



## GARFIELD PARK CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

### Chapter II: Garfield Park History

#### A. EARLY YEARS BEFORE PARK DEVELOPMENT

The landscape history of Garfield Park, a 128+ acre urban park in the southeast quadrant of Indianapolis, began in 1819 shortly after the State of Indiana was admitted into the Union and when the first Europeans settled around the area that would become known as Bradley Woods, and later the park.<sup>1</sup> During the 1850s the Jefferson and Indianapolis Railroad, running south out of Indianapolis, was constructed through Bradley Woods, then a forested area surrounded by open farmlands. These pre-Garfield Park lands along Bean Creek and Pleasant Run were characteristic streambank landscapes dominated by native sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*) and black willows (*Salix nigra*) “of great size and beauty” on the floodplain. The stream and shores in their undisturbed form would have included aquatic vegetation, with herbaceous and woody plants and trees on the banks. On higher ground in the Bradley Woods, beech forest (*Fagus grandifolia*) predominated, in contrast with the surrounding open agricultural lands. The landscape was described as “an agreeable diversity of forest and meadow, level and ascent.”<sup>2</sup> It was a combination of woods, streams, crop fields, and pastures in the early years of settlement and agricultural use.

The first Indianapolis city park, called Military Park, was established in 1866 when the state turned over the 17.3 acres of Camp Sullivan on the west side of Indianapolis to the city.<sup>3</sup> In 1871 Bradley Woods was sold by the Jeffersonville and Indianapolis Railroad to the Indianapolis Fair Association. The Fair Association built a racetrack and fairground on the property, intended to rival or better the track at the State Fairgrounds in Military Park.<sup>4</sup> Their first harness race and fair was held in 1872, but it was not a financial success, and after two more race events the lack of success combined with the economic slump known as the Panic of 1873 forced the Association to sell the land.<sup>5</sup> Sheriff N.R. Ruckle purchased the property, and in 1874 sold the 84.79 acres to the city for \$109,500.<sup>6</sup> The city funded the purchase with a successful bond issue, redeemed in 1895, and Garfield Park, or Southern Park as it was known then, became the first land purchased by the city with the intent to create a park for recreational purposes.<sup>7</sup>

The city did not immediately develop the park lands because of the distance, in that era of horse-drawn travel, from the more densely populated areas of the city and the lack of public transportation. Within the city there was not yet an urgent need for open, green, public space as the streets were wide and uncongested and most houses set on large lots.<sup>8</sup> The probable lack of public use put active development on hold and the property was leased to the Indiana Trotting Association for a brief period. The Trotting Association was also unsuccessful financially, and the track closed after two or three races, with the land reverting to the city.<sup>9</sup>

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The official naming of Garfield Park in 1881 in honor of assassinated President James A. Garfield confirmed the intent of the city to invest in this public landscape. Park development began within the decade. The city allocated \$10,000 in 1888 to construct a bridge across Pleasant Run.<sup>10</sup> An 1889 map of the park shows two bridges crossing Pleasant Run, a single bridge crossing Bean Creek, and a network of drives and paths providing access to the parkland (Fig. II.1).

### B. INITIAL DEVELOPMENT 1890 TO 1907

The development of the park gained momentum in the 1890s. An 1893 photograph shows that tree planting had begun (Fig. II.2). In 1893 and 1894 a pond was excavated at the junction of Bean Creek and Pleasant Run forming a water feature that was both scenic and recreational. Beyond the excavation for the pond, the banks of both Bean Creek and Pleasant Run remained relatively unaltered during the early years (Fig. II.3). Changes in the landscape began with clearing and planting vegetation, the creation of the broad water area of the lake, and drives, walks and bridges for access and circulation. These earlier years laid the foundation for the physical development of the landscape from 1895 to 1907 that transformed the meadows, woods and streams into a public park.

By 1895, as the City of Indianapolis expanded there was growing public recognition of the need for public parks. Up to this point there had been no systematic plan for the development and management of Garfield Park. The first Indiana Parks Law was passed by the state in 1895, and

It was about that time that the citizens who had made possible the first parks (probably a reference to the bond issue that bought Southern Park and had just been paid off) began to realize the need for a board of park commissioners with power to plan for future needs and acquire other park property.<sup>11</sup>

Apparently the Commercial Club, later the Chamber of Commerce, took the lead in pressing for a parks board, probably as a result of cultural competition between cities.<sup>12</sup> Eagerness to make improvements and comparisons of municipal amenities developed out of the City Beautiful movement that was influencing the growth of American cities in the years after the 1893 Chicago World Columbian Exposition. The Parks Law, enabling municipalities to take on the planning and funding of parks, resulted in the formation of an Indianapolis Board of Park Commissioners and catalyzed funding for land acquisition and improvements for parks.<sup>13</sup>

In October 1895, the city engaged John Charles Olmsted, Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, of Brookline, Massachusetts, the successor firm to that of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., to develop a city park system plan for Indianapolis which included "...a series of squares or small parks, distributed about the city; local or in-city parks, of one hundred acres or so; ...and finally a system of connecting parkways along Fall Creek and White River."<sup>14</sup> Implementation proceeded as Mayor Taggart began acquiring parklands around the city, and increments of land were added to Garfield Park over the next fifteen years. By 1910 Garfield Park consisted of 104.59 acres, with the final acreage added in 1913 bringing the total amount to the present-day 128.52 acres.<sup>15</sup>

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The city and the newly established Parks Board began to make improvements to the park landscape, features and facilities. The form and character of the park was taking shape. In 1895 a streetcar line connected the park with the city, fostering more popular use.<sup>16</sup> The 1895 Annual Report records the Parks Board authorization of a stone dam expanding the Garfield Park pond to four acres, “making a beautiful lake” (Fig. II.4).<sup>17</sup> The report explains this action as “. . . a two-fold necessity – one for use of those who frequented the park and the other with a view to creating an adequate reserve water supply for the city.”<sup>18</sup> The lagoon, bounded by Raymond Street and Pleasant Run Parkway was a popular spot for boating and ice-skating in the early 1900s (Fig. II.5).<sup>19</sup> These enhancements and others combined aesthetic, functional, and recreational purposes in shaping a pleasure ground from the original landscape of stream, meadow and woodland.

The character of vegetation in the park changed as turf was established and tended and trees were planted (Fig. II.6). In 1896 several hundred trees were planted including sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), linden (*Tilia americana* and perhaps *Tilia cordata*), oriental plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*), Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* ‘Italica’) among many other tree species and a long list of shrubs and vines. This was a horticultural approach with both native and exotic plants included. Undesired vegetation was removed, trees were trimmed park-wide and brush was cut and burned. There is a reference in the 1904 Annual Report to “forest management” within the park, probably referring to the remnant of Bradley’s Woods, other mature tree areas, and to the numerous new plantings of trees.<sup>20</sup> The planting and care of the trees became a regular ongoing activity and expense that was later organized with the establishment of a municipal forestry department, controlling tree planting and care on all the parks, streets and public lands.

Attention was also given to the water features of the park. Stream banks were graded as brush was removed from the banks of Bean Creek, and two small dams, or ripples, were made of “boulders” to create wading pools and planted with water lilies.<sup>21</sup> In 1903, the lake was dredged of several thousand wagonloads of silt for the third time. Maintenance of this water feature was a large item, but the Superintendent described the park as “indeed a pretty place, the rolling character of the ground and the two streams joining make a very pretty lake...”<sup>22</sup> Flooding continued to be a problem and changes were made to bank formation and grading during the ensuing repairs to the roads, footbridges, the dam, and stream banks.<sup>23</sup> Figure II.7 shows an area of Bean Creek that had been cleared, graded and seeded to lawn, shaded with both native and planted trees, and a further bank with a meadow planting.

The rougher areas of the parkland were also refined. Open rolling ground was graded, raked, rolled, seeded and cut as turf grass was established on the former meadows to make lawns. The grade of the lawn in front of the greenhouses on East Garfield Drive was lowered in 1902 to emphasize the view of the flowerbeds, presaging the use of the area as the Garfield Gardens and later as the Sunken Gardens. As stated in the Second Annual Report: “Perennials in designs created a flower garden worthy of great admiration.” Plant display was extended to the drives as planters made from half barrels were planted and placed on posts along the park drives.<sup>24</sup> In 1902 the Report lists eighty-four flowerbeds in the garden.<sup>25</sup> As seen in Figure II.8, ornamental planting of native and horticultural species in planters and bedding designs, especially flowering annuals and exotic tropical plants, shaped a highly tended garden landscape within the park.

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Another clear signal of park development was the construction of a durable, all weather circulation system of drives and paths. An 1899 Bicycle and Driving Map depicts park drives, streams, and a tree-dotted landscape (Fig. II.9). A bicycle path from Shelby Street to the main part of the park was built in 1901 linking the neighborhood into the park. Carriage drives were laid out, edged, raked, and rolled. Paths of stone screenings were constructed or extended each year, and the running footages were recorded in the Annual Reports from the Parks Board to the Mayor. By the end of 1904 the park had four and one-half miles of roads and walks. Wooden bridges across both streams were replaced. The first of the distinctive, arched stone bridges, made of oolitic limestone, was constructed over Bean Creek in 1896 with a second built in 1897 (Figure II.10).<sup>26</sup> Records for the years 1906 and 1907 report the construction of a reinforced concrete arched bridge, a relatively new construction technology, over Pleasant Run on the Raymond Street side. This early park circulation system composed of walks, paths, drives and bridges served equally for basic access, recreational use and aesthetic emphasis. Each of the elements had a distinctive character based on materials, size, alignment and gradient. The general pattern was curvilinear, informal and gently sloping with selected formal areas having straight and relatively level drives and paths. These drives and paths were directly related to the increasingly scenic park landscape in deliberately changing views as visitors passed along the routes.

