Z&P Meeting: September 11, 2017
City Council Meeting: October 2, 2017

STAFF PLANNING REPORT

CASE 027-17 A request to apply District HP (Historic Overlay District) and list as a local landmark, the Jackson Avenue Low Water Bridge

APPLICANT Roderick Harsh

LOCATION Jackson Avenue, intersecting Glendale Road and Riverside Drive

PRESENT ZONING N/A – Surrounding parkland is zoned R-1 (Single-Family Residential)

REQUESTED OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT HP (Historic Overlay District)

STAFF ANALYSIS

This is a request by Roderick Harsh to nominate the Jackson Avenue Low Water Bridge as a local historic landmark. The property is located on Jackson Avenue, where it intersects Glendale Road and Riverside Drive. This bridge has served for 98 years as a vehicular bridge for tourists and residents.

D. O. Witmer, a local real estate developer and philanthropist was originally going to construct the Low-Water Bridge himself. He later donated the 55 acres of land on both sides of the river to the City of Joplin. As part of this arrangement, the City agreed to construct the bridge and convert the land into a park which remains to this day. McIndoe Park has served as a recreational area for the nearly 100 years that followed.

The Low Water Bridge and the park have co-existed for nearly a century, and many generations have grown-up and enjoyed the scenic vistas of the park while slowly crossing the river. Specifically, the bridge provides a unique sightline not afforded elsewhere on Shoal Creek. The Bridge provides the only view of the center of Shoal Creek at pedestrian level.

The Low Water Bridge on Shoal Creek is reflective of a utilitarian, pragmatic method of construction. The bridge is constructed of a large slab of reinforced Portland cement that rests on reinforced supports secured into bedrock. While the bridge is not the most aesthetically pleasing, it has served its purpose well for nearly 100 years.

According to the regulations of the historic preservation ordinance, the structure must meet one or more of the criteria for nomination as a local historic landmark.

The criteria include:

A. Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the community, county, state, or country;

B. Its location as a site of a significant local, county, state, or national event;

C. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or country;

D. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials;

E. Its identification as the work of a master builder, designer, architect, or landscape architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the community, county, state, or country;

F. Its embodiment of elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that render it architecturally significant;

G. Its embodiment of design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative;

H. Its unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature;

I. Its character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to farmhouses, gas stations, or other commercial structures, with a high level of integrity or architectural significance; and/or

J. Its suitability for preservation or restoration.

Any structure, property, or area that meets one or more of the above criteria shall also have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration. (Ord. No. 86-31, § 1, 3-17-86)

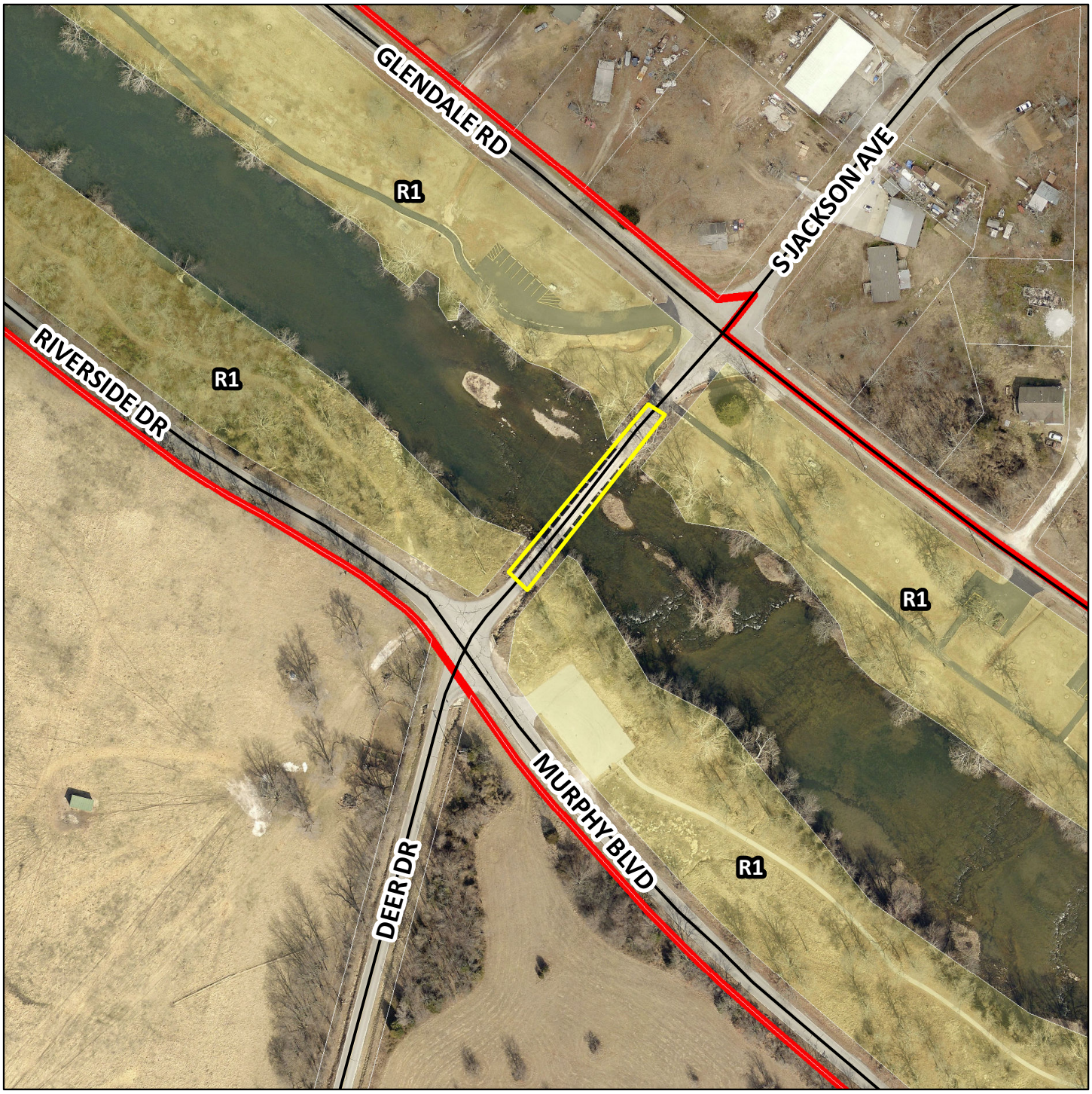
After review, staff believes the Jackson Avenue Low Water Bridge meets Criteria C, H, and I.

