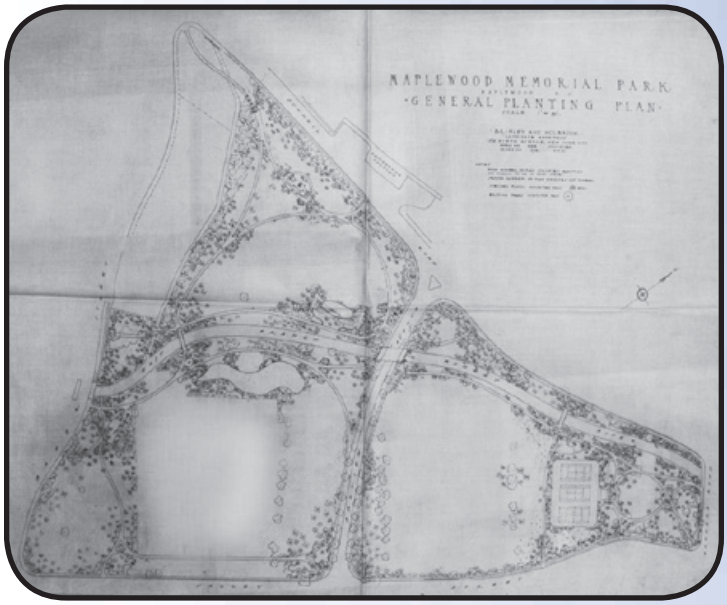

MEMORIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

July 21, 2014

PREPARED FOR:

Township of Maplewood
Historic Preservation Commission

PREPARED BY:

The RBA Group, Inc.
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Foreword

The Maplewood Memorial Park is a crown jewel of the Township of Maplewood. Designed by renowned landscape architects Olmsted Brothers and Brinley & Holbrook in the 1920s, the park lies near the physical center of the Township as well as at its emotional heart, the location for so many public activities as well as a pastoral retreat.

Because the Maplewood Historic Preservation Commission is aware of the historic importance of the park as well as the huge demands placed on it for passive and active recreational use, the Commission applied for and received funding from the Township Open Space Trust Fund to create this Master Plan. The members of the Historic Preservation Commission who have worked consistently for the betterment of the park and the Township of Maplewood are Patricia Chrisman, Vice-Chair, Susan Newberry, Township Historian, Gary Nelson, Eric Hammarberg, William Parrish, Joanne Sockle, Marci White, and Cara Soh.

The goals of this document are to provide an historical framework in which to place the park, to assess its overall present conditions as well as those of its key assets, and to create a plan for its management into the future. Serious planning is required to accommodate the needs of the many groups who want to use the park and to enhance its practical use while still upholding its historical significance. In an era when budgets are stretched as far as possible, it is especially important that priorities be established for maintaining this special place. This plan is intended to provide a pro-active framework that will help guide the Maplewood Township Committee and the various departments that have responsibility for maintenance and development as they make critical decisions regarding the future of the park.

The RBA Group was chosen to create this Master Plan from among a large group of applicants. They have worked diligently over the last 10 months interviewing numerous members of the community with an interest in the park. They have been helped by the contributions of a steering committee appointed by the Maplewood Township Committee comprised of Tom Malavasi, Township Engineer; Keith Knudson, Recreation Department; Eric Burbank, Public Works; India Larrier, Township Committee; John Larrier, Planning Board; and Gary Nelson, Historic Preservation Commission. Their input has been invaluable and their concern for the future of this area has been consistently evident.

Virginia Kurshan, Chair
Maplewood Preservation Commission

Executive Summary

Memorial Park is a designated historic landmark[1] in Maplewood Township consisting of twenty-five acres of park land designed in the picturesque style of landscape architecture. Embedded in the civic consciousness of Maplewood Township for nearly 100 years, the park has matured from a swampy lowland, to an early design laid out in the landscape, to a mature and indispensable community asset. To visit Memorial Park once is to understand its worthiness of preservation; to experience Memorial Park as part of daily life is to understand its essential nature to the community.

Significant findings of this report indicate that Memorial Park is highly valued and highly used within Maplewood Township. It is viewed as both a historically important landscape and a relevant, contemporary destination for a wide range of outdoor activities. Principal concerns for the park's future center around the maintenance of its distinctive landscape and park elements, the historical character of its design, and the intention to form a grass-roots non-profit organization to assist with park preservation through fund raising in the long term.

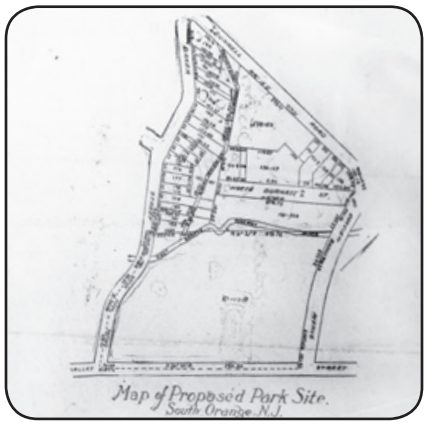


Figure E.1. Map of the proposed park site, south of Oakview Avenue, from the "South Orange Township Notices" in the Newark Evening News, June 26, 1919. Image courtesy of Morristown and Morris Township Library.

Summary of Master Plan Process

This effort – a Master Plan for the Future Use and Care of Memorial Park – was launched by the Maplewood Historic Preservation Commission in September of 2012. It takes a high level, long term approach to the preservation of Memorial Park, creating a context of task prioritization built around an understanding of the park's history, an assessment of its current condition and usage, and an assemblage of community input. Much of the work in developing this Master Plan took place at a series of strategic meetings between the Memorial Park Master Plan Committee and The RBA Group, the consultant firm employing landscape architects, planners, and historians tasked with the creation of this document. With the Master Plan Committee and landscape architects from The RBA Group functioning as an interdisciplinary project team, the strategic master plan process produced:

- a thorough historical review of a wide range of topics associated with Memorial Park, including early park development, primary landscape architectural designs and correspondence, and public perception of the park as expressed in archival newspaper materials;
- an inventory and assessment of existing park facilities;
- an inventory and assessment of landscape condition;
- a collection of public input comments gathered from a public exhibition and committee outreach to stakeholder organizations,
- a cost-estimated list of action items to guide park repairs, maintenance, and improvements prioritized over a period of 15 years.

Figure E.2. Attendees discuss historical findings at the Master Plan Open House held on July 25, 2013 at the Burgdorff Center in Maplewood. Photo by RBA.

Through this approach, the Memorial Park Master Plan Committee obtained a clear understanding of the current and future needs of the park within the context of community input and park history.

[1] Memorial Park is a Designated Historic Landmark in Maplewood Township, # 011-09, designated in December 2009. Memorial Park has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Organization of Master Plan Report

Through the process leading to this Master Plan report, the Memorial Park Master Plan Committee worked with landscape architects from The RBA Group to establish a context for decision-making and prioritization related to the park. The establishment of context was viewed as vital to the relevance of all decisions and priorities to emerge within this plan.

As such, this report is organized, first, to communicate the established context; second, to discuss rational decisions made and priorities formed for Memorial Park within the established context; and third, to present a prioritized list for actions to take place in Memorial Park. That list of actions effectively constitutes the "Master Plan" portion of this document. Subsequent to the Master Plan are Appendices A-F, which are made available to anyone engaged in future decision making for Memorial Park. The appendices present in depth the research efforts that form the background of this Master Plan.

1. Communicate Established Context	Chapter 1	Pages 5 - 17
2. Discuss context-based decisions and priorities	Chapter 2	Paes 19 - 52
3. Park Initiatives Plan and Prioritized Forecasting & Expenditures Matrix	Chapter 2	Pages 53 - 54
4. Present body of reseach which informed this report	Appendices A-F	Pages 55 - 131

Chapter 1:

Summaries of Park Context

This chapter summarizes the contextual findings of this report related to Memorial Park history and significance, current park features and furnishings, park landscape condition, and input from the public.

Park History & Significance

Memorial Park is a Designated Historic Landmark in Maplewood Township and is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Because of its historic significance and designation, local decisions regarding the modification of Memorial Park fall under the purview of the Township Committee with advisory input from the Historic Preservation Commission. This arrangement safeguards the historical integrity of the park.

Memorial Park is designed in the *picturesque style* of landscape architecture. This style, popular from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries, emphasizes a "natural" appearance of elements in a highly designed landscape. Absent are straight lines, axial geometry, and repetition, in favor curvilinearity, apparent randomness, and an economy of means reminiscent of natural places. With philosophical origins in the Romantic Movement of the arts and literature, the picturesque landscape embodies an effort to sooth the human condition through exposure to the beauty of nature. In the best of designs, these qualities are made manifest in composition with a logical layout and sequence of spaces: a trait which is evident at Memorial Park. These are the qualities which make Memorial Park a fine example of picturesque park design and worthy of preservation. (For a thorough description of the theory behind "Picturesque" landscape design, see the essay "Olmsted–His Essential Theory" by Charles E. Beveridge in *Nineteenth Century, the journal of the Victorian Society in America*, Volume 20, No. 2, pp. 32-37, Fall 2000).

The idea of a picturesque municipal park on the twenty-five acres now known as Memorial Park dates back to approximately 1915. At that time, civic leaders looked at a muddy pasture near their train station and downtown village and envisioned a community asset in the form of a greensward public park. By 1919, the Township passed an ordinance allowing for the acquisition of property parcels within the present park boundaries and began to acquire the land and demolish existing structures.

In the 1920s, the Township consulted with two landscape architecture firms for the design of the park. The first consultation took place with the firm Brinley & Holbrook Landscape Architects of New York City and Morristown, New Jersey prior to April 2, 1920, when the South Orange Record published the first known design drawing for the park. Following that, the Township engaged the design services of the Olmsted Brothers firm of Brookline, Massachusetts, from 1922 until their last known correspondence in 1925. From 1926 through 1928, the Township returned to Brinley & Holbrook for the final design of the park.

It is unclear exactly why the Township alternated between the two

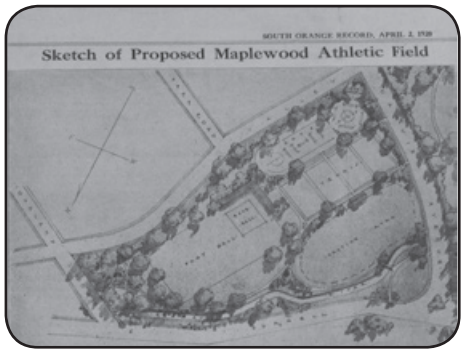


Figure 1.1. The first known published image of the design for Memorial Park in the South Orange Record on April 2, 1920. The image was likely produced by Brinley & Holbrook Landscape Architects. Image courtesy of Morristown & Morris Township Library.

Figure 1.2. John Brinley was a notable landscape architect who worked on the initial and latter design phases of Memorial Park. Image courtesy of the Cultural Landscape Foundation.

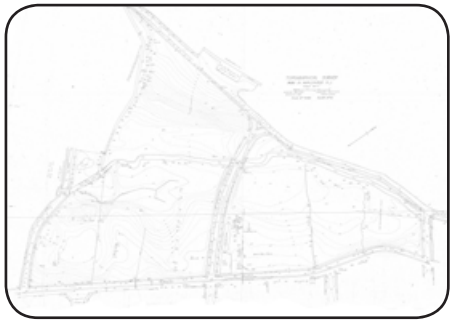


Figure 1.3. The Olmsted Bros. firm conducted a survey of the land that was then called Maplewood Park and dated this drawing August 25, 1922. Image courtesy of the Engineering Department of Maplewood Township and Morristown & Morris Township Library.

Memorial Park:
1928 Design by Brinley & Holbrook Landscape Architects

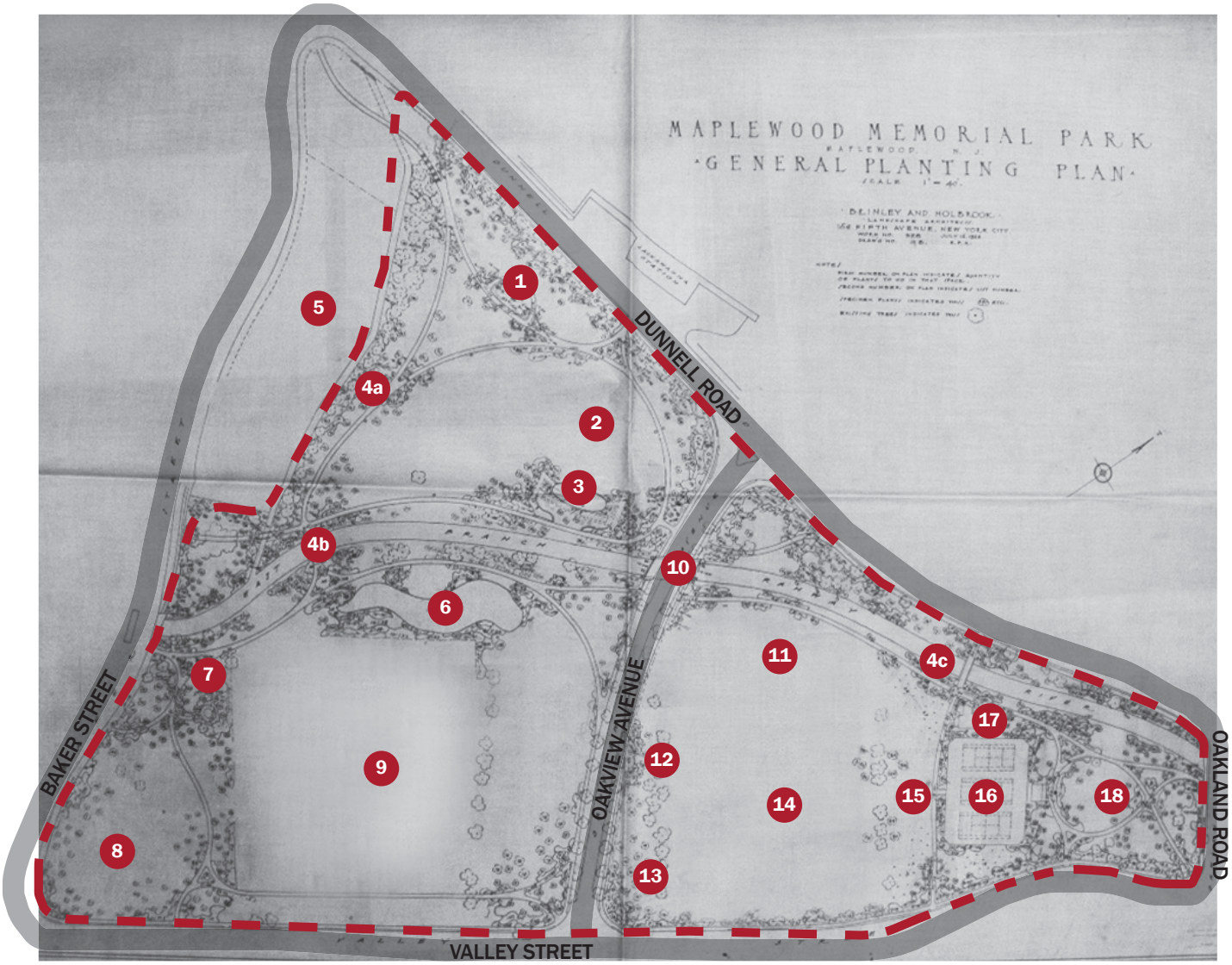


Figure 1.4

1 Eight Elms Memorial
2 Amphitheater Seating
3 Amphitheater Stage
4a 4b 4c Pedestrian Bridges
5 Future Site of Library
6 Duck Pond
7 Park Dedication Monument
8 Future Site of Conifer Grove
9 South Recreation Fields
10 Roadway Bridge
11 Skate Pond
12 Skate House
13 Skate Pond
14 North Recreation Fields
15 Future Site of Basketball Court
16 Tennis Court
17 Future Site of Civic House
18 Picnic Grove

Memorial Park:
Present Day Landscape

Figure 1.5.

1 Eight Elms Memorial
2 Amphitheater Seating
3 Amphitheater Stage
4a 4b 4c Pedestrian Bridges
5 Library
6 Duck Pond
7 Park Dedication Monument
8 Conifer Grove
9 South Recreation Fields
10 Roadway Bridge
11 Managed Wetland (former Skate Pond)
12 Skate House
13 Skate Pond
14 North Recreation Fields
15 Basketball Court
16 Tennis Court
17 Civic House
18 Playground Grove

Figure 1.6. On April 6, 1923, a design drawing from the Olmsted Bros. firm was published in the South Orange Record. Landscape Architect Percival Gallagher likely managed the project for the firm. Image courtesy of Morristown & Morris Township Library.

Figure 1.7. Percival Gallagher was a notable landscape architect and partner of the Olmsted Bros. firm. Design drawings produced by the firm for Memorial Park bear his signature. Image courtesy of the Cultural Landscape Foundation.

Figure 1.8. This 1925 Fairchild Aerial Survey shows the southern half of the park before the removal of residential buildings, grading, and wall enclosure of the river. Image courtesy of Susan Newberry and Maplewood Library.

landscape architecture firms, however, it is safe to say that in either case, the design of the park was in the most competent hands. John R. Brinley, principal landscape architect of Brinley & Holbrook, was highly regarded among his contemporaries, designed significant projects such as the Morristown Green and the New York Botanical Garden, and was elected to the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Council of Fellows in 1908. Likewise, Percival Gallagher, landscape architect and Olmsted Brothers firm partner, was a leading figure at the largest landscape architecture firm in the world when he managed the design of Memorial Park, and was elected to the ASLA Council of Fellows in 1910. Nearby examples of the Olmsted Brothers firm park design from roughly the same period as Memorial Park include Branch Brook Park in Newark and Edgewood Park in Montclair.

When translated from blueprint to real world conditions, park designs become dynamic landscapes which transform over time in response to environmental changes and cultural usage. Park designs, therefore, require the long-term input of stewardship to reach their intended maturity. For Memorial Park, the stewardship which developed its sustained attractiveness over the decades is attributable to the horticultural management of Richard Walter, Superintendent of Parks and Shade Trees for Maplewood Township from 1935 – 1970. Walter was a leader in his field who experimented with the function and aesthetics of a wide variety of plants and took a pragmatic, resourceful approach to municipal land management which included the practice of composting and the recycling of fallen trees into lumber.

For Memorial Park, the combined inputs of long-standing civic vision, notable design, and cleverly sustained stewardship designate it as a historically significant place. From the civic perspective, the establishment of the park occurred during "a critical period in the development of the Township" and the park continues to serve as a center for the community (Kurshan and Stout, 2009). From the design perspective, Memorial Park is associated with the most famous surname in American landscape architecture through the work of the Olmsted Brothers firm, and yet this attribution may unjustly overshadow the work of a highly accomplished yet less famous landscape architect in John R. Brinley. Without question, it is the work of both firms on the picturesque design of Memorial Park that contributes to the historical significance of the park. Finally, from the stewardship perspective, it is due to the sustained effort of Richard Walter to nurture the designed vision of the park into a mature reality over forty years that Memorial Park today remains both historically significant and presently vibrant.

