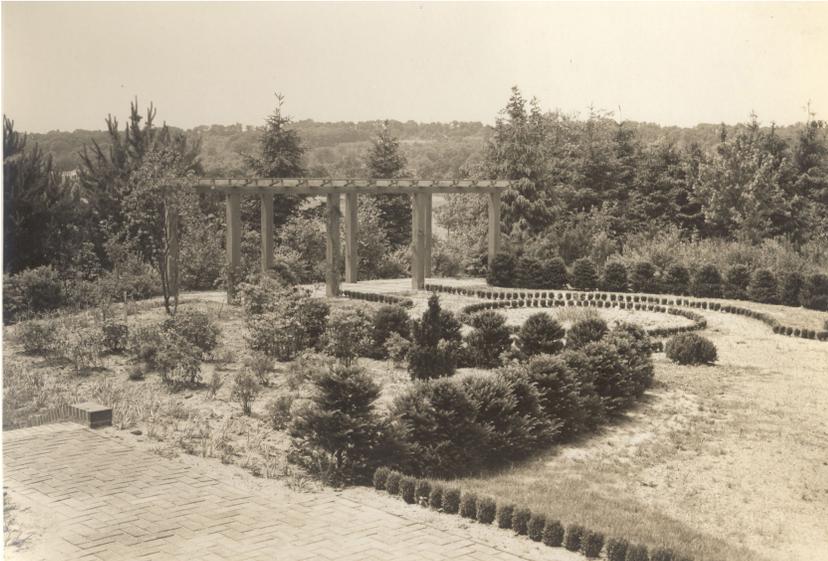


*Dey Mansion Gardens*

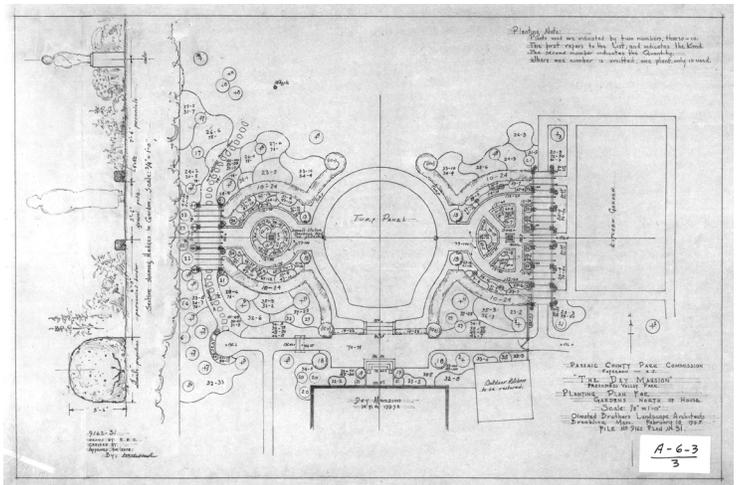


On August 3, 1934, Charles A. Winans, Secretary of the then Passaic County Park Commission, wrote to the Olmsted Brothers Associates to report that the Dey Mansion was fully restored but that no work had been done on the grounds. The Olmsted firm, eager to assist, suggested that three drawings be prepared: an overall layout plan, a larger scale plan showing the region directly surrounding the house, and a garden planting plan.

The Park Commission was satisfied with the Olmsted firm's proposal but did not have the funds to accomplish it. Construction was contingent on the availability of relief workers through the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The Olmsted Brothers firm completed their initial plans in January 1935 and wrote a narrative that described their design philosophy:

*"By way of general explanation, the detailed working out of the scheme has aimed at a general character of simplicity and free formality, with greater emphasis on the suitability of the design for use rather than strict adherence to an authentic historical period, although the spirit of the early days of the house would be stressed in the detailed execution of the design. This is particularly true of the garden, of which we will say more later. The plan in general, however, stresses the feeling of the middle and later period of Colonial homes very well, and, what is more important, should set off the Dey Mansion itself to excellent advantage."*



The Park Commission reported that there had been considerable progress on some of the Passaic County parks using WPA labor. By January 1937 a copy of the landscape plans was forwarded to the Park Commission in anticipation of the reconstruction of the original kitchen being built northeast of the mansion developed through the WPA. The general grading and ground preparation at the Dey Mansion was completed by the WPA, planting took place incrementally between fall 1937 and spring 1941 with labor split between the WPA and the Passaic Valley Garden Club . Planting took place incrementally between fall 1937 and spring 1941 with labor provided largely by the Park Commission and funds for plant materials contributed by the Passaic Valley Garden Club..

