

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
1924

CITY OF NEW YORK

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
BOROUGH HALL
NEW BRIGHTON, S. I.

JOHN J. O'ROURKE
Commissioner

February 4, 1925.

Hon. JOHN F. HYLAN,
Mayor, City of New York,
City Hall, New York City.

Sir: I submit herewith annual report of the Department of Parks,
Borough of Richmond, for 1924.

Respectfully yours,

JNO. J. O'ROURKE,
Park Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT 1924

The activities of the Department of Parks, Borough of Richmond, were carried on with such splendid co-operation on the part of the entire personnel, that a decided improvement in the appearance of all parts has resulted.

Though the area of our developed parks does not equal the area in other boroughs, the possibilities of obtaining and developing ground for a chain of parks that would rival any in this country is possible. Due to the rapid development of Richmond Borough as a home center, I believe it will be essential in the very near future.

The public responded willingly to our request to help preserve and protect street trees. Richmond Borough exceeds all other boroughs in the number of trees on streets and highways.

Instructions in the care of plants, shrubs, trees and lawns, was cheerfully given to many citizens who desired to improve the appearance of their home grounds, by the arboriculturist at our nursery and greenhouse.

At the consolidation of the City of New York in 1898, Richmond Borough boasted of two developed parks—Washington Park in Stapleton with an area of 1.43 acres, and Port Richmond Park in Port Richmond, consisting of 1.28 acres. For more than twenty years the Greater City has been noticeably backward in taking advantage of a wonderful opportunity to establish a system of parks that would rival any as to natural beauty that can be found within a city's limits, either in this country or Europe. Only in the last few years has there been a sincere effort to acquire and develop available park lands in Richmond Borough. This effort has added two more developed parks and one partially developed park to the list, making the total area approximately eight acres.

WASHINGTON and PORT RICHMOND PARKS are almost identical as to appearance and size. They are both situated in densely settled districts and serve their respective communities in about the same manner. The many stately trees, now grown to their full height, that are to be found in these two parks, afford a wonderful protection from the intense heat throughout the summer months, that is appreciated and taken advantage of by the women and children of both these sections. Sanitary drinking fountains help to add to the comfort of those who come to rest, and the transient public in the vicinity of these two parks. In the past few years numerous complaints from citizens, regarding annoyances caused by loungers in these parks, were given a thorough investigation this year by the Department. The erection of police

booths and co-operation with the Police Department, who have stationed a patrolman at each booth, has accomplished a public need and entirely eliminated this cause for complaint. This Department is especially proud of the booth erected in Port Richmond Park; it not only houses the policeman, but affords ample room for storing a full set of equipment that is necessary to the care of this park during the year and thereby saves a daily haul of three miles. Every year beds of tulips, pansies, daisies, cannas, geraniums and various other species of plants that are grown in our greenhouse are planted in these parks. Especial care is given at all times to the care of the trees, as, in the opinion of this Department, they are their greatest asset. With the exception of some repairs necessary to park walks and fences, both of these parks are in good condition.

HERO PARK, consisting of about two acres, was added to the list of developed parks in 1921. This park has been dedicated to the memory of the men who made the supreme sacrifice during the World War, and was a gift to The City of New York from the late Mr. Louis A. Dreyfus. Situated on the hills of Tompkinsville, it commands an unsurpassed view of the upper bay and lower Manhattan. Upon a large rock that rises about seven feet above the surface, at the eastern end of the park, a bronze plaque has been placed, that bears the names of those men of Richmond Borough who gave their lives in the service of their country. Along the southern border of the park one hundred and forty-four blue spruce trees, with a bronze marker bearing a name and organization at each base, further aid to honor, preserve and keep fresh the memory of those men who did not fail when their country called. Hero Park is considered a sanctuary by the families of the deceased soldiers, and veterans and patriotic organizations hold their memorial services here every year. The Department has been commended each year by these societies upon the beautiful appearance of this particular park on Memorial Day. In addition to the great amount of routine work done at this park each year, it is necessary to give especial attention to the protection of shrubs, trees and lawns, during the severe winter weather, by mulching. New sidewalks and curbing were laid this year along the Louis Street and Howard Avenue street lines.

SILVER LAKE PARK, with its 165.45 acres, is the largest single tract under the jurisdiction of this Department at the present time and is only partly developed. A reservoir built in connection with Catskill Water System, covering about 96.27 acres, is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, and is located approximately in the center of this tract. In 1922, fifty thousand dollars in corporate stock was appropriated to begin developing the ground immediately surrounding this reservoir by building walks and lawns, removing dead trees and stumps. Nothing has been done since 1922 in furthering the developing work of this particular spot, owing to the lack of appropriations. I am requesting an

appropriation of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars for the year 1925, to be used exclusively in the developing of this tract, which comprises approximately twenty-five acres or one-third the area of Silver Lake Park. By contracting for the various phases of this work, the above mentioned amount would be sufficient to build park walks, grade surface and furnish top soil. A bandstand and comfort station could be erected and sufficient funds also would be available to extend the spur of the present park road from the greenhouse to Forest Avenue, an approximate distance of three thousand feet.

The greenhouse built in 1922 was left with only a temporary road as an approach for trucks with supplies and its appearance not only marred the beauty of the immediate surroundings, but was impassable during wet weather.

A new bituminous macadam road, built in 1924, eliminates this ugliness and also affords the public a better opportunity to get a closer view of the greenhouse.

The nursery in Silver Lake Park was increased three acres and now covers an area of six acres, with one hundred Norway Maples, one thousand Scarlet Oaks, one hundred Oriental Planes, seventy-five Ginko, and three thousand various kinds of flowering shrubs ready for transplanting to parks and parkways.

The Department has always been handicapped in past years in carrying out the routine work of repairing Department equipment and the buying of coal and gasoline supplies. This condition was caused by the lack of proper shop and storage space. A garage and workshop now under construction and due to be completed in January, 1925, will provide the necessary space for both these routine activities. Storage space in this building for all the Department cars will permit the elimination of three unsightly wooden shanties now being used for this purpose. The installation of a gasoline storage tank with a capacity of five hundred and fifty gallons will permit the Department to take advantage of a lower price, by buying this necessary commodity in large quantities. At present it is impossible to buy more than one barrel (52 gallons) at a time, making it necessary to pay the prevailing market price, which varies greatly. A workshop for the repairing of department equipment as well as room for an Engineer's staff, who in the near future must become a part of this Department, so the development work now planned can be carried out successfully also will be housed in this building.

WESTERLEIGH PARK.—Some twenty years ago a parcel of land consisting of 2.87 acres was deeded to the City by citizens of this section for park purposes, but nothing ever was done in the past to develop it. An appropriation of sixteen thousand dollars in tax notes was granted this past year for the development of this park. A bandstand and comfort station was erected

in the center of the park. Cement walks ten feet wide starting at each of the four corners terminate at a plaza around the bandstand. Two sanitary drinking fountains and twelve permanent concrete benches also have been erected. Grading and excavating where necessary and the covering of the entire surface of the park with top soil so that it will be possible to produce good lawns in the spring, also has been accomplished. The magnificent oak, beech and hickory trees, with which this park is blessed, are the finest that can be found in this borough, and great care was exercised in the development work to preserve and protect them. A variety of shrubs and plants will be transplanted from the greenhouse and nursery to this park in the spring. Privet hedge will line the borders of the walks, instead of the usual iron fence, as a step to further beautify the park, as well as being more economical.

CLOVE LAKES PARK.—The jurisdiction of this proposed park, which consists of 210 acres, was vested in this Department in September, 1923. When fully developed, this tract will make an ideal and very attractive park. It is frequented by campers during the summer months, who quite often through carelessly lighted fires cause considerable damage to its woodland growth and magnificent trees. The several lakes within its borders are always a temptation to young boys to go swimming in the warm weather, and a number of drownings have occurred. A request was made and granted during 1924 for one thousand four hundred and seventy dollars in revenue bonds for the purpose of appointing and placing temporary laborers in this tract, to warn youths against swimming, protect trees and clear the woods of paper, etc., strewn about by week-end picknickers. The result of placing these men in this undeveloped park was very gratifying, as no drownings were reported in 1924, and very little damage done to trees.

STREET TREES.—Espesial attention was given to the care of street trees during the year of 1924. A census of trees taken during the spring showed about thirty-six thousand trees on the streets and highways of this borough. A great many of these were found to be dead or so far decayed that they have become useless in an ornamental way, and in some cases are a menace to public safety. The splendid co-operation on the part of the six climbers and pruners of this Department, the ready response of the New York Telephone Company and the Staten Island Edison Corporation, whenever called upon to assist, has aided the Department to reduce the dangerous conditions considerably. The Department has received and investigated six hundred and seventy-four dangerous tree complaints during the year and given attention wherever needed. The severe storms experienced both winter and summer raise havoc with our trees, causing limbs to break and hang dangerously over the highways and in many cases uprooting them entirely. Every tree complaint, or application to remove same by permit, is investigated by the Arboriculturist before any action is taken.

The department force during the year removed 207 trees; trimmed 1,705; permission was granted to permit individuals to remove 62 trees; trim 607; 225 trees were planted in parks and parkways. Seventy-five per cent of decayed trees and complaints regarding dangerous trees emanate from the First and Third Wards of Richmond Borough. This probably is due to the great amount of fumes from the factories along the New Jersey waterfront that pass over our borough and cause the gradual decay of trees. Another menace to our tree life is the predominance of the Gypsy and Brown Tail moths, and both these pests are being combatted by a tree sprayer, a leaf spray being used in the spring and a dormant spray in the winter. This sprayer was added to the Department equipment from the regular budget allowance of 1924. In addition to the attention given to tree complaints emanating from citizens, the Department very often is called upon by the Department of Plant and Structures to clear the wires of both the municipal trolleys and trackless trolleys of overhanging branches. This sometimes greatly deters the Department in its effort to catch up on regular routine work.

PARKS—

Tompkinsville Park—0.44 acres.

Barrett Park—1.14 acres.

Clifton Park—0.18 acres situated in squares, formed by main thoroughfares, are all in excellent condition.

PARKWAYS—

Canal Street Parkway.

Haven Esplanade Parkway.

St. Augustine Place Parkway.

Ellicott Parkway.

Maple Avenue Parkway.

PLAYGROUND.—The first municipal owned and equipped playground in Richmond Borough was established in 1924. It is situated in a densely settled district in Stapleton, bounded by Gordon, Targee, Purroy and Freaun Streets.

Swings, merry-go-rounds, slides of various sizes, giant strides, horizontal bars, sand-boxes and a shower are a few of the many things that made this an attractive playground for the children, and were the means of keeping them from such busy thoroughfares as Broad and Van Duzer Streets. The rapidness with which Richmond Borough is developing as a home center is eliminating many open spaces formerly used as playgrounds, and I strongly recommend the adoption of a report of a very recent date made by the Supervisors of Recreation to the Hon. Murray Hulbert as to the possibility and practicability of turning certain parcels of recently acquired State land into playgrounds.

RECREATION AND ATHLETES.—As much attention as the limited facilities of the Department would permit was given to promote interest in athletics among children in Richmond Borough. Lack of recreation instructors and playground space proved a big handicap. Marble contests and horseshoe pitching contests were conducted during the year and much interest shown in both. A fifteen-event athletic meet was conducted on the Fourth of July at Curtis Field, under the supervision of this Department. About two hundred athletes competed in the various events, urged in their endeavors by about two thousand five hundred spectators.

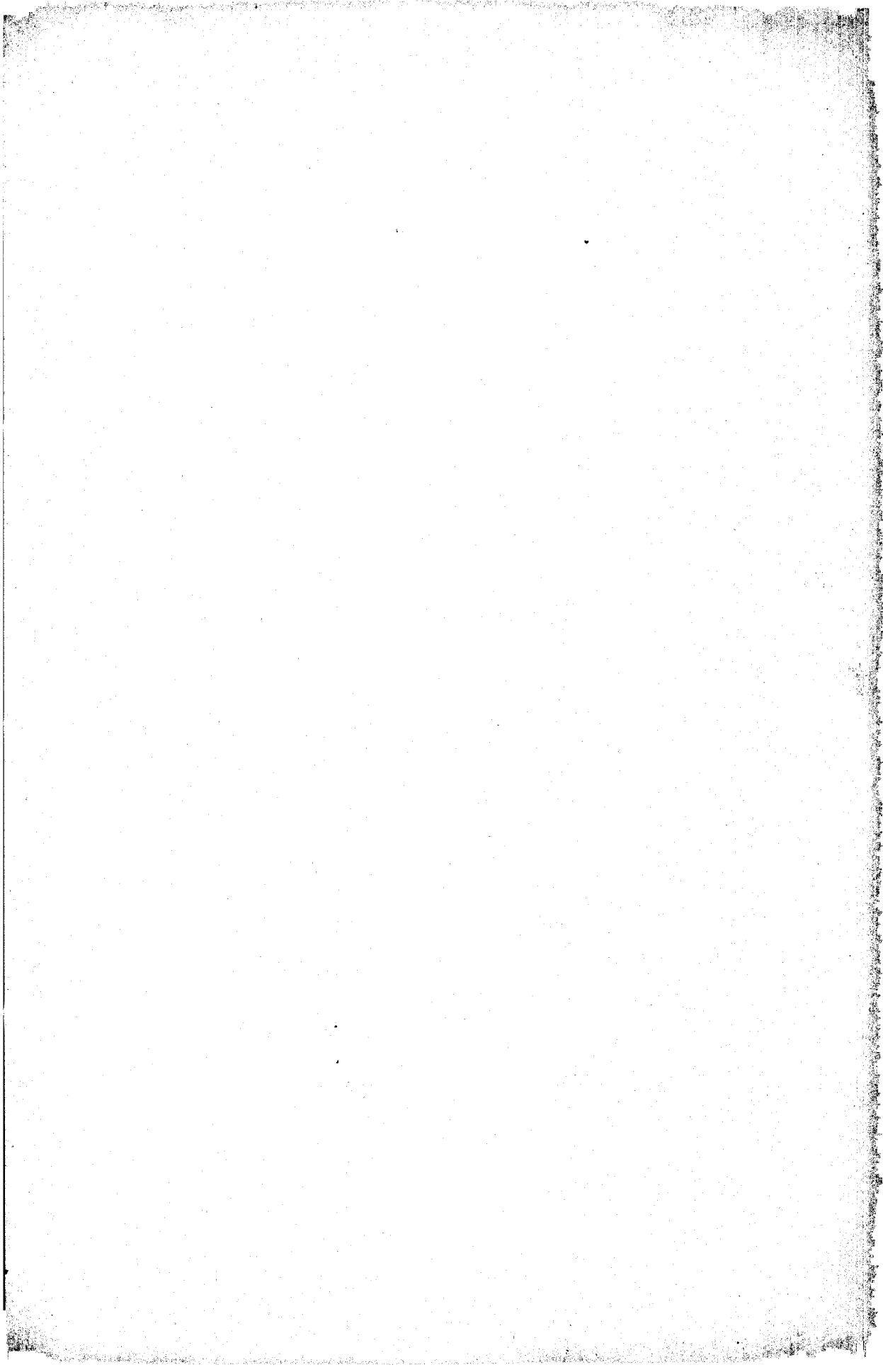
MUSIC.—During the summer months forty-five band concerts were conducted under the supervision of this Department. It is a far greater number than was ever conducted in this borough in any previous year, and the attendance at each concert proved beyond a doubt that this form of diversion during the warm weather is deeply appreciated by the public. Twenty-seven of these concerts were conducted at Curtis Athletic Field, and the balance in various parks throughout the borough. It is hoped that the concerts for 1925 can be apportioned to each section of the borough more evenly. The lack of proper accommodations as to seats and lights and parking space for autos was one of the reasons for awarding half of the allotment of 1924 concerts to Curtis Field. This, however, will be taken care of this coming summer.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. J. O'ROURKE,
Commissioner of Parks,
Borough of Richmond.



