HISTORICAL RESOURCES RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY
FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO WOODLAWN LAKE PARK,
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

WBS Element: 40-00137-04-02
Environmental Project Code: ENV 07-615F1-071CIPIII

by

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LETTER REPORT NO. 832

submitted to

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San Antonio, Texas

by

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Cultural Resources Services
Austin, Texas

PAI No. 210030

October 2010
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ABSTRACT

In October 2010, Prewitt and Associates, Inc., conducted a historical resources reconnaissance survey for proposed improvements to Woodlawn Lake Park in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The work was performed for Adams Environmental, Inc., of San Antonio, and the City of San Antonio, under WBS Element 40-00137-04-02 and Environmental Project Code ENV 07-615F1-071CIPIII. The proposed improvements consist of resurfacing the existing 0.06-acre playground and expanding the playground area by 0.1 acres. The Area of Potential Effects for the reconnaissance survey is defined as 150 ft beyond the proposed improvements and the entirety of the land parcel that intersects this area. As a result of the survey, Woodlawn Lake Park is recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district with 24 contributing and 4 noncontributing resources. The park is recommended as eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion A, in the area of community planning and development, as representative of parkland developed to meet demand for recreation concurrent with the City Beautiful movement. It is also recommended as eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion C, in the area of landscape architecture, as an excellent example of park design. The proposed improvements are minor and in keeping with the historic function of the park. Based on these findings, the proposed improvements will have no adverse effect on significant historical resources, and no further work is recommended.
INTRODUCTION

In October 2010, Prewitt and Associates, Inc., conducted a historical resources reconnaissance survey for proposed improvements to Woodlawn Lake Park in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1). The work was performed on behalf of Adams Environmental, Inc., of San Antonio, for the City of San Antonio. The proposed improvements consist of resurfacing the existing 0.06-acre playground and adding a new 0.1-acre playground and swing area (Figure 2). Both the existing and new areas will be surfaced with poured-in-place rubber. A play structure is proposed for the new playground area (Figures 3 and 4) and a three-bay, freestanding swing set is proposed for the new swing area (Figure 5). Pathways to the playground areas will be built. Although schematics for the proposed improvements are not yet complete, they may also include lighting, trash receptacles, and benches.

Figure 1. Location of the project area.

Figure 2. Location of the proposed playground improvements at Woodlawn Lake Park.

Figure 3. Front of the proposed play structure for the new playground area at Woodlawn Lake Park.

Figure 4. Side of the proposed play structure for the new playground area at Woodlawn Lake Park.
Figure 5. Proposed swing set for the new swing area at Woodlawn Lake Park.

Woodlawn Lake Park is approximately 3 miles northwest of downtown San Antonio, wedged between the Monticello Park neighborhood to its north and the West End neighborhood to its south. Numerous lakefront dwellings line Josephine Tobin Drive, which rings the perimeter of the park. The 62-acre park includes the 30-acre lake and 32 acres of parkland.

METHODOLOGY

Guiding Regulations

The reconnaissance survey documented historic-age resources in the Area of Potential Effects. The survey was performed in accordance with the provisions of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (48 Federal Regulations 44716–42) and takes into consideration the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (Public Law 96-515); the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 90-190); the Archeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-291); and Executive Order No. 11593 (“Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”). Documentation standards are in accordance with 36 CFR Part 60 for informing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resources Code of 1977, Title 9, Heritage, Chapter 191), and the City of San Antonio Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-360–634).
Area of Potential Effects

Because the proposed improvements will be on existing public property, the Area of Potential Effects is defined as 150 ft beyond the proposed improvements and the entirety of the land parcel that intersects this area. During the reconnaissance survey, resources constructed by 1960 were identified and documented to the extent possible.

