the area indicated by Frederick Law Olmsted as Seneca Park East. Here as elsewhere in the park, Olmsted's intent was to preserve the steep gorge banks in their undeveloped, forested state. The Seth Green portion of the park has remained, as Olmsted intended, a rugged and undeveloped landscape.

SITE CONDITION

Seth Green Park is in generally good condition. The small pocket park lawn area, parking lot, Seth Green Drive, and the trail system appear to be well maintained. Relatively new interpretive signage appears in excellent condition. Some chain link fencing along the edge of the river gorge has been cut or has fallen.

The eastern edge of the parking lot is not curbed and the transition between asphalt and lawn has degraded.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The overall neighborhood context includes varied land uses along the park's eastern boundary. Much of the park's trail system and viewing areas remain naturalistic within the river gorge. Some commercial and industrial uses are adjacent to the park's gorge edge along the southern portion. Seth Green Drive features a mixture of residential, including higher density apartments.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

"Seneca Park East and West." National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 2003.

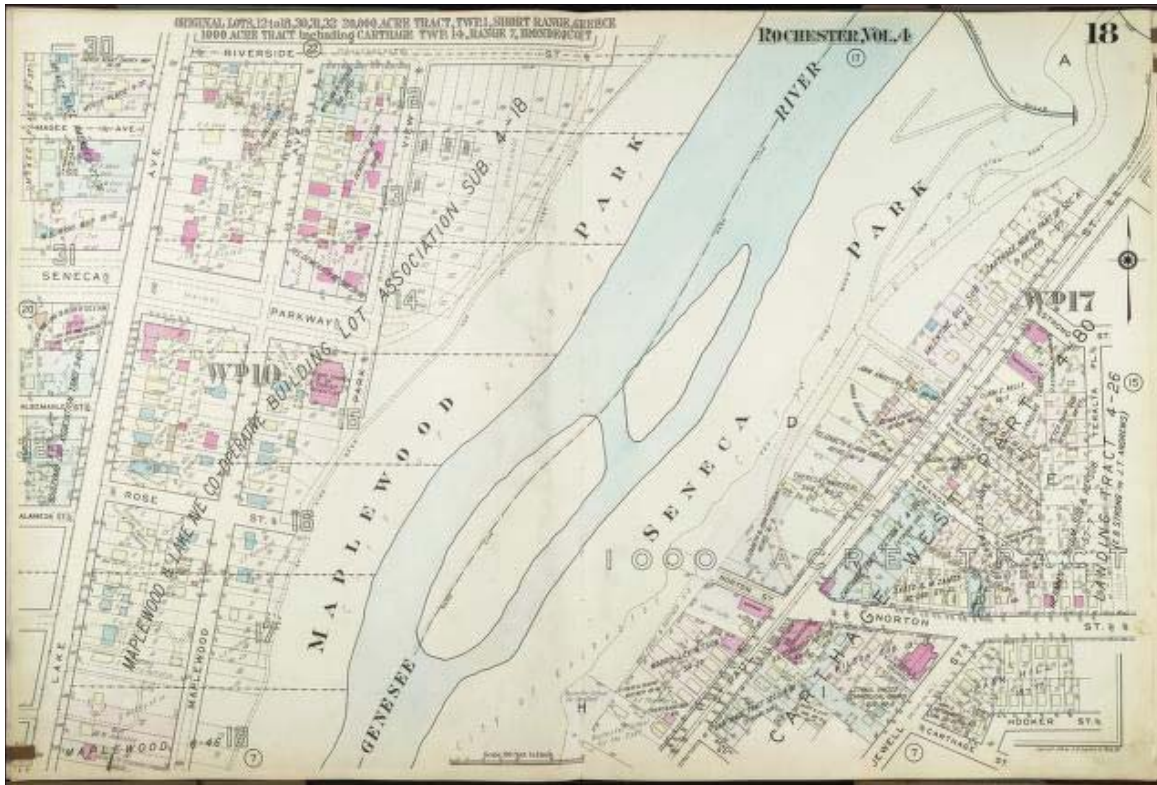
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



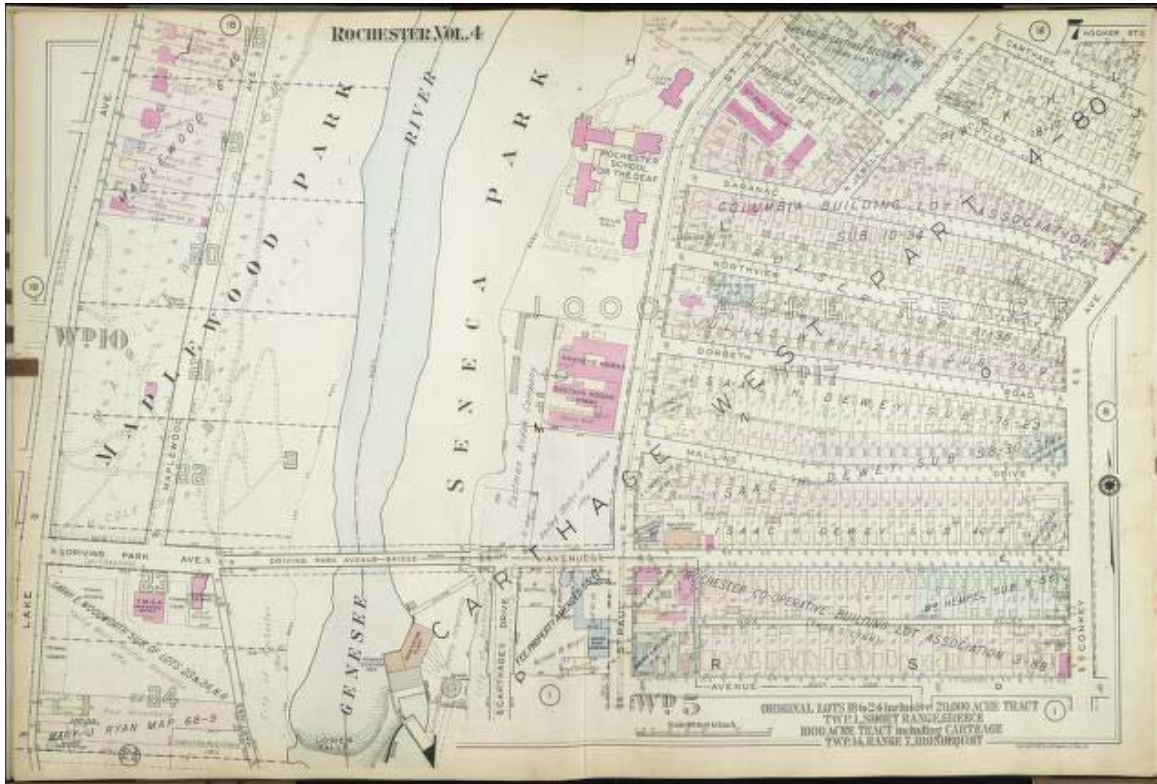
Seth Green Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Detail of the 1893 General Plan for Seneca Park, showing the treatment of what is now the Seth Green space on the east side of the river. The bridge shown is the Driving Park Bridge.



1935 plat map, showing a portion of Seth Green Park; the space now called Seth Green Park is on the east (right) gorge wall, labeled "Seneca Park."



1935 plat map, showing south end of Seth Green Park, labeled "Seneca Park," on the east river edge.



e0000124.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

1918 aerial showing the south portion of Seth Green Park on the east (right) river edge; the bridge in the photograph is the Driving Park Bridge.



rpf00691.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Historic view of the gorge and Driving Park Bridge, showing the rugged, undeveloped character of Seth Green Park on the east gorge edge (the left side of the photograph). Date unknown, possibly 1930s.



Seth Green Park, looking south in parking lot, 2009.



Seth Green Park, looking east towards entry area, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Sibley Place Mall Sibley Park	Location Description:	Street mall located on Sibley Place, extending south from East Avenue
Location:	Sibley Place, off East Avenue		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:289196,4781098		
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)		
Existing Zoning:	R-2 (Medium Density Residential) R-3 (High Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.288 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 738' x 17' (including turn around areas)
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	Ca. 1877
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	In the State/National Register-listed East Avenue Historic District, and in the locally designated East Avenue Preservation District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Sibley Place Mall consists of a landscaped and curbed median between two one-way drive and parking lanes of Sibley Place. The mall is segmented, with paved turnaround areas between three overall street mall sections. The mall is approximately 17' in width and includes medina stone curbing around the mall's periphery. Deciduous shade trees are planted along the center of the mall, combining with shade trees from the residential tree-lawns to create arching canopy over the Sibley Place drive and parking lanes. The park lighting is located along the residential tree laws, consisting of standard City colonial - style fixtures on fiberglass poles, approximately 14' in height. Several large boulders have been placed near the end of the mall. A small entry sign is located at the intersection with East Avenue, within a small perennial and annual planting bed.

LAND USE HISTORY

Sibley Place Mall is one of several late-19th century street malls that were developed to enhance the desirability and economic value of residential properties along side streets off of East Avenue, Rochester's most prominent street at the time. Originally referred to as Sibley Park, the street was named for notable Rochesterian Hiram Sibley, who lived across the street at 400 East Avenue but had also purchased 485 East Avenue (Woodside), located at the southeast corner of East Avenue and Sibley Place, and its surrounding property. The street first appeared in the 1878 City Directory, suggesting that it was laid out within a year or two prior to that date. By the time of the 1888 plat map, there were

several large masonry houses toward the east end of the street. Like nearby streets such as Oxford Street, Portsmouth Terrace, Arnold Park, and Rundel Park, which also featured street malls, Sibley Place came to be lined with large, architecturally distinguished houses built for Rochester's elite families.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Sibley Place Mall already listed in the National Register and is also locally designated: it is within the boundaries of the local East Avenue Preservation District and State/National Register-listed East Avenue Preservation District. As a landscape feature that reflects the origins and subsequent development of the neighborhood, it is a contributing element in the East Avenue district.

SITE CONDITION

The street mall appears to be in generally good condition. Trees and other elements appear to be well maintained. The small planting bed located at the East Avenue terminus appears to be well maintained. The park is classified as a "Group II" street mall, with maintenance being conducted by the neighborhood association.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Sibley Place Mall is located at a transition point between the East Avenue residential neighborhoods and the East / Alexander Street entertainment district. The street mall features several significant historic residential homes along the south side of the mall. The north side of Sibley Place includes non-residential uses, religious/institutional buildings, tennis courts associated with a private club, a small parking lot, and a recently restored historic group residential structure. The southern terminus of the mall includes a separate neighborhood park space and playground.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

City of Rochester Directories

"East Avenue Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form. 1976.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Sibley Place Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1875 plat map (Sibley Place is not yet laid out, but will be west of Hiram Sibley's house)



1888 plat map



rpf00092.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

SibleyPlace, c. 1890.



Sibley Place Mall, looking southwest from East Avenue end, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Susan B. Anthony Square Susan B. Anthony Park Madison Square Madison Park Mechanic Square	Location Description:	Public square bounded by Madison Park North on the north, King St on the east, Madison Park South on the south, and Madison St on the west.
Location:	39 King St		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286392,4781276		
Tax ID:	120.360-0001-011.000		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Public Square
Size:	0.846 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 157' x 234'
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	1839; 1904
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Olmsted Brothers
Current landmark designation status:	Listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a Contributing Site in the Madison Square/West Main Street Historic District; also part of the City of Rochester-designated Susan B. Anthony Preservation District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Susan B Anthony Square consists of a public square centrally located within an historic residential district. The site is flat, without variations in topography, and features a designed pathway system and plantings. Concrete paths link all four corners of the square to a small central plaza and sitting area in the center. The pathways are curvilinear in form and fork into a flower petal design before leading into the central plaza. The pathway areas feature internal grass medians with hedges adjacent to the central plaza, backing period-style benches that face the center of the square. The central plaza is paved with flagstones spaciouly set into colored exposed aggregate concrete, and includes a narrow brick soldier course.

No buildings or structures are present in the square and no vehicle access points or circulation routes exist. The central plaza space contains a contemporary sculptural monument, depicting Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglas in seated conversation. A smaller plaque and stone monument is adjacent, crediting the sculptural work and listing supporting donors. Period-style signage exists along the concrete pathway forks, listing the park name, dedication date, and historic association.

Vegetation includes shrubs surrounding the internal seating plaza and various large shade trees, many of which are significant specimens. Most internal lighting is significant to the public square period, with cast concrete poles featuring harp-style fixtures. A secondary set of contemporary internal lights has been installed to direct light onto the center sculpture. Street lights at the park boundary are fiberglass poles with a contemporary colonial-style fixture. Several black steel period-style benches and trash receptacles line walks on the periphery and central plaza of the square.

LAND USE HISTORY

The square is at the center of a settlement laid out as the Bush and King Tract by brothers Bradford and Moses King from Connecticut in partnership with Obediah W. Bush. The layout of the streets, including Canal, Litchfield, King, and Silver (then “Liberty”), was shown on an 1832 survey map, along with over 100 as-yet-undeveloped residential lots. At that time, this section of the city was still largely undeveloped, but due to proximity to the Erie Canal and railroad lines, this proved a prime location for development, and the surrounding neighborhood developed as a working-class neighborhood of vernacular housing, with adjacent commercial and industrial areas along West Main Street and Canal Street. The square at the center of the Bush and King Tract was initially known as “Mechanic Square,” as shown on the Cornell map of the city of 1839. On that map, and on the 1851 and 1863 city maps, the square was delineated as an open lot with no defined landscape features indicated.

By 1875, the park was known as “Madison Park,” and was shown on the city plat map with a diagonal “X” sidewalk layout. The City Parks Commission took over maintenance of Madison Square, along with other existing small parks and squares, in 1894, in accordance with an 1893 amendment to the Parks Commission’s charter.

In 1904, the Olmsted Brothers provided a new landscape design for the park, then called “Madison Square.” The new plan retained the X axis of the earlier layout, but with a more sophisticated curvilinear “flower-petal” design. The plan also called for the addition of silver maple trees.

In 1974, the park was renamed “Susan B. Anthony Square,” and a large granite boulder with an attached bronze name plaque was installed at the southwest corner of the park. The park was renovated in 1982, with new concrete sidewalks laid in accordance with the Olmsted Brothers’ design, as well as new trees, reproduction 19th-century benches, and new sod.

In 2001, the sculpture “Let’s Have Tea,” depicting Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass was installed at the center of the square.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Susan B. Anthony Square (Madison Square) is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing site in the West Main/Madison Street Historic District, and is within the locally designated Susan B. Anthony Preservation District as well. It is significant both as the central square in one of the best examples of an early-19th century working class neighborhood in Rochester, and as one of the most intact of the public squares redesigned by the Olmsted firm. It contributes substantially to the historic character of its neighborhood and is a significant neighborhood amenity, as well as having landscape

design significance due to the Olmsted connection. Preservation of the character and intact design features of the square should be a high priority.

SITE CONDITION

Nearly all the elements of the park site, including historic features and additions, are well preserved and show continued maintenance. New tree plantings have been introduced and all site features remain in good condition.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The immediate neighborhood context of the park is wholly 19th century residential, with the exception of a newly constructed/renovated Frederick Douglass Museum along King Street to the northeast. This new museum features a modern architectural aesthetic, but contributes to the character of the neighborhood as a functioning residential neighborhood and important cultural historic and tourist site.

19th century industrial buildings exist nearby within the viewshed from the park. Many of these buildings are currently underutilized, but continue to maintain their 19th century characteristics and remain viable redevelopment opportunities.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Clark Patterson Associates, et al. *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares: Park's History, Preservation Approach, Master Plan and Management Guidelines*.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, “Madison Square/West Main Street Historic District.”

“The Municipal Park System of Rochester, N.Y.” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. 2003.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

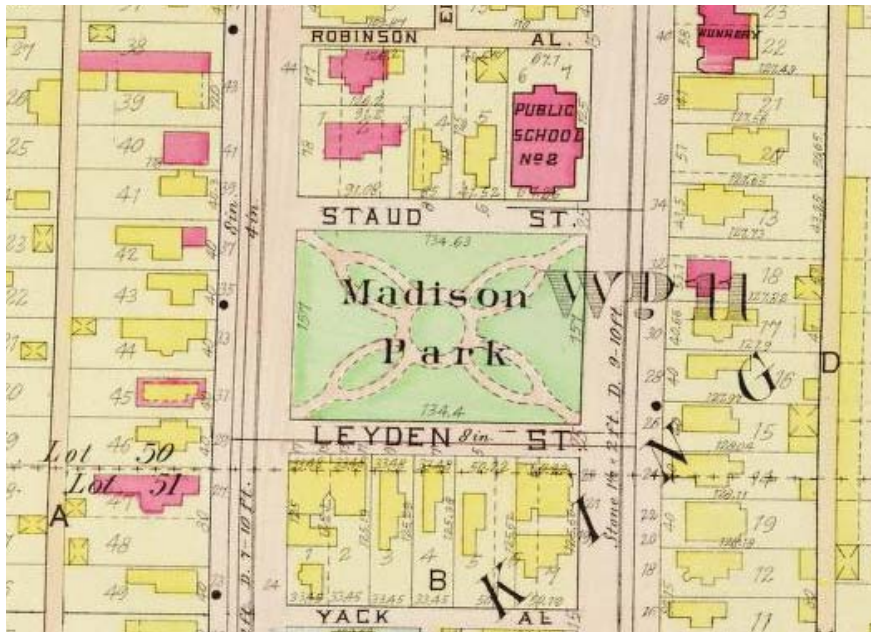
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Susan B Anthony Square, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse, 2005)



1875 plat map



1910 plat map



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection
Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Madison Square, ca. 1905-13



Susan B Anthony Square, central seating area and sculpture, 2009.



Susan B Anthony Square, curvilinear walkways, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Triphammer Park Triphammer Forge	Location Description:	Three cultural facility parcels with western frontage on Brown's Race. Bounded by commercial building(s) to the north, utility facility to the south, and Genesee River to the east.
Location:	42 Browns Race (1) 38 Browns Race (2) 36 Browns Race (3)		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:287336,4782005		
Tax ID:	106.700-0001-015.000 (1) 106.700-0001-014.000 (2) 106.700-0001-008.004 (3)		
Existing Zoning:	CCD (City Center District)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Urban Cultural Park
Size:	Total: 0.33 Acres [0.038 Acres (1), 0.223 Acres (2), 0.069 Acres(3)]
Dimensions:	15.5' x 112' (1), 51' x 179' (2), 17.5' x 175.5' (3)
Topographic Description:	Varied small plaza spaces, stairs, ramps, landings
Date of Construction:	1993 (dedication stone at park site)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Unknown
Current landmark designation status:	Contributing site in the National Register-listed Brown's Race Historic District and the locally designated High Falls/Brown's Race Preservation District

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Triphammer Forge Park includes the land and structural remnants formerly occupied by the Triphammer building, including foundations, open-air walls, and historic mill-related infrastructure, between Brown's Race and the High Falls gorge. The park features were constructed to exhibit the historic fabric of the mill building and inner workings of the large water wheel once powered by water from Brown's mill race. The park does not feature any planted or introduced vegetation. The small urban pocket park is a series of ramps, stairs, and viewing platforms.

The park entrance is along Browns Race, where a stone wall with channeled steel lettering identify the park, with a dedication date shown in stone of 1993. An accessible ramp leads users from Browns Race, switch-backing down into the former building foundation. Exposed structural stone walls and foundations line a wooden platform area with railing. Beyond the railing is the water wheel and recesses of the building's lower levels. Interpretive signage is mounted to the railing overlooking the water wheel.

The park's wooden platform continues further toward the river side of the building foundation, where stairs continue down to a smaller lower platform overlooking the High Falls area. Recessed lighting fixtures are located along the cement cacheable ramp leading down into the park area.

LAND USE HISTORY

From the National Register nomination for the Brown's Race Historic District:

"The Triphammer, built by the Brown brothers in circa 1826 [elsewhere in the nomination the date c. 1818 is given], was the oldest intact stone building within the district. This building burned in 1977 [elsewhere in the nomination this date is given as 1978] and was subsequently demolished with the exception of portions of the southeast wall which remain extant. A water wheel remains in situ in its wheel pit adjacent to and below Brown's Race. This site offers a high potential for archaeological investigation and predictive capability within the area."

According to the nomination, the Triphammer building was a four-story, twenty-bay, side entrance stone building originally used as a scythe factory, later used for the manufacturing of fire engines and plastic bags. A giant water wheel, thirty feet in diameter, was installed circa 1840 to raise and lower the triphammer inside the building. The iron wheel rested on wood blocks imbedded in bedrock. The wooden spokes and paddles of the wheel were fastened with pegs and iron straps while on one rim of the wheel was attached a ring of cast-iron gear teeth which turned similar gears within the factory.

Power for the wheel was provided by water from Brown's Race, which poured over the wheel and exited through a tailrace under the building to the Genesee River below. The gears alternately raised and dropped a large hammer known as a triphammer which could be used to work metal. In 1830 the building was advertised as having a furnace with the greatest blast in the state along with two triphammers. Around 1832, Lewis Selye bought the Triphammer factory and buildings on the other side of the race for the manufacture of fire engines. Power was sent across the race through a series of gears and bars which were capable of turning machinery in the building opposite. The remains of a hexagonal bar underneath Brown's Race [are] visible today above the exposed wheel pit.

In 1892, the Edison Electric Illuminating Company established a steam and hydroelectric station adjacent to the Triphammer building. Once steam power was easily available, water power was no longer an aggressive competitor. At that time, the water from Brown's Race was blocked off and the chamber containing the wheel was sealed, since that was evidently easier than removing the wheel. The sealed room subsequently protected the wheel throughout most of the twentieth century by keeping temperature and moisture at constant levels. Until its discovery in 1983, the wheel was forgotten.

The archaeological significance of the Triphammer and other 19th-century industrial sites in the district was one of the key justifications for the significance of the Brown's Race district.

Since the nomination, interpretive signage has been installed to describe and illustrate the early appearance and use of the site.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

The Triphammer site is already listed in the National Register as part of the Brown's Race Historic District, and is also locally designated as part of the Brown's Race Preservation District. The district as a whole was nominated under National Register Criteria A, C, and D; the Triphammer site was identified as a contributing element due to its archaeological significance, in accordance with National Register Criterion D (applicable to sites "that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history"). It contains "the only known in situ nineteenth-century water wheel in the city," "a unique resource rare within Rochester and the surrounding region." For more detail, please see the National Register nomination for the Brown's Race Historic District, which provides a thorough narrative of the historic and archaeological significance of the Triphammer and other buildings, structures and sites in the district within the context of Rochester's 19th-century industrial development.

SITE CONDITION

The small park is in good overall condition. Many historic elements exist within the park and they appear to be in good condition. Decking on the lower level of the park appears to be slightly wet and discolored, likely do to overall ambient moisture and the shady recessed location. .

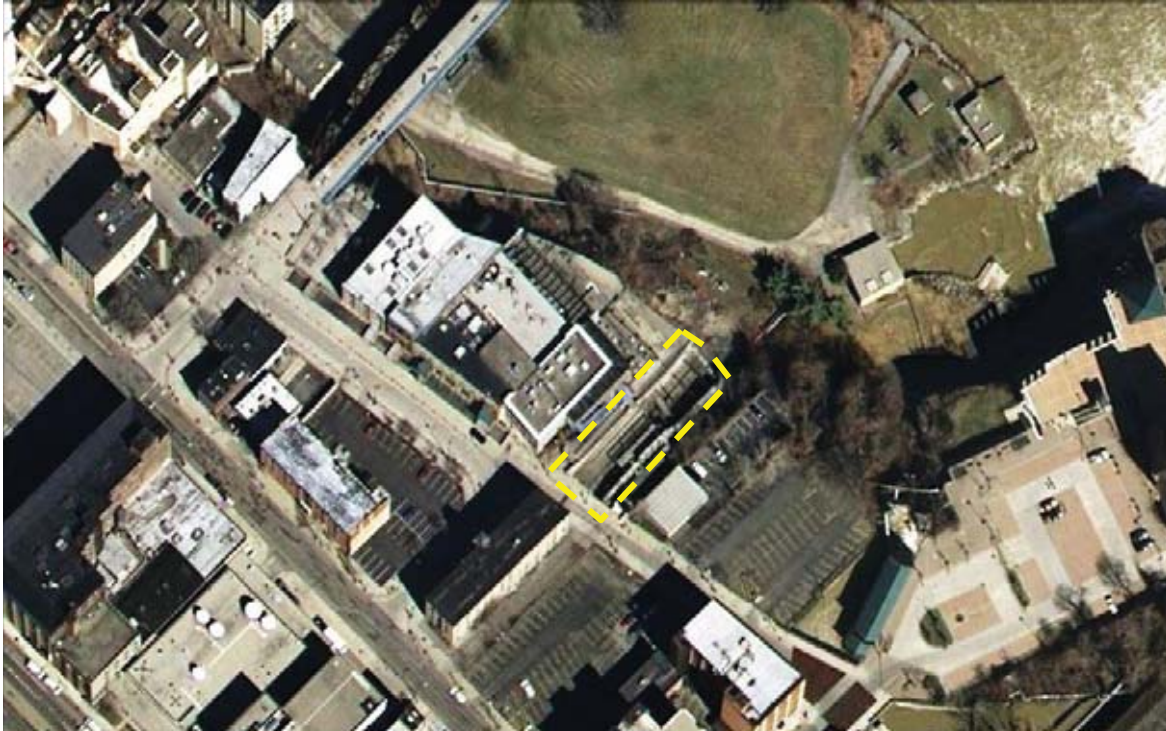
NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The current neighborhood context of Triphammer Park would be considered mixed use. The surrounding district was conceived as a contemporary entertainment district. The area has been a directed redevelopment area for many years and appears to recently be increasing the number of residential units. Additional offices, art galleries, and both owner-occupied and rental residential units have increased the neighborhoods contextual diversity.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

National Register nomination for the Brown's Race Historic District.

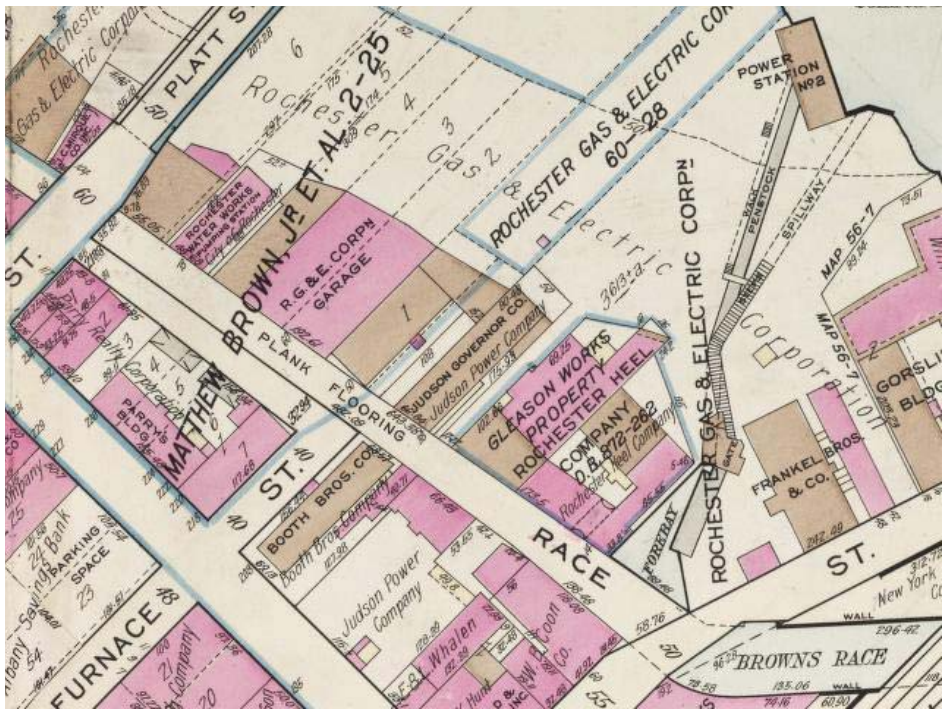
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Triphammer Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Triphammer Park, 1875 plat map



Triphammer Park, 1935 plat map



The Triphammer Building, 1971. Landmark Society photo files (John A. Wenrich, photographer).



Triphammer Park, looking east, 2009.



Triphammer Park, looking west, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Tryon Park Palmers Glen	Location Description: Park consists of two parks areas, Tyron Park West and Tryon Park East. East Tryon park is located at the eastern terminus of Tryon Park (street), bounded by I-590 on the west and Irondequoit Bay wetland areas to the east. Tryon Park West is located off Louisa Drive, bounded by residential development on the north, west, and south, and I-590 on the east.
Location:	100 Edmonton Rd (west park) 998 N Winton Rd (east park)	
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:293487,4782161	
Tax ID:	107.670-0001-014.001 (west park) 107.680-0001-001.000 (east park)	
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Recreation Park
Size:	+/- 70 Acres (east park) +/- 15 (west park)
Dimensions:	Irregular
Topographic Description:	Varied (Hills, sports fields, wetlands)
Date of Construction:	1968 (Tryon Park West) 1971 dedication (Tryon Park East)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Park consists of two parks areas, Tyron Park West and Tryon Park East. Tryon Park / Palmers Glen includes a recreation park west of the 590 Expressway and a naturalized area on the east side. The western park area includes a large grassy space, formerly the site of Palmers Glen and a Thomas Creek tributary. Large deciduous trees are interspersed within the open lawn area, with a large grove near the southwestern end. An entry road enters from the north, separating the large grass open area from three formalized baseball diamonds with dug-outs, bleachers, and other related infrastructure. An apartment community is located along the boundary of the park area and includes a newly built playground with contemporary equipment. A small concrete block building is located near the park’s entry drive and drop off. The eastern portion of the park is located across the 590 expressway and includes a large naturalized area around the Thomas Creek wetlands. The park features natural wooded areas, marsh and wetlands.

LAND USE HISTORY

The City of Rochester’s “Parks, Maps, & SBL’s” binders (in the City Recreation department) provide the following history of Tryon Park West, taken from City records:

The site, originally known as Palmer's Glen, was owned by James Palmer. Mr. Palmer owned and operated a cider mill on Thomas Creek in the late 1800s, and in 1890, sued the city of Rochester for damages caused by sewage pollution in the creek. In late 1890, the City settled the case for \$4,000. plus interest for business losses sustained from 1889. The settlement also included court costs and a yearly stipend of \$800. a year until such time as the sewage would be diverted from Thomas Creek. According to the Council Proceedings of the time, those payments continued until 1900.

During the early 1900s, the city began purchasing land for municipal purposes. The ordinances themselves do not specify the reasons for purchase, but index references indicate the properties were acquired as sewer overflow easements to the Brighton Sewage Disposal Plant. This land acquisition continued until the middle 1920s.

There is little written about Tryon Park West during the 1930s and 1940s. It was known as a gathering spot for people to hear political speeches during holidays, and various maps of the time refer to the location as parkland. The land thus served a dual purpose: drainage overflow area and open space recreation land.

In the 1950s, the composition of the population brought on the need for expanded roadways, and in 1959, land was taken by the state to build the Outer Loop Expressway. This effectively cut off Palmer's Glen from the rest of Tryon Park. Tryon Park East had long been a natural habitat for many species of birds and wildlife. By separating Tryon East from Tryon West, the opportunity arose to create a recreational area on the west side. In fact, a 1958 Plan for Recreational Development suggested the installation of ball diamonds and tennis courts to serve the surrounding community.

The surge of interest in parklands during the sixties included the Tryon Park area. In 1968, the City, with funds provided by HUD's Urban Beautification Program, built baseball diamonds and tennis courts. In 1971, Tryon Park East was dedicated as parkland, and named a forever wild area. Tryon Park West continues to be used as a recreational area.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Tryon Park/Palmers Glen does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing. There are no known historic features 50 or more years old in Tryon Park, nor do those features less than 50 years old possess exceptional significance that would justify listing of the park in the National Register. Any evidence of historic features in Palmer's Glen has been destroyed through filling of the site. Tryon Park East is a "forever wild" park without visible historic features; assessment of archaeological potential is beyond the scope of this survey. Therefore Tryon Park does not warrant National Register or local landmark listing at this time.

