

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Keney Park

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number See Section 7 continuation sheet(s) ☐ not for publication

city or town Hartford ☐ vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06112

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Keney Park
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

☐	private
☒	public - Local
☐	public - State
☐	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

☐	building(s)
☐	district
☒	site
☐	structure
☐	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	6	buildings
3		sites
3	5	structures
		objects
13	11	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape-Park

Recreation and Culture-Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape-Park

Recreation and Culture-Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone, brick, concrete

walls: Stone, wood, concrete

roof: Asphalt

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheet (s).

Narrative Description

See continuation sheet (s).

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1894-1961

Significant Dates

1895

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and Francis Goodwin

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

See continuation sheet(s)

Period of Significance (justification)

See continuation sheet (s).

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

See continuation sheet (s).

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See continuation sheet (s).

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See continuation sheet (s).

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See continuation sheet (s).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 694 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18N 692051 4629825
Zone Easting Northing

3 18N 693586 4629866
Zone Easting Northing

2 18N 693544 4631400
Zone Easting Northing

4 18N 692009 4631359
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheet (s).

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
See continuation sheet (s).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Todd Jones, student intern

organization Hartford Preservation Alliance

date _____

street & number 56 Arbor Street, Suite 406

telephone (860) 570 0331

city or town Hartford

state CT

zip code _____

e-mail info@hartfordpreservation.org

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Keney Park

City or Vicinity: Hartford

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Todd Jones

Date Photographed: August 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: See continuation sheet(s)

1 of 38

The West Open from the tennis courts, showing the open field, walking path, and baseball field

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Park road in the West Open section

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The West Open from the pond, looking towards Overlook Hill

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View from Overlook Hill looking at West Open

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Keney Park pool visible at center, and pool house visible at left in West Open

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Keney Park pool house in the West Open

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Rear of Keney Park pond house (323 Edgewood Street)

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Front of pond house (323 Edgewood Street) and parking lot

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Keney Park pond and decking features

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Keney Park pond

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Footbridge over the pond

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Park pond and gazebo

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Sculpture in West Open entitled "Family," by Karen Petersen (2004)

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Footbridge in West Open over tributary of the pond

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Woodland Street gateway

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Ebony Horsewomen and Hartford Mounted Patrol stables and maintenance barns

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Gully Brook (center) in Bushland section

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Currently unused roadway through Bushland

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Bushland sports fields and modern concession stand

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Remnants of former structure associated with Sherwood Forest Zoo

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Barbour Street gateway

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Golf course maintenance barn

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Golf course maintenance barn

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Golf cart and maintenance storage building

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Front of golf course clubhouse

26 of 38

Rear of golf course clubhouse

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Golf course and putting green

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Golf course

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Park roadway in Ten Mile Woods section

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Concrete bridge in East Open traversing Midvale Stream

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US Interstate 91 bridge traversing park road

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Windsor Street gateway

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Entertainment facility in Ten Mile Woods and East Open sections

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East Open section, with cricket field visible

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Cricket field and viewing stand

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Midvale Stream in East Open

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Midvale Stream and portion of the Gorge under the US Interstate 91 bridge in East Open

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Park roadway in Ten Mile Woods

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Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town _____

state _____

zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Overview:

Keney Park consists of 694 total acres, with 584 located in the city of Hartford and 110 in the neighboring town of Windsor, Connecticut, both within Hartford County, Connecticut. Located in a mostly residential section of Hartford known as the North End, Keney Park's surrounding neighborhoods consist of multi-family homes, constructed in the first half of the twentieth century. The park has a number of entrances, with three historic gateways at Windsor Avenue, Barbour Street, and Woodland Street.

The company of Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot, based in Brookline, Massachusetts, designed Keney Park. The original plan was intended as a rural park, characterized by rolling pastures and woodlots. Structures were not encouraged within the original design, but if built, they would appear rustic and rural in appearance. The park is roughly the shape of a crescent moon; it is more than three and a half miles in total length, and measures slightly more than a mile in width. According to historical plans, the park was designed in four sub-sections: the West Open, Bushland, the Ten Mile Woods, and the East Open.

West Open

The West Open is bounded by Ridgefield Street to the west, Holcomb Street to the north, Vine Street to the east, and Greenfield Street to the south. This section has already been included within the Upper Albany National Register Historic District (September 29, 1986). The West Open consists of the park's only pond, included in the park's original plan, variously referred to as Turtle Pond, Waltermere (after Walter Keney), or simply The Pond (see Photograph 10). The accompanying Pond House was constructed in 1925 in a rustic appearance fitting with the Olmsteds' ideas by architect Russell F. Barker (see Photographs 7 and 8). A number of modern decking structures, a gazebo, a sculpture, and a metal footbridge built in the early twenty-first century surround the pond, which allows easier public access and enjoyment to the natural features (see Photographs 9, 11, 12, and 13). The West Open also has the park's highest hill, 160 foot Overlook Hill (see Photographs 3 and 4). The section's main entrance is the

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Woodland Street gateway, an ornate stone and metal gate measuring 250 feet in length and costing \$13,000 to complete in 1902. It was designed by architect Benjamin W. Morris in a classical and Beaux- Arts fashion. Sculptor Carl Conrad created two bronze relief panels on the structure's stone pillars (see Photograph 15).

A number of recreational playing fields and facilities, including the pool and bathhouse, constructed in 1957 by architect Frederick C. Teich (see Photographs 5 and 6), and hardball, tennis, and basketball courts, are included in the West Open. These additions to the park represent the changing ideas of recreation through the twentieth century (see Section 8). They are not necessarily in accord with the park's original natural plan, but construction of the facilities was largely confined to the periphery. As intended by the Olmsteds, the large open fields of the West Open appear as rural and natural today as they did in the late nineteenth century (see Photographs 1, 3, and 4). Mature woodlots separate the park's open fields from the busy streets nearby, as intended in the original plan. The park roads meander around the periphery, and contain no straight lines as dictated by the Olmsted plan (see Photograph 2).

Bushland

Bushland is bounded by Vine Street and development along Coventry Street to the west, Tower Avenue to the north, Waverly Street to the east, and Westland Street to the south. It is connected by park road to the West Open, via Vine Street. The section is traversed east-west by Love Lane, a city road, and Gully Brook (see Photograph 17). As the name implies, relatively poor soil has historically made this section home to small shrubs and bushes, all of which were intended to grow in an untamed manner, presenting a sharp contrast to the open pastures of the West Open. Presently, the section has lost much of its shrub character to mature woodlots. The main park road (running north-south) has also been closed for many years to traffic, and is overgrown in many places with weeds and overgrowth (see Photograph 18). An open area of the section, along Waverly Street and adjacent to a city elementary school, features a number of modern recreational facilities, such as baseball fields, playscapes, and basketball courts. There is also a modern concession stand, built circa 2004 (see Photograph 19). As with the West Open, these facilities do not fit the Olmsteds' plan, but have been regulated to the park's

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edge, thus preserving the section's overall integrity.

Ten Mile Woods and East Open

Park roads connect Bushland to the next sections across Tower Avenue to the north: Ten Mile Woods and East Open, which are actually interconnected. Ten Mile Woods is bounded by development to the west, Matianuck State Park in Windsor to the north, the East Open to the east, and Tower Avenue to the south. This section had been named prior to park construction, and is characterized by woodlots of assorted tree species, such as oak, hemlock, and pine, many of which have now matured to over a century in age. This section features the Barbour Street gateway, constructed circa 1902 and designed in a rustic fashion by Keney Park superintendent George Parker. Like spokes on a wheel, three park roads pass through this semi-circular stone gate (see Photograph 21).

The park roads of this section, like the others, follow the original Olmsted roadways. They are exclusively curving in design, and in many places feature built-up mounds adjacent the road sides, as intended by the Olmsteds to hide passing traffic (see Photographs 29 and 38). In August 1963, a city zoo known as Sherwood Forest opened in the Ten Mile Woods, just off Barbour Street along Tower Avenue. The zoo closed in 1976, and only trace elements of it remain in the thick woods today, with the most easily visible structure being a dilapidated pavilion (see Photograph 20). Considering the section's size, it is by far the most preserved area of the park, in accordance with the original plan. As intended, the mature woodlots remain, and the section features only a handful of modern recreational facilities confined to the park edge.

The East Open is bounded by the Ten Mile Woods to the east, Matianuck State Park and Northwood Cemetery (Soldiers Field) in Windsor to the north, Windsor Avenue and development to the east, and development along Tower Avenue to the south. This section is traversed by Midvale Stream (see Photograph 36), and US Interstate 91 (see Photograph 31). Originally built in 1953 by the Brunalli Construction Company, and later modified, the 285 foot I-91 bridge crosses over Keney Park just inside of the Windsor Street entrance and across Midvale Stream and a rocky cliff feature known as the Gorge (see Photograph 37). The brick and stone Windsor Street gateway is contemporary with the Woodland

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Street gateway, being designed in 1902 by the same architect, Benjamin W. Morris, in a Beaux-Arts style featuring four granite pavilions (see Photograph 32). Keney Park's two historical cricket fields sit in an open area of the East Open known as Vista Valley (see Photographs 34 and 35). Apart from a few modern recreational facilities, such as basketball courts, this section, like the Ten Mile Woods, remains remarkably close to the Olmsted's original designs.

