

From: [Bailey, Heather](#)
To: [Heiser-Ertel, Lauren](#)
Subject: FW: Filene park - history
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:03:46 AM
Attachments: [ParkBoundaryDatabase - Filene Park.pdf](#)
[Filene Park Name - Park Commission Minutes 1963.pdf](#)
[Filene Plaque 9.1.jpg](#)

From: Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:43 PM
To: Paulson, Erik <district3@cityofmadison.com>; Freiwald, Ann <AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com>; Bailey, Heather <HBailey@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Laschinger, Lisa <LLaschinger@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Filene park - history

Yes. Though there is some murkiness here. I vaguely recall our former Surveyor and I discussing the “how did that happen” as it relates to what is currently called Filene Park vis-à-vis what it appears the BPC acted on in 1963. I’ve attached the current “boundary map” that we use and have for years as to what is Filene Park. This shows the park as everything NE of the river. If you review the BPC minutes summary from 1963 attached here you will see that CUNA asked for the three lots at the FAR NE of this area to be named Filene Park. The BPC said no at first, then eventually yes. They also received a donation of \$3K later that year. Their yes included language for a plaque to be installed. Which was done in 1965. A photo of that is attached here. So, I don’t know the answer of “when” or “why” it went from being three lots and about half of this area approved by the BPC to be Filene with the rest staying Tenney... but I suspect somewhere along the way it just got odd to have this split in that manner. It is all one parcel now, so we would need to dig deeper to answer more there. I am less adept at land records than I would like... but a quick review tells me the three parcels that were originally included in the naming were acquired between 1943 and 1962 to be additions to Tenney Park that already existed. Also of note, the Filene Park “overlook” development was completed in most ways by no later than 1968 based on aerial imagery.

An interesting factoid, \$3K in 1963 is roughly equivalent to \$30K today.

From: Paulson, Erik <district3@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 7:29 PM
To: Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Freiwald, Ann <AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com>; Bailey, Heather <HBailey@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Filene park - history

Do we know when Filene Park became Filene Park?

-Erik

Erik Paulson
District 3 Alder
he/him

district3@cityofmadison.com

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<http://www.cityofmadison.com/Council/district3/blog/>

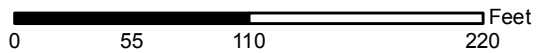


Path: F:\Paroot\Planning\GIS Database\ParkBoundaryDatabase.mxd







Filene Park

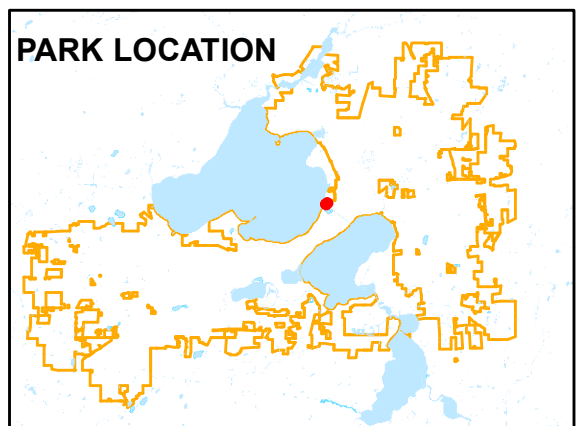
Park type: MINI

Park acreage: 1.82



Legend

-  Park_Boundary
-  Path
-  Water Utility Property
-  Greenways : Land administered for stormwater or landfill use.
-  Trafficways : Road right-of-way that functions as parkland.
-  Municipal Limits



play
**MADISON
PARKS**

Date: 9/16/2014

**City of Madison Park Commission 1963 minutes regarding Filene Park name
(from transcription by park staff)**

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, March 6, 1963 at 7:30 p.m. in the office of the Park Commission, 412 City-County Building. Present: Mr. Rufus Wells, Mr. Carl J. Blum, Mr. E. P. Lorenz, Mrs. George F. Hanson and Mr. James G. Marshall. Absent: Ald. William H. Evans, Ald. Leonard Porter and Mr. Benjamin Bull.

...

