



Charlotte & Horatio Van Cleve

In 1890 the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners bought 6.7 acres in two blocks of Rollins Addition to create the Second Ward Park. They renamed it Van Cleve Park in 1895, in honor of Civil War General Horatio Van Cleve and his wife, Charlotte Ouisconsin Van Cleve, who were prominent residents of Southeast Minneapolis since the mid-1860s.



Upper left photo of Horatio Phillips Van Cleve: Joel E. Whitney, ca. 1862, Minnesota Historical Society

Upper left photo excerpt of Charlotte Van Cleve: 1901, Minnesota Historical Society

Right photo of Van Cleve Park: ca. 1905, Minnesota Historical Society

Lower left photo of the Municipal Girls Basketball League, Minneapolis Park Board: 1932, Minnesota Historical Society



Van Cleve Park

Van Cleve Park, originally urban green space with trees, shrubs, winding paths and a shallow pond and fountain, was changed by Theodore Wirth's ideas about physical recreation and playgrounds. Van Cleve, the only city park land in southeast Minneapolis for decades, was always heavily used. In 1969 the city doubled the size of Van Cleve Park by purchasing two blocks of land to the west of 14th Ave. SE; the Minneapolis School Board owns half of that new space because construction of Interstate 35W took away the Marshall High School ball field along 10th Ave. SE south of Talmadge Ave.

In 2000, SECIA and the Park Board re-dedicated Van Cleve Park after significant renovations were made, with SECIA's Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds, to the park building, ball courts, playground, and wading pool.