<u>Timeline of Major Park Development Events:</u>

1910: A hand-drawn aerial view of Maplewood by H.S. Wyllie shows the land that would become Memorial Park as a boggy pasture with several lines of mature trees and a series of drainage ditches. Buildings are visible at the corner of Valley and Baker Streets, in the space now occupied by Maplewood Library, and adjacent to the train station on Dunnell Road. (Source of image, Maplewood Library, provided by Susan Newberry).

1915: "... several foresighted members of the town had the vision to see the advisability of acquiring this somewhat undesirable property for community use." – Margaret S. McCornack, Women's Club of Maplewood.

(Published in the May 1935 issue of the *Members Chat* of the Women's Club of Maplewood).

1916: Playground apparatus installed on Oakview Avenue. Skating Pond installed. Shelter House (later called the "Skate House") donated by Mr. K.W. Dalzell of the Budal Realty Corp. (Source of article: South Orange Record, April 2, 1920, in the Brinley & Holbrook Collection, Morristown and Morris Township Library, also provided by Susan Newberry). The extant Skate House at is not certainly the same structure donated by K.W. Dalzell. William Mitchell is credited with the design of a new Skate House constructed in 1929-1930. (Kurshan and Stout, 2009).

1917: Playground at Oakview Avenue in full operation, hosts summer day camps for Maplewood children. (Source of article: South Orange Record, April 2, 1920, in the Brinley & Holbrook Collection, Morristown and Morris Township Library, also provided by Susan Newberry).

1918: Summer attendance of 4300 children recorded at playground on Oakview Avenue. (Source of article: South Orange Record, April 2, 1920, in the Brinley & Holbrook Collection, Morristown and Morris Township Library, also provided by Susan Newberry).

1919: Ordinance passed allowing South Orange Township to acquire parcels on present day park for development as park lands. (Source of article: Newark Evening News, South Orange Township Notices, June 26, 1919, in the Brinley & Holbrook Collection, Morristown & Morris Township Library).

1920: Design plan believed to originate with Brinley & Holbrook Landscape Architects published in South Orange Record. (Source of article: South Orange Record, April 2, 1920, in the Brinley & Holbrook Collection, Morristown and Morris Township Library, also provided by Susan Newberry).

1922: First known correspondence between Township and Olmsted Brothers firm of Brookline, Massachusetts. A letter dated July 6th from firm partner landscape architect Percival Gallagher to Township Committee chairman John S. DeHart describes the suitability of the land for its intended use as a park and quotes a fee of $500 for design services. By July 26th, DeHart would authorize Gallagher to move forward with a site survey and design plans. (Source of letters: Olmsted Archives, National Park Service, Brookline, Massachusetts).

1922 – 1923: Several design iterations are provided to the Township Committee by the Olmsted Brothers firm under File # 7045. (Sources of drawings: Olmsted Archives, National Park Service, Brookline, Massachusetts; Archives of the Maplewood Township Engineer; Brinley & Holbrook Collection, Morristown and Morris Township Library).

1923: George K. Thompson of Maplewood requests clarification from Olmsted Brothers firm in a letter dated April 19 on the planting design intended for the area of the park between Oakview Avenue and the Crooked Brook, adjacent to Dunnell Road. It is likely that Thompson worked from the firm's planting design (File # 7045, Plan # 11) to plant this area of the park. (Olmsted Archives, National Park Service, Brookline Massachusetts). Small plants are visible in this area in a 1925 aerial photograph of Maplewood (Source of image: Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc., provided by Susan Newberry). Thompson was not an employee of the Township.

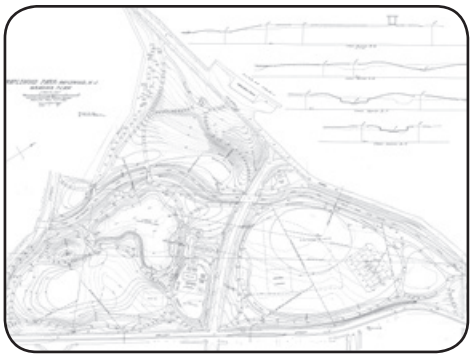


Figure 1.9. This 1923 design from the Olmsted Bros. firm shows a slightly different layout than what currently exists in the park. Image courtesy of the Olmsted Archives at the National Park Service Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.

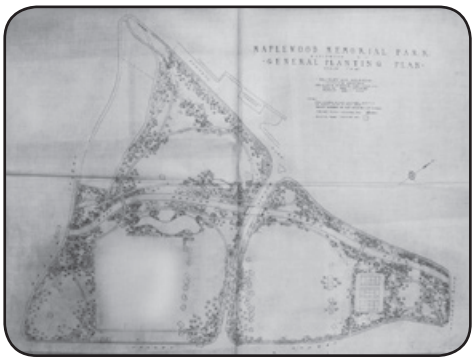


Figure 1.10. By 1928, John Brinley was once again contracted for the design of Memorial Park. The scheme pictured here most closely matches the current configuration of the park. Image courtesy of John Elwood and the Morristown & Morris Township Library.

Figure 1.11. Concrete road surfaces outline the park in this 1932 Fairchild Aerial Survey. The residential buildings have been removed, the river has been walled in, and the pedestrian bridges and duck pond are visible. To the north, the skating pond appears to be flooded. Image courtesy of Susan Newberry and Maplewood Library.

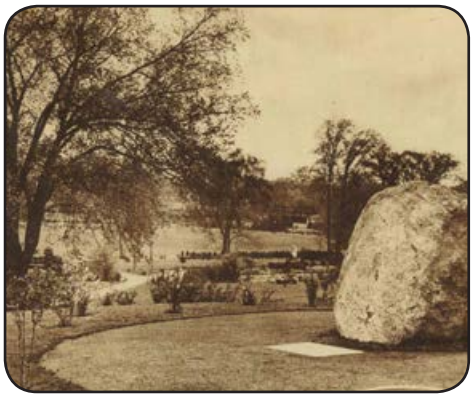


Figure 1.12. Memorial Park was formally dedicated on Memorial Day in 1931. The park dedication boulder remains in the same location. Image courtesy of Newark Public Library Charles Cummings NJ Information Center, provided by Susan Newberry. Image appeared in Newark Sunday Call on May 24, 1931, prior to the park dedication on Memorial Day, May 30, 1931.

Figure 1.13. Photo of Richard Walter in 1969 in the article "Walter Honored by Garden Club" in the Maplewood News Record, April 10. Image courtesy of Susan Newberry and Maplewood Library.

1925: The last known correspondence between Olmsted Brother firm and Township on the subject of a monument within the park is dated April 24. Percival Gallagher suggests a slab of cut granite set on end, an idea which contrasts with the large boulder monument desired by the Township Committee. (Source of letters: Olmsted Archives, National Park Service, Brookline, Massachusetts).

1926: Under Work #327, the firm of Brinley and Holbrook Landscape Architects submits plans for Memorial Park. The first drawing on record is #6, dated October 16th. It is unclear exactly why the Township broke with the Olmsted Brothers firm and proceeded with Brinley & Holbrook for the design and construction of Memorial Park. (Source of drawing: Brinley & Holbrook Collection, Morristown & Morris Township Library).

1926 – 1928: The firm of Brinley and Holbrook Landscape Architects provides a series of design iterations and drawings for Memorial Park, including conceptual designs, planting plans, and grading plans. It is likely that the firm would have overseen the major phase of park construction which took place from 1929 – 1931. (Source of drawings: Brinley & Holbrook Collection, Morristown and Morris Township Library; Archives of the Maplewood Township Engineer; also provided by John Elwood, Columbia High School).

1928: The park design which most strongly corresponds to the present layout can be attributed to Brinley & Holbrook. (Work # 328, Drawing # 9B source: Brinley & Holbrook Collection, Morristown and Morris Township Library; also provided by John Elwood).

1929: Richard Walter, the horticulturist who would serve as Maplewood's Superintendent of Parks and Shade Trees, emigrates from Germany and, in 1930, begins working as a "garden laborer" for Maplewood Township. (Source: Federal Censuses on 1930 and 1940).

1931: On May 30th, Memorial Park is formally dedicated. (Sources of Articles: Maplewood News, May 22, 1931; South Orange Record, May 29, 1931; provided by Susan Newberry).

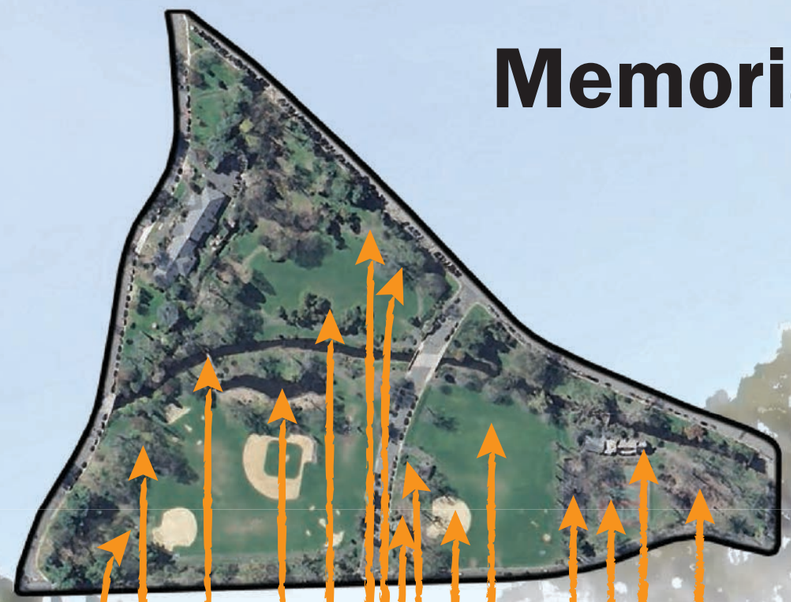
1931 – 1970: Under the care of Richard Walter as Superintendent of Parks and Shade Trees, Memorial Park progresses from early planting into robust greensward. Walter had a major impact on the placement and selection of trees and shrubbery in the park, integrating non-native varieties for their aesthetic appeal and accentuating long vistas through the arrangement of specimen trees. Walter also employed a pragmatic approach to park management. Utilizing the damage caused by local weather events, he harvested downed hardwoods to produce furnishings for Memorial Park, including custom-made benches and picnic tables, as well as a playground facility known as the Dragon Pit. Walter expanded the capacity of the park budget by growing plant material (annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs, and trees) in greenhouses, cold boxes, and nursery rows behind the town hall. He even worked with township residents to transfer plants that had outgrown their residential yards into the more spacious confines of township parks. Through these practices, Walter dramatically shaped the experience of Memorial Park.

2009: The Maplewood Memorial Park was designated as a Local Historic Landmark by the Township Committee in recognition of the historical, cultural and aesthetic importance of this park to the Township of Maplewood.

Memorial Park Chronology of Development

"Here are set forth the main big divisions and scheme by which its beauty may be conserved and developed and the evolution of which we may all watch with a justifiable civic pride. It is only a basic general plan. We may never expect to see our park as a finished product, for just so long as Maplewood continues to be the live-wire community that it now is, just so long the park will be changing in minor details to meet the changing needs of the citizens to whom it belongs."

--South Orange Record, Author Unknown, April 6, 1923



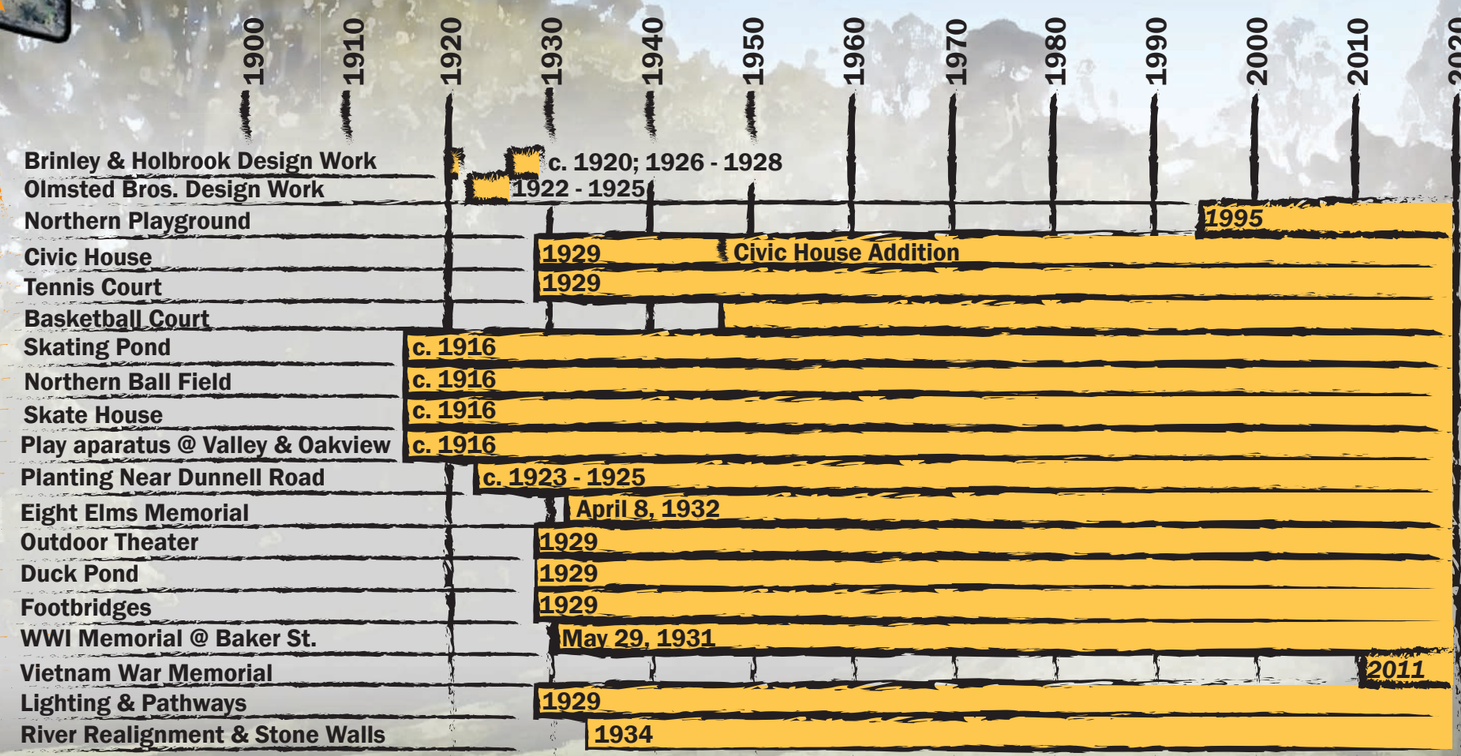


Figure 1.14

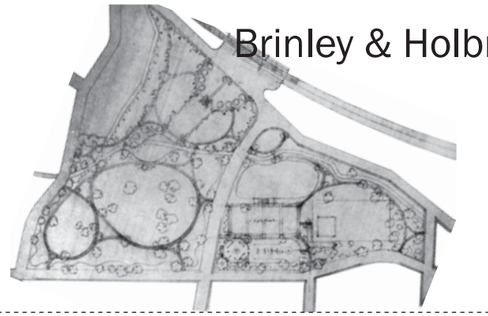
RBA

Memorial Park: Analysis of Park Design Progression, Panel 1

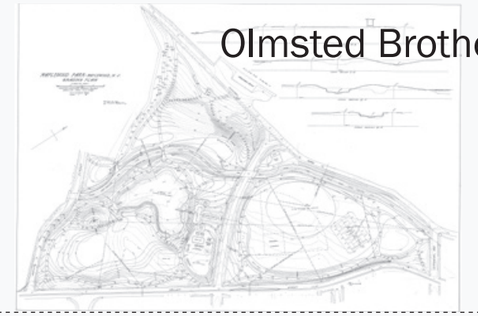
Figure 1.15

Design Plans

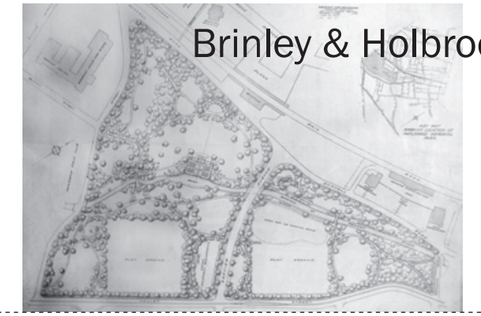
Brinley & Holbrook 1920



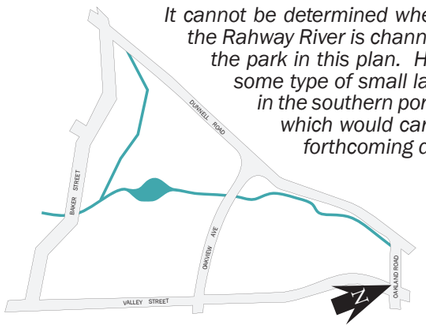
Olmsted Brothers 1922



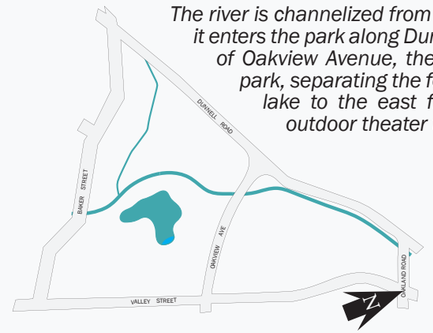
Brinley & Holbrook 1926



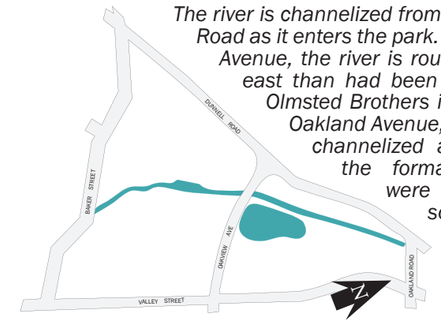
East Branch of the Rahway River



It cannot be determined whether the East Branch of the Rahway River is channelized as it flows through the park in this plan. However, it is evident that some type of small lake or pond was planned in the southern portion of the park – an idea which would carry through into all of the forthcoming design efforts.

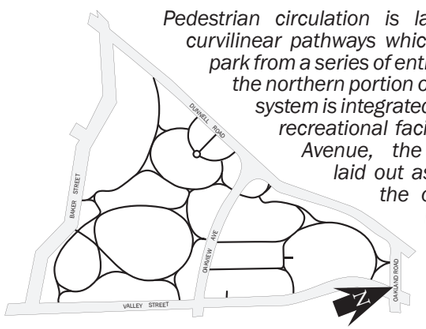


The river is channelized from Oakland Road as it enters the park along Dunnell Road. South of Oakview Avenue, the river bisects the park, separating the formal garden and lake to the east from the pastoral outdoor theater to the west.

