

### **The Garden and the Friends name variations over time:**

In the 1907 petition to the Park Board to create the Garden it was proposed as a “natural botanical garden” and that is the term used in the official documents establishing the Garden. Once organized the teachers immediately called it the “Wild Botanic Garden” and when Eloise had the small office building built in 1915 the sign near the door said “Office of the Curator - Wild Botanic Garden.” Shortly later it became commonly known as the Native Plant Reserve (sometimes the word ‘Preserve’ was used by Eloise Butler). Eloise Butler later wrote in her history “It was soon found that the term ‘Wild Botanic Garden’ was misleading to the popular fancy, so the name was changed to ‘Native Plant Reserve’.” (EB 1926 - The Wild Botanic Garden - Early History).

Nevertheless, newspaper accounts of the Garden and its Curator from 1913 to 1924 still called it the Botanical Garden of (or sometimes “in”) Glenwood Park. Kirkwood’s 1913 article in *The Bellman* is titled “A The Wild Botanic Garden.”

Martha Crone and Ken Avery always referred to it as the Native Plant Reserve and the sign near the office door did not change until some time in Martha Crone’s tenure when the word “botanic” changed to “flower.”

In 1929 the Park Board re-named it the “Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden” with a dedication ceremony at the Garden. Most Park Board correspondence and printed material after that usually uses “Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden”, with “Wild Flower” as two words, with a few exceptions of course such as a 1931 Park Board brochure which called it “the Eloise Butler Plant Reserve.”

Then in 1968 the Friends got into it: At a meeting of project committee (for building the Crone Shelter) on Sept. 5, 1968 Building Fund Chair Alvin Witt suggested that the name be changed to “Eloise Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary” in order to recognize the role the Garden played in the bird world, but why the choice of word arrangement? - not known. The idea was presented to the Park Board and at a meeting on March 25, 1969 in the office of Superintendent Robert Ruhe, Mr. Ruhe said the Park Board was agreeable to the suggestion of changing the name as requested. However, when put into use the name came out with “wildflower” as one word substituted for “wild flower.” Much correspondence and many newspaper articles from that period use that name. Examples - Mpls Employees Newsletter from 1971 and the text of address Gordon Morrison, Coordinator of Environmental Education at the Park Board made to the Friends at the annual meeting on May 13, 1972. He stated “Here in the Eloise Butler Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary and elsewhere in the Minneapolis parks' natural areas is one of the most outstanding collections of native wildflowers ...”

The Friends used that name after that when referring to the Garden but it was not consistently used. Sometime after this other variations came in use. When Ken Avery

wrote articles in *The Fringed Gentian*<sup>TM</sup> beginning with Vol. 22 #4 in 1974 he signed his articles with "Curator, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary" - the current terminology. But when he prepared his 1977 list of spring plant bloom times he reverted to the 1969 terminology.

We have an article about the Garden and Ken Avery from the *Minneapolis Star* dated August 29, 1978 using the current terminology but with Wildflower as two words - Wild Flower.

In 1980, The Friends issued a document with the title PROPOSALS FOR THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELOISE BUTLER WILDFLOWER AND BIRD SANCTUARY - the old terminology - as did the 1982 MPRB application to the Institute of Museum Services for a \$5,000 grant for the Garden - all indicating that name was still been in use at that time. Documents show that during this time period from 1969 to the 1980s the re-insertion of the word "garden" after wildflower continued to crop up. Apparently enough writers thought that it should be a wildflower garden not a wildflower sanctuary.

An official change occurred in the Fall of 1986. Mary Maguire Lerman, Coordinator of Horticulture wrote a memo about recent Garden activities to Friends President Gloria Miller, dated May 29, 1987, in which she states "PPS: The MPRB action taken last fall changes the Garden's name to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary."

AS TO THE FRIENDS:

Meanwhile, back in 1952 the Friends had adopted Wild Flower as part of their name to match that of the Garden but chose not to refer to Eloise Butler, so today, to outsiders, it might not be apparent as to whether we are a friend of a particular garden or to wild flower gardens as a generic catchall name. At the June 5, 1969 board meeting of the Friends Building Committee chair Wilber Tusler requested, that in the interest of consistency, the Friends should use "Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc." (wild flower as one word) on all their published documents. Motion approved. That was used on documents until the early 1980s but with no consistency whatsoever. The newsletter continued to use "Friends of the Wild Flower Garden" throughout the time period. However, that wording change was never done officially as far as state and federal registration is concerned and the issue apparently dropped off the radar in the 1980s and that is why the Garden name and the Friends name diverge yet today.

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