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George W. Friedrich Park

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George W. Friedrich Park

Conservation is the study and practice of wise utilization of resources, to the end that the greatest possible number of people of the present and future generations may be served best.
George W. Friedrich.¹

In November 1934, St. Cloud State Teachers College (now St. Cloud State University) President George A. Selke announced the purchase of 51 acres of abandoned granite quarry land in southeast St. Cloud. Added to property the college already owned, the site became what is now known as George W. Friedrich Park. Though officially closed in 1976, the park has been used throughout its existence as was originally intended, as an outdoor education, recreation and conservation area. Located about one mile from campus on the east end of University Drive (then Michigan Avenue) the site has remained intact despite repeated threats to this quiet wilderness from road expansion and development. The City of St. Cloud is currently in the process of reopening the park, having completed a land exchange for a portion of the property and stating its desire to acquire the remainder of the approximately 114 acre site. As it assumes stewardship, the city is acknowledging the value of preserving and sharing a significant cultural resource. A place of quiet grandeur and natural beauty, George W. Friedrich Park holds the distinction of being the birthplace of Minnesota's granite industry and an early conservation masterpiece.



Hilder West Quarry, looking east. October 2011.

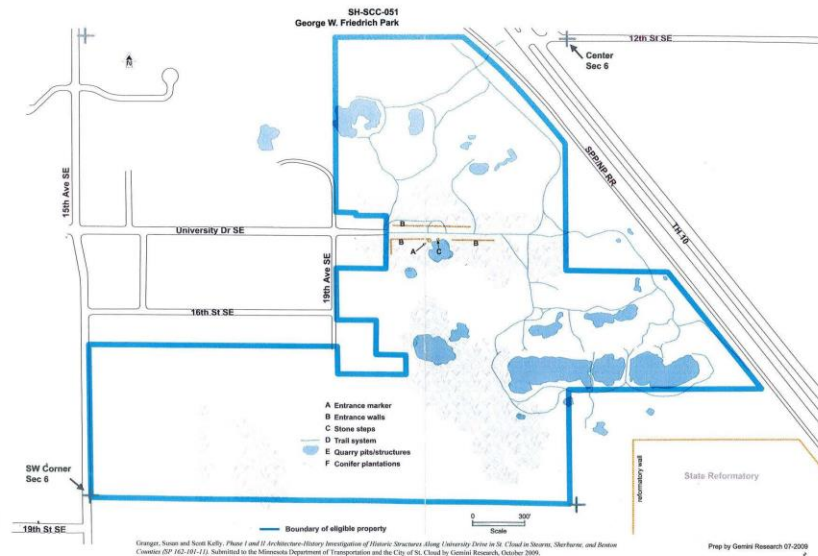
George W. Friedrich Park was established at a time of growing interest in protecting and restoring the nation's fast disappearing natural landscape, a time when property was cheap and labor was readily available through President Roosevelt's New Deal work programs. The park was created under the direction of George W. Friedrich (1885-1956), professor of biology and conservation at St. Cloud State Teachers College (SCSTC), using labor supplied by unemployed granite workers and local college

¹ Friedrich, George W. *The Study of Conservation*. State of Minnesota, Department of Conservation and Department of Education, 1940: 30.

students hired by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the National Youth Administration (NYA). Friedrich is largely credited with being the force and creative genius behind the acquisition and development for the college of this and other natural areas, including the Beaver Islands and Talahi Woods.



George W. Friedrich. c.1935. Photo Courtesy Friedrich Family.



Friedrich Park Map

Friedrich and his colleagues may have had their eye on the 51 acre Hilder Granite Company site as it was tax-forfeited land, had beautiful quarry pools and was adjacent to other college property. Land had been donated by Florence Wright, a former SCSTC student and faculty member and, in April 1932, the college had purchased a 30 acre tract immediately west of the Hilder Granite Company parcel for \$900 from the Atwood Management Association. This portion is currently state-owned land. The northern part is commonly known as the North Loop. The remainder of the property that became the park is north of the Hilder Granite Company parcel. The majority of this was acquired by the college in March 1935.² St. Cloud State University (SCSU) currently owns the bulk of the property. The rest is owned by the SCSU Alumni Association, the City of St. Cloud and a few private land owners.

The 1935 State Teachers College bulletin describes the site as a large scenic park called “The Quarry Pools”:

During the past year the college acquired a tract of approximately a hundred thirty acres of land a mile east of the campus. On this area there are a dozen pools which offer excellent opportunities for out-door swimming, for aquatic gardens and for picnic grounds. They are being developed at the present to add to the enrichment and enjoyment

² “St. Cloud State Teachers College Land Purchased from Local Funds.” Undated. President George A. Selke Papers. SCSU Archives, St. Cloud.