M. B. Brown Printing & Binding Co.,
37-41 Chambers Street, N. Y.



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1925

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

BOROUGH OF RICHMOND

BOROUGH HALL

NEW BRIGHTON, S. I.



JOHN J. O'ROURKE
Commissioner

February 2, 1926.

Hon. James J. Walker,
Mayor, City of New York,
City Hall, New York City.

Sir:

I submit herewith annual report of the
Department of Parks, Borough of Richmond,
for 1925.

Respectfully yours,
JNO. J. O'ROURKE,
Park Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT—1925

In submitting to your Honor the report of the operations of this department for the year 1925, I desire to call particular attention to the development and improvement work which was started in Silver Lake and Clove Lakes Parks, and the necessity of its continuance until these two parks are fully developed.

The administrations of the Department of Parks, Borough of Richmond, becomes more important each year due to the increase of population, the development into home sites, formerly farms and unused acreage lands, and the necessity of preserving the thousands of trees that line the borough streets.

Each year we receive hundreds of requests for week-end camping permits, but owing to lack of proper sanitary conditions in Clove or Silver Lake Parks, we are unable to grant these requests. These requests emanate from Boy Scout Organizations and many automobile tourists from other states.

In July of this past year an Engineer's staff was added to our force and all improvement and development work has been done under their supervision.

The seating capacity in all our small parks was greatly increased by the addition of 800 new benches which were purchased during 1925.

WASHINGTON PARK

This park is situated in a densely populated section of Stapleton, having an area of 1.43 acres. It is used chiefly by women and children as a resting place during the hot summer months. In addition to the routine work of care of trees, flower beds and lawns, the flag pole and fences of this park were painted by the department force. During the year it was necessary to repair the walks of this park. The work was done by contract at a cost of \$900.00.

PORT RICHMOND PARK

Port Richmond Park has an area of 1.28 acres. Like Washington Park this park is also situated in a densely settled district and it provides an ideal resting place for women and children. The flag-pole, fences and combined police booth and tool-house in this park were painted by the department's force.

At the present time a contract is being prepared for the re-surfacing with asphalt mastic of the entire park walks. It is expected to have the work completed by early spring.

WESTERLEIGH PARK

Westerleigh Park has an area of 2.87 acres and its development work was started in 1924. The completion of this development work was accomplished in 1925 by the department's force. Lawns, shrubs and flower beds were planted making it one of the most beautiful of the smaller parks in the city. The first bandstand and comfort station ever erected in Richmond Borough was opened to the public during the spring of 1925. Within the boundaries of Westerleigh Park are found 115 oak and other hard wood trees that are the finest of their kind in the greater city.

HERO PARK

Hero Park has an area of 1.92 acres and was a gift to The City of New York from the late Mr. Louis A. Dreyfus as a perpetual memorial to the men of Richmond Borough, who made the supreme sacrifice during the World War. It is necessary each year to give particular care to the protection of shrubs, trees and lawns in this park. 144 blue spruce trees have been planted along the southern border as an individual monument to each man who gave his life during the late war. A bronze marker at the foot of each tree bears a brief history of the service man for whose memory the tree has been planted.

A new concrete sidewalk was laid on the Howard Avenue side of the park during the past year at a cost of \$722.00, and a contract has been signed to resurface the interior walks of the park, at a cost of \$2,184. The material to be used will be asphalt mastic and the work will be completed in the early spring.

The department was complimented by the American Legion for its co-operation in connection with their annual Memorial Day services held at this park.

SILVER LAKE PARK

Silver Lake Park has an area of 165.45 acres. A reservoir built in connection with the Catskill Water System, is within its boundry and is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity. This necessitates co-operation on the part of the two departments in supervising the conduct of visitors to the park as well as the general appearance in the immediate vicinity of the reservoir.

A new building housing a garage, workshop, store-rooms and office, was put in commission during the early part of 1925; and the supervision of park activities are centered here. The combining of the various repair shops in this one building permits individual supervision at all times with the result of a high degree of efficiency and economy being attained in all the department's repair work.

Development work completed and underway in this park is covered by the Engineer's report to the Commissioner and embodied in this report in its entirety.

In addition to the development work done by contract in Silver Lake Park considerable grading and filling in of low places have been accomplished by the department's force.

A small shed formerly used as a one-car garage, was moved to a location close to the main building and has been remodeled into a blacksmith shop.

CLOVE LAKES PARK

The area of this park is 191 acres and it embodies a chain of four beautiful lakes. In conjunction with the plans of the Borough President to widen Victory Boulevard on which street this park borders, it was necessary to remove a large bank and relay a new sidewalk for a distance of about 3,000 feet.

The lakes in this park are very popular during the winter months when the weather permits skating, but are a dangerous temptation to small boys during the summer when the hot spell is at its height. Regardless of repeated warnings against bathing in these lakes, by signs, through newspaper publicity, by policemen and department employees,

each year in the past one or more young boys have been drowned. It is hoped the proposed development of this park which includes the cleaning of the lake bottoms will permit bathing with the utmost degree of safety, but until such times as this work is completed it will ever be necessary for this department to co-operate with the police in preventing young boys from taking a chance of a dip in any of these lakes. The proposed development of this park is covered by the Engineer's report.

NURSERY

Gratifying progress has been made in propagating shrubs and trees in the nursery. At the present time there are about 3,000 flowering shrubs and 1,500 trees that will be ready for transplanting during 1926.

A new system of pipe irrigation was installed by the department force, which eliminated the old labor-wasting system of stretching hose.

Five thousand maple saplings were purchased at a cost of twelve cents each, during the fall of 1925 to be delivered in the spring of 1926. To provide sufficient space for the care of these trees it was necessary to extend the area of the nursery an additional two acres, making its total eight acres.

GREENHOUSE

Greenhouse activities during the year 1925—Flower bedding plants were propagated, grown and planted in the various parks and parkways in the Borough as follows:

Geraniums	4,000
Coleus	4,000
Begonias	3,000
Ageratum	5,000
Cannas	500

annuals such as Salvias, Asters, Pansies, Daisies, Carnations, Closias, Marigold. Hardy varieties were also propagated for permanent outdoor planting, Delphinium, Dianthus, Lupin, Gaillardias, Phlox, Poppies, Asters, Columbine, Foxglove, Shasta, Daisy and Coreopsis being among them.

Fourteen hundred Chrysanthemums were grown and exhibited to the public during the entire month of October. This exhibition was enjoyed by the public and a great many complimentary letters were received.

STREET AND PARK TREES

The preservation of tree life in our borough constitutes one of our most important activities. Shortage of proper motor equipment for transportation and the lack of sufficient climbers and pruners has been a detriment to the proper pursuit of this work during the past years. Although both of these necessities were added to in 1925, it is still imperative that an increase of at least one motor truck and eight climbers and pruners be added to our present force during 1926.

Severe winter and summer storms damage our trees to a great extent, often increasing the number of dangerous tree complaints to 100 in a single day from an average of five during normal weather.

In addition to park trees trimmed, removed or sprayed, the following work was accomplished in various streets of the borough:

PARK FORCE		INDIVIDUALS	
Removed	327	Removed	87
Trimmed	2,202	Trimmed	91
Planted	291		
Sprayed	13,427		

PLAYGROUNDS

A new playground was established on Virginia Avenue, Rosebank. It consists of six city lots which were turned over to the Park Department by the State of New York. The ground was cleared and graded by the department force and equipped with swings, slides, horizontal bars, junglegyms, sand boxes, see-saws and giant strides, being a very popular play spot throughout the summer months. This is the second playground to be established by the department in the Borough of Richmond.

In addition to our own playgrounds, the department assisted in the establishing of two recreation centers on private property, that were opened by the owners, to all children in their respective communities.

MUSIC

The requests for park and community concerts have increased each year. During June, July and August fifty concerts were conducted in various localities throughout the borough and all were well attended and appreciated.

In former years it was the custom to provide bands of fifteen pieces for the smaller parks, these bands were increased to twenty-five pieces and the result was better concerts with a larger attendance.

To meet the demand for concerts during the 1926 season, I recommend at least sixty bands of not less than twenty-five pieces be allotted Richmond Borough.

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REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER

The engineering force of this department was organized on July 1, of this year. During the six months ended December 30, 1925, the Engineering Department's activities have ranged from preliminary studies for landscape development plans, the preparation of plans and profiles, specifications and construction contracts, and finally the inspection and supervision of construction work. In addition to this, studies were made and plans were drawn for a comprehensive park system of the whole Borough of Richmond.

Plans for the landscape development of Silver Lake and Clove Lakes Parks have been commenced and certain portions completed. In order to properly develop these two parks an additional strip of land should be purchased which would then provide a suitable connection between them. This project is covered in our comprehensive park system, and until that is disposed of it is not advisable to complete the landscape development of these two parks. Plans and profiles have been drawn, specifications prepared and contracts awarded for several projects in compliance with your instructions.

The removal of the hill in Silver Lake Park at the intersection of Victory Boulevard and Forest Avenue was necessary to provide a suitable entrance to the park and to protect motorists at a bad intersection. This contract has been completed. Twelve inches of top soil has been placed over the whole area and it is now ready for spring planting.

The laying out and grading of the path around the Silver Lake Reservoir adjacent to Victory Boulevard is nearing completion and next spring will be paved, thereby opening that portion of the park to the public.

The contract for the widening of the existing bituminous macadam road around the Silver Lake Reservoir from 17' to 23' has been let, but work on this contract will not start until spring, due to the late date at which the contract was let. The widening of this road was necessary due to the many sharp curves and the ever-increasing traffic over it.

A good many trees in Clove Lakes Park and Silver Lake Park had died or had been cut down before the city acquired title to these parks. These dead trees and stumps are not only detrimental to the development of the park, but are dangerous to have standing in time of severe wind storms. For that reason contracts were prepared for the removal of these trees and shrubs. The contract in Silver Lake Park has just been completed and the other in Clove Lakes Park will be finished by spring.

Plans are now being made for the laying out and grading of a walk parallel to Forest Avenue in Silver Lake Park. This walk together with the other walks around the lake will all be paved with asphalt mastic or Kentucky Rock asphalt in the coming year.

At Hero Park a concrete walk was laid along Howard Avenue and a contract had just been awarded for the resurfacing of all the interior walks of this park with Kentucky Rock asphalt, which will be completed early this spring.

The development of Westerleigh Park was completed this year, with the letting of a contract for the surfacing with asphalt mastic of the plaza around the bandstand. This contract has been completed.

The following is a complete list of the contracts let since July 1, and the present status of each contract:

Contract No. 1—Development of Silver Lake Park, grading and excavation of a part of Silver Lake Park, at the intersection of Victory Boulevard and Forest Avenue. Contractor: John E. Donovan, contract price \$3,426.39, contract completed.

Contract No. 2—Development of Silver Lake Park, laying out and grading of a path in Silver Lake Park, from a point at Victory Boulevard opposite Eddy Street to the intersection of Forest Avenue and Victory Boulevard. Contractor: Fleming and Sheppard Co., contract price \$5,175.00, nearly completed.

Contract No. 3—Development of Silver Lake Park, widening and paving with bituminous macadam the existing drive around Silver Lake Reservoir. Contractor: Joseph Johnson's Sons, contract price \$12,302.50, work has not been started on this contract.

Contract No. 4—Development of Silver Lake Park, felling and uprooting dead trees, pulling up stumps and removing all rubbish in Silver Lake Park. Contractor: Evans Clearing Corp., contract price \$8,053.50, contract completed.

Contract No. 1—Development of Clove Lakes Park, felling and uprooting dead trees, pulling up stumps and removing all rubbish in Clove Lakes Park. Contractor: Evans Clearing Corp., contract price \$17,369.00, working on contract.

Contract for laying concrete walk on Howard Avenue along Hero Park. Contractor: Giovanni Orrico, contract price \$722.00, contract completed.

Contract for resurfacing with asphalt mastic the existing walks in Hero Park. Contractor: Van Brothers Construction Co., contract price \$2,184.00, contract not started.

Contract for laying asphalt mastic walk around bandstand at Westerleigh Park. Contractor: Fleming and Sheppard Co., contract price \$3,604.80, contract completed.

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JOHN J. O'ROURKE
Commissioner

February 2, 1927.

Hon. JAMES J. WALKER,
Mayor, City of New York.

Dear Sir: I submit herewith annual report of the Department of Parks, Borough of Richmond, for 1926.

Respectfully yours,

JNO. J. O'ROURKE,
Park Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT 1926

In submitting to your Honor the report of the operations of this Department for the year 1926, I desire to call particular attention to the development and improvement work which has been completed and planned in Silver Lake Park and the necessity of its continuance until this park is fully developed.

During the summer the Department found it necessary to again prohibit camping in Silver Lake and Clove Lakes Parks. This policy is due to the damage done trees by campers and the lack of proper sanitary conditions.

WASHINGTON PARK.—This park is situated in a densely populated section of Stapleton, having an area of 1.43 acres. It is used chiefly by women and children as a resting place during the hot summer months. In addition to the routine work of care of trees, flower beds and lawns, the flag pole and fences of this park were painted by the Department force, the old style benches were replaced by more modern and comfortable ones and the drinking fountains were repaired.

