

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)		
	Lewis Fulton Memorial Park / Fulton, William E., Fulton Park		
	COUNTY	TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE
	New Haven	Waterbury	
	JOB NUMBER		
	Primary: 06780 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: 1920		
	SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS: 1924		

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DESIGNER(S) (primary)

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
- John Charles Olmsted
- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- Other firm member(s): Edward Clark Whiting
- 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

Typical of many early twentieth century parks designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm, the design incorporates both active and passive elements within the overall scenic framework of the park. A ballfield is segregated to the north end of the park while a children's play area is more readily incorporated within the park's circulation. The park is situated within a low area and its major scenic features are organized in response to the topography. A grotto embedded in the slope at the northern end of the park symbolically marks the beginning of a water sequence through the design. A series of terraces proceeds to the Upper Pond, Lower Pond, and a final smaller pond at the park's south end. Winding paths frame the paths and cross the streams linking these water bodies with rustic bridges. Walkways along steeper slopes suggest a Picturesque design approach while flatter areas within the valleys are more Pastoral in character. An array of pavilions, overlooks, and other features mark the landscape. Several edges of the park are softened through careful grading that hides adjacent streets through ha-ha-like structures. Stone retaining walls face out while planted slopes face in. The park's design is largely intact, and the major intrusions, such as a swimming complex, lie beyond the design's primary spatial framework.

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Surviving features resulting from the Olmsted firm's design work include:

- Stone structures including a warming house and gazebo
- Stone retaining walls, bridges, stairs, and a grotto
- Ponds

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I D E N T I F I C A T I O N	PROPERTY NAME (Current/Historic) Lewis Fulton Memorial Park (Job #06780)													
	COUNTY New Haven	TOWN/CITY Waterbury	VILLAGE											
	STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) Cook Street, Pine Street, Fern Street, Charlotte Street													
	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													
	LAT/LONG COORDINATES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Center Point <input type="checkbox"/> Polygon 41.571371, -73.039661													
	PARCEL INFORMATION Acres: 64.5 PID(s): 16308210073 MBLU(s): 0163-0821-0073													
	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) 1920; 1924 (Olmsted Research Guide Online)												
DESIGNERS (Entities that created, designed, constructed, or shaped the landscape) Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects														
DESIGN SCOPE (For designed landscapes, explain what work was commissioned.) Design of a large urban park over multiple phases, including numerous stone bridges, walls, and other structures														
LOCATION OF DRAWINGS/IMAGES/SOURCE MATERIAL Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site; Library of Congress														
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" style="width: 100%;"> <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 checked="" 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:</td> </tr> </table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation	<input checked="" 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:
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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: Major alterations include new playground features, tennis courts, and swimming pool.		
	POTENTIAL THREATS <input type="checkbox"/> None Known <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onsite Development <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vandalism <input type="checkbox"/> Overuse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deferred Maintenance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invasive Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental – specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify: _____		
E N V I R O N M E N T	SETTING (One sentence description) This large park is surrounded on all sides primarily by urban residential neighborhoods.		
	VEGETATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintained Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Open Land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodland/Forest <input 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): 580'		
	CONNECTICUT PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE (Eco-Region) <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Highlands <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Uplands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Uplands		
	Soil Description: Varied soils across this large park site.		
H I S T O R Y	SUMMARY (Provide a brief overview in this space. More detailed narrative can be attached.) E.C. Whiting of the Olmsted firm designed this park beginning in 1920 on behalf of William Fulton. Construction was completed in phases, continuing into the mid-1920s.		
	NATIONAL REGISTER RECOMMENDATION Entered by: <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended Eligible (Criterion <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated Explanation: Lewis Fulton Memorial Park		
	NR Listed: <input type="checkbox"/> District-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> District-Non-Contributing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Documentation		
R E P O R T E D B Y	NAME Kevan Klosterwill and Carolyn Brackett	ORGANIZATION Red Bridge Group	
	ADDRESS 2100 Green Street, San Francisco, California 94123		
	PHOTOGRAPHER Kevan Klosterwill	DATE 9/14/21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permission to use photographs
	SURVEY METHOD <input checked="" 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: The park's dominant features are a series of water-themed spaces following the valley in which the park is situated. The park is largely passive, with active recreational elements situated outside the primary areas.