File Search and Results

The file search for historical resources took into consideration known resources within 150 ft of the proposed improvements and the entirety of the land parcel that intersects this area. Information was gathered from the Texas Historical Commission’s Texas Historic Sites Atlas for previously identified properties, including National Historic Landmarks, National Register of Historic Places, Official Texas Historical Markers, cemeteries, neighborhood surveys, and State Archeological Landmarks; the National Park Service’s Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record; and the City of San Antonio’s Historic Preservation Division. Historic and modern maps and aerial images were reviewed (City of San Antonio 2008; City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010a, 2010b; Olsen & Son 1889; Texas Department of Transportation 1977; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 1938, 1959; U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey 1903, 1927, 1953, 1966, 1995). Fire insurance maps for San Antonio also provide coverage of the Area of Potential Effects (Sanborn Map Company 1911–
Various Internet sites provided information on the park’s history (City of San Antonio 2010; City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c, 2010d; Woodlawn Sailing Club 2010).

A series of aerial images were particularly useful for the file search. They helped guide likely dates of construction for individual resources and the evolution of the Woodlawn Lake Park between 1938 and 1977. They also reveal the evolution of the landscape and its components. Most of the key resources were in place by 1938 (Figure 6). By that year until 1959, for example, the channel that fed the lake was in the same location, and there were two islands (Figure 7). By 1966, the channel had been moved, the easternmost island was gone, and the westernmost island was converted to a peninsula via a manmade isthmus to the mainland (Figure 8). The former island and peninsula reverted back to terra firm by 1977 (Figure 9).

**Figure 6.** Woodlawn Lake Park in 1938 (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 1938).

**Figure 7.** Woodlawn Lake Park in 1959 (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 1959).

**Figure 8.** Woodlawn Lake Park in 1966 (U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey 1966).

**Figure 9.** Woodlawn Lake Park in 1977 (Texas Department of Transportation 1977).

The file search revealed that no resources in the Area of Potential Effects have National Historic Landmark, National Register, Official Texas Historical Marker, or
State Archeological Landmark designation. No resources in the Area of Potential Effects have been identified or documented as part of a historic cemetery or neighborhood survey, and none are documented as part of the Historic American Building Survey or Historic American Engineering Record. However, Woodlawn Lake Park is a locally designated historic district, as is the neighborhood directly to its north, Monticello Park (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c, 2010d).

Field Investigations


The reconnaissance survey included photographic and resource-specific documentation. At least two digital photographs (generally 2,816x2,112-pixel resolution minimum) were taken of representative historic-age and nonhistoric resources. The historian recorded information about each identified resource to develop an inventory by resource number that includes name, property type and subtype, known or estimated
construction date, and National Register eligibility recommendation.

Analysis of Resources

After synthesizing the research and fieldwork, the historian evaluated each resource in the Area of Potential Effects to assess National Register eligibility. Eligible historic properties are buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts that meet the National Register criteria for evaluation at the national, state, or local level of significance. The criteria call for properties considered eligible to be significant for historical associations with events or broad patterns in history (Criterion A), persons associated with events or broad patterns in history (Criterion B), architecture (Criterion C), or prehistoric or historic archeology (Criterion D) (Andrus et al. 2002; U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources 1997). In general, properties that are eligible should be 50 years of age or older. To the extent possible, given the limited secondary research allocated for reconnaissance-level contextual documentation, resources in this Area of Potential Effects were evaluated under Criteria A and B since associative qualities were obvious. Resources documented during reconnaissance survey were also evaluated under Criterion C. Since no historic-age archeological resources were apparent within this Area of Potential Effects, Criterion D has no application for this survey.

Registration requirements guided examination of each resource’s integrity, which informed recommendations regarding eligibility for the National Register. For resources in the Area of Potential Effects to be considered eligible, they should retain historical and architectural authenticity, best articulated by the seven aspects of integrity:
location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (Andrus et al. 2002; U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources 1997).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND ARCHITECTURE IN THE STUDY AREA

Woodlawn Lake Park was created on San Antonio’s northwest side in the 1880s and evolved subsequently to encompass ideals of the City Beautiful movement. This early-twentieth-century movement emphasized beautification to provide attractive and safe environments for urbanites. City planning and progressive ideals combined to mitigate congestion, blight, and inappropriate land use. Proponents encouraged the use of parks, bodies of water and waterways, and landscaping to beautify urban areas as well as suburban developments like Woodlawn Lake Park.

