



Essex County Parks Archives

Essex County Department of Parks,
Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

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News:

Film Clip Donated

We are excited to have received a clip of a Wiss family movie from 1928 showing the children sledding in Branch Brook Park.

Be part of the 125th Anniversary celebration of the Essex County Parks, too! If you have old photos taken by your family in any of the Essex County parks, the Parks Archives would enjoy seeing them and hearing your cherished park memories as we prepare for this special anniversary in 2020. Send digital images and written stories to archives@parks.essexcountynj.org or call 973-735-6230 to discuss.

Upcoming:

Archives & History Day

On Saturday, October 12, the Parks Archives will be represented at Archives Day at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan. This year's focus is New Jersey's women, especially in the fight for suffrage. We have prepared an exhibit on women special to our parks.

Calling on the Experts: Landscape Architects

In addition to seeking out Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., the Essex County Park Commission solicited ideas for a county-wide system of parks and parkways from a number of other landscape architects and firms. Those who were asked and paid to participate had experience in large park enterprises, both public and private, national and abroad. The invited architects were Ehrenberg & Webster; John Bogart, a landscape architect connected with Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Washington Park in Albany, and public parks in Nashville and Chicago; Nathan F. Barrett, associated with creating the Chevy Chase neighborhood near Washington, D.C. and co-founder of the American Society of Landscape Architects; and Gray and Blaisdell (Arthur F. and Frank M.), landscape architects associated with public parks and cemeteries in Boston.

Each park expert was “turned loose in the county” with a map and asked to mark the locations of each proposed park and their connecting parkways. The Commission’s plan was to gather “a series of schemes for a system of parks, each different from the other, and out of these to cull the most excellent points and combine them into an ideal plan.” The plans were understood to be competitive designs, with the most supportable design having “an advanced position for future engagement should their plans be carried out.”



Park System Proposal from Gray & Blaisdell



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Putting Essex County First