The Commission received and considered a letter from J. Orrin Shipe, Acting Managing Director of Credit Union National Association, Inc. offering to contribute \$3,000 to the development of a park area across from Sherman Avenue from Filene House and requesting that the area be named Filene Park in memory of Edward A. Filene founder of the credit union movement. Atty. Charles Seibold and Mr. Warren Lutey appeared before the Commission in support of the request. The Commission discussed at length the most effective way in which this area might be appropriately identified with the name of Edward A. Filene and it was the consensus that it would be very difficult to effectively remove this small area from Tenney Park and teach the general public to refer to the area as Filene Park. The Commission is of the opinion that the area will always be considered by the public as Tenney Park and it is their belief that the name of Edward A. Filene will best be remembered if associated with an attractive and useful feature in the park. In line with this thinking the commission is in favor of naming the feature in memory of Mr. Filene and perpetuating the name by installing, in a prominent location, a bronze plaque which will permanently identify the area with the Credit Union National Association and with Mr. Filene.

It was moved by Mr. Carl J. Blum seconded by Mr. E. P. Lorenz and unanimously carried that:

The area be designated as "Filene Overlook" and that a bronze plaque be installed with appropriate wording to be determined by the Secretary and a representative of the Credit Union Association.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, April 3, 1963 at 7:30 p.m. in the office of the Park Commission, 412 City-County Building. Present: Mr. Rufus Wells, Mr. Carl J. Blum, Mr. Benjamin Bull, Mrs. George F. Hanson, Ald. William H. Evans and Mr. James G. Marshall. Absent: Mr. E. P. Lorenz and Ald. Leonard Porter.

...

Mr. William J. P. Aberg, Attorney for the Credit Union Association and J. Orrin Shipe, Acting Managing Director, appeared before the Commission requesting that the Commission reconsider the action taken at the March 6, 1963 meeting rejecting their request that an area across Sherman Avenue from the Filene House be named Filene Park in memory of Edward A. Filene, Founder of the credit union movement. The Commission at the March 6, 1963 meeting had agreed to designate the area "Filene Overlook" as a part of the Tenney Park rather than Filene Park. It was moved by Mr. Carl J. Blum seconded by Mrs. George Hanson and unanimously carried that:

Action be postponed until the Special Meeting called for April 22, 1963.

SPECIAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Monday, April 22, 1963 at 6:30 p.m. The Commission met jointly with the city Plan Commission and the Board of Public Works in the Council Chambers of the City-County Building. Present: Mr. Rufus Wells, Mr. Carl J. Blum, Mr. E. P. Lorenz, Mrs. George F. Hanson, Mr. Benjamin Bull, Ald. William H. Evans, Ald. Leonard Porter and Mr. James G. Marshall. The newly appointed Commission members who are to take office on May 1, 1963, Ald. William McCullough and Mr. Harry Alexander, attended the meeting. The Special Meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the Cherokee Marsh resolution (File No. 5117) which resolution had been referred to the Park and Plan Commission by the

Common Council for recommendation and the postponed action on the naming of an area across from the Filene House "Filene Park".

...

The Commission considered the request of J. Orrin Shipe, Acting Managing Director, of the Credit Union Association, Inc. that the Commission reconsider the action taken at the March 6, 1963 meeting rejecting their request that an area across from the Filene House be named Filene Park in honor of the memory of Edward A. Filene. It was moved by Mr. E. P. Lorenz seconded by Ald. William H. Evans and unanimously carried that:
The park lands located on the shore of Lake Mendota in the 1600 block of Sherman Avenue, said lands being an extension to the east of Tenney Park and identified as parcels 1038-9, 10, and 11 be and hereby are named Filene Park.

It was moved by Mrs. George Hanson seconded by Mr. Carl Blum and unanimously carried that:

A bronze plaque be installed in the park and that the plaque include the following information – FILENE PARK, A MADISON PUBLIC PARK, SO NAMED BY THE CITY OF MADISON IN HONOR OF EDWARD A. FILENE, 1963.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, September 4, 1963 at 7:30 p.m. in the office of the Park Commission, 412 City-County Building. Present: Mr. Rufus Wells, Mr. Carl J. Blum, Mr. E. P. Lorenz, Mrs. George F. Hanson, Mr. Harry Alexander, Ald. William McCullough, and Mr. James G. Marshall. Absent: Ald. Leonard Porter.

...

The Secretary reported to the Commission that on August 8, 1963 a check in the amount of \$3,000 had been received from the Credit Union National Association, Inc. as their contribution for the construction of an Overlook in Filene Park. The Commission considered a proposed plan for the construction of the Overlook. No action was taken since estimates were not available. It was moved by Mrs. George Hanson seconded by Mr. Carl J. Blum and unanimously carried that:

The gift be accepted and a letter of appreciation and thanks be sent to the Credit Union National Association, Inc.