Continuing improvements were made to other park features. Play equipment, swings, slides, teeter-totters, and other typical playground elements had been installed by this time.<sup>27</sup> References are made to additional playground equipment, tennis courts, and baseball diamonds for recreation, and to band concerts being held. Plumbing, lighting, and drinking fountains were installed or expanded throughout the later 1890s. Earlier, less durable site furnishings were steadily replaced with more permanent and decorative ones, such as the wooden fence on Southern Avenue being replaced with an iron fence from Raymond Street.<sup>28</sup>

The built elements of the park reflected current tastes and, in keeping with the trends, unique architectural and landscape features were added over time. The oriental style of the 1903 Pagoda shelter house, designed “on Japanese lines”, was placed to be seen from various locations around the park and to provide views over the park to the distant downtown skyline. The Pagoda also accommodated multi-use functions as an overlook, shelter, bandstand, and dance area (Figure II.11).<sup>29</sup>

Other lesser structures included the waiting station on Southern Avenue erected on the street railway turn-around loop in 1904, and the brick and stone entrance piers at the intersection of Southern Avenue and Shelby Street built in 1905.<sup>30</sup> The Pennsylvania Railroad Company constructed the stone, two-arch bridge over Pleasant Run, and planted a privet hedge along the entire western boundary of the park in return for some additional footage within their right-of-way.<sup>31</sup>

In summary, by 1907 Garfield Park was an improved public, recreational landscape. The park improvements were of value to park users living in the burgeoning city (Fig II.12). Garfield Park was the premier park in size and amenities in Indianapolis, and its rolling topography was noted as being pleasant and unusual for the area. A pattern had developed of features that were at the

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same time aesthetically enhancing, recreationally stimulating, and practical. Examples included:

- The Lake which provided swimming, boating, fishing and skating, contained storm water, and enhanced the visual quality of the landscape.
- The large trees supplemented with extensive new plantings each year and gently rolling turf interspersed with the trees and ornamental plantings that created scenic quality and recreational space.
- A system of drives, paths and the handsome bridges providing access and recreation in the park.
- A utility infrastructure of plumbing and electric lighting serving maintenance and the visitors.
- Park furnishings of benches, planters and drinking fountains.
- The architecturally interesting Pagoda as a shelter and venue for musical events.
- Playgrounds and ball fields for active recreation and green space.
- Early development of the ornamental gardens for visual enhancement, visitor attraction and education.

The elements of attractive, functional, green park space with varied recreational amenities and horticultural display were in place. The reputation of the park as a refuge and a showplace was growing and its value to Indianapolis was apparent.

#### **C. KESSLER PARK DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION 1908 TO 1939**

In February 1908, following the retirement of J. Clyde Power, Engineer and Superintendent to the Board of Park Commissioners, George Edward Kessler was hired “to do some really notable work in park building along broader lines than had been attempted before.”<sup>32</sup> Kessler was a respected landscape architect with successful projects in St. Louis, Memphis, and Kansas City in the design of park and parkway systems, developing and using to advantage the interesting attributes of existing landscapes. He had trained in forestry, botany and landscape design at the Grand Ducal Gardens in Weimar, Germany, in civil engineering at the University of Jena, and worked as apprentice laborer under Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. on the early development of Central Park, New York.

As a result of his training and the tastes of the time, his design style employed both formal and informal, naturalistic elements. Kessler’s ethics were deeply concerned with the environment and the health and happiness of people.<sup>33</sup> Kessler’s professional work addressed two clear and compelling needs of the time:

A need for parks in which citizens could reflect, relax, and enjoy time out of the increasingly congested cities, and

The need for improved roadways connecting key areas of the city while avoiding the more congested urban areas.

Kessler was hired as the landscape architect and to head “the constructive work of the department”, with “the simpler work of park administration and maintenance” to be handled by the local organization.<sup>34</sup> Kessler’s work during his first eleven months brought a new vision to



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the Parks Board and by the end of the year the Board had requested a new law to allow greater park improvements and power to assess costs in a different way. This was enacted by the State legislature in 1909.<sup>35</sup>

The years 1908 and 1909 mark not only the reorganization of the Board of Park Commissioners but the redirection of Garfield Park's mandate, conforming to the larger context of a park and parkways system for the city. This mandate was based on Kessler's ethic of acquisition and improvement of public parklands characteristic of the topography of a city, and for Indianapolis this would be the "recreation of a beautiful Indianapolis based upon the existence of the streams flowing through the city."<sup>36</sup> The 1908 Annual Report cover shows the new arched reinforced concrete bridge over Pleasant Run (Fig. II.13). The Report mentions the considerable reshaping of the Pleasant Run banks that created "a finer body of water ...than the park had ever had before."<sup>37</sup>

Kessler's report for 1908 speaks of "the close of my first year of service to your Board" and the previous lack of a "definite of studied plan for the expansion of the park system to meet the needs of your growing city" which is

...comparatively a new study, (but) nearly all of the more important cities of this country have within the last few years come to realize that park improvement and a careful study for systematic park work, embodying adequate means of communication between parks...is rapidly becoming not only a valuable asset...but a decided necessity in the proper and healthful growth of any large community.<sup>38</sup>

A recurring theme in Kessler's writing is the rise in the quality and value of properties in the neighborhoods of the parks. Later, a 1929 recreation survey addressed this increase in value noting that "there is noticeable scrambling by groups and organizations to get these benefits for their districts...authorities...are called upon ever to keep their minds on the fundamentals of the Olmsted and Kessler plans..."<sup>39</sup>

Much of Kessler's design work for Garfield Park was similar to that for other Indianapolis parks. The emphasis was on a system of drives and walks that revealed "the real beauty spots of the city", principally along the watercourses and their banks, dams and bridges, that gave everyone access to views and a variety of open space. The system needed to provide for easy access from neighborhoods to recreational space, playgrounds, and cultural and social amenities. In 1914 Kessler described Garfield Park as a "naturally very beautiful park" with a "characteristically fine beech forest... ample open lawns and open places for children's playgrounds, and play fields for adults as well, with beautiful setting for each of the several fields for outdoor play." Kessler viewed Garfield Park as retaining "the intimate character of a local park."<sup>40</sup>

The Kessler plan for Garfield Park, of which all the major elements were eventually implemented, was highly developed as a designed landscape with more built elements and features than any other park he designed for Indianapolis (Fig. II.14). The circulation system included a circumferential carriage drive with entrances from Raymond Street, Shelby Avenue, and Southern Avenue, and internal roadways offering a variety of views and vistas of the Park.<sup>41</sup>

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The existing bridges were incorporated into the system and three more were added. Walks were added from the adjacent neighborhoods to the major park features, and curving paths created secondary loops within the park circumference. The scenery of the park included open meadows and lawns, knolls, woods, lagoons and the handsome bridges.<sup>42</sup>

During this period the acquisition of land for the park ends with the final addition of the land along Shelby Street in 1913. Ten years later a 1923 entry in the Annual Report notes that “land south of the Park is not to be considered for additions.”<sup>43</sup> With the added Shelby Street land Kessler projected Garfield Park as having

A distinctive character in its Conservatory and in the gardens about that conservatory... the opportunity for floral display...to emphasize the use of flowers in all their several forms and beauty, in concentrated mass ... which will give to Garfield Park its particular character and very great attractiveness.<sup>44</sup>

This would be the “distinctive feature of the entire (parks) system, which will undoubtedly... make that section a very attractive region to the entire population of the city.”<sup>45</sup> Kessler noted that this continued the Garfield tradition of the greenhouses supplying flowering plants for the entire park system. He also suggested that the Garfield Park gardens might lead to a botanic collection, on a par with the zoological park projected for Riverside Park, thereby increasing the value of the gardens to the public.

Kessler’s specific vision of the Garfield Gardens sets the stage for the high period of historic significance of the gardens and park. He describes his plan in the Annual Report for 1914 as “a picture of living color seen largely from the slight elevation...” (Fig. II.15). The Conservatory would face west with the roadway slightly below it. Beyond and at the level of the road

There will be a broad platform with the opportunity for small assemblage, for seats, and particularly to give opportunity for the outlook upon the gardens...with ample pathways giving access to all of the separate flower beds, and...seating along all these paths... The general plan for the garden is in the form of a long parterre running parallel with the roadway above, and practically in the form of a cross, another garden along absolutely formal lines toward the west, and merging at the west end into the forest background of the park. At the west end...there should be a structure closing this picture...(with) a water basin, giving opportunity for aquatic garden as well, completing thereby the display of every kind of decorative flowers that can be used in this climate. Within the formal lines of the gardens the planting each summer should be entirely formal in character, relying more upon foliage than upon flowers for the effectiveness of this display. Flanking both the north and south sides of the formal garden there will be considerable space for the informal display of summer flowers and the more permanent plants of the hardy perennials, those plants which with each succeeding year come out more strongly and more compactly without replanting, producing a wonderfully fine display of color. Throughout these informal gardens, grass paths, or paths having occasional stepping stones sunk in the grass surface, will give access to each separate section, and perhaps to each separate

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class of flowers displayed there. Flanking the perennial gardens, and framing the entire scheme of Garfield Gardens, will be the trees and shrubs on the east, south and north, serving as a frame, with this garden as the jewel in that setting. Through the Winter months...the collection of many beautiful summer plants will be finely displayed under the glass in the conservatory, making this particular portion of Garfield Park a certain attraction throughout the entire year. ...(There will be) fine highways for both the driving and the walking public, to connect with and lead to Garfield Park...<sup>46</sup>

With relatively few variations, the concept set forth by Kessler was developed into the Sunken Gardens, a focal area of ornamental horticulture and water features within Garfield Park. The Conservatory complex, consisting of a palm house, two show houses, two plant houses, a propagating house and a service building, was finished and opened, and the Outlook was constructed in 1915, as seen in Figure II.16.<sup>47</sup> The Outlook was built below street level to allow views of the floral displays from the adjacent drives. The Annual Report for 1915 describes the Outlook as a concrete terrace constructed with three elevations: the 16½-foot wide sidewalk at the drive level, the “balcony proper” in the center portion, and the garden elevation. Three sets of steps led from the sidewalk to the balcony and two grand-scaled sets of steps on either side led from the sidewalk to the gardens. A description of the ‘Lookout’ notes that it “consists primarily of walks, steps, parapet walls, two enclosed spaces for flowers, and fourteen Bedford stone bowls surmounting the walls will also serve as receptacles for flowers.” Two elevated, elliptical 25-foot basins separate the upper three sets of steps for floral garden designs.<sup>48</sup>