PORT RICHMOND PARK.—Port Richmond Park has an area of 1.28 acres. Like Washington Park this park is also situated in a densely settled district and it provides an ideal resting place for women and children. The flag pole, fences and combined police booth and tool-house in this park were painted by the Department's force. The entire walks of this park were resurfaced with asphalt mastic.

WESTERLEIGH PARK.—Westerleigh Park has an area of 2.87 acres and its development work was started in 1924. The completion of this development work was accomplished in 1925 by the Department's force. Lawns, shrubs and flower beds were planted, making it one of the most beautiful of the smaller parks in the City. The first bandstand and comfort station ever erected in Richmond Borough was opened to the public in the spring of 1925. Within the boundaries of Westerleigh Park are found 115 oak and other hard wood trees that are the finest of their kind in the greater City. During 1926 an up-to-date lighting system was installed in this park.

HERO PARK.—Hero Park has an area of 1.92 acres and was a gift to The City of New York from the late Mr. Louis A. Dreyfus as a perpetual memorial to the men of Richmond Borough, who made the supreme sacrifice during the World War. It is necessary each year to give particular care to the protection of shrubs, trees and lawns in this park. 144 blue spruce trees have been planted along the southern border as an individual monument to each man who gave his life during the late war. A bronze marker

at the foot of each tree bears a brief history of the service man for whose memory the tree has been planted.

The entire walks were resurfaced with asphalt mastic and a new lighting system installed.

SILVER LAKE PARK.—Silver Lake Park has an area of 165.45 acres. A reservoir built in connection with the Catskill Water System, is within its boundary and is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity. This necessitates co-operation on the part of the two Departments in supervising the conduct of visitors to the park as well as the general appearance in the immediate vicinity of the reservoir.

Development work completed and under way in this park is covered by the Engineer's report to the Commissioner and embodied in this report in its entirety.

In addition to the development work done by contract in Silver Lake Park considerable grading and filling in of low places have been accomplished by the Department's force.

The garages, workshops, storerooms and Engineer's office are located in this park from which all labor and climber and pruner activities are directed.

CLOVE LAKES PARK.—The area of this park is 191 acres and it embodies a chain of four beautiful lakes.

Considerable damage was done in this park, due to the terrific rain storm of September 6th. The heavy rain fall during this storm caused the water in Clove Lake to rise to such a level that it flowed over the dam and washed the spillway away. The heavy volume of water released by the dam caused the dams at Martlings Lane and Brookes Pond to give way. Many fine trees were uprooted in the park and a great amount of damage to private property in the West Brighton section resulted from the flow of water from these lakes.

The estimated cost to restore these dams and improve the damaged park area is about \$250,000.

PARK PLAZA.—At the junction of the new Hylan Boulevard, Sand Lane and Fingerboard Road, a plaza containing about 15,000 square feet was re-topsoiled, sodded and a circular flower bed, 45 feet in diameter planted by the Department's force.

NURSERY.—At the present time there are about one thousand flowering shrubs and three hundred trees that will be ready for transplanting during 1927. Twenty-five hundred flowering shrubs were taken from the nursery and planted in permanent locations in Silver Lake Park, also about eight hundred trees of different varieties, and two thousand young Evergreen

seedlings were planted in nursery. These include Pine, Hemlock, Spruce Firs and Junipers. The results obtained from the nursery were gratifying.

GREENHOUSE.—Greenhouse activities during the year 1926—Flower bedding plants were propagated, grown and planted in the various parks and parkways in the Borough as follows:

Geraniums	6000
Coleus	5000
Begonias	4000
Ageratum	5000
Cannas	1000

Annuals such as Salvias, Asters, Pansies, Daisies, Carnations, Closias, and Marigolds. Hardy varieties were also propagated for permanent outdoor planting. Delphinium, Dianthus, Lupin, Gaillardias, Phlox, Poppies, Asters, Columbine, Foxglove, Shasta, Daisy and Coreopsis being among them.

Fourteen hundred Chrysanthemums were grown and exhibited to the public during the entire month of October. This exhibition was enjoyed by the public and a great many complimentary letters were received.

STREET AND PARK TREES.—The preservation of tree life in our borough constitutes one of our most important activities.

Severe winter and summer storms often cause irreparable damage and increase the number of dangerous tree complaints to one hundred in a single day from an average of five during normal weather.

The efficiency in the supervision and co-operation of the climber and pruner force in these emergencies has prevented any serious accidents resulting from falling limbs or trees.

Other enemies to tree life which it is necessary to combat are the Gypsy Moth, Tent Caterpillars, Bag Worms and Brown Tail Moths. These insects infest our trees in various areas of the borough and it is necessary to use an arsenate of lead spray during the spring and summer months to exterminate them.

PARK FORCE.		INDIVIDUALS.	
Removed	702	Removed	67
Trimmed	4227	Trimmed	110
Planted	350		
Sprayed	15608		

PLAYGROUNDS.—A new playground was established on Harbor Road, Mariners Harbor, on property turned over to this Department by the Borough President of Richmond. Swings, see-saws, slides, sand-boxes and basket ball equipment were erected in this recreation center.

An effort will be made to establish one new playground each year until all the more populated sections of the borough have a play yard.

MUSIC.—During the months of July and August forty-five concerts were conducted in various localities throughout the borough.

The bands rendering these concerts consisted of twenty-five pieces and were well received by large and appreciative audiences.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER.—The work of the Engineering Department this year has been confined in the most part, to the development of Silver Lake Park. The development studies for Clove Lakes Park were started this year but before any development can be started it will be necessary to have a topographical survey completed, from which development plans, grading plans, planting plans, and plans for minor structures can be drawn.

At Hero Park the interior walks have all been resurfaced with Kentucky Rock Asphalt and a new system of lights installed.

At Port Richmond Park the interior and exterior walks have all been resurfaced with Kentucky Rock Asphalt.

Studies were made, plans were drawn and a report submitted to your Special Park Committee of the comprehensive park system for the whole Borough of Richmond.

The work completed this year in Silver Lake Park, consisted of widening the existing bituminous bound macadam drive around the reservoir, laying a 12' Kentucky Rock Asphalt walk around a portion of the reservoir, and grading, seeding and planting about 12 acres adjacent to Victory Boulevard.

On Greenwood and Forest Avenues, adjacent to Silver Lake Park, about 2,000 lin. ft. of concrete curb, sidewalk and gutter were laid and a 3' 0" rectangular reinforced concrete culvert was constructed. This will now enable us to develop another portion of Silver Lake Park.

The following is a list of contracts completed this year :

Contract No. 2.—Development of Silver Lake Park, laying out and grading a path from a point at Victory Boulevard opposite Eddy Street, to the intersection of Forest Avenue and Victory Boulevard. Contractor: Fleming and Sheppard Company, contract price, \$5,238.35.

Contract No. 3.—Development of Silver Lake Park, widening and paving with bituminous macadam the existing drive around Silver Lake reservoir. Contractor: Joseph Johnson Sons, contract price \$12,445.55.

Contract No. 5.—Development of Silver Lake Park, laying out and grading a path in Silver Lake Park from a point near Victory Boulevard to the existing path around the reservoir. Contractor: Garfield Williamson, contract price \$3,524.

Contract No. 6.—Development of Silver Lake Park, paving with asphaltic wearing surface the walks in Silver Lake Park, parallel to Victory Boulevard and Forest Avenue. Contractor: Vanbro Construction Corporation, contract price \$14,465. Contract not completed.

Contract No. 7.—Development of Silver Lake Park, for grading, topsoiling and otherwise improving a portion of this park. Contractor: Vanbro Construction Corporation, contract price \$19,809.69.

Contract No. 8.—Development of Silver Lake Park, for grading a portion of this park in the vicinity of the garage. Contractor: Vanbro Construction Corporation, contract price \$1,843.68.

Contract for surfacing with asphalt mastic or Kentucky Rock Asphalt the interior walks of Port Richmond Park. Contractor: Vanbro Construction Corporation, contract price \$2,416.83.

Contract for surfacing the interior walks of Hero Park. Contractor: Vanbro Construction Corporation, contract price \$1,975.88.



M. B. Brown Printing & Binding Co.,
37-41 Chambers St., N. Y.

X

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
1927

CITY OF NEW YORK

ANNUAL REPORT
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CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
BOROUGH HALL
NEW BRIGHTON, S. I.

JOHN J. O'ROURKE,
Commissioner

March 14, 1928.

JAMES J. WALKER,
Mayor, City of New York,
City Hall, New York.

Sir:

In accordance with Section 1544 of the Greater New York Charter, I herewith present the Annual Report of the Department of Parks, Borough of Richmond, for the year ending December 31st, 1927.

Respectfully yours,

JNO. J. O'ROURKE,
Park Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT 1927

FOREWORD.

Real estate development in the past few years has claimed so many of this borough's former natural playgrounds and woodland retreats that there has been constantly increased demand on the part of various civic organizations for more municipal owned parks and playgrounds.

The Department has been fortunate in securing ten parcels of State owned land, ranging in size from city lots to an acre, that can be developed into park or playground according to the immediate needs of the neighborhood in which they are located. The acquisition of aforementioned land is far from sufficient to meet the future need for park and play centres in the Borough of Richmond.

PARK MAINTENANCE.

Each succeeding year brings an increase in the use of our parks with the natural result of greater maintenance being required. Our laboring force is far from sufficient to cope with the great variety of labor and multitudinous duties which they are called upon to render. Severe storms both during winter and summer greatly add to the regular routine and many times cause considerable damage to development work.

In parks and playgrounds where acts of vandalism are often committed the damage is repaired as a rule by our own force. During the past year it has been necessary to repair iron fences, drinking fountains and playground apparatus, a tedious job to accomplish owing to the fact that the department boasts of only one mechanic, and he a carpenter.

WASHINGTON, PORT RICHMOND AND WESTERLEIGH PARKS.

In addition to the regular routine work of keeping these parks free from litter, etc., the following extra work was accomplished.

Painting and repairing roof and floor of bandstand, Westerleigh Park.

Painting of police booth, flag pole, iron fences and benches, Port Richmond Park.

Painting flagpole, iron fences, electric light poles and benches, Washington Park.

Resodding and seeding of bare spots in lawns of all three parks.

Repairs to park walks in all three parks.

Building new concrete walk around police booth and shelter house in Port Richmond Park.

HERO PARK.

The erection of a shelter house and comfort station is an improvement greatly appreciated by the many visitors to this beautiful park. Special care is necessary in this park, due to the many varieties of shrubs and trees contained therein, especially so in regard to the 144 blue spruce trees, that have been planted to perpetuate the memory of Richmond Borough men who made the supreme sacrifice during the World War.

Extra maintenance work was as follows:

Painting flagpoles, wire fence, park benches and electric light poles.

Building walk around sugar loaf rock and repairing existing walks and stone wall on Howard Avenue side, which had been damaged by severe rainstorms.

Erecting of temporary band and speakers stand for exercises on Memorial and Armistice Days.

CLOVE LAKES PARK.

Protection of the beautiful trees in this park is a problem that draws heavily on our laboring force. During the summer months when a great many picnickers visit here it is necessary to use seven or eight laborers to patrol the entire park to prevent damage to trees and stop bathing in the various lakes which in their present condition are dangerous for this purpose. In winter it is necessary to continue the patrol in this park to prohibit skating when conditions are dangerous and stop persons, who seem to think that the park is for the sole purpose of furnishing their furnace fuel, from cutting down trees.

The old Thompson House, a three story frame building, which was situated in this park, was left standing in a dangerous condition, due to a fire. Requests for an appropriation to remove this building and also two outbuildings were refused. After considerable labor the removal was finally accomplished by the department force without any accident or injury to our inexperienced housewreckers. Two 60 foot wells adjacent to the house were filled with stone and dirt.

SILVER LAKE PARK.

Progress in development work in this park added at least 60 acres of new lawns and about 2 miles of park walk to maintain and clean. A great amount of damage was done by a heavy rainstorm in the spring

of the year requiring the resodding, reseeding and topsoiling of about 50,000 sq. ft. of lawn. The assistant engineer's report, which is contained herein, explains the future development work that has been planned for this park.

PARK PLAZAS.

The plaza at the junction of Hylan Boulevard and Sand Lane was damaged by an unknown motorist. It was necessary to resod considerable of this lawn. The department received very favorable comment on the beautiful appearance of this plaza throughout the year.

A new plaza at the junction of Clove Road and Hylan Boulevard, with an area of about 12,000 sq. ft., was sodded and planted with a variety of shrubbery.

PLAYGROUNDS & ATHLETICS.

A new playground was established during the past year located on Victory Boulevard in Tompkinsville. This makes a total of five play centers equipped with swings, see-saws, merry-go-rounds, basket ball courts, etc.

A new walk constructed around the reservoir at Silver Lake makes an ideal running track, that is constantly in use. Races ranging from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 15 miles are conducted on Sundays and Holidays and are often witnessed by four to five thousand people.

MUSIC.

During July and August forty-five band concerts were conducted in various localities throughout the Borough. The bands that rendered these concerts consisted of twenty-five pieces and were all received by large and appreciative audiences.

MOTOR EQUIPMENT.

The motor equipment of this department consists of nine trucks and three passenger cars. Repair work on our automobiles is done by automobile enginemen as there is no provision made in the budget for automobile mechanics. The three passenger cars and three trucks have been in service a number of years and require constant attention. In addition to the minor repair work and breakdowns from time to time, each car and truck is given a thorough overhauling once each year by these men. Two power saws, four power lawn mowers and all hand mowers are also repaired and maintained by the garage force.

GREENHOUSE—GREENHOUSE ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR 1927.

In one greenhouse 110 feet long and 30 feet wide, over 20,000 bedding plants were propagated and planted in the various parks and parkways in the Borough. This includes all plants generally used for summer bedding and also hardy perennials grown for outdoor locations. These includes, Delphinium, Dianthus, Lupines, Gaillardias, Phlox, Poppies, Asters, Columbines, Foxgloves, Shastas, Daisies, Coreopsis, Pentstemon, Veronica, Pyrethrum and hardy Chrysanthemums.

An addition to the old greenhouse 85 feet long and 25 feet wide with a vault beneath same for the storage of bulbs and half hardy plants, was built this year and is now in operation. This will increase the efficiency of all work done under glass and permit the growing of an increased number of plants for the coming year.

Two thousand Chrysanthemums were grown and exhibited during the months of October and November. This exhibition attracted many people, both adults and children, who thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful coloring of these magnificent flowers.

NURSERY ACTIVITIES.