*of student life.*³

Later bulletins include information about the use of granite to build the wall around Selke Field, the College's new athletic facility; the extensive pine plantings done by Friedrich, his students and others; and the "...nurseries from which thousands of trees have been transplanted to the College Woods, the Islands, and other College property."⁴ Until it was named for George W. Friedrich in November 1950, the site was referred to by various names – Quarry Property, College Quarry Property, College Quarry, Quarry Area, Quarry Pools, College Pools, College Park, Hilder Quarry Area, and "wilderness area."

Friedrich was quick to share credit, particularly with President Selke (1888-1970), for acquisition of this important resource for the college. As Friedrich stated, "(w)ithout the great understanding of President Selke this could not have been accomplished. I could propose but he had to dispose, and he disposed magnificently."⁵ An avid sportsman and lover of the outdoors, Selke was more than amenable to this and other land acquisitions for the teaching college. President from 1927 until 1946, with a three-year leave of absence after he was appointed state director of the War Manpower Commission in 1943, Selke's connections and his role as the first director of the National Youth Administration in Minnesota (1935-38) proved beneficial to both the city and the college. When Selke announced acquisition of the granite quarry site he expressed his "...hope that the people of St. Cloud and the surrounding country will ultimately benefit from the extensive program of conservation and development that is fostered by the Teachers College."⁶

³ St. Cloud State Teachers College, 1935: 18.

⁴ St. Cloud State Teachers College, 1941: 17. St. Cloud State Teachers College, 1951: 27. Undergraduate Bulletin St. Cloud State University, 1978-79: 236.

⁵ Lee, Forrest G. "George Friedrich-Honorary M.O.U. Member." *The Flicker*. March 1957: 4. Print.

⁶ "President Selke Announces New Land Acquisition." *The College Chronicle* [St. Cloud State Teachers College] 28 September 1934: 1. Print.

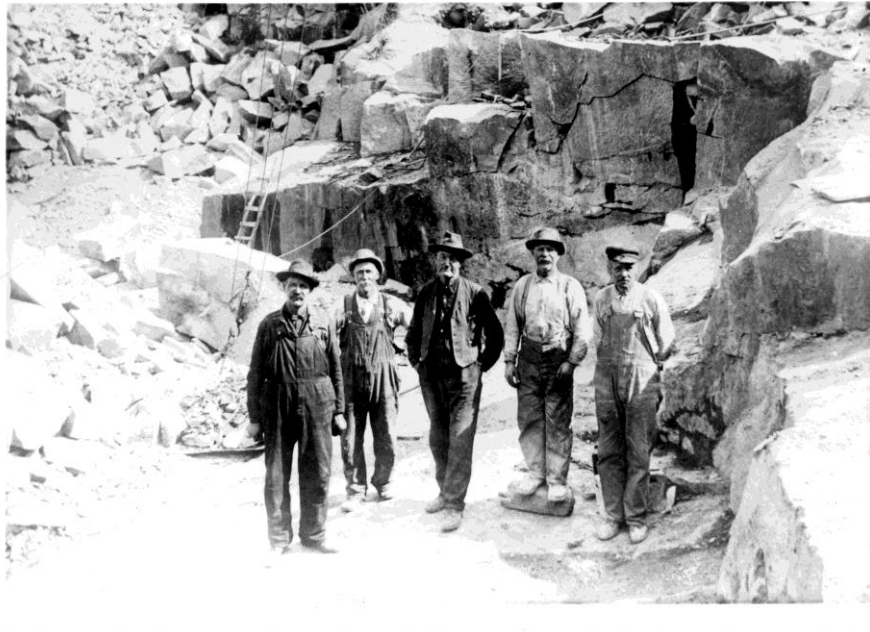


George A. Selke, President, St. Cloud State Teachers College. 1932. Photo Courtesy SCSU Archives.

When the area that is now known as George W. Friedrich Park opened to the public in 1935, it was largely a barren quarry landscape with a network of narrow quarry roads or trails, a few railroad spurs, remaining quarry industry structures and numerous abandoned quarry pits. Minnesota's granite industry began within and immediately south of the site when the first successful commercial granite quarry was launched by Irish immigrant, Mathias Breen (1833-90) and his Scottish partner, John T. Young, in the spring of 1868 in order to take advantage of some of the Midwest's most valuable commercial granite deposits.⁷ The existence of the railroad, which extended to St. Cloud in 1867, was most likely part of the reason Breen and Young chose the site. Granite from Breen and Young quarries was used to build the wall around the Minnesota State Reformatory for Men (now the Minnesota Correctional Facility), one of the largest forced labor-built walls in the world. A large Breen and Young quarry was located within the Reformatory walls and a number of smaller ones were outside and to the north. Noted geologist Oliver Bowles identified a pit outside the walls as the site where Breen and Young began work in 1868.⁸

⁷ Dominik, John. "Granite Industry History." Draft review copy of unpublished manuscript, Stearns County Historical Society Publication Program (Manuscript Number: PP-88-02). St. Cloud: Stearns County Historical Society, 1990.