The Keney Park Golf Course is partially located in the Ten Mile Woods and the East Open, but most of it exists within park land in the neighboring town of Windsor, a section not even in the original Olmsted plan. The 120-acre golf course was designed by Devereaux Emmet and features eighteen holes, with the first nine completed by 1927 and the last nine done by 1930 (see Photographs 27 and 28). The golf clubhouse was designed by architects H. Hilliard Smith and Roy D. Bassette in a rustic Tudor fashion, appropriate to the park's overall character (see Photographs 25 and 26). It was completed in 1934 as a Great Depression project of the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), precursor to the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Stone for the building came from the recently-demolished US Post Office which stood immediately adjacent the Old State House downtown. Golf maintenance work was confined to a vernacular barn, likely built in the late nineteenth century and possibly pre-dating the existence of the park, across the park road from the clubhouse (see Photographs 22 and 23).

Inventory of Contributing Structures:

West Open

Woodland Street Gateway

Classical and Beaux Arts Gateway, 1902. Benjamin W. Morris, architect. Carl Conrad, sculptor. 1-story, stone gateway with wrought iron fencing. Two bronze plaques, one featuring a bas relief of Henry Keney, adorn twin stone pillars.

Pond House

Rustic Dance Hall and Amusements Building, 1925. Russell F. Barker, architect. 1-story frame building with hipped roof and full-length open front porch. Interior used for dances and public gatherings; has exposed wooden ceilings and beams.

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- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Hardball Court | <i>Recreational Facility</i> , c. 1940s. Concrete-construction hardball court and wall, surrounded by chain-link fence. |
| Road System | <i>Paved roadway</i> , c. 1896. Olmsted Brothers, architects. Looping road system tracing park's perimeter. Current blacktop pavement cover dates to mid- and late-20 th century, using original road courses. |
| Stone Bridge | <i>Stone footbridge</i> , c. early 20 th century. 15 foot wide stone footbridge located between Pond House and pool. Features two, 3 foot diameter circular openings for water flow (see Photograph 14). |
| Stone and Concrete Bridge | <i>Stone footbridge</i> , c. early 20 th century. 5 foot wide stone and concrete footbridge traversing small pond tributary. |
| Bushland | |
| Road System | <i>Paved roadway</i> , c. 1896. Olmsted Brothers, architects. Single, straight road traversing park via Love Lane to Tower Avenue. Current blacktop pavement cover dates to mid- and late-20 th century, using original road course. |
| Ten Mile Woods and East Open | |
| Keney Park Golf Course | <i>Golf Course</i> , 1927-1930. Devereaux Emmet, landscape architect. 120-acre, 18-hole municipal golf course with bent grass greens. Varied terrain with gradual elevation change of 70 feet over length. |
| Golf Clubhouse | <i>Rustic Tudor Clubhouse</i> , 1934. H. Hillard Smith and Roy D. Bassette, architects. Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and Civil Works Administration (CWA), builders. 1 ½-story, stone and brick public golf course clubhouse with pitched roof and two cross-gable projections. Large masonry chimneys are at each end of building. |
| Golf Course Maintenance Barn | <i>Vernacular Barn and Garage</i> , c. late 19 th century. 1 ½-story frame barn with pitched roof and six garage door bays. Has wood siding in vertical fashion. Structure may pre-date the park. |
| Windsor Avenue Gateway | <i>Beaux-Arts Gateway</i> , 1902. Benjamin W. Morris, architect. 1-story stone and brick, open-air gateway entrance. Consists of four granite pavilions arranged in a semi-circle, with single park road traversing |

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through center.

Barbour Street Gateway

Rustic Gateway, c. 1902. George A. Parker, architect. Stone-wall gateway, arranged in semi-circle, with three park roads traversing through it at equal intervals.

Road System

Paved roadway, c. 1896. Olmsted Brothers, architects. Looping road system tracing park's perimeter with two interior connecting roads. Current blacktop pavement cover dates to mid- and late-20th century, using original road courses.

Cricket Fields

Recreational Facilities, c. early 20th century. Two grass cricket fields.

Inventory of Non-Contributing Structures

West Open

Pool and Bath House

Contemporary Building, 1957. Frederick C. Teich, architect. 1-story brick building adjacent to concrete, in-ground pool. Historically significant as a demonstration of changing park usage during the 20th century.

Tennis Courts

Recreational Facilities, c. mid-20th century. Ten adjacent tennis courts, surrounded by chain-link fences; concrete slab construction. Condition is wanting; courts are overgrown with weeds and appear to have been unused for many years.

Parking Lots

Automobile Facilities, c. mid-20th century. Three blacktop paved parking lots.

Playscapes

Recreational Facilities, c. late-20th century. Three metal-construction children's playscapes; painted in assorted bright colors.

Water Spray Fountains

Recreational Facilities, c. late-20th century. Two flat, circular-shaped concrete fountains with central water spout.

Basketball Courts

Recreational Facilities, c. late-20th century. Two concrete slab basketball courts; nets and backboards attached to arched concrete

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poles.

Gazebo

Recreational Facility, c. 2004. Plastic and steel open gazebo with topping cupola.

Decking Platforms

Recreational Facilities, c. 2004. Plastic, wood, and metal decking platforms located adjacent and over the pond. System of three units surrounding pond and connected by walking path

Steel Footbridge

Footbridge, c. 2004. Steel arched truss footbridge with wood-board platform over pond.

Family Sculpture

Contemporary stone sculpture, 2004. Karen Petersen, artist. Entitled, "Family," this is Keney Park's only sculpture and depicts the theme of family unity with a mother, father, and son in loving embrace.

Baseball Field

Recreational Facility, c. mid-20th century. Grass baseball field with metal backdrop.

Mounted Police Barns

Wood frame vernacular barn and maintenance buildings, c. late 20th century. Located on former location of sheepfold, three modern barn structures house the Hartford Police Department's mounted units and the Ebony Horsewomen non-profit organization (see Photograph 16).

Nature Trail

Recreational Facility, c. late 20th century. Dirt, gravel, and paved nature trail circumvents pond, features various small informational signs that identify tree types.

Bushland

Parking Lots

Automobile Facilities, c. mid-20th century. Three blacktop paved parking lots; two have been abandoned for many years and are overgrown with weeds.

Playscapes

Recreational Facilities, c. late-20th century. Three metal-construction children's playscapes; painted in assorted bright colors.

Water Spray Fountain

Recreational Facility, c. late-20th century. One flat, circular-shaped concrete fountain with central water spout.

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Basketball Courts	<i>Recreational Facilities</i> , c. late-20 th century. Three concrete slab basketball courts; nets and backboards attached to arched concrete poles.
Concession Stand	<i>Contemporary concession stand</i> , c. 2004. One-floor, concrete-block concession stand with membrane roof covering; gable roof.
Baseball Fields	<i>Recreational Facilities</i> , c. late-20 th century. Dirt and grass baseball fields with metal backdrops, surrounding chain-link fences, and modern spectator bleachers.
Ten Mile Woods and East Open	
Tennis Courts	<i>Recreational Facilities</i> , c. mid-20 th century. Two tennis courts, surrounded by chain-link fences; concrete slab construction.
Parking Lots	<i>Automobile Facilities</i> , c. mid-20 th century. Four blacktop paved parking lots.
Golf Cart Garage	<i>Contemporary Garage</i> , c. late 20 th century. Single-floor wood frame garage with two garage bay doors. Asphalt-shingle covered gable roof (see Photograph 24).
Steel Footbridge	<i>Steel footbridge</i> , c. late-20 th century. Steel-truss footbridge; 4 feet wide with wood-board platform.
Nature Trail	<i>Recreational Facility</i> , c. late 20 th century. Dirt and gravel nature trail.
Water Spray Fountain	<i>Recreational Facility</i> , c. late-20 th century. One flat, circular-shaped concrete fountain with central water spout.
Basketball Court	<i>Recreational Facility</i> , c. late-20 th century. One concrete slab basketball court; nets and backboards attached to arched concrete poles.
Utility Shed	<i>Contemporary utility shed</i> , c. late 20 th century. One-floor masonry and concrete utility shed with two metal doors, located between cricket fields. Hipped roof with asphalt shingles.
Concrete Automobile Bridge	<i>Automobile Bridge</i> , c. mid-20 th century. Located immediately west

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of the I-91 bridge and Windsor Street Gate, along park road;
traverse stream (see Photograph 30).