The Historic Preservation Committee recommended approval of Case 027-17.

Staff recommends approval of Case 027-17.

ENCLOSURES

- **Local Landmark Application**
- **HPC Staff Report**



Case 027-17: Jackson Ave, intersecting Glendale Rd. and Riverside Dr. – A request to apply District HP (Historic Overlay District) to Jackson Avenue Low Water Bridge – Roderick Harsh.

N

HISTORIC JOPLIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION
602 S Main Street, Joplin, MO 64801 (417)624-0820

Case No. 027-17

Meeting Date_____

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION FORM

LOCATION
Address: McINDOE PARK, JOPLIN MO., S. JACKSON & GLENDALE RD.
Property Name (historic or common): JACKSON ST. LOW WATER BRIDGE

OWNER INFORMATION
Name: CITY OF JOPLIN Phone: 417-624-0820
Address: JOPLIN CITY HALL, 602 S. MAIN, JOPLIN, MO. 64801

FORM PREPARED BY (If other than owner)
Name: RODERICK C. HARSH Phone: 417-624-
Address: 1200 N. RANGE LINE RD., #202, JOPLIN MO 64801
Relationship to Owner: LOCAL RESIDENT
*A notarized letter of consent from the legal owner is required.

CLASSIFICATION
Present Use: LOW WATER BRIDGE
Historic Use (if known): 97 YEARS of TOURIST & RESIDENT USE
Public or Private: PUBLIC Occupied or Unoccupied: PRESENTLY IN USE

ARCHITECTURAL and PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (attach a separate sheet if needed)
Construction Date: 1919
Architect and/or Builder (if known): CITY OF JOPLIN ROAD DEPT.
Building Materials (foundation, walls, roof, etc.): STEEL-REINFORCED CONCRETE SEE EXHIBIT B
Architectural Style: LOW WATER BRIDGE (SEE ATTACHED)
Site Description (property and surrounding area): SITUATED OVER SHOAL CREEK IN McINDOE CITY PARK

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

(*Must meet at least one of the following, but please provide a brief description of how the nominated landmark meets the significance for any requirement that applies below – attach a separate sheet if needed).

1. Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the community, county, state, or country: THE BRIDGE IS NEARLY A CENTURY OLD, YET CONTINUES TO CARRY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ACROSS SHOAL CREEK TO VISIT GRAND FALLS - A POPULAR MISSOURI ATTRACTION. IT IS ALSO PART OF THE AUDUBON HIKING TRAIL.

2. Its location as a site of a significant local, county, state, or national event: LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF JOPLIN'S MCINDOE PARK, IT BLENDS INTO ITS ENVIRONMENT AND HAS BECOME A PART OF JOPLIN'S HISTORY.

3. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or country: D.O. WITMER WAS ORIGINALLY GOING TO BUILD THE BRIDGE, BUT LATER DONATED A REARED 55 ACRES OF LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER, WHICH THE CITY AGREED TO BUILD THE PARK AND THE BRIDGE CIRCA 1917 SEE EXHIBIT A

4. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials: LOW WATER BRIDGE HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED FOR OVER 100 YEARS, AND ARE STILL USED THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

5. Its identification as the work of a master builder, designer, architect, or landscape architect whose individual work has influenced the development of a community, county, state, or country: IT APPEARS THAT THE CITY OF JOPLIN USED IT'S OWN ROAD CREWS TO BUILD THIS BRIDGE, AND LIKELY DESIGNED IT AS WELL. IT SPEAKS TO THE DURABILITY OF ITS DESIGN.

6. Its embodiment of elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that render it architecturally significant: ACCORDING TO THE 11-13-1917 JOPLIN HERALD, D.O. WITMER DESCRIBED THE BRIDGE AS "A NORMAL WATER STAGE BRIDGE, BUILT ON THE PLAN OF CULVERTS. IT WOULD REST BUT A FEW FEET ABOVE THE NORMAL WATER LEVEL."

7. Its embodiment of design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative: LARGE SLABS MADE OF REINFORCED PORTLAND CEMENT WOULD REST ON REINFORCED SUPPORTS SECURED INTO THE SURFACE BEDROCK.

8. Its unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature: THE LOW WATER BRIDGE AND THE PARK HAVE CO-EXISTED FOR NEARLY A CENTURY, AND MANY GENERATIONS HAVE GROWN-UP AND ENJOYED THE SCENIC VISTAS OF THE PARK WHILE SLOWLY CROSSING THE RIVER.

9. Its character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations, or other commercial structures, with a high level of integrity or architectural significance: THE LOW WATER BRIDGE ON SHOAL CREEK REFLECTS THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS CONSTRUCTED, IT'S NEARLY 100 YEARS OF SERVICE AND IT'S FUTURE USE AS A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING.