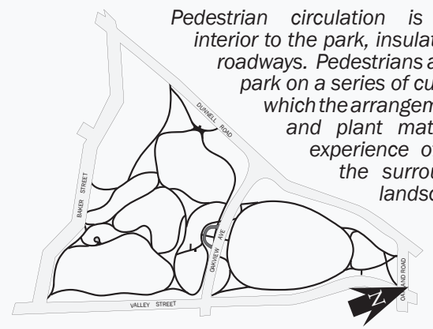


The river is channelized from south of Oakland Road as it enters the park. North of Oakview Avenue, the river is routed further to the east than had been proposed by the Olmsted Brothers in 1922. South of Oakland Avenue, the river remains channelized as it approaches the formal gardens that were proposed for the southwestern portion of the park.

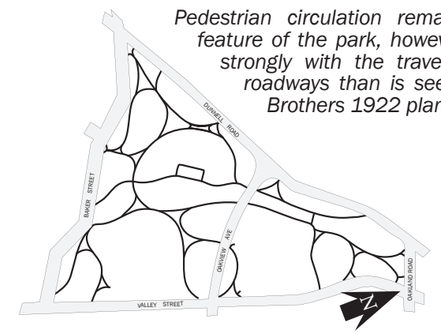
Circulation



Pedestrian circulation is laid out in a series of curvilinear pathways which guide visitors into the park from a series of entryways from the street. In the northern portion of the park, the circulation system is integrated into the layout of various recreational facilities. South of Oakview Avenue, the circulation system is laid out as a major component of the overall park experience, integrating mobility with picturesque views.



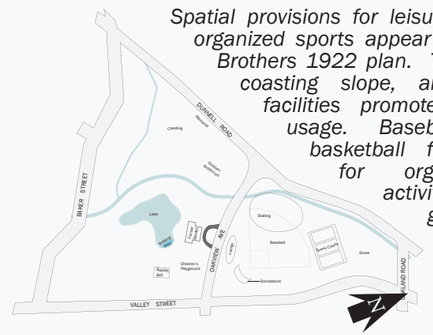
Pedestrian circulation is expansive and interior to the park, insulated from adjacent roadways. Pedestrians are guided into the park on a series of curving pathways in which the arrangement of topography and plant material creates an experience of insulation from the surrounding suburban landscape.



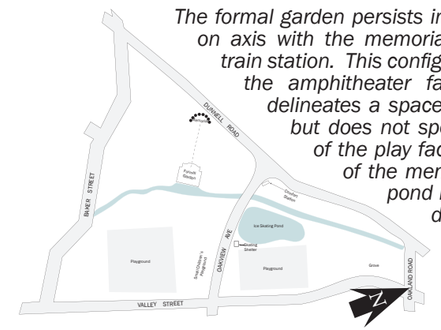
Pedestrian circulation remains a prominent feature of the park, however it ties in more strongly with the travel patterns of the roadways than is seen in the Olmsted Brothers 1922 plan.

Amenities

This plan distinguishes between active recreation in the north and passive recreation in the south. Active recreation facilities include playgrounds for boys and girls, four tennis courts, a skating pond and shelter, and a ball field for baseball and football. A memorial near Dunnell Road appears in all subsequent iterations of the park design. A letter from Brinley describes the use of eight evergreen trees in the memorial, each representing a Maplewood resident who died in World War I.



Spatial provisions for leisure activities and organized sports appear on the Olmsted Brothers 1922 plan. The wading pool, coasting slope, and ice skating facilities promote multi-seasonal usage. Baseball, tennis, and basketball facilities provide for organized sports activities. The formal garden and grove provide space for passive recreation.



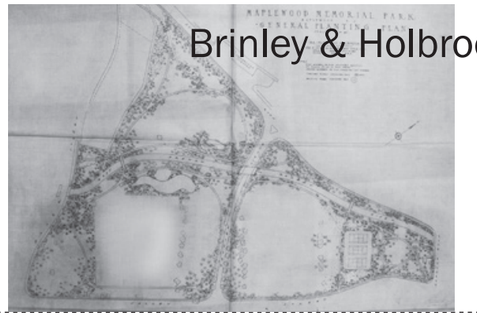
The formal garden persists in this plan, placed on axis with the memorial adjacent to the train station. This configuration obliterates the amphitheater facility. The plan delineates a space for play grounds, but does not specify the intention of the play facility. The location of the memorial and skating pond match the present day configuration. Notably absent from this plan is the Duck Pond.

Memorial Park: Analysis of Park Design Progression, Panel 2

Figure 1.15

Design Plans

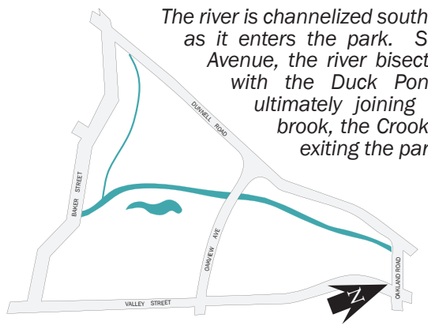
Brinley & Holbrook 1928



Richard Walter, Superintendent of Parks and Shade Trees, 1935 - 1970

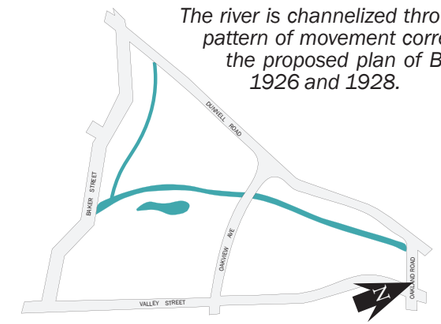
Present Day

East Branch of the Rahway River



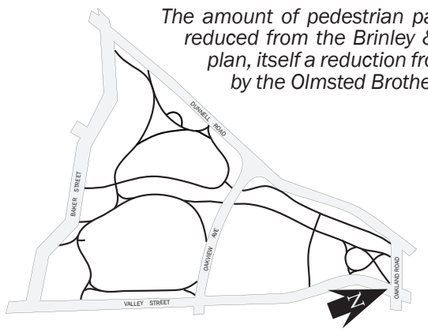
The river is channelized south of Oakland Road as it enters the park. South of Oakview Avenue, the river bisects the park land, with the Duck Pond to the east, ultimately joining with a tributary brook, the Crooked Brook, before exiting the park.

Since their installation, the river walls have been maintained and repaired through the office of the Township Engineer. The course of the river has not changed in that time. However, Richard Walter is likely responsible for many of the trees planted along the bank of the river, including the crabapples, Callery pear, Chinese chestnut, horse-chestnut, and Chinese Scholar tree north of Oakview Avenue, as well as the crabapples and Chinese chestnuts south of Oakview Avenue. Furthermore, it is known that Walter's department contributed locally milled lumber and possibly labor in a refurbishment of the pedestrian bridges which cross the river in the late 1930s.



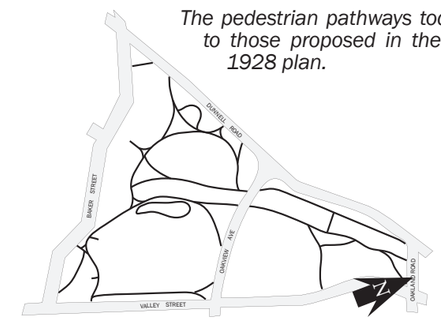
The river is channelized throughout the park. Its pattern of movement corresponds closely with the proposed plan of Brinley & Holbrook in 1926 and 1928.

Circulation



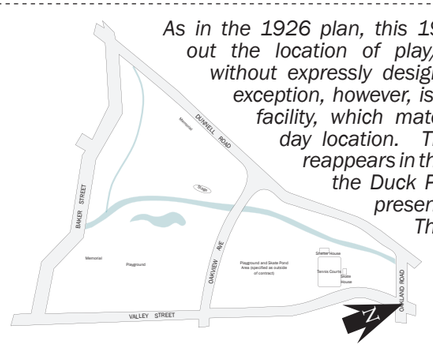
The amount of pedestrian pathway has been reduced from the Brinley & Holbrook 1926 plan, itself a reduction from that proposed by the Olmsted Brothers in 1922.

The present day configuration of pathways is remarkably similar to the system designed by Brinley & Holbrook in 1928. It is likely that the Parks and Shade Trees Department maintained these pathways under Walter, avoiding ad hoc additions which would have undermined the system over time. Walter's department also would have placed seating opportunities and ornamental plantings along the pathway system, contributing to the environment of the park as it is known today.



The pedestrian pathways today are most similar to those proposed in the Brinley & Holbrook 1928 plan.

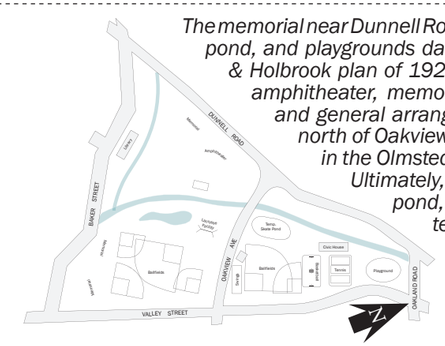
Amenities



As in the 1926 plan, this 1928 design calls out the location of play/sports facilities without expressly designing them. The exception, however, is the tennis court facility, which matches its present day location. The amphitheater reappears in the 1928 plan, and the Duck Pond matches its present configuration. The formal garden has not survived into this design iteration.

The majority of park facilities were constructed subsequently to the Brinley & Holbrook plan from 1928. Under Richard Walter, notable changes in park amenities include the construction of the basketball courts near the Civic House, the replacement of pedestrian scale park lighting fixtures, and the construction of the Dragon Pit playground adjacent to Oakview Avenue.

Under Walter, the Parks and Shade Tree Department worked to maintain and enhance the everyday experience of Memorial Park through high standards of horticultural practice and park furnishings.



The memorial near Dunnell Road, duck pond, skating pond, and playgrounds date back to the Brinley & Holbrook plan of 1920. Subsequently, the amphitheater, memorial at Dunnell Road, and general arrangement of amenities north of Oakview Avenue were refined in the Olmsted Brothers 1922 plan. Ultimately, the placement of the pond, theater, circulation, tennis courts, and play fields can be attributed to the Brinley & Holbrook plans of 1926 and 1928.

Existing Park Features & Furnishings

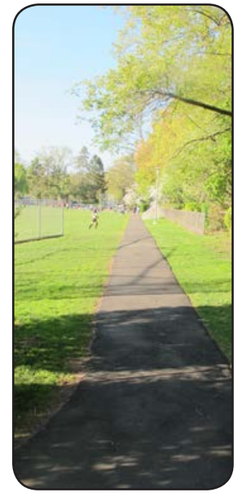


Figure 1.16. Asphalt surfaces provide a uniform, reliable, cost-effective pathway system for Memorial Park. Photo by RBA 05/02/2013.

Figure 1.17. This playground at the northern end of the park is a popular destination within Memorial Park. Photo by RBA 05/09/2013.

Figure 1.18. The Skate House has occuppied its current location since 1916, making it one of the oldest features in Memorial Park. Photo by RBA, 05/22/2013.

Memorial Park hosts a number of usages ranging from passive and open-ended recreation to active and highly organized recreation. Examples of popular park activities within this range include walking and jogging, sitting in park spaces to enjoy nature, civic history, solitude, or social experiences, playing on playground facilities, playing on field facilities, observing or supervising play opportunities, and participating in organized events.

Memorial Park provides a number of furnishings and facilities to meet the demands of these varied forms of usage. The following table provides an inventory and assessment of existing park furnishings and facilities.

PARK FACILITY	NUM	SIZE	CONDITION			COMMENTS
			Good	*Fair*	*Poor*	
STRUCTURES						
Civic House	*1*		*X*			*Built in 1929 and hosts arts and culture activities, after school programs for children through the South Mountain YMCA, and provides an accessible restroom to serve the northern portion of the park. The building is maintained by the Township and is in good condition.*
Skate House	*1*			*X*		*In present location since 1916 and provides a facility for storage of Township materials and sports equipment as well as a covered outdoor space which can accommodate a range of activities for small groups. The building is maintained by the Township and is in fair condition; renovations in the fall of 2013 have improved the condition of the covered porch.*
Restrooms, portable	*4*		*X*			*Subject to vandalism and can sometimes be found upended.*
MOVEMENT SYSTEMS						
Asphalt Pathways (6-8' width)	*X*	*±3,100 lf*		*X*		*The singular pavement material for the entire park brings cohesion and offers a dependable surface. Condition varies from excellent where new to poor where tree roots have warped and cracked the surface.*
Unpaved Walkways & Trails						*Some "cow paths" are visible where people repetitively walk over grass areas and cause damage. Pavement of these areas to match existing pathways is recommended.*
Pedestrian Bridges	*3*	*<25' span*		*X*		*Historical pedestrian bridges require general maintenance to repair surfaces and railings and to clear away vines growing on structure. ADA accessible railings should be included. Structural integrity should be monitored over time.*
ACTIVITY AREAS						
Playground by Civic House	*1*		*X*	*X*		*Playground is in fair to good condition with performance of routine maintenance. Sonic play features added in summer 2013 add a new level of interest.*
Playground by Oakview Ave.	*1*			*X*	*X*	*Playground is in fair to poor condition with attention needed to safety surfacing and accessibility requirements. The wooden "Dragon Pit" playground should be removed.*
Duck Pond	*1*	*100' x 50'*			*X*	*The duck pond is a major attraction for the southern portion of the park. Accumulation of silt has led to overgrowth of pond plants and presence of algal communities and should be dredged. Pond edging may require replacement.*
Ballfields	*6*		*X*	*X*		*Ballfields and backstops/fences are in generally good condition and are well-maintained in season.*
Multipurpose Rectangular Field	*2*			*X*		*Worn turf surfaces puts these fields in fair condition.*
Tennis courts	*3*				*X*	*Cracked surface condition likely warrants replacement*
Basketball courts	*2*		*X*			*Court facilities in good condition. Fence fabric stretched and damaged.*
Practice Backstops	*1*		*X*			*Good fence condition. Some turf wear.*
Skating Area	*1*					*Condition of drainage pipes unknown.*
Amphitheater & Outdoor Stage	*1*			*X*		*Grading and grass surface of seating area in good condition. Modular stage constructed of plywood and painted black occupies a visually-obscured location. Compacted soil and litter were observed around the stage facility. Access to electricity is an asset.*
"Rock Garden" or "Rockery"	*1*	*20' dia.*	*X*			*Intimate garden space located east of library on on south side of Crooked Brook constructed of rock, stone, and shrubbery with sun dial. Recently repaired, in good condition.*

Figure 1.19. A Richard Walter-era park bench. Photo by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Figure 1.20. The tennis court was designed for its current location in 1928. Its cracked surfaces warrant repair. Photo by RBA, 05/22/2013.

PARK FACILITY	NUM	SIZE	CONDITION			COMMENTS
			Good	Fair	Poor	
MISC. AMENITIES						
Lighting, Ped. 15'	42	±15' Ht.		X		Condition varies among the lighting fixtures. Stickers and graffiti are commonly seen on poles.
Lighting, Flood 30'	1	±30' Ht.		X		Flood light near tennis court lights the northern grass field. Lighting inadequate for events.
Picnic tables	3			X		Miscellaneous replacement (1)
Stone fireplace/grill	2			X		Two stone grills cannot be used due to open flame prohibition by local ordinance. Stone structures are in good condition; grill components in bad condition.
Rahway River Retaining Walls	1		X	X		River retaining walls repaired in summer of 2013; monitored by Township Engineer.
Signage, Community bulletin	2	6'		X		Bulletin boards appear well used.
Fences, C.L.	1	3x100'		X		Fence is old, but appears sound. Fence is surrounded by shrubbery.
Trash Receptacles	12		X			Miscellaneous replacement (5). Park may be better served by increased number of receptacles.
Drinking fountains	3				X	Drinking fountains in poor condition.
Benches @ Playground	5		X			Replace wood slats, repaint
Benches, cast concrete on concrete pad	3	3'	X			Two of three replaced in summer of 2013. One is crescent shaped while two are rectangular.
Benches, teak	5	5'	X			Appear new, very good condition.
Benches, cast conc. w/ stone base	3	3'	X			Appear old, but very strong.
Benches, wood slats w/conc. base	3	5'		X		Replace wood slats.
Benches, HDPE	2	8'	X			Good condition.
Benches, team seating wood & conc.	2	15'	X			Good condition.
Bike racks	2			X	X	Bike racks are showing rust, likely in declining condition.
Other Flag Pole	5	25-40'		X	X	Small flag poles along Valley Street near Oakview Ave may warrant removal since they appear to be unutilized.
Bleachers, 3-row ADA	4	15'	X			ADA Bleachers require accessible pathway.
Bleachers, 4-row (no ADA)	2	15'	X			ADA bleachers with accessible pathway should be provided: one bleacher per field.
Memorial, Eight Elms	1		X			Missing benches were replaced and flag pole painted in Eagle Scout project during summer of 2013. Condition to be evaluated.
Park Dedication Memorial, WWI	1					
Memorial, Christopher Columbus	1					
Memorial, Vietnam War	1					Graffiti removed in summer 2013.

Existing Park Landscape Condition

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE IS INTEGRAL TO PARK SUCCESS

CURRENT PRACTICES LACK HORTICULTURAL SENSITIVITY

RISK MANAGEMENT PRINCIPALS SHOULD BE APPLIED TO VALUABLE SHADE TREES

Memorial Park consists of a series of public spaces prominently defined by plant material. It features many forms of vegetation and countless species and varieties of plants. Integral to the success of the park is the preservation of healthy existing plant material along with ongoing maintenance and future planting. To create a context for discussion and prioritization of plant material considerations in Memorial Park, here classified as Landscape Condition, The RBA Group consulted with representatives from the Maplewood Garden Club and conducted an inventory and assessment of all park trees larger than twelve inches diameter at breast height (DBH).

To understand a local perspective on the general care and maintenance of Memorial Park, a consultative meeting was held between The RBA Group and Maplewood Garden Club Members Kathy Kohlman and David Nial on June 3, 2013. Kohlman and Nial communicated a general assessment of the state of horticultural maintenance in the park as in need of improvement. Applied horticultural technique by Township staff in the proper maintenance of shrubs to influence growth, habit, and ornamental display was expressed as lacking in the park. The proposed solution to these issues was the creation and deployment of a detailed maintenance plan for Memorial Park (and Maplewood Township parks at large), toward which the Garden Club would independently take steps through the summer of 2013 by consulting with horticultural experts from the area. That effort is the Garden Club's own initiative, however they have generously made notes from these consultations available to the RBA Group, which are cited in subsequent portions of this report. Additionally, Kohlman and Nial were able to describe and point out planting techniques attributable to the long-tenured former Maplewood Commissioner of Parks and Shade Trees, Richard Walter, which may have a historical bearing on park preservation.

