

REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF RECREATION

Administration.

The development of the recreation activities of the Bureau of Recreation was somewhat checked during the summer season of 1916, owing to the epidemic of infantile paralysis. This was particularly true of inter-park activities.

No Epidemic in Playgrounds.

It was decided after studying the situation, and conferences with the Board of Health, that the congregating of large groups of children was not desirable. In this connection there was ordered for the remainder of the 1916 season the elimination of sand-pits and sand-boxes, the more frequent oiling and watering of the playgrounds, and the development of activities that kept small groups of children engaged in simple active games. It is a remarkable fact that not a single case of paralysis was reported from the seventy playgrounds, recreation piers and gymnasia of any one known to be active in these playground centers. This speaks well for out-door recreation.

Events of Year.

The annual baseball, basketball, soccer football tournaments and athletic championships were carried on as usual, especially for the older boys and girls, and covered a greater number of units than in previous years, despite the reduction in total attendance in inter-park contests for younger children, because of the measures taken by this department on account of the epidemic of poliomyelitis.

The acquisition of the recreation piers and gymnasia which are associated with the park playground centers, has been a great help in developing neighborhood activities, and this development has proceeded rapidly.

The Shakespeare Tercentenary, which was celebrated by a series of festivals in the different playgrounds and gymnasia, was a remarkable success. It has resulted in the formation of a Dramatic League among the play leaders and children of the playgrounds.

The Mayor's Safe-and-Sane Fourth of July celebration, more than ever this year, centered around park playground activities. An unprecedented success attended these celebrations which in the form of athletic meets and festivals were held throughout the Greater City.

The Labor Day festivals proved particularly successful and interesting as showing the development of folk dancing, simplified athletics and games,

which are becoming firmly established among the children and young women of the playgrounds.

Together with the Boy Scouts, the children of the park playgrounds took part in the Lighting Celebration of the Statue of Liberty, and the City's reception to the President of the United States.

The season ended with the annual playground festival held at the Amsterdam Opera House, with a playlet entitled "Father Time and His Children," depicting symbolically the twelve months of the year. The programme ended with general dancing and patriotic singing.

Surfacing.

Funds have been obtained for the proper composition for surfacing with clay and sifted cinders, and for steel mesh fencing at the two new playgrounds that are to be enlarged and improved, namely, Cherry and Market Street playground, and Jasper Oval.

New Playground.

The acquisition of the plot of ground at East 12th Street, which was acquired for summer use through the generous cooperation of the Trustees of the Catholic Cathedral, and the Board of Education, proved very valuable as a playground. This site, located in the most congested Italian quarter of the city, should be acquired by the city for a permanent playground. While Tompkins Square Park playground is but a few blocks away, nevertheless its play space is overtaxed, and the need of the acquisition of this East 12th Street center is apparent.

The recommendation contained in the reports of 1914 and 1915, in relation to equipment, playground surfacing, comfort stations and the lighting facilities, which should be installed, are herewith resubmitted most earnestly.

The effect on mass activities from the infantile paralysis scare, the reduction of band concerts, the dust of the playground surfacing, together with the lack of play material, reduced the attendance in many of the centers very heavily, making a total in the reduction of attendance of children and adults on the playgrounds and recreation piers of over a million and a half, in comparison to the figures of 1916.

Deficient Equipment.

It is, therefore, clear that play material and equipment are necessary, and that attractive and interesting programmes drawing large groups must be arranged and directed, and a sufficient music fund to minister to the recreation activities supplied must be appropriated if we are to attract a substantial and normal number to the playgrounds and recreation centers during the day and evening, so they may be used to the fullest advantage. It is one thing to maintain recreation centers and another thing to prepare and arrange satisfactory programmes of play activities. But this latter cannot be accomplished without the necessary equipment and material, including

incentives for competition in the shape of prizes. For this latter the only source of supply is that furnished by the Mayor's Committee on the Fourth of July Safe-and-Sane Celebration, by contributions from the staff of this Department, and occasionally from the press of the city.

Inter-park Playground Games, Festivals and Pageantry.

Girls' Activities.—Gymnastic drills, group games, pantomime, folk-dancing, social-dancing, aesthetic dancing, dramatization, roller-skating, club work, swings, slides, see-saws, rope-jumping, ball games and ring games.

Competitive Games.—Basket ball, volley ball, tether ball, tennis, simplified athletics and gymnastics, ring toss, hockey, relay racing, croquet.

Passive Work.—Sewing, embroidery, carpentry, paper work, kindergarten games, drawing, reed and raffia work, paper rope work, basketry, jig-saw work, plaster casting, story-telling, designing, knitting and crocheting.

Inter-park Playground Pageantry.—A departure was made this year from the usual pageant given each year at Central Park, when all the centers gave expression to the form of pageant at one central point. It was decided to declare Labor Day "Play Day" at all the park playgrounds. It was estimated that through this method a greater number of people and children would be interested and attend the neighborhood festivals. This form was adopted to promote the neighborhood idea on Labor Day, but while it has its advantages from a local neighborhood standpoint, a trial of the plan has made it clear that its value is not to be compared with the advantages derived from having a joint assemblage of people and children from every section of the city. Both plans have their advantage, but centralized inter-park festivals and pageants at a given point are the most valuable for the general good and welfare of the city.

Playground Athletic Championships.

Approximately ten thousand boys competed in the elimination games in twenty-five athletic fields and recreation centers for the honor of entering the Final Championships on Columbus Day, October 12, 1916, at Chelsea Park.

The first five in each of the twelve events were eligible to compete in the finals, in which there were contesting somewhat over one thousand boys. Some splendid results were achieved in this year's championships. For example, F. Martini, of Thomas Jefferson Park playground, ran a fast 100 yards in 10 $\frac{3}{5}$ sec.; H. Whitehouse, of Queensboro Park playground, made 18 feet $\frac{9}{4}$ inches in the Running Broad Jump.

The boys from the Sheep Meadow of Central Park, which is one of the most valuable playgrounds in the world, won the championships with 17 points; St. Gabriel's, second, and Thomas Jefferson, third. Thousands of spectators witnessed the events.

Baseball Tournament.

The baseball tournament of the Public Park Playground Athletic and Recreation League, conducted by the Bureau of Recreation, proved to be one of the most popular yet scheduled. One thousand and twenty-one teams competed in the elimination tournament from thirty centers. The tournament was divided into three classes, 85 lbs., 100 lbs. and 115 lbs. Thomas Jefferson playground won the 85-lb. championship; Reservoir Oval again won the 100-lb. and Jasper Oval won the 115-lb. These tournaments do not include the hundreds of games that are played by athletic clubs of young men, especially on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Throughout the week the public, private and parochial school boys are given an opportunity. The demand for permits this year has been greater than ever and no playground is complete without a diamond or two. The final games were conducted at the following centers: Corlears Hook, Queensboro, Jasper Oval and Chelsea.

The tournament was divided into four divisions: the southern, eastern, western and northern. Owing to the short vacation season and the size of the tournament, some of the divisions were again subdivided, an elimination contest being staged within this unit to ascertain who would represent the division in the finals. Four divisions were represented in the finals. They were paired off—the winners played the winners for first and second, and the losers played (after the first round) for third.

Soccer Football.—The popularity of soccer football in the park playgrounds is increasing each year. This is due in part to the department's special efforts in bringing the good points of this game to the attention of our boys, and also because of the intrinsic merit of the game itself. Our Inter-park Tournament had advanced in enrollment from fourteen to eighteen teams. St. Gabriel's Park playground played through the entire tournament with only one goal scored against them.

Basketball.—The 1916 Basketball Tournament in the public park playgrounds and gymnasias was conducted on a larger scale than ever, owing to the acquisition of the five new gymnasias that were formerly under the supervision of the Recreation Commission.

It was found that the plan of an in-and-outdoor tournament was superior to any other plan previously adopted. This general plan brought the indoor players in touch with the outdoor players in the struggle to find the real champions of our playgrounds and recreation system. Rutger Place gymnasium carried off the honors in both classes, 90 and 110 lbs., and did not lose a single game in either weight in the indoor series.

The lines of the programme were laid out in three sections of the city: Southern, Western and Central. The champions of each section competed in the finals.

Special credit is herein given to the Field Staff: Messrs. John J. McCormack, Emanuel Schwartz, James Ginnerty and James W. Walsh, together

with Mr. Daniel Caplin, Instructor at Rutger Place Gymnasium, for their excellent handling of the tournament. It is noteworthy that the congested lower East Side of Manhattan produced the champions.

The "Big Four" of the playgrounds, in the way of popular games are: Baseball, Tennis, Basketball and Soccer Football. A tournament was conducted during the months of February and March and proved a great attraction to the playgrounds and gymnasia. Over 200,000 witnessed the tournament during the series.

ACTIVE RECREATION IN CENTRAL PARK.

Skating and Coasting.—Skating and coasting in Central Park during the winter season of 1916 was enjoyed by a greater number of our citizens than ever before. Skating as usual was supervised and directed by the Bureau of Recreation in co-operation with the Division of Operation and the Police Department.

A new policy was successfully applied in regard to coasting. The Department set aside a number of favorable hillsides in all of the larger parks where special facilities were provided to keep the coasting course properly banked and in good condition, so that the sport could be indulged in for a greater number of days after each snowfall. The coasting was regulated both at the top and bottom of the slide by representatives of the Bureau of Recreation. First aid to the injured facilities were also available at the chief skating and coasting centers.

The small lake at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue was set aside, as was done last year, for the skating of the smaller children and their guardians.

A number of the playgrounds in the small parks of the congested sections of the lower part of Manhattan were flooded, so that neighborhood skating facilities were obtained for the first time. This development proved extraordinarily successful and it is planned to increase further, during the 1917 winter season, the number of such skating centers.

Tennis.—The tremendous increase in the popularity of tennis was indicated this season by the issuance of over 20,000 season permits to play on the Sheep Meadow, 66th Street and the West Drive, and on the south tennis field, 96th Street and the West Drive. The latter field has been remodeled with clay surface courts and stationary nets that are erected by this department, the tennis players no longer having to provide the net. This department has abolished the storage system for tennis outfits entirely. The players are now required to furnish their own balls and racquets. A period of two hours is allotted to each person holding a permit, in order to render the greatest amount of good for the greatest number.

Hockey.—The East Meadow at 99th Street and Fifth Avenue and the Circle at 106th Street and Eighth Avenue have been designated as the

hockey fields of Central Park. Many permits were issued to the various high-schools to conduct their tournaments throughout the season.

Croquet.—Permits are issued for croquet on the Sheep Meadow, 66th Street and West Drive; the playground lawn, below 66th Street and the playgrounds. This provides recreation more particularly for adults.

Baseball.—Specially restricted baseball grounds are provided for boys 16 years of age and under, on the East Meadow, 99th Street and Fifth Avenue, and the Sheep Meadow, 66th Street and West Drive. Permits are not required for practice by boys within the age limit. Many private and public schools throughout the city take advantage of these restricted baseball fields.

May Parties and June Walks.—Two thousand May party and June Walk permits were issued to the private and public schools, settlements, church and civic organizations to conduct their spring festivities. The Annual Fete of the Public Schools Athletic League (Girls' Branch) was held on the Sheep Meadow, together with the demonstration of the Boy Scouts.

Football.—Boys of the various public, private and high schools are permitted to practice soccer and rugby football on the Sheep Meadow, 66th Street and West Drive, the Playground Lawn, below 66th Street and the East Meadow, 99th Street and Fifth Avenue, during the football season.

Each activity is directed and supervised in accordance with the demands of the various seasons of the year. All of these activities in Central Park are accessible to the public without charge, except the children's carousel on the Sheep Meadow and the rowing and boating on the lakes, for which privilege a small fee is charged.

Among other important activities in Central Park are horseback riding, driving, motoring, boating and rowing, amateur photography, band concerts, etc.

Recreation Piers.—The activities on the recreation piers were conducted during the months of June, July, August and September. The music furnished by the graphonolas purchased by the department was of great assistance in teaching children folk dancing, rhythmic exercises, marching and in giving entertainment. The band concerts in the evening were an added attraction to both adults and children during the summer season. Plans are being perfected for more extensive use of the recreation piers during 1917.

Gymnasia.—The department now has seven well-equipped gymnasia with shower baths which prove extremely beneficial and attractive, not only as recreation centers, but as physical training institutions. There were over 500 club permits issued for these seven centers that are open daily until 10 p. m. Gymnastics, athletics, dancing and social club work are among the chief activities.

Permits are issued to clubs of 20 or more, for periods of one hour and a half, at a given time for certain days of the week. Two days a week are set aside for girls' activities at these centers.