I-91 Highway Bridge

Highway Bridge, c. 1980s. Double-span metal highway bridge with concrete piers. Carries US Interstate 91 north- and south-bound traffic over park road and stream.

Performance Pavilion

Contemporary Pavillion, c. 1980s. One-floor, concrete brick pavilion and maintenance shelter. Hipped roof with membrane cover (see Photograph 33).

Pavilion

Pavilion, c. 1960s. One-story, open metal pavilion and ticket booth, both with gable roofs. Abandoned structures surrounded by decades-worth of foliage and brush.

Cricket Field Viewing Stands

Recreational Facilities, c. late-20th century. Two metal pavilion covers over aluminum bleachers, anchored on concrete piers.

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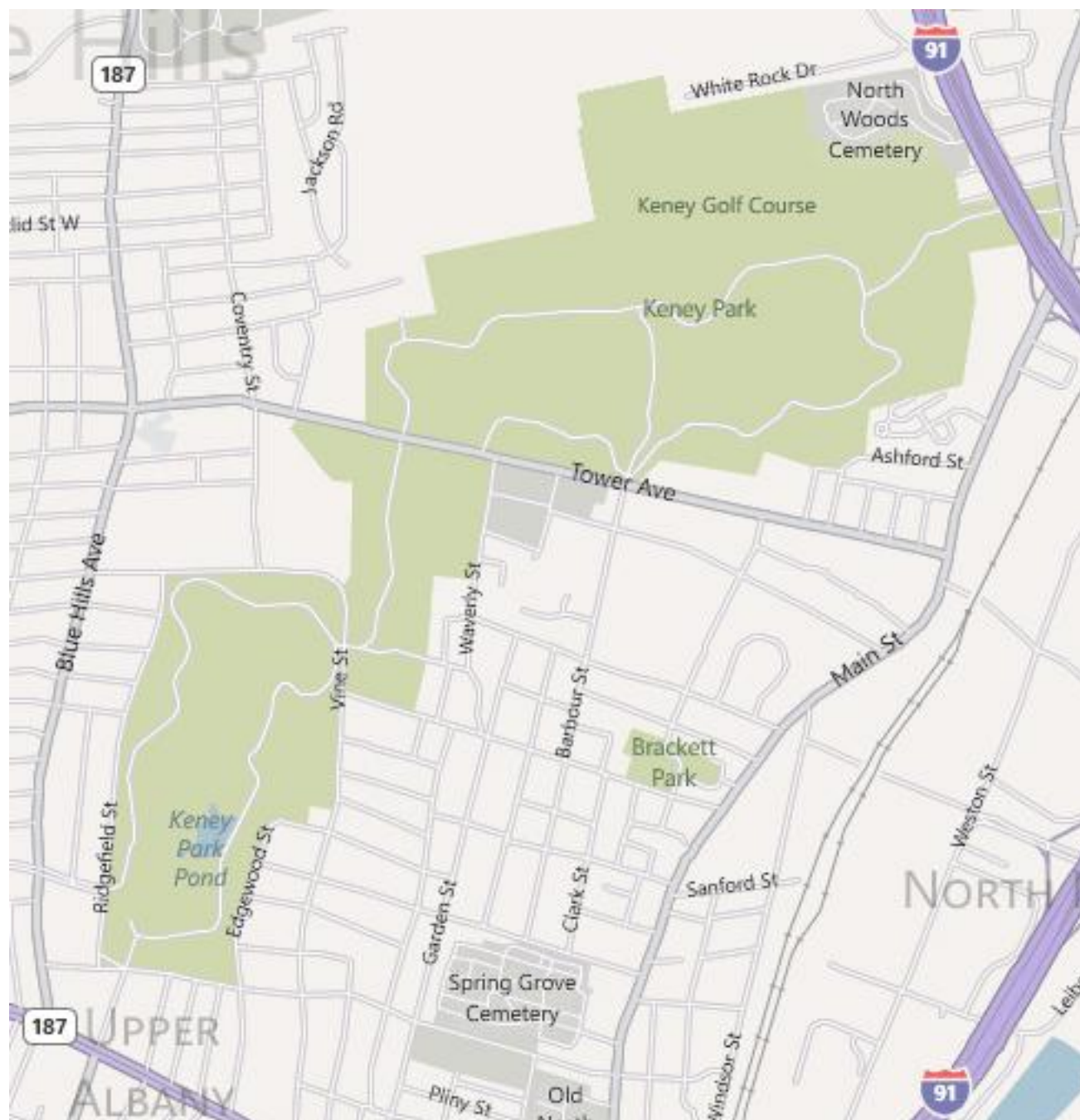
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Map depicting modern outline of park



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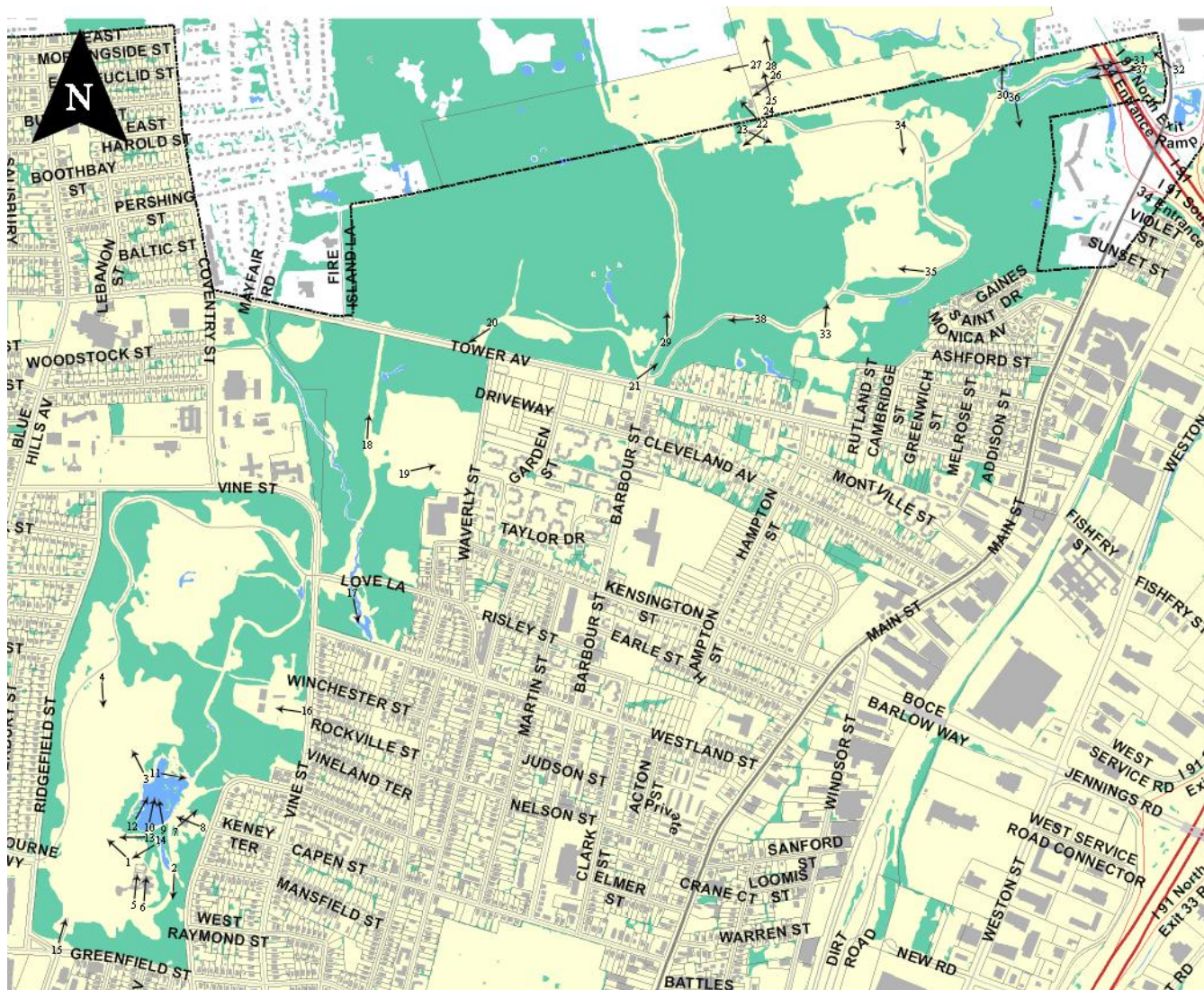
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Map depicting locations of photographs



