

JULIE D. KOHLER

PLEASE REPLY TO: Bridgeport
WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL: (203) 337-4157
E-Mail Address: jkohler@cohenandwolf.com

February 22, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC AND HAND DELIVERY

Chairman Robert Stein
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: *Docket No. 461 - Eversource Energy application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 115-kilovolt (kV) bulk substation located at 290 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich, Connecticut, and two 115-kV underground transmission circuits extending approximately 2.3 miles between the proposed substation and the existing Cos Cob Substation, Greenwich, Connecticut, and related substation improvements.*

Dear Chairman Stein:

The Town of Greenwich respectfully requests permission to supplement two of its interrogatory responses. The material is not extensive or controversial, and is simply material regarding the historic background of Bruce Park and the Town's plans for Bruce Park. It is the Town's position that it is important for the Council to have this information when rendering its decision on this project, as this information is not in the record.

Enclosed please find one original and fifteen copies of the Town of Greenwich's Supplemental Response to CSC-11 and Exhibit D-1, and Supplemental Response to CSC-15 and Exhibit I-1 both dated February 22, 2016.

I certify that a copy has been sent on this date to all participants of record as reflected on the Council's service list dated February 1, 2016. The Council's copies are being hand delivered today.

Chairman Stein
February 22, 2016
Page 2

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Very truly yours,



Julie D. Kohler

JDK/lcc

cc: Service List (*Via Electronic Mail*)
Honorable Peter J. Tesei, Town of Greenwich (*Via Electronic Mail*)
John Wayne Fox, Esq., Town of Greenwich (*Via Electronic Mail*)
John Wetmore, Esq., Town of Greenwich (*Via Electronic Mail*)
Katie Deluca, Town of Greenwich (*Via Electronic Mail*)

WITNESS: WITNESS PANEL
REQUEST FROM: CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Revise the first paragraph as follows:

Bruce Park is Greenwich's oldest public park, established in 1908 through a bequest of Robert Moffat Bruce. Located on 60 acres along the south side of Interstate 95, the park stretches for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile between Steamboat Road to the west and Indian Field Road to the east. Indian Harbor Drive and its extension, Davis Avenue, form its southern boundary. Historic mill ponds, now functioning as tidal ponds, bisect the 60 acres, providing a prominent water feature that serves as the centerpiece of the Bruce Park landscape. **This is evidenced by the Historic Landscape Report dated prepared by Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC for the Town of Greenwich Department of Parks & Recreation Division of Parks & Trees ("Report"). This Report is attached hereto as Exhibit D-1. The Report details the significant history of Bruce Park, its recreational features, natural landscapes, and waterviews.**

Bruce Park - Binney Park - Byram Park - Montgomery Pinetum
Historic Parks of Greenwich, Connecticut

Historic Landscape Report



prepared by

Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC
313 Elm Street
Northampton, Massachusetts
01060

Historic Landscape Report

for

*Bruce Park – Byram Park – Binney Park – Montgomery Pinetum
Historic Parks of Greenwich, Connecticut*

prepared for the

*Town of Greenwich Department of Parks & Recreation
Division of Parks & Trees
101 Field Point Road
Greenwich, Connecticut
06836*

by

*Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC
313 Elm Street
Northampton, Massachusetts
01060*

2009

BRUCE PARK

Bruce Park is Greenwich's oldest public park, established in 1908 through a bequest of Robert Moffat Bruce. Located on 60 acres along the south side of Interstate 95, the park stretches for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile between Steamboat Road to the west and Indian Field Road to the east, with Indian Harbor Drive and its extension, Davis Avenue, forming its southern boundary. The historic Davis Mill Pond bisects the 60 acres, providing a prominent water feature that serves as the centerpiece of the Bruce Park landscape.

The following section details the historical development of the Bruce Park landscape, defines a *Period of Historical Significance*, assesses the landscape's existing conditions, and provides preliminary recommendations for preserving the landscape in the future.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Before 1908

Land near the center of Greenwich that would become Bruce Park served, for over two centuries, as the site of mill and farming operations. Between 1709 and 1889, a tide-powered grain mill, known as the Elisha Davis Mill, was the chief source of income for the Town's first minister, Joseph Morgan. It stood at the southern end of Bruce Lake, and in later years became known as Davis Landing, operating until just before 1900. The Isaac Howe Mead farm stood on land adjacent to the mill.

In 1858, Robert Moffat Bruce (1822-1908), a textile merchant and member of the New York Cotton Exchange, purchased a home near the Davis Mill and Mead farm. The house, which had been built in 1853, stood near the south side of the Boston and Maine Railroad line, and the entry drive led from Steamboat Road eastward to the house. It is possible that Bruce may have constructed stone entry gate posts where the drive met Steamboat Road. An historic photograph shows these posts appearing as early as 1908.



Road to the Mead Farm, before 1900. Courtesy of the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich.



