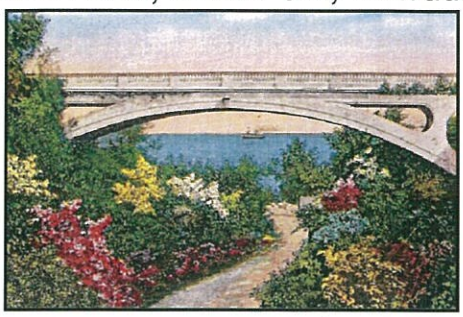
|Lake Park Ravine Bridge|

|Built 1905-1906|

Ravine Road, Lake Park, Milwaukee



A Brief History & Historic Significance of the Bridge

-Located in **Frederick Law Olmsted's Lake Park**, a **National Register of Historic Places** (NRHP) listed and **Locally Designated** site

-The Bridge is cited as a **contributing architectural element** in the National Register listing of Lake Park

-The Bridge was designed as a part of a **master plan** along with the **Pavilion and Grand Staircase,** the only parts of the park designed in **Neoclassical Styling.** It connects the Pavilion and Concert Grove with the Picnic Grove, as well as the park to the Lake Michigan shore

-Designed by famed Milwaukee Architects ***Ferry & Clas,*** architects of more than 30 NRHP listed sites such as Pabst Mansion & the Milwaukee Public Library & Museum (now Central Library)

-**George B. Ferry** was a member of the original joint committee that established the present day constitution and by-laws for the **American Institute of Architects (AIA), as well as established the first AIA chapter in Wisconsin**

-**Alfred C. Clas** was a member of the City and County Parks Board for more than 15 years and was responsible for the vast majority of parks built in the City of Milwaukee

-Is the **only known example** of a bridge designed by architect team Ferry & Clas

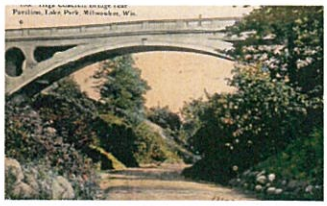
-Constructed by Milwaukee's **Newton Engineering Co.,** who would go on to patent a system of reinforced concrete ship design as well as establish one of the first WWI shipyards in Milwaukee

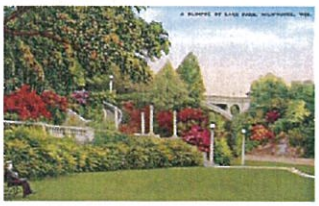
-**George Newton,** Vice President of Newton Engineering Co., was called upon by **Julius Kahn** to conduct research and testing on the Kahn System of reinforced concrete as a part of Newton's thesis at **University of Wisconsin - Madison**

-Built only two years after the system was developed by **Julius Kahn**, of the **Detroit Trussed Concrete Steel Co.** and brother of famed architect **Albert Kahn,** the Bridge is one of the earliest field tested examples of the **Kahn System of reinforced concrete** in the country

-Julius Kahn cited the bridge as a **primary example of Kahn System application outside industrial use** in the Trussed Concrete Steel Company catalog

-**Albert and Julius Kahn** were responsible for the advancement of reinforced concrete construction in industrial design around the world, leading the revolution with designs for automotive plants throughout the country such as the Packard Plant #10, Ford Factory Plants and more than 50 other automotive and mechanical factories between 1921 and 1929.





"AS I SEE IT, THE BRIDGE TO SECURE THE BEST RESULTS SHOULD BE A CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE LANDSCAPE...
NATURE DID NOT PROVIDE A CROSSING, AND SO IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO RENDER HER THAT ASSISTANCE."

-GEORGE B. FERRY