SITE CONDITION

Tryon Park appears to be in good overall condition. The baseball related facilities feature a significant amount of equipment and infrastructure and appear to be well used. The park's entry drive, extending

south into Tryon Park West from Tryon Park (street), is in need of pavement maintenance due to several large potholes and asphalt surface disrepair. Palmers Glen is no longer visible within the park site and has been completely filled in and/or altered from historic condition.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The park is located directly adjacent to both single-family homes and a multi-family apartment community. The apartment community appears to have been built on land that once included portions of Palmers Glen, and boundaries between the park area and apartment community lands are open and indistinct. The park boundary near the 590 expressway is considerably naturalized, with thick stands of woods buffering on the north and south.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

“Parks, Maps and SBL’s,” Binder in City of Rochester Recreation Department offices.

Plat book of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1902.

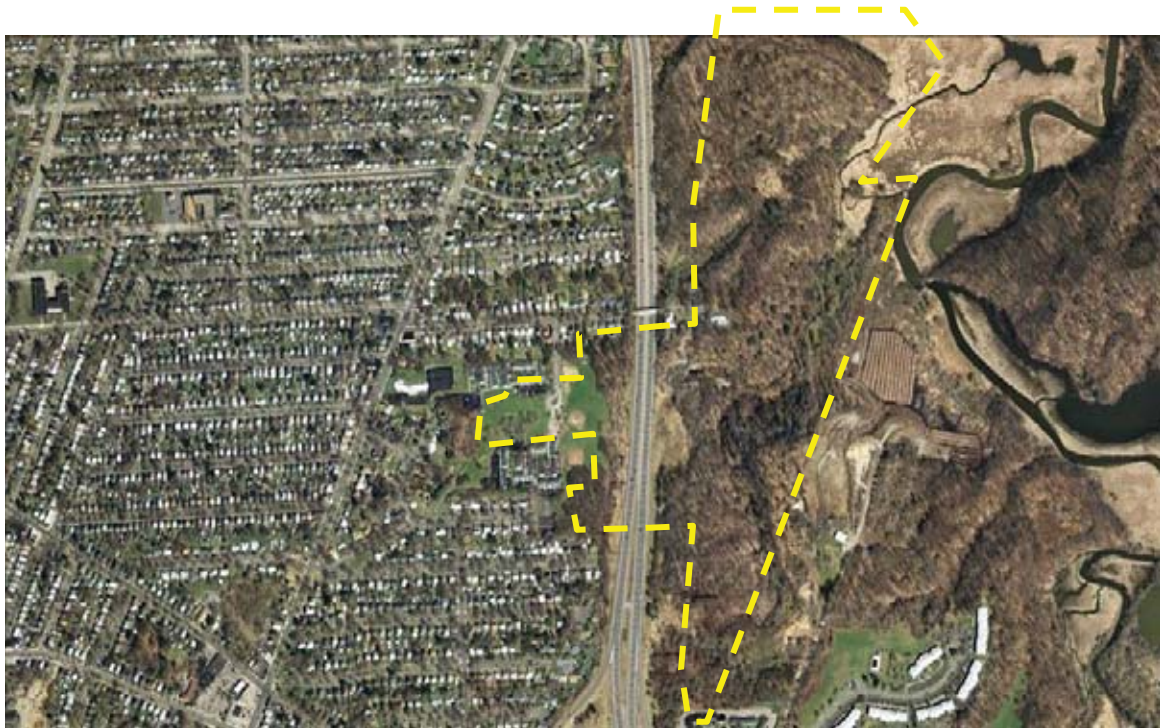
City of Rochester Plat Maps:

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

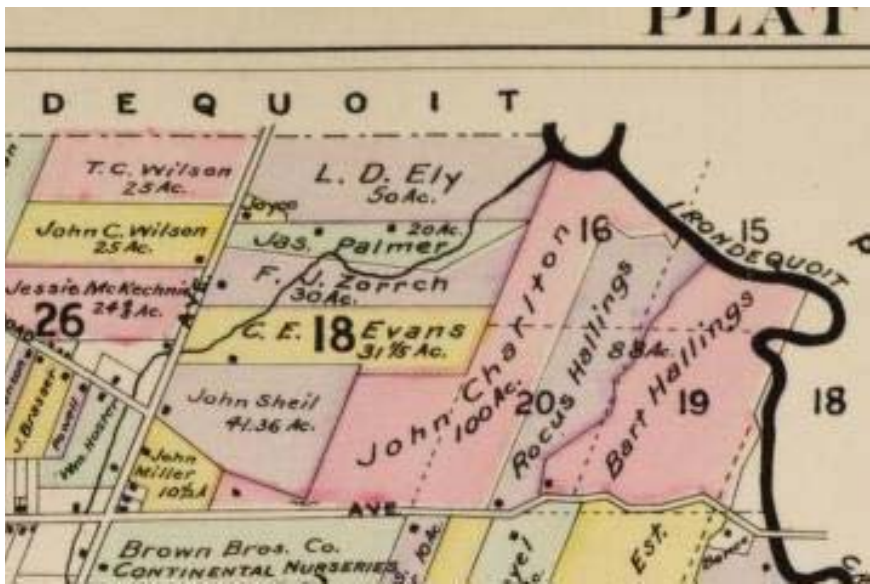
Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

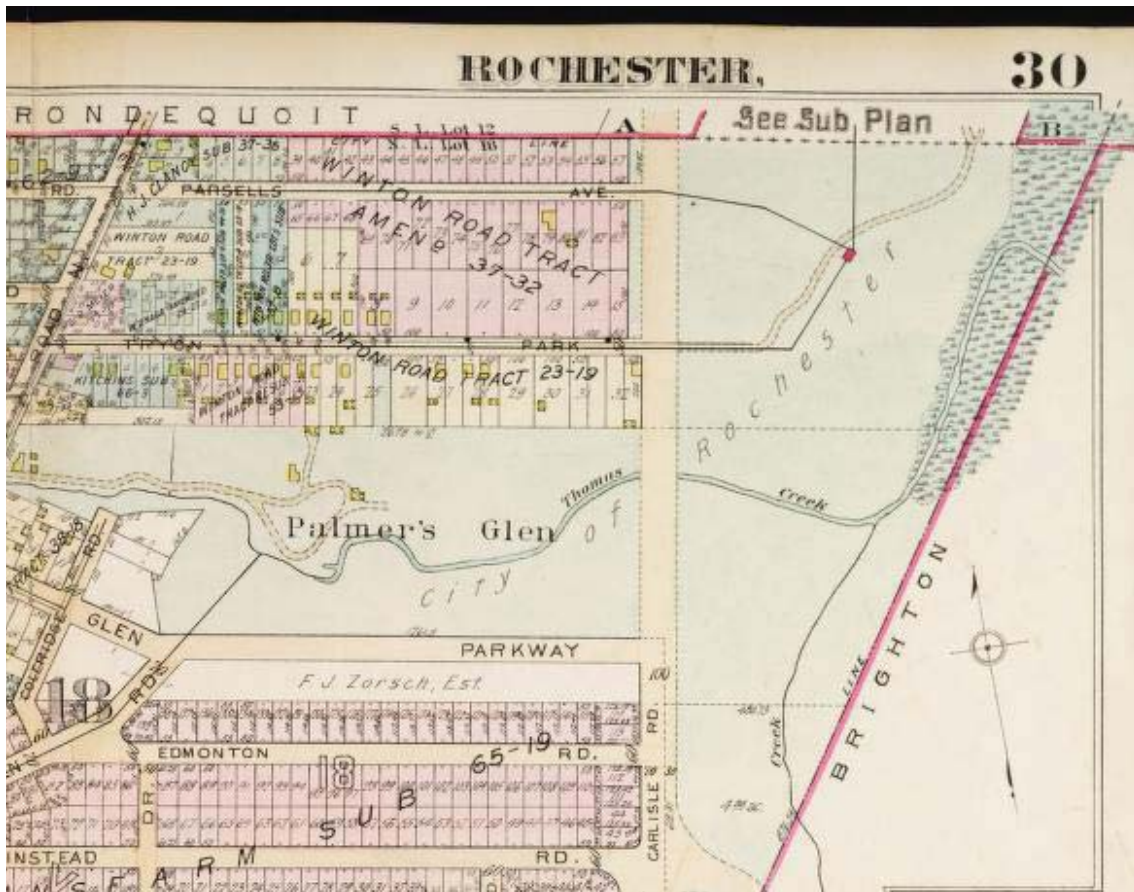
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Tryon Park / Palmer's Glen, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



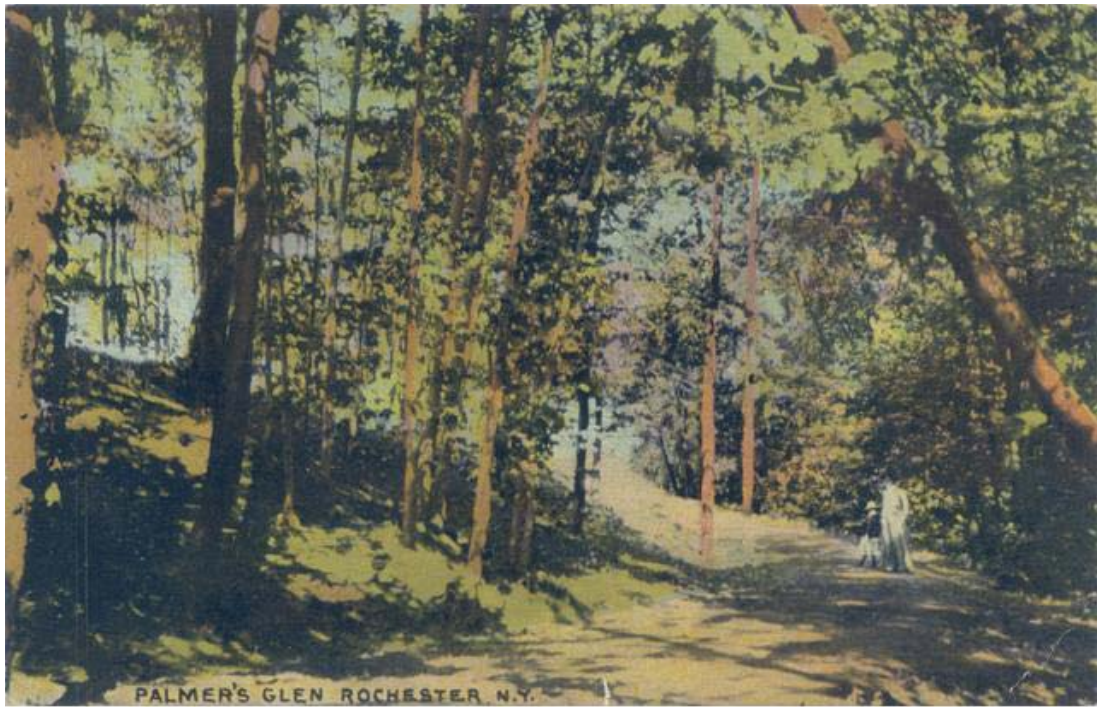
1902 Monroe County plat map, Brighton (note Palmer property)



1926 plat map



1935 plat map



rpc1435a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Historic postcard of Palmers Glen, ca. 1907-1914.



Tryon Park (West)/ Palmer's Glen, looking north east, 2009.



Tryon Park (West)/ Palmer's Glen, looking east near entry drive and sports fields, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Turning Point Park	Location Description:	Turning Point Park is a large linear park located along the western banks of the Genesee River and gorge. The park includes several tax parcels and extends the length of the river from the Charlotte area to Riverside Cemetery.
Location:	350 Boxart Street		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:287416,4789464		
Tax ID:	061.380-0001-001.000 061.450-0001-048.000 061.530-0001-023.000 061.610-0001-001.000 061.610-0001-007.000 061.610-0001-005.000 061.690-0001-003.000 061.690-0001-004.000 061.690-0001-005.000 061.690-0001-008.000 061.780-0001-001.000 076.210-0002-002.001 076.210-0002-002.002		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Major Community / Regional Park (no Multiple Property Documentation form category)
Size:	112 Acres (City parks database) 275 Acres (City common description)
Dimensions:	Varied (extends along banks of Genesee River)
Topographic Description:	Varied (gorge features highly varied terrain)
Date of Construction:	1977
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	JoAnn Beck (2006)
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Turning Point Park consists of a large linear naturalized space located along the Genesee River between Riverside Cemetery and Charlotte. There is a small parking lot at the end of Boxart St, across from the ESSROC Cement Company. The park contains approximately *275 wooded acres along the banks of the Genesee River. Hiking and biking trails are established throughout the park and make connections to the overall Genesee Riverway Trail. While most of the park is naturalized area, several distinct natural features are located within the park, including the wooded area known as "Bullock's Woods", two separate smaller waterfalls, and an extensive wetlands/marsh area with boardwalk. The park is located along the Genesee River near a wide-water section known as the Genesee Turning Basin. This wide area of the river includes a newly constructed boardwalk built above the shallows, arcing with the natural bow of the river and extending a considerable distance across the wide waters area. The*

main parking area is located at the end of Boxart Street and features a small grassy viewing area, showcasing expansive views into the river gorge below. Large boulders line the parking lot and a rain garden has been constructed to filter runoff from the parking lot.

LAND USE HISTORY

From the 1870s until 1970, the site that is now Turning Point Park was a busy industrial facility. In 1874, the firm of Roberts, Smith and Sawyer built a trestle in the location that is now the park. Coal was dumped from the trestle down chutes into waiting cargo ships. This remained in operation until 1970, by which time demand for coal had diminished to the point that it was no longer feasible to operate the coal dock; the trestle was dismantled in 1971, leaving only the foundations that are still visible today. In 1972, a proposal to redevelop the site as an oil tank farm was criticized by neighbors, and was the impetus for creating a park here. The park was dedicated in 1977; recent enhancements have included creation of a rain garden and extensive boardwalk (completed 2006).

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Turning Point Park does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register listing due to age and a lack of historic features. The site of Turning Point Park has some historic interest for its pre-park use, but few visible features from this era survive. Assessment of archaeological potential was beyond the scope of this survey. Extant park features are too recent to be eligible for the National Register.

SITE CONDITION

Turning Point Park is in generally good overall condition. The park's many trails and boardwalk appear well maintained and are used frequently. Recent improvements have been constructed in the park, including the boardwalk and related infrastructure. Some vandalism is apparent on some site features, including older benches located within the river gorge viewing area, near the main parking lot.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The general character of land uses adjacent to Turning Point Park includes residential, industrial and naturalized areas. The park extends along the naturalized river gorge, through significant wooded and wetland communities. A considerable amount of industrial remnants are visible from many points throughout the park and active industrial uses are located along the western park boundary near Boxart Street. Residential neighborhoods are predominant along the park's northern and southern reaches, with the pastoral expanse of Riverside Cemetery bounding the site on the south end.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Brewer, Tom. "Coal from Charlotte." In "Genesee Valley Trail," brochure produced by the city of Rochester, 2006.

City of Rochester Department of Parks and Recreation/Bureau of Parks. "Turning Point Park." Brochure. 1977.

Plat Maps:

Plat book of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1902.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Turning Point Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Turning Point trestle, c. early 20th century. Provided by JoAnn Beck, City of Rochester.



Turning Point Park, pathway leading north to river boardwalk, 2009.



Turning Point Park, parking lot and rain garden, 2009.



Turning Point Park, views to river, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Wadsworth Square Park Wadsworth Square Wadsworth Park Wadsworth Playground	Location Description:	Park site bounded by Marshall St to the south, Broadway to the east, the Inner Loop (Howell St) to the north, and a municipal parking lot/Clinton Ave on-ramp to the west.
Location:	48 Marshall St		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:288332,4780832		
Tax ID:	121.400-0002-002.000		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Early Square
Size:	0.77 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 184' x 186'
Topographic Description:	Flat, center lawn slightly mounded
Date of Construction:	1835
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Possibly Olmsted firm
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Wadsworth Square currently consists of a generally open lawn area with approximately seven deciduous shade trees (predominately Maples) interspersed throughout the interior of the park site. Street trees line the south and east park periphery (within tree-lawn; Maples, Lindens, Flowering Pear), along Marshall Street and Broadway, respectively. Two small planting bed areas exist near the northern boundary, with small trees, shrubs, and perennials.

Sidewalks and tree-lawns exist along edges of the park at the north, east, and south periphery. A sidewalk exists on the western periphery, dividing Wadsworth Square Park from Municipal Parking Lot #21.

An 18"-wide course of brick pavers line the sidewalk at the southeast and northeast corners of the park, extending. These brick pavers are remnants of previously existing timber planters that were placed at the SE and NE corner after 1983, but have subsequently been removed (after 1994).

Street lighting exists along the periphery of the park site within the tree-lawn area and consists of standard City of Rochester colonial street lamps on a 14' fiberglass posts, 30' cobra-head highway street lamps exist along the northern edge of the park. Other existing features in the park include a post, signage, and box for pet cleanup and a "oil drum" style trash receptacle. No fencing, furniture, paved walkways, or other significant site elements currently exist in the park.

LAND USE HISTORY

The history of Wadsworth Square is related in detail in the *Small Parks and Squares* report and in a manuscript by Joseph Barnes in the Local History division (see Sources of Information).

The square is named for General James Wadsworth, a Geneseo native who laid out the square in 1835 as the center of his Rochester development tract. The family subsequently donated the park to the city. School # 12 was built on the western side of the lot in 1857. By 1875, the first City Atlas shows the square laid out with walkways. An apparent street or alleyway separated the square from the school and adjacent houses.

Until about 1860, the city did not appropriate funding for maintenance of the public squares, and Wadsworth, like the other squares, fell into poor condition. Newspaper articles and editorials deplored this situation, and Wadsworth was singled out for particular criticism.

The 1875 plat map shows the square with four paths intersecting in the middle. Two diagonal paths connect the four corners and two paths connect the middle of the sides. By the time of the 1888 plat map, only two diagonal paths remained.

It is unclear whether the Wadsworth Square was one of the parks redesigned by the Olmsted firm around the turn of the 20th century. The Olmsted firm was asked to provide a design, but in the *Small Parks and Squares* document, Olmsted historian Charles Beveridge noted that there were no plans or correspondence relating to the park in the Olmsted archives. The configuration of the park did change between the 1888 and 1900 plat maps, which could indicate an Olmsted redesign, as the firm did several other small park designs in that period. City records show a series of improvements, including installation and improvement of cement walks, grading, shrubs, manuring, and electric lights, in the 1890s. A new school was built in 1899. In 1909, the park was regraded, seeded and planted with lower growing shrubs than those that formerly grew there. On the 1918 plat map, the park was contiguous with the school grounds, and paths were more curvilinear. Gradually, the park became a playground for the adjacent school.

School #12 was closed in 1932 and used for city offices. According to park expert Tim O'Connell, the square was paved over as a parking lot while the school was an office building, but the pavement was removed in the late 1970s or early 1980s. In 1956, due to the construction of the Inner Loop, 172 buildings in the vicinity were demolished to make way for part of the loop from South Avenue to Union Street, and Wadsworth Square's context was severely altered. The former school was demolished in 1968. In 1969-1970, when the Clinton Avenue bridge was constructed, the former school site became the site of a municipal parking lot.

In 1983, plans were developed for Wadsworth Park which called for changes to the Wadsworth parking lot and landscaped open space. The area where the school was located is now an open asphalt lot. Additions included a range of trees, shrubs, fencing and walks. Planting beds installed at this time have subsequently been removed.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Wadsworth Square does not appear to qualify for listing in the National Register due to a loss of integrity. It is one of the city's early public squares, associated with an early-19th century subdivision, and is an amenity in its urban neighborhood. Apart from the integrity of its borders, however, it has no surviving historic features and its context has been almost entirely altered. Reconstruction/filling of the Inner Loop could present opportunities to reconstruct or rehabilitate the park in keeping with its historic character as a neighborhood square.

SITE CONDITION

The park appears to be reasonably maintained. There are no historic, designed, or other structurally significant features within the park. Two shade trees near the northeast corner are exhibiting abnormal growth habits and may be damaged or stressed.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

This neighborhood, historically a residential subdivision with individual lots, has experienced significant change, and the park's immediate context no longer resembles the context in which it initially developed. With the construction of the Inner Loop, many residential buildings were demolished and currently the park is bounded by a surface parking lot on its west, one-story commercial buildings on its east, the Inner Loop on its north and some residential blocks on the south.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Barnes, Joseph W. "Wadsworth Square." 1977. Manuscript in Local History Clipping/Pamphlet File RVF2 Parks – General and Collective.

City of Rochester Recreation Department Binder, "Parks, Maps and SBLS's."

Clark Patterson Associates et al. *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares. Park's History, Preservation Approach, Master Plan and Management Guidelines.*

A History of the Public Schools in Rochester, New York, 1813-1935. Rochester (N.Y.) Board of Education.

O'Connell, Tim. Interview. 16 November 2009.

O'Leary, Susan Maney. *The Designed Historic Landscapes of Rochester, New York: An Historic Context Statement.* Jan 1997.

Open Space Inventory. City of Rochester. 1991.

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



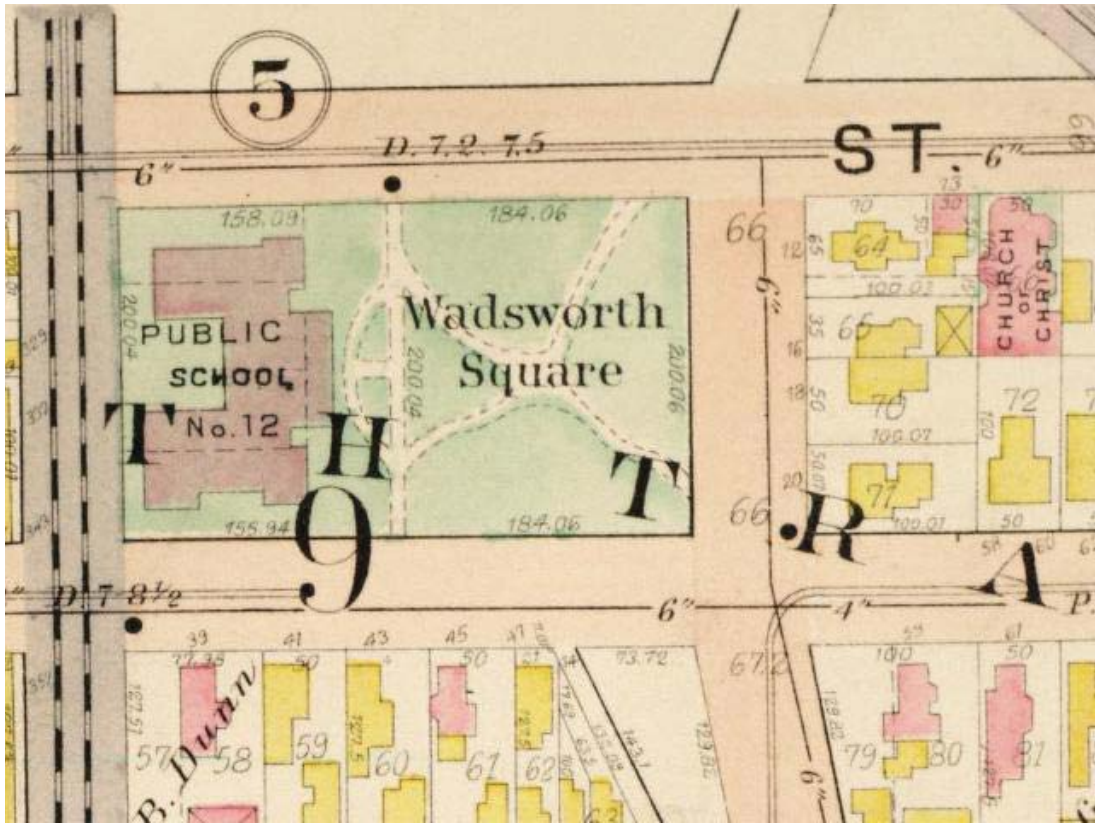
Wadsworth Square Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse, 2005)



1875 plat map



1888 plat map



1900 plat map



1926 plat map



rpc2066a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Wadsworth Square, historic postcard, likely early-20th century.



rpf01348.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

General Wadsworth School No. 12 (then the Works Progress Administration Headquarters), with Wadsworth Square in the foreground, 1935.



Wadsworth Square Park, looking northeast, 2009



Wadsworth Square Park, looking northeast, 2009

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Werner Park Mall	Location Description:	
Location:	Werner Park, between Monroe Ave and Hinsdale St		Street mall located on Werner Park, between Monroe Avenue on the south and Hinsdale St on the north. Werner Park Mall medians are individual tax parcels.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:290284,4779511		
Tax ID:	122.690-0001-043.000 (N Median) 122.690-0001-034.000 (S Median)		
Existing Zoning:	R-2 (Medium Density Residential)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	0.149 Acres (N Median) 0.200 Acres (S Median)
Dimensions:	240' x 27' (N Median) 322' x 27' (S Median)
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	1890s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

Werner Park Mall includes the landscaped median areas centrally located along a portion of Werner Park, north of Monroe Avenue. The street mall is divided into two median sections, with a paved turnaround drive between, linking each one-way travel lane of Werner Park. The street mall includes some large deciduous shade trees, flowering ornamental trees, and a few scattered shrubs. Small planting beds have been developed at the base of some shade trees. The park features stone curbing that remains around a majority of the street mall, but the curbing has been severely buried by pavement layers. Lighting includes City-standard colonial fixtures on '14 fiberglass poles.

Unlike other local street malls, Werner Park does not feature a fully developed tree canopy arching over the street's travel lanes. Street trees located along the residential frontages are often small ornamental species, young, or not sufficiently planted to produce the appealing overhead effect. Werner Park Mall is also unique in that each segment of landscaped central median is an individual tax parcel and not part of the street right-of-way.

LAND USE HISTORY

Werner Park Mall developed incrementally in the 1890s. The street initially developed as a dead-end street extending the distance of the first mall segment. This is shown on an 1896 map in the City Archives that depicted the first segment of the mall, with all but one of the surrounding lots owned by

Werner & Kondolf; one of the Werner & Kondolf lots contained a house, and the one lot they did not own was shown as containing a house owned by Philander J. Davis. The map showed a plan to extend the street to the north by approximately 164 feet. The 1900 plat map shows that this extension did occur by that date. On the 1910 plat map, the street is shown as extending all the way to the canal widewaters (now part of Cobbs Hill Park), past its current terminus at Hinsdale Street. As the 1935 plat map shows, rather than continue the central street mall, the developer of this section provided extra-deep front aprons to the lots along the last extension.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Werner Park Mall does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register eligibility. Because of its origins as an enhancement to a private residential subdivision rather than as a public park feature, it is not individually eligible as a component of the park system. The immediate surrounding neighborhood does not appear to have sufficient historic integrity to qualify for designation as a historic district. As an amenity to the streetscape, despite its current condition, the mall has potential value to the neighborhood and should be maintained and enhanced.

SITE CONDITION

Werner Park Mall appears to generally be in satisfactory-to-poor condition. Several of the mall's components, including the lawn, small planting beds, and trees are reasonably maintained. However, the boundary between the mall and the street paving is indistinct in some areas. Stone curbing has been completely covered in areas, either by ground covers or by asphalt paving in the roadway. The mall's turn around area has been widened from the original form by adding asphalt apron areas over former median area. Some curbing remains in these areas, poking through road pavement with asphalt on either side. This area appears aesthetically unpleasant and unmaintained. Some trees planted within the median and residential tree-lawn areas are too small and lack the complete canopy effects that such a street mall would provide.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The street mall is within the Upper Monroe Neighborhood. The immediate neighborhood context of the street mall would be classified as residential, with early 20th century homes lining the Werner Park frontage. Directly south of the mall is the busy Monroe Avenue commercial corridor, which features a variety of commercial establishments, restaurants, civic buildings, and multi-family residential buildings. The northern terminus of Werner Park includes homes that lay adjacent to the large New York State Culver Road Armory site. The building has been vacant for several years and was recently auctioned off by the State of New York for private redevelopment. Culver Road and Cobs Hill Park lie to the east of Werner Park.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

City of Rochester Plat Maps:

City Atlas of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1875.

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. New York: [E. Robinson], 1888.

Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1900.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Atlas of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1910.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. and vicinity. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1918.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, N.Y. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1926.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1935.

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Plat Book of the City of Rochester, New York. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1936.

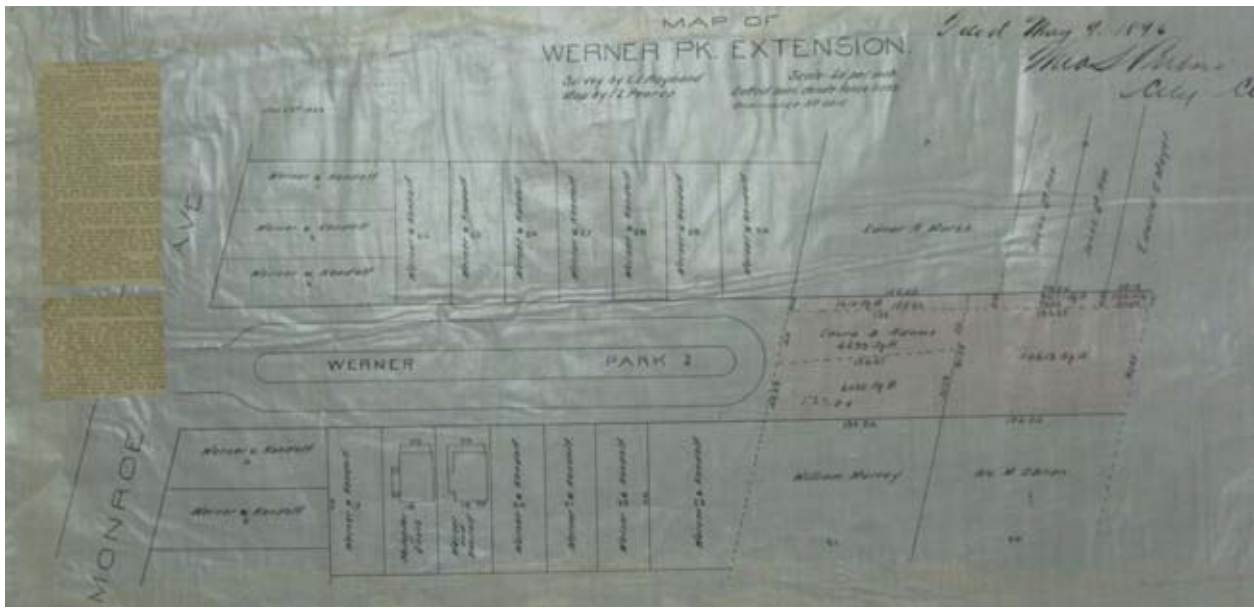
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Werner Park Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Future Werner Park site, west of Culver Road and south of the Reservoir.



1896 map showing original configuration of Werner Park and plans for extension. City Archives.



1900 plat map



1935 plat map



Werner Park Mall, looking south towards Monroe Avenue, 2009.



Werner Park Mall, asphalt covered portion of the mall, 2009.



VI. EXTENDED SURVEYS



BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Brown Square Park, Brown’s Square	Location Description:	Bounded by Brown Street on the SE, Jay Street on the NW, and Verona Street on the NE (Formerly called “Jones Street”)
Location:	225 Verona Street		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286824,4781980		
Tax ID:	106.690-0001-087.001		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Public Square (Subsequently Reform Park)
Size:	4.49 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 580’ x 330’
Topographic Description:	Berming at periphery, sledding hill, flat central lawn area
Date of Construction:	1822 (deeded Public Square) 1903 (Children’s Playground) 1963, 1977 (redesigns)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Olmsted Brothers (1904 revisions, never constructed) James Galvin & Associates (1963) Jae Y. Ko (1977)
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

The history of Brown Square, with particular attention to its Olmsted connection, is related in *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares* (Clark Patterson Associates et al.).

Brown Square is the oldest public park in the city of Rochester, having been part of a 200-acre area purchased and laid out by Dr. Matthew Brown and his brother Francis in 1809-11. Theirs was the second such settlement in what is now the city of Rochester (the first was in the Four Corners area). At the center of their settlement, which was known as Frankfort, the Browns laid out a square for a courthouse. The courthouse was ultimately built near the Four Corners, and the Browns deeded their square to the City of Rochester under the condition that it would forever be a public square. The square was used in the 19th century as a military parade ground and for religious gatherings, among other uses.

