

**Approximate boundaries:**  
N-W. Hampton Ave; S-W. Capitol Dr;  
E-N. 84<sup>th</sup> St; W-N. 92<sup>nd</sup> St

# NORTHWEST SIDE *Lindsay Park*

## NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

The Lindsay Park neighborhood has a high population density. Housing stock is mainly mid-20th century Cape Cod and Colonial styles, but includes a few Tudors and bungalows throughout the neighborhood. Modest business corridors pepper West Capitol Drive and West Hampton Avenue on the north and south boundaries of the neighborhood.

The topography of Lindsay Park is flat with a few rolling hills. About half of the streets follow a rectangular grid. Many curve and some run at a diagonal shadowing West Grantosa Drive in the northwest part of the neighborhood. The main public green space is Lindsay Park, a 13-acre commons that has a tot lot/play area, cricket pitch, and a wading pool.

## HISTORY

The Lindsay Park *neighborhood* received its name from its park of the same designation. The park was named in honor of Bernice Copeland Lindsay who helped develop many of the popular culture and service organizations in Milwaukee in the middle of the 20th century, including the Creative Center, the North Side YWCA, a theater, and the black self-help organization, Mary Church Terrell Club.

## Early populations

The Lindsay Park area once occupied the northern tip of the unincorporated, rural Town of Wauwatosa. According to an 1855 map, the boundaries of the Town of Wauwatosa were Greenfield to the south, Hampton to the north, 27th Street to the east, and 127th Street to the west. Most of the Town of Wauwatosa settlers were migrants from its eastern neighbor, Milwaukee, or its northern neighbor, Granville, and the majority of these were Germans. The City of Milwaukee would later annex much of the Town of Wauwatosa. By the middle of the 1950s, most of today's Lindsay Park' region was in Milwaukee.

The Lindsay Park area had originally shared its northern border with Granville Township. Granville—which also later consolidated with Milwaukee--had attracted several surges of German immigrants between the mid-1800s and early 1900s. These included a wave of Pennsylvania “Dutch” (actually Germans) from the Palatinate who arrived in Granville via Telford, Pennsylvania in the 1840s, and German Russians who had left Germany for Russia's Volga River and Black Sea regions in the late 1700s with many later immigrating to America, the Great Plains, and Wisconsin between the mid-1800s and early 1900s. Parts of this German population would spill over to the Lindsay Park area in later generations.

The northern section of the Lindsay Park neighborhood was once known as the Hampton Gardens subdivision. By the late 1940s, today's Lindsay Park area had just over 30 residences. Most of the Lindsay Park residents remained German, but there were also families of Bohemian, English, Irish, Polish, and Swedish ancestry. Some, as in the case of a profiled resident below, were World War I vets.



## Lindsay Park family

Name selected from the Milwaukee City Directory in the Lindsay Park area  
(other information found in U.S. Census records)

### The Bandows

Sometime prior to 1940, Erwin D. Bandow, his wife Anna Elizabeth, and daughter moved to 4302 North 88th Street in today's Lindsay Park neighborhood (then still in Wauwatosa).

Erwin (b. 1893) was the son of German immigrants John C. and Fredricka Bandow. Having arrived in the United States in 1870, the couple raised Erwin and an older sister on North 23rd Street in Milwaukee's old 10th Ward. As a teenager, Erwin worked as a newsboy to save money for college. He graduated from high school and attended three years of college. However, while in college, the U.S. Congress declared war on Germany, marking the American entrance into World War I. At the time, some fringe German groups in Milwaukee had urged the government to back Germany. This led to a backlash and when war was declared, Many local Germans worked overtime to demonstrate their American loyalty. This and other pressures (see poster<sup>i</sup>) may have played a role in Erwin leaving college and enlisting in the Army in 1918. He served for the duration of the war.

Almost immediately upon returning from service, Erwin married Anna Elizabeth Gutmann. Anna (b. 1895 in Milwaukee) was the grandchild of German immigrants. Her parents were Henry F. and Kate (nee Hammer) Gutmann. The couple settled on West North Avenue where they rented an apartment for \$50 a month. While there, Erwin started his own butter and egg delivery route—an occupation he maintained most of his adult life. They had one daughter.

By 1940, the Bandows had purchased the home on North 88th Street. It is not known how long they remained at that address. Elizabeth died in 1976 and Erwin in 1989.



### Businesses

By 1947, a handful of businesses were finding homes on West Capitol and West Hampton on Lindsay Park's northern and southern borders. See the following chart and notes that follow.

Addresses on W. Capitol Dr. in Lindsay Park in 1947	Names of businesses from the <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u>
8501	Otto P. Pischke Market Gardener
8714	Frank Buchmann Painter and Decorator

Addresses on W. Hampton Ave. in Lindsay Park in 1947	Names of businesses from the <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u>
8910	Michael G. Ebert Market Gardener
9208	Roger Ulrich Hardware

### Summary notes from the U.S. Census and other records:

- Market gardens are small-scale operations where fruits, vegetables, and flowers are sold directly to the public, rather than to middlemen. Unlike larger farms that relied on intense mechanization and one or two major crops, the market gardens provided lo-tech and diverse products. The Lindsay Park area had two of these in 1947.
- Otto Pischke, one of the market gardeners, was an immigrant from Poland. Like most local business owners in Milwaukee neighborhoods prior to 1970, he had never attended high school.
- Michael G. Ebert, the other market gardener, was the son of a German immigrant. He made his home just north of his small farm in the Township of Granville. He'd completed the 6th grade.
- Frank Buchmann, the decorator, was an anomaly for the times in that he'd completed four years of college. He was the son of a German immigrant.
- Roger Ulrich, with the hardware store, was raised in Granville Township. He was of German extraction and had been a bartender before opening his own store.