10. Its suitability for preservation or restoration: SEE EXHIBIT C. THIS BRIDGE HAS NOT SEEN PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE HOWEVER IT ONLY NEEDS COSMETIC ATTENTION. PRESENTLY THERE ARE NO WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS.

(*Any structure, property, or area that meets one or more of the above criteria shall also have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration. Ord. No. 86-31, ' 1, 3-17-86*)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A. Bibliography – Please provide a list of all sources used to complete this nomination form.
B. Photographs – Please provide current photographs of the property, as well as historic photographs (if available).
C. Any other sources (such as maps, newspaper clippings, etc.) that help support the nomination as a local historic landmark.

Please submit completed nomination forms to:

Planning & Community Development
Joplin City Hall
602 S. Main Street
Joplin, MO 64801

Please sign below once the nomination form is complete and ready for submittal:

Printed Name: RODERICK C. HARSH

Signature: Roderick C. Harsh Date: June 1, 2016

EXHIBIT A
1917

BUILD CONCRETE BRIDGE OVER SHOAL CREEK

Commission Grants Permit to D. O. Witmer for Park Improvement.

D. O. Witmer, a real estate dealer who gave the city a lease on forty acres of land bordering on Shoal creek, into which a picturesque public park has been made by the labor of city prisoners, was this morning granted a permit by the city council to construct at his own expense a concrete bridge across Shoal creek, at McIndoe park.

Mr. Witmer in explaining his project said there was a great deal of teritory to the south of Shoal creek that could be opened up by such a bridge. With the construction of the bridge, a road would be built to connect with the McClelland park road, that extends from the McClelland park boulevard to the South Main street road.

It will be a normal water stage bridge, built on the plan of culverts. In time of high water, the structure will be entirely submerged and not accessable to travel. It will rest but a few feet above the normal water level. Mr. Witmer will construct the bridge at the portion of the creek known as the riffles.

A ferry has for some time been, and now is in use to convey persons living on the south side of the creek, to the opposite side. However, on various occasions it has been sunk and is proving a source of considerable expense, as a result, Mr. Witmer said.

Mr. Witmer declared that it is not at all improbable but that he would be willing to lease a portion of land bordering on the south side of the creek, to be used by the city for park purposes. The city leased the land that it now has several months ago for a period of ten years. The consideration of the lease was $1. There is a privilege of renewal in the contract.

Mr. Witmer said this afternoon that material for the bridge would be moved to the scene this winter, but that construction work would not be started until next spring.

University Extension Lecture Course present Dr. Griggs, of N. Y., Connor roof tomorrow night.

EXHIBIT B

Park to the East

CITY-PT NE1/4 SW1/4 LY NE OF MURPHY BLVD & SW OF SHOAL CREEK DRIVE & SE OF GLENDALE BLVD

Park to the West (North Bank)

CITY PROPERTY-S1/2 NW1/4 LY N OF CREEK & S OF HWY & W OF BLVD

Park to the West (South Bank)

CITY PROPERTY-S1/2 NW1/4 LY S OF CREEK & N OF MURPHY & W OF GLENDALE

SW Property

PT W1/2 SEC LY W GLENDALE BLVD & S MURPHY BLVD

SE Property

EG SE COR NE1/4 SW1/4 N 109.8' N 44* W 84.7' TO POB N 44* W 550.7' N 53* W 327.8' NW TO INTER S 13* W 733.86' SE TO I-44 NE TO POB

NW Property

SAN SOUCI: LOTS 1-2 & 3

NE Property

SAN SOUCI: LOTS M & 25

EXHIBIT C

Overview of Low Water Bridges

When properly designed, an Articulated Concrete Block, also called ACB, low-water crossing can provide a hydraulically-robust load-bearing system while also facilitating fast-paced design and construction schedules. This article focuses on the three critical design elements of a successful low-water crossing project: design and construction of the load-bearing subgrade, hydraulic stability of the crossing and its surroundings, and the use of articulated concrete block as a flexible roadway surface.

There are thousands of roadways providing back-country access across the North American continent where existing drainage structures, such as bridges or culverts, are in need of replacement. In addition, roads continually are being built to provide access to new sites for recreational development and commercial expansion for which drainage structures are required. Access roads in need of drainage remediation both new and old often are located in rural areas with relatively low traffic volume making low-water crossings a viable and cost-effective option to consider.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in its "Conservation Practice Standard for Stream Crossings" (References 5), defines a low-water crossing as "a stabilized area or structure constructed across a stream to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment or vehicles". This article focuses on equipment or vehicular loading as it relates to the use of articulated concrete block mattresses in low-water crossing designs. These designs consist of a properly-designed subgrade to support the anticipated loads, and articulated concrete block mattresses installed for erosion control and sized for hydraulic stability. The articulated concrete block mattresses serve a dual purpose of erosion control armoring and as a flexible roadway surface.

Low-water crossings armored with articulating concrete blocks present a low-cost solution for drainage structure requirements for remote access or low-volume traffic, drainage remediation and new site development. When utilizing design best management practices and low impact development techniques, **low-water crossings can be integrated harmoniously into the surrounding environment while maintaining low life-cycle maintenance costs.**

As in all roadways, the most critical element is to properly evaluate and design an adequate subgrade to support the anticipated loads. Second, selecting an appropriately-sized articulated concrete block to withstand the known or estimated hydraulic forces and serve as the flexible surface of the roadway, will assure the longevity of the structure. Proper terminations and toe-ins are required to integrate the structure into the surrounding environment while protecting the edges of the system from scour and erosion.

