



Repeat Photography as a Guide For Assessing Land Use History:

A Case Study of the St. Johns Arboretum

By: Reed Osell

Advisors: Dr. Troy Knight & Dr. Jean Lavigne



Introduction

Repeat photography as a tool for assessing land use history is an important method for observing changes in the land over time. This project uses the St. John's Arboretum as a case study to revealing how land use history has a profound effect on how we view land today. This case study not only aims to assess how land use history has impacted our land today, but how our attitudes towards land will impact it in the future.



Conclusion

After reviewing a variety of historical literature and photographs, it is apparent that St. John's went through three distinct periods of land-use. The first stage is regarded as the introductory stage, and began during the founding year of 1857. Land use was regarded as being survival based. Serving the functions for food, and building. The second stage began in the 1920's and is named the Growth stage. Land was utilized in the best way to serve a growing campus. The third stage is named the Modernization stage. In this stage, land use is primarily reserved for recreational purposes

Methods

The use of repeat photography has been used extensively in the past, and is continued to be used today for tracking changes in the land. Often used by the United States Geological Survey for assessing changes in glaciers, repeat photography is an applied practice that requires gathering historical photos that were taken of the land, and reproducing them from the same location, but in present day. Some photos can show a difference in more than 100 years, while other photos will show a gradual change over 10 to 20 years. For the case study performed at The St. John's arboretum, several photos were collected through the archives, and were then reproduced from the original locations. The result consists in two separate, but similar photos that show differences in the landscape. These photos are then used to determine what variables were responsible for changes in the landscape.



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Watab Mill Ruins. Estimated date: 1886



St. John's Fish Hatchery. Estimated date: 1920

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