The inventory and assessment of all trees larger than twelve inches DBH, conducted between June 20 and June 25, 2013, found a total of 274 individual trees representing forty-five distinct species within the twenty-five-acre park. Of this population, 23% of trees were distributed among twenty-one distinct genera, while 77% were distributed among eight genera: 13.5% Pinus (pine), 12.7% Fraxinus (ash), 11.6% Quercus (oak), 10.6% Picea (spruce), 10.2% Acer (maple), 8.6 % Thuja (arborvitae), 5.1% Metasequoia, and 4.4% Malus (apple). This mix of trees is not atypical for a municipal park, but from a management and park preservation perspective, it may be wise to invest in increased diversity through future planting. Visual inspection of the twelve-inch and larger trees found nearly 80% in sound condition. Meanwhile, 10% were recommended for a thorough inspection by a certified arborist; 7% were visibly in need of attention to remove overwhelming vines, perilous limbs, or non-tree elements; and 3% of trees were recommended for removal due to death or decline. (Since this inventory was conducted, several trees recommended for removal have been removed).

In summary, Memorial Park is perceived as needing a higher level of more detailed maintenance in order to reach its full potential.

Summary of Public Input

Memorial Park exists because of Maplewood community members who saw potential in a muddy pastureland a hundred years ago. The input of the Maplewood community is no less important today. Community input for this master plan was conducted through two separate tasks: a public open house and an outreach effort to community stakeholder groups.

The public open house for this master plan was conducted on Thursday, July 25, 2013 and was attended by approximately sixty people who signed in. Attendees were presented with historical research findings along with assessments of landscape condition and park features and furnishings. Input from the community was collected through an interactive display which asked community members how they spend time in Memorial Park and how they would budget for park improvements. Attendees were also provided with poster boards on which to contribute open-ended ideas by writing in marker.

The stakeholder list was formed to gather input from community groups who utilize Memorial Park for organized events and activities. Formed through a review of Township permits for park events in the past two years supplemented by input from committee members, the stakeholders were surveyed by e-mail and eight responses were received.

A diverse range of ideas and suggestions for Memorial Park were collected. However, certain common themes arose from the process, including a widespread concern for park maintenance; a desire to preserve the visual appeal, originality of design, and spirit of the park; a desire to maintain passive recreation opportunities within the park; and a desire to establish a non-profit organization with a mission to support the ongoing success of the park.

Investments in park infrastructure and landscape maintenance were expressed as the most important budgetary allotments for the park. Meanwhile, park facilities such as the pathway system and benches, duck pond, outdoor theater, and tennis courts were viewed as the most popular destinations for spending time.

PRESERVE
VISUAL APPEAL
ORIGINALITY
SPIRIT

MAINTAIN
PASSIVE
RECREATION

ESTABLISH
501 (c) (3)
SUPPORT

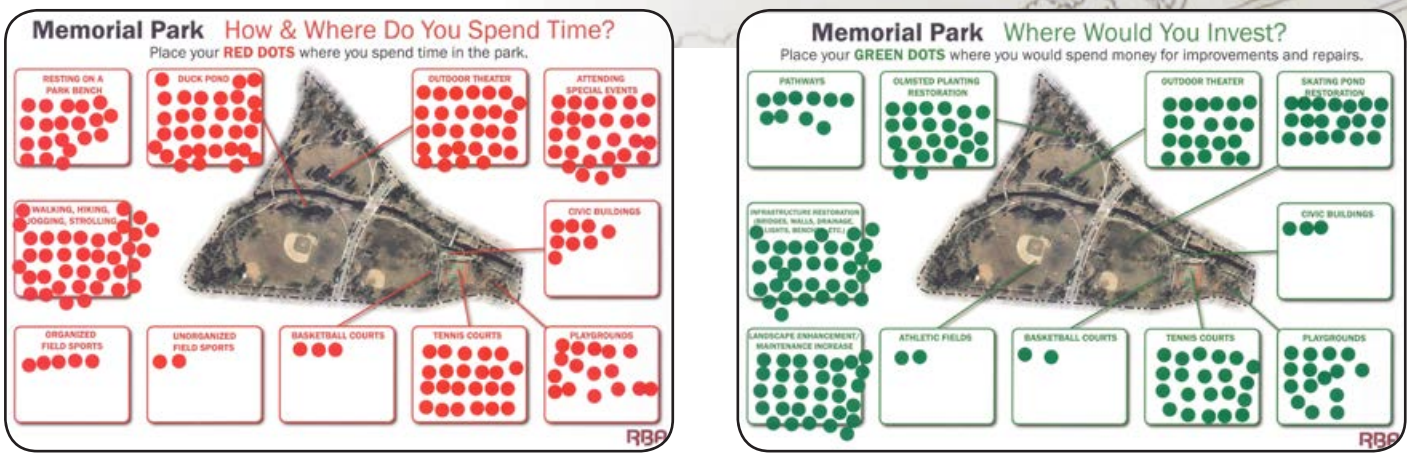


Figure 1.21. Maplewood community members attending the open house placed the red and green dots in these graphics. The red dots represent how and where community members like to spend their time in Memorial Park. The green dots represent how community members would choose to allocate money for maintenance and upgrades to Memorial Park.

Summary of Public Input

Key features of the picturesque style of landscape architecture include the effect of scenery on the human mind, the impact of perspective as well as a sense of contrast and the complexity of the play of light and shadow. Critical to these effects is a richness and lushness of growth, often achieved through many layers of plantings.

Key design principles include (but are not limited to):

- A unified composition and an overarching design purpose that transcends the inclusion of individual plantings and structures
- A carefully orchestrated direction of movement from one space to another and a thoughtful separation of ways, spaces and uses
- A respect for the natural features of the site and a plan for sustainable maintenance and environmental conservation
- A comprehensive composition that takes into consideration what exists beyond its boundaries

The principles and defining characteristics of the picturesque style should be used to guide all decisions regarding ongoing maintenance and all future development of Memorial Park and its many elements.

Chapter 2:

Master Plan for the Future Use and Care of Memorial Park

Key features of the *picturesque style* of landscape architecture include the effect of scenery on the human mind, the impact of perspective, and the sense of complexity that emerges from the contrast of light and shadow. Critical to these effects is a richness and lushness of growth, often achieved through many layers of plantings.

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- a comprehensive composition that takes into consideration what exists beyond its boundaries.

The principles and defining characteristics of the picturesque style should be used to guide all decisions regarding ongoing maintenance and all future development of Memorial Park and its many elements.

The following chapter presents a master plan for the future use and care of Memorial Park. The plan consists of a series of action items to improve the park's visual appeal, functionality, and/or safety while preserving and enhancing its historical integrity picturesque design to the greatest extent possible.

Within the chapter, the action items are organized into the following categories:

Park Advocacy....20
Park Structures....22
Movement Systems & Infrastructure....24
Activity Areas....28
Park Amenities....37
Landscape Management/Maintenance....44
Non-Budgetary Items....52
Prioritized Cost Estimation Table....54

Each categorized action item is described through text, photos, or graphics and is rated as either high, medium, or low priority. While all action items in this report are considered important, the assignment of priority levels reflects a sense of timing and budgetary restraint. For this report, high priority action items should be accomplished in one to five years. Subsequently, medium priority items should be accomplished in five to ten years, and low priority action items should be accomplished within ten to fifteen years. At the end of the chapter, all of the action items are compiled into a table which includes cost estimations.

Figure 2.1. Throughout this chapter, action items are prioritized as high, medium, or low, bearing one of the symbols above.

Create an Organization Dedicated to the Success and Care of Memorial Park

Memorial Park is a beloved outdoor public space for Maplewood Township. Constructed according to a series of historically significant landscape architectural designs, the park today must maintain its legacy as it continues to meet the changing needs of the community. Paramount to this effort is to cultivate a high standard of quality for its facilities, layout, function, and visual character.

In the context of reduced capacity for fiscal expenditure by local government on the park, how can a high standard of quality be met and maintained? One solution is to create a non-profit organization that can assist the Township with the cost and effort of capital improvements and ongoing maintenance at a standard appropriate to the legacy of the park. Such an organization may have the title "Memorial Park Conservancy" or "Friends of Memorial Park"[1].

This group could be structured to propose, fund, and assist in park improvement projects by working with the Township, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Township Committee (which would maintain its decision-making authority). Examples of project assistance in this area include fund raising for capital improvements and special maintenance; maintaining detailed planting records; organizing volunteer efforts; maintaining a park website; coordinating the Adopt-A-Park-Site program with Maplewood Green Team; and connecting the park to high quality regional organizations such as the Garden State Gardens Consortium.

The creation of such an organization could entail the following due diligence:

- establish an ad hoc sub-committee to study the formation of a Memorial Park-oriented non-profit organization through a review of similar organizations, review of the park decision making process of Maplewood Township, and review of the prioritized park needs listed in subsequent sections of this document;
- formalize a plan detailing how the organization will interface with Maplewood Township in meeting the needs and priorities of Memorial Park;
- formalize a plan for how the organization will be operated, who will lead it, how leadership will change over time, and how it will raise and distribute funds;
- acquire legal council for the formation of non-profit organization through the process of incorporation or some other instrument and for the acquisition of IRS 501 (c) (3) status;
- designate a board of directors;
- raise funds and commence operations.

[1]A model for this organization could be drawn up through a review of other such organizations accounting for the unique context of Memorial Park. Examples of such organizations are the Central Park Conservancy (New York City), Allegheny County Parks Foundation (PA), Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PA), Palisades Parks Conservancy (Fort Lee, NJ), Hanson Park Conservancy (Cranford, NJ), Verona Park Conservancy (Verona, NJ), and Lake Park Friends (Milwaukee, WI).

How a conservancy could work...

Initiative

A conservancy can help propose and raise funds, enthusiasm, and awareness for park improvement projects.

Advisory and Execution

The Township and Historic Preservation Commission will maintain their roles and due diligence in project development, advisement, and execution.

Executive Control

The Township Committee remains in executive control of all park projects.

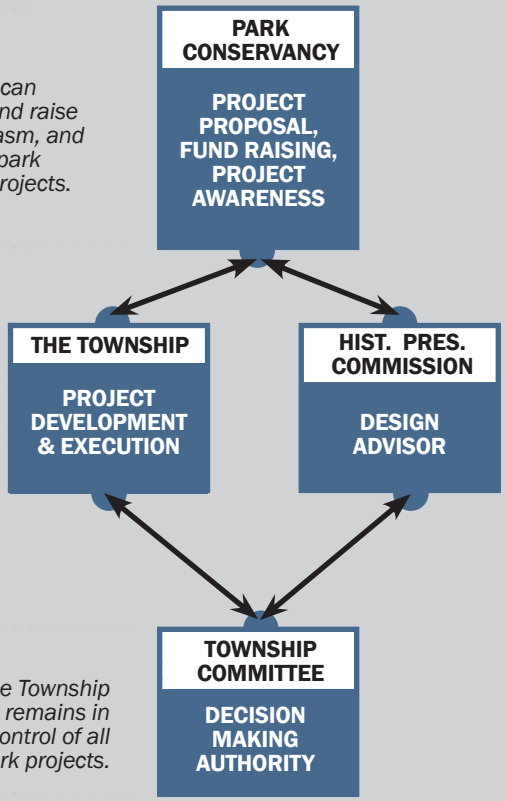


Figure 2.2

Continue Existing Approach to Restroom Facilities

Restroom facilities are a necessary component of outdoor parks which host facilities and activities such as athletic fields, community events, playgrounds, and passive recreation. The provision of restroom facilities convenient to the athletic fields both north and south of Oakview Avenue is a high priority for Memorial Park.

Currently, the park has a restroom facility available in the Civic House which serves the northern half of the park but is inconvenient to the southern half. To serve the southern half, portable restrooms are provided -- a proven short-term strategy. The long-term decision remains, however, as to which type of restroom facility will best serve the southern section from among the alternatives of a permanent restroom with sewer line access, a permanent restroom which composts waste, or the continued deployment of portable restrooms. Potentially, portable restrooms could be equipped with protective structures shield them from vandalism and abuse and cover their unsighly appearance.

	Pros	***Cons***
Permanent Restroom with sewer line access	*Long-term solution;* *Perceived as sanitary*	*Expensive in design, construction, and maintenance;* *Likely only appropriate location (for sewer line access) is adjacent to library which may leave athletic fields underserved*
Permanent Composting Restroom	*Long-term solution;* *Flexible placement on site*	*Expensive in design, construction, and maintenance;* *Requires excavation of a basement holding tank;* *Little municipal experience with maintenance of such facility;* *Vandalism has capacity to cripple system*
Portable Restrooms	*Short-term to long-term solution;* *Relatively inexpensive*	*Perceived as unsanitary;* *Subject to vandalism;* *Unsightly*

Figure 2.3. Portable restrooms upended at Memorial Park. Photo by RBA, 05/02/2013.

Restore the Skate House

Little is understood about the Skate House, and it is often dismissed as an unsightly shack. However, the Skate House (also historically called the Shelter House) has served Memorial Park since the park's inception. It is unclear whether the extant structure is that which was erected in 1916, or whether it is a replacement of the originial strucuture – a thorough architectural examination would reveal the truth.

The interior of the Skate House currently provides storage while the exterior porch provides a shelter and gathering space in view of the ballfield and playground adjancent to Town Hall. In order to maximize its usefulness in the park, the Skate House should be maintained to a high standard, sensitive to its historical context within the park. Currently, efforts are underway to restore the porch and overhang, which provide a useful gathering space near the playgrounds at Oakview Avenue.

Figure 2.4. View of the Skate House during a restoration of the porch and overhang. Photo by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Maintain the Civic House

Constructed in 1929 during the most significant phase of park construction, the Civic House is a notable example of Arts and Crafts Style architecture. It is a well-used facility within the park today, providing a restroom facility to serve the norther half of the park, as well as programmable indoor space for any number of community uses. Within the context of the park, the Civic House helps to define the spatial edge of the northernmost playground and the tennis courts.

Ongoing maintenance that upholds the architectural and historical integrity is a key priority for the Civic House, to preserve both its appearance and its usefulness to the community.

Figure 2.5. View of the Civic House during a restoration project. Photo by RBA, 10/17/2012.

Achieve ADA Compliance for an Accessible Park

Memorial Park is a destination to be enjoyed by all, regardless of physical capabilities. This committee supports the idea of universal access and views any failure in such pursuit as an infringement upon the civil rights of disabled persons. Moreover, through its study of the design history of Memorial Park, this committee recognizes that landscape architects such as the Olmsted Brothers and Brinley & Holbrook, were they operating today, would make every possible effort to design for universal access.

In light of this recognition, it is therefore advisable that universal access in compliance with standards set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act, at a minimum, be designed into the following facilities:

- Bleachers, to include the bleacher facility and pathways leading thereto, located at the ball fields;
- Playgrounds, to include playground facilities and pathways leading thereto;
- Pathway surfaces, to be repaired where damaged, and to provide accessible navigation;
- Seating, to include access to bench facilities, so that park visitors in wheelchairs can enjoy the same peaceful views as those sitting in park-provided benches.

As with all changes to the park, any modifications that are made should be sensitive to the historical context of Memorial Park and should minimize visual impact on the park setting. Surfaces should promote accessibility, aesthetic appeal, and permeability.

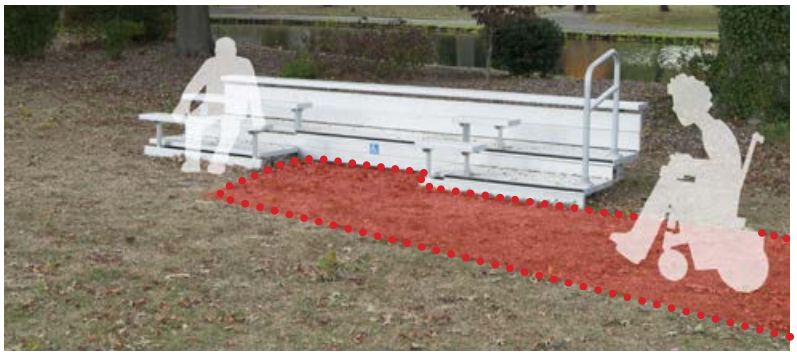


Figure 2.6. Add accessible surfaces around ADA bleachers so that everyone can watch the game. Image by RBA.

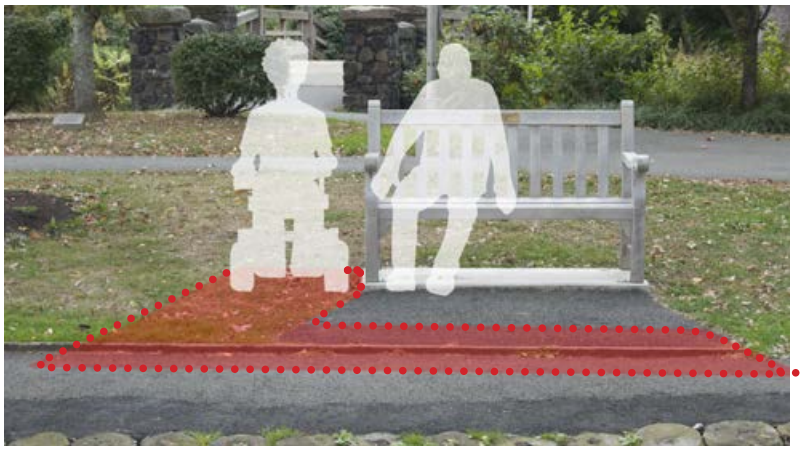


Figure 2.7. Add accessible surfaces around the park benches so that everyone can enjoy the views and peace. Image by RBA.

Photo simulations by RBA.

Modify Park Approach to Intersection at Valley Street and Crescent Street

As currently configured, the intersection at Valley Street and Crescent Street is dangerous to pedestrians. Maplewood Township working with Essex County to slow vehicle traffic and discourage pedestrians from crossing Valley Street at this point through the use of signage.

This is a concern for Memorial Park because the southeast park entrance centers on the dangerous intersection, encouraging pedestrian crossing in this area. As a short-term remedy, the section of asphalt park pathway which connects to the intersection should be removed and planted with grass. In the long term, a park entrance at the signalized corner of Baker Street and Valley Street should be investigated.

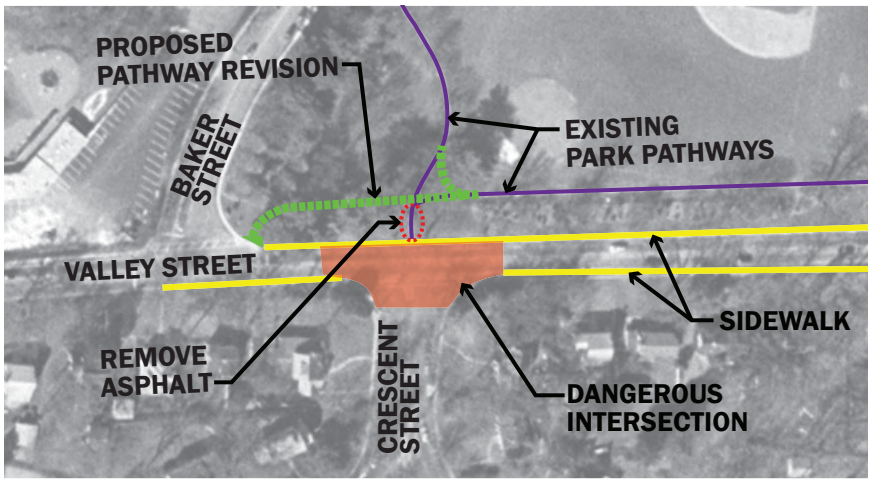


Figure 2.8. The stretch of asphalt pathway within the red circle should be removed to discourage pedestrians from accessing Memorial Park though a dangerous intersection. Diagram by RBA.

