

Reference Collection

FP.2010.001

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Fairmount Archives

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Summary Information

Repository	Fairmount Archives
Creator	Fairmount Park Commission (Philadelphia, Pa.).
Title	Reference collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1874-2000
Date [inclusive]	Bulk, 1874-2000 1690-2010
Extent	86.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>In the early part of the nineteenth century, Philadelphia City Council took action to protect the purity of public water. This involved the acquisition of property on the banks of the Schuylkill River in order to eliminate polluting waste that had previously been generated by various industrial sites along the river. The City's newly acquired property was dedicated to the health and enjoyment of the citizens of Philadelphia, and became known as Fairmount Park. The Fairmount Park Commission (FPC) was established by Act of the Assembly, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, March 26, 1867. Over the course of this organization's history (1867 to 2010) the FPC continued to acquire land for the people of Philadelphia, and operated with a single continuous mission: to preserve and protect its open space; provide opportunities for recreation; maintain the landscapes and structures, streams and woodlands that exist within the Fairmount Park System. This collection contains various materials that document the history of the Fairmount Park, and subsequently the history of the activities of the Fairmount Park Commission. The collection also includes a good deal of contextual information, such as information on the early history of Philadelphia and its surrounding area. This collection</p>

demonstrates at once the autonomy of the Fairmount Park Commission and its integral role in the evolution of Philadelphia's urban landscape. This collection is relevant to researchers interested in the history of park property in Philadelphia; the history of water sanitation; the development of ecological studies; urban land management; organizational history in general, or specific to the FPC; art history; public art in Philadelphia; and juried public art design competitions.

Cite As:

[Description and date of item], FP.2010.001, Reference Collection, Fairmount Park Historic Resource Archives.

Historical note

In the early part of the nineteenth century, Philadelphia City Council took action to protect the purity of public water. This involved the acquisition of property on the banks of the Schuylkill River in order to eliminate polluting waste that had previously been generated by various industrial sites along the river. The City's newly acquired property was dedicated to the health and enjoyment of the citizens of Philadelphia, and became known as Fairmount Park. The Fairmount Park Commission (FPC) was established by Act of the Assembly, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, March 26, 1867, Public Law 547. The practice of acquiring and preserving park land was carried forward over the entire course of the history of the FPC. The FPC operated with a single continuous mission: to preserve and protect its open space; provide opportunities for recreation; maintain the landscapes and structures, streams and woodlands that exist within the Fairmount Park System. By the time the organization was dissolved in 2010, the FPC managed approximately 9200 acres of land. The activities of the FPC were guided by the "Rules for the Government of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park," originally published May 28, 1867, and occasionally revised over the course of the organization's history. The most recent revision of the Rules was adopted on May 13, 1970.

The 1867 Act of Assembly defined the FPC as being comprised of six ex-officio members and ten citizens. The designated ex-officio members were the Mayor of Philadelphia; the President of the Select Council; the President of the Common Council; the Commissioner of City Property; the Chief Engineer and Surveyor; and the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks. In 1920 the Select Council was abolished, and thus the ex-officio seat of the President of the Select Council was eliminated. That void was filled in 1951 when the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter added the Commissioner of Recreation ex-officio seat. Other changes were made to the roster of ex-officio seats with the evolution of the City of Philadelphia's organizational structure. The final incarnation of the six ex-officio members of the FPC was comprised of the Mayor of Philadelphia; the President of City Council; the Public Property Commissioner; the Deputy Streets Commissioner; the Recreation Commissioner; and the Water Department Commissioner.

The responsibility of selecting the ten citizen members of the FPC was split between the District Court and the Court of Common Pleas. In 1874 the District Court was dissolved, and the Board of Judges of the Court of Common Pleas assumed the entire responsibility of appointing the ten citizen members of the FPC. The selection process is not guided by any formal policy.

The activities of the FPC were delineated and overseen by a group of standing committees.

By July of 2010, one hundred forty years after its inception, the FPC was officially dissolved when it became merged with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, resulting in the creation of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains various materials that document the history of the Fairmount Park, and subsequently the history of the activities of the Fairmount Park Commission. The collection also includes a good deal of contextual information, such as information on the early history of Philadelphia and its surrounding area. This collection demonstrates at once the autonomy of the Fairmount Park Commission and its integral role in the evolution of Philadelphia's urban landscape.

The Reference Collection is divided into six general components, or "series" as follows: "Annual Reports;" "Fairmount Park Commission administrative history;" "Planning, Preservation and Property Management Division grant and project files;" "History files;" "Technical reports and studies;" and "Published park maps, trail guides and campaigns."