According to parks historian Tim O’Connell, Brown Square is the only park in Rochester whose location shifted. Initially, the square was made up of lots on both the north and south sides of Brown Street. In about the 1830s, lots on the north side of Brown Street were sold and an equal sized parcel purchased on the south side of the square, so that the entire square was south of Brown Street.

By 1888, the square's layout included three major paths crossing the park: two diagonal paths connecting each of the four corners and a third path crossing through the middle from Jay to Brown streets. According to Common Council minutes from 1893, Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot were hired to design improvements to the square; however, no drawings survive to show what they may have designed.

The park, along with other existing small parks, came under the purview of the Rochester Park Commission in 1894.

Advocates of the Reform Park movement in the 1890s and 1900s supported creation of supervised parks intended primarily for the structured instruction of children, and in 1903, Brown Square became the city's first official playground. New facilities added in 1903-06 included a brick and stone shelter, restrooms, a wading pool, skating rink, outdoor gymnasium, toboggan slide, and play apparatus. As part of the transformation of Brown Square into a Reform Park, the Olmsted Brothers created an elaborate plan to incorporate these new features; due to concerns about the expense of carrying out the original plan, the design was revised and somewhat simplified, yet this design was not carried out, either. In a September 1904 site visit, J. C. Olmsted noted that "practically nothing" had been done except to erect a small shelter for children, and even that "looks bad."

In the first few decades of the 20th century, Brown Square was considered a model playground and was heavily used for children's programs. The 1911 Park Commissioners' Report noted that "turf and big trees, a substantial house, and, best of all, a wading pool give delight," while an article in the journal of the Playground Association of America stated that "the playground at Brown's Square is now so complete in its equipment that it may be considered a model by all progressive communities, and as the years go by it will doubtless be duplicated in every section of our city."

As the popularity of such Reform-era attractions and programs declined in the mid-20th century, and as the neighborhood surround Brown Square lost its residential character, use of the park declined as did maintenance. By the time of a 1960 photograph of the park, it consisted of open grass with a baseball backstop, a paved parking area around the building, and basketball courts.

In 1963, the park was redesigned by James Glavin and Associates of Syracuse, with new plantings, new play equipment, and new grading consisting of major mounds around existing plant materials. The diagonal paths were removed and replaced with a more curvilinear layout. Of 17 existing trees, 16 were kept, and new trees were added, mostly at the southeastern end of the park.

Another renovation of the playground occurred in 1977, designed by Rochester architect Jay Y. Ko. This design called for most existing trees to be removed and over 90 new trees planted.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

Brown Square Park currently exists within a former industrial area of the City and remnants of this use surround the park, including expansive parking lots, warehouse structures, and other non-descript

buildings/uses. The park sits within an urban context but does not generally see high activity. The park is sited near Kodak Headquarters/Kodak Tower and adjacent to shared parking lots for Kodak offices and Frontier Field.

Natural Systems and Features:

No natural topography or other natural/geologic features exist on the site. Topography has been heavily modified through reiterative design modifications, including the addition of grass berms, small hills, and a large sledding hill that is approximately 12' in height and 150' in diameter. Existing tree canopy is likely important to the general ecology of the urban forest, however, invasive species such as Norway Maple are prevalent.

Spatial Organization:

The park currently includes several designed sub-spaces. Curving concrete pathways provide pedestrian entrance at the northeast and southeast corners. The southeast corner includes picnic area with tables in a grove of trees, adjacent to a flat central lawn area.

A raised planter garden and seating area is located near Brown Street, on the southern side of the park, adjacent to the entry paths from Brown and Verona streets. A brick shelter structure is centrally located on the western periphery, fronting the central lawn space. A large concrete pad area exists along the path between the raised planters and seating area and the brick shelter. A large sledding hill is located in the northwest corner of the park. The entry path area northeast corner of the park, fronting Verona and Jay streets, contains paved walkways off of Jay Street, the corner of Jay and Verona, and Verona Street, ultimately combining and continuing between the central lawn and sledding hill, toward the brick shelter.

The central lawn area and other flat spaces within the park are at grade with the surrounding neighborhood. However, small grass berms (2 to 3 feet in height) along park periphery visually separate the park from the sidewalks and surrounding uses.

Buildings and Structures:

A 30'x 50' historic brick structure with cobble stone foundation (erected 1903) remains on site. This structure is located centrally along the western periphery, facing the central lawn area. The structure appears to be in reasonable condition, but does not appear to be used.

The seating area at the southern end of the site contains a raised teardrop-shaped concrete planter (approximately 40" in height) and is currently planted with perennials and annuals. The concrete planter has built-in benches of wood attached to the concrete. Additional similar concrete seat walls are sited at radius around the central planter. Concrete and wood seating area appears to be in reasonable structural condition, but exhibits staining and a worn appearance.

Water Features:

No water features are known to currently exist in Brown Square Park.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving materials throughout the site generally consist of three types. Most pathways are concrete, including paths leading to and from corner entry areas. Secondary pathways of flagstone set into cement in a grid pattern surround the seating area to the south. A similar flagstone pathway is located northeastern corner of the park, connecting the sidewalk to the park's concrete pathway system. Additionally, worn brick paving surrounds the base of the park building.

Vegetation:

Vegetation includes large expanses of lawn, deciduous shade trees, and shrubs. Shrubs are located only along the western boundary and include Euonymus and Yews. Deciduous shade trees are dispersed throughout the site. Trees frame the margins of the central lawn area, sledding hill, and park building, and exist in thicker groves near the paved pedestrian entrances. Trees mainly include Norway Maple, Red Maple, Honey Locust, London Plane, and Redbud. Most vegetation appears to be in generally good condition.

A raised concrete planter is centrally located in a sitting area at the south end of the park site. The planter is planted with annuals and perennials.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Park lighting is provided by 1960-70's "cobra-head" fixtures on straight galvanized steel poles, approximately 28' in height. Poles are slightly corroded and exhibit wear. Several (8-10) picnic standard wood and galvanized steel picnic tables are located in the grove of trees near the southeast corner of the site. No other furnishings or monuments are located on the site.

Circulation:

Pedestrian circulation includes mainly curvilinear concrete walkways, bringing pedestrians in from the park's corners, typically joining into a central path leading towards the brick building. The main pathway leading north-south through the site also has raised "bridge" areas that once contained hand railings at the edges of the walkway. No existing culverts or other underpasses existing under these raised "bridge" areas.

No public vehicular circulation routes or parking areas currently exist within the park.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The historic neighborhood context included a mix of residential and commercial uses, with mainly small-scale, single-family detached housing fronting the surrounding streets around the public square. During subsequent years, the introduction of industrial uses, including a railroad yard adjacent to the park, significantly changed the characteristics of the neighborhood. By 1929, the park was noted to be "in a congested neighborhood, with railroad yards" and residential structures likely no longer existed in the

area. Continued expansion of industrial uses and redevelopment of the area has significantly changed the neighborhood context over the years.

Natural Systems and Features:

Due to the urban context and lack of original natural features, the integrity of the park's natural systems has not changed significantly. From the Public Square era and on, the park has been in a heavily urban context. The topography of the park appears to have changed greatly with the introduction of grass berms at the periphery and a 12' high sledding hill.

Spatial Organization:

The spatial organization of Brown Square Park has been moderately changed from the Public Square and Reform Park eras. While the park building has remained, the path system has been heavily modified. All site components related to the former playground use have been removed and more passive recreational activity areas have been developed. Spatially, the areas are still divided similar to the park as shown in a 1918 aerial photo (Department of Engineering Records). The wading pool has been replaced with a planting bed and sitting area, and the sports courts in the northwest corner have been replaced by a sledding hill.

Buildings and Structures:

The brick shelter with cobble foundation was constructed in 1904 and currently exists in its original location on the site. The structure remains intact and is likely the only historical feature in the park that has not been significantly altered.

Other existing structures on the site, including seatwalls/retaining walls, have been recently introduced (1970's) and are not components of the park during the Public Square or Reform Park periods.

Water Features:

A wading pool was introduced the site in 1905 and was widely used, representing an important part of the park's Reform Park/playground significance. The wading pool was removed at some point after 1963. No traces of this structure currently exist. The existing raised planter, curved seating walls, and flagstone path are now in the former location of the wading pool.

Materials / Paving materials:

No paving areas original to the park's period of significance remain except for possible brick and concrete paving areas immediately adjacent to the park building. Since the curvilinear path system as shown in the Olmsted Brothers plan (1904) were never developed, the original path system would be related to the park as a Public Square. This path system was very formal, with concrete walks extending diagonally from the park corners into a central space in front of the park building.

Vegetation:

Existing vegetation has mostly been planted since initial redevelopment in the 1960's. A photograph from 1960 (Rochester Department of Engineering Records) shows only two large shade trees adjacent to the park building, and these trees have subsequently been removed. All trees on site appear to be planted during either the 1963 or 1977 park renovations. No specimen or otherwise historically significant vegetation remains from the Public Square or Reform Park periods.

The existing vegetation, though mostly planted since 1977, does present characteristics of both the Public Square and Reform Park eras, including generally lawn areas with shade trees interspersed, accentuating the park design, and framing spaces. However, no specialized garden areas or ornamental plantings exist.

Furnishings/Monuments:

No monuments and very few furnishings currently exist in the park. Existing lighting is not consistent with Public Square or Reform Park eras and has been introduced since 1963.

Circulation:

Park pedestrian circulation has been heavily modified from the historic Public Square era. Records show the original as a straight path system, converging diagonally from the park corners, meeting in a small central plaza space. The current path system, which is curvilinear and originates from the park corners, more closely resembles the path system found on the 1904 Olmsted Brothers development plan.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Of all the parks in this survey, Brown Square is perhaps the most difficult to classify in terms of its National Register eligibility. It possesses historical significance under National Register Criterion A as one of the earliest public squares in the city of Rochester and a remnant of the significant settlement of Frankfort, as the site of the first public playground in the city, and as one of the first and most heralded examples of an early-20th century Reform Park in Rochester. Its period of significance encompasses both the Public Square era and the Reform Park eras, and stretches from 1809 into the 1930s.

As described above, however, existing park features, with the exception of the park shelter, do not reflect either the Public Square or Reform Park history of the park. While the park retains its historic boundaries and some general aspects of the historic spatial organization, park features today, including the circulation system, topography, plantings, and other elements, reflect the 1960s and 1970s redesigns. The park's context has similarly been altered from a primarily residential setting to an urban and industrial setting, and no longer reflects the context in which the park existed in either the Public Square or Reform Park eras.

The stone and brick park shelter, which survives from 1903, is the sole remnant of the significant Reform Park history of the park and may be individually eligible for the National Register, with the park as its site but the existing landscape a noncontributing element.

Alterations to the park in the 1960s and 1970s, currently less than 50 years old, do not appear to meet the criteria for "exceptional significance" and therefore are not eligible for the National Register at this

time. This should be evaluated as time passes, as changes to historic fabric can acquire their own significance over time and may be considered eligible at some point in the future.

Overall, therefore, it is the finding of this survey that the square as a whole is not eligible for the National Register due to a loss of landscape integrity, but that the shelter should be further explored for potential National Register listing; such listing could lead to funding opportunities for a rehabilitation of this interesting building. Even if it is ultimately found ineligible, the building is an excellent candidate for rehabilitation.

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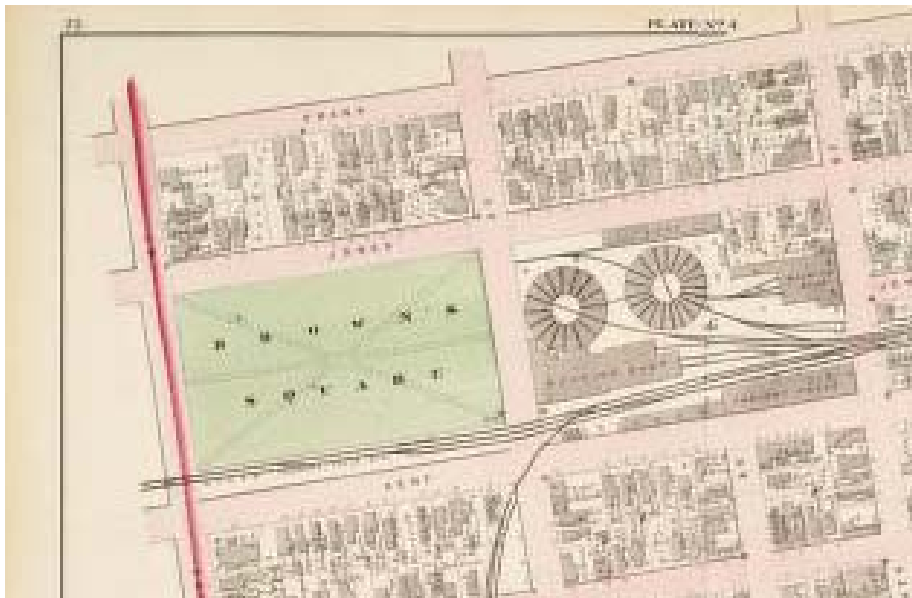
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Brown Square Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse, 2005)



1875 plat map



1900 plat map



1910 plat map



rpf01474.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Brown Square playground, 1903



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Brown Square Park, wading pool. (Albert Stone Collection, courtesy RMSC)



Browns Square Park, looking southwest, 2009



Browns Square Park, looking east, 2009

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Durand Eastman Park	Location Description:
Location:	1570 Lakeshore Blvd	Durand Eastman Park is sited on the shores of Lake Ontario, with approximately 5000' of shoreline on the northern park boundary.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:292145,4789397	The park site sits between Irondequoit Bay and the Genesee River, with residential uses surrounding the east, south, and west boundaries.
Tax ID:	062.030-0001-001.001 062.030-0001-001.000	
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Pleasure Ground
Size:	+/- 977Acres
Dimensions:	Varied (regional park with varied boundary)
Topographic Description:	Varied (regional park with varied topography)
Date of Construction:	Dedicated May, 1909
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Bernard Slavin, Assistant Superintendent/Superintendent of Parks, with advice from the Olmsted Brothers
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

In 1907, Dr. Henry Durand, an accomplished local surgeon, convinced George Eastman, founder of the Eastman Kodak Company, to purchase land adjacent to Durand's lakefront estate in Irondequoit so that the two could together donate a major new park to the city. All told, the gift, made final in February 1908, encompassed 512 acres, including a substantial amount of beach land. The Olmsted Brothers firm provided design advice on the location of roads, grading, and a dam in 1908. Durand-Eastman Park was dedicated in 1909, and continuing development of the landscape took place over the next two decades, as the soil was improved, streams were dammed to form picturesque lakes, and tens of thousands of trees and shrubs were planted. After the Olmsted Brothers firm provided guidance on the landscape layout, implementation and further elaboration of the plan was done to the designs of Bernard Slavin, as assistant superintendent of parks from 1910 to 1926 and superintendent from 1926 to 1942. A self-taught horticulturist, Slavin took a particular interest in Durand-Eastman Park, which, of the parks acquired during this period, offered the most diverse natural landscape and needed the most extensive horticultural treatment. An article describing Slavin's many accomplishments in discovering and nurturing new plant varieties noted:

In 1908, when it was put into the hands of Slavin for development, it included 75 acres of natural woods and the rest "God knows what," in his own words. Abandoned farm lands, weedy fields, steep banks, raw cuts where roads had gone through, became the problem of Barney Slavin.

The new park was a desolate sight. Slavin remembers that a member of the then-functioning Park Commission, composed of city leaders, viewed the sorry domain with him and remarked: “I don’t know why you bother with it, Barney. You’ll never make anything out of it.” (Keiper, 269-279.)

Slavin turned this barren area into a lush, naturalistic arboretum very much in keeping with Frederick Law Olmsted’s picturesque aesthetic. The park flourished in the 1910s and 1920s, with the development of a nine-hole golf course in the mid-1910s (expanded to 18 holes in the 1920s, and redesigned by famed golf course designer Robert Trent Jones in the 1930s), a popular vacation camp for boys, a refectory, a zoo, a large bathhouse with 1000 lockers (1920, demolished 1974), manmade lakes, and the major elements of the circulation system, including Sweet Fern Drive, Pine Valley Road, Lake Drive, and Zoo Road.

As was the case in the city park system overall, Durand-Eastman Park, particularly the renowned arboretum, suffered when park appropriations were drastically reduced in the 1930s. The park experienced another devastating blow when a flood-control dam built on the St. Lawrence River in the early 1940s raised the level of Lake Ontario and put the beach underwater. The beach closed, reopened from 1959-66, then closed again until 2007.

The 1960s and 70s saw the loss of some of the park’s early features, including the zoo (closed 1963), the refectory (burned late 1960s), and the bath house (demolished in 1974 to enable the extension of a sewer line). In 1982, Penn Central Transportation agreed to sell parts of the former Hojack line right-of-way along the lake; this was developed to improve the beachfront area. In 2001, the town of Irondequoit bought Camp Eastman, a 93-acre former boys’ camp, which it had been taking care of since 1986. A new golf clubhouse was built in 2003, replacing the 1932 clubhouse.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The character and setting of Durand Eastman Park is varied. The park features steep and rolling hills, long narrow valleys, woods, ponds, and a significant stretch of Lake Ontario Beach front. The western portion of the park also includes a golf course. Much of the overall character of the park would be considered naturalized or wooded, including both natural woodlands and a managed arboretum. Land uses surrounding the park are generally single family residential, usually patchy and low density. Some commercial clusters are located near the parks eastern boundary. The park is almost completely surrounded by land within the Town of Irondequoit, and is connected to Rochester by an easement along Culver Rd.

Natural Systems and Features:

The park includes a substantial collection of natural features. The park is adjacent to Lake Ontario and includes long areas of public beach, with a mix of both sandy and riparian ecological communities along the lake front. Several large lakes and ponds are also within the park, including the large winding water bodies of Durand Lake and Eastman Lake. Several small streams and intermittent water courses

continue through the shallow canyons toward the lake. A significant portion of Durand Eastman Park is naturalized and consists of forested tracts.

Spatial Organization:

Sweet Fern Road (Co Rd 97), one of several vehicular entrances to Durand Eastman Park, extends into the park from Culver Road on park's eastern boundary. A comparatively narrow tract of land links the park's large central mass to approximately 400' of frontage on Culver Road. Adjacent to the Culver Road entry is a marked ornamental tree collection, on the south side of Sweet Fern Rd. From this point the park extends west as Sweet Fern Road dips into a shallow ravine and curves northward towards the Lake.

A secondary road connects with Co Rd 97 as it winds its way toward the lake front. This road is known as Pine Valley Road and extends south from Co Rd 97 past several noteworthy horticultural collections, grassy meadows, a stream, and thick stands of pines along the slopes of the small valley area. The road travels through the heart of Durand Eastman Park's pinetum. Pine Valley Road continues south and ends at a hairpin curve and round-about feature where several other roads converge. These roads are Log Cabin Road extension and Zoo Road. Log Cabin Road extension extends west and northwest toward what is typically a dead end loop of Log Cabin Road. The extension is generally closed to vehicular traffic or is only open seasonally.

Zoo Road extends north, continuing through more ornamental or shade tree horticultural collections within a small grassy and wooded narrow valley. The park office and a parking lot are located midway up the road, near the foot of Durand Lake. Zoo Road continues northward, ending at Co. Rd 97 as it turns westward to parallel the Lake Ontario shoreline. At this point the Co Rd 97 highway runs along the lake as Lake Shore Blvd, with a multi-use path and grassy areas between the road and the beachfront.

West of the intersection with Zoo Road, Log Cabin Road extends off Lake Shore Blvd to the south toward picnic shelters above Eastman Lake and the Oak Picnic Grove area. This road continues south to a loop and gate area within the park. The gate is closed and vehicular park traffic cannot continue south towards the Pine Valley/Zoo Road intersection.

East of the arboretum area of the park is Durand Eastman Golf Course. The public course extends through the wooded and rolling terrain to the south of Lake Shore Blvd between Eastman Lake and the Kings Highway / sewage treatment plant area.

Buildings and Structures:

Several buildings are located on the park site, including maintenance structures, clubhouses, and picnic pavilions. Much of the arboretum area, between the Culver Rd entrance and slightly west of Zoo Rd, contains no structures or buildings. A small park office and maintenance area exists off the west side of Zoo Road. The clubhouse and restaurant for Durand Eastman Golf Course is located along Kings Highway Road. Gold course related infrastructure includes two maintenance buildings across Kings Highway from the clubhouse. Camp Eastman, at the far western boundary of the park, has several buildings on the site. Several contemporary restroom structures are located near Sunset shelter,

between Acorn and Maple shelters, and at the southern end of Log Cabin Road. A large cobble stone foundation structure sits just south of Lake Shore Blvd, above the road and beachfront, with significant views out to the lake. The structure is a foundation remnant of a former refectory building.

Water Features:

Water features within the park include natural lakes and streams. Durand Lake and Eastman Lake are located near the northeastern section of the park, and are both separated from Lake Ontario by a narrow band of roadway and beach front. South of these lakes are two smaller ponds, known as Trott Lake and Pat Lake, which are located near the park's southeastern boundary. At the far west end of the park are three small ponds, including Sherry Pond, Johnson Pond and a smaller unnamed pond.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving and materials throughout the park site are somewhat varied, as they are used in many small places, near outbuildings, and along trails. Most of Durand Eastman Park is naturalized and does not feature hardscape materials. Roadways are generally asphalt paved and pedestrian trails are stone dust, dirt, and include some short boardwalks or other wooded structures.

Vegetation:

Description of existing vegetation, including general character and condition. Description should include general information about trees, specimen plantings, shrubs, groundcovers, ornamental beds or other planting areas, and native or introduced species.

Vegetation within Durand Eastman Park is highly varied and includes a substantial number of prized specimen plantings, ornamental trees, and other theme gardens – all within what is known as the Slavin Arboretum. The arboretum area is generally contained to the eastern end of the park and includes lands adjacent to Sweet Fern Road, Pine Valley Road, and Zoo Road. The park includes a well-loved and large pinetum, which features various plantings of yew (in natural tree forms), pine, spruce, fir, hemlock, juniper, cypress, arborvitae, redwood, and cedar. An area east of Zoo Road is planted with azalea, clethra, rhododendron, and sourwood. A large section of paperbark maples can be found east of Zoo Road, near the park office and maintenance building. Along Log Cabin Road is the Oak Picnic Grove area. The grove features many massive oaks on the west side of the road.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Furnishings are highly varied throughout the site and consist of standard wooden picnic benches, trash receptacles near pavilion structures, and other furnishings. Many guardrails throughout the park or other park furnishings are made of wood.

Circulation:

Circulation generally follows the vehicular circulation network described under Spatial Organization. Several smaller foot paths or hiking trails are featured around small ponds and lakes, and through horticultural collections.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

No significant alterations have changed the setting of Durand Eastman Park. The internal setting of the park remains predominantly naturalized and heavily vegetated. The surrounding land uses of the park have changed slightly over time, with an increased intensity of use around the park area, but generally remain characterized by lower density residential uses.

Natural Systems and Features:

Natural systems and features within Durand Eastman Park remain intact and have not been significantly altered over time. The park's natural features continue to remain central to the park's experience, including the lake Ontario beach front, various smaller lakes, natural drainages, wooded areas, and horticultural collections.

Spatial Organization:

Durand Eastman Park includes both naturalized and social activity spaces that are varied and retain integrity to the period of significance. Some park attractions and features have been removed over time (zoo), but overall the park retains the characteristics and spatial organization as originally designed. Additional park lands have been added over time, reflecting changes in the park boundary.

Buildings and Structures:

The park has a variety of buildings and structures throughout many acres. It is currently beyond the scope of this survey to document the specific timelines of the parks many buildings. A cobble stone foundation and viewing area is all that now remains of the former refectory overlooking Lake Ontario. A large bathhouse was also once located along the Lake Ontario shoreline and no longer exists.

Water Features:

Water features, including the many small lakes, ponds, and water courses, as well as Lake Ontario are all used as prominent design elements within the overall park. Water features within the park have not been significantly altered.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving materials have likely been altered over time in small portions of the site and throughout circulation pathways. It is currently unclear to what extent the paving materials have been altered in select portions of the park site.

Vegetation:

Vegetation throughout the park site is plentiful and remains one of the park's magnificent features, including significant stands of wooded hillsides, ridges and valleys. Vegetation around designed social

activity spaces is generally massed and clustered at the boundaries. The parks considerable horticultural collections remain intact and do not feature any alteration beyond considerable age.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Furnishings are present in great variety and generally appear to be incorporated into the deigned spaces of the park. It is unclear to what extent the furnishings have been altered or changed. However, existing furnishings do not appear to create a visual impact or conflict with the historic park elements.

Circulation:

Circulation pathways appear to have largely remained similar to the historic circulation routes. Due to the parks size, extensive naturalized areas, and horticultural collection areas, the park does not feature a significant amount of formal pathway networks. Hiking trails exists throughout the park site but it is currently unclear on their historic nature. The park road system appears to generally remain intact, though some alterations, widening, or other contemporary additions have been made.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Durand-Eastman Park appears to meet the criteria for National Register listing, in accordance with the registration requirements established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Municipal Park System of Rochester, New York. While its era of development, and some of its features, relate to the Reform Park period, stylistically it is more akin to the earlier Pleasure Ground parks, due to its use and enhancement of naturally dramatic terrain, curvilinear road system, emphasis on naturalistic plantings, and (originally) rustic structures. It is significant under Criterion A for its association with the social and physical development of the city of Rochester in the early twentieth century, and Criterion C, as a distinguished example of park design influenced by the Olmstedian design philosophy (and developed with some input from the Olmsted firm) and carried out by very talented local park staff.

Durand-Eastman Park merits intensive study, beyond the scope of this survey, to further define its significance and history with the goal of pursuing a National Register nomination. Because this park appears to be highly significant and largely intact, yet lacks any National Register or local designation, this documentation and designation should be a high priority.

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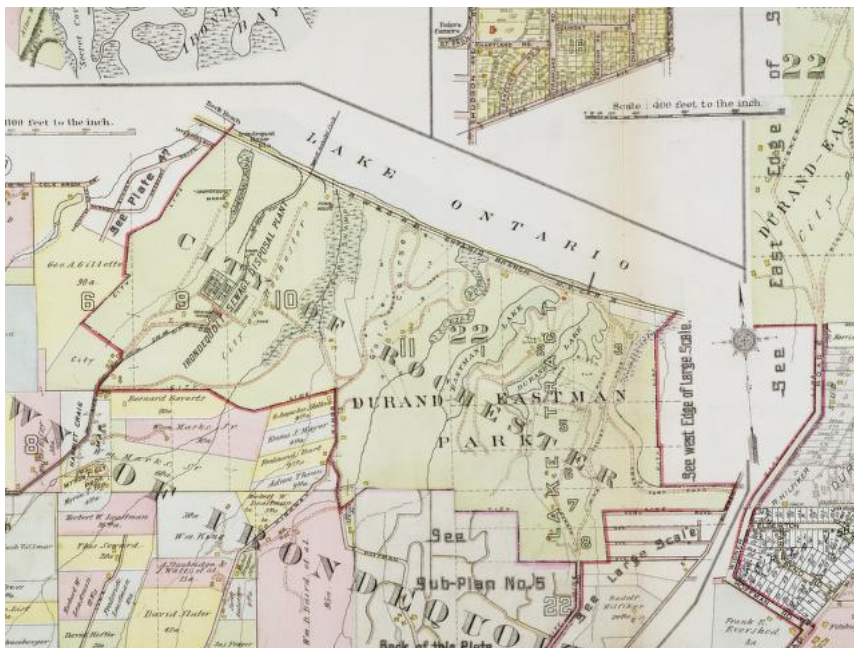
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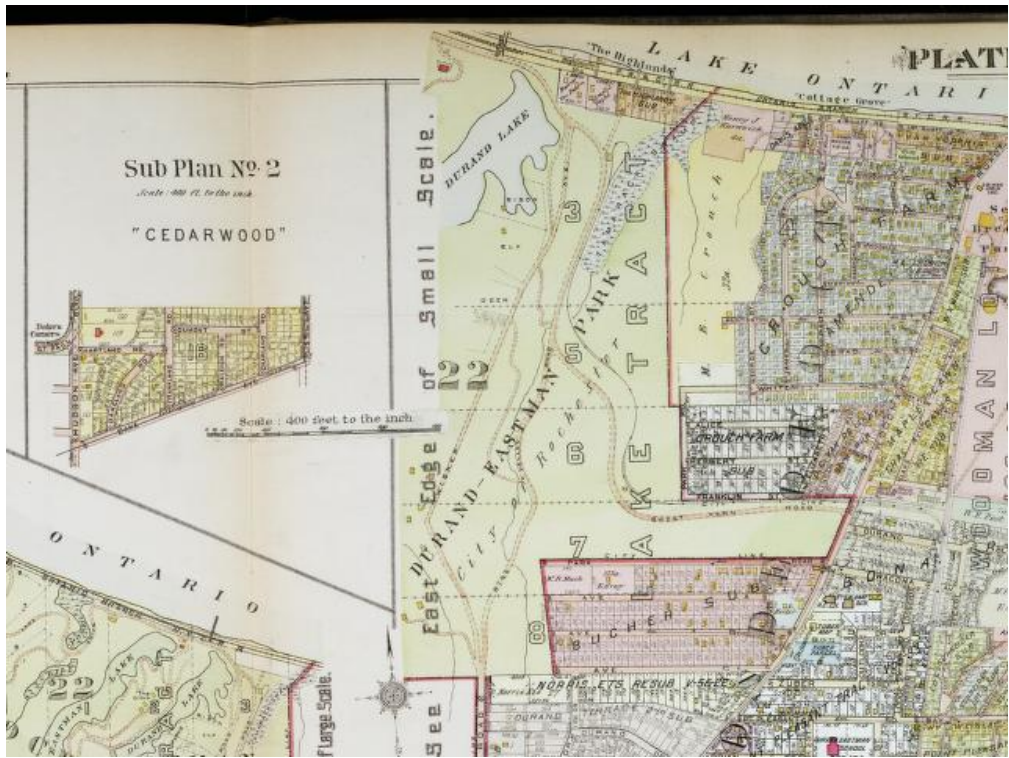
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



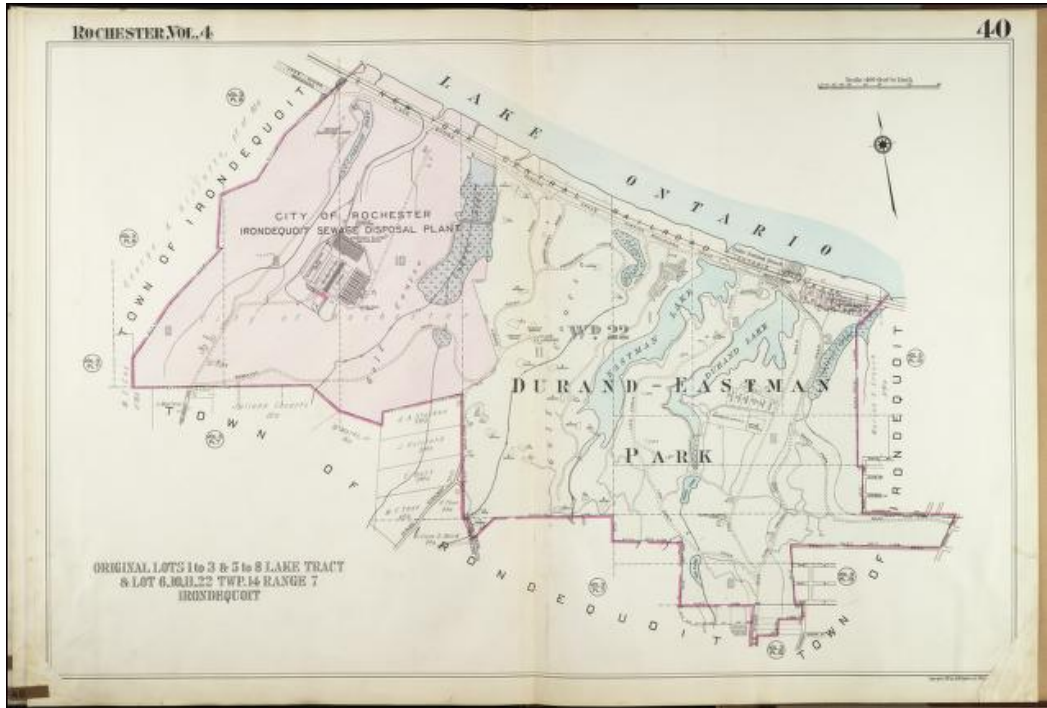
Durand Eastman Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1918 plat map