⁸ Bowles, Oliver. The Structural and Ornamental Stones of Minnesota. Bulletin 663. Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, 1918. 121. Print.



Granite quarry workers (Albert Johnson, Nelson Benson and two unidentified men) at Breen and Young Quarry in Haven Township, East St. Cloud. c.1880. From the collection of the Sherburne County Historical Society.

Most of the stone at the site is hornblende granite with shades of red, pink and grey. Sold under various names - Reformatory Grey, Reformatory Pink, Sunset Red, Green Pearl, Hilder Gray - the stone found its way into numerous building, monument and infrastructure projects across the city, state and nation. According to Garry Anderson, former St. Cloud State University (SCSU) professor of geology, the stone is about 1.6-1.7 billion years old, which is fairly young for a rock. Anderson is one of several SCSU science faculty who have brought students to the park for field work. The area is particularly useful because of its location near campus. As Anderson notes, there the students can see the "...real world of rocks rather than rocks in boxes."⁹

The park was a good deal for the college. Not only was it cheap - the 51 acre Hilder Quarry site was purchased for \$1,500 from the First National Bank of St. Cloud and some of the land was donated - it provided "free" material for improvements to various college properties. Granite from the site was used to build the 3,510' wall and 3,000-seat grandstand at Selke Field and the closed-string course staircase at First Avenue South. The park also provided 20,000 cubic feet of uncut grey granite riprap for erosion control along the Mississippi River near the dam.¹⁰ The park's two WPA-era built features, the low dry-laid waste granite walls along the entrance trail and the closed-string course stone staircase at Dodd Quarry, were constructed with granite found on site. The quality of craftsmanship in the staircase reflects the work of highly skilled

⁹ Anderson, Garry. Personal interview. 25 May 2015.

¹⁰ Friedrich, George W. "Rock Quarry and WPA Work Bring Improvement to Campus." Undated newspaper clipping, c. 1939. Friedrich family papers.

unemployed granite workers hired by the WPA, one of whom was Ernest Hilder (1887-1957). Hilder was the general manager of the Hilder Granite Company when it went bankrupt c.1928. He served as the WPA foreman for projects using granite from east St. Cloud.¹¹

Remnants of the former granite industry that remain are major features of the park and help to create its unique sense of place and character. The majority of the site was actively quarried for nearly three-quarters of a century. Among the many companies that worked in the area were the East St. Cloud Granite Company, Minnesota Granite Company, Edward Swanson and Company, McGregor Brothers, Northwest Granite Company, A. Montgomery, Breen and Young, John Kellas Company, August Erickson Company and Hilder Granite Company. The granite company's former quarry holes are some of the park's most picturesque features. The three larger quarries that became park swimming pools had last been worked by the Hilder Granite Company. The company got its start in 1886 when Gottfried Julius "G.J." Hilder (1859-1921), a Swedish immigrant, came to St. Cloud and opened his first quarry. Hilder and his wife, Ida, along with their twelve children lived at the quarries in a house near what is now Highway 10.¹² A concrete granite circle and some metal posts and wire fencing are remaining features of the Hilder house site. From around 1900 until the late 1920s, much of the area was owned by Hilder and his relatives or business associates.



Granite Circle at Hilder house site (c.1930). April 2015.