## Eastside Park



Eastside Park Post Card, *Public Domain*.

In 1881, H.B. Crosby, a Paterson industrialist, introduced the idea to establish a public parks system for the City of Paterson. The keystone property for this project was the 66-acre tract that incorporated the homes of both Colonel Andrew Derrom and Charles E. Van Buren. This property would be designated for the creation of Eastside Park. With support from the New Jersey legislature, the City of Paterson established a formal Parks Commission in 1889 and hosted a design contest for landscape architects who would be able to bring Eastside Park to life.

The two most notable planners who submitted designs for Eastside parks were John Y. Culyer and Frederick Law Olmsted. Culyer won first place for Eastside Park and while Olmsted won first place for Westside

Park. John Y. Culyer was a landscape architect from New York City and commissioner of the Paterson Parks Commission. Culyer was not a novice designer, his career as a landscape engineer began under the guidance of Frederick Law Olmsted during the Central Park and Prospect Park projects, the latter of which he would oversee as the superintendent of the Brooklyn Public Parks system. He would have his turn designing other public parks in Chicago and Albany.

Culyer's plan for Eastside Park included an arbor, picnic pavilion, boating platform, lake house, and a clubhouse in addition to the other outside structures. According to the maps, the park was separated into several fields for this purpose in 1899. Picnic areas, tennis, croquet courts, and fields for field games were all available. The Derrom house, a pavilion, the superintendent's residence (the Van Buren House), a club house, picnic shelter, lake house, and boating platform were among the structures on the grounds. His park was highly naturalist and picturesque with circular paths and two walkways with floral areas. Maple trees flanked the carriage lanes on the northwest end, oak trees on the northwest end, and linden trees on the northeast end. The trees were planted in a rural environment to generate a rhythmic effect.

Culyer's design, as previously indicated, did not hold up for long. It was decided amongst the parks commission to alter some of the landscape to fit a more formal design for the park. Although Olmsted died in 1903, his legacy was incorporated into Eastside with the replacement of the naturalistic setting with intricate walkways of cobblestone and gravel laid out in organic fashion and more formal landscape designs. By 1915, the park had been expanded to include a carousel, music stand, deer paddock, and athletic field. Today the park continues to keep its historic boundaries and the general design layout, however all its gardens, many of the pathways and structures are gone. The stable and the pavilion are among the few architectural building structures that remain from the original designs.



Eastside Park Grounds, *Courtesy of the County of Passaic Archives*.

## *Garret Mountain Reservation*



*Courtesy of County of Passaic Archives.*

In December 1929, the first maps received by the Olmsted Brothers for the Garret Mountain Reservation were for the area around Lambert Castle. A study was developed for the region near the castle by Edwin M. Prellwitz and Jack E. Pulver. The plan included Lambert Castle with administration buildings, terrace, garden, swimming pool, and bathhouse. The grounds plan included parking, the tower, Valley Road, Mill Street, and the bordering railroad with railroad station.

The Passaic County Parks Commission developed a series of contract drawings for the construction of the main roadway through Garret Mountain Reservation based off the plans by the Olmsted Brothers firm.

In March 1931, Russell N. Barnes drew up a plan for planting in the section between Lambert Castle and the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad underpass. Later that month, plans were drafted for trails in the area surrounding the tower. In addition, a planting plan was created for the area between the Old Quarry and Garret Rock. Edwin M. Prellwitz also planned a pergola with

The area was first occupied by the Lenni Lenape. The Dutch settled in the area east of Paterson in 1679. Sometime after 1812, Garret Mountain received its name. Local history suggests that the name comes from members of the fraternal organization known as the "Garret Society". This group was named from their custom of having secret meetings in attics or garrets. The story goes that they carried an artillery piece up to the top of the mountain on the Fourth of July and proceeded to shoot it off to wake the entire city. Another possible story on the origin of the name is that the Jersey Dutch used the word "Gebarrack" meaning "at the mountain" and they changed it to "Garrett."

The Olmsted Brothers firm assigned the following employees to work on the design of Garret Mountain Reservation: Edwin M. Prellwitz, Jack E. Pulver, Carroll A. Towne, Russell N Barnes, Dana W. Clarke, Sen Yu, John B. Moseley, Henry McLaren, Percival Gallagher, Walter Clarke, James A. Britton, Benjamin S. Pray, and James Sturgis Pray.



