



Heritage Preservation Commission Agenda
Rochester Boards & Commissions - Heritage Preservation Commission
May 23, 2023
5:00 p.m.

Attending and Viewing the Meeting

Attend the meeting in person - come to Government Center Council Chamber, 151 4th Street SE
A recording is made available after the meeting at the [City's website](#).

1. Open Public Comment Period

This is an opportunity for the public to provide comments to the Commission regarding items not on the agenda. The public has up to four minutes to provide comments. The Commission will not discuss or take action on them.

2. Community Development Director's Report

2.A. Update - Discussions on Incentives & Assistance

No action recommended

3. Call to Order/Roll Call

4. Order of Agenda

5. Consent Agenda

5.A. Draft Minutes of April 25, 2023

Accepting the minutes and video of the April 25, 2023, Heritage Preservation meeting as the official record of the Heritage Preservation Commission.

6. Reports and Recommendations

6.A. Soldiers Memorial Field Park - Rochester Historic Inventory

Removing Soldiers Memorial Field Park from the historic inventory.

7. Public Hearings

8. Other Business

8.A. Other Business: Announcements, Updates, & Upcoming Meetings

No action is recommended.

9. Adjournment



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Update - Discussions on Incentives & Assistance

MEETING DATE:

May 23, 2023

ORIGINATING DEPT:

Community Development

AGENDA SECTION:

Community Development Director's Report

PRESENTER:

Irene Woodward

Action Requested:

No action recommended

Report Narrative:

Community Development Director, Irene Woodward will provide the HPC with an update on the presentation given to City Council on May 8th regarding an assistance program for designated landmark properties.

Prepared By:

Molly Patterson-Lundgren

Attachments:



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Draft Minutes of April 25, 2023

MEETING DATE:
May 23, 2023

ORIGINATING DEPT:
Community Development

AGENDA SECTION:
Consent Agenda

PRESENTER:
Chair

Action Requested:

Accepting the minutes and video of the April 25, 2023, Heritage Preservation meeting as the official record of the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Report Narrative:

The minutes are the official record of the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Prepared By:

Maribeth Cooper

Attachments:

[Meeting Minutes April 25, 2023](#)



**CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA
Heritage Preservation Commission MINUTES**

Attending and Viewing the Meeting

1) [Call to Order/Roll Call](#)

Attendee Name	Status
Barry Skolnick	Present
Thomas Meilander	Present
Nancy D Bergner	Present
Shawn Fagan	Present
Jennifer M Shabel	Present
Mark S Hubly	Present
Andrew Napier	Present
Adaheid L Mestad	Absent
Aden W Homard	Absent

2) [Set Agenda](#)

2) Set Agenda

MOVER: Barry Skolnick

SECONDER: Nancy D Bergner

AYES: Barry Skolnick, Thomas Meilander, Nancy D Bergner, Shawn Fagan, Jennifer M Shabel, Mark S Hubly, Andrew Napier

ABSENT: Adaheid L Mestad, Aden W Homard

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

3) [Approve Minutes](#)

3.A) Draft Minutes of February 28, 2023

Official Act: Accepting the minutes and video of the February 28, 2023, Heritage Preservation meeting as the official record of the Heritage Preservation Commission.

[Cover Page](#) 

3) Approve Minutes

MOVER: Barry Skolnick
SECONDER: Thomas Meilander
AYES: Barry Skolnick, Thomas Meilander, Shawn Fagan, Jennifer M Shabel, Mark S Hubly, Andrew Napier
ABSTAIN: Nancy D Bergner
ABSENT: Adaheid L Mestad, Aden W Homard
RESULT: **APPROVED [6 - 0 - 1 - 2]**

4) [**Public Comment Opportunity**](#)

5) [**Public Hearings**](#)

5.A) Landmark Designation - 617 9th Ave SW

Official Act: Recommending to the City Council the designation of 617 9th Ave SW as a historic landmark based on the findings for historic significance and historic integrity detailed in the submitted eligibility report.

Molly Patterson-Lundgren presented the staff report.
Discussion between Staff and Commissioners ensued.
Jane Bisel representing the Applicant spoke to the item.
The Public Hearing was opened.
The following persons spoke:

1. Kathy Meyerle

Having no additional persons wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

[Cover Page](#) 

[Historic Landmark Application](#) 

[617 9th Ave SW Landmark Designation Nomination](#) 

[SHPO Letter 4.14.23](#) 

Recommending to the City Council the designation of 617 9th Ave SW as a historic landmark based on the findings for historic significance and historic integrity detailed in the submitted eligibility report.

MOVER: Nancy D Bergner
SECONDER: Jennifer M Shabel
AYES: Barry Skolnick, Thomas Meilander, Nancy D Bergner, Shawn Fagan, Jennifer M Shabel, Mark S Hubly, Andrew Napier
ABSENT: Adaheid L Mestad, Aden W Homard
RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

6) [**New Business**](#)

6.A) Proposed Alteration - Designated Landmark - Plummer House

Official Act: Approving the proposed rehabilitation of the Plummer House water tower per the plans approved by the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Molly Patterson-Lundgren presented the staff report.