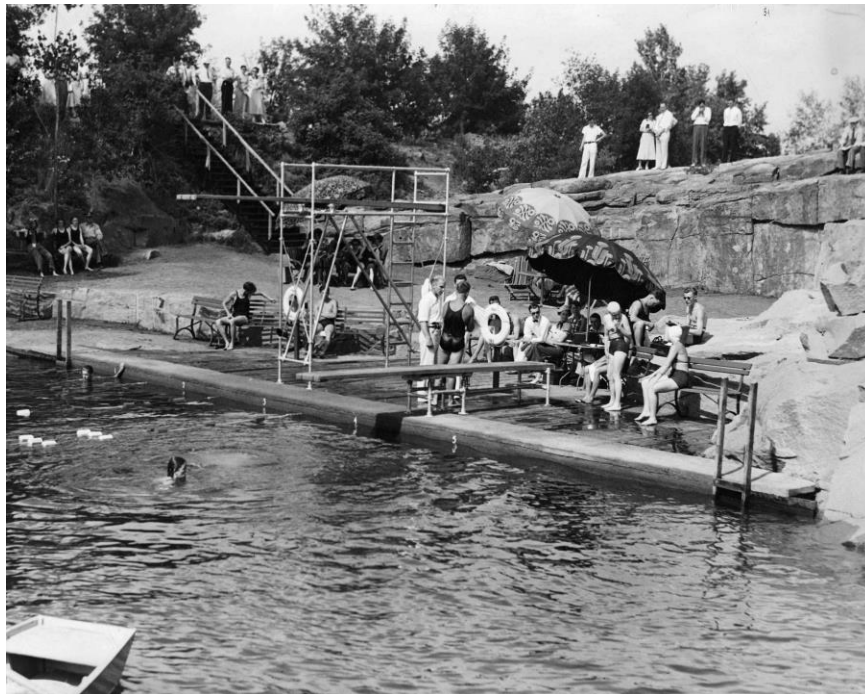
Part of the New Deal work that took place in the park included removing dangerous rock ledges and building a dock and diving platform for swimmers. On July 9, 1935, Ann Govednik, a

¹¹ "Ernest J. Hilder." *St. Cloud Daily Times*. 3 July 1954.

¹² Boelz, Tom. Personal interview. 14 May 2015.

SCSTC freshman and member of the 1932 United States Olympic swim team, participated in a swimming exhibition along with members of the Northwest Annual Outdoor Water Carnival from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, to celebrate the opening of swimming.¹³ The 1937 edition of the college yearbook, *Talahi*, describes work done the following year:

During 1936 the pool was closed so that further improvements might be made. Loose rocks were removed and the granite wall surrounding the pool was leveled off so that it now has lost many of its 'quarry hole' features and has taken on the appearance of a large artificial pool. To further beautify the pool, a nursery has been planted around it. A dock, raft, diving boards, and two dressing rooms have been constructed....¹⁴



The site also came with a number of existing quarry industry structures, including stone crushers, a polishing shed, a blacksmith shop, an oil house, storage sheds and hoists. The structures were dismantled but the foundations remain. One of the stone crushers and many of the other buildings belonged to the Hilder Granite Company. The Hilder stone crusher was built in 1916 near the northwestern edge of the Hilder west quarry. The structure was about 34' tall and was used to crush waste granite or grout for use in concrete, as railroad ballast and in road improvements.¹⁵ The existence of the crusher is one of the main reasons the park does not have many large grout piles and loose waste granite that are typical of other abandoned quarry sites.

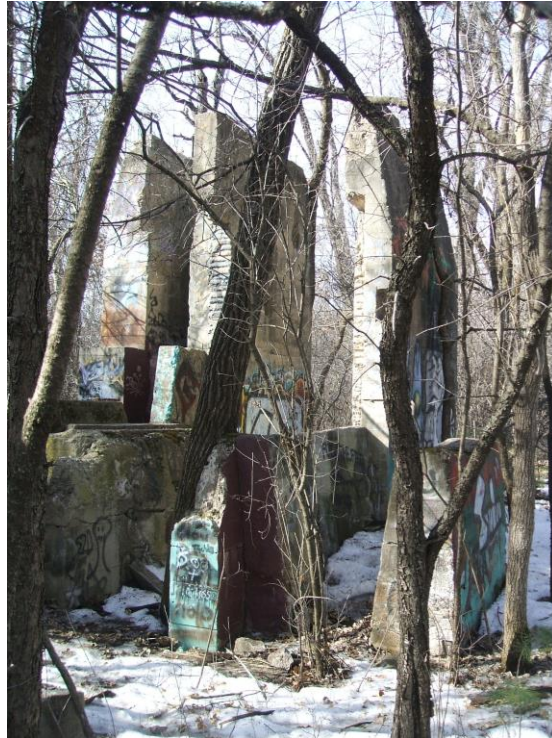
¹³ *Talahi*. St. Cloud State Teachers College yearbook, 1936: 83.

¹⁴ "The Quarry Pools": 90.

¹⁵ Holes, W. J. "The Enterprising St. Cloud Granite District." *The American Stone Trade* 16.6. (1917): 28. Print.