The 1916 Board of Park Commissioners Annual Report remarks that the improvements of that year to Garfield Gardens are the most significant improvements in the park system. Due to Kessler’s resignation from the Parks Board in December 1915, the firm of Vonnegut and Bohn prepared the final architectural plans for the gardens and supervised the installation.<sup>49</sup> The report narrative describes the layout, seen in Figure II.17, as a formal garden design “...including brick walks, three fountains and concrete vases at walk intersections for bay trees. The garden is lighted by an underground system of cables leading to concrete standards, mounted with bronze lanterns carrying 100 watt lamps.” F.W. Darlington, of Chicago designed and installed the water fountain displays. Nighttime lighting effects for the fountains made a highly visible display.<sup>50</sup> As described by the Park Horticulturist the installation of the gardens followed Kessler’s design intent:

...as soon as the contractors finished a section...same was sodded and flower beds were traced...planted with highly colored foliage plants. ...after the contract was finished for all symmetrical work, a force of men was employed to construct walks of crushed stone throughout the balance of the garden...and prepare beds for the informal planting of perennials in masses. . . This picture will have a frame of shrubs and trees, with an occasional vista to the center of attraction. Next to this will be great masses of perennial stock with irregular sod lines and all highly colored foliage plants will be used in the symmetrical bedding. The rose garden will be located in the triangle to the north. There will be sixteen beds of different varieties of hybrid tea roses.<sup>51</sup>



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He continues by suggesting straightening Bean Creek to prevent erosion and forming a natural aquatic pond with floral displays and a small rustic bridge to add beauty. The soil preparation had just been completed. The Sunken Gardens were dedicated on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 1916.<sup>52</sup>

Some changes were made in the layout of the flowerbeds over the years, but they appear to have been relatively minor in the overall design. In 1920 the plantings were reorganized around an open center lawn with perennial plants massed in long beds (Fig. II.18). The perennials were chosen for color, height and bloom cycle, to harmonize with each other and provide sustained interest.<sup>53</sup> By the end of the 1930s, as seen in the photographs taken in 1937, the Sunken Gardens had grown and matured, the plantings were more lush, but their general layout and appearance still clearly corresponded to the Kessler vision (Fig. II.19).

The perimeter garden area was expanded with the addition of rock or alpine gardens along the banks of Bean Creek, and the rose garden acquired a sculpture sundial. The 1936 Report notes that “the Sunken Gardens were redesigned with new beds made and sod relaid on the older beds.” Adjacent to the Sunken Gardens across Bean Creek, the Alpine Garden was enlarged. “Stones, evergreens, shrubs and hardy perennials were transplanted from other places in Garfield Park”. This brought the area of the Sunken Gardens, rose garden and alpine garden to more than twenty acres of flower beds in both formal and informal styles. A 1937 photograph shows informal ponds added on the south perimeter (Fig. II.20).

The design character of a naturalistic park surrounding the jewel-like formal gardens was reiterated in the 1936 report:

Liberal plantings of trees and shrubs should be made along all borders where the same have not as yet been treated. A frame of trees, evergreens and shrubs should be planted on both sides of the showhouse; this will not only create a frame for the showhouse, but will screen all objectionable views of the hotbed yards. It will be necessary, in order to produce a natural effect along the small streams and lake, to plant a great amount of native plants; willows should be the predominating variety along the water's edge, with taller growing trees in the back for a sky line; mass planting of the different varieties of bog plants would be very interesting.

A step toward Kessler's vision of connections and access to the park was made in 1913 with the construction of an entrance “subway” into Garfield Park under the J.M.& I. Railway, a former barrier to the central and southwestern sections of the city. This work was part of the extension of the Pleasant Run Parkway North Drive through the park. The Annual Report for 1913 notes the general plan of the Department to provide “avenues of ingress and egress for the large parks and simultaneously providing ample park spaces and playgrounds along the entire length of all streams.” There is mention of the extension's transformation of the stream frontage “from a dumping ground for garbage and trash collectors to natural recreation centers within easy reach of many homes.”<sup>54</sup> In 1914 Kessler writes that the subway “has given a splendid connection to that portion of the residential population living west of Garfield Park” who had been cut off from the park. “The subway there has produced a beautiful picture, and makes a most convenient connection...”<sup>55</sup> Here again is the emphasis on even utilitarian structures adding beauty and interest to the park. The appearance of city streets also contributed as the widening and

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improving of streets bordering Garfield Park “lend much to the general appearance of the property.”<sup>56</sup>

In 1915 the lagoon was dredged to restore water depth for boating. Thirty thousand cubic yards of lagoon silt were removed and used for grading elsewhere in the park.<sup>57</sup> To visualize this volume consider a 20-foot by 20-foot by 20-foot cube (about 300 cubic yards) multiplied by 100 such cubes, and note that a large dump truck carries only 20 cubic yards of material. The lagoon was dredged yet again in 1936. A report from that year indicates that “From a 5-acre pond dammed up for ice skaters, much soil and gravel was dredged and used for fill on athletic fields and creek banks.”<sup>58</sup> A five-acre pond covers an area of about 218,000 square feet.

Maintaining the wide water of the pond required this recurring investment of dredging as soil, silt and gravel was deposited annually with spring melt and storm flows. The efforts continued however as the recreational and aesthetic value of the pond was considered worth the investment.

In 1915 the first of the memorials arrived in the park with the installation of the General Henry Ware Lawton bronze statue, moved from the grounds of the Courthouse to the north entry drive (Fig. II.21). In 1920 the Gold Star Legion requested ground for the Memorial Grove to commemorate local First World War dead. The Grove was planted with 290 trees, and markers carrying the name of each soldier, his company, and the date of death were installed the next year.<sup>59</sup> In 1929 the Confederate Soldiers Prisoner of War Memorial was relocated from Greenlawn Cemetery to the park entry along Pagoda Drive. Each of these features is a focus in the area in which it is placed. Other smaller memorials were placed for the founder of the Gold Star Mothers Alice Moore French, Lucius Swift, and Al Feeney.

The perimeter of the park was defined in two ways. The park entrances were marked by distinctive piers and wide, welcoming Y-shaped entry drives. The entrances designed by Kessler were constructed at Raymond and Shelby streets, and in 1918-19 a new entrance was constructed on the west side of Pleasant Run Parkway and the former vehicular entrance was reconfigured as a pedestrian entry. The second way of defining park edges was by planting trees and shrubs as a border for the park. During the winter of 1912 “one hundred and forty large trees were removed from driveways and massed along the north border of the park from Shelby to New streets; this has made quite a change, as a view has been obtained from Shelby street west and a fringe has been made along the border...”<sup>60</sup> This area, part of the Conservatory landscape unit north of East Garfield Drive, remains as a visually dense buffer area today. “During the early fall border planting was continued along Southern avenue from the railroad to the east property line and at intersections of drives and walks.” In the 1914 Report the Park Commissioners note that the final Shelby Street land acquisition will “prevent a residential development from crowding on the park...”<sup>61</sup> Apparently the open view west from Shelby Street was reconsidered and a border of trees and shrubs was planted from Southern Avenue north, incorporating an avenue planting of sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*). The Chief Horticulturist reports in 1920 that the park was being planted out along the park perimeter. In particular the Raymond Street entrance was embellished with the Memorial Grove and “trees, evergreens, and shrubs were used in the triangle on Southern Avenue...and trees only were planted at the Shelby Street entrance.”<sup>62</sup> The intent was to frame the entire park with a border of trees over time.

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This pattern of tree planting emphasized formal lines of uniform trees in tree lawns along the streets and informal, naturalistic groves of trees within the park. Trees were massed for shaded lawns and to frame and create edges for meadows. Naturalistic planting or native vegetation furnished the creek banks alternating with mown banks. As seen in Figure II.22 the banks of Pleasant Run were largely graded and seeded, while Bean Creek, for the most part, was left in its natural riparian form. There is a reference to planting willows to control bank erosion. An active attempt to reforest the woods with beech and sugar maples to replace trees in decline is noted “as the old forest trees are fast disappearing”.<sup>63</sup> As drives were widened, trees, sometimes of sizeable diameter, were relocated to mass plantings on the borders and hillsides and augmented with groupings of conifers. As the Pleasant Run Parkway Drives were constructed lagoons were created between the drives upstream from the Lake for scenic, recreational, and flood control purposes.<sup>64</sup>

The important park structures for recreational and cultural needs, in a variety of styles, were built during this period. The “Colonial architecture” shelter house, designed by architect Frank B. Hunter, known as the Outdoor Shelter House or the Community House, was built in 1921 with approval given for the reinforced concrete tunnel leading into the lower level in 1922.<sup>65</sup> The Amphitheater, also called the Bandshell, opened in 1922 as a repertory theater presenting open-air concerts and a new play each week.<sup>66</sup> The first performance by the Indianapolis Symphony took place in the Amphitheater in 1936.<sup>67</sup> This was an enormously successful program in the park until performances were discontinued during the Second World War.

Recreational facilities for pleasure and for health continued to be added or upgraded. More tennis courts were added to the park space around the Conservatory, and upgraded athletic fields created open space views near the Community House. The first swimming pool opened below the Community House in 1930, replacing the two bathing beaches – one for boys, one for girls on Bean Creek.<sup>68</sup> Croquet grounds and horseshoe pitches adjoined the pool.<sup>69</sup>

The bridges were an intentionally strong feature in the views into and through the park, and were enjoyed by pedestrians as well as drivers (Figure II.23). In 1923 two more bridges were built over Bean Creek.<sup>70</sup> Their design was flat-decked but with arched spans and simplified decorative railings. In 1925 a new concrete arched bridge was built over Pleasant Run near the “old dam site.”<sup>71</sup> Not only did roadways and bridges have to adjust to the age of the automobile. In 1937 the Indianapolis Star reported the removal of shrubbery on all sides of the Sunken Gardens because the faster drive-by speed of cars than buggies required more open space for people to “get a view of the flowers and the fountains.”<sup>72</sup>

By the end of the 1930s Garfield Park embodied culture and nature in an urban recreational ground with a considerable variety of scenery and park facilities. All of the significant features and uses planned by Kessler and carried out under the Park Commission were in place by the late 1930s.

