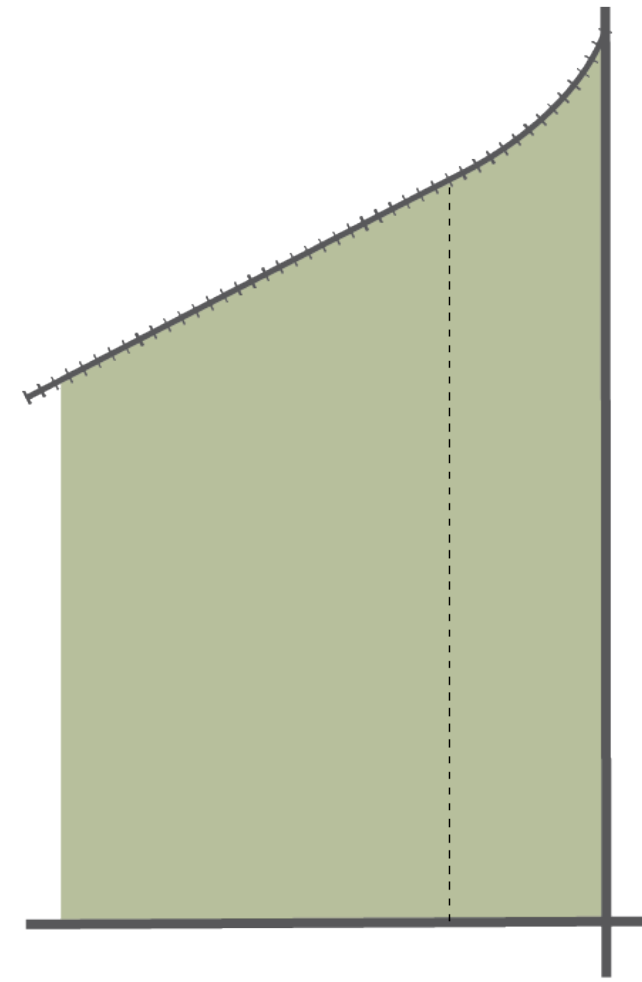
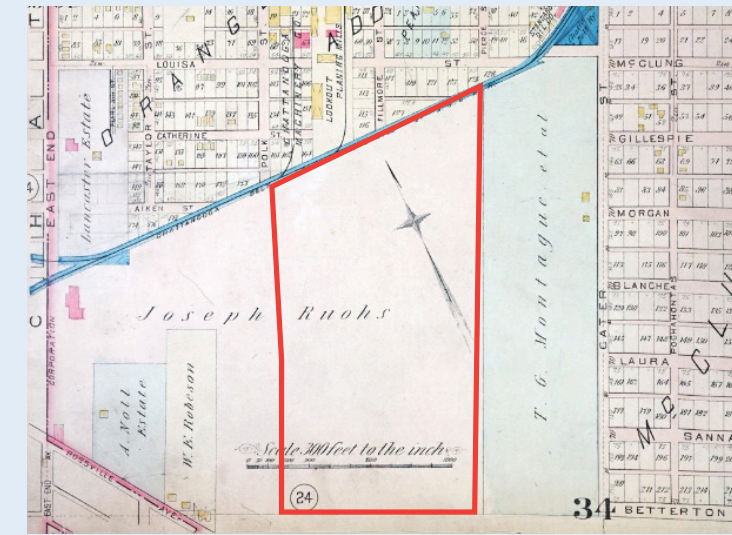