The results obtained in this small nursery of about two acres were really gratifying. The past season about four hundred trees, such as, maple, oak, elm, linden, beach, chestnut and jinko, were taken from this nursery and transplanted to permanent locations in the newly developed section of Silver Lake Park. Flowering shrubs numbering about three thousand were also transplanted to prepare plantations and borders along the newly constructed walks and driveways.

STREET TREES.

This constitutes a very important branch of Departmental work. Continued supervision and efficiency of the working force has brought about a very remarkable improvement. Irreparable damage is often done by electric wires running overhead and thru the trees and severe storms also cause much extra labor. A constant menace to tree life in this borough are the many insects of various kinds, such as, tent caterpillar, bagworm, gypsey and brown tail moths. The danger to trees from these pests cannot be too greatly stressed and the constant spraying is absolutely necessary to combat this nuisance.

Park Force		Individuals	
Removed	927	Removed	81
Trimmed	5020	Trimmed	278
Planted	400		
Sprayed	18000		

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER.

The work of the Engineering Department this year has been confined in the most part to the development of Silver Lake Park and the preparation of development plans for the Conference House Park at Tottenville.

Plans for the development of Silver Lake Park were completed this year. Surveys, estimates and plans were made for the development of the Conference House Park at Tottenville.

Plans, estimates and contracts were prepared for the construction of an eighteen hole golf course and club house in Silver Lake Park. An appropriation of \$175,000, was granted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to construct this golf course and club house. With the completion of this course, Silver Lake Park will be completely developed.

An additional greenhouse was constructed in Silver Lake Park together with a large coal cellar.

Plans and surveys were made showing the ten parcels of land donated by New York State for parks and playgrounds.

A shelter house, tool house and comfort station was erected in Hero Park.

The following is a list of contracts awarded and completed this year:

Contract No. 9—Development of Silver Park, for grading topsoiling and otherwise improving a portion of this Park. Contractor, Joseph Johnson Sons, Inc., Contract Price, \$18,782.74.

Contract No. 10—Widening and surfacing existing macadam walk around Silver Lake Reservoir with Kentucky Rock Asphalt. Contractor, Joseph Johnson Sons, Inc., Contract Price, \$6,715.77.

Contract No. 11—Development of Silver Lake Park for grading, topsoiling and constructing 10' Kentucky Rock Asphalt walk. Contractor, Joseph Johnson Sons, Inc., Contract Price, \$51,530.75.

Contract No. 12—Development of Silver Lake Park for grading, topsoiling and constructing a concrete curb and gutter along drive leading to garage. Contractor, James D. Nugent, Contract Price, \$4,599.28.

Contract for the construction of a greenhouse at Silver Lake Park, Contractor, Lord & Burnham, Inc., Contract Price, \$18,913.45.

Contract for the construction of a shelter house and comfort station in Hero Park, Contractor, William Bailey, Contract Price, \$1,597.00.



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
of the
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
CITY OF NEW YORK

1928

John J. O'Rourke - - - - Commissioner
John R. Dwyer, Superintendent Frederick H. Gross - Engineer
Robert G. Lindsay - Secretary Otto J. Lundt - Arboriculturist

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
BOROUGH HALL
NEW BRIGHTON, S. I.

JOHN J. O'ROURKE
COMMISSIONER

February 1, 1929.

Hon. James J. Walker,
Mayor, City of New York,
City Hall, New York.

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions
of the Charter, I herewith present the Annual
Report of this Department for the year 1928.

Very truly yours,

Jno. J. O'Rourke
Park Commissioner.

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Parks of the Borough of Richmond has now completed the first five years of its existence. During this period, the department has planned a comprehensive park system for this borough on a large scale to meet the needs of Richmond County's certain future growth brought about by the several new and proposed physical connections with the other boroughs. In all city planning, one of the fundamental requirements is to map out the lines of main parkways and of park and recreational areas. This park system planned for Richmond County provides some of the most essential features of a general park plan for the County.

This department at the present time has jurisdiction over 1,080 acres of land, with a total assessed valuation of \$3,100,000. This area is comprised of 12 parks, with an area of 1,076 acres; 5 playgrounds, with an area of 4.6 acres, together with several small parkways and miscellaneous parcels.

The present park system is indicated by the following parks and playgrounds:

Name and Location of Parks.	Area in Acres
LaTourette Park, Richmond.....	560
Silver Lake Park, Tompkinsville.....	207
Clove Lakes Park, West New Brighton.....	191
Willowbrook Park, Bulls Head.....	106
Westerleigh Park, Westerleigh.....	2.87
Faber Park, Port Richmond.....	2.00
Hero Park, Tompkinsville.....	1.92
Washington Park, Stapleton.....	1.43
Port Richmond Park, Port Richmond.....	1.28
Haven Esplanade, Tompkinsville.....	1.18
Conference House Park, Tottenville.....	0.60
Tompkinsville Park, Tompkinsville.....	0.44
<hr/>	
Playgrounds	Area in Acres
Rosebank	0.30
Mariners Harbor	1.00
Randall Manor	1.50
Stapleton	0.80
Victory Boulevard at Tompkinsville.....	1.00

In addition to the above existing playgrounds, the State of New York this year transferred to this department eleven separate parcels,

located in various parts of the borough. These parcels range in size from several city lots to a whole city block. The total area of these parcels is four acres. From time to time, as the occasion arises these parcels will be prepared for playgrounds.

The management of a park department, in addition to its many bright spots has also its dark spots and gloomy periods. The experience of the past years shows an undercurrent of hoodlumism in the attitude of a part of our population toward park rules and park property, which at times is very discouraging. Let me give a few examples. Many beautiful old oak and tulip trees in Clove Lakes Park and Silver Lake Park have been chopped down and the stumps left standing. On Sundays and holidays thousands of picknickers from Manhattan visit these two parks and leave their papers and luncheon debris strewn about. Automobiles drive over the newly seeded fairways on the Silver Lake Park golf course and leave deep ruts. Motorists have driven over the beautiful tulip beds at Fingerboard Road on the Hylan Boulevard. Park signs are carried off or destroyed and many other minor acts of vandalism are committed.

For these various offenses, some trivial, some serious, there would seem to be two kinds of remedy; better education of the people and more thorough policing. That damage to park property is an injury to every citizen should be more frequently and seriously inculcated in schools. It should be a cardinal principle of organizations like the boy scouts. Parents should teach this lesson to their children. The older boys must be made, somehow, to respect the property and rights of the public. I feel sure that the Board of Education would consider the teaching of civics weekly to all children up to a certain age, if it does not already do so. By civics I mean the nature of the City Government; the public rights and interest in the City and Park Property; the duty and beauty of tidiness, order and obedience to law, in simple language.

As for more efficient policing in the parks, that is a difficult matter. Under the present system there is not the proper policing of our parks in this borough and something should immediately be done to insure proper protection of our parks and the people in them.

Let us now turn to the bright aspects of the past year. One of these is the acquisition of the new park at Richmond. To date approximately 560 acres of land have been purchased in this park, included in which is the nine hole LaTourette Golf Course. The Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity turned over to this department forty-two acres of property in Silver Lake Park to complete the new golf

course. The same department has transferred to us their vacant property consisting of 106 acres at Bulls Head to be used for a park. The State of New York transferred to this department eleven small parcels to be used for playgrounds and the Board of Education gave us the use of a block for playground.

The construction of an eighteen hole golf course and golf clubhouse at Silver Lake Park was undertaken this year and will be opened to the public in 1929. The development and landscaping of Silver Lake Park was completed this year.

The Borough President of Richmond transferred the Faber property at Port Richmond to the Park Department and this will be developed as a playground together with a large swimming pool.

The Conference House Park at Tottenville was completely developed and a rustic pergola constructed.

The reconstruction of Martlings Lane and the dams in Clove Lakes Park was started this year under the jurisdiction of the Borough President of Richmond.

Minor improvements of the year are the sodding of the steep slopes in Silver Lake Park washed away by the severe storms, patching and repairing walks in the smaller parks, spreading topsoil and seeding small areas in all the parks and other general park maintenance work. The work was all done by our own labor forces.

PARK MAINTENANCE

Due to numerous heavy rain storms during the past spring and summer, considerable washouts occurred in the steep slopes surrounding the reservoir in Silver Lake Park. To repair these washouts a great amount of sod and topsoil was required which were obtained from the Thompson Farm in Clove Lakes Park.

The lawns in Hero, Washington, Westerleigh and Port Richmond Parks were treated with a mixture of screened topsoil and sand and where necessary, reseeded. This work drew heavily on our labor force in the spring and early summer as much of the soil had to be carted from the roads by means of wheelbarrows. A decided improvement was noticed in the lawns due, no doubt to, the above treatment.

In addition to the regular routine work of keeping the parks free of litter, etc., all fences, benches, flagpoles and buildings were painted.

Clove Lakes Park though still undeveloped, calls for considerable

patrolling for the protection of its wonderful woodlands. This must be done by the laboring force.

LaTourette Park with a nine hole golf course within its boundaries was turned over to this department on December 1st, 1928. Dangerous trees were immediately removed and the foundation work for improving the golf course was started. This work when completed will be a new draining system, larger trees and the lengthening of several holes.

PLAYGROUNDS AND ATHLETICS

A new playground was established in Randoll Manor making a total of six now in operation. These playgrounds are supervised by laborers as there are no playground attendants in this department.

Cooperating with the James J. Tappen Post of the American Legion an athletic meet was conducted at Curtis Field on July 4th.

The department also assisted the same Post in holding ten road races at Silver Lake Park. These races at times attracted some three thousand spectators and ranged in distance from three and one-half to twenty miles.

MUSIC

During July and August forty-five band concerts were conducted in the parks and at various schools throughout the borough. When inclement weather prevented holding these concerts out-of-doors, the concerts were rendered in the auditoriums of schools. This courtesy was extended by the Board of Education.

MOTOR EQUIPMENT

The handicap through lack of auto mechanics in this department is overcome by detailing automobile enginemen to the repair shop. These men kept our eleven trucks and three passenger cars in excellent condition during the past year. In addition to making minor repairs at various times, each apparatus was given a general overhauling once during the year, also including the painting of the bodies. Two power saws, four power mowers and two tractors as well as all hand mowers were repaired and maintained by the garage force.

HORTICULTURAL AND ARBORICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In the greenhouse situated in Silver Lake Park, 200 feet long and 30 feet wide, thousands of plants, were grown, both annual and perennial. Among the former were Cannas, Geraniums, Salvias, Begonias, Alys-

sum, Antirrhinum, Asters, Coleus, Cyclamen, Nasturtiums, Abutilions, Petunias, Althenanthirias. These were transplanted in the flower beds situated in the various parks and parkways. Perennials included such plants as Delphinium, Dianthus, Pyrethrum, Lupins, Shasta Daisy, Veronica, Gaillardia, Foxgloves, Chrysanthemums and many others. These were planted in permanent locations wherever needed. The exposition of Chrysanthemums was particularly attractive. Over fifty varieties were grown and the perfectly grown flowers were greatly enjoyed by the public who visited the greenhouse during the months of October and November.

A small nursery of about 2 acres was eliminated, it being necessary to include this land in the development of the golf course. The loss of this nursery is keenly felt, as many trees and flowering shrubs were formerly grown there. It is hoped in the near future that another plot of ground will be set aside for the establishing of a nursery on a somewhat larger scale.

The preservation of tree life in this borough constitutes one of our most important activities. A constant supervision is necessary in order that only such trees be removed that are found to be dead, dangerously decayed or form an obstruction to some development work. A great deal of damage is often done by electric wires which in this borough run overhead and through the trees. These wires are a constant menace to tree life, and a great deal of work is done by this department to trim the trees so as to avoid contact with high power wires.

Park Force	Individuals
Removed 1,310	Removed 64
Trimmed 8,422	Trimmed 258
Planted 680	

Particular attention was paid during the past year to the spraying of trees in all parts of this borough. This was made necessary by the vast number of insects of all kinds which constitute a serious menace to tree life. Such insects as Gypsy Moth, Bagworm, Browntail Moth, were particularly prevalent. Thousands of trees were sprayed with gratifying results. In connection with this important work I would recommend that a more powerful spraying apparatus be secured, in order that very tall trees may be reached, which is impossible at present with the machine now in use.

REPORT OF THE PARK ENGINEER

The field of engineering in connection with the park work is constantly widening its scope. The work of this department includes topo-

graphical surveys, structural designs, plans and specifications for all contracts, supervision of all construction work by contract and by park department labor and preparation of yearly construction programs and estimates.

The completion of the construction work for the eighteen hole golf course in Silver Lake Park will complete the developing and landscaping of this park. This golf course was designed and laid out by Captain David L. Rees, is complete in playing qualities and embraces excellent individual golf holes. It is, as a whole, a first class course, of good length and character. The clubhouse for this course was designed and constructed under the supervision of the architectural firm of Sibley and Fetherston. The clubhouse accommodates 151 men's lockers, 81 women's lockers, has facilities for a first class restaurant and dining room, shower baths, and all other modern improvements necessary for a successful golf course. Eighteen contracts were let for the construction of this golf course and clubhouse totaling \$160,632.84. Fifteen of these contracts were completed and the other three will be completed in the spring of 1929.

Three contracts were let and completed this year for the grading, seeding, laying asphalt mastic walks and otherwise improving several parts of Silver Lake Park. The development of Silver Lake Park was completed this year and opened to the public for general use. Many specimen trees were planted throughout this park in the past year. A network of asphalt mastic walks over two miles in length have been laid out and constructed in Silver Lake Park.

The actual amount of park that was developed, graded and otherwise improved, exclusive of the golf course, is 50 acres and the total cost of this work including engineering and inspection was \$90,000., or \$1,800., per acre. Fifteen contracts were let and completed during a period of two and one-half years.

Plans for the development of Faber Park at Port Richmond were completed this year. The plan for this park in addition to the grading and construction of walks, calls for the construction of a bulkhead wall along the Kill Van Kull, filling in all the water basins to this bulkhead wall and the erection of a modern outdoor swimming pool 90'x150', which will accommodate several thousand bathers each day. Surveys and estimates have been made for all this work which will be commenced next year.

The development of Conference House Park at Tottenville was completed this year. This undeveloped area was transformed into a most beautiful park. The total cost of this improvement was \$5,237.90.

Annual Report

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

OF THE

Borough of Richmond

CITY OF NEW YORK

1929

JOHN J. O'ROURKE, Commissioner

JOHN R. DWYER, Superintendent FREDERICK H. GROSS, Engineer

ROBERT G. LINDSAY, Secretary OTTO J. LUNDT, Arboriculturist

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
BOROUGH HALL
NEW BRIGHTON, S. I.