George W. Russ, president of the Rhode Island–based West End Town Company, with partners F. H. Brown and W. P. Anderson, saw potential in the flat pastures surrounding Alazán Creek (City of San Antonio 2010). The West End Town Company acquired a 1,000-acre parcel that was known as Maverick’s pasture (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c). Together they developed the first residential subdivision outside the city limits. Known as West End, this suburban development is approximately 3 miles northwest of downtown. To attract homebuyers, they dammed the creek in 1889 and created the 80-acre West End Lake (Resource 1), which was fed by two artesian wells. The original dam was built with soil from the area that would become the casting pond. Visitors arrived on the east-west Crosstown Street Railroad trolley from Houston Street in downtown San Antonio. The trolley crossed the dam and skirted the south side of the lake (City of San Antonio 2010; City of San Antonio, Historic
Dubbed the “finest artificial lake in the south,” the park had an outdoor pavilion, rowboats, and electric lights, a novelty at the time (City of San Antonio 2010). Streets for the West End neighborhood, just south of the lake, had been platted by 1889 (Olsen & Son 1889). Julia Anderson and F. H. Baldwin provided loans when the West End Town Company fell under financial strain. Nevertheless, the company defaulted and property was foreclosed on. Anderson and Baldwin leased it to the nearby Peacock School for Boys until 1910 (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c). By 1911, the large pavilion at the east edge of the lake had room for dancing and a connected boathouse, all on wood piers and posts (Sanborn Map Company 1911–1924:66). Baldwin died in 1918 and willed his interest in the land to the University of Cincinnati. That year, the university and Anderson jointly deeded the property to the City of San Antonio (City of San Antonio 2010; City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c). The West End Improvement Club, formed by 1920, renamed the park Woodlawn Lake, constructed two comfort stations, built a playground, and planted 100 trees (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c).

With demand for recreation from proximate suburban development, the park flourished in the 1920s. W. H. Suden, who leased the lake from 1915 to 1929, expanded activities in the park. He rented rowboats, ran a nearby hotel, and improved the island, which became part of the park toward the end of his tenure (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c). The moving picture booth constructed by 1922 was likely his venture (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c; Sanborn Map Company 1922:106). In 1924, the City of San Antonio acquired five additional acres on the northeast side of the park for a playground (City of San Antonio,
Historic Preservation Division 2010c). Houses were built in the vicinity by 1927 (Sanborn Map Company 1911–1951:503, 521, 546; U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey 1927). With the gradual transformation of the dairy farm north of the lake into the Monticello Park neighborhood, the park underwent further development. City Beautiful progressives supported a $188,000 bond package for construction projects at Woodlawn Lake Park in 1928. They could no longer accept laissez-faire development, and city government took over all private interests in the park (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c).

Voter approval of the bond package resulted in construction of a long, rectangular, concrete swimming pool, a one-story stone pool house (Resources 21 and 22; Figures 10–12), and a two-story stone community center (Resource 20; Figures 13 and 14). The community center served as both a recreation hall and a library building. Near the community center were three one-story stone outbuildings, including a store (Resources 23–25; Figures 15–16) (Sanborn Map Company 1911–1951:106). Another one-story stone outbuilding was built at the southwest corner of the intersection of Josephine Tobin Drive and Alexander Avenue (Resource 26; Figure 17), and still another was near the intersection of Josephine Tobin Drive and Woodlawn Avenue (Resource 18; Figure 18). Although no two are the same, each of these buildings exhibits form and detailing common to Spanish-influenced architecture with round-arched openings, massive wood lintels, red ceramic tile roofs, and exuberant use of Alamotif parapets.

**Figure 10.** The concrete pool (Resource 22), facing southwest.

**Figure 11.** The pool house (Resource 21), facing north.
Figure 12. The pool house (Resource 21), facing southwest.

Figure 13. The community center (Resource 20), facing southwest.

Figure 14. Detail of the community center (Resource 20), facing west.

Figure 15. An outbuilding (Resource 23) near the community center, facing north.

Figure 16. Two small outbuildings (Resources 24 and 25) near the community center, facing west.

Figure 17. An outbuilding (Resource 26) at the southwest intersection of Josephine Tobin Drive and Alexander Avenue, facing south.

Figure 18. An outbuilding near the intersection of Josephine Tobin Drive and Woodlawn Avenue (Resource 18), facing south.

