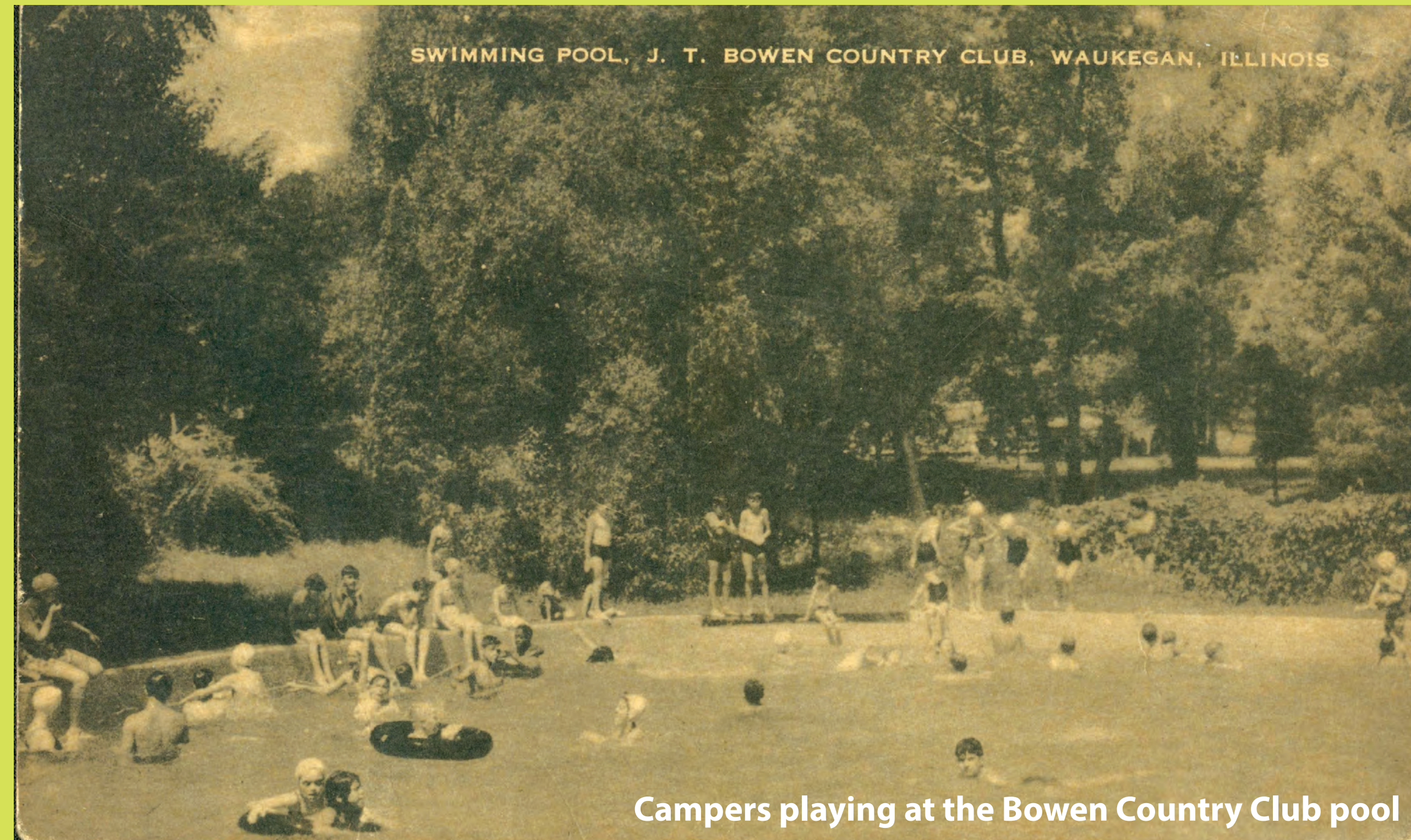


# Bowen Country Club and Recreation



Campers playing at the Bowen Country Club pool

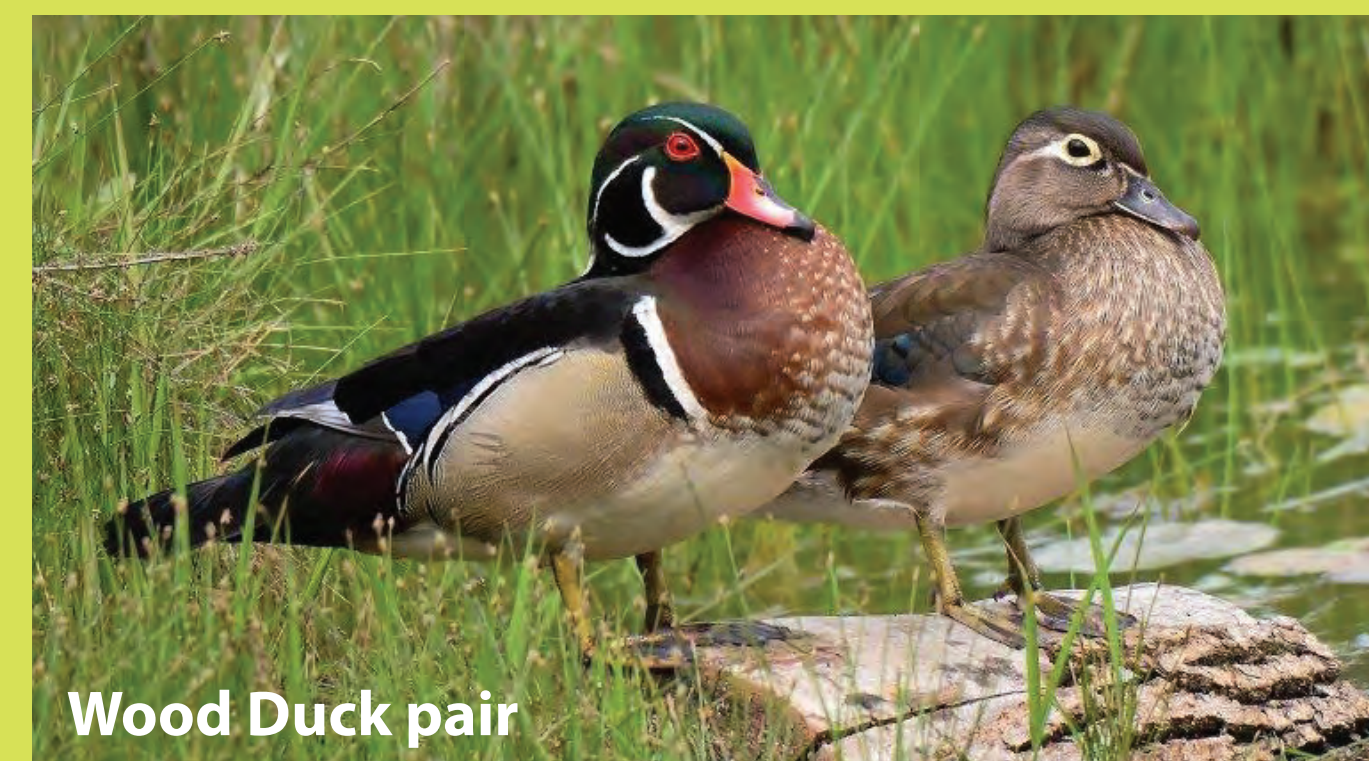
The land in today's Bowen Park served as a vital space for campers to fulfill recreational opportunities not readily available to them in the city. Mrs. Bowen had her gardener come from Bar Harbor, Maine to lay out a formal garden, vegetable garden, ballfield, playground, tennis courts and site for the swimming pool.

By the summer of 1912, campers could go swimming, play baseball and tennis, hike and garden all in one location. Although the camp was closed during the winter, one of the cottages was open all winter to allow city kids to ski, toboggan and snowshoe up and down the ravines.

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Wood Duck pair

Photo by John Edmondson

A natural spring fed the swimming pool at first until a renovation that was done in 1950, when a bathhouse, pump, and new pool were built over the existing one. Today, the frog pond here in Bowen Park replaces the Bowen County Club pool. In 1963, the directors of Bowen County Club informed the Waukegan Park District that the land was going to be for sale. Shortly after, the Waukegan Park District purchased the land and would turn it into today's Bowen Park, an award-winning park that continues to provide recreational opportunities.



Blue Spotted Salamander



Campers drawing in the formal garden