

The 28 Parcels Forming West Park

The 28 separate purchases are listed in Table 1 in order of their occurrence over time. Some commentary describes relevant details.

Table 1: Parcels of Land Comprising West Park

June 1, 1908 Common Council minutes: “[Park] Commissioner Burns reported regarding Westside park and athletic filed, indicating that about six acres can be purchased.... Resolved, that ... the matter be referred back to said [Park] commission with power to act... Adopted [12 Yeas, 1 Nay].

Deed/Land Contract/ Quit Claim Date Signed	Acquired From
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July 1908	Madgelene Rohde (L. 170, p. 319; followed in Dec. 1912 by quit claim) [About 4 ½ acres that was once part of David Godfrey Estate; no street access but a 12-foot right of way to Huron St.]
July 1908	Madgelene Rohde (L. 170, p. 322; followed in Oct. 1913 by deed) [Lots #1 & #2 in Rohde Bros. Subdivision, which front onto Chapin St.]
July 1908	George Bischoff (L. 170, p. 324; followed in July 1909 by John George Bischoff deed) [About 1 acre of land west of lofts #1 and #2 in Rohde Bros. Sub-division. Grantor reserves the right to enter (to access his remaining property) any road made from Chapin St. to this land herein acquired by the City for park purposes. City “agrees to maintain a tile of sufficient size not less than 12” to carry off the surface water. In case of necessity the Grantor is allowed to lay a pipe in the ditch now dug to tap the creek for water for their greenhouse.”]

The above three purchases gave West Park its first land – about six acres fronting onto Chapin Street and with right of way onto Huron Street. It was said there was room for a “base ball diamond”. The parcels were bought on land contract.

August 1913	J. George Bischoff and Wilhelmine Bischoff, his wife [First mention of ‘West Park’ in a park deed.]
April 1915	Samuel W. Burchfield and Lillian M. Burchfield, husband and wife [Exchange of roughly equal amounts of land that squared off Burchfield’s property while giving West Park more space behind the backstop of the baseball diamond.]

Around this time Park Board gave permission to Board of Education to use some ground at West Park for a children’s playground, Board of Education responsible for cost of apparatus, and Superintendent of Parks responsible for erecting the apparatus and supervision of the playground. The following year toilets with water tap were constructed at West Park.

November 1915	Michael J. Fritz, a single man [Three parcels of land: (a) large piece of former Donald McIntyre Estate, (b) adjoining lot fronting on Huron Street, and (c) adjoining lot fronting on N. Seventh Street.]
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Michael J. Fritz had purchased this land for the express purpose of holding it until the city could buy it for West Park. This addition roughly doubled the size of West Park and added access on both Huron Street and N. Seventh Street. It, however, meant a West Park-east and a West Park-west separated by the Jacob Laubengayer property that lay between them (which was not for sale). A connecting right of way corridor was obtained by gaining permission to use a not-built-on railway right of way that ran through the Jacob Laubengayer property.

October 1921 Amelia Laubengayer (Widow of Jacob Laubengayer)[2 acre tract of land between east and west main portions of West Park.]

West Park was now one contiguous good-sized park.

January 1924 Mrs. Marian Cooper*
[on N. Seventh St.]

In 1924 close to 150 people petitioned that the grounds formerly occupied by old Mack School (formerly 3rd Ward School) be acquired for park purposes and added to West Park.

January 1925 The Public Schools of the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, a Michigan Corporation
[Exchange of land. West Park gained old 3rd Ward School property on south side of Miller Ave.; Public Schools gained part of Hanover Square (between Packard St. and Madison St. and east of Perry School) to use for a girls' playground at Perry School.]

December 1925 Mattie Huebner, survivor of herself and Frank Huebner, her husband, now deceased
January 1926 Edward Schlander and Louise E. Schlander, husband and wife
[Triangular piece of land to "complete the Seventh Street entrance to the park".]

August 1926 Lillian Golz, a married woman
[on N. Seventh St.]

In 1927 part of West Park east of the Laubengayer land and south of the stream flowing through the park was deeded away to Public Schools, who agreed to replace two tennis courts at a new site to be chosen by Parks Board. In consideration of the loss of land the city obtained several parcels of land north of West Park. Those parcels, listed below, are noted by @. The deeded-away land returned to West Park in 1936.

March 1927 James K. Palmer and Marie Palmer, husband and wife @
May 1927 John Finkbeiner and Carrie Finkbeiner, husband and wife @
May 1927 Herman Graf and Elizabeth Graf, husband and wife @
May 1927 William G. Behnke and Clara A. Behnke, husband and wife @
May 1927 James G. Winsor and Buella Winsor, husband and wife @
June 1927 Paul Haines, a widower @
June 1927 Edward Schlanderer and Louise E. Schlanderer, husband and wife
June 1927 William B. Libolt and Caroline H. Libolt, husband and wife @ November 1927 Mary Smalley, a married woman*
[on N. Seventh St.]

May 1928 Clayton Deake, County Drain Commissioner of Washtenaw County, Michigan
[Quite claim for strips of land 3 rods wide running through the center of West Park formerly granted to Jackson & Ann Arbor Railway Co. by former owners of the parcels. This included the Laubengayer right of way.]

February 1936 The Public Schools of the City of Ann Arbor, a Michigan corporation
[This returned to West Park the land deeded to Public Schools in 1927.]

September 1958 Gustave Mohrlock, in his own right and as survivor of himself and his deceased wife, Ella Mohrlock

October 1962 First of Ann Arbor, Inc., a Michigan corporation
[Quit claim for equal exchange of land at 810 W. Huron between West Park and First of Ann Arbor for constructing Lurie Terrace.]

April 1964 L. Dell Henry
[Equal exchange of land to enable L. Dell Henry to enlarge the parking space for his office-apartment building.]

June 1983 Stacey L. Fox (L. 1887, p. 277)
[on Miller Ave.]

December 2009 Pratician Homes, LLC (L. 4773, p. 866)
[Lot #4 in Rhode Brother's Subdivision of Tom's Estate. On Chapin St.]

These last two properties broadened West Park's access on Miller Avenue and on Chapin Street and improved visibility into the park from those streets.