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Morris County Park Commission

Archival Collection: Finding Aid

Overview of Collection

Creator: Various members of MCPC staff, MCPC volunteers, Park Commissioners, Morris County Freeholders, MCPC land and property donors and other local Morris County Residents.
Title: Morris County Park Commission (MCPC) Collection
Date: 1956-Current
Quantity: 6 boxes

Restrictions

Important Information for Users of the Collection

This material is open for research with limited restrictions under the conditions of the Morris County Park Commission (MCPC) archives access policy. Records may be copied for use in individual scholarly or personal research; however, as with all materials in the Morris County Park Commission, researchers are responsible for obtaining copyright permission to use material from the collection.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

MCPC Archival Collection, Courtesy of the Morris County Park Commission.

Acquisition Information

MCPC Archival holdings are increasing over time as this is an actively collecting collection. The first accession in the collection was the oral history interview with Beate Fuller (MC2014.2) and the second a donation of Morris County Maps and Atlases (MC2017.1). As appropriate items are transferred from other Archival Collections during inventory.

Processing Information

Collection founded and Finding Aid created by Melanie Bump, September 2014 in conjunction with the MCPC Oral History Program.

Additional Series added in April 2019 and Finding Aid updated in June 2020 by Katie Humphreys

MC2014.3- Fonds, Parent Record

Historical Note and Mission

MCPC History and Structure

The Morris County Park Commission was established in 1956 by voter referendum by authority of NJSA 40:37-95.1 et. Seq. The first park within the system was Lewis Morris County Park in Morris Township which was dedicated in March 1958 with 350 acres. The second park acquisition was 75 acres now known as James Andrews Memorial Park in Randolph. There are 9 volunteer Park Commissioners serving 5-year terms selected by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Each Commissioner serves on several committees to oversee the Park System's activities.

As of 2014 the MCPC was the largest county park system in New Jersey based on acreage and responsible for stewardship over 18,730 acres of parkland. The MCPC is comprised of 38 facilities: historic sites, golf courses, outdoor educational and recreational facilities, arboreta, conservation areas, 150 miles of trails, ice skating arena, and an artificial turf field complex with two inline hockey rinks. Over 3.5 million people visit the parks each year.

The Mission

The Mission of the Morris County Park Commission is to develop and preserve a dynamic and unique system of diverse natural, cultural and historic resources, and to provide innovative education and recreation opportunities of regional value, while exercising environmental and fiscal responsibility.

Vision Statement

The Morris County Park Commission is committed to excellence in providing for a growing and diverse system of regional parks, recreation facilities, trails, historic sites, arboreta and open spaces of county, state and even national significance that: connects people with the natural environment; offers outstanding visitor experiences; manages its resources to balance recreation, education, conservation and historic preservation; and enhances the quality of life for current and future generations.

Scope and Content Note

The MCPC Archival Collection was founded to capture the history of the Morris County Park Commission through the words of its staff, volunteers, Commissioners, Morris County Freeholders, and patrons who enjoy them as well as document the linked history of Morris County to its vast park system. The collection also includes individuals that donated land or property to the MCPC, or other persons that were very involved with the activities of the parks, or the history of a site owned by the MCPC which may not be covered within the scope of another archival collection. Finally, archival holdings pertinent to the history of Morris County and the mission and vision of the Morris County Park Commission, but not covered within the scope of another, specific, collection are included herein. These records will be an excellent source of information for researchers interested in the institutional and organizational histories of the MCPC and the recollections of those involved with the MCPC.

Arrangement

The MCPC Archival Collection is organized into 2 series relating to the institutional history of the MCPC as a governmental institution. The arrangement of the collection reflects the natural groupings found within the Collection:

Series 1: MCPC Oral Histories

This series contains Interview Recordings, Audio, Digital, Video and Transcriptions of the oral histories directly relate to the interviewees' recollections and activities within the MCPC.

Series 2: Morris County General History

This series encompasses all archival holdings pertinent to the history of Morris County and the mission and vision of the Morris County Park Commission, but not covered within the scope of another, specific, collection.

Series 3: MCPC Image Collections

This series encompasses all image holdings including film and video, pertinent to the history and activities of Morris County Park Commission including park acquisition, site development, and significant events, that are not covered within the scope of another, specific, collection.

Series 4: MCPC Sites and Park Property Collections

Tourne

Schooley's Mountain

**Lewis Morris Park
Seaton Hackney**

Container List

Box Folder Folder Description

Series 1: MCPC Oral Histories

- | Box | Folder | Folder Description |
|-----|--------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Beate Fuller Interview 4/15/2014, (MC2014.2) |
| | 2 | Interview with Russell W. Myers, Lorren R. Gardner, and Quentin C. Schlieder, Jr. 7/30/91 and 11/31/91 on the founding of the Morris County Parks Commission (includes two DVDs of interviews) |
| | 3 | Interview of Henry Spearling by Nancy Strathearn about Richard Saffin and Mahlon Dickerson Reservation and the Morris County Park Commission, 1/11/1985. |
| | 4 | Interview with Gioia Weber by Becky Hoskins and Joan Schaible of her time with the Park Commission and the history of Fosterfields, 4/17/2014 (2014.23) |

Series 2: Morris County General History

- Book Boxes**
- Map, Sanborn Map Company, "Insurance Maps of Morristown," July 1909 (MC2017.1.1)
 - Atlas, Town of Morristown and Morris Township, 1910, A. H. Mueller (MC2017.1.2)
 - Rand McNally & Co, New Ideal State and Survey and Atlas, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, 1913 (MC2017.1.3)
 - Map, Sanborn Map Company, Lake Hopatcong, NJ, 1925 (MC2017.1.4)
 - Franklin Survey Company, Official Map of Northern New Jersey, 1930, includes official census information (MC2017.1.5)
 - Map of Morris County New Jersey, Published Dolph & Stewart, c. 1920, includes 1920 census (MC2017.1.6)
 - Atlas, Map of Morris County, New Jersey, Dolph & Stewart, National County Road Planning Commission, no year listed (MC2017.1.7)

Map Cases

Historic Speedwell, Frelinghuysen Drawer

- Powder Mill Map - Compiled 1803 Road Petition Instructions (FA2021.2.20)
- Powder Mill Map - Summary of Evidence of Powder Mill Location (FA2021.2.21)
- Powder Mill Map - Eastern Area of Morristown (FA2021.2.22)
- Powder Mill Map - Lindsley Deed Descriptions (FA2021.2.23)
- Powder Mill Map - Deed Descriptions Superimposed on Aerial Map (FA2021.2.24)
- Probable Site of Powder Mill Morristown Engineering Department Map (FA2021.2.25)
- Powder Mill Map - Bartenstein Morristown Aerial Map (FA2021.2.26)
- Powder Mill Map - 5/11/66 1580-8-157 Aerial Map (FA2021.2.27)
- Bartenstein Powder Mill Map (FA2021.2.28)

Fosterfields, Drawer 8

Oversized Morris County and New Jersey Maps

I Drive Digital Scans of 1868 Beers Morris County Atlas (MC2022.1)

Series 3: MCPC Image Collection

The Morris County Park Commission Image Collection has its own [Index](#) and is comprised of photographs, slides, and photo negatives primarily produced or collected by the PR and Marketing

Departments. The Image Collection contains a large diversity of materials relating to the various Park Commission properties including special events, park property, storm damage, and site history among others.