**LIST OF PARK PLAYGROUNDS, GYMNASIA AND RECREATION
PIERS—WITH LOCATIONS.**

	Location.	Area, Acres.	Weekly Attend- ance.
Abingdon	Abingdon Square .....	.07	760
Astor Field	149th Street and 8th Avenue.....	1.15	5,240
Battery	Battery Place and State Street.....	.85	3,348
Bennett Field	184th Street and Broadway.....	2.29	2,420
Carl Shurz	86th Street and East River.....	.25	4,300
Carmansville	151st Street and Amsterdam Avenue.....	.50	2,678
Central	South Meadow (tennis).....	9.86	12,361
	North Meadow (May parties, picnics).....	30.00	.....
	East Meadow (baseball, playground, coasting)	5.14	7,814
	Central (99th Street), small children's play ground	1.00	3,085
	Sheep Meadow (tennis, baseball, football, coasting)	21.11	35,925
	Playground lawn (south of 66th Street), foot- ball, May parties, picnics, coasting.....	10.65	5,210
Chelsea	28th Street and 9th Avenue.....	2.02	9,795
Cherry and Market..	Cherry and Market Streets.....	.38	5,025
Clark	174th Street and Fort Washington Avenue...	.92	2,905
Colonial	150th Street and Bradhurst Avenue.....	1.11	2,105
Columbus	Baxter and Worth Streets.....	.54	2,850
Corlears Hook	Corlears Hook and Jackson Streets.....	.50	6,965
De Witt Clinton....	53d Street and 11th Avenue.....	1.77	7,552
East 17th Street....	17th Street and East River.....	.12	3,620
Five Points	Baxter and Worth Streets.....	.17	1,535
Grace	104th Street, between Columbus and Amster- dam Avenue .....	.10	710
Hamilton Fish	Houston and Pitt Streets.....	1.84	13,550
High Bridge	170th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.....	.25	4,400
Hudson	Clarkson and Hudson Streets.....	.13	4,595
Jackson Square	Horatio Street and 8th Avenue.....	.13	895
Jasper Oval	137th Street and Convent Avenue.....	2.06	11,005
John Jay	77th Street and East River.....	1.34	7,375
*Queensboro	Foot of East 59th Street.....	1.11	7,625
Mount Morris	120th Street and Madison Avenue.....	1.10	1,190
Reservoir Oval	174th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.....	.85	2,355
Riverside Oval	77th Street and Riverside Drive, 83d Street and Riverside Drive.....	5.00	1,313
Riverside	96th Street and Riverside Drive.....	1.00	2,850
*Ryan	42d Street and Prospect Place.....	.18	1,784
*St. Gabriel's	35th Street and 2d Avenue.....	1.14	3,895
St. Nicholas	133d Street and St. Nicholas Avenue.....	.28	1,293
St. Peter's	New Brighton, S. I.....	1.00	975
*Seward	Canal and Jefferson Streets.....	1.00	9,630
*Thomas Jefferson..	112th Street and East River.....	4.18	10,448
*Tompkins Square..	10th Street and Avenue A.....	1.25	12,635
Watergate	134th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.....	1.67	3,735
Westerleigh	Jewett and Maine Avenues, Westerleigh, Staten Island .....	.90	650
*West 59th Street...	Near 11th Avenue.....	.45	1,628
*Yorkville	101st Street, between 2d and 3d Avenues....	.75	7,666
*18th Street.....	10th Avenue .....	.50	2,922
*19th Street.....	Near 1st Avenue.....	.25	500

Location.		Area, Acres.	Weekly Attend- ance.
44th Street	12th Avenue .....	.75	1,703
67th Street	West End Avenue.....	.15	1,680
67th Street	1st Avenue	1.00	5,985
136th Street	Between 5th and Lenox Avenues.....	.50	1,565
138th Street	5th Avenue .....	.45	2,605
147th Street	Near 7th Avenue.....	1.00	1,500
Fort Washington....	175th Street and Fort Washington Pt.....	2.00	3,900
Esplanade	Williamsburgh Bridge .....	.10	1,080
Recreation Piers—			
	West 129th Street, North River.....		9,415
	West 50th Street, North River.....		18,789
	Barrow Street, North River.....		4,354
	Albany Street, North River.....		1,727
	East 3d Street, East River.....		21,475
	Market Street, East River.....		21,030
	East 24th Street, East River.....		16,810
	East 112th Street, East River.....		5,850
Gymnasias—			
	*Hamilton Fish		1,023
	*West 59th Street, near 11th Avenue.....		900
	*Carmin Street		1,356
	*Cherry and Oliver Streets.....		1,196
	*East 54th Street.....		2,153
	*Rutgers Place		1,865
	*West 28th Street.....		1,705

*Designates playgrounds open the year round.

Many thousands take advantage of the skating at the following lakes during the skating season:

59th Street lake, 72d Street lake, 104th Street, Harlem Meer, 110th Street, Conservatory lake, 72d Street.

Supervisor, Bureau of Recreation.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF FARM GARDENS

Public Schools Send Children.

The most important accomplishment for the year 1916 was the extension of the co-operative work between the Farm Garden Bureau of this department and the Department of Education. By this new agreement children from almost all of the schools in Manhattan are, as a part of their curriculum, assigned at certain hours to outdoor work in the farm gardens located at Thomas Jefferson Park, 114th Street and First Avenue; DeWitt Clinton Park, 52nd Street and the North River; Corlears Hook Park, Corlears and South Streets; Isham Park, 213th Street and Broadway.

Because of the limited number of plots in these gardens, it is necessary at the present time to restrict the children who benefit from this outdoor work to those types which particularly need recuperation, and who have suffered from overcrowding and lack of air and sunshine.

Details of Plan.

In the Spring of 1916, conferences were held in each garden between the Supervisor of the Farm Garden Bureau and various officials of the Department of Education, especially associate superintendents, district superintendents, and principals of the schools concerned. As a result of these conferences a plan was formed to have as many schools in each district within comfortable walking distance of the gardens send graded and ungraded classes at regular periods all through the spring and fall accompanied by public school teachers selected because of their enthusiasm, under the direct supervision of the farm garden bureau force. Two hundred public school teachers worked on this co-operative basis during the year. In the autumn four schools in the neighborhood of DeWitt Clinton Park asked permission to send classes regularly throughout the winter. Arrangements were made for seventeen classes a week, three classes a day. There seems to be a limitless field of interest to select from for indoor winter work; there are tools to be repaired, cleaned and stored, painting of wheelbarrows, hand-carriers, water tubs, propagating seeds, old and new, to test their value. A four by eight foot box filled with earth and a smaller square box filled with sand affords opportunity to learn many things about the plot possibilities out of doors and the laying out of the whole garden.

Hot beds have been planted in two gardens. Numerous exhibits have been set up to give information in regard to cotton, flax, hemp, the varieties of seeds birds feed on, needles, nails, cereals, lantern slides of insects classified. All the talks on insects, flowers and vegetables were illustrated

by lantern slides. Thus the interest of the ungraded classes is held in a manner barely possible in the class room.

Special Lectures.

During the special institutes held by the Board of Education in September, the Supervisor, at the invitation of the city superintendents addressed over two thousand teachers. Another address was given in the Pergola Building, DeWitt Clinton Park, after the schools opened, and seventy teachers and principals attended, which was evidence of the growing interest in children's gardens.

Effects of Work.

The comments from teachers and children show an appreciation of the opportunity given, and all have expressed in one way or another the sentiments of one teacher, who wrote, "We trust that the City will so feel our appreciation that gardens will be provided eventually for every neighborhood." One teacher states that the best proof of the success of the extension of farm garden work was reflected in the number of volunteer visits the children made to their plots outside of school hours. Her classes never missed an afternoon. The children were interested intelligently in the growth of the various plants which were studied. They understood why it took some time for the seeds to develop in the recent backward spring. They knew what to expect after rain and after a sunny period. They discussed the need of water and air for plants, and incidentally for children. They saw and talked about the evil effects of congestion and the reasons for transplanting or entirely uprooting plants that grow too closely.

The value of outdoor work of this nature for the health of children is clearly shown by the fact that among the many thousands of children regularly visiting these gardens during the recent epidemic of poliomyelitis, there was not one case of this sickness.

Methods.

The usual method of instruction which has been successfully used for the last few years was further developed and co-ordinated. Theoretical talks were supplemented by practical work on the use of leaves to the plant, water in relation to plants, elementary forestry, the effect of sunlight on plants, insects, and on the use of air to plants in addition to practical and observation work in connection with the varied operations of preparing the ground, planting seeds, growing vegetables and plants, gathering the harvest, and preparing food.

Bartow Mansion Exhibit.

From June 1st to June 4th, an exhibit was held on the grounds of the International Garden Club, Bartow Mansion, Pelham Parkway, in co-operation with the International Children's School Farm League of the Department of Parks, The Bronx. This exhibit attracted much attention

and was pronounced by many to be the most vital and interesting of all the exhibits.

Since the Board of Estimate and Apportionment has not as yet granted funds to remodel the Pergola Building in DeWitt Clinton Park, it was necessary to eliminate the household work formerly undertaken in the farm gardens.

The public school teachers of the ungraded and kindergarten classes became so enthusiastic over the interest of their pupils in the garden work during the summer, that a request was made to use the DeWitt Clinton Park garden during the winter for nature study work.

Anaemic Classes.

Through the co-operation of the Department of Parks, Department of Education, and generous friends, year-round classes of anaemic children were provided for in Thomas Jefferson Park. They hold their school sessions on the open air platform, and in an attractive little cottage. At Corlears Hook Park, a fresh-air class has been conducted under most trying conditions on the two little piazzas of the cottage. There is a shelter partly available. Each child provides its own lunch of potatoes, apples, eggs and cocoa. The apples are placed in the oven on a piece of paper on which is written each child's name. Before putting the eggs in the water to boil, each child writes its name on its egg. As a result of the outdoor treatment the classes, since 1913, at Corlears Hook Park, have grown so well and strong, that they were able to return to their own grades in school, and different children were sent out to take their places. This work has thus far proved well worth while. Other schools which cannot be accommodated on the platform send their anaemic children to the Thomas Jefferson Park farm garden for a little work, their lunch, a rest period, and then back to school. With comparatively small expense all the children needing such types of treatment near Thomas Jefferson Park could be accommodated. There are four hundred children not provided for.

Isham Garden.

Isham Park Children's Farm Gardens did not open until June 13th owing to the construction work in connection with the development of the park. On planting day 100 children, accompanied by the teachers, from Public School No. 52, planted their plots. The soil was rich and the location of the garden favorable; the growth of the crops was consequently phenomenal. Two crops were planted and harvested by September 5th. There was a daily attendance from ten to ninety children, some of them attending so regularly that they became familiar with every phase of the work.

Nature study material was distributed to four public schools in the neighborhood of Isham Park. The specimens were unusually good, espe-

cially the cotton. The largest attendance was between 8 a. m. and 10:30 a. m. and between 2 p. m. and 3:30 p. m.

Volume.

The four farm gardens during 1916 contained 2,007 plots, as follows:

Individual plots (boys).....	983
Individual plots (girls).....	787
Observation plots	185
Flower beds	52

Each child's plot was planted twice including 747 transfers, 4,228 children had plots, and 26,040 children from public schools, parochial schools and industrial schools, and pupils from high schools and the New York Training School for Teachers used the gardens as a nature study laboratory.

The visits of the plot owners, visiting classes from public schools, kindergartens, ungraded, anæmic classes, the Harlem Clinic Breathing Class, the Vanderbilt Clinic Class, as well as visits from high schools and the New York Training School for Teachers brought the sum total of the attendance at the four gardens during 1916 to 144,835.

Thomas Jefferson Park.....	59,926
DeWitt Clinton Park	35,816
Corlears Hook Park	46,091
Isham Park	3,002
	<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 144,835

CONCESSIONS

The year marked the accomplishment of several projects for increasing public service in the parks, though better administration of park concessions.

Price Control in Boat Service.

The boating and skating privileges were consolidated. The boating concession had formerly been operated by a divided control with one privilege holder in charge at the Harlem Meer and another at the other Central Park lakes. The rates charged for boating had been 50 cents per hour, and the total revenue derived by the city amounted to only \$288 a month.

In readvertising these privileges for public bidding the divided control was eliminated and the entire collection of privileges was put up for bidding under one general head. In the advertisement and in the contract very careful provisions were inserted for safeguarding the interests of the public. Furthermore, the rates provided for an initial charge of 25 cents an hour, thus cutting the old rate in half. Despite the severity of the conditions and the reduction of rate, the high bidder offered \$375 a month and furnished a surety company bond for performance, so that the Department was able to procure an additional \$1,000 a year revenue while reducing the rate charged for boating.

Better Service and Increased Revenue.

The candy privilege, formerly operated in connection with the Arsenal Restaurant, was put up for public bidding separately, and was won by the operator of the general park candy privilege. Put up for bidding separately, the candy privilege brought \$1,944 a year, or \$944 more than the restaurant and candy privilege had brought together under the old management. The fact that the Arsenal candy privilege was consolidated with the general candy privilege made it possible to relocate the candy stands in places where they not only served better the public convenience, but did not interfere so much with the attractiveness of the park. This relocation had been impossible before the privilege had been joined on account of trade rivalries between the two opposing candy privilege holders.

In order to make it possible to offer all candy privileges in one bidding in the future, the date of operation of the Arsenal privilege was extended to expire at the same time as the general candy privilege.

Carrousel.

By the expiration of the carrousel privilege, the carrousel building and the machine therein became the property of the city according to the terms of the contract, and an advantageous arrangement was made for the continuation of the privilege after public bidding; as a result of which it was

awarded to a new operator who has proved satisfactory. Definite progress has been made toward removing the present antiquated carrousel structure.

The Chief Engineer in charge of the Bureau of Maintenance and the Landscape Architect have reported that a shelter building is necessary at or about the present location, since the large play fields in this vicinity are frequently occupied right up to the time of a sudden storm when there is no place in which the public may take refuge. At the Commissioner's discretion, plans have been prepared by the Landscape Architect for the regrading of the ground, and by the Architect for the erection of a modern structure which will provide plenty of shelter space.

Since the state of the city's finances indicated that it would be impossible to procure the erection of this shelter building with municipal funds, the plans were submitted to a number of carrousel manufacturers and operators, some of whom indicated their willingness to erect such a structure and to pay a substantial license fee for the privilege.

It appeared at the end of the year that an advantageous proposition might be made if it were decided to continue this form of amusement in Central Park.

Arrears Recovered by Suit.

The Department was successful in law suits undertaken to recover amounts due from privilege holders, who had fallen behind in the payment of license fees. These accounts were put into the hands of the Corporation Counsel, when the privilege had been cancelled for non-payment, and been re-awarded at public bidding to other privilege holders.

The Corporation Counsel co-operated by furnishing a member of his staff to prepare and prosecute these actions in court, which were tried in the City Affairs Division of the Municipal Court.

The largest judgments recovered were those against William Greenfield and George K. Henken, privilege holders in southern Greeley Square and 59th Street Subway Plaza, respectively.

City Hall Park.

On April 28, 1916, the Commissioner of Parks wrote the Commissioner of Accounts requesting an investigation on the report that certain privilege holders in City Hall Park were soliciting bets on horse races. On May 12th, the Commissioner of Accounts reported that he was unable to obtain legal evidence of this practice, and the Park Department, therefore, requested a further investigation on the part of the Police Department, in order to get legal evidence of the practice which the Commissioner of Accounts believed was being carried on. This investigation was in progress at the close of the year. As the result of the investigation undertaken at the request of the Park Department, the Park Commissioner issued directions to all privilege holders that the sale of advance information of the horse races must be discontinued on all news-stands, and requested the co-operation of the

Commissioner of Licenses to make this regulation general throughout the city.

An Interesting Law Case.

There had been outstanding in the Department for six years a claim against John Antonopolus, who formerly occupied a stand underneath the Brooklyn Bridge stairway in City Hall Park. The statute of limitations had nearly run against the account. Antonopolus still enjoyed a privilege under the Department of Docks and Ferries in Battery Park. In the early part of 1916 he deposited \$200 on account on a privilege advertised by the Park Department and \$50 for an opening in the pavement alongside Battery Park. This amount the Commissioner of Parks retained in spite of vigorous protest from Antonopolus, and applied it to the Park Department account as moneys due on the expired Brooklyn Bridge stairway privilege. When Antonopolus went further and threatened legal proceedings, the Commissioner of Parks referred the matter to the Corporation Counsel and received an opinion that his action in refusing the return of the deposit was justified. After receiving this opinion from the Corporation Counsel, further negotiation was had as the result of which Antonopolus made further payment and this account was wiped off the Department books.

Central Park Restaurants.