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#### D. RECENT PARK EVOLUTION 1940 TO 1980

The years up to 1940 are the period of land acquisition and the improvements that shaped the park. The years that followed brought changes to the property, of omission and commission, which began to alter park features and character. Characteristic of the next four decades is the increasing deterioration of fabric, diminution of amenity, and recognition of loss. “During the years of the Great Depression and World War II no major projects were pursued for obvious reasons of the lack of money and a more immediate priority of investitures. The allotted money supplied to the Garfield greenhouse system was used for salaries, utilities and the necessary repairs.”<sup>73</sup> The 1951 Minute Report notes repairs for the Sunken Gardens’ fountains that “had been inoperative for years.”<sup>74</sup> The Indianapolis newspapers chronicle the events and condition of Garfield Park, and the community’s continuing interest, over the next decades.

The newspaper sounded a positive note in January 1945 with the announcement that blueprints for a new amphitheater had been completed. The new amphitheater was to replace the bandshell. A trial performance run of the *Pirates of Penzance* in the bandshell during the summer of 1944 had been a huge success and the new project would be a morale booster as a “pre-postwar project” before the war ended. The completed amphitheater was described as having easy user access, mass transportation access, available utilities, and parking in new and existing areas and along the two miles of park drives. No existing trees or shrubs would be removed. It would be surrounded by “colorful native trees and flowering shrubs”, and more screening shrubs would be planted to hide a perimeter fence.<sup>75</sup> A summer opera season was scheduled for 1946.<sup>76</sup>

There were other positive reports. In 1947 the Lagoon was dredged, again, for ice skating.<sup>77</sup> In 1952 the Indianapolis Star, the Chamber of Commerce, and the city administration sponsored a model yard garden at the edge of the Sunken Gardens above Bean Creek to demonstrate how “any person can landscape his back yard at reasonable cost and maintain that garden”.<sup>78</sup> As evidenced by the headlines this “Yard Parks” program was well received and continued for more than a decade.<sup>79</sup> Also in 1952 there were popular weekly concerts, at least one of which was attended by an estimated five thousand people.<sup>80</sup> In 1953 the Sunken Gardens and the fountains were renovated.<sup>81</sup> These efforts to provide programs and to rehabilitate park features were bringing park users to Garfield Park.

In 1954 the aging, deteriorated Conservatory glass house was replaced with a welded aluminum-frame conservatory. The project architect, David V. Burns, of Burns and Burns Architects noted that the new fifty by two hundred foot building would be the first all-aluminum, all-welded greenhouse in the United States. The rigid frame design meant that interior pillars and trusses would not be needed, creating less shadow. The 26½ degree angle of the roof was also calculated for maximum light.<sup>82</sup> The new conservatory, seen in Figure II.24, had an Art Deco-style façade.<sup>83</sup>

On the negative side there were reports of vandalism and rowdy activity damaging park features. In 1946 the fountains were vandalized, and disturbances at the dances held in the Pagoda led to the removal of the jukebox from the pavilion in 1956, but three days later a headline reported the dances resumed.<sup>84</sup>

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The deteriorating condition of the Pagoda in the 1950s caused area residents to rally support for the Park with a “Pennies for the Pagoda” campaign to repair the dilapidated but still iconic structure.<sup>85</sup> Local feeling about the importance of the Pagoda activated popular response to park conditions and citizen participation. Community involvement was also evident when a plan for an elevated super highway cutting through the park was announced in 1957.<sup>86</sup> Nine months and considerable protest later the newspapers reported that the proposed highway would not be routed through the park.<sup>87</sup>

By the 1960s the neighborhood had changed from large lots with houses, gardens and open space to a neighborhood of small lots and residences, with some commercial and industrial land uses. The year 1962 was the population apex for the area.<sup>88</sup> A 1964 newspaper reports that the model yards in the park were weedy and the walks were crumbling.<sup>89</sup> An undated postcard photograph, circa mid 1960s, reveals weathering, alterations, and deterioration in the Sunken Gardens and shows standard streetlight fixtures replacing the custom light posts (Fig. II.25).

Nearly three decades of attempts to deal with park deterioration and renovate specific elements began in 1965. These renovations seem to have occurred without a systematic plan, and with insufficient funding. In 1965, the Parks Department landscape architect discussed plans for reconstruction of the Sunken Gardens brick walkways.<sup>90</sup> It was noted that the original bricks were an unusual color and size that was going to be difficult to replace.<sup>91</sup> The renovations began and were covered in the news. Examples of the headlines include: “Undergoing renovation”<sup>92</sup> and “Photos – a scene of beauty and ugliness”<sup>93</sup> Park Board Minute Reports from 1966 list repairs needed for the greenhouses, Conservatory and the Sunken Gardens walks, and a suggestion to repair the Sunken Gardens walkways by reusing brick from the outer walks for the inner walk.<sup>94</sup> The report also mentions that Garfield Park gardeners were caring for eight hundred acres of cultivated parkland, six miles of street centers, and twenty-five miles of boulevards, extending their efforts well beyond Garfield Park.

In 1967 a long-range \$150,000 renovation of Garfield Park was announced, including repairing the brick walkway, the front exterior of the Conservatory, and the Pagoda’s spiral iron staircase, for which the original drawings had just been found.<sup>95</sup> In 1968 the headline “Renovation urged” seems to indicate a lack of activity.<sup>96</sup> By 1972 the fountains had been repaired. A headline in the Star announced: “Photograph shows fountain at night – 1<sup>st</sup> time in two years it is operating.”<sup>97</sup> However in 1973, an article was headlined: “Department of Parks & Recreation says there are no plans to repair park.” The Pagoda had been fenced with chain link as unsafe for public use, condemned, and “will be removed when time permits,” but there was no timeline for demolishing the structure and it was suggested that active citizen participation would be needed to accomplish a renovation.<sup>98</sup> The 1950s “Pennies for the Pagoda” campaign seemed to have generated an early concept of public-private partnership in financing aspects of the park. Shortly thereafter two newspapers commented on the state of the park: “5 member City-County Council committee to inspect park”<sup>99</sup> and “Continuing look at deterioration of park.”<sup>100</sup> Vandalism and social problems continued to be a concern. There were numerous complaints about “hippie” groups in the park, and continuing acts of vandalism of park structures.<sup>101</sup> In 1974 the Garfield Park centennial anniversary, and “Residents’ ‘ire’ at lack of repair to Pagoda begins the ‘Save the Pagoda’ fund.”<sup>102</sup>



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Park deterioration was more widespread than the Pagoda. A headline in 1969 refers to the lake as a thing of the past, and in 1974 it was reported that “the lagoon site now is an unhandsome site with weeds growing around it.”<sup>103</sup> The Alpine Garden was no longer cultivated and appeared as roughly terraced slopes planted with a mix of perennials and grasses.<sup>104</sup> Neither the public nor the press were abandoning the park though, and the fountains and concerts were still popular. “Although some of the park’s once-beautiful markings have deteriorated Garfield Park remains one of the city’s great landmarks...”<sup>105</sup> Individual citizens took an active interest. A headline: “Old Park Board minutes reveal existence of sundial in Garfield Park,”<sup>106</sup> was followed two months later by: “Herman Hoglebogle searches for the sundial that used to be in Garfield Park.”<sup>107</sup> There was public concern about park policy: “Proposed renovation of Pagoda draws criticism from Elmer E. Taflinger about Parks and Recreation Dept policies.”<sup>108</sup>

Another cultural resource added to the park area in 1968 was the “handsome modern library...on a small piece of former park ground (that) ...faces on Shelby Street.”<sup>109</sup> The addition of the library to the edge of the park added another community-oriented attraction to a landscape steeped in community identity and involvement.

Organized recreation continued to receive space and facilities in the park during this period. In 1969-1970 a playground area and a baseball diamond were added at the Park,<sup>110</sup> and in 1972 city park officials promised not to replant trees at the base of the sledding hill where local children were accustomed to play football and baseball.<sup>111</sup>

In 1977 repairs finally began on the Pagoda including painting, a new roof, replacing structural steel and restoring the concrete floor,<sup>112</sup> and another two-year renovation of the Sunken Gardens began. The renovation consisted of a first phase that included repair of the planter in front of the greenhouse, restoration of the steps leading into the gardens, the brick walkways, and the fountains. In the second phase major landscaping would be done on the surrounding gardens, with tree planting, reconstruction of a bridge over Bean Creek, and a sprinkler system installed. The newspaper carried pictures of the pagoda with “work still under way” and a bulldozer at work on the area south of the Sunken Gardens.<sup>113</sup> The work was officially completed in 1979, and an article in the *Indianapolis Star* reported the end of the renovations, but also listed a number of unfinished or non-working elements.<sup>114</sup>

Renovations were also made to two major recreation facilities during this time. The swimming pool and the tennis courts were remodeled, and a horseshoe pitch and shelter were constructed next to the swimming pool.<sup>115</sup> There were also playgrounds near the swimming pool and a softball diamond in the southeast area of the park. These outdoor recreation facilities were complemented by indoor activities at the adjacent Community Center, and by locker rooms and showers in the lower level.

The final years of this period were more positive for the continued life of the park as a special landscape, a well-loved place, and an important part of the city. However the effects from lack of funding and attention, which began with the aftermath of the Depression and the war years, had not been entirely overcome. The years without systematic planning or dependable funding paralleled the early decades of the Garfield Park history. Some of the sporadic repairs had changed or altered park features, but the park retained its character, features, and activities to a

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remarkable degree. Efforts were being made to rehabilitate important elements of the park. Both the city and the public were beginning to realize the role of public participation. There remained the need for strong, ongoing planning and adequate, steady, dependable funding to maintain the fabric of the park and bring it to the condition of its peak period.