Inset from 1918 plat map

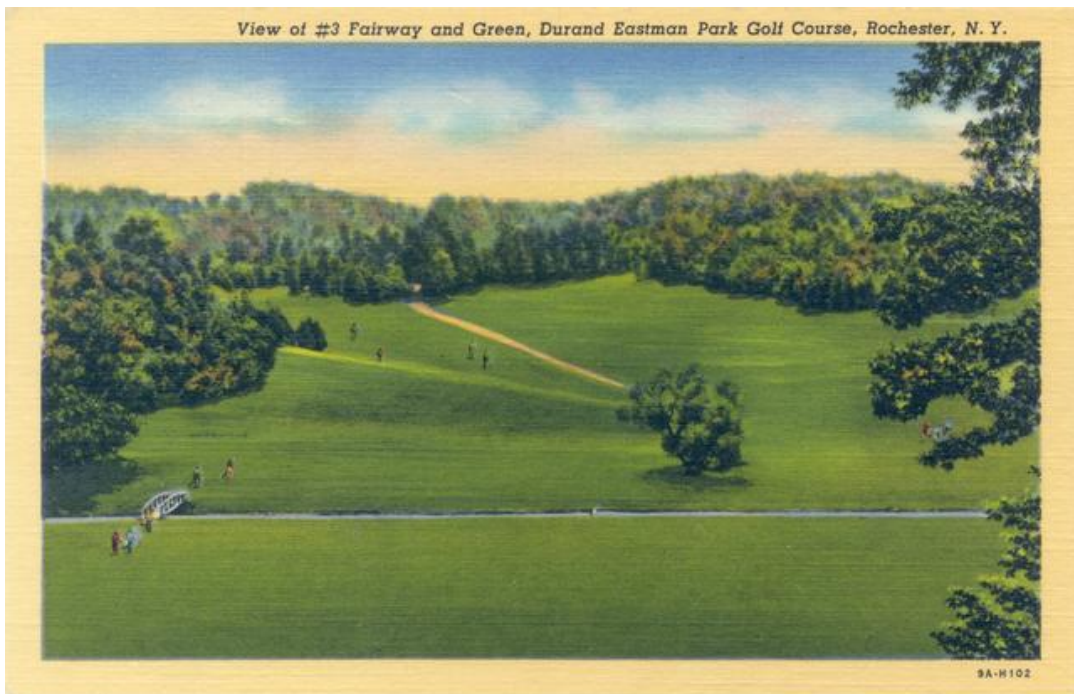


1936 plat map



rpc1473a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Early-20th century postcard view of Durand-Eastman Park



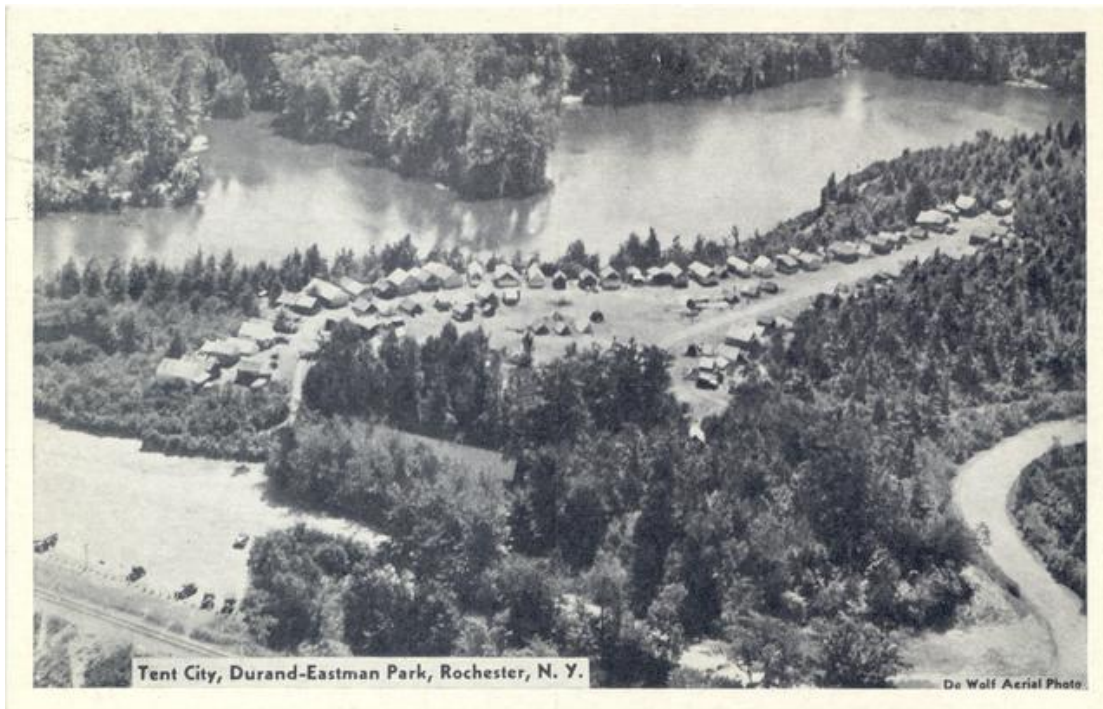
rpc1474a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Durand-Eastman golf course, early 20th century



rpc1477a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Durand-Eastman Park, n.d.



rpc0474a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

1930s aerial view of Durand-Eastman Park



rpf01443.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Durand-Eastman Refectory (burned 1960s)



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N. Y.

Durand-Eastman Bathhouse under construction, c. 1920



Durand-Eastman Bathhouse under construction, c. 1920



Durand Eastman Park, Oak Picnic Grove, 2009.



Durand Eastman Park, Pavilion on Log Cabin Rd, 2009.



Durand Eastman Park, stone foundation of former refectory, 2009.



Durand Eastman Park, Multi-use pathway along beachfront, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Edgerton Park Exposition Site State Industrial School Western House of Refuge	Location Description: Large park surrounding Thomas Jefferson High School, bounded by Bloss St on the south, Backus St on the east, residential properties fronting Emerson St on the north, and Dewey Ave on the west.
Location:	400-420 Dewey Ave	
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84 Zone: 18T E/N:285702,4783282)	
Tax ID:	105.420-0001-087.001	
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Reform Park, Recreation Park
Size:	30.99 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 1060' x 1150'
Topographic Description:	Flat, with slight slope near Dewey Ave and northern edge
Date of Construction:	Became a park in 1911; some features are earlier
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

The site now known as Edgerton Park has a long and interesting history. In 1849, the Western House of Refuge opened on this site as an institution for the reform of juvenile delinquents. Originally housing 50 juveniles, it was expanded repeatedly, starting with the construction of two additional buildings in the 1850s allowing it to accommodate 400 inmates; by 1884 the institution could accommodate 600 boys. Girls were also admitted, starting in 1876. An 1884 account related that "The Western House of Refuge for juvenile delinquents is one of the finest specimens of architecture in Western New York." (Peck, p. 505.) The name of the institution was changed in 1886 to the State Industrial School, coinciding with a reform movement and change in focus to the provision of instruction in useful trades as the preferred method of reform. The 1900 plat map shows that the site then included a number of buildings where the inmates were housed, learned trades, and conducted military training. In 1902, a new site in the town of Rush was chosen for the institution, which moved gradually from 1902-07, leaving this site vacant.

In 1911, the City of Rochester purchased the former site and transformed it into Exposition Park, the new location of the annual Industrial Exposition. The park was conceived as a major cultural center for the city, with space for the Museum of Arts and Sciences (precursor of today's Rochester Museum and Science Center), a library branch and office space, and the Rochester Historical Society, as well as a bandstand, zoo, aquarium, buildings for industrial exhibits, a restaurant, midway, and large playground. These elements were added by a variety of designers and did not conform to an overall site or landscape

plan. The site was renamed Edgerton Park in 1922 after Mayor Hiram Edgerton, who had played a key role in the transformation of this site into a park. Expositions and other special events were held each year until 1938, when Depression-era cuts to private and public funding brought these to an end.

The buildings associated with the reform school and with the park's early development were gradually lost, except for the chapel, which is the only building that remains from the former House of Refuge/Industrial School. The chapel in the following years was used as a ballroom (Stardust Ballroom) and as a gymnasium and arena for the Rochester Royals basketball team; it is now the Edgerton Recreation Center.

According to the Recreation Advisory Committee report in 1958, one of the key recommendations was to develop Edgerton Park as a regional recreation center. Of its 32 acres, only about seven were then developed to serve recreation uses, the remaining being either underdeveloped or utilized for temporary housing and storage of public works equipment.

The 1958 plan was designed to serve neighborhood playground needs as well as broader needs of the northwest section of the city. Under this plan, the present Stardust building was to be adapted as a recreation center building, and the existing grandstand reused. The plan provided for the removal of other existing buildings, several of which were in old and in poor condition. These recommendations appear to have been followed, as Edgerton Park did develop into one of the city's most active recreation centers and with the exception of the chapel and school, the historic buildings were removed.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

Park site is predominately surrounded by residential uses, consisting of both single and some multifamily conversions. The western side of the park is adjacent to some industrial and commercial uses.

Natural Systems and Features:

Topography is flat, with a majority of the site covered in various play fields. Homes adjacent to the northern boundary are graded significantly lower than the elevation of the park site. No natural features or other noteworthy ecological communities exist within the park.

Spatial Organization:

The overall spatial organization of the site is somewhat formal, with various activity zones, playing fields, buildings, and sport courts organized into an irregular grid. The southeast corner of the site, near the corner of Backus and Bloss streets, features a square wooded grove with bocce courts in the center. Directly west is the Jefferson High School building, for which a parking lot surrounds the north and east sides. The northern half of the park site is edged by a small playground, tennis courts, and basketball courts, along Backus Street. Play fields located to the west of the courts and playground feature various baseball and softball diamonds, soccer goals, and a football and track and field facility. These play fields span the majority of the interior site and directly front Bloss St on the southwest and Dewey Ave on the

west. In the northwest corner of the park site is a fenced section of land reserved for park-system maintenance that includes various buildings, parking lots, and shop areas.

Buildings and Structures:

Buildings contained on the site include Jefferson High School, both a historic portion and a more recent addition. Fronting Backus Street is the Edgerton Community Center, which includes the historic building now known as the Stardust Ballroom. A contemporary addition is linked to the Stardust Ballroom on the north. Other buildings on the site include City of Rochester parks maintenance facilities, at the northwest corner of the site. There are two buildings with office space and two vehicle and maintenance structures.

Other structures on the site include a bocce ball court at the southeast corner, tennis and basketball courts along the eastern boundary, and bleachers located west of the Jefferson High School building.

Water Features:

No water features currently exist on the site.

Materials / Paving materials:

Nearly paved walks and pathways within the park site are concrete. A small area of contemporary stamped concrete, showing a basket weave brick pattern, exists near the Edgerton Community Center building. North of the community center are small asphalt pathways leading towards the playground, basketball, and tennis court area. Parking lots adjacent to Jefferson High School and the park facilities maintenance area are asphalt with concrete curbing. Sidewalks along a stretch of Backus Street are slate and in good condition.

Large stone piers are located along Backus Street, delineating former entrances related to the Exposition Park era. Decorative iron fencing and several gates ran between these piers but is no longer present on the site, with the exception of apportion of the gate on Backus Street. An additional stone pier is located at the drive entrance to the park facilities maintenance parking lot. These stone piers are limestone with concrete caps, approximately 2' x 2' square and 8' in height.

Vegetation:

Vegetation throughout the park site is sparse. A large grove of shade, combined with a handful of evergreen trees, is located on the southeast corner of the site. The trees are significant in size and fully envelope the grassy square at the corner of Backus St and Bloss St. Street trees are present along Backus St, Bloss St, and Dewey Ave, surrounding the park. However, only Backus St includes a mature shady canopy. There are a select few additional shade trees located near the Jefferson High School and Edgerton Community Center buildings.

A small planting bed is located in front of the Stardust Ballroom building, and includes a wide variety of annual and perennial plantings. A planting area and select few ornamental trees are found at the park maintenance facility area. No other significant vegetation exists on the site.

Furnishings/Monuments:

A small monument consisting of a steel plaque mounted on a granite boulder is located near the entry drive on the southeast corner of the Stardust Ballroom building. The inscription is a memorial to Rochesterians who served in the Canadian armed forces during WWI. The memorial was erected in 1934 and is about 2' square and 3' in height.

An additional stone monument with similar stone boulder and plaque is located within a planting bed in front of the Stardust Ballroom building. This memorial is dedicated to British and Canadian citizens who served in the American armed forces during WWI.

Other furnishings on the Edgerton Park site include contemporary plastic playground equipment, a handful of wood and steel slatted benches, some chain link fencing at the perimeter and around sport court areas, iron fencing around the track and field facility, and a contemporary steel flag pole in front of Jefferson High School. Lighting generally consists of cobra-head style fixtures on galvanized steel poles.

Circulation:

Pedestrian circulation is informal across the majority of the Edgerton Park site. Defined pathways, typically of concrete, run adjacent to Jefferson High School and the Edgerton Community Center. Additional small circulation pathways link the community center, sport courts, and playground. A small concrete drop-off / plaza space is located near the track and field facility bleachers.

There are no defined circulation routes or formalized pathways between most of the site facilities. The bulk of the site is made of lawn and playfields, where informal paths have been worn into the lawn, predominately linking east and west baseball diamonds and playfields.

Vehicular circulation consists of three small parking areas located at Jefferson High School, between the sport courts and Edgerton Community Center, and at the park facilities buildings. There are no internal vehicular connections and each parking lot is only accessible from the surrounding street grid.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

Park site is predominately surrounded by residential neighborhood but does not feature significant historic resources. The park site and neighborhood fabric has been heavily modified from the period of significance. Buildings have been removed from the site and it no longer functions as a park destination. The contemporary setting is generally institutional, with park lands as playfields for Jefferson High School.

Natural Systems and Features:

No natural features were present on the site during the periods of significance. However, the 1875 and 1888 plat map show that a former drainage creek ran through the side, flowing northwest towards the Genesee River. This water body was a tributary creek to a gorge area adjacent to the west side of Lower

Falls known as Deep Hollow. Deep Hollow Creek meandered across the northwest portion of the Edgerton Park site, towards Deep Hollow. Like many urban waterways in this time, the creek was likely channeled or filled and converted to a municipal sewer. The creek was straightened and, after 1926, the route shows the West Side Trunk Sewer routed towards the former Deep Hollow area. This former creek pathing and contemporary trunk sewer is evident through a narrow link of park land on Emerson St. While this open space appears to be the result of urban vacancy, it is actually the vestiges of the Deep Hollow Creek route.

Spatial Organization:

Between the wading pool and the Backus street parking lot is a small playground. The remainder of the Backus Street frontage is bordered by a second paved area with four tennis courts. West of the courts are extensive fields which include five baseball diamonds. They border the Bureau of Parks maintenance facility. Also situated next to the Parks facility and between it and Jefferson High School, is an all weather track surrounded by a wrought iron fence. The large bleachers here overlook the football/soccer field in the track's infield. South of the track area is a field on the corner of Bloss Street and Dewey Avenue. This large space is a grassy area with a baseball diamond at either end.

Buildings and Structures:

The only surviving 19th-century building is the former chapel from the Industrial School, which was constructed between 1888-1900 and is now best known as the "Stardust Ballroom." All the other buildings from the Western House of Refuge/State Industrial School were demolished in the 20th century. Likewise, the only building that conveys the Exposition Park era is Jefferson High School, which may have its own architectural significance but is not significant for its role as a park building.

Water Features:

Behind the recreation center is a small wading pool and a fenced area with four basketball courts. In the winter this area is flooded to turn it into an ice rink.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving materials that exist on the site are likely not part of the historic fabric of the site. While some concrete walks may remain from the period(s) of significance, the site circulation has been heavily modified and major pathways, related to the industrial school and exposition site have been removed. Slate sidewalks that line Backus street are quite intact and remain an important feature of the neighborhood.

The large limestone piers located along various points of the site perimeter are a contributing historical element and are in good condition. The iron fence associated with the piers is no longer onsite.

Vegetation:

Vegetation at the site, including the large shade tree grove at the southeast corner, is not a contributing element of the original site design. A building was located at this corner during the period of significance.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Monuments located near the Stardust Ballroom building are from c. 193d and were dedicated during the final years of the Exposition Park period. Expositions were no longer held at the site approximately two years after the monument dedications.

Circulation:

Circulation through the site has been considerably altered by changes in use and building demolitions and does not reflect the circulation that existed during periods of significance.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

As a park, Edgerton Park does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, due to a loss of historic integrity. There are two buildings on the site that may meet the criteria and merit further study, as described below.

Edgerton Park has overlapping layers of significance in local history, from its days as a correctional institution for juveniles to the Reform Park era, when it was the site of the early development of some of Rochester's most enduring institutions, and finally its transformation into a recreation park serving a large urban area. Today it is best described as a Recreation Park, but it previously had elements relating to the Reform Park era.

While the history is significant, the park does not retain sufficient integrity to convey that history. The only surviving 19th-century building is the former chapel from the Industrial School, which was constructed between 1888-1900 and is now best known as the "Stardust Ballroom." All the other buildings from the Western House of Refuge/State Industrial School were demolished in the 20th century. Likewise, the only building that conveys the Exposition Park era is Jefferson High School, which may have its own architectural significance but is not significant for its role as a park building.

While a few minor historic site features such as stone piers and small memorials remain and should be preserved for their connection to the site's history, the loss of significant historic landscape elements such as paths and other circulation features, play equipment, water features, and vegetation means that the historic landscape as a whole does not survive in any meaningful sense.

Within the context of the Municipal Park System, therefore, Edgerton Park has historical significance as a park, but it lacks the historic integrity necessary for eligibility for the National Register. It is recommended that the former chapel (Stardust Ballroom) and Jefferson High School be individually evaluated in more detail to determine whether they meet the criteria for National Register listing.

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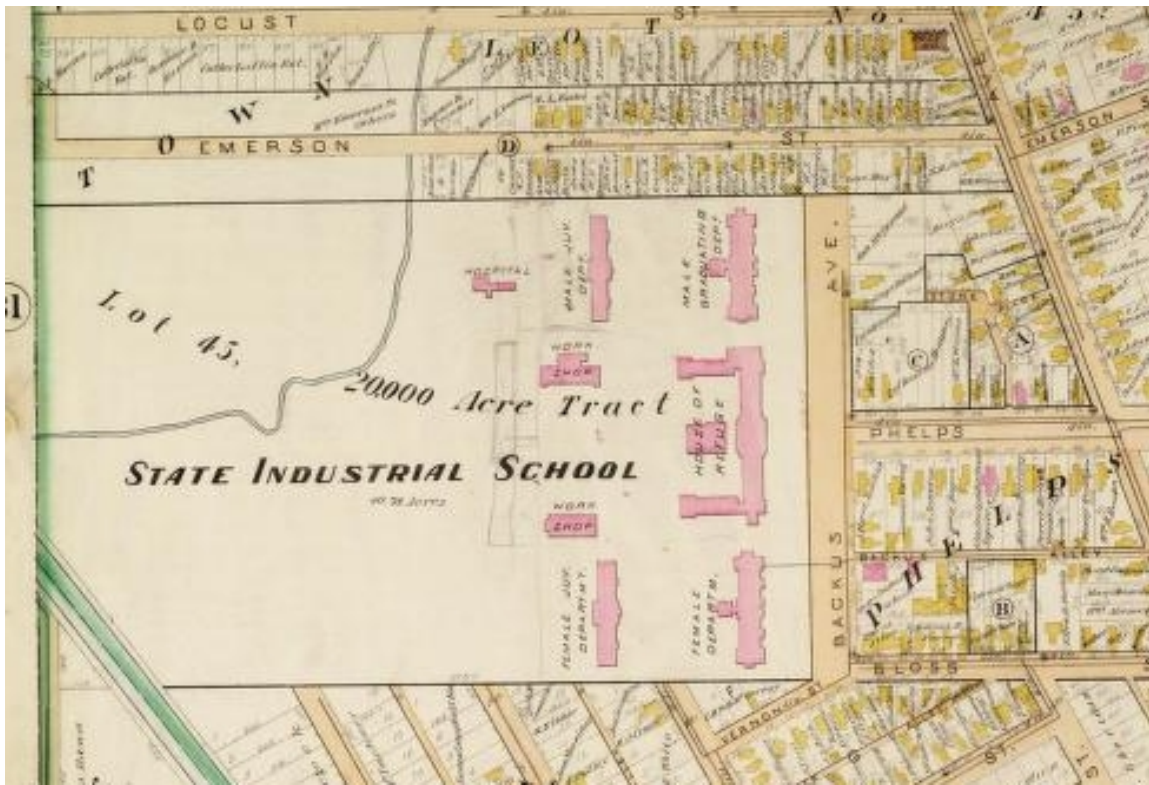
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



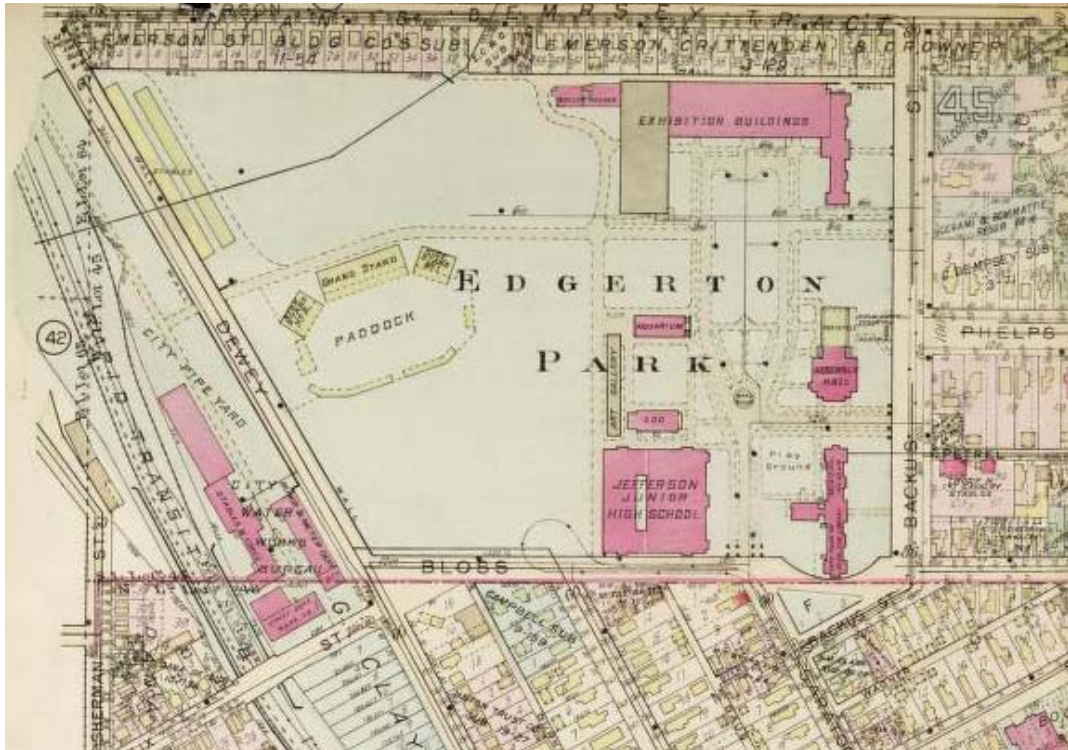
Edgerton Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



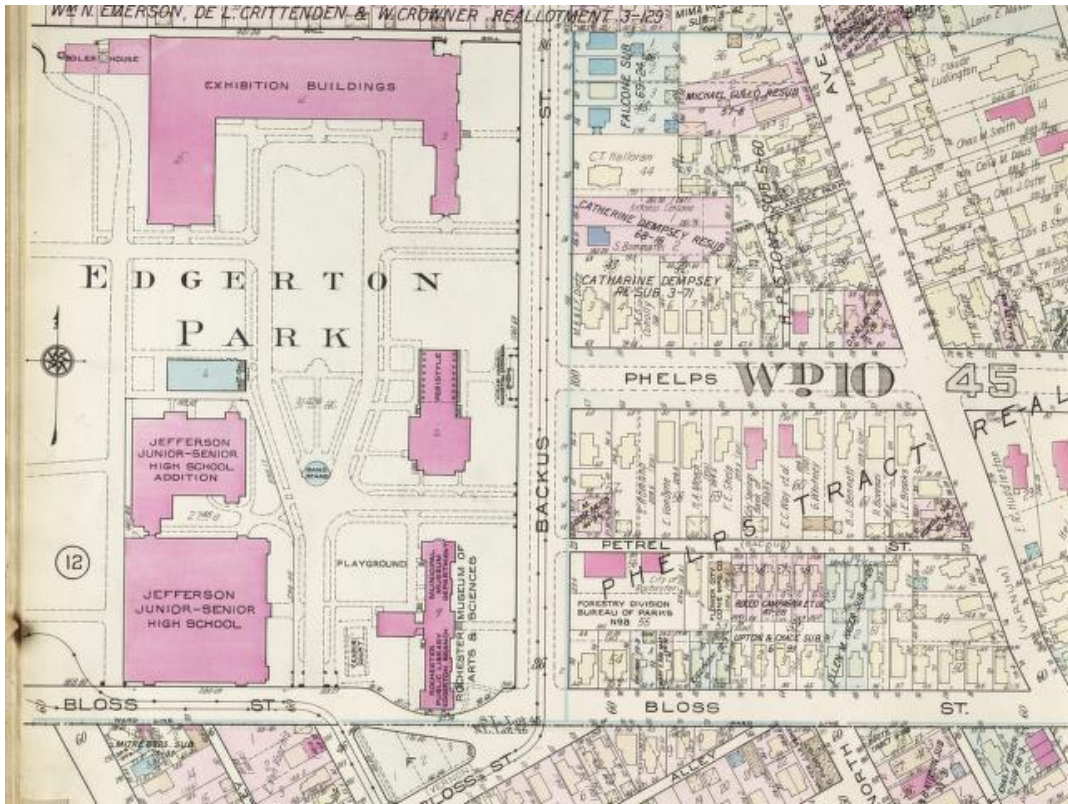
1875 plat map



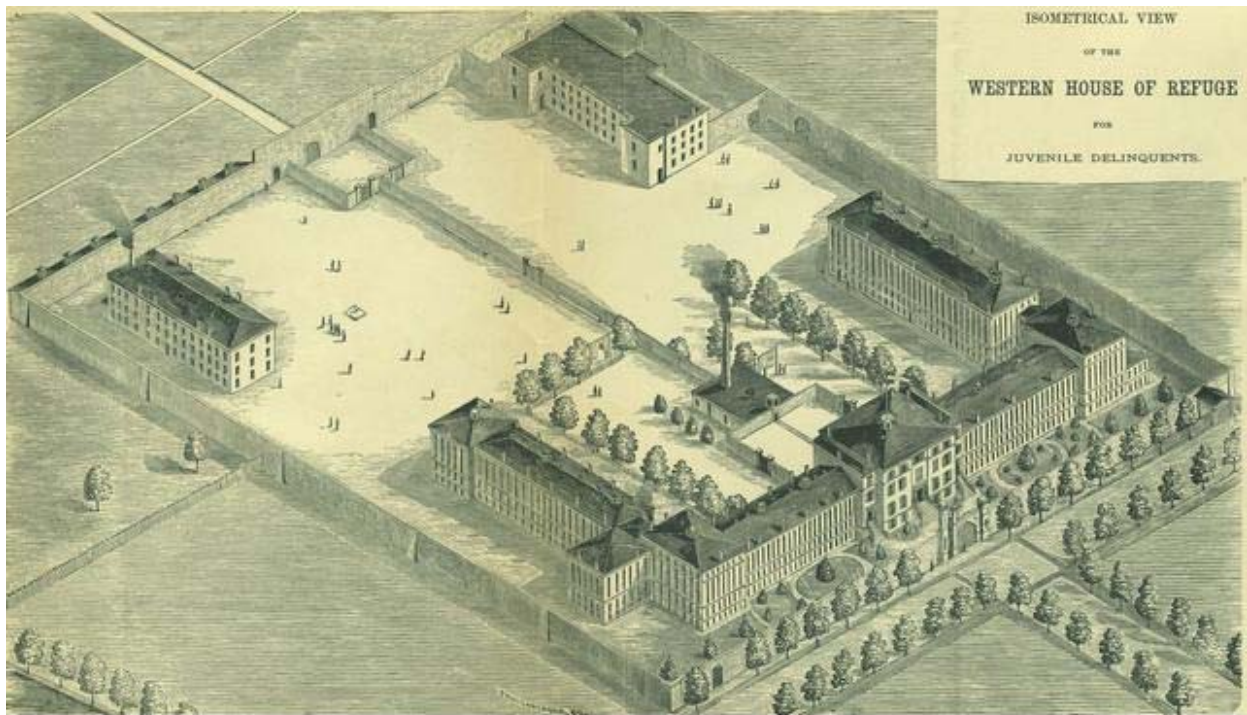
1888 plat map



1926 plat map



1936 plat map (eastern half of site only)



rpf01647.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Engraving of the Western House of Refuge, 1872.



rpf00805.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Bandstand at Edgerton Park, ca. 1911



e0000131.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

Aerial photograph of Edgerton Park, 1918



rpt03272.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Aerial view of Edgerton Park, ca. 1939



m0000446.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

Edgerton Park, ca. 1940



Edgerton Park, grove of trees, 2009.



Edgerton Park, playground area, 2009.



Edgerton Park, Stardust Ballroom & stone piers, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Genesee Valley Park	Location Description:
Location:	235 Elmwood Avenue	Genesee Valley Park is located along the Genesee River. The park site is generally bounded on the north by Elmwood Avenue, continuing south along the Genesee River, to Co. Rd. 83 / Crittenden Road. East River Road, I-390, and the Erie Canal divide the park site.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:285237,4777231	
Tax ID:	135.580-0001-001.000 135.180-0002-001.000 135.150-0001-001.000 148.060-0001-001.000	
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Pleasure Ground
Size:	Varies from source. 639 Acres (Monroe County GIS) 800 Acres (Parks database) 543.8 Acres (Parks Database)
Dimensions:	Varies (Park continues 2+ miles along Genesee River)
Topographic Description:	Varies (mostly flat with slightly rolling topography and hills)
Date of Construction:	1890s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Frederick Law Olmsted, Olmsted firm
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

Genesee Valley Park, originally known as South Park, is one of Rochester's three large Pleasure Ground parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Senior. Olmsted scholar Charles Beveridge has described it as "one of the six great examples of pastoral park landscape that Frederick Law Olmsted designed between 1858 and 1895, a period of time in which he and his partners created over one hundred parks and public recreation grounds, and carried out in all some five hundred commissions."

Its site was identified early as a potential park location and was pronounced by Olmsted as "almost ideal" for his preferred pastoral park style, composed of gently rolling terrain, calm water features, and scattered trees. In keeping with Olmsted's desire to minimize the impact of built elements, recreational facilities, including boathouses and athletic facilities, were grouped on the west side of the river while the east side of the park was designed to retain a tranquil character with minimal interruption. An open meadow encircled by a gently winding carriage drive was a key feature in this pastoral composition; the romantic rural quality of the meadow was enhanced when the city provided a herd of sheep, at Olmsted's suggestion. Near the meadow were a deer park and picnic grove.

Planting began right away in 1889; in that year alone, 62,500 trees were planted along the railroad line and along Westfall Road; 10,500 shrubs and 10,000 willows were planted in the forest and along the river, and over 200 trees were planted along the drives and river banks. The work of planting, thinning, grading, seeding, and construction of recreational and other amenities continued through the decade, so that by 1898 the Park Commissioners could report that “the planting, a matter of primary necessity, has been essentially accomplished,” although roads and bridges remained to be constructed.

The park, while initially criticized by some for its distance from downtown and perceived remoteness, proved popular with the public, who were able to access it by streetcar. Events such as band concerts and, especially, the annual water carnival drew huge throngs to the park in the early-twentieth century.