According to W. J. Holes, a St. Cloud granite industry leader:

Day by day without ceasing, at the regular clip of 800 to 1,000 tons in 10 hours the crusher has gnawed away at the grout pile. It has disappeared entirely, and soon according to Ernest Hilder, who is in charge of the rock crushing department, there will be a problem of producing enough material to economically feed the mammoth crusher. The crusher having moved the grout pile, keeps the big plant clear of spalls without cost while steadily getting something for the output.¹⁶



Hilder stone crusher (1916). June 2011.

The Hilder polishing shed was also built in 1916 and was located immediately west of the stone crusher. This large building covered an area about 70' x 140' and was still standing in 1945 according to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the City of St. Cloud.¹⁷ The structure was dismantled at a later date though the impressive concrete foundation remains.

¹⁶ Holes, 28.

¹⁷ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Saint Cloud in Stearns, Benton, Sherburne Counties Minnesota*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1945.



Hilder polishing shed (1916). April 2011.

On October 12, 1934, two weeks after President Selke announced acquisition of the Hilder Quarry Company property, *The College Chronicle* reported that one of the first tasks would be "...to demolish the buildings on the Hilder Quarry site. The quarries will be cleaned up and the lumber used for projects at the college..."¹⁸ Wood from the buildings was to be used to build footbridges to the Beaver Islands, a college garage and for other college needs. The remainder was to be sold.¹⁹ The bridges washed out in 1941 and were not replaced despite efforts made by student groups and the college alumni association to raise the funds necessary for more permanent structures.²⁰ In 1948, the alumni association adopted a resolution to begin a fund-raising campaign for improvements to the quarry area and the Beaver Islands. "The association has been instrumental in the past in acquiring considerable property near the campus, but lack of

¹⁸ "Several Projects Begin Under ERA." *The College Chronicle*. [St. Cloud State Teachers College] 12 October 1934: 1.

¹⁹ "Report to the College Board." December 1934. President George A. Selke Papers. SCSU Archives, St. Cloud. Typescript.

²⁰ "Report of the Bureau of College Resources." 1943-44. President George A. Selke Papers. SCSU Archives, St. Cloud. Typescript.

funds has delayed the development of the areas.”²¹ The improvements were to include reforestation of the quarry property and developing recreational areas for outdoor educational activities of all kinds, including conservation.

Other remnants of the quarry industry include evidence of the rail spurs that served the district and the pre-existing narrow quarry roads or wagon roads that became park trails. At least four rail spurs were established. One of the spurs is now inside the Reformatory walls. The bed of the southernmost spur runs parallel to the Reformatory and serves as one of the park trails along the southeastern edge. Constructed c.1870, it extends west from the rail line to near one of the earliest Breen and Young quarries. A longer spur with three branches near its western end was constructed c.1885. This spur was split c.1915 in order to create access to the Hilder Company’s new polishing shed and stone crusher.²²

The main portion of the trail system that serves the park was developed by the WPA and NYA between 1935-36 using routes established by the granite companies. Relatively narrow footpaths, the trails remain in good condition even during wet periods due to the crushed granite and granite tailings that were used as a foundation to support the weight of the heavy stone.²³ The trails in the southwest portion of the park were added after 1957. Most of the main quarry roads were constructed fairly early and continued to be used throughout the period of active quarrying. One early and heavily used east-west route was established c.1883 to serve the August Erickson quarry in the northwest corner of the site. Little evidence remains today of the heavy granite that was hauled along this road on its way to supply stone for the stone arch bridge in Minneapolis.²⁴

²¹ “Alumni Begin Fund-Raising Campaign.” *The College Chronicle* [St. Cloud State Teachers College] 26 October 1948: 2.

²² Grant of Easement for Warehouse & Switching Tract. c.1914. Book H of Miscellaneous Records: 340. Sherburne County Recorder’s Office, Elk River.

²³ Granger, Sue and Scott Kelly. *Phase I and II Architecture-History Investigation of Historic Structures Along University Drive in St. Cloud in Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne Counties*. Submitted to Mn/DOT and the City of St. Cloud by Gemini Research, October 2009: 4.145.

²⁴ Bowles, 123.



Entrance trail. September 2010.



August Erickson Quarry (c.1883). June 2011.

Land reclamation was a particularly vital issue at the time the college was acquiring natural areas such as the quarry site for study and stewardship. Drought, deforestation, decimation from wildfires and devastation from poor farming and mining practices had left their mark on the land and were encouraging a change in public sentiment toward preservation. Much of the area that became George W. Friedrich Park had been actively quarried for over half a century until quarries on the west side of St. Cloud took over the leading role in the granite industry.