The Bruce Mansion, built in 1853, purchased by Robert Bruce in 1858. Courtesy of the Bruce Museum.

In 1894, Bruce built a two-story, gambrel-roofed structure on what would become part of the I-95 right-of-way. It was used in summer only, providing a vacation spot for working girls from New York City. Later it became known as the Emily Bruce Shelter.

When Robert Bruce died in 1908, he bequeathed his home and nearly 100 acres to the Town of Greenwich for use and benefit of the public as a natural history, historical and art museum (the Bruce Museum). A provision in the deed allowed for part of his gift to be used “for the purpose of a public highway,” an event that did not occur until 1958.



Entrance to Bruce Park, c. 1910. Courtesy of the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich.

1909 – 1929

In 1909, the Bruce family transferred to mansion and land to the Town, and work on creating a park commenced. The land was marshy and filled with tangled brush and decayed trees. Workers scooped out marshes to create ponds and raised the surrounding land. They dammed the pond to allow for boating and swimming, built a boathouse, constructed bridges and laid out three miles of drives.



The “clubhouse” built by Robert Bruce in 1894 and known formerly as the Emily Bruce Shelter. Courtesy of the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich.

Once the Town had established the park’s main features, workers added amenities. They erected a sign, installed benches, and built a tennis court. During World War I (1918), the Town provided space within the park for Victory Gardens, and in 1925 located a dog pound on park land.

Despite the growing popularity of the automobile during the early decades of

the 20th century, Greenwich continued to maintain a stable within Bruce Park, housing and caring for horses. By 1928, the Town had organized a formal recreation department, and housed it at the Bruce Park “shelter,” also known as the “clubhouse.”

1930 - 1958

During the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, the Town devoted both physical and monetary resources toward expanding the recreation offerings at Bruce Park. In 1930, Greenwich paid S. E. Minor to prepare a topographical survey of the park, and paid a landscape architect, Armand R. Tibbetts for a “development plan.” While the whereabouts of Tibbetts’s plan is unknown, a copy of the Minor plan remains in the archives of the Greenwich-based surveying company and documents the park’s features in that year. Included were stone bridges, cobble gutters, and lamp posts. A “cottage” and stable building, along with a “machine shop” stood at the park’s eastern end, with a stone wall lining the eastern park boundary line. Significant trees included Oak, Dogwood, Maple, Black Birch, Gum, Pignut, Tulip, Sassafras, Cherry, Ash, Elm, Beech, Ironwood, Locust, Sycamore and Hickory.



The Bruce Park Pond, before 1938. Courtesy of the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich.

After the Minor plan was completed, the Town began adding an array of active and passive recreation features. In the 1930s, Greenwich added a golf driving range, swings, a horseshoe court, handball courts, a lawn bowling green, a basketball backstop, and a skating and hockey rink. By 1939, each of these amenities was up and running, along with sites for archery, handball, paddle tennis, ping pong, volleyball, as well as picnicking. The clubhouse became a locus of major activity, providing space for group meetings (including the Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, and Negro Club). Facilities for showering and playing games were provided in the clubhouse, as well as living quarters for administrative officers and the custodian. By the end of the 1930s along with Byram Park in South Greenwich, Bruce Park was providing the greatest number and variety of forms of recreational opportunities within the Greenwich park system.



Skaters at Bruce Park Lake, 1928-1929. Photo from the archives of the Greenwich Time.



Map of Bruce Park from 1938, from the *Atlas of Greenwich, Stamford, Darien & New Canaan, Connecticut*, prepared by the Franklin Survey Company.

in more natural groupings and making large plantings of Asiatic crabapples, shadblow, beach plum, dogwood, Azalea, and blueberry. The Town Report noted that *Mertensia* and *Narcissi* had naturalized in the wooded area west of Indian Field Road, and that a planting of *Lilium regale* had been made in the vicinity of the rock ledges south west of the bowling green. The Town had established a lilac collection along the sidewalk bordering Davis Avenue, just east of the millpond bridge. Other species planned for planting at Bruce Park included *Azalea arborescens*, *vaseyi*, *viscose* and *nudiflora*, with the overall effect of creating color.



A hand-colored photograph of Bruce Park, showing the array of flowering trees and the granite edgestones. Date unknown. Courtesy of the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich.

In the 1940s Greenwich's Division of Parks and Trees established a vision for management of all the town parks, drawing on the natural amenities of the Greenwich landscape as inspiration. In the Town Annual Report from that year, the division noted that the parks "should be made to excel in the art of garden and landscape design which will afford a living example stressing the importance and desirability of preserving and emphasizing rather than transforming the different types of natural scenery." They proposed making the parks into arboreta, and creating garden centers, or nurseries at each.

