

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lake Park

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2900 North Lake Drive and
2800 East Kenwood Boulevard N/A not for publication

city or town Milwaukee N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Milwaukee code 079 zip code 53211

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 3/2/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

Lake Park
Name of Property

Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI
County and State

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the ~~Member in the~~ **National Register** Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Deborah Byers 4/22/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Non-contributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u> 2 </u>	<u> 4 </u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> 7 </u>	<u> </u>	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
		<u> 11 </u>	<u> 4 </u>	Total

Name of related multiple property list:
 None

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
 2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
 Landscape/Park
 Religion/Religious Facility
 Funerary/graves/burials

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
 Landscape/Park
 Religion/Ceremonial Site

Lake Park
Name of Property

Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls stucco
weatherboard
roof shingle
other wood
stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the

*National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)

Landscape Architecture
Archeology/prehistoric

A Property is associated with events
that have made a significant
contribution to the broad patterns of
our history.

B Property is associated with the lives
of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive
characteristics of a type, period, or
method of construction or represent
the work of a master, or possesses
high artistic values, or represents
significant and distinguishable entity
whose components lack individual
distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to
yield, information important in
prehistory or history.

Period of Significance

1893-1936
300 BC - AD 1000

Significant Dates

1892

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

Lake Park
Name of Property

Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI
County and State

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation

Middle and/or Late Woodland

Architect/Builder

Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot
Clas, Alfred C.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # WI19, WI20

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

F. L. Olmsted National Historic Site
Milwaukee County Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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LAKE PARK, Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI

Section 7, Page 1

Introduction:

Lake Park, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, extends along the Lake Michigan shoreline for about a mile, from East North Avenue on the south to East Kenwood Boulevard on the north. North Lake Drive is the western boundary of the park. The eastern boundary is the shoreline of Lake Michigan. About midway between East North Avenue and East Kenwood Boulevard is East Newberry Boulevard which is the formal entrance to Lake Park. The boulevard was part of the original plan to link Lake Park with Riverside Park on the Milwaukee River, about one and one-half miles to the west.

There are 2 contributing buildings, 8 contributing structures, and 2 contributing sites (the park itself and the archeological site) within the boundaries of the nominated portion of the park. There are also 3 noncontributing buildings within in the boundaries of the nominated parcel. 1 building and 1 structure have been previously listed and are not included in the resource count.

Lake Park takes advantage of two levels with its largest area a flat surface on top of the bluff. When Lincoln Memorial Drive was constructed along the lakeshore past the park in 1929 to connect with East Kenwood Boulevard, landfill added to the original acreage of the park. The first Board of Park Commissioners purchased 123.70 acres in 1892, but the overall acreage today is 140.03.

Organization and Design of the Park:

In general, the current appearance of Lake Park closely resembles the plan for the park prepared by the Olmsted firm in January, 1895. The majority of the park is located along the 100 foot high bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. Several ravines cut into the park from the original shore line. The parks curvilinear pleasure drives remain, but have largely been restricted to pedestrians. The path (West Drive) which today enters the park from the northwest corner on East Kenwood Boulevard was originally designed as a carriage drive, but is now a pedestrian walk. This is also true of the path entering the park from the south (Bluff Drive) which passes over the Lion Bridges (Map Code 3, 4) and once led to the Music Concourse (not extant). Inner Park Drive which enters the park over the Brick Arch Bridge (Map Code 2) once continued around to the Steel Arch Bridge (Map Code 1) and came out of the park at Newberry Blvd. Automobile traffic today is stopped just south of the

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children's playground. A pedestrian path crosses the steel arch bridge and becomes an automobile road again. Ravine Drive leads from Newberry Boulevard eastward and descends the 100 foot bluff to land on the west side of Lincoln Memorial Drive, which was extended to East Kenwood Boulevard on landfill in 1929.

The plan for Lake Park makes dramatic use of its choice lakefront location from which many views of the lake are possible, whether from the glassed-in pavilion close to the bluff, from the attractive bridges over the ravines which meander up from the lakeshore, or from the walkways closed to the bluff. Paths curving through the park offer opportunities for strolling through the park itself, or, if one wishes to participate in more active recreation, there are separate facilities for golf, soccer, tennis, and bowling on the green. Areas are also set aside for picnics. Play equipment for children may be found on the playground.

Distinctive Natural Features:

Development of Lake Park began in 1892 when arrangements were made to obtain the services of the noted landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted and his firm, Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, of Brookline, Massachusetts, to plan the park.

The preliminary plan submitted by the firm demonstrated some of the basic concepts of Olmsted's landscape philosophy. He was interested in undulating meadows fringed with grass, tranquil scenery, and groves which preserved the underbrush and the rough surface of the natural forest.

The plans for Lake Park drawn up by the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot embodied the English Romantic style with which Frederick Law Olmsted had become familiar on visits to England. Rooted in the English Romantic movement were the beginnings of the naturalistic movement. One of the leading advocates of this movement was Andrew Jackson Downing. After Downing's death in 1852, his assistant Calvin Vaux worked with Olmsted to design Central Park, New York City. Olmsted and Vaux conceived of a park as a place where the city dweller could find refreshment

1. Diane M. Buck, "Olmsted's Lake Park," Milwaukee History, Milwaukee, 1982, V, 59.

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from the sights and sounds of urban life and enjoy scenery that would seem both limitless and natural. To this end, park barriers were thickly planted and a winding system of roads and paths forced the carriages to drive more slowly. By allowing the visitor to pass back and forth between ever-changing views, the park was made to seem larger than it is.²

Parks designed by the Olmsted firm all embody elements which reflect their beginning in the naturalistic movement admired by Olmsted. One of the noticeable features is "a continuing sequence of spaces ranged on a structure of serially connected sight-lines."³ Olmsted designed his landscapes to be planned sequential experiences. Following a curving drive through Lake Park leads one to view a scene of Lake Michigan at the foot of a bluff, rugged sloping sides of a ravine, or the ordered plantings in a formal garden. The curving carriage drives in the park as designed by Olmsted provide a strong contrast to the grid pattern of surrounding city streets. Views of the sweep of Lake Michigan or broad lawns created vistas which were usually ended by a building or plantings creating the illusion of limitless vision. The first concern of Frederick Law Olmsted was to achieve visual unity. He thought in terms of the organization of space, perspective, and vistas. He placed darker forms of foliage in the foreground and lighter, simpler forms farther away and generally planted densely, but was careful to maintain open views.⁴

The overall appearance of Lake Park today is little changed from the original. The original structure of curvilinear drives is still found in the park. The sequences of open spaces and plateaus are also largely intact, although some uses have changed to more active recreation, in keeping with the modern trend. The park now contains a soccer field, tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, rinks for bowling on the green, and a playground for children.

2. Cynthia Zaitzevsky, Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System, Cambridge, 1982, 23.

3. Norman T. Newton, Design on the Land, Cambridge, 1971, 284.

4. Zaitzevsky, op. cit., 186.

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Drives, Walks, Paths:

The outstanding characteristic of the design of the traditional urban park -- in many instances, the basic element of the plan -- was a system of carriage drives bordering the perimeter but screened from the surrounding area and passing or leading to points of interest within the park. With few exceptions, drives were designed to provide access to and circulation within the park and means of passing through it. Walking paths and bridle trails paralleled the drives, and special facilities, such as a music court or overlook shelter, were located along the drive to take advantage of the topography or to afford a pleasing vista.⁵

There were five carriage drives on the original Olmsted plan. These carriage drives are a distinctive component of Lake Park. The plans referred to these drives as follows: West Drive, North Drive, Inner Park Drive, Bluff Drive, and Shore Drive. The method used for construction of the carriage drives was: "A foundation of small quarried stone was set compactly by hand, covered by three inches of broken limestone well rolled and a top dressing of granite screenings thoroughly rolled and compacted."⁶ These drives are currently paved in asphalt.

West Drive was built from the northwest corner of the park at Newberry Boulevard to the west entrance of the park at the junction of Park Place and Lake Avenue. In 1930, this drive was changed into a pedestrian path.⁷ The North Drive led from the northwest corner of the park eastward to the North Concourse overlooking the lake. North Drive, as well as the concourse, was removed when Lincoln Memorial Drive was extended north to meet Kenwood Boulevard in 1929. The Bluff Drive entered the park on the south from Terrace Avenue. It extended northward, past the lighthouse, over two branches of the south ravine on the Lion Bridges (Map Code 3, 4), and ended at the Music Grove (not extant). Inner Park Drive (now called North Lake Park Road) entered the park from the north and extended south across the Brick Arch Bridge (Map Code 2), past the

5. George Butler, "Change in the City Park", Landscape, 1985, VII, 10.

6. 2nd Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1893, 24.

7. The Milwaukee Sentinel, February 26, 1930, I:1.

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children's playground, and then turned west where it crossed the Steel Arch bridge (Map Code 1) and ended at the Newberry Boulevard entrance. Shore Drive ran north along the lakeshore from Water Works Park on the south to the Ravine Drive. By 1929, it became part of Lincoln Memorial Drive which was extended north along the lakeshore connecting the downtown to Kenwood Boulevard.

