

James W. Cownie Baseball Park

Park and Recreation Board...Did You Know?

June 26, 2018

Location – City View

2501 SE 22nd Street



Location – Field Layout



Location – 1930's



Location – 1950's



History – Brown Family

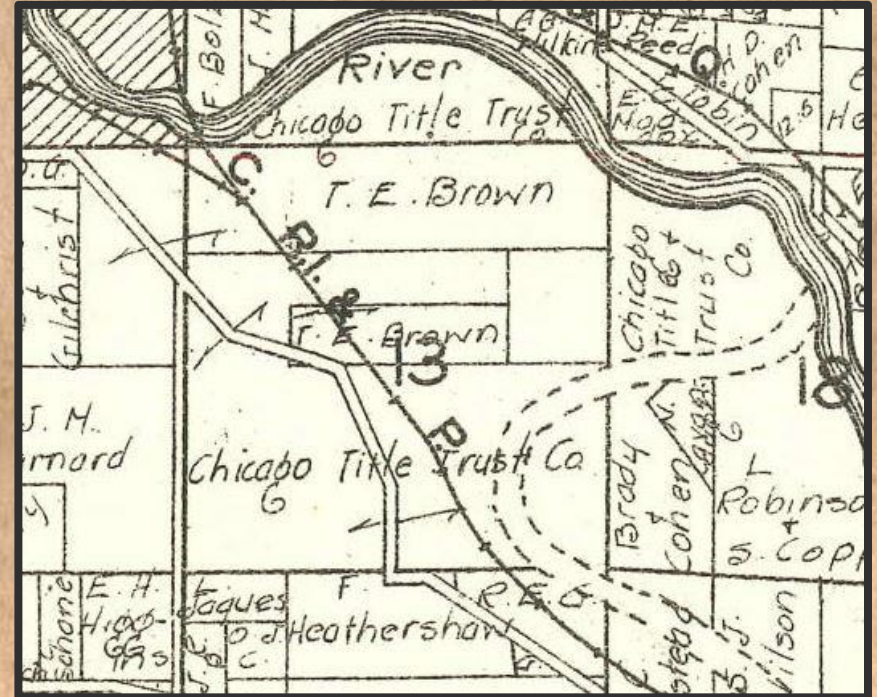
- 1912 – The Brown Estate was valued at \$300,000 or \$8 million by today's standards
- 1918 – Louis P. Brown donated 573 lots in Des Moines for WWI “war garden purposes”
- 1922 – Louis moves to Des Moines and lived on the west side of Greenwood Park
- 1950 – Owned 100 acres of land on the western side of Gray's Lake
- 1958 – Louis died with an estate valued at \$8.8 million by today's standards

Location – 1970's



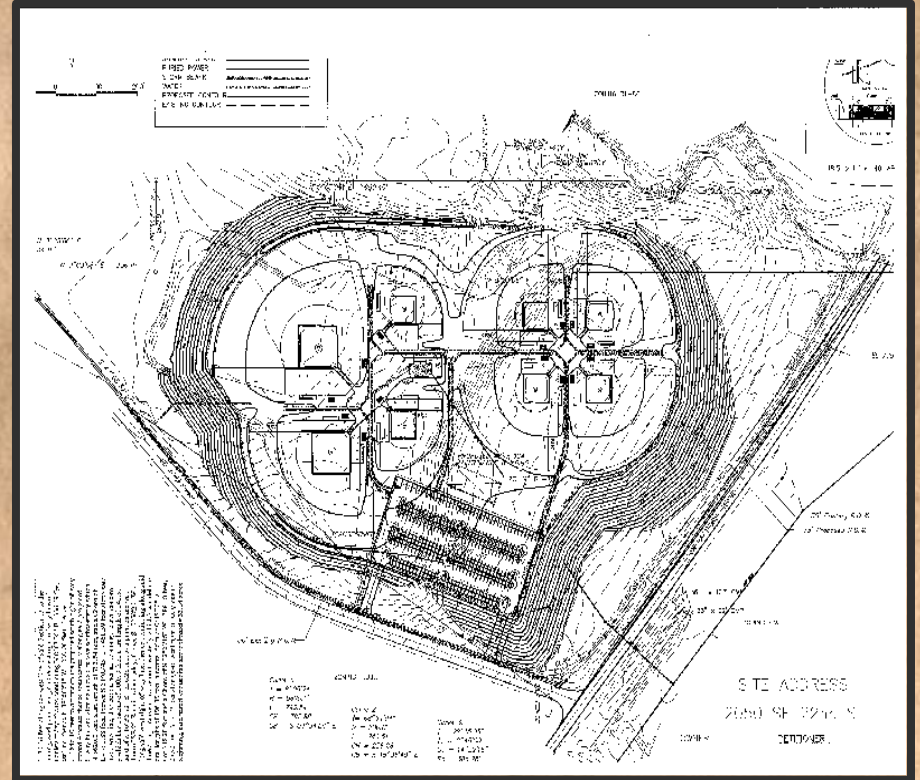
History – Property

- 1965 - City acquired property from the Brown Family
- 1974 - Des Moines Register refers to the area as Soldiers Field



Development – Timeline

- 2005 – County awarded \$50,000 grant to South Des Moines Little League to use the Soldiers Field site
- 2005 – \$1.4 Million paid with public and private funds
- 2006 – City entered facility maintenance agreement with I-Cubs
- May 1, 2006 – James W. Cownie Baseball Park opened



Development – Naming

- James W. Cownie Baseball Park
 - Named after James W. Cownie father of James (Jim) S. Cownie
 - Active in youth athletics
 - One of the founders of Little League in Des Moines
 - Raised funds to build the first ballpark
 - Jim Cownie helped raise \$1.4 million toward the construction of the Park



Facility Details

- 8 irrigated fields
- Seating for 75 at all fields
- 2 lighted fields
- Concession stand
- Restrooms
- Playground



Programs and Events

- Home to South Des Moines Little League
- Tournament host for multiple United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) baseball events



Future Actions

- Fall of 2018 \$250,000 of improvements
 - Cement and dugout footing repairs
 - Batting cage upgrades
 - Field repositioning
 - Drainage and irrigation system improvements





CITY OF **DES MOINES**

PARKS AND RECREATION