

HANOVER SQUARE

AREA	0.5 Acres
BOUNDARIES	Packard, and South Division and private property line
FACILITIES	Passive use

Hanover Square is the oldest park in the City of Ann Arbor. It came into existence sometime between the years 1824 and 1836.

The plat of the original Village of Ann Arbor was recorded at the Detroit Register's Office on May 25, 1824. The Village extended from Jefferson Street on the south, to where High Street now is on the north, and from Division Street on the east to Allen's Creek on the west. (Part of Allen's Creek is underground in West Park).

When the first Maynard and Morgan (Trustees of the Ann Arbor Land Company) Addition of November 4, 1836 was made to the original Village, it contained that portion of Hanover Square north and east of Packard, but no specific mention is made of Hanover Square being given to the City as a public park. The actual dedication of the land for use as a public park was made on September 3, 1859, when the second Maynard and Morgan Addition was registered in Washtenaw County.

The description in 1859 cites Hanover Square as being 14 rods from east to west and 20 rods from north to south. This total area includes the portion north and east of Packard, platted in 1836, plus the area south and west of Packard to the south line of Madison Street.

From this time on, until 1905 when the first Board of Park Commissioners was appointed, Hanover Square appears to have been the responsibility, firstly, of the Street Committee and later of the Committee on Parks. Citizens requested such things as appropriations for grading and ornamenting Hanover Square, Tennis courts and a band-stand for open air concerts. The City Council, however, approved only the grading of the park, the planting of trees and flower

Hanover Square (continued)

beds, the laying out of walks and the erection of a railing around the Square.

Hanover Square was one of the five parks taken over by the Board of Park Commissioners at its inception in 1905. Two years later, permission was given to the W.S. Perry School to use that portion of Hanover Square adjacent to the School and south and west of Packard, for a playground for the girls of the School. On January 14, 1925, the Parks Department exchanged this part of Hanover Square with the Board of Education for a portion of the old Mack School site for an addition to West Park. (Deed P-8 dated January 14, 1925).

Consequent to this exchange of land, what remained of Hanover Square as a public park was the area north and east of Packard. Until the mid 1960's this little park was, for all intents and purposes, a children's playground, but around 1968 the play equipment was removed and the park reverted to passive use. To-day it remains as a triangular piece of land planted with grass, shrubs and a few trees, traversed by a diagonal walk from Division to Packard, and bounded by concrete walks on its three sides.