

## Finding Aid to the Michael Benson's Lions Conservancy Park Records

### **Benson, Michael**

Lions Conservancy Park Records, 1999-2005

.4 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 300

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[Biography](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Box and Folder List](#)

### **OVERVIEW**

**Access:** The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

**Provenance:** Donated by Michael Benson, 2006 & 2011 (Acc. 2802).

**Property rights:** The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

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**Citation:** [Identification of item]. Michael Benson Lions Conservancy Park Records, MS 300, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Michael Benson was born in Montevideo, Minnesota. He graduated from Moorhead State University and, in 1971, began a career with Hartford Insurance Company. He joined Warner and Company, another insurance firm, in 1974, where he continues to work. He is the past president of the Fargo Independent Insurance Agents Association is also a member of the Fargo Lions Club. As a member of the Lion's Club, he was the driving force behind the creation of the 16-acre Lions Conservancy Park in Fargo, North Dakota, at the confluence of the Red River and Rose Coulee. The address is 1221 El Cano Drive South. The park was dedicated on May 12, 2000.

The park is currently managed by River Keepers, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and upkeep of the Red River and its parks. The organization's website provides this vision statement for the park.

"The Lions Conservancy Park is intended to demonstrate to the public through active and passive plantings, displays and signage, the natural environment of a riverine system. Incorporating some of the existing non-native plantings will provide a unique opportunity for area residents to compare and contrast native and nonnative environments. The park will provide for both formal and informal educational opportunities and will serve as a mini-laboratory. The facility will be designed and managed to demonstrate and educate the public about plants, wildlife, and the unique environment surrounding the confluence of Rose Creek and the Red River" ([http://www.riverkeepers.org/pdf/lcp\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.riverkeepers.org/pdf/lcp_fact_sheet.pdf))

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of Michael Benson document his work in creating and maintaining the Lions Conservancy Park. They are primarily comprised of email correspondence and handwritten notes. The records are organized into five series: Development, Meetings, Correspondence, Subject Files, and Membership.

The [Development Series](#) consists of records relating to the physical development and maintenance of the park. It is the largest series in the collection with six folders.

The [Meetings Series](#) contains documentation from meetings. Primarily comprised of Benson's handwritten notes from meetings of the Lions Club, River Keepers, and others, the series also includes printed meeting agendas.

The [Correspondence Series](#) contains letters, publications, and memos as they relate to the park. The content of the documents covers the scope of the organization.

The [Subject Files Series](#) holds all documentation not specific to any other series. Included are Benson's handwritten notes, newspaper articles, and events held at the park. Added later (2011) by Mr. Benson is a file related to the addition of four bat houses in the park by Adam Lewis as his Eagle Scout service project. The file includes a brochure he developed 'Bats of North Dakota,' letter from Lewis to the Lions Club, color copy of Lewis' Power Point presentation regarding the project, as well as a CD containing the brochure and the Power Point presentation.

The [Membership Series](#) contains documentation of members on the park committee. The series includes contact information and officers.

## SEPARATION RECORD

Photographs (Acc. 2802)

- 35 photographs of the park's development, and 1 negative of the park's development

## **BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1/1	Finding aid, and historical information
	<b>Development Series</b>
1/2	Organization
1/3	Finance
1/4	Task Assignments
1/5	Park Grounds
1/6	Park Aesthetics
1/7	Park Designs
	<b>Meetings Series</b>
1/8	Notes
	<b>Correspondence Series</b>
1/9	Correspondence
1/10	Correspondence
	<b>Subject Files Series</b>
1/11	Park Notes
1/12	Newspaper Clippings
1/13	Events
1/22	Bats of North Dakota project, by Adam Lewis, 2005
	<b>Membership Series</b>
1/14	Directory