The first series, "Annual Reports" contains fifteen linear feet of reports published by the Fairmount Park Commission, the Fairmount Park Art Association and the Art Commission (formerly Art Jury). As a group, these reports provide a detailed account of the development of the Fairmount Park System. These reports reflect the ideological trends that influenced the evolution of the Park System and the physical features that adorn Park property, such as historic structures, statuary and fountains. In addition to documenting the evolution of the Fairmount Park System, the Fairmount Park Commission Annual Reports demonstrate the morphology of the organization over time. This series would be useful to anyone researching the history of park property in Philadelphia; urban land management; organizational history; art history; and juried public art design competitions.

The "Fairmount Park Commission" subseries contains materials dating from 1867 to 1999. The first Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park was published at the end of 1869, although a special report entitled "Report of a Special Committee of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park upon the Preservation of the Purity of the Water Supply" was published in 1867. Each Annual Report published by the FPC provides a review of the organization's projects and funding allocations of funds during that year, and a statement of goals and fiscal needs for the upcoming year. There are no gaps in this collection of reports, although the FPC did not publish reports every year. Between the years 1869 and 1918 the reports were published sporadically, and summarized the activities of the FPC over a multi-year span. In 1926, after a lapse of eight years, the FPC began publishing the "Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer." The reports were published under this title until 1938, and in 1939 the title was changed to "Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park." In 1948 the reports began to follow a numerical sequence, starting with the eightieth annual report.

The "Planning, Preservation and Property Management Division grants and project files" contain recent records-management type files of ongoing or recently completed projects by this department. Files are generally within the past five to ten years, and document budgetary and design decisions which have an ongoing or lasting impact on the Fairmount Park system.

The "Fairmount Park Art Association" subseries contains reports published by that organization between the years 1872 and 1977. This organization published other material in addition to the official annual reports, such as the account entitled "Unveiling of the Equestrian Statue of Major-General George Gordon Meade, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Tuesday, October 18th, 1887." Another notable special publication of the Fairmount Park Art Association included in this collection is the fiftieth anniversary retrospective, which includes a summary of the organization's accomplishments between 1872 and 1922, and biographical sketches of organizational leaders and of artists whose works have been selected for

display in the Fairmount Park System. There are no gaps in the collection of these publications prior to 1970; however the 1973 and 1974 reports are not included in this collection.

The second series, "Fairmount Park Commission administrative history," contains three linear feet of material that is arranged into seven subseries: "Early administrative correspondence;" "Early committee reports;" "Property management files;" "Planning files;" "Financial files;" "Publications;" and "Exhibitions."

The "Early administrative correspondence" subseries contains correspondence regarding engineering activities, and land acquisition and management from 1860 to 1949. The correspondence in this series is both internal, between members of the Fairmount Park Commission, and external, to and from members of the Commission. As is typical with most organizational correspondence, the internal correspondence elucidates the functions and characteristics of the Commission, while the external correspondence demonstrates the purpose and public perception of the institution.

The "Early committee reports" subseries contains handwritten reports from 1880 to 1931. The bulk of these papers document the activities of the Committee on Land Purchases and Damages between 1900 and 1931.

The "Property management files" subseries documents decision-making activities regarding the management of Fairmount Park properties between 1937 and 2005. Acquisitions, inventories, demolition. This subseries demonstrates the policies and strategies used by the Fairmount Park Commission over time, and provides a partial inventory of Fairmount Park properties.

The four subsequent components of this series represent the activities of the Office of Management and Development (see Historical note) between 1980 and 2009. The administrative records of the Fairmount Park Commission during this period have not been collected according to a formal records management system, thus these records do not present a complete account of the activities of the organization between these years.

The "Planning files" subseries contains a wide range of Fairmount Park Commission materials dating between 1980 and 2009. The bulk of the papers are from between 1980 and 1990.

The "Financial files" subseries contains information on grants pursued by the Fairmount Park Commission between 1983 and 1999.

The "Publications" subseries contains papers related to various public information endeavors between 1989 and 2004. Materials in this subseries include newsletters, televised programs, and newspaper comic strip.

The "Exhibitions" subseries contains 1997, 1999 and 2000 flower show information.

The "History files" series contains fifty-five linear feet of information about the Fairmount Park geography and the structures, sculptures and fountains that are situated within the Fairmount Park System. Because of the massive size of the Fairmount Park System, a broad range of historical events are represented in this series, some of which are of national historical significance, such as the Battle of Germantown (1777) part of which took place in what is now the Wissahickon Valley Park; the 1876 Centennial Exposition which took place in West Fairmount Park; early auto racing (beginning in 1908), also in West Fairmount Park; and of course the early ecological improvements along the Schuylkill River.

Typical materials in the “History files” series include photo reproductions of published articles, book excerpts, scholarly/professional research and newspaper clippings. In addition to these secondary and tertiary resources, the series also includes primary materials in the form of memos and correspondence generated by/for the Fairmount Park Commission. The earliest example of the original material is a 1690 property deed signed by William Penn. At the opposite end of the timeline, the series also contains lease agreements dating from the beginning of the twenty-first century. The bulk of the materials in this series dates from the 1960s to the 1990s.