PAGE 3

Joplin's Parks and Playgrounds Among Best in State

PAGE 1

Joplin is one of the five Missouri cities of over 30,000 population boasting of a complete parks and play grounds system. The government report in 1916 placed the valuation of this property owned by the city at $207,200, but with the addition of two new parks in 1917 the estimated value of city parks and playgrounds, including equipment and improvements is something like $225,000.

Although the activities conducted under the supervision of the city park commission covered a wide scope in 1917, it is the plan of the commission to make 1918 an heretofore unsurpassed year in giving the public a more complete and more beautiful system of recreation centers.

Two parks, each containing 160 acres are owned by the city. They are Schifferdecker park, situated just inside the western limits of the city and McClelland park, a beautiful plot situated along the picturesque banks of Shoal creek, five miles south of Joplin.

Other parks owned or maintained by the city are Cunningham, situated in the southwest portion of the city; Mineral, in East Joplin; Masonic, Fourth street and Byers avenue; Court, seventh street and Virginia avenue; Freeman, Fifteenth and Joplin streets; Roanoke, in the Roanoke addition; McIndoe, an extension of McClelland park; Glenview Place, situated in the Roanoke addition, and Mohaska, situated in the Mohaska addition in the south part of the city. The latter three parks mentioned are owned by the city, while McIndoe park is under ten-year lease, with an optional renewal clause.

McIndoe Park a Beauty.

On McIndoe and Schifferdecker parks the most extensive improvements are to be made, if plans formed by the commission are carried through. McIndoe park, lying along the banks of Shoal creek for something like half a mile, is adapted for one of the most beautiful parks in the country. Wildcat spring flows from the foot of a high bluff and affords the best spring water obtainable anywhere about this part of the country. It is one of those beautiful springs for which the Ozarks are famous.

It is planned to lay an underground pipe line for a distance of several hundred yards from the spring to the portion of the ground situated near the riffles to afford a fresh supply of water at the camping grounds below McIndoe park proper. There six large Dutch ovens were built last year for the convenience of the campers, and six others are to be built this year. That is a wonderful camping ground and last year hundreds made use of it during the season.

McIndoe park undoubtedly will be one of the chief recreation centers of the district in due time. Last year the construction of a bath house and maintenance of swimming facilities made it popular, but with many new features it will be doubly popular. Fishing can also be enjoyed.

A dancing pavilion and general shelter is to be built in addition to improvements of the bath house and bettering the swimming facilities. A low-water mark bridge of concrete is to be built across Shoal creek by O. D. Witmer, who owns the land where McIndoe park is situated. This not only will provide a crossing for people living on the opposite side of Shoal creek, but also will improve the swimming pool and make boating much better.

Milligan to Be in Charge.

H. Nels Milligan, former chief of police, has been appointed custodian of McIndoe park and will also be in charge of the various concessions. He will have police power in protecting the property and preventing rowdyism.

With the extension last year of the winding, picturesque highway extending from McClelland park boulevard on the west to the Main street road on the east, the park is easily accessible. The drive is a delightful one, in addition to being of great benefit to farmers in that portion. The road was built under the supervision of the Joplin Special Road District commission.

The building of a beautiful river side park along Shoal creek was the wish of Huch McIndoe, former mayor of Joplin, and during the remaining months he was in office—last spring and last summer—the park was turned from a wilderness of dense underbrush into a rugged landscape of beauty. It was accomplished by the use of city prisoners. City prisoners also were a factor in preparing the beautiful McClelland park into its present state, practically without cost to the city.

Aside from McIndoe park extensive improvements are planned for Schifferdecker park. This famous plot, given to the city by the late Charles Schifferdecker, will be beautified by the addition of many new flower beds, the instalation of a large fountain as a tribute to the donor and general enlarging upon features started last season.

Will Build a Greenhouse.

It is planned also to construct a greenhouse about 20 by 30 feet in dimensions in which to maintain flowers that cannot be maintained through the entire year. Last year cost of greenhouse plants to the city alone, exact in the various parks, was more than $1,000 and the cost of building a greenhouse would be offset in one season, it is believed.

More perennial flowers also are to be planted at Schifferdecker and other additional features in the beautification line will be foliage plants, novelty trees, such as cork elms, redbuds, dogwoods, Japanese umbrella, Irish Junipers, tulip trees and mountain ash; deciduous shrubs and hedge plants.

Among other improvements to enable more effective beautification will be the installation of bulb cellars, cold frames, root houses and the like.

A six-acre tract of fertile land is to be turned over to the Boy Scouts for educational gardening. This is entirely a new feature, but is expected to meet with unusual success. Last year the Boy Scouts tilled a tract of land lying just east of Schifferdecker park, but this was done more to reduce the "high cost of living," while the new system will be along a more distinct educational line.

Several Dutch ovens are to be installed this spring at Schifferdecker park for the convenience of the patrons. They will be after the pattern of those at McIndoe park.

New Swimming Pool Proposed.

It is proposed also to construct a modern new swimming pool at Schifferdecker park and build a bath house, than which there will be no better in the southwest. A large water main already has been piped to the park and this will make possible the more speedy filling of the present large pool of the park, which was so popular last year. It was with the idea also of having a supply large enough for both pools that the larger main was extended.

A home for the caretaker is to be built at the park. Superintendent M. P. Keith probably will have his headquarters there.

In addition to the general park facilities the city's chief playground is situated at Schifferdecker. The apparatus that originally was installed in the Smelter Hill-Chitwood grounds was removed there in 1911, and since that time much new apparatus was added. It is proposed to improve upon the grounds again this season.

Schifferdecker and McIndoe will be the most popular resorts and on these two recreation centers the commission will direct their greatest efforts. But nevertheless other parks will be improved.