*Courtesy of County of Passaic Archives.*

## *Garret Mountain Reservation*

benches and a railing for the tower. Between 1931 and 1932 the Olmsted designers mapped out the Automobile Overlook, trails near the tower and castle, and even designed a plan for a swimming pool area. In March 1932, Russell N. Barnes developed a planting plan for the auto overlook which included the Benson Monument.

Starting in 1935, the Passaic County Park Commission recommended certain projects that were paid for by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The plans included a new parking area near Barbour's Pond and the establishment of a numerous footpaths. They designated particular areas of the parks woods to be cleared of underbrush. In 1936 WPA laborers began work on the terraced parking lot with stone walls based on the Commission's plans. Using designs developed by the Olmsted Brothers firm they constructed the stairs at the auto overlook and pergolas at the southern end of Barbour's pond.

Garret Mountain Reservation served as a strategic location during World War II. The fire tower which was built in 1911 was used as an early warning station during the war. Lambert tower was also used as an observatory and summerhouse.

To this day Garret Mountain Reservation offers park visitors a wide range of recreational activities and facilities.



Lambert Tower Pergola, Courtesy of County of Passaic Archives.

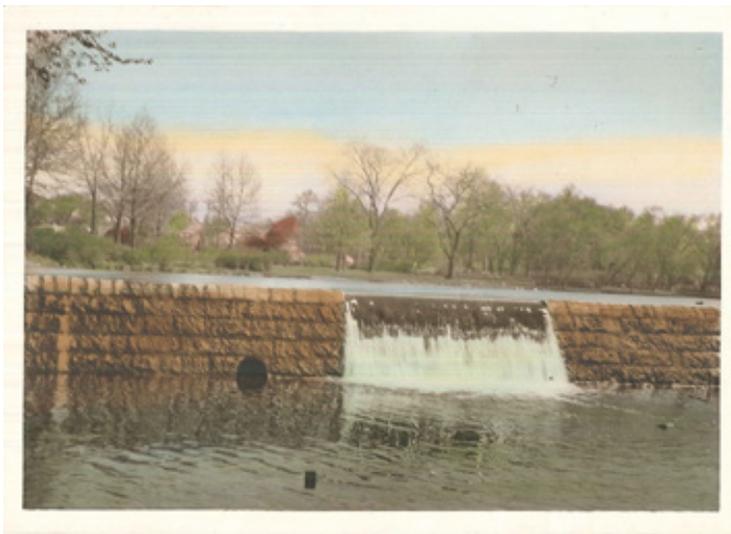


Benson Monument, Courtesy of County of Passaic Archives.



Auto Overlook, Courtesy of County of Passaic Archives.

## Goffle Brook Park



Arnold Pond Dam c. 1940, *Courtesy of County of Passaic Archives.*

In November of 1929 the Olmsted Brothers firm received the topographical maps of the park. The Goffle Brook Park plan was 28 inches wide and 103 inches long.

In 1931, the Diamond Bridge Avenue bridge was rebuilt and elevated two feet higher to allow a footpath beneath the bridge along the bank of the brook. The bulk of the landscaping work of Goffle Brook Park was carried out by workers in the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA Project 1-188 named the "General Development of Goffle Brook Park " which included road grading, brook relocation, grading of footpaths and general grading, and reconstruction of the Arnold Dam at Van Winkle's Pond. All the work was completed by December 1936. In the following years, there were several other WPA work projects that continued the development of the parks design until its completion in 1939. There were a few design features of the Olmsted Brothers plans for Goffle Brook Park that were never accomplished due to financial constraints of the time.

The park is named after the small creek that flows through a portion of Hawthorne Borough in Passaic County. The park was listed in the New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places. The 103-acre park is bordered by Goffle Road on the west and north, May Street, Brookside Avenue, Bamford Avenue, and First Avenue to the east, and an industrial zone and Thomas Avenue to the south. There are four roadways that are carried by bridges over the brook: Goffle Hill Road, Rea Avenue, Warburton Avenue, and Diamond Bridge Avenue.

In the 1927 master plan written by the Olmsted Brothers for the Passaic County Park Commission they suggested that the area along the Goffle Brook was ideal for a "Broad Open Meadow Park, "which are similar to others in New Jersey. Carrol A. Towne, A.W. Philips, Joseph Bannon, Percival Gallagher, Edwin M. Prellwitz, Frank W. Sherman, John B. Moseley, Benjamin S. Pray, and Walter Clarke were the Olmsted employees assigned to work on the design of Goffle Brook Park.