Montague Park | History & Evolution

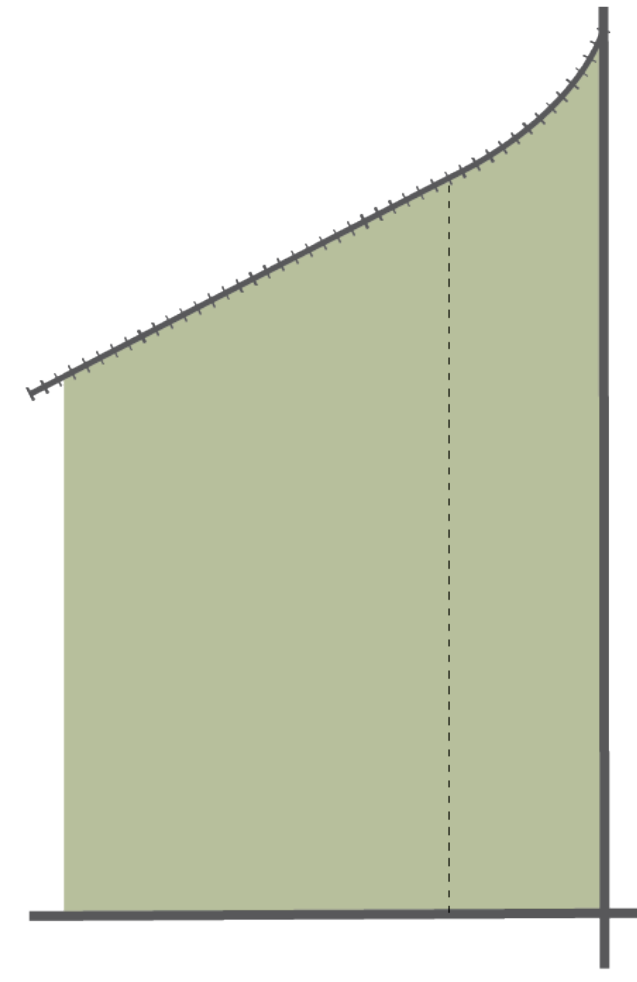


1805-1880s

JOSEPH RUOHS PURCHASES & SELLS LAND

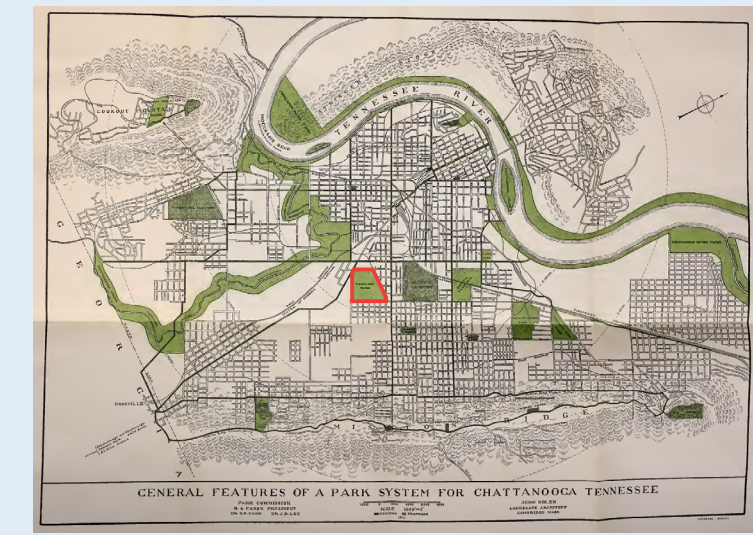


1904 Plat Map
Joseph Ruohs moved to Chattanooga in 1805. During the Civil War, he acquired land around the city, and eventually possessed more property than any other resident of Hamilton County. By the 1880s he gradually began to dispose of his large real estate holdings around the park, many of which were developed into neighborhoods. T.G. Montague, of First National Bank, helped to finance projects, including the Highland Park neighborhood to the northeast.

