



Above: the playground area. Below: tennis courts



ENJOY!

Please come and enjoy the park often. Help us to keep the park clean and safe. Please obey park rules. Please do not park motor vehicles on the grass or in non-designated areas. *Violators will be ticketed. (Only authorized vendors during events are allowed to park on grassy areas.)*

Brandon Park Commission Members

Sally Wiegand, Chairperson	Bill Wright
Jeff Reeder, Vice Chair	Dave Myers
Frank Pugliese	Debbie Grado
Richard James	Justin Simpson
William McConnell	
Thad Meckley	

Historical facts compiled by and written by Sally Wiegand and Richard James.

Modern photos by Richard James.

Historic photos courtesy of James V. Brown Library archives.

Photo of Dr. Cooper courtesy of James V. Brown Library



A. Boyd Cummings

Jane C. Brandon

HISTORIC

BRANDON PARK

Tour Guide Booklet

Williamsport, Pennsylvania
Brandon Park Commission

Dr. Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor



History of Brandon Park

Settlers moved into the area now known as Williamsport, Pennsylvania as early as the mid-1700's. Ideally situated on the west branch of the Susquehanna River, Williamsport grew quickly, becoming a borough in 1805, and then in 1866 was designated as a city.

The son of an enterprising Irish immigrant, Mr. A. Boyd Cummings deeded 42 acres of land to the City of Williamsport in February 1889 in honor of his late sister Jane Cummings Brandon. Mr. Cummings was born in Williamsport but lived in Philadelphia. But he never forgot his roots. Jane died in Brownsville New York in September 1840. In 1892, noted historian John F Meginness wrote, *"This park will forever remain as a memorial of its generous donor, who cherished such an affectionate regard for his sister's memory and the place of his birth."* As of 2013, Brandon Park is 124 years old.



Just a few short months after receiving the land, the City experienced a devastating flood in June 1889. Situated on high ground, Brandon Park was temporarily used as a tent city.

In August 1894, the Brandon Park Commission approved the purchase of 400 Sugar and Norway maple trees adding to the original trees in the park.

On June 26, 1901 was the unveiling of O.H. Reighard Memorial Fountain in honor of the Honorable Oliver H. Reighard (State Legislator) and prominent Williamsport Attorney. The fountain

is at top of the park where North, Middle, and South drives intersect.

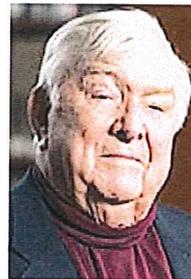
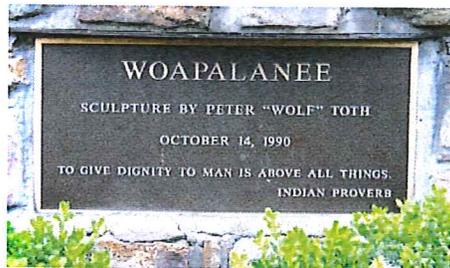
Rose trees from Germany were presented to the park on May 6, 1907. They were planted at the rose arbor, which is now over 105 years old.



The park is open 365 days a year.

The Indian

Near the entrance is the “Indian,” a 24 ft tall, elongated bust of Chief Woapalanee (pronounced “wopa – lonnie”), or Chief Bald Eagle by Peter Wolf Toth that sits on a stone mortared base. The statue is part of Toth’s “Trail of the Whispering Giants” series (# 65). There are similar statues throughout all 50 states and Canada. Toth completed the work in 1990. The sculpture, funded by the Williamsport Chamber of Commerce, local companies and members of the community, is a major tourist attraction. Woapalanee was chief of the Munsee tribe of the Lenape, Delaware nation. He fought encroaching white settlers during the Revolutionary War.