An attempt was made in 1916 to increase the public service in various restaurants in Central Park. Specifications were drawn up to provide for table d'hote service in the Casino Restaurant and McGown's Pass Tavern, the latter of which is closed, and desired improvements and a la carte regulations in this restaurant, and in the Arsenal restaurant, which adjoins the menagerie. The specifications combined the former practice of the sale of liquor at McGown's Pass Tavern and the Casino, subject at any time to revocation by the Commissioner of Parks.

Just prior to the public bidding, however, a statement was issued, attacking the Commissioner of Parks for the form of specifications, misrepresenting the provisions which had been inserted in the contract which gave the Commissioner of Parks discretion to discontinue the sale of liquor if the public interests should so warrant. Various statements of prospective bidders thereafter were to the effect that the statement influenced them to believe that public clamor might be excited, without regard to the facts, which would compel the Park Commissioner to discontinue the sale of liquor, even if the places were properly operated. As a result, the bidding for the Casino restaurant and McGown's Pass Tavern failed. A second bidding which was had also failed. McGown's Pass Tavern remained closed, the Department taking the position that if it could not be operated as a park restaurant, it should not be operated as a road house, although the Department had many offers to continue it as a restaurant of the road house character. The Casino restaurant was continued as formerly. The Arsenal

restaurant was let to the highest bidder in the public bidding. The total received for this restaurant and the candy privilege, which was formerly attached to it, being \$2,344, or more than twice as much as the combined privilege brought before the public bidding held by the Department. Nevertheless when this Department requested approval of the plans (estimated cost \$2,500) for the repairs to this building, and which repairs were referred to in the advertisement, approval of the plans was withheld by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and it was impossible to release the funds. The expenditure of this money was tied up with the proviso that it should only be released when the Board of Estimate's committee was satisfied that sufficiently large bids had been obtained from the concessionaires to warrant the repair of the buildings. This provision caused immediate difficulty, since the bidders were only willing to make reasonable offers in case of an assurance in advance that at least certain repairs to the building would be performed by the City.

As a result of this condition and the misunderstanding regarding the liquor license unsatisfactory amounts were received when the bids were opened. In one case the bidder was willing to proceed on the chance of the repairs being made later. However, up to date of writing the release of the amounts for these repairs has not yet been secured. Meanwhile, the Arsenal Restaurant is practically untenable by the concessionaire who accepted the lease; the Casino cannot be operated properly as a modern restaurant according to the standard demanded by the city; McGown's Pass Tavern has to remain closed and unused, and every day these conditions are becoming more serious.

Newspaper Venders on Exterior Walks.

The Department also suffered in 1916 from the rendering of a decision in the Court of General Sessions overthrowing the conviction of Peter Parelli, for the unlicensed sale of newspapers in Greeley Square Park. Since this result, Parelli consented to be licensed and submitted to the Department's regulations. However, the decision of the court has placed in doubt the Department's jurisdiction over the exterior sidewalks of all parks and it has been impossible to prevent vending thereon.⁴ This has impaired the appearance of many parks and resulted in annoyance to park users. The Department has requested the Corporation Counsel to suggest measures by which the necessary jurisdiction may be restored.

MUSIC

Community Chorus.—The Department brought a new feature into public music in the season of 1916 by inviting the *Community Chorus* to use the band stand and Mall of Central Park for its weekly meetings. The Chorus engaged a well-known leader, who has made a success of such organizations in the past in other cities of the country, and at its own expense hired an orchestra to accompany the singing. It invited the public generally to attend, and to participate in the singing, without previous training. On days when concerts were given with departmental money the Music Chorus received the use of the Band Stand and the Music benches for the two hours preceding the orchestra or band concert.

Song and Light Festival.—The work of the Chorus concluded with a *Song and Light Festival* at the great lake in Central Park on September 13, 1916. Eight hundred people participated in the singing, which was accompanied by an orchestra of sixty-five pieces. More than fifty thousand persons heard the singing on the night of the Song and Light Festival, and so popular was this feature, the esthetic beauty of which was heightened by the placing upon the banks of the lake a beautifully colored light arrangement designed by Claude Bragdon, an architect, that the Festival was repeated on the first night following, and was again attended by a crowd of more than fifty thousand people. The expense of this Festival, which amounted to several thousand dollars on each night on which it was given, was borne by private individuals. It was pronounced by the press to have been one of the most successful Community affairs ever given in the City, and commented upon as marking an innovation in the City's musical life, and in the field of community and joint effort. The work of the Chorus, with Park Department co-operation, resulted in a larger attendance, greater enthusiasm being shown in connection with the Christmas tree singings in the park during the winter. The Commissioner of Parks participated in the singing around the Christmas tree in Madison Square Park on Christmas Eve and joined with the Chorus in singing at its great public reception held in Madison Square Garden. The prevalence of infantile paralysis during the summer was followed by the abandonment of a movement to extend Community Singing to the small parks in congested neighborhoods.

Private Citizens Donate Concerts.—In addition to the generous financial support given by private individuals making possible the work of the Community Chorus, public spirited citizens contributed large sums to making it possible to extend the inadequate music appropriation of the Department. Two factors made this helpful benevolence especially necessary. The first was that the music appropriation for 1916 was \$23,207, which was \$26,293 less than the amount appropriated by the City for musical purposes

in 1914. The second was that the Musical Mutual Protective Union, which had granted the Department a weekly rate for concerts, given at different locations in the neighborhood parks, cancelled this rate for 1916, taking the position that the City by reducing rather than expanding its appropriation for music in the parks of Manhattan and Richmond had taken advantage of its generosity during the previous year, stating their fears that if the weekly rate was continued it might prove the basis for further reduction in the appropriation for 1917. The action of the Union practically amounted to raising the rates for music to what they had been in 1914, the year previous, and thereby compelling the City to pay the old rate instead of the new rate, which had been a twenty per cent. reduction, and which had allowed the City to expand its concerts—the number of its concerts in the small parks by approximately 25 per cent.

The first of these donations was of two band concerts by an anonymous private citizen. This citizen permitted the Department to select its own band to give these concerts on the Mall in Central Park. Having been assured of at least \$300 for each of these concerts, the Department was able to procure the band led by Patrick Conway, one of the largest and most excellent of the touring musical organizations of the country, the members of which were also members of the Musical Mutual Protective Union. This band, according to competent musical critics, has come to be the successor of the Sousa and the Pryor Band as touring organizations, now that the Sousa and the Pryor Band have largely abandoned touring concert work. Both of the Conway concerts on the Mall were largely attended.

Because of the scattered placing of seats around the Band Stand on the Mall in Central Park, and also because the Music Stand is so situated that sound is not readily distributed over the area where listeners may gather, and also because the Music Stand is not provided with a shell to properly throw out over the area occupied by music lovers the delicate musical effects obtainable by an orchestra, the Department has taken the position during the last three years, that orchestra concerts should not be paid for out of City funds. Nevertheless, the large number of lovers of classical music, particularly of symphonical orchestral music, in New York is so great that there is considerable demand on the part of the public for such concerts, and the attendance at them is always large. Several such concerts were provided in 1916 through private generosity. The most notable of these donations were that of Elkan Naumburg, who gave six concerts by a symphony orchestra, led by Franz Kaltenborn. Mr. Kaltenborn was selected by Mr. Naumburg as the leader because he had previously given a series of such concerts in Central Park. Mr. Kaltenborn selected the instrumentalists and soloists, and this Department printed the program.

Late in July the friends of Mr. Arthur Claussen, Conductor of the Antonio Symphony Society Orchestra, applied to the Department, stating that they would furnish funds to provide a concert by Mr. Claussen and his orchestra on the Mall in Central Park. The only vacant date was on

Sunday, August 13th, from 4 to 6 p. m. The Department requested that, if possible, the concert be given at the conclusion of the music season in order to lengthen it, but Mr. Claussen's friends, who desired to remain anonymous, said that the concert would have to be given during August, preferably during the middle of August.

Mr. Elkan Naumburg, who was donating the Kaltenborn series of concerts, wished to try the experiment of giving some of the concerts in the evening, and it so happened that it had been arranged to give one of the Kaltenborn concerts on the evening of the 13th. This made it possible to give the Claussen concert on the afternoon of that date. It, therefore, happened that there were three musical events in Central Park on August 13th, beginning with the public singing of the Community Chorus accompanied by orchestra at two o'clock. On Sunday, shortly after noon, thousands of people began to arrive in Central Park, hundreds of them bringing lunch baskets. Long before two o'clock, when the Community Chorus singing began, all the benches surrounding the music stand were filled and thousands of persons were standing. The police estimated that there were continuously between twenty and twenty-five thousand persons about the music stand from two o'clock in the afternoon until after ten o'clock at night, when the third concert of the day ended. When the Community Chorus singing was over it was noted that the benches were not vacated and that the crowd was increasing. At the conclusion of the Claussen concert at six o'clock very few persons left their seats, and thousands remained on the benches until eight o'clock, when the Kaltenborn concert began. It would appear there were twenty thousand people, and upwards, in New York who were willing to undergo the greatest amount of physical inconvenience rather than to miss concerts of high-class music. A feature of both the Kaltenborn concerts and the Claussen concerts was the participation in them by vocalists. Despite the fact that the music stand is not provided with a sounding board and consequently a great deal of the effect of vocal music is lost, nevertheless the public enthusiastically received the appearance of vocalists and applauded their efforts with every manifestation of high appreciation.

Vocal Concerts.—The Music League of America also co-operated with the Department by giving vocal concerts at the following places:
Battery Park, at 12:30 p. m. on September 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 29.

Other Concerts.—With the co-operation of the Department, also the Editor of the Music page of the Evening Mail, gave a series of six concerts on various occasions at noon-day in Battery Park. An attendance of more than one thousand persons was present at each of these concerts.

When the First Regiment Field Artillery Band returned from the Mexican Border, Commissioner Ward gave it a public reception at City Hall Park.

This band had been engaged by the Department to give its general

series of Central Park concerts, but had to abandon the concerts on account of being summoned to duty in the Federal service. At the public reception the band, led by Conductor W. Seneca Mygrant, gave a concert which was attended by more than three thousand persons.

The success of the Battery Park noon-day concerts and the large crowd which attended the concert at noon in City Hall Park give rise to the belief that there is a great possibility of ministering to the public appreciation of music and taking advantage of that interest to educate it in the better type of music by having noon-day concerts in the parks in the business section. Of course, this is impossible with the present state of the music appropriation.

Franko as Leader.—Following the call of the First Regiment Field Artillery Band to the Mexican Border created a considerable problem for the Department in the handling of the Central Park music. Mr. Mygrant had proved a very popular conductor in the previous season and his selection to lead the concerts in 1916 gave a guarantee that the series would go off in excellent fashion. The summoning of the Regiment to the Border, however, changed all this and necessitated experimentation on the part of the Department. Several leaders were tried in charge of the concert band in Central Park, and after their work had been reported upon by the Secretary of the Park Board, who acted as Supervisor of Music, the Commissioner decided to call upon Mr. Nahan Franko, who had led the first concert band organized by the Department in 1914. Mr. Franko consented to lead this band and undertook at once to work in this organization. He conducted the remaining concerts paid for by city funds in Central Park with great success.

Financial Adjustments.—It would not have been possible to maintain the high standards of music provided for by city money in Central Park if Commissioner Ward had not succeeded in altering the view of the Finance Department concerning the advisability of holding rehearsals preceding such concerts. The situation became serious in the middle of the season, when the Finance Department refused to pass bills containing payment for rehearsals, despite the fact that the contracts issued by the Department contained provisions for such payment.

The schedule provided that the leader of the Central Park band concert should be paid \$25; \$15 for leading such concerts and \$10 for rehearsals, and that the men should receive \$5 for each concert and \$2 each for each rehearsal. The rehearsal was provided for in the contract to be held before each such concert. Refusing to pass the bill, the Finance Department said that Central Park concerts were no more important than those in other parks, citing Prospect Park, Brooklyn, where the leaders received only \$10 and the men only \$5 apiece, and they received no money for rehearsals and no rehearsals were held. The Finance Department affected to fear that there would be a general increase in the payment of music unless these bills were held up.

Commissioner Ward took the position that refusal to pass such bills would bring about a reduction in quality of the music played on the Mall in Central Park. He expressed his views so vigorously concerning the consequences of such a reduction in payment that the Finance Department finally consented to pass the bills.

By Commissioner Ward's representation, the Finance Department also consented that the payment for concerts at Curtis Field, Staten Island, should be at the same rate. At the request of a large number of citizens in Staten Island, headed by the Borough President and most of the Borough and County officials, the concerts given at Curtis Field were orchestral, and the leader appointed was the one selected by the request of the Staten Islanders themselves. Curtis Field, which is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education and which is loaned to the Park Department for recreation purposes, is admirably suited for orchestral concerts. It contains a large concrete grand stand, seating about 3,000 persons, throughout the entire length of which it is possible to hear a stringed orchestra. The field itself provides a parking space for hundreds of automobiles, and on concert nights not only is the band stand occupied but hundreds of persons are seated in the automobiles all about the temporary band stand. Each of the concerts is a gala civic affair, attended by all the public officials and by most of the prominent citizens, who come from all parts of the borough by every possible means of conveyance. The Secretary of the Park Board has reported that at no concerts given under the jurisdiction of the Department is the audience so enthusiastic and so appreciative of the better quality of music.

Standard Instrumentation.—Owing to the reduction of the music appropriation and the amount of concerts necessarily being reduced because of the refusal of the Musical Mutual Protective Union to continue the weekly rate in the neighborhood parks, great pressure was brought upon the Department by outside forces to reduce the number of musicians in the district band and to split up the concerts among a larger number of leaders. It was seriously urged by bureaus of the appropriating authority that the number of musicians be cut down from the standard instrumentation of 21 men and leader to bands consisting of eight or ten persons. Commissioner Ward steadfastly refused to reduce the number of men in the bands, which had been fixed by his original committee on music in 1914. He also resisted strong pressure from a number of important sources to distribute the concerts among a larger number of leaders. Although the abolition of the weekly rate removed some of the stronger inducements for organizing the bands on a district basis in the neighborhood parks, the Commissioner decided to retain the district system and to apportion the music in the Borough of Manhattan neighborhood parks to the same form of music as previously, retaining as contractors the leaders who had done good work as conductors the previous year. Four such leaders were selected. Under this arrangement 142 concerts were given. The schedule was helped out

by the generosity of the Kip's Bay Neighborhood Association, which for the second year donated a series of eight concerts at St. Gabriel's Park. (The East Side House Settlement also offered to give a symphonic concert by the Neighborhood Symphony Orchestra in John Jay Park on August 29th. This Neighborhood House had also arranged to give a series of community concerts in the same park, but abandoned the concert and series on account of the prevalence of poliomyelitis. The epidemic nature of this disease, which aroused alarm in the tenement district, also caused the abandonment of community chorus singing in other neighborhood parks, such as Corlears Hook, Tompkins Square, Hamilton Fish and Mount Morris Parks. Owing to the state of the City's music appropriation the usual subsidy of \$300 could not be granted to the United German Singing Societies, consequently the concert usually given by this society in Central Park was abandoned.

