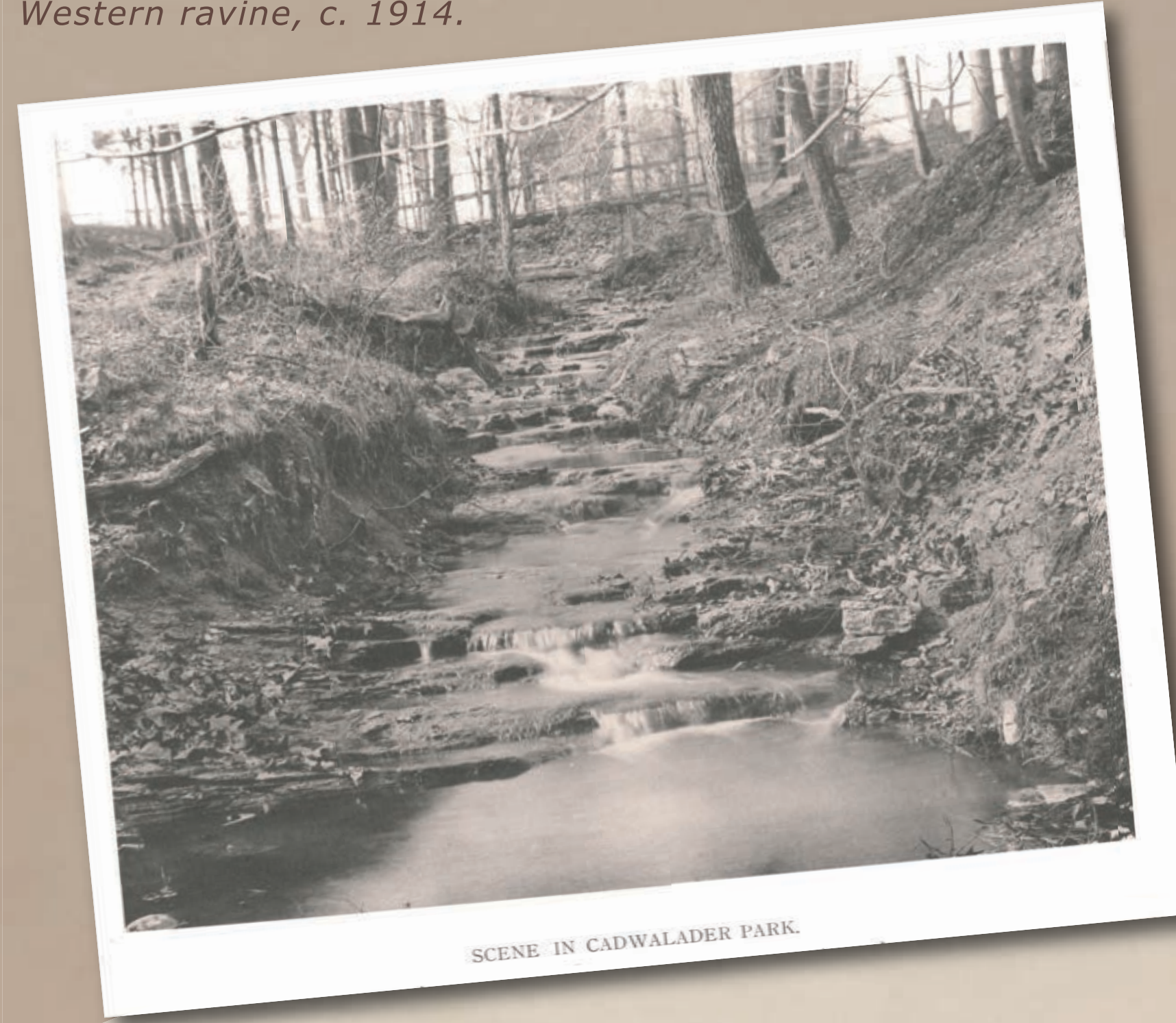


THE CHANGING FACE OF THE WESTERN RAVINE AND MEADOW

Western ravine, c. 1914.



The Wild Side

Cadwalader Park is an outstanding example of a park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., known as "the father of American landscape architecture." Olmsted's plan for the western park called for damming a small stream to create a series of pools, creating a tranquil, natural space within the urban park. Over time many attractions came and went from this area, including a deer paddock, a sheep fold, and a rock garden.

THE DEER PADDOCK

Shortly after Cadwalader Park opened, citizens began donating small animals and birds for display. In this part of the park, the old stables and farm buildings of the Ellarslie Estate were converted to house deer, sheep, and elk. By 1913, the city had replaced the old buildings with a deer paddock and barn.

Olmsted objected to setting aside land for animals, stating that there were more important demands for space, especially on holidays when the park filled with picnickers and special events. The animals, however, were very popular and Olmsted's advice was ignored. A herd of deer that was maintained in the park was removed in 2008, but wild deer are known to freely roam the park today.



Feeding time in Cadwalader Park, 1906.

Sheep fold, c. 1914.



The deer paddock area before restoration. ►



The deer paddock area after restoration. ▼



George W. Rieker, Commissioner of Parks (left) at the deer paddock, c 1965

THE CADWALADER PARK NATURAL AREA PROJECT

In 2010, D&R Greenway Land Trust, in partnership with the City of Trenton and funders including the New Jersey Wetlands Mitigation Council, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, undertook an ecological restoration project in the area of the former deer paddock. The land was highly degraded, bare, and subject to considerable erosion. D&R Greenway restored the stream corridor, created and enhanced wetlands, planted forest areas, and seeded a meadow. This project is meant to look and function as a natural environment that supports wildlife, native pollinators and natural resource education

The meadow, which is mowed once a year to maintain its open character, provides nectar sources for bees and butterflies, nesting sites for birds, and foraging areas for a variety of wildlife. The native plantings on the restored stream bank help filter the water of pollutants before it enters the stream and eventually reaches the Delaware River.

DEERS AT CADWALLADER PARK, TRENTON, N.J.