Circulation: Winding paths lead through the park and provide space for walking and strolling. They are primarily surfaced with asphalt and sometimes incorporate stone features. A vehicular accessway is incorporated into the path system to service park structures.

Topography: The park follows a broad valley, draining to the south, with steep slopes in the eastern portion. Some terracing is incorporated into the slopes for programmed areas.

Plantings/Vegetation: The eastern slope is largely wooded, while the lower areas are open turf with scattered plantings. A formal garden and lilac grove are among the more intentional planted areas.

Views & Vistas: Views into the site are provided from overlooks both adjacent to and within the park. Framed vistas along the paths unfold in sequence.

Water Features: Major features include a series of three ponds connected by a designed stream channel. A pool and splashpad are also located in the park. Several smaller features and fountains, some of which are no longer operational, are located around the park.

Drainage: The valley through the site drains much of the surrounding area. Stormwater flowing into the site from developed areas upstream and adjacent to the park is creating erosion problems in places.

Buildings/Structures/Objects: Major structures include a warming hut, pavilion, and caretaker's house. Other smaller structures are scattered throughout the site. Rustic stonework is a common theme for many site elements.

Recreational Space: Active recreational uses include a playground, ballfield, tennis courts, and a pool.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The 70-acre Lewis E. Fulton Memorial Park (Fulton Park), owned by the City of Waterbury, is an excellent example of the work of the Olmsted Brothers. The park features a rolling landscape and open vistas framed by trees, meadows dotted with ponds and streams, woodlands filled with old stone walls and hiking paths, rubblestone Arts and Crafts buildings, gardens, and recreational facilities. The park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.¹

In 1919, William E. Fulton, President of the Waterbury Farrel Foundry and Machine Company, purchased land around an unused reservoir with the intent of creating a park to memorialize his son, Lewis, who died in 1917 at the age of 38. Fulton contacted the Olmsted Brothers, and in January of 1920, E.C. Whiting reported on a meeting and tour of the site. Whiting noted "It is a rather attractive piece of ground with a small stream running through it, a small pond just above the reservoir, a low lying, more or less marshy area covered with a thick tangle of small trees and shrub growth which they call the Bird Sanctuary and some higher land all along one side with a good many large white pines scattered about it."²

¹ *Lewis Fulton Memorial Park*, National Register of Historic Places, Steven Bedford and Nora Lucas, Preservation Computer Services, Mamaroneck, New York, 1990.

² Project Correspondence, Library of Congress.

CONTINUATION SHEET Lewis Fulton Memorial Park (#06780) / Cook Street, Pine Street, Fern Street, Charlotte Street

Although the city had agreed to jointly fund the park, an apparent lack of action by the city prompted Fulton and his wife, Ida, to proceed on their own. Due to financial limitations set by Fulton, the Olmsted Brothers plan was designed to be built in sections which were completed in phases between 1920 and 1925.

The southern section was the first to be completed. It included the main entrance and features such as a lily pond, hemlock forest, lilac path, rock garden, gazebo, an open meadow, pond, and bathhouse. The central section was developed next and featured an ornamental pond and two formal gardens. (A swimming pool was installed in the 1950s.) The northern section was the last to be completed as a recreational space and included a ball field, tennis courts and bathhouse.³

In March of 1920, Frederick Law Olmsted and E.C. Whiting visited the site to make plans and met with Fulton to discuss hiring a supervisor for the project. On another visit in May, Whiting met with Mr. and Mrs. Fulton to review the plans as well as meeting with the mayor, city engineer and park superintendent.