As in the two previous seasons, the Secretary of the Park Board acted as Supervisor of Music. The full series of concerts was as follows:

SCHEDULE OF CONCERTS.

MUSIC—SEASON OF 1916.

CENTRAL PARK.

- NAHAN FRANKO AND HIS CONCERT BAND:
Saturdays, 8 P. M., July 29; August 5, 12, 19, 26; September 2, 9.
Sundays, 4 P. M., July 30; August 20, 27; September 3, 10.
- PATRICK CONWAY AND HIS BAND:
(Donated by a public-spirited citizen)
Sundays, 4 P. M.; June 18; July 2.
- FRANZ KALTENBORN AND HIS ORCHESTRA:
(Donated by Elkan Naumburg)
Sundays, 4 P. M., June 11, 25; Monday, 4 P. M., May 30.
Tuesday, 4 P. M., July 4; Sunday, 8 P. M., August 13; Monday, 8 P. M., September 4 (Labor Day).
- GUSTAV D'AQUIN AND HIS CONCERT BAND:
Sunday, 4 P. M., July 9.
- WILLIAM SCHWARTZ AND HIS CONCERT BAND:
Saturday, 8 P. M., July 15.
- LOUIS SCHMIDT AND HIS CONCERT BAND:
Sunday, 4 P. M., July 16.
- GUSTAVE LANGENUS AND HIS CONCERT BAND:
Saturday, 8 P. M., July 22; Sunday, 4 P. M., July 23.
- BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY BAND:
Sunday, 4 P. M., August 6.

MANHATTAN.

DISTRICT No. 1:

WILLIAM SCHWARTZ AND THE EAST SIDE MUNICIPAL BAND:

COLUMBUS PARK:

Saturdays, 8 P. M., July 15, 22, 29; August 5, 12, 19, 26; September 2.

HAMILTON FISH PARK:

Fridays, 8 P. M., July 14, 21, 28; August 4, 11, 18, 25; September 1.

SEWARD PARK:

Saturdays, 4 P. M., July 15, 22, 29; August 5, 12, 19, 26; September 2.

TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK:

Sundays, 8 P. M., July 16, 23, 30; August 6, 13, 20, 27; September 3.

ST. GABRIEL'S PARK: (Donated by the Kip's Bay Neighborhood Association)

Saturday evenings, 8 P. M., July 8, 15, 22, 29; August 5, 12, 19, 26.

DISTRICT No. 2:

GUSTAV D'AQUIN AND THE WEST SIDE MUNICIPAL BAND:

BATTERY PARK:

Sundays, 4 P. M., July 16, 23, 30; August 6, 13, 20, 27; September 3.

ABINGDON SQUARE PARK:

Fridays, 8 P. M., July 14, 21, 28; August 4, 11, 18, 25; September 1.

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK:

Sundays, 8 P. M., July 16, 23, 30; August 6, 13, 20, 27; September 3.

ST. NICHOLAS PARK:

Wednesdays, 8 P. M., July 12, 26; August 9, 23.

COLONIAL PARK:

Wednesdays, 8 P. M., July 19; August 2, 16, 30.

DISTRICT No. 3:

LOUIS SCHMIDT AND THE UP-TOWN MUNICIPAL BAND:

MOUNT MORRIS PARK:

Thursdays, 8 P. M., July 13, 20, 27; August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

CARL SCHURZ PARK:

Fridays, 8 P. M., July 14, 21, 28; August 4, 11, 18, 25; September 1.

WEST 129TH STREET PIER:

Saturdays, 8 P. M., July 15, 22, 29; August 5, 12, 19, 26; September 2.

EAST 112TH STREET PIER:

Sundays, 8 P. M., July 16, 23, 30; August 6, 13, 20, 27; September 3.

DISTRICT No. 4:

JOHN T. F. WARD AND THE DOWN-TOWN MUNICIPAL BAND:

CHELSEA PARK:

Saturdays, 8 P. M., July 15, 22, 29; August 5, 12, 19, 26; September 2.

BARROW STREET PIER:

Thursdays, 8 P. M., July 20; August 3, 17, 24, 31.

HUDSON PARK:

Sundays, 4 P. M., July 9, 16, 30; August 20.

EAST 24TH STREET PIER:

Fridays, 8 P. M., July 14, 21, 28; August 4, 11, 18, 25; September 1.

WEST 50TH STREET RECREATION PIER:

Sundays, 8 P. M., July 16, 23, 30; August 6, 13, 20, 27

STATEN ISLAND.

■ FRANZ KALTENBORN AND HIS ORCHESTRA:

CURTIS FIELD:

Tuesday evening, 8 P. M., July 4.

Saturday evenings, 8 P. M., July 15, 29; August 19; September 2.

BAND CONCERTS, FRANK L. HADKINS AND HIS BAND:

TOTTENVILLE:

Thursday evenings, 8 P. M., July 13, 27; August 10.

BAND CONCERTS, H. DAMMER AND HIS BAND:

PORT RICHMOND:

Saturday evenings, 8 P. M., July 15, 29; August 26.

BAND CONCERTS, ALVIN JAEGER AND HIS BAND:

STAPLETON:

Wednesday evenings, 8 P. M., July 12, 26; August 9.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1916

	Page
1. Budget Appropriations—	
(1) As revised to Dec. 31, 1916.....	126
(2) Expenditures and Liabilities.....	126
(3) Unencumbered Balances.....	128
2. Detailed Statement of Expenses—	
On Basis of Cost by Functions for Each Park.....	130
3. Corporate Stock—	
(1) Authorization and Additions During Year.....	136
(2) Expenditures and Liabilities.....	136
(3) Unencumbered Balance.....	136
4. Revenue Bond Account—	
(1) Authorization and Addition During Year.....	138
(2) Expenditures and Liabilities.....	138
(3) Unencumbered Balance.....	138
5. Financial Statement Showing Revenues and Deposits, 1916.....	139

THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Department of Parks, Manhattan and Richmond.

Statement of the Condition as at the Close of Business December 31, 1916, of All Appropriation Accounts for the Current Year.

Code No. 1916	Title of Account	Net Funds Available (C + D—E)	Expenditures	Liabilities	Unencumbered Balances (H—M)
Accounts Other Than Personal Service.					
1101	Park Board, Contingencies.....	\$175.00	\$133.87	\$39.41	\$1.72
	Forage and Veterinary Supplies—				
1129	Care of Parks and Boulevards.....	11,712.00	11,687.46		24.60
1130	Care of Menagerie.....	15,000.00	14,408.77	333.61	257.62
1131	Fuel Supplies.....	13,005.00	12,560.63	425.81	18.56
1132	Office Supplies.....	2,265.00	2,243.08	12.85	9.07
1133	Medical and Surgical Supplies.....	100.00	90.07		9.93
1134	Motor Vehicle Supplies.....	3,190.00	2,852.03	262.76	75.21
1135	Laundry, Cleaning and Disinfecting Supplies.....	550.00	499.36	43.79	6.85
1136	Educational and Recreational Supplies.....	1,170.00	1,102.36	28.05	30.59
1137	Botanical and Agricultural Supplies—				
	(a) Care of Parks and Boulevards.....	13,427.00	12,518.88	853.18	54.94
	(b) Restoration of Central, Morning-side and Carl Schurz Parks.....	4,951.50	4,907.98		43.52
	(c) Care of Children's School Farms.....	80.00	66.80	13.00	.20
1138	General Plant Supplies—				
	(a) Administration.....	100.00	75.15	16.00	8.85
	(b) Care of Parks and Boulevards.....	1,735.00	1,673.41	60.22	1.37
	(c) Care of Children's School Farms.....	30.00	29.42		.58
1139	Office Equipment.....	150.00	115.93	33.15	.92
1141	Motorless Vehicles and Equipment—				
	(b) Care of Parks and Boulevards.....	115.00	105.50	7.50	2.00
1142	Motor Vehicles and Equipment.....	7,895.00	7,504.10	374.17	16.73
1143	Educational and Recreational Equipment.....	915.00	641.62	269.60	3.78
1144	General Plant Equipment—				
	(a) General.....	7,105.00	6,542.22	547.14	15.64
	(b) Operation of Playgrounds.....	50.00	46.08		3.92
	(c) Care of Children's School Farms.....	40.00	37.37		2.63
1145	Highway Materials.....	9,000.00	8,039.98	943.62	16.40
1146	Building Materials.....	6,152.00	5,814.06	324.01	13.93
1147	Motor Vehicle Materials.....	385.00	262.89	25.79	96.32
1148	General Plant Materials—				
	(a) General.....	9,405.00	8,551.25	826.43	27.32
	(b) Restoration of Central, Morning-side and Carl Schurz Parks.....	191.50	186.47		5.03
1149	General Repairs—				
	(a) Buildings.....	15,513.00	13,991.30	1,433.50	88.20
	(b) Walks.....	8,100.00	6,780.82	1,167.00	152.18
	(c) Restoration of Central Park.....	857.00	809.62	5.00	42.38
	(d) Miscellaneous.....	2,538.00	2,337.09	24.51	176.40
1151	Shoeing and Boarding Horses, including Veterinary Service.....	985.00	776.75	40.00	168.25
1152	Carfare—				
	(a) Administration.....	1,840.00	1,644.20		195.80
	(b) Operation of Playgrounds.....	450.00	353.85		96.15
	(c) Children's School Farms.....	60.00	33.90		26.10
1153	Communication.....	3,350.00	3,036.62	277.82	35.56
	General Plant Service—				
1154	General.....	1,190.00	440.91	93.30	655.79
1155	Operation of Playgrounds.....	50.00	13.00	22.50	14.50
	Public Recreation—				
1156	Music.....	23,207.00	23,117.50	72.00	17.50
1157	Motor Vehicle Repairs.....	200.00	112.74	23.02	64.24
	Total Contract.....	329.00	265.50	10.52	52.98
1158	Contingencies—				
	(a) General.....	15.00	10.00		5.00
	(b) Children's School Farms.....	280.00	237.61	40.16	2.23
1172	Jumel Mansion—Supplies.....	50.00	12.95	37.00	.05
1173	Jumel Mansion—Contract or Open Order Service.....	5,000.00			5,000.00
1180	Grant's Tomb—Contract or Open Order Service.....	26,000.00	25,800.03		199.97
1186	New York Public Library Building—Contract or Open Order Service—				
	(a) General Maintenance.....	13,400.00	12,192.31		1,207.69

Code No. 1916	Title of Account	Net Funds Available (C + D - E)	Expenditures	Liabilities	Unen- umbered Balances (H - M)
Accounts Other Than Personal Service					
1195	New York Aquarium—Salaries and Expenses.....	47,000.00	40,266.50	.....	6,733.50
1205	American Museum of Natural History—Salaries and Expenses.....	197,342.00	188,619.13	.....	8,722.87
1206	Special Repairs.....	15,657.00	13,677.82	.....	1,979.18
		\$472,307.00	\$437,266.83	\$8,686.42	\$26,393.75
Personal Service.					
1110	Salaries, Regular Employees—Administration.....	\$43,670.97	\$43,380.37	.....	\$290.60
1113	Engineering and Architectural—Care of Parks and Boulevards.....	48,541.15	47,792.57	.....	748.58
1116	Care of Bath Houses and Comfort Stations.....	42,445.75	42,262.43	.....	183.32
1118	Salary, Temporary Employees—Administration—General.....	1,079.87	1,079.27	.....	58
1121	Wages, Temporary Employees—Care of Parks and Boulevards.....	379,616.25	370,356.95	.....	9,259.30
1122	Care of Trees in City Streets.....	6,518.25	5,952.95	.....	565.30
1123	Restoration of Central, Morningside and Carl Schurz Parks.....	4,000.25	3,687.68	.....	312.57
1126	Operation of Playgrounds, Piers, Gymnasias and Children's School Farms..	84,551.00	83,598.51	.....	952.49
1127	Care of Bath Houses, Gymnasias, Comfort Stations and Piers.....	47,061.00	45,728.31	.....	1,332.69
1150	Hire of Horses and Vehicles with Drivers.	1,684.00	1,299.37	.....	384.63
1171	Jumel Mansion—Wages Regular Employees.....	1,830.00	1,416.55	.....	413.45
		\$660,998.49	\$646,554.98	.....	\$14,443.51
Accounts Other Than Personal Service.					
1129	Forage and Veterinary Supplies—Care of Parks and Boulevards.....	\$13,578.00	\$13,577.89	.....	\$0.11
1130	Care of Menagerie.....	14,000.00	13,956.23	.....	43.77
1131	Fuel Supplies.....	14,671.25	14,667.37	.....	3.88
1132	Office Supplies—(a) Administration.....	2,570.00	2,521.27	.....	48.73
	(b) Care of Children's School Farms...	40.00	30.65	.....	9.35
1133	Medical and Surgical Supplies.....	75.00	73.62	.....	1.38
1134	Motor Vehicle Supplies.....	1,550.00	1,347.92	.....	202.08
1135	Laundry, Cleaning and Disinfecting Supplies.....	475.00	399.94	.....	75.06
1136	Educational and Recreational Supplies.....	1,225.00	1,220.89	.....	4.11
1137	Botanical and Agricultural Supplies—(a) Care of Parks and Boulevards....	17,350.00	17,312.70	\$6.27	31.03
	(b) Care of Children's School Farms...	150.00	148.55	.....	1.45
1138	General Plant Supplies—(a) Administration.....	175.00	165.62	.....	9.38
	(b) Care of Parks and Boulevards....	2,700.00	2,295.04	.....	404.96
	(c) Care of Children's School Farms...	60.00	56.95	.....	3.05
1139	Office Equipment.....	765.00	764.41	.....	.59
1141	Motorless Vehicles and Equipment—(a) Administration.....	50.00	36.50	.....	13.50
	(b) Care of Parks and Boulevards....	130.00	85.57	.....	44.43
1142	Motor Vehicles and Equipment.....	1,100.00	935.82	.....	164.18
1143	Educational and Recreational Equipment	1,675.00	1,657.13	.....	17.87
1144	General Plant Equipment—(a) General.....	8,210.00	8,098.90	.....	111.10
	(b) Operations of Playgrounds.....	1,100.00	1,097.40	.....	2.60
	(c) Care of Children's School Farms...	145.00	144.29	.....	.71
1145	Highway Materials.....	4,810.00	3,777.28	.....	1,032.72
1146	Building Materials.....	10,800.00	10,379.67	300.00	120.33
1147	Motor Vehicle Materials.....	225.00	144.77	.....	80.53
1148	General Plant Materials.....	12,530.00	12,352.33	.....	177.67
1149	General Repairs.....	20,000.00	19,999.45	.....	.55
1151	Shoeing and Boarding Horses, including Veterinary Service.....	1,542.36	1,537.50	.....	4.86
1152	Carfare—(a) Administration.....	1,940.00	1,853.21	.....	86.79
	(b) Operation of Playgrounds.....	500.00	441.95	.....	58.05
	(c) Children's School Farms.....	60.00	59.75	.....	.25