#### E. PARK RENEWAL 1980 TO 2003

Recognition of the need for systematic renewal and long-term guidance began in 1980 with the preparation of a Garfield Park Master Plan.<sup>116</sup> This plan for remodeling and rehabilitation was studied by both city officials and area residents, and approved in the fall of 1981.<sup>117</sup> As a result the conservatory was refurbished and re-opened in 1983.<sup>118</sup> Vandalism and other social problems continued however, and beginning in 1981 the park was closed at 10:00 pm to prevent young people from congregating there at night.<sup>119</sup> In 1987 the Conservatory was damaged by arson.<sup>120</sup>

An updated master plan was created in 1989, by the Department of Metropolitan Development, Division of Planning, for the Department of Parks and Recreation. This 1989 plan recognized Garfield Park as a community park, as opposed to a regional or neighborhood park, that supported intensive recreational use and organized programs as well as open space for playgrounds and playfields, water recreation, picnics and trails. As with the 1981 master plan the area residents were asked to offer ideas for the new master plan.<sup>121</sup> One resulting decision was the siting of the fire station in a location where it would not interfere with the sledding hill and sports fields.<sup>122</sup>

The 1989 Master Plan described the bridges that are such a notable feature of the park. Of the five vehicular bridges four were structurally sound in 1989 and only the bridge over Pleasant Run on Pagoda Drive had a structurally deficient span. The railings on that bridge had been replaced in 1988, as were the railings on the Conservatory Drive bridge over Bean Creek duplicating the original design. The plan mentions that the other two bridges over Bean Creek with their unusual block and void railings were in good condition, and that the arched span of the Center Drive bridge over Pleasant Run is “a novel experience, which adds to the character of Garfield Park.”<sup>123</sup> The bridges were identified in the *Marion County Iron and Concrete Bridge Survey*, and in *Artistry and Ingenuity in Artificial Stone, Indiana’s Concrete Bridges, 1900-1942*.<sup>124</sup> The bridge at Southern Avenue, and the two bridges across Pleasant Run are National Register candidates.<sup>125</sup>

Changes in the park landscape during the 1990s were both planned and unplanned. A major natural disaster occurred in 1992 when a tornado destroyed twenty percent of the park trees.<sup>126</sup> The circulation pattern of the park drives was changed with the removal of Pleasant Run South Drive, and the closing of the drive in front of the Conservatory and connections within the internal driving loop system. Portions of these alignments were converted to pedestrian paths, while others were removed.

In 1994 Ratio Architects of Indianapolis prepared a park plan for the Department of Parks and Recreation, and major funding was made available in 1995 for renovations. The first phase of a

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three-phase park renovation included the amphitheater, resurfacing the tennis courts, the new double drive entrance from Southern Avenue, and a new playground next to the Pagoda.<sup>127</sup> The amphitheater was re-named in honor of P.E. MacAllister, for his philanthropic, civic and community support of the arts in Indianapolis and the campaign for funding for the MacAllister Center for the Performing Arts began with MacAllister as the chair of the Indianapolis Parks Foundation.<sup>128</sup>

The new park plan included a rehabilitation plan for the Sunken Gardens by the Westerly Group, historic landscape architects, based on the layout and design details of its early peak period in the 1920s. This rehabilitation was carried out as part of the second phase,<sup>129</sup> which included repairing walks, and renovating the greenhouses “so the conservatory can return to the idea of hosting horticultural shows.”<sup>130</sup> The third phase included the construction of an aquatic center with a new pool and water slide opening in 1996.<sup>131</sup>

Five million dollars was invested in these projects but work stopped when funds ran short. The prospect of further funding by a large grant from Lilly Endowment generated the formation of a neighborhood advisory committee to reach a consensus on priorities. The committee expressed the desire to see the park “restored for future generations to come”. The first priority would be the “preservation of the historic gardens”.<sup>132</sup> The old Olympic swimming pool would not be salvaged and lighting on the tennis courts would be sacrificed. The new entrance on Southern Ave would be closed and turned into green-space, and the park entrances would be off Shelby St and near the tennis courts. The Indianapolis Parks Foundation would establish a maintenance fund for the park.<sup>133</sup>

The Lilly foundation then donated four million dollars to continue the park renewal efforts. Half the monies granted were used for the family center. Other improvements included replacement of all glass, installation of a security system, greater energy efficiency and climate control and repairs to the limestone façade of the Conservatory; and repair or replacement of fountains, urns, lamps and crushed-stone walks, electrical upgrading, a new irrigation system, and landscaping for the Sunken Gardens. The Parks Director is quoted: “These improvements will restore many of the park’s grand features and assure that Garfield is maintained as a cornerstone to our city’s Southside.”<sup>134</sup>

In 1997 work on the Conservatory and MacAllister Center renovations was completed and the Conservatory introduced its permanent rainforest theme.<sup>135</sup> The Burrello Family Center opened in 1998 with its indoor gymnasium, weight room, locker room and outdoor basketball court, and the outdoor swimming and spray pool. The 1930 pool was filled in and replaced by a parking lot. The restoration of the Sunken Gardens “to its original classically designed vision” was finished. Parks Pifer, Conservatory Director, described the entire project in an interview in 1998:

The “restoration took more (than) three years and cost more than \$2 million, renovation of the entire 125-acre park has been an eight-year project. We’ve spent approximately \$12 million, and we’ve built a brand new pool and the Burrello Family Center... The pagoda ...was renovated and a new playground added. Also

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we made numerous upgrades to the MacAllister Center for the Performing Arts. The amphitheater now seats more than 3,000 patrons.'

The Sunken Gardens was the final piece. Originally opened 82 years ago the garden was developed because so many area residents had a strong European ancestry and wanted a formal European garden in the area... 'This is the only formal European garden in Indianapolis'.

Highlights include 56 huge urns with tile inserts and oak leaf motifs and three fountains, all framed by walkways, plantings and a new wrought iron fence.

'For the first time in 25 years the fountains are working properly'. During the day through mid-November there will be fountain displays, and after dusk colored lights go with the fountain display. 'The colored lights have not been on since the early 1970s'. Plus the fountains can be coordinated with music to create 'dancing waters'. 'The fountains have a dozen different sequences...and several color combinations.'"

The seasonal planting combinations in the Sunken Gardens are mentioned, and the "completion of walking trails within the park -- linking with new Pleasant Run Trail. Most of the blacktopped trails follow the original cinder paths... (made) from the cleanout of the Conservatory boilers every summer. 'There are still a couple of areas of old cinder path remaining'.

The old family center, now a fine arts center is being considered for possible use as classrooms.<sup>136</sup>

The Friends of Garfield Park (FOGP) was founded in 1998 under an initiative of the Indianapolis Parks Foundation's Partners in Parks. The FOGP was formed, in part, to protect and enhance the fourteen million dollar investment of public and private funds in Garfield Park that had funded these renovations. The FOGP has established the Garfield Park Fund at the Central Indiana Community Foundation with a challenge grant of \$333,333, and raised nearly one million dollars for park maintenance and improvement.

In 1999 the Indiana Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) awarded a bronze Centennial Medallion to the Garfield Park Sunken Gardens as a part of the ASLA centennial celebration. The Sunken Gardens were selected for this honor as one of the "well-loved landscapes that reflect our history, culture, and communities", and one of the "most significant works of landscape architecture" in Indiana.<sup>137</sup> Only one hundred works of landscape architecture in the United States share this honor.

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### CHAPTER II: ENDNOTES

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- <sup>2</sup> “Garfield Park Roots Go Back To ’74,” *Indianapolis Star*, 6 Aug 1967, sec.7.
- <sup>3</sup> *Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners 1913-1919*, fold-out map of Indianapolis Parks Land Acquisition.
- <sup>4</sup> Department of Metropolitan Development: Division of Planning, Garfield Park Master Plan, for Department of Parks and Recreation (1989), 2; “Garfield Park Roots Go Back To ’74,” *Indianapolis Star*, 6 Aug 1967, sec. 7; “The Dream That Failed Is Now Garfield Park”, *Indianapolis Times*, 10 Aug 1958, p.8.
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- <sup>6</sup> *Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners 1913-1919*, fold-out map of Indianapolis Parks Land Acquisition; “The Dream That Failed Is Now Garfield Park”, *Indianapolis Times*, 10 Aug 1958, p.8; “Garfield Park is Playground for Folks on the South Side,” *Indianapolis Times*, 25 March 1962; “Garfield Park Roots Go Back To ’74,” *Indianapolis Star*, 6 Aug 1967, sec. 7.
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- <sup>9</sup> “Garfield Park is Playground for Folks on the South Side,” *Indianapolis Times*, 25 March 1962.
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- <sup>11</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 8 June 1953.
- <sup>12</sup> The Friends of Garfield Park, *Memories in the Making: The History of Garfield Park* (Indianapolis: 315 Press, 1999).
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- <sup>14</sup> Eugene T. Lies, Director, *The Leisure of a People: Report of a Recreation Survey of Indianapolis* (Indianapolis: The Council of Social Agencies and the Indianapolis Foundation, 1929), 114.
- <sup>15</sup> Lies, *Leisure*, 114; *Garfield Park Master Plan*, for Department of Parks and Recreation (1989), 2-3; *Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners 1913-1919*, fold-out map of Indianapolis Parks Land Acquisition; *Annual Reports*, 1912-1914, appendices showing Area and Value of Park Lands Owned by the City of Indianapolis.
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- <sup>19</sup> “Garfield Park Enshrines a Century of City’s History”, *Indianapolis Star*, 3 Nov. 1974.
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- <sup>21</sup> Garfield Park Timeline National Register of Historic Places, draft, 2001, Section 9, 1896-1908.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ninth Annual Report for Year 1903*, Report of J. Clyde Power, 4.
- <sup>23</sup> *Tenth Annual Report for Year 1904*.
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- <sup>29</sup> *Ninth Annual Report for Year 1903*.
- <sup>30</sup> *Eleventh Annual Report for Year 1905*, 17.
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- <sup>48</sup> *Twenty-first Annual Report for Year 1915*, 37-38.
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- <sup>69</sup> Plat of Garfield Park and Environment, Park Engineers Office, Indianapolis, Feb 1939.
- <sup>70</sup> "Reinforced Concrete Arch Bridge in Garfield Park Over Bean Creek Near The Playgrounds, Mar 1923, Bridge No. 1" and "Reinforced Concrete Arch Bridge in Garfield Park over Bean Creek Near Southern Ave., Mar 1923, Bridge No.2," drawings from the Park Engineer's Office, Board of Park Commissioners, Indianapolis. Indiana Historic Preservation Commission.
- <sup>71</sup> Garfield Park Timeline, National Register of Historic Places, draft, 2001, Section 9, p. 6.
- <sup>72</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 28 Mar 1937.
- <sup>73</sup> Daniel Chiplis, "Discussions of the Garfield Greenhouse and Outdoor Gardens" (research paper for Horticulture 102, Garfield High, 1975), 4.
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- <sup>77</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 4 Dec 1947, sec.1.
- <sup>78</sup> Chiplis, "Discussions of the Garfield Greenhouse and Outdoor Gardens", 6.