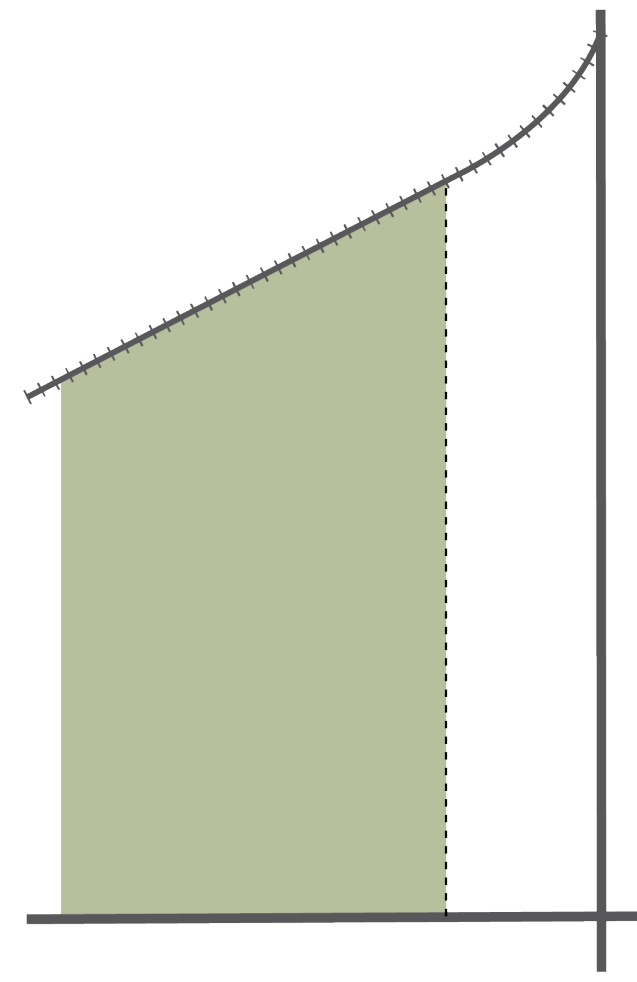


1911

JOHN NOLAN'S PARK SYSTEM PLAN

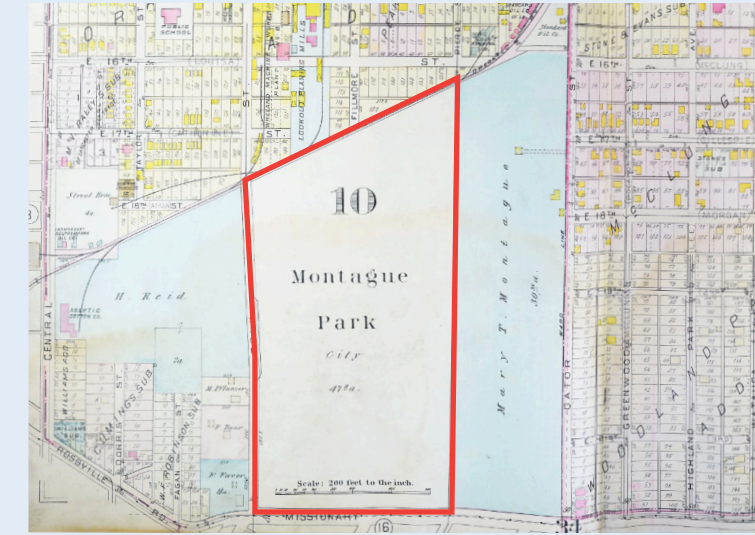


1911 John Nolan's Central Features of a Park System for Chattanooga Tennessee
John Nolan's Chattanooga Park System Plan recommended Woodland Park - a 30 or 60 acre tract of well-grown woodland... as one of the few remaining opportunities of Chattanooga to secure a grove of large trees near built-up sections of the city". T.G. Montague came into possession of the park property sometime before 1914.

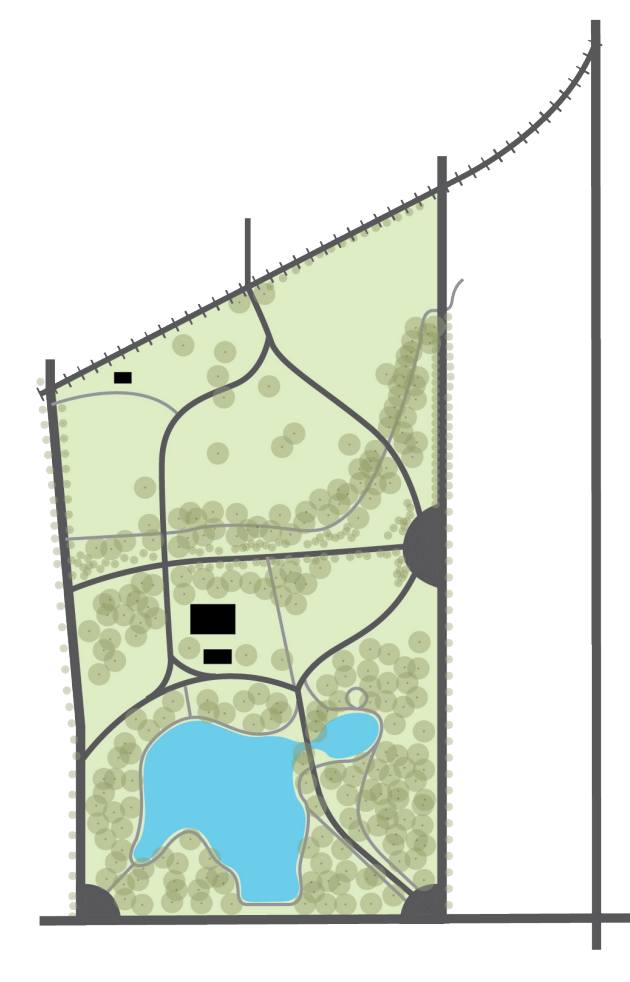


1911

A HEAVILY WOODED SUBDIVISION



1914 Plat Map
Mary Thayer Montague, widow of T.G. Montague, donated 49 acres of a heavily wooded subdivision to the City of Chattanooga for a public park. She continued to own the bordering property to the east.