Dr. Kenneth Cooper (April 19, 1921 – March 23, 2011) dedicated much of his life to the care and maintenance of the park. He was

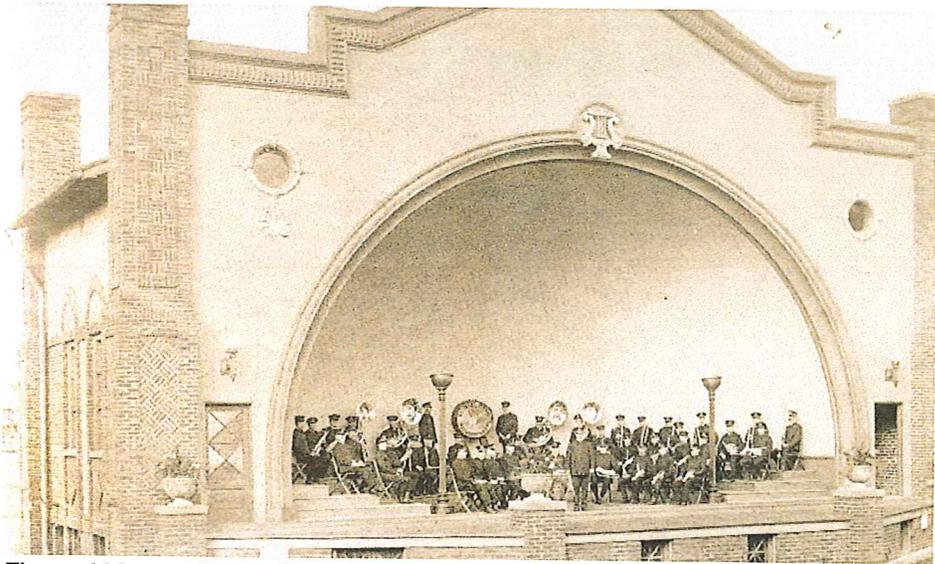
appointed to the Brandon Park Commission in 1972. Dr. Cooper was chairman of the commission from 1990 until his death in 2011. Dr. Cooper’s friends and family raised funds for a memorial garden that was established near the entrance to the park to honor his service.

The prominent feature of the park is the **Dr. Kenneth Cooper Bandshell**. The Bandshell

Dr. Cooper's Bandshell

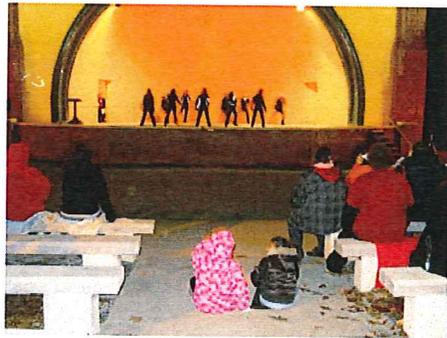


Dr. Cooper's Memorial Garden



The world famous Repasz Band gave an inaugural concert in 1913, but the bandshell was officially dedicated in 1914. The Bandshell's Centennial Celebration will be in 2014.

fundraising started July 8, 1912 and was completed by August 5, 1912. The dedication was June 16, 1914 - the Bandshell is almost 100 years old. Plans are in the works to celebrate the Bandshell Centennial.



Dedicated on June 16, 1914, The Bandshell, renamed after Dr. Cooper in 2009, has hosted free outdoor concerts and shows for many decades. Great performances by illustrious musical organizations include, The Repasz Band – the oldest brass band in the United States, the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra, The Williamsport Civic Chorus and the Uptown Music



Festival of Lights show 2012



Brandon Park has several beautiful flower gardens that bloom throughout the year. The work to maintain the flower gardens is done by volunteers. A few notable individuals include Mary Richner, the Duboistown Garden Club, Don Sinclair, Thad Meckley, Jeff Reeder and Sally Wiegand. The Brandon Park Commission would also like to thank several organizations that contribute to the beauty of the park, they include, the Maneval Funeral Home that supplies tulip bulbs every year, The Rotary Club that maintains flower beds, and Lycoming College whose students help the Brandon Park volunteers with mulching.