Conversation ensued between the Commissioners and Staff.

Jane Bisel spoke on the item.

[Cover Page](#) 

[Application - Certificate of Appropriateness](#) 

[Submission Letter 12-29-22 - Plummer House Section 106](#) 

[Drawings - Plummer Water Tower](#) 

[The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties - Rehabilitation](#) 

Approving the proposed rehabilitation of the Plummer House water tower per the plans approved by the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

MOVER: Barry Skolnick
SECONDER: Nancy D Bergner
AYES: Barry Skolnick, Thomas Meilander, Nancy D Bergner, Shawn Fagan, Jennifer M Shabel, Mark S Hubly, Andrew Napier
ABSENT: Adaheid L Mestad, Aden W Homard
RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

7) **Old Business**

7.A) Historic Inventory Prioritization

Official Act: No Action Required.

[Cover Page](#) 

8) **Other Business/Announcements**

8.A) Announcements, Updates, and Other Businesses

Official Act:

- Memo from Community Development Director which was included in the packet
- Kahler sign activity – no permits required, therefore there is no review is required

- Soldiers Field Park Section 106 Review was recently completed, indicating the property is not eligible for National Register listing
- Upcoming City Council Study Sessions: May 1, 2023 – Silver Lake Park and May 8, 2023 – Assistance and Incentives
- Community Development Internship Position, interviews are occurring
- Rochester State Hospital Project – 2 volunteers from the HPC
- Charlie Mayo Memorial – Thursday, April 27, 12:00 pm, 22 3rd St SW

[Cover Page](#) 

[CD Director Memo - Property Assessment](#) 

9) ***Adjournment***

9) Adjournment

MOVER: Nancy D Bergner
SECONDER: Andrew Napier
AYES: Barry Skolnick, Thomas Meilander, Nancy D Bergner, Shawn Fagan, Jennifer M Shabel, Mark S Hubly, Andrew Napier
ABSENT: Adaheid L Mestad, Aden W Homard
RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Soldiers Memorial Field Park - Rochester Historic Inventory

MEETING DATE:

May 23, 2023

ORIGINATING DEPT:

Community Development

AGENDA SECTION:

Reports and Recommendations

PRESENTER:

Molly Patterson-Lundgren

Action Requested:

Removing Soldiers Memorial Field Park from the historic inventory.

Report Narrative:

Soldiers Memorial Field Park was placed on the historic inventory (previously called the potential landmark list) by the Council on February 22, 2017. Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) review of the property at this time, and consideration for removal of it from the inventory, is part of the ongoing work Community Development and the Commission are undertaking to decide on landmark eligibility for all properties on the inventory.

In 2022, the City was awarded a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant for the redevelopment of the recreation facilities at Soldiers Memorial Field. With any use of federal funds, a determination must be made if the project will affect historic resources (properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places). Often referred to as a "section 106 review", this process includes site surveying, research, and evaluation utilizing National Register criteria to determine possible historic significance and historic integrity of the property.

For this grant, the National Park Service (NPS) is the authorized federal agency to make that determination. They delegated this work to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which worked with the Park & Recreation Department to hire a professional consultant to conduct a study. The City hired the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management Services Program to conduct the study (UWM Study). The full study, including all required National Register forms, is over 100 pages in length. It was completed in February of this year and provided to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as well as several Tribal Historic Preservation Offices for their review. The SHPO determined that the property is not eligible for National Register designation. In a letter dated May 9th, 2023, the NPS determined that no historic properties would be affected.

The research and documentation contained in the UWM study were used to understand and document the history of the park and to aid in the evaluation of local landmark designation eligibility. Whereas the UWM study relied on the 4 designation criteria for the National Register program, the attached study, "Soldiers Memorial Field Landmark Evaluation Study", considers all eight different eligibility criteria contained in our local program as well as the seven different aspects of historic integrity used at the federal level.

Based on the lack of historic integrity, the recommendation is for the HPC to remove this property from the historic inventory and no longer consider it for possible local landmark designation.

Prepared By:

Molly Patterson-Lundgren

Attachments:

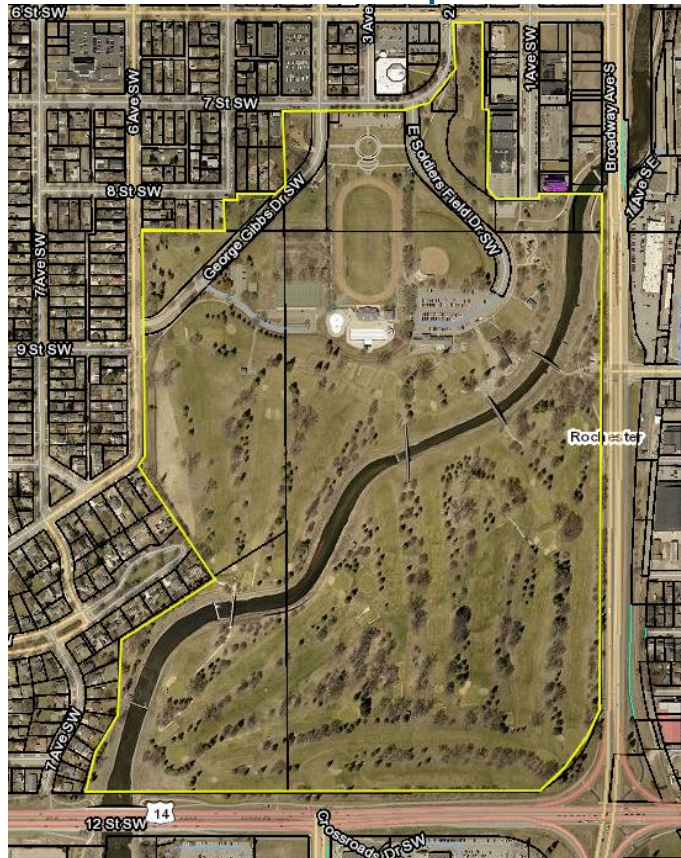
Evaluation Study - Soldiers Memorial Field Landmark

National Park Service Letter - May 2023

Property Identification & Description

Identification	
Historic Name	Soldiers Memorial Field Park
Current Name	Soldiers Memorial Field Park
Address	244 E Soldiers Field Drive SW
City/Twp	Rochester
County	Olmsted
Legal Descript	City Lands 106-14-02
USGS Quad	T 106 N, R14 W, Rochester Township, SE Corner Section 2
Property ID (PIN)	640213025329, 640213025723, 640243025722, 640213025319, 640243025721, 640234024883, 640232024851, 640224009179, 640213025725
SHPO Inventory Number	OL-ROC-00364
Previous Determinations	National Register – Not Eligible

Location Map¹



¹ Olmsted County GIS, <https://rpu.maps.arcgis.com/>, accessed May 12, 2023

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park
Rochester Historic Landmark Study

Property Description	
Landscape Architect	Hugh Vincent Feehan
Style	None
Construction Date	1926-1936
Original Use	Public Park
Current Use	Public Park
Associated Properties/Districts	None

Resource Type			
Name	Classification	Date of Extant	Altered
Swimming pool	Structure	1936 (demolished)	New pool 1988
Spray pool	Structure	ca. 2003	
Aquatic pumphouse	Building	1936	1988
Bathhouse cupola historic marker	Object	ca. 1998	
Bathhouse	Building	1936 (demolished) 1929 - original field house (demolished)	New 1988
Track	Structure	1934	1970's & 2000's 2020 surface replaced
Tennis courts	Structure	ca. 1935	1980 court added 2006 surface replaced and 2 courts removed
East ballfield	Structure	ca. 1935	1996
East ballfield dugouts	Structure	2007	
Roy Sutherland Playground (east)	Structure	2007	
East picnic shelter	Structure	ca. 2006	
East restroom	Building	ca. 2006	
Fields of Fun Playground (west)	Structure	ca. 2005	
Postier Gardens	Site	1987	
William Van Hook Gardens	Site	Pre-1940 (present in photos)	1969 (dedicated/named) Reduced in size/altered – date unknown
East Picnic Area	Site	1951	
West maintenance building	Building	2004	
American Legion Eagle Monument	Object	1951	2000 (relocated)
Wall of Remembrance	Object	2000	
Widow and Child Statue	Object	2004	
Soldier Statue	Object	2005	
Angels of Caring Statue	Object	2006	
Freedom Shrine	Object	2010	
Book of Golden Deeds	Object	2013	
WWI howitzer	Object	Dedicated 1957	
Iraq artillery gun	Object	Dedicated 1993	
Golf course	Site	1927	ca. 1942/43, ca. 1978, 1992

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park Rochester Historic Landmark Study

Golf clubhouse	Building	1996	
Golf course shop/garage	Building	ca. 1996	
Golf course pump station, north	Building	ca. 1937	
Footbridge #5 tee	Structure	ca. 1992	
Footbridge #9 fairway	Structure	ca. 1992	
Footbridge #10 fairway	Structure	ca. 1992	
Footbridge #12	Structure	ca. 1992	
Golf course pump station, south	Building	ca. 1992	
Golf course restroom	Building	1956	

Identification of Features – Historic Landscape Categories

The National Park Service established seven categories to consider when evaluating landscapes features for possible historic site designation.ⁱ The features identified in the table above are reviewed based on these categories, as follows.

