



LATODAMI
NATURE CENTER
NORTH PARK • EST. 1969

Timeline and Land Acquisitions of North Park

Created by volunteer Mary Bates, 2009

- 2/7/1927: County Commissioners pass resolution establishing North and South County Parks
- 6/18/1927: Dedication
- 12/19/1927: Game reserve Buffalo
- 5/3/1928-3/25/1931: Blackfoot Indian family caretakers for buffalo 5/3/28-3/25/31
- 10/20/1929: Girl Scout cabin dedicated
- 1928/1929: Story Pole erected (removed 4/20/11)
- 6/26/1931: Golf course dedicated
- 6/16/1933 to 10/1/1935: Civilian Conservation Corp Camp
- 1934/1935: Marshall Lake created (CWA project for golf course and firefighting)
- 7/4/1934: Archery Range dedicated
- 1935: Filtration plant
- 1936: Tennis Field House
- 5/30/1936: Golf course clubhouse dedicated
- 7/6/1937: Swimming pool dedicated
- 7/5/1937: Lake dedicated
- 1937: Boathouse
- 1937: Lodge
- 1937: Water tower (Standpipe)
- 1938: Evergreen trees seen from the air - Star and Allegheny County emblem
- 1938: Camp shelters for underprivileged children at West Ridge, Hemlock, & Irwin Run
- 1938: Fountain of Youth (Construction of a springhouse designed as a grotto typical in every detail of a Roman cavern)
- 9/27/1941: Trap and Skeet facility dedicated (burned 1950)
- 1941: Arboretum
- 1941: 80th division of the A.E.P.
- 1942: Aircraft Warning Service observation tower on West Ridge Road
- 1954-1963: NIKE missile site
- 12/27/1960: Ice Rink
- 7/10/1969: Latodami
- 9/1/1971: J. C. Stone Field dedicated

Land History

1927: purchased 1713 acres of land

1929: purchased 20 acres of land

1930: purchased 410 acres of land

Land Acquisition:

- **From the Commissioners minutes 6/10/27 page 283**
 - Arnold Anderson
 - John Betcher
 - Peter Betcher
 - Anna S. Beveridge
 - Sarah E. Beveridge
 - Vernon Grief
 - Mary C. Irwin
 - Charles Kretzer
 - Christ Lampman
 - Anna P. McClintock
 - Geroge J. Miller
 - Harry H. Pearce
 - Wesley H. Pearce
 - Wilbert C. Pearce
 - Mary E. Sample
 - Frederick C. Schoeppner
 - Nelson D Wagener
 - Phillip J. Wagener
 - William C. Walter

- **From the Commissioners minutes 7/14/27 page 303**
 - Valentine Becker
 - Theodore Doehla
 - Charles Toogood

- **From the Commissioners minutes 12/22/27 page 377**
 - John Eisenbach
 - Ralph Eisenbach
 - Anna Matilda Guyton
 - Jas Irwin
 - Frank H. Kummer
 - Raymond W. McKinney
 - McCandless School District

- **From the Commissioners minutes 5/9/28 page 505**
 - James McKinney

- **From the Commissioners minutes 6/5/28 page 526**
 - Christ Lampmann
 - Mr and Mrs Imhoff

- **From the Third Annual Report County of Allegheny Bureau of Parks 1929**
 - Burns & Anderson 12.2 acres under condemnation-Lake Number 1
 - New junction of Wildwood and Ingomar and relocation of Babcock
 - E.W. Henderson 63.044 acres under condemnation. Access to two properties now in county ownership inaccessible otherwise and play field.
 - Harry McKinney 43.320 acres-golf course
 - Theodore H. Doehla 39.0 acres
 - Moon heirs 63.365 acres-Lake Number 3 and relocation of Ingomar Road
 - Christ Lampman 1.0 acres-Golf #9

- **From the Fourth Annual Report County of Allegheny Bureau of Parks 1930**
 - Henderson-east of Babcock, \$500.00/acre fine groves, level plateau, and fine stand of Jersey Pine
 - Proposed curve elimination of Babcock
 - Dinky Links and makeshift swimming pool-not dignified entrance to park
 - Wildwood filling station
 - Mary Sample-dance hall, two dwellings, riding academy in hemlocks overlooking Pine Creek, rocky dell, hemlocks, \$250.00/acre

