

April 25, 1958

GALLUP LAKE PARK

Recent History

Obtained land from Detroit Edison Company in 1955.
Overgrown with brush and weeds.
No access except by crossing New York Central tracks.
Grade crossing not considered practical for park drive.
Late summer 1956 started obtaining fill for causeway.
Arranged with railroad officials to cross tracks with bulldozer.
Started extending causeway from park side as well as from Geddes Road.
Joined fills in fall 1956, making park site accessible.
Informally named Springlake Park.
Started cleanup of brush and weeds.
Spring 1957 continued cleanup, using rotary mowing equipment.
Improvement and widening of causeway continued to present.

Present Status

Officially named Gallup Lake Park.
Accessible, with good start made toward developing turf.
Further grading needed around lake.
Further widening and grading necessary to complete causeway.

Potentialities

.. This area can be made into a fine park, particularly since it is a water area suited for picnics and relaxation. It has plenty of space for playground and softball activities during picnic outings. The causeway can be made into an attractive drive, bordered on the Geddes Pond side by flowering trees and willows. Complete development will require water, toilet and shelter facilities.

Development

Other areas have been given precedence in our long range plans, notably Veterans Park. We do need more "water park" areas however and the growth of the city to the east increases need for down river park development. We do not recommend a large immediate expenditure but rather a program scheduled to provide a full-use park by the fall of 1960. This will give opportunity to improve the causeway with free fill, with grading as the only cost to the city. Basic things to be considered at present are -

Grading and smoothing causeway and lake borders	\$2100.00
20 ft. section 60" pipe under causeway- buy and install	300.00
Topsoil for causeway border	200.00
Gravel for causeway	900.00
Trees	200.00
Protective barrier where deep channel borders causeway	300.00
Water service to park	800.00
Grass seed and fertilizer	75.00
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	\$4875.00

GALLUP LAKE PARK & CAUSEWAY

Not to scale. Causeway (shaded) is 1800 ft in length
Park, including lake, approx 17 acres. Lake 3 to 4 acres.



GELDES POND

OPEN
FIELD

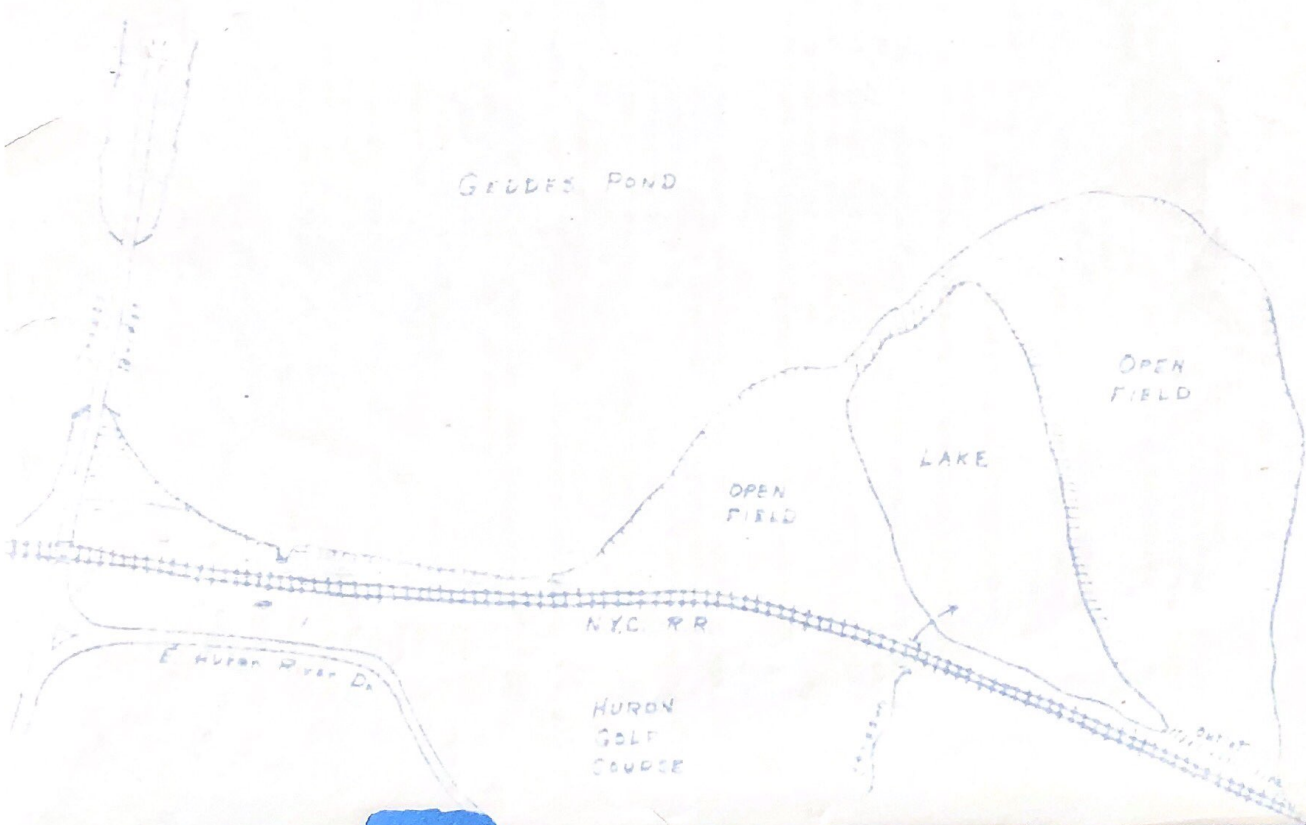
LAKE

OPEN
FIELD

N.Y.C. R.R.