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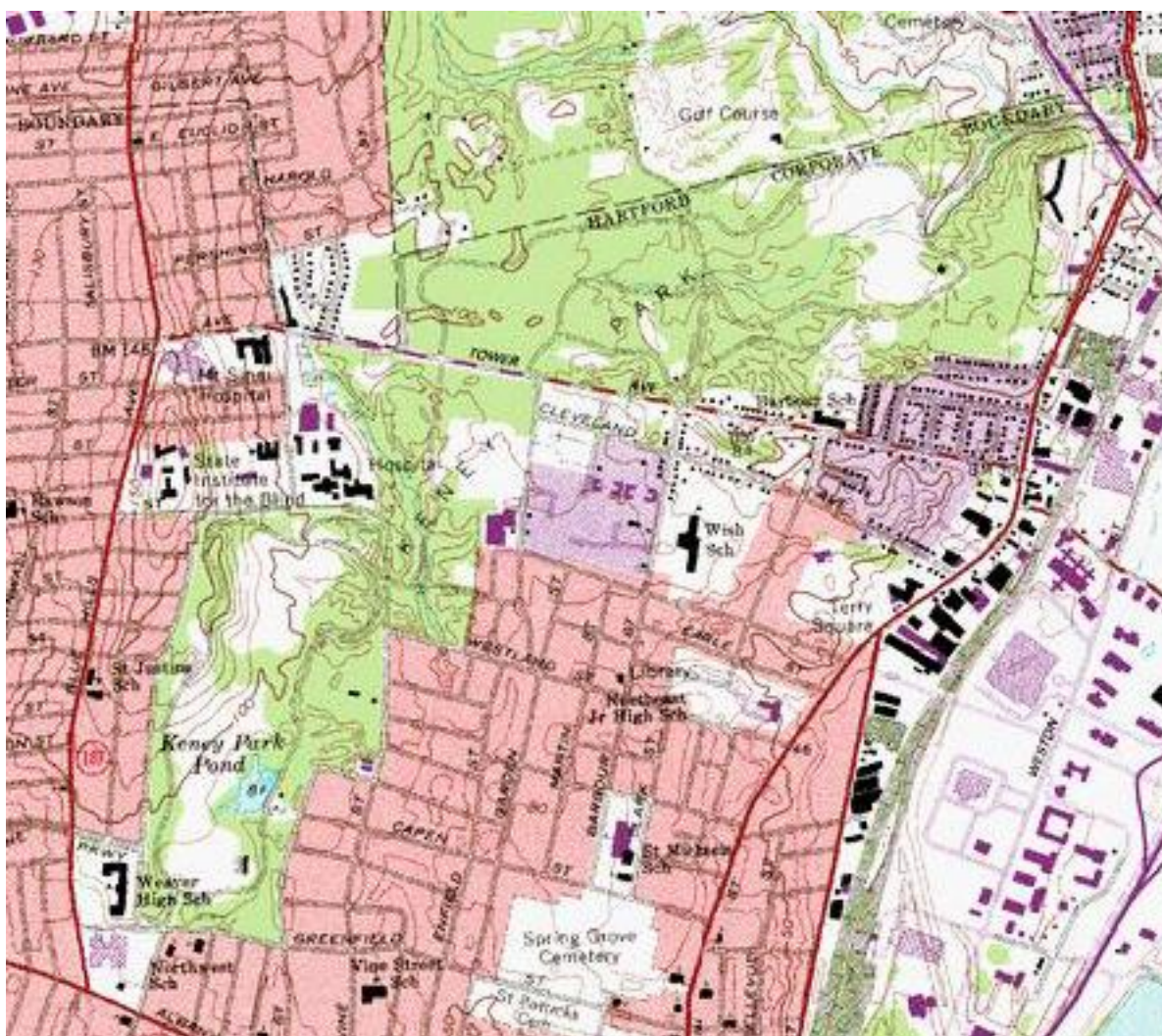
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Modern topographic map



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Summary Statement of Significance

Keney Park was the creation of the Reverend Francis Goodwin, a highly-respected Hartford citizen who helped form the city's nationally-recognized park system. The park was designed by the internationally-known Olmsted firm, with Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. playing a role in its development (Criterion C, Local). Many significant local leaders also had a hand in the development of Keney Park, including progressive reformer George Parker, and his son Andrew. Andrew Parker later became Connecticut's first superintendent of state parks. On the community level, Keney Park also influenced the lives of those who lived in the residential communities surrounding the park. Jewish residents held religious celebrations at the site, in addition to everyday recreation and entertainment.

As the first superintendent of Keney Park, and later superintendent of all Hartford parks, George Parker was fully aware of the social reforms sweeping the nation during the Progressive Movement of the early twentieth century, and applied those ideas at Keney. Progressive reformers strove to preserve what they viewed as the quickly-disappearing traditional elements of America, such as personal health, urban cleanliness, and the Protestant-based rural life. The Conservation Movement, which sought preservation of open land and vistas such as Keney Park for personal refinement, also connected to this theme. And, as the Conservation Movement attempted to present an idealized natural America, the contemporary City Beautiful Movement attempted to present an idealized urban America, characterized by grand, classically-inspired architecture. By echoing the classics, and emphasizing personal refinement, the progressive reformers hoped to make a more enlightened, democratic citizenry. In Hartford, particularly through people like George Parker, Keney Park became a major expression of this era of reform.

Historic Context:

Background

As a boy, Frederick Law Olmsted, born in Hartford in 1822, often hiked in a remote area near the Hartford-Windsor border known as the Ten Mile Woods, an area integrated into Keney Park by century's end.¹ Through the following decades, Olmsted became America's premier landscape architect.

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Regarding parks, historian John Alexopoulos says Olmsted “believed in the intrinsic value of parks and open ground in what he saw as a nurturing of democracy, a banishment of crudeness and in the beneficial mixing of all kinds of people in this common meeting ground.”² In 1853, Olmsted’s designs for New York City’s Central Park reflected his vision of a public space, since it established a centrally-located green space for urban residents to mix not only with each other, but with nature as well. In that same year, Hartford established the first municipally-funded park in the nation, Bushnell Park. Thus, with Olmsted and his birth city now taking the lead, the American Park Movement commenced. No longer would unplanned communal cattle greens, parade grounds, and other primarily functional uses define outdoor public spaces. This new movement ushered in an era when cities paid professionals to design landscapes, such as Central Park, with the express purpose of public refinement and enjoyment in the planned public spaces.³

For Hartford, Bushnell Park came into being through the tireless efforts of Horace Bushnell, a local minister. Through the 1850s, he convinced the city’s Common Council to adopt the novel idea of a public park, and also to acquire the necessary land. He was instrumental in the search for a proper landscape architect to design his vision, finally deciding on Jacob Weidenmann.⁴ The park featured an existing river, known eventually and appropriately as the Park River; and had open fields, a variety of trees, and pleasant walks. Bushnell himself described Hartford’s central park which took his name as “a place where the children will play and the poor invalid go to breathe the freshness of nature; a place for holiday scenes and celebrations;...where high and low, rich and poor, will exchange looks and make acquaintance through the eyes; an out-door parlor, opened for the cultivation of good manners and a right social feeling. It must be a place of life and motion that will make us more completely conscious of being one people.”⁵ These words could have come from Olmsted himself, who, incidentally, had attended lectures given by Bushnell while growing up in Connecticut.⁶

As one of the nation’s great industrial cities, Hartford grew rapidly around Bushnell Park, just as New York grew around its Central Park, during the rest of the nineteenth century. Hartford’s population rose from just over 13,000 in 1850 to nearly 80,000 by 1900, with much of the growth coming from immigrants. Throughout the Victorian era, the city’s foreign-born population held steady at around thirty percent of the population.⁷ Most people came to Hartford to find work at one of the many large

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manufacturing companies which called the city home, including Colt's Patent Firearms and Pope Manufacturing. Hartford became known throughout the nation for the precision production of sewing machines, typewriters, firearms, machine tools, bicycles, and eventually even automobiles before the century's end. Factories were located throughout the city, but were often concentrated in particular areas, such as the Capitol Avenue corridor.

Yet, with this growth in population and industry came overcrowding and pollution. The Connecticut River soon became too polluted to continue serving as the city's main source of drinking water, and even the Park River soon became the "Hog" River on account of industrial waste.⁸ Hartford was fast outgrowing its relatively compact "walking city" footprint, which was traditionally centered on State House Square and the waterfront. Construction of new housing and factories increasingly occurred much farther out from the city, and an expanding trolley system allowed some people to live miles away. According to historian Kenneth T. Jackson, "the electric streetcar was vital in opening up the suburbs for the common man," as thousands took advantage of cheap fares, quick rides, and low land and home values in the new suburbs to escape the over-polluted and overcrowded city core.⁹ Bushnell Park was becoming too small and too far away from the city's growing suburbs to adequately serve all the city's residents.