The new Glenview park will be left as nature intended it for the present. It is situated in the northern portion of the city and in very rugged and broken territory, but its picturesque beauty cannot be denied. Persons living in the Roanoke addition believe the maintenance of the park will help their portion of the city greatly. The beauty spot, consisting of something like two acres in a long, rather narrow plot, was granted to the city by the owners of the Roanoke addition.

Mohaska a New Park.

Mohaska park is a plot of ground situated in the new Mohaska addition that was taken in by the city last summer. In due time this plot probably will be one of the beauty spots of the city. It is situated in the southern part of the city limits. The park was donated by Joseph R. Fitz of Joplin.

Near the Glenview Place park is a small beauty spot known as Roanoke park. It will be maintained simply for the attractiveness it lends to the surrounding vicinity. Likewise is court park maintained.

Among other improvements in store for Mineral park will be the installation of two Dutch ovens, for the convenience of the public. They are proving very successful, as shown by the use to which those at McIndoe park were placed during last season. The playground facilities also are to be improved upon, with the probability of a community bath house being maintained.

Masonic and Freeman parks are merely rest parks and not for the purpose of recreation or amusement. They are kept in a beautiful condition throughout the season, large flower beds being maintained.

Cunningham park is probably the most beautiful recreation park in the city. It is perhaps the oldest. With excellent shade and rolling trend of the ground, pavilion and other inducements more of a natural character, entice hundreds of people there during the season.

Five playgrounds are maintained by the park commission. The largest is that at Schifferdecker park, but excellent grounds have been installed at the Lafayette school grounds, First and Pearl streets, Mineral park and at Lincoln school grounds for the colored children of the city.

To Improve Playgrounds.

Improvements are in store for practically all the playgrounds. They, as last year, will be under efficient supervision, with the scope of work being enlarged considerably. One of the big features of the playgrounds are the swimming pools, of which there are three at the present time. If the second one at Schifferdecker park is installed, the city will have four modern pools.

The active swimming season at the playgrounds will begin June 1 and remain open until September 15. However, the parks and playgrounds will be officially opened probably May 1 for the season. In addition to the swimming pools four tennis courts are maintained and prove highly popular. Basket ball courts, a baseball diamond and general apparatus are other features.

Used exclusively for parks and playgrounds the city has at its command approximately 340 acres. Of this amount it owns outright about 330 acres. Of the 320 acres owned by the city 170 acres are in the city limits. This is 1.7 per cent of the entire acreage of the incorporate limits of the city, which is 9,920 acres.

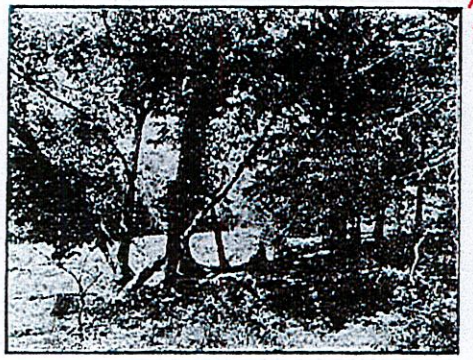
The average cost of lighting the parks and playgrounds at night, is about $500. In 1916 there were 75 electric lights operated at a cost of $6 each, for a total of $450. Last year a number of additional lights were installed, making an increased cost of about $50.

Joplin's parks and playgrounds sprang into greater prominence in city affairs following the inauguration of commission form of government, which resulted in the naming of a park commission, which is in direct charge of improvements, extensions and the like.

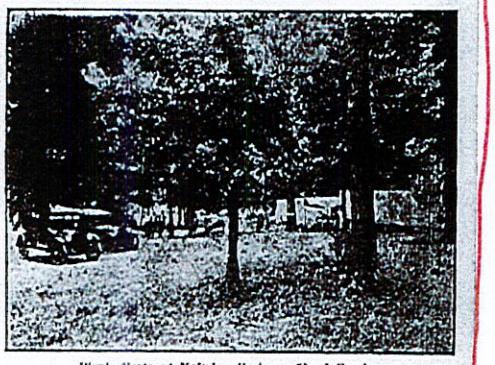
The following men now form Joplin's park commission, named by the mayor: Boone Jenkins, president; John Jahn, secretary, O. D. Royse, A. B. Thomas, Jesse G. Starr, J. W. King, Sol Newman, Harry Stout and Harry Pack.



Looking up Shoal Creek from McClelland Park, Showing Beautiful Expanse of Water. —Photo by Head.



Showing a Beautiful Shady Nook in McIndoe Par. —Photo by Head.



Picnic Party at McIndoe Park on Shoal Creek. —Photo by Head.

PAGE 2

Banks Register Pulse of the District's Prosperity

There is no better criterion of a city's prosperity than the business conducted by the banking institutions of that city. Joplin's bank clearings and bank deposits in 1917 echoed the general prosperity of the zinc metropolis, showing a substantial increase over the business consummated in 1916.

According to figures maintained by J. U. Garm, cashier of the Joplin National Bank and secretary of the Clearing House Association of Joplin, the bank clearings in the seven Joplin banks last year totalled $95,547,629.76, as compared with $76,075,156.93 in 1916. The comparative gain in 1917 over 1916 is $19,472,-472.83—or 25 per cent.

Bank deposits shown on the various banks at the end of December, 191.., aggregated $9,071,437.74, which is an increase over the aggregate for the corresponding period of 1916 of $1,747,426.44, or 24 per cent gain.

An increase of nearly $2,000,000 in a single year of deposits shows indeed that a community is prospering. Yet, an increase of almost as substantial size is expected during the present year.