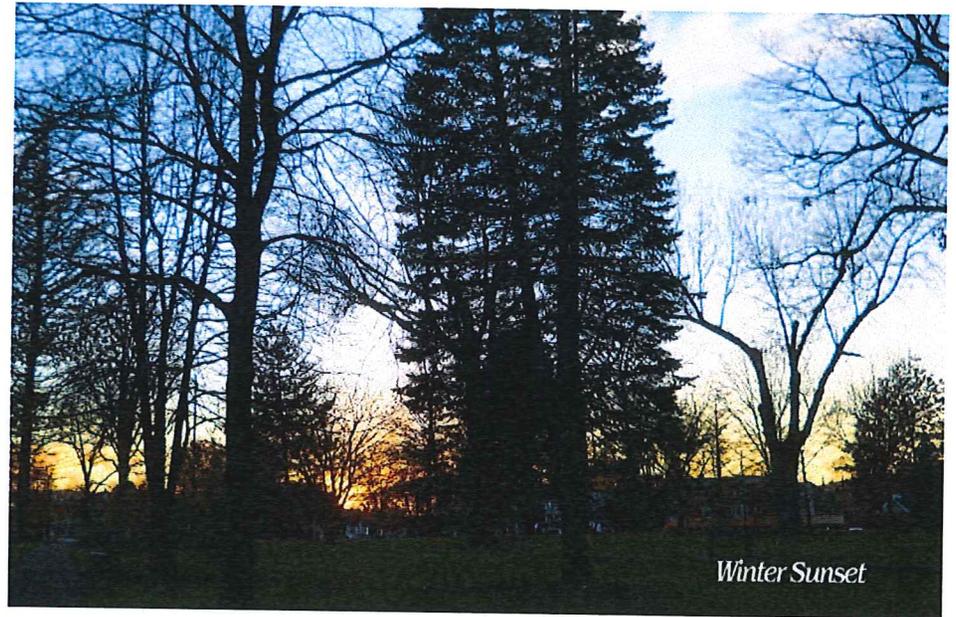
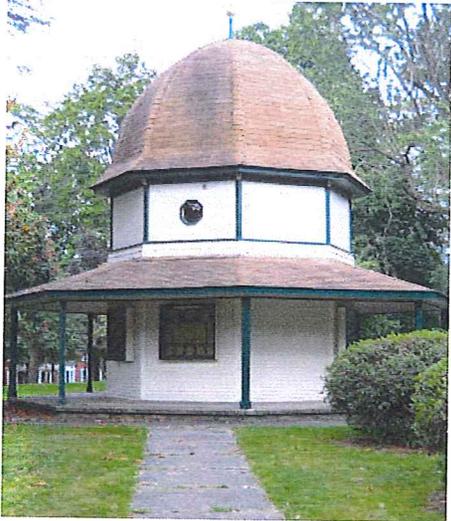
And of course a big thanks to the City of Williamsport's Streets and Parks Department! Great job guys!



Park's trees are over 100 years old. Many people come to Brandon Park to see the corridor of spring and fall colors that they find in Brandon Park.

Special Features in the Park

In addition to the wide-open green spaces of the park with its winding footpaths, Brandon Park has several unique features. It has 3 softball fields (2 for Little League teams), 6 tennis courts, a playground, and a gazebo.



Winter Sunset

Collective as well as local rock, jazz, blues and country bands. Over 8,000 people attended the Bandshell's inaugural event that featured a concert by the Rapasz Brass Band, led by John Hazel.