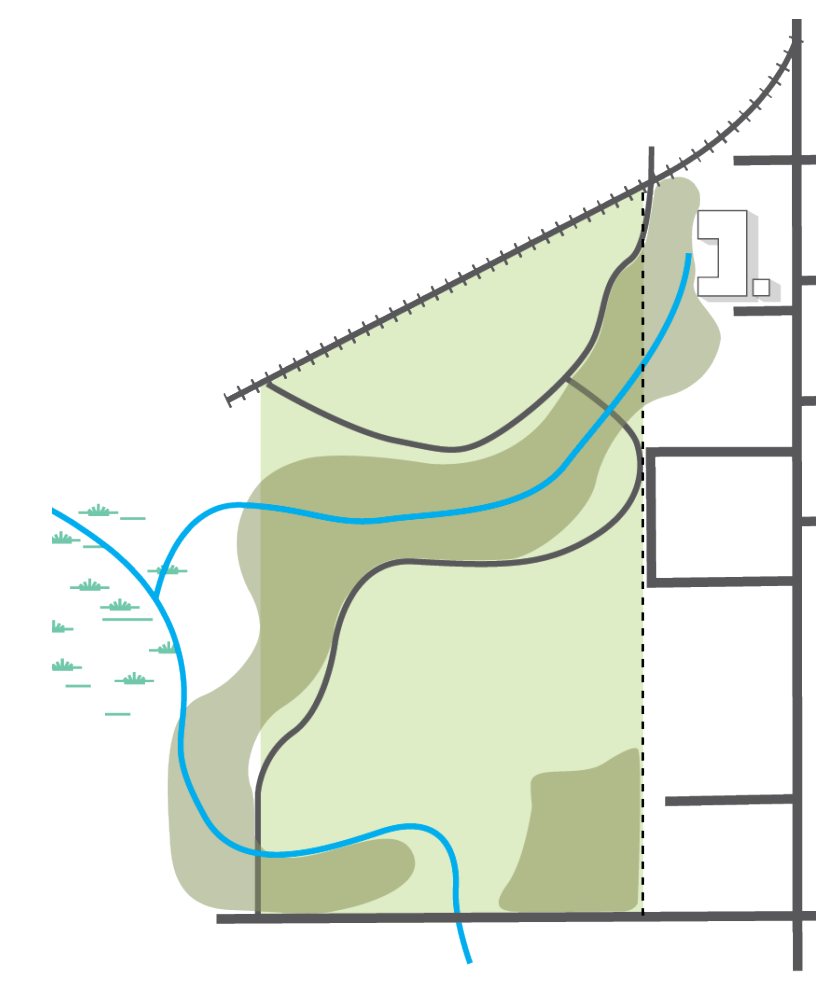


1913

PROPOSED PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

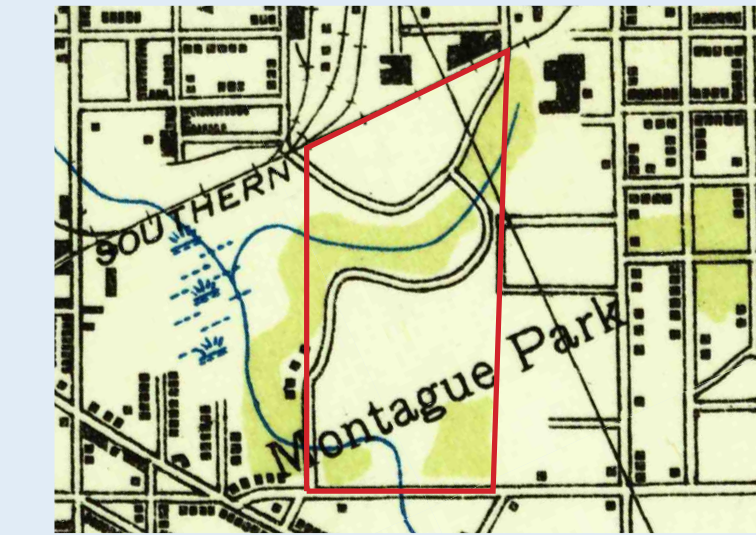


1913 Montague Park Plan by Edward E. Betts
Engineer Edward E. Betts designed a detailed plan for the park, including "lakes, brooks, drives, walks, flowers, groves, and rest spots that will constitute Chattanooga's largest park reservation". Due to public concerns around Chattanooga Creek backing up into the park during flooding events, drainage was a major component of the plan, but the park design was never implemented.