Typical of City Beautiful planning, a curvilinear street encircled the irregularly shaped park, utilizing the movement’s design precedents that encouraged highlighting existing natural features. By 1928 a large portion of this road had been renamed Josephine Tobin Drive to honor the mother of a former San Antonio mayor (Sanborn Map Company 1911–1951:106; WayMaking.com 2010). A stone gateway with a sign that denotes the street name spans the memorial roadway near the easternmost edge of the lake (Resource 27; Figure 19) (WayMaking.com 2010).
Figure 19. A sign (Resource 27) marks the entry to Josephine Tobin Drive, facing southwest.

Improvements to the west end of Woodlawn Lake Park also took place in the late 1920s and employed City Beautiful principles. The landscape design took into consideration the community’s recreational and athletic needs. By 1928, the island had been created (Resource 3; see Figure 6). A small stone bridge provided access to the south side of the island (Resource 7; Figure 20). The island had a looped drive (part of Resource 2, now a parking area), four clay tennis courts (Resource 12; Figure 21), and an unusual symmetrical designed landscape (see Figure 6), now demolished and in the location of Resource 14, a small nonhistoric pavilion on the east side of the island. A centrally located, one-story stone building became known as the Woodlawn Lake Park Island Party House (Resource 9; Figures 24–26). A contemporaneous one-story stone outbuilding was proximate (Resource 10; Figure 25). These two buildings also exhibit Spanish-influenced design characteristics. The party house has a massive off-center stone chimney and heavy-looking, multiple-panel wood doors with stylized black metal brackets and hardware. The cross-gable outbuilding has exposed vigas and a heavy stone lintel positioned over drinking fountains.

Figure 20. A small stone bridge (Resource 7), facing south.

Figure 21. Tennis courts (Resource 12), facing north.

Figure 22. The Woodlawn Lake Park Island Party House (Resource 9), facing southeast.
Figure 23. The Woodlawn Lake Park Island Party House (Resource 9), facing northwest.

Figure 24. The Woodlawn Lake Park Island Party House (Resource 9), facing west.

Figure 25. An outbuilding (Resource 10) near the Woodlawn Lake Park Party House, facing northwest.

The few improvements to Woodlawn Lake Park after the 1920s added recreational facilities and stabilized flood control. By 1938, a baseball diamond (Resource 28) and another square open recreational space were just north of the main pavilion, and a small island (no longer present) was about halfway between the east and west sides of the lake (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 1938). Even though some nearby blocks remained undeveloped and most houses were at least a block away from the park, residential development and related construction of paved streets triggered additional drainage and silt in the lake (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 1938). The Works Progress Administration restored its depth with dredging in the late 1930s (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c). A stone dam that also functioned as a vehicular and pedestrian bridge was constructed by 1938 (Resource 5; Figure 26) (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 1938). With its many amenities, the lake became home to the Woodlawn Sailing Club, founded in 1939 and based on the island, and its early 1950s Sunfish Sailboat Fleet #32 (Resource 11; Figure 27) (Woodlawn Sailing Club 2010). The sailing club building employs the most modest of Art Moderne design with its flat roof with ledge,
asymmetrical use of brick cladding, and lack of adornment. It is possible the club was responsible for construction of the lighthouse, which was present by 1938 (Resource 19; Figure 28) (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 1938). A radio tower was on the island sometime between 1938 and 1953 and remained extant until at least 1977 but was removed sometime after that (Texas Department of Transportation 1977; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 1938; U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey 1953, 1966). By 1959, the island had more trees and foliage, along with another small road that ended in a loop at the island’s southeast edge by the sailing club. The symmetrically designed landscape had been removed by this time (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 1959).

