

Charles E. Doell Papers

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection number: B515, Accession #1990.050.0001-1990.050.0003

Collection repository: Hennepin History Museum
2303 Third Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Collection title: Charles E. Doell Papers

Dates: 1925-1981

Extent: 1.37 linear ft. (3 document boxes)

Creator: Charles E. Doell

Language of the Material: English

Processed by: Jennie Walker Knoot, 2019

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Charles Edward Doell served as Secretary of the Board of Minneapolis Park Commissioners for 30 years. He was also the Superintendent of Parks from 1945, until his retirement in 1959.

Doell was born on May 8, 1894 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He began working for the Park Board as a draftsman in 1911 and graduated from South High School the following year. In 1916, he earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota and his Civil Engineer's degree in 1917. That same year he married Olga A. Nelson. They had a son, James Franklin, in June 1922, and a daughter, Marian Aileen, in October 1923. During his 48 years with the Park Board, Doell held several positions in succession: assistant engineer, assistant to the secretary, secretary, secretary and assistant superintendent, and superintendent. He specialized in structural and landscape design, accounting, airport design and administration, real estate, special investigations and reports, and administration of public park and recreation departments and relationships with the City plan. Throughout his career, he authored and co-authored several books, including *Elements of Park and Recreation Administration* (1963), which became the standard textbook in park management used at many universities.

Doell was a member and served as President of several professional and civic organizations, including the Engineers' Club of Minneapolis, the American Institute of Park Executives, the Minnesota Rose Society, and the Minneapolis Chapter of Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers. He was also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Hennepin County Historical Society, the Masonic Bodies, and the Shriners.

After retiring from the Park Board in 1959, Doell worked as a consultant to the Hennepin County Park Commission and eventually settled in Los Angeles, California. Olga passed away there in

1976; Doell remarried to Margaret J. Babcock (Rader) in 1978. He passed away in Los Angeles, California on December 3, 1983.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The materials in this collection were donated by Charles E. Doell's son, James Doell. The collection includes personal materials such as biographical information and written travel recollections. The bulk of the collection consists of articles and essays written by Charles Doell for both presentation and publication in *Parks & Recreation* and *Parks Sparks*, among other magazines. Manuscript drafts of his book *Essays and Seminars* and books by colleagues are also included. In addition, there are reports to the Board of Parks and Recreation regarding various special projects such as the impact of new highways on city parks, public golf courses, disposal of park properties, and playground development.

The collection is arranged in 2 series with no sub-series. The series includes:

- Series 1: Personal Papers
- Series 2: Professional Papers

ACCESS

The collection is open for researchers and has no restrictions.

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The researcher assumes responsibility for ensuring copyright is followed. When and where possible the archive will provide information related to the copyright owners, but it will be the responsibility of the researcher to ensure copyright laws are followed. Requests for permission to publish material in this collection should be directed to the Archivist.

RELATED MATERIAL

Additional items on Charles E. Doell can be found in these other collections.

- Hennepin History Museum –
 - Call #: B94. Parks. Minneapolis, Hennepin County
 - Call #: B179.1. Financing Neighborhood Playgrounds by Special Assessment. Reprint from *Parks and Recreation*, Minot, N.D.
 - Call #: B47.15. Building Good Will, September-October 1926. [pamphlet]
 - Call #: 354 W75. *Minneapolis Parks and Recreation: A History of the Park and Recreation Board since World War II* by C. Ben Wright, 1979
 - Call #: 710 S65. *City of Parks: The Story of Minneapolis Parks* by David C. Smith, 2008
 - Call #: *Public Park Policies* by Charles E. Doell and Paul J. Thompson, 1930
 - Call #: *Elements of Park and Recreation Administration* by Charles E. Doell, 1963

- Minnesota Historical Society, Gale Family Library
 - Local Government Files (See Finding Aid in Library). Superintendent Charles E. Doell files, 1948-1980.
 - Call #: F612.H52 H4 v.3:11. *History of Minnehaha State Park* by Charles E. Doell, 1943
 - Call #: Main TA140.D634 B5 1958. Biography of Chas. E. Doell, 1958
- Three Rivers Park District Oral History Project - Three Rivers Park District Administrative Center, 3000 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441 763.559.9000

ACQUISITION

Material in this collection was donated by James F. Doell, son of Charles E. Doell.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: Personal Papers

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	1	Short biography of Charles E. Doell, 1959
1	2	Personal travel recollections, 1956-1977
4	52	Oversized Folder: Schematics for antique cradle from Anne Teberg