One of the most prominent features of the park and one of the biggest changes to the landscape has been the growth of trees, particularly the towering and reseeded pines. Much of the reseeded pines can be found along the edges of park trails. The pines are part of the reforestation work done by Friedrich and his students along with the WPA and NYA starting in 1936. The trees planted include white pine, jack pine, Norway or red pine, white spruce, balsam fir, red cedar, white cedar, tamarack, American elm, black locust, and caragana. Most of the conifers were received from the state nursery of the forestry division of the Conservation department. The deciduous trees came from other sources and may have been part of the college nursery that was located in the park.²⁵



Reseeding pines along park trail. June 2011.

Four main patches of conifers are evident in the park. These are located mainly in the western half with some of the tallest trees found along the entrance trail near the east end of University Drive. Another generous patch can be found in the southwestern portion of the park in part of what is now the state-owned property commonly known as the North Loop. Both the mature and the reseeded trees are one of the character-defining features that make George W. Friedrich Park eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.²⁶

²⁵ “Reforestation Work Done by Nursery.” *The College Chronicle* [St. Cloud State Teachers College] 20 July 1938: 3.

²⁶ Granger, 4.158.



Towering pines near entrance. Walking tour with Mayor Kleis, May 7, 2015. Photo Courtesy Bruce Skalbeck.

Trees were planted at the site up until 1946 when post-World War II shortages curtailed planting activity and other college improvements. A report from the Bureau of College Resources submitted by George W. Friedrich for the 1943-44 school year outlined the work that had been done on college properties outside of campus, including the "...110 acres known as the Hilder Quarry area...."²⁷ Among the highlights were its use for wood lot and windbreak demonstrations and the planting of trees by students. An undated report from the mid-1940s on the value of the quarry property to the college documents the planting of 20,000 pine trees used for teaching forestry and nature education:

Every year of the past ten or more, classes have gone to the quarry area and planted everygreen (sic) trees or carried on some other forest activity such as thinning out trees,

²⁷ "Report of the Bureau of College Resources." 1943-44. President George A. Selke Papers. SCSU Archives, St. Cloud. Typescript.

*planting seed stock, learning how to fight fires and building firelanes (sic). Hundreds of students now feel that they have a personal investment in this area....Through their efforts outdoor beauty was advanced where none existed before.*²⁸

Friedrich was proud of the site. A few years after it had been acquired he wrote about how the \$1,500 cost "...had been stretched to \$100,000 proportions."²⁹

Friedrich was passionate about the natural world and spent much of his career working both publicly and privately to promote conservation and the value of environmental education. A well-loved teacher, former students remember fondly his infectious energy and enthusiasm during field trip excursions to various college properties, including the area that became George W. Friedrich park. The park not only served as an outdoor classroom, it was a place where Friedrich could try out some of his ideas on the emerging and developing concepts of land reclamation, preservation, creation of wildlife habitat, wildlife management, the establishment of tree nurseries and the use of wilderness for education.³⁰

Born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on August 26, 1885, Friedrich came to St. Cloud in 1921 with his wife, Hildegard (Greenwald) Friedrich, to teach biology at St. Cloud State Teachers College. Friedrich was a great believer in the importance of teaching outdoors and quickly introduced field study into his coursework. According to friend and former student, Forrest B. Lee, early in his teaching career Friedrich decided that he needed "...more training in the outdoor aspects of biology."³¹ Friedrich did post graduate work at the University of Chicago, where he had obtained a Master of Science in botany in 1917, and attended Cornell University under a Charles Lathrop Pack fellowship from 1929-1930. The fellowship had recently been established by the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Trust to focus on problems of nature education and forestry. The objective was to determine the best methods and practices to use to educate the public on the subject of conservation.³² While at Cornell Friedrich may have hob-knobbed with Florence Wright, a native of St. Cloud who was a SCSTC graduate and had taught briefly at the college before moving to New York in 1929 to teach art. Wright donated a parcel of land to the college that later became part of George W. Friedrich Park.

²⁸ "Value and Use of the Quarry Property to the St. Cloud State Teachers College." c.1945. President George A. Selke Papers. SCSU Archives, St. Cloud. Typescript.

²⁹ Friedrich, George W. "Rock Quarry and WPA."

³⁰ Granger, 4.151.

³¹ Lee, Forrest G. "George Friedrich-Honorary M.O.U. Member." *The Flicker*. March 1957: 4. Print.

³² "Report of the Dean, New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York." Annual Report, 1928. Volumes 33-43.



Donald Brudnage, George Friedrich, W. Clyde Croxton, Harold Clark, Science faculty. St. Cloud State Teachers College. 1942. Photo Courtesy SCSU Archives.

