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2 **Figure II - 54: Mineral Range Depot on Oak Street in Red Jacket, ca. 1917**
3 (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Andrew C. Curto Collection, Box 3)
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5 *Calumet Commons /Agassiz Park—1916-1930*

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7 The landscape known today as Agassiz Park has played an important role in the history
8 of the physical landscape of Calumet. Situated between the mineral lode-aligned grid of
9 the industrial core and the ordinal-aligned grid of the Village, the park's triangular shape
10 evolved as a transition and circulation zone between the activities that occurred in each of
11 these areas. Owned by C&H and used when needed by the company for storage of
12 materials or as a railroad corridor, for many decades a large portion of the space was
13 utilized for common grazing grounds, pedestrian circulation, and recreation.
14

15 When the company celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1916, the Calumet Commons
16 (later Agassiz Park) was landscaped to serve as the site for a large community-wide
17 anniversary celebration. The fence around the baseball field was removed, lawn was
18 established, and four pavilions and a temporary stage were constructed on the property.
19 Approximately 20,000 people attended the celebration.¹²⁹ Soon after the celebration,
20 C&H determined that the Calumet Commons site should be developed as a public park
21 memorializing Alexander Agassiz. Alexander Agassiz served as the president of the
22 Calumet and Hecla Mining Company (C&H) from 1871 until his death in 1910. He
23 headed the company during years of tremendous profits and directed the development of
24 the impressive surface and underground operations of the industrial property.
25

26 The prominent sculptor Paul Wayland Bartlett was commissioned by the Agassiz family
27 to create a bronze statue depicting Agassiz. The C&H Mining Company hired noted
28 landscape architect Warren H. Manning to design a 25 acre park that would feature the
29 sculpture. Manning's first project in Calumet was a design for the garden at the home of

¹²⁹ Thurner, *Calumet Copper and People*, 46.

1 James MacNaughton, general manager and vice president of C&H Company in 1915.
2 Over the next seventeen years, Manning prepared designs and oversaw community
3 involvement projects for a number of other Calumet sites. Agassiz Park was the largest
4 and most important. He also guided landscape plans for the hospital, and homes of
5 company officials.¹³⁰
6

7 Manning prepared the design for Agassiz Park in 1917 but a “scarcity of men” and “rush
8 to get out copper” during World War I stalled the implementation. When the demand for
9 copper dropped in 1919, the company diverted workers from the mines to construction of
10 the park. “Over the next several years, the park’s construction advanced incrementally,
11 reflecting shifts in the company’s labor supply and production demands.” The park was
12 implemented over a four-year period from 1919-23.¹³¹
13

14 The statue of Alexander Agassiz was the focal point of the park design prepared by
15 Manning. The design responded to the long present patterns of circulation connecting the
16 industrial core to downtown Calumet through the commons. The historic paths created a
17 radial pattern and led from Scott, Portland, Oak and Elm Streets to a point where they
18 converged and continued toward the C&H dryhouse. Another path extended from about
19 mid-way along the Elm path to the north to intersect with Elm at North Fourth Street.
20 The statue was situated in at the intersection of the radial paths, on the eastern side of the
21 park. The paths were paved with crushed stone and lined with native canopy trees. Each
22 path was to be “flanked by a single species of native tree—hard maple, red maple, yellow
23 birch, white birch, and basswood—to create a system of *allees*.”¹³² Manning specified a
24 “Red Maple Walk” that extended to Portland Street, a “Sugar Maple Walk” provided a
25 connection to Oak Street, and an “Elm Walk” that extended to the intersection of Fourth
26 and Elm Streets. Additional paths included connections from the statue area/focal point
27 to Scott Street and Red Jacket Road (Manning’s plans called for these paths to be lined
28 with fewer trees and were not named on the plan), and to the northeastern corner of the
29 park (this path was entitled “Shrub Vista” adn was lined with shrubs). It is not clear if the
30 species specified by Manning were ever planted in the park. Today, species lining the
31 park paths include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and white
32 birch (*Betula papyrifera*).
33

34 Manning intended the park to be a community facility for Calumet. He included
35 recreational facilities and ornamental plantings to provide opportunities for a variety of
36 types of uses.¹³³ The plan also provided space for a bandstand and parking at the
37 southern portion of the park. Active recreation was accommodated in the northern
38 section of the park with tennis, hand ball, and basketball courts, a playground, baseball
39 field, football field, running track, and two circular areas for “clock golf.” The area
40 directly south of the Agassiz statue was proposed for a picnic shelter and formally
41 arranged rectangular spaces that may have been intended to be garden beds. Many of
42 these elements were not implemented.

¹³⁰ Alanen and Bjorkman, , “Plats, Parks, Playgrounds and Plants,” 49-50.

¹³¹ Alanen and Bjorkman, , “Plats, Parks, Playgrounds and Plants,” 50-53.

¹³² Alanen and Bjorkman, , “Plats, Parks, Playgrounds and Plants,” 54.

¹³³ Alanen and Franks, *Remnants of Corporate Paternalism*, 66.

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Figure II - 55: Armory Field procession, Calumet, 1918 (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Andrew C. Curto Collection, Album 3, #035)

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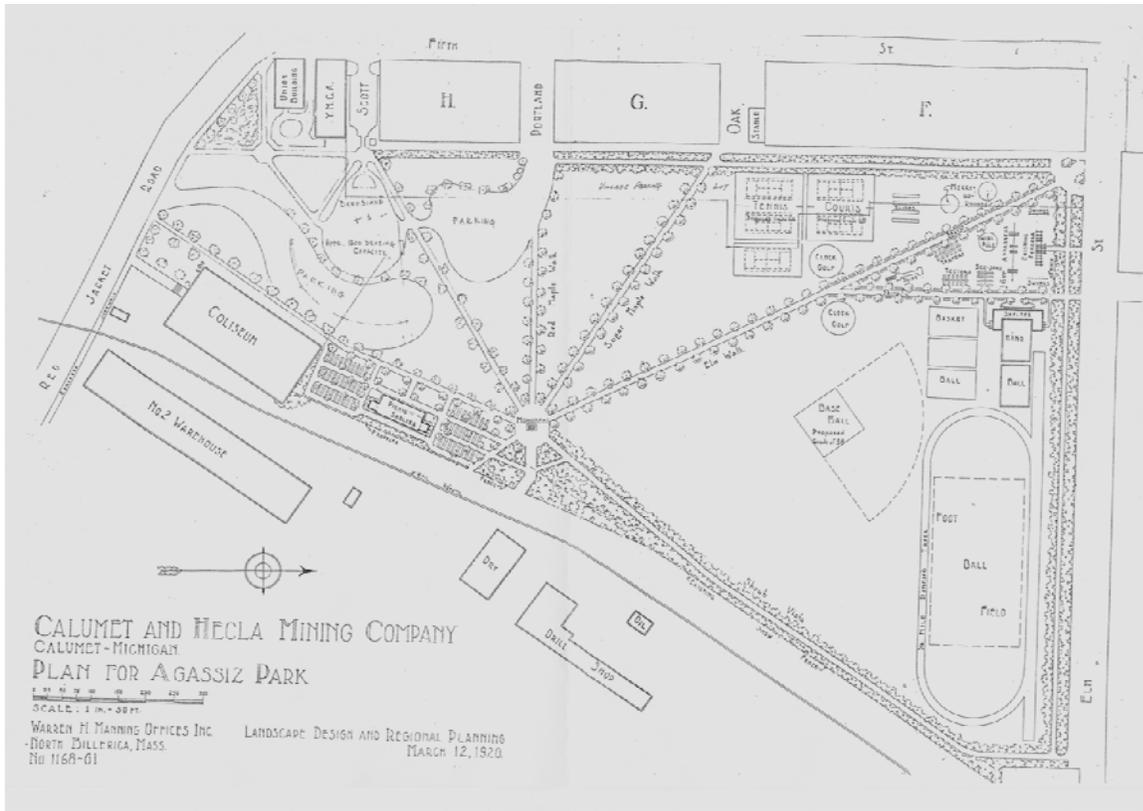
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Figure II - 56: C&H 50th Anniversary Celebration, future location of Agassiz Park, 15 July 1916 (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Andrew C. Curto Collection, Album 1, #028)

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2 **Figure II - 57: Manning Design for Agassiz Park, March 1920** (source: NPS,
3 Keweenaw NHP, Structures and Cultural Landscapes Vertical File, Agassiz Park)
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6 **Figure II - 58: Dedication of Agassiz Monument, ca. 1923** (source: NPS, Keweenaw
7 NHP, Coppertown Collection, Carlos Rawlings photographs)
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2 **Figure II - 59: Agassiz Monument in park, ca. 1925** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP,
3 Mason Postcard Collection)
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6 **Figure II - 60: Tennis Courts at Agassiz Park, 1927** (source: Michigan Technological
7 University archives, Calumet and Hecla Photograph Collection, MS003-007-004-05)
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Housing Locations —1916-1930

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Extensive residential neighborhoods were in place during this period and no new housing locations were developed. The difficult economic times may have increased the use of residential yards for functional activities including vegetable gardens and raising small livestock. The increased presence of automobiles certainly affected more affluent neighborhoods, but the effect on the housing locations occupied by mine laborers was not as apparent. Most of these families could not yet afford cars. Images illustrating the conditions in mine housing neighborhoods during this time are provided in Figures II-61 through II-62.



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Figure II - 61: Residential side street, ca. 1920 (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, LaMuth Collection, 5x7 negatives)