Mrs. Ida Fulton continued to be involved in the planning process until her unexpected death in January of 1921. When Whiting visited again in June of 1920, discussion focused on the entrance design and use of a boulder for the tablet (entrance sign). Whiting noted that although William Fulton was previously enthusiastic, he now had "cold feet" about moving the boulder. Whiting reported "To settle the matter finally on Saturday we got Mrs. Fulton to come up and look over the stone and to say definitely what she wanted, as Mr. Fulton was really leaving the matter to her. She was very enthusiastic about our last sketch and said without any hesitation that the large roundish boulder was to her mind the nicest and simplest we could put in."⁴

By August of 1920, plans for the lower section of the park were underway, although it would be more than two years before the city appropriated enough funds for implementation. The plan included two gardens, a path flanked by lilacs and a rock garden covered with large quantities of flowering rock plants such as snowdrop, crocus, ferns, narcissus, tulips, and rock creep.

William Fulton continued to solicit city funds for the park. In October of 1920, Fulton wrote to Mayor William Sandland recommending an appropriation of \$60,000. He explained "Of this total amount, it is desired to have \$30,000" to complete "that portion South of the Reservoir bounded by Cooke and Pine Streets: It is also the particular feature of that park that will prove to be of benefit to the city because of the possible influence of refinement and the educational as well as enjoyable advantages to be derived therefrom."⁵

Plans were developed for the rest of the park a year later. The old reservoir was to be developed as a picturesque swimming pond that would flow through the lower rock garden. Other features included a bathhouse, bird sanctuary and a pond. To the north of Greenwood Avenue would be playgrounds and a ballfield. The firm proposed clearing brush, constructing a few bridges across the existing brook, and the treatment of the rest of the park with evergreens, small special features of mountain laurel, a rhododendron garden, and a rose garden.

As part of the park's plan, Whiting also designed several buildings and structures in the popular Arts and Crafts style. These included the bathhouse, restrooms, gazebo, five bridges, a stone wall and many landscape features including a system of avenues and walking paths, terraced gardens, as well as tennis courts and a spectator area for the baseball field.⁶

³ *Lewis Fulton Memorial Park*, National Register of Historic Places, Steven Bedford and Nora Lucas, Preservation Computer Services, Mamaroneck, New York, 1990.

⁴ Project Correspondence, Library of Congress.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Lewis Fulton Memorial Park*, National Register of Historic Places, Steven Bedford and Nora Lucas, Preservation Computer Services, Mamaroneck, New York, 1990.

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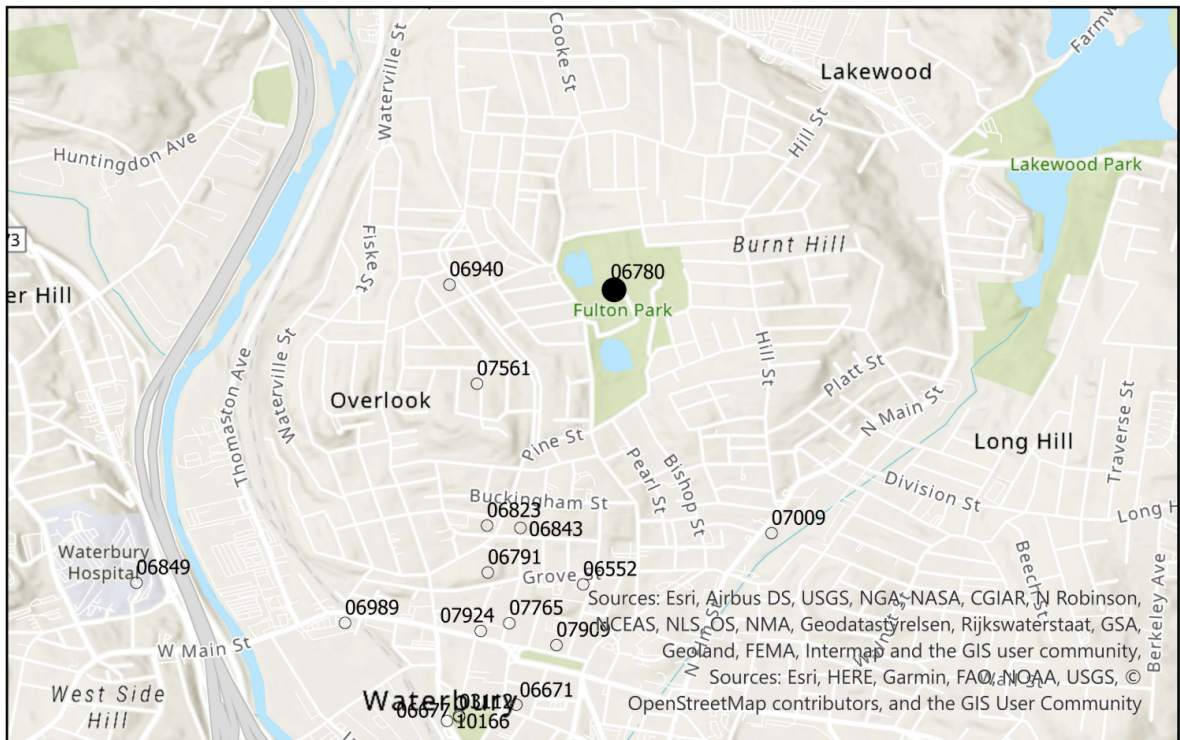
CONTINUATION SHEET Lewis Fulton Memorial Park (#06780) / Cook Street, Pine Street, Fern Street, Charlotte Street

REFERENCES

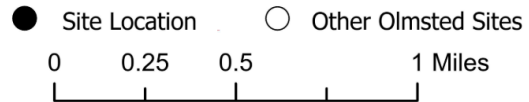
Lewis Fulton Memorial Park, National Register of Historic Places, Steven Bedford and Nora Lucas, Preservation Computer Services, Mamaroneck, New York, 1990.

Project Correspondence, Library of Congress.

GRAPHICS



JOB: 06818 LOCATION: Waterbury

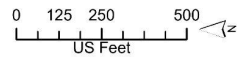


CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET Lewis Fulton Memorial Park (#06780) / Cook Street, Pine Street, Fern Street, Charlotte Street