During the Reform Park era, Genesee Valley Park, with its more level terrain and the existing recreational facilities planned by Olmsted, seemed to experience the most pressure for athletic facilities, and boat houses, baseball fields, a swimming pool, tennis courts, a golf course, bicycle and running tracks, and bicycle paths were the major new elements. John C. Olmsted was involved in the siting and design of most of these elements. The best example of the Olmsted firm’s continued involvement in the planning and design of Genesee Valley Park occurred when the firm was asked to assist the Park Commission in planning for the rerouting of the Erie Canal, which was to take the waterway directly through the park. John C. Olmsted bemoaned the splitting of the park into two sections, but helped to minimize the disruption and tried to ensure that the Canal would be an asset to the park.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to mitigate the disruption caused when the I-390 expressway was built through Genesee Valley Park, parallel to the Canal. Despite trail improvement projects that ensured the continuity of river and canal trails, that project created a major barrier between the north and south portions of the park.

In recent years, development of new facilities in the park has focused primarily on the west side of the park, where active recreational facilities were always concentrated.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The general setting and neighborhood context of Genesee Valley Park varies widely due to the park’s size. The park’s interior setting is chiefly pastoral meadows lined by wooded edges and the Genesee River, though each space features a distinct character. The surrounding neighborhood includes the large institutional presence of the University of Rochester and Strong Memorial Hospital to the north and northeast. Residential homes are interspersed in small neighborhood enclaves surrounding the park perimeter. A linear section of park, consisting solely of the river trail, is located on the western bank of the Genesee River, immediately adjacent to industrial uses, warehouses, and the Rochester airport. The remainder of the park is buffered to outside land uses with thick wooded tracts of land and the river corridor.

Natural Systems and Features:

The park features a considerable array of natural features and hosts a considerable variety of ecologically significant communities. The Genesee River runs through the park and one of the region's most important natural features. The park also provides important habitat for a wide variety of animal and plant species, throughout the Park's large wooded and riparian ecologies.

Spatial Organization:

Genesee Valley Park is spatially divided into five major sections. The park's major spaces are separated by the Genesee River, the Erie Canal, I-390 expressway, and Red Creek. Both the northern upper section and the southern lower section of the park include parkland on the east and west banks of the Genesee River.

The upper east section of the park can be accessed from Elmwood Avenue and features a curvilinear Moore Road extending south through the park. The road includes two wide "pull-off" areas overlooking the river meadow through large shade trees. An access road connects to a parking lot at the south end of the meadow area. A large pavilion, a refurbished carousel structure, is centrally located on a small rise just north of the parking lot. Several curving pathways lead users around the pavilion and periphery of the meadow space, linking to a trail along the eastern bank of the Genesee River. This portion of the park includes the remnants of a former gravel parking area, where a restoration project has covered a portion of the gravel lot with pastoral grass topography and newly planted trees. Two large rectangular CCC era pavilions are located within this section of the park. The Erie Canal bounds this portion of the park on the south.

Across the Genesee River is a portion of the park that includes a crew boat house, indoor ice skating facility, outdoor swimming pool, and various sport courts, baseball diamonds and play fields. The pool and ice skating facility lie adjacent to Elmwood Avenue. Sports fields, two small pavilions, a playground and tennis courts are sites on the west side of this portion of the park. Between the indoor facility and sports fields is linear parking lot and extensive wooded grove. The crew boat house is located on the western bank of the Genesee River.

The southern portion of the park also includes land on both sides of the Genesee River. The Erie Canal and I-390 expressway divides the park north-south, wherein the east side of the Genesee River includes two park areas. One area is just south west of the canal and features what is known as the Deer Park meadow. A large, topographically varied meadow space is the central feature. Moore road continues south over the Erie Canal and loops around a wooded area east of the Deer Park meadow. Small picnic pavilions overlook the meadow from the roadside. Beyond the meadow's edge, on the west, is Red Creek, which flows into the Erie Canal and Genesee River. On the western side of Red Creek is the Genesee Valley Golf Course, of which there are two courses within the park. The second golf course lies immediately south, outside of the Rochester municipal boundary in the County portion of the park.

The final park space is located on the western bank of the Genesee River, across from the golf course. This area of the park includes only a narrow strip of land with a river trail parallel to the river.

Buildings and Structures:

Several historic and contemporary buildings are located within the park. The upper east portion of the park includes a large circular wooden pavilion (formerly a carousel), a small clapboard restroom structure, and two large rectangular CCC era pavilions.

Across the river in the upper west portion of the park is a large contemporary ice skating facility which features utilitarian materials and architecture. A wooden and concrete block boat house is also located in this park section. The boat house actually includes three total buildings tightly grouped at the rivers edge.

The lower eastern section of the park includes several smaller contemporary pavilions and an older wooden maintenance building surrounding the Deer park meadow area. West of the Deer Park meadow, along East River Road, is the clubhouse for the gold course, which appears to have historical significance.

Several cast concrete / exposed aggregate bridges, original in the parks design, extend over the Erie Canal, connecting the upper and lower parks. A small dovecote, with painted yellow shingles on a cast stone base, is located across Moore Road from the carousel and playground area.

Water Features:

Natural water features within Genesee Valley park include the Genesee River, which runs north-south through the park and divides the park east-west. The Erie Canal also runs through Genesee Valley Park, which is hydrological connected to the river. Red Creek consists of a large wetland-like tributary to the canal and river. The lower park golf course contains several small pond areas. Significant forested wetlands also exist within the wooded stands of the southeastern portion of the park. A long linear wetland area also exists near the carousel in the eastern side of the upper park.

Materials / Paving materials:

Genesee Valley Park includes a wide variety of paving materials throughout the park, many of which are used modestly. The three chief paving materials though the park includes concrete, asphalt and stonedust/gravel. Most of the park's main circulation path network, including the river way trail, features an asphalt paving surface. Concrete is generally used as a foundation and flooring material under structures and along traditional sidewalks. Roadways are typically paved asphalt and include granite curbing. Some principle pathways and less traveled circulation routes feature a stone dust base.

Vegetation:

Genesee Valley Park includes an exceptional assortment of plant specimens and horticultural collections. Several trees throughout the park appear to be original pastoral plantings, particularly some of the large oaks bounding the park's meadow sites. Wooded stands near the eastern park boundaries are thick and generally buffer adjacent uses such as parking related to Strong Memorial Hospital.

Furnishings/Monuments:

The park features many monuments, including statues, memorials, and other dedication markers. Within the north park, along Moore Road, is a monument and statue of Edward Moore, Chair of the parks Commission. Moore is known as the “father of the Rochester parks system” and the statue sits on a rose-colored granite base. Several other small monuments and various dedications from the early 20th century are located at the base of some trees.

Park furnishings vary tremendously, with many contemporary park furniture pieces, including many assorted picnic tables, trash receptacles, and other furnishings. Lighting also varied within the park. Lighting fixtures include acorn-style fixtures along some pathways, flood-style lighting for some sports field and recreation infrastructure, and cobra-head fixtures and poles along some park roadways. The majority of meadow spaces or other naturalized woodland areas do not contain any furnishings or monuments.

Circulation:

Circulation throughout the park consists of separate vehicular and pedestrian path networks. Vehicular roadways generally follow the eastern side of the east-bank portion of the park, often winding through the wooded edge above the Picnic Grove and Deer Park areas. A spur-drive brings users to a parking lot within the Picnic Grove, as well as to two small parking lots at the north and south ends of the Deer park in the south section of the park. Pedestrian pathways are numerous throughout the park. The Genesee River trail extends through the park north south and intercepts internal park trails, including the Red Creek Trail and Canal path.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The overall park setting has been somewhat altered over the years. The Olmsted firm was involved in park redevelopment efforts that accommodated the introduction of the Erie Canal through the site, splitting the park into a north and south portion. Since the period of significance most substantial alterations and additions are related to buildings and infrastructure at the sports facility on the west side of the Genesee River. The golf course has been added to the southern portion of the park, altering the meadow use, but retaining some pastoral forms. The surrounding land uses have changed considerably, becoming increasingly urbanized, including additions to the institutional use of the University of Rochester, some nearby commercial development, and residential subdivisions. A designed vegetative buffer remains, separating urbanized land uses from the park experience. A considerable alteration of the park is due to the introduction of the I-390 expressway, increasing the split between the north and south portions of the park.

Natural Systems and Features:

The natural features within the park have been somewhat altered over time. Significant alterations, such as the raised water level of the river to accommodate the canal, were early planned developments introduced to the park. However, due to these alterations, the riparian ecology of Red Creek and the

Genesee River has been heavily altered. Still, the river remains one of the region's most important natural features, remains ecologically significant, and is a central highlight to the park experience.

Despite some ecological degradation, the park's chief attraction remains the important natural features within and adjacent to the park. These natural systems and features are central to the park experience and have been emphasized for their scenic qualities.

Spatial Organization:

The spatial organization of Genesee Valley Park remains generally intact throughout the many designed subspaces. The overall organization of the park has been somewhat altered by the introduction of the I-390 expressway, spatially dividing the park into a northern and southern portions. This division was also created by the canal prior to the introduction of the expressway, but to a significantly lesser extent. Even with the intrusion of the highway infrastructure, many of the social activity spaces and natural meadows and wooded buffers remain distinct, with broad expansive meadows offering external and internal views.

Buildings and Structures:

Several large and small picnic shelters have been introduced over time. Within the northern portion of the park these CCC era shelters are in disrepair and generally do not keep with the Olmstedian desire to keep built elements to a minimum, set within the parks naturalistic edges, within the parks important views and vistas.

Pedestrian bridges over the canal and the carriage bridge in the southern park remain and built elements, though the original carriage route now displaced by the golf course. Non-contributing structures include the I-390 expressway and the introductions of several contemporary buildings on the west side of the river.

Water Features:

Water features, including the Genesee River, Erie Canal, and Red Creek are all used as prominent design elements within the over all park.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving materials have likely been slightly altered over time in small select portions of the site and throughout circulation pathways. It is currently unclear to what extent the paving materials have been altered in select portions of the park site. Only small portions of the site feature hardscape materials and significant alterations would likely be related to additional built structures on the west side of the park.

Vegetation:

Vegetation throughout the park site is abundant, and is generally massed and clustered at the boundaries of designed spaces. Some horticultural specimens, due to large size and unique habit, exist

along circulation routes, but the majority of the vegetation within the park is used to frame views and define edges.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Furnishings are present in great variety and generally appear to be incorporated into the designed spaces of the park.

Circulation:

Circulation through the designed spaces of the park is characteristically curvilinear, often referencing natural topography and is consistent with the period of significance and the work of the designer. Portions of the circulation network have changed somewhat over time. While the separation of the north and south park (due to I-390) is a major non-contributing element within the landscape and has altered the circulation, many of the original circulation routes along the river and park drives remain. One significant loss is the complete loop of the carriage path in the south park area, where the golf course is now located.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Genesee Valley Park appears to meet the criteria for National Register listing, in accordance with the registration requirements established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Municipal Park System of Rochester, New York. As one of the three Pleasure Ground parks Olmsted designed in the 1880s-90s that formed the core of the city's park system, it is significant under National Register Criterion A, for its association with the social and physical development of the city of Rochester in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and Criterion C, as an excellent example of the Romantic landscape style of the late nineteenth century, and of the work of master landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Subsequent alterations by the Olmsted firm, notably the bridges and redesign of the pathway to reconnect the circulation system following the bisection of the park by the Erie Canal, are part of the historical evolution of the park and contribute to its significance. Despite the noncontributing alterations that include the I-390 expressway and new park facilities on the west side of the river, major elements of the original and historic design remain and continue to convey Olmsted and his successors' design intent.

Genesee Valley Park merits intensive study, beyond the scope of this survey, to further define its significance and history with the goal of pursuing a National Register nomination. Due to the apparent historical significance of the park, its status as one of the major parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and its lack of any landmark designation, this documentation and nomination should be a high priority.

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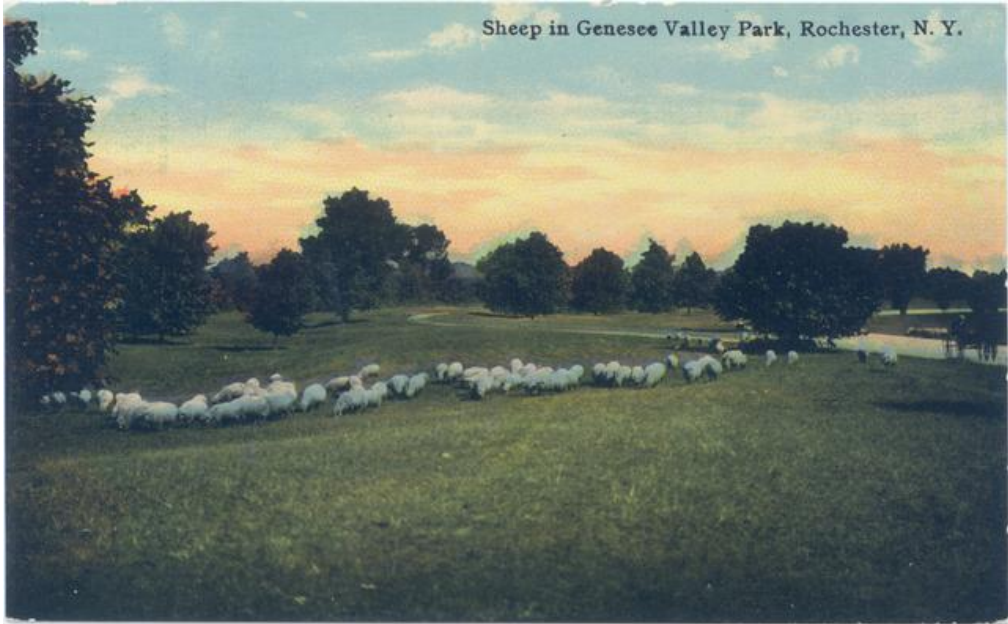
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Genesee Valley Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



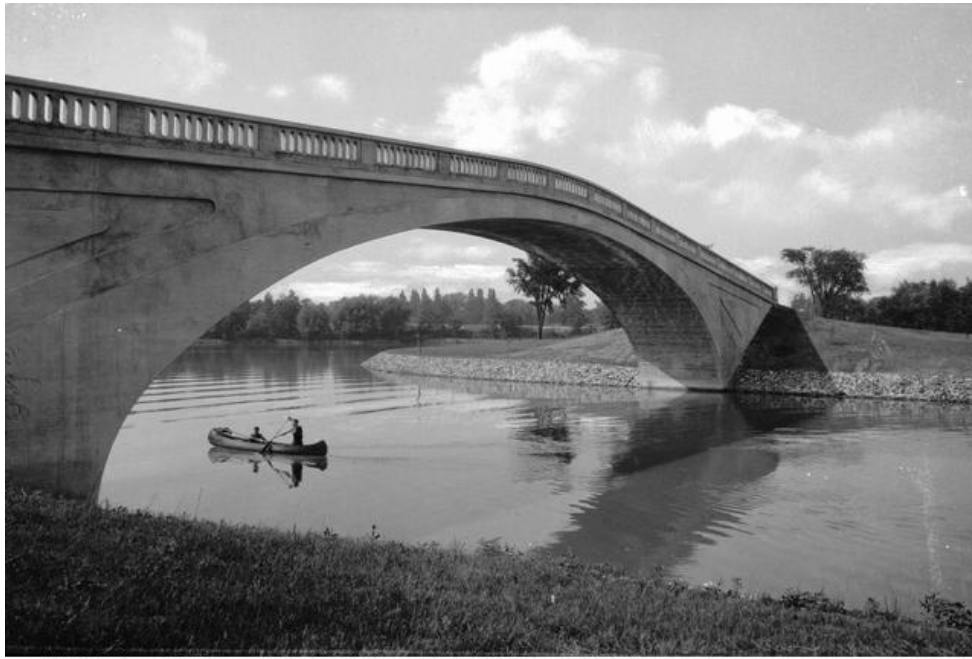
rpc1595a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Sheep and meadow in Genesee Valley Park, early 20th century



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Genesee Valley Park, ca. 1910



rpf00689.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

One of the bow bridges in Genesee Valley Park, near the intersection of the Canal and the Genesee River; ca. 1910s.



Genesee valley Park, looking south along east bank of river, 2009.



Genesee valley Park, looking south along Moore Road, 2009.



Genesee valley Park, Olmsted bridge over Red Creek, 2009.



Genesee valley Park, CCC era pavilion structure, 2009.



Genesee valley Park, former carousel converted into pavilion, 2009.



Genesee valley Park, looking southeast over Deer Park meadow, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Jones Square Park Jones Square Jones Park	Location Description:	Public square, bounded by Jones Avenue to the south, Saratoga Ave to the west, Lorimer St to the north, and Plymouth Ave to the east.
Location:	130 Saratoga Ave		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286226,4782751		
Tax ID:	105.590-0002-042.000		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Public Square
Size:	6.73 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 645' x 465'
Topographic Description:	Flat
Date of Construction:	Established in 1837 Modified per Olmsted Brothers design, ca. 1901
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Olmsted Brothers
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

The history of Jones Square Park and the development of its design are described in detail in Clark Patterson Associates et al, *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares*. That document also includes transcriptions of Olmsted Brothers documentation relating to the firm's lengthy process of redesigning the square in the 1890s and first decade of the 20th century.

Established in 1837 by dedication of subdivision, Jones Square was at the center of a well-developed residential neighborhood in the 19th century. An 1859 newspaper article referred to its use as a parade ground. By 1875, a residential neighborhood surrounded the square, which was crossed by two diagonal paths leading from the four corners; the 1888 plat survey shows the same configuration of walks. Concerns about safety and vandalism in the park led neighbors to petition the Common Council to add lights; the Council heeded this request and added electric lights to the park. Jones Square became part of the city parks system in 1894 when it, along with the other small parks, came under the purview of the Parks Commission due to an amendment of the Commission's charter.

In 1893, just before the Parks Commission prepared to take over maintenance and improvement of Jones Square, the Common Council hired the Olmsted firm (then Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot) to prepare plans to improve the square. The Olmsted firm corresponded regularly with Calvin C. Laney in the 1890s, and prepared several sketches, but apparently their designs were not implemented until after 1900. The 1902 Park Commissioners report states that Olmsted had sent the plan for Jones Square; the

recommended improvements were carried out in 1902-03. This included removal of over 200 trees, regarding, planting of trees, shrubs, and bulbs, and laying of cement sidewalks. Local nurserymen provided floral displays, contributing to the park's reputation as "the show city park of Rochester," as John C. Olmsted reported after a 1904 visit to Rochester. The Olmsted firm's redesign featured a modification of the X-shaped path configuration paths to add a central garden feature surrounded by circular flower beds and paths, as well as the addition of a path at the midpoint of the park, running from Lorimer Street to Jones Avenue. John C. Olmsted's letters to Laney include several references to the need to remove trees, both for conformance with the design intent and desired width of the walks, and to create the light and water conditions needed for the rest of the planting plan, but also referred to possible local resistance to tree removal.

In one of his 1901 letters, John C. Olmsted recommended that a "little children's playground," designed for the needs of young children, be installed, to include a shelter for caregivers, a shaded grass plot, one or more sandboxes, a wading pool, and appropriate play equipment. In keeping with Reform Park principles, the park would be maintained by "a society of charitably minded people" and staffed by "attendants needed to instruct and guide the children in their play." This suggestion was evidently not implemented, as early-20th century inventories of playgrounds do not include mention of Jones Square as having had play facilities.

Historic photographs reveal that the square had a very formal, symmetrical character with planting beds, many benches, and a central focal point containing an unusual "beehive fountain." The park was considered "the showplace garden of Rochester" for its elegant floral displays.

Maintenance of the park as a formal landscape declined after World War II. The circulation system of the park was retained in the 20th century, although the formal planting beds did not survive. In 1967, James Glavin and Anthony Kotz prepared a planting plan that showed the retention of the path system, supplemented with brick pads around the central feature; filling of the fountain with topsoil; and removal of the flag pole. New plants, mostly small deciduous or flowering trees, were added near the edge of the walkways. New benches and fences were added. Another improvement plan, created in 1977 by Passero-Scardetta Associates, added seating areas to the existing path, replaced some flagstones with concrete, and added new lights and trash receptacles. Additional work was done following the 1991 ice storm, guided by the Olmsted design.

More recently, neighbors have worked with the City of Rochester to rehabilitate the park in keeping with its historic character. In 2009, a fountain, evocative of the 19th century although not resembling the 19th-century fixture that was in Jones Square, was installed.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The park is set in an urban neighborhood of mid- to late-19th-century houses, mainly of frame construction. Streetscapes on all sides of the park consist of continuous rows of small-scale housing, interrupted only by residential-scaled churches in two locations.

Natural Systems and Features:

No significant natural features or systems are located on the Jones Square Park site. However, the overall urban forest canopy benefits from the considerable number of trees in the park.

Spatial Organization:

Jones Square Park consists of a formal radial network of pathways radiating from a central fountain and seating area. The park generally features three sub spaces, including a central seating plaza, radial promenade pathways linking the central plaza and the park periphery, and an outer oval pathway that continues around the park perimeter.

Pathway entrances are located at each corner intersection and centrally located along Lorimer St and Jones Ave. Each concrete pathway functions as a small promenade, approximately 10' in width, continuing diagonally towards the parks central hub.

The central hub of the square contains a large circular seating area, approximately 70' in diameter. Within this central hub is a stone-walled raised planter 18" in height. A decorative fountain resides within the center of the planter. Ground lighting fixtures are located within the raised planter, casting light towards the tiered fountain.

The outer concrete pathway circumnavigates the park block, connecting to each radial pathway near the park periphery.

Buildings and Structures:

No buildings or structures are located within the park.

Water Features:

The central seating area contains a small 4-tiered fountain structure set within a circular planting bed.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving throughout the site is concrete, with all pathways having similar widths and general character. An linear stone or concrete setting loops around the central fountain and planting bed, crossing diagonal pathways and turning to run parallel to mid-block paths, extending out towards the park edges. The paving feature is approximately 8" wide and included inscribed areas designated for ornamental tree plantings. The raised planter located in the central seating hub features flag-stone walls and a concrete cap. Slate sidewalks exist along the Saratoga Avenue frontage.

Vegetation:

Vegetation generally includes large shade trees scattered throughout the lawn covered park site. They include a wide variety of large deciduous trees, including Beech, Oak, Maples, and a select few other specimens. Smaller flowering ornamental trees have been planted along some pathways. A mirrored

set of two Crabapples are featured along each mid-block pathway, connecting out to Lorimer St and Jones Ave. The central raised planter contains various annual and perennial plantings.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Furnishings within the park include period-style benches along radial pathways and circling the central raised planter. Matching period-style trash receptacles are also present. Lighting at the site periphery are City-standard black colonial fixtures on 14' fiberglass poles. Lighting on the interior of the park consists of dual acorn-style fixtures on arched steel poles, approximately 30' in height. The arched poles appear to have previously contained cobra-head style fixtures. A few picnic tables and a grill have been placed near the Jones and Plymouth intersection.

Circulation:

Circulation through the park site is generally along radial pathways, extending towards a central seating plaza. An additional outer pathway circumnavigates the parks outer edge.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The overall setting of the public square appears to be generally intact, with 19th-century residential structures lining the parks adjacent street network. The neighborhood has suffered from high rates of vacancy on some nearby streets, with a handful of residential lots in the area remaining vacant. Some residential properties appear to have been altered and have additions or other modifications. Two churches are located adjacent to the site, with the church at the corner of Plymouth and Jones clearly visible on the 1888 plat map.

Natural Systems and Features:

No significant natural features or systems were present on the site during the periods of significance.

Spatial Organization:

The overall spatial organization of the square appears to be intact, with three general features related to the park's overall circulation and layout remaining intact. The parks central seating area, radial pathway system, and outer circumnavigating path relate to the parks period of significance.

Buildings and Structures:

No buildings or structures are located in or were featured in the park during periods of significance.

Water Features:

The fountain located within the central raised planter and seating area of the square is suggestive of the 19th-century fountain once position in that location. This fountain was introduced in 2009 and does

exhibit a 19th-century aesthetic, however it does not replicate the “beehive fountain” and pool that was once located in the center of the park.

Materials / Paving materials:

While the park’s existing pathway system appears to replicate the spatial layout and circulation of the original park design, many materials have been removed, altered, and added to the park. The central raised planter has been reconstructed with a flagstone wall, wherein the original fountain and pool were much lower to the ground and did not feature flagstone.

Vegetation:

Vegetation throughout the site has changed considerably compared to the parks period of significance. The general intent of the Olmsted planting plan was to remove many large shade trees and open up areas of the park site. The design intent was to generously plant the park with shrubs hedges bordering pathways. Ornamental plantings were planted in formal beds along central walkways. Decorative plantings are also planted in concentric circles around the center fountain area.

Many of the planting proposals were only partially implemented. However, local nurseries provided floral displays and “many thousands” of tulips were planted in beds near the central fountain.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Most site furnishings within the park are suggestive of the late 19th and early 20th-century period. All site furnishings are contemporary but have period-style elements. Other fixtures located in the park no longer exist, including drinking fountains. Picnic tables and freestanding cooking grills have been introduced in one portion of the park.

Circulation:

The general integrity of the park’s overall circulation system remains intact. Along with the site boundary, the main radial pathways, central seating area, and outer oval pathway reflect the period of significance.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Jones Square is difficult to classify as either eligible or not eligible for the National Register. It has historic significance under Criteria A and C as one of the early public squares in the city dating to the early 19th century, and as one of the squares redesigned by the Olmsted firm. Its borders and much of its surrounding are intact; the circulation system is generally intact to Olmsted design. However, the planting beds that were key elements of the Olmsted design and provided much of the spatial organization of the park do not survive; site features such as the central fountain, while reminiscent of 19th/early-20th century park features, are not original and do not replicate the original features. The immediate surrounding neighborhood does not appear to have sufficient architectural distinction or integrity to justify creation of a historic district to which the square could contribute.

It appears that as an individual landscape, Jones Square does not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for National Register listing; however, further consultation with SHPO is recommended to make a conclusive determination. Even if it is determined that the park does not meet National Register criteria, it is clearly an important component of the park system and an extremely important amenity in this neighborhood; efforts to preserve and rehabilitate it, and/or restore missing features, should continue.

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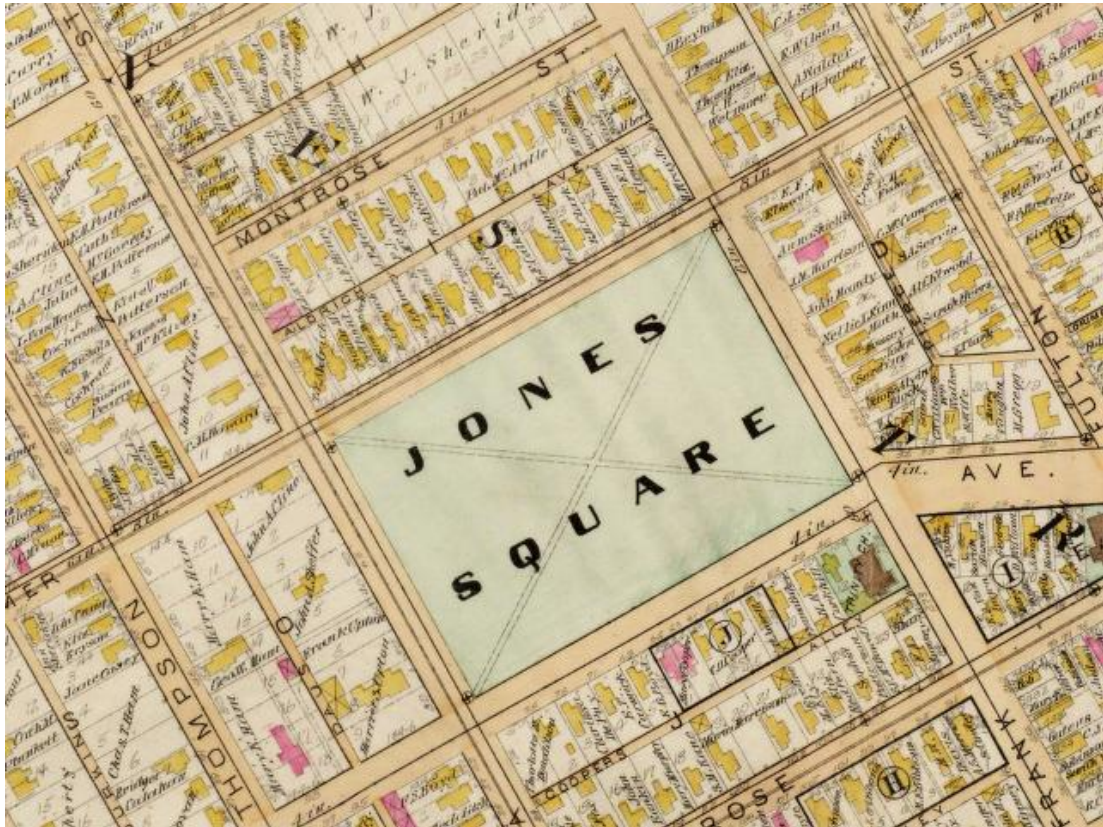
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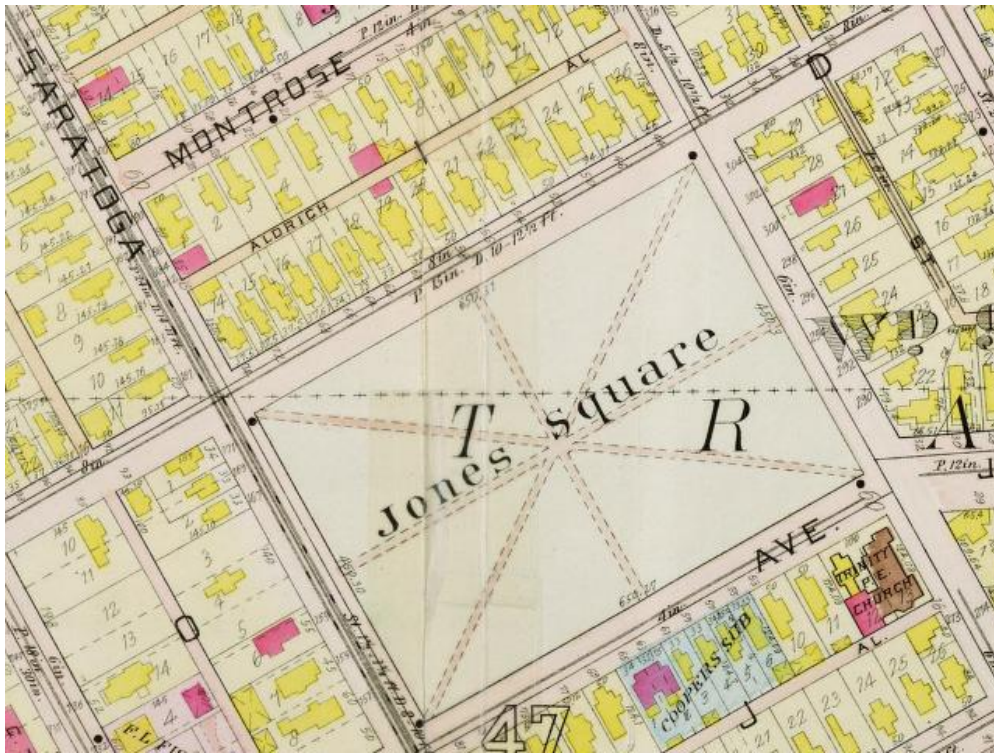
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



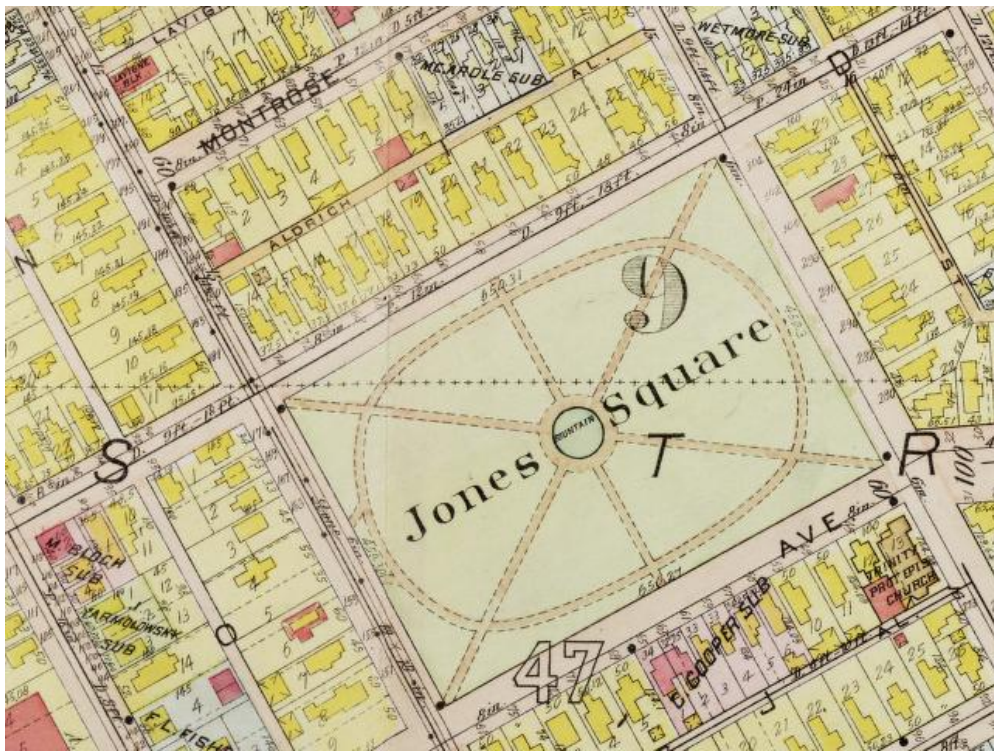
Jones Square Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1888 plat map (the 1875 map showed the same configuration)



1910 plat map



1918 plat map



rpc1821a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Historic postcard showing the “beehive fountain,” around the turn of the 20th century.



rpc1828a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Historic postcard



Jones Square Park, central seating area and fountain, 2009.