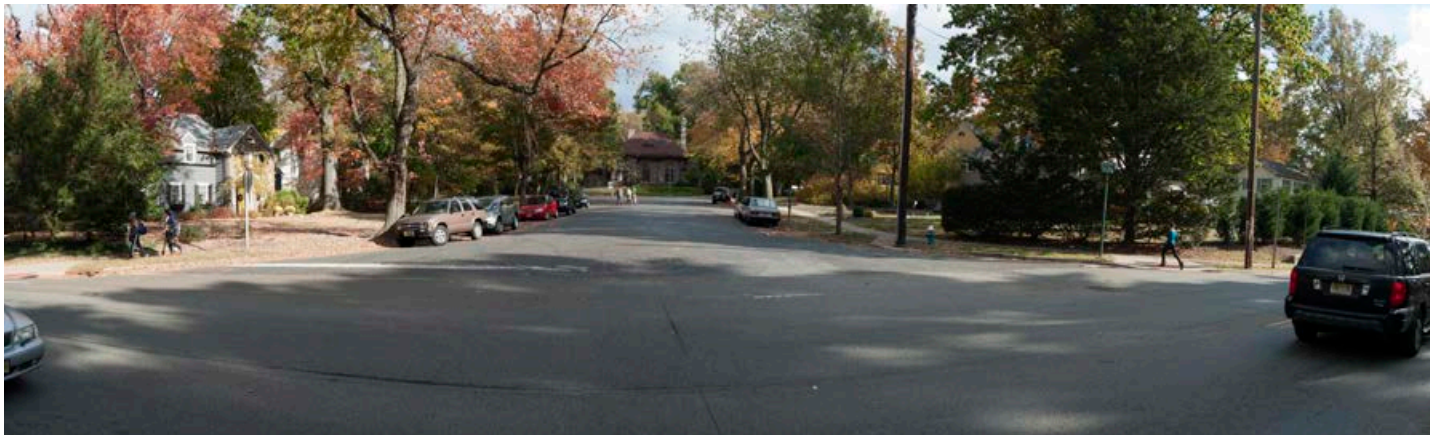


Figure 3.8. Intersection at Valley Street and Crescent Street, viewed from the park entrance on Valley Street. Park pathways attract pedestrian activity to this dangerous intersection. Photo by RBA, 10/30/2013.

Provide Maintenance & Police Vehicle Access

Two vital aspects of park enjoyment are maintenance and safety. In order to maintain the environmental quality and peaceful visitation of Memorial Park, it is important to provide the physical facilities necessary for efficient maintenance and peace-keeping. In Memorial Park, this means the provision of accessible surfaces for maintenance and police/emergency vehicles.

North of Oakview Avenue, a vehicle-accessible surface currently leads into the park from Valley Street and serves the Civic House and tennis court area. South of Oakview Avenue, a vehicle-accessible surface must be provided on the western bank of the river, adjacent to and with access to the amphitheater. To insure the safety of vehicles accessing this facility, appropriate turnaround points should be designed as part of the vehicle-accessible surface.

When considering improvements within the park, it is important to remember that any work within 50 feet of the East Branch of the Rahway River falls within the Riparian Buffer established by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Altering and increasing the area of impervious surface (asphalt pathway) within this buffer requires a permit by NJDEP before work can be completed.

In the design of the vehicle-accessible surface south of Oakview Avenue, it is highly likely that NJDEP riparian buffer regulations would come into play. If so, pervious forms of pavement or other environmentally-friendly technologies should be considered for the area. This may help to meet NJDEP regulations as well as offer a visually unobtrusive solution, allowing police and maintenance vehicles access to these spaces while minimizing visual changes to this historical section of the park.

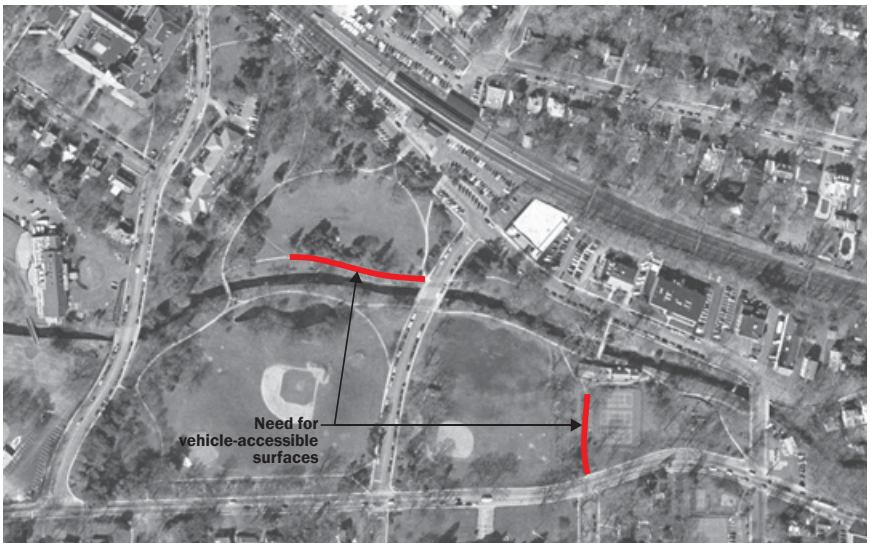


Figure 2.9. Marked in red, these lanes should be accessible to police, emerdency, and maintenance vehicles without causing visual harm to the park. Diagram by RBA.

Pedestrian Bridge and River Wall Maintenance

The pedestrian bridges which traverse and stone walls which enclose the East Branch of the Rahway River in Memorial Park are historically significant examples of municipal waterway management and public works construction in the 1930s. It is therefore advisable to maintain the bridges and walls to their original design standards.

Construction plans for the bridges can be found in the Brinley & Holbrook collection at Morristown and Morris Township Public Library. Bridge repairs should be guided by these documents but must also include modification to reach modern standards of ADA compliance. Bridge construction and repair in the Richard Walter era consisted of bending hardwood spans through steam treatment in order to provide curvature to the bridge surface. This complex technique has not been carried out in many years, however, the curved feature of the bridges should be maintained in future repairs.

The stone walls are currently maintained under the oversight of the Maplewood Township Engineering Department, which conducted a partial repair of the walls in the summer of 2013.

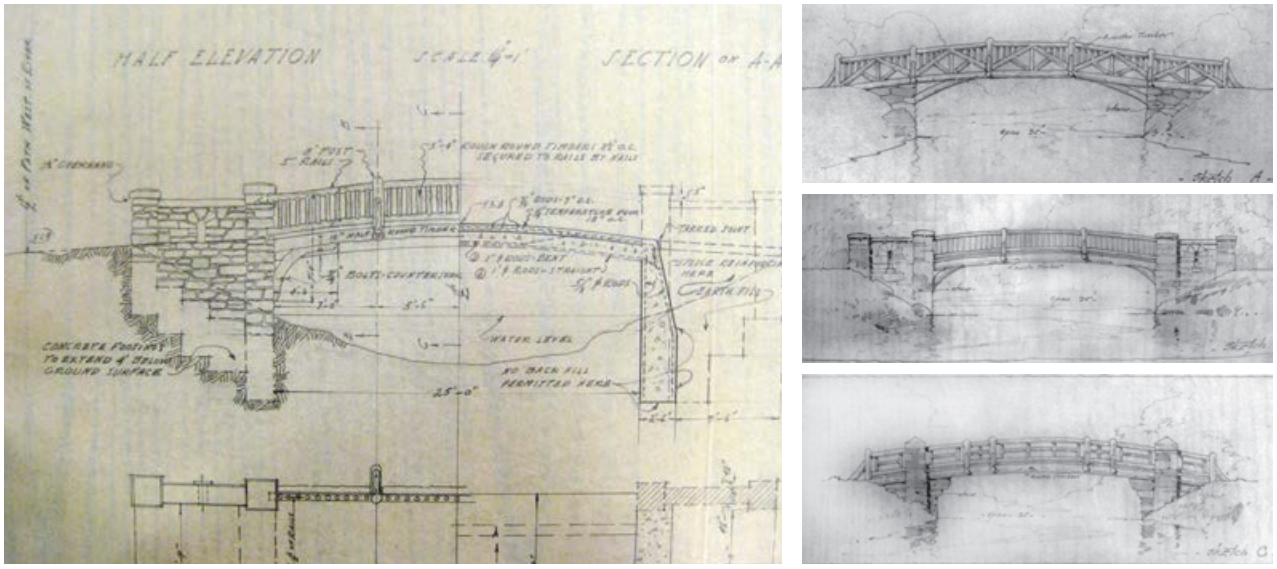


Figure 2.10 Images of the design drawings of the Memorial Park pedestrian bridges, undated, found in the Brinley & Holbrook Collection at Morristown & Morris Township Public Library.

Figure2.11. A section of river wall repaired in the summer of 2013. Photo by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Repair the Tennis Court

The tennis court is a popular and well-used athletic destination within Memorial Park and the court surface should be maintained to a high standard. There are currently cracks in the court surface, however these are being addressed by the Maplewood Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, which plans to perform a mill and overlay of the surface sometime in 2014.

As a long term consideration, it is advisable to evaluate the current condition of tennis court lighting and consider an increase in the amount of lighting for the court.

Figure 2.12. Crack in the tennis court surface. Photo by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Figure 2.13. One of the four fixtures lighting the tennis court. Photo by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Enhance the Amphitheater & Outdoor Stage

South of Oakview Avenue, the slope that extends from the train station down to the riverbank has long been interpreted as a natural amphitheater. Currently, the stage facility consists of a modular assembly of plywood boxes painted black, surrounded by a background of arborvitae shrubs, with access to electricity through a utility box. In its current form, the stage facility detracts from the natural appeal of the amphitheater, collects litter, hosts undesired activities, and is insufficient for professional use. A permanent stage facility was considered in historical design iterations and appears on a Brinley & Holbrook grading plan (Work # 328, Drawing #7) dated March 5, 1925 available at Morristown and Morris Township Public Library. Though it was never constructed, the question of a permanent stage facility remains relevant today.

Therefore, it is advisable to investigate the design and construction of a new stage facility for the amphitheater. Decisions remain as to whether a temporary, semi-permanent, or permanent installation would best serve the park, the pros and cons of which are expressed in the following table.

	Priority	***Pros***	***Cons***
Semi-permanent Stage (On site, but without foundation)	HIGH PRIORITY 1 - 3 YEARS	*Short-term solution;* *Inexpensive;* *Potential for low visual impact and good integration with landscape;* *Potential for low cost;* *Adaptable to many performance types;*	*May not alleviate any current issues;* *May not be suitable for professional performances;*
Temporary Stage	LOW PRIORITY 5+ YEARS	*Long-term solution;* *No visual impact when not installed;* *Adaptable to many performance types including professional;*	*Expensive to acquire and repeatedly deply;* *Needs storage space when not in use;* *Can cause site degradation during assembly or disassembly;* *Improvised performance not possible*
Permanent Stage	LOW PRIORITY 5+ YEARS	*Long-term solution;* *Visual impact to be vetted in design process;* *Appropriate for many performance types, escpecially professional;* *Can attain best qualities of configuration for audio and visual entertainment;* *Can draw talent to Memorial Park*	*Expensive to design, construct, and maintain*

Figure 2.16. The existing stage facility at Memorial Park. Photo by RBA, 05/02/2013.

Figure 2.17. The proposed stage as it appears on Brinley & Holbrook Work # 328, Drawing # 7, dated March 5, 1925. Image courtesy of Morristown and Morris Township Public Library.

Restore the Duck Pond

The Duck Pond (referred to early on as the Lily Pond) is the centerpiece of the southern half of Memorial Park. Its location at the convergence of several pathways, numerous seating opportunities, and impressive visual character make the Duck Pond a popular destination within the park. Moreover, the concept of placing a man-made pond in this location dates back to the Brinley & Holbrook park design of 1920, making this feature a historically significant component of Memorial Park. Given the era in which this pond was designed and built, it is likely that a fair amount of aquatic plant maintenance was simply understood and provided by the Township.

However, despite all of its character and value, the Duck Pond is in need of attention. Over time, silt has accumulated on the floor of the pond, caused by the flow of small soil particles from the feeder channel combined with the decomposition of plant materials that have fallen into the pond. This accumulation of soil material, combined with the shallow depth of the water which allows for sunlight to penetrate and photosynthesis to occur, has led to the voluminous growth of algal communities and aquatic plants. This, in turn, has led to stagnant, smelly, unattractive conditions.

In order to correct these issues, a combination of short-term and long-term actions should be undertaken. In the short-term, the pond should be immediately dredged of all soil and plant materials. Such dredging may become part of a long-term maintenance plan to occur perhaps every twenty years. Additionally, a plan should be developed for the placement and maintenance of aquatic plants on a yearly basis. Aquatic plants should be allowed to grow in the pond, but they should not be allowed free reign to envelop the pond.

A photograph from the 1940s shows the pond walls constructed of concrete and stone. Currently the walls are constructed of wood piers. No records were found to illuminate the era of or reason for this change. However, when it comes time to replace the current wood piers, the use of concrete and stone merits serious consideration to match the original design intent.

Additionally, the pipe infrastructure which fills the Duck Pond with water from the East Branch of the Rahway River should be inspected to insure its functionality into the future.

Figure 2.14. "Duck Pond, Memorial Park" in the book Maplewood Past and Present *by Helen B. Bates in 1948. A similar view is seen in a postcard from the late 1930s.*

Figure 2.15. Photo of the Duck Pond with overgrowth of acquatic plants and algae. Photo by RBA, 07/19/2013.

Renovate the Ice Skating Area

Memorial Park has a cultural tradition of outdoor ice skating in winter on the northern field adjacent to the river. Through public input associated with this report, sufficient demand exists for the restoration of ice skating in Memorial Park. However, in its current grading configuration, the northern field floods to a depth of three to four feet in certain places, hindering the development of ice appropriate for skating. Therefore, in order to produce a viable outdoor skating facility, the area should be regraded to a flooding depth of no more than one foot. It will also be necessary to verify that the infrastructure which has historically been used to flood the northern field remains in working order.

The result of any regrading effort applied to this area should produce not only a floodable field for winter skating, but a recreational field which can host organized events in spring, summer, and fall. Such a design would maximize the return on investment by enhancing a park asset to benefit the Maplewood community throughout the year.

However, before any grading operations can take place in the northern field, approval would have to be permitted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which delineates the ice skating area of Memorial Park as a wetland. This designation does not preclude the area from being developed further, but further investigation would have to take place to determine the actual presence or absence of wetlands before any development could take place.

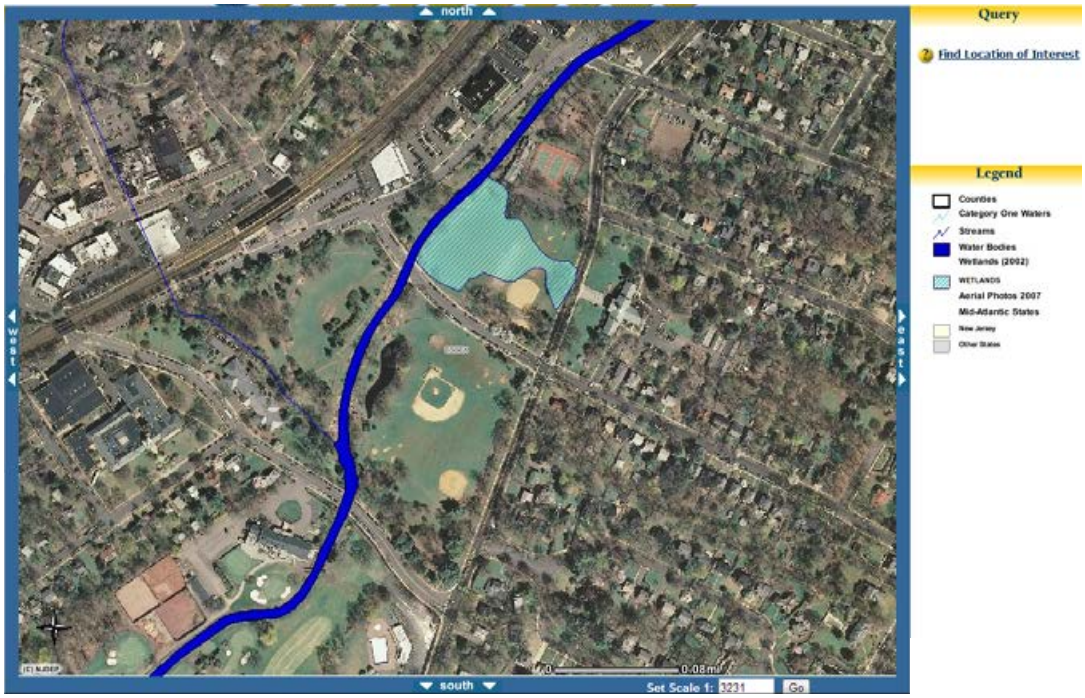


Figure 2.18. This map from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection shows the northern field at Memorial Park delineated as a wetland.

Continually Improve the Playgrounds

Playgrounds are traditional park amenities which create open-ended play and social activities for children. Playgrounds are also important gathering spaces within a park, bringing visitors together and enhancing a sense of community and security. The two most important provisions to be made of all playgrounds are safety and accessibility for children of all physical capacities.

Playground implementation is a cyclical process of design, construction, maintenance, and usage taking place over years and even decades. Playground facilities, as human technological developments, are constantly evolving to meet new standards of safety, accessibility, and social behavior.

It is therefore advisable to continue a policy of playground implementation which recognizes and responds to ongoing standards for safety, accessibility, and behavior. As playground facilities within Memorial Park reach the end of their useful life, modern facilities meeting current standards should be installed. For budgeting purposes, 12-15 years of useful life from a playground is a reasonable expectation. While in operation, it is very important to inspect the equipment annually to make sure it stays in compliance with current regulations.

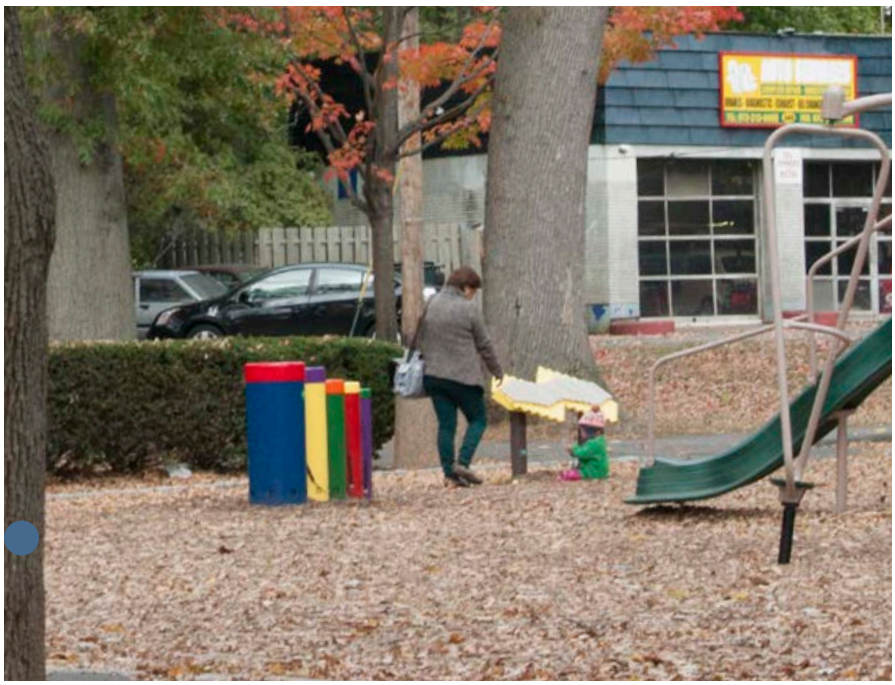


Figure 2.19. The playground at Memorial Park should continue its expansion of accessible play facilities. These new fixtures engage playground users on an auditory level. Photo by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Renovate the Dragon Pit Playground

Although the remnants of the Dragon Pit play facility at Memorial Park may exemplify a creative mid-twentieth century approach to park playground design, the useful life of the facility has reached its end. The Dragon Pit playground does not meet current standards for safety and accessibility.

It is therefore advisable to remove the Dragon Pit installation from Memorial Park. It should be replaced with a playground facility that meets current safety and accessibility standards. The historical, thematic, and visual characteristics of the Dragon Pit playground should be continued into the contemporary playground installation.

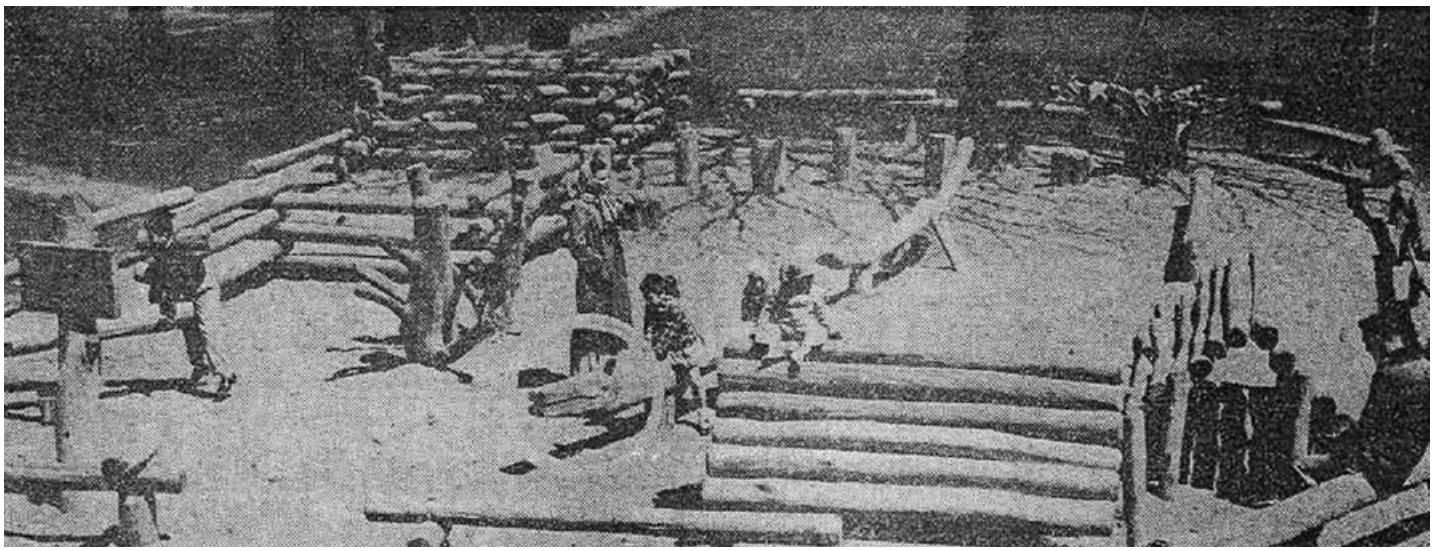


Figure 2.20. The Dragon Pit as conceived by Richard Walter. This image appeared in Maplewood South Orange News Record on April 26,1956. Photo courtesy of Susan Newberry.

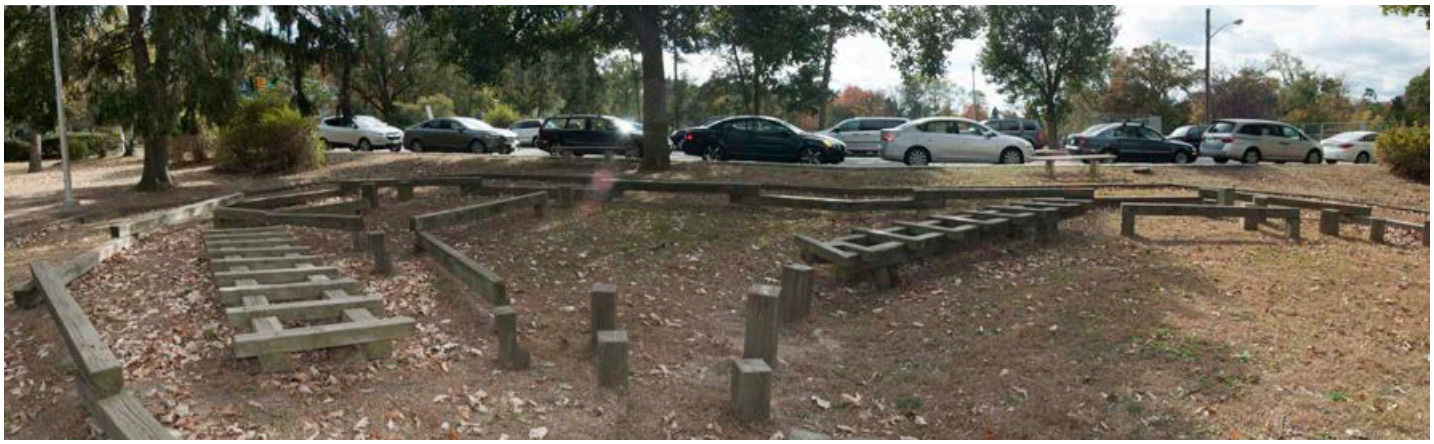


Figure 2.21. The Dragon Pit in its present configuration has changed significantly since 1956. Hardwood logs have been replaced by pressure treated lumber. The facility no longer meets modern safety standards and should be removed. Photo by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Maintain the Rock Garden (or "The Rockery")

The Rock Garden (also called The Rockery) is located east of the library on the south side of the Crooked Brook, with access to Baker Street. It was constructed at some point prior to 1938 and is a notable feature in the portion of the park it occupies. The Rockery should be maintained and repaired as necessary to meet with its original design specifications. Repairs were recently performed through volunteer effort.

Figure 2.22. The Rock Garden is visible behind a stand of trees in the center-left midground of this photo, which appeared on a post card dated 1938. Image courtesy of Susan Newberry.

Figure 2.23. This design drawing of the Rock Garden is signed in the lower right corner by Richard Walter. Image courtesy of the Office of the Maplewood Engineer, archives.

Figure2.24. A panoramic view of the Rock Garden. Photo by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Ballfields, Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields, Backstops

Memorial Park has field amenities to accommodate a number of organized sports, including baseball, softball, field hockey, soccer, and lacrosse. The fields are prominent on the eastern half of the park, bordering on Valley Street. In addition to turf space and skinned infields, these facilities include components such as backstops, goals, and goal storage.

Maintenance of these facilities is important not only to the playing of field sports but also to the overall visual character of the park. Athletic facilities within Memorial Park should be well-maintained, mowed, weeded, and repaired when necessary.

Figure 2.25. This ballfield in the southeastern corner of Memorial Park is well-maintened, especially during softball/baseball season. Photo by RBA, 05/22/2013.

Basketball Court

The basketball court at Memorial Park is a highly-used asset, popular during all seasons of the year. Within recent years, a sixteen-foot fence was installed around the basketball court facility. The fence helps to corral errant basketballs within their designated space. However, the fence fabric is subject to heavy abuse and is difficult to maintain in good working order.

The installation of heavier guage of fence fabric will likely solve the issue.

Figure 2.26. A heavier guage of fence fabric will likely solve the issue of stretching along this fence. Photo by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Improve Pedestrian and Event Lighting

Memorial Park needs to be sufficiently lit for safe navigation during the hours at dawn, dusk, and dark. It also requires sufficient event lighting during times of large crowd gathering, such as during the 4th of July celebration. Currently, Memorial Park has forty-two pedestrian lights and one event light.

The following recommendations are made to improve park lighting:

- current pedestrian fixtures should be re-lamped with full spectrum LED lighting;
- new pedestrian fixtures should be installed in the following locations to increase security and navigability:
- event lighting should be installed at the field south of Oakview Avenue and west of the river.

Efforts are currently underway within Maplewood Township to re-lamp fixtures within the parks system. This strategy is effective in maximizing the life of the light fixtures within the park. However, at some point in the long term, light fixtures will need to be replaced. Replacement fixtures should be selected which are similar to those specified for the park by Runyon & Carey Engineers in a drawing found among the Brinley & Holbrook collection at Morristown and Morris Township Public Library. The date of the drawing cannot be precisely determined, but it is likely that the fixtures described are those which were installed during the major phase of park construction in 1929.

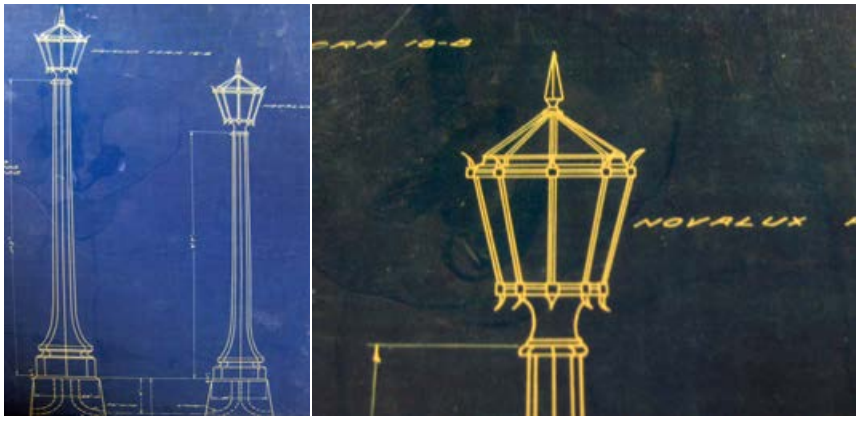


Figure 2.27. Images of the design drawing 'Ornamental Lighting for Maplewood Memorial Park and Streets Adjacent Thereto' by Runyon & Carey Consulting Engineers, undated, found in the Brinley & Holbrook Collection at Morristown & Morris Township Public Library.

Figure 3.25. Diagram by RBA.

Park lighting diagram.

- *Existing pedestrian light*
- *Proposed additional pedestrian light*
- *Existing event light*
- *Proposed event light*

Increase Availability of Trash & Recycling Receptacles

It is generally understood that people refrain from littering in a pristine environment. In an active park environment, visitors often bring items into the park, such as food, coffee, newspapers, water bottles and sports drinks, as well as cigarettes and chewing gum. Dog walking, too, is likely to produce the unwelcome sort of refuse.

At Memorial Park, there is currently a deficit of trash receptacles available and there are zero recycling receptacles present. This leads to the presence of litter in the park. Therefore, in order to keep Memorial Park clean and maintain its appeal for all visitors, it is advisable to reexamine the distribution of trash and recycling receptacles throughout the park as well as the township personnel requirements for the maintenance of such facilities. Uniform trash and recycling receptacles should be placed at park entrances/exits, within popular gathering spaces such as the playground, duck pond, amphitheater, basketball court, and tennis court, as well as at points convenient to the athletic fields.

Trash Receptacle Diagram

Existing receptacle

Proposed additional receptacle

Proposed relocation of existing receptacle

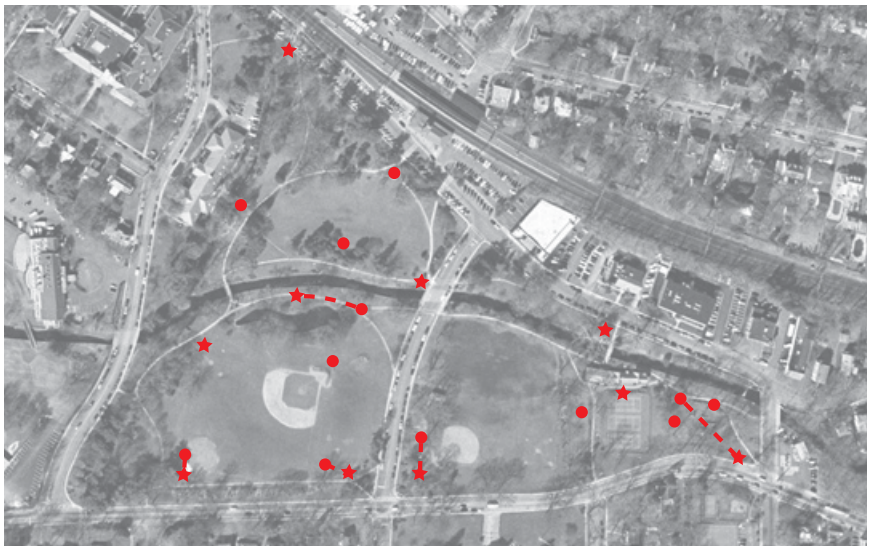


Figure 2.28. Trash receptacle diagram by RBA.

Maintain Condition, Availability, and Consistency of Picnic Tables

Three picnic tables currently reside in Memorial Park. They should be maintained to a high standard, repaired, and replaced when in need. ADA acceptable picnic tables should be phased into Memorial Park. Where ADA picnic tables are provided, so should be an accessible paved pathway.

Figure 2.29. In the background, an ADA acceptable picnic table without an accessible pathway. In the foreground, a standard picnic table in need of refurbishment. Photo by RBA, 05/01/2013.

Maintain Condition, Availability, and Consistency of Park Benches

More than twenty park benches currently reside in Memorial Park, varying greatly in design and materials. The newest benches are constructed of teak or high density plastic lumber, while the older benches are constructed of concrete or stone bases with hardwood lumber slats for seating and back support. By no coincidence, it is the older benches in Memorial Park which bear the most historical significance.

Cast with an "M" for Maplewood in their concrete bases, the historically significant benches likely date back to Richard Walter's career as Superintendent of Parks and Shade Trees from 1935-1970. Newspaper accounts described Walter's use of local materials and the skilled work of his employees to construct simple park fixtures, such as benches and tables. The simplicity of this bench design is evident: concrete is poured in forms and attached to hardwood boards milled from fallen local trees.

Within Memorial Park, benches should be maintained to a high standard, repaired, and replaced when necessary. A consistent bench design should be deployed over time. The decision remains as to whether the consistent bench design should reflect the Walter-style bench known to have been part of the park landscape, or should transition to commercially available unit produced in the typical style of the 1930s.

Figure 2.30. Clockwise from top left: cast stone bench with wood slats designed by Christie Forsythe in 1934; cast iron bench with wood slats designed for the 1939 World's Fair; the Walter-era bench with cast concrete base and wood slats has been a part of Memorial Park for many years.

Establish a Memorial Tree/Bench Program

Over the course of time, it has become popular for local families to memorialize deceased family members through physical memorials placed in the park. These memorials commonly take one of two forms: (1) a small ornamental tree is planted and a stone-mounted plaque is placed at its base, or (2) a bench is mounted with a small memorial plaque and placed in the park.

The desire to memorialize loved ones is understandable and the use of Memorial Park as a venue for memorializing is both appropriate and welcome. However, over the course of time, a balance must be struck between the park's dual roles as active, public park space and venue for memorializing. There is a danger that the over-accumulation of memorial artifacts will change the overall tenor of the park environment.

Therefore, it is advisable to begin a managed memorial program for Memorial Park. Such a program may include the following:

- A single, consolidated park memorial should be designed to accommodate the expansion of memorial requests over time. This would reduce the occurrence of memorial plaques placed too commonly throughout the park. Such a design should match the tone of existing park memorials, which include such components as boulders with plaques mounted to them, park benches, and shade trees.
- Where memorial trees are requested, the township should work from an approved tree list. The list would specify trees that fit within the overall design parameters of the park, enhance the park environment, and contribute to the atmosphere. This would also eliminate the tendency to overplant certain tree varieties, such as weeping cherries.
- Where memorial benches are requested, the township should offer an approved design for deployment in the park. This would allow the township to remain in control of the bench selection and insure that memorial benches suit the needs, visual qualities, and historical integrity of the park. The appropriate design of benches in Memorial Park includes a seating surface of 5' in length, mounted to a base constructed of hardwood, cast concrete, or stacked stone. Seat and back surfaces should be constructed of 6" wide (minimum) hardwood slats.

Create Park Gateways at Entry Locations

Centrally located in the Township of Maplewood, Memorial Park serves as an important gateway to other community assets, including the public library, township hall, railroad station, and Maplewood Village. The addition of architectural gateway features at the various junctions may help to highlight both the aesthetic and functional appeal of the park.

Therefore, it is advisable to investigate the design and development of architectural gateway features at key locations throughout the park.

Possible Park Gateway Locations

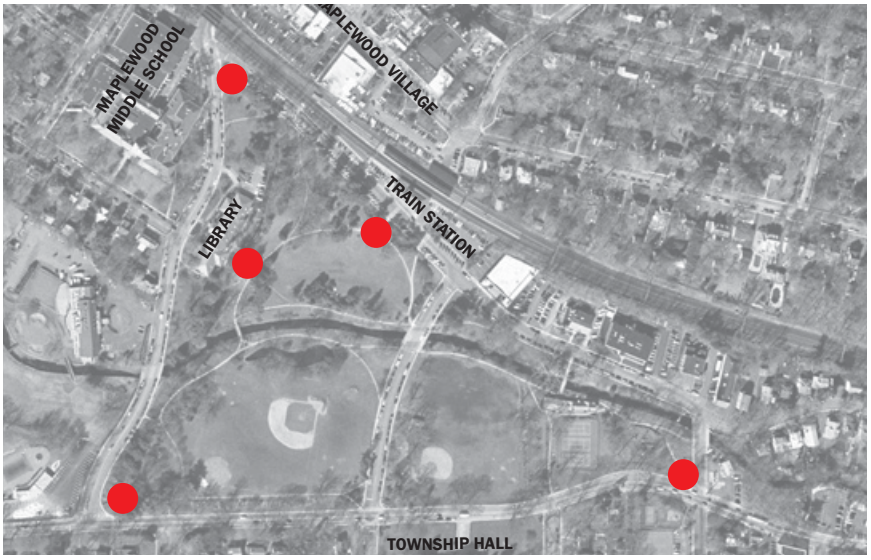


Figure 2.31. Diagram by RBA.

Create an Interpretive Signage Program

Memorial Park is a location rich in local history. It also serves as a greensward for the community of Maplewood: a seemingly natural expanse providing pastoral vistas of trees and open space, shrubbery, flowers, the river, pond, and associated wildlife.

A program of interpretive signage can increase community understanding of and engagement with this greensward. Signage can help to spread understanding of the cultural history and design intent of this important landmark. It can also inform the public of the natural events taking place there, such as the plant species and seasonal change, wildlife migration, and suburban ecology.

Therefore, it is advisable that a program of interpretive signage be designed for Memorial Park to highlight the significant historical and environmental features. In the context of the park, the design of interpretive signage would have to be sensitive to the park history and atmosphere. Placement of park signs would have to be visually unobtrusive. Construction materials for signs should compliment existing park fixtures, which tend to be made of hardwoods and stone.

Repurpose the Stone Barbecue Grills

Two barbecue grills constructed of cut stone and concrete are currently located within Memorial Park. It is unlawful, however, to "make a fire in any part of the parks," according to Maplewood Township ordinance 193-1.H, rendering these grills useless in regard to their original intention.

Even though these grills can no longer be used as intended, it is felt that they should be preserved and maintained as part of the park's heritage until such a time when another use or a new purpose may present itself.

Figure 2.32. One of the two stone barbecue grills at Memorial Park. Photo by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Hire Township Horticultural Professional

Maplewood Township has a long history of horticultural pride and expertise, as well as a great number of shade trees throughout the town which contribute significant measurable value to the community. Since the loss of a full time horticultural professional as a Township employee, the condition of parks and trees throughout the town has degraded.

To reverse this trend, the Township should hire a horticultural professional on a full time basis. This would significantly benefit the township as a whole and produce positive effects for the condition of Memorial Park.

Figure 2.33. Physical traces of Maplewood Township's horticultural pedigree are visible in the former municipal nursery located behind Township Hall. Photo by RBA, 06/03/2013.

Practice Shade Tree Asset Management

Mature Shade Trees are a vital component of the makeup and environmental quality of Memorial Park. With roughly 270 significant shade trees at least twelve inches diameter at breast height (DBH) spread over twenty-four acres of parkland, a clearly defined approach to shade tree management which considers existing tree condition and replacement tree location and specification, will help to preserve the park's environmental and visual qualities well into the future.

Shade Tree Existing Conditions

An evaluation of existing shade tree conditions is included in Appendix C of this report. The evaluation includes the location and identification of shade trees larger than twelve inches DBH with a preliminary judgment made on overall tree health. This evaluation finds that roughly 80% of Memorial Park's trees are in sound condition, while 10% should be more closely examined by an arborist and 10% clearly need some form of treatment or removal. Additionally, all 35 of the ash trees within the park face the threat of eradication by Emerald Ash borer within the next 5-20 years.

Shade Tree Replacement Location

In general, to preserve the visual and environmental qualities of Memorial Park, replacement shade trees should be located where existing shade trees are removed. However, the replacement of a mature shade tree with a young nursery tree will disrupt the visual condition of the park. Therefore, a replacement tree should be planted in the general vicinity of a tree which may require removal well before actual removal becomes necessary. Where large existing specimen trees are concerned, it may be wise to plant two replacements in order to avoid disruption of the park's visual conditions.

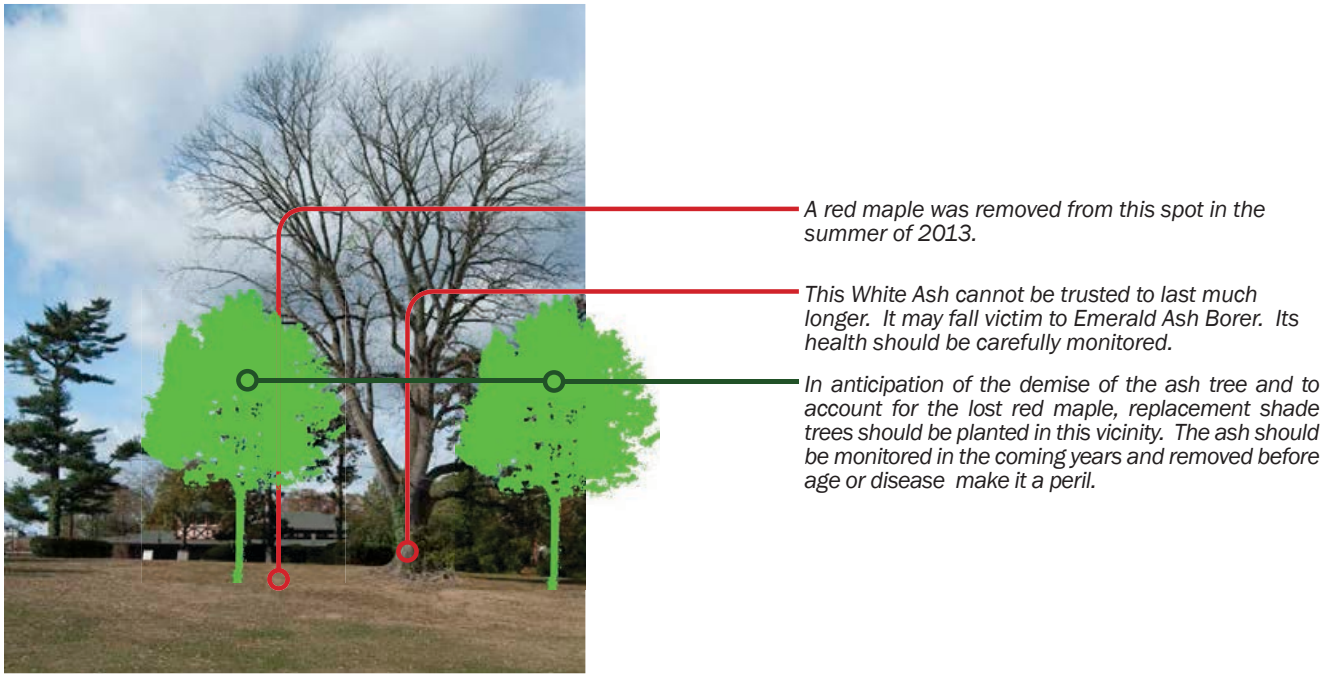


Figure 2.34. Diagram by RBA.

Shade Tree Replacement Specifications
In choosing replacement trees for Memorial Park, it is important to specify trees species that fit within the context of the park and have the best chance of maturing into attractive specimens.

Currently, the most successful shade trees within the park include Green Ash, White Ash, Dawn Redwood, Red Maple, Scarlet Oak, Black Cherry, Red Oak, Sycamore, Sawtooth Oak, Swamp White Oak, and Black Locust. Aside from the Green Ash and White Ash, both of which face eradication by Emerald Ash Borer, this general palette of hardwood deciduous shade trees should be maintained.

The most successful evergreen trees in the park include White Pine, Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, and Red Pine. This general palette of evergreen trees should be maintained.

In addition to a framework of deciduous shade trees and evergreen trees which provide a spatial structure to the park, Memorial Park has traditionally featured specimen plantings of ornamental trees, most likely originating with the work of Richard Walter, Supervisor of the Park and Shade Tree Department from 1935 to 1970. Notable examples in the park include Crabapple, ornamental Cherry, Japanese Zelkova, American Persimmon, Chinese Scholar Tree, and Horse-chestnut. This practice should be continued for its historical significance and visual effect in shaping the character of Memorial Park.

Shrub Management

The planting of shrubbery in Memorial Park defines park boundaries, spaces, walkways, and vistas. Shrubbery also helps to define entrances and, in the tradition of Richard Walter, is often found surrounding the trunks of trees as a defense against lawn mower damage[1].

Despite these important functions, shrubbery as a component of park infrastructure is a maintenance challenge. Shrubs can grow larger than desired and impede sight lines and circulation in, and therefore must be pruned. Shrub varieties vary tremendously in their characteristics and different varieties require different maintenance techniques and schedules. As a result, shrub maintenance can have a significant cost for park settings.

The following strategies for shrub maintenance in Memorial Park may help to reduce costs and protect the visual character of the park:

- Plant a single species or variety in sweeps of five to ten plants. This will accentuate the visual features of the variety and help to localize maintenance efforts[2].
- Plant shrubbery with knowledge of the ultimate height and spread to which the species will grow. This will reduce maintenance in the long term, avoiding situations where a large shrub is planted in an area that requires a permeable sight line.
- Identify the areas where shrubs should be maintained in a 'formal' manner and where shrubs should be left to grow naturally. Specify and plant accordingly.
- Develop and maintain a shrubbery map (most effectively as a GIS shapefile) of Memorial Park along with maintenance recommendations and schedule for each variety of shrub. This will help with the efficient deployment of maintenance staff in the execution of season-appropriate and variety-appropriate maintenance tasks.

Figure 2.35. This Memorial Park planting of three distinct shrub species is a management challenge. Image by RBA, from photo 10/25/2013.

[1]This significant observation on the shrub planting practices of Richard Walter is contributed by Kathy Kohlman and Diavid Nial of the Maplewood Garden Club.

[2]This strategy is contributed by Bruce Crawford, Director of Rutgers Gardens, who toured Memorial Park with Kathy Kohlman and David Nial of the Maplewood Garden Club on June 13, 2013.

Specific Lanscape Interventions for Memorial Park

Specific Intervention: Treeline along Basketball Court
Along the southern edge of the basketball court, a line of unhealthy ash trees should be removed. Replacement trees which measure greater than three inches DBH should be planted: deciduous shade trees, but not ash. Because the replacement trees will be mere saplings for years to come, they should be planted in combination with an evergreen border[1] of pine, spruce, or Eastern Redcedar. This strategy is consistent with the Brinley & Holbrook 1928 planting plan will help to continue the delineation of spatial border which the mature ash trees have provided for so many years. When the replacement deciduous trees have reached sufficient maturity, the evergreen border should be removed.

Figure 2.36. The days are numbered for this line of ash trees adjacent to the tennis court. Due to their age, condition, and the threat of Emerald Ash Borer, these trees should be removed and replacements should be planted. Diagram by RBA, 10/25/2013.

Specific Intervention: Treeline along Valley Street
The frontage of Memorial Park to Valley Street has become unappealing through the natural cycles of tree loss and shrub growth. South of Oakview Avenue, a thick border of shrubbery separates the park from Valley Street. North of Oakview Avenue, immature saplings are planted where great shade trees were lost. The result is a disjointed sense of the park when viewed from Valley Street.

In order to restore a harmonious relationship between Memorial Park and Valley Street, the expression of plant material on both sides of Oakview Ave should be better coordinated. South of Oakview Avenue, the shrub border should be thinned. North of Oakview Avenue, a shrub border should be installed among the immature saplings.

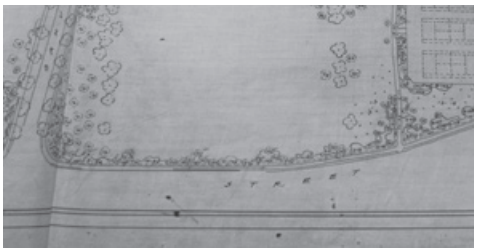


Figure 2.37. The Brinley & Holbrook design of 1928 shows a tree and shrub border along Valley Street. Brinley & Holbrook Work # 328, Drawing # 9B, courtesy of Morristown and Morris Township Library.

[1]This strategy is contributed by Bruce Crawford, Director of Rutgers Gardens, who toured Memorial Park with Kathy Kohlman and David Nial of the Maplewood Garden Club on June 13, 2013.

Specific Intervention: Planting along River Walls South of Oakview Avenue

South of Oakview Avenue, the maintenance of the river walls has resulted in the destruction of shrub and ground cover plantings along the river bank. These plantings should be restored in a manner consistent with original design intent and present plant selection practices and availability, as well as maintenance capacity and strategy. As a starting point for this effort, the Brinley & Holbrook plan of July 16, 1928 should be consulted. Available in the Brinley & Holbrook collection at Morristown and Morris Township Library, this drawing is entitled "General Planting Plan" and listed as Work No. 328, Drawing No. 9B. Unfortunately, as complete as this drawing is in providing a planting design for Memorial Park, it lists plant varieties by alpha-numerically coded abbreviations. A keyed list which would decode these abbreviations has not been recovered.

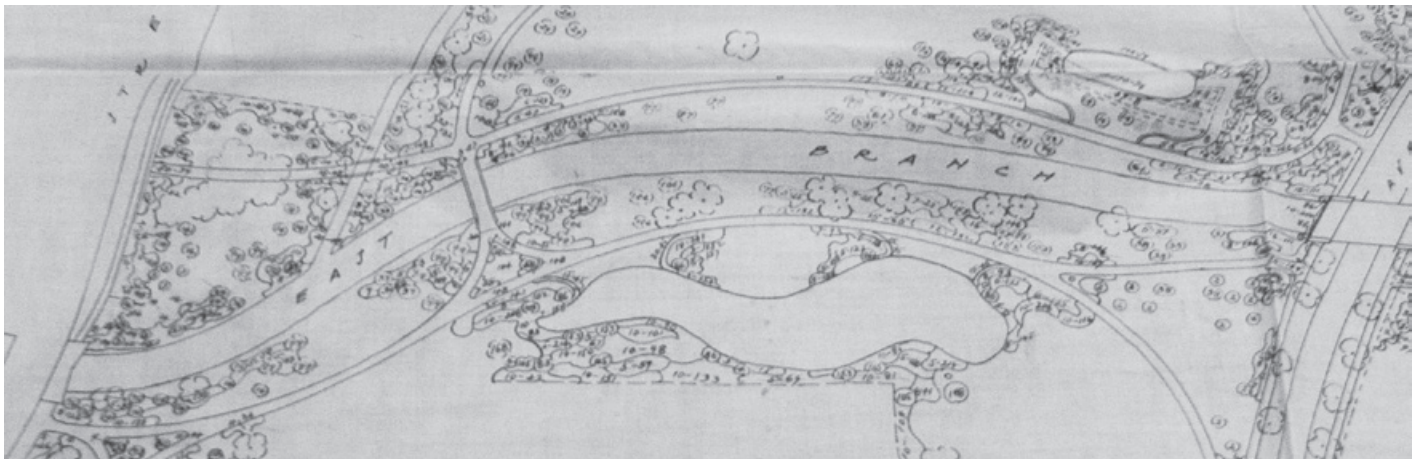


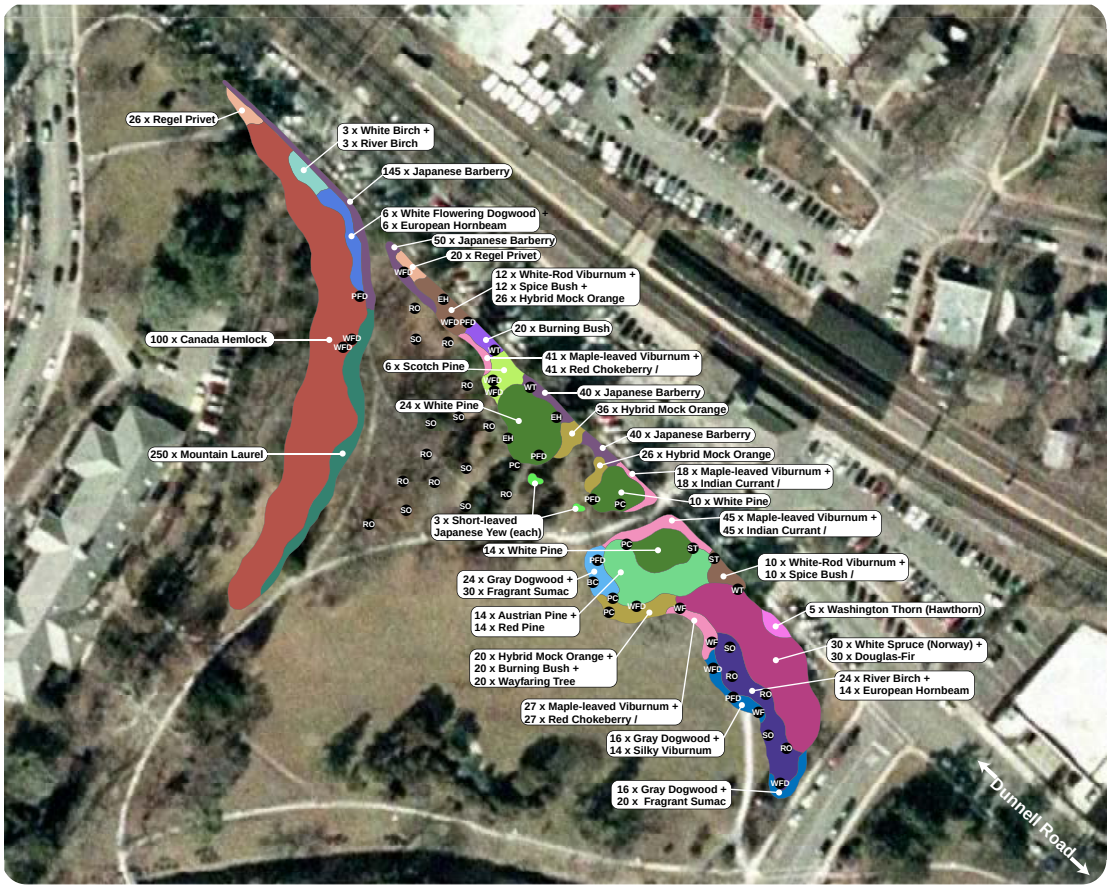
Figure 2.38. The Brinley & Holbrook design of 1928 shows a tree and shrub border along the East Branch of the Rahway River in Memorial Park, south of Oakview Avenue. Brinley & Holbrook Work # 328, Drawing # 9B, courtesy of Morristown and Morris Township Library.

Specific Intervention: Restore Olmsted Planting

As a result of the historical analysis conducted for this report, it has been discovered that the shrub planting within the park, south of Oakview Avenue and along Dunnell Road, is likely planted according to a design plan submitted by the Olmsted Brothers firm in 1923. Therefore, this planting represents a historically significant work of landscape architecture.

As a result of public input collected for this report, there is a level of demand in Maplewood Township for the restoration of this planting area. A restoration of the area would likely entail the following steps:

- approval by Township Committee and acquisition of funds;
- inventory and analysis of the area in its current configuration to identify significance of plant material and rate for preservation, transplantation, or removal;
- interpretive study of Olmsted Brothers planting list to define which specified varieties are readily available, scarcely available, unavailable, or invasive, with recommendation for substitution made where plants are scarcely available, unavailable, or invasive;
- establishment of project phases for existing plant material removal, soil enhancement (if necessary), and new planting in order to minimize visual disturbance of immature plant material;
- execution of project phases over time.



