

COUCH PARK
East 12th Avenue and East Alcott Avenue
Stillwater
Payne County
Oklahoma

HALS OK-45
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

COUCH PARK

HALS NO. OK-45

- Location:** East 12th Avenue and East Alcott Avenue, Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma
Lat: 36.108786 Long: - 97.050486 (Intersection of East 12th Avenue and East Alcott Avenue, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84)
- Significance:** Couch Park sits just northwest of the birthplace of Stillwater. The site has been an important public gathering place since William L. Couch established a "Boomer colony" there in 1884. Stillwater residents have enjoyed the park over the last 80 years as it has grown and evolved.
- Description:** Couch park consists of two parts bisected by East 12th Avenue: the 70-acre south portion and the 60-acre north portion also known as Hoyt Grove. The park is located south of East 6th Avenue and east of North Perkins Road on the corner of East 12th Avenue and East Alcott Street.
- The park is designed in a naturalistic style and contains a wide variety of trees such as, birch, pine, oak, and elm. There are two rentable pavilions on site, each with seating, trash cans, and water fountains. The pavilions and parking lots are connected by a circular road and meandering loop walking path. The large old trees shade the park under a tall canopy and create an excellent sense of place. This park has an allée of trees along the entrance road on South Ransom Drive.
- History:** Couch Park is located northwest of the "Boomer colony" William L. Couch established in 1884. That settlement evolved into the City of Stillwater, and the park is named after its founder. The park quickly became a public gathering place, and in the 1930s, a temporary Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was set up there. The northwest, west, and north portions of Couch Park were developed over time into recreational spaces for Stillwater High School and the public. The city received a Works Progress Administration (WPA) grant to build the public swimming pool in the 1930s. A football field was built in the 1940s. Four tennis courts, two baseball fields, a softball field, and a playground were funded by a Land and Water Conservation grant in 1964.
- Sources:** Eve Morgan, City of Stillwater Park Planner. Interviewed April 2011.
- Dr. Lowell Caneday, Leisure Science Department, Oklahoma State University (*former Stillwater Parks Board member*). Interviewed April 2011.
- 1972 City of Stillwater Green Belt Plan. City of Stillwater Public Library.
- City of Stillwater website: www.stillwater.org. Accessed April 2011.

City of Stillwater Wikipedia webpage:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stillwater,_Oklahoma. Accessed April 2011.

Historian: Brandon Burlingame, April 9, 2011

Dr. Charles L. Leider, Professor and Faculty Sponsor
Landscape Architecture Program
Oklahoma State University
and
ASLA HALS Liaison for Oklahoma
charles.leider@okstate.edu



View of vernacular naturalistic landscape in Couch Park (Brandon Burlingame, April 16, 2011).



View of Couch Park facing the north sports complex (Brandon Burlingame, April 16, 2011).