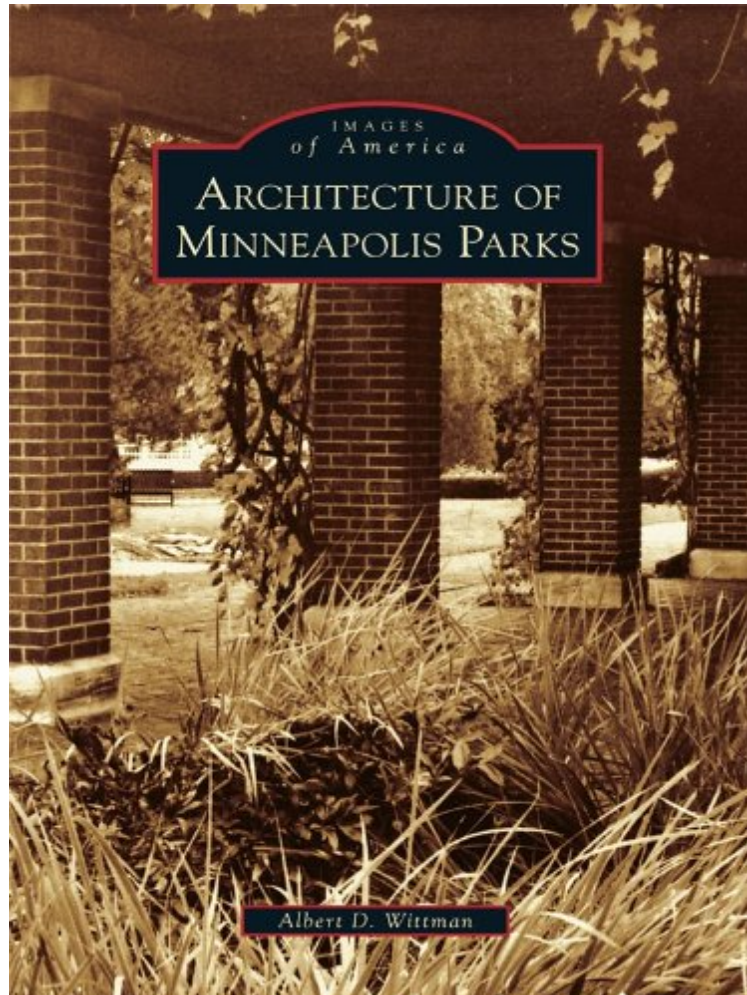


(Download ebook) Architecture of Minneapolis Parks (Images of America)

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Albert D. Wittman

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Albert D. Wittman : Architecture of Minneapolis Parks (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture of Minneapolis Parks (Images of America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. there must be better resources out thereBy M. KarlIf you're interested in the history of Minneapolis parks, there must be better resources out there. This books consists of 200+ photos with captions. The writing is adequate, the historical photos are interesting, but the modern photos are mostly quite poor. The person who took the photos was careless, spending little or no time in composing the shots. Many photos are not level, are filled with foreground, or have too much contrast between sun and shade. Surprisingly poor photos abound. Each end of the Spoonbridge and Cherry sculpture is cut off by the photo's frame. Only the top three stories of the Foshay Tower are visible above a nearby building. The photo of the wading pool in Minnehaha Park's Wabun Picnic Area is actually a closeup of a section of the pool's guard rail. The photo of Longfellow House is blurry and off center; most of the frame is filled with grass and tree branches. One of the photos for the Midtown Greenway

is of a railroad bridge that is not part of the Greenway and was taken at a distance from inside a car. (The rear-view mirror, windshield wiper, and glass tinting are clearly visible.) I could go on. If you want to see the historical photos and maybe learn a thing or two from the captions, then borrow this book from a library. Just avoid looking at the amateurish modern photos. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Inaccuracy on the first page I read By john nI could hardly believe what this author wrote about Pershing field park in SW Minneapolis. He described the 1924 park building as nothing more than equal to a temporary edifice. An accurate photo of that building, a rare one, was shown looking west. It is clearly a large, two story permanent structure. Then he compares it with a more permanent "full-blown" community resource built fifty years later. Shown is a deceiving close-up photo to make that building look larger than it is. I know both buildings. In reality, the more modern building has no resources at all, except a few benches, a very small area to change from boots to skates during ice-skating season. This main park building does nothing but house the staff who work there part time. There is nothing there for the use of kids or adults of the community. The older structure, in which the baby-boom generation knew, housed a large crafts and woodworking areas, a skating-warming house area in the basement. It was also used for wrestling and other activities. Upstairs was a kitchen, more crafts area. Also a place for playing pool, movies, and the largest area was big enough for junior-high dances with more than one hundred fifty kids, and a live band. Amongst the kids who grew up at this park, it is unanimous that the city failed its citizens with the newer structure. The author certainly does not know what he is talking about. The gross errors make me wonder what else in the book is falsified.

Buildings, bridges, and much more--these are the treasures in or near Minneapolis parks that are rarely given attention. This book diverts the reader from the traditional park elements of lakes, woods, streams, and playfields and focuses instead on the rich architectural components they offer. Buildings range from the 160-year-old Godfrey house, believed to be the oldest standing house in Minneapolis, to the recently completed shelters in the Wabun picnic area at Minnehaha Park. Many architects, from Stanford White to Harry Jones to Frank Gehry, have left their marks either on parkland or across the street. Some of their notables are presented in this book. One of the most popular icons of Minneapolis, the Lake Harriet Bandstand, with a long list of predecessors and once painted blue, rounds out this presentation.

About the Author Albert D. Wittman was an assistant superintendent for the Minneapolis park system for over 27 years. Responsible for planning and development, he saw the completion of the design and construction of many of the buildings and structures in this book. He attended the University of Windsor, Ontario, and graduated with a bachelors's degree in architectural engineering from the University of Detroit. He holds a masters's degree in city planning from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Wittman has also written a postwar history of the Minneapolis park system.