Jones Square Park, diagonal radial pathway leading towards central seating area, 2009.



Jones Square Park, pavers indicating location of former planting bed surrounding central seating area, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Manhattan Square Park	Location Description:
Location:	353 Court St	Park site bounded by Court Street to the north, Chestnut St to the west, and
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:288431,4781197	Manhattan Square Drive on the south and east.
Tax ID:	121.320-0002-003.000	
Existing Zoning:	CCD (City Center District)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Modernist Landscape
Size:	4.40 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 415' x 480'
Topographic Description:	Varied (rolling areas, flat, sunken plaza)
Date of Construction:	Completed in 1974
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Lawrence Halprin (original design, 1972)
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

The following history is adapted from the nomination of Manhattan Square Park to the Cultural Landscape Foundation's "Marvels of Modernism" program, submitted by The Landmark Society in 2008.

Lawrence Halprin Associates designed Manhattan Square Park in 1972. It was built as designed and opened to the public in 1974. The park, 5 acres in area, located in the southeast corner of downtown, was designed to serve people of all ages. It included a children's play area with a wading pool, a regulation-size hockey rink/tennis and basketball courts, a football field-sized meadow for active play, a berm garden, a promenade, a park drive (Manhattan Square Drive), and a skylit pedestrian underpass below Chestnut St. The focal point of the site was a plaza and amphitheater with a restaurant, a waterfall fountain and an overhead space frame with an observation tower. The design is a complex multi-level structure, defined by strong landforms, concrete steps and walls, and angular patterns.

Manhattan Square Park was built in the first and only phase of development of a 60-acre urban renewal plan, the Southeast Loop Plan, for this area of downtown. It included 15 high and mid-rise apartment buildings, commercial and community facilities intended to serve 7500 new residents. The park was intended as a centerpiece of this development, to be viewed from above, and as an outdoor living room for a high intensity of use. Like many ambitious and failed urban renewal plans in this period, the Southeast Loop Plan left the area surrounding the park largely cleared and underutilized. The park has been used most successfully for organized high intensity activities, including concerts, special events and ice skating. It has been less successful in attracting informal use day-to-day, related to (as both a cause and effect of) reduced operations, including the closing of the restaurant, the observation tower and the fountain.

Recent projects have included a redesign of the children's play area in the 1990s and the redesign of the skating rink in the past few years. Both kept the function of the original design intact.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

Manhattan Square Park is located in a highly urbanized downtown setting, with various office, institutional, and residential uses surrounding the park block. High density residential housing towers are located directly east of the park. To the south is the considerably large Strong Museum of Play. New office-use redevelopment is currently being constructed on a site southwest of the park, across Chestnut Street. HSBC plaza and office tower is located adjacent to the park site on the north.

Natural Systems and Features:

No significant natural features are present on the park site.

Spatial Organization:

The park area is spatially divided into six different components. The northwestern corner of the park features a large concrete sunken plaza space, with an iconic structural matrix of steel beams and platforms overhead. The sunken plaza features a highly irregular series of steps and terraces on the north end, once a functioning water feature.

Directly south of the sunken plaza is a wooded grove area with diagonal crossing pathways. The space features a considerable amount of shaded canopy, with walkways and wooden slat benches. The grassy wooded spaces formed by the crossing paths have been mounded and bermed, to create an intimate and enclosed area.

To the west of the wooded grove is a playground that is not original to the park's design. The playground features brightly colored rubberized/soft-impact surfaces with a variety of standard and custom play equipment, including slides, balance beams, echo chambers, interactive play/sound pieces, stainless steel benches, and a large rubberized climbing hill.

North of the park's playground is a wide promenade, linking the main sunken plaza space to the park's southeastern boundary and street frontage. The promenade runs diagonal across half of the park block, and has a formalized shade tree planting scheme, with trees lining the promenade edges. Benches and light fixtures are also placed at promenade edges, between planted shade trees. Shrubs rows sit atop large berms beyond the promenade's edge, essentially setting the promenade to appear below surrounding grade.

North of the promenade is a recently redeveloped ice skating facility, which is located along the western boundary of the park. The area features an ice rink with curvilinear edges, which also doubles as a reflecting pool during the summer months, and an associated building at the rink's south end. Seating and lighting surround the ice rink.

Between the ice rink area and the sunken main plaza space is a large open grass lawn area, measuring approximately 130' x 250', which functions as a passive recreational space.

Buildings and Structures:

Various buildings and other structures are located on the park site. The main sunken plaza area features a large steel scaffold-type structure built over the plaza space. The structure features an access stairway and viewing platforms. Built into the western wall of the sunken plaza is a tenant space, formerly occupied by a restaurant, which is now secured with plywood.

The playground area includes a significant tower structure within the play equipment, made of steel and various other materials.

A small contemporary building associated with the seasonal ice skating use is located at the south end of the rink.

Water Features:

Manhattan Square Park features a noteworthy water feature within the sunken plaza area. The water feature includes various sizes of wading pools, waterfalls, platforms, water chutes and other geometric spaces. The water feature no longer appears to be functioning.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving throughout a majority of the site is concrete. Most pathways, plaza areas, walls, and water feature elements are concrete. The playground area features a soft-impact rubberized surface treatment, as well as a small portion of concrete pavers within the playground sitting area. The newly renovated ice rink is generally surrounded by poured concrete walkways and contains a band of square asphalt pavers near the rink edge.

Vegetation:

Vegetation varies across the site, which includes various shade trees, ornamental trees, and planting beds. No vegetation exists within the sunken plaza space, though a concrete planter with juniper is located at street level. Shade trees line major walkways, and a grove of trees is located at the site's southwestern corner. Hedgerows are present along the top of berming along the main axial promenade. The playground area features a vegetative climbing-wall system, with narrow gauge steel cable strung between fixtures along a concrete wall. Vines have been trained to climb the cable and screen the concrete wall. The ice rink reconstruction includes planters with concrete curbing at the periphery. These planters contain various ornamental grasses, shrubs, and perennials/annuals.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Description of existing site furnishings, including benches, trash receptacles, lighting, flag poles, sculptures, monuments or other visual focal points – Include description of materials and condition. The ice rink area includes a considerable amount of new steel benches, one-piece chairs/table combination

units embedded into the concrete, and matching trash receptacles. Lighting near the ice rink is a contemporary cut-off style fixture. Benches throughout the original portions of the park site are wood slat construction on steel supports, with many featuring back to back double-benches. Lighting fixtures are different in some areas, and include new contemporary fixtures, colonial style Rochester-standard fixtures, and various flood-style and cobra-head style fixtures near the sunken plaza space – many of which appear to be event-related. The playground area includes two additional lighting fixture styles, a contemporary spot-light style fixture, lighting up the play area, and contemporary wall-sconces that have been placed along concrete walls. A few small dedication monuments are located at the base of some trees within the open lawn area.

Circulation:

Circulation across the site is generally formed by the main axial promenade, linking the northwest and southeast corners of the block. The sunken plaza area lies at the northwest terminus of the short promenade and the playground, open lawn area, wooded grove, and ice skating rink can be accessed from pathways perpendicular to the promenade. The open lawn area and ice skating rink is separated by a significant elevation change, limiting cross-access. The perimeter of the park is also surrounded by typical streetscape and sidewalk circulation, wherein various portions of the park can be accessed.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The park does retain much of the contextual neighborhood fabric that existed during the park's period of significance. The central urban site and surrounding office, residential, and other uses are typical of the urban context. However, the original intent of the park design was to compliment an area redevelopment plan that included several more residential towers and a higher intensity of surrounding land use.

Natural Systems and Features:

No significant natural features are present on the park site.

Spatial Organization:

The overall spatial organization of the park retains the integrity of the original park design, with various designed sub-spaces retaining important form, connections, and alignments. Additions to the park since the original design was completed include playground and ice rink redevelopments.

Buildings and Structures:

Many of the important features that contribute to the park's functionality, such as the water feature, tenant space, and scaffold structure, are not currently used or operable, but remain within the park.

Water Features:

The water feature within the sunken plaza space remains intact and all the elements of the design are visible. However, the water feature has not been operated in several years and continues to deteriorate without regular maintenance.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving materials appear to generally be intact. Some concrete areas near the southwestern grove and plaza space appear to have been maintained with asphalt patching.

Vegetation:

Vegetation across the park site appears to retain integrity to the original park design. Several trees appear to need maintenance or replacement due to severe leaning or other odd growth characteristics. Photographs show moveable exposed aggregate planters dispersed around the sunken plaza and are no longer visible within the space.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Furnishings from the original park design remain intact in most places, but may need replacement due to significant wear. New lighting has been introduced with the redesign of the playground and ice rink areas, and does not reflect the style that exists within the older portions of the park. It is unknown if lighting fixtures within the original portions of the park are original to the design.

Circulation:

Circulation throughout the park retains significant integrity with the original design. Connections to various sub-spaces within the park remain true to the park's original characteristics.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Manhattan Square Park appears to meet the criteria for National Register listing when it reaches 50 years of age, and may qualify for listing sooner than that based upon the "exceptional significance" exception.

Manhattan Square Park is significant according to Criterion A, for its association with dramatic, partially realized urban renewal plans that transformed downtown Rochester, and Criterion C, as the work of renowned Modernist landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and a good example of 1960s/70s urban landscape architecture. Assuming it does not lose integrity in the meantime, it appears that it will qualify for the National Register when it is 50 years old, the usual threshold for Register eligibility.

Properties that are not yet 50 years old, as is the case with Manhattan Square Park, can qualify for the National Register if they are of **exceptional significance**, in accordance with guidelines established in the National Register Bulletin, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years."

To determine whether it meets the test for exceptional significance, Manhattan Square Park should be evaluated within the context of both Lawrence Halprin's work and urban renewal plans for the

southeast quadrant of Rochester. This may be possible, but a sufficiently thorough evaluation would require research beyond the scope of the present project.

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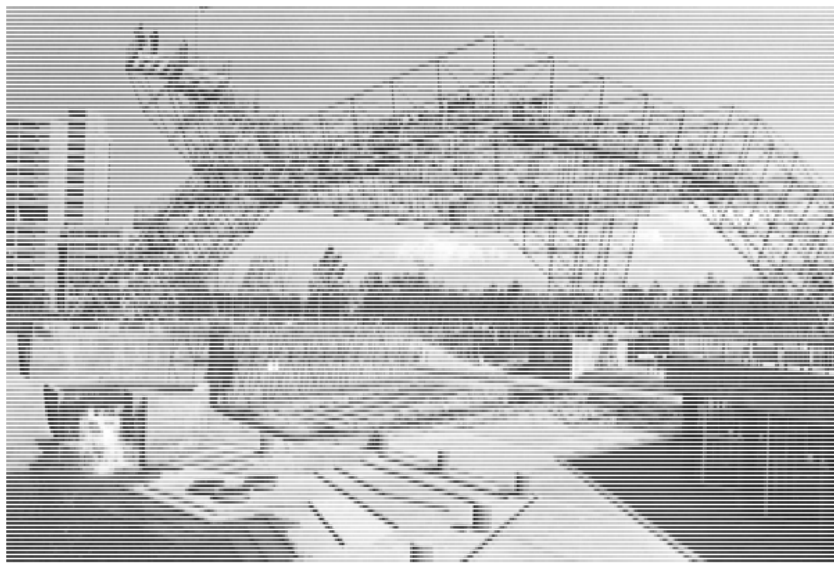
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Manhattan Square Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



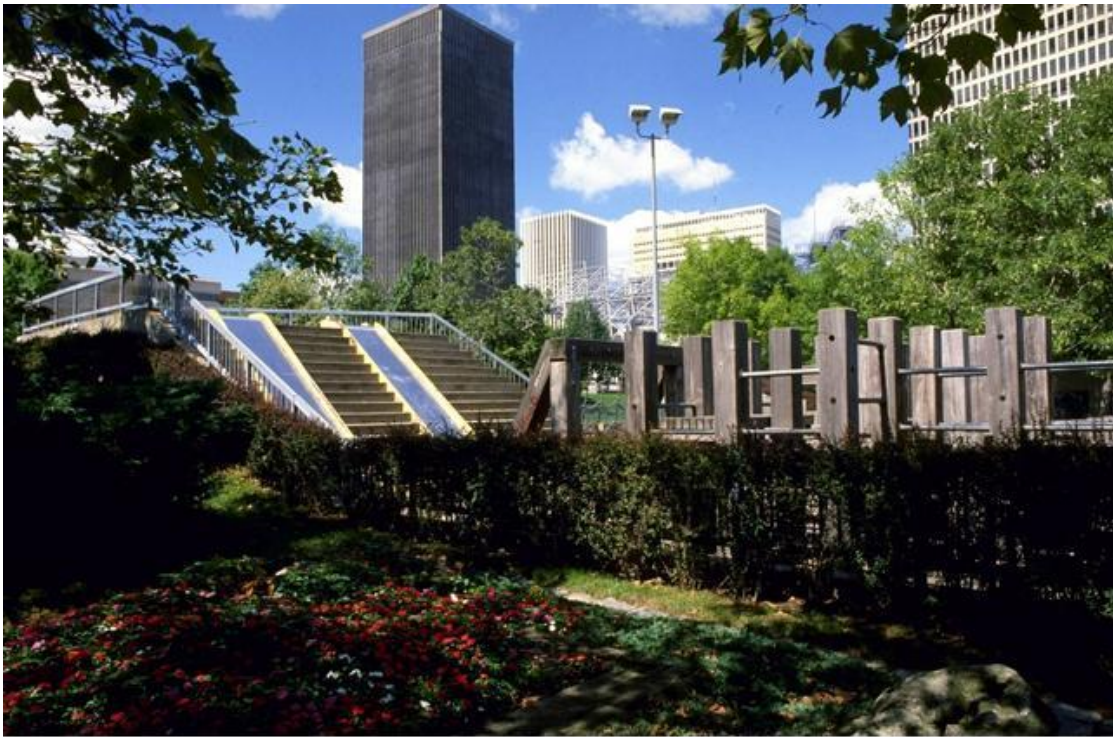
1935 plat map showing future site of Manhattan Square Park (southeast corner of Chestnut and Court streets) and vicinity, pre-urban renewal.



Manhattan Square Park, 1977. Photo by City Photographer; Landmark Society photo files



Manhattan Square Park, 1975. Landmark Society photo files.



c0000647.jpg Rochester City Hall Photo Lab

Manhattan Square Park in 1983.



Manhattan Square Park, looking northwest into sunken plaza space former water feature, 2009.



Manhattan Square Park, scaffold-type structure with platforms above plaza, 2009.



Manhattan Square Park, looking southwest down pedestrian promenade, 2009.



Manhattan Square Park, southwestern corner/wooded grove area, 2009.



Manhattan Square Park, redeveloped playground area, 2009.



Manhattan Square Park, redeveloped ice rink area, 2009.



Manhattan Square Park, seating area near Court Street, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Nunda Boulevard Mall	Location Description:
Location:	Nunda Blvd west of Winton Rd	Street mall located on Nunda Boulevard,
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:291773,4779513	between S Winton Road and Cobbs Hill Drive.
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)	
Existing Zoning:	R-1 (Low Density Residential)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 1.29 Acres (including cross street)
Dimensions:	+/- 1175' x 48'
Topographic Description:	Sloped from Cobbs Hill Dr to Winton Rd.
Date of Construction:	1921-23
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Alling Stephen DeForest?
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

The Nunda Boulevard Mall is within the Cobbs Hill neighborhood, which was developed as a residential subdivision between 1919 and 1935. The area was settled by Henry and John K. Beckwith in the 1820s, and part of the neighborhood was the location of their nursery and florist business. At that time, the Erie Canal ran nearby in the location that is now the I-490 expressway; the intersection of East and Culver was the center of the Village of Brighton, which ceased to exist as a municipality when the city annexed it, along with this neighborhood and other nearby areas, in 1914.

Part of the Beckwith Farm, including the area that is now Nunda Boulevard, was subdivided by James E. and Andrew C. Gleason as the Brighton Terrace West Subdivision in 1919. In the face of a housing shortage, the Gleasons' goal was to provide appealing housing for employees of their company, Gleason Works. Nunda Boulevard was first listed as a street in the 1921-22 City Directory, and the houses on the street were first listed in the 1922-23 City Directory.

Carl Schmidt, from the prominent local architecture firm Gordon and Kaelber, designed most of the houses on Nunda Boulevard. The Gleasons also hired notable Rochester landscape Alling DeForest, who had worked with the Olmsted Brothers early in his career, to design the street layout, including the broad central mall.

The original design for the mall consisted of four rows of American Elms along the street and on the mall, intended to create a graceful triple arch. In the mid-20th century, Dutch Elm disease felled the trees at a rate of over 10 a year. The neighborhood association raised money to enable the City to purchase larger replacement trees than the City could otherwise provide, thus speeding the re-

establishment of the original triple-arch configuration. The replacement trees were a variety of species, including red oak, linden, honeylocust, and sycamore. Sixteen more trees were lost in the 1991 ice storm, and replaced with disease-resistant hybrid American Elms.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The neighborhood surrounding Nunda Boulevard is wholly residential in character. Original houses from the early 1920's line the street mall. The neighborhood is well maintained and includes an abundance of private front gardens.

Natural Systems and Features:

Natural features include views through arching tree canopy, down-slope in varied topography toward Winton Rd and up toward the forested Washington Grove portion of Cobbs Hill Park. Site topography is exceptionally varied for a street mall, including assorted cross slopes, as houses on the northern side of the boulevard are at a higher grade than houses on the southern side.

Spatial Organization:

The street mall consists of a long linear lawn space, with varied topography, bounded by residential street drives. Symmetrical shade tree plantings are planted in formal rows, intended to create shaded canopy arches over the boulevard and mall area.

Buildings and Structures:

No buildings or structures are located on the park site.

Water Features:

No water features are located on the park site.

Materials / Paving materials:

The sole paving and hardscape treatments located on the site are historic medina stone curbing.

Vegetation:

Vegetation includes lawn and deciduous shade trees. A select few ornamental shade trees and shrubs/perennials are located at the eastern end, near the intersection with Winton Road. Trees are formally planted in rows to create a significant arching canopy effect over the street mall and drive lanes. Existing shade tree species include red oak, linden, honeylocust, DED resistant elms, and sycamore.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Furnishings consist of period lighting, cast iron or steel “harp” style fixtures on 12’ cast concrete poles. No other furnishings are present on the site.

Circulation:

Vehicular circulation occurs around the perimeter in linear drives fronting residential structures, with driveways. The street mall is divided at the mid-point by one cross-street, Rosegrey Terrace.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

There have been no significant alterations, losses, or additions to the surrounding land uses. The residential character and relationship to the designed street mall remain wholly intact.

Natural Systems and Features:

There appear to be no significant changes to natural features and systems existing within the park since the period of significance. The street mall does not contain a large variety of natural features, but manages to consistently retain topographical nuances, rolling slopes, views, and the important designed park-system connection to the larger Cobbs Hill Park. The street mall tree canopy is intact and is a major contributing element.

Spatial Organization:

The spatial organization of the street mall has not been altered or modified. Overhead arching tree canopy, framing views and creating the signature overhead plane, has been reestablished through various periods of damage, including Dutch Elm Disease and ice-storms.

Buildings and Structures:

No buildings or structures were historically located on the park site.

Water Features:

No water features were historically located on the park site.

Materials / Paving materials:

The only paving materials known to exist within the park site are medina stone curbing, which surrounds the street mall medians. The curbing appears to be in good condition throughout a majority of the site.

Vegetation:

Nunda Boulevard street mall was originally planted with a mono-culture of high-arching American Elms, creating a noteworthy canopy effect that was a defining characteristic planned by the designer. This characteristic remains to a broad extent, with new large tree species replacing the Elms as they were lost to Dutch Elm Disease. The formal planting arrangement intended by the original designer remains

intact. Replacement species include maple, linden, and honeylocust. A select few disease resistant Elm hybrids have also been planted over the years. Most trees appear to be healthy.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Existing light fixtures are likely original and characteristic to the park's period of significance. Poles and fixtures have not been heavily modified or changed and are in good condition. No other furnishings or monuments historically existed in the park.

Circulation:

Vehicular and pedestrian circulation paths adjacent to the street mall have not been altered or changed from the parks design intent or period of significance.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

The Nunda Boulevard Mall is eligible for the National Register as a contributing element in the National Register-eligible Cobbs Hill Historic District, which was identified in the 1986 *City of Rochester Historic Resources Survey* and confirmed as eligible in the 2001 *Report on the 1986 Historic Resources Survey*. According to both documents, the district is eligible under Criteria A, B, and C, for its significance in local history, architecture, and landscape architecture, and its association with prominent individuals. National Register and/or local district designation for this notable collection of architecture and landscapes should be a high priority.

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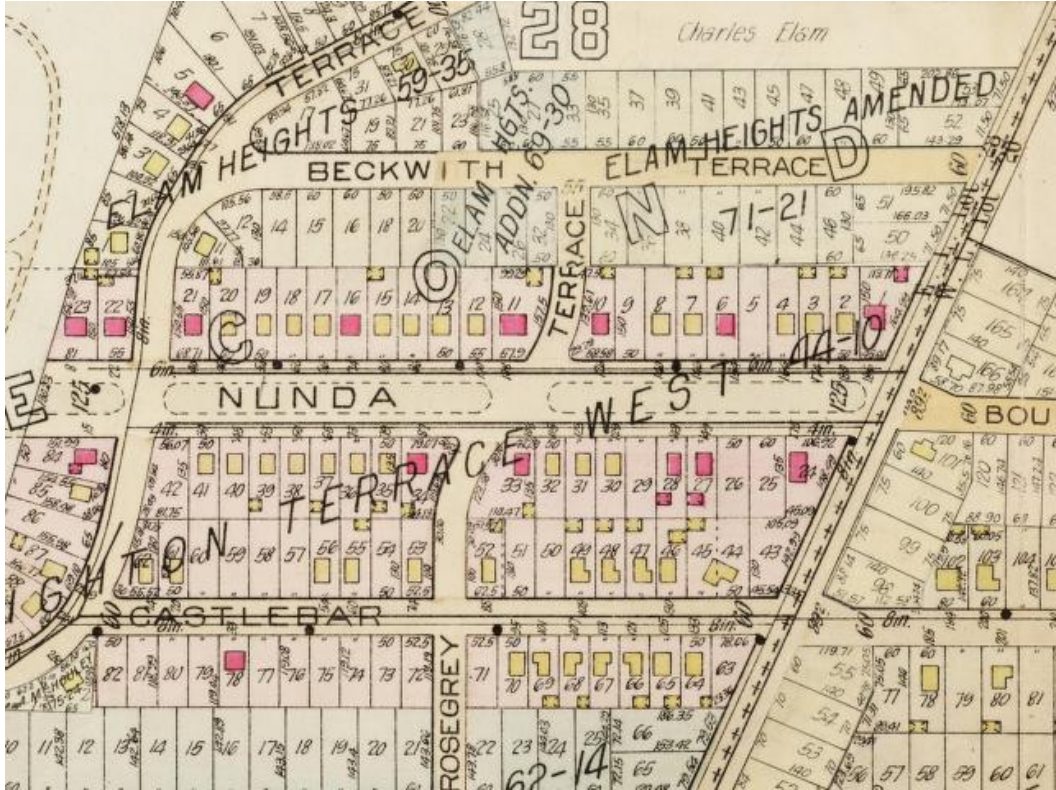
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Nunda Boulevard Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1926 plat map



Nunda Boulevard Mall, looking east, 2009.



Nunda Boulevard Mall, looking west, 2009.



Nunda Boulevard Mall, street light, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Ontario Beach Park	Location Description:
Location:	50 Beach Ave	Large park area at northern terminus of Lake Avenue (at Beach Avenue), bounded by lake Ontario to the north, Genesee River to the east, including playfield area across Beach Ave to the southwest, bounded by Wilder Terrace and residential/commercial area fronting lake Avenue.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:288367,4792843	
Tax ID:	047.470-0001-006.000 (1, main) 047.390-0001-001.000 (2, main) 047.470-0001-003.005 (3, sports) 047.460-0002-030.001 (4, sports) 047.460-0002-005.000 (5, sports) 047.460-0002-004.000 (6, sports) 047.540-0001-001.000 (7, sports) 047.460-0002-003.000 (8, sports)	
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space) H-V (Harbortown Village)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Reform Park
Size:	16.165 Acres (1), 10.238 Acres (2)
Dimensions:	Varies (main portion extends +/-2100 along Lake Ontario, and +/- 700 feet inland)
Topographic Description:	Flat (recreational field portion features some embankments)
Date of Construction:	Evolved over time beginning in late 19 th century; current configuration largely 1920s-30s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	N/A
Current landmark designation status:	Carousel is a designated landmark; park is not otherwise designated

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

Ontario Beach Park was the last major park added to the Rochester municipal park system. Since the 1890s, the beach in the village of Charlotte, at the mouth of the Genesee River, had been a popular summer resort and amusement destination for Rochester residents and visitors from elsewhere. Charlotte and the beach became easily accessible when a railroad connected the village to downtown Rochester in 1853. Commercial attractions began to develop in the Civil War era when Marty McIntyre built a restaurant by the beach; to encourage a variety of pursuits, he rented out boats, fishing equipment, and bathing suits, and provided changing tents for bathers. Restaurants, hotels, and cottages developed in the 1860s and 1870s. To build ridership, the New York Central Railroad, which ran a line to the beach, purchased four acres of beachfront property in the mid-1880s and rented it to the Ontario Beach Improvement Company. The company built the Hotel Ontario and amusement concessions, opening in 1884.

The beach and surrounding area gradually developed into “the largest, most extensive and most popular amusement park in Rochester,” coming to be known as “the Coney Island of Western New York.” The main attraction from about 1885 to 1907 was the carousel, but before the 1907 season, about half a million dollars worth of new rides and attractions were added, making the amusement park more popular than ever. The park featured rides such as “Slide the Bumps,” “Helter Skelter,” and “The Whip,” as well as exotic architecture, large hotels, food stands, and an auditorium and band shell. Attendance of 70,000 was normal on a hot summer weekend, with stunts and concerts drawing particularly large crowds. The park thrived until 1919, when it closed, its buildings and rides having suffered in the late 1910s from a lack of maintenance and from several fires. The City then purchased the park, demolished all of the rides except the carousel, and, in keeping with the principles that typically guided park development in the Reform Era, substituted what could be seen as more wholesome recreational pursuits – in this case, swimming, bathing, and picnicking – for the commercial activities.

Research suggests that the design for the park developed gradually as the city transformed the commercial site into a public park, with no single designer responsible for the overall look of the park.

The New Deal era brought new construction to the park, including a large bath house, picnic pavilions, restrooms, a bandstand, and trails. New Deal funding also allowed repair of some existing structures. The transformation of the park from a bustling commercial amusement center into a Reform Park is seen in the plat maps from 1918 until the 1930s.

The park today largely reflects the New Deal era; after the 1930s there were few major additions or alterations to the park. Newspaper clippings from the 1940s through the present focus largely on whether or not the beach would be open for swimming in any given year; the beach closed due to water quality concerns from 1966 until 1976 and closed intermittently thereafter.

In the 1980s-1990s, many park features were rehabilitated, including the carousel and its building, the bath house, and picnic pavilions. In addition, new park features, compatible with the park’s historic structures and features, were added; these included new lights, a new gazebo, and a new boardwalk.

The south portion of the park, south of Beach Avenue, is a more recent addition and does not contain any historic features.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

Ontario Beach Park is known for its lakefront beach setting. The park is characterized by its beachfront boardwalk, curvilinear pathways through wooded groves of lawn, and axial bench lined promenades. External to the park are residential uses to the west and southwest, consisting of mainly single-family homes. A cluster of commercial uses exists along Lake Avenue, near the main park entry, catering predominately to summer time users of the park. South of the park is the expansive Port of Rochester and ferry terminal, which includes large parking lots and a handful of commercial out-parcels. Many marina-related uses line the Genesee River, which borders the eastern side of the park.

Natural Systems and Features:

Ontario Beach Park's natural features include the Lake Ontario waters and beach area, which is an important lakefront access area for Rochester residents. Swimming is a popular activity within the waters at the park and water quality is a central concern, often limiting the number of available swimming days. The park is located adjacent to the mouth of the Genesee River, flowing into Lake Ontario on the park's east side. While industrial and marina uses have removed natural riparian conditions along the lakefront and riverside, the two water bodies and their confluence are significant ecological communities. The park's extensive canopy of mature deciduous trees is a considerable element of the area's urban forest.

Spatial Organization:

Ontario Beach Park is spatially divided into two areas. A beachfront park area extends along the lakefront while a newer recreational play-field area extends to the southwest into residential neighborhoods.

The intersection of Lake Avenue and Beach Avenue forms the park's visual entrance to the core beach front portion of the park from the surrounding streetscape. The core park area is bounded by the Genesee River of the west and Lake Ontario beach on the north. To the south is a public parking lot, where a long pedestrian promenade lines the core park's southern boundary. This central area features both a mixture of curvilinear pathways and formal tree-lined promenades, leading users between various park facilities, pavilions, and activity areas.

Pathways surround a cluster of pavilions near the park's eastern edge at the Genesee River. Informal plantings of shade trees dot the landscape along curving pathways, which lead west towards a circular pathway surrounding a small tree grove and bandstand. West of the circular space are two large park pavilions. Paths continuing west from this point are formal in nature, with long straight walks bordered by rows of shade trees. A central north-south pedestrian promenade extends from the Lake Ave / Beach Ave intersection to the beachfront.

The western side of the core park area includes the large historic bathhouse facilities (Robach Community Center) fronting the beach. A circular drop off drive links the bathhouse to Beach Avenue.

A wooden boardwalk runs along the core park area's northern boundary, along the sandy beach area of the park. The boardwalk is elevated above beach level and continues the length of the park, from the river to the western end of the bathhouse.

Buildings and Structures:

Narrative describing any existing buildings or other major structures on the park site, including contemporary and historic structures, bridges, gazebos, fences, gates, retaining walls, built-in seating, architectural styles, and other engineered site infrastructure. Include description of condition.

Several buildings are located within the park. The sprawling and historic Robach Community Center (bathhouse) fronts the park's western beach front and includes a walled basketball and lawn courtyard

on either wing of the main structure. A 40' x 60' concession stand structure is located just east of the bathhouse. East of the concession stand are two large picnic pavilions. The shelters are approximately 110' x 60' and share a narrow brick courtyard between them.

A 40' x 50' restroom structure with Spanish tile roofing is located central to the park's southern promenade. A large raised gazebo / band shelter exists north of the restrooms and is surrounded by a circular asphalt pathway. A small wooden viewing gazebo is located along the beach boardwalk.