Code No. 1916	Title of Account	Net Funds Available (C + D—E)	Expended	Liabilities	Unen- umbered Balances (H—M)
Accounts Other Than Personal Service					
1153	Communication.....	3,516.72	3,515.37	.....	1.35
	General Plant Service—				
1154	General.....	1,132.15	994.28	.....	137.87
1155	Operation of Playgrounds.....	32.64	1.50	.....	21.14
1156	Music.....	150.00	121.40	.....	28.60
1157	Motor Vehicle Repairs.....			.....
1158	Contingencies—				
M	(a) General.....	506.50	496.50	.....	10.00
	(b) Children's School Farms.....	40.00	36.20	.....	3.80
1172	Jumel Mansion—Supplies.....	287.00	286.25	.....	.75
1173	Jumel Mansion—Contract or Open Order Service.....	200.00	188.50	.....	11.50
1180	Grant's Tomb—Contract or Open Order Service.....	5,000.00	4,788.93	.....	211.07
1186	New York Public Library Building—Contract or Open Order Service.....			.....
1195	New York Aquarium—Salaries and Expenses.....	47,000.00	46,991.66	.....	8.34
Personal Service.					
Salaries Regular Employees—					
Administration—					
1110	General.....	\$53,220.00	\$52,345.36	.....	\$874.64
Engineering—					
1111TC	Tax Levy and Corporate Stock Force.....	10,837.50	10,835.04	.....	2.46
Architectural—					
1113	Care of Parks and Boulevards.....	19,200.00	18,190.00	.....	1,010.00
1116	Care of Bath Houses and Comfort Stations.....	39,900.00	38,682.50	.....	1,217.50
1117	Care of Menagerie.....	14,855.00	14,495.16	.....	359.84
1118	Care of Children's School Farms.....	4,900.00	4,846.66	.....	53.34
Wages Regular Employees—					
1121	Care of Parks and Boulevards.....	213,107.65	199,248.88	.....	13,858.77
1122	Care of Trees in City Streets.....	2,328.25	1,433.90	.....	914.35
1123	Care of Bath Houses and Comfort Stations.....	2,372.50	2,372.06	.....	.44
Wages Temporary Employees—					
1124	Care of Parks and Boulevards.....	368,705.00	364,444.28	.....	4,260.72
1125	Care of Trees in City Streets.....	10,255.00	10,054.12	.....	200.88
1126	Operation of Playgrounds and Piers.....	73,707.00	72,498.05	.....	1,208.95
1127	Care of Bath Houses and Comfort Stations and Piers.....	48,155.60	44,733.57	.....	3,422.03
1128	Care of Children's School Farms.....	11,425.00	9,814.43	.....	1,610.57
1150	Hired Teams and Carts.....	3,500.00	3,489.46	.....	10.54
1171	Jumel Mansion—Wages Regular Employees.....	1,825.00	1,820.00	.....	5.00
1431	.....	2,676.25	2,251.38	.....	424.87
1432	.....	45.50	43.75	.....	1.75
		\$881,035.25	\$851,598.60	.....	\$29,436.65
1914	.....			
1149	.....	\$81.95	\$300.00	.....	—\$218.05

THE CITY OF
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS—BOROUGHES
DETAILED STATEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR
(A) On Basis of Cost by

DIRECT PARK EXPENSES				
	General Expenses	Super- vision and General Expenses	Care of Roads, Paths and Drive- ways	Care of Trees, Shrubs, Flowers and Lawns
General Administration	\$61,604.72			
Automobile Service	11,623.39			
Park Board	32,889.58			
Parks and Playgrounds (Manhattan)—				
Battery Park		\$632.70	\$2,744.50	\$2,034.17
Bryant Park		524.04	2,484.18	1,820.09
Central Park		12,619.54	56,654.71	48,607.37
Chelsea Park		460.01	1,379.63	834.05
City Hall Park		817.11	3,736.28	2,468.42
Colonial Park		682.22	1,169.55	1,077.02
Columbus Park		385.90	2,029.72	182.26
Corlear's Hook Park		366.95	1,760.64	564.37
DeWitt Clinton Park		905.83	1,014.30	1,279.48
Hamilton Fish Park		525.90	1,852.03	491.34
Five Point Playground				
Fort Washington Park		152.00	652.21	231.22
Harlem Lane Park				
Highbridge Park		126.20	1,459.60	405.94
Hudson Park		522.60	979.00	1,160.30
Isham Park		305.17	593.72	1,027.55
John Jay Park		340.85	71.68	127.58
Thomas Jefferson Park		842.03	2,100.73	745.20
Madison Square		589.04	2,435.85	2,050.51
Manhattan Square		116.20	236.93	178.49
Morningside Park		1,051.51	5,770.89	5,801.59
Roger Morris Park		154.26	409.98	477.91
Mount Morris Park		1,200.43	3,340.57	1,901.52
Queensboro Playground				21.82
Riverside Park		3,806.88	20,577.11	8,506.78
St. Gabriel's Park		715.82	695.72	643.11
St. Nicholas Park		840.14	1,706.68	2,571.33
Carl Schurz Park		1,417.60	2,157.22	4,242.81
William H. Seward Park		1,051.89	1,757.41	728.80
Stuyvesant Park		413.31	1,226.67	1,723.38
Tompkins Square		1,003.90	2,691.12	1,666.07
Union Square		462.01	1,089.64	1,003.43
Washington Square		833.77	1,957.10	2,695.43
West 59th St. Playground				
Yorkville Playground				
Small Parks, Squares and Triangles		1,442.37	4,319.44	2,645.76
East of Riverside Drive, near 190th St.				
17th and 18th Sts., Ave. C and East River.		139.39	407.29	94.84
Abingdon Square				
Bennett Field				
Undistributed Parks		12,790.22	1,357.34	2,913.37
Dyckman Park		81.06	138.06	275.00
Watergate Playground				18.85
Carmansville Playground				
Clark Playground				
Parkways (Manhattan)—				
Broadway		61.37	848.53	2,406.21
Cathedral Parkway				11.50
Delancey Street		76.28	460.96	209.24
Eighty-sixth Street				404.47
Harlem River Driveway		814.14	2,931.70	618.12
West 120th Street			52.05	
Park Avenue		232.37	227.12	2,940.76
Riverside Drive				
Seventh Avenue		62.66	151.01	850.02
Seventy-second Street				13.23
West End Avenue				172.80
Washington Bridge		129.27	527.95	417.80

NEW YORK.
 OF MANHATTAN AND RICHMOND.
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1916
 Functions for Each Park

DIRECT PARK EXPENSES							
Care of Beaches, Lakes and Shore Lines	Indoor Gymnasium, Play-grounds, Athletic Fields and Ch. Sch. Farms and Piers	Care of General Park Improvements and Prop's	Care of Bath Houses and Comfort Stations	Care of Piers, Buildings and Other Structures (not Otherwise Classified)	Music and Celebrations	Total for Year	Increase or (D) Decreases
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$61,604.72	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,623.39	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32,889.58	.....
.....	\$642.63	\$277.57	\$981.21	.....	\$967.67	8,280.45	.....
.....	.....	132.82	3,296.48	.....	.....	8,257.61	.....
\$1,060.26	6,834.26	4,819.07	16,432.08	\$9,852.14	5,841.13	16,720.56	.....
.....	3,071.65	470.54	3,178.21	.....	1,020.94	10,415.03	.....
.....	.....	194.31	.....	.....	40.53	7,256.65	.....
.....	1,225.06	136.24	914.77	.....	514.35	5,719.21	.....
.....	923.13	113.32	3,303.82	.....	920.00	7,858.15	.....
.....	3,557.49	447.76	2,398.46	532.20	.....	9,627.87	.....
.....	5,971.89	2,271.40	6,737.20	378.23	.38	18,558.71	.....
.....	4,791.78	399.15	4,087.89	.....	989.04	13,137.13	.....
.....	1,331.04	38.59	.....	188.17	.....	1,557.80	.....
.....	6.87	218.39	345.85	118.70	10.37	1,961.81	.....
.....
.....	797.11	79.46	.....	371.30	.....	3,239.61	.....
.....	1,959.80	72.15	2,178.25	.....	497.42	7,569.52	.....
.....	466.66	52.56	.....	852.50	1.37	3,299.53	.....
.....	3,701.06	24.45	.....	2,570.62	57.70	6,893.94	.....
.....	7,454.22	264.84	7,154.82	149.34	.....	18,711.18	.....
.....	.....	251.23	1,645.67	.....	432.13	7,404.43	.....
.....	.....	4.63	.....	.....	.....	536.25	.....
.....	12.00	1,001.68	1,373.83	.....	2.75	15,014.25	.....
.....	.....	90.71	.....	.....	.....	1,132.86	.....
.....	569.76	2,047.81	3,617.25	.....	985.05	13,662.39	.....
.....	1,838.54	113.71	.....	818.07	.....	2,792.14	.....
.....	1,031.52	2,082.84	8,017.80	.....	196.54	44,219.47	.....
.....	2,965.38	273.12	.....	.....	5.86	5,299.01	.....
.....	178.85	288.93	1.38	.....	491.24	6,078.55	.....
.....	1,637.59	354.98	1,971.26	3,408.00	942.34	16,131.80	.....
.....	4,284.97	175.59	11,164.55	.....	1,028.83	20,192.04	.....
.....	.....	296.47	1,608.50	.....	.....	5,268.33	.....
.....	4,511.21	559.42	5,011.84	.....	930.17	16,373.73	.....
.....	.....	203.18	3,361.25	.....	19.81	6,139.32	.....
.....	.....	708.87	1,699.58	.....	942.53	8,837.28	.....
.....	2,712.75	80.14	.....	1,036.54	.....	3,829.43	.....
.....	4,152.69	92.54	.....	1,904.90	.24	6,150.37	.....
.....	14.98	1,109.40	2,132.74	.....	200.00	11,864.69	.....
.....
.....	1,352.30	46.76	1,448.25	.....	.....	3,488.83	.....
.....	166.05	.....	.....	.....	920.00	1,086.05	.....
.....	19.04	.....	.....	.....	.....	19.04	.....
.....	24,318.96	9,121.90	1,444.21	.....	89.25	52,035.25	.....
.....	.....	4.69	.....	.....	.....	498.81	.....
.....	771.60	1.75	.....	.....	.....	792.20	.....
.....	3,049.05	.....	.....	1,956.85	.41	5,006.31	.....
.....	498.20	.....	.....	.....	35.00	533.20	.....
.....	.....	1,075.67	.....	.....	.....	4,391.78	.....
.....	.....	24.66	.....	.....	.....	4.50	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	771.14	.....
.....	.....	165.60	513.24	431.31	.....	404.47	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,474.11	.....
.....	.....	3,971.53	.....	.....	.....	52.05	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,371.78	.....
.....	.....	241.83	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,305.52	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13.23	.....
.....	.....	133.84	.....	.....	.....	172.80	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,208.86	.....

THE CITY OF
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS—BOROUGHES
DETAILED STATEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR
(A) On Basis of Cost by

DIRECT PARK EXPENSES				
	General Expenses	Super- vision and General Expenses	Care of Roads, Paths and Drive- ways	Care of Trees, Shrubs, Flowers and Lawns
Parks (Richmond—				
Silver Lake		711.87	108.75	47.50
Washington Park		269.44	1,003.13	260.81
Broadway, Bennett Street, Heberton Ave- nue and Vreeland Street, Port Rich- mond		238.04	594.38	300.87
Maine and Willard Avenues, Westerleigh ..		92.33	93.75	100.00
St. Peter's Playground				
Curtis Field				
Tottenville				
City Streets—				
Care of Trees (Manhattan)				4,139.69
Care of Trees (Richmond)				2,279.79
Miscellaneous Expenses—				
General Park Equipment	16,620.19			
Jumel Mansion	5,289.76			
Menagerie	38,702.12			
Greenhouses and Nursery	32,954.17			
Stables	38,837.07			
Shops (Overhead)	21,416.12			
86th Street Garage	3,556.40			
86th Street Storeroom	889.00			
79th Street Storage Yard	2,447.39			
97th Street Storage Yard	3,169.44			
66th Street Storage Yard	30.01			
Isham Greenhouses	2,373.32			
Swedish School Gardens, C. P.				
Manufactures by Department—Completed ..	2,059.53			
Manufactures by Department—Uncompleted ..	94.58			
Sample Settees, made by Department	77.18			
Survey for Carousel, Central Park .....	.38			
Sample Brushes for Central Purchase Com- mittee	3.32			
Repairs, Aquarium Building, Battery Park ..	1,135.00			
Inventory of Equipment	109.56			
Delivering Railings, Brooklyn Parks	21.00			
Repairs to Motor Cycle	72.47			
Operation of Saw Mill	925.31			
Observatory, Central Park	86.61			
Trees, City College	107.35			
Alteration, Photographer's Room, Municipal Building	190.94			
Repairs, Library Building, 42d Street	84.76			
Manure Pit	5,032.34			
Small Buildings, excluding Central Park ..				
Recreation Piers—				
Albany Street				
Barrow Street				
Market Street				
East 3d Street				
East 24th Street				
East 112th Street				
West 50th Street				
West 129th Street				
Undisturbed Piers				
Paints for Central Testing Laboratory	1.60			
Repairs to fence broken by Department, Staten Island	5.00			
Williamsburg Bridge Playground				
Cherry and Market Street Playground				
East 12th Street Playground				
Grace Playground				
Jasper Oval Playground				
Jackson Square Playground				
Ryan Playground				
West 18th Street Playground				

NEW YORK.
 OF MANHATTAN AND RICHMOND.
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1916
 Functions for Each Park

DIRECT PARK EXPENSES							
Care of Beaches, Lakes and Shore Lines	Indoor Gymnasium, Play-grounds, Athletic Fields and Ch. Sch. Farms and Piers	Care of General Park Improvements and Prop's	Care of Bath Houses and Comfort Stations	Care of Piers, Buildings and Other Structures (not Otherwise Classified)	Music and Celebrations	Total for Year	Increase or (D) Decreases
.....	.....	22.84	.....	.....	364.50	868.12 1,920.72	.....
.....	.....	7.58	.....	.....	359.50	1,500.37	.....
.....	234.16	.....	.....	.....	.....	520.24	.....
.....	37.20	.....	.....	.....	.....	37.20	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,636.18	1,636.18	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	136.00	136.00	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,139.69	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,279.79	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,620.19	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,289.76	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38,702.12	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32,954.17	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38,837.07	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21,416.12	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,556.40	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	889.00	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,447.39	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,169.44	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30.01	.....
.....	887.30	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,373.32	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	887.30	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,059.53	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	94.58	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	77.18	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.38	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.32	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,135.00	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	109.56	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21.00	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72.47	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	925.31	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	86.61	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	107.35	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	190.94	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	84.76	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,032.34	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	4,330.80	.....	4,330.80	.....
.....	.20	.....	.....	23.58	.....	23.78	.....
.....	239.76	.....	.....	1,326.15	575.00	2,140.91	.....
.....	247.77	.....	.....	1,203.85	.....	1,451.62	.....
.....	254.90	.....	.....	1,308.58	.....	1,563.48	.....
.....	258.13	.....	.....	1,519.97	920.00	2,698.10	.....
.....	226.50	.....	.....	899.97	978.12	2,104.59	.....
.....	235.52	.....	.....	1,429.02	840.00	2,504.54	.....
.....	229.42	.....	.....	1,437.15	933.66	2,600.23	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	105.78	.....	105.78	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.60	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.00	.....
.....	178.54	.....	.....	.....	.....	178.54	.....
.....	1,222.11	12.25	.....	.....	.....	1,234.36	.....
.....	1,920.40	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,920.40	.....
.....	252.65	.....	.....	.....	.....	252.65	.....
.....	1,481.85	.68	.....	.....	.....	1,482.53	.....
.....	369.01	.....	.....	.....	.....	369.01	.....
.....	2,153.33	100.23	.....	.....	.....	2,253.56	.....
.....	1,721.69	35.57	.....	.....	.....	1,757.26	.....