Deposits at the close of business on December 31, 1917, were distributed among the seven Joplin banks as follows:

First National	$2,703,441.81
Joplin National	1,831,975.75
Conqueror Trust Co.	1,529,519.45
Miners Bank	1,220,280.06
Citizens Bank	651,459.16
Joplin State	339,628.40
Traders Bank	65,486.35
Total	$9,071,437.74

One new institution—the Traders Bank of Joplin—was started up during the year, with T. W. Cunningham, formerly president of the Cunningham National Bank, which was sold to the First National early in the year, as its head.

The sale of the Cunningham bank to the First National caused quite a stir in banking circles. The reported consideration paid for the bank stock and business was $700,000.

Deposits at the end of business for the following years show the relative comparisons of the deposits for each year:

1909	$3,084,235.82
1910	3,657,414.34
1911	3,164,867.92
1912	4,012,859.67
1913	4,006,209.61
1914	3,393,546.48
1915	5,718,924.89
1916	7,324,011.32
1917	9,071,437.74

Bank clearings for the last nine years were as follows: 1909, $26,310,220.87; 1910 (four banks), $18,014,251.11; 1911, $29,948,581.28; 1912, $36,671,231.93; 1913, $38,314,905.33; 1914, $32,680,552.59; 1915, $40,636,246.51; 1916, $76,075,154.93; 1917, $95,547,629.76.

Joplin is one of the five Missouri cities of over 30,000 population boasting of a complete parks and playgrounds system. The government report in 1916 placed the valuation of this property owned by the city at $207,300, but with the addition of two new parks in 1917 the estimated value of city parks and playgrounds, including equipment and improvements is something like $225,000.

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McIndoe park undoubtedly will be one of the chief recreation centers of the district in due time. Last year the construction of a bath house and maintenance of swimming facilities made it popular, but with many new features it will be doubly popular. Fishing can also be enjoyed.

A dancing pavilion and general shelter is to be built in addition to improvements of the bath house and bettering the swimming facilities. A low-water mark bridge of concrete is to be built across Shoal creek by O. D. Witmer, who owns the land where McIndoe park is situated. This not only will provide a crossing for people living on the opposite side of Shoal creek, but also will improve the swimming pool and make boating much better.

Milligan to Be in Charge.

H. Nels Milligan, former chief of police, has been appointed custodian of McIndoe park and will also be in charge of the various concessions. He will have police power in protecting the property and preventing rowdyism.

With the extension last year of the winding, picturesque highway extending from McClelland park boulevard on the west to the Main street road on the east, the park is easily

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—Photo by Head.

accessible. The drive is a delightful one, in addition to being of great benefit to farmers in that portion. The road was built under the supervision of the Joplin Special Road District commission.

The building of a beautiful river side park along Shoal creek was the wish of Hugh McIndoe, former mayor of Joplin, and during the remaining months he was in office—last spring and last summer—the park was turned from a wilderness of dense underbrush into a rugged landscape of beauty. It was accomplished by the use of city prisoners. City prisoners also were a factor in preparing the beautiful McClelland park into its present state, practically without cost to the city.

Aside from McIndoe park extensive improvements are planned for Schifferdecker park. This famous plot, given to the city by the late Charles Schifferdecker, will be beautified by the addition of many new flower beds, the instalation of a large fountain

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as a tribute to the donor and general enlarging upon features started last season.

Will Build a Greenhouse.

It is planned also to construct a greenhouse about 20 by 30 feet in dimensions in which to maintain flowers that cannot be maintained through the entire year. Last year cost of greenhouse plants to the city alen, reset in the various parks, was more than $1,000 and the cost of building a greenhouse would be offset in one season, it is believed.

More perennial flowers also are to be planted at Schifferdecker and other additional features in the beautification line will be foliage plants, novelty trees, such as cork elms, redbuds, dogwoods, Japanese umbrella, Irish Junipers, tulip trees and mountain ash; deciduous shrubs and hedge plants.

Among other improvements to enable more effective beautification will be the installation of bulb cellars, cold frames, root houses and the like.

A six-acre tract of fertile land is to be turned over to the Boy Scouts for educational gardening. This is entirely a new feature, but is expected to meet with unusual success. Last year the Boy Scouts tilled a tract of land lying just east of Schifferdecker park, but this was done more to reduce the "high cost of living," while the new system will be done a more distinct educational line.

Several Dutch ovens are to be installed this spring at Schifferdecker park for the convenience of the patrons. They will be after the pattern of those at McIndoe park.

New Swimming Pool Proposed.

It is proposed also to construct a modern new swimming pool at Schifferdecker park and build a bath house, than which there will be no better in the southwest. A large water main already has been piped to the park and this will make possible the more speedy filling of the present large pool of the park, which was so popular last year. It was with the idea also of having a supply large enough for both pools that the larger main was extended.

A home for the caretaker is to be built at the park. Superintendent M. F. Keith probably will have his headquarters there.

In addition to the general park facilities the city's chief playground is situated at Schifferdecker. The apparatus that originally was installed in the Smelter Hill-Chitwood grounds was removed there in 191- and since that time much new apparatus was added. It is proposed to improve upon the grounds again this season.

Schifferdecker and McIndoe will be the most popular resorts and on those two recreation centers the commission will direct their greatest efforts, but nevertheless other parks will be improved.

The new Glenview park will be left as nature intended it for the present. It is situated in the northern portion of the city and in very rugged and broken territory, but its picturesque beauty cannot be denied. Persons living in the Roanoke addition believe the maintenance of the park will help their portion of the city greatly. The beauty spot, consisting of something like two acres in a long, rather narrow plot, was granted to the city by the owners of the Roanoke addition.

Mohaska a New Park.