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- <sup>80</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 11 Aug. 1952.
- <sup>81</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 8 June 1953.
- <sup>82</sup> *Indianapolis Times*, 13 Feb. 1955.
- <sup>83</sup> “New conservatory being constructed,” *Indianapolis News*, 13 Jan. 1955; *Indianapolis Times*, 13 Feb. 1955; “\$400,000 – completed in 1955,” *Indianapolis Star*, 6 Aug. 1967; “Garfield Park is Playground for Folks on the South Side,” *Indianapolis Times*, 25 Mar. 1962.
- <sup>84</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 13 June 1946; 17 Aug. 1956; 21 Aug. 1956.
- <sup>85</sup> FOGP, *Memories*, 26.
- <sup>86</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 28 June 1957.
- <sup>87</sup> *Indianapolis Times*, 11 Mar. 1958.
- <sup>88</sup> *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, 609.
- <sup>89</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 21 June 1964, sec. 2.
- <sup>90</sup> Chiplis, “Discussions of the Garfield Greenhouse and Outdoor Gardens”, 7; *Indianapolis Times*, May 1965.
- <sup>91</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 13 July 1967.
- <sup>92</sup> *Indianapolis Times*, 16 May 1965.
- <sup>93</sup> *Indianapolis Times*, 9 Aug. 1965.
- <sup>94</sup> Chiplis, “Discussions of the Garfield Greenhouse and Outdoor Gardens”, 7.
- <sup>95</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 13 July 1967.
- <sup>96</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 16 Feb. 1968.
- <sup>97</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 1 Sept. 1972.
- <sup>98</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 6 Aug. 1973.
- <sup>99</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 23 Aug. 1973.
- <sup>100</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 23 July 1973.
- <sup>101</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 20 June 1974; *Indianapolis Star*, 3 Nov. 1974.
- <sup>102</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 30 Nov. 1974; “To mark 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year,” *Indianapolis Star*, 3 Nov. 1974, sec. 1.
- <sup>103</sup> “Used to have lake at Pleasant Run & Bean Creek intersection,” *Indianapolis Star*, 18 Apr. 1969; *Indianapolis Star*, 3 Nov. 1974.
- <sup>104</sup> Chiplis, “Discussions of the Garfield Greenhouse and Outdoor Gardens”, 4.
- <sup>105</sup> “Garfield Park Enshrines A Century of City’s History,” *Indianapolis Star*, 3 Nov. 1974.
- <sup>106</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 13 Jan. 1975; [http://www.indygov.org/indyparks/park\\_garfield\\_history.html](http://www.indygov.org/indyparks/park_garfield_history.html).
- <sup>107</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 26 Mar. 1975.
- <sup>108</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 5 June 1976.
- <sup>109</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 6 Aug 67.
- <sup>110</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 6 Sept. 1969.
- <sup>111</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 17 May 1972.
- <sup>112</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 24 Feb. 1977.
- <sup>113</sup> “Angry Citizens Blame City for ‘Mess’ in Garfield Park,” *Indianapolis Star*, 8 Apr. 1978.
- <sup>114</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 8 Aug. 1979.
- <sup>115</sup> National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Section 7 Narrative Description, prepared by Tina Jones & Meg Storrow, Storrow Kinsella Associates, Indianapolis, 18 Sept 2002, 12.
- <sup>116</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 23 July 1981, 2.
- <sup>117</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 23 July 1981, 21; and 30 Sept 1981, 21.
- <sup>118</sup> Department of Metropolitan Development: Division of Planning, Garfield Park Master Plan, for Department of Parks and Recreation (1989), 4.
- <sup>119</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 30 May 1981.
- <sup>120</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 22 May 1987.
- <sup>121</sup> *Indianapolis News* 6 Feb. 1988, sec. C.
- <sup>122</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 16 Sept. 1989, sec. B.
- <sup>123</sup> Department of Metropolitan Development: Division of Planning, Garfield Park Master Plan, for Department of Parks and Recreation (1989), 7.
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*Indiana's Concrete Bridges, 1900-1942*, Greencastle, Indiana: 1997.

<sup>125</sup> National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Section 7 Narrative Description, prepared by Tina Jones & Meg Storrow, Storrow Kinsella Associates, Indianapolis, 18 Sept 2002, 14.

<sup>126</sup> *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, 608.

<sup>127</sup> "Garfield Park ready to once again reach level of past glories," *Indianapolis News*, 18 April 1995, quoting Lynda Burrello, Manager of Garfield Park.

<sup>128</sup> National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Section 7 Narrative Description, prepared by Tina Jones & Meg Storrow, Storrow Kinsella Associates, Indianapolis, 18 Sept 2002, 13.

<sup>129</sup> National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Section 7 Narrative Description, prepared by Tina Jones & Meg Storrow, Storrow Kinsella Associates, Indianapolis, 18 Sept 2002, 13.

<sup>130</sup> "Garfield Park ready to once again reach level of past glories," *Indianapolis News*, 18 Apr. 1995, quoting Parks Pifer, Assistant Park Manager.

<sup>131</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 19 June 1996, sec.B.

<sup>132</sup> Citation for restored for future generations, to be located and added.

<sup>133</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 19 June 1996, sec.B.

<sup>134</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 3 July 1996.

<sup>135</sup> [http://www.indygov.org/indyparks/park\\_garfield\\_history.html](http://www.indygov.org/indyparks/park_garfield_history.html); FOGP, *Memories*, 26.

<sup>136</sup> *Indianapolis News*, 3 Nov. 1998.

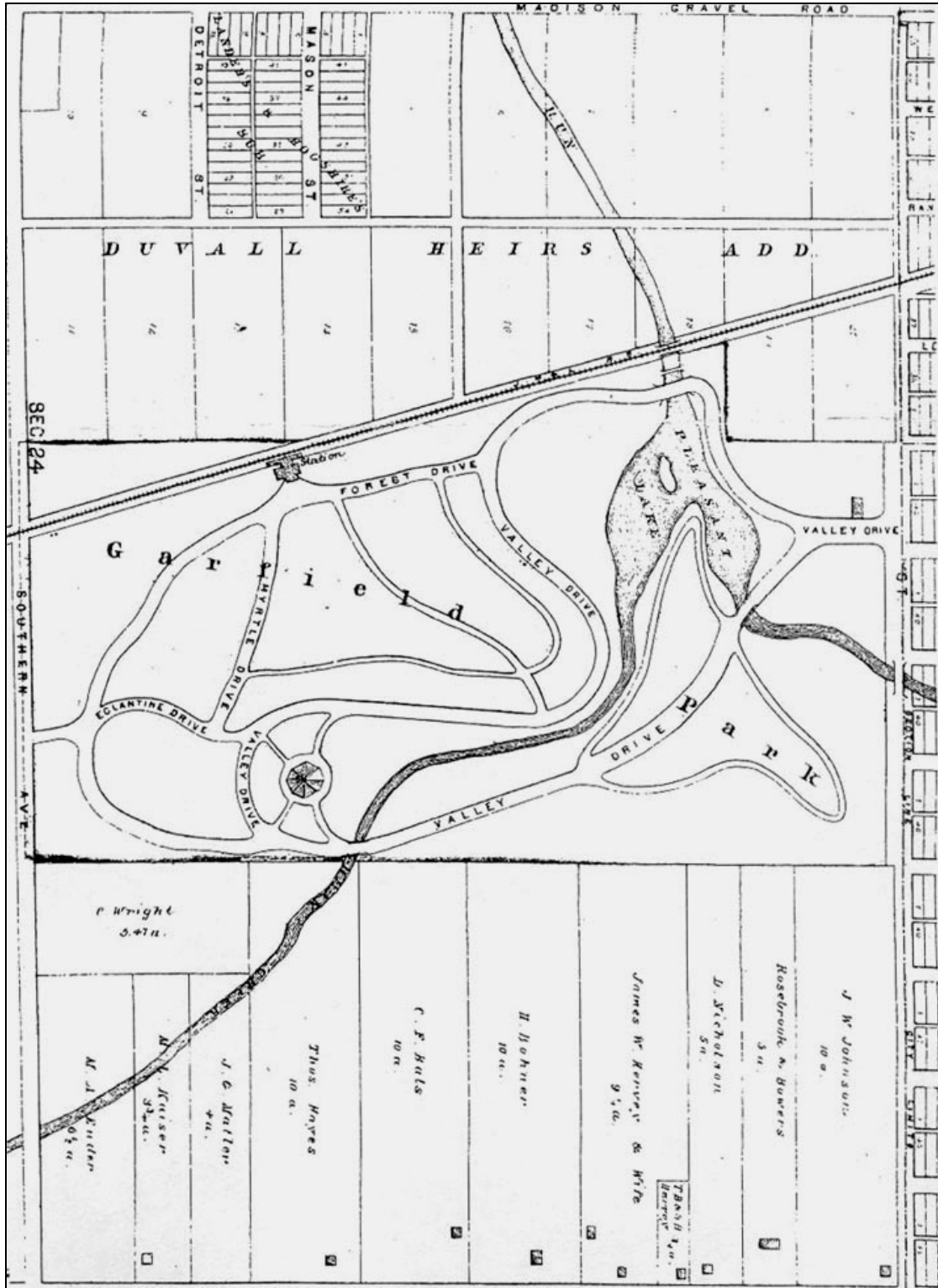
<sup>137</sup> FOGP, *Memories*, 27.

