



120 Academy Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608
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Trenton Parks, Recreation, and Culture Collection

Circa 1893–2021

**By Chris Loos
March 2024**

Summary Information

Creator(s):

City of Trenton, Parks Commission¹

Donor:

Unknown (found in collections); Betty Holland (donor); Edmund C. Hill (donor)

Language of Materials:

English

Extent:

Approximately 4 linear feet

Location of Repository:

Trentoniana Department, Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St., Trenton, NJ
08608

Subjects:

Bicycle trails--New Jersey--Trenton / Celebrations--New Jersey / City planning--New
Jersey--Trenton / Delaware and Raritan Canal Region (N.J.)--History, Local / Donnelly,

¹ The department in charge of managing Trenton’s parks underwent several name changes and reorganizations throughout the 20th century. Its initial name was the “Parks Commission,” and at present it is known as the “Department of Recreation, Natural Resources, and Culture.”

Frederick William (1866-1935) / Fourth of July celebrations--New Jersey / Lee, Francis Bazley, 1869-1914 / Municipal law--New Jersey / Olmsted Brothers--History / Parades & processions--New Jersey--Trenton / Theater, Municipal / Trenton, Battle of, Trenton, N.J., 1776--Exhibitions / Trenton (N.J.)--History / Trenton (N.J.)--Politics and government / Trenton (N.J.)--Social life and customs / Urban parks--United States--Case studies / Urban parks--United States--Designs and plans / Urban policy--New Jersey--Trenton

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

No access restrictions.

Reference Number:

CITY—PRC

Preferred Citation:

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Trenton Parks, Recreation, and Culture Collection, Trentoniana Department, Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St., Trenton, NJ 08608

Scope/Content

This collection comprises materials from city-run and sponsored parks, recreational activities, and cultural events. Most items related to the parks themselves relate to the city's Park Commission and the related Playground Bureau; notable among this series is a ledger of minutes from the planning of Stacy Park. The other large portion of these items sheds light on celebrations throughout Trenton's history. Particularly interesting among these materials is the minute-book, written by Francis Bazley Lee, of the committee that organized the celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 100th birthday. It also includes planning materials, publications, and scrapbooks from Trenton's 250th anniversary in 1929. Finally, the collection contains some ephemera and published materials from city-sponsored cultural events, including concerts in Cadwalader Park and Mill Hill Playhouse. All told, these items shed light on public spaces, parades, and holidays in the city.

Archivist's Note: Like with all collections within the Trenton City Records, these items have been compiled from various locations within the Trentoniana Department and arranged *ad hoc*. Many of the items from the 1950s through the 1980s were likely originally part of the Arthur Holland Papers, having been removed by previous librarians. [See also: *The F.W. Donnelly Collection (CITY-FWD)*, *the Trenton City Museum Collection (CITY-TCM)*, *the Arthur Holland Papers*, and *Trentoniana's collection of scrapbooks donated by Parks Commissioner George Reiker.*]

Arrangement

Series I: Parks Commission Administrative

- Box 1, Folder 1: Manual of the Parks Commission (1893)
 - Folder 2: Reports of Parks Commission meetings (1907-1908)
 - Folder 3: Minutes of Common Council Committee to Create Stacy Park (1903-08)
 - Folder 4: “Weed and Seed” subcommittee matters, ephemera (2002)
 - Folder 5: Parks Commission annual report (1901) and other financial/statistical reports (ca. 1930-1990)
 - Folder 6: Playgrounds Department -- Edmund Hill article (1908), Correspondence (1916), Annual reports (1910, 1915, 1917)
 - Folder 7: Miscellaneous Parks Commission personnel ephemera and lists
 - Folder 8: Reports on and profiles of Trenton parks
- Box OS1, Folder

Series II: Parks Planning, Promotion, and Activities

- Box 1, Unfolded: *Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Action Plan* (June 1981)
- Unfolded: *Mercer County Master Plan: Open Space Preservation Element* (2021)
- Folder 9: *Trenton Open Space Master Plan, Part I -- Background Analysis, Neighborhood Element, and Capital City District Element* (November 1989)

Box 1A, Unfolded: *Trenton Open Space Master Plan, Part II* (“A Plan for Action,” October 1990; “Capital City District Element,” October and December 1990)

Unfolded: *Trenton Riverfront Open Space Plan Draft Report* (September 1989)

Box 2, Unfolded: *Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Master Plan* (1977)

Folder 1: D&R Canal and Cadwalader Parks -- Planning studies (1975-1975)