Mohaska park is a plot of ground situated in the new Mohaska addition that was taken in by the city last summer. In due time this plot probably will be one of the beauty spots of the city. It is situated in the southern part of the city limits. The park was donated by Joseph R. Fitz of Joplin.

Near the Glenview Place park is a small beauty spot known as Roanoke park. It will be maintained simply for the attractiveness it lends to the surrounding vicinity. Likewise is Court park maintained.

Among other improvements in store for Mineral park will be the installation of two Dutch ovens, for the convenience of the public. They are proving very successful, as shown by the use to which those at McIndoe park were placed during last season. The playground facilities also are to be improved upon, with the probability of a community bath house being maintained.

Masonic and Fraeman parks are merely rest parks and not for the purpose of recreation or amusement. They are kept in a beautiful condition throughout the season, large flower beds being maintained.

Cunningham park is probably the most beautiful recreation park in the city. It is perhaps the oldest. With excellent shade and rolling trend of the ground, pavilion and other inducements more of a natural character, entice hundreds of people there during the season.

Five playgrounds are maintained by the park commission. The largest is that at Schifferdecker park, but excellent grounds have been installed at the Lafayette school grounds, First and Pearl streets, Mineral park and at Lincoln school grounds for the colored children of the city.

To Improve Playgrounds.

Improvements are in store for practically all the playgrounds. They, as last year, will be under efficient supervision, with the scope of work being enlarged considerably. One of the big features of the playgrounds are the swimming pools, of which there are three at the present time. If the second one at Schifferdecker park is installed, the city will have four modern pools.

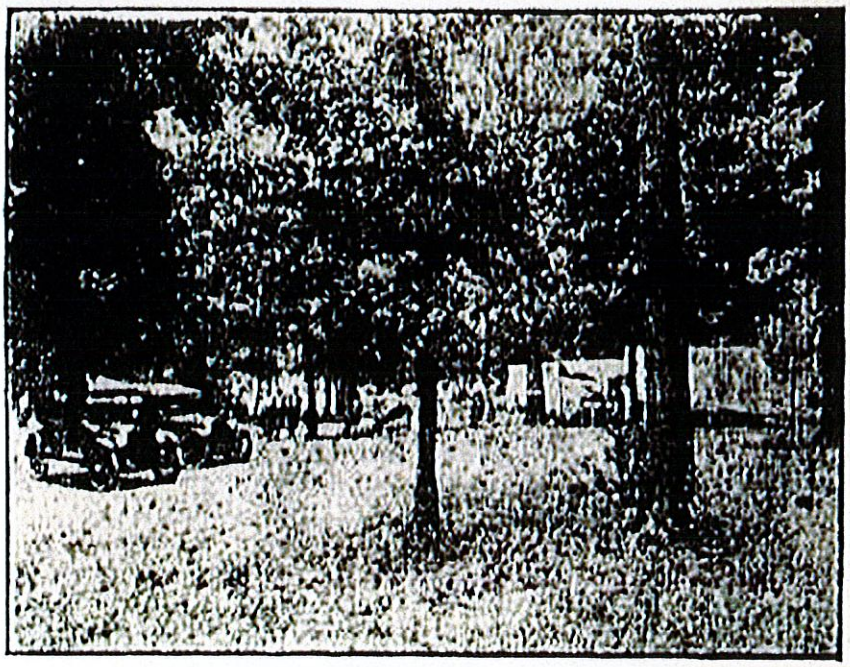
The active swimming season at the playgrounds will begin June 1 and remain open until September 30. However, the parks and playgrounds will be officially opened probably May 1 for the season. In addition to the swimming pools four tennis courts are maintained and prove highly popular. Basket ball courts, a baseball diamond and general apparatus are other features.

Used exclusively for parks and playgrounds the city has at its command approximately 510 acres. Of this amount it owns outright about 330 acres. Of the 330 acres owned by the city 170 acres are in the city limits. This is 1.7 per cent of the entire acreage of the incorporate limits of the city, which is 9,930 acres.

