Bob Savage Sports Complex
at East Town Park

Park and Recreation Board...Did You Know?

June 23, 2015
Grandview Golf Course
Land History

Part of the Trust of Frederick M. Hubbell established in 1904

Born on January 17, 1839
Died November 11, 1930
Buried in Woodland Cemetery

Land sold to the City of Des Moines through the Frederick M. Hubbell Estate by
Grover C. Hubbell
(Frederick’s youngest son – one of three)
Frederick W. Hubbell & James W. Hubbell
(Frederick’s grandsons, Grover’s nephews)

- Arrived in Des Moines as a teenager in the early 1850’s
- Had a 75-year career building a business empire based on real estate, insurance (Equitable Life of Iowa), and railroads
- Partners with Jefferson Polk
- Had a lucrative law practice, developed a waterworks utility, and purchased Terrace Hill (now the Governor’s Mansion)
- Was often referred to as the wealthiest man in Iowa
Park History

Land acquisition timeline
First section - June 18, 1948
Second section – May 7, 1952
Third section - April 27, 1953
Fourth section – January 17, 1955
Final section – September 16, 1974

Park officially founded in
???

Park originally named
Eastown Park/Softball Diamonds

Evolution of the park name
Eastown Park
Eastown Softball Diamonds
Eastown Park
East Town Park

Renaming of the park
Eastown Park - Bob Savage Sports Complex
Park Board Resolution – February 8, 1983
Bob Savage

Born on September 3, 1921
Died on July 2, 2008

Coached at East High School
  Softball 18 years – 477-182
  Football 18 years – 102-39-6
  Baseball 17 years – 198-72

- Served in WWII – U.S. Navy
- Played Football at Texas Christian University
- Played one year of professional baseball
- Graduated for Colorado State Teachers College (Northern Colorado)
- Des Moines Recreation Employee
- Assistant State Commissioner for the Iowa Amateur Softball Association
- Inducted into the Iowa Softball Hall of Fame in 1986

“I never knew a person that had more knowledge in the game of softball than Bob Savage. He’d see them (pitchers) throw a ball when they were young kids, I mean 6, 7, 8 years old, and then he’d work with them. He’s the one that really kept East in the ballgame for several years.”
- George Davis
Park History

Held adult summer and fall softball leagues
Co-ed slow-pitch and men’s fast-pitch programs
Still handles over 270 (20+%) of all games in the Des Moines adult softball program

Hosted events/tournaments
District, regional, state, and national levels

Notable participants
Michael Bolton Charity Softball (1993)
City Council and other community leaders participated
Eddie Feigner – “King and His Court”

Interesting fact
Once had a ice skating area
Current Park Amenities

- Two Softball Fields
- Concession Stand
- Playground Equipment
- Open Shelter
- Walking Path
- Teachout Aquatic Center (adjacent to park)
- East Side Library (adjacent to park)
EAST TOWN PARK

BOB A SAVAGE SPORTS COMPLEX

CITY OF DES MOINES