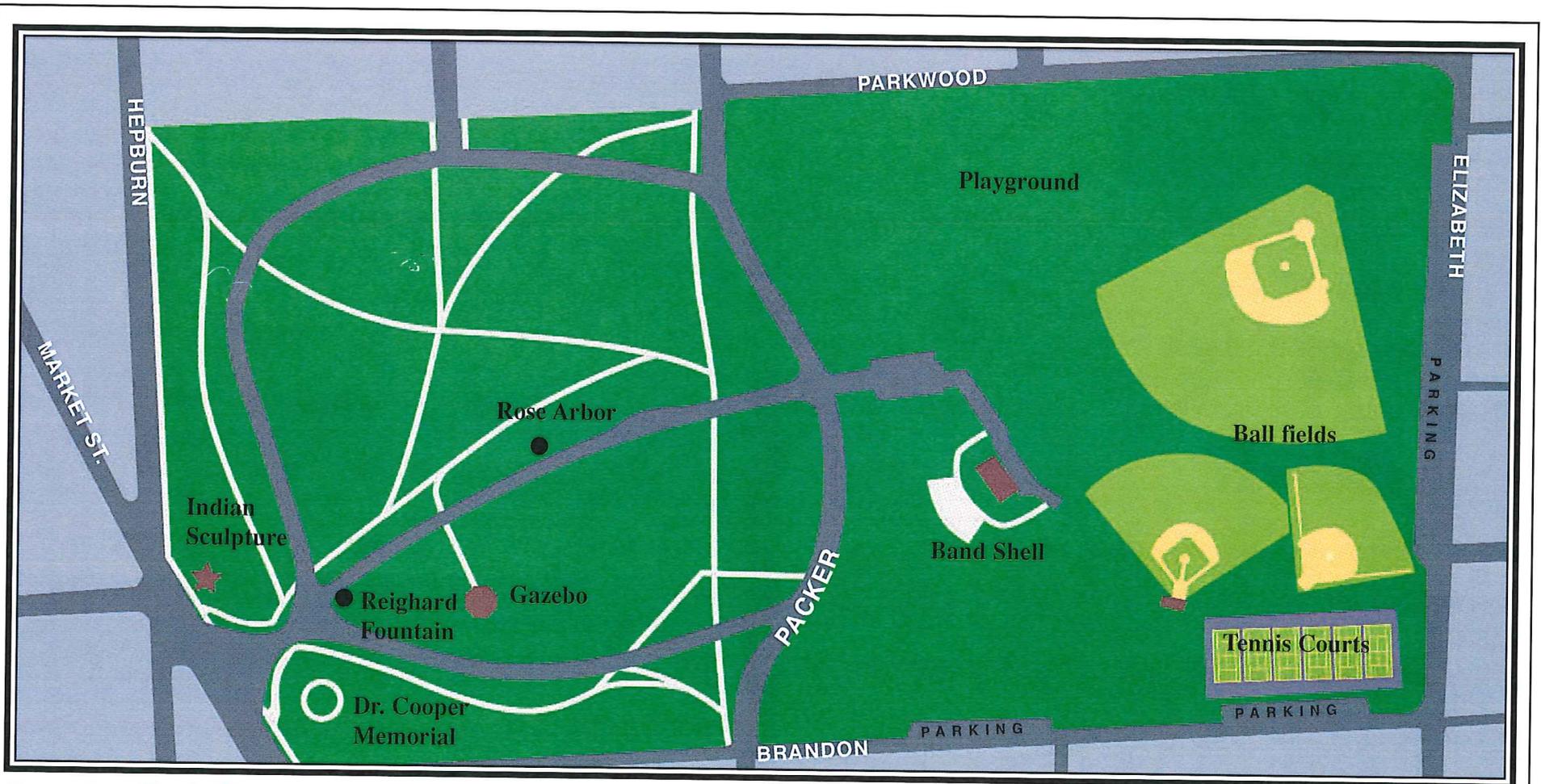
In 1976, Democratic Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter visited Williamsport and spoke at the Bandshell.

As a tradition, the Brandon Park Commission holds an Arbor Day Celebration every year. Citizens of Williamsport may contribute, in memory of loved ones, new trees or new park benches. A special ceremony is held on Arbor Day to appreciate the addition of the new trees as the older mature trees can be taken down. Some of Brandon



Arbor Day 2012: Sally Weigand (center) and Jeff Reeder (right) talk with Debbie Grado.





Brandon Park Trees - Centennial Anniversary Trees (There are over 500 trees in the park that covers 42 acres.)

Map by Richard James.

Crimson Pygmy Barberry
 Crispleaf Spirea
 True Canadian Spreader Boxwood
 Blue Princess Hollies
 Stella D'Oro Daylillies
 Golden Raintree
 Columnar Sargent Cherry
 Japanese Flowering Crabapple
 Japanese Tree Lilac
 Redbud Crabapple
 Sawtooth Oak
 Red Maple
 Schwedler Norway Maple

Shumard Oak
 Northern Red Oak
 Bur Oak
 English Oak
 Willow Oak
 Baldcypress
 Rosehill White Oak
 Blackgum
 Kentucky Coffeetree
 Macho Amur corktree
 Littleleaf Linden
 Cumulus Serviceberry
 Swamp White Oak

Yoshino Cherry
 Marshall Seedless Green Ash
 Poplar
 Locust
 Cedar
 Pin Oak
 London Plantree
 White Birch
 Green Spruce
 White Princess Dogwood
 Japanese Red Maple
 Velvet Pillar Crabapple
 Alexandria Magnolia

Weeping Cherry
 Russian Olive
 White Dogwood
 Bradford Pear
 White Birch
 Riversii Purpleleaf Beech

Eastern Tree Frogs

The park is home to a large population of elusive Eastern Tree Frogs who live and breed in the large mature trees. The neighborhood residents enjoy their melodic sounds in the summer evenings.