



The Urbana Free Library

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Boneyard Creek  
Collection, 1893-2000, bulk 1973-1998

Collection 343

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Sherrie Bowser, February 2022

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Boneyard Creek

**Inclusive Dates:** 1893-2000, bulk 1973-1998

**Physical Description:** 3 boxes, (1.5 linear ft.)

**Language:** English

**Provenance:**

The Boneyard Creek Collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

**Access:**

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Historical Note:**

The Boneyard Creek is a major drainage outlet for Champaign, Urbana, and the University of Illinois. The creek begins in north Champaign and flows southeasterly into Campustown. It roughly parallels Green Street for a mile before it converges with the Saline Branch of the Vermilion River northeast of downtown Urbana. The creek is approximately 3.3 miles long.

Historically, the creek has had problems with flooding, poor water quality, and inadequate maintenance. In 1975, the Champaign County Bicentennial Commission selected the restoration of Boneyard Creek as its major Horizon '76 project resulting in the creation of the Boneyard Creek Commission and the 1978 Boneyard Creek Master Plan. Recently, several plans (1997, 2008) have focused on alleviating flooding, improving the creek's environment, creating detention basins, and renovating the surrounding parks and greenways.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains materials related to the Boneyard Creek including materials from the Champaign County Bicentennial Commission and its adoption of the restoration of Boneyard Creek as its Horizon '76 project named 'Our Boneyard.' It also contains newspaper clippings files, blueprints and profiles of the Boneyard, as well as government documents containing evolving proposals and plans for the Boneyard Creek corridor.

**Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged into two series, General Files and Government Documents. Within each series, the folders are arranged alphabetically.

**Separated Material:**

Photographs were added to the Boneyard Creek Photographs Envelope.



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**Related Material:**

- Collection 142 Boneyard Creek Commission, 1975-1994
- [Entries in the Boneyard Creek song contest \[sound recording\]](#).
- Boneyard Creek Photographs Envelope
- Boneyard Creek Second Street Basin (Champaign) Photographs Envelope
- Stone Arch Bridge (Champaign) Photographs Envelope

**Subject Terms:**

Boneyard Creek  
City planning  
Drainage—Champaign.  
Drainage—Urbana.  
Flood control--Champaign.  
Flood control -- Illinois -- Boneyard Creek.  
Flood control--Urbana  
Flood damage prevention -- Illinois -- Boneyard Creek.  
Real property  
Rivers  
Rivers—Regulation

**Name Terms:**

Cecil, Lawrence K.  
Champaign County Bicentennial Commission  
Daugherty, Clayton F.

**Container List**

**Box 1**

**Series 1: General Files, 1893-1977, bulk 1973-1977**

Folder 1: Background Material, 1973-1975  
Folder 2: Birthday Presents to the U.S., 1975-1976  
Folder 3: Boneyard Activities and Correspondence by Bicentennial Commission, 1974-1976  
Folder 4: Boneyard Blueprints and Profiles, 1958, 1964, and undated  
Folders 5-6: Boneyard Clippings, Collected by Mr. Cecil, 1973-1977 (2 folders)  
Folder 7: Boneyard Grant Applications, 1975-1976  
Folder 8: Boneyard History, 1893, and undated  
Folder 9: Boneyard People Sculpture, 1976  
Folder 10: Boneyard Walks, 1975-1976  
Folders 11-12: "The Clearwater Boneyard" Clippings file by Clayton Daugherty (2 folders)



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**Box 2**

**Series 1: General Files, 1893-1977, bulk 1973-1977**

- Folder 1: Land Acquisition, 1975-1977
- Folder 2: 'Our Boneyard,' Donors, undated
- Folder 3: 'Our Boneyard – It Can Happen,' Logo, undated
- Folder 4: 'Our Boneyard – It Can Happen,' Newspaper Profile, April 4, 1976
- Folder 5: Plan of Action and Other Material by Bicentennial Commission, 1975-1977
- Folder 6: Song Contest, 1975

**Box 3**

**Series 2: Government Documents, 1984-2000**

- Folder 1: City of Champaign/Park District, Detention Proposals, September 1996
- Folder 2: City of Champaign, Private Proposals, First Phase Boneyard Detention, September 1996
- Folder 3: City of Champaign, Report to City Council, September 26, 1996
- Folder 4: City of Champaign, Design/Build Contract with Lamar, LLC for the Lower Boneyard Drainage Facilities [1997?]
- Folder 5: City of Champaign, Benefit/Cost Analysis Phase One Improvements, Boneyard Creek Improvement Plan, October 1997 (Camp Dresser + McKee, Inc., Chicago, IL)
- Folder 6: City of Champaign, Joint Permit Application, Phase One Improvements, October 7, 1997
- Folder 7: City of Champaign, Supplement to October 7, 1997 Permit Application, Healy St. Basin and Campustown Improvements
- Folders 8-9: City of Champaign, Permit Application Package, Phase One Improvement, October 1997 (Camp Dresser + McKee, Inc., Chicago, IL) (2 folders)
- Folder 10: City of Champaign, Report to City Council, Boneyard Creek Improvement – Second Street Basin, April 21, 2000
- Folder 11: Department of the Army/City of Champaign, Boneyard Creek Between First St. and Wright St., May 8, 1998
- Folder 12: Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program, Application to Develop the Boneyard Creek Bike Path, February 25, 1998
- Folder 13: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, "Nationwide Urban Runoff Project, Champaign, IL: The Biological Impact of Urban Runoff on the Saline Branch Drainage Ditch and Boneyard Creek," September 1984
- Folder 14: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, March 16, 1998
- Folder 15: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Existing Condition, March 31, 1998
- Folder 16: U.S. District Court, Central Illinois District, Friends of the Boneyard Creek, Case 98-2107, 1998