

# Minneapolis Wild Flower Garden City Park's Feature

Unique Tract of Blossoms  
Flourishes in Glenwood  
Division.

Nearly 500 Plant Species to  
Be Found in Area of  
Seven Acres.

Additional Land and More  
Funds Asked to Develop  
It Further.

If present conditions are any key to those of the future, Minneapolis seems destined to become a great garden city and the leading center of floral culture in the country.

Besides its numerous gardens filled with useful vegetables and vacant lots in all parts of the city that this summer will be weighed down with flower beds presenting a tropical appearance, the wild flower beds in Glenwood park, unsurpassed by any like collection in the country, are deserving of special notice.

Urged by prominent citizens and students of botany, to afford an opportunity to work out problems of forestry and to represent within a limited space the flora of Minnesota, the park board set aside four years ago a few acres of Glenwood park for a wild botanic garden.

### Site Is Ideal.

It was an ideal site for such an undertaking. Glenwood park is the largest and most beautiful of the Minneapolis parks. It contains ponds and pools, a diversity of soil and slope, and, above all, undrained tamarack swamps and an abundance of fungi in which the wild flowers of Minnesota revel and thrive with a luxuriance they could not surpass if they grew in the fields and forest of the state.

The garden comprises at present about seven acres and contains, besides the ferns, specimens of all the trees and the most notable shrubs and herbaceous plants of Minnesota. Altogether there are 452 species, embracing 75 families and 225 genera. In addition 51 species of shrubs grow in the garden, among them being the choke-cherry, the sandbush, the high bush cranberry, the fruitless snowball and the black alder, or native holly, loaded with brilliant berries.

The garden is cared for by Minneapolis teachers and students of botany. Every encouragement is given to plants and trees to grow as they would in their native haunts when left in their original wild state. All plants are given a place in the garden as similar as possible to their original locations, and then left to shift for themselves as in the wild open. Every care is taken to preserve the wild appearance, and to avoid all semblance of artificial treatment. No pruning is allowed except to make room for additional plants.

FOR ADDITIONAL PAGES.

### Leaves Never Removed.

Fallen leaves are never removed for they supply the needful fertilizing material and cover for the ground during the winter, in addition to giving the garden a coloring of the forest primeval.

Local students of botany have taken a deep interest in the wild flower garden, and almost any day during the season numbers of them may be seen at Glenwood park studying the wondrous ways of the plants that thrive therein. Teachers from the University of Minnesota and the local schools are the faithful chaperones of these foral pilgrims.

No one takes a deeper interest in the garden than Miss Eloise Butler, teacher of botany in the South High school, who was one of the original promoters of the plan, and who has nurtured it with loving care since it was started four years ago. From the rostrum and the public platform, Miss Butler has told of the garden at Glenwood park until its fame has penetrated far beyond the borders of the state. But she is not content with having it a mere state affair, she wants to have it established on a national and even an international basis. She believes the soil at Glenwood and the climatic conditions are ideal for the raising of plants that will be representative of the world's flora. Her ideal is the Bronx gardens in Boston where a specimen of nearly every wild flower on earth is to be found.

There is no reason, she thinks, why the garden at Glenwood park should not surpass even the famous Massachusetts' institution. For this reason she has asked the park board for an additional grant of land, and for funds to start a garden where residents of Minneapolis may see specimens of the world's wild flowers without leaving their own city. The proposition is under consideration by the park board.

### Tamarack Swamps a Feature.

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One of the most distinctive features of the garden is the tamarack swamp. Too frequently such swamps are being drained to make room for the tiller of the soil or the builder, and with them disappear the beautiful specimens of orchids and insectivorous plants, all sorts of rare and delicate trailing specimens such as the cranberry, water-wort, and most precious of all the fragrant Linnaea or tul-flowers. All these thrive luxuriantly in the Glenwood park garden. It is also rich in fungi, many of which rival flowers and fruits in brilliancy.

Surrounding the swamp are meadows that are a joy to the eye, wherein a procession of bloom riots in color from early spring until October. Among the varieties to be found there are marsh marigolds, masses of dwarf cornel, the exquisite three-leaved simula, all kinds of violets, rosy swamp milk-weeds, gorgeous masses of golden rods, asters varying from white to all shades of purple, and hundreds of other specimens which make the garden a veritable floral paradise, and which tend to confirm the belief that Minneapolis could have the finest wild flowers garden in the world.

Asked what she considered the chief benefits to be derived from a wild flower garden, Miss Butler said: "In a good garden may be seen growing naturally together the leading plants of the state, labeled with the common and botanical name, so that the casual visitor and the student of botany may benefit and enjoy a call; flowers could be furnished to the public schools, and I might mention that recently an expert in this city declared that lessons in botany would greatly aid in the reformation of children."

### Pleasure in Outdoor Study.

"As a matter of fact all may find in the study of outdoor life their keenest pleasures, mental and bodily health and solace in trouble, for nature never betrays the heart that loves her."

Miss Butler thinks that a building should be erected in the neighborhood of the garden to serve as a resting place for visitors, for the housing of an herbarium of the flora of the state, for keeping photographs and catalogs of plants and for a reference library of books on nature. "The time has come," she added, "for Minneapolis to emulate and even surpass the example of Boston, New York and St. Louis in forming an arboretum and botanical garden. Such a garden would add greatly to the fame and beauty of the city, and like the public library and proposed art museum, be a powerful educative and refining influence."

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