“Technical reports and studies” contains scholarly and professional studies of Parks geographies and structural features. The eleven and a half linear feet of material in this series includes historic structure reports, cultural landscape inventories, archaeological investigations and preservation evaluations. These materials are typically bound, but have not been published. Most of the materials have been created for the use of the Fairmount Park historic preservation officers, or as scholastic endeavors. In the case of the latter type of material, students have made extensive use of materials available in the “History files” series of this collection. The material in this series dates from 1975 to 2007.

The final series, "Published park maps, trail guides, and campaigns" contain largely undated materials which highlight the promotion of Fairmount Park to the public, as well as areas of interest as identified by leadership groups.

Throughout the Reference Collection, information in any particular series is complemented by information contained in each of the other series. As a whole, this collection demonstrates the history of Fairmount Park and its administrative organization, the information needs of the Fairmount Park Planning, Preservation and Development Division over time, and mid- to late-twentieth century historical research endeavors.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Fairmount Archives

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Archives with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Custodial History note

The “Reference collection” grew in response to the evolving purpose of the Fairmount Park organization. Originally, materials were collected by the Park Historian’s Office for the purpose of maintaining an historical account of the Fairmount Park Commission’s activities, and to document the historical context in which the Fairmount Park System exists. With a major organizational restructuring of the Fairmount Park Commission between 1980 and 1985, the Park Historian’s Office, and the materials in its care, began to operate under the aegis of the [Office of Information]. This shift was part of a strategic plan to increase public awareness of the Park through heightened public relations efforts. [Later,] the Division of Planning, Preservation and Property Management became the stewards of the collection, as the information in this collection was deemed to be essential to the tasks of the Division.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Cobb's Creek Park (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- East Fairmount Park (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Pennypack Park (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Philadelphia (Pa.)
- Poquessing Creek Park (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Tacony Creek Park (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- West Fairmount Park (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Wissahickon Valley Park (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Subject(s)

- Art Commission, Philadelphia.
- Centennial Exhibition (1876 : Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Fairmount Park (Philadelphia, Pa.)--History.
- Fairmount Park Art Association
- Fairmount Park Commission (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Fairmount Park Motor Race--History.
- Fairmount Park Transit Company.
- Fairmount Water Works (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Historic preservation--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.
- Historic sites--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.
- Pennypack Creek (Pa.)
- Riparian areas
- Schuylkill River (Pa.)--History.

- Urban parks
- Wissahickon Creek Valley (Pa.)--History.
- Works Progress Administration of Pennsylvania

Collection Inventory

Annual Reports 1867-1999

Arrangement note

This series is arranged into three subseries: "Fairmount Park Commission;" "Fairmount Park Art Association;" and "Art Commission." The materials in each of the three subseries are arranged chronologically.

Fairmount Park Commission 1867-1999

"Report of a Special Committee of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park upon the Preservation of the Purity of the Water Supply" 1867

	Box	Folder
Text	1	1

"Map of Farms and Lots Embraced Within the Limits of Fairmount Park as Approved for Public Use by Act of Assembly; Approved the 14th Day of April, A.D. 1868" circa 1868

	Box	Folder
Text	1	2

Fairmount Park Commission

"Map Showing the Improvements on the West-Side of the River from Girard Avenue to George's Hill and Belmont, Made from the 28th of April to the 1st of December [1869]" circa 1869

	Box	Folder
Text	1	3

"First Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" 1869

	Box	Folder
Text	1	4-26

"Second Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" 1870

	Box	Folder
Text	1	27-31

"Third Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" 1871

	Box	Folder
Text	2	1-9

"Third Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" hardbound 1871

Fairmount Park Commission

	Box	Folder
Text	2	10

"Third Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" fragment - map and three pages 1871

	Box	Folder
Text	2	11

"Fourth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" 1872

	Box	Folder
Text	2	12

"Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" 1878

	Box	Folder
Text	3	1-3

"Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" - incomplete copy 1878

	Box	Folder
Text	3	4

Fairmount Park Commission

"Report on the Acquisition of Land for Fairmount Park" 1878

	Box	Folder
Text	3	5

"Sixth Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" - paperback copies 1899

	Box	Folder
Text	3	7-8

"Sixth Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" - paperback copies, incomplete 1899

	Box	Folder
Text	3	9-13

"Sixth Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park" - hardbound copies 1899

	Box	Folder
Text	4	1-7

"Report of the Superintendent and Chief Engineer of Fairmount Park" 1906

Fairmount Park Commission

	Box	Folder
Text	4	8

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1912" 1913

	Box	Folder
Text	4	9-10

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1912" 1913

	Box	Folder
Text	5	1

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1913" 1914

	Box	Folder
Text	5	2-3

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1914" 1915

	Box	Folder
Text	5	4-5

Fairmount Park Commission

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1915" 1916

	Box	Folder
Text	5	6-7

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park [for the Years] 1912-1915" 1916