At Bruce Park, the Town carried out this vision by re-arranging many existing plants

It is likely, too, that the Town had created a nursery in Bruce Park for growing small and inexpensive plant materials. 4500 such plants were taken out of the nursery that year and planted in various spots. Species included crabapples (20 vars.), Azaleas (12 vars.), shadblow (5 vars.), blueberry (4 vars.), chokeberry (8 vars.), lilacs (16 vars.), as well as laurel, beach plum, dogwood and *Vinca minor*.

While the Town curtailed work in the park during World War II, crews

continued to make minor repairs to buildings, drainage systems, and roads. By 1950, upgrades resumed, including a four-year project to renovate the bowling green. Additional fireplaces were added in the picnic area at Woods Road, along with picnic tables and a water fountain for picnickers. In the fall of 1950, through a gift of McArdle's Seed Store, thousands of tulip

bulbs were planted in a newly created “spring garden” in the park. In the spring 1951 it was the largest display of tulip plantings in Greenwich, with a background of azaleas, andromeda, dogwoods and flowering crabs. Other improvements included seasonal plantings of chrysanthemums, an upgraded lighting system, a new footbridge, and a modern playground, the first of its kind built in Greenwich.

1959 – Present

In 1958, a major alteration was made to the size and offerings of Bruce Park, when the Federal Highway Administration began construction on the Connecticut Turnpike (I-95). The route ran along the south side of the Boston and Maine Railroad line, claiming land along the park’s northern edge. In return for this land, the FHA deeded Greenwich acreage on the north side of Town for use as a golf course, known as the Bruce Golf Course. The clubhouse, a ballfield, and a flagpole area all stood in the Turnpike’s path, and were demolished with the construction of the new route. The western park entrance was relocated south of the Bruce Museum, at a newly created roadway, Museum Drive. The historic stone piers marking the former entrance to Bruce Park became part of the entry to the Town’s pistol range.



The Bruce Park Lake in 1968, from Town and Country.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Town continued to maintain the park grounds, made minor upgrades, and add some facilities. In 1967, the Town created new picnic areas and developed new horseshoe courts, and in 1968 began adding new family play areas. Construction on the most recent physical improvement to Bruce Park began in 2008, when the Junior League of Greenwich financed a new playground, locating it across Museum Drive from the Bruce Museum.

Between 1999 and 2002, two separate master plans were drafted for Bruce Park. The first appeared to have evaluated the condition of existing recreational features. The second specified a series of physical improvements, such as upgrading lighting, reducing the geese population in and around the ponds, introducing traffic-calming. Neither provided a detailed historical chronology of the physical development of the park on which to base recommendations.

Between 1999 and 2002, two separate master plans were drafted for Bruce Park. The first appeared to have evaluated the condition of existing recreational features. The second specified a series of physical improvements, such as upgrading lighting, reducing the geese population in and around the ponds, introducing traffic-calming. Neither provided a detailed historical chronology of the physical development of the park on which to base recommendations.

PERIOD of HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The *Period of Historical Significance* for Bruce Park spans the years 1908 to 1958. During this time, the park was established and its major physical features constructed, including the ponds, roadways, passive and active recreational facilities. During this period, Greenwich added many details that contributed to its visual appeal, including granite curbstones, plantings of

deciduous, evergreen and flowering trees, bulbs and shrubs. After the construction of the Connecticut Turnpike in 1958, several park features were removed, and the Town's growing population gradually increased vehicular traffic into the park. The Town should base future efforts to preserve Bruce Park's features on the landscape's look and feel during this Period of Historical Significance.

LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

The following assessment of the Bruce Park landscape documents its existing natural, built and functional features, and analyzes their condition. Together with the Historical Development, the assessment provides a basis for the preservation recommendations that appear at the end of this section.



The Connecticut Turnpike (I-95) rims the northern edge of Bruce Park, creating a noisy boundary.

Context

As mentioned in the opening of this section, Bruce Park lies on 60 acres along the south side of Interstate 95, extending between Steamboat Road and Indian Field Road. At its widest point from north to south, the park measures 1100 feet. Commercial operations and parking areas stand along Steamboat Road to the west of the park, and private residential neighborhoods rim the west and south sides. Davis Mill Pond cuts through the middle of the parkland, creating one of the most distinctive natural features. The context of Bruce Park has significantly

changed since its inception in 1908, and today's surrounding uses both complement and detract from its historic character, as follows:

- The east and south edges complement the park's historic character. Single-family residences, set amongst groves of mature trees, quiet the park's setting. The extension of Davis Mill Pond southward from the park adds serenity to the southern edge.
- The steady sound of vehicular and train traffic on Interstate 95 and the Metro-North Rail line (adjacent to I-95 on the north side), and parking lots across Steamboat Road create a noisy and intrusive northern and western park edge. The slightly higher elevation of the highway adds more volume to the traffic noise. The short length of the park's western edge (approximately 400'), minimizes the conflict of the parking lots located across Steamboat Road.