LAKE MENDOTA

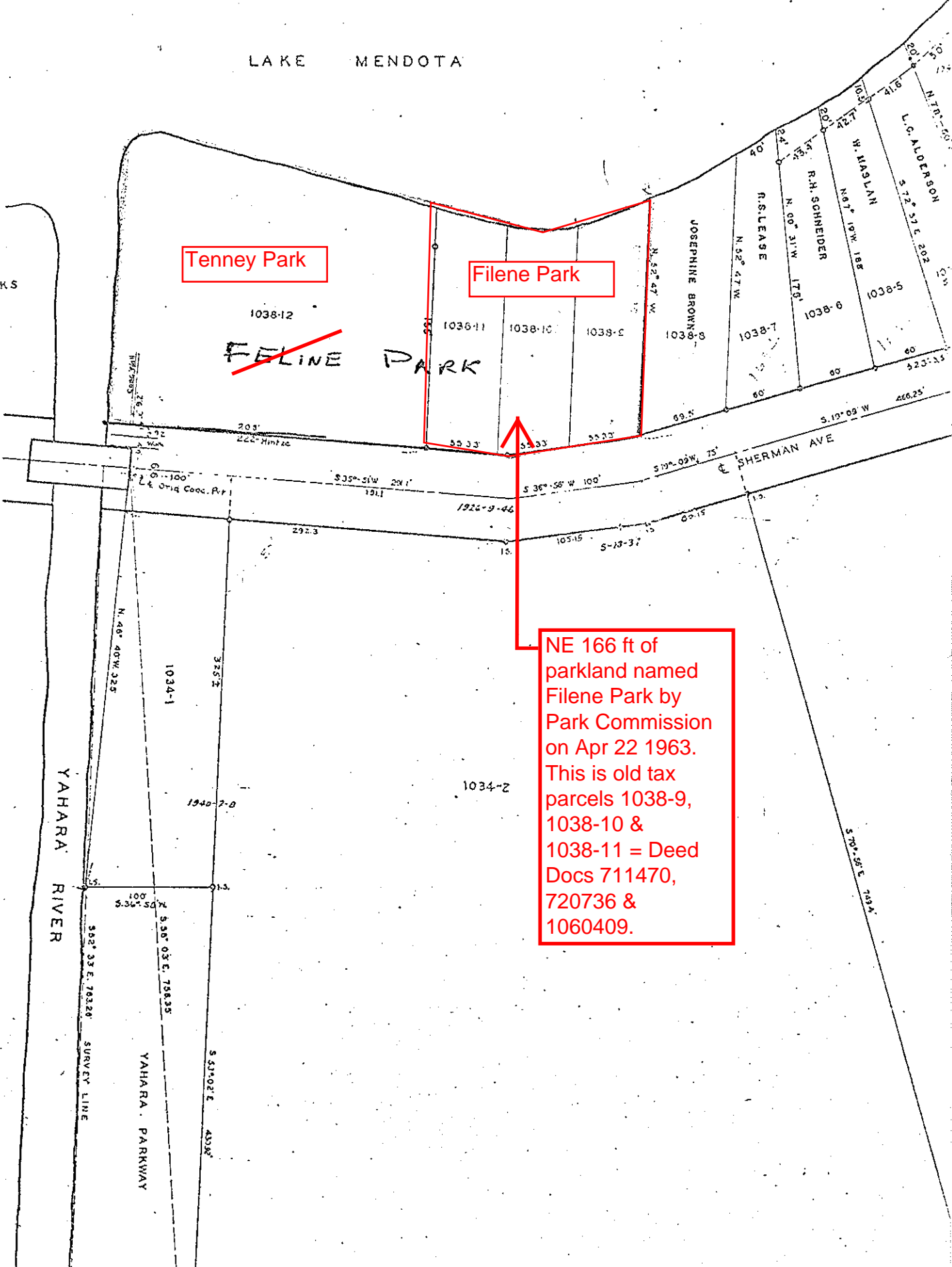
1038-13
YAHARA LOCKS

Tenney Park

Filene Park

~~FELINE PARK~~

NE 166 ft of parkland named Filene Park by Park Commission on Apr 22 1963. This is old tax parcels 1038-9, 1038-10 & 1038-11 = Deed Docs 711470, 720736 & 1060409.



1036
TENNEY PARK
Duck

YAHARA RIVER

YAHARA PARKWAY

SHERMAN AVE

© FILENE PARK ©
A MADISON PUBLIC PARK
NAMED BY
THE CITY OF MADISON
IN HONOR OF
EDWARD A. FILENE
© 1963 ©