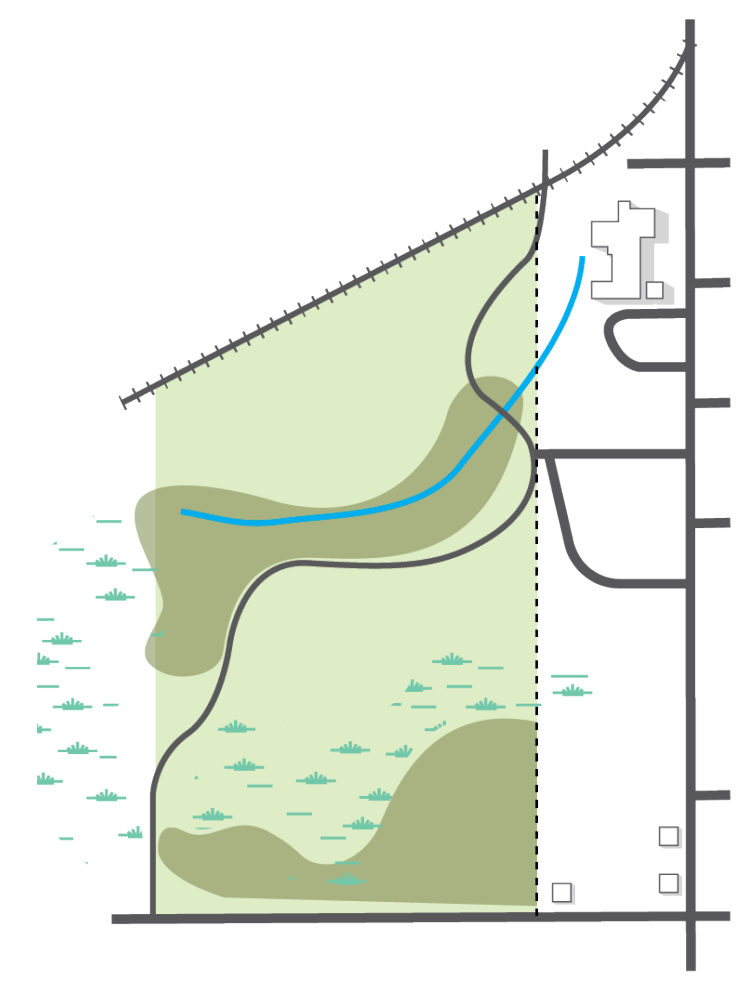


1936

MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

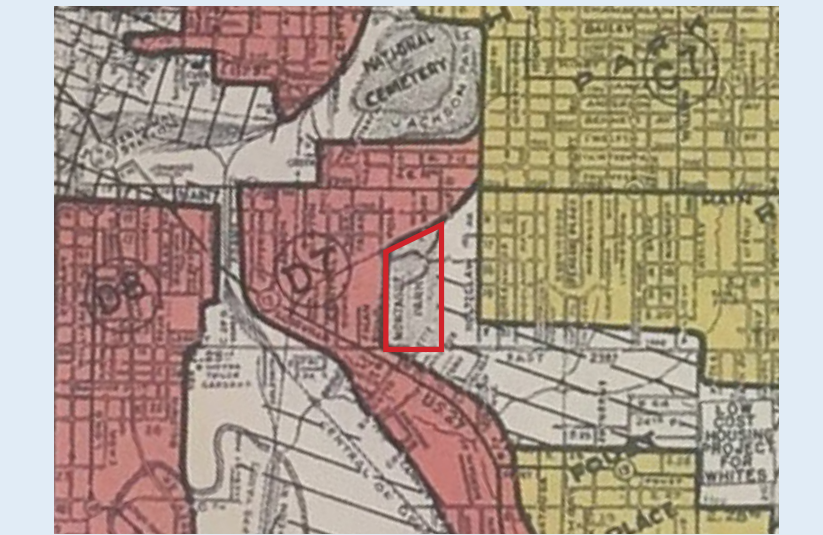


1936 USGS Map
The site continued to sit undeveloped aside from a few through-roads that connected Main Street to neighborhoods to the south. USGS maps indicate natural drainages and wet areas throughout the site that connect to Chattanooga Creek to the south. Surrounding industry and manufacturing increased and included furniture-making, paving, and lumber.

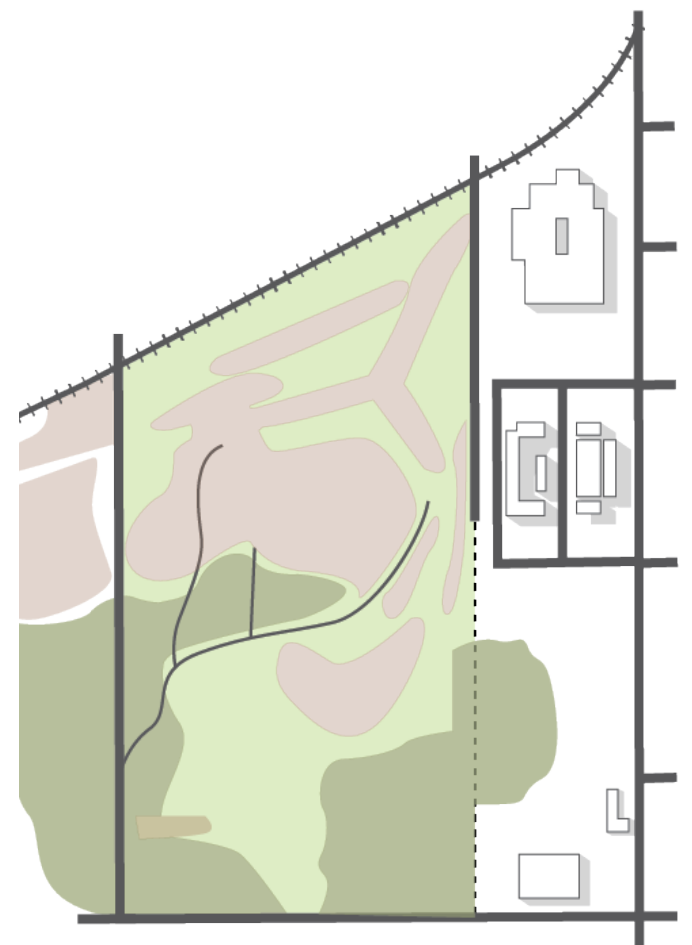


1938

SURROUNDING DISINVESTMENT



1938 Federal Home Owners' Loan Corporation Redlining Map
In 1938, areas north, west, and south of the site were redlined as Grade D - largely "undesirable". Black, Asian, Jewish, and Latino households were deemed to not be a sound investment area for home mortgages. Working class white neighborhoods to the east are marked as Grade C - "declining". Around the same time, surrounding industry shifted to chemicals and textiles; the middle class moved to newer suburbs and disinvestment in surrounding redlined neighborhoods continued.

