

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT COVER SHEET

Please submit completed form to: Architectural Survey Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT 06103

I D E N T I F I C A T I O N	PROPERTY NAME (Current/Historic)		
	Goodwin Park / South Park		
	COUNTY	TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE
	Hartford	Hartford	
	JOB NUMBER		
	Primary: 00802 Related Job Numbers:		
	Landscape Type		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park, Parkway, Recreation Area. Scenic Reservation <input type="checkbox"/> City/Regional Plan, Improvement Project <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision, Suburban Community <input type="checkbox"/> College/School Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Residential Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Public Building <input type="checkbox"/> Private Estate / Homestead <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery / Burial Lot / Memorial / Monument <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Commercial / Industrial Building <input type="checkbox"/> Country Club / Resort, Hotel, Club <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Church <input type="checkbox"/> Arboretum, Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition, Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous		
	DATE OF ORIGINAL PROJECT: 1895		
	SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS: 1901		

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DESIGNER(S) (primary)

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
- John Charles Olmsted
- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- Other firm member(s): Charles Eliot
- Other notes:

Other Designers (prior to or following Olmsted project):

Repositories consulted with source materials

- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Olmsted Archives (online albums)
- Library of Congress
- Olmsted Online (OlmstedOnline.org)
- National Archives and Record Administration
- Connecticut State Library
- Hartford History Center
- Other:

Observations regarding features characteristic of Olmsted firm design

Goodwin Park was one of several parks established as part of a broader vision for a park and parkway system devised by Frederick Law Olmsted and implemented by Chair of the Hartford Park Commission, Reverend Francis Goodwin. Goodwin donated 200 acres for an unnamed park, later called South Park, in the 1890s and commissioned John Charles Olmsted and Charles Eliot, of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to design the park's circulation system and execute a planting plan of woodlands and meadows.¹ The site was renamed Goodwin Park, after the chairman, and opened to the public in 1901. The Olmsted plan featured a 90-acre, gently sloping lawn surrounded by native tree groves, labeled the "Great Meadow." East of the meadow, a river was dammed to create an irregularly shaped four-acre pond. Recreation features included a wading pool, outdoor gymnasium, and children's play area. A carriage drive composed of a system of curvilinear roads encircled the meadow and connected an overlook at the Maple

¹ The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Goodwin Park." Available at <https://www.tclf.org/landscapes/goodwin-park>. Accessed December 2, 2021.

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Avenue Entrance to the park's other features.² The proposed formal entrance at Maple Avenue, approached by parkways, was never built as planned.

Although the park was built relatively faithfully to the plans, several changes have been made over the years. In 1906, a nine-hole golf course was laid out within the park; an additional nine holes were added in 1911. In 1927, a 37-acre parcel was added to the southeast corner of the park where nine more holes were added for golf along with another pond. A clubhouse was later added to the park on the hill east of Maple Avenue overlooking the Great Meadow, with tennis courts built nearby. A swimming pool complex, playground, and ballfields now occupy park land between the park road and South Street.

Surviving elements of the Olmsted plan include the form of the park, although this has been altered through the addition of the parcel in the southeastern corner, the general form and layout of the Great Meadow, which has been altered through the addition of golf course holes, the alignment of the carriage drive, now a paved park road, groves of trees along many of the park boundaries, and tree plantings within the meadow. The park possesses integrity of location, feeling, setting, and association today, with diminished integrity of design. It continues to convey its historic associations and is a significant surviving example of the work of the Olmsted firm.

² The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Goodwin Park." Available at <https://www.tclf.org/landscapes/goodwin-park>. Accessed December 2, 2021.

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	COUNTY Hartford	TOWN/CITY Hartford	VILLAGE											
	STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 1192 Maple Avenue													
	OWNER(S) <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRIBAL <input type="checkbox"/> EASEMENT City of Hartford Parks and Recreation													
	LAT/LONG COORDINATES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Center Point <input type="checkbox"/> Polygon 41.726609, -72.685998													
	PARCEL INFORMATION Acres: 237 PID(s): 71004 MBLU(s): 201001001, 071-004													
	USE (Present) Public park		(Historic) Public park											
	SURVEY TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> Reconnaissance-Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intensive-Level													
	D E S C R I P T I O N	LANDSCAPE TYPE (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designed <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Ethnographic <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Linear <input type="checkbox"/> System/Multi-Site <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional <input type="checkbox"/> Maritime <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park- Active Recreation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park-Passive Recreation or Commemorative <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify:												
		DATE OR PERIOD (Include source of date) 1895; 1901 (Olmsted Research Guide Online)												
DESIGNERS (Entities that created, designed, constructed, or shaped the landscape) J.C. Olmsted and Charles Eliot														
DESIGN SCOPE (For designed landscapes, explain what work was commissioned.) Park layout, grading, circulation, plantings, water features														
LOCATION OF DRAWINGS/IMAGES/SOURCE MATERIAL Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site; Library of Congress; Hartford History Center														
VISUAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY (Check boxes for the qualities that are key features of this landscape. If attaching descriptive narrative, consider these categories.) <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Features</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Drainage</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Design Style: Picturesque</td> </tr> </table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries	<input type="checkbox"/> Design Style: Picturesque
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C O N D I T I O N	EXISTING CONDITION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recognizable <input type="checkbox"/> Not Extant/Not Recognizable Changes: Addition of active recreation, parking, and a golf course within the meadow		
	POTENTIAL THREATS <input type="checkbox"/> None Known <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onsite Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Development <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overuse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deferred Maintenance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invasive Vegetation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental – specify: storms and stormwater <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify:		
E N V I R O N M E N T	SETTING (One sentence description) The park is located within a thickly settled residential neighborhood of Hartford		
	VEGETATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintained Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Open Land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodland/Forest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specimen Plants <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify:		
	SLOPE <input type="checkbox"/> Level/Nearly Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Steep Slope Elevation (ASML): 70-186'		
	CONNECTICUT PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE (Eco-Region) <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Highlands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Uplands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Coastal Slope <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Uplands		
	Soil Description: Dominated by Bancroft silt loam, Scitico, Shaker, and Maybid loamy soils, varied drainage		
H I S T O R Y	SUMMARY (Provide a brief overview in this space. More detailed narrative can be attached.) Goodwin Park was designed by the Olmsted firm in 1895 as part of a larger park and parkway plan for the city of Hartford. It was designed in the picturesque style with broad expanses of open space formed by grading and groupings of trees. A pond formed a focal point in the lower lying area. The park has been expanded and altered through the addition of active recreation, including a golf course, but continues to convey its original design intent today.		
	NATIONAL REGISTER RECOMMENDATION Entered by: Liz Sargent HLA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended Eligible (Criterion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated Explanation: Goodwin Park represents a relatively intact example of an Olmsted firm park NR Listed: <input type="checkbox"/> District-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> District-Non-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Documentation		
R E P O R T E D B Y	NAME Liz Sargent and Maeve Corcoran	ORGANIZATION Red Bridge Group	DATE December 2021
	ADDRESS 2100 Green Street, San Francisco, California 94123		
	PHOTOGRAPHER Liz Sargent	DATE September 15, 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permission to use photographs (public domain)
	SURVEY METHOD <input type="checkbox"/> Site Visit/In-Person Walkover <input type="checkbox"/> Drive-through/Windshield <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Review Only		

ATTACHMENTS (Include the following items in the PDF)

- Location Map Site Map Photographs with captions Historic Images (if applicable)
 Narrative Description of Property Historical Narrative of Property References

DESCRIPTION (Visual Assessment Summary)

Layout & Spatial Relationships: Goodwin (South) Park is a rhomboid-shaped parcel edged to the north by South Street, to the east by Hubbard Road and Goodwin Park Road, to the south by Jordan Lane, and to the west by Ridge Road and Maple Avenue. The western portion of the park is elevated and the land terraces down to the east. The open pastoral space of the park as designed by the Olmsted firm has been adapted for use as a municipal golf course. A pond proposed by the Olmsted firm in the east-central part of the park survives. The park was expanded from its original parcel to include additional land to the southeast at a later date. An internal road circumnavigates the park, which is known as Goodwin Park Road. This route was also proposed in the Olmsted design. A playground and swimming pool complex, as well as a ball field are located along the northern edge of the park today that appear to be later additions. Entrances continue to occur at the intersection of South Street and Maple Avenue and Maple Avenue at Fairfield Avenue as proposed in the Olmsted plan.

Circulation: As noted, public streets edge the park on all sides. An internal circulation route that generally follows the outer perimeter of the park in a circuitous manner known as Goodwin Park Road remains but is gated in some locations for pedestrian use only. Golf cart paths are present along with parking areas along the Maple Avenue side and near a golf clubhouse building and in association with the recreational features along South Street.

Topography: The topography descends dramatically from a terrace near Maple Avenue toward the east. It is otherwise rolling.

Plantings/Vegetation: There are numerous large shade trees and evergreen trees present along the outer margins of the park and in groves. The eastern edge of the park appears to have been allowed to undergo secondary succession. Tree plantings appear to have been added to delineate some of the golf course holes.

Views & Vistas: Long views across the park are afforded from the higher ground along Maple Avenue. The golf course holes and general open greensward of the center of the park also affords long views internally. Little of the surrounding urban context is visible from the park due to woods along the perimeter except South Street where the playground and swimming pool complex closely edge the road.

Water Features: There are three ponds within the park. One is located based on the original Olmsted plan. The other two are located on land added to the park after the Olmsted plan was prepared.

Buildings/Structures/Objects: There is a golf clubhouse and maintenance facility near the entrance along Maple Avenue, as well as a swimming pool and associated building along the northern edge of the park. Playground equipment is located near the intersection of Maple Avenue and South Street. Signs identify the park at the Maple Avenue entrances. Gates limit access to Goodwin Park Road near the clubhouse and the ballfields. There is also a group of tennis courts along Maple Avenue.

Recreational Space: The entire park affords recreational space for golf, tennis, walking, swimming, ball games, and playground use.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Goodwin Park was established in 1895 during the boom of parks development in Hartford in the late nineteenth century. Originally named South Park, the then 200-acre parcel was donated by Reverend Francis Goodwin, chairman of the Hartford Parks Commission. Goodwin commissioned John Charles Olmsted and Charles Eliot, of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to design the park's circulation system and execute a planting plan of woodlands and meadows.¹ The Park was renamed Goodwin Park, after the chairman, and opened to the public in 1901.

The plan included a 90-acre, gently sloping lawn surrounded by native tree groves, labeled the "Great Meadow." East of the meadow, a river was dammed to create an irregularly shaped four-acre pond. The carriage ride consisted of a system of curvilinear roads encircling the meadow, connecting the overlook at the Maple Avenue Entrance to the park's other features. Some of these other elements included recreational elements such as a wading pool, outdoor gymnasium and children's play area which were scattered in the park's wooded edges.²

The Park was constructed essentially as designed but its purpose has changed over the years since its inception, and so has its physical characteristics. In 1906, a nine-hole golf course was laid out on the meadow, and in 1911 the next nine-holes were installed. During the 1920s as well as during World War II, the meadow served as an airfield.³ An additional 37 acres were added to the southeast corner of the park in 1927, used to extend the golf course by another nine holes and introduce a second pond which permitted fishing.⁴ Today, the park is used primarily as a public golf course, but also includes a swimming pool, tennis courts, a basketball court, and a play area based on proposals drawn in 1945.

In December each year, the park hosts Holiday Lights Fantasia, a Greater Hartford tradition since 1999 where illuminated structures are erected throughout the park. Cars are allowed to stream through the park and enjoy the views. Goodwin Park is now a destination for Hartford citizens and families looking to enjoy physical exercise and a beautiful view of the city skyline.

REFERENCES

Goodwin Park." Available at <https://www.tclf.org/landscapes/goodwin-park>. Accessed December 2, 2021.

"Goodwin Park." Available at <https://www.hartfordct.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Parks-Directory/Goodwin-Park>. Accessed December 2, 2021.

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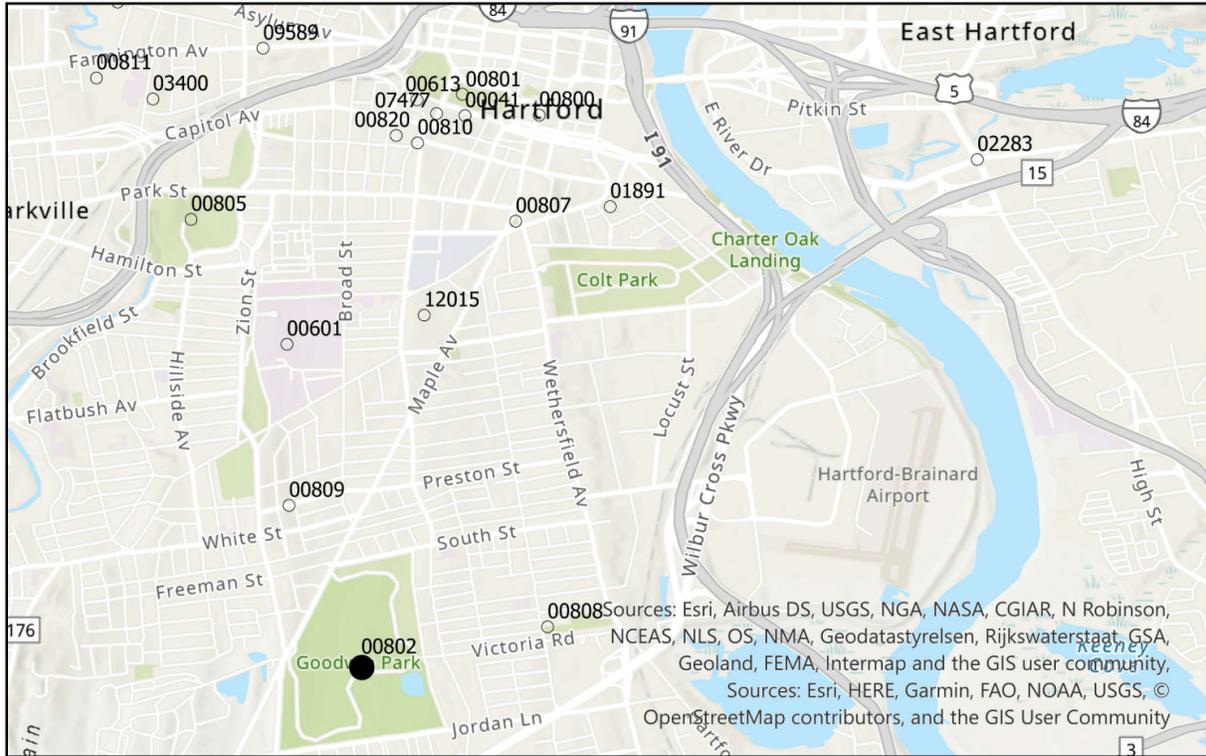
³ The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Goodwin Park." Available at <https://www.tclf.org/landscapes/goodwin-park>. Accessed December 2, 2021.

⁴ Hartford Parks, "Goodwin Park." Available at <https://www.hartfordct.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Parks-Directory/Goodwin-Park>. Accessed December 2, 2021.

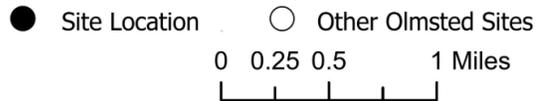
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CONTINUATION SHEET Goodwin Park (#00802) / 1192 Maple Avenue, Hartford

GRAPHICS



JOB: 00802 LOCATION: Hartford

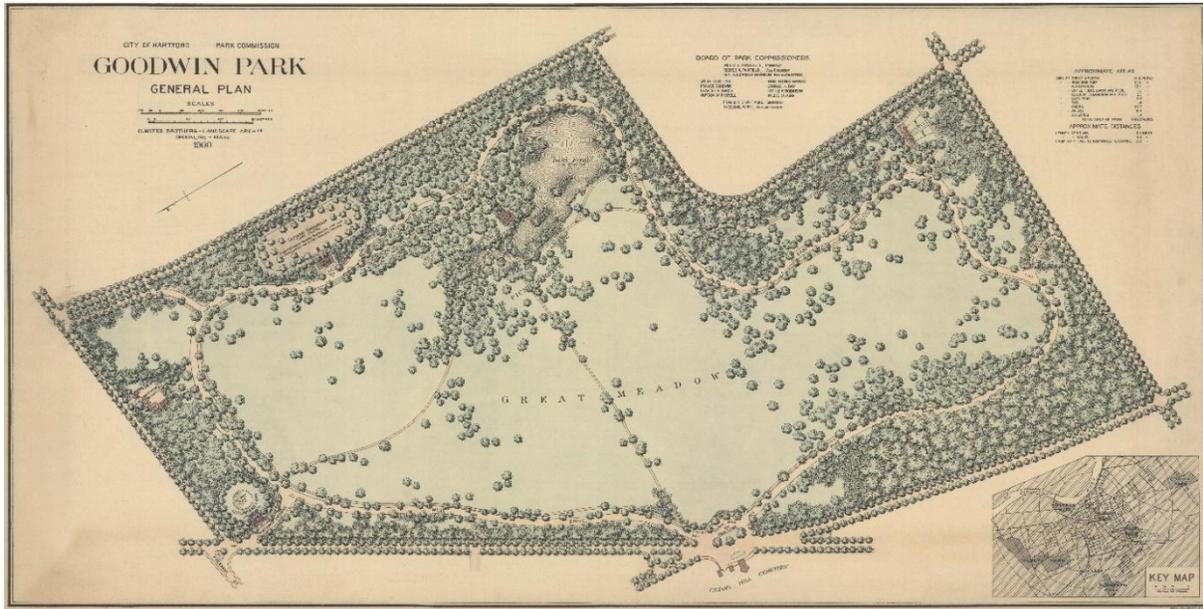
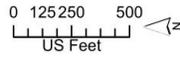


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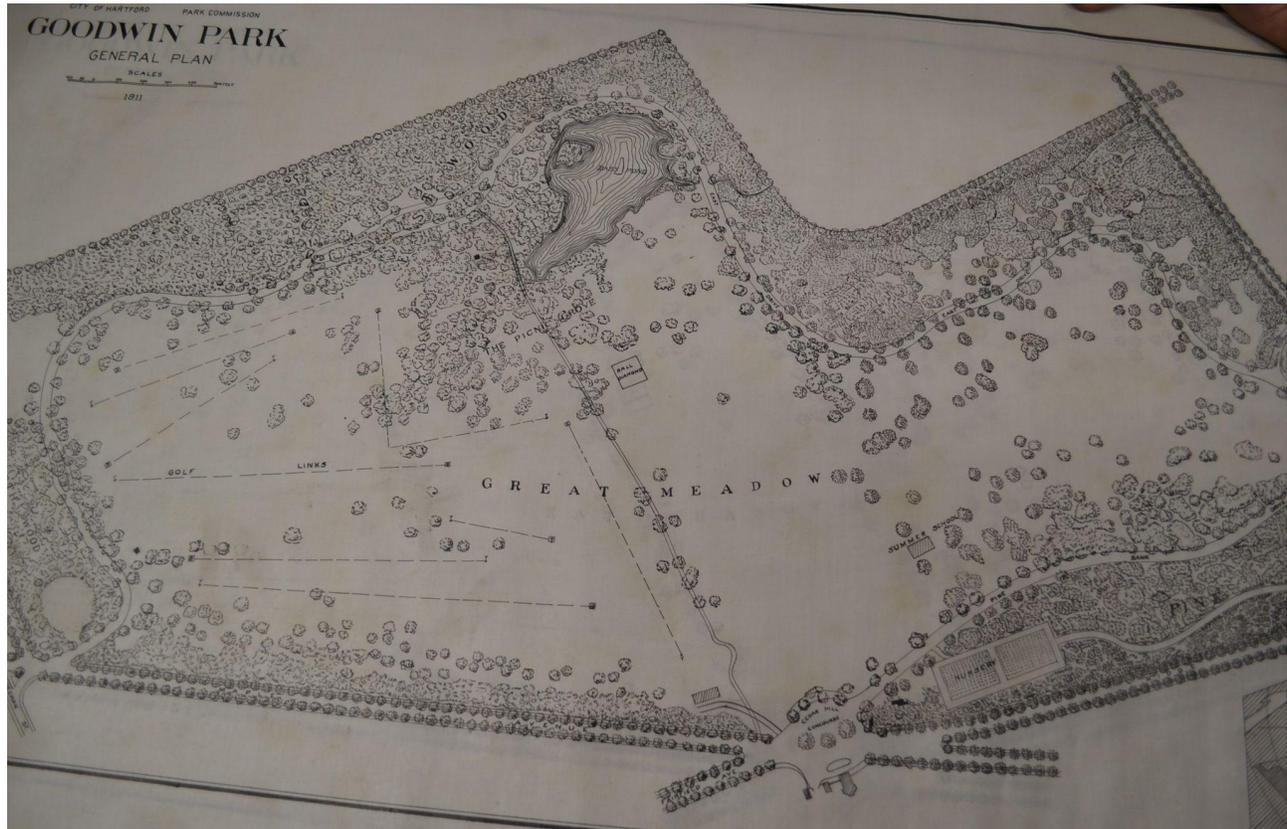
JOB: 00802 LOCATION: Hartford PROJECT: Goodwin Park



Goodwin Park General Plan, 1900. Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects. (Source: courtesy of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

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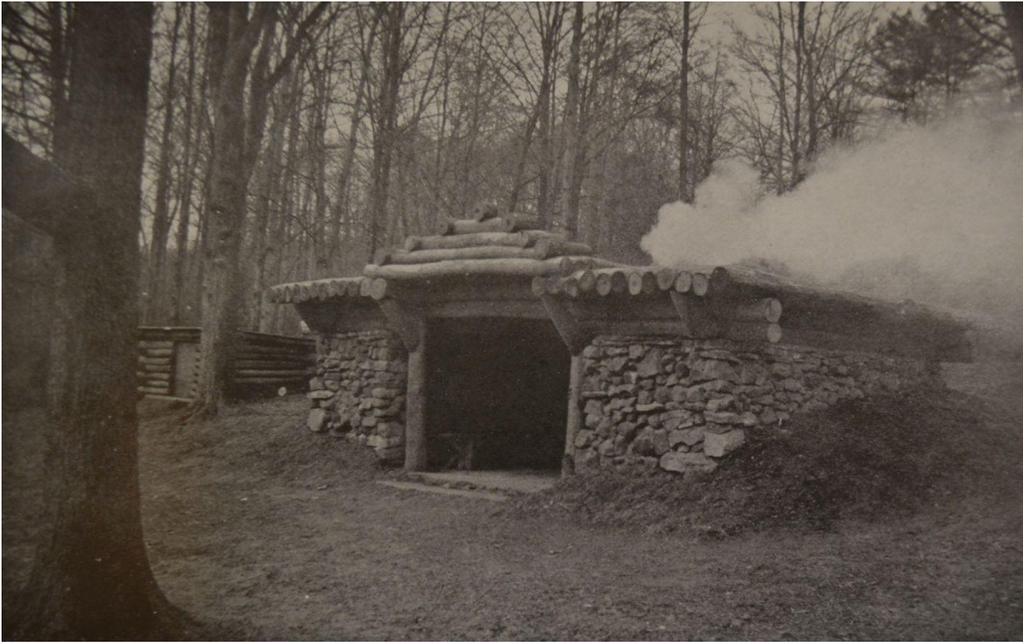
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Detail, 1911 plan of Goodwin Park showing the addition of a nine-hole golf course. (Source: Hartford History Center)



Golf at Goodwin Park, 1923. (Source: Board of Park Commissioners Annual Report)



Fire place in Goodwin Park, 1915. (Source: Board of Park Commissioners Annual Report)



Camp Fire Girls at Goodwin Park, 1920. (Source: Board of Park Commissioners Annual Report)

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JOB: 00802 LOCATION: Hartford PROJECT: Goodwin Park

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Aerial photograph overlaid with the 1900 Olmsted plan. (Source: Kevan Klosterwill)



View east across the meadow space of Goodwin Park from the higher ground along Maple Avenue. (All photographs taken by authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)



View west along the park road that extends around the central meadow.



View northeast of the extensive tree plantings within the park.



View east of the lower lying land associated with the meadow.



View east toward the golf clubhouse across a practice putting green near the Maple Avenue entrance.



View northwest toward the swimming pool and pool house from the park road.