In the 1970s and 1980s, West Drive and Inner Park Drive were closed to vehicular traffic. The drives still remain in these locations and now function as pedestrian and bicycle paths.

Before the City Park Commissioners purchased the land for Lake Park, a section owned by the Lueddemann family was operated as a picnic resort. Paths laid out on the grounds were retained when the land was sold for Lake Park, and were probably incorporated into the park. Walks were planned to be 5 feet wide on a foundation of lake gravel and a top dressing of bank gravel rolled solid. The narrow walks, which were usually 3 feet wide, were made of gravel.⁸

The ravines are landscaped in a naturalistic manner consisting of meandering dirt paths with boulder, log or stone slab steps, stream courses lined with boulders and stepped to create a series of small pools, and retaining walls of boulders or coursed stones. The design creates a series of "rooms" as the visitor progresses through a ravine.

A modern bicycle trails extends through the park. On October 9, 1967, The Milwaukee County Park Commission celebrated the opening of the first of its bicycle trails (Map Code 24) through the Milwaukee County Park System. The 3.1 mile trail consisted of an 8 foot wide blacktop⁹ and parallels Lake Drive. It has a minimal effect on the landscape design.

In 1897 and 1900, paths were constructed from the Music Concourse (not extant) west to Newberry Boulevard and from the two bridges to Wahl Avenue. In 1900, an 8 foot wide path was built along

8. 3rd Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1894, 13.

9. Lakefront Bicycle Trails, Milwaukee County Park Commission, n.d.

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the north drive leading to the horse shed (A10).¹⁰ A three foot wide footpath was built in 1903 from the waterfall (not extant) in the north ravine to the lakeshore.¹¹

Extant Bridges and Buildings:

There are five large historic bridges in the park, as well as several log bridges in the ravines. Four of the five larger bridges were designed by Oscar Sanne. Sanne specialized in designing iron and steel bridges, drawspans, and buildings, having earned a degree in engineering in Germany.¹² The fifth bridge is a concrete footbridge north of the pavilion (Map Code 10). It was designed by the Milwaukee architectural firm of Ferry & Clas in 1905.¹³

A 90-foot Steel Arch Bridge (Map Code 1) was built over the north ravine in 1893. The roadway is 26 feet wide and there are 7 foot sidewalks on each side. The bridge has six steel arches and limestone abutments. The total cost of the bridge was \$9,708.00.¹⁴

The Steel Arch Bridge is located between the soccer field on the west and the comfort building on the east side. The bridge was renovated in 1938 when the flooring was replaced with reinforced concrete slabs placed over eight wide beams. Although the steel railing has not changed, the arches in the interior of the bridge were removed in 1969 because of corrosion.¹⁵

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10. 10th Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1901, 9.
 11. 12th Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1903, 7.
 12. Edwin Cordes, Lake Park Brick Arch Bridge, Historic American Engineering Record, # W1-20, 2.
 13. 14th Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1905, 13.
 14. 2nd Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1893, 14.
 15. Interoffice Communication between Howard Knuth and Robert Mikula, September 2, 1969.

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The second bridge constructed was the Brick Arch Bridge (Map Code 2) over the north ravine in 1893. The Renaissance Revival style bridge was intended by Sanne to fulfill not only all the engineering requirements, but also be artistically worthy of the site.¹⁶ The 35 foot masonry arch rests on rockface limestone abutments. The abutment walls, spandrel walls and barrel vault are all constructed of Milwaukee sewer brick. The bridge is ornamented by an extensive use of terra cotta in pilasters, ring stones, and circular medallions. The roadway is 26 feet wide with 6-foot wide sidewalks on either side. Sanne made extensive use of terra cotta detailing on the bridge. Four medallions with floral motifs frame the arch. Originally, the railing was made of terra cotta forming quatrefoil openings. After the west railing deteriorated, it was reproduced in cast stone by the Milwaukee County Park Commission staff. The original cost of the bridge was \$10,449. The bridge was recorded by the Historic American Engineering Record in 1987 because it is the only example remaining in Wisconsin of a high style masonry bridge and because its location was chosen by the Olmsted firm. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation stone-arch bridge survey stated it "ranks among the nation's finest ornamental park bridges." The contractor was Gerhard F. Stuewe Co. a Milwaukee masonry contractor.¹⁷

The two Lion Bridges (Map Code 3, 4) were constructed in 1896-1897 at a cost of \$36,573, near the southern entrance to the park. Each bridge is 164 feet long with a grassy knoll of 95 feet separating the spans. Each bridge spans an 88-foot wide ravine. The Lion Bridges were each originally composed of six large arches connected to each other by a series of 16 decorative cross struts. In 1966, the outer two spans of each bridge were removed. The bridge deck is reinforced concrete placed over steel I-beams. Since the view of Lake Michigan is considered one of the area's primary assets, the bridges were designed with open spandrels which would not obstruct the view of the lake. When completed, eight sandstone lions were installed to guard the approaches at each end of the bridges. They were a gift from Henry Clay Payne, vice president and general manager of the Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Co. which operated the streetcars serving the park. Payne intended his gift as a contribution to artistic betterment of the city. Paul Kupper, sculptor, designed the lions in an attitude of watchfulness, and the bridges have always been known as the Lion

16. Cordes, op. cit., 1.

17. Cordes, ibid., 6.

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Bridges.

The bridges were narrowed in 1966 to permit only pedestrian traffic and the two outermost spans were removed. Even though altered, the bridges retain enough of their distinctive elements to be considered contributing.

Milwaukee architects, Ferry and Clas, designed a concrete footbridge (Map Code 11) to span Ravine Drive. The graceful, arched bridge was completed in 1905 and makes it possible for pedestrians to safely cross over Ravine Drive. The bridge is a pierced spandrel, reinforced concrete, rib-arch bridge. The overall length is about 216 feet and the width is 10 feet. The bridge has neoclassical detailing. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation concrete-arch bridge survey states it is "among the earliest American rib-arch bridges."

When the park was being developed, Board President Christian Wahl made rustic log bridges to cross streams in the bottom of the ravines. These no longer exist. There are ten wooden bridges (Map Code 9) at the bottom of the north and south ravines. These were likely constructed in the 1930s as part of a program for employment during depression years, but their construction date cannot precisely be determined. There are also several flights of historic limestone steps leading down the bluff.¹⁸

In the Fall of 1902, work began on a pavilion (Map Code 10) to be used as a picnic shelter. The site chosen had been the location of a formal garden. When completed, it was a large and airy building, 140 feet long and 45 feet wide. Windows lining the east and west sides could be raised or lowered to make an open or closed pavilion. These expanses have been enclosed. In the summer, if bad weather prevented the park from presenting outdoor band concerts, the band could use a stage at the south end of the building. There was a kitchen and refreshment stand at the north end of the building. A porch, 60 feet long and 12 feet wide, on the east side of the building has since been enclosed.¹⁹

18. 2nd Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1893, 14.

19. The Milwaukee Sentinel, July 12, 1903, I:5.

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The building was designed a vague neo-classical manner by Milwaukee architect A. C. Clas. The pavillion is a one-story, roughly H-plan, structure with a low-pitch hipped roof and exposed rafter ends. It is stucco clad and the elevations are punctuated at regular intervals by stucco pilasters. Entrance porticoes project from the north and south ends of the west elevation supported by Ionic columns.

The pavillion was located directly west of the Concert Grove (not extant), on the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. Toilets for both men and women were provided at either end of the lower level of the building. The pavillion was dedicated on July 11, 1903. It was built at a cost of \$16,000. A bust of the Park Board's first president, Christian Wahl, (later moved to Wahl Park), was placed between the two porticoes and dedicated at the same time. In front of the pavillion, an octagonal band stand (not extant) was raised above an area where an audience could sit at little tables.

In 1908, A. C. Clas designed a Grand Stairway (Map Code 12) also in a formal neo-classical design connecting the east side of the pavillion to the lake shore. The stairway ended at a Promenade (not extant) which ran south to concrete stadium seating (not extant) at the north end of the athletic field.

To fill the need for a horse shed (A10), the barn which had stood on the Lueddemann Farm was shingled, sided, and painted. The interior was rearranged in 1918 to make room for a tool and wagon shed, a loft for storage, a carpenter shop and workshop, and stabling for four horses (Map Code 15). Teams of horses could be driven directly into the shelter.²⁰

As park uses changed over the years, additional buildings were constructed. The American Lawn Bowling Association built a small one-story clubhouse (Map Code 22) next to the lawn bowling rink in 1962. A small golf starter building (Map Code 27) was built in 1961 at a cost of \$6,000 opposite the 9th tee. Both are non-contributing buildings and have little impact on the landscape of the park.

A Nike missile site was established on the lakefront in Milwaukee in 1958. Its radar tracking station

20. Fifth Annual Report of Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1896, 10.

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was located in Lake Park opposite the Wolcott monument. The complex consisted of several buildings and three tracking towers. The missile site was dismantled in 1970 and the only remaining building today is a cement block building (Map Code 28) used by park workmen to store lawn mowers, etc. which is a non-contributing building.

One major complex within the boundaries pre-dates the park. North Point Lighthouse was built in 1855 on the edge of the bluff, three miles north of the harbor entrance. The 35-foot octagonal lighthouse tower was made of cast iron plates bolted together. By 1879, erosion of the bluff made it necessary to move the tower 100 feet inland (Map Code 6). A new frame keeper's residence was built and connected to the tower by a passageway. In 1912, growth of surrounding trees had obscured the light, so a 36-foot high addition made of riveted steel plates was placed under the original tower.²¹ The connecting passageway was removed at that time. The light is now fully automated and the residence is occupied by Coast Guard personnel. It was listed on the National Register in 1984.

Major Vegetation:

On December 19, 1895, the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot at Brookline, Massachusetts, wrote to Christian Wahl, president of the Board of Milwaukee Park Commissioners. Wahl had written to the firm to inquire about the preparation of a plan for a decorative planting near the Music Concourse. The reply from the firm stated that they required careful study of the plan and would have to make an additional charge for it. Usually, they said, such plans were drawn up by the gardener in charge.

Olmsted created intentionally atmospheric perspectives by placing dark forms of foliage in the foreground and lighter forms farther away. He generally planted densely but was careful to maintain open views; a unified composition was important. He used predominately native plant material because he did not want the

21. The Milwaukee Journal, December 8, 1968, VII:11.

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person contemplating rural scenery to be distracted by conspicuously unusual plants."²²

The person in charge of planting plans for the Olmsted firm between 1888 and 1896 was Warren H. Manning. The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, part of the National Park Service, has in its archives, a six-page planting list for Lake Park, Milwaukee Wisconsin. The plan is divided into nine sections, each of which is subdivided into sections. According to the annual reports of the Board of City Park Commissioners, the following plantings were made:

1895. Shrubs were planted along the border, the following trees were planted in the Concert Grove and on the concourse - 45 Maples, 17 Lindens, 41 Elms. 70,000 shrubs were planted in the north part of the park. A decorative planting plan was carried out near the Music Concourse.

1896. Elms were planted on the south and east sides of the carriage concourse.

1897. 60,000 trees and shrubs were planted on the bluff to halt erosion of the topsoil. A nursery was established along the lakefront to provide trees and shrubs for the city parks. 1,000 shrubs were planted in the nursery.

1898. Maples, Lindens, and Elms were planted on the north boundary of the park to screen out the noises and views of the city streets.

1899. 400,000 trees were planted in the nursery, as well as 100,000 shrubs from France. Bulbs were planted in the park as well as 10,000 Pansies which were planted near the former Lueddemann home.

1899. Clover was planted in the meadow south of the lighthouse and 10,000 shrubs were also planted in the park. A screen of trees was planted on the west boundary of the park to hide the city from the park visitors. The screen of Ash, Maple, Linden,

22. Zaitzevsky, op. cit., 186.

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and Elm was between the north boundary and Park Place.²³

1900. 20,000 shrubs were planted on the slopes of the main ravine to prevent soil erosion. 160 Norway Maples were planted near the tool shed. 1,100 ornamental and flowering shrubs were planted in the nursery. Large Elms were planted in the park.

1900. A symmetrical flower bed was planted parallel to the main drive and a little south of the street car station. The bed was 300 feet long.

1903. 5,000 trees were planted in the nursery.

1905. The site of the nursery was cleared of trees and shrubs for the construction of a football field. They were established in a nursery in another park.

1925. Trees, shrubs, and plants in the park were labeled for botany classes. Thousands of Geranium plants were planted on the plateau east of the Concert Grove, a gift from Forest Home Cemetery's greenhouse.

Walls, Hedges, Fences, and other Manmade features:

An artesian well was dug in the north part of the park, 1,600 feet deep.²⁴

In 1897, a retaining wall 496 feet long was built at the foot of the bluff from Park Place northward in order to protect the toe of the bluff from wave action. Cedar posts were sunk into the ground 1-1/2 feet apart to hold the fill. Hemlock planks 3 feet high were anchored by 1-1/2" iron rods which were 12 feet long and sand and earth was heaped along the face of the wall.²⁵

23. 4th Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1895, 8.

24. 2nd Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1893, 25.

25. 6th Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1897, 9.

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A row of stone pillars was placed on the east side of the road between the two Lion Bridges (Map Code 3, 4). The cut stone posts were sunk in below the frost line, connected by an ornamental chain made up of 16 chains of iron links, each 7 inches long between the posts. The purpose of the chain was to keep carriages from driving down the bluff. The addition of the chain created a semi-circular plateau from which a beautiful view of the lake could be had.

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Lighting system

Originally, the street lighting in the park was provided by globe street lamps. Frosted glass globes were placed on fifteen-foot poles made of white cement and mineral aggregate to resemble granite.²⁶ In 1977, the City of Milwaukee upgraded its street lighting system and replaced the Milwaukee Harp Luminaires from 1915 with modern lighting installations on the city streets. A few of the original Luminaires (Map Code 28) which were still in good condition were placed in Lake Park. During the summer of 1992, the City of Milwaukee replaced the 14 globe lights remaining in the park with modern reproductions of the Harp Luminaires. The Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission named the original Harp Luminaires a Milwaukee Historic Landmark in 1975. These lights had been introduced into Milwaukee in 1915 to ease the public's acceptance of the transition from gas to incandescent lighting. The finial of the Harp is a replica of the vent chimney of the old gas lamps.²⁷ The finial on the replicas is made of aluminum instead of wrought iron to prevent rusting. The Luminare system is considered a non-contributing structure, but has little impact on the landscape of the park.

Features to be Seen in the Park:

Lincoln Memorial Drive curves south from East Kenwood Boulevard and passes a large meadow on the west side of the drive. Located in this meadow is a plaque (Map Code 19) placed in the park by American War Mothers. On the west side paralleling the drive is the route of a bicycle path which continues south.

Entering the park south from East Kenwood Boulevard, path branches off to the east, continuing south are stations of the exercise/jogging trail, and a cement turn-around for the city bus. This is the site of the streetcar depot, built in 1896 and razed in 1956. Further south is the Indian burial mound (Map Code 7) marked by a Wisconsin Archeological Society plaque (Map Code 13). At one time

26. American City, 1912, VI, 675.

27. Scientific American, August, 1922, CXXVI, 122.

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there were two other mounds in the park, these were graded down in the course of creating the park.

To the right is Newberry Boulevard which extends into the park through the continuation of a boulevard mound with flowers in the center. This is the formal entrance to the park (Map Code 8). The words "Lake Park" were once spelled out on this mound in plants.

South of the Wolcott monument (Map Code 16), is a 40 acre putt and mashie 18 hole golf course (Map Code 21). This was made by filling in a large ravine here. There is a golf starter house (Map Code 27) to the east.

Straight ahead are the facilities for lawn bowling which includes a shuffleboard court. The American Lawn Bowling Association has a clubhouse (Map Code 22) here. At the north end of the concrete footbridge is another American War Mothers bronze tablet (Map Code 17).

Prehistoric Archeology in the Park

The Lake Park Mound is a single conical mound, in good condition, and stands approximately two feet high and forty feet in diameter (Brown 1916:51). The site is the only mound remaining of a group of conical mounds, and is the last known mound remaining within the Milwaukee city limits. The mound dates to the Woodland culture, and it is likely that its cultural affiliation is Middle Woodland. However, since the mound remains unexcavated, a specific affiliation of Middle or Late Woodland is uncertain.

Lake Park Mound is located in the Eastern Ridges and Lowlands Physiographic province that covers the southeastern portion of the state. The mound is on top of a bluff about 100 feet above the Lake Michigan shore, and the shoreline of Lake Michigan has a unique history of its own. The area was alternately covered by glacial ice, and during retreat, lakes would form at its margins. The bluffs and beaches were created by the Nipissing Great Lakes stage of Glacial Lake Michigan (Martin, 1965). Further wave cutting of the bluffs continues today. The shoreline is broken by lowlands created by estuaries or by small beaches at the foot of steep ravines. The head of one such ravine is located about 130 feet south of the mound.

The crest of the bluff is generally flat, and extends west to the table lands. Oak trees were the

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original vegetation in the area, and on and around the mound today, a number of ash, elm, and maple trees have been planted.

Mound Description

In the mid-1800s, Dr. Increase A. Lapham dedicated much effort toward the documentation of prehistoric earthworks in Wisconsin. Though Lapham does not mention the mound at Lake Park in his survey of earthworks near Lake Michigan, he does note that it is unusual for mounds to be situated directly on the shore of lakes — they are usually located on high ground overlooking rivers, streams, and marshes (Lapham 1855:12). Although the Lake Park Mound is on high ground, it overlooks Lake Michigan, so represents a more unusual location.

The mound at Lake Park is the only one that remains of a larger group (Brown 1916); the other mounds were located to the south and east. Brown quotes a Mr. Carl Bodenbach who told Brown (1916:51) that some of the mounds were near the spot where the present stone bridge crosses a ravine, and other mounds were to the south of these. The largest mound was located several hundred feet east of the extant mound. In addition, Brown reported an associated village site, but is not specific on what was found there.

Between the period of Lapham's work and Brown's investigations, the development of Lake Park led to the destruction of other mounds, as roadways and paths were cut to traverse the ravine that bridged the bluff, the most extensive of these being to the south of the existing mound.

During a period from 1979 through 1981, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee undertook a survey of the archaeological resources of Milwaukee county. In part, the effort was directed to report on the condition of previously reported archaeological sites. The entire park was shovel probed at fifteen meter intervals and evidence of prehistoric activity included a small amount of lithic debris to the north and northeast of the mound (Benchley and James 1981).

Benchley and James' work suggests that the integrity of the mound is intact, but perhaps the problem of specifying cultural affiliation should be discussed in more detail. Over 100 years of archaeological work in Southeastern Wisconsin has indicated that mounds date to either the Middle Woodland or Late Woodland period. Late Woodland mounds, often referred to as the Effigy Mound

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culture because some of the mounds are in the shape of animals, are more common, and are found in a variety of shapes. Most Late Woodland mounds are low, and the Late Woodland conical mounds are relatively small. In contrast, Middle Woodland mounds of both time periods are often found within the same group. The size and shape of the Lake Park Mound would suggest a Middle Woodland origin, as would the fact that the rest of the mounds in the group were supposedly conical. This fact alone, however, does not guarantee a Middle Woodland affiliation. It is also possible that the mound is Late Woodland, or has elements of both cultures. Middle Woodland in the area dates from roughly 300 BC to AD 400, and Late Woodland continues from about AD 400 to 1000.

Today, Lake Park Mounds draws visitors, but it is particularly a focal point for American Indians in the city. A number of Indians see the mound as an important spiritual place, and hold ceremonies there regularly. One group, for example, holds a sunrise service at the mound every year on the Sunday of the Indian Summer festival at the city's festival grounds. A large number of people gather at the mound at this and other occasions to conduct services, spread tobacco, and offer prayers.

Lake Park continues to attract many visitors year round. A plaque, distinguishing the mound as such, was requested by the Wisconsin Archeological Society and put in place on the mound by the Park Commission in 1910 (Brown 1916:51). The mound is under no direct threat, although county parks directors have been known to encroach on reported sites when adding or changing facilities.

Resource Count

The resource count includes only those features of significant size and scale. Buildings, bridges, and other large constructions have been counted as well as the mound and the park as sites. Placques, paths, and other minor features are not included in the resource count. Those resources marked with an asterisk (*) below are included in the resource count of section 3.

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INVENTORY OF MAJOR FEATURES IN THE PARK

<u>Name</u>	<u>Map Code</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Classifi- cation</u>
Steel Arch Bridge	(1)	1893	C*
Brick Arch Bridge	(2)	1893	C*
Lion Bridges (2)	(3, 4)	1896-97	C*
South Concourse	(5)	1898	C*
North Point Lighthouse/Dwelling (NRHP)	(6)	1879,1912	C
Indian Mound	(7)	300 BC- AD 1000	C*
Formal Entrance at Newberry Blvd.	(8)	1893	NC
Rustic footbridges (12)	(9)	c1930s	C
Pavillion	(10)	1903	C*
Concrete Footbridge	(11)	1905	C*
Grand Stairway	(12)	1908	C*
Mound Plaque	(13)	1910	C
Tennis Court (altered)	(14)	1911	NC
Tool Shed/Workshop/Storage Building	(15)	1918	C*
E. B. Wolcott Monument	(16)	1920	C*
American War Mothers Plaque	(17)	1920	C
Lincoln Memorial Drive	(18)	1929	NC
American War Mothers Plaque	(19)	1931	C
Bowling on the Green	(20)	1946	NC
18-Hole Golf Course	(21)	1930	C
Lawn Bowling Clubhouse	(22)	1962	NC*
Ice Skating Warming House	(23)	1965	NC*
County Bicycle Path	(24)	1967	NC
Milwaukee Landmarks Commission Plaque	(25)	1973	NC
Exercise/Jogging Trail	(26)	1978	NC
Golf Starter's Building	(27)	1961	NC*
Nike Missile Building	(28)	1958	NC*

*Included in resource count in Section 3

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Lake Park in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its local significance as a designed historic landscape. The park embodies the distinctive characteristics of the work of master landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, and his firm, known as F. L. Olmsted & Co. of Brookline, Massachusetts¹. It is also locally significant under Criterion D for the archeological potential of its prehistoric burial mound, the last remaining mound in the city of Milwaukee.

Lake Park contains a high degree of integrity in spatial relationships, topography, design intent, and circulation system. Only the property boundary on the east has changed, and that is due to landfill added for Lincoln Memorial Drive during the park's period of significance. That the major landscape components have not changed may be ascertained from plans for Lake Park drawn by F. L. Olmsted & Co., later known as Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot.

The first municipally-owned park in the United States was Central Park in New York City. In 1858, city officials chose the park's design, entered in competition by Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner, Calvert Vaux, an architect trained in England. Vaux had gained experience in the United States through his work with Andrew Jackson Downing before Downing's untimely death in 1852. Downing was not only an architect, but also the author of nationally known books and articles about the place of design in gardening and rural living. In 1858, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux entered a design for the first municipally-owned park in the United States. After their Central Park design became known across the United States, Olmsted and Vaux received commissions for the design of urban parks, parkways, institution grounds, college campuses, and suburban developments.

1. 2nd Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1893, New York, 1981, 17.

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A Brief History of Milwaukee:

The City of Milwaukee is made up of three small settlements at the confluence of the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and the Kinnickinnic Rivers in the early 1830s. The three settlements -- Juneautown, Kilbourntown, and Walker's Point -- merged into the City of Milwaukee which was incorporated on January 31, 1846. The original settlers were interested in trade with Indian tribes in the surrounding areas. However, as the city grew, immigrants from European countries were attracted because of the possibilities for employment. The largest ethnic groups in Milwaukee were German, Irish, and Polish. There were also Yankees from the eastern United States, as well as immigrants from smaller European countries. The largest early industries were brewing, leather tanning and shoe manufacturing, and iron foundries.

The first Milwaukee parks were small parcels donated to the city by pioneer families. These included: Courthouse Square given by Solomon Juneau and Morgan L. Martin; Walker's Square given by George Walker; and Kilbourn Park given by Byron Kilbourn.² After the division of the city into wards, residents who could afford to do so, set aside land for their own parks. With the development of the beer industry in Milwaukee, German immigrants opened commercial beer gardens located throughout the city. They were operated by the breweries and featured entertainment as well as beer and other refreshments. Sites for the beer gardens were usually on a bluff overlooking one of the river valleys. These private parks, in part, compensated for the lack of public parks for which the municipal reformers began to agitate in the 1880s and 1890s.³

Among the better-known beer gardens in the Milwaukee area were Schlitz Park at 8th and Walnut Streets, Pabst Park at 3rd and Burleigh, and Miller's Garden on the bluff overlooking the Menomonee Valley. Much later, some of these properties were purchased by the city for public

2. Frank Flower, History of Milwaukee from Prehistoric Times. . ., Chicago, Western Historical Company, 1881, 430-431.

3. Bayrd Still, Milwaukee, History of a City, State Historical Society, Madison, 1948, 404.

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parks.⁴ The more pretentious beer gardens were extensive groves selected for natural scenic beauty and often enhanced by landscaping. Some featured exotic plants, artificial ponds, fountains, and rustic stairways descending into rustic ravines.⁵

History of Milwaukee Parks:

Several small parks were created from land which evolved out of the city's development of a public water system -- Kilbourn, Flushing Tunnel, and Water Works Parks. These were under the care of the Department of Public Works and remained so even after the city's Park Board was formed, possibly because the city did not allocate enough tax money or appoint a board to care for them.⁶

As the city's population increased, these small parks did not answer the need for breathing space for persons living in crowded conditions in the city. The Wisconsin State Legislature on April 23, 1889, passed an act allowing the creation of a system of public parks in Milwaukee. The act provided for the appointment of five commissioners to serve on a park board without pay and for the issuance of corporate bonds in the amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of parkland. The parks were to be maintained by the park board for the recreation, health, and benefit of the public. Land purchased was to be for one or more parks north of North Avenue and one or more on the south side of the Milwaukee River.⁷

4. H. Russell Austin, The Milwaukee Story: The Making of an American City, Milwaukee, 1946, 143.

5. H. Russell Austin, The Milwaukee Story, *ibid*, 144.

6. Harry H. Anderson, "Recreation, Entertainment, and Open Space: Park Traditions of Milwaukee County," Trading Post to Metropolis: Milwaukee County's First 150 Years, Ralph M. Aderman, editor, Milwaukee, 1987, 269.

7. Laws of the State of Wisconsin, Vol. 1, Ch. 488, April 23, 1889.

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Members of the Board of Park Commissioners visited each tract of land which was suggested to them. The first parks created were Lake Park, South (Humboldt) Park, Mitchell Park, and River (Riverside) Park.

Mayor Thomas H. Browne appointed the first board which was composed of five civic and business leaders who served without pay. They were: Christian Wahl, president of the board, Calvin E. Louis, Charles Manegold, Jr., Louis Auer, and John Bentley. Each of the commissioners was to serve a term of five years with one term expiring each year.⁸

Although all Park Commissioners contributed much to the development of the park system in Milwaukee, it appears that Christian Wahl devoted the most time and thought to the parks, especially Lake Park. Wahl was born in Bavaria and came to Milwaukee with his parents. He had attended Latin Schools in Germany and France while still living in Europe. Also during his years there, Wahl became familiar with Europe's parks and gardens. As a young man of about twenty years, Wahl began what became one of the largest glue factories in Chicago.⁹ Having sold his business to P. D. Armour in 1886, Wahl retired to Milwaukee where he became known as a patron of the arts. Having been appointed to the Park Commission, Wahl devoted much of his time and efforts to them. While living in Chicago, Wahl had witnessed the growth of the Chicago park system, and was eager to lend his expertise in Milwaukee. Wahl remembered accompanying his father to a picnic of the Milwaukee Musical Society which was held on lakeshore land belonging to the Lueddemann family. He was greatly impressed by the beauty of the site at that time and remembered it when acquisition of park land was discussed by the Board.¹⁰ It was evident that acquisition of the Lueddemann land and other parcels along the lakeshore would provide the only place for the public to obtain access without having to cross railroad tracks. Wahl urged the city to place bids on the lands they wished to purchase as soon as possible because, with the extension of the street railway only a few years off, the value of the land would become greatly inflated.

8. Diane M. Buck, "Olmsted's Lake Park," Milwaukee History, Autumn, 1982, V, 55.

9. National Cyclopedia of American Biography, New York, 1939, XXVII: 446.

10. Evening Wisconsin, October 21, 1901.

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It was at the suggestion of Wahl that the board contacted the landscape architectural firm of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to provide a landscape plan for the walks and drives and plantings in Lake Park. Wahl had been in Chicago at the time that the Olmsted firm was working on designs for the Chicago Park system. He was also aware that Olmsted had been asked to plan the grounds for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Because he was already in Chicago, it would not be difficult for Olmsted to come to Milwaukee to consult with the board. Under Articles of Agreement, the Olmsted firm agreed to provide designs and plans for the improvement of Milwaukee park land as well as professional advice and the instructions necessary to carry out such designs, as well as to prepare drawings and diagrams to enable Milwaukee workmen to order materials and services as may be required in the plans. In choosing future park land parcels, the board members looked for desirable topographical features as well as locations which would be easily accessible to the public.

Creation of Lake Park:

At first, the legislative act passed by the state legislature permitted the board to acquire land only on the East Side and South Side of Milwaukee. The following year, an additional \$50,000 in bonds was allocated for parks and the board was permitted to choose land beyond the city limits.¹¹ The Parks added were Howell Avenue (Humboldt) Park, West (Washington) Park, and Coleman tract (Kosciuszko Park). Up to that time, the public could not reach the lake south of North Avenue without having to cross railroad tracks at grade level or other private property. But because the tracks veered west at North Avenue, the lakeshore northward was accessible. The commissioners found that the purchase of land would have to be in different parcels with several different owners.

Because the Park Commissioners wanted to construct a Bluff Drive to serve as the southern entrance to the park, it was necessary to get permission to cross the 2.12 acres owned by the federal government. Senator John L. Mitchell presented a bill to Congress giving the city the right to improve the North Point Lighthouse grounds so that its appearance would be in keeping with the rest of the park.¹²

11. 1st Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1892, 6.

12. 2nd Annual Report of the Park Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, 1893, 12.

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The first step in creating Lake Park was the acquisition of the parcels of land which took until 1892. The second phase might be considered the laying out of the park according to plans received from the Olmsted firm. The third phase of development began about the turn of the century. This marked the end of the time when parks were regarded only as pleasure grounds where the masses might come to recover from the effects of their hard labor amid a crowded and bustling city. Then the parks were expected to resemble a small piece of the country with fresh air, meadows, and sunshine right in the midst of the city. But after the turn of the century, the public began to look to the park for more vigorous activity and organized recreation. They expected their visit to the park to contrast with dull and routine factory or office work. At this time, the playground movement was begun and play equipment was added to the park -- swings, slides, teeter-totters, and a merry-go-round. Areas were also set aside for baseball, tennis, golf, as well as a toboggan slide and coasting hills.¹³ This view of the parks has influenced their operation almost up to the present. The 1960s emphasized more open space due to the expansion of the cities of the United States. In the 1970s, emphasis began to be placed on bicycling, walking, or jogging, and provision for automobile drives through the park were curtailed. At that time, at least two of the main bridges in Lake Park were closed to automobile traffic.

Landscape Architecture as a Profession:

Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux are believed to have been the first to practice the discipline of landscape architecture in the United States, integrating architecture and engineering with landscape gardening.¹⁴ Vaux, an architect trained in England, had gained experience in the United States through his work with Andrew Jackson Downing before Downing's untimely death in 1852. Downing was not only an architect, but also the author of nationally-known books and articles about the place of design in gardening and rural living. Downing is believed to have borrowed the phrase, "landscape gardener," from James Loudon in Scotland. However, in his role as designer-superintendent of Central Park, Frederick Law Olmsted encouraged use of the term, "landscape architect," rather than "landscape gardener" because it had a more professional ring. Although

13. Galen Cranz, The Politics of Park Design, a History of the Urban Parks in America, Cambridge, 1982, 63.

14. Robert W. Leech, "The First Dilemma," Landscape Architecture, January, 1987, LXXVII, 62.

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Olmsted and Vaux worked well together, each contributing something from their own knowledge, they sometimes disagreed about what the term "landscape architect" should mean. Vaux believed that the landscape architect as a professional should be concerned with the artistic value of his work. Olmsted, on the other hand, described the work of the landscape architect as one who "organized land and objects upon it for human use and enjoyment."¹⁵

Frederick Law Olmsted is sometimes considered the Father of Landscape Architecture in the United States. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1822. After a succession of varied work experiences, which included: apprentice experience for a civil engineer in 1837; an apprentice seaman on a bark to China and back in 1843; and an apprentice on a model farm in 1846. This was followed by travels in Europe in 1850 and in South America two years later. In 1857, he collaborated with Calvert Vaux to prepare an entry in competition for the best design for what was to become Central Park in New York City. After winning first prize in the competition, Olmsted was named Architect-in-Chief for Central Park in the following year. He took time off from this work to become Executive Secretary of the U.S. Sanitary Commission during the Civil War. He also traveled to California where he was named the Commissioner of Yosemite and Mariposa Big Tree Grove by the Governor of California in 1864. Word of Olmsted's work spread across the country and he received various landscaping commissions. During his career, he designed seventeen major park systems and many small ones. Olmsted and Calvert Vaux designed Riverside, a model suburb of Chicago, Illinois, and worked on Prospect Park in New York City in the 1860s. During the 1870s, Olmsted designed Mount Royal Park in Montreal. In the 1880s, he worked on the Boston park system and other projects. In 1890, having established his landscape design office in Brookline, Massachusetts, the Olsted firm was hired to design the grounds for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Ill health in his later life prevented Olmsted from traveling extensively to visit sites, but it is believed that he came to Milwaukee to consult with commissioners on parks here at least once. He retired from active practice in 1895 (two years after the commencement of Lake Park construction) and died in 1903.

Olmsted had great faith in the ability of his art to have an effect on society, and, in particular, to promote a sense of community. Park systems were to be spaces common to all residents of cities.

15. Albert J. Rutledge, Anatomy of a Park: The Essentials of Recreation Area Planning and Design, New York, 1971, 12.

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Olmsted believed that scenery could have a powerful psychological effect on people. "In his view, parks had a beneficial effect on the health, disposition, and morals of city inhabitants."¹⁶

Throughout his career, Olmsted and his firm worked on individual parks, park systems, parkways, college campuses, grounds for institutions, large estates for the wealthy, as well as the grounds for the National Capitol and the plans for the preservation of Niagara Falls.

Olmsted's park designs reflected his conviction that a park should supply three things not to be found in the city anywhere else:

First, air purified by abundant foliage

Second, means of tranquilizing and invigorating exercise as in good quiet roads and walks.

Third, extended landscapes to refresh and delight the eye and, therefore, as free as possible from the rigidity and confinement of the city and from the incessant emphasis of artificial objects which inevitably belong to its ordinary conditions.¹⁷

Olmsted was assisted in his firm at various times by several individuals who later became landscape architects on their own. One was Clarence William Shaler Cleveland. Cleveland expanded upon Olmsted's definition of landscape architecture, defining it as the art of arranging land so as to adapt it most conveniently, economically, and gracefully to any of the varied wants of civilization.¹⁸ Cleveland worked on plans for Juneau Park in Milwaukee and for a public park system in Minneapolis. He died at the turn of the century.

16. Cynthia Zaitzevsky, Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System, Cambridge, 1982, 37.

17. "Inland Focus: Undermining the Heritage of Olmsted and Jensen," Inland Architect, November, 1970, XIV, 28.

18. Theodora Kimball Hubbard, "H. W. S. Cleveland: An American Pioneer in Landscape Architecture and City Planning," Landscape Architecture, 1930, XX, 101.

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Another landscape designer who died just before the turn of the century was Charles Eliot. Eliot joined the Olmsted firm in 1893 to replace Harry Codman, a partner who had died unexpectedly. Eliot's contribution to the development of a metropolitan system for Boston was a scientific natural-systems approach to landscape architecture. He believed in the preservation of virgin stands of trees wherever possible.¹⁹ Eliot also proposed the creation of parkways or boulevards as connections between units of a park system. They would provide carryover of the restful influence of one large area to its echo with little interruption along the way.²⁰

Another figure in the field of landscape design was Warren H. Manning. He, too, spent eight years before 1896 working for the Olmsted firm as an expert in horticulture and assisted in designing park systems in twenty-two states, including Lake Park in Milwaukee. Manning set up his own office in 1896 and continued for the next thirty years as a "landscape designer" as he termed himself. Manning, with the Olmsted brothers, was among the founders of the American Society of Landscape Architecture.²¹

The original designs for Lake Park submitted by the Olmsted firm reflected the experiences of Frederick Law Olmsted in designing many parks, including Central Park in New York. Parks designed by him reflect, as well, the development of public parks in Europe. The term, "park," was used at first to mean enclosed land for the use and enjoyment of the nobility only.²²

19. American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places, William H. Tishler, editor, Washington, D.C., 1989, 54.

20. Norman T. Newton, Design on the Land: Development of Landscape Architecture, Cambridge, 1971, 597.

21. American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places, op. cit., 56.

22. Newton, op. cit., 220.

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On his travels in Europe, Olmsted was impressed by Birkenhead Park in England, the first park established for the general public of all classes in England and developed with public funds.²³ As park designers, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux believed that parks should provide users with a contrast to their usual city life. They designed in naturalistic style the woods, meadows, and bodies of water in Central Park for the recreation of park visitors. It was their intention that landscape features should look as if they were occurring naturally, although they actually depended on the grading and filling of the topography. The same intention may be seen in Lake Park in Milwaukee. Both Central Park and Lake Park were designed to emphasize the best features of the landscape to the best advantage. In Milwaukee, that feature was, without doubt, the many views of Lake Michigan which give evidence of the many moods the lake passes through. The drive along the bluff, the north and south concourses, and the location of the pavilion were all arranged to provide striking views of the lake. In Chicago, Frederick Law Olmsted had written to the Chicago Park Commissioners regarding their location on Lake Michigan, "There is but one object of scenery near Chicago for special grandeur or sublimity, and that, the lake, can be made by artificial means no more grand or sublime."²⁴

In Central Park, carriage traffic was routed so that it did not interfere with pedestrians.²⁵ "The winding system of roads and paths forced carriages to drive more slowly and to allow visitors to pass back and forth between ever-changing views, making the park seem larger than it was."²⁶ In Lake Park, a bridge carries pedestrian traffic from the pavilion to the picnic area and playground and crosses above the Ravine Drive on which vehicles reach the lake shore.

23. Newton, op. cit., 232.

24. Olmsted, Vaux & Co., "Report Accompanying Plan for Laying Out the South Park," Chicago South Park Commission, 1871, Civilizing American Cities; A Selection of Frederick Law Olmsted's Writings on City Landscapes, S.B. Sutton, ed., Cambridge, 1971, 162.

25. Bruce Kelly, Gail T. Guillet, and Mary Ellen W. Hern, The Art of the Olmsted Landscape, New York, 1981, 34.

26. Zaitzevsky, op. cit., 23.

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LAKE PARK, Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI

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Olmsted arranged to have variety in materials and styles of construction in Central Park.²⁷ This is also true in Lake Park where each of the five bridges were built in a different style. Another characteristic of Olmsted parks is the plantings along the edges of parks to hide the distracting sights of the city from park visitors.²⁸ Olmsted's designs provide vistas which urge park visitors along to a particular goal.²⁹ Vistas may be seen in Lake Park from the paths which wind through the park. They are also noticeable in the ravines.

Frederick Law Olmsted said, "The common man should be able to find in the city a rural landscape where he could go quickly to put the city behind him out of his sight and go where he will be under the undisturbed influences of pleasing natural scenery."

It is this naturalistic view of nature that Olmsted promoted in all his parks. This attitude toward park design may be said to have survived through the years since Lake Park was created. The only difference is that people today want opportunities for active as well as passive recreation.

Changes Which Have Occurred in Lake Park:

Changes which have taken place in Lake Park over the years are illustrated on four maps. Map A shows the location of carriage drives through the park. (These are discussed in Section 7.) Most of the carriage drives within the park have been converted to pedestrian paths. The bridges which were formerly used by carriages have been closed to vehicular traffic. A streetcar waiting shelter which was built in 1895 was removed after streetcars serving the park were replaced by buses. As shown in Map C, Lincoln Memorial Drive, a major thoroughfare to the east of the park was developed which ran from downtown on landfill and reached North Lake Drive in 1929. The North Concourse had to be removed at that time. Although the exterior appearance of the pavilion is essentially as it was in Olmsted's design, it has been closed in to make it an all-weather shelter. Additional changes have taken place in the park to create opportunities for more active recreation. A football field, an 18-hole golf course (Map Code 21), a soccer field, bowling on the green (Map Code 19), a

27. Kelly, Guillet, and Hern, op. cit., 45.

28. Kelly, Guillet, and Hern, op. cit., 19.

29. Kelly, Guillet, and Hern, op. cit., 26.

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children's playground (near Map Code 23) with play equipment, and an exercise/jogging trail (Map Code 26) have been added, as well as a bicycle path (Map Code 24) which is part of a 75-mile long country bicycle trail. Essentially, however, the original Olmsted plan has not been greatly altered. It still retains the same basic plan, plantings, and structural elements.

Landscape Architecture Significance:

The significance of Lake Park as a designed historic landscape is based on the fact that the plan of the park is essentially that which was supplied by Frederick Law Olmsted and his firm of Olmsted, Olmsted, & Eliot. What remains are (1) the provision of views and vistas, most notably of Lake Michigan, (2) spatial relationships and orientations such as the contrast between the expanses of meadow and the rugged scenery in the natural ravines, (3) engineering features such as filling, grading and other construction within the park such as buildings, structures, the circulation system of paths and drives, and (4) the "structure" of the landscape evidenced by vegetation, landscape dividers, and other plantings.

Lake Park is also significant because it is one of the original park locations selected by the first park commissioners when the city became aware of the need to establish city-owned public parks.

The Period of Significance of Lake Park is 1893 to 1936. Work began on construction of the park in 1893. In 1936, workers for the Works Project Administration constructed eight wooden footbridges and twenty-five checkdams in the ravines. In November, 1936, parks owned by the City of Milwaukee were consolidated with those already owned by Milwaukee County.

Archeological Significance:

As Hurley (1986:283-301) notes, archeologists have done a lot of work, but have answered very few questions about mounds. We do not know when they were built, what the effigies represent, or what the socioeconomic systems of these people were like. Studying surviving mound groups should help us address all of these questions.

A number of researchers have tried to examine the function of these mounds. Many contain human burials. Given current state protections now afforded mounds, it is unlikely that many will be systematically excavated in the near future, but there are a number of issues that can be addressed

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through non-destructive studies.

Examination of the distribution of mound forms (Mallam 1976) have provided a number of new models for the meaning of mounds. Mallam (1984) suggests that mound groups are located near zones of predictable and recurring resources, suggesting that a complex set of ideological, social, political, and economic relationships may be involved in mound construction. Scherz (1987) is convinced that the mounds functioned primarily as calendric devices and symbol geometries. Benn (1979) and Goldstein (1985) have suggested that the location of mounds may indicate seasonal population movements related to resource exploitation. Goldstein (1991) has more recently suggested that the mounds themselves may represent "maps" to resources.

Additional research must include comparative analysis of mound groups, analysis of the intra-site structure of mound groups, investigation of activities associated with mounds, and the application of ethnographic analogies.

If the mound is Middle Woodland rather than Late Woodland, the significance of the site may actually increase. Middle Woodland is the broad term for those cultures that existed in Wisconsin and surrounding areas during the period of about 300 BC — AD 400; in Southeastern Wisconsin, Middle Woodland society is represented by what archaeologists call the Waukesha Focus (cf. Salzer n.d.). A series of local cultures participated in a wide range of subsistence and settlement practices. These practices followed the patterns established by earlier groups, and were modified by local developments and interactions. While there are some similarities between the different groups, they appear to represent somewhat different cultures and adaptations.

Few Middle woodland mounds are known that have not already been destroyed — they were apparently not as commonly found as Late Woodland mounds. Further, because Middle Woodland mounds were known to often contain precious and unusual artifacts, they were looted at a faster rate.

The Lake Park Mound has the potential to answer a number of questions about mound-building and about the nature of the Woodland occupation of Southeastern Wisconsin in general, and of Milwaukee in particular. There are no other mounds remaining in the county that can answer questions about use of the Lake Michigan shore by these people.

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Lake Park Mound is significant for several reasons:

1. Its location overlooking Lake Michigan rather than a river or wetland is unusual. Comparison of this site to other mounds could add significantly to our understanding of the nature and function of these mounds.
2. It is unusual to find an undisturbed mound, and the area to the north of the mound is also undisturbed. It is unusual to find mounds in such excellent condition.
3. Study of this mound and its associated habitation site can lead to resolution of several important problems in Woodland research. In particular, Lake Park Mound could be used to examine the relationship between mounds and habitation areas. It is difficult to tie mounds to specific habitation sites, but the proximity of the debris found by Benchley and James (1981) suggests that the mound and the habitation site may be related.
4. The mound today plays an important role in the Milwaukee American Indian community, and should be recognized. The mound is used as a link to the past, and its spiritual value has increased over the last few years.
5. Lake Park Mound is the last remaining mound in the City of Milwaukee — all others have been destroyed.

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Lake Park
Name of Property

Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 140.03 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/2/9/2/7/0</u>	<u>4/7/6/9/2/4/0</u>	3	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/2/9/5/7/0</u>	<u>4/7/6/9/2/5/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/2/9/0/1/5</u>	<u>4/7/6/7/8/2/0</u>	4	<u>1</u>	<u>1/1/1/1</u>	<u>1/1/1/1</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

 see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia A. Palmer & Lynne Goldstein, edited by Jim Draeger, WI SHPO

organization University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee date 8/10/92

street & number P.O. Box 413 telephone (414) 229-5926

city or town Milwaukee state WI zip code 53201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Milwaukee County
street & number 901 N. Ninth St. telephone 414-278-4166
city or town Milwaukee state WI zip code 53233

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

LAKE PARK, Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI

Section 10, Page 1

#10. Geographical Data - Verbal Boundary Description

All tracts of land for Lake Park are located in Section 15, Township 7 North, Range 22 East, in the City and County of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The deeds for the property are recorded with the Register of Deeds of Milwaukee County.

The nominated property is bounded on the west by the east curb of N. Lake Drive and Wahl Avenue. The northern boundary is the north property line of the park, just north of East Kenwood Boulevard, including the utility building designated as (Map Code 15) on the map. The east boundary is the east curb of North Lincoln Memorial Drive beginning at its intersection with the access drive to building (Map Code 15), extending roughly south to the south property line of the park. The south boundary is the property line of the park extending roughly eastward from the intersection of East Bellview Place and Wahl Avenue. See district map for precise boundaries.

#10. Geographical Data - Boundary Justification

Lake Park is bounded on the north, south, and west by residential properties and to the east by Lake Michigan. The boundaries of the nominated property includes all land acquired by the first park board in the 1890 and the significant portion of lands resulting from landfill at the bottom of the bluff on which Lincoln Memorial Drive was built. It excludes the northeast section of land owned by the City of Milwaukee on which the Filtration Plant was built because it has no historic connection with Lake Park. It also excludes all land east of the east curb of N. Lincoln Memorial Drive which is largely comprised of sandy beach and lacks historical significance. The pedestrian overpass connecting the west side of Lincoln Memorial Drive to the bath house on the east side of the drive is also excluded.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lake Park
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

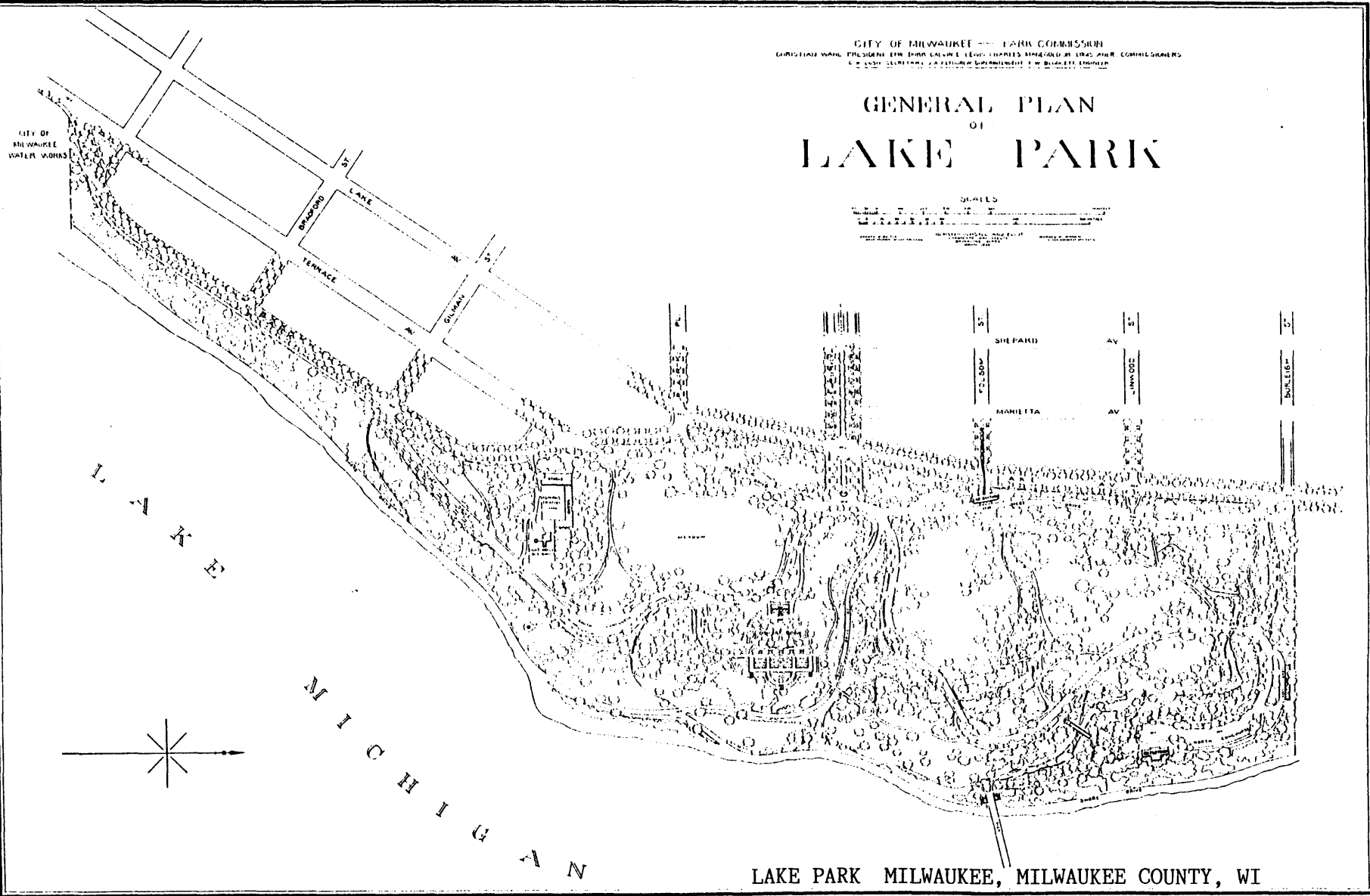
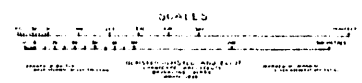
Photographic Documentation, page 1

Lake Park
Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI
Photos by James Draeger, taken on December 3, 1992
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

- Photo 1 of 17 Formal Entrance Looking East
- Photo 2 of 17 General Landscape View looking South West
- Photo 3 of 17 Mound Looking North East
- Photo 4 of 17 Plaque on Mound
- Photo 5 of 17 Ravine Drive looking South East
- Photo 6 of 17 Pavillion looking East
- Photo 7 of 17 Toolshed/Workshop/Storage Building looking North East
- Photo 8 of 17 Grand Staircase looking West
- Photo 9 of 17 Grand Staircase looking North East
- Photo 10 of 17 Lion's Bridges looking South East
- Photo 11 of 17 Brick Arch Bridge looking North West
- Photo 12 of 17 Ravine below Lion's Bridge
- Photo 13 of 17 Ravine below Nike Missile Building looking West
- Photo 14 of 17 North Point Light House and dwelling looking West
- Photo 15 of 17 Sculpture - General Wolcott Memorial looking West
- Photo 16 of 17 Lawn Bowling looking North East
- Photo 17 of 17 Nike Missile Ready Building looking South East

CITY OF MILWAUKEE PARK COMMISSION
CHRISTIANE WAHL, PRESIDENT; EMM. EDWIN CALVINE, LEON. CHARLES APPASOLE, JR., ERAS. ALGER, COMMISSIONERS
C. W. LUSH, COUNTY ENGINEER; J. A. FETTERSON, SUPERVISOR; J. W. BURGESS, ENGINEER