THE CITY OF
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS—BOROUGHES
DETAILED STATEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR
(A) On Basis of Cost by

DIRECT PARK EXPENSES				
	General Expenses	Super- vision and General Expenses	Care of Roads, Paths and Drive- ways	Care of Trees, Shrubs, Flowers and Lawns
Recreation Piers—				
West 67th Street Playground.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
East 67th Street Playground.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Astor Field .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fifth Avenue-136th-138th Streets Play- ground .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
East 19th Street Playground .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
44th Street and 11th Avenue Playground..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Indoor Gymnasiums—				
Carmine Street .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cherry and Oliver Streets.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
East 54th Street .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
West 28th Street .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rutgers Place .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Miscellaneous—				
Dyckman House	652.45	.....	.....	.....
July 4th, Celebrations .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Police Department	24.24	.....	.....	.....
Attending Telephone, Shops	370.00	.....	.....	.....
Boilers, 79th Street, North River.....	201.42	.....	.....	.....
Glazing Buildings Opposite Playgrounds...	28.10	.....	.....	.....
Storage of Equipment	94.93	.....	.....	.....
Military Duty	3,382.75	.....	.....	.....
Sheds for Model Riverside Park.....	1,434.35	.....	.....	.....
Soap for Central Purchasing Bureau.....	.23	.....	.....	.....
Watching, Museum of Art.....	878.97	.....	.....	.....
Hauling Materials from E. 24th Street....	46.00	.....	.....	.....
Construction Work, Riverside Park.....	16.02	.....	.....	.....
Watching Model, Riverside Park.....	48.11	.....	.....	.....
Delivering Road Rollers, Parks, Bronx...	.....	.....	.....	.....
Manhattan College Grounds .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
City College, Music Stands .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Removal of Buildings, 79th Street, North River	25.13	.....	.....	.....
Removal of Buildings, 76th Street to 86th Street, Riverside .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Planting Trees, P. S. No. 41.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Westfield School Gardens .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erection of Music Stands, 86th Street and Second Avenue .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erection of Music Stands, P. S. No. 63...	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hydrant Keys for Fire Department.....	6.75	.....	.....	.....
Frames for Department Exhibition.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hauling Music Stands, 45th Street Public School .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Delivering Plants for Exhibition .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Removal of Cases to Museum.....	40.87	.....	.....	.....
Removal of Books, Arsenal to Municipal Building	3.28	.....	.....	.....
Removal of House, Stapleton to Westerleigh Park	180.45	.....	.....	.....
Flower Exhibition, Grand Central Palace..	106.62	.....	.....	.....
Storing Materials, Garage Loft	75.65	.....	.....	.....
Paint Mixture for Sample	1.50	.....	.....	.....
Hauling Music Stands, East 4th Street....	1.37	.....	.....	.....
Lead for Testing Laboratory .....	.91	.....	.....	.....
Sponges for Central Purchasing Committee.	.88	.....	.....	.....
Samples for Central Purchasing Committee.	.10	.....	.....	.....
Chelsea School Farm	4.50	.....	.....	.....
Model for Christmas Festival	124.07	.....	.....	.....
Christmas Festival, Amsterdam Opera House	.....	.....	.....	.....
	\$200,159.26	\$51,006.62	\$139,956.83	\$118,389.97

NEW YORK.
 OF MANHATTAN AND RICHMOND.
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1916
 Functions for Each Park

DIRECT PARK EXPENSES							
Care of Beaches, Lakes and Shore Lines	Indoor Gymnasium, Play- grounds, Athletic Fields and Ch. Sch. Farms and Piers	Care of General Park Improvements and Prop's	Care of Bath Houses and Comfort Stations	Care of Piers, Buildings and Other Structures (not Other- wise Classified)	Music and Celebra- tions	Total for Year	Increase or (D) Decreases
.....	18.37	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.37	.....
.....	936.69	.....	.....	.....	.....	936.69	.....
.....	2,695.15	230.22	.....	.....	.....	2,925.37	.....
.....	6.25	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.25	.....
.....	685.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	685.50	.....
.....	180.41	.....	.....	.....	.....	180.41	.....
.....	716.31	.....	.....	827.35	.....	1,543.66	.....
.....	1,269.81	.....	.....	978.21	.....	2,248.02	.....
.....	1,369.14	.....	.....	1,201.43	42.06	2,612.57	.....
.....	811.47	.....	.....	943.93	42.00	1,797.40	.....
.....	1,170.66	.....	.....	1,067.31	42.00	2,279.97	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	652.45	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	49.63	49.63	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24.24	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	370.00	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	201.42	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28.10	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	94.93	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,382.75	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,434.35	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.23	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	878.97	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46.00	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16.02	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	48.11	.....
.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25.13	.....
.....
.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.75	.....
.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40.87	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.28	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	180.45	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	106.62	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75.65	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.50	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.37	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.91	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.88	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.10	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.50	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	124.07	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72.00	72.00	.....
\$1,067.13	\$119,049.62	\$34,945.47	\$96,020.39	\$43,171.95	\$25,073.64	\$918,840.88	D\$167,875.97
Less Manufactures by Dept.						\$2,060.53	
Grand Total						\$916,780.35	

City of New York
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, BOROUGHS OF MANHATTAN AND RICHMOND.
Statement of the Condition of Corporate Stock, Assessment Bond, Special Revenue Bond and Special Accounts as at
December 31, 1916.

Code No.	Title of Fund or Account	Total Adjusted Credits (C + D)	Expenditures	Total Net Encumbrances i. e. Net Reserve Liabilities	Unencumbered Balances (G—L)
CDP3B	American Museum of Natural History—Construction of Foundation for Southeast Wing—Court Building and Architects' Fees for Entire Work.....	\$17,683.67		\$17,683.67	
CDP3E	American Museum of Natural History—Equipment.....	111,808.77	\$14,625.23	17,707.49	\$79,476.05
CDP7	Improvement and Construction of Cathedral Parkway.....	7,055.31	6,658.23	397.08	
CDP14E	Construction of a Comfort Station in Madison Square Park....	25,000.00	884.91		24,115.09
CDP17	Chelsea Park—Sub-title No. 1, Surveys, Plans, etc.....	5,500.00	361.92	4,470.00	668.08
CDP17B	Erection and Equipment of New Comfort Station in Cooper Square.....	25,000.00	24,906.70		93.30
CDP17D	Repaving West Drive in Central Park and Portions of Middle and East Drives.....	100,000.00	96,980.61	3,018.83	56
CDP17E	Repaving Riverside Drive.....	200,000.00	186,146.17	9,328.49	4,525.34
CDP17G	Improvement of Plaza, 59th Street and 5th Avenue.....	85,000.00	43,974.37	2,640.55	38,385.08
CDP17H	Improvement of Northerly Addition to St. Nicholas Park.....	100,000.00			100,000.00
CDP17J	Improvement of St. Nicholas Park, 136th Street to 138th Street.....	25,000.00	2,246.42	3,739.00	19,014.58
CDP17L	Improvement of Isham Drive.....	30,000.00	28,757.21	959.58	283.21
CDP17M	Pipe Sewer from 101st Street and Central Park West to Lenox Avenue and Cathedral Parkway.....	23,000.00	36.56		22,963.44
CDP17O	Dredging Opposite Riverside Park.....	5,200.00	832.98		4,367.02
CDP20C	Erection of Music Pavilion and Comfort Station at Mt. St. Vincent in Central Park, Including Architects' Fees.....	2,500.00	108.50		2,391.60
CDP20D	Erection of the Carl Schurz Memorial at 116th Street and Morningside Park.....	25,000.00	22,793.00		2,207.00
CDP22	Improvement and Construction of Parks, Parkways, Playgrounds, Boulevards and Driveways.....	3,875.92	3,870.90		5.02
CDP23	Improvement and Construction of Parks, Parkways, Playgrounds, Boulevards and Driveways, Concreting Bottom and Sides, Central Park Lakes, and Filling in Where Depth is Too Great.....				

CDP26	Construction of Colonial Park.....	97,138.51	96,333.84	.....	804.67
CDP27	Construction of New Concrete and Asphalt Gutters on the Driveways and Bridge Roads of Central Park and Riverside Drive—Improvements, etc.....	43,130.87	41,471.88	.....	1,658.99
CDP29	Construction of the Northerly Portion of John Jay Park Lying North of East 77th Street and the Further Improvement of the Southerly Section of Said Park Lying Below East 77th Street—Parkways, Playgrounds, Boulevards and Driveways.....	75,662.06	75,462.76	.....	199.30
CDP30	Extension of High Pressure Water Supply and Irrigation System in Central Park—Parkways, Playgrounds, Boulevards and Driveways.....	207,694.47	207,540.33	.....	154.14
CDP39B	Improvement of Central Park—Alteration of Comfort Station Near Ball Ground.....	14,930.37	14,912.12	.....	18.25
CDP39D	Improvement of Central Park—Pavement of Drives with Bituminous Pavement.....	100,000.00	98,111.81	1,648.89	239.30
CDP39F	Improvement of Central Park Bridle Path from 79th Street and 5th Avenue to Upper Reservoir.....	18,000.00	96.38	.....	17,903.62
CDP43A	Improvement of Plots on Broadway from 110th to 122d Street.....	45,796.99	44,677.84	.....	1,119.15
CDP43B	Improvement of Streets on Westerly Side of John Jay Park, between 76th and 78th Streets.....	8,500.00	8,315.35	50.36	134.29
CDP48A	Improvement of Morningside Park.....	23,800.00	22,621.65	818.00	360.35
CDP58A	Improvement of Playgrounds Throughout the City.....	217,459.94	217,380.10	.....	79.84
CDP61A	Metropolitan Museum of Art—Completion and Equipment of Extension "H".....	224,000.00	208,709.31	600.00	14,690.69
CDP62	Metropolitan Museum of Art—Construction of an Extension Including Construction and Equipment of a Carpenter Shop and the Construction of a Service Roadway.....	1,009,750.74	1,009,484.68	266.06	.....
CDP63	Metropolitan Museum of Art—Constructing and Completing Extensions.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
CDP63A	Metropolitan Museum of Art—Construction of Additions "J" and "K".....	750,000.00	718,472.49	23,687.22	17,840.29
CDP63B	.....	28,737.71	5,998.34	9,266.76	13,472.61
CDP64A	Metropolitan Museum of Art—Boiler Plant.....	288,000.00	287,469.53	.....	530.47
CDP72	Construction and Repaving of Drives, etc., Under Contract.....	155,961.40	155,883.11	.....	78.29
CDP74	De Witt Clinton Park—Alterations and Improvements to Pergola Building.....	18,000.00	842.96	.....	17,157.04
CDP75A	Reconstruction of Bulkheads, Easterly Wall of Speedway, between 155th Street and Dyckman Street.....	326,063.47	230,206.73	1,423.40	94,433.34
CDP77A	Construction of Bulkhead, Corlears Hook.....	42,500.00	2,102.69	.....	40,397.31
CDP79A	Construction of Public Driveway.....	1,847.22	.....	1,847.22	.....
CDP91	7th Avenue Parkway—General Improvement from Central Park to the Harlem River.....	75,000.00	73,683.71	.....	1,316.29

City of New York.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, BOROUGHS OF MANHATTAN AND RICHMOND.

Statement of the Condition of Corporate Stock, Assessment Bond, Special Revenue Bond and Special Accounts as at
December 31, 1916—Continued.

Code No.	Title of Fund or Account	Total Adjusted Credits (C + D)	Expenditures	Total Net Encumbrances i. e. Net Reserve Liabilities	Unencumbered Balances (G—L)
CDP92	New Aquarium Building in Battery Park—Construction of Foundation and Walls of Wings.....				
CDP94	Repaving Riverside Drive, from 113th Street to Viaduct.....	142,000.00	131,424.39	7,380.49	3,195.12
CDP95	Reconstruction Tool House, Bryant Park.....	1,200.00			1,200.00
CDP95A	Improving Space under Manhattan Bridge for Playground.....	3,800.00			3,800.00
CLP8	New York Public Library Fund.....	9,536,032.64	9,529,084.37	6,928.30	19.97
CLP8A	New York Public Library—Installation of Electric Generating Plant.....	80,273.09	80,070.20		202.89
		\$14,326,903.15	\$13,693,540.18	\$113,861.39	\$519,501.58
Revenue Bond Funds for:					
RDP16	Repairs to Monuments and Public Buildings.....	\$6,500.00	\$6,207.24	\$75.76	\$217.00
RDP16C	Repairs to McGowns Pass Tavern, Casino and Arsenal Restaurant.....	23,550.00			23,550.00
RDP16D	Remodeling Belvedere Building.....	11,500.00		11,500.00	
RDP16E	Repairs to Drives.....	7,000.00	4,840.18	1,021.97	1,137.85
RDP16F	Increase for Housesmiths.....	248.70	246.00		2.70
RDP16G	Fuel Supplies.....	2,000.00	721.00	1,253.69	25.31
RDP16H	Forage and Veterinary Supplies.....	5,500.00	3,616.26	1,858.65	25.09
RDP16K	Gasolene and Oils for Motor Apparatus.....	1,225.00	614.10	252.00	358.90
RDP16J	Full Time for Mechanics and Laborers.....	3,887.00	66.87		3,820.13
RDP16L	General Plant Supplies.....	375.00	285.00	39.50	50.50
		\$61,785.70	\$16,596.65	\$16,001.57	\$29,187.48

Receipts and Revenues, 1916.

