

Cambridge Recreation Department Collection

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Provenance: Donated by Curtis Gaines, an employee of Human Services, in August 1995. Subsequent donation by Department of Human Resources, September 1999.

Collection ID: CHC011

Dates: 1892-1991

Extent: 3 boxes

Processing: Processing and finding aid by Matthew Hall, September 18, 1995. Finding aid reformatted by Brittany Fox, October 2020.

Languages: English

Access: Collection is available for research under the CHC rules of use.

New Accruals: Box 3 was received by the Cambridge Department of Human Resources after the original arrangement was established in boxes 1 and 2. Separation has been retained to demarcate the division.

Collection Description:

This collection contains 23 photographs, 3 scrapbooks, 3 books, City Council orders, a ledger (ca. 1925-1935), a map and excavation contract for the Alberico play area, and some loose papers on yearly budget appropriations (1923-1944). The bulk of the collection consists of orders from the City Council discussing department financial matters, park maintenance and upkeep, and general information on the department. The time period ranges from March 29, 1892- January 30, 1900; December 6, 1932 - December 12, 1939; May 13, 1946 - December 17, 1951.

Scope and Content:

The materials include 23 photographs (which were added to previous Recreation Department photos owned by the Historical Commission and put in a box labelled "Cambridge Recreation Department Photographs"), 3 scrapbooks, 3 books, City Council orders, a ledger (ca. 1925-1935), a map and excavation contract for the Alberico play area, and some loose papers on yearly budget appropriations (1923-1944).

The bulk of the collection consists of orders from the City Council discussing department financial matters, park maintenance and upkeep, and general information on the department. All of the orders are signed by the City Clerk. The time period ranges from March 29, 1892- January 30, 1900; December 6, 1932 - December 12, 1939; May 13, 1946 - December 17, 1951.

The scrapbooks also constitute a substantial amount of information. They are clippings of Recreation Department activities with dates ca. 1956-1966; ca. 1973-1976; ca. 1977-1981. These have been photocopied and the originals have been discarded.

Separated Material:

The books/pamphlets that were donated are now located in the Cambridge Historical Commission library. The books are *City of Cambridge: Park Department, Annual Report 1897-1900*; *Cambridge Park Department Reports 1901-1904*; and *Annual Report of the Park Department 1921*.

System of Arrangement:

Box 1 - City Council Orders

Box 2 - City Council Orders/ Budget/ Excavation / Scrapbooks

Box 3 -

Series I: City Recreation Planning

Series II: Area-specific Planning Maps

Series III: School Playground Planning

Series IV: Records and Reports

Series V: Photographs

Folder-level list:

Box 1

1. City Council Orders - March 1892 - May 1897
2. City Council Orders - June 1897 - December 1898
3. City Council Orders - January 1899 - December 1899
4. City Council Orders - January 1900 - March 1903
5. City Council Orders - December 1932 - February 1936
6. City Council Orders - March 1936 - April 1938

Box 2

7. City Council Orders - May 1938 - December 1939
8. City Council Orders - May 1946 - May 1948
9. City Council Orders - June 1948 - December 1951
10. Budget Appropriations Material - 1923-1944
11. Ledger - ca. 1925-1935
12. Excavation Contract and Map of Alberico Play Area - n.d.
13. Scrapbooks 0 ca. 1956-1981

Box 3

Series I: City Recreation Planning

1. Capital Improvement park and playground planning (1953-1964) file folder
2. [2] Recreation Department city planning maps (1960, 1975) file folder

Series II: Area-specific Planning Maps

1. [1] Fresh Pond Golf course map - site utilities and seasonal flooding (1984) file folder
2. [1] Riverside Press Park map (1979) file folder
3. [2] Russell Field planning maps (1959-1960) file folder
4. [2] Glacken Park planning maps (1973, 1984) file folder

Series III: School Playground Planning

1. Houghton School playground planning (Feb-Nov 1958) - includes sketch plans, [2] maps, notes and letters. Also included is [1] map from (1953) file folder
2. Houghton and Harrington school playground equipment (1960) file folder

Series IV: Records and Reports

1. First Annual Report of the Playground Commission (1910) file folder and original copy
2. Department of Recreation Scrapbook (1965-1977) file folder
3. City of Cambridge Special Commission of Playgrounds (1910) includes [1] volume and [1] folder with papers that were inside of book
4. [4] volumes of Cambridge Park Department Appropriation requests (April 1903-Jan 1910), (Jan 1910-April 1914), (Sep 1922-Nov 1932), (March 1952-Oct 1956)

Series V: Photographs

1. Park Department photographs (ca. 1950-1966) these include photographs ranging from children playing in city parks to politicians shaking hands

Received from Cambridge Department of Human Resources September 1999.

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