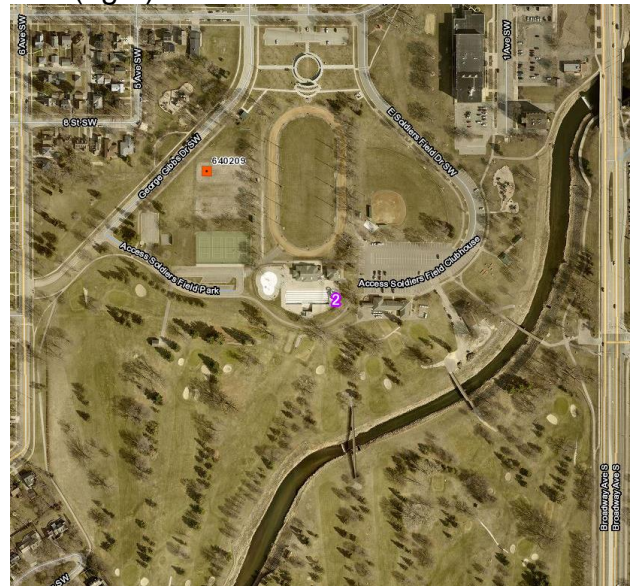
Vegetation

An August 8, 1934 Post Bulletin references a “comprehensive botanical program” for the park. This included the planting of trees evenly spaced along both the east and west main drives, East Soldiers Field Drive & George Gibbs Drive. The following images show the initial plantings as they existed in 1940 (left) and those that remained and were added by 2021 (right).

- Trees



1940³



2

2021

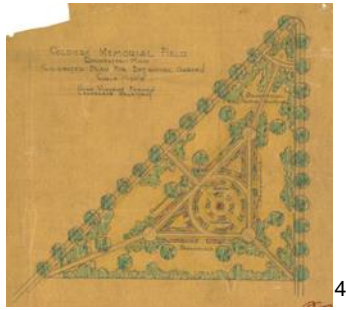
² Olmsted County GIS, <https://rpu.maps.arcgis.com/>, accessed May 15, 2023

³ University of Minnesota, Borchart Map Library, <https://geo.lib.umn.edu/Olmsted/1940/WB-2A-105.jpg>

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park Rochester Historic Landmark Study

Along with the trees, there has been at least one formal garden, which is no longer present. Below are images illustrating this. The first shows a plan by Hugh Vincent Feehan, labeled “Suggested Plan for Botanical Garden”. On the plan, “Roses”, “Perennials”, and “Ornamental Shrub Plantings” are indicated. The second is a close up from the 1940 aerial showing the presence of a garden with similar layout to the Feehan plan in the location now called the William M Van Hook gardens. The third image is from a post card, date and specific location within the park unknown.

- Gardens



Circulation

Soldiers Memorial Field Park was laid out with a distinctive street arrangement. The main entry is from the north, coming off of Third Avenue. It was designed for this entry to have a view across the running track/football field with the pool house centered as a visual terminus. This center entry then split into east and west memorial drives, East Soldiers Drive and George Gibbs Drive. Both streets then curve inward toward the parks center. Originally, they connected behind/south of the pool. In 1988, this connection was removed and replaced with a path. The main entry was modified 1998-2000, when the new memorial was constructed.

⁴ Source: Rochester Park & Recreation Department files

⁵ University of Minnesota, Borchart Map Library, <https://geo.lib.umn.edu/Olmsted/1940/WB-2A-105.jpg>

⁶ “Soldiers Field Looking East, Rochester”, MNHS archives, <https://search.mnhs.org/index.php?brand=cms>

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park Rochester Historic Landmark Study

- Streets & Trails



Topography

USGS maps over time show that the property where the park is located was and continues to be relatively flat throughout the history of the park. The exception to this is the river valley which transects the site from southwest to northeast. The river flows approximately 10 to 14 feet below the ground elevation of the park.

Water Features

The Zumbro River was realigned by the Minnesota State Highway Department (precursor of Mn DOT), in 1933ⁱⁱ. The main channel was straightened and the multiple channels in the northeast section of the park were reduced to one.

⁷ Plan for Soldier Memorial Field (1935) prepared by Hugh Vincent Feehan, Location: City of Rochester Parks and Forestry operations building

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park Rochester Historic Landmark Study

1951 eagle dedication ¹⁰



WWI Howitzer¹¹



Structures

All but two existing structures in the park are less than 50 years old. The golf course pumphouse was built in 1937 and the golf course restroom in 1956. The remaining extant structures are 35 years or less.



1956 Golf Course Restrooms ¹²



1936 Golf Course Pumphouse¹³

Spatial Relationships

The park was laid out with the southern portion, approximately 2/3's of its entirety, being devoted to the golf course. The river segments the course from the southwest to the northeast diagonally. North of the golf course, the sports fields and courts were arranged mostly symmetrically. The baseball or softball diamonds are located on either side of the oval track in the center, with the memorial drives curving around the outside of the ball fields both east and west. The aquatics area is centered in the park between the track to the north and golf course to the south. Memorial objects are located at the northern most portion of the park. Vegetation has changed over time but trees continue to be used as part of the memorial, including lining the drives of either side of the park. Playground equipment,

¹⁰ Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial Inc. <https://soldiersfieldveteransmemorial.org/memorial/>

¹¹ Photo by Author, May 16, 2023

¹² University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management Report, p. 41

¹³ sic

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park Rochester Historic Landmark Study

picnic facilities and other structures, objects and sites are located around the edges of the park, outside of the main drives.