**Figure 26.** A dam (Resource 5) that also functioned as a vehicular and pedestrian bridge, facing northwest.

**Figure 27.** The sailing club (Resource 11), facing southwest.

**Figure 28.** The lighthouse (Resource 19) at right and the dam and spillway (Resource 6) at center, facing southeast.

In the 1960s, the lake underwent further improvements. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged the lake in 1960 and, to improve flood control, built the modern dam and spillway on the south side of the lake near the intersection of Josephine Tobin Drive and Williams Avenue (Resource 6; see Figure 28) (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c). They slightly altered the path of the larger looped drive on
the island and built a small two-winged pier (Resource 16; Figure 29). Alazán Creek, north of the lake, was channelized. A manmade isthmus connected the former island to the mainland, turning it into a peninsula. The dam and bridge on the north side remained in place. A new bridge further north of the dam and bridge linked the peninsula to the Monticello Park neighborhood by about 1960 (Resource 8; Figure 30). The tennis courts were resurfaced during this period (U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey 1966).

**Figure 29.** A two-winged pier (Resource 16), facing southeast.

**Figure 30.** A bridge linking the park to the neighborhood to the north (Resource 8), facing southeast.

In the late-twentieth and early-twenty-first centuries, the former island and peninsula reverted to terra firma, and modern recreational facilities were added to Woodlawn Lake Park. By 1977, the waterway that helped form the peninsula was completely filled. Both the south bridge to the former island and the bridge and dam remained intact to span remnant deep drainages, although the latter functions exclusively as a bridge today (Texas Department of Transportation 1977). In 1981, the lake was drained for two years awaiting dredging to a continuous depth of six feet. A jogging track was added to the park that year (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c). Between 1995 and 2008, parking was added to the smaller loop road, and new construction included a playground (Resource 13), small pavilion (Resource 14), basketball court (Resource 15), and pier (Resource 17) (Figures 31–34). On the east side of the lake, new construction included a playground and additional parking.
(City of San Antonio 2008). The City of San Antonio designated Woodlawn Lake Park a local historic district in 2000 (City of San Antonio, Historic Preservation Division 2010c).

**Figure 31.** Nonhistoric pavilion (Resource 14), facing northwest.

**Figure 32.** Nonhistoric basketball court (Resource 15), facing southwest.

**Figure 33.** Nonhistoric playground (Resource 13), facing northeast.

**Figure 34.** Nonhistoric pier (Resource 17) at right and historic pier (Resource 16) at left, facing southeast.

**ASSESSMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Reconnaissance Survey Findings**

Reconnaissance survey identified and documented 24 contributing and 4 noncontributing resources on one land parcel in the Area of Potential Effects (Table 1 and Figure 35). Historic-age resources represented three property types: recreation and culture (14 resources), transportation (5 resources), and landscape (5 resources). Numerous minor features that were not accounted for in the park are both historic-age and nonhistoric, including picnic areas, benches, flagpoles, light fixtures, and pathways (Figure 36).
<table>
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<th>Resource No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Spillway and dam</td>
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<td>Bridge</td>
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<td>ca. 1960</td>
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<td>ca. 1928</td>
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<td>Outbuilding</td>
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<td>ca. 1928</td>
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<td>Sailing club</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/sports facility</td>
<td>by 1959</td>
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<td>Tennis courts</td>
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<td>ca. 1928</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/outdoor recreation</td>
<td>ca. 1995–2008</td>
<td>Noncontributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/outdoor recreation</td>
<td>ca. 1995–2008</td>
<td>Noncontributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Basketball court</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/sports facility</td>
<td>ca. 1995–2008</td>
<td>Noncontributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pier</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/outdoor recreation</td>
<td>ca. 1960</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pier</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/outdoor recreation</td>
<td>ca. 1995–2008</td>
<td>Noncontributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Outbuilding</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/outbuilding</td>
<td>ca. 1928</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Lighthouse</td>
<td>Transportation/water-related</td>
<td>by 1938</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Main building</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/hall</td>
<td>ca. 1928</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pool house</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/sports facility</td>
<td>ca. 1928</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/sports facility</td>
<td>ca. 1928</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Outbuilding</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/outbuilding</td>
<td>ca. 1928</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Outbuilding</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/outbuilding</td>
<td>ca. 1928</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Outbuilding</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/outbuilding</td>
<td>ca. 1928</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Outbuilding</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/outbuilding</td>
<td>ca. 1928</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Josephine Tobin Drive sign</td>
<td>Landscape/object</td>
<td>ca. 1928</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Baseball field</td>
<td>Recreation and culture/sports facility</td>
<td>by 1938</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Woodlawn Lake Park is recommended as eligible for the National Register as a historic district with 24 contributing and 4 noncontributing resources designed and constructed between about 1889 and 1960. To be considered eligible under Criterion A, a collection of resources should be associated with broad patterns in history. The park is recommended as eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion A, in the area of community planning and development, as representative of parkland improved to meet local demand for recreation concurrent with the City Beautiful movement. To be considered eligible under Criterion C, a collection of resources should embody distinguishing characteristics of landscape design with contributing elements that are architecturally distinctive. Woodlawn Lake Park is also recommended as eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion C, in the area of landscape architecture, as an excellent example of park design.