Topography & Water

Land across Bruce Park rolls gently downward from the east and west ends toward the Davis Mill Pond and two smaller ponds, all located at the center of the park. While most of the parkland is accessible (5% slope or less), Bruce Park does contain several natural outcroppings and high points making some portions to difficult to access, as follows:



Bruce Park's ponds, created out of low lying areas near the Davis Mill Pond, are some of the Park's most beloved features.

- High points are located (1) at the western end and the site of the Bruce Museum, (2) on the east and west sides of Davis Mill Pond, and (3) at the far eastern end. Each of these provides locations for long views across the park (see *Views*, below).
- Rock outcroppings create additional promontories. Significant outcroppings are located (1) adjacent to the Junior League playground, (2) alongside the gazebo, and (3) in and amongst the wooded areas on the park's eastern end (near Indian Field Road).
- Low points appear around the edges of Davis Mill Pond and the two smaller ponds. The landform around the ponds provides the most accessible location for park users with all levels of physical ability, and this area appears to be the most heavily used portion of the park.

Views

As discussed under *Topography*, the gently rolling terrain, punctuated with several rock outcroppings and high points, offers visitors many viewing opportunities. Views are possible from high points looking inward, across the park landscape, as well as outward, over the Town of Greenwich. In addition, the bridges traverse the harbor and ponds, providing excellent spots for gazing across the water.

- Pleasing inward views include those from the Bruce Museum looking southwestward toward the Junior League playground, from the stone bridges looking outward across the harbor and ponds, from the edges of the water looking across to the opposite sides, and from the walkways looking down the park roadway.
- Pleasing outward views include those possible from the high point on the east side of Davis Mill Pond looking eastward across the smaller ponds, and westward across the Mill Pond.
- Less pleasing views appear from the high points looking northward over I-95 and the Metro North Rail line.

Entrances, Circulation & Parking

While visitors may access and travel through the grounds of Bruce Park at any time, several characteristics of the entrances, circulation routes and parking areas present challenges to park users, as follows:

- The park contains two official vehicular entrances located (1) at the western end of Museum Drive at its intersection with Steamboat Road and (2) at the eastern end of Bruce Park Drive at its intersection with Indian Field Road. These entrances lack detail, making them unclear as gateways.
- Additional vehicular entrances are located at Davis Avenue (at its intersection with Indian Field Road), via the several residential streets intersection Davis Avenue from the south, and via an underpass at I-95, connecting downtown Greenwich with Davis Avenue. While these are not official park entrances, they appear to be heavily used by residents of the adjacent neighborhoods.
- Because Bruce Park lies between two main north-south vehicular routes, Steamboat and Indian Field Roads. Its winding roadway is often used by motorists as a “cut-through,” providing quick and unimpeded access between the two main routes. As a result, motorists speed through the park, creating hazards for park users and their pets.
- The park contains a network of pedestrian paths, paved with bituminous asphalt, that runs alongside but stand apart from, the park roadway. These paths provide walkers with a safe alternative to the roads, which have no visible shoulder.
- The park contains some additional footpaths leading (1) through the woodlands at the park’s eastern end (part of a fitness trail), and (2) to the highpoint and pavilion located on the eastern side of the harbor. The latter path contains stone steps, allowing users to more easily traverse the slope. Both paths are overgrown and difficult to follow and the condition of the steps is poor.
- Six designated parking areas span the park. Three of these are parking lots, located near the Bruce Museum and Junior League playground. Three are parallel parking spaces located around the ponds.

Plant Communities

Bruce Park’s 60 acres contains many mature trees standing in groves and/or forming woodlands, along with open lawns and water’s edges, as well as one designed garden. Each of these plant communities offers users a different park experience as follows:

- *Tree Groves & Woodlands.* Groves of mature deciduous and coniferous trees over approximately 1/3 of the parkland, with most standing at the far western end (around the Junior League playground) and throughout the eastern end (between the ponds and Indian

Field Road). The town has managed these woodlands by cutting diseased or dead trees, removing invasive understory and encouraging the growth of sapling non-invasive trees. Rock outcroppings pierce the groves at the eastern end, creating an exciting walking experience for those using the woodland path.

- *Ornamental Plantings & Specimen Trees.* Bruce Park has long been a landscape of handsome ornamental trees and shrubs and specimen trees, and continues to host a diversity of species. Most of these appear in groupings around the ponds and near the harbor, and species include dawn redwood, red maple, paper birch, and Rhododendron.
- *Open Lawns.* The park offers several lawn areas for many forms of passive recreation. These lawns lie adjacent to the edges of the harbor and ponds in the lower-lying areas of the park.
- *Water's Edges.* While most of the pond edges are lined with boulders to stabilize the banks, some water-loving species continue to grow. These include cattail and willow.
- *Designed Garden.* Bruce Park contains one designed garden, located at the center of the park on the east side of the harbor. It is dedicated to the cultivation of roses.