Folder 2: Olmsted correspondence re: Cadwalader Park and other Trenton sites (all photocopies from Olmsted Papers in LOC; most letters from Edmund Hill)

Folder 3: Mark Brown’s (Trenton Bicentennial) research notes on F. L. Olmsted and Cadwalader Park

Folder 4: Cadwalader Park -- Plans and related documents

Folder 5: *Project Manual for North 24 Park and Battle Monument Park* (1980)

Folder 6: Old Wharf/Riverfront/Marine Terminal park planning, ca. 1980s

Folder 7: Parks planning -- Other plans (Assunpink Creek Park; Mill Hill Park rehabilitation; Lewis Street playground; Green Acres Program; Unfinished Fisher Place park)

Folder 8: Parks planning -- Correspondence on Carlos M. Negron Park

Folder 9: Parks planning -- Other correspondence, petitions, etc.

Folder 10: Mill Hill Park dedication (1973) -- Correspondence, committee minutes, etc.

Folder 11: Other park dedication materials (East Trenton Park, 1948; George Page Park, 1956)

Box 3, Folder 1: Parks directories, rules, and maps

Folder 2: Youth and adult recreation programs -- Fliers, calendars, regulations, etc.

Folder 3: Park activities -- Assorted publicity and promotions

Folder 4: Litter cleanup/green city/civic improvement -- Ephemera, minutes, etc.

Box OS1, Folder 3: Oversized diagrams of parks (Rotary Island Park, Dec. 1961; Mill Hill Park, n.d. (ca. 1970s-80s?); Fishing Wharf Park, Aug. 1989)

Folder 4: “Report from the Mayor [Armenti] to Beautify Our City” (1969)

Folder 5: Parks Commission financial ledger, 1893-1911

Series III: Holidays and City-Sponsored Celebrations

Box 3, Folder 5: Battle of Trenton commemorations - Correspondence, booklets, reenactment ephemera (ca. 1901-2003)

Folder 6: Lincoln Centennial celebrations (1909) -- Program and minute book by Francis B. Lee, commission secretary

Folder 7: Trenton’s 250th Anniversary (1929) -- Planning correspondence with James Kearney, Part I (Jan. 1928 - Mar. 1929)

Folder 8: Trenton’s 250th Anniversary (1929) -- Planning correspondence with James Kearney, Part II (Apr. - Dec. 1929)

Folder 9: Trenton 250th -- Congratulatory letters and solicitations thereof

Folder 10: Trenton 250th -- Additional planning documents, committee lists, etc.

Folder 11: Trenton 250th -- Souvenir booklets and other ephemera

Folder 12: Trenton 250th -- Newspaper clippings/photos

Folder 13: Trenton 250th -- Film (on DVD) and letters (ca. 1929-1930)

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyPhyGhvwWQ\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyPhyGhvwWQ)

Folder 14: 150th Anniversary of Trenton City Charter (1942) -- Booklet and city seal

Box 4, Folder 1: Trenton 275th (1954) -- Souvenir booklets

Folder 2: 150th anniversary of the US Constitution (1937) -- Souvenir booklets

Folder 3: Fourth of July / Flag Day / “I Am An American” Day / Other patriotic holidays

Folder 4: Heritage Days festivals -- Correspondence, ephemera,
etc.

Folder 5: Parades (July 4th, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, etc.)
[see also *Columbus Day parades on videotape*]

Folder 6: Black History Month events

Folder 7: Other holidays and celebrations (Jamestown
Tercentennial Expo, 1907; “Know Your City Week,” 1911; Columbus
Day, 1966; All America City Award, 1966; Flower Festival Days, 1974;
Feast of Lights, 1986)

Box OS1, Folder 1: Trenton 250th -- Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings

Folder 2: Fourth of July broadside, 1874

Series IV: City-Sponsored Cultural Events

Box 4, Folder 8: Cadwalader Park concerts booklets (1953-1961); Other cultural
events in Cadwalader Park

Folder 9: Other Trenton music events

Folder 10: “Theatre in the Park” -- Playbills, posters, publicity,
etc. (ca. 1964-1969)

Folder 11: Trenton Arts Commission -- Ephemera,
correspondence re: Arts Center, publicity (ca. 1981-1987) [see
also Mill Hill Playhouse Collection]

Folder 12: Historic Trenton and city museums -- Brochures,
study, gift bag

Folder 13: Cultural events calendars, directories, etc.