	Box	Folder
Text	6	1

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1916" 1917

	Box	Folder
Text	6	2

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1917" 1918

	Box	Folder
Text	6	3

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for 1925" 1926

Fairmount Park Commission

	Box	Folder
Text	6	4

["Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for 1926"] - draft 1927

	Box	Folder
Text	6	5

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for 1927" 1928

	Box	Folder
Text	6	6

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for 1928" 1929

	Box	Folder
Text	6	7

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for 1929" 1930

	Box	Folder
Text	6	8

Fairmount Park Commission

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for 1930" 1931

	Box	Folder
Text	6	9

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for 1931" 1932

	Box	Folder
Text	6	10

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for 1932" 1933

	Box	Folder
Text	6	11

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for 1933" 1934

	Box	Folder
Text	6	12

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for the Year 1934" [1935]

Fairmount Park Commission

	Box	Folder
Text	7	1

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for the Year 1935" 1936

	Box	Folder
Text	7	2

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for the Year 1936" 1937

	Box	Folder
Text	7	3

"Fairmount Park Annual Report of the Chief Engineer for the Year 1937" 1938

	Box	Folder
Text	7	4

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1938" [1939]

	Box	Folder
Text	7	5

Fairmount Park Commission

"Report of the Committee on Recreational Activities of the Commisioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1938" [1939]

	Box	Folder
Text	7	5

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1939" [1940]

	Box	Folder
Text	7	7

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1940" [1941]

	Box	Folder
Text	7	8

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1941" [1942]

	Box	Folder
Text	7	9

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1942" [1943]

Fairmount Park Commission

	Box	Folder
Text	8	1

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1943" [1944]

	Box	Folder
Text	8	2

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1944" [1945]

	Box	Folder
Text	8	3

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1945" [1946]

	Box	Folder
Text	8	4

"Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the Year 1946" [1947]

	Box	Folder
Text	8	5

Fairmount Park Commission

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Eightieth Annual Report [for] 1947" [1948]

	Box	Folder
Text	8	6

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Eighty-First Annual Report [for] 1948" [1949]

	Box	Folder
Text	8	7

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Eighty-Second Annual Report [for] 1949" [1950]

	Box	Folder
Text	8	8

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Eighty-Third Annual Report [for] 1950" [1951]

	Box	Folder
Text	9	1

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Eighty-Fourth Annual Report [for] 1951" [1952]

Fairmount Park Commission

	Box	Folder
Text	9	2

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Eighty-Fifth Annual Report [for] 1952" [1953]

	Box	Folder
Text	9	3

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Eighty-Sixth Annual Report [for] 1953" [1954]

	Box	Folder
Text	9	4

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Eighty-Seventh Annual Report [for] 1954" [1955]

	Box	Folder
Text	9	5

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Eighty-Eighth Annual Report [for] 1955" [1956]

	Box	Folder
Text	9	6

Fairmount Park Commission

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Eighty-Ninth Annual Report [for] 1956" [1957]

	Box	Folder
Text	9	7

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Ninetieth Annual Report [for] 1957" [1958]

	Box	Folder
Text	10	1

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Ninety-First Annual Report [for] 1958" [1959]

	Box	Folder
Text	10	2

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Ninety-Second Annual Report [for] 1959" [1960]

	Box	Folder
Text	10	3

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Ninety-Third Annual Report [for] 1960" [1961]

Fairmount Park Commission

	Box	Folder
Text	10	4

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Ninety-Fourth Annual Report [for] 1961" [1962]

	Box	Folder
Text	10	5

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Ninety-Fifth Annual Report [for] 1962" [1963]

	Box	Folder
Text	10	6

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Ninety-Sixth Annual Report [for] 1963" [1964]

	Box	Folder
Text	10	7

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Ninety-Seventh Annual Report 1964" [1965]

	Box	Folder
Text	11	1

Fairmount Park Commission

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Ninety-Eighth Annual Report 1965" [1966]

	Box	Folder
Text	11	2

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Ninety-Ninth Annual Report 1966" [1967]

	Box	Folder
Text	11	3-4

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park One Hundredth Annual Report 1967" [1968]

	Box	Folder
Text	11	5

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park One Hundred and First Annual Report 1968-1969" [1970]

	Box	Folder
Text	11	6

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park One Hundred and Second Annual Report 1969-1970" [1971]

Fairmount Park Commission

	Box	Folder
Text	11	7

"Fairmount Park Commission One Hundred and Fifth Annual Report [for] 1972 to 1973" [1974]

	Box	Folder
Text	12	1

"Fairmount Park Commission One Hundred and Sixth Annual Report [for] 1973 to 1974" [1975]

	Box	Folder
Text	12	2

"Fairmount Park Commission One Hundred and Seventh Annual Report [for] 1974 to 1975" [1976]