According to Jackson, by the end of the nineteenth century this new streetcar suburb layout "had clearly emerged as the center of the American urban society."¹⁰ In Olmsted's view, the purpose of parks went beyond passive recreation, providing the populace with nurturing elements of natural beauty, and helped make people enhanced democratic citizens.¹¹ Parks provided citizens with a patch of peaceful rural greenery, and served as an oasis of fresh air and quiet in the bustling city. Instead of "central parks," Olmsted began designing systems of interconnected public spaces on the city periphery, to allow easier and more varied public access for the modern age of trolley users. For example, in Boston during the late nineteenth century, Olmsted planned a massive network of parks and parkways referred to as the "Emerald Necklace," which surrounded the city with a ring of green space and provided equal geographic access for all residents.¹² In the 1870s, he wanted to see such a system applied to Hartford, and outlined a few basic land areas that he thought the city should purchase for future conversion into park land.¹³ Yet, it was not until the 1890s that Hartford began to build a system as Olmsted

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envisioned.¹⁴

Olmsted's ideas fit well into the Progressive Movement, which swept the nation from the 1890s to the 1920s. Historian Richard Hofstadter refers to this period as the "age of reform," created essentially as a response to the fundamental transformation that American then found itself; when new immigrants were pouring in, deadly labor strikes were occurring, factory pollution was rampant, and automobiles, airplanes, and electricity all made their remarkable debut. "Traditional" America as it had existed for decades was now seen by many, such as Olmsted, George Parker, Jacob Riis and Jane Addams as something endangered that had to be saved.¹⁵

It was a nostalgic and conservative dream, based on Jeffersonian traditions and the Protestant work ethic, essentially the "American dream" in a not-yet-fully-realized form. The idea of the independent farmer as espoused by Jefferson's idealized agrarianism had appealed to Olmsted, who even signed some of his antebellum social commentaries under the pseudonym "Yeoman;" and it was an undercurrent theme among other progressive reformers who yearned for the democratic and rural ideals of the founding generation.¹⁶ Under the pressures of contemporary urban issues, such as overcrowding, sanitation, and immigration, reformers enjoyed harkening back to an era that appeared simpler, natural, and, in their minds, more genuinely American.

The progressives sought to reform what they viewed as America's major problems. They were concerned with issues of health, law, morality, family, education, and tradition. From this movement spawned the related City Beautiful Movement, which peaked during the first decade of the twentieth century, and, according to historian William H. Wilson, "saw middle- and upper-middle-class Americans attempt to refashion their cities into beautiful, functional entities. Their effort involved a cultural agenda, middle-class environmentalism, and aesthetics expressed as beauty, order, system, and harmony."¹⁷ Historian Alexander von Hoffman notes "the large-scale physical elements typically associated with the City Beautiful included Olmsted-style parks, circulation systems with imposing boulevards or graceful parkways, and civic centers of monumental neoclassical architecture."¹⁸ As reflected through parks and architecture, the movement was a manifestation of how Americans at the time viewed their nation's standing and future: grand, organized, beautiful, and civic.

Also during this time, Americans found a new environmental conscious, born out of the

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seemingly unnatural life of overcrowding, dirty, smelly cities. According to Thomas J. Schlereth, “a coalition of middle-class Americans whom historians have identified as part of a ‘back-to-nature’ movement” pushed for the creation of large national parks and the conservation of wilderness. Schlereth says the movement “valued nature’s spiritual impact above its utilitarian significance.”¹⁹ Victorian urban dwellers yearned for a hint of rural pleasantness. Out of this mix of turn-of-the-century urban reformers, who sought cleanliness, healthy fresh air, the simplicity of rural life, and the instilment of civic virtue for all Americans, Hartford soon saw the “Rain of Parks” and the creation of Keney Park.

“The Rain of Parks” (1894-1895)

Born to one of Hartford’s founding families in 1839, the Reverend Francis Goodwin died in 1923 as one of the city’s most beloved citizens, with the *Hartford Courant* noting that “it is largely as a result of his interest and endeavors that Hartford received its reputation as a city of beautiful parks.”²⁰ On account of the Goodwin family’s vast financial holdings, Francis could direct his energy towards more philanthropic efforts in life. Goodwin gained an interest in landscape architecture, and soon wanted to emulate in Hartford the grand public estates he had seen in Europe and Boston’s “Emerald Necklace.” With a seat on the Board of Park Commissioners (the Park Board) in the 1880s, Goodwin had an official channel to make his dreams a reality.²¹

Goodwin’s greatest and quickest success for the parks came during what later Superintendent of Parks George Hollister referred to as the “Rain of Parks,” a time from 1894 to 1895 when the city gained the land for most of its large parks (parks “rained” on the city).²² It helped that Francis, as a Goodwin, was either friends or direct relatives with much of Hartford’s powerful elite (he was the first cousin of J.P. Morgan). He convinced Charles M. Pond, who had no children, to bequeath his West End estate, Elizabeth Park (named in honor of Pond’s wife), to the city. Wealthy industrialist Albert Pope also believed in Goodwin’s plan, and donated land near his factories in the southwest section of the city to form Pope Park. Similarly, Elizabeth Colt, wife of the late Samuel Colt, agreed to leave the land in the South End, now Colt Park, to the city to create a park. Goodwin also had the Park Board secure the purchase of land for two additional sites, one of which eventually took the Reverend’s name.²³

Goodwin acquired over one thousand acres of land during the Rain of Parks, the largest portion

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of which came from Henry Keney, who donated land and money for future acquisitions which would eventually result in a park of over six hundred acres in Hartford's North End.²⁴ Since 1830, Henry and his brother Walter Keney had operated a prosperous grocery store, H. & W. Keney, near the corner of Main Street and Albany Avenue. Neither brother had children, so when Henry prepared his will he turned to his cousin-by-marriage: Francis Goodwin.²⁵ The Reverend told Henry, "You have no children to carry on your name. But if you give Hartford a beautiful park, your name will be spoken by someone every day of the year."²⁶ Henry, who had become the final patriarch of the Keney family by the 1890s, decided to use his wealth in the philanthropic way suggested by Goodwin, allowing the family farm to become the basis for Keney Park.²⁷

Creating Keney Park

Henry Keney died in 1894, though his will did not immediately bestow Keney Park to the city of Hartford. Instead it provided a trust of money and land to a group of four trustees, including Goodwin. According to Henry's will, the Keney Park Trustees were to buy additional land not already owned by the Keney family in Hartford's north end, "for a public park, beautifying and adorning said park according to their taste and judgment, and, when completed, to convey the same...to the City of Hartford." For the next thirty years, the Trustees attempted to fulfill Henry's wishes, usually according to Goodwin's taste and judgment.²⁸

In order to decide what plots to purchase for the park, the Trustees turned to Olmsted. During 1895, he made a number of suggestions for lands to acquire using money from the trust fund. Other members of the family landscape company, then known as Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot, later prepared the official plans and maps. Through the following several months, Francis Goodwin proceeded to buy the necessary parcels, purchased from thirty-five separate landowners. Goodwin himself even provided 110 acres of his own land in neighboring Windsor.²⁹

In addition to working with the Trustees, the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot was helping the city integrate all the newly-acquired parks into a planned, interconnected system. By 1895, John Charles Olmsted, the nephew and stepson of Frederick, Sr., largely led the Brookline, Massachusetts-based landscape firm. The other Olmsted represented in the firm's name at that time was Frederick Law

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Olmsted, Jr., son of the organization's semi-retired founder. The third person, Charles Eliot, began as an apprentice for Olmsted in the 1880s, and helped design many parks in Boston and elsewhere, but died unexpectedly in 1897 while projects in Hartford were still in the early stages. Eliot had played a role in assisting with land purchase suggestions for Keney Park in 1895. He was also responsible for designating and naming the park's four sections, and was the firm's principal designer for Keney Park until his death. After Eliot's death, the name of the firm changed simply to Olmsted Brothers.³⁰

According to the firm's progressive plans, each Hartford park would have a distinct purpose and form, based on the existing natural landscape in which it was located. For example, Elizabeth Park, designed for wealthy residents of the West End, appeared as a country estate and garden. Keney Park featured a country or rural park design, with minimal structures built within, and with a limited amount of obvious landscaping. According to landscape historian John Alexopoulos, "rolling wild pasture land and the traditional forests of the New England landscape" characterized Keney Park.³¹ It was a clear representation of the Country Life and Conservation movements; an avenue for Hartford citizens to get a hint of that coveted rural life.