Friedrich undoubtedly knew the work of Aldo Leopold (1887-1948), one of the seminal figures in the nation at the time on the topics of conservation, wildlife management and ecology. Leopold had a background in forestry management and was director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's 500 acre arboretum that was established in 1934 using Civilian Conservation Corps crews.³³ Much of how George W. Friedrich Park was developed parallels Leopold's work. While it is unknown whether the two men ever met, both belonged to many of the same organizations, attended the same meetings and conferences, were avid sportsmen and were passionate about environmental education and fieldwork-oriented instruction.³⁴ Friedrich's replacement at the college, Max Partch, was a student of Leopold's. Partch taught for thirty years (1949-1979) and is credited with having carried on Friedrich's teaching philosophies, including the emphasis on using the outdoors as a classroom.³⁵

When Friedrich died in June 1956, seven years after his retirement, his loss was deeply felt. Minnesota's Grand Old Man of Conservation, he was a key figure in the early conservation movement and a tireless champion for conservation legislation. A prolific writer, speaker, organizer and leader, Friedrich had already made a name for himself by the mid-1930s when the site that became George W. Friedrich Park was established. He helped found many conservation organizations, including the Minnesota Conservation Federation and the Minnesota Ornithologists Union, and was appointed to the newly formed State Conservation Commission in 1935, serving as chair in 1936.³⁶ Friedrich was also instrumental in getting key conservation legislation passed, including the 1947 Nursery Tree Bill which allowed states to grow and sell

³³ Meine, Curt. *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work*. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2010. Print.

³⁴ Granger, 4.152.

³⁵ "Max Partch Retires." *Bio-Feedback: Happenings in the Biological Sciences*. SCSU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences: Special Issue, November 1979. Partch, Max. SCSU Archives, St. Cloud. Print.

³⁶ "College Plans Memorial To George Friedrich." *St. Cloud Daily Times*. 29 October 1956: 16.

trees at cost for farm shelter belts and windbreaks. Friedrich served for twenty years on the St. Cloud Parks Board, helped bring federal funds to the area for WPA projects, worked to establish the Sand Dunes State Forest in Sherburne County in 1942 and founded both the T. S. Robert Ornithology Club, a local college student organization, and the St. Cloud Bird Club in 1933.

Friedrich wrote for many publications, including *The Conservationist Magazine*, and had a syndicated column between 1935-38 for the Associated Press and a daily column for five years for the *St. Cloud Journal Press*. Friedrich was instrumental in developing the first conservation curriculum for the State of Minnesota. His book, *The Study of Conservation*, published in 1940 by the State of Minnesota Departments of Conservation and Education, was the first conservation curriculum guide for Minnesota's public schools. He was also one of the authors of a comprehensive curriculum on conservation for Minnesota's elementary schools, "A Guide for Instruction in Science and Conservation."³⁷

By the early 1950s, activities at the park were limited to hiking, picnicking and fishing. Swimming was strongly discouraged.³⁸ The minutes from the June 22, 1951, meeting of the Bureau of Resources documents concerns about safety and includes a discussion about the need for closer supervision at the park.³⁹ In the spring of 1951, a gate was installed at the entrance in order to "...preserve this property as an instructional and recreational area...(t)his little wilderness will be accessible only by foot from now on."⁴⁰ Though the college officially closed the park in 1976 after a student was injured in a bonfire during a beer party, the park has continued to be used by SCSU faculty and local residents for hiking, dog walking and bird watching.⁴¹

Efforts have been made in the past to reopen the park. In 1980, SCSU biology professor Wayland Ezell set up an interpretive trail with an informational booklet. Other efforts to reopen the park have come from local advocacy groups, including the St. Cloud Area Natural Parks and Trails Coalition. The Parks and Trails Coalition worked tirelessly in its campaign for the park, conducting a survey in 2000 during which they recorded plant and animal types,⁴² organized walking tours and prepared a formal proposal for reopening the park.⁴³ In 2001, the City of St. Cloud and SCSU met to discuss possible options. That same year, in a letter to SCSU President Saigo, George W. Friedrich's daughter, Gail Friedrich Teas, wrote of her father's "...efforts in

³⁷ "Commitment to Conservation." St. Cloud State Teachers College brochure. Undated, c.1970. Friedrich family papers.

³⁸ "Report of "Physical Plant Devoted to Instructional Services" St. Cloud State Teachers College." 30 January 1951. SCSU Archives. Typescript.

³⁹ "Minutes of Bureau of Resources." 22 June 1951. SCSU Archives. Typescript.

⁴⁰ "Quarry Area Now Closed to Cars." *The College Chronicle* [St. Cloud State Teachers College] 25 May 1951: 1.