	Box	Folder
Text	12	3

"One Hundred Ninth Annual Report of the Fairmount Park Commission [for] 1976 to 1977" [1978]

	Box	Folder
Text	12	4

Fairmount Park Commission

"One Hundred Tenth Annual Report of the Fairmount Park Commission [for] 1977 to 1978" [1979]

	Box	Folder
Text	12	5

"One Hundred Thirteenth Annual Report of the Fairmount Park Commission [for] 1980 to 1981" [1982]

	Box	Folder
Text	12	6

"Commissioners of Fairmount Park Philadelphia One Hundred Twentieth Year Report [for] July 1986 to June 1987" [1988]

	Box	Folder
Text	12	7

"Fairmount Park Commission One Hundred Twenty-First Annual Report [for] June 1987 to July 1988" [1989]

	Box	Folder
Text	12	8

Fairmount Park Art Association

"Fairmount Park Commission One Hundred Twenty-Second Annual Report [for] July 1988 to June 1989" [1990]

	Box	Folder
Text	13	1

"Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park [for] July 1, 1990 to June 30, 1991" [1992]

	Box	Folder
Text	13	2-3

"Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park [for] July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992" [1993]

	Box	Folder
Text	13	4-5

"My Fairmount Park; Fairmount Park Commission 1997 to 1998 Annual Report" [1999]

	Box	Folder
Text	13	6-7

Fairmount Park Art Association 1872-1977

Fairmount Park Art Association

"First Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and Treasurer with an Address by the Honorable Benjamin Harris Brewster; October 15, 1872" 1872

	Box	Folder
Text	14	1

"Charter and By-Laws" 1874

	Box	Folder
Text	14	2

"Second Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1874

	Box	Folder
Text	14	3

"Third Annual Report of the Board of Trustees with Addresses of Honorable Henry C. Carey and Provost Charles J. Stille" 1875

	Box	Folder
Text	14	4-5

"Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members; October, 1875" 1876

Fairmount Park Art Association

	Box	Folder
Text	14	6-14

"Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members; Second Edition" 1876

	Box	Folder
Text	14	15-16

"Fifth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1877

	Box	Folder
Text	14	17-18

"Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1878

	Box	Folder
Text	14	19-20

"Seventh Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1879

	Box	Folder
Text	14	21

Fairmount Park Art Association

"Ninth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1881

	Box	Folder
Text	14	22

"Tenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1882

	Box	Folder
Text	14	23

"Eleventh Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1883

	Box	Folder
Text	14	24

"Twelfth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1884

	Box	Folder
Text	14	25-26

"Thirteenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1885

Fairmount Park Art Association

	Box	Folder
Text	14	27-28

"Fourteenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1886

	Box	Folder
Text	14	29-30

"Fifteenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1887

	Box	Folder
Text	14	31-32

"Unveiling of the Equestrian Statue of Major-General George Gordon Meade, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Tuesday, October 18th, 1887" [1887]

	Box	Folder
Text	14	33

"Sixteenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1888

	Box	Folder
Text	14	34-35

Fairmount Park Art Association

"Seventeenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members, Embracing the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Annual Reports" 1890

	Box	Folder
Text	14	36-37

"Nineteenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees, List of Members and Ceremonies of Unveiling of the Statue of Jeanne D'Arc" 1891

	Box	Folder
Text	15	1-2

"Twentieth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1892

	Box	Folder
Text	15	3

"Twenty-First Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1893

	Box	Folder
Text	15	4-5

"Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1894

Fairmount Park Art Association

	Box	Folder
Text	15	6

"Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" 1895

	Box	Folder
Text	15	7

"Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members" including address:
"Historic Mansions in Fairmount Park" 1896

	Box	Folder
Text	15	8

"Twenty-Fifth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members [and] Addresses" 1897

	Box	Folder
Text	15	9

"Twenty-Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and List of Members [and] Addresses" 1898

	Box	Folder
Text	15	10

Fairmount Park Art Association

"Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and the List of Members [and] Addresses" 1899

	Box	Folder
Text	15	11

"Ceremonies Incident to the Unveiling of the Equestrian Statue of Ulysses S. Grant Erected by the Fairmount park Art Association of Philadelphia, Grant Day, April 27, 1899" [1899]

	Box	Folder
Text	15	12

"Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and the List of Members [and] Addresses" 1900

	Box	Folder
Text	15	13

"Twenty-Ninth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and the List of Members" 1901

	Box	Folder
Text	15	14

Fairmount Park Art Association

"Thirtieth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and the List of Members" including the address: "The Relation of Natural to Artificial Beauty in Landscape" by Walter Cope 1902

	Box	Folder
Text	16	1

"Thirty-First Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and the List of Members" including the address: "Parkways and Monumental Thoroughfares" by Albert Kelsey 1903

