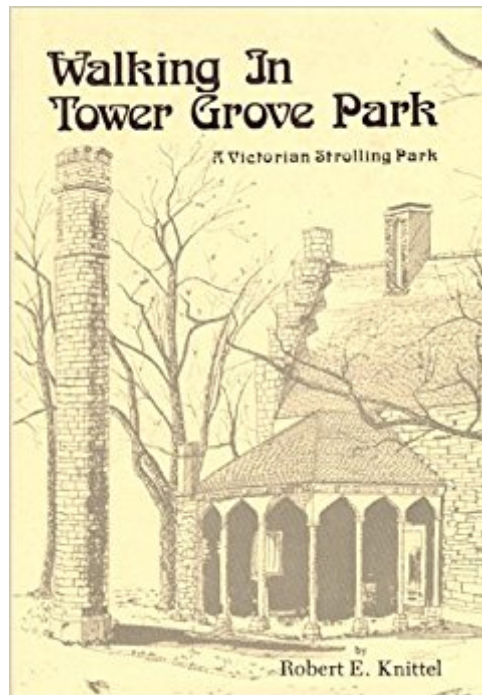




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# Walking In Tower Grove Park: A Victorian Strolling Park



## Synopsis

The author and his dog, "Herb," take you on a tour through the seasons of the year and a century of time in this unique Victorian strolling park. It is one of the country's greatest treasures. Recently it was designated a National Historic Landmark. St. Louis is one of three cities in the U.S. to have that historical distinction. Only three other parks in the United States have landmark status: Central Park in New York City; Boston Commons, and Boston Public Garden. The author brings the park alive through five seasons of the year, Early Spring, Late Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, melding his observations of life in the park with those on life itself. For Spring to be fully appreciated it must be seen in perspective with the other seasons of the year. In *Walking In Tower Grove Park* Robert Knittel takes you through them all, from peeping buds through trembling leaves, to colorful boughs, and finally crisp, dead foliage beneath your feet. To sample this delightful nature pilgrimage see the section titled EXCERPTS.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It is a very nice tribute to a beautiful park ...It is the kind of book I will be able to enjoy again and again . -- James F. Conway, Mayor, City of St. Louis  
Knittel's book cannot be categorized as just a tourist's guide or a park history ... More than one reader has commented on the Thoreau-like style of the book -- Alan W. Akerson, St. Louis Post-Dispatch. April 20, 1979  
One of the most attractive paperbacks to cross my desk in many weeks is *Walking in Tower Grove Park* by Robert E. Knittel -- John H. Stevens, Jr., St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Feb. 24-25, 1979  
Robert Knittel's poignant *Walking in Tower Grove Park* is a delightful experience. Knittel's fine ability to create visual images and his deep affection for this St. Louis landmark are outstanding features of this work. -- Sally Eaton, Missouri Arts Council  
*Walking in Tower Grove Park* brings into focus the beauty and significance of

the familiar - that which we tend to take for granted. Its imagery creates an awareness of the deeper meaning in the everydayness of our existence. -- Irma Schira Tucker, Executive Director, City Players of St. Louis  
Walking in Tower Grove Park is a gem of a book ... It will give you the inspiration and encouragement to go out and discover the mood of Fall and other Seasons as well -- Barbara Perry Lawton - St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Oct. 11, 1979  
Your book brings back many memories and has thoroughly convinced me that Americans can love and enjoy outdoors in any urban setting. -- Richard A. Gephardt, Congressman, Missouri

A one minute walk in the park. Imagine a quiet bit of England set down in the midwest United States. Imagine it as a quiet strolling park, landscaped in the "gardenesque" style, with frilly, carved gazeboes popping up all about and lovely avenues of trees, secluded glens and rivulets, opening up into a formal pond complete with romantic ruins, a scene worthy of the wealthiest nobleman's estate. Near the reflecting pond, a steeped Victorian band stand shelters a group of seasoned musicians tuning up to play classical and popular favorites. You hear another musical sound, the tinkling splash of water from a fountain blended into the summer chanting of the cicadas, as you lie on the grass enjoying nature's concert, waiting for the musicians to begin. Such a dream comes true in Tower Grove Park in St. Louis, where the author takes you by the hand on his daily rounds with his dog, "Herb," describing minutely each change of leaf and bud, each flower and tree, as he walks through the seasons of the year, through a century of time, in this unique, unusual example of a Victorian strolling park. Although you will be sure to yearn to join that time-lost land, you will not have to travel there to enjoy it. For, in these pages, you may walk with the author in a special place, a land and time apart, that still exists today.

I've never been to Tower Grove Park in St. Louis, though after reading this book I feel I know it well. Robert Knittel reminds his readers of the joys and rewards of walking for pleasure, stopping to observe and breathe in details, taking detours recommended by a curious canine guide (the author's airdale Herb believes in taking the trails less traveled). In this fast-paced world, we need guides like this, which encourage us not to squeeze all the top sites into one frantic touring afternoon, but to savor and discover our most familiar surroundings through the seasons.

While this book is about 20 years old it tells a good story about Tower Grove Park. This park is one of only four in the United States designated as a national historical park. At the present time the park is being restored and new trees being added. With this, new walks are being established and will be

known as the Discovery Forest. The Discovery Forest is being dedicated on 16 April 1999 and Mr.Knittel has been invited to participate.

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