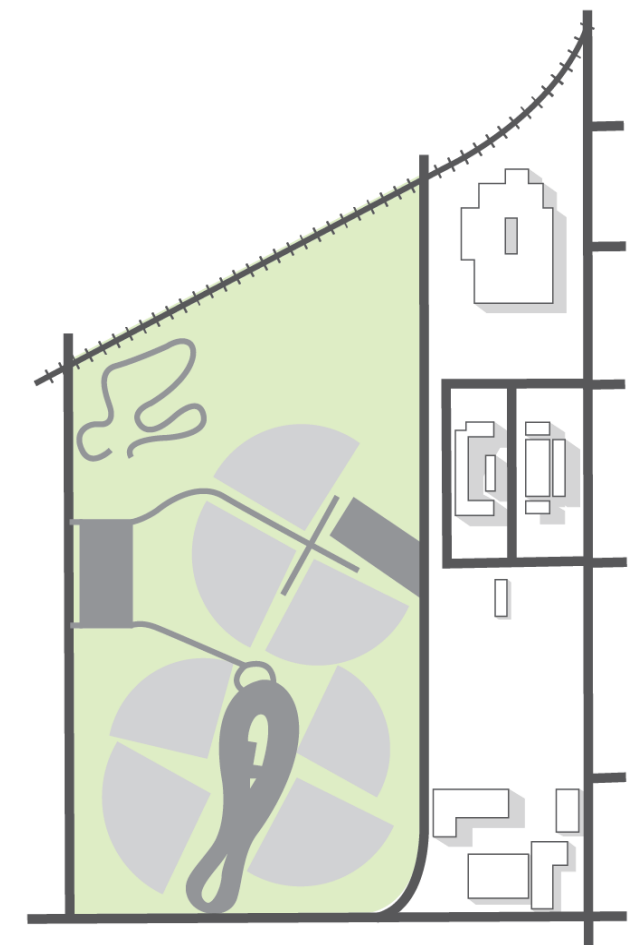


MID 1940s-MID 1960s

MUNICIPAL LANDFILL



1953 Aerial
In an effort to eliminate open dumps, the City established a landfill on the site in the early 1940s. Quantity and nature of the material is unknown but is believed to be waste from adjacent chemical and textile plants. The Tennessee National Guard Armory was established on the property to the east in 1941. In the early 1960s, the construction of I-24 demolished a significant portion of residential blocks to the south and isolated the Alton Park and Southside communities.

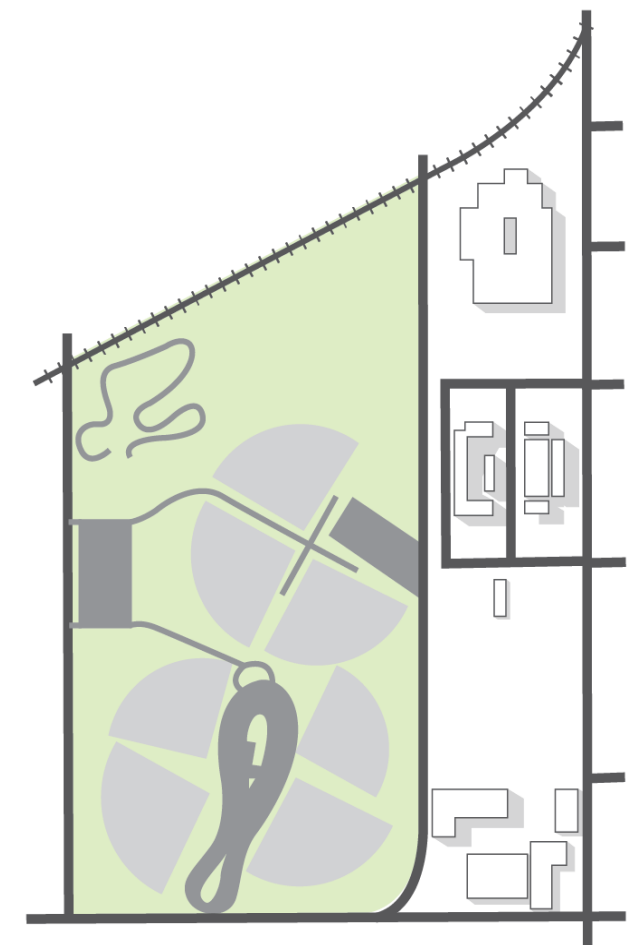


1968 - MID 1980s

COMMUNITY RECREATION SPACE



1983 Aerial
Guided by a 1968 plan by Coleman Hochman, the landfill was leveled, capped, and developed into a park in the mid-1970s to meet community recreation needs. The park was home to a motocross track and softball fields, and programming included kite festivals. The Coleman Hochman plan was only partially implemented.

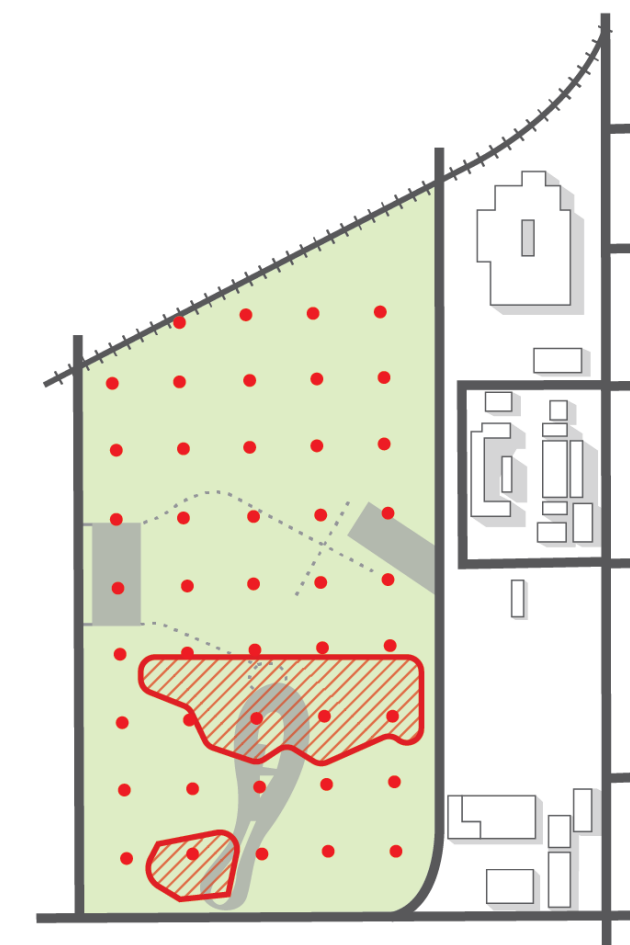


1984-1995

SITE EVALUATION AND MONITORING

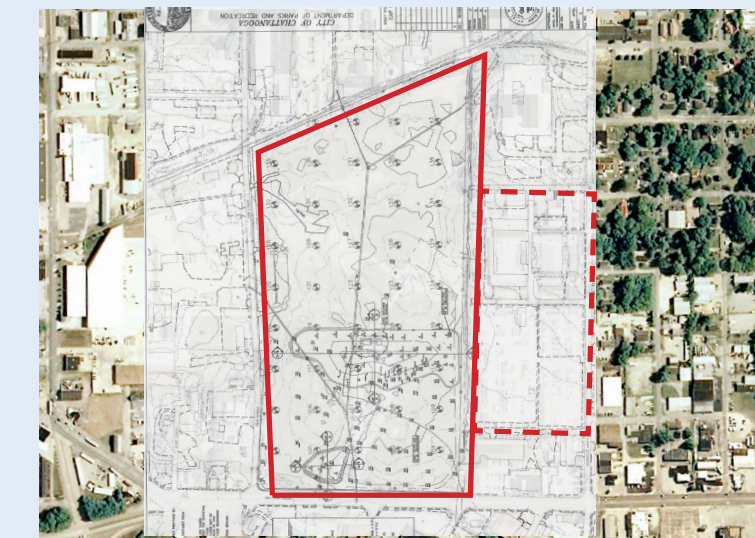


1983 Aerial
In 1984, the site was deemed a "potential hazardous waste site" and referred to the Tennessee Division of Superfund for further evaluation. This led to a 1989 Site Screening Investigation report, which included exposure pathways and surface and subsurface soil sampling. The investigation concluded that no further remedial action was planned. In 1995, limited sampling was performed which identified barium and lead above background concentrations, organics, and PAHs in the upper 3" of soil sampled.