- Rolshouse property adjacent to Sample property
- K&J Kline and E.A. and E.K. Cohen-between Henderson and Sample properties
- George Grubb and C.E. Baine-Kummer Road area
- **From the Fifth Annual Report County of Allegheny Bureau of Parks 1931**
 - North Park has been enlarged by the purchase of two parcels of land comprising 54 acres, bringing the total acreage of this Park up to 2,253.97 acres.
 - In order to make possible access to the plateaus and hills of the Pearce, Wagner and Guyton properties—approximately five hundred acres of wooded hills and ridges to the north and east of the Pearce Mill Road in North Park—your Board purchased 53 acres of land from the Evangelization Society of the Pittsburgh Bible Institute at \$250.00 per acre. This new purchase not only possesses geological unity and is partly covered with a fine stand of timber, but offers the only easy access to the adjacent Park properties, now a bird sanctuary, coursed with primitive trails, and, also, containing the beaver meadow.
 - Negotiations were completed for the purchase of one acre of land from George F. Grubbs at \$500.00 per acre, primarily intended for an easier township road connection from the relocated Kummer Road in North Park, with its continuation outside the Park.
 - These two purchases complete all contemplated additions to North Park and make possible the completion of a general plan, comprehensively dealing with its driveway system and location of major recreational groups and features.

Locally Resourced Information on North Park Land History:

From Pine Township book:

- John B. Cole and his wife Matilda owned Cole's Tavern. They farmed an area which today is included in the boundaries of North Park.
- William (1802 - 1875) Sometime after 1866 he bought 120 acres in Pine Township from Richard Pearce. This parcel later became a portion of North Park. William McKinney (born 1855), son of William McKinney (1802 - 1875) farmed property that is now a part of North Park. It is part of the golf course and the barn is still on McKinney Rd and was used by the county to house the County police horses. This is most likely the same parcel as above.
- July 10, 1969 the County of Allegheny expanded the 2,268 acres of North Park by purchasing the 232-acre tract known as the Richard Horning estate.

From Marjean Blackham-Irwin Road:

- "Irwin Road was named for a family by the name of Irwin. We bought a corner at Rt. 910 and Irwin from a descendent residing in Ohio approximately 28 years ago. There also was a fruit/vegetable market at the corner of Irwin & Rt. 910 that ran until the early 1900's. The road (Irwin) went directly between the farm house (Braun) on the left coming down Irwin, and the barn. The bank barn foundation is still in existence, but the road was changed at some point. There was also a black smith shop at the intersection of Irwin and Jackson Roads above where the barrier to the valley now exists. Two orphanages were run by the Pittsburgh Bible Institute, one on Irwin Road (boys), one that was demolished with the Heights of N. Park plan that was of stone construction, 4 stories high up on the hill at the back of the newer entrance to the Heights Plan. It was occupied after orphanages were no longer needed or privately run by seasonal missionaries and it was used by PBI as a food preparation facility for summer rallies and missionary meetings they had. The one on Irwin Road was clapboard, 3 stories high and was up

a driveway to the right (still existing) close to where the boundary of the recent purchase of land for the conservancy. The foundation was stone and some of that is still there. It sat up on a knoll above the bridge that 1st crosses Irwin Run. It was demolished in the mid 70's due to kids/parkers using it for parties - camp outs, etc. and creating havoc for the police. It was never occupied while I've lived on Irwin Rd."

Paintings and Pictures:

- Charles Heberer (b 1865 d 1952) painted pictures of North Park, Ingomar Road, and Kummer Road from his studio along Kummer Road (Old Kummer). The studio was attached to a log cabin from 1832 that is STILL there. His paintings from the 1920s and 30s show a simpler, idealistic and more quiet time.
 - Visit this [link](#) to see pictures of Charles Heberer's paintings in private collections.
- Northland Public Library is maintaining a collection of photographs of North Park. These photographs came from the Allegheny County Public Works department.
 - Visit this [link](#) for Northland Library's Local History Collection.
- Visit this [link](#) for the photographs stored on the Historic Pittsburgh site
 - [Link](#) Swimming Pool 1937
 - [Link](#) Boathouse 1937
 - [Link](#) Lodge on North Ridge Drive 1937
 - [Link](#) Observation Tower/Standpipe 1937
 - [Link](#) Ice rink 1960