Series 2: Professional Papers

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	3	"Articles, Letters, Etc. by Chas. E. Doell, Superintendent of Parks," binder I, part I, 1925-1954 (see oversized folder)
1	4	"Articles, Letters, Etc. by Chas. E. Doell, Superintendent of Parks," binder I, part II, 1925-1956
1	5	"Articles, Letters, Etc. by Chas. E. Doell, Superintendent of Parks," binder I, part III, 1926-1956
1	6	"Articles, Letters, Etc. by Chas. E. Doell, Superintendent of Parks," binder I, part IV, 1933-1955
1	7	"Articles, Letters, Etc. by Chas. E. Doell, Superintendent of Parks," binder II, part I, 1928-1958
1	8	"Articles, Letters, Etc. by Chas. E. Doell, Superintendent of Parks," binder II, part II, 1951-1958
1	9	"Articles, Letters, Etc. by Chas. E. Doell, Superintendent of Parks," binder II, part III, 1928-1958
1	10	"Articles, Letters, Etc. by Chas. E. Doell, Superintendent of Parks," binder II, part IV, 1928-1957
1	11	"Superintendent's Reports to the Board," various reports, part I, 1952

1	12	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board,” various reports, part II, 1953
1	13	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board,” various reports, part III, 1954-1958
1	14	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board, memorandum in regard to the planning of urban highways with respect to the park and recreation system,” part IV, 1955-1956 (see oversized folder)
1	15	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board, Minneapolis Public Golf Courses”, part V, 1956
1	16	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board, A Study of Minneapolis’ Municipal Golf”, part VI, 1957
1	17	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board, Report on Possible Disposable Park Properties,” part VII, 1957
1	18	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board, Deferred Maintenance and Rehabilitation Items of the Board’s Physical Properties”, part VIII, 1958
1	19	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board,” letter from Howard Moore to Board of Park Commissioners with copy of Doell’s 1957 report on possible disposable park properties, part IX, 1959
2	20	“Superintendent’s Report to the Board, Organization of the Executive Branch of the Board of Park Commissioners,” Part X, 1951
2	21	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board, Future of Minneapolis Parkways,” Part XI, 1952
2	22	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board, Prudential Life Insurance Home Office,” Part XII, 1952
2	23	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board, Playground at Hennepin County Home for Girls Site,” Part XIII, 1952
2	24	“Superintendent’s Reports to the Board, John Ryan and Riverside Baths,” Part XIV, 1952
2	25	Articles submitted to <i>Parks and Recreation</i> and <i>Parks Sparks</i> , 1954-1955
2	26	Essays by Charles E. Doell, 1947-1954
2	27	Essays by Charles E. Doell, 1954-1962
2	28	Essays by Charles E. Doell, 1964-1981
2	29	Manuscript of <i>Essays and Seminars</i> (Chapter 1) by Charles E. Doell and related correspondence, 1973
2	30	Manuscripts of <i>Essays and Seminars</i> (Chapters 2 and 3) by Charles E. Doell, 1973
2	31	Manuscript of <i>Essays and Seminars</i> (Chapter 4) by Charles E. Doell, 1973
2	32	Manuscripts of <i>Essays and Seminars</i> (Chapters 5 and 6) by Charles E. Doell, 1973

2	33	Manuscript of <i>Essays and Seminars</i> by Charles E. Doell (publisher's copy), 1975
2	34	Manuscript of <i>Essays and Seminars</i> (Part II) by Charles E. Doell, 1973
3	35	Manuscript of <i>Essays and Seminars</i> (1980 explanation of original materials) by Charles E. Doell, 1980
3	36	Memorandums to Doell, 1947-1952
3	37	Park and Recreation reports, 1943-1960
3	38	Park and Recreation reports, 1960-1962
3	39	Correspondence from Doell, 1952-1968
3	40	"Public Works and Private Groups" by Bill Vaughan, 1949
3	41	"The Ultimate Objective of Life" by Professor Emeritus Henry B. Phillips of MIT, 1951
3	42	"Charles E. Doell – Administrator, Advisor, Teacher, and Engineer," essay by Robert W. Terrell (student), 1967
3	43	Correspondence re: National Recreation and Park Association, 1968-1978
3	44	Central Riverfront Regional Park, 1977
3	45	Draft of "Decade of Growth," a chapter in a book on the history of the Minneapolis Park Board by John Christian, 1978
3	46	Hennepin County Park Reserve District policy statement, ca. 1978
3	47	Transcript of interview with Charles Doell by Ben Wright, 1978
3	48	Manuscript of <i>Minneapolis Parks and Recreation: A History of the Park and Recreation Board since World War II</i> by Ben Wright, Part I, 1978
3	49	Manuscript of <i>Minneapolis Parks and Recreation: A History of the Park and Recreation Board since World War II</i> by Ben Wright, Part II, 1978
3	50	<i>Riverfront News: A Publication of the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Coordination</i> , 1979-1980
4	51	Oversized Folder: Map – Guide & Itinerary for Inspection Tour of Park System, 1946 (see Box 1, Folder 3, Item 0013)
4	53	Oversized Folder: New Roadway Realignment along the North Shore of Lake Calhoun, 1956 (see Box 1, Folder 14, Item 0183)



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