Aerial View: January 2006 High Resolution Orthoimagery from United States Geological Survey. ID # 1439010. Essex County R20 C24. Photographic data compiled by AERIALS_EXPRESS. Cropped for this graphic.

Figure 2.39. Graphic analysis of Olmsted Bros. File No. 7045, Plan No. 11. Analysis by RBA. Source material courtesy of courtesy of the Olmsted Archives at the National Park Service Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.

Specific Intervention: Improve Landscape Design Around Library

The location of Maplewood Public Library within the boundaries of Memorial Park creates the potential for a unique and appealing combination of civic assets. In order to produce a sense of connection between these two civic assets, it is advisable that the landscape architectural design of the area between the library and the park be studied. Early priroties for such a study would be to investigate the possibility of a programmable space along the northern face of the library and to investigate the safety and aesthetic appeal of the pathway which leads from Baker Street, around the eastern face of the library, and into the park.

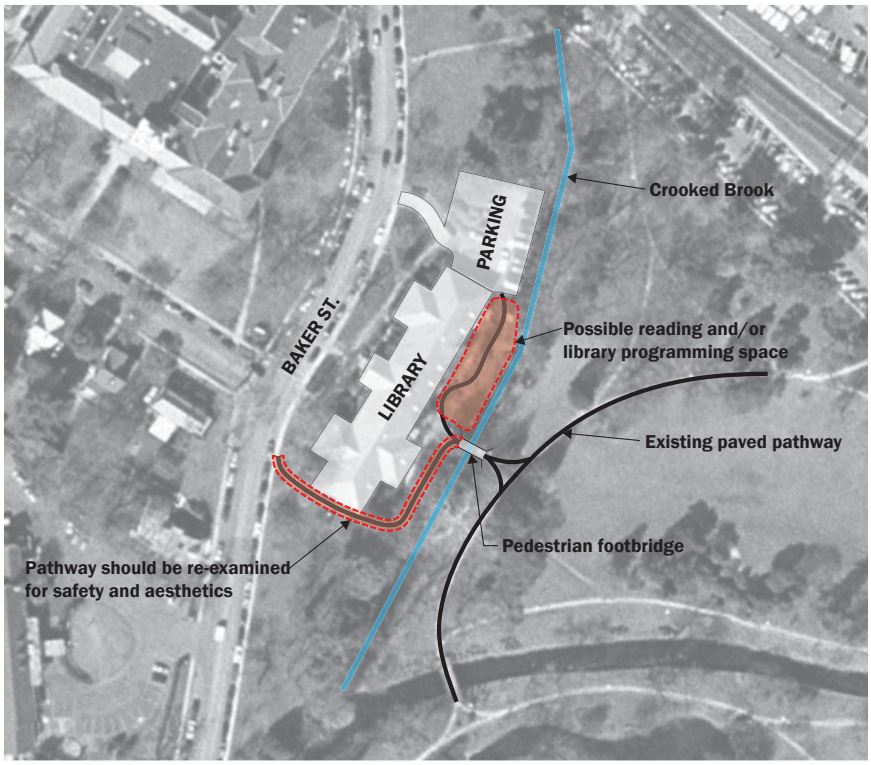


Figure 2.40. Akward circulation around and space behind the library do not fit with the overall design of the park. Diagram by RBA.

Connection to Maplewood Greenway

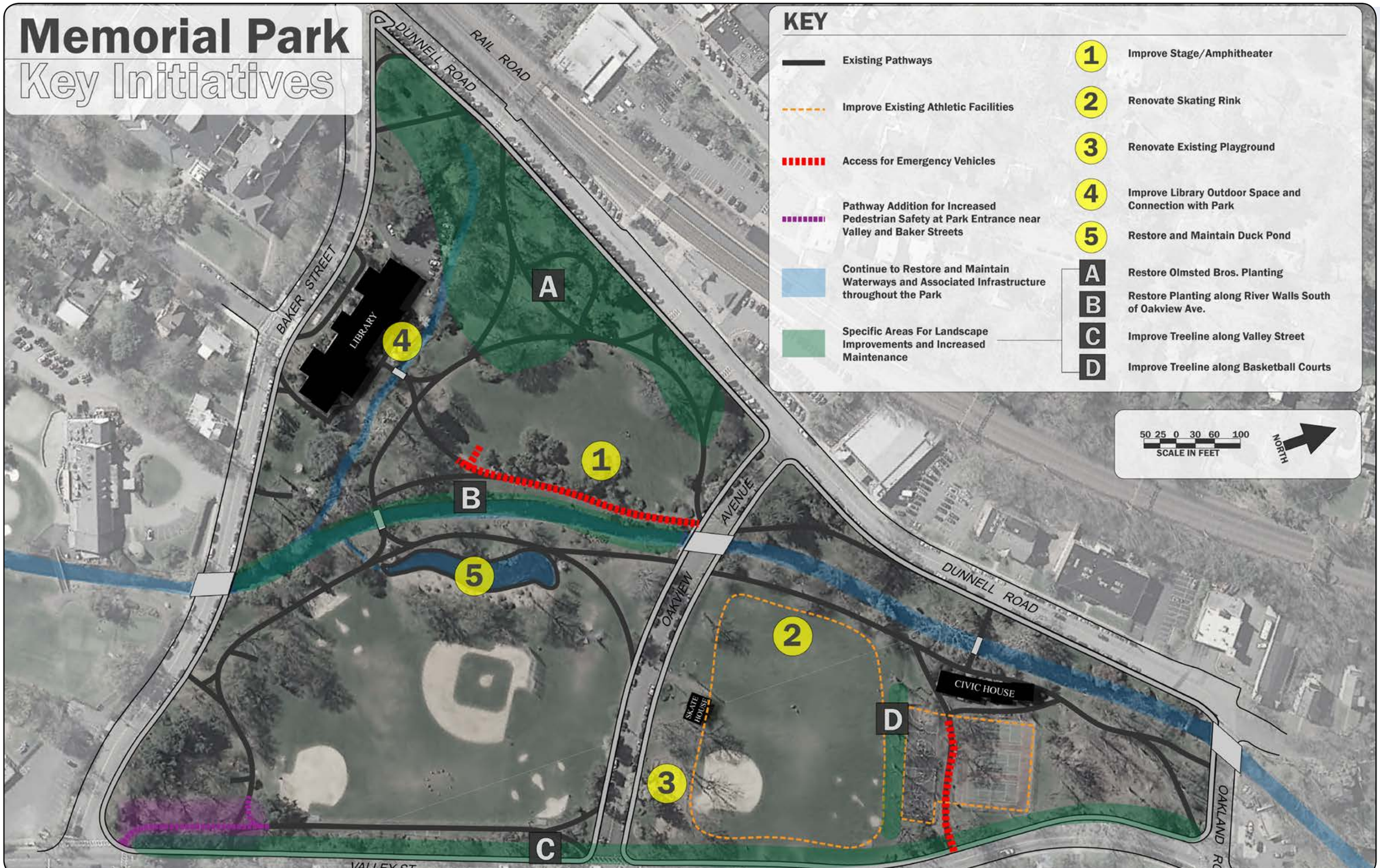
Memorial Park is a significant destination on the proposed Maplewood Greenway as espoused in the June 2012 study *Maplewood Greenway, Reclaiming the River, A Report of the Maplewood Greenway Task Force.* At such a time when the Maplewood Greenway may come to exist, any connection made to Memorial Park must be respectful of the historical configuration of the park. Most importantly, because the Maplewood Greenway plan distinguishes separate pathway facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, and because the current pathway circulation within Memorial Park prohibits bicycling due to the narrowness of the paths, it follows that any connection between the Maplewood Greenway and Memorial Park should also distinguish separate facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. Therefore, bicycle facilities should remain on surface roads and not enter Memorial Park.

Additional Cameras and Emergency Call Box Systems

At the suggestion of the Maplewood Police Department, the benefit of additional cameras and the installation of call box systems should be investigated. Security decisions of this magnitude are appropriately made by the police department and governing officials of Maplewood Township. This plan will only suggest that any new structures added to the park should placed be in the landscape in a manner sensitive to the visual and environmental qualities of the park.

Figure 3.39. A security camera in Memorial Park. Photo by RBA, 05/02/2013.

Memorial Park
Key Initiatives



PRIORITIZED COST ESTIMATION TABLE

MEMORIAL PARK PRIORITIZED COST ESTIMATION TABLE

CATEGORY	Num	Size	Condition Level			Priority						Comments
			Good	Fair	Poor	1-5 YEARS: HIGH PRIORITY		5-10 YEARS: MEDIUM PRIORITY		10-15 YEARS: LOW PRIORITY		
						Capital	Operating (annual expenditure)	Capital	Operating (annual expenditure)	Capital	Operating (annual expenditure)	
PARK ADVOCACY												
Create an Organization Dedicated to the Success and Care of Memorial Park												
Commission ad hoc sub-committee to study formation of group and recommend organizational structure, goals, and leadership												Volunteer basis
Formalize governance, acquire legal council for incorporation, 501 (c) (3) status, opening of bank accounts; designate board of directors, officers, agents, members, succession thereof						$ 3,000.00						Seek pro bono legal assistance
Commence with organizational activities						$ 3,000.00						Support/Fund park improvements as funding allows
STRUCTURES												
Restrooms						$ 3,000.00						Restrooms should be accessible and convenient to the athletic fields and playgrounds, both north and south of Oakview Ave.
Portable	4		X				$ 3,600.00					Rental and periodic cleaning
Continued Access to Civic House Restroom	1		X			$ 3,000.00	$ 2,000.00					Periodic cleaning
New Restroom South of Oakview Ave.										$ 100,000.00	$ 2,000.00	Design and construction plus periodic maintenance
Restore and Maintain the Skate House	1			X		$ 3,000.00		$ 15,000.00	$ 1,500.00			Ongoing restoration efforts and expected building maintenance
Maintain the Civic House	1		X								$ 1,500.00	Ongoing building maintenance
MOVEMENT SYSTEMS & INFRASTRUCTURE												
Asphalt Pathways		±3,100 lf										
New ADA Pathways		±150 lf				$ 1,000.00						Schedule with routine mill & overlay
Paving over of 'Cow Paths'	2	±150 lf				$ 1,000.00						Schedule with routine mill & overlay
Create Emergency/Maintenance Vehicle Access	1	±350 lf				$ 2,000.00						Schedule with routine mill & overlay
Remove Pathway Leading to Intersection at Valley Street & Crescent Street	1	±25 lf				$ 300.00						Schedule with routine mill & overlay
Periodic Mill & Overlay		±3,100 lf		X			$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00	2" Mill & overlay (est. 1,500 lf misc. repair)
Rahway River Retaining Walls *Repair (completed 2013*	1		X									Major repair completed in Summer 2013 ($266,155)
Maintain Pedestrian Bridges				X	X	$ 4,300.00			$ 10,000.00			Estimate for resurfacing, railing repair, and ADA retrofit, plus ongoing maintenance
ACTIVITY AREAS												
Tennis courts	3				X						$ 1,000.00	Misc. repairs
Resurface	3											Resurfacing project set for 2014 *($151,000 appropriated for this project)*
Replace Lights	4							$ 50,000.00				Cost of new fixtures
Restore the Duck Pond												
Dredge Sediment	1					$ 25,000.00				$ 30,000.00		Periodic removal of silt necessary to avoid stagnant conditions (+/- every 20 years)
Aquatic Plant Specification and Maintenance Plan	1					$ 2,000.00	$ 3,000.00					Ongoing maintenance to include removal of overgrown aquatic plant material and occasional skimming
Amphitheater & Outdoor Stage	1			X	X							Seating area in fair condition: stage facility in poor condition
Replace with semi-permanent stage						$ 2,000.00						Semi-permanent stage stays on site but can be moved
Replace with temporary stage										$ 10,000.00	$ 2,000.00	Temporary stage is constructed and deconstructed as necessary; yearly costs of transportation and setup
Replace with permanent stage										$ 150,000.00	$ 2,000.00	Permanent stage occupies foundation on site; yearly costs of maintenance
Skating Area Restoration	1											
Feasibility Study						$ 3,500.00						Should address NJ DEP delineation of skating area as a "wetland"; should specify any proposed grading changes, depth of pooled water, optimal conditions for freeze, and process for draining
NJ DEP Permitting						$ 10,000.00						Must be permitted by NJ DEP before any landscape changes can occur
Design & Construction						$ 15,000.00						System should be strategically graded for collection, depth, and drainage
Playground by Oakview Ave.	1			X	X					$ 5,000.00	$ 1,000.00	Inspect/repair/replenish yearly; Replace/upgrade components every 15 yrs
Remove Dragon Pit	1				X			$ 1,500.00				Removal of play elements and footings
Replace Dragon Pit	1									$ 20,000.00	$ 1,000.00	Install new playground facility; Inspect/repair/replenish yearly; Replace/update components every 15 yrs
Playground by Civic House	1			X						$ 50,000.00	$ 2,000.00	Inspect/repair/replenish yearly; Replace/update components every 15 yrs
Maintain the "Rock Garden" or "Rockery"	1	20' dia.	X									Seek volunteer effort
Ballfields	6		X	X					$ 5,000.00			Ongoing Maintenance
Multipurpose Rectangular Field	2			X					$ 5,000.00			Ongoing Maintenance
Practice Backstops (lacrosse)	1		X								$ 1,000.00	Misc. replacement
Basketball courts	2		X								$ 1,000.00	Misc. goal replacement; asphalt surface maintenance; court line painting
Replace fence fabric with heavier gauge	1	±7500 sf		X		$ 15,000.00				$ 15,000.00		Removal of fencing to be considered
PARK AMENITIES												
Lighting, Pedestrian 15'	42	±15' Ht.										Misc. Lighting repair
Re-lamping of current fixtures with LED						$ 15,000.00						Consult fixture manufacturer for availability, potential Savings in energy costs by switching to LED
Replacement of current fixtures with historically sensitive design (with LED lamps)										$ 84,000.00		Potential Savings in energy costs by switching to LED

MEMORIAL PARK PRIORITIZED COST ESTIMATION TABLE

CATEGORY	Num	Size	Condition Level			Priority						Comments
			Good	Fair	Poor	1-5 YEARS: HIGH PRIORITY		5-10 YEARS: MEDIUM PRIORITY		10-15 YEARS: LOW PRIORITY		
						Capital	Operating (annual expenditure)	Capital	Operating (annual expenditure)	Capital	Operating (annual expenditure)	
Lighting, Flood 30'	1	±30' Ht.		X								
New Event Lighting, (2) fixtures at northern field										$ 10,000.00	$ 500.00	Lighting for special events
Trash Receptacles	12		X						$ 3,000.00		$ 3,000.00	Miscellaneous replacement, 3 receptacles per 5 years
Add Additional Receptacles	5							$ 5,000.00				
Add Recycling Receptacles	17							$ 17,000.00				Consider dual purpose trash & recycling receptacles with half-moon liners
Picnic tables	3								$ 1,200.00		$ 1,200.00	Miscellaneous replacement
Bench Style, Cast Concrete Base with Wood Slats (township made)	11											Lifespan with repairs <50 years
Replacement (township made)								$ 500.00				per bench
Repair (township performed)								$ 150.00				per bench
Benches Style, Teak	5	5'	X									Lifespan with repairs <25 years
Replacement (purchase)								$ 1,200.00				per bench
Repair (agent performed)								$ 300.00				per bench
Bench Style, HDPE	2	8'										Lifespan with repairs <50 years
Replacement (purchase)								$ 1,500.00				per bench
Repair (agent performed)								$ 300.00				per bench
Establish a Memorial Tree/Bench Program												Township needs only to specify a bench design and tree list, and communicate the offerings of this program through the Township website
Create Park Gateways at Entry Locations												Architectural gateways to enhance character and appeal of park
Design of (5) Gateways										$ 10,000.00		Architectural design service
Construction of (5) Gateways										$ 25,000.00	$ 1,000.00	Construction and ongoing yearly maintenance
Create Interpretive Signage Program												
Signage Design										$ 5,000.00		
Fabrication & Installation										$ 2,000.00		Installation plus misc. repair/replacement over time
Maintain/Replace Bike racks	2				X					$ 1,200.00		Misc. replacement
Maintain/Replace Bleachers, 3-row ADA	4	15'	X							$ 2,000.00		misc. replacement
Maintain/Replace Bleachers, 4-row (no ADA)	2	15'	X							$ 2,000.00		misc. replacement
Repurpose stone grills	2					$ 15,000.00						Seek volunteer effort
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT/MAINTENANCE												
Hire Township Horticultural Professional	1						$ 120,000.00					Estimated costs includes benefits.
Create Landscape Maintenance Plan for Memorial Park	1					$ 10,000.00						Consultant to develop management plan; specify maintenance practices by location, time of year, tools required, etc.
Hazardous Tree Limbing and Removal							$ 5,000.00					Misc. future removals; (this line does not include Ash trees adjacent to basketball court - see "Specific Maintenance: Tree line Along Valley Street")
Preemptive Shade Tree Plantings to phase in replacements of Ash trees (does not count Ash trees adjacent to basketball court)	6					$ 4,000.00						Seek replacement trees >3" DBH
Ongoing Tree Replacements									$ 3,000.00			Seek replacement trees >3" DBH
Specific Intervention: Tree line Along Basketball Court												
Removal of (6) Failing Ash Trees						$ 5,000.00						
Plant Material and Installation						$ 4,000.00						Replace with hardwoods >3" DBH with evergreen borders
Specific Intervention: Tree line Along Valley Street												
Design & Plant Specification										$ 1,000.00		
Plant Material										$ 3,000.00		
Installation												Coordinate volunteer effort for planting
Specific Intervention: Planting Along River Walls South of Oakview Ave.												
Design & Plant Specification										$ 1,000.00		
Plant Material										$ 4,000.00		
Installation												Coordinate volunteer effort for planting
Specific Intervention: Restore Olmsted Planting												
Design Interpretation & Plant Specification										$ 2,000.00		
Removal of Existing Plant Material and Soil Amendment										$ 2,000.00		
Plant Material										$ 5,000.00		
Installation												Coordinate volunteer effort for planting
Specific Intervention: Improve Landscape Design Around Library												Address safety, visibility, usage, and character of park space adjacent to library
Landscape Architectural Design										$ 15,000.00		To specify circulation, programming, materials, and construction
Installation						$ 23,000.00				$ 50,000.00		
NON-BUDGETARY ITEMS												
Connection to Maplewood Greenway												Not considered a priority for the park, this document offers guidance on how such a connection should happen, if ever.
Additional Security Cameras and Emergency Call Box System												Security at this level falls under the purview of Maplewood Police Department. Placement of such fixtures within the park should account for visual impact.
TOTALS						**$ 172,100.00**	**$ 135,600.00**	**$ 92,450.00**	**$ 30,700.00**	**$ 604,200.00**	**$ 22,200.00**	