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**Figure II.1** 1889 *Atlas of Indianapolis and Marion County* shows Garfield Park and vicinity with large lots and few houses around the park. (R-1889GriffingAtlas.jpg IMCPL)



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**Figure II.2** 1893 photograph showing recently planted trees and mature trees along a curving park drive. (R-23-71893 (1901).jpg IMCPL)

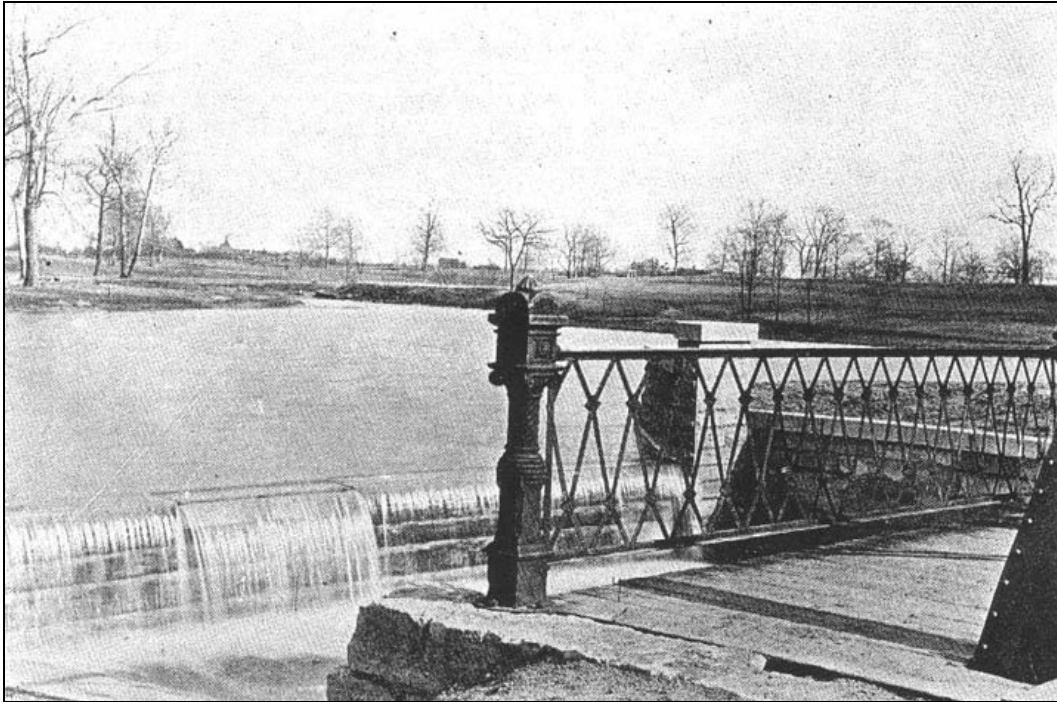


**Figure II.3** Early twentieth century view of Bean Creek that appears to be a natural stream course with aquatic and bank vegetation, relatively unaltered from its pre-park development appearance. (R-ISL-15.jpg ISL)

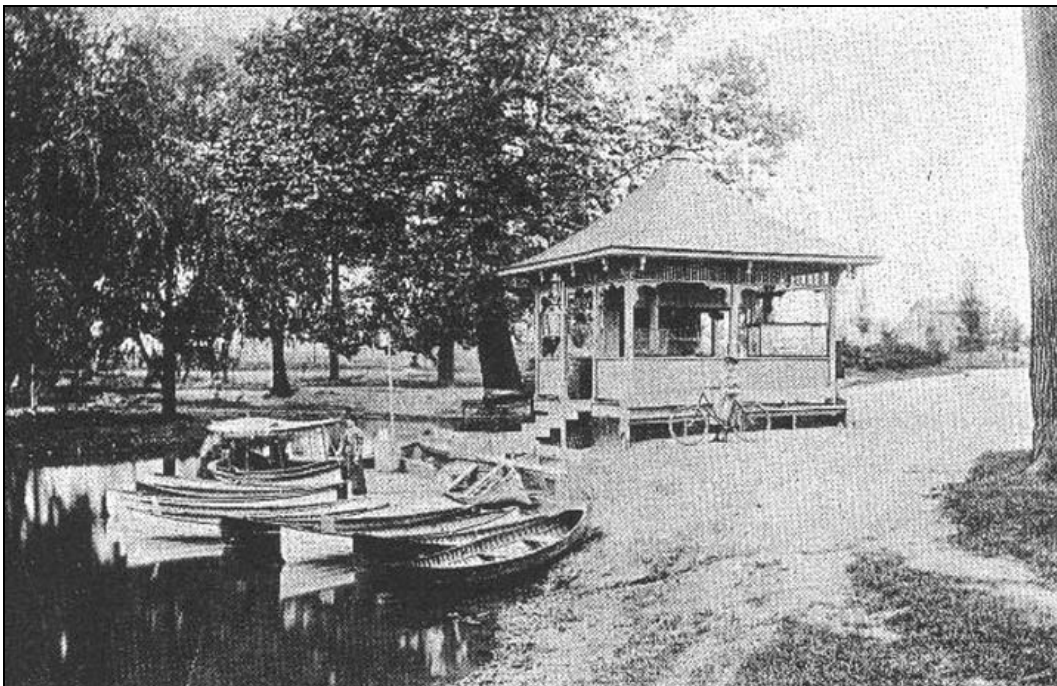


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**Figure II.4** ‘Garfield Park Lake’ and dam in 1896. The photograph shows remnants of the original forest. (R-ISL-13.jpg ISL)



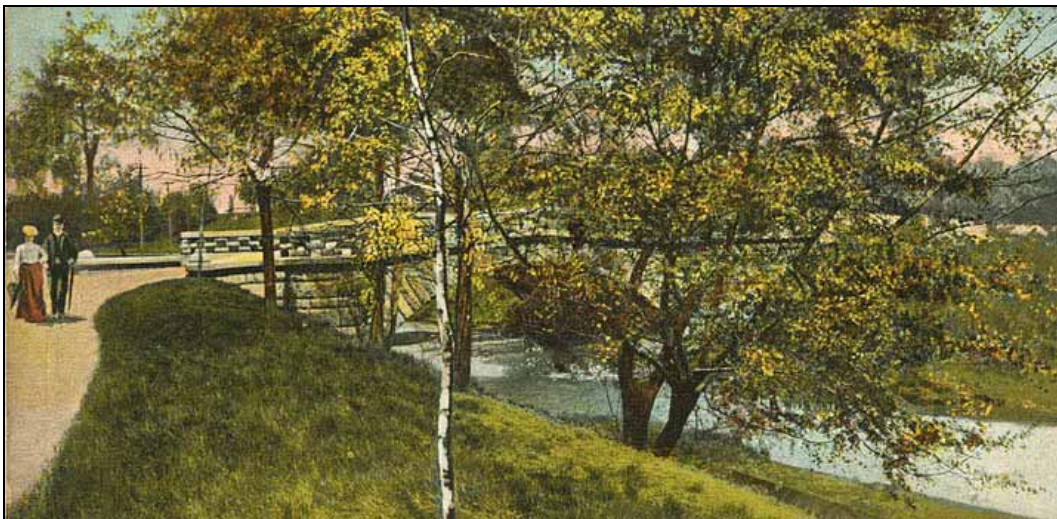
**Figure II.5** Rental boats and the pavilion on the lake in 1898. Mature trees are behind the pavilion and the residential park edge can be seen. (R-ISL-11.jpg ISL)



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**Figure II.6** Lombardy poplars, of substantial size, planted in formal lines with lawns and ornamental flowerbeds in 1901. (R-6-24-1901GP0001.jpg ISL)



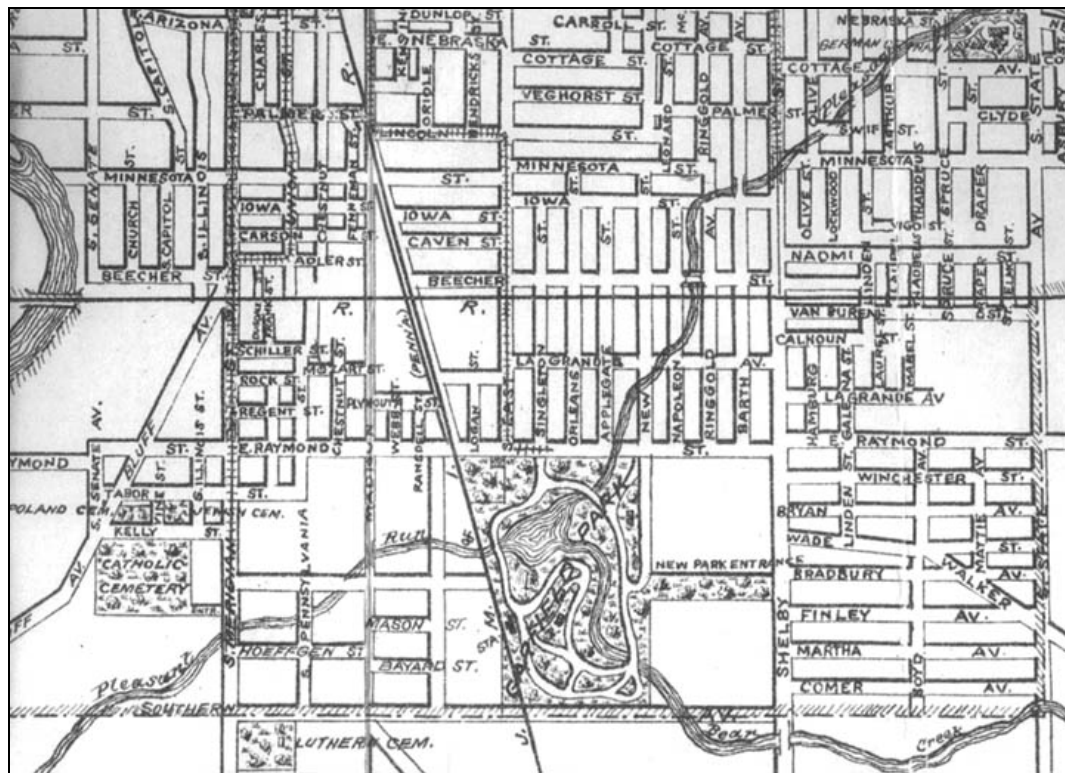
**Figure II.7** The banks of Bean Creek are well tended in this pre-1906 image showing banks of uniform long turf and individual trees. (R-PO391\_0000\_0100\_Void\_Block\_Bridge.jpg IHS)