	Box	Folder
Text	16	2

"Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and the List of Members Including the Formal Presentation of Cyrus E. Dallin's Statue of the 'Medicine Man' and the Address 'Who Was the Medicine Man?' by Francis LaFlesche; also the Address 'Historic Mansions in Fairmount Park' by Charles S. Keyser, Reprinted from the Twenty-Fourth Annual Report" 1904

	Box	Folder
Text	16	3

"Thirty-Third Annual Report of the Board of Trustees, Proceedings of the Thirty-Third Annual Meeting and the List of Members" 1905

	Box	Folder

Fairmount Park Art Association

Text	16	4
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Arrangement note

Early administrative correspondence

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Grant and financial information

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Fairmount Water Works research: In-house notes, drafts, image inventories

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Semi-annual grants report 2001-2002

History files 1690-2010**Arrangement note**

The "History files" series is arranged into a large number of subseries. The first fifty-eight subseries are arranged by Park, alphabetically, beginning with Allen's Lane Park and ending with Wooden Bridge Run.

The information in each of these Park subseries is organized in a uniform fashion. The material in each of the Park components, or "subseries" is first organized alphabetically by feature with any particular Park. For example, some primary subdivisions of "West Fairmount Park" subseries are "West Fairmount Park, Belmont Mansion;" "West Fairmount Park, Boelson House;" "West Fairmount Park, Chamounix Carriage House;" and "West Fairmount Park, Japanese House."

At the next level of organization, beyond park feature, is subject matter. The order of the subject matter arrangement is as follows: The first subject is general historical background information. After the historical background is background information specific to the work of the Planning Preservation and Property Management Division, including capital project preservation documentation and maintenance

Allens Lane Park

records. Lastly, administrative information is found in the form of grant applications, Park “Friends Group” communications, and institutional designations.

Allens Lane Park**Historical note**

Allens Lane Park was gifted to the City for use as a community playground by Dr. George Woodward and his wife Gertrude Houston Woodward in 1945. The building which houses the Allens Lane Art Center (ALAC) was originally used as a carriage house for a residence that once occupied the site but has since been demolished. The ALAC formed in 1953, and has since continuously hosted, through a long-term lease, day and summer camps, community theater, art classes, and art exhibitions for the Mount Airy community and the larger Philadelphia region. The Park is 6.06 acres.

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Allens Lane Art Center: renovations - electrical 1977-1979

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Allens Lane Art Center: renovations - general construction 1977-1978

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Allens Lane Art Center: renovations - mechanical and plumbing 1977-1978

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Allens Lane Tennis Facility: grants - rehabilitation and lighting 1987, 1990

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Bainbridge Green**Drawer**

Bartram's Garden

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Bainbridge Green: History - development and articles circa 1985

Bartram's Garden**Historical note**

Bartram's Garden is 27.29 acres, located in Southwest Philadelphia on the west bank of the Schuylkill River. Its boundaries are: 53rd Street to 56th Street, and from the Penn Central Railroad to the Schuylkill River. The Park was laid out and developed circa 1730 by John Bartram, America's first botanist. The house, barns and stables on the property were restored by the Fairmount Park Commission in 1925. The house is furnished and open to the public. - *One Hundred and Fifth Annual Report*, Fairmount Park Commission, 1974

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Bradford Park

Burholme Park

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Bradford Park: History - ordinance and map undated

Burholme Park**Historical note**

Burholme Park is 69.40 acres of land in the Fox Chase region of Northeast Philadelphia. The Park's boundaries are: Central Avenue to Filmore Street; and Cottman Avenue to Shelmire Street. Ryerss Mansion and the land on which it is situated is the former private home and estate of William Ryerss. The grounds were developed as a public park and the mansion was enlarged and converted into a museum and library. - *One Hundred and Fifth Annual Report*, Fairmount Park Commission, 1974

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Burholme Park, Ryerss Mansion: History - early estate and property documents circa 1890-circa 1915

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Carpenter's Woods**Historical note**

The heirs of James S. Mason and George W. Carpenter conveyed the land which is now Carpenters Woods to the City of Philadelphia in 1916. An unnamed tributary of the Wissahickon Creek flows through Carpenter's Woods. The Park also features a trail network. The Park is 40.06 acres.

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Carroll Park

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Meadow Creation Initiative bulletin [2 copies]

Carroll Park**Drawer**

Carroll Park: History - Correspondence and map 1959-1986

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Christ Church Park**Drawer**

Christ Church Park: History - articles, correspondence and pamphlets

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Christ Church Park: History - original documents 1924-1933, 1958, 1998

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Clifford Park**Historical note**

Cloverly Park

George C. Thomas's 1878 will bequeathed a house and eight acres of ground in Blue Bell Hill to the City of Philadelphia. Relatives asked in correspondence that "some name should be assigned to the property which will forever mark it as a gift of the testator," and: "This property, as you will notice was named by him, and has always been known as Clifford Park." In 1907, 40.5 acres of land known as Clifford Park became an official part of the Fairmount Park system.