JOB: 06780 LOCATION: Watertown PROJECT: Fulton Park



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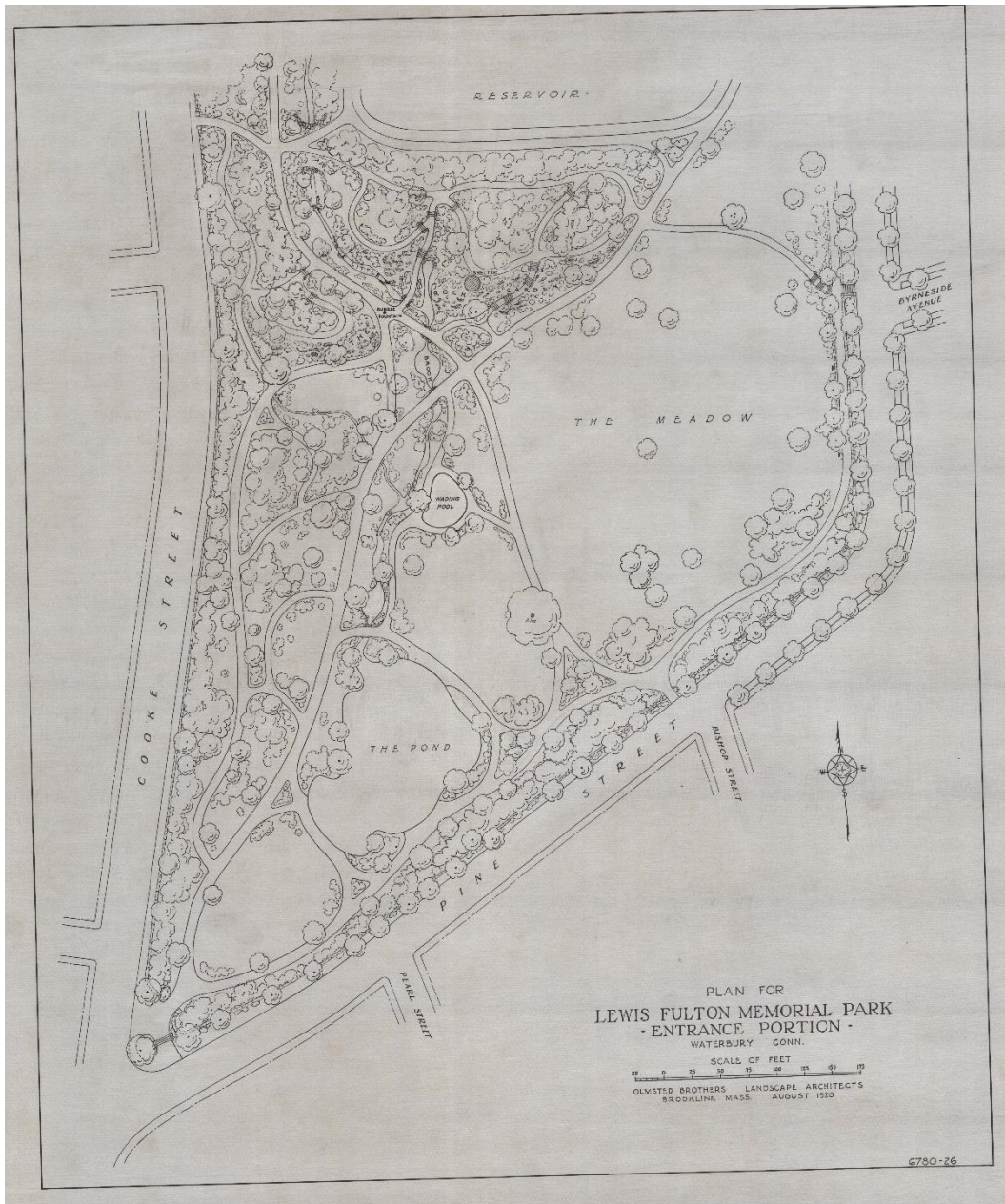
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Grading plan for athletic field, 1922, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

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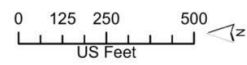
Plan for park entrance, 1920, 1922, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Lewis Fulton Memorial Park (#06780) / Cook Street, Pine Street, Fern Street, Charlotte Street



JOB: 06780 LOCATION: Watertown PROJECT: Fulton Park



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

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET Lewis Fulton Memorial Park (#06780) / Cook Street, Pine Street, Fern Street,
Charlotte Street



View south from Warming Hut to Lower Park Pond. (All photographs taken by authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)



View from terrace to northwest to Lower Pond.

**CONTINUATION SHEET Lewis Fulton Memorial Park (#06780) / Cook Street, Pine Street, Fern Street,
Charlotte Street**



View from stairway east toward overlook pavilion.



View into park at southern entrance.

**CONTINUATION SHEET Lewis Fulton Memorial Park (#06780) / Cook Street, Pine Street, Fern Street,
Charlotte Street**



Pedestrian gate along eastern edge of park.



View east to campfire amphitheater adjacent to playground.

CONTINUATION SHEET Lewis Fulton Memorial Park (#06780) / Cook Street, Pine Street, Fern Street,
Charlotte Street



View north at splashpad in former wading pool site.



Stone grotto at top of terraces.

**CONTINUATION SHEET Lewis Fulton Memorial Park (#06780) / Cook Street, Pine Street, Fern Street,
Charlotte Street**



Terracing in northern section of park.



View south across formal garden.