It was the job of the superintendent of Keney Park to make the Olmsted Brothers' designs a reality, under the watchful and influential eyes of Francis Goodwin.³² In 1896, the Trustees hired George Amos Parker as Keney Park's first superintendent.³³ Born in 1853 in New Hampshire, Parker attended the Massachusetts Agricultural College in the 1870s. Before moving to Hartford to work for the Trustees, he had various jobs in both New York and Massachusetts related to landscape design and horticulture. Parker, later a founding member of the Municipal Art Society in Hartford (a mainstay of the City Beautiful Movement), was a relatively quiet and deeply religious man. Through the ensuing decades, Parker played a major role in shaping Keney Park, and after 1904, the entire Hartford park system when the city hired him as superintendent of all Hartford parks.³⁴

George Parker stands as a typical example of a Progressive Era reformer, such as Frederick Law Olmsted. Parker found the fact "deplorable" that for urban children "the streets take the place of the open field;" that a child loses essential contact with their father who must toil all day in a factory; that a child is no longer "experiencing that home life all generations before the present one knew."³⁵ He noted that "a remedy for all this is recreation, and only through recreation do I see an adequate relief from

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present city conditions under which about three-quarters of the people [of Hartford] live.” Small playgrounds could help the young child, while for teenagers “provisions will be made adequate for their social gatherings, under wholesome and decent surroundings.” For adults and the elderly, parks could provide a peaceful escape from the problems of everyday life. Like in the kitchen, bedroom, and parlor within the home, these activities of different ages and genders were kept segregated in the parks, thereby making the parks akin to an extension of the traditional home life which, in Parker’s eyes, no longer existed for urban tenement families.

Echoing the Country Life Movement, he also believed parks harkened back to America’s rural roots, helping to “introduce the influence of the country into city conditions, and that this country influence is essential to the development of children into healthy men and women of normal physical, mental and moral strength, and to uphold adult people in a healthy condition.”³⁶ Thus, between being treated as an extension of a no-longer-existent home life, and by being designed in the image of a no-longer-existent image of rural Hartford, equipped even with a model barn and grazing sheep, Keney Park in its early years seemed to become created so as to remind urban dwellers of bygone eras; of an America and a Hartford which no longer existed, if it ever did in the first place. As superintendent of parks, Parker was eventually able to spread the ideology he had honed at Keney to all of Hartford’s parks.

Regarding construction of Keney Park, Parker later noted that even though the park appears natural, “it is the most man-made park in the city, costing nearly double to construct than all the other parks of Hartford... There is hardly a foot of ground that has not been graded, all due to the thoughtfulness and loving kindness of Dr. Goodwin,” who “put his soul into Keney Park.”³⁷ Laborers created thirty foot high hills, and flattened sixteen foot high hills. They made over fifty miles of water drains; moved more than one million yards worth of soil; planted over a million trees and shrubs (all native species); and laid nine miles of red sandstone roads and walks, none of which had any straight lines. Workers constructed fences around almost the entire outline of the park, and created a fire line along the northern border to help protect the precious woodlands from forest fires.³⁸

Parker had a number of men to help during construction, including an average of about eighty workmen. Regarding labor, one source noted that “Mr. Parker judges a man by his walk which is an

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indication of his physical energy,” and that he “keeps time by 1/10 hours, thus eliminating fractions in accounts and payrolls.” As the primary engineer in charge at Keney, H.G. Clark observed grading and paving projects. Hans J. Koehler, a horticulturalist described as a “plant wizard,” determined what to place in the ground, and scoured the Hartford region to find every possible native species he could use at the park, since the Olmsted Brothers wanted to use only indigenous plants.³⁹

In addition, Parker had help from two of his sons, Robert and Andrew. Robert became supervisor of construction at Keney, and Andrew helped work on the park from 1896 until 1906. He later became Connecticut’s first Superintendent of State Parks in 1919.⁴⁰ Andrew would certainly not forget what he learned at Keney and from his father in those later years. The records, though, are full of the names of many other workmen during those early years who, with their own hands and sweat, made Keney Park the beautiful jewel it became. Two such workmen, Alan Aronson and John Lawrence, who appear on payroll records, are associated with the park by name, but their specific contributions remain unknown.⁴¹

We do know the story of Jeremiah C. Fowler. Most remembered as the first caretaker of Keney’s tennis courts, which consumed most of his forty-year-long service at the park, a middle-aged Fowler started working at Keney as a laborer around the turn-of-the-century. The *Hartford Courant* noted that Fowler, who many often referred to as “Chief,” “walked alone and sat alone, except for his pipe, without which he was rarely seen. He talked with a chuckle, had a contented air. But to his many friends the greatest thing about the man was his memory. ‘He never forgets,’ was all a youthful player would say to describe it.”⁴² The “white-haired” and “stoical” Fowler watched countless tennis games. He also loved the outdoors, and credited the fresh air for allowing him such a long life. He died in 1939 at the age of eighty-nine, and ironically never actually learned how to play tennis.⁴³

By 1900, the *Hartford Courant* noted that Keney Park’s finished roads were “the finest park drives in New England,” and they quickly became popular with local gentlemen and their carriages.⁴⁴ Yet the planting process continued. The Olmsted Brothers had very specific plans for what types of trees to plant in specific areas of the park. For example, the Olmsted Brothers mailed Parker a map of the “Ten Mile Woods, upon which we have colored in green the areas proposed to be planted with coniferous and broad-leaved evergreens.” To promote the intended pastoral setting, the Trustees in the

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West Open also constructed a model barn and miniature farm (no longer extant) featuring cows, where urban children could have a taste of the rural life.⁴⁵

By 1907 the Trustees decided to build the park's first permanent sheepfold in the West Open, with a barn, dogs, and a capacity for up to 200 sheep. For decades, sheep were used as a cheaper and more appropriately-natural alternative to mowing the open fields and pastures of the park. The famous and long-time shepherd of Keney Park was Hugh F. Chisholm. Born in Scotland in 1867, Chisholm first arrived in America as a young man. In 1902 he found work at the park, and served as the shepherd until the sheepfold closed in 1929. He was also a founding member of the Keney Park Lawn Bowling Club, and until his death in 1935, much of Chisholm's life in the U.S. revolved completely around Keney Park.⁴⁶

By the dawn of the twentieth century, the work of the Olmsted, Goodwin, Parker, and others had made Keney Park an enviable public landscape. Each section had its own distinct and defining natural features, such as open pastures in the West and East Opens, and small shrubs in Bushland. Throughout the park, visitors would also find a number of small foot bridges and boardwalks, built exclusively rustic in appearance so as to fit the park's overall rural nature and influence from the Country Life Movement. The Ten Mile Woods even featured a smaller division called Eliotdale, named for Charles Eliot, who played a major role designing the park, and spent the last working days of his life in that particular section. In March of 1897, the 36 year old Eliot had left for home in Brookline, and died unexpectedly there a week later from spinal meningitis.⁴⁷

The Heart of a Community

Parker once noted that, "People make the parks as well as parks the people. There is no land, no matter how beautiful, that is a park unless the people visit."⁴⁸ In the case of Keney Park, many people visited it in the early years. In May 1914, well over 2000 students from various Hartford schools participated in May Day events at Keney Park, an annual occurrence which included folk dances and the singing of patriotic songs.⁴⁹ In 1919, almost every Boy Scout in Hartford came to Keney to plant the Roosevelt Memorial Grove in the East Open, to honor Theodore Roosevelt.⁵⁰ Filled with a variety of tree types, the new grove replaced an area formerly populated by chestnut trees which park maintenance

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crews had to remove as a result of the blight.⁵¹

Whereas rolling farmland previously characterized the north end of Hartford, residential development increased greatly following the opening of Keney Park and the simultaneous extension of new trolley lines along Windsor Avenue, Blue Hills Avenue, and Albany Avenue. Keney had a tremendous impact on the future of the two neighborhoods located in its immediate vicinity, known as “Upper Albany” and “Blue Hills.” These neighborhoods, in turn, would greatly impact the park. In less than ten years, over twenty-one new streets, created in the relatively compact streetcar suburb pattern, appeared in the area around the park. The most prestigious houses were built immediately bordering Keney Park, to enjoy the most beautiful views.⁵²

By the 1940s, residential development essentially surrounded Keney Park on the Hartford side of its perimeter. Thousands lived on the streets nearby, which were very diverse ethnically. The North End neighborhoods had a very large and cohesive Jewish population, for which Keney Park served a significant social and cultural role. It was more than just a recreational space. Historians David G. Dalin and Jonathan Rosenbaum noted that Weaver High School, which had the largest Jewish population of any other Hartford public secondary school, sat directly adjacent to the park along Ridgefield Street, and as a result, “Keney Park...served as a constant gathering place for Jewish young people from the 1920s to the 1960s.”⁵³ They note that probably the best “illustration of [Keney Park’s] role as a social nexus was the annual gathering on the High Holy Days.”⁵⁴

A City Park

The Trustees continued to administer Keney Park into the 1920s, but in 1923 they lost their patriarch and most essential member. On October 5, 1923, the Reverend Francis Goodwin succumbed to bronchitis at the age of eighty-five. The Trustees noted that, “the citizens of Hartford do not realize how much they are indebted to him, and will be, during the coming years, for the unselfish devotion he has given all these years, in the development of Keney Park.” Shortly after this, in May 1924, the Trustees officially voted to turn over Keney Park to the city of Hartford, and the Common Council accepted the offer in August. A large public ceremony occurred in November at Keney, during which the Trustees formally handed over the park to the Mayor, and celebrated the life of Henry Keney.