JOHN J. O'ROURKE, *Commissioner*

January 27, 1930.

Hon. James J. Walker,
Mayor,
City of New York.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of the Charter, I herewith present the Annual Report of this Department for the year 1929.

Very truly yours,

JOHN J. O'ROURKE
Park Commissioner.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The past year was the first in which this Department supervised any revenue producing operation and the success was gratifying. Many letters of praise were received, both as to the condition in which the golf course was maintained and the courteous manner of the Department force to the playing public.

One of the New York City daily papers referred to La Tourette as the oasis in the city owned golfing desert.

Total receipts for the season were \$24,635., as against \$15,000., appropriated for improving and maintenance.

The present park system is indicated by the following parks and playgrounds:

Name and Location of Parks	Area in Acres
Clove Lakes Park, West New Brighton.....	191.
La Tourette Park, Richmond.....	580.
Silver Lake Park, Tompkinsville.....	207.
Willowbrook, Park, Bulls Head.....	105.
Marine Park, Great Kills.....	780.
New Springville Park, New Springville.....	162.
Wolfes Pond Park, Princess Bay.....	227.
Westerleigh Park, Westerleigh.....	2.87
Faber Park, Port Richmond.....	2.00
Hero Park, Tompkinsville.....	1.92
Washington Park, Stapleton.....	1.43
Port Richmond Park, Port Richmond.....	1.28
Haven Esplanade, Tompkinsville.....	1.18
Conference House Park, Tottenville.....	0.60
Tompkinsville Park, Tompkinsville.....	0.44
	Area
	in Acres
Playgrounds	
Rosebank	0.30
Mariners Harbor	1.00
Randall Manor	1.50
Stapleton	0.80
Victory Boulevard at Tompkinsville.....	1.00
Jewett Avenue	1.00
Burgher Avenue	0.60

P A R K M A I N T E N A N C E

The nine hole golf course at La Tourette Park was opened to the public on April 20 and closed on December 1. Many improvements were accomplished on the course during the past year that were greatly appreciated by the golfers who played there throughout the season.

(three)

Nine new tees were constructed and the second, fifth, sixth, and eight holes lengthened. Greens and fairways were greatly improved by sodding, fertilization and seeding were necessary and the removal of about 2500 cubic yards of stone fairways. Three thousand feet of four inch porous drain pipe were laid to dry a number of wet spots caused by seepage and surface water. One hundred fifty feet of twenty-four inch vitrified pipe were laid in front of the first green thereby eliminating an open brook which had been cause for complaint on the part of golfers. Seventy-five feet of the same type pipe took care of a similar condition at the fourth green.

A large number of trees were found in a dangerous condition due to previous brush fires. These were removed and others received pruning; every effort being made to save a tree wherever possible.

The vicinity of La Tourette Park is noted for its dangerous brush fires and precautions were taken to prevent any from spreading to a large area. This was accomplished by clearing lanes of underbrush and the establishing of a lookout and patrol system.

Although this golf course was very popular under private ownership, no washrooms had been provided for the public's use. The lack of proper funds made it necessary to install temporary rooms with Department labor. Three cottages, namely, the watchman's home, restaurant and professional's shop were repaired and painted.

In Silver Lake Park tractors were used in mowing the lawns wherever possible, but on the steep slopes around the reservoir it was necessary to use hand mowers which entailed considerable labor. Fourteen holes of the new golf course in this park were opened to the public on October 5. A number of washouts occurred in spots due to heavy rains. These were filled and sodded to prevent further occurrence of the same during the hot summer months it was necessary to have a force of laborers work at night on the sprinkling system. The grass in the greens have not as yet grown to full strength and they require constant attention such as top-dressing, cutting, rolling, and sprinkling.

Clove Lakes Park received the usual patrolling of its woodlands to prevent brush fires and the spreading of litter by the large number of picnickers who use the park over the week ends.

In the smaller neighborhood parks, namely, Hero, Washington, Port Richmond and Westerleigh the usual attention was given the lawns and flower beds. Fences, benches, flag poles and all buildings were painted. Staats, Leonard and Egbert Circles were given the same attention.

PLAYGROUNDS AND ATHLETICS

One new playground was established at West New Brighton making a total of seven now in operation. Equipment was replaced and repaired in

(four)

the Mariners Harbor and Tompkinsville playgrounds. In Stapleton it was necessary to move the entire equipment to a new site.

As in previous years, the Department cooperated with the James J. Tapen Post of the American Legion in conducting athletic games on July 4, and the staging of ten road races at Silver Lake Park. The activity of this post in the cross country running field was the means of their success in bringing the National A. A. U. marathon championship to Richmond Borough, it being the first time in a number of years the even was awarded to any other city than Boston.

MUSIC

During July and August forty-five band concerts were conducted in the parks and at various school yards throughout the Borough. Concerts were rendered in school auditoriums when inclement weather prevented their being held outdoors. The courtesy was extended by the Board of Education.

MOTOR EQUIPMENT

Motor Equipment of the Department consisting of the following, three passenger cars, eleven trucks, four tractors, four power mowers, saw mill, drag saw and tree sprayer were given a general overhauling and painting. Lack of any mechanics made it necessary to detail automobile enginemen to make the motor repairs and climbers and pruners to do the painting. Much difficulty was experienced in keeping three of our trucks in satisfactory condition. Two of these are 1920 Fords and one a 1918 Oldsmobile which should be replaced by new equipment.

ARBORICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In the green house over 35,000 bedding plants were propagated including Cannas, Geraniums, Salvias, Begonias, Alyssum, Asters, Coleus, Petunias, Althenanthirias and Cyclamen. These were transplanted in the flower beds situated in the various parks and parkways. Many new flower beds were established during the year in Silver Lake Park which add considerable beauty to this very attractive park. In addition to the plants already mentioned many perennials were grown, such as, Delphinium, Dianthus, Lupins, Shasta Daisy, Foxgloves, Gaillardia, Veronicas, Columbines, Pentstemons and Hardy Chrysanthemums. All these being planted in permanent locations wherever needed. Of the indoor chrysanthemums over sixty varieties were grown and exhibited with great success. These beautiful flowers were greatly admired by the public who visited the greenhouse during the months of October and November. Not only did the people of Richmond enjoy these flowers but Manhattan and Brooklyn were represented among the visitors.

Trees on streets, parks and boulevards being an important branch of departmental work, require a constant supervision, and a great amount of labor is being done in this direction. A remarkable improvement has taken

place in the condition of trees in this Borough. A constant menace to tree life is the electric wires which in this Borough run overhead, very often causing irreparable damage. The trimming of trees so as to avoid contact with these high powered wires is absolutely necessary and a careful examination of all trees effected is a part of the daily routine work.

Park Force	Individuals
Removed	Removed
Trimmed	Trimmed
Planted	
Sprayed	

A serious menace to tree life in this Borough is the many insects of various kinds such as Tent Caterpillar, Bagworm, Gypsy and Brown Tail Moth. The danger to trees from these pests cannot be too greatly stressed and a constant spraying is absolutely necessary to combat this nuisance. In connection with this important work, I would recommend that a more powerful spraying apparatus be secured in order that better results may be obtained.

REPORT OF THE PARK ENGINEER

The work of the Engineering Department for the past year has been confined in the most part to the development of Faber Park and the completion of the eighteen hole golf course in Silver Lake Park.

A plan for the development of Willowbrook Park was completed and preliminary surveys together with preliminary estimates were prepared for the cost of this development work. An appropriation of \$220,000., will be requested to commence this construction work next year.

Studies were made, plans were drawn and assessed valuations obtained for the acquisition of additional lands to extend our present park system in this Borough. These studies also provided for the laying out of two parkways connecting the various parks.

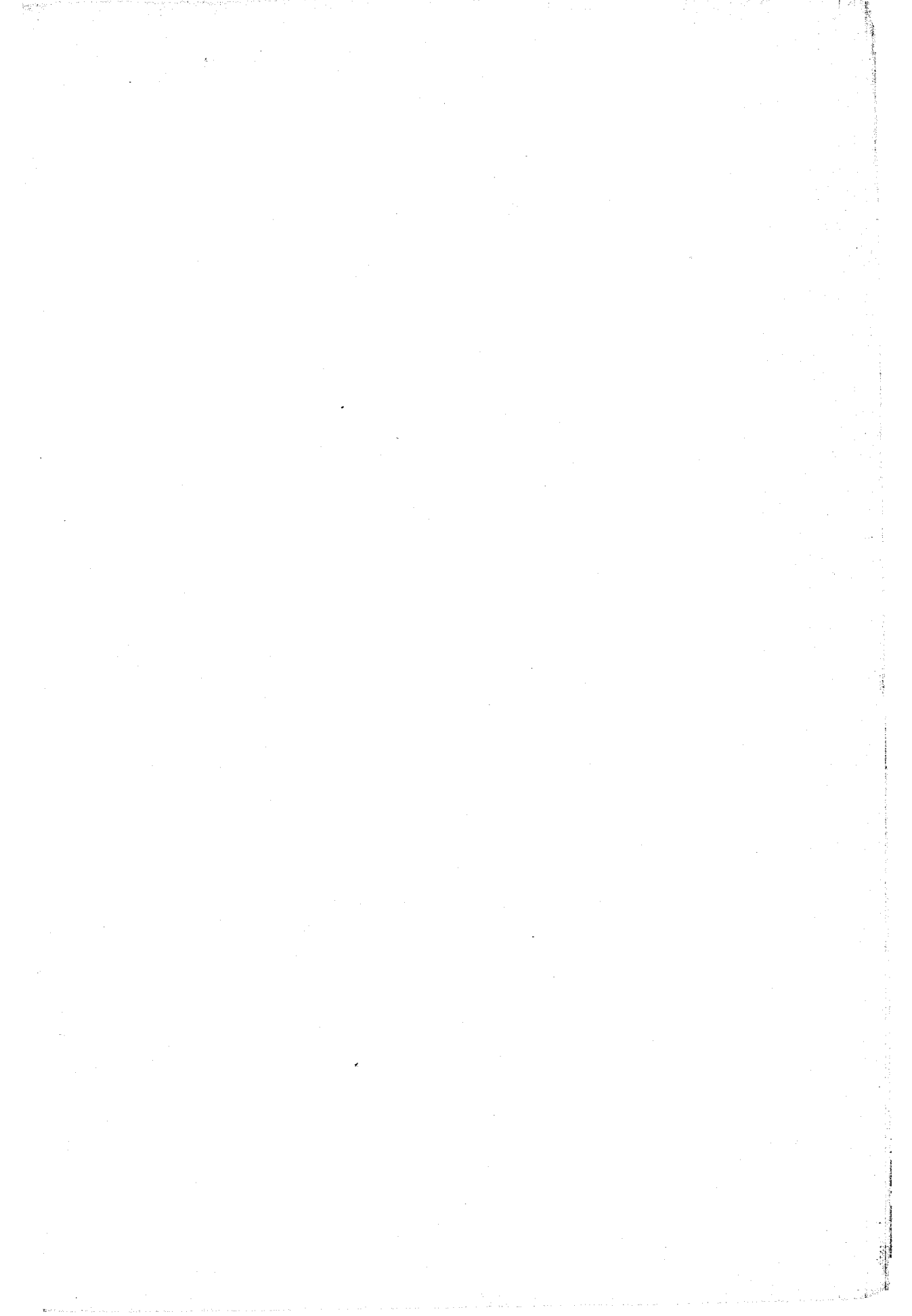
Two contracts were let for construction work in Faber Park. One of these consisted of the erection of a crib bulkhead along the pierhead line and the other was for the excavation and filling in behind this crib bulkhead. With those two contracts completed, the area of the park will be doubled. Preliminary estimates and plans have been prepared for the construction of a swimming pool, children's wading pool, bathhouse and recreational building in this park and an appropriation will be requested for this work next year.

In Silver Lake Park four tennis courts were built and the grading work around the golf clubhouse together with a parking space and driveway were constructed.

At Westerleigh Park an iron rail fence was erected around the walks. This fence has aided the Department considerably in maintaining the park.

A survey was made and a plan prepared for the 162 acres of land at New Springville under the jurisdiction of the Department of Water Supply. An application was made by the Sinking Fund Commission to have this property transferred to the Park Department for park purposes. The request was granted and this property will be developed in the near future.

In closing this report, I would like to call your attention to the fact that the Board of Estimate in the past few years has acquired five large parks in this Borough, whose combined area is approximately 2,100 acres. The boundary lines of these parks are very irregular and difficult to lay out, no topographical surveys have been made or plans prepared for their development. Before these parks can be laid out all this preliminary work must be done. The present engineering force is inadequate to perform this work as their time is completely occupied in the preparation and supervision of contracts for the improvement of the existing parks. It is most important at this time that the present engineering force be increased so that the preliminary surveys, topographical surveys and landscape drawings of these parks may be completed before any construction work starts.



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Annual Report

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

OF THE

Borough of Richmond

CITY OF NEW YORK

1930

JOHN J. O'ROURKE, Commissioner

JOHN R. DWYER, Superintendent FREDERICK H. GROSS, Engineer

MAURICE GALVIN, Secretary OTTO J. LUNDT, Arboriculturist

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CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
BOROUGH HALL
NEW BRIGHTON, S. I.

JOHN J. O'ROURKE, *Commissioner*

February 11, 1931.

Hon. James J. Walker,
Mayor,
City of New York.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of the Charter,
I herewith present the Annual Report of this Department for
the year 1930.

Yours very truly,

JOHN J. O'ROURKE
Park Commissioner.

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ANNUAL REPORT

1930

The present park system is indicated by the following parks and playgrounds:

Name and Location of Parks	Area in Acres
Clove Lakes Park, West New Brighton.....	191.
LaTourette Park, Richmond.....	580.
Silver Lake Park, Tompkinsville.....	207.
Willowbrook Park, Bulls Head.....	106.
Marine Park, Great Kills.....	780.
New Springville Park, New Springville.....	162.
Wolfes Pond Park, Princes Bay.....	227.
Westerleigh Park, Westerleigh.....	2.87
Faber Park, Port Richmond.....	2.00
Hero Park, Tompkinsville.....	1.92
Washington Park, Stapleton.....	1.43
Port Richmond Park, Port Richmond.....	1.28
Haven Esplanade, Tompkinsville.....	1.18
Conference House Park, Tottenville.....	.60
Tompkinsville Park, Tompkinsville.....	.044

Playgrounds	Area in Acres
Rosebank	0.30
Mariners Harbor	1.00
Randall Manor.....	1.50
Stapleton	0.80
Victory Boulevard at Tompkinsville.....	1.00
Jewett Avenue	1.00
Burgher Avenue	0.60

PARK MAINTENANCE AND ACTIVITIES

The two golf courses, namely, LaTourette and Silver Lake, were opened to the public on April 20th, and closed December 1st. Golf increased tremendously in popularity during 1930 and a close estimate of the number of rounds played at each course was as follows:

LaTourette—77,750 nine hole rounds.