Buildings & Recreation Features

In addition to the Bruce Museum, former home of Robert Bruce, the park contains buildings and active recreation features, several of which date to the earliest years of the park, as follows:

- Buildings include two gazebos, two restroom buildings, and a maintenance building. One gazebo, located atop the high point on the east side of the harbor, is supported by mortared stone columns (matching the park's bridges) likely dates to the earliest years of the park (with repairs, such as a new roof, made during later years). The other, located between the harbor and ponds near the rose garden, has been built recently to replace an old, decayed structure. The concrete block restroom facilities, located on the west and east sides of the ponds, are likely later 20th century additions. The maintenance building, located along Indian Field Road on the east side of the park, may pre-date the park (based on its architectural style and carriage and hayloft doors).
- Recreation features include one ballfield, one set of three tennis courts, a lawn tennis area, and the Junior League playground (under construction). In addition, the eastern end of the park contains several picnic tables and outdoor barbecue stands.

Landscape Details

- Bruce Park retains many historic features that contribute to the historic character. They include the Bruce Museum (former Bruce mansion), Bruce Park Drive and granite edgestones, boulder-lined ponds, mortared stone bridges, pedestrian path network, tennis courts, lawn bowling green, gazebo atop the knoll on the east side of the harbor, picnic

tables and barbecues, maintenance building (former stable), and many historic trees and shrubs.



The Park's stone arch bridges date to 1908, when the Park first opened.

- Historical research showed that Bruce Park once included several features that have been removed. These include the granite post and iron arched entryway (at Steamboat Road), a fishing pier, club house, another ballfield, and flagpole (all removed for the construction of the Connecticut Turnpike (1958). Town reports indicate that Bruce Park once held a more diverse collection of trees and shrubs.
- Several features have been added including a new gazebo, restroom buildings, parking lots, wood timber fencing, Junior League playground and rose garden.

PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommendations for measures to be taken by the Town of Greenwich to preserve, restore, reconstruct, and/or rehabilitate Bruce Park:

- Complete a comprehensive tree and shrub inventory of Bruce Park, and compare the inventory with the species shown on the 1930 survey, prepared by S. E. Minor and other species recorded in the Town Reports of 1941 and 1950/52. From this, the Town should create a long-term plant preservation/restoration plan that removes incorrect species and re-introduces historic species that have been removed, and set aside space for accepting donations of trees. Once the inventory has been completed create an arboretum at Bruce Park, by creating a written catalogue of trees and shrubs, labeling the tree and shrub species, and developing public programs around the arboretum concept. Explore the possibility of re-locating the rose garden to an area less-susceptible to flooding. *(Note: As of the writing of this report, the inventory project is underway.)*
- Reconstruct the existing playground. *(Note: As of the writing of this report, the playground project is underway.)*
- Establish a set of gateways for Bruce Park, located at the east and west entrances. At the least, these should be marked with signs. Larger scale gateways could include re-building or re-locating the "Bruce Park" stone columns and arched entryway, constructed at Steamboat Road when the park first opened (today marking the entrance to the pistol range).

- Conduct a comprehensive drainage study of Bruce Park to address flooding and sedimentation problems. Include in this study the possibility of planting buffer species to control sedimentation problems, and water-loving trees and shrubs (such as Weeping Willows) to help absorb water. Explore the possibility of maintaining longer-length turf around the pond areas.



The historic stone columns that once marked the entrance to Bruce Park are now located at the driveway of the pistol range.

- Consider introducing a series of traffic-calming measures on Bruce Park Drive and Davis Avenue to help control the speed of traffic moving through the park. Pedestrian crossings should be more clearly articulated with contrasting materials and/or raised elevations.
- Upgrade the network of sidewalks by connecting segmented walks and completing walkway loops. Upgrade the system of footpaths leading through the woodlands and to the overlooks through clearing, installation of better surfaces, and placement of signs. Consider marking an ADA-compliant route for users of all levels of ability. *(Note: As of the writing of this report, the walkways are undergoing improvements.)*
- Develop a palette of hardscape materials for Bruce Park, including materials for sidewalks, footpaths, lighting, curbing, fencing, signs, barbecue pits and other park amenities. Once the palette is established, develop a plan for ranking physical improvements, including upgrades to the bridges and railings, and installation of lighting along pathways.
- Explore the possibility of re-building the fishing pier, once located along the banks of the Davis Mill Pond.
- Develop a plan to connect, via a walkway, Bruce Park to Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, located to the west across Steamboat Road.
- Conduct a needs assessment and develop plan for re-use of the historic barn/stable, located on the eastern end of the park along Indian Field Road, and consider, as one of the uses, a visitor center and/or office for a Greenwich Parks friends' group.