GENERAL PLAN OF LAKE PARK

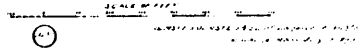


LAKE PARK MILWAUKEE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WI

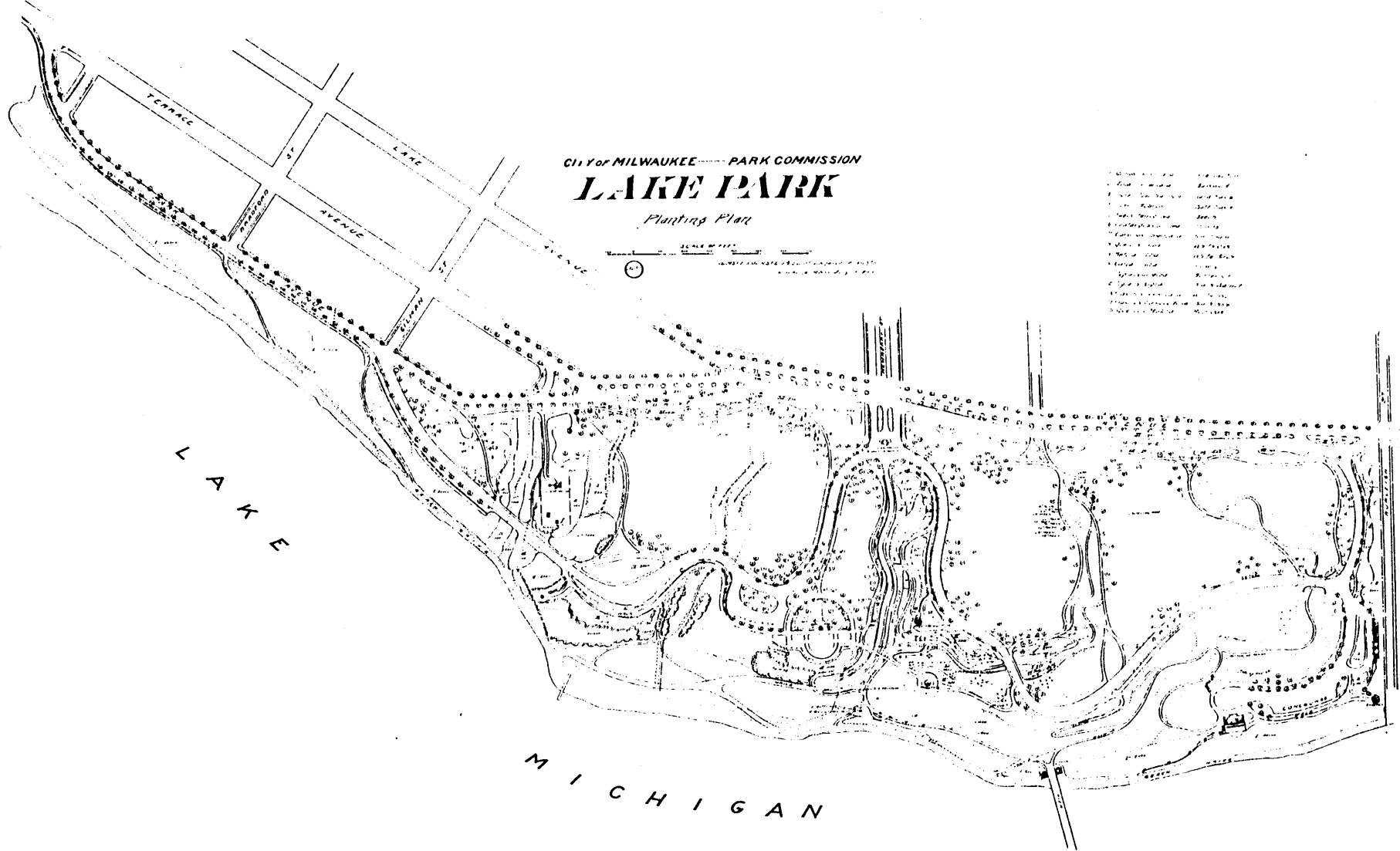
CITY OF MILWAUKEE PARK COMMISSION

LAKE PARK

Planting Plan



1. White Birch	100
2. Red Pine	100
3. Norway Spruce	100
4. White Pine	100
5. Red Pine	100
6. Norway Spruce	100
7. White Birch	100
8. Red Pine	100
9. Norway Spruce	100
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30. Norway Spruce	100



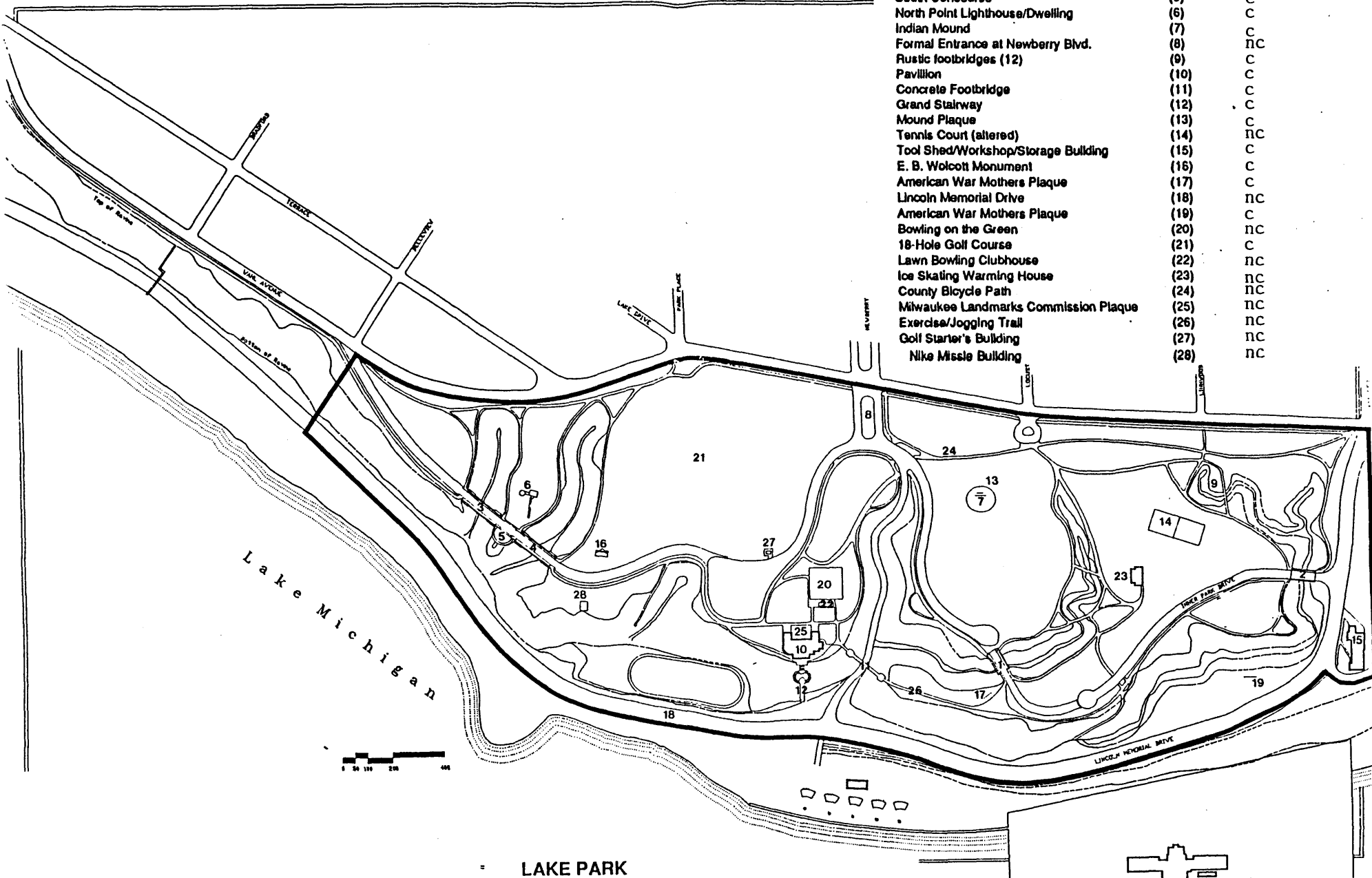
LAKE

M I C H I G A N

LAKE PARK MILWAUKEE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WI

KEY TO FEATURES IN THE PARK

Name	Map Code	Classification
Steel Arch Bridge	(1)	C
Brick Arch Bridge	(2)	C
Lion Bridges (2)	(3, 4)	C C
South Concourse	(5)	C
North Point Lighthouse/Dwelling	(6)	C
Indian Mound	(7)	C
Formal Entrance at Newberry Blvd.	(8)	NC
Rustic footbridges (12)	(9)	C
Pavilion	(10)	C
Concrete Footbridge	(11)	C
Grand Stairway	(12)	C
Mound Plaque	(13)	C
Tennis Court (altered)	(14)	NC
Tool Shed/Workshop/Storage Building	(15)	C
E. B. Wolcott Monument	(16)	C
American War Mothers Plaque	(17)	C
Lincoln Memorial Drive	(18)	NC
American War Mothers Plaque	(19)	C
Bowling on the Green	(20)	NC
18-Hole Golf Course	(21)	C
Lawn Bowling Clubhouse	(22)	NC
Ice Skating Warming House	(23)	NC
County Bicycle Path	(24)	NC
Milwaukee Landmarks Commission Plaque	(25)	NC
Exercise/Jogging Trail	(26)	NC
Golf Starter's Building	(27)	NC
Nike Missile Building	(28)	NC



**LAKE PARK
MILWAUKEE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WI**

— = Boundary of nominated property