The eastern side of the park includes three smaller picnic pavilions, a small restroom, and the historic 1905 Dentzel carousel building. The smaller pavilions are contemporary and are approximately 30' x 60' in size. The carousel building is approximately 85' square.

Water Features:

Water features are an important component to the park, with the Ontario beachfront being the chief attraction within the park. The extensive boardwalk lining the beach front allows users to descend down onto the park's sandy beaches, which extend more than 200 lineal feet towards the water.

The Genesee River is another central water feature to the park, running along the park's eastern boundary and includes a long pier extending into the lake. The pier is accessible from the park.

Materials / Paving materials:

The park site typically includes concrete and asphalt paving for park walkways and promenades. The park's east-west and north south promenades are generally concrete, with some exposed aggregate banding or other decorative scoring. Newer stone curbing and bollards surround plantings beds along the promenade and parking lot to the south. A small concrete seating plaza is centrally located along the east-west promenade.

Curvilinear pathways linking between various pavilions and other structures in the park are generally asphalt paved. Some small decorative brick patio spaces exist near pavilions and pavilion foundations are concrete.

The intersection of Beach Avenue and Lake Avenue features a contemporary plaza space with decorative paver seating areas, paver crosswalks, and raised planters. The park's boardwalk is traditional wooden structure with galvanized steel railings.

Vegetation:

Vegetation throughout Ontario Beach Park generally consists of deciduous shade trees. Shade tree plantings vary from formal grid patterns, lining long axial promenades, to naturalistic groupings, often framing grassy open areas along curvilinear pathways. The core portion of the park features both planting styles, with the western and middle sections containing noteworthy linear grids of large shade trees, and the eastern portion of the park featuring sporadic groupings.

The park does not contain a great deal of ornamental plantings or planting beds. Small planting beds are located near the park's southern promenade, buffering the parking area and adding aesthetic interest to the two promenade entry and seating areas. A large planting bed is located within the circular driveway of the bathhouse, accessed from Beach Avenue. Some flowering ornamental trees have been planted in parking areas to the south.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Monuments within the park include a large contemporary stone monument dedicated to WWI battle of the Bulge veterans. This monument is centrally located within the entrance plaza near the intersection of Lake Avenue and Beach Avenue. Further north is a flagpole and POW monument, aligned along the view axis from the intersection towards the beachfront. Several other small monuments exist throughout the park, including several early 20th-century dedications at the base of trees in the park's western half. A large steel sailboat sculpture is located within a concrete block raised planter near the park's boundary along the Genesee River.

Lighting throughout the park generally consists of two styles. Pedestrian lighting along internal park pathways consists of acorn-style fixtures on black decorative poles and are approximately 14' in height. Park entrance areas include more contemporary-styled fixtures, lining the parking lot promenade and entry plazas. Other furnishings within the park include freestanding cooking grills, standard wooden and steel park benches, and bike racks.

Circulation:

Park circulation is generally through three major axial promenades at the core park's periphery, and secondary pathways within the core park itself. The beachfront boardwalk extends east-west across the park site, connecting to the major north-south pedestrian promenade, which extends southward to the park's main entry plaza. The third major promenade extends east from this entry plaza, parallel to the boardwalk, on the park's southern periphery. The internal park space bounded by these promenades contains a mixture of formal girded and curvilinear pathways.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The setting of Ontario Beach Park has changed significantly from the amusement park era, but retains many reform park elements. The Reform Park elements, including structures for picnicking and bathing, have been added over time but the setting generally exists as they similarly would during the reform area.

Natural Systems and Features:

The natural features within the park are generally intact with very few losses or addition. The beach and adjacent lake ecosystem are the main park natural features and persist as they would during the park's

period of significance. The river has also not seen significant alterations or additions since the reform park era. The industrial use of the river had removed much of the riparian areas prior to the creation of the park / amusement park.

Spatial Organization:

The spatial organization of the park has not significantly changed since the reform park era. Due to road and parking improvements, some minor view axis and pathways systems have slightly changed. A handful of buildings have been removed or added generally in locations where buildings previously existed. The parks pathway system and general division of spaces remains intact.

Buildings and Structures:

Many buildings and structures throughout the park have been added over long periods of time since the demise of the amusement park and creation of the reform-style park. The Dance Pavilion, once located near the eastern picnic area, has now been replaced with the large band shell / gazebo structure. A larger picnic shelter at the eastern end of the park appears to have been replaced over time with three smaller shelters in the park's north eastern section. The large bathhouse building at the western end of the beach front has been renovated and generally maintains integrity from the reform era.

Water Features:

There are no alterations, losses, or additions to the parks water features. The Genesee River and Lake Ontario play an important role in the park's public use, but have not been significantly altered within the park site.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving materials are generally intact have not been significantly altered from the materials used during the reform park era. Pathways are simple concrete, however some asphalt areas have been developed. Considerable paving improvements have been developed for the Lake Avenue-Beach Avenue intersection and park entrance. While the improvements are contemporary in nature, they do not alter the park aesthetics or experience from those typically found in the reform park era.

Vegetation:

The park does not contain a great deal of ornamental or naturalistic plantings. Much of the park landscape is shaded by large shade trees and a small number of planting beds are located at building foundations and park entrances. The vegetation is consistent with the reform park era, with plantings accentuating linear and curvilinear characteristics of the park layout, and edging buildings and entrances.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Furnishings, monuments, and lighting are present in a great variety, which is consistent with the characteristics of the reform park era.

Circulation:

Ontario Beach Park circulation has not changed considerably since the reform park period of significance. Pathways have been slightly altered to accommodate replacement picnic pavilions but have not been extensively altered. Picnic areas, promenades, and other social activity spaces include formal linear circulation, while broad curving pathways link various activity areas within the overall park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Ontario Beach Park appears to meet the criteria for National Register listing, in accordance with the registration requirements established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Municipal Park System of Rochester, New York. As one of the city's large Reform Parks, it is significant under Criterion A for its association with social and political movements and the development of the city of Rochester in the early twentieth century, and Criterion C, as examples of a new era in park planning and design. Its late-nineteenth century history as an entertainment venue is also significant, and surviving features from that period of development (of which the carousel is the most notable) contribute to the park's significance. Park features from the 1930s New Deal era predominate.

Because it is one of the city's most significant historic parks, and because (apart from the carousel, which is an individual city landmark) it lacks landmark designation, Ontario Beach Park merits intensive study, beyond the scope of this survey, to further define its significance and history with the goal of pursuing a National Register nomination.

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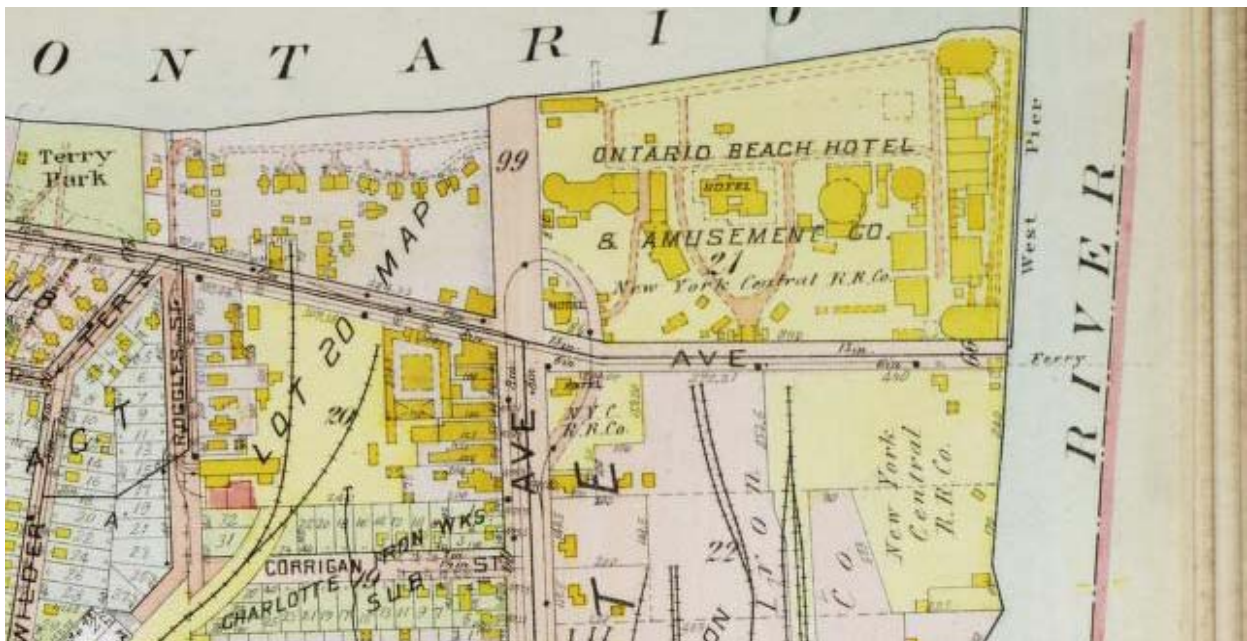
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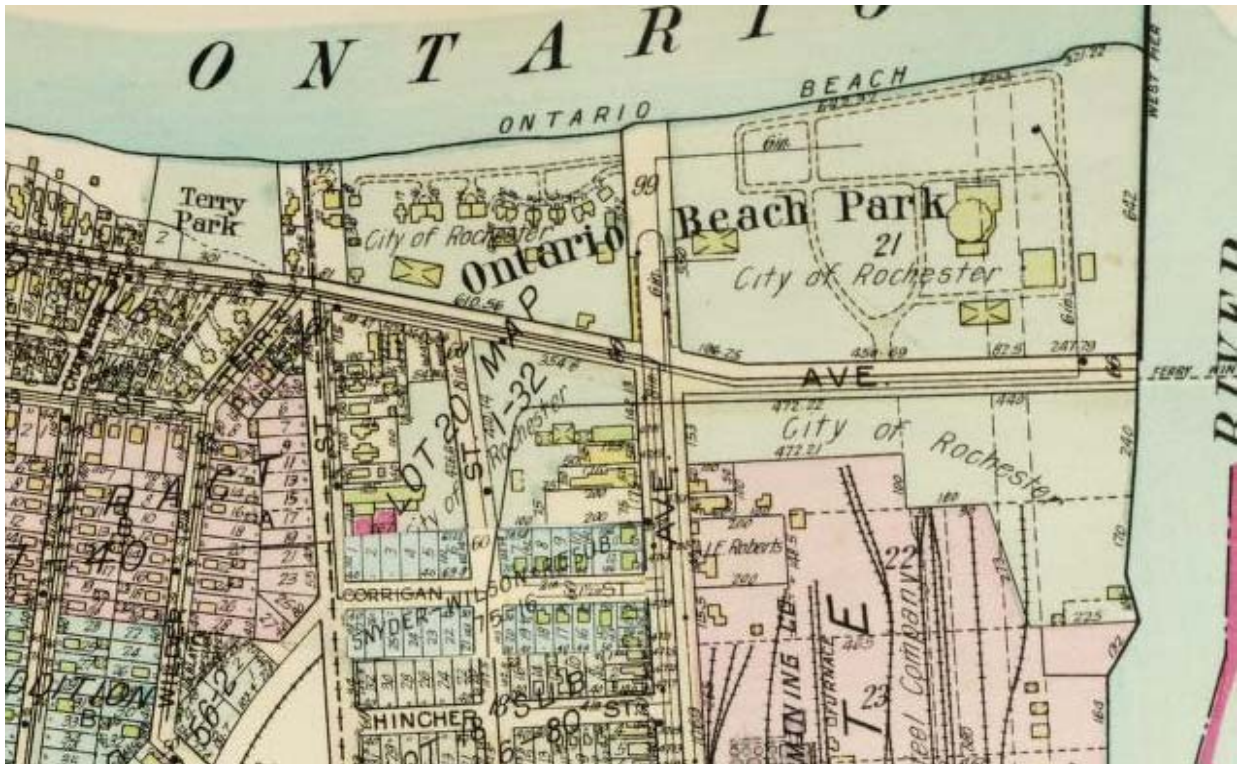
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



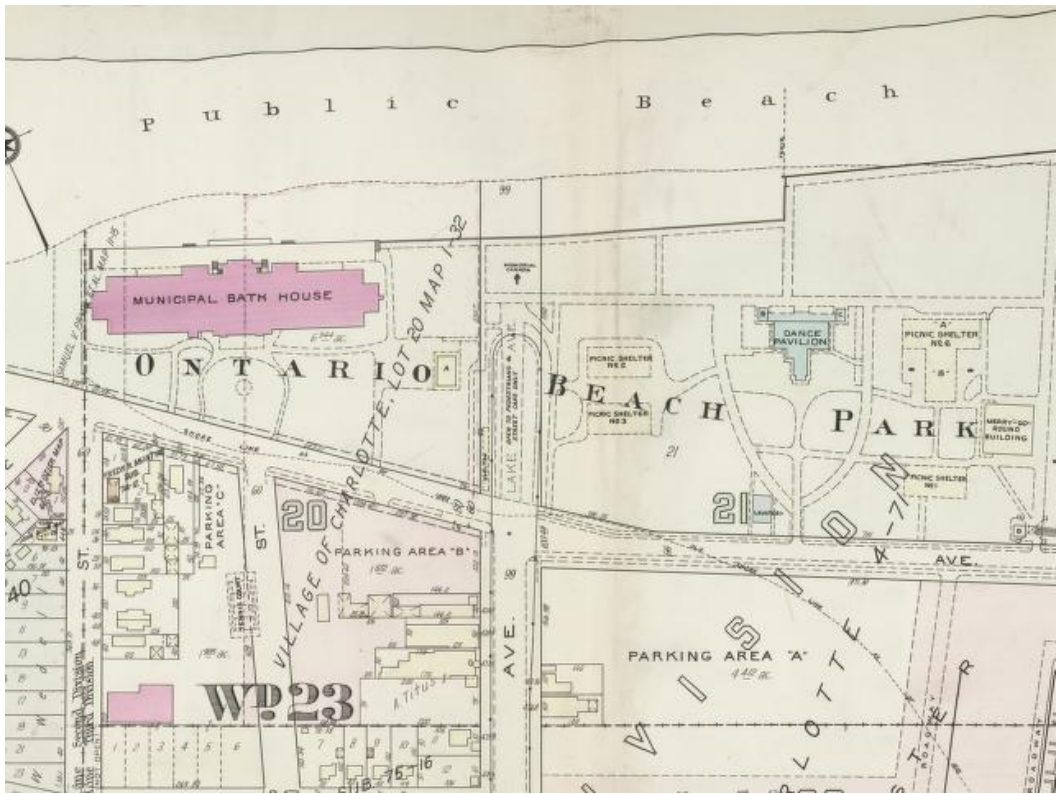
Ontario Beach Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1918 plat map



1926 plat map



1936 plat map



rpc1873a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Ontario Beach Park in its heyday as an amusement park, around the turn of the 20th century.



rpc1916a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Ontario Beach bathhouse



Ontario Beach Park, promenade extending north from Lake Avenue / Beach Avenue, 2009.



Ontario Beach Park, entry plaza and restroom near public parking lot, 2009.



Ontario Beach Park looking north toward pavilions and lake, 2009.



Ontario Beach Park, looking east down pedestrian promenade, 2009.



Ontario Beach Park, carousel and planting bed, 2009.



Ontario Beach Park, looking east along beach boardwalk with viewing gazebo, 2009.



Ontario Beach Park, Bathhouse fronting Lake Ontario beach, 2009.



Ontario Beach Park, looking west along linear tree rows, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Oxford Mall	Location Description:
Location:	Oxford St between Monroe Ave and Park Ave	Street mall located on Oxford St, between Park Avenue and Monroe Avenue. Mall median ends one block north on Monroe Avenue at Wellesley St.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:289552,4780339	
Tax ID:	n/a (Street R.O.W.)	
Existing Zoning:	R-2 (Medium Density Residential)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Street Mall
Size:	+/- 0.87 Acres (median area)
Dimensions:	+/- 1900' x 20' (total length, including cross streets)
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed median
Date of Construction:	1880s
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	H.E. Hooker
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

The Oxford Street Mall was laid out in the 1880s by H.E. Hooker, a nurseryman whose lands were located around Goodman Street and East Avenue. The 1875 plat map shows that the south end of the street, beyond the Hooker nursery grounds, was already subdivided and featured a small street mall called "Nichols Park;" the rest of the street was then called Nichols Street and bisected the Hooker property. When Hooker subdivided his former nursery, he included the street mall as an elegant amenity, and Oxford Street's large, fashionable Queen Anne-style houses and park-like character did attract some of the city's most prominent families. The mall was planted with *Magnolia Salongana*, a hybrid cross between a white Chinese magnolia and a purple Japanese variety. It was a popular destination in early May when the magnolias bloomed, attracting crowds of admirers. The mall was also frequently photographed, with images printed in the newspaper and used on postcards.

The original trees survived until the mid- to late-20th century, when neighbors created a committee to restore the mall; they raised funds to bring in 30 disease-resistant trees from Ohio.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The neighborhood surrounding Oxford Mall is wholly residential in character along the majority of the street length between Park Ave and Monroe Ave. Original houses from the 19th and early 20th-centuries

line the street mall. The neighborhood and is well maintained and includes an abundance of private front gardens.

Natural Systems and Features:

No significant natural systems are located within the street mall. The mall is flat along its length.

Spatial Organization:

The street mall consists of a long linear lawn space, bounded by one-way residential streets, cross streets, and residential drives. The mall is divided into six segments, separated by cross streets or turnaround areas. Shade trees are planted along the residential tree lawns, but the noteworthy feature is a line of planted magnolia trees along the mall's length.

Buildings and Structures:

No buildings or structures are located on the park site.

Water Features:

No water features are located on the park site.

Materials / Paving materials:

The mall segments are bounded by granite curbing. Mall segments ending at the crossing of Harvard St have concrete sidewalks with some ramps, connection the existing accessible sidewalk network across the street mall. No other pavements or materials are located within the mall area.

Vegetation:

Vegetation within the median area is the defining feature of the street mall, which includes a centered row of flowering ornamental magnolia trees. The remaining vegetation along the mall is predominantly lawn ground cover. A row of yew shrubs and annuals is planted at the back of sidewalk along pedestrian linkages at the Harvard cross street and the north and south mall ends.

Furnishings/Monuments:

No monuments are located along the street mall. The street mall includes decorative wood entry signage. Street lights are located along the tree lawn, fronting houses along Oxford Street. Lights are City-standard colonial style fixtures on 14' high fiberglass poles.

Circulation:

Oxford Street consists of a one-way drive lane and a parking lane on either side of the center street mall. No pedestrian circulation pathways are present along the mall space, except at the Harvard Street crossing. Sidewalks line houses fronting the length of Oxford Street.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

There have been no significant alterations, losses, or additions to the surrounding land uses. The residential character and relationship to the designed street mall remain generally intact. However, many former single-family houses along Oxford Street have been converted to apartment units.

Natural Systems and Features:

No significant natural systems are located within the street mall.

Spatial Organization:

The spatial organization of the street mall has not been altered or modified. The mall's boundaries, overall shape, and noteworthy features have been preserved or restored.

Buildings and Structures:

No buildings or structures were historically located on the park site.

Water Features:

No water features were historically located on the park site.

Materials / Paving materials:

No paving features were known to exist along the majority of the mall's length. Like many area streets, the Oxford Street surface was once paved with unit brick or cobble pavers and has been replaced with asphalt. Many historic representations of the street mall include views of the brick or cobble paving surface, which added a particularly appealing element to the simple design of the street mall.

Vegetation:

The integrity of the planted ornamental magnolia trees along the mall appears to remain wholly intact. While the mall no longer contains trees original to the site, replacements have been brought in periodically in order to maintain this vegetative feature. This defining attribute of the street mall has significant links to the history of the mall as land once used for local nurseries.

Furnishings/Monuments:

No significant monuments were known to exist along the street mall. Several period photographs show historic harp-style light fixtures on cast concrete poles, similar to Nunda Blvd street mall. These have been replaced with contemporary street lights.

Circulation:

The circulation of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic around the street mall has not been significantly altered or modified.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

The Oxford Street Mall is one of the most significant of the city's street malls, given its age, condition, and high level of integrity. Because of its origins as an enhancement to a residential subdivision, its eligibility must be determined within the context of the surrounding neighborhood of which it is an integral part. Within that context, the street mall meets the criteria as a contributing site in a National Register-eligible district: the extended East Avenue historic district that was identified in the 1986 City of Rochester *Historic Resources Survey* and confirmed in the 2001 survey update.

As one of the city's most distinctive and well-maintained street malls with a notable history and high level of integrity, Oxford Mall would also be a strong candidate for local landmark designation, ideally as a contributing site in an expanded local district. Absent a district designation, the street mall could potentially be designated as an individually landmarked landscape. It fits several of the city's landmark designation standards, particularly "(e) Significance as an established and familiar visual feature of the City because of a unique location or singular physical characteristic."

Documentation and nomination of this notable landscape should be a high priority.

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Oxford Mall, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1888 plat map



rpf00089.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Oxford Mall, ca. 1890s



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Oxford Mall, ca. 1930s



Oxford Mall, looking north towards Park Avenue, 2009.



Oxford Mall, Harvard Street intersection along Oxford St, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Plymouth Circle Plymouth Park Lunsford Circle Charles Terrell Lunsford Park Caledonia Square	Location Description:	Oval shaped public square site located in Cornhill district, bounded by Glasgow St to the south and Edinburgh St to the north, with Greig St extending to the south and Frederick Douglas St extending to the north.
Location:	Frederick Douglas St and Glasgow		
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:287278,4780413		
Tax ID:	121.540-0002-001.000		
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Public Square
Size:	0.77 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 245' x 155' (oval)
Topographic Description:	Flat, raised platform at center
Date of Construction:	1824 1893 (Olmsted improvements) 1977 (redesign)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot (1893) Carol Johnson Associates (1977 reconstruction)
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

Plymouth Circle, originally called Caledonia Square, is one of the city's early public squares, having been laid out in 1824 by Elisha Johnson as part of the Caledonia Tract. According to the Raitt report, the park was dedicated to the city about 1837 by subdivision.

The name of the park was changed in 1859, when Plymouth Avenue became a dedicated street and the square became an oval. The 1875 plat map shows Plymouth Park as an oval bisected by a path on the line of Plymouth Avenue.

In 1893, the Olmsted firm provided a plan for improvements, to include regarding, seeding, redesign of the path system and replacement of flagstone walks with Portland cement walks with small curbs, new seating, trees, shrubbery and flower beds. A September 29, 1893 planting plan by Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot shows the firm's modified oval design for the new circulation system, which was implemented, as can be seen in the 1900 plat map. The same configuration is seen on a 1918 aerial photograph and the 1926 plat map. In 1909, the Annual Report of the Park Commission indicates that an ornamental fountain was added and high shrubs replaced with lower ones. The fountain appears to have been short-lived, as many views of the park that appear to have been taken in the 1910s and 1920s show the

center of the park as a flower bed rather than a fountain. Early-20th century postcard views show the appearance of the park at this time, with trees and informal shrubs around the perimeter and more formally planted beds of annuals and other low flowering plants in the center.

In the 1960s-70s, Urban Renewal reshaped much of the Third Ward/Corn Hill neighborhood. Plymouth Avenue was removed south of the park, and renamed Frederick Douglass Avenue north of the park. The oval shape of the park was not altered. The park was relandscaped in 1967 and again in 1977. The 1977 redesign by Carol Johnson and Associates included new benches, paving of brick, concrete sidewalks, ramp details, and a platform for a late-19th century gazebo, which was moved here from its historic site at St. Joseph's Church in downtown Rochester after the church burned in the late 1970s. Existing deciduous trees remained, with new trees added in informal groups of two or three. The square was renamed Charles Lunsford Park in 1986; Dr. Lunsford was a prominent African-American physician in Rochester.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The park is located within the historic Corn Hill neighborhood and is generally surrounded by residential land uses. A few religious structure/ institutions border the park. The neighborhood contains a noteworthy cultural and architectural history and was very deteriorated by the 1960s and 1970s. An urban renewal project was developed in the neighborhood and has been generally successful in transforming the area into a desirable urban historic district.

Natural Systems and Features:

No significant natural systems are located on the park site. The existing shade tree canopy within the park is substantial and is a considerable contributor to the neighborhood's urban forest.

Spatial Organization:

The park generally features two area types, including a central seating plaza space and a series of six similar pedestrian paths, radiating straight out from the park center. The center seating area is heavily shaded and includes bench seating around a small stepped platform with a gazebo. Pathways extend straight toward the park boundary, evenly spaced in a radius around the center plaza. Pathways include bench seating areas along path peripheries.

Buildings and Structures:

The park contains a centrally located gazebo structure, placed upon a raised stone platform with three steps, rising approximately 18" above the surrounding grade. The gazebo was relocated to the site in 1979.

Water Features:

No water features currently exist within the park area.

Materials / Paving materials:

Varied paving materials currently exist on the site. Main radial pathways are generally concrete and are lined with a medina-colored (pink hues) cast concrete edging, approximately 4" above the pathway surface. Portions of the radial pathways near the center plaza space and the park boundaries include a brick paver soldier course, chamfered brick paver corner areas, and brick pavers delineating bench and trash areas along the pathways. The central raised platform and steps are stone. Medina stone piers, approximately 30" in height, are located on either side of the radial pathway entrances from the surrounding streets. A narrow concrete sidewalk (+/- 3' wide) circumnavigates the park edge, connecting radial paths. High stone curbing is features around the street boundary of the park.

Vegetation:

Existing vegetation includes numerous large shade trees. A majority of the site is heavily shaded do to the density of the overhead canopy. Shrubs are very sparsely located near the site boundary. One reasonably substantial planting bed is located at the northern end of the park around historic interpretive signage.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Furnishings include period-style cast iron and wood slat benches and contemporary steel trash receptacles resembling a similar period style. Three small dedication/monuments are located within the park. These include an engraving on the stone platform floor of the gazebo, a plaque and granite marker dedicated to Charles Lunsford, and a wrought iron historic interpretive sign post. Lighting consists of City-standard colonial fixtures on 14' high fiberglass poles.

Circulation:

Circulation through the park consists of the radial path network, extending from the park street boundaries to the center seating plaza. A very narrow sidewalk also circumnavigates the oval-shaped park, but appears more decorative than functional due to the width.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

This square was designed as the focal point of the residential neighborhood, which is still intact. But due to the urban renewal project, major changes were made to surrounding land uses. In both historic and current sense, this public square stands at the heart of the Corn hill neighborhood. Many properties immediately adjacent to the park retain their historic residential character.

Natural Systems and Features:

No significant natural systems were located on the park site. While the existing shade tree canopy is a considerable contributor to the neighborhood's urban forest, the original design intent of the Olmsted plan was to have the central plaza area open to sunlight, with notable plantings.

Spatial Organization:

The spatial organization has been highly modified, though the park's overall shape and a formal central spatial area remains. In 1977 a new plan was designed by Carol Johnson and Associates. The 1977 new design significantly changed the original configuration of Olmsted design, creating six sidewalks radiating out from the central hub. The park originally had four distinct seating areas, located at four different quadrants, off of the central planting beds. The curvilinear path network and seating areas have been completely removed. The central space originally features a fountain, which later became a planting bed.

Buildings and Structures:

The gazebo was not a part of this square and was added in 1979. The gazebo was moved to the park site from its original location at St. Joseph's Church on Franklin Street.

Water Features:

No water feature exists in this park presently, although an ornamental fountain was placed in Plymouth Park in 1909 and was a central feature in the park until it was redeveloped into a planting bed prior to 1931 and later removed.

Materials / Paving materials:

The Olmsted design for the park site included basic concrete paved walkways. The original pathway networks have been completely revised and brick materials have been added as bordering pavements. It is unclear what other hardscape materials the Olmsted plan included, as concrete walks were the primary surface treatment. The high stone curbing was an original feature of the park during the period of significance. However, the stone curbing once seamlessly connected to a decorative stone pier, delineating pathway entrances from the street. Existing square stone piers near pathway entrances are a modern interpretation of this original feature, but do not resemble the original design.

Vegetation:

Vegetation within the park has been revised substantially over time. The park design originally included a substantial number of ornamental plantings, including hedges and major planting beds backing the four seating areas. Many varieties of flowering shrubs appeared within these planting beds, including Spice Bush, Privet, Arrowwood, Pepperbush, Barberry, Dogwood, Snowberry, and a host of flowering perennials. Additional curvilinear shaped planting beds were an important vibrant vegetative feature, mirrored in a formal fashion around the central fountain area. Seating was placed to take in the views of these open planting beds and buffer from the surrounding street traffic. Tree species were limited to the outer periphery of the park, leaving enough open sun area to maintain healthy perennial and annual flower beds within the center of the park. Comparatively, the park now features very little vegetation and an overabundance of shaded canopy area.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Contemporary benches along pathways resemble period style site furnishings that may have been present during the period of significance. The benches are traditional wood slat seating and backing with decorative cast iron supports. Lighting throughout the park has been completely replaced. Original fixtures appear to be two different styles in historic images, including cast concrete poles with an acorn fixture and taller decorative cast iron poles with a large harp-style street lamp fixture.

Circulation:

The circulation system has been completely altered from the park's Olmsted design. The park formerly featured a main pathway with a slightly north-south axis that divided into four small seating areas and a central water feature and planting bed. The pathway and seating areas were curvilinear; forming broad elliptical concrete walks, connecting to smaller east-west peripheral pathways. Subsequent redesigns have replaced the circulation pattern with a six-spoked radial system of straight pathways leading to a center plaza and gazebo area.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Plymouth Circle does not appear to meet the criteria for individual National Register listing due to a loss of integrity; however, it could be eligible for listing as a contributing site in a National Register district, as described below.

Plymouth Circle is one of the oldest public squares in the city of Rochester. It retains its historic boundaries and its historic context as the centerpiece of a 19th-century residential neighborhood. Its redesign by the Olmsted firm was also significant; however, subsequent redesigns have led to the alteration of the Olmsted circulation system and planting plan so that little of that design remains in evidence.

When the Corn Hill Preservation District was initially proposed, it was to have included Plymouth Circle. Due to the politically contentious nature of that process, the size of the district was substantially reduced, and both the Preservation District and the National Register-listed historic district exclude the southern portion where the circle is located. This should be revisited, as continued rehabilitation work and appropriate infill projects have changed the neighborhood considerably over the past 40 years and could justify the expansion of the district to again include the circle. If that were to happen, the circle would qualify as a contributing element. As an individual park element, however, it does not have sufficient integrity either to its period as a Public Square or its redesign by the Olmsted firm to meet the registration requirements established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for a public square.

