

**Finding aid for the Playgrounds Association
of Grand Rapids/Recreation Association
of Grand Rapids, Michigan publications
Collection 261**

Finding aid prepared by R. Mayne

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	The Playgrounds Association of Grand Rapids.
Creator	The Recreation Association of Grand Rapids.
Title	The Playgrounds Association of Grand Rapids/Recreation Association of Grand Rapids, Michigan publications
Date [inclusive]	1903-1933
Extent	0.83 Linear feet Two boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>This small collection contains documents of the history and development of the Playground Association, and subsequently the Grand Rapids Recreation Association, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. These organizations developed in response to the perceived advantages of fresh air and exercise in combating tuberculosis. Playgrounds were also perceived as a way to prevent juvenile delinquencies in the growth urban environments. Charles W. Garfield is considered the father of the playground movement in Grand Rapids. He not only served as the president of the original association, but with his wife contributed land for parks in Grand Rapids. Included in this collection are the constitutions and minutes of these organizations, as well as tracts on the development of the Playground Association.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Charles W. Garfield is considered the father of the playground movement in Grand Rapids. He not only served as the president of the original association, but with his wife contributed land for parks in Grand Rapids. Parks were developed not only next to schools, but throughout Grand Rapids, in conjunction with Grand Rapids cemeteries.

Scope and Contents note

v. 2 of the Minutes, ca. 1913-1915, was not found at the time this collection was processed.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 147, Mary Emily Schroeder Papers of the History of Garfield Park Neighborhood.

Coll. 263, GRPL Small Manuscript Collection, contains biographical materials on Charles Garfield.

Vertical file on playgrounds.

Newspaper article: Playground popular places these hot days. The Sunday Herald. July 3, 1910.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- records (documents)

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Personal Name(s)

- Garfield, Charles William, 1848-1934

Subject(s)

- Charities -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Playgrounds -- Michigan -- Grand Rapid -- History

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
History. [MKG331.8.D57] Digest of the Co-operative Work for Public Playgrounds / by The Playground Association, the Park and Cemetery Commissioners, and The Board of Education of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1912.	1	1
Historical tract. [MKG796.G76] Wanted—A Playground / The Playground Assoc. of Grand Rapids. [ca. 1909] Acc. No. 474466	1	2
Constitutions. 1908. Playground Association [MKG796.G86c] Constitution of the Playgrounds Association of Grand Rapids. Dec. 11, 1908. Acc. No. 475458. [Ink damage. Source of original signatures, including Samuel H. Ranck.	1	3
Constitutions. 1911. See Folder 5.	1	4
Constitutions. 1919. Recreation Association [MKG796.G76c 1919] Constitution of the Recreation Association of Grand Rapids, Mich. Adopted May 8, 1919. Acc. No. 504898	1	5
Minutes. [MKG796.G76m] Note: These minutes are housed with the 1911 Constitution. v.1 Grand Rapids Recreation Association—label on front cover. Handwritten title page: Grand Rapids Playgrounds Association. Secretary's minutes, 1910-1913. Constitution, 1911. Acc. No. 473004 [In small 3-ring binder] The Constitution booklet has: Constitution of The Playground Association of Grand Rapids, Mich. 1911.	1	4

Minutes v. 3 Grand Rapids Recreation Association—label on front cover. Handwritten title on front flyleaf: Grand Rapids Recreation Association. Secretary's minutes, 1915-1920. Constitution, 1919. (p. 156-) Acc no. 473005	1	6
Minutes. [MKG796.G76m] 7 v. 4. Grand Rapids Recreation Association—label on cover. Handwritten title: Minutes of the Recreation Association, from Oct. 1, 1920 to 1925. Acc. No. 473006[Most of the pages in this notebook are blank]	1	7
Scrapbooks. [MKG796.G76s] Grand Rapids Recreation Assoc. Scrapbook, v. 1, 1910-1913	2	x
Grand Rapids Recreation Assoc. Scrapbook, v. 2, 1913-1933	2	x