Silver Lake—82,000 eighteen hole rounds.

Estimating two divots for each round, that were not replaced, it gives some idea of what golf course maintenance means. At LaTourette three

(four)

new greens were built and one remodeled. In building a new seventh green, it was necessary to make a fill of approximately 2500 cubic yards. All of these greens will be ready for play in June of 1931.

It was necessary several times during the playing season to close the greens at Silver Lake and use temporary holes. On these occasions the greens were top-dressed and seeded and allowed to recover some strength.

In early spring fifteen hundred feet of four (4") inch drain pipe were laid to eliminate wet spots in various parts of the course.

Fairways at both courses were top-dressed and fertilized during November and about 6,000 cubic yards of stone were removed from the fairways and rough at Silver Lake Park. Emergency employees were used for this work.

It was necessary to drain the pond that parallels the ninth and tenth holes so as the bottom could be cleaned of a heavy growth of water moss. This entailed considerable labor due to the muddy condition of its bottom surface.

In Clove Lakes Park, a constant patrol was maintained to prevent brush fires and accidents during the bathing and skating seasons. Under the supervision of our regular department force, two hundred and fifty men supplied by the Prosser Emergency Bureau, built a combination bridle path and running track. It crosses hill and dale and encircles the chain of lakes within its borders for a distance of approximately six miles. Upon the completion of the path and track, the task of clearing underbrush, dead trees and stumps was started and good progress has been made.

Willowbrook, Conference House, Wolfes Pond and Crookes Point Parks also received attention with the help of Prosser Committee men. Bungalows debris and brush being removed and cleared.

Mowing of lawns with hand machines was eliminated wherever possible, this work being done by tractor gang mowers and small power cutters.

In the smaller neighborhood parks the usual routine maintenance work was efficiently conducted. Fences, benches, flag poles and all buildings were painted. The failure of the water system and the appearance of a grub worm in Port Richmond Park totally destroyed the lawns and flower beds of this park. A new water system has been provided for and the lawn will be plowed and treated to eliminate the grub worm before seeding in 1931.

PLAYGROUNDS AND ATHLETICS

Lack of play supervisors made it necessary to conduct playground activities under the direction of laborers. The men detailed to this work were not only required to direct the children's play, but were responsible also for the condition of the equipment and play yards.

The outstanding athletic event which this department helped sponsor, was the National Marathon Championship conducted under the direction of the James J. Tappen Post of the American Legion. Contestants from

(five)

various parts of this country and Canada took part. It was estimated by the Police Department and committee in charge that about twenty-five thousand people crowded into Silver Lake Park and the immediate vicinity to witness the start and finish of the race, which point was in front of the golf clubhouse. Silver Lake Park Golf Club was used as headquarters for all committees and the locker rooms utilized as dressing rooms.

Twelve cross country races and a July 4th athletic meet were other events in which the Tappen Post and this Department cooperated.

MUSIC

Concerts during July and August were, as usual, well attended. Forty-five concerts were given at various communities throughout Richmond Borough.

MOTOR EQUIPMENT

All motor equipment received a complete overhauling at some time during the year. As the budget does not provide mechanics or sufficient funds to contract for this work, it is necessary to detail laborers and auto enginemen to these repairs. Our motor equipment consists of the following: 4 passenger cars, 5 Ford trucks, 1 Brockway truck, 5 Chevrolet trucks, 5 Worthington tractors, 5 power grass mowers, 1 Drag saw and 1 Table saw.

ARBORICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Trees on streets, parks and boulevards require a constant supervision and a good deal of work is being done in this direction. A remarkable improvement has taken place in the condition of street trees in this borough during the past year, thousands of dead and dangerous trees having been removed. Electric wires which run overhead are a constant danger to trees and very often cause irreparable damage. The trimming of trees so as to avoid contact with these high powered wires is absolutely necessary and a careful examination of all trees affected is part of the daily routine work.

A serious menace to tree life in this borough is the many insects of various kinds such as the Bagworm, Tent Caterpillar, Gypsy and Brown Tail Moth. The danger from these pests cannot be too greatly stressed and constant spraying is necessary to combat this nuisance.

In connection with this important work I would recommend that a more powerful spraying apparatus be secured in order that better results may be obtained. Many trees are being attacked by Fungus. The disastrous work of this disease being rarely discovered until it is too late to save the tree. A careful study of Fungus diseases is now being made by the

(*sir*)

Arboriculturist of this Department and preventative measures are taken to keep trees, shrubs and plants in a clean healthy condition at all times.

Trees Removed	2078
Trees Trimmed	12084
Trees Sprayed	18000
Trees Planted	400

GREENHOUSE ACTIVITIES

Over thirty-five thousand bedding plants were propagated and planted in the various parks and parkways in this borough. This included all plants generally used for summer bedding and hardy perennials grown for permanent outdoor locations. Some of these plants are Delphinium, Dianthus, Lupins, Gaillardia, Phlox Paffies, Astor Columbines, Foxgloves, Shasta Daisies, Coreopsis Pentstemon, Veronica, Pysethnum and hardy Chrysanthemums.

Over three thousand indoor chrysanthemums were grown and exhibited during the months of October and November. The display of these magnificent flowers was thoroughly enjoyed by the public and attracted the attention not only of the people of Richmond but also of the other boroughs.

REPORT OF THE PARK ENGINEER

The appropriation granted this year by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for the improvement and development of the parks in this borough totaled \$415,600. This appropriation was apportioned as follows:

- \$180,000. for the development of Willowbrook Park.
- 140,000. for the construction of a swimming pool and bathhouse at Faber Park.
- 35,000. for the renovating of the brick house at LaTourette to be used as a Golf Club House.
- 50,000. for the construction of a garage at Clove Lakes Park.
- 4,000. for a drive and grading at this garage.
- 5,700. for improvement at Silver Lake Park.
- 900. to install a water supply system at Port Richmond Park.

A contract was let for \$9,636. to the Evans Clearing Corporation for the removal of trees, stumps and otherwise clearing a portion of Willowbrook Park. Plans and specifications for a 54" and 60" diameter sewer to drain Willowbrook Park at an estimated cost of \$80,000. have been forwarded to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for approval. Plans and specifications for excavating a lake and filling in swamps at an estimated cost of \$70,000. have been prepared and will be forwarded to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment as soon as the sewer contract is commenced.

(seven)

Plans and specifications for a swimming pool 75'x150' together with a bathhouse and recreation hall in Faber Park at a cost of \$140,000. are being prepared and work will start on this construction soon after the first of the year.

The garage at Clove Lakes Park was completed at a cost of \$50,000. A contract for the construction of an entrance drive and grading around this garage was awarded to Rocco Lauria Inc., for \$2,965.

Plans and specifications have been prepared by Sibley and Fetherston for the renovating of the brick house at LaTourette into a Golf Club House at an estimated cost of \$35,000. These plans and specifications are now before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment awaiting their approval.

A contract was awarded to Rocco Lauria for erecting a 12'-0" high backstop fence around the tennis courts at Silver Lake Park, a 7'-0" high non-climbable fence along Clove Road and laying a 15" diameter Vitrified Tile Pipe all in Silver Lake Park for the sum of \$3,900.

A contract for the installation of a water supply system in Port Richmond was awarded to Rocco Lauria at a cost of \$680. This contract was completed.

In addition to the preparation of plans and specifications for the above mentioned contracts and the supervision of the construction of same, the Engineering Department this year prepared a comprehensive plan for a park and playground system for the Borough of Richmond. This plan was approved and adopted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and an approximate sum of \$3,300,000. was apportioned to this Borough for the acquisition of land for these proposed sites.

Due to the unemployment situation several hundred laborers were employed during the last two months of this year cleaning up the various parks, constructing a bridle path in Clove Lakes Park, removing dead trees and stumps and sawing resultant wood from these trees. This wood was distributed to the various needy families on the Island who were recommended to this Department by the several Charitable Organizations.

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MAURICE GALVIN, Secretary OTTO J. LUNDT, Arboriculturist

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CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
BOROUGH HALL
NEW BRIGHTON, S. I.

JOHN J. O'ROURKE, *Commissioner*

January 28, 1932.

Hon. James J. Walker,
Mayor,
City of New York.

Dear Sir :

In accordance with the provisions of the Charter,
I herewith present the Annual Report of this Department for
the year 1931.

Yours very truly,

JOHN J. O'ROURKE
Park Commissioner.

(three)

ANNUAL REPORT

1931

The regular maintenance work of the Department was carried on in the same efficient manner as in previous years. All park benches, fences, flag poles and buildings were painted, walks and drinking fountains were repaired.

Complaints received from citizens were personally investigated and difficulties adjusted to the satisfaction of both parties. To properly supervise the improvement work in our parks, it was necessary to detail Laborers from the regular Department force as Acting Foremen over gangs of Emergency Laborers. A brief resume of work accomplished is as follows:

CLOVE LAKES PARK

Six mile running track and bridle path widened and surface improved.

Twenty-five acres of ground graded and seeded.

The following buildings erected: 1½ story storage shed 20x40, saw-mill 12x14, blacksmith shop 14x16.

Service road 1500 feet long from Slosson Avenue to storage shed and yard was built.

Baseball field with backstop and small bleacher stand graded and built.

Four hundred and fifty feet of 12 inch diameter pipe was laid on Slosson Avenue and Martlings Lane. This permitted the elimination of the wide ditch that existed in this spot.

Underbrush cleared and stumps removed from 110 acres.

SILVER LAKE PARK

Fifty thousand square feet of sod laid in park and on golf course. This work was done mostly on slopes where difficulty was experienced in getting seed to take hold.

Two small lakes drained and bottoms cleared of weeds.

Resurfaced one-quarter mile of park walk.

Eleven garage doors replaced.

Caddy shed at golf course constructed

Greenhouse benches rebuilt.

No. 13 golf green rebuilt.

Eight thousand cubic yards of stone removed from fairways and rough, carted to Clove Lakes Park where it will be used to build a stone wall and fill.

(four)

LATOURETTE PARK

Three golf greens remodeled and two sand traps built.

Storehouse for painting and storing park benches was constructed.

Main roadway to park widened 10 feet by eliminating high bank at side of road. Dirt was used to fill swamp area in park.

Cleared 40 acres of underbrush, stumps and dead trees.

A sod nursery of 4 acres was prepared and planted.

WILLOWBROOK PARK

Eight hundred loads of wood cut from dead trees were delivered to poor families.

LIVINGSTON PLAYFIELD

This playfield was acquired during the past summer and was in need of immediate overhauling.

A new roof, gutters, leaders and three coats of paint were necessary to make the clubhouse presentable.

A ten foot wire fence was red leaded and painted.

An old wooden fence, 400 feet long, was removed and a heavy galvanized wire fence 8 feet high erected in its place.

Old backstops for eight tennis courts were removed and new ones erected.

The ladies clubhouse was in such poor condition that it was removed and the ground cleared for another tennis court.

Two sheds were removed and a new storage house built.

Clay tennis courts were resurfaced and the grass playing field fertilized and top dressed.

PORT RICHMOND PARK

The entire lawns of this park were destroyed by grub worms. It was necessary to give it three treatments of arsenate of lead before the worms were eliminated and the ground reseeded.

Curb stone around the entire park was reset and raised to meet the level of existing sidewalk grade.

WASHINGTON PARK

All lawns of this park were ploughed and reseeded.

WESTERLEIGH PARK

Walks and drinking fountains repaired.

Lawns top dressed and fertilized.

HERO PARK

Retaining wall was repaired.

Lawns were fertilized.

The base of flag pole was in bad condition and had to be reset.

PLAYGROUNDS AND ATHLETICS

A new playground at Richmond was added to the list of those already in operation. Considerable repair work was necessary to put the Stapleton, Rosebank and Mariners Harbor Playgrounds in condition both as to apparatus and grounds.

The Department cooperated with the Tappen Post American Legion and Amateur Athletic Union in conducting cross country runs at Clove Lakes Park. These races ranged in distance from two to twenty miles and were always well attended.

An ice derby was conducted at Martlings Pond and the attendance was estimated to be close to 15,000 people.

MUSIC

The usual number of band concerts were conducted in various communities throughout the Borough. It was very fortunate that only a few were interrupted by weather conditions.

GOLF

Silver Lake and LaTourette Golf Courses received a larger play than the previous year. A close estimate of the number of rounds played at Silver Lake is 90,000 and for LaTourette 78,000. The humid weather during the playing season called for utmost attention and care to be given the putting greens daily, brown patches appeared constantly but were successfully prevented from spreading with the result that temporary greens were seldom used. Revenues from season and daily passes increased over previous years.

MOTOR REQUIREMENT

All trucks, tractors and power machines received a thorough overhauling at sometime during the year.

The present park system is indicated by the following parks and playgrounds:

Name and Location of Parks	Area in Acres
Clove Lakes Park, West New Brighton.....	191.
LaTourette Park, Richmond.....	580.
Silver Lake Park, Tompkinsville.....	207.
Willowbrook Park, Bulls Head.....	106.
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Port Richmond Park, Port Richmond.....	1.28
Haven Esplanade, Tompkinsville.....	1.18
Conference House Park, Tottenville.....	0.60
Tompkinsville Park, Tompkinsville.....	0.44

Playgrounds	Area in Acres
Rosebank	0.30
Mariners Harbor	1.00
Randall Manor.....	1.50
Stapleton	0.80
Victory Boulevard at Tompkinsville.....	1.00
Jewett Avenue	1.00
Richmond	0.50
Livingston	5.50

ARBORICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Trees on streets and boulevards being an important branch of Departmental work, require a constant supervision and a great amount of labor is being done in this direction. Only such trees being removed as are found to be either dead or dangerously decayed. Electric wires, which in this Borough run overhead, and through the trees, often cause irreparable damage. Therefor, the trees are so trimmed as to avoid contact with these high powered wires. A careful examination of trees, the branches of which might come in contact with these wires, is part of the daily routine work.

(seven)

A serious menace to tree life in this Borough is the many insects of various kinds such as Tent Caterpillar, Bag Worm, Gypsy and Brown Tail Moth. The danger to trees from these pests cannot be too greatly stressed and a constant spraying is absolutely necessary to combat this nuisance.

