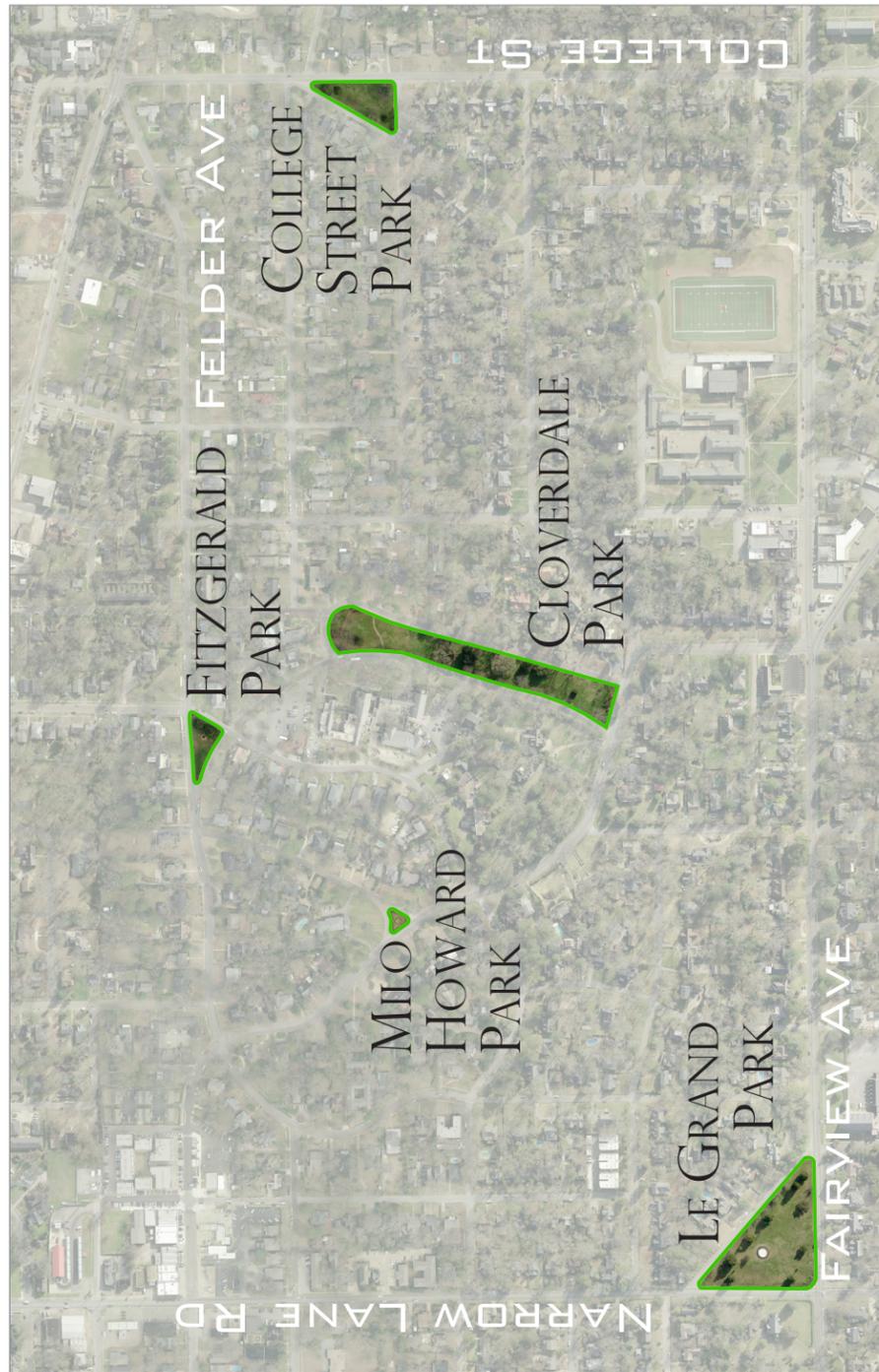


OLD

CLOVERDALE

PARKS

Parks are an integral component of the garden neighborhood. Numerous parks make Old Cloverdale unique among Montgomery's historic districts. At the heart of the neighborhood is its signature park, Cloverdale Park. LeGrand Park features a sandstone fountain and serves as a gateway park for four historic districts. The three smaller parks, Milo Howard Park, Fitzgerald Park, and College Street Park feature cast iron fountains manufactured by Robinson Iron, using historic molds from Janney Iron Works. The neighborhood's parks have enjoyed the support of residents and friends of Old Cloverdale, as well as its city and county representatives.



HISTORY OF CLOVERDALE

GRAHAM'S WOODS & THE PINES

Old Cloverdale is sited on land purchased in 1817 by William Graham, who later served as Montgomery's first mayor. The rolling terrain and the thick stands of pines rendered the land unfit for farming, although the surrounding area was composed of farms and small plantations. Montgomerians enjoyed the area for outdoor recreation, such as picnics in the clover-covered dales. At that time, the area was known as Graham's Woods or The Pines.



photo credit: Ball Collection ca 1910

CLOVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD

In 1887, the first effort was made to develop the former Graham's Woods as a residential neighborhood. The national economic depression of 1893-98, however, prevented successful development. Although a plat was developed in 1892, only ten houses had been constructed by 1908.

Improved economic conditions and connection of the area to Montgomery by the electric streetcar soon enabled the area to thrive. Between 1908 and 1916, 125 houses were built. Although the area began as a streetcar suburb, it quickly developed the characteristics of a town. In fact, part of it was an independent, incorporated village from 1910 until 1927, when it was incorporated into Montgomery.

The plat of 1892 adhered to the then-popular garden towns that has begun in England and spread to the northeastern United States. This concept was in reaction to the noisy, dirty, densely-populated cities created by the Industrial Revolution. Garden town design characteristics included curving streets, irregularly-shaped lots and naturally landscaped parks. The intent was to create rural environments with easy access to city centers. Cloverdale was Alabama's first landscaped, garden-designed residential area.

The western part of today's Old Cloverdale especially adheres to the garden town concept. Mature trees hold Old Cloverdale's diverse architectural styles together visually and aesthetically. Together, they blend into a charming neighborhood.

Get involved!

The Old Cloverdale Association meets every third Monday of the month.

Learn more @ www.oldcloverdale.org



OLD CLOVERDALE & ITS PARKS



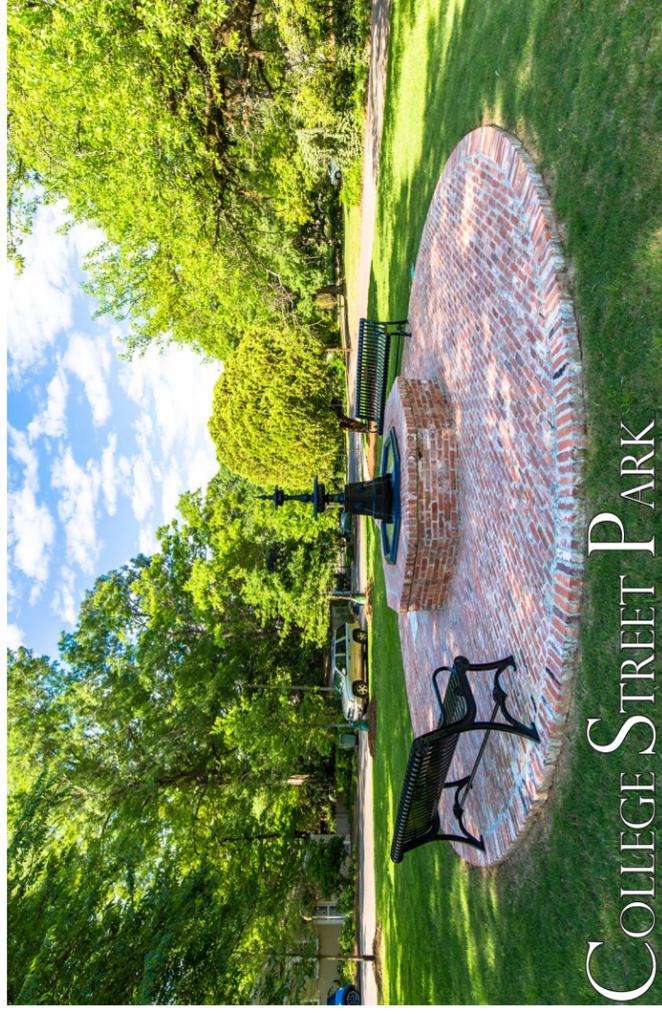
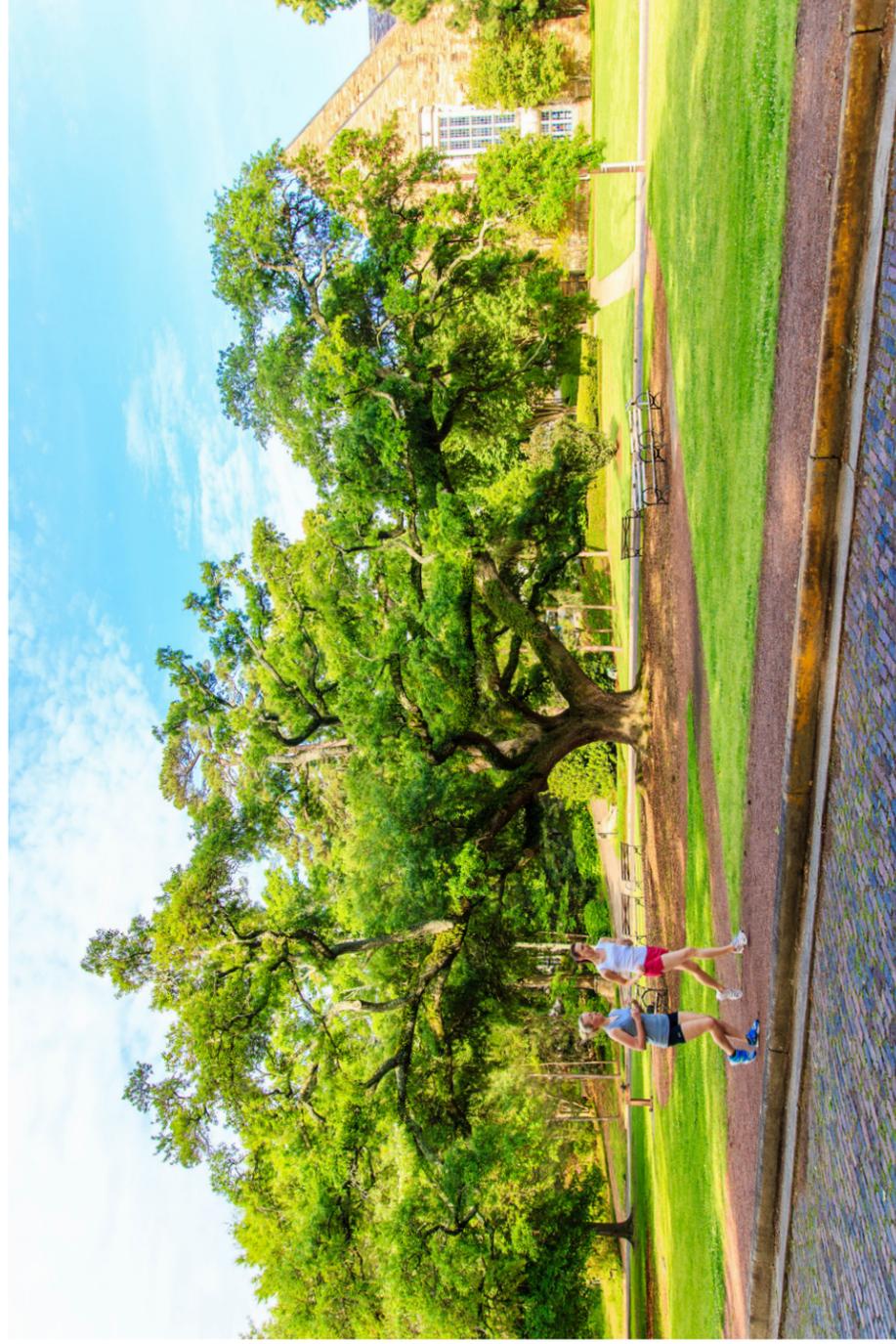
OLD CLOVERDALE ASSOCIATION

CLOVERDALE PARK

With 2.5 acres, this elongated park is the largest of the Old Cloverdale parks. It was once a clover-covered dale on either side of a natural streambed, now buried. On the 1892 plat, the area was designated to be a lake with the park on the ridge to the southwest, which is now divided into three estate lots.

The park features a walking track and is a popular gathering place for exercise groups, youth sports, church functions, and the neighborhood's annual Christmas Tree lighting. This shady park is graced by numerous live oaks, and its centerpiece is an iconic live oak estimated to be 200 years old. Even the street surrounding the park is unique: it is one of the few brick streets remaining in Montgomery.

Central Park style benches, park furniture and most of the young trees are from Watson McCollister's 2002 Eagle Scout project.



COLLEGE STREET PARK

This triangular park is formed by the intersection of College Street, Magnolia Curve, and Westmoreland Avenue. It features a tiered fountain set on a base of brick repurposed from nearby Huntingdon College's historic Massey Hall. The surrounding plaza and path are also constructed of Massey Hall brick. The new fountain plaza was dedicated in 2014 to Mary Dickey Neill, Miss Huntingdon 1944-45. Mature trees have been supplemented by a perimeter of newly-planted oaks. The oaks, two benches, and other park furniture are part of Davis Hudson's 2009 Eagle Scout project.



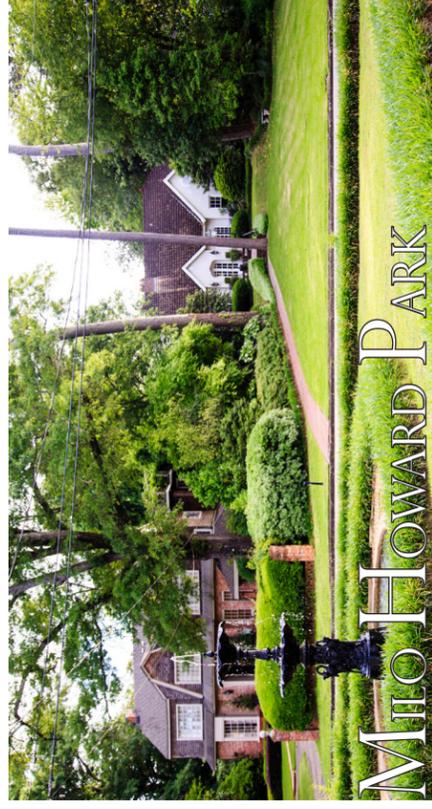
LE GRAND PARK

This triangular park is formed by the intersection of Norman Bridge Road, Fairview Avenue, and LeGrand Place. It is a gateway park for four historic neighborhoods: the Garden District, Cloverdale-Idewild, Lower Hull Street, and Old Cloverdale.

The park is named for M. P. LeGrand Jr., one of the original principals of the South Montgomery Land and Development Company that in 1887 first attempted to develop what became Cloverdale.

The centerpiece of the park is a circular sandstone fountain. Oaks, elms, sycamores and redbud have been planted in the park to supplement the aging, Spanish-moss draped cedars. Cloverdale-Idewild was once known as The Cedars.

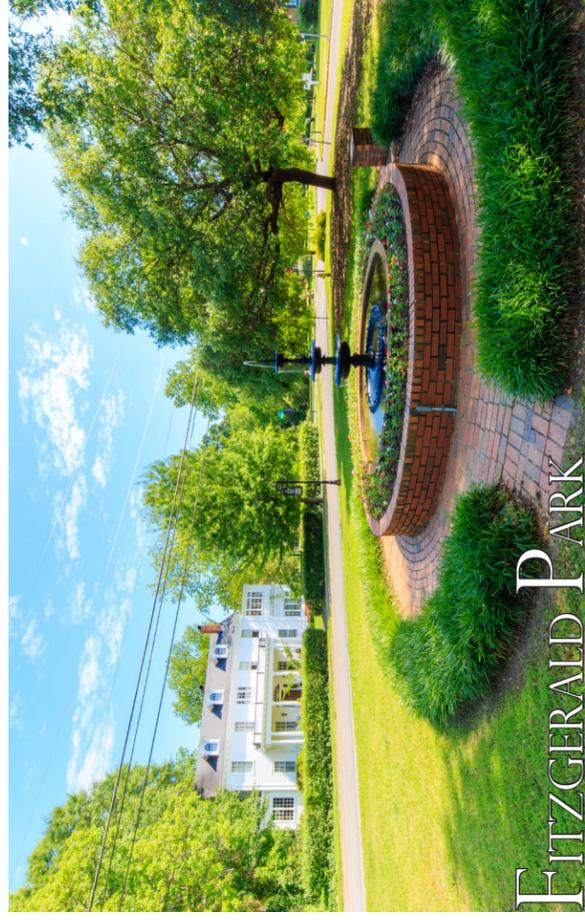
The "Oklahoma Survivor Tree" was grown from an American elm acorn from the site of the Oklahoma City federal building, which was destroyed in 2002 by a terrorist bombing.



MILO HOWARD PARK

The Old South Historical Society dedicated this park to Milo Barnett Howard Jr. (1933-81), a state archivist and a highly respected historian, who lived in a house overlooking the park. A fountain has long been the centerpiece of this triangular park, Old Cloverdale's smallest.

The original fountain, which was surmounted by the figure of a mermaid, was ordered from Philadelphia and installed in the 1920s. A longtime Cloverdale resident relates that her oldest sister's boyfriends were known to pull pranks on The Mermaid Fountain, such as placing a brassiere on the mermaid; this prank infuriated her grandfather, whose home was at the crest of the broad lawn overlooking the park. In the late 1920s, vandals destroyed the Mermaid Fountain, which lay broken and dry for three decades. Eventually, the remains of the mermaid were replaced by a Janney crane fountain from Robinson Iron of Alexander City. That two-tiered fountain eventually deteriorated beyond repair and was replaced in 2008 with an identical fountain cast by Robinson Iron from the same historic patterns.



FITZGERALD PARK

A simple fountain is the focal point of a small park commemorating F. Scott and Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald, icons of the Jazz Age who played their larger-than-life role on a lavish scale and on an international stage. Zelda was neither understated nor conventional. Zelda quotations inscribed on twelve granite pavers accurately capture her wit and unconventional nature; these were placed by Taimoor Arshad as part of his 2014 Eagle Scout project. He also provided trees, decorative signposts and park furniture.

The three-tiered, cast-iron fountain was erected in 1975 by the Press and Authors Club, which once included Zelda as a member. The fountain is just west of the 819 Felder Avenue house, which one or all of the Fitzgeralds occupied off and on between October 1931 and April 1932. Today the house serves as the F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum.