

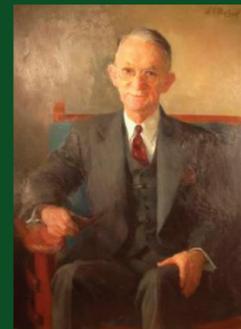
# Borden Park Walking Path

**WELCOME to Milo S. Borden Park.**  
 Below is a map showing the distance of the walking / jogging trail as well as information about the park's origin and its connection to Maplewood's history. We encourage residents to use our parks to stay healthy, socialize and connect with nature.

While many people were involved with the development of this park over the years, area residents are part of its living history as a public space. Please be responsible stewards of this unique natural and cultural environment and follow local township regulations as you enjoy the facilities.



## Who was Milo Borden?



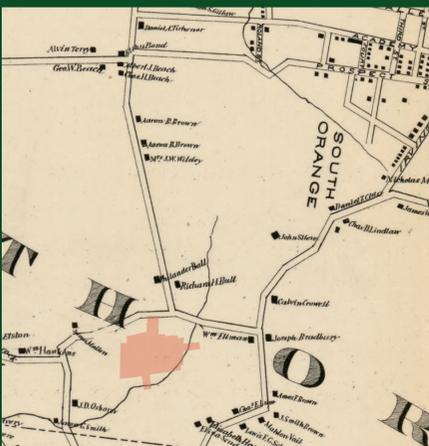
Portrait by Charles Matzal, ca. 1943

Milo S. Borden was one of Maplewood's leading citizens, having served on the Township Committee for 30 years (1924-1953) and as Mayor for 16 (1937-1953.) During his tenure, he facilitated the development of Memorial, Maplecrest and DeHart Parks, municipal buildings, township roads and sewer infrastructure. Borden was valued for his wise and caring dedication and a flagpole was installed here with this plaque:

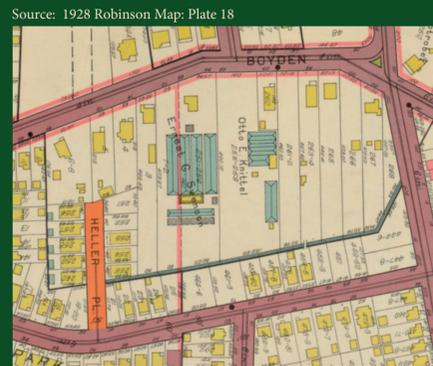
*"Presented by the citizens of Maplewood in honor of Chairman Milo S. Borden as an expression of gratitude for his able and devoted leadership during 30 years of service as a member of the Township Committee, January 1, 1954."*



**Before It Was a Park**  
 In colonial times the Ball family owned the land that is now Borden Park. It likely served as pastureland or an apple or peach orchard.



Source: 1874 Essex County Map (Shaded area: approximate location of Borden Park today)



Source: 1928 Robinson Map: Plate 18

By the early 20th century, the site housed nine greenhouses where two nurseries produced wholesale flowers for local florists. In 1949, the Township purchased the 3.75 acre property from nurseryman Ernest G. Swanson in the interest of increasing play areas in Maplewood. The park was formally dedicated to Mr. Borden on June 12, 1954.

**Natural Landmarks**  
 A branch of Lightning Brook flows under Borden Park heading south, eventually to the Elizabeth River. Once an open stream with a bridge at Parker Avenue, it was a place where children learned to ice-skate in winter. See the water moving below the grates at the stone walls by the Orchard Road side of the park.



This project was provided by the Township of Maplewood, with funding and support from the Maplewood Open Space Trust Fund in partnership with the Maplewood Historic Preservation Commission.