In connection with this important work I would recommend that a more powerful spraying apparatus be secured in order that better results may be obtained.

Trees Removed	1,982
Trees Trimmed	18,000
Trees Sprayed	22,000
Trees Planted	300

In the Greenhouse over 40,000 bedding plants were propagated including Cannas, Geraniums, Salvias, Begonias, Alyssum, Asters, Coleus, Petunias, Althemanthirias and Cyclamen. These were transplanted in the flower beds situated in the various parks and parkways. Many new flower beds were established during the year in Silver Lake Park which add considerable beauty to this very attractive park. In addition to the plants already mentioned many perennials were grown, such as, Delphinium, Dianthus, Lupins, Shasta Daisy, Foxgloves, Gaillardia, Veronicas, Columbines, Pentstemons and Hardy Chrysanthemums. All these being planted in permanent locations wherever needed. Of the indoor Chrysanthemums over sixty varieties were grown and exhibited with great success. These beautiful flowers were greatly admired by the public who visited the Greenhouse during the months of October and November. Not only did the people of Richmond enjoy these flowers, but Manhattan and Brooklyn were represented among the visitors.

REPORT OF THE PARK ENGINEER

This Department is responsible for all the engineering, construction and development work necessary in the park system of this Borough. The Engineering work includes topographical and property surveys; preliminary estimates for cost of construction work and a varied range of studies and investigations for the development of the several parks in the park system. The work also includes all structural designs, working plans and specifications and finally the inspection and supervision of all construction operations.

SILVER LAKE PARK

A contract for the construction of a 7'-0" high wire fence along Clove Road and a 12'-0" high backstop fence around the tennis courts at the golf clubhouse was let to Lauria Construction Company, Inc., and completed at a cost of \$1,979.86.

(eight)

CLOVE LAKES PARK

A contract was let for the construction of an entrance drive, grading and seeding at the new garage in this park to Lauria Construction Company, Inc., and completed for the sum of \$3,169.00.

LATOURETTE PARK

Six contracts were let and completed for the renovating of the brick house to be used as a golf clubhouse and as an office for the Engineering Bureau of this Department. The total amount of these contracts was \$29,768.08. A contract for the furnishing and equipment of this clubhouse and Engineering quarters will be let in the early part of the new year.

This new clubhouse with its showers, lockers and restaurant will be opened to the public in the spring of 1932. It will provide excellent facilities for the thousands of golfers who use the golf links in this Park.

WILLOWBROOK PARK

Construction work on the improvement of this park was commenced this year and considerable progress was made. This park is being developed with the view of making it the recreational centre for Staten Island. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment appropriated \$180,000.00 to commence the improvement work, of which to date approximately \$135,000.00 has been encumbered. A considerable portion of this money has been expended in diverting the brooks and reclaiming the many acres of swamp land in this park. This work will eliminate a large mosquito infested area near Port Richmond and considerably increase the value of the property in this neighborhood.

The diversion of the brooks in this park necessitated the construction of a 60" drain in Richmond Avenue and Signs Road. This work was done by the Office of the President of the Borough at a cost of \$45,940.56. This money was transferred from the appropriation to develop the park.

The following contracts have been awarded:

For removing and disposing of dead trees, dead stumps, together with clearing underbrush to Evans Clearing Corporation for the sum of \$9,999.00.

For constructing a 54" Diameter and a 60" Diameter Corrugated Metal Drain Pipe to the Vanbro Construction Company for the sum of \$16,291.00.

For excavating a lake, filling in swamp and constructing concrete outlet to the Bristow Construction Company for the sum of \$30,619.00.

For constructing Reinforced Concrete Culvert 48" Diameter Metal Drain Pipe and shaping existing brook to Lauria Construction Company, Inc., for the sum of \$8,422.00.

In addition to these the Office of the Borough President of Richmond awarded a contract Klostergard for the construction of a 60" Diameter Reinforced Concrete Drain in Richmond Avenue and Signs Road at a cost of \$45,940.56.

FABER PARK

This park is in Port Richmond along the Kill Van Kull approximately four acres. Plans and specifications were prepared by Sibley and Fetherston for a swimming pool, children's wading pool, bathhouse and recreational building. The pool will be 75'x140', fresh water, 12' deep at the center, diving boards and other swimming apparatus.

Four contracts were let for the construction of this swimming pool, children's wading pool and bathhouse as follows:

General contract for constructing pool and bathhouse to the Hold Construction Company for \$91,694.00.

Contract for furnishing and installing Electric equipment to the Dropkin Brothers for \$4,950.00.

Contract for installing a Plumbing System to Robert W. Baylor for \$15,637.00.

Contract for installing a Heating System to Robert W. Baylor for \$3,468.00.

In addition to these a contract was let for the grading of the park, constructing walks, seeding and sodding, furnishing playground equipment and otherwise improving the park to J. V. Pederson for \$17,272.20.

It is hoped to have all these contracts completed so that the pool can be opened to the public about June 1st, 1932. The pool will accommodate several thousand bathers each day and bring to the people of the north shore of this Borough a much needed improvement.

MARINE PARK

Several weeks were spent this spring by the Engineering Department in establishing base lines and running levels over to Crookes Point. From here the revised bulkhead and pierhead lines were determined and soundings taken.

A preliminary plan and an estimated cost for constructing this bulkhead was prepared and a request for an appropriation of \$280,000.00 was presented to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. This appropriation also included a sufficient sum to engage a Landscape Architect to prepare a landscape drawing of this park.

A plan was prepared for a revision of the bulkhead and pierhead lines in front of and adjacent to this park. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment approved of this plan and made application to the War Department for this revision. The War Department will hold a hearing on this matter in the near future.

Annual Report

OF THE

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OF THE

Borough of Richmond

CITY OF NEW YORK

1932

JOHN J. O'ROURKE, Commissioner

JOHN R. DWYER, Superintendent

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CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
BOROUGH HALL
NEW BRIGHTON, S. I.

JOHN J. O'ROURKE, *Commissioner*

January 10, 1933.

Hon. John P. O'Brien,
Mayor,
City of New York.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of the Charter, I
herewith present the Annual Report of this Department for the
year 1932.

Yours very truly,

JOHN J. O'ROURKE,
Park Commissioner.

(three)

ANNUAL REPORT

1933

To the Honorable John P. O'Brien,
Mayor of the City of New York,
City Hall, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

This report rounds out the record of the first ten years of the Park Department for the Borough of Richmond. In the previous reports is set forth the story of the laying out of a comprehensive park and playground system for this borough and the work done to date in the development of that system.

A brief comparison of the Park Department as it is today and as it was ten years ago, will give you an idea of the remarkable changes accomplished within the past decade. Ten years ago the park system of this borough consisted of three small neighborhood parks, namely, Port Richmond, Stapleton and Tompkinsville Parks, several small parkways and the undeveloped tract of land surrounding the Silver Lake reservoir. The total area of this system was about 170 acres. There were no playgrounds and no revenue was obtained from these parks at that time.

At the present time the park system comprises seven large parks, namely, Clove Lakes, Silver Lake, Willowbrook, LaTourette, Marine, New Springville and Wolfes Pond Parks; five small neighborhood parks, namely, Port Richmond, Washington, Stapleton, Westerleigh and Faber Parks; one memorial park, namely, Hero Park; one historical park, namely, Conference House Park and nine playgrounds. The total area of this system is about 2,300 acres. The revenue derived for the year 1932 from these parks and playgrounds was \$56,441.89.

To keep abreast of this borough's general expansion and growth it is clear that a continuing program of park development and construction work is required. This program must be shaped to meet as far as possible the demands for public improvements, but confined within the limits of the resources of the City to meet such demands without burdensome taxation. Another essential factor in the formulation of such a program is the maintenance of a proper balance as between developments for recreational purposes and natural park landscaping.

To extend the range of recreational uses and provide needed and more intensively used facilities, I have carried on a construction program to provide playgrounds, golf courses, athletic fields, swimming pool, tennis courts, bridle paths, boating and skating and to improve the beaches. An

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important underlying principle governing this program is that such developments are planned and carried out, not as localized projects for the small communities in which they are located, but as a proper coordinated system of parks for the use of the citizens of the City as a whole.

I believe that the governing principle as to the use of public parks is that natural park lands involving but little outlay beyond the cost of the land, obviously should be entirely free, but that there should be moderate charges for special services such as swimming pools, golf courses, tennis courts, boating and similar amusement features. The most rational policy respecting the furnishing and operating of all recreational facilities which involve construction work, operating and maintenance expenses is, in my opinion, to establish such facilities on a self supporting basis through moderate charges to meet the operating and maintenance expenses and in some instances amortization charges. On ethical or moral grounds this policy has the advantage of enabling our citizens to maintain their independence and self-respect by paying reasonable charges for special facilities and services. From a business standpoint this provides an equitable allocation of the operating expenses of such facilities directly to those making use of them rather than distributing these expenses as a general tax.

For this the first year of its operation, I am proud to be able to turn over to the Sinking Fund Commission earnings in excess of the total cost of operating and maintaining the new swimming pool, children's wading pool and playground in Faber Park. Notwithstanding the fact that the pool was not opened until July 16, the total attendance until it closed on September 15, was 95,166 or an average of 1,600 bathers a day. The total receipts were \$10,071.55 and the total expenditures were \$6,900.00 which left a balance of \$3,171.55.

There was a slight fall off in attendance and receipts at the Silver Lake and LaTourette golf courses this year. However when a comparison is made with other public sports and recreational facilities, it is seen that the slight decrease registered at these golf courses is very small in comparison to the others. Approximately 150,000 rounds of golf were played on the two courses during the past season and the total revenue derived from them was \$35,983.00.

The renovation of the old brick residence at LaTourette Park into a golf clubhouse with restaurant facilities was completed this year. This much needed improvement was greatly appreciated by the many golfers who used the course and when the interior furnishings and decorations are installed it will be one of the finest public golf clubhouses within the metropolitan area.

The receipts and attendance at the fourteen tennis courts in Silver Lake

(five)

Park and Livingston showed an increase this year. The old clubhouse at Livingston took fire this year due to a short circuit in the wiring system. With the aid of the unemployed laborers, the house was rebuilt and restored to a first class condition. With the acquisition of the Livingston Park, the City has commenced the development of public parks tennis in this borough and this year no less than nine public parks championships were held on these courts.

The cricket field in this parks was used this summer to play matches in the New York, New Jersey Cricket League. A special series of match games were played by the champion Australian Cricket team that toured America this year with a picked team consisting of members of the various Metropolitan Cricket teams of New York.

With the opening of Faber Park this summer, one of Staten Island's best children's playfields was opened. This playfield is located in the thickly populated section of Port Richmond and with all its modern children's playfield apparatus and fifty foot diameter concrete wading pool fills a long felt need in this community.

Among the largest and most difficult undertakings for this year, has been the development of Clove Lakes Park. The work of widening and the deepening of Richmond Lake in this park, together with the draining, filling and grading is rapidly transforming the low marshy swamp land into firm ground, and with the seeding of this filled-in land, the construction of two stone faced arched bridges, the building of a boathouse and refectory, the construction of an athletic field house and rest rooms will not only supply a twenty acre playfield area, but will also form a feature of uncommon beauty for the use and enjoyment of the public.

Second in importance to the work accomplished in Clove Lakes Park is the remarkable improvement shown in the development of Willowbrook Park. This park situated as it is in the centre of the island is to be developed as the recreational centre for the park system of the borough. In this park, space is being provided for baseball fields, football fields, soccer field, girls field hockey, tennis courts, handball courts and a one-quarter mile running track and stadium. The lake will be used for boating and fishing in the summer and skating and hockey in the winter. The wooded area will be used for picnics and outdoor parties.

All the excavated material obtained in digging the artificial lake in this park was used to fill in the 50 acres of swamp land. A drain pipe 24" in diameter and 2,100 feet long was laid from the outlet of the lake thru the park to a 60" sewer. With the spreading of the topsoil over the ungraded area and the seeding of same, I am pleased to say, that a considerable portion of this park will be made available to the public this summer.

At this time, I wish to bring to your attention the fact that all the development work done in the improvement of Clove Lakes Park and a considerable portion of that done in Willowbrook Park was accomplished thru the Emergency Work Bureau of this City. In order to spread employment as much as possible, a stagger system of employment was applied to the laborers supplied this department by that bureau. Under this arrangement about 800 laborers were given four days work a week, alternating each week, so that one-half the force worked one week and then were idle one week.

Approximately eighty percent of these laborers were used in the construction department and twenty percent were turned over to the maintenance and forestry department. With the aid of these unemployed laborers considerable work was done in the various parks and more particularly the smaller parks.

In Clove Lakes Park many stumps and dead trees were removed, the bridle path and running track were improved, the park was patrolled, which prevented a considerable amount of vandalism and 25 acres of heavy underbrush were removed.

In Silver Lake Park about one hundred thousand square feet of sod was laid, many large stones and boulders were removed from the fairways of the golf course, all the greens on the golf course were resurfaced by a light layer of topsoil, a storehouse 30'x40' in the rear of the present garage was constructed to house all the golf course equipment and a considerable amount of fill was deposited in the large hole in the rear of No. 11 green.

In LaTourette Park, thirty acres of underbrush and heavily wooded undergrowth was cleared, an old building was remodeled and renovated to store the golf course equipment, the old slave building and outhouse were destroyed near No. 3 green, an additional sod nursery of four acres were prepared and planted and about 50,000 sq. ft. of sod was placed on the fairways of the golf course.

In Willowbrook Park several hundred dead trees and stumps were removed and the wood delivered to poor families, forty acres of farm land were grubbed, raked and graded, two baseball diamonds were constructed and twenty acres of heavy underbrush was cleared in the wooded area.

In Wolfes Pond Park a driveway was constructed about 2,000 feet long from the Hylan Blvd. to the beach, a rustic fence was constructed along the bank of the beach to protect children from falling over, the woods in this park were patrolled as many fine specimen trees were found to have been removed and the brook running into the lake was deepened and widened.

In Marine Park a force of men were employed all summer patrolling the beach, removing debris and clearing Crookes Point of all rubbish.

The Conference House Park was all regraded, four inches of topsoil spread over the area and then reseeded. The Staats Circle on Hylan Blvd. was ploughed, raked, four inches of topsoil spread thereon and seeded.