Drawer

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Clifford Park: History - brief of title, deed, histories

Clifford Park, Kelter House: History - maps, publications and visual resources

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Clifford Park, Thomas Mansion: History - Thomas Estate

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Cloverly Park**Drawer**

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Cloverly Park: History - articles, excerpts and newspapers clippings

Cobb's Creek Golf Course**Cobb's Creek Golf Course****Drawer**

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Cobb's Creek Park**Drawer**

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Realia	Green	6

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Fitler Square**Fitler Square****Drawer**

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Fitler Square: History - articles 2012

Fluehr Park**Historical note**

In the eighteenth century, the property was owned by Captain John Barry, and the estate on the property was called "Eton Hall." The estate was purchased by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart in 1847 and renamed "Eden Hall." The Academy of the Sacred Heart operated until 1969. Educational facilities included living quarters, athletic fields, a grotto, a cemetery and a small English gothic chapel designed by ecclesiastical architect Frank Wills. Most of these structures were demolished in the 1980s following the rampage of a catastrophic fire on 31 January 1979. Eden Hall chapel was demolished in November 2007 after an arson fire in 2006. The school property was purchased by real estate executive Joseph C. Fluehr, Sr. for \$1.8 million in 1976, and the City established Eden Hall Park same year. The Park was renamed for Joseph C. Fluehr, Sr. in 1984. In 2007 a multi-use trail was completed. The Park is 23.69 acres.

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Fox Chase Farm**Historical note**

Fox Chase Farm is a one hundred twelve acre education and demonstration farm complex. The Park is on the National Historic Register as "Stanley". Eleven farm buildings comprise the complex. Stone bank barn dates from 1800. The Thomas Wistar, Jr. Manor House dates from 1822 with alterations and additions after 1901. The structure is presently used for offices for the farm's teaching staff. The Tenant Farmer's House was constructed in 1849, and is presently occupied by a resident farmer. The hay barn and pig house date from 1940. The Farm was leased to the School District of Philadelphia

Fox Chase Farm

which conducts day to day operations and educational program while Fairmount Park coordinates public programs and special events.

Drawer

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Fox Chase Farm: History - articles, excerpts, newsletters and newspaper clippings (2 of 2)

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Franklin Delano Roosevelt Golf Course

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Franklin Square

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Franklinton Park

Historical note

Five private companies announced creation of for-profit redevelopment company, Franklin Town Corp., in 1971 with Philip Johnson consulting on design; 1981 sculptor Athena Tacha's design for Franklin Town Park wins competition sponsored by RDA; 1991 Tacha awarded contract and Connections completed 1992; Park built by Franklin Town Corp. through RDA "percent for art" requirement and maintained out of fund supported by Franklin Town Corp., Logan Square East Corporation and private. development.

Drawer

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Franklinton Park: History - design and development documentation 1992-2007

Germany Hill

Drawer

Germany Hill; History - maps, ordinances and memo 1983-2004

Glen Foerd

Historical note

Glen Foerd park is the grounds of the former estate of Robert H. Foerderer, proprietor of successful Vici Kid leather tannery, located on the banks of Delaware River and Poquessing Creek. The Grounds were donated by Foerderer's daughter Florence Tonner to the Lutheran Church in 1974. The mansion is an original *Italinete* house constructed circa 1850. The mansion was later enlarged with classical revival additions circa 1902. Also located on the grounds a stone and wood double gate house, a two story brick carriage house with arched openings; a sixty-foot-high "water tower"; a garden house a cottage; a three-level boat house with covered deck; a garden pool; a sunken tennis court; and a life sized statue of the Foerderer family dog. Remnants of three periods of landscape design exist in the Park: from the 1850s, the turn of the century, and the 1920 landscape by Thomas Sears. The house and grounds were nominated for entrance on National Historic Register in 1979. Attempts made by the original trustees, the Lutheran Church, to dispose of the property were denied in 1980s. Following the unsuccessful attempt by the original trustees to sell the property, Glen Foerd was awarded to the City of Philadelphia in 1984 as successor trustee. This same transfer also led to the creation of Glen Foerd Conservation Corporation, which under lease with Fairmount Park, is charged with maintaining and operating the estate "for the benefit of the Torresdale Community." Glen Foerd has been made available for wedding bookings and other catered events. The newly restored main gates are to be accessible by tour busses.

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Gold Star Park

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I-95 Park**I-95 Park****Drawer**

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I-95 Park, Foglietta Plaza: History - article 2002 July 8

John Byrne Golf Course**Historical note**

John Byrne Golf Course is located at Frankford Avenue and Eden Street (9500 Leon Street). The Park is the former "Holmesburg Golf Course," which opened in 1931. In 1945, the "Holmesburg Golf Course" was converted to the "Poquessing Golf Course" and later reverted to the "Holmesburg Golf Course." The current Park was named for local politician and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commissioner John Byrne in July 1966. The "Holmesburg Golf Course" was administratively transferred from the Department of Recreation to the Fairmount Park Commission on 1 July 1972. Since 2008 the Park golf course has been operated by Billy Casper Golf, Inc.