Woodlawn Lake Park retains a high degree of historical and architectural integrity that its sense of location and setting readily convey. The park’s boundaries have changed slightly over time, but the present-day boundaries appear to be identical to those that were established by 1938. The 24 contributing resources are all in their original locations. Although some historic components of the park are no longer extant,
such as the radio tower and the original wood-frame main pavilion, enough of its important buildings and structures remain for it to be considered a cohesive collection. Few intrusive modern features are present, and most of them are smaller objects that do not detract from the overall setting. The lake, as a contributing natural feature, provides a great deal of continuity and is a critical component of the park’s setting. The island is another important natural feature that adds to the park’s setting. The island was not part of the park until about 1928. By 1966, it had become a peninsula. The waterway that helped form the peninsula was completely filled by 1977. Nevertheless, the bridge and former dam and the south bridge to the former island remained intact. Both span remnant deep drainages and impart the impression of a peninsula. The park’s intact road system adds to its ability to provide integrity of location and setting.

Woodlawn Lake Park retains its physical integrity. The overall design of the park is relatively unchanged with its road system, lake, bridges, dams, spillways, and recreational facilities remaining in situ since the early twentieth century. The imposition of modern construction is minimal, and nonhistoric resources are small and unobtrusive. Major architectural resources in the park include the main building, pool house, party house, and myriad outbuildings. Each of these resources has undergone some alterations. Most have had some or partial roof replacement with similar materials. The main building has had windows replaced on the upper story and the addition of an access ramp to the main façade. The party house has had its original supports on this east side replaced. Otherwise these buildings are in good condition and generally retain their original footprint, fenestration patterns, windows, doors, and exterior cladding. Introduction of nonhistoric materials is minimal and sympathetic, and major character-defining details remain intact. As a result, their integrity of materials, design, and
workmanship are clearly articulated.

Finally, Woodlawn Lake Park retains its integrity of feeling and association. Since so many of its resources are extant and retain their physical integrity to high degree, and with the setting largely unchanged, the park articulates its intrinsic sense of feeling for the period of significance from about 1889 until 1960. Its associative qualities are readily apparent with evidence of its evolution as a park contemporaneous with the City Beautiful movement. Additional archival research could further document the park’s associative attributes with those who designed the layout and its resources.

**Impacts to Historic Resources**

The proposed improvements consist of resurfacing an existing playground adding a new playground and swing area. Combined, the overall size of these improvements is 0.16 acres. The proposed improvements are small scale and will be comparable to those already present at the existing playground. Their addition to the park promotes the viability of the park facility and is in keeping with its historic function. Based on these findings, the proposed improvements will have no adverse effect on significant historical resources at Woodlawn Lake Park, and no further work is recommended.

**CONCLUSION**

As a result of the reconnaissance survey, Woodlawn Lake Park is recommended as eligible for the National Register as a historic district with 24 contributing and 4 noncontributing resources. Woodlawn Lake Park is recommended as eligible at the local
level of significance under Criterion A, in the area of community planning and
development, as representative of parkland developed to meet demand for recreation
concurrent with the City Beautiful movement. It is also recommended as eligible at the
local level of significance under Criterion C, in the area of landscape architecture, as an
excellent example of park design. The proposed improvements are minor and in keeping
with the historic function of the park. Based on these findings, the proposed
improvements will have no adverse effect on significant historical resources, and no
further work is recommended.
REFERENCES CITED


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U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources

WayMaking.com

Woodlawn Sailing Club
Figure 2
Figure 18
Figure 19
Figure 24
Figure 28