In view of the present world conditions I favor a very conservative policy in expenditure of public funds for parks and improvements at the present time. Fortunate it is that such a policy can now be followed without affecting the comprehensiveness of the park system for this borough. Most of the necessary land for this system has been acquired with the acquisition of the various small parcels of land as called for in the report of the Special Committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, dated July 1930, landscape development plans of the several parcels included within the park system can be prepared.

The report and recommendations made to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, not only included a park system for this borough, but also took into consideration a playground and playfield system. At this time, I think it appropriate to explain what this department had in view when recommending the above system, so that in the future this plan will be continued and carried out to a successful completion.

The seven large parks comprising this system shall be devoted for the usual natural or cultivated plantation of trees, shrubs, lawns and flowers, with such driveways and other structures as may encourage the fullest and most leisurely enjoyment of the reservation, such as a botanical garden and a zoological park. The two waterfront parks are to be developed as a Marine Park and as a seaside park, "Playgrounds pervert parks" and for that reason a playground system comprising thirty-eight playgrounds was recommended. These playgrounds were so situated that no resident of the borough would have to walk three-quarters of a mile to secure recreation.

Some of these playgrounds are in thickly populated areas and due to the high assessed valuation of property in that vicinity, they can only be small plots of from one to three acres. These will only be used for small children's playgrounds. That is for children between the ages of five and thirteen years. The majority of the playground sites, however, will be from five to ten acres in area. For convenience these areas may be described as "PARKED PLAYFIELDS".

A small portion of these parked playfields will be allotted to playgrounds for small children between the ages of five years and thirteen years, and the balance of the field representing the larger area can be used as a place where adult men and women, boys and girls of more mature years, may seek exercise and relaxation through such provided equipment as baseball diamonds, handball courts, tennis courts, football fields, field hockey, volley ball, swimming pools and soccer.

The primary purpose of these parked playfields is to provide a landscape area contributing to the aesthetic appreciation of the people, and providing passive recreation in its inviting seats and benches. The landscaped area can include a small play place for infants.

These playfields located throughout the borough provide a valuable and desirable adornment to the neighborhood and as these neighborhoods become more thickly populated, the playfields will provide fairly large spaces for the admission of sunlight and the free circulation of air. It is also obvious that these playfields properly landscaped will provide the nucleus of an attractive community, and since a system of such parked playfields properly distributed over the Borough would overlap their respective Zones of Influence, it is readily seen that an invaluable aid to maintaining a higher character of borough development would be provided and a very definite preventive of slum growth would be created.

With the development of the several parks, the small playgrounds and the parked playfields as proposed in the plan of this department, the Borough of Richmond can look forward to a future wherein the essential park and recreational areas consistent with intelligent City planning have been provided with commendable foresight.

Due to the present demand for economy, I have recommended very little construction work to be done this year. The development of Faber Park was completed this year and several contracts were completed in the development of Willowbrook Park. Only one appropriation for new work was requested, and that was for the construction of a bulkhead in the Marine Park at Crookes Point. There is an urgent necessity for this bulkhead and it is my intention to submit a request for an appropriation to construct this structure in 1933.

This being the bi-centennial year for the commemoration of George Washington, the several chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution on Staten Island erected a few memorial tablets in several parks. A bronze memorial tablet with a granite base was placed in Faber Park commemorating the trip of George Washington through the Kill van Kull during the Revolutionary War.

At the conference House Park in Tottenville, thirteen spruce trees were planted in memory of the original thirteen colonies and a rose garden was added to the existing botanical garden located in this park.

It has been my policy to make all park lands available for the fullest possible public use as soon as they are turned over to my jurisdiction. Encumbrances are removed and all dangerous objects are cleared away and the parks are cleaned up and made as presentable as possible. This is intended

as an invitation to the public to make any proper public use of the lands so designated as parks.

Equal opportunity for use by all the people is an obvious principle applicable to public parks. Some parks, and more particularly waterfront parks such as Crookes Point and Wolfes Pond Park are suitable in the summer time for tent sites and camp sites. Just as long as these parks remain undeveloped and no appropriations are granted for their development or maintenance, it is my purpose to permit the public to use them to their fullest extent. Tent sites and camp sites may be rented by the public in either of these parks on a weekly, monthly or seasonal basis.

The necessity of better police protection for the parks of this borough has been commented upon in previous reports and the subject is again relevant. Motorists driving at excessive speed in disregard of posted rules damage the roads, fences, shrubs and flower beds and thereby cause unnecessary expense for maintenance. Illegal and improper parking of automobiles, particularly at night, present another police problem. Injury to monuments, fountains and playground apparatus is of persistent occurrence. Many fine specimen trees are destroyed and chopped down by the public in the various wooded areas within the parks. A study of this problem has been made with a view to providing greater security to the park properties.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge indebtedness to the members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for their continued confidence in the work of this department and the splendid cooperation in furthering the park program. Appreciation is also expressed to the various Civic Associations, the Chamber of Commerce, the Public Press and individual Citizens whose increasing interest in the park system of this borough has stimulated my efforts.

The present park system is indicated by the following parks and playgrounds:

<i>Name and Location of Parks</i>	<i>Area in Acres</i>
Clove Lakes Park, West New Brighton	191.
LaTourette Park, Richmond	580.
Silver Lake Park, Tompkinsville	207.
Willowbrook Park, Bulls Head	106.
Marine Park, Great Kills	780.
New Springville Park, New Springville	162.
Wolfes Pond Park, Princes Bay	227.
Westerleigh Park, Westerleigh	2.87
Faber Park, Port Richmond	2.00
Hero Park, Tompkinsville	1.92
Washington Park, Stapleton	1.43

<i>Name and Location of Parks</i>	<i>Area in Acres</i>
Port Richmond Park, Port Richmond	1.28
Haven Esplanade, Tompkinsville	1.18
Conference House Park, Tottenville	0.60
Tompkinsville Park, Tompkinsville	0.44

<i>Playgrounds</i>	<i>Area in Acres</i>
Rosebank	0.30
Mariners Harbor	1.00
Randall Manor	1.50
Stapleton	0.80
Victory Boulevard at Tompkinsville	1.00
Jewett Avenue	1.00
Richmond	0.50
Livingston	5.50
Faber Park	2.00

ARBORICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In the greenhouse situated at Silver Lake Park, thousands of bedding plants were propagated and planted in various parks and parkways, including such as Geraniums, Begonias, Salvias, Cannas, Antirrhinum, Asters, Coleus, Nasturtiums, Abutilions, Petunias, Althemanthirias. These were transplanted in the flower beds situated in the various parks and parkways. Perennials included such plants as Delphinium, Dianthus, Pyrethrum, Lupins, Shasta Daisy, Veronica, Gaillardia, Foxgloves and many others. These were planted in permanent locations wherever needed. The exposition of Chrysanthemums was particularly attractive. Over fifty varieties were grown and the perfectly grown flowers were greatly enjoyed by the public who visited the greenhouse during the months of October and November.

The preservation of tree life in this borough constitutes one of our most important activities. A constant supervision is necessary in order that only such trees be removed that are found to be dead, dangerously decayed or form an obstruction to some development work. A great deal of damage is often done by electric wires which in this borough run overhead and through the trees. These wires are a constant menace to tree life and a great deal of work is done by this department to trim the trees so as to avoid contact with high power wires.

Trees Removed	2,033
Trees Trimmed	18,000
Trees Planted	780

Particular attention was paid during the past year to the spraying of trees in all parts of this borough. This was made necessary by the vast number of insects of all kinds which constitute a serious menace to tree

life. Such insects as Gypsy Moth, Bagworm, Browntal Moth were particularly prevalent. Thousands of trees were sprayed with gratifying results. In connection with this important work I would recommend that a more powerful spraying apparatus be secured, in order that very tall trees may be reached, which is impossible at present with the machine now in use. Many trees are being attacked by Fungus. The disastrous work of this disease being rarely discovered until it is too late to save the tree. A careful study of Fungus diseases has been made by the Arboriculturist of this Department and results have been very gratifying. The study of Fungus is being continued and complete control of this disease anticipated.

There are 200,000 street trees to care for in this borough, without the trees in the parks and 27,000 poplar trees on the streets that are a menace and must be removed. This work is carried on in winter months and the wood distributed among the poor and needy under the guidance of the Welfare Department, Red Cross, Social Service Department and Catholic Charities for the past five years. As much as 300 cords of wood have been given out each year. More than 5,000 poplar trees have been removed from our streets in the past ten years.

During the past year studies were commenced to determine the most suitable park in which to locate a Botanic Garden. The studies to date have included Clove Lakes Park, LaTourette Park, Wolfes Pond Park and New Springville Park.

Many factors must be taken into consideration in the selection of a site for a botanic garden. The site should be far enough removed from the environment of a City to escape the deleterious effects of dust, smoke and poisonous gases upon the plants. Topography is desirable, especially for a large garden, to secure a site possessing a diversity of elevations and natural forms such as hills, rolling uplands, valleys, streams, springs and lakes. A diversity of soils as to quality, texture and degree of moisture is highly desirable. Accessibility to the people is a factor of prime consideration, but in these days of motor vehicles, motor busses and increased construction of good roads, this factor should not take precedence over the other points heretofore mentioned.

From the studies made so far it is my opinion that LaTourette Park possesses most of the factors suitable for a botanic garden and I would recommend that in the landscaping of this park, consideration be given to locating a botanic garden in this park.

REPORT OF THE PARK ENGINEER

This department is responsible for all the engineering, construction and development work, with the exception of real estate title surveys and planting

operations. A field engineering force maintained the necessary direction, control and inspection of all construction work whether performed under contract or by the unemployed labor forces.

All construction work done this year in the development of the several parks can be classified under two titles, namely, work done under contracts and work done under the unemployed emergency relief fund. All contract work was performed in the development of Faber and Willowbrook Parks.

FABER PARK

This park is in Port Richmond along the Kill van Kull and approximately four acres in area. All construction work and the development of the park was completed and the park was opened to the public on July 15, of this year. Situated in this park is a swimming pool, children's wading pool, bathhouse and recreational building, children's playground and a small neighborhood park. The swimming pool is 75'x140', fresh water with a filtered and chlorinated recirculation system, 12' deep at the center, with diving boards and other swimming apparatus. Four contracts were let and completed for the construction of the swimming pool, children's wading pool and bathhouse, as follows:

General contract for constructing pool and bathhouse to the Hold Construction Company for \$96,218.70

Contract for installing a plumbing system to Robert W. Baylor for \$16,388.27

Contract for furnishing and installing electric equipment to the Dropkin Brothers for \$5,114.25

Contract for installing a heating system to Robert W. Baylor for \$3,468.00

In addition to these a contract was let for the grading of the park, constructing walks, seeding and sodding, furnishing playground equipment and otherwise improving the park to J. V. Pederson for the sum of \$18,275.00

With the completion of these contracts and the opening of the park to the public, the City have provided a sorely needed recreation for the children of the north shore of this island and there is now no need for them to swim in the polluted water of the Kill van Kull.

WILLOWBROOK PARK

Three contracts for the improvement of this park were completed this year. With the completion of these contracts the unemployed emergency

(thirteen)

laborers were enabled to commence work on the grading and other landscape features of this park.

A contract for excavating a lake 1,200' long, 250' wide and 6' deep was completed by the Bristow Construction Co., at a cost of \$29,600.50. The excavated material from this lake was used to fill in approximately forty acres of swamp land in this park which can now be used for various types of athletic fields.

A contract for furnishing and laying 1,600 lineal feet of 54" and 60" Diameter Corrugated Metal Drain Pipe was completed by the Vanbro Construction Co., at a cost of \$18,623.18. With the completion of this contract the several brooks running through the park were diverted and the overflow of water from the lake was taken care of.

A contract for constructing a reinforced concrete culvert and laying 400' of 48" Diameter Metal Drain Pipe was completed by the Lauria Construction., at a cost of \$8,512.54.

A considerable amount of work has been done in this park with the laborers from the emergency relief bureau. Twenty-one hundred feet of 24" Diameter Corrugated Metal Pipe was laid as an outlet from the lake to the 60" Diameter Pipe. Two thousand lineal feet of cinder walk 10'-0" wide has been constructed around the lake. A cinder drive 30'-0" wide and sixteen hundred feet long around the lake connecting with Victory Boulevard has been constructed. Forty acres of fields have been grubbed, graded and prepared for baseball fields. Sixty acres of dense and impassable woods have been cleared and can now be used as picnic grounds for summer visitors. Several acres adjoining the lake have been fine graded and seeded. At the present time a steam shovel and six trucks are removing 7,000 cubic yards of topsoil, which was stripped when the lake was excavated. This topsoil is being spread over the park by the emergency laborers and in the spring will be ready for seeding. Several thousand bass, perch and sun fish were removed from Clove Lakes and deposited in the lake at this park. The area for ten tennis courts has been graded and cinders to a depth of 12" are being placed there at the present time. By the summer of 1933 a considerable portion of this park will be made available for the use of the public.

CLOVE LAKES PARK

All the development work done in this park was done by the unemployed emergency relief laborers and with funds obtained from that source. The lake adjacent to Victory Boulevard has been widened and deepened. The excavated material was used to fill in the swamps between the lake and Clove Road. To date approximately thirty thousand yards of earth has

been excavated and fifteen acres of swamp land reclaimed. A reinforced concrete twin span culvert twenty feet wide and fifty feet long was constructed at the beginning of this lake thereby widening the entrance at Victory Boulevard. Thirteen hundred lineal feet of 8" and 10" diameter perforated pipe was laid to drain the filled in swamp area.

Three hundred lineal feet of 24" diameter pipe was laid to a catch basin on Victory Boulevard, the water from which was flowing over the park. Three hundred thirty lineal feet of 48" Diameter Corrugated Metal Pipe was laid to carry the brook coming from Silver Lake Park. Approximately 15 acres of park has been graded and ready for spring seeding. Twenty-six hundred lineal feet of 12'-0" wide asphalt block walk has been laid on a 6" sand base around the lake. Design has been made and plans drawn for two 2-span stone faced arch bridges of 25.0 span connecting the island and the mainland. Work on the foundations and abutments for these arches has been started.

Through the splendid cooperation of the Society of Architects of Staten Island a free competitive plan and design for a field house and comfort station in this park was received and accepted. A number of drawings were submitted from architects of the society and that submitted by O. A. Madsen, was selected as the most suitable by the society. With the aid of this society it is expected that this building will be erected by the unemployed skilled mechanics. This same society in the near future has kindly offered to submit a prize plan for a boathouse and refectory in Clove Lake Park.

Upon the completion of these buildings and the seeding of the filled in area, a twenty acre athletic field will be made available for the public use this summer.