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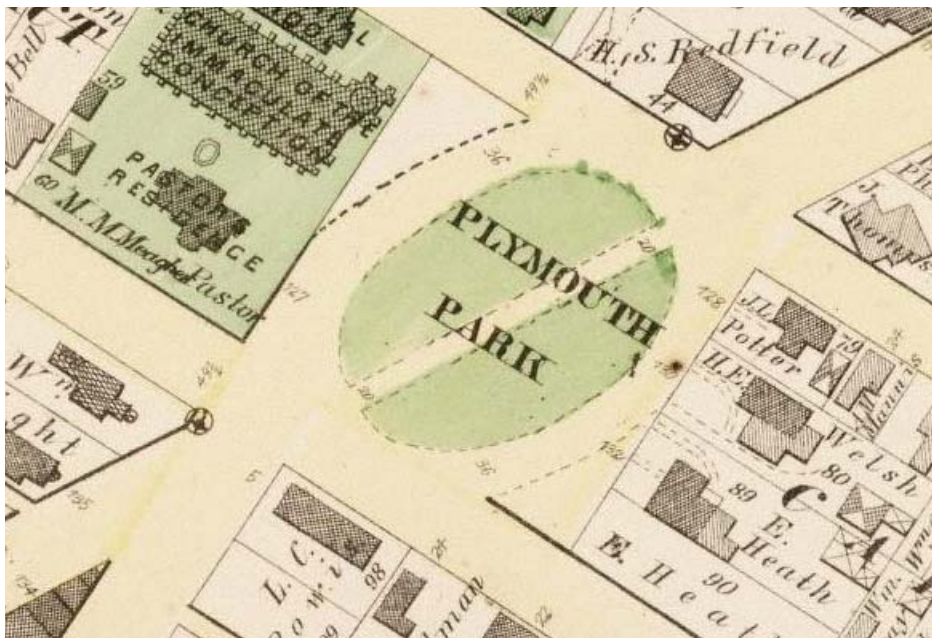
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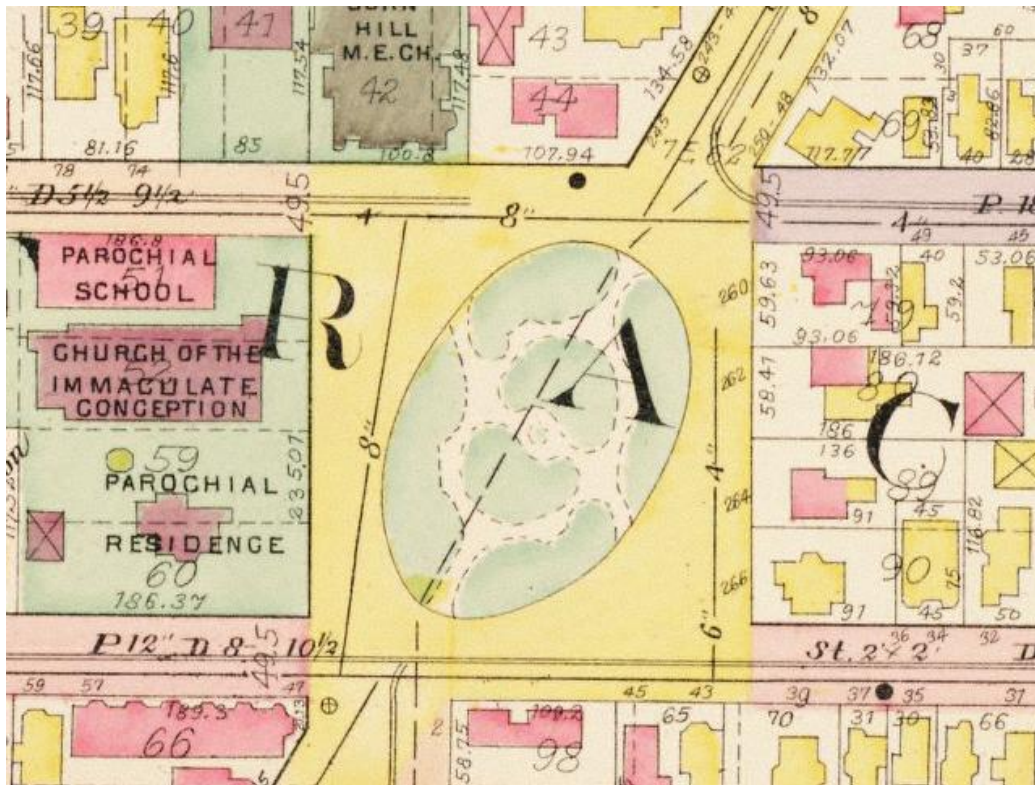
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Plymouth Circle, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1875 plat map



1900 plat map, showing alteration of circulation system in accordance with Olmsted design



rpc1927a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Early-20th century view of Plymouth Park



rpc1929a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Plymouth Park with fountain, ca. 1909



rpc1939a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Early-20th century postcard view of Plymouth Park



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Plymouth Park, circa 1920s



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Plymouth Park, circa 1931



Plymouth Circle, looking north towards central gazebo/plaza, 2009.



Plymouth Circle, central gazebo/plaza space, 2009.



Plymouth Circle, stone piers at pathway entrances from 1977 redesign, 2009.



Plymouth Circle, brick paver areas and benches along pathway, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Riverside Cemetery	Location Description:
Location:	2600 Lake Avenue	Cemetery with western frontage on Lake Avenue, with residential properties fronting Burley Rd to the north, Genesee River to the east, and Holy Sepulcher Cemetery to the South.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:286603,4788345	
Tax ID:	076.290-0001-009.000	
Existing Zoning:	O-S (Open Space)	

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Rural/Victorian Cemetery
Size:	95.69 Acres (Rochester GIS parcel data) 200 Acres (Rochester parks database)
Dimensions:	Varies (approx. +/- 1675' x 3100', with varied edge)
Topographic Description:	Varied, rolling w/steep slopes on eastern end toward river
Date of Construction:	1892 (founded)
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Overall design attributed to W. W. Parce; portions of cemetery designed by landscape architect Alling DeForest
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

Riverside Cemetery has its origins as a for-profit venture of a group of entrepreneurs who saw an opportunity to provide a new burial option for Rochester's growing population. Because it was illegal, for health reasons, to create a private cemetery within city limits, the group looked north to the town of Greece, where they purchased former farm and nursery grounds and founded the private Riverside Cemetery Association in 1892. A plan of the cemetery indicates that the landscape architect was W. W. Parce. He laid out an undulating, bucolic landscape with curvilinear paths, a small lake, and numerous specimen plantings, establishing a parklike horticultural showplace similar to the rural cemetery established at Mt. Hope, although with less dramatic terrain. Some of the grand features originally envisioned, including a large glass-covered conservatory, were not constructed. Sections that were developed later reflect the 20th-century lawn or memorial park style rather than the earlier, Victorian/rural style of cemetery design.

It is notable that the development of the cemetery coincided with the creation of Frederick Law Olmsted's plan for Seneca Park, which is across the river from the cemetery. Olmsted's goal was to protect the dramatic landscape on both sides of the river from development and provide public access to natural scenery; the presence of both Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and the adjacent Riverside Cemetery already accomplished that goal by ensuring that a sizable swath of the west bank would never be developed for industrial, commercial or residential uses. Siting Seneca Park across from the two cemeteries was an economical way for Olmsted to achieve his design intent.

The cemetery was annexed into the City of Rochester, along with other lands of the town of Greece, in 1918. The cemetery was never very successful financially, and in 1942, the City of Rochester took over ownership, making this the city's second large municipal cemetery. At that time, a newspaper account indicated that approximately half the cemetery had been developed into lots.

Notable families whose members were buried here include the Edmund Lyon family, the Alling DeForest family, and the Gleason family, including Kate Gleason.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

Riverside Cemetery features a naturalistic setting, with rolling hills, curvilinear drives, pastoral meadows and ponds, and assorted funerary sculpture framed by significant horticultural specimens. The northern boundary of the cemetery is adjacent to a single family residential neighborhood located off Lake Avenue. East of the cemetery is the Genesee River gorge, with the river way trail and natural wooded slopes. The remaining lands surrounding the cemetery consist of the adjacent Holy Sepulcher Cemetery to the immediate south and west, across Lake Avenue.

Natural Systems and Features:

The designed landscape of the cemetery exists as a considerable natural horticultural resource. The specimen plantings and the heavily wooded edge are a strong feature to the park. The rear (east) section of the cemetery is bounded by a significant woodland and wetland area along the edge of the Genesee River.

Spatial Organization:

The cemetery includes more than a dozen large burial sections, each surrounded by a curving internal drive system, and boasting large plant specimens and groupings. The cemetery is entered from the southwestern section along Lake Avenue. A main entry drive extends east past a historic stone gatehouse, into the park past several contemporary mausoleum structures on the south side. The drive continues east past secondary cemetery drives, before curving slightly northward at the toe of a pond. Directly north of the pond is a burial section upon a small hill that appears to be the cemetery's high point. Cemetery drives wind and snake throughout the area to the north and west, generally following topography. The cemetery begins to flatten towards the eastern end, where a more regular grid pattern of burial monuments extends towards the cemetery periphery.

Buildings and Structures:

Existing buildings within the park include the main gatehouse and chapel, located at the main entrance off Lake Avenue, and three mausoleum structures just southeast of the entry. One mausoleum appears to currently be under construction. A smaller historic stone crematorium is built into the hillside along the cemetery's westernmost internal drive.

Water Features:

Description of any existing water features, including natural or designed features – fountains, ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, falls.

The cemetery includes a large pond area centrally located along the southern boundary. The pond is irregularly shaped, with maximum dimensions of roughly 180' by 300'. The pond is generally lined with mown grassy banks, but includes a small wetland/riparian area on the southeast end. The pond features a small island and bridge. The island contains several large evergreen trees.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving throughout the cemetery's road network is asphalt. Concrete sidewalks are located near parking areas fronting the gatehouse and mausoleums. At the parks eastern side a concrete walkway extends into a burial space dedicated to armed service men and women. Another newly constructed concrete sidewalk extends perpendicular from the westernmost cemetery drive, towards the eastern wooded edge of the cemetery. The sidewalk currently dead-ends into a small T-shape and does not seem to lead to any cemetery features or defined areas.

Vegetation:

The park includes a significant collection of large specimen trees and shrubs. Large oaks, maples, and beech trees stand out at the edges of grassy burial sections. Groupings of evergreen trees often hide and reveal terrain formations along various points of the cemetery's circulation network. The western portion of the cemetery is more tightly planted with pastoral groupings, vegetative openings, and specimen trees. While the park's eastern end is much more flat and features a less dense canopy. The entire boundary of the park features a naturalistic wooded edge.

Furnishings/Monuments:

The entire cemetery contains a considerable variation of funerary sculpture, wrought iron work, and landscape masonry. Many crosses, statuettes, draped urns, and obelisks dot the park's small peaks, topographic depressions, and hillsides.

Circulation:

The parks circulation network generally consists of a main entry drive, extending west to east from the cemetery entrance and gatehouse. The drive continues straight towards a small crossroads and winds towards the back (eastern) half of the site. Many alternate drives extend out from this main drive, looping around burial sections, creating a large honeycomb matrix of cemetery access roads.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The surrounding neighborhood and immediate context have not been significantly altered. The designed landscape setting of the cemetery has not been significantly altered. Some additions have been made, typical to a cemetery.

Natural Systems and Features:

Natural systems and features within and near the cemetery have not been notably altered.

Spatial Organization:

The spatial organization of the cemetery appears to remain intact. Some additional plots areas and funerary buildings have been developed, but do not generally alter the designed spaces of the site.

Buildings and Structures:

Buildings and structures have not been significantly altered. Some modifications have been made to the entry gate house and former chapel.

Water Features:

Water features within the pond in Riverside Cemetery appear to remain intact and remain characteristic to the design intent.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving materials likely have changed over time from cobble pavers or other stone material to an asphalt road network. This paving would have probably been present in the oldest sections of the cemetery, however more research would need to be conducted.

Vegetation:

Designed vegetative shade tree and ornamental massings and noteworthy specimens are present within the cemetery and appear to remain intact.

Furnishings/Monuments:

The considerable variation of funerary sculpture appears to be maintained and considerably added to over the years. Overall, monuments, iron work, and decorative masonry have not been significantly altered.

Circulation:

The park's circulation network appears to be intact. Additional plot groups and pathways have been developed over time, but are consistent with the overall circulation.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Riverside Cemetery appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places primarily under Criterion C, as a notable example of late-nineteenth century cemetery design. The landscape architecture, the architecture, and the funerary art in the cemetery are all significant. The cemetery

may also have significance for under Criterion A, for its role in the history of Rochester, and/or B, for its association with notable people. Because this is a large and complex site, more research is recommended to fully document its evolution and significance. Documentation and designation of this site should be a priority.

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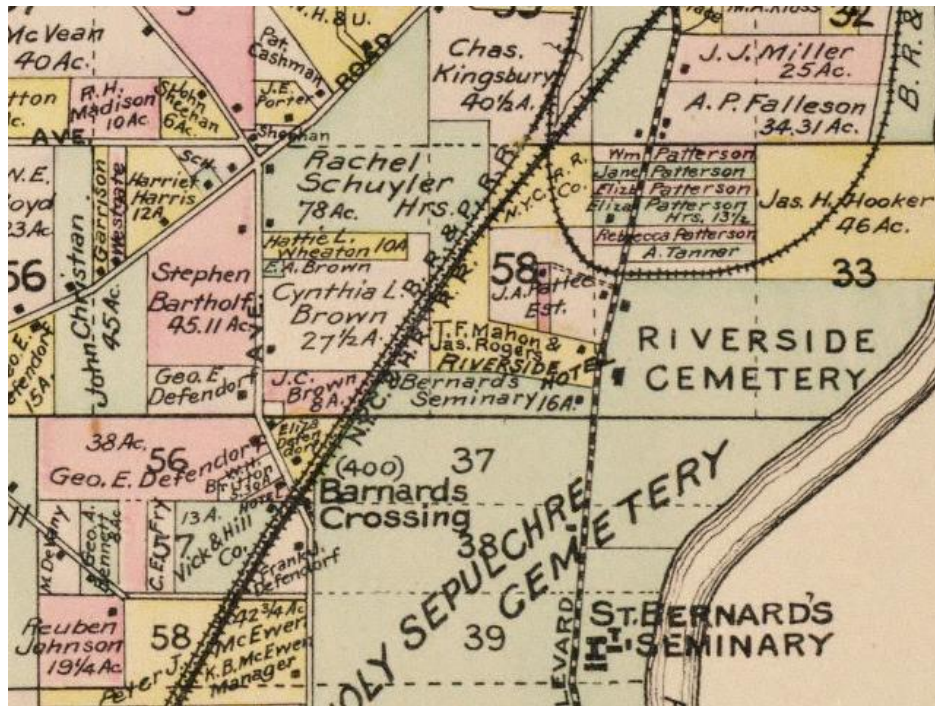
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Riverside Cemetery, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



Greece plat map, 1902.



1918 plat map



Historic view of Riverside Cemetery, courtesy Tim O'Connell.



Historic view of Riverside Cemetery Gatehouse/Superintendent's Residence, courtesy Tim O'Connell.



Riverside Cemetery, gatehouse, 2009.



Riverside Cemetery, drive heading east into the cemetery, 2009.



Riverside Cemetery, looking southeast across pond, 2009.



Riverside Cemetery, specimen Beech tree, 2009.



Riverside Cemetery, contemporary mausoleum, 2009.

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Name(s):	Washington Square Park	Location Description:	
Location:	10 St Marys Place		Park site bounded by Clinton Avenue on the east, Woodbury Blvd on the south, St Marys Place on the west, and Court St on the north.
Coordinates:	UTM: (Datum: WGS-84) Zone: 18T E/N:288168,4781146		
Tax ID:	121.320-0001-009.000		
Existing Zoning:	CCD (Center City District)		

PARK INFORMATION

Park Type:	Public Square
Size:	1.083 Acres
Dimensions:	+/- 365' x 120'
Topographic Description:	Flat, curbed walkways, raised monument
Date of Construction:	c. 1817; redesigned 1892-93
Landscape Architect(s)/Designer(s):	Olmsted firm
Current landmark designation status:	None

CULTURAL / HISTORIC INFORMATION

The history of Washington Square is related in detail in the *Small Parks and Squares* document.

Washington Square is one of the City of Rochester's oldest public spaces. Elisha Johnson laid out an 80-acre tract ca. 1817 with a large square at its center, intended to be the site of a courthouse. Like competing land developers in the vicinity, Johnson expected that the site that attracted a courthouse would it become the center of the community. Colonel Rochester's site on the west side of the river won out, and the other two courthouse sites became early public squares. Johnson donated his site to Rochester in around 1837 by subdivision dedication, according to the Raitt report.

On the 1875 *City Atlas of Rochester*, the park appears with the label "Washington Square," and a simple X-shaped path layout. The surrounding neighborhood was a fully built up, primarily residential area; St. Mary's Church and the pastor's residence were present on the west side of the square, and the arsenal was shown to the south on the site that is now Geva Theatre. The 1888 map shows no change to the park and little change to the surrounding area.

Public interest in a monument to commemorate the Civil War culminated in the dedication of the Soldiers Monument in Washington Square on May 30, 1892. The dedication ceremony was a grand event, featuring "an imposing parade of ten thousand people, headed by war veterans and comprising most of the older boys of the public schools; President Harrison, Governor Flower and Frederick Douglass were present as the guests of the city and made addresses at the unveiling of the statue, the other speakers being Col. John A. Reynolds, President Hill, Senator Parsons and Mayor Curran," according to historian William F. Peck. The monument, which cost \$26,000, was paid for "by popular

subscription and the proceeds of entertainments.” The sculpture of Lincoln was the work of Leonard Wells Volk, who had made casts of Lincoln’s hands and face during his lifetime. It is not known whether Volk also created the statues representing a Civil War sailor, office, cannoneer and infantryman around the base of the sculpture. Two days after the dedication, a variety of historical and commemorative items were placed in the cornerstone of the monument.

Also in 1892, Washington Square renovation plans were contracted to the Olmsted firm. On September 27, 1892, Common Council minutes record acceptance of the improvements as designed by “Olmsted & Co.,” these improvements included regarding and seeding, new eight-foot Portland cement walks on all four sides and 10-foot walks within the square, all with edge stones. There was also to be “a space 60 by 80 (?) feet about the Soldiers Monument constructed in the same manner of the walks.” Common Council minutes from the following September noted the beauty and central location of Washington Square, as well as “the magnificent monument to the memory of the dead soldiers of Rochester,” all of which justified “the universal opinion that the square should be improved in a suitable manner.” The Olmsted design modified the existing diagonal walks to create gently curving walks that started near the corners and met at the large central plaza surrounding the monument, which was located at the center of the rectangular park. As the *City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares* report describes the plan:

A February 1, 1893 Planting Plan of Washington Square attributed to the Olmsted Firm shows the addition of clumps of shrubs along the two diagonal curving paths. Most of the shrubs are flowering and deciduous, planted in large masses. Thirty-two different varieties of shrubs and ground covers are recommended... The shrubs are shown to be planted in large masses along the edge of the sidewalks paralleling Court and Wood Streets. Existing trees are incorporated into the groupings. Other shrub masses are placed along the interior park walks connecting the four corners of the park to the central monument. There are three masses in the lawn along South Street but there are four masses along South Clinton Street. Two other shrub masses are placed along the edge of the walks to the either side of the monument. Benches are incorporated into the edge of the walkways, facing the interior of the park and the central monument.

Various iterations of the Olmsted design are found in the City Archives. Images of the park from the turn of the century reveal that the park was developed in accordance with this concept: curving walks and masses of shrubs are present, along with benches and, of course, the monument.

The cannon at the north end of the park (not on its pedestal at the time of this survey) was installed in 1921, its setting possibly designed by the architecture firm Gordon & Kaelber. Its plaque reads: “Austrian Cannon, Captured by the undefeated Third Italian Army in the Battle of Vittorio Veneto October 24th-November 3rd 1918, First decisive victory of the Allies. To the patriotic City of Rochester, June 1921.”

A small white house stood on the square from 1932-39. It had been placed there “originally as an exhibit to acquaint homeowners with the possibility of converting an old house into a modern dwelling.” (*Times-Union*, 24 April 1939, cited in “*City of Rochester Small Parks and Squares*.”)

The presence of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument and the Austrian cannon presumably explains why Washington Square served as a gathering point in the 1960s and 1970s for anti-war protesters.

A simple memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt was dedicated on January 30, 1982, the 100th anniversary of his birth. The site was chosen because it was in the Armory across the street (where Geva is now located) that Roosevelt was nominated for governor by the New York State Democratic Convention. The area around the armory was ceremonially renamed Franklin Delano Roosevelt Plaza at that time.

At some time, the square was modified from its original configuration, as the aerial view reveals that the park is no longer as symmetrical as it was historically. This appears to have been due to widening of Clinton Avenue.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

The park's setting is highly urban, located adjacent to a dense mixture of office buildings, cultural institutions, and religious structures. The Geva Theater is located across Woodbury Blvd to the south in the former Armory and is a significant cultural institution that draws many to the area. St Mary's Church, which includes a small parking area and gardens, is located to the west of Washington Square. High-rise office buildings bound the site to the north, including the Xerox tower and Bausch and Lomb buildings.

Natural Systems and Features:

The park does not contain any significant natural features or ecological communities. However, the park's tree canopy makes an important contribution to the overall urban forest within downtown Rochester.

Spatial Organization:

The park block consists of a rectangle green space, with a north south axis, bounded by urban streetscape and sidewalks. The interior of the park itself features three distinct spaces and a curvilinear path system with connections from the parks corners in an "X" formation. Broad curved pathways extend inward from sidewalks along peripheral streets, arcing into one another at the center of the park to create a large concrete plaza area. The central plaza space measures approximately 60' x 80' with length along the north-south axis. A large Soldiers monument is located at the center of the plaza space.

To the north and south of the plaza space, between the curving pathway connections to the block's corners, are distinct oval lawn areas. Both lawn areas are heavily shaded and feature a variety of elements, including benches, picnic tables, a wooden stage, and two additional monuments. The southern lawn area includes a large block monument inscribed to Franklin D. Roosevelt along the Woodbury Blvd boundary. The northern lawn area includes a concrete/stone plinth with a cannon (not present at time of survey) and a small paved area around the monument.

Buildings and Structures:

No buildings are currently located within Washington Square Park. A small wooden stage has been set up within the park's southern-most grassy area, but appears to be temporary.

Water Features:

No water features are currently located within the park.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving materials for pathways consist exclusively of concrete. Stone curbing lines park walkways, separating grassy and planting areas, and forming spaces for benches.

Vegetation:

Vegetation throughout the park includes ornamental trees, limited areas of shrubs plantings, and a considerably dense canopy of shade trees. Shade trees include maples, oaks, Sycamores, and Locusts.

A narrow U-shaped planting bed surrounds the pavement walkway near the cannon monument on the park's north end. No plants are currently located in the bed, but the soil has been prepped for planting or recently disturbed. A lone ornamental shrub (Sandcherry) is located just south of the cannon monument. Small trimmed hedgerows are also located on either side of the central plaza space, between the plaza and the street sidewalk.

Street trees line the parks peripheral streets. No other plantings or vegetative elements are visible in the park.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Three monuments exist within the park. A Soldiers Monument contains a central pier with a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln on the top. Four additional statures surround the monument base, which includes a raised stone platform, steps, and several plaques. A circular plaque on the monument's west side appears to be missing from its stone setting area. Two additional monuments are located at the parks southern and northern periphery, along Woodbury Blvd and Court Street, respectively. The former consists of a stone/concrete base and iron cannon, while the latter is a stone block inscribed to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Other park furnishings include period style ornamental benches and lighting. Lighting includes two different fixture types, one fixture style which is internal to the park and another style that exists along the street frontages. The park's internal lighting consists of a historic ornamental harp-style fixture on somewhat decorative steel pole, approximately 14' in height. Street lighting along the park periphery includes contemporary globe-style fixtures on steel posts, approximately 12' in height.

Four wooden picnic benches are located in park lawn areas.

Circulation:

Circulation within the park is through a simple network of paths designed in a general X-formation. Pathways lead from the park's corners and arc in toward a central plaza space. Sidewalks also line the park periphery along all bounding streets.

INTEGRITY

Setting and Neighborhood Context:

Washington Square Park's setting remains generally intact and surrounded by downtown urban land uses. Redevelopment has occurred through the years but the park's overall context continues to be urban.

Natural Systems and Features:

The park does not contain any significant natural features or ecological communities.

Spatial Organization:

The park's spatial organization generally retains the dimensions, designed spaces, and alignments of the original Olmsted design of the public square. Organizationally, the park is very much intact and characterizes the forms from the park's period of significance. However, a major alteration may have been altered the park's original boundary, which appears to have extended 12 to 15 feet further east than currently located. A strip of land on the park's eastern side may have been taken to add an additional lane to Clinton Avenue. A comparison between existing aerial photographs, historic plat maps, and Olmsted office drawings reveal that the pathways extending from the central plaza to the northeast and southeast corners have been slightly cut off. The eastern paths join into the existing street sidewalk network much further towards the center of the park than the paths on the western side. Historic drawings and maps show the path system as a mirror image from east to west.

Buildings and Structures:

No buildings or structures were incorporated into the original design for or were known to exist on the park site during the park's period of significance.

Water Features:

No water features were incorporated into the original design for or were known to exist on the park site during the park's period of significance.

Materials / Paving materials:

Paving and materials throughout the site are generally in harmony with the park's original design. Portland cement was used for park pathways and the central plaza space. Though the park's paving has been replaced over time, no significant additions or alterations have been made with respect to the period of significance.

Vegetation:

Vegetation throughout the park site has been modified from the park's original design. Changes in the vegetative inclusions throughout the park consist mainly of removals of shrubs, ornamentals, and ground massings. There are currently very few shrub plantings or other ornamental plantings beds within the park. The original Olmsted drawings feature large shrubs masses flanking street-side sidewalks and include massings located behind seating areas along interior curvilinear walks. These massings consisted of a large variety of species, including Dogwood, Viburnum, Boxwood, Spirea, Forsythia, and Yucca, among others. A 1919 photograph shows that a hedgerow once existed around the base of the Soldiers Monument.

Like many era parks, Washington Square also featured towering Elm trees among the deciduous shade tree plantings. Overall, shade tree plantings were prescribed to create a much thinner canopy than currently exists, with the central plaza being more open to sunlight.

The public square also featured extensive bulb plantings (described in a 1900 parks Commissioners report as), including narcissus, iris, snow drop, crocus, tulips, and hyacinth.

Furnishings/Monuments:

Monuments within the park appear to be consistent with the park's period of significance and noteworthy design iterations. The Soldiers Monument was a central feature to the early square and Olmsted design, first dedicated in 1892. Two monuments have been added to the park since, including the cannon, in 1921, and the FDR monument, dedicated in 1982.

Lighting and other furnishings appear to reflect the park's period of significance, with the exception of lighting along the surrounding tree lawns, which appear to be contemporary globe-style fixtures. Two drinking fountains originally flanked the central plaza space, which are no longer present.

Circulation:

Circulation throughout the park has not been altered or changed to any great degree from the park's original design. The path network remains in a curvilinear X-formation as represented on early plat maps and Olmsted drawings. Portions of the eastern pathways appear to have been cut off during and tied into a replacement sidewalk approximate 12 to 15 feet further west than originally designed. This accounts for the street width variation of Clinton Avenue, where an additional lane may have been created from former park space. Though this removal may be significant, it does not alter the circulation patterns to any great degree.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Washington Square appears to meet the criteria for National Register eligibility established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Rochester Municipal Park System as a Public Square. As one of the earliest public spaces in the city, Washington Square is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the city's early settlement. It is also significant under Criterion C for its subsequent redesign by the Olmsted firm in the 1890s, when the firm was still under the leadership of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument, which features the Lincoln statue by

notable sculptor Leonard Wells Volk, is also highly significant. Contributing features include the circulation system, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, and the cannon. Additional research is needed to determine whether site furnishings such as benches and light fixtures, many of which are compatible with the historic character of the park if not actually historic, are contributing or noncontributing.

As one of the best surviving examples of a public square and of the Olmsted firm's work in the small parks and squares of Rochester, Washington Square should be a high priority for designation as a local landmark as well as for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Research sources for further investigation include the Olmsted firm's plans and related documentation in the City Archives; additional research is also needed to clarify when the shape of the square was modified.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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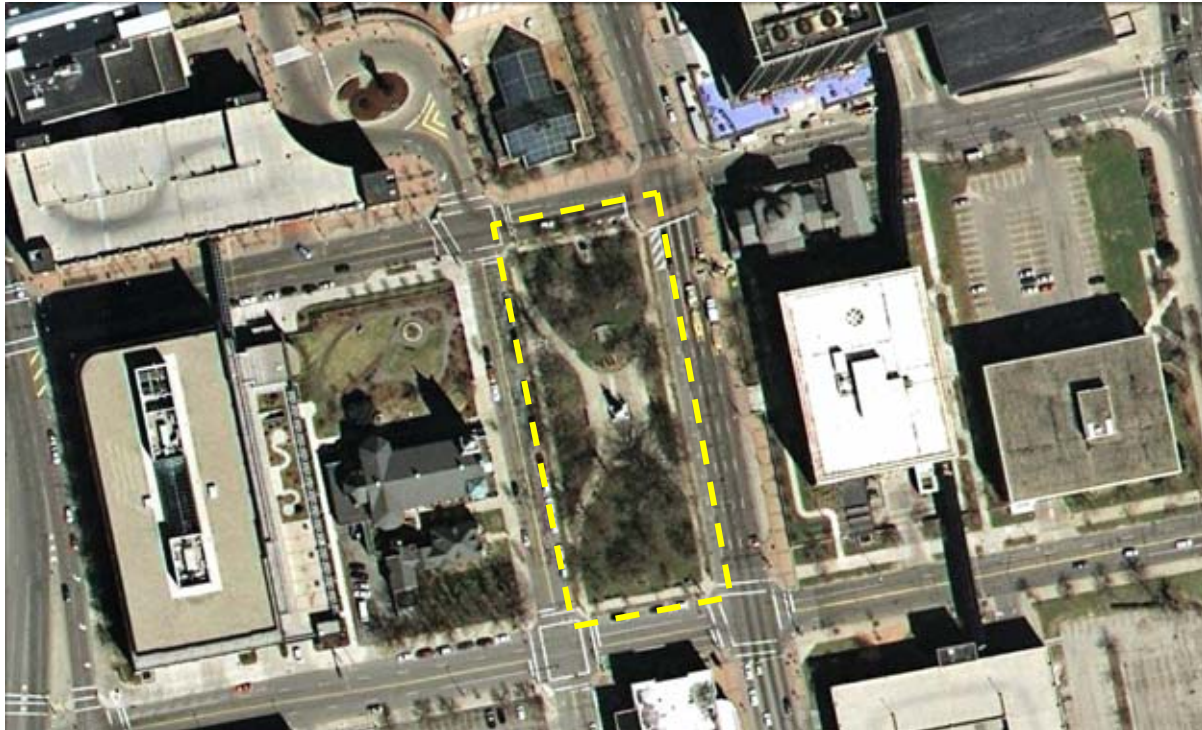
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Washington Square Park, aerial photo. (Google / NYS GIS Clearinghouse)



1885 plat map



1900 plat map, showing Olmsted-designed path system and central "Soldiers Monument."



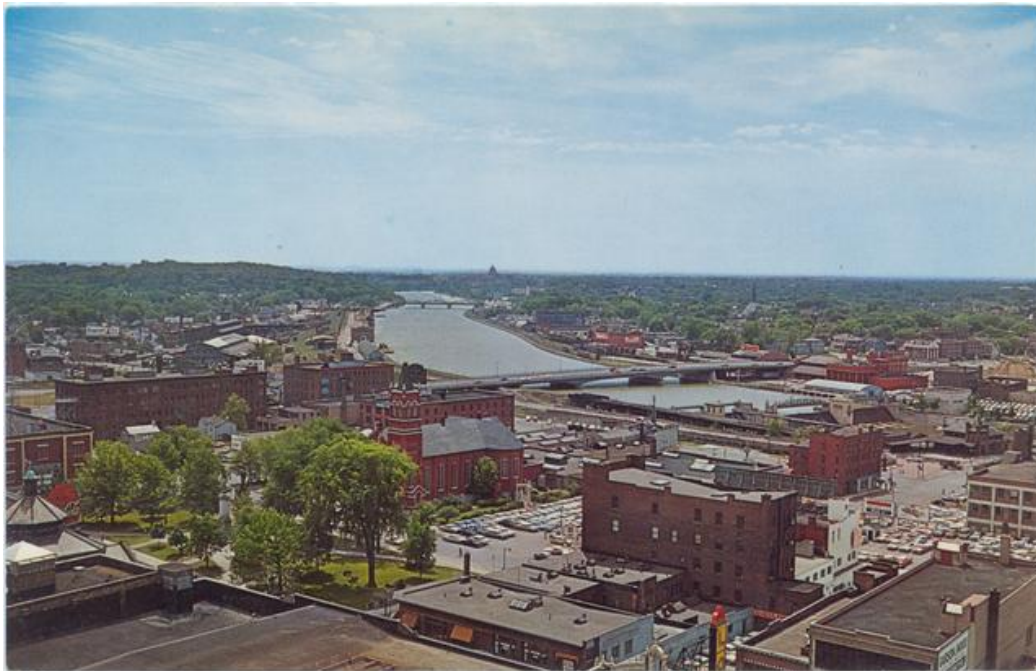
e0000011.jpg Rochester Municipal Archives

Washington Square, 1892.



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Washington Square, ca. 1919.



rpc0068a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Aerial view of Washington Square and surrounding area, ca. 1970.



Washington Square Park, looking north along western park boundary, 2009.



Washington Square Park, soldiers monument and light fixture, 2009.



Washington Square Park, FRD memorial along Woodbury Blvd, 2009.



Washington Square Park, seating area, 2009.



Washington Square Park, base for Austrian cannon (cannon is currently missing), 2009.