Fees for Privileges for Sale of Refreshments, etc.....	\$45,276.18	
Fees for Privileges of Moving Pictures.....	673.00	
Sale of Animals, Wool, etc.....	3,783.41	
Interest on Bank Deposits.....	162.90	
Projection Permits.....	842.50	
Sales Condemned Property, etc.....	1,079.00	
Damage to Department Property.....	99.32	
Restoring and Repaving Fund.....	930.00	
Tree Planting Deposit Fund.....	1,550.00	
		<u>\$54,396.31</u>
Remitted to Chamberlain.....		54,396.31

Deposits.

On Account of License Tags—			
On hand, January 1, 1916.....	\$302.00		
Receipts.....	1.00		
		<u>\$303.00</u>	
Payments.....		6.00	
			<u>\$297.00</u>
On hand, December 31, 1916.....			\$297.00
On Account of Employees' Badges—			
On hand, January 1, 1916.....	\$400.70		
Receipts, 1916.....	132.50		
		<u>\$533.20</u>	
Payments, 1916.....		95.35	
			<u>437.85</u>
On hand, December 31, 1916.....			437.85
Deposits on hand, December 31, 1916.....			<u>\$734.85</u>

Appropriations, 1914.

Unexpended Balance January 1, 1916.....	\$474.28	
Expended, 1916.....		\$145.36
Reverted to General Fund.....		328.92
		<u>\$474.28</u>

Appropriations, 1915.

Unexpended Balance, August 1, 1916.....	\$76,166.20	
Expended, 1916.....		\$43,111.42
Reverted to General Fund.....		32,702.48
Unexpended Balance, December 31, 1916.....		166.20
	<u>\$76,166.20</u>	<u>\$76,166.20</u>

Appropriations, 1916.

Budget Allowance.....	\$1,400,020.08	
Transfers from Board of Estimate.....	1,298.33	
Transfers to Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity.....		\$2,000.00
Total Expenditures.....	1,349,130.69	
Unexpended Balance, December 31, 1916....	50,187.72	
	<u>\$1,401,318.41</u>	<u>\$1,401,318.41</u>

Corporate Stock Funds.

Unexpended Balance, January 1, 1916.....	\$735,029.51	
Authorized during 1916.....	130,000.00	
Expended, 1916.....		\$231,175.80
Unexpended Balance, December 31, 1916.....		633,853.71
	<u>\$865,029.51</u>	<u>\$865,029.51</u>

Revenue Bond Funds.

Unexpended Balance, January 1, 1916.....	\$11,353.94	
Authorized during year.....	55,285.70	
Expended during year.....		\$20,093.01
Reverted to General Fund.....		37.83
Unexpended Balance, December 31, 1916.....		46,508.80
	<u>\$66,639.66</u>	<u>\$66,639.64</u>

**NINETEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

OF THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

COMPRISING

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

OLD CITY (Now Borough) OF BROOKLYN

FOR THE YEAR 1916

RAYMOND V. INGERSOLL, Commissioner
SAMUEL S. BRADLEY, Superintendent
WESTERVELT PRENTICE, Secretary
JOHN J. DOWNING, Supervisor of Recreation
CHARLES S. DORON } Engineers
EDWARD J. MULLANE }



PROSPECT PARK ARCH

Flatbush Avenue and Union Street Entrance

Office of the
Department of Parks,
Borough of Brooklyn.

Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park.

December 31, 1916.

Hon. JOHN PURROY MITCHEL,

Mayor of the City of New York.

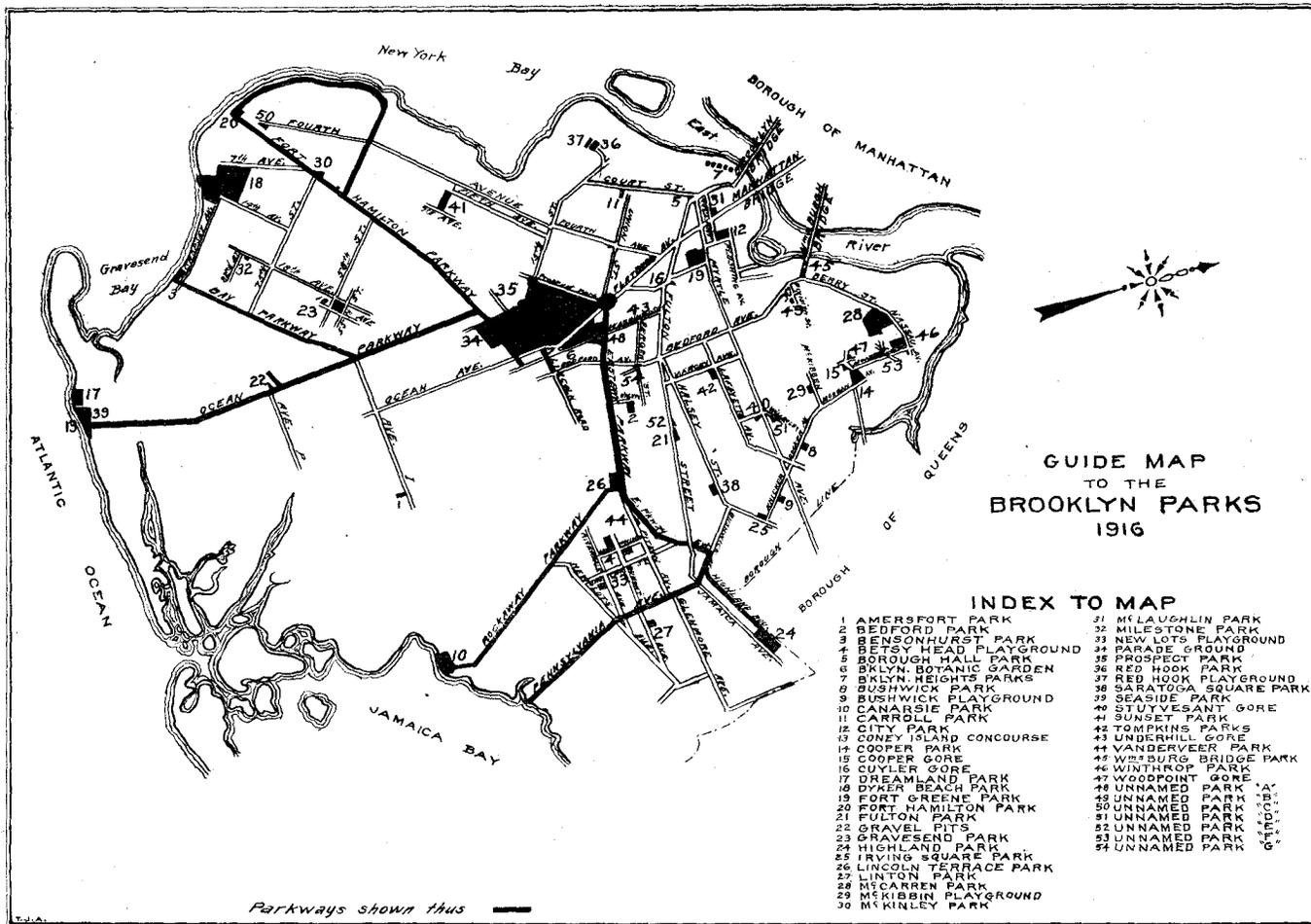
Dear Sir:

In compliance with the provisions of the Charter, I send you herewith a report of the work undertaken and accomplished in this Department for the year just closed.

I have the honor to remain,

Very truly yours,

RAYMOND V. INGERSOLL,
Commissioner.



THE PARK SYSTEM.

In the park system of Brooklyn there are forty-six (46) parks and playgrounds with a total area of 1,142.25 acres. Nearly half of this acreage is in Prospect Park. The parkways have a total length of 28.46 miles. The aggregate valuation of park properties is approximately \$75,000,000. During the year there was one accession, namely the triangular piece of land adjoining Lincoln Terrace Park and lying between Buffalo Avenue and the line of the new rapid transit road just to the east.

While Prospect Park and some of the small parks are not excelled anywhere in the country, Brooklyn is far behind most cities in park acreage when compared with the total area and population of the Borough.

There is great need of park and playground space in such crowded sections as Williamsburg. There is also need of foresight in acquiring park spaces in undeveloped sections while values are still low. A special opportunity of this kind would seem to be presented in the fact that the city already owns the unused site of the old Brooklyn Disciplinary Training School located at 18th Avenue and 56th Street. This land already contains many fine trees. If two strips of adjoining land could be acquired, the city would have an attractive park area of nearly twelve acres completely bounded by streets. This would be considerably larger than Tompkins Park. At present there is no park within a mile and a half of this point.

Another need, which however cannot be met without expenditure of considerable money, is the rounding out of the system of parkways. Probably few things would do more for the future of Brooklyn than the proposed widening and parking of the Kings Highway from Ocean Avenue to the Eastern Parkway. One of the notable features of park policy in many western cities is the building of extensive park boulevards. With the multiplying of cheap motor vehicles the social uses of such parkways have been greatly broadened.

Motion Pictures of Department.

Largely with the purpose of making the people of Brooklyn more familiar with existing outdoor recreation opportunities, 3,000 feet of motion picture films were made during the summer. This was done without expense to the city. These films are now in great demand for exhibition in the public schools and before organizations of various sorts. They give a vivid representations of the picturesque scenes, interesting work functions, and varied recreation activities of the park and playground system.

Development of Waste Spaces.

Systematic efforts have been made to bring all waste spaces of park lands into a condition of active development and use. Work of this char-

acter has been done in the Old Duck Pond section of Prospect Park. Along the Shore Drive, sections of the new land back of the sea wall have been graded and made ready for active recreation. The needless expense of paved surface in front of the Ocean Parkway entrance to Prospect Park has been utilized by construction of a circular curb 200 feet in diameter. In the spring grass and trees will be established within this circle. By this means traffic conditions will be improved, cost of maintaining pavement lessened and the dignity and attractiveness of this important park entrance greatly increased.

Main Plaza, Prospect Park.

During the year careful studies have been made of the layout of the main plaza of Prospect Park. An agreement has been reached with the subway contractors providing for a large oval grass plot and planting space, together with other improvements which will serve to continue and emphasize the park effect outside the main entrance and reduce the arid waste of pavement which formerly existed. An arrangement has also been made for narrow parked spaces along the side to shut off the street car tracks. It is expected that these improvements can go forward in the spring. The changes, it is hoped, can be made with practically no expense to the city. It seems highly desirable, however, that an appropriation be secured to put a satisfactory permanent pavement in place of the present Belgian blocks on the reduced space still to be paved.

Plaza of Fort Greene Park.

The large plaza of Fort Greene Park, below the steps leading to the Martyrs' Monument, has long been unattractive and of little value. Plans were made for improving this area between Myrtle Avenue and St. Edwards Street, but it did not seem feasible to secure an appropriation for carrying them out. As the basis of the plan involved filling and grading and the building of walls and steps, it was thought possible that some contractor might be willing to build the wall and steps, at a cost of several thousand dollars, in view of the opportunity to dispose of the dirt fill in carrying out the grading. Plans and specifications were presented to the various subway and other contractors, and an offer to do this extensive work without charge to the city was finally secured. An iron picket fence, which had to be removed from the Flatbush Avenue side to Prospect Park to make way for the new bridle path, is being used to enclose two triangular plots, one to be used as a playground, the other for children's gardens. A small frame building was obtained as a gift from the Board of Water Supply and an individual gift was secured for altering this building into an attractive children's house. This whole development has therefore taken place at a minimum of cost. When the walks are relaid this spring, the fences completed, trees and shrubs planted to partly screen out the elevated road and the children's gardens planted, this wasted space will become one of the most useful and attractive in the entire park system of Brooklyn.

Back Yard Gardens.

Near the Old Dutch House at Highland Park, on Jamaica Avenue, new children's gardens have been established. An interesting outgrowth of the children's gardens has been the planting in various parks of model back yard gardens. These have been located at McCarren Park, at Betsy Head Playground, in Highland Park and near the Lincoln Road entrance of Prospect Park. These gardens occupy plots corresponding to typical Brooklyn back yards. Free information and instruction are given at the gardens to all who apply. Printed instructions and planting charts are distributed. Several hundred actual gardens have already been planted in the back yards of Brooklyn in response to this encouragement.

Marking Historic Points.

While a part of the important Battle of Long Island took place within the present boundaries of Prospect Park, almost no effort had ever been made to locate and mark the important points. Old charts and other historical data were studied last spring, and ten simple but appropriate markers were set up. A meeting attended by some 15,000 persons was held in Prospect Park in August on the anniversary day of the battle, upon which day the new markers were put in place.

At each entrance to Prospect Park attractive maps of the park have been posted, indicating the location of these historic points, as well as many other points of interest. The shape and landscaping of the park are such that these maps seem to respond to a real need.

The Department co-operated very actively with the Daughters of the Revolution in having a large boulder and bronze plate marker set up at the lower end of the Shore Road to commemorate the first resistance to British troops in 1776.

New Bridle Path.

A new bridle path entrance to Prospect Park has been built to overcome the dangerous mixture of horseback riders and automobiles at the main entrance. This path fits in harmoniously with the development of the Old Duck Pond section, which was the park's one remaining ugly feature. This section will soon become most picturesque and valuable. The business yard adjoining it is being surrounded by mounds. These will be finished and graded within a few months.

Bringing the bridle path along Flatbush Avenue from the Plaza to the new entrance utilizes a space hitherto of relatively little value. It adds an interesting feature to Flatbush Avenue. While the total length of bridle path has been considerably extended, the new plan has rendered unnecessary a path formerly running from the East Drive up to the menagerie. This path has been widened and paved, thus providing for the first time an automobile road to the menagerie. Practically all of the work was done by departmental labor.



CHILDREN'S GARDENS AND DUTCH HOUSE, HIGHLAND PARK

The new bridle path was opened in November, upon completion of the arch tunnel under the East Drive. At the opening, more than two hundred men and women on horseback rode in procession over the path.

Street Tree Planting.