E. Huron River Dr.

HURON
GOLF
COURSE



GALLUP LAKE PARK

AREA	17.5 Acres
BOUNDARIES	North - Geddes Pond South - Penn Central R.R. East - Geddes Pond West - Geddes Pond
FACILITIES	Picnicking, Fishing. Nature Study, Shelter, Boating

The original fourteen acres of Gallup Lake Park were obtained from the Detroit Edison Company in 1955. There was no land access except across the golf course and the railroad tracks. A grade crossing is not desirable for a park drive, so in 1956 the Parks Department used all the free fill available from various construction jobs to extend a causeway from Geddes Road to the Park. The causeway was adjacent to the railroad embankment and created land above water for a drive and landscaped areas. Part of the submerged area which the Parks Department filled was railroad right-of-way under Geddes Pond. The Railroad pointed out to the Parks Department that the causeway to Gallup Lake Park and the causeway started to the west of Geddes Road were partially on railroad right-of-way and that the vehicular access over the causeways would have to be stopped because of railroad liability in case of an accident.

The Parks Department wanted to lease a 22 ft. strip of land on each side of the tracks, but the Railroad Company offered a 17 ft. strip instead because there had to be a 20 ft. clearance between the center line of their main track and that of the driveway. The annual rental for this land would be \$120.00 plus taxes. The City was required to install an industrial type chain link fence the full length of the southerly lease line, and a gate at the end of the road. The City was also to extend and maintain a drainage pipe or culvert to the satisfaction of the Railroad Company.

Lease No.19150 was drawn up for a 17 ft. wide strip on the north side of the Railroad tracks running west of the old Geddes Bridge for 2,210 ft. making a total of 1.7 acres.

In 1970 an extension of this lease was requested from Penn Central Railroad Company which covered

(a) a 17 ft. wide strip on the north side of the tracks beginning at the western-most point of the railroad bridge at Dixboro Road, and running west for a distance of approximately 5,650 feet.

(b) a 17 ft. wide strip on the south side of the tracks beginning at the western-most point of U.S.23 and running for approximately 4,700 feet.

This has a total area of 4.1 acres. This lease is still under negotiation with the Railroad Company.

By Council action of April 21, 1958, in recognition of the services of Mr. Eli A. Gallup, Superintendent of Parks in Ann Arbor for so many years, this park was named Gallup Lake Park, and a boulder found at the land fill was retained and used as a marker in the Park. The employees of the Parks Department had a plaque made at their own expense and placed on this boulder. The inscription reads:-

"This stone found and preserved
by
Eli A. Gallup
Has been placed in his honor by
Park Employees 1964"

The total area of the Park is now 17.5 acres, comprising the original 14 acres plus 3.5 acres of reclaimed land.

The character of the park is primarily for passive recreation such as picnicking, walking or biking, fishing, boating, sunning, nature study, the opportunity for some active recreation is provided by the tot lot, hockey or ice skating, and open field play such as softball, football, soccer, kite flying, frisbee throwing etc.

The intent of the Parks Department is to create more usable land area from the material dredged from the river bottom. Some of this dredged material will also be used to vary the topography of the existing park to give it more character and a more natural appearance. By undulating the topography, high points have been gained from which tremendous views are offered

both up and down stream. Gallup Lake has been deepened to provide a better fish habitat and at the same time provide clear water free of weed growth and stagnation. The shape of the lake has been altered somewhat to give it a more natural or softer appearance thus allowing it to blend in with the natural elements.

Planting that will be done in the future will both reinforce and reflect the riparian plant species present in the river valley now. Under the current contract, few trees were lost unless they were out of character with the new design scheme.

The Park should provide a remote and restful atmosphere taking advantage of the tranquility of the water present all around, and enhanced by the occasional excitement of a passing passenger or freight train. Both the naturalist and recreationist should gain from the end produce of Gallup Park. It will have a great deal to offer both, in the form of a compromise with nature.

The present facilities are:-

Park Shelter

Well for drinking water

Parking - 88 cars

Interconnecting bicycle and pedestrian trails

1. Accessible from Fuller Road, Geddes Road, Huron Parkway and Dixboro Road.

Picnic tables and grills

Open field play area - unstructured turf play field

Tot lot play area

Gallup Park Lake

1. Summer use - fishing

2. Winter use - ice fishing

natural ice pond for hockey or skating