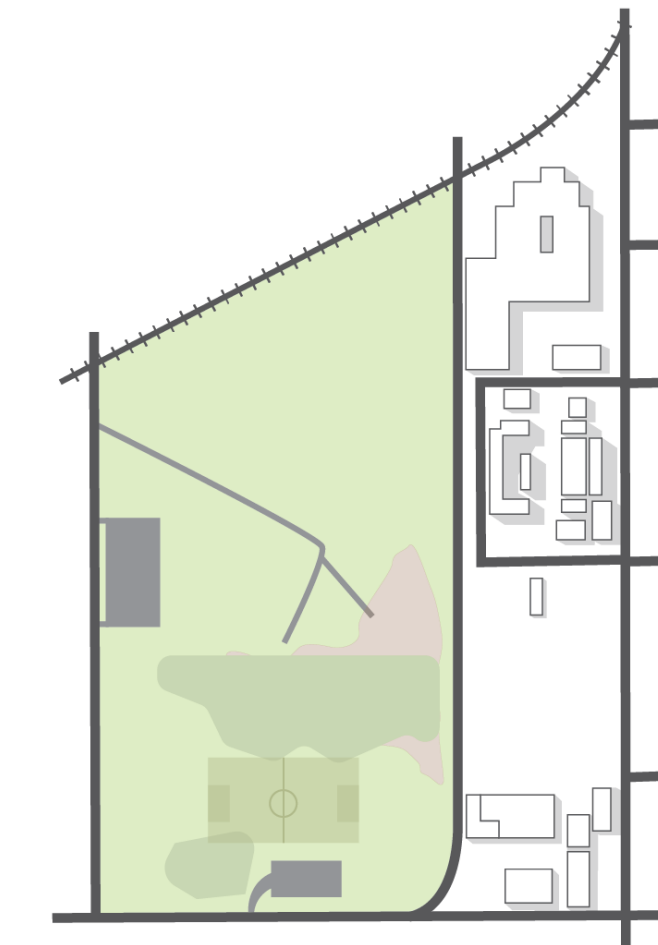


2003-2010

BROWNFIELD



2007 Aerial
In 2003, recreation activities were halted due to concerns related to methane gas leaking from the capped landfill. Testing was performed on site, including 44 auger boreholes complete on a 200' by 200' grid, to investigate cap thickness. The City instituted groundwater monitoring protocols and began importing clean fill to cap the site in deficient areas. In 2006 John Henry establishes his sculpture practice to the north and envisions a park dedicated to a collection of large sculptures for enjoyment in a pristine arboretum setting.

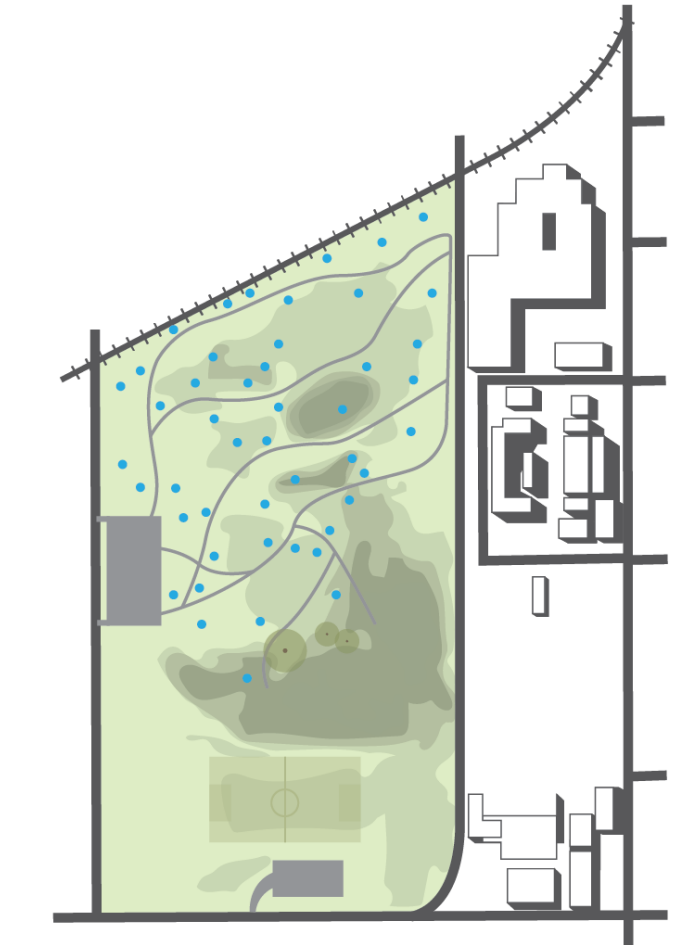


2011-2013

RUGBY FIELD



2013 Aerial
A local sports club offered financial support to further cap portions of the site. In exchange, a rugby field is constructed on clean fill on the southern portion of the park. Additional capping of 24" of clay topped with 12" of vegetated cover is installed on site in zones which the cap is deemed insufficient. The Sculpture Fields non-profit was formed in 2012.



2016

SCULPTURE FIELDS



2016 Aerial
Sculpture Fields at Montague Park opens in 2016, becoming the largest sculpture park in the southeast and one of the City's premier tourist destinations. Prior to the park opening, the site received numerous loads of soil from across the city as a part of TDEC's Beneficial Reuse program. These soils have trace levels of contaminants, a condition that has become ubiquitous with an urban soils in cities with industrial pasts.