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According to one of the speakers, the Trustees had spent \$1,500,000 on the park during their tenure.⁵⁵

During the 1920s, a number of active recreational facilities, such as tennis courts, baseball diamonds, handball courts, bowling greens, and playgrounds were built in Keney Park.⁵⁶ This development echoed a larger national trend, by which active recreation started to replace passive recreation which had been more popular with the upper classes. According to Thomas J. Schlereth, “this change in the design of parks reflected a shift in middle-class attitudes toward more active recreation. It also expressed the perspective of reformers, who sought to counter the growing commercialization of leisure with the physical activities of sport.” Not coincidentally, this is the time when the Park Boards of many American cities became the Parks and Recreation Commission (Hartford made that name change in 1947).⁵⁷

The idea for a public golf course had first been approved in 1924, and the first nine holes were finished in 1927, with the last nine finished in 1930. It sat in the Ten Mile Woods section, on park land found almost completely in the town of Windsor. By the 1930s, only construction of a golf clubhouse remained necessary.⁵⁸ In 1934 the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the precursor to the Works Progress Administration (WPA), constructed the Keney golf clubhouse as one of their projects. Builders used a great deal of recycled materials, with the stone coming from the recently-demolished Post Office which sat adjacent the Old State House downtown. Brick came from an old orphan asylum on Putnam Street. The structure had lockers and showers in the basement, and a kitchen, office, dining room, and lounge on the main floor. The lounge featured a large fireplace and fine woodwork. Such improvements all helped improve the park, and in 1938 alone officials estimated that over 350,000 people used Keney Park’s many assorted recreational facilities.⁵⁹

By midcentury, Keney Park and Hartford entered a new era, characterized by the construction of highways and sprawling automobile suburbs, and the loss of essential industrial jobs and taxpayers. Just as the park became a lynchpin for the North End’s large Jewish population, it would serve a central role for the neighborhood’s substantial African American community in ensuing decades. Keney Park stood as a beacon of family-oriented events in a post-industrial city. Its original design withstood the changes, and the park continued its intended purpose. Keney Park is a “living” park, in that it adapts through the

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years so as to stay useful and relevant. It had rural walking paths when that type of passive recreation was in vogue, and added recreational faculties as they became wanted by the community. It was a model for reforms of the Progressive Era, becoming a manifestation of the Country Life, Conservation, and City Beautiful Movements. Through it all, the park and the important people behind it, have influenced individuals, the city, and the nation, and have created an important recreational landscape for the enjoyment and benefit of society.

¹ John Alexopoulos, *The Nineteenth Century Parks of Hartford: A Legacy to the Nation* (Hartford: Hartford Architecture Conservancy, 1983), 11 and 63.

² Alexopoulos, 12.

³ Alexopoulos, 8.

⁴ Alexopoulos, 16.

⁵ Alexopoulos, 13.

⁶ Alexopoulos, 11.

⁷ Ellsworth Strong Grant and Marion Hepburn Grant, *The City of Hartford, 1784-1984: An Illustrated History* (Hartford: The Connecticut Historical Society, 1986), 178.

⁸ Grant and Grant, 47-52.

⁹ Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 116-118.

¹⁰ Jackson, 115.

¹¹ Alexopoulos, 11-12.

¹² City of Boston, "Emerald Necklace," www.cityofboston.gov/parks/emerald/ [Accessed December 8, 2010].

¹³ Frederick Law Olmsted to Charles M. Pond, c. June 1871, "Report on Park Site for the City of Hartford Addressed to C.M. Pond, Esq.," in David Schuyler and Jane Turner Censer, eds., *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, Volume VI: The Years of Olmsted, Vaux & Company, 1865-1874* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 448.

¹⁴ Peter C Baldwin, *Domesticating the Street: The Reform of Public Space in Hartford, 1850-1930* (Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 1999), 120.

¹⁵ Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1959), 5-12; Thomas J. Schlereth, *Victorian America: Transformations in Everyday Life, 1876-1915* (New York: Harper Perennial, 1991).

¹⁶ Lee Hall, *Olmsted's America: An "Unpractical" Man and His Vision of Civilization* (New York: A Bulfinch Press Book, 1995), 6; Albert Fein, *Frederick Law Olmsted and the American Environmental Tradition* (New York: George Braziller, 1972), 18-20.

¹⁷ William H. Wilson, *The City Beautiful Movement* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989), 1.

¹⁸ Alexander von Hoffman, *Local Attachments: The Making of an American Urban Neighborhood, 1850-1920* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994), 221.

¹⁹ Schlereth, 217.

²⁰ "Death of Rev. Dr. Goodwin Unexpectedly Takes City's Venerable Leading Citizen," *Hartford Courant*, October 6, 1923, 1.

²¹ Alexopoulos, 24; Grant and Grant, 132-134. Former Parks Superintendent George Hollister coined the phrase

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“Rain of Parks.”

²² Constance Neyer, “100 YEARS OF HARTFORD’S PARKS A CENTURY AGO, PARKS WERE SUDDENLY IN BLOOM,” *Hartford Courant*, November 6, 1994, H1.

²³ Grant and Grant, 134-135.

²⁴ Grant and Grant, 134-135.

²⁵ Edward Foote, “Memorial Tower Brings Gothic Touch to City,” *Hartford Courant*, May 8, 1977, 2H; Constance Neyer, “100 Years of Hartford’s Parks: A Century Ago, Parks Were Suddenly in Bloom,” *Hartford Courant*, November 6, 1994, H1.

²⁶ Constance Neyer, “100 Years of Hartford’s Parks: A Century Ago, Parks Were Suddenly in Bloom,” *Hartford Courant*, November 6, 1994, H1; Marion Hepburn Grant, *In and About Hartford: Tours and Tales* (Hartford: The Connecticut Historical Society, 1978), 221-222.

²⁷ Constance Neyer, “100 Years of Hartford’s Parks: A Century Ago, Parks Were Suddenly in Bloom,” *Hartford Courant*, November 6, 1994, H1; Marion Hepburn Grant, *In and About Hartford: Tours and Tales* (Hartford: The Connecticut Historical Society, 1978), 221-222.

²⁸ Henry Keney, *Will of Henry Keney*, printed pamphlet, folder: Keney, Henry “Will of Henry Keney,” Hartford Parks Collection, Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library, 7-8. (Hartford History Center hereafter referred to as HHC).

²⁹ George Hollister, “Keney Park, Hartford,” *Parks and Recreation* 1, no 4 (July 1918): 9; Alexopoulos, 26-27; City of Hartford, *1925 Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, HHC, 7-8; Grant, 221; Keney Park Trustees, *Keney Park Trustees Record Book, 1895-1950*, HHC, 3-7 and 20; Henry L. McDermott, Federal Writers’ Project, “Keney Park,” folder: Hartford Parks- Keney Park, Box: 181, RG 33, Works Progress Administration, Connecticut, 1935-44, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Connecticut, 1-3 (hereafter referred to as WPA Project); “Keney Park,” *Hartford Courant*, January 28, 1896, 1.

³⁰ Alexopoulos, 26-27 and 63; Cynthia Zaitzevsky, *Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1982), 130-131; City of Hartford, *1925 Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, HHC, 12. The section called the Ten Mile Woods had been referred to by that name for decades before, so Eliot simply kept it. The West Open is occasionally called the West Meadow, and the East Open is sometimes called the East Meadow.

³¹ Alexopoulos, 27 and 30; “City’s Park System,” *Hartford Courant*, July 10, 1901, 8; The Olmsted Brothers did not take a leading role in the actual planning of Elizabeth Park, which was done mostly by Hartford park superintendent Theodore Wirth.

³² Alexopoulos, 63; Grant, 221.

³³ Keney Park Trustees, 6.

³⁴ The Hartford Post, *Hartford in 1912: The Story of the Capital City, Present and Prospective* (Hartford: The Hartford Post, 1912), 43; “George A. Parker Dead,” *New York Times*, September 14, 1926, 29; Baldwin, 135; Keney Park Trustees, 64; “Park Superintendent,” *Hartford Courant*, September 18, 1905, 11.

³⁵ Baldwin, 137-138; George Parker, “To Have Parks or Not to Have Parks...,” folder: Parker, George A. “To Have Parks, or Not to Have Parks...,” Box: 21, Parks Collection, HHC; George Parker, “Child Life in Hartford,” folder: Parker, George A. “Child Life in Hartford” 1912 & 1913, George Parker Manuscripts and Papers, HHC.

³⁶ Parker, “Child Life in Hartford,” HHC; George Parker, “Memoranda for a Park Syllabus,” folder: Parker, George A. “Memoranda for a Park Syllabus” 1906, George Parker Manuscripts and Papers, HHC.