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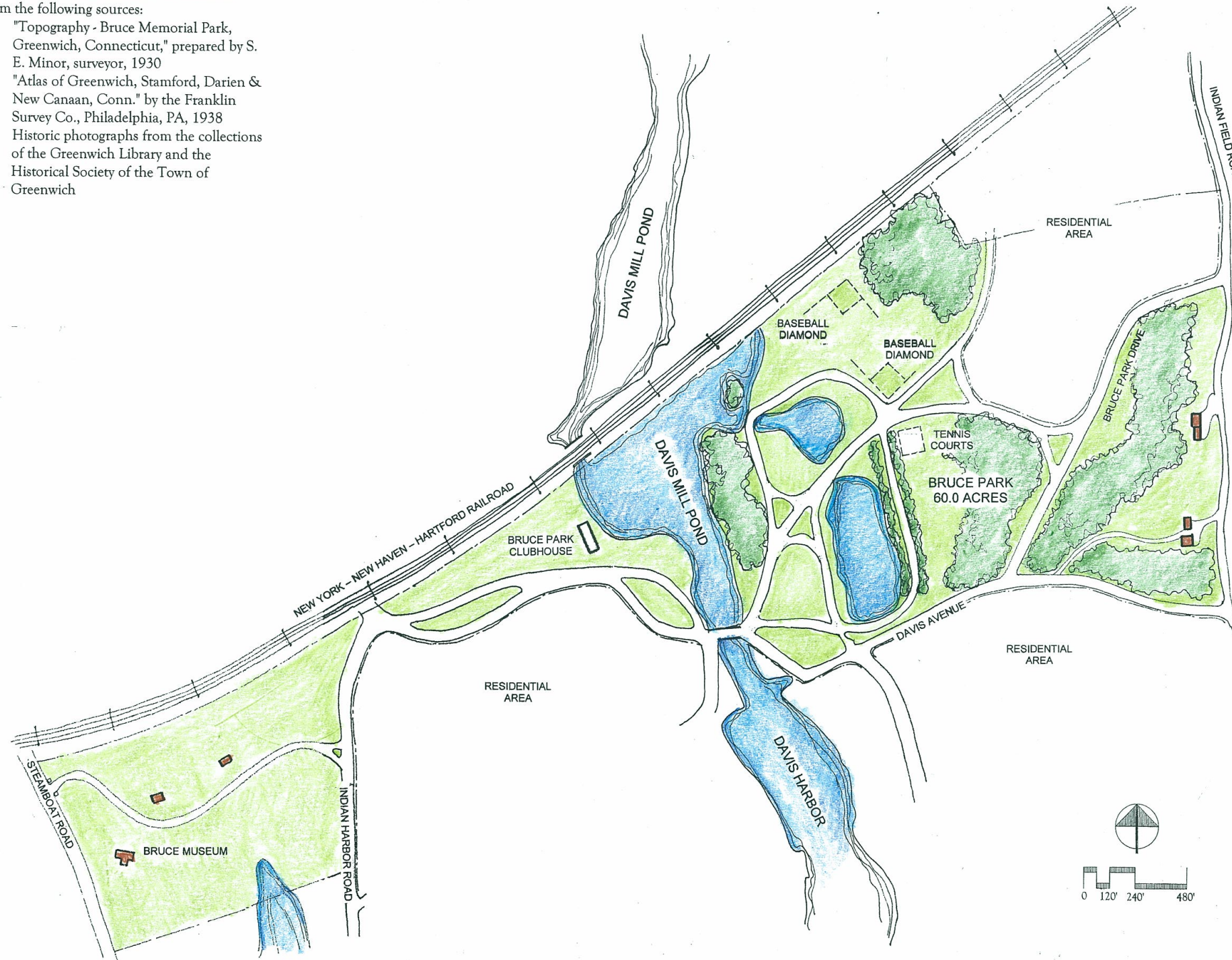
EXISTING CONDITIONS

BRUCE PARK
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE REPORT
Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC

NOTES

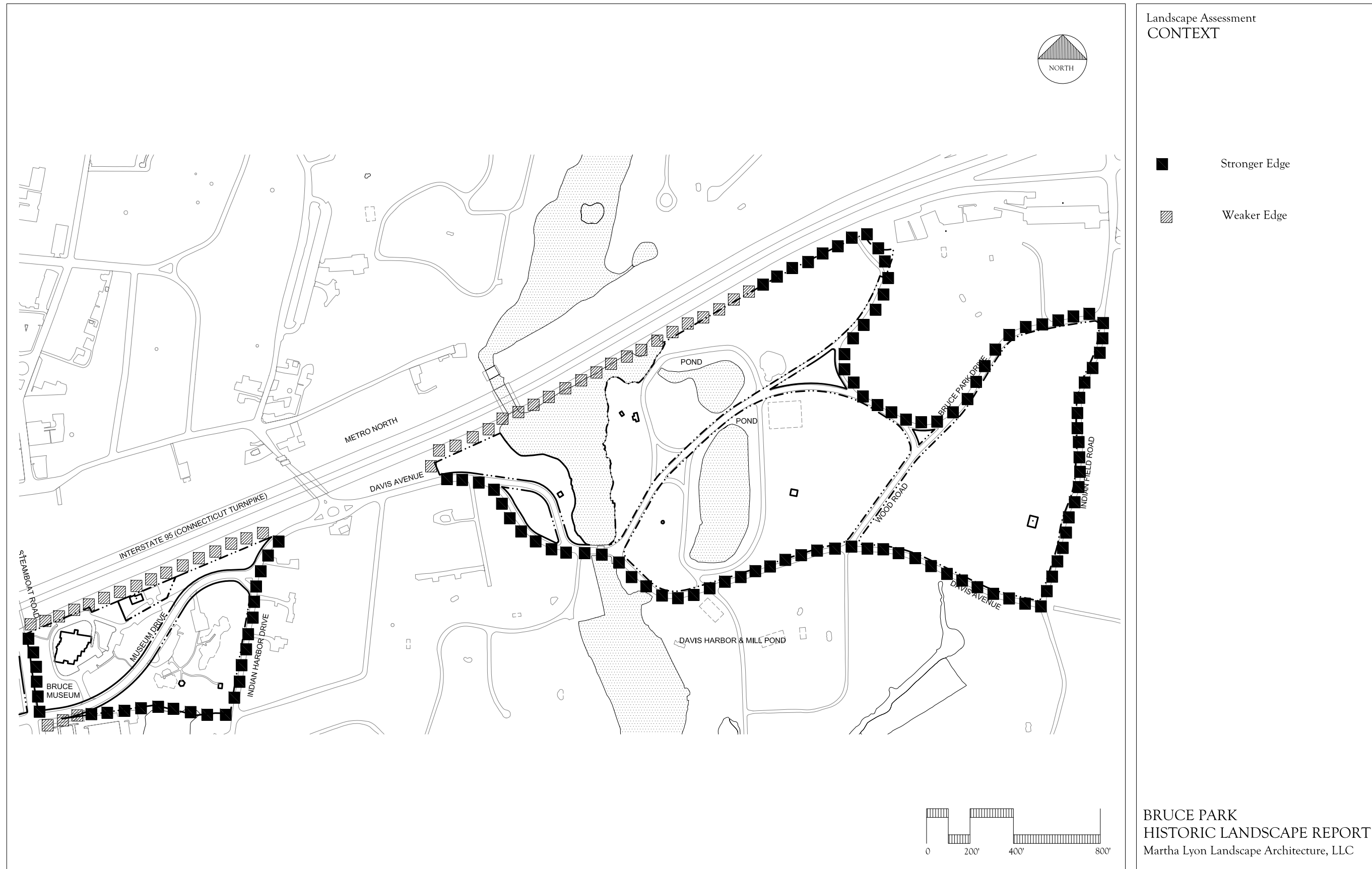
Information for this drawing was obtained from the following sources:

- "Topography - Bruce Memorial Park, Greenwich, Connecticut," prepared by S. E. Minor, surveyor, 1930
- "Atlas of Greenwich, Stamford, Darien & New Canaan, Conn." by the Franklin Survey Co., Philadelphia, PA, 1938
- Historic photographs from the collections of the Greenwich Library and the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich



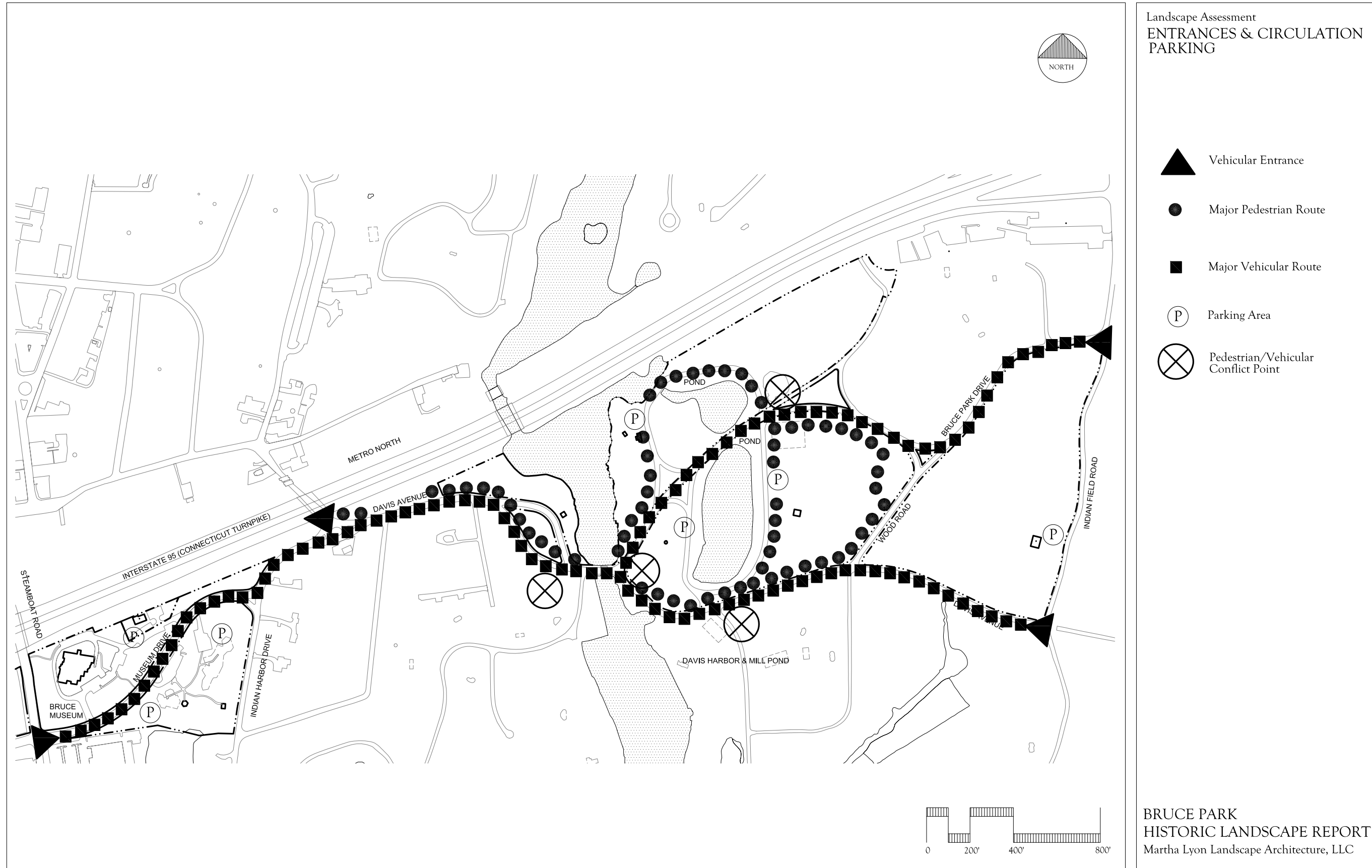
PERIOD of SIGNIFICANCE
1908 - 1958

BRUCE PARK
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE REPORT
Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC



BRUCE PARK
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE REPORT
Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC









**WITNESS: WITNESS PANEL
REQUEST FROM: CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

QUESTION:

For trees lost to construction within Bruce Park, are replacement trees of the same species acceptable to the Town?

RESPONSE:

It is difficult to determine the exact impact to trees and the urban forest in Bruce Park without more detailed information relating to the exact route and the disturbance relating to any HDD operation. As indicated in response to CSC-14, there are many more trees that will be removed than just 36" caliper trees. Indeed any construction within Bruce Park would severely impact an urban forest which includes trees and shrubs of various sizes. Therefore, it is critical that any consideration of replacement of trees must not focus solely on individual tree species, but on the prospect of replacing this urban forest and all of the ecological functions of this forested area. The Town urges the Siting Council to avoid the siting of any transmission line in Bruce Park, in order to preserve its precious natural resources.

It should be noted that the Town has plans to create an Arboretum in Bruce Park. See Arboretum Concept Plan attached as I-1. The Arboretum is scheduled for inception in Bruce Park this spring (2016). Any tree removal that would result from transmission line construction or staging through Bruce Park could significantly affect the tree species to be included in the Bruce Park Arboretum.

Bruce Spaman
Superintendent
Parks & Trees Division
Tree Warden



Administration.....622-6472
Griffith E. Harris Golf Course.....531-7200
Information/Programs.....622-7830
Marine & Facility Operations.....618-7651
Parks & Trees.....622-7824
Recreation.....622-6478

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Parks & Trees Division**

**Concept: Proposal for Creating a Town Arboretum in Greenwich,
Connecticut**

March 17, 2014

The Parks and Trees Division of the Greenwich Parks and Recreation Department is proposing to move forward with our vision for a town Arboretum based initially on four existing town parks. Directly translated, the word “Arboretum” simply means “place with trees,” but a modern arboretum is much more than simply a park or forest. In fact they are a particular kind of botanical garden that specializes in woody plants (trees and shrubs). Botanical gardens are museums of living objects that curate plant specimens in much the same way that other museums curate works of art or craft. One very important component of an arboretum is having accurate record keeping systems that track where trees came from, their correct name, their size and condition. Other activities are labeling specimens and providing interpretation and education via tours, printed material, educational web sites and programs.

Initially the Greenwich Arboretum will include the four Formal Parks in Greenwich, Binney, Bruce, Byram, and Montgomery Pinetum Parks. A botanical consultant will work with the Superintendent of Parks and Trees to develop specifications for an RFP for the creation of a master plan for the Greenwich Arboretum. The master plan would contain such components as a mission statement, plant collections policy, graphic design elements including logo and signage design, recommendations for plant collection information management, initial existing plant surveys,

and master landscape plans for each site that indicate existing plantings and opportunities/designs for future collection development.