Father and Son fly fishing at Arnold Pond.  
*Courtesy of FLO National Archives.*

## Lambert Castle



*Courtesy of the Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Collection.*

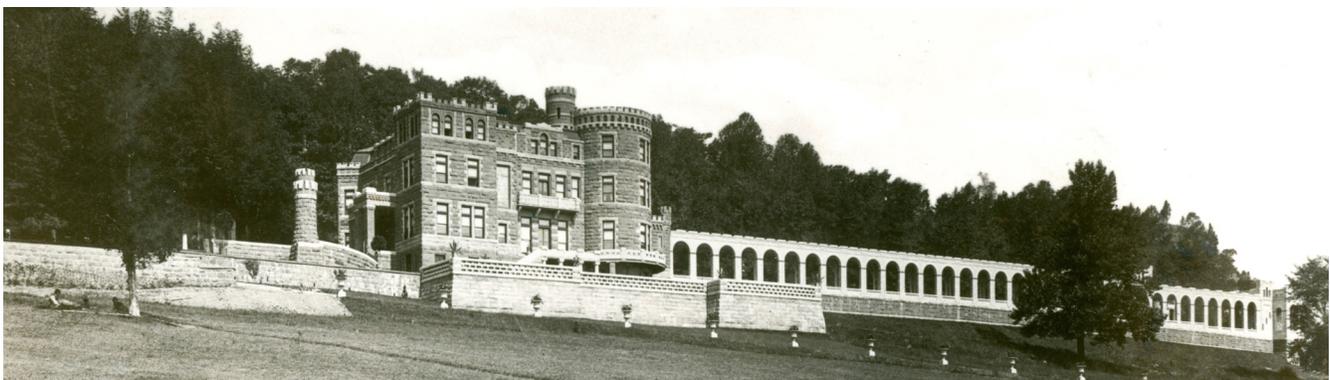
At the base of Garret Mountain is Lambert Castle. The castle was built by Catholina Lambert in 1892. "Belle Vista" was constructed of sandstone mainly quarried from Garret Mountain. Lambert was an avid art collector. It was in this home that Lambert displayed many of his prized European and American paintings. Following financial problems in 1914 Lambert was forced to mortgage his estate and sell off his art collection. Lambert died in 1923.

In June 1925, Walter Lambert had his father's furnishings and the art works that remained to be placed in an unrestricted auction. The younger Lambert lived at his father's home for a short time, but the cost of the upkeep of the estate and the taxes later persuaded him to sell his father's home. Walter then sold Belle Vista

and property to the City of Paterson for the total sum of \$125,000 in 1925. The following year Walter conducted an unrestricted sale of the remaining furniture and art that had not been sold in the auction during his father's life. Initially the city of Paterson allowed the property to be used as a summer camp for the Tuberculosis Health League. The summer camp was discontinued in 1928 when the city transferred the property to the newly established Passaic County Parks Commission.

Lambert Castle is listed on the state and National Registers of Historic Places.

Today, Lambert Castle is under renovation and closed to the public. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.



*Courtesy of the Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Collection.*

## *Monument Heights & Hinchliffe Stadium*



*Photographed by Bill Coughlin.*

In 1868, shortly after the Civil War, a 63-foot monument was installed just north of the Middle Reservoir, at the southeastern end of Kearney Street in Paterson. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument was a memorial to the men of Passaic County who had died during the Civil War. The local community soon called the plateau "Monument Heights".

In the 1920's the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument faced risk of vandalism and members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) requested that the county relocate the memorial. Although the county and city wanted to physically move the monument to Eastside Park, this was found to be improbable, so the monument was replicated and dedicated in Eastside Park in 1922.