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**Figure II.8** The refined character of park landscape seen here with gently sloping lawns, curving beds, trees, and benches, 1914. (R-LP0008\_11191ldscp.jpg IHS)



**Figure II.9** 1899 *Bicycle and Driving Map* of Indianapolis, with Garfield Park drives, watercourse, and new park entrance. (R-ISL-bicycle1899 map.jpg ISL)

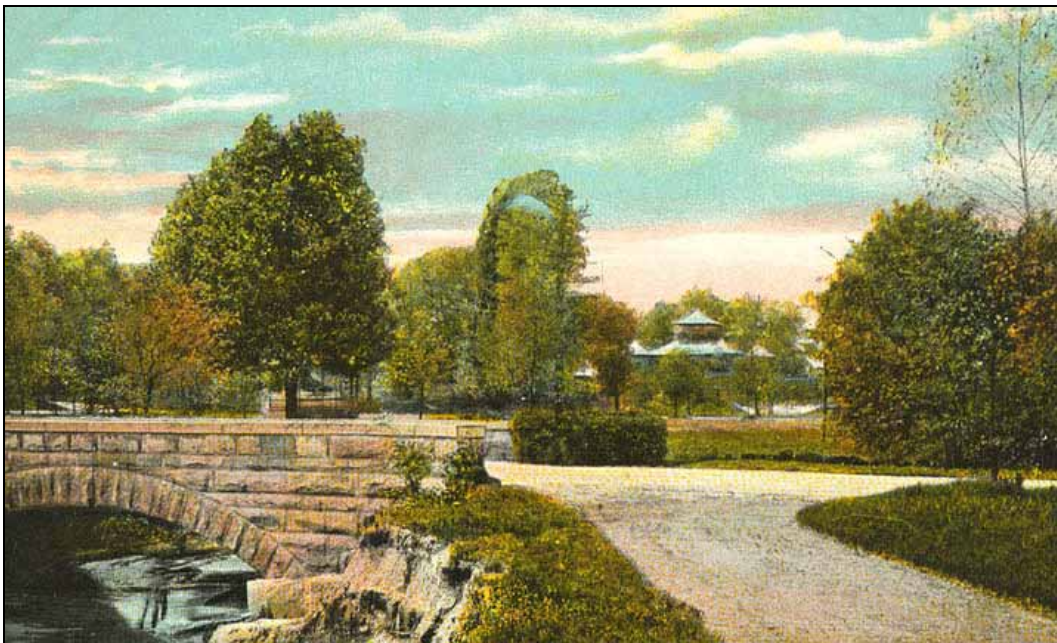


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**Figure II.10** The first of the arched stone bridges over Bean Creek, built in 1896, with railings in the block-and-void style, and the park landscape of rolling turf, paths, drives, and new and older trees, 1906. (R-PO130\_811void bridge.jpg IHS)



**Figure II.11** Bean Creek, bridge and park landscape with the distinctive roofline of the Pagoda in the mid-ground, circa 1910. (R-PO391\_0000\_0100\_201792bridge\_pagoda.jpg IHS)



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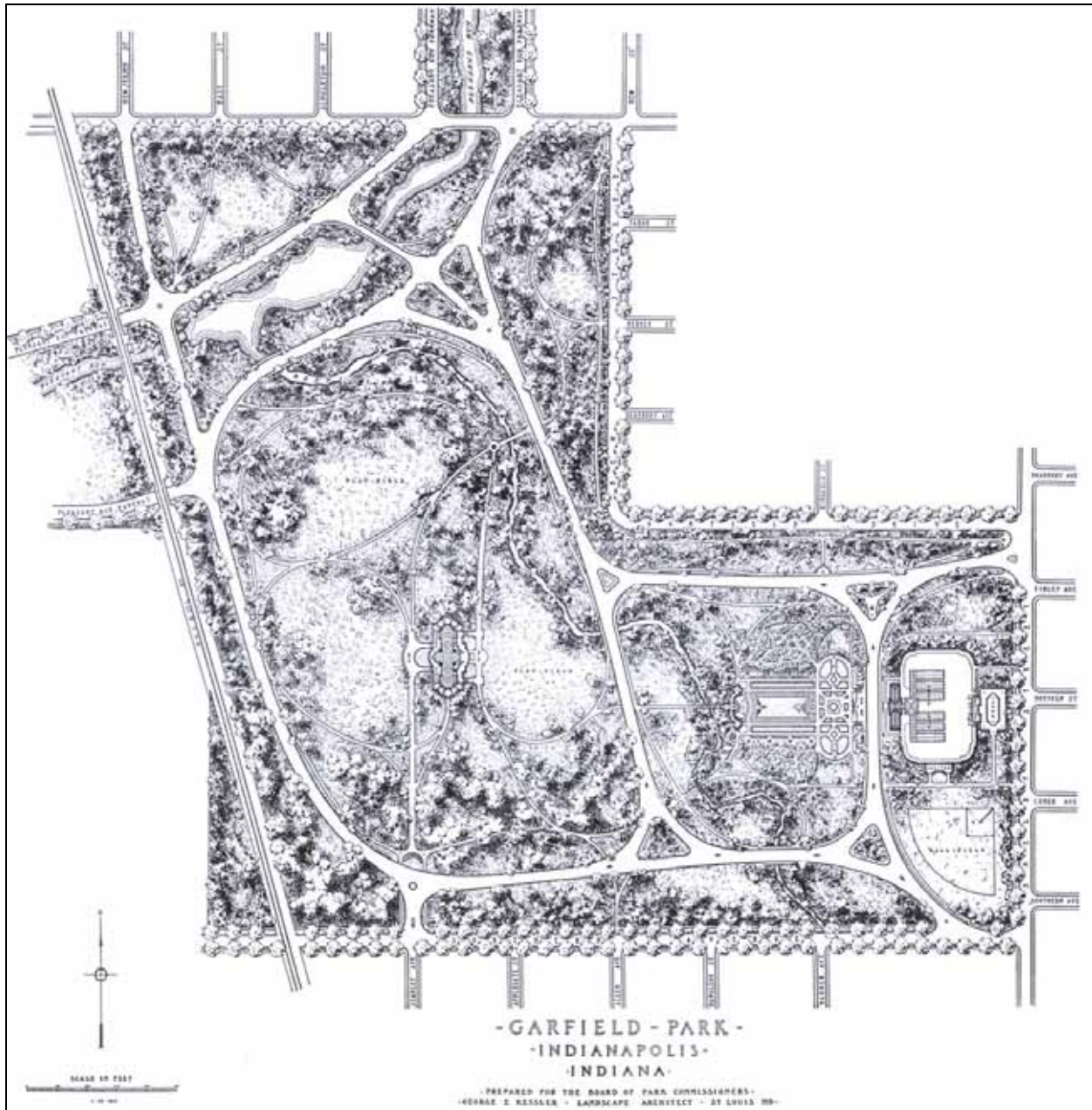


**Figure II.12** An event in Garfield Park in 1901, with audience, turf under shade trees, movable wood and iron benches, and a shelter with a band playing in the background. (R-6-24-1901Gppeople in park.jpg ISL)



**Figure II.13** Park users standing on the new reinforced-concrete bridge over Pleasant Run looking over the reshaped banks and broad, reflective water, 1908. (R-LP0008\_1158boys on bridge.jpg IHS)

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**Figure II.14** Garfield Park, Indianapolis, Indiana. Prepared for the Board of Park Commissioners. George E. Kessler, Landscape Architect, St. Louis, 1913. (NRHP)



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**Figure II.15** Kessler's vision of the Garfield Gardens as "a picture of living color" showing the floral display, elevation of the Outlook, and the Conservatory drive, circa 1920. (R-PO391\_1987\_0211\_pc\_overlook.jpg IHS)



**Figure II.16** Conservatory, Outlook and Garfield Gardens with floral display, fountains, and custom designed furnishings in 1920. (R-PO130\_51093-F\_cons-SG.jpg IHS)

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**Figure II.17** Garfield Gardens (Sunken Gardens) in its early years showing the axial, symmetrical layout around the central fountains with planting urns and garden bedding patterns. (R-PO130\_67143-F\_SG.jpg IHS)



**Figure II.18** The custom designed two-tone brick walk, benches and lampposts of the Sunken Gardens are complemented by the geometric patterns of turf, floral bedding, and massed perennial planting. (R-PO130\_71763-F\_Sgwalk.jpg IHS)



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**Figure II.19** The lush plantings seen here in 1937 correspond to Kessler's vision and the build-out of the Sunken Gardens. (R-PO130\_238280F-H\_SG.jpg IHS)



**Figure II.20** Curving, ornamental pools with water lilies, fish and decorative edge plantings seen on the south side of the Sunken Gardens in this 1937 photo. These pools were probably matched on the north side. (R-PO130\_238280F-D\_SG\_pools.jpg IHS)



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**Figure II.21** The General Lawton monument installation ceremony, December 1915, showing the generally open area and the wide drives. (R-LP0008\_15548\_Lawton.jpg IHS)



**Figure II.22** The banks of Pleasant Run circa 1908, showing the access to the water by graded lawns alternating with groves of trees. (R-PO391\_A27005\_Prbanks.jpg IHS)

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**Figure II.23** Stone-clad bridge over Pleasant Run showing low winter water and meandering stream, 24 Feb., 1935. (R-PO354\_People\_On\_Bridge.jpg IHS)



**Figure II.24** The new aluminum frame Conservatory circa 1956 to 1963 showing tall, standard streetlights replacing the original light posts. One original bollard light is visible near the stairs. (R-2\_Cons'56.jpg IHPC)



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**Figure II.25** The Sunken Gardens circa mid-1960s. Floral display and the fountains are still the same but street-style light fixtures have been introduced and the walk shows wear and weather damage. (R-PO391\_2002\_0211\_81482-B\_SG'60s.jpg IHS)