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Cambridge Historical Commission
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SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Cambridge Recreation Department Collection was donated to the Cambridge Historical Commission in August 1995 by Curtis Gaines, an employee of Human Services. The material included 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 (n.d., c.1925-c.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 c.1956 - c.1966; c.1973 - c.1976; c.1977 - c.1981. ~~The originals have been placed in storage,~~ (discarded) and photocopies have been made and put with the collection.

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.

CAMBRIDGE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

BOX / FOLDER 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 / c.1925 - c.1935
- 12.) EXCAVATION CONTRACT AND MAP OF ALBERICO PLAY AREA /
n.d.
- 13.) SCRAPBOOKS / c.1956 - c.1981

The Cambridge Recreation Department Archive box contains:

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

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 planing maps, (1959-1960) file folder
4. [2] Glacken Park planning maps, (1973, 1984) file folder

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

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 on 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), (Sept. 1922- Nov. 1932), (March 1952- Oct. 1956)

V. Photographs:

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

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