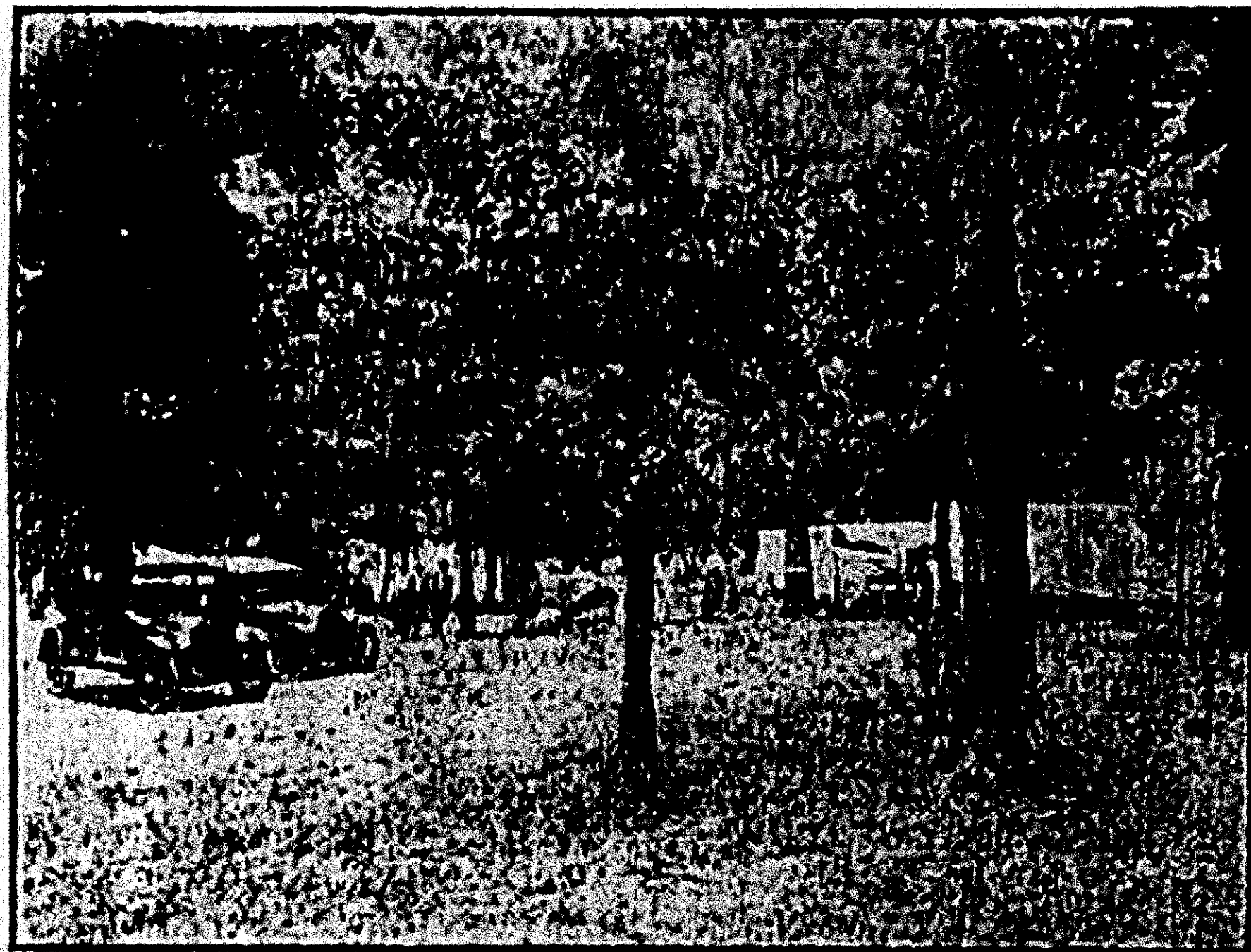
The average cost of lighting the parks and playgrounds at night, is about $500. In 1916 there were 75 electric lights operated at a cost of $6 each, for a total of $450. Last year a number of additional lights were installed, making an increased cost of about $50.

Joplin's parks and playgrounds sprang into greater prominence in city affairs following the inauguration of commission form of government, which resulted in the naming of a park commission, which is in direct charge of improvements, extensions and the like.

The following men now form Joplin's park commission, named by the mayor: Boone Jenkins, president; John Jahn, secretary, O. D. Royse, A. B. Thomas, Jesse G. Starr, J. W. King, Bol Newman, Harry Stout and Harry Pack.



Picnic Party at McIndoe Park on Shoal Creek.
—Photo by Head.



Picnic Party at McIndoe Park on Shoal Creek.

—Photo by Hond.

WITMERS GIVE LAND ON EITHER SIDE SHOAL CREEK TO THE CITY

Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Witmer's deed to a strip of land on either side of Shoal creek was accepted this morning by the city commissioners in behalf of the city.

In return for this property the city agrees to construct a concrete bridge over Shoal creek, a short distance west of Wildcat springs. The bridge will be of concrete, slightly above low water mark.

The piece of river front deeded by Mr. and Mrs. Witmer on the north side of the creek forms a link in roadway east of Wildcat spring between McIndoe park and Reding's mill, which it is planned to construct before the close of the summer. With this section of the road in use there will be a continuous stretch of scenic roadway from Reding's mill to McClelland park.

At this time all of the right-of-way has been given to the city with the exception of a small strip on which the spring is located. This property is owned by J. W. Freeman, and it is expected his deed for the spring will be made soon.

PARK BOARD INDORSES SHOAL CREEK BRIDGE

At a meeting of the Joplin park board last night in the offices of the streets department, plans of the bridge to be erected over Shoal creek at McIndoe park were submitted by O. P. Mahoney, commissioner of streets and gradings and adopted by the board.

The bridge which will be at low water mark will cost the park board $2,827, and will be built of reinforced concrete.

It will be 144 feet long and is to connect the city property on either side of the creek.

Those present at the meeting which indorsed the plans were Mayor Jesse F. Osborne, O. P. Mahoney, Jesse Starr, Edward Thomas, Sol Newman, Boone Jenkins, William Bobb, and John H. Iahn. J. P. Wiles was the only absent member.

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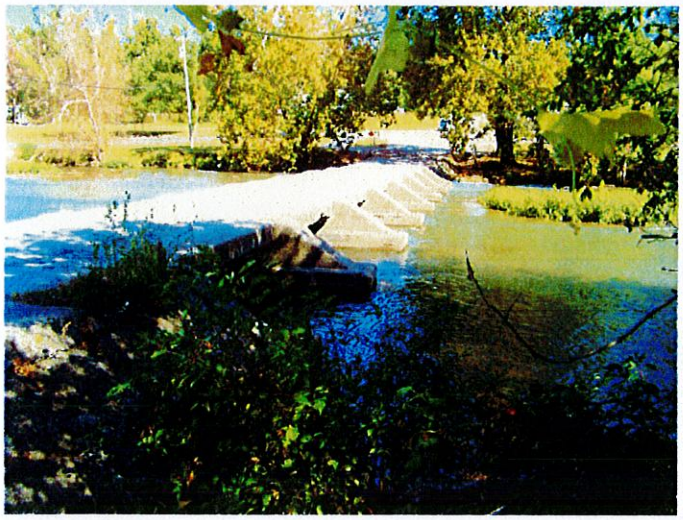








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