³⁷ City of Hartford, *1923 Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, HHC, 74.

³⁸ City of Hartford, *1925 Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, HHC, 8; Hollister, 9; American Book Exchange, *The Picturesque Parks of Hartford* (Hartford: The American Book Exchange, 1900), 35; Gregory E. Andrews and

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David F. Ransom, *Structures and Styles: Guided Tours of Hartford Architecture* (Hartford: The Connecticut Historical Society, 1988), 118.

³⁹ Olmsted Brothers to George A. Parker, October 30, 1897, folder: Keney Park Correspondence, 1897 October, Box: 18, Parks Collection, HHC. (In this letter, the Olmsted Brothers asked Parker if he could put his "gang of eighty men to work" on a certain project); City of Hartford, *1925 Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, HHC, 12; American Book Exchange, 39; James F. Linnane, Federal Writers' Project, "Keney Park," folder: Hartford Parks- Keney Park, WPA Project, 14.

⁴⁰ "Park Experts Back from Big Meeting: Superintendent Parker and Son Return from Newburgh," *Hartford Courant*, August 30, 1914, 12; "First State Park Head Dies at 77," *Hartford Courant*, November 24, 1955, 4A.

⁴¹ "Keney Park Payroll," folder: Keney Park Trustees- Payroll Records, 1910, Parks Collection, HHC.

⁴² "Keney Park Payroll," HHC; "J.C. Fowler, Keney Park Figure, Dies," *Hartford Courant*, September 26, 1939, 4.

⁴³ "Keney Park Payroll," HHC; "J.C. Fowler, Keney Park Figure, Dies," *Hartford Courant*, September 26, 1939, 4.

⁴⁴ "Lovely Keney Park," *Hartford Courant*, August 19, 1898; Hollister, 9; "Keney Park," *Hartford Courant*, October 24, 1900, 4; Olmsted Brothers to George A. Parker, October 1, 1897, folder: Keney Park Correspondence, 1897 October, Box: 18, Parks Collection, HHC.

⁴⁵ Olmsted Brothers to George A. Parker, June 26, 1900, folder: Keney Park Correspondence, 1900-1909, Box: 19, Parks Collection, HHC; "Keney Park," folder: Manning, Warren H, "Information Secured from Mr. G.A. Parker...", Box: 19, Parks Collection, HHC, 10; Alexopoulos, 65.

⁴⁶ Keney Park Trustees, 71; Hollister, 9-10; Linnane, 22; "H.F. Chisholm, 68, Veteran Park Employee, Dies," *Hartford Courant*, December 2, 1935, 4.

⁴⁷ Alexopoulos, 65-68; American Book Exchange, 37 and 39; "City's Park System," *Hartford Courant*, July 10, 1901, 8; "Death of Charles Eliot," March 26, 1897, *Boston Globe*, 8.

⁴⁸ George Parker, "Article on Parks," folder: Parker, George A. "Article on Parks," George A. Parker Manuscripts and Papers, HHC.

⁴⁹ "2,400 Children in May Day Exercise," *Hartford Courant*, May 10, 1914, 3.

⁵⁰ "Hartford...Once Upon a Time," *Hartford News*, October 7-14, 2010, 1.

⁵¹ "Boy Scouts Pay Their Tributes to Col. Roosevelt," *Hartford Courant*, April 27, 1919, A1.

⁵² Hartford Architecture Conservancy, *Hartford Architecture, Volume Three: North and West Neighborhoods* (Hartford: Hartford Architecture Conservancy, 1980), 49, 79-80, and 108.

⁵³ David G. Dalin and Jonathan Rosenbaum, *Making a Life, Building a Community: A History of the Jews of Hartford* (New York: Holmes & Meier, 1997). 202.

⁵⁴ Dalin and Rosenbaum, 202. For more information regarding the North End's Jewish residents and Keney Park, see the following book featuring a series of oral history interviews: Joan Walden, ed., *Remembering the Old Neighborhood: Stories from Hartford's North End* (Hartford: The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford, 2009).

⁵⁵ "Death of Rev. Dr. Goodwin Unexpectedly Takes City's Venerable Leading Citizen," *Hartford Courant*, October 6, 1923, 1; Keney Park Trustees, 158 and 161; "Keney Park Added to City Property," *Hartford Courant*, August 19, 1924, 13; "City to Receive Keney Park Today," *Hartford Courant*, November 15, 1924, 7; "Keney Park Lands Formally Become Property of City," *Hartford Courant*, November 16, 1924, 1.

⁵⁶ McDermott, 1-3.

⁵⁷ Schlereth, 237.

⁵⁸ "Mecca of the Nation's Flower Lovers During Rose Week, Hartford Has a Chain of 27 Beautiful Parks Encircling It," *Hartford Courant*, June 23, 1935, D1; McDermott, 1-3; "Hartford's Second Municipal Golf Course, Keney Park, Opens Today," *Hartford Courant*, October 13, 1927, 19; Linnane, 7; David Fink, "A Good Course Avoided," *Hartford Courant*, July 26, 1998, B3.

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⁵⁹ McDermott, 4; "Mecca of the Nation's Flower Lovers During Rose Week, Hartford Has a Chain of 27 Beautiful Parks Encircling It," *Hartford Courant*, June 23, 1935, D1; Newspaper clipping, April 16, 1934, *Hartford Scrapbook Volume 1*, HHC, 192; McDermott, 5.

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Photograph 1 of 38

**The West Open from the tennis courts, showing the open field, walking path, and baseball field
Camera facing northwest**



Photograph 2 of 38
Park road in the West Open section
Camera facing south



Photograph 3 of 38
The West Open from the pond, looking towards Overlook Hill
Camera facing northwest



Photograph 4 of 38
View from Overlook Hill looking at West Open; note playscape at right center, downtown skyline at left, and baseball field at right.
Camera facing south



Photograph 5 of 38
Keney Park pool visible at center, and pool house visible at left in West Open
Camera facing north



Photograph 6 of 38
Keney Park pool house in the West Open
Camera facing north



Photograph 7 of 38
Rear of Keney Park pond house (323 Edgewood Street)
Camera facing northeast



Photograph 8 of 38
Front of pond house (323 Edgewood Street) and parking lot
Camera facing west



Photograph 9 of 38
Keney Park pond and decking features
Camera facing northwest



Photograph 10 of 38
Keney Park pond
Camera facing north



Photograph 11 of 38
Footbridge over the pond
Camera facing east



Photograph 12 of 38
Park pond and gazebo
Camera facing northeast



Photograph 13 of 38
Sculpture in West Open entitled "Family," by Karen Petersen (2004)
Camera facing west



Photograph 14 of 38
Footbridge in West Open over tributary of the pond
Camera facing west



Photograph 15 of 38
Woodland Street gateway
Camera facing north



Photograph 16 of 38
Ebony Horsewomen and Hartford Mounted Patrol stables and maintenance barns
Camera facing west



Photograph 17 of 38
Gully Brook (center) in Bushland section
Camera facing south



Photograph 18 of 38
Currently unused roadway through Bushland
Camera facing north



Photograph 19 of 38
Bushland sports fields and modern concession stand (right)
Camera facing northeast



Photograph 20 of 38
Remnants of former structure associated with Sherwood Forest Zoo
Camera facing southwest



Photograph 21 of 38
Barbour Street gateway
Camera facing northeast



Photograph 22 of 38
Golf course maintenance barn
Camera facing southwest



Photograph 23 of 38
Golf course maintenance barn
Camera facing east



Photograph 24 of 38
Golf cart and maintenance storage building
Camera facing northwest



Photograph 25 of 38
Front of golf course clubhouse
Camera facing north



Photograph 26 of 38
Rear of golf course clubhouse
Camera facing south



Photograph 27 of 38
Golf course and putting green
Camera facing west



Photograph 28 of 38
Golf course
Camera facing north



Photograph 29 of 38
Park roadway in Ten Mile Woods section; note built-up mounds on either side of road, a design feature
intentioned by the Olmsteds
Camera facing north



Photograph 30 of 38
Concrete bridge in East Open traversing Midvale Stream
Camera facing north



Photograph 31 of 38
US Interstate 91 bridge traversing park road
Camera facing west



Photograph 32 of 38
Windsor Street gateway
Camera facing northwest



Photograph 33 of 38
Entertainment facility in Ten Mile Woods and East Open sections
Camera facing north



Photograph 34 of 38
East Open section, with cricket field visible at left
Camera facing south



Photograph 35 of 38
Cricket field and viewing stand (left center)
Camera facing west



Photograph 36 of 38
Midvale Stream in East Open
Camera facing south



Photograph 37 of 38
Midvale Stream and portion of the Gorge under the US Interstate 91 bridge in East Open
Camera facing west



Photograph 38 of 38
Park roadway in Ten Mile Woods
Camera facing west