

Title: Dretzka, Jerome Papers

Reference Code: Mss-2302

Inclusive Dates: 1909-1963

Quantity: 10 cu. ft.

Location: NE, Sh. 048-051
OS LG "D"

Abstract: Jerome C Dretzka (1881-1963) served on the Milwaukee County Parks Commission from 1920-1963. During that tenure, from 1926-1952, he served as the Executive Secretary of the Commission and expanded the area of Milwaukee parks considerably. He also served as an officer for the American Institute of Park Executives. He retired in 1952.

He was born on December 5, 1881 in Pozen, Poland. His family moved to America when he was five years old and they settled on the south side of Milwaukee. In 1893, his family moved to Cudahy where he continued to reside until his death. He served as the city of Cudahy's city clerk from 1912-1916. He left this position to manage the real estate holdings of Patrick Cudahy. This knowledge served him well during his time on the Commission and during his tenure the Commission went from owning 680 acres to over 7,000 acres of parks. He also served on the boards of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, New Zoo Conference Committee, Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society, as well as many others.

Scope and Content: The bulk of the collection consists of material pertaining to Milwaukee County Park Commission and some of the material pertains to his participation in the American Institute of Park Executives (AIPE). In the form of correspondence, newspaper clippings, meeting minutes and official papers from the Commission. This collection also includes information about various projects that he was involved with including the zoo, Mitchell Conservatory, the Braves, and the Milwaukee County Stadium. Photographs are included, but stored separately. Photo collection includes photos of Charles Whitnall, as well as parks from all over the U.S.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: Primarily English. Some items are in Polish.

Notes: Photos located in Mezzanine Vault, M-189

Arrangement: The first six boxes of the collection primarily deal with the Milwaukee County parks Commission and the American Institute of Park Executives material. While boxes seven through ten are concerned with his involvement in various project, clubs and committees.

Administrative Note: The collection was donated by Kenneth Dretzka (1995 and 2013) Processed by: Janet Geronime (Nov. 14, 1995). Revised by Kevin Abing (Mar. 12, 2002), Sarah Hopley (July 2013) and Greg Comly (Jan. 2014)

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