The policy of planting street trees for property owners at cost has continued to be popular. These trees are planted for \$8 each, including all incidental expenses, and are insured for three years after planting. More than 1,500 trees have been set out in 1916 under this plan without recourse to tax money, and the rapid disappearance of street trees in Brooklyn has been checked. The most notable planting was done on Bedford Avenue from the Williamsburg Bridge to Eastern Parkway, a distance of about two and one-half miles. The six hundred trees planted on this avenue were paid for by Mr. Frederic B. Pratt. The trees are Oriental Planes. They have all thrived and have shown marked growth during the year.

Just at the close of the year Mrs. William Hamlin Childs arranged to pay for the planting of 800 trees next spring on Fourth Avenue. Both sides of the thoroughfare will be planted from Atlantic Avenue to Bay Ridge Parkway.

Placards have been prepared urging property owners to plant trees. They are illustrated by photographs and will be placed in real estate offices, stores and other places of business.

Business Economies.

Rearrangement of the main shops and stables has been completed, sheds have been put up for sheltering all equipment and rolling stock. Motorization of the Department has been extended, with great savings in cartage. The making of fertilizing compost out of park leaves, started in 1915, has been still more developed. There has been further reorganizing of the forces under the superintendent. The Department has co-operated with the budget representatives of the Board of Estimate. In spite of the operation of several new properties and the addition of many new functions, the appropriation for operating the Department for 1917 shows a reduction of 23 per cent. (more than \$200,000) as compared with the year 1913, the last year of the preceding administration. The budget of only one department in the entire city has shown a greater proportional reduction during the same period.

The economies effected in the face of increased activities have been made possible by the hearty co-operation of the entire force of employees, and especially by the thorough reorganization carried out under the exceptionally able direction of the Superintendent, Mr. Samuel S. Bradley.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

While very few changes were made in the method of administration and organization, the recreation activities of the Department have been carried out on a larger scale and with improved results. This has been brought about partly by instructions given to the employees of the Department at conferences held in the early part of the year, at which they were given a better conception of what was expected of them and a better understanding of methods.

Early in the year a program of activities was arranged for each season and, except for a few interruptions during the Infantile Paralysis Epidemic, this program was followed. The Playleaders, knowing the schedule of regular work and of all special events in advance, were able to prepare their daily programs accordingly.

Organization.

The permanent force of recreation workers consists of 1 Supervisor of Recreation and 18 Playleaders, who work about 300 days each year. Each Playleader has one month off during the year, without pay, and three or four days off each month. Playleaders receive \$3 per diem. This permanent force is gradually increased in the spring, and when the summer months arrive our recreation employees consist of 1 Supervisor of Recreation, 47 Playleaders, 3 Swimming Instructors, 2 Directors of Farm Gardens and 7 School Farm Attendants. All of these employees are appointed from Civil Service Lists.

Hours.

During the winter months our playgrounds are open from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. on week days, Saturdays 9 a. m. to 5 p. m., and Sundays 12 m. to 5 p. m. During the summer months the hours are extended and the playgrounds are open from 9 a. m. to 7 p. m. The Field Houses at McCarren Park and Betsy Head Playground are open for athletes desiring to use them for athletic work until 9 p. m. during the spring, summer and fall. No night activities are conducted on the playgrounds, one reason for this being that they are not adequately lighted. The lighting system at McCarren Park has been somewhat improved during the latter part of the year, which will probably make it possible to conduct some evening recreation next season.

Rules.

A set of general rules for Playleaders was adopted on January 1st. This created a better understanding between the Playleaders and the office regarding hours, uniforms, badges, daily reports, accident reports, requisitions for supplies, inspection of apparatus, repairs, discipline, and treatment of people using our facilities.

Schedule.

Each Playleader was required to submit to the Department for approval a schedule showing the daily, weekly and monthly work which he or she intended to carry out. These programs were left largely to the discretion of the Playleaders and arranged according to local conditions. It was not attempted, however, to adhere rigidly to any set program, as conditions on the playgrounds are so variable. It is necessary to permit considerable flexibility.

Supplies.

After study of our Supply Inventory, it was discovered that most of our playgrounds were in need of a number of supplies that could be used for many purposes and which do not need renewing frequently. In order to have them equipped properly, Indian Clubs, Dumb Bells, Medicine Balls, Rope Quoits, Small Flags and Bagatelle Balls were purchased in sufficient quantities to have each playground fairly equipped. In addition to the above, the following new supplies were made in the department shops: Iron Quoit-stands, Iron Stakes for Sprint Lanes, Wooden Blocks, Jumping Ropes, Faba Gaba Boards and Bagatelle Boards.

Coasting.

The Coasting Hill at Prospect Park was continued again this year and met with the usual popularity. Thirty-one days of coasting were had throughout the year, with an average attendance of about 1,500 per day.

Ice Skating and Carnival.

During the winter months of 1916 weather conditions were not at all favorable for skating on Prospect Lake. Full advantage was taken, however, of every opportunity afforded. Several evening festivals were held, the lake being illuminated by nearly one thousand Chinese lanterns. The construction of a portable check house, built in sectional units, added greatly to the convenience of skaters, and at the same time proved to be much cheaper than the old method of erecting a skate house each fall and taking it down in the spring. The opening up of the large Boat House and of the Rustic Boat House for skaters also proved to be popular features and helped greatly in handling the crowds.

Whereas Prospect Park Lake was open to skaters for only five days, the ten small neighborhood skating places were open for an average of thirty-one days.

Musical Concerts.

Efforts to improve the quality of music in our parks have been continued through the careful selection of leaders and by prescribing instrumentation and having all programs submitted in advance for our approval. Very noticeable improvements have been made in the quality of our concerts. Seventy-six concerts were given with an appropriation of \$9,980; approxi-

mately 232,200 people attended these concerts, which shows that the per capita cost per person was .0437. The following concerts were given during the year:

Park.	Number of Concerts.	Total Attendance.	Average Attendance.
Prospect Park	26	150,800	5,800
Metropolitan Pier	9	7,200	800
Winthrop Park	9	9,000	1,000
Sunset Park	9	19,900	2,211
Tompkins	4	4,000	1,000
Saratoga	4	4,700	1,175
Irving Square	2	3,000	1,500
Cooper	2	5,000	2,500
Bensonhurst	2	2,700	1,350
Carroll	2	2,700	1,350
Lincoln Terrace	2	3,400	1,700
Bushwick	2	2,800	1,400
Special Celebrations.			
Betsy Head, September 4.....	..	10,000	10,000
Prospect, May 20.....	..	4,000	4,000
Prospect, June 17.....	..	3,000	3,000
	76	232,200	Gen. Average, 3,052

Vocal Concerts.

The United German Singers rendered two vocal concerts at the bandstand in Prospect Park which were very well attended. Co-operating with the Music League of America, three evening vocal concerts were held in our parks during July and August. The artists consisted of a soprano and a baritone, assisted by a pianist. The concerts were very much appreciated by the audiences and were held as follows:

July 18th, Sunset Park, attendance.....	2,200
Aug. 22d, Tompkins Park, attendance.....	2,500
Aug. 29th, Winthrop Park, attendance.....	3,500

Tompkins Park is especially fitted for this type of concerts, inasmuch as the new music grove is almost entirely covered with foliage, which tends to hold the sound of the voice so that the singers can be heard distinctly at a longer distance from the stand than from the stands at other parks.

Lawn Tennis.

A system similar to that of last year was used for the issuing of permits and operation of tennis courts. The hours this year, instead of being from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m., were extended, the courts being open from 9 a. m. to 7 p. m. This was especially beneficial on Saturdays, as it permitted 300 additional games to be played. Twenty-eight clay tennis courts at Highland Park were very well used. At McCarren Park two additional courts were laid out, which makes 18 courts in all. In addition to this, two new courts each were laid out in Amersfort and Cooper Parks.

Croquet.

This year a better system of regulation was put in force at the Croquet House. No charge had previously been made for the use of lockers. Due to this fact a number of people had left their croquet sets in the house for many years. This year the same system of charging 50 cents per locker that is in force at the Tennis House was put into operation at the Croquet House, with the result that the Croquet House got the first cleaning out it had had in many years. Seventy-two croquet sets were removed from the building and placed in our storehouse, after several attempts to find the owners had failed.

Following is an outline of some of the year's special events and celebrations:

February 12th.

Lincoln's Birthday was celebrated in all the playgrounds with athletic games, folk dances, playground games, flag drills, patriotic songs, reading of special events in Lincoln's life, recitation of Lincoln's Gettysburg speech and other appropriate activities. All of the playgrounds were decorated with small American flags.

Basket Ball Tournaments.—In each playground a number of basketball teams were organized, these played inter-club games for the championship of each playground in the 95 and 115 pound classes. These championships being decided, an inter-park series of games were arranged, in which all of our playgrounds took part. This tournament created a great deal of interest through the months of February, March and the early part of April. McKibbin won the championship in each class.

February 22d.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated in all of our playgrounds in a manner similar to Lincoln's Birthday, with events appropriate for the day.

March 18th.

A special set of athletic games were held in the McLaughlin Playground. A resident of the McLaughlin Park section donated three sets of gold, silver and bronze medals for prizes.

April 29th.

In connection with the Three Hundredth Anniversary of Shakespearian celebrations, small playlets of Shakespeare were arranged in all of the playgrounds. These out-door dramatics proved to be interesting and successful.

May 5th.

Arbor Day exercises were held in all our playgrounds and in some instances trees were planted by the arboriculturists of this department. At Betsy Head Playground eight young trees were planted, and around these the children from the neighboring schools held celebrations.

May 11th.

In addition to Baby Day celebrations, held in a number of our large parks, Baby Parades were held in all of our playgrounds. These celebrations seemed to create much enthusiasm, especially among the very small children and their mothers. Prizes were given by the Baby Week Committee appointed by the Mayor. The babies were divided into several classes; 487 babies were entered altogether. Blue, yellow and red ribbons were donated by the Committee and a number of other prizes were secured by our Playleaders as gifts from citizens in the various sections. Committees of Mothers acted as officials in each playground.

May 20th.

On May 20th the Evening Mail had a modified Marathon Race through the streets of New York, from the Bronx to City Hall, covering a distance of $12\frac{3}{4}$ miles. For the first time Brooklyn Playground boys were represented in this event. This department entered 46 young men, 28 of whom finished the entire distance. The team of five young men from Betsy Head Playground captured first prize in the playground race covering the entire city. The Betsy Head team received a bronze plaque as first prize and McKibbin and New Lots playgrounds finished with full teams of five men each and received silver cups.

May 30th.

It was our original intention to hold a set of Spring athletic games of all the playgrounds in McCarren Park on Decoration Day, but owing to certain difficulties these games were cancelled and in their stead small celebrations were held on the boys' and girls' side in each playground, thus celebrating Memorial Day in a fitting and appropriate manner.

June 14th.

In response to a proclamation issued by President Wilson requesting that Flag Day be celebrated with patriotic exercises, we made a special effort to have unusually large exercises at all of our playgrounds. Our Supervisor of Recreation called upon the District Superintendents of public schools in all sections where our playgrounds are located and suggested that, instead of having small celebrations in each school, they should send the children from all the schools in each section to one central point and have large celebrations in the open, where parents as well as children could attend. The District Superintendents thought well of our suggestion, with the result that the following number of children attended Flag Day celebrations in the several playgrounds.

Red Hook Playground.....	5,000
McLoughlin Playground.....	3,750
McCarren Park Playground.....	6,000
Bushwick Playground	5,000
Betsy Head Playground.....	2,000
Total	<u>21,750</u>

This department had all the flag poles in the playgrounds freshly painted for this occasion and erected speakers' stands. The programs consisted principally of Salute to the Flag, singing of patriotic songs, recitations by the children and addresses by the District Superintendents and other representative men. The ceremonies were most impressive and should be repeated each year.

June 17th.

A Field Day and Outing for the children of all playgrounds was held on the Long Meadow in Prospect Park. The boys and girls had been preparing for this outing and looking forward to it for some time. Each Playleader had been instructed to hold a playground celebration on Decoration Day and to feature one special event. Each of these numbers was to have about sixty children taking part. This was all arranged with the understanding that the children taking part in these special numbers would be taken to Prospect Park for an outing on June 17th, and this created no little enthusiasm. We were anxious to make this a big day for the playground children, and were fortunate in securing the co-operation of a number of business concerns which contributed in all about 100 automobile trucks and horse-drawn wagons to bring the children from their respective playgrounds to Prospect Park. Most of these trucks were decorated with flags and bunting. About 1,000 children were brought from the playgrounds to this outing. The girls of each playground took part in folk dances and the boys went through athletic drills.

After the formal activities were over, the children were given ice cream, crackers, pop-corn and small cakes donated by some of the large business houses, and the children and parents joined in a merry party.

June 20th.

Baseball Tournament.—It had been our intention to hold an inter-park baseball tournament during the summer months. With this purpose in mind, about 150 juvenile teams were organized in our playgrounds to contest for the championships in the 95 and 115 pounds classes. These games were fairly well advanced and preliminary games were played on June 20th. Soon after this the Paralysis Epidemic spread over a number of sections of the city, and for this reason it was thought advisable to discontinue the tournament and not to bring the boys from the various sections together.

June 25th.

Tennis Tournaments.—During the Summer months tennis tournaments were held at Highland Park, McCarren Park, Betsy Head Playground and Prospect Park. It was the first season that an attempt had been made to organize tennis tournaments and the results were highly gratifying. It is proposed to extend these tournaments next season. A tennis tournament for playground girls was also held, and, while it was interrupted during the

Paralysis Epidemic, it was resumed and carried to completion in the fall of the year.

July 4th.

Independence Day was observed throughout the Greater City by athletic celebrations for the boys and by minor athletic activities, folk dancing and games for the girls. In previous years only two sets of athletic games had been arranged for Brooklyn. These were at Bushwick and McCarren Parks. This year we were very fortunate in securing through the Executive Committee of the Mayor's Fourth of July Celebration Committee prizes with which to conduct athletic meets at seven of our playgrounds. The prizes which the Committee distributed consisted of gold-filled, silver and bronze medals for the boys in each event, and gold-filled, silver and bronze pins for the girls. The Committee being so generous with us this year, an endeavor was made to secure as large an entry as possible. The following is a record of the competitors and spectators at each playground:

Park.	Competitors.	Spectators.
McCarren Park	500	10,000
Bushwick Park	420	4,000
Betsy Head Playground.....	750	10,000
New Lots Playground.....	500	1,400
Red Hook Playground.....	540	900
McLaughlin Playground	400	650
McKibbin Playground.....	580	2,000
Total	<u>3,690</u>	<u>28,950</u>

In connection with the Fourth of July celebration each aldermanic district had been allowed a band for its local celebration. The assignment of these bands was left in the hands of the Alderman. By getting in touch with the Aldermen bands were