At the same time a movement had been growing in the city for a municipal stadium in Paterson. As early as 1921, Mayor Frank Van Noort created a plan to construct a city stadium. It would be another seven years before anything came of the plan. In 1928, Mayor Raymond Newman pledged to form a stadium committee, but he passed away suddenly before this could be achieved. In October 1930, Mayor John V. Hinchliffe selected

Monument Heights for the site of the planned stadium. In 1931 the Passaic County Parks Commission made available the services of the landscape architectural firm, the Olmsted Brothers to assist in the planning of the stadium on Monument Heights. Olmsted Brothers partner Percival Gallagher prepared two stadium designs for the city. At dedication in 1932 it was renamed both in memory of Paterson mayor John Hinchliffe (1897-1903), and to honor

the civic spirit of his nephew, John V. Hinchliffe, Mayor at the time (1929-38). Hinchliffe Stadium was financed by a public bond issue, at a cost of \$217,000. Construction was begun by the City of Paterson. The project was based in part on a landscape plan for the Great Falls area developed for the Passaic County Parks Commission by the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts and on a stadium design by Paterson architect John Shaw.

Construction began in 1931 and completed in 1932. The stadium was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2013. In December 2014, Congress passed legislation to include the stadium in the Great Falls National Landmark District.



*Courtesy of the Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium.*

## *War Memorial at Pennington Park*



*Courtesy of City of Paterson Historic Preservation Commission.*

The plan for a World War I memorial in the city of Paterson began during the administration of Mayor Raymond J. Newman, when the Finance Board, which composed of Commissioners Wilmer A. Cadmus, John L. Griggs, Louis V. Hinchliffe and George A. Schultze, constituted themselves a War Memorial committee and appropriated \$50,000 for the monument.

Percival Gallagher was given this project by the landscape architectural firm Olmsted Brothers. He was tasked to write the survey that decided on the final location of the War Memorial. Gallagher cited that "Pennington Park would take advantage of the location of the old Pennington Mansion on the knoll which because of the scattered large trees provides a beautiful setting for the memorial." Pennington Park was one of five sites in Paterson that the Olmsted firm considered for the location of the war memorial.

The memorial in Pennington Park, Dayton Street and McBride Avenue consists of a tall granite obelisk, standing seventy-three feet high. The memorial is adorned at the base with a bronze sculpture depicting two American doughboys in battle, one with bayonet fixed Springfield rifle, the other with cocked 45 caliber pistol, manufactured in New Jersey by the Singer Sewing Machine Co. The soldiers stand on a rocky ledge and aim their weapons at the unseen enemy below them.

The bronze sculpture rests on a low granite base attached to the front of the granite obelisk. The base now contains lettering honoring those who gave their lives and served in each war from World War I forward, but originally only commemorated World War I. The memorial, designed by Paterson sculptor Gaetano Federici and was dedicated in 1930.

The memorial stands on the foundation of the historic Pennington Park Mansion, which was razed in 1929, this house had been built by Roswell Colt.

## Weasel Brook Park



*Courtesy of County of Passaic Archives.*

Weasel Brook Park is a 19-acre pocket park in the heart of Clifton, NJ. The park, which was designed by the Olmsted Brothers Firm, retains many of the original features, such as attractive meadows, winding walks, scenic vistas, and water features. Concerts, musicals, and other events are all held in the park on a regular basis. The newly renovated Westervelt-Vanderhoef House, a 300-year-old ancient Dutch mansion, is also located in Weasel Brook Park.

Clinton Avenue runs through the park on the north, Third Street on the east, Home Place on the south, and Paulison Avenue on the west. Osbert Vanderhoef, who owned the land that would eventually become this park, erected a house, a sawmill, and a grist mill on it in the early 1700s. In the early 1900s, the Martin Dairy Farm was established on this property.

The Olmsted Brothers began working on a concept for Weasel Brook Park in the early 1930s. This plan, #18, is a huge grading study devised by Edwin Preillwitz, an Olmsted Brothers employee. This plan included geography and depicted how the Olmsted Brothers would alter the creek's course and build ponds on both sides of the road connecting Jewett Avenue and Gregory Avenue.

The stone arch bridge was designed in 1935 by the Passaic County Parks Commission as part of a Civil Works Administration project. The staff at the Office of the County Engineer designed the playground, footbridge, and the semi-circular masonry weir at the request of the Passaic County Parks Commission. The bridge was built by workers at the Works Progress Administration (WPA) starting in 1935.

In 1937, a site plan for the Vanderhoef House were drawn up as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey. This plan demonstrates the design of the new park, the curving road, new bridge, and semi-circular weir forming the pond.

Weasel Brook park has a pastoral lawn with a ring of trees and its main feature is the brook, which splits the park. One of its most extraordinary features is its horseshoe pits. The horseshoe pits at Weasel Brook Park are one of the very few in the area and the park often hosts professional horseshoe tournaments and championships.



*Courtesy of County of Passaic Archives.*