⁴¹ Weir, Ed and Eve Wallinga. "City Lost Park After Mishaps, Teen Rowdiness." *St. Cloud Times*. 26 December 2000.

⁴² Morgan, Bill. "George W. Friedrich Park is a Home to Animals and Scientific Research." Earth, Wood, Stone: Central Minnesota Lives and Landmarks. Volume II. St. Cloud, Minnesota: Sentinel Printing, Inc., 2013.

⁴³ Gundersen, Ralph and Nancy. Personal interview. 3 June 2015.

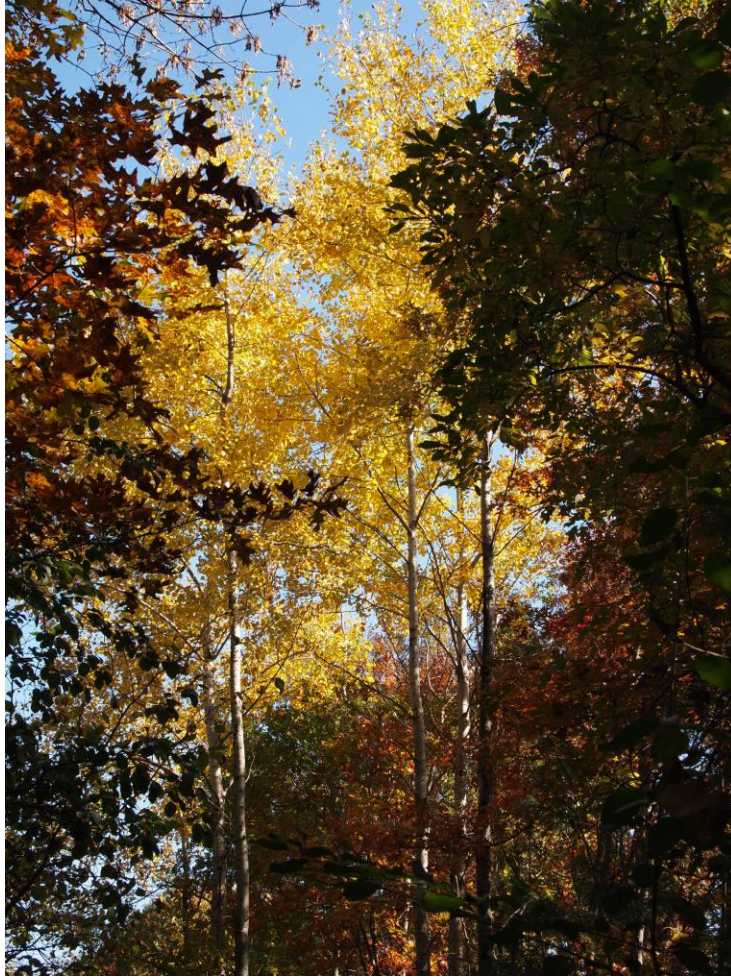
obtaining this property and the many long, hard, and happy hours it took to create a real “outdoor classroom,” recreation area, and by now what is a magnificent stand of evergreens.”⁴⁴ Gail, her sister Mary Lou Friedrich Olson, and other members of the Friedrich family donated funds for a granite marker near the entrance to the park. The marker was dedicated in 1995.



Entrance marker (1995). Curt Olson, Mary Lou Friedrich Olson, Gail Friedrich Teas and Jackie Lindblom at George W. Friedrich Park dedication, October 1995. Photo Courtesy SCSU Archives.

George W. Friedrich Park has served as a significant natural resource representing the forefront of environmental conservation for more than eighty years. As with many of southeast St. Cloud’s numerous historic landmarks including Riverside Park, Munsinger Gardens, Clemens Gardens, Kilian Boulevard and Selke Field, the park was established thanks to the foresight and generosity of local citizens and leaders. Today these landmarks remain part of a rich cultural landscape that stretches from the eastern bank of the Mississippi River to Highway 10. Despite sounds from an active surrounding urban landscape, those who visit the park say they feel transported to another world, a place of quiet beauty and wild serenity. A unique space within the city, George W. Friedrich Park has evolved from a barren quarry industry site into a forest of trees mixed with open areas of prairie grass, wetlands, rock outcroppings and numerous quarries of varying shapes and sizes. Virtually untouched, this quiet wilderness is ready for residents and visitors to experience, protect and enjoy.

⁴⁴ Teas, Gail Friedrich. Letter to SCSU President Roy Saigo, 28 August 2001. Friedrich family papers.



Park trees. October 2011.

Ann Marie Johnson
June 29, 2015