¹⁴ University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management, p. 5

History of the Property

The information in this section, unless otherwise noted, is from the Phase II Architectural History Survey of Soldiers Memorial Field, Rochester, completed by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management, February 2023.

Planning for Soldiers Memorial Field Park began in 1926 when the local American Legion post formed a committee for the purpose. As initially conceived, the park was to have golf, picnic and an athletic field along with a tree-lined memorial drive. 160 acres of land owned by Dr. Christopher and Blanche Graham were identified and secured by the American Legion and the City agreed to purchase it for \$30,000 and add it to the park system. The committee chair indicated that the parks primary purposes were to provide play and recreational facilities "...for all citizens and children of the City..." and to be a memorial to veterans of all wars; the golf course was a "by-product" of the project. The first aspect of the park to be constructed was a small golf clubhouse in 1926 with the 9-hole course being completed and opening for use the following spring. In 1927, Hugh Vincent Feehan of Minneapolis was hired by the City to develop plans for the park.



Early flooded view of Soldier's Field golf course. The building on the left is the old field house and the center structures are temporary golf houses.

Soldiers Field Park, ca. 1936 (after east ballfield, before pool) ¹⁵

Development of the park continued into the 1930's with the athletic facilities, including the pool and pool house being completed and the golf course expanded to 18 holes. Minor additions occurred in

¹⁵ Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial Inc. <https://soldiersfieldveteransmemorial.org/memorial/>

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park Rochester Historic Landmark Study

the 1950's with a restroom on the golf course, a new picnic area on the east side and the installation of the eagle sculpture at the north entry.

Many changes occurred in the 1990's. A new club house and maintenance shop as well a pump house and four foot bridges for the golf course were also constructed in the 1990's. A major change occurred in 1998, when the pool house was replaced with new structure. (The pool itself having been rebuilt 10 years previous). At the same time, a redesign of the main entry was initiated for the memorial wall, and donations continued to be collected.



Removal of circular drive around eagle monument, date unknown¹⁶



Memorial Fundraising Sign with pool construction in background, 1998¹⁷

In 2000, the wall of remembrance was completed and additional memorial statutes and other objects were added over the next decade. Construction on the law enforcement memorial in the northwest corner of the park began in 2021.

Historic Contexts

Rochester's developed historical contexts, are limited and fairly broad. The initial development of and redevelopment projects at the park do coincide with activities occurring in the nearby downtown commercial district and growth of the nearby neighborhood, which are documented in the Rochester Historical Contexts study.^v

The existing local context, Urban/Downtown Development, 1889-Present Day, indicates the "...diversity and extensive types of businesses present..." in the downtown in 1928. Along Broadway and 1st Avenue South, developed extended to the river, with the old fire hall being placed in the center of Broadway Avenue at its Southern terminus, just south of 4th Street. Schuster Brewing Co was a block west (on 1st Ave) and ½ a block further south. To the west, the area was already well developed with homes. An example that illustrates this neighborhood growth and its connect to downtown growth is Business owner, Newton Holland's home. Designed by local architect, Harrold

¹⁶ Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial Inc. <https://soldiersfieldveteransmemorial.org/memorial/>

¹⁷ sic

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park Rochester Historic Landmark Study

Crawford, it was constructed in 1927 on the 800 block of 7th Avenue southwest. The channelization of the river in 1933 allowed for the extension of Broadway Avenue and further growth of the city to the South of 12th Street/Highway 14, referred to locally as “the beltline”.

On August 8, 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed a crowd of approximately 8,000 people gathered in the park. The purpose of his visit was to honor Doctors William and Charles Mayo and for their contribution to the field of medicine. A plaque which memorializes his address is located in the park near the location of where the temporary grandstand was erected.

A 1938 Post Bulletin article¹⁸ referred to the park as “Rochester’s Recreation Center. Its proximity to Central High school, made the park a well-used facility for both school and community sporting events for several decades. The high school left downtown when John Marshall was constructed in 1958.¹⁹ In the 1960’s & 70’s additional recreational facilities including golf courses were developed in the City providing new and more up to date facilities for sporting events.

“From 1986-1990, Rochester’s downtown underwent a sort of renaissance, with nearly 500 million dollars in public and private construction projects occurring ...”^{vi} The historic context study indicates that the 1978 flood was a major impetus of this downtown redevelopment.