By the early 1960s, Milwaukee's growing Northwest Side was attracting its own newspapers. One of these was *The Northwest News*, published by Ed Bristol Advertising, with offices on 76th and Hampton Avenue. The editor of the newspaper was Manny Meyers, the one-time campaign consultant of Mayor Frank Zeidler. The biweekly newspaper operated between 1961 and 1966, with at least one brief reincarnation.

During these years, people of color began to migrate to the area. African Americans arrived for two reasons: (1) available industrial jobs on the Northwest Side and the area that had been Granville, and (2) the need for housing following the leveling of their former central city home known as Bronzeville (see Halyard Park neighborhood for details). As in most Milwaukee neighborhoods where Germans dominated, the integration was relatively peaceful. Many African Americans were able to obtain family-supporting jobs and purchase homes.

However, just as soon as the black population had settled in large numbers, they were faced with the long deindustrialization movement, beginning in the 1980s. Manufacturing employment in Milwaukee fell 77 percent, from a peak in 1963 to the present. What had been a working and middle class area on the Northwest Side was in decline.

### Current populations (as of 2021)

Today, Lindsay Park has just over 4,500 residents. The median household income is approximately \$31,000 annually, placing the neighborhood in the lower middle income stratum. The largest number of jobs claimed by adult residents are in the fields of administration, sales, and production. Over twice the number of residents work in social services than their proportions in other Milwaukee neighborhoods. A substantial number of those in social services and related fields are employed by the federal and state governments.

Over the decades, most of the German population left Lindsay Park. Just under 700 people claim German ancestry in the area today. Approximately two-thirds of the residents are African Americans, about one-quarter are European Americans (most with mixed European ancestry), approximately 1 in 14 are Latinos (fairly evenly divided between those of Mexican and those of Puerto Rican ancestry). The rest are Asians (mostly of Hmong/Lao and Indian descent), indigenous Africans, people from the East Indies and Jamaica, and residents of multiple racial backgrounds. The average age of residents is 44.

Lindsay Park has a high rate of home ownership. Just over half of all property units are owned, which is relatively high for Milwaukee. Lindsay Park also has a neighborhood association. The association has set resident guidelines that cover noise, vulgar language, yard appearance, pets, illegal activity, car horns, and alleys. In addition, the neighborhood has its own Facebook page where residents communicate. See <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lindsay-Park-Milwaukee/1603749096554933>.

## RECURRING NEARBY OUTINGS

In the following section the website addresses have been eliminated due to technical problems with the various ways different web browsers display PDF files. Website information on these events is available through the book *Milwaukee Area Outings on the Cheap*. See below.

### SLEDDING--COLUMBUS

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Winter, daytime	Columbus Park, 7301 W. Courtland Ave.	Sledding hills for family and friends.	Free

### BUTLER FARMERS MARKET

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Early Jun.-mid-Oct., Mon. 12-6pm	Hampton Ave. at 127th St.	Fresh produce from Wisconsin farmers, baked goods, arts, crafts, activities.	Free

### ST. AGNES PARISH FESTIVAL--BUTLER

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Late Aug., Fri. 4-11pm, Sat. 11am-11pm	12801 W. Fairmount Ave, Butler	Festival of craft beers, food, live music, auction, games, talent show, and more.	Free

Most of these outings are provided courtesy of MECAH Publishing. To access the book that provides nearly 600 outings—all priced under \$10—for the entire Greater Milwaukee area, go to <http://mecahmilwaukee.com/NonFiction.html>

## QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

*If you are a resident in Lindsay Park and wish to make an interesting observation about this neighborhood, please send your quote to [JFLanthropologist@surrently.com](mailto:JFLanthropologist@surrently.com)*

## PHOTOS

Today's neighborhood-  
Houses on N. 86th St. & W. Grantosa Dr.



Today's neighborhood-  
Houses on N. 87th St. & W. Glendale Ave.



Today's neighborhood-Lindsay Park



Today's neighborhood-  
Houses on N. 90th St. & W. Courtland Ave.



Today's neighborhood-Houses on N. 88th St. & W. Marion St., the block where the Bandows lived

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<sup>1</sup> Urban Anthropology Inc. complies with human subjects requirements of formal research and asks informants to sign informed consent forms that stipulate anonymity, hence names are not provided with the quotes.

For more information on Milwaukee neighborhoods, refer to John Gurda's *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods* and Jill Florence Lackey's and Rick Petrie's *Germans in Milwaukee: A neighborhood history*.

Do you have great photos of this neighborhood? Are you a resident with an interesting quote about this neighborhood? Do you have recurring outings, additions, corrections, or general comments about this neighborhood? Please email your input to:  
[JFLanthropologist@currently.com](mailto:JFLanthropologist@currently.com)