Drawer

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John Byrne Golf Course: History - newspaper clippings and notes

John F. Kennedy Plaza**Drawer**

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Juniata Golf Corse

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Kemble Park**Drawer**

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La Noce Park

La Noce Park**Historical note**

La Noce Park is the site of the former "Wissahickon Public School." The Park was established on June 9 1984 by way of transfer to the Fairmount Park Commission. The Park is named for barber and community leader Sabatina LaNoce (d. 1980). La Noce Park is bounded by Osborne Street, Rochelle Avenue, and Kalos Street. The Park is 0.51 acres.

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Manatawna Farm**Historical note**

The eighty-five acres of Manatawna Farm were acquired by the Fairmount Park Commission in 1984 from the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center (Schuylkill Center). Half the acreage is used to grow hay for the W.B. Saul High School Animal Science Major program. The Farmhouse is occupied by the farmer who manages the agricultural land, and the Barn is used for 4-H programs. Currently, no lease exists between Fairmount Park and the Philadelphia School District for this use. A portion of site is used by the Schuylkill Center for community gardens.

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Manatawna Farm: Property - correspondence, lease and inspection 1978-1998

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Manayunk Canal**Historical note**

Manayunk Canal is part of Pennsylvania's original Schuylkill Navigation system, which is a one hundred eight mile series of dams, locks and slackwater canal segments. The canal was In operation from roughly 1818-1917. In 1978 the Towpath was reconstructed for recreation use, and in 1979 the Canal was purchased by the Fairmount Park Commission. Historic Locks "68," "69" and "70" are located within the Manayunk section. Work to dredge the Manayunk section of the canal currently in permitting (2009). The Park consists of 23.16 acres.

Drawer

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Marconi Plaza: History - deeds

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Marconi Plaza: Grants - landscape rehabilitation 1974

Matthias Baldwin Park**Drawer**

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Matthias Baldwin Park: General 2011

McMichael Park**Drawer**

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McMichael Park: History - memos, newspaper clippings and ordinance

Morris Park**Morris Park****Drawer**

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Morris Park, Bocci courts: map and description

Palmer Park**Drawer**

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Palmer Park: History - notes, ordinances and maps

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Palmer Park: Grants - landscape rehabilitation 1990-1993

Pastorius Park**Historical note**

Partially bequested to Fairmount Park by Dr. George Woodward in 1915, this open and passive park features a man-made pond and open-air theater. A small tributary of Cresheim Creek borders the park. As per City ordinance the land was “dedicated” to Francis Daniel Pastorius (1651-1720), the German immigrant who founded Germantown after negotiating the purchase of land for the German settlement from William Penn in 1683. The Park is 16.62 acres.

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Walnut Lane Golf Course**Historical note**

The land that is now the Walnut Lane Golf Course was acquired by the Fairmount Park Commission in 1870. The Walnut Lane Golf Course was designed by noted golf course architect Alex Findlay. Work began in 1935 and completed in 1940 utilizing WPA labor. The Park opened formally in May 1940. The Clubhouse was constructed in 1963. The course is now managed by Impact Services Corporation which

Washington Square

has a one year lease. In May 2009, the Fairmount Park Commission approved a five year lease with a possible four year renewal. The Park consists of 94.98 acres.

Drawer

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Walnut Lane Golf Course: History - excerpts, notes and newspaper clippings

Washington Square**Drawer**

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Magazine article "Some Schoolgirls and a Philadelphia Vision," Life 35(20), 71-72, November 16 1953. Located in Scrapbook Collection, box "1951-1954."

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Also Known as "Eaglesfield"

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Wissahickon Valley Park**Historical note**

Wissahickon Valley Park

Wissahickon Valley Park was acquired by the Fairmount Park Commission in 1867. Wissahickon Creek, a tributary of the Schuylkill River, flows twenty one miles through Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties. The Park encompasses 1835 acres and has been a site of settlement since the seventeenth century. The Fairmount Park Commission began acquiring parcels along the length of the Wissahickon in 1868 for the purity of the City river supply. Eventually, the Park extended from the confluence point at the Schuylkill River out to Montgomery County in the Fort Washington Extension added 1915 (which was later transferred to Commonwealth). The Park is one of the first areas to have been designated as a National Natural Landmark (1966). Wissahickon Valley Park is the site of numerous historic properties, public art, WPA structures, historic bridges and distinctive landforms. Currently, the Park consists of 1835.44 acres.

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This structure has been demolished.

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Fairmount Park System**Arrangement note**

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	Shelf	Drawer
Realia	Green	6

Drawer

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Text	Green	7

Drawer

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