“View of Flooding”, July 6, 1978 ²⁰



Recent research into Silver Lake Park helps with the understanding of the role parks played in the development of the City. While both Silver Lake and Soldiers Field Park were designed by Hugh Vincent Feehan, their original design and purpose varied. Silver Lake Park was designed in the style which became popular in the U.S., in the second ½ of the nineteenth century. Thought of as “country parks” or “pleasure grounds”, these were typically developed at the edges of a city and designed to simulate natural or rural landscapes. Aimed more at an upper class user, the recreational element provided by this style of park included scenic drives and/or pathways and lakes or ponds for boating and bathing. With the turn of the century, a new design took hold, which provided more active amenities including ball fields and sports courts. The new style reflected the broader social reform movement at the time, which sought to improve the urban landscape and provide a healthy environment for the working class which included a large flux of recent emigrants. Soldiers Field Memorial Park, is more reflective of the later trend.

¹⁸ University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management, p. 69 [Post-Bulletin, “New Clubhouse Offered Soldiers Field Golfers,” Post-Bulletin (Rochester, Minnesota) 24 March 1938]

¹⁹ HCOC, Finding Aid for the Rochester High School/John Marshall High School Collection, https://www.olmstedhistory.com/img/Rochester%20High%20School_John%20Marshall%20High%20School%20Collection.pdf

²⁰ <https://search.mnhs.org/index.php?brand=cms>

Designation Criteria

Criteria from Sec. 4-7-8 of City Code. Numbering was changed in 2019 from A-H and old criteria is shown in the right hand column. While the park has historic significance per several aspects of the adopted criteria, the recommendation is that, due to lack of historic integrity, the park should not be designated as a landmark.

(1) Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the city, state or United States; A

The establishment of Soldiers Field Park is reflective of the era in which it was designed and initially constructed and the trend towards government provision of organized athletic facilities. None of the main structures from this era are extent in the park today. All have been altered or completely replaced. Due to the changes that have occurred throughout the park in the past 35 years, there is a lack of historic integrity to support the local designation of the park under this criteria.

(2) Its location as a place of a significant historic event; B

The address by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1934 occurred in the park, but the purpose of his visit was not directly related to the park and therefore, “does not contribute to its historic significance”^{vii}

(3) Its location within and contribution as an element of a landmark district; C

The park is not within or associated with any current or planned historic district.

(4) Its identification with a person who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the city; D

The design of this and other parks in the City, including both Silver Lake and aspects of Mayo Park, by Hugh Vincent Feehan, is interesting and warrants documentation to understand the historic context of park development in the City. However, with the alterations made to the park, in particular the removal of the bath house and the demolition or modification of every other structure, garden, or site designed by him, the property lacks the historic integrity needed to support landmark designation under this criteria.

(5) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, period, form, or treatment; E

There were some limited features, of the City Beautiful movement utilized by Feehan in the parks original design. The establishment of the primary entrance (from the north) which provided a distant view across the open landscape terminating at the pool house and the rows of trees planted along the symmetrical drives, is indicative of this style. With the redesign of the north entry and the addition of the wall of remembrance, this design element was greatly altered and does not retain the historic integrity to support designation under this criteria.

(6) Its identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual F efforts have influenced the development of the city or have contributed to the development of a nationally- or internationally-recognized style or movement;

With the alterations made to the park, including the demolition or modification of every structure, garden, or site designed by him, the property lacks the historic integrity needed to support landmark designation under this criteria.

(7) Its embodiment of elements of architectural design, detail, material, or G craftsmanship that represent a significant architectural innovation; and

There are no known features in the park that represent significant innovation.

(8) Its location, scale, or other physical characteristics representing an established and H familiar visual feature or a neighborhood, a district, the community, or the city.

While the park occupies 146 acres of land, the view of much of the park is obstructed by surrounding development, in particular on the north end. Where views into the park are available, the lack of historic integrity diminishes its historic presence. From Broadway Avenue, the modern picnic shelter, playground equipment, pedestrian bridges, and golf course shop, characterize the view.



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From the south sight lines into the golf course do not provide a characteristic view different from any other golf courses in the City.

²¹ Google Street View, Accessed May 17, 2023, https://www.google.com/maps/@44.0136085,-92.463114,3a,75y,277.87h,85.12t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sVIXD_WC_rpA3KhBJQuLyVA!2e0!7i16384!8i8192?hl=en

Evaluation of Integrity

Location

The location of the park has remained primarily the same as original. The integrity of location is excellent.

Design

While the physical spatial arrangement of golf course, sports & athletic facilities and memorial areas remains the same as original, all other built aspects of the park have been altered, some to a great extent. Only hints of Feehans original design intent can be seen in the park today. The historic integrity of the parks design is poor

Setting

When first contemplated, the park location was on the southernmost edge of the City. It was just outside the main downtown core and residential neighborhoods to the east and west were being developed. Much of the adjacent residential construction occurred in the early years of the park and its proximity to the downtown remains an aspect of its current setting. Integrity of setting is fair to good.



1940 Aerial Photo of Northeast
Rochester, Borchart Map
Library, University of
Minnesota^{viii}

Materials

Most of the extant park elements, including objects, buildings and other structures have been constructed or placed in the park within the past 35 years. The historic integrity of material is very poor.

Workmanship

With almost all existing construction having occurred within the past 35 years, there is little present that exhibits workmanship from a historic period. The historic integrity of workmanship is very poor.

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park Rochester Historic Landmark Study

Feeling

The overall spatial relationships between uses in the park and the connecting circulation patterns, which remain from its original design, provide continuity in some areas park property. This is historic feeling however, is diminished by the fact that all but two of the structures present in the park are of a more contemporary period and design.

The major alteration at the park’s main entry however, greatly diminishes the feeling for which the original design was implemented. The following series of photos shows the original view (at the bottom) from the north entry across the sweeping and open landscape. The middle photo shows this same view, but with the trees now full grown and framing the entry road with the pool house as a visual terminus. Reflective of the City Beautiful Movement, this design was used to highlight both the trees, planted as memorials to soldiers, and the pool house, reflecting the importance of the park as the primary recreational facility of its time. The top photo is a photo from November 2022. The view now highlights the impressive wall of remembrance, constructed in 2000 to highlight the importance of the memorial aspect of the park, but significantly changing the feeling of the location.



22

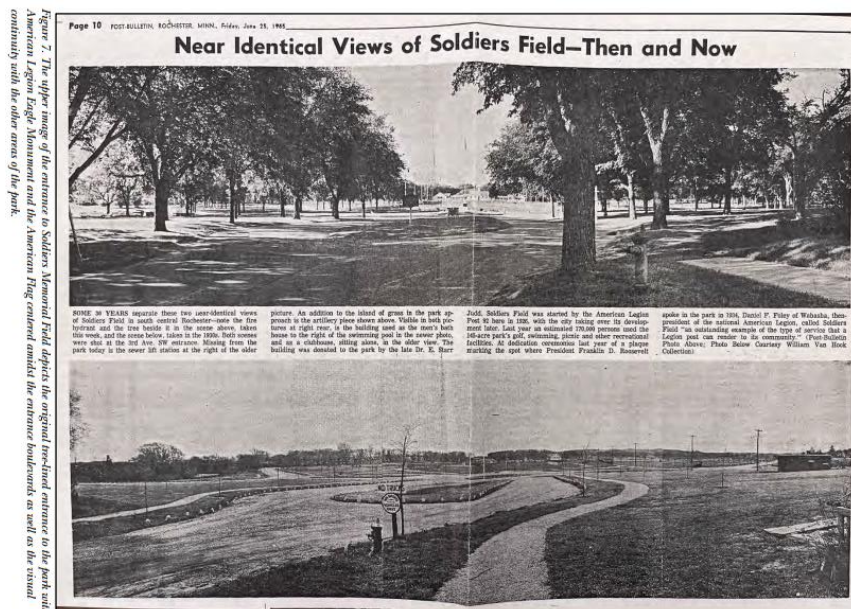


Figure 7. The upper image of the entrance to Soldiers Memorial Field depicts the original tree-lined entrance to the park with American Legion Lodge Movement and the American Flag centered amidst the entrance boulevards as well as the usual continuity with the other areas of the park.

²² University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management, p. 8
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management, p. 51 [Post-Bulletin, “Near Identical Views of Soldiers Field – Then & Now” Post-Bulletin (Rochester, Minnesota) June 21, 1965]

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park Rochester Historic Landmark Study

The integrity of the historic feeling of the park is poor, due to the replacement of most of the original structures, addition of many new structures and objects, and modification to its overall design.

Association

The property continues to be used for its original purpose as a public park and more specifically as a memorial and for recreation. The focus of its use has changed with the relocation of many sporting events to school and other sporting facilities in town. In more recent years the park has been used as a community gathering space for festivals and other special events. The parks historic integrity of association is good.

Preparer Information – Soldiers Memorial Field Park Landmark Eligibility

Date of Study	May, 2023
Name & Title of Preparer	Molly Patterson-Lundgren, AICP, Heritage Preservation/Urban Design Coordinator
Organization/Firm	City of Rochester, Community Development

Preparer Information – Phase II Architectural History Survey of Soldiers Memorial Field, Rochester, Olmsted County, Minnesota

Date of Study	February 2023
Name Preparer	Megan E. Daniels, MPS & Richard W Edwards IV, Ph.D., RPA
Organization/Firm	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management

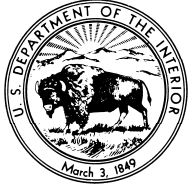
SHPO Comments & Recommendation

In a letter dated April 24, 2023, the State Historic Preservation Office provided a finding that Soldiers Memorial Field Park is not eligible for National Register listing due to the lack of historic integrity of the property. This letter was prompted by their obligation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, to provide consultation for any projects receiving federal funding.

In addition, the National Park Service (NPS), also provided the same finding, indicating that *no historic properties* would be affected from proposed plans for the park, using the granted federal funding. As the federal funding agency for the, Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Grant, it is the NPS who has the authority to make this determination, after consultation with the SHPO and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs).

Historic Property Name: Soldiers Memorial Field Park Rochester Historic Landmark Study

- ⁱ Preservation Brief #36, Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment & Management of Historic Landscapes, US Department of Interior, National Park Service, Charles. A Birnbaum, ASLA, <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/preservation-brief-36-cultural-landscapes.pdf>
- ⁱⁱ Phase II Architectural History Survey of Soldiers Memorial Field, Rochester, Olmsted County, Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management, February 2023, Megan E. Daniels, M.P.S. & Richard W. Edwards IV, Ph.D., p. 56 [Bayrd, “History of Soldiers Field.”]
- ⁱⁱⁱ (1920) *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Rochester, Olmsted County, Minnesota*. Sanborn Map Company, Oct. [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn04373_007/.
- ^{iv} Olmsted County GIS, <https://rpu.maps.arcgis.com/>, accessed May 15, 2023
- ^v Rochester Historical Contexts, The 106 Group, July 2014.
- ^{vi} Rochester Historical Contexts, The 106 Group, July 2014. p. 32
- ^{vii} Phase II Architectural History Survey of Soldiers Memorial Field, Rochester, Olmsted County, Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management, February 2023, Megan E. Daniels, M.P.S. & Richard W. Edwards IV, Ph.D. p. 72
- ^{viii} University of Minnesota, Borchart Map Library, <https://geo.lib.umn.edu/Olmsted/1940/WB-2A-105.jpg>



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Interior Regions 3, 4, 5

601 Riverfront Drive

Omaha, NE 68102

8.A.2(MWR-LWCF)
27-01460

May 9, 2023

Ms Sarah J. Beimers
Environmental Review Program Manager
State Historic Preservation Office
50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Beimers,

We are in receipt of the February 14, 2023, letter from your office to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), of the proposed undertaking: Federal LWCF ORLP Grant for Redevelopment of Soldiers Field Park, SHPO Number: 2022-2372, in Olmstead County, regarding your agency's analysis of cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed undertaking with assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program under LWCF grant #27-01460.

In addition to the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review, and the Phase I and II Historic surveys of Soldiers Memorial Field conducted by the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, the National Park Service (NPS) has notified Tribal Historic Preservation offices and Tribal governments affiliated with the project area to seek input on any potential impacts to areas with cultural or religious significance to those Tribes. There are currently ten Tribes that have known religious and cultural affiliation with the project area. The NPS formally notified the affiliated Tribal governments of their opportunity to consult with NPS on this project.

Formal invitations to consult were sent to the Tribes on November 10, 2022 from the NPS, with follow up emails on March 29, 2023 and secondary follow ups via phone calls on April 11, 2023. We received the following responses to our invitations.

- On March 29, 2023, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota emailed us a response of no objections.
- On March 29, 2023, the Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota emailed to request copies of the Historical surveys completed as a part of this project, which were promptly sent to them on March 30, 2023.
- On April 11, the Spirit Lake Tribe of North Dakota called to inform us that they had no objections to the project.
- On April 12, 2023, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota called to inform us that they had no concerns at present with the project.
- On April 12, 2023, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation of South Dakota emailed us a response of No Adverse Effects.

The NPS has considered the analysis and input from your office and affiliated Tribal governments consulted on this project. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and as set forth in the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation rules (36 CFR 800.2(a)(4)), the NPS has made a determination of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this undertaking.

The NPS includes in every agreement document the following condition:

54 U.S.C. part 300101 The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Guidelines - Projects involving construction, renovation, repair, rehabilitation, or ground or visual disturbances must comply with 36 C.F.R. part 800 that requires the DOI to consider the effects of projects offered or awarded funding on historic properties and, when applicable, to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on such projects.

This includes adherence to the post-review unanticipated discovery provisions of 36 C.F.R. §800.13(b)(3) which includes the agency official notifying the SHPO/THPO, any Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization of any historic properties uncovered within 48 hours of discovery.

We appreciate your assistance and your recommendations regarding this project. Any questions you have may be directed to me via email at ryan_kephart@nps.gov or by phone at 402-661-1912.

Sincerely,

Ryan M. Kephart

Outdoor Recreation Planner - Program Officer

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

Office Phone: (402) 661-1912 | **Email:** ryan_kephart@nps.gov

Office: 601 Riverfront Drive Omaha, NE 68102



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Other Business: Announcements, Updates, & Upcoming Meetings

MEETING DATE:

May 23, 2023

ORIGINATING DEPT:

Community Development

AGENDA SECTION:

Other Business

PRESENTER:

Molly Patterson-Lundgren

Action Requested:

No action is recommended.

Report Narrative:

Announcements and project updates will be provided only verbally at the meeting unless otherwise indicated below in an attachment. Timely updates in addition to the following may also be provided at the meeting

- An update will be provided on the new Community Development Intern.

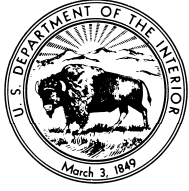
Upcoming Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) Meetings

- Next meeting June 27, 2023

Prepared By:

Molly Patterson-Lundgren

Attachments:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Interior Regions 3, 4, 5

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