

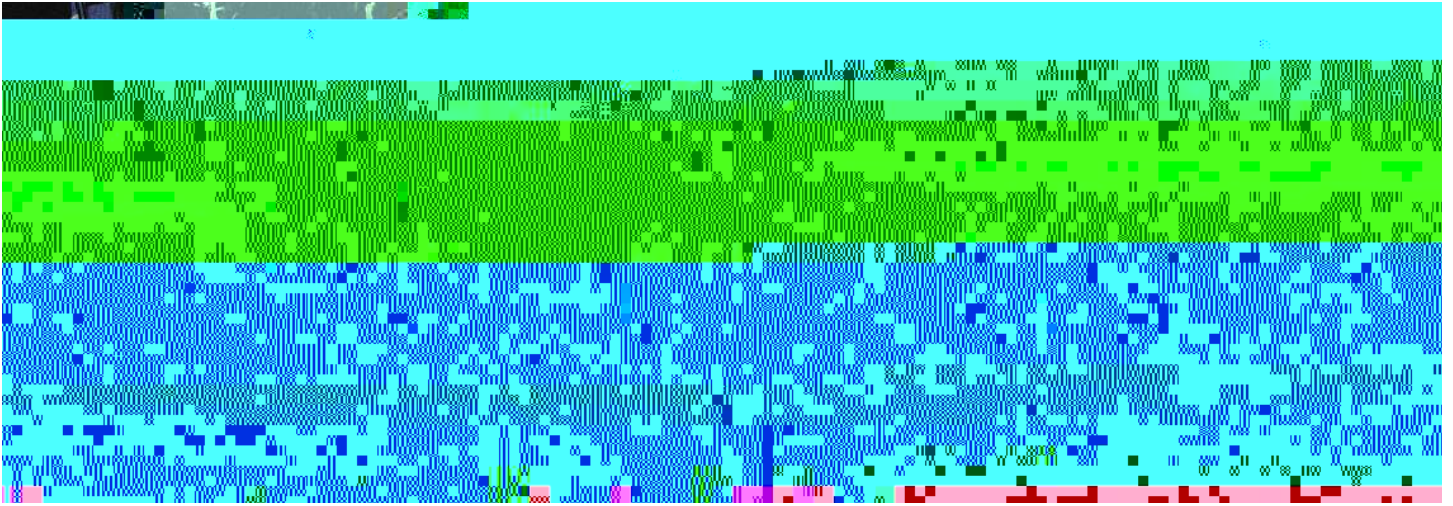


SIOUX CITY, IOWA

# Latham Park

*A Beloved Old Friend at the End of Her Resources*

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Benjamin and Elizabeth Latham retired from farming in 1899 and moved their three children to the Morningside area in Sioux City. Later, their two sons built the Latham Park home, which they completed in 1916. Today, Latham Park, including the house and grounds, is nearly one acre in size and comprises the northern half of a city residential block. The traditional design of the grounds has been faithfully maintained. However, after many years, rising costs and dwindling trust assets have put the future of the park in jeopardy. Community members and Friends of Latham Park have been generous. Ultimately, however, it will require approximately \$750,000 to build an endowment that returns \$20,000 for ongoing maintenance and restoration needs - otherwise, Latham Park is in danger of being subdivided and sold to developers.

## HISTORY

Elbert and Leslie Latham, Benjamin and Elizabeth Latham's sons, were skilled carpenters, and they built the Latham house in a prairie farmhouse style. Clara Latham, their sister, eventually established a trust to preserve her home as a community park for the enjoyment of Sioux City's residents. She passed away in 1937, but her legacy has remained as one of the city's beloved treasures. The upper floors of the Latham house now provide living quarters for the parks' resident caretakers, who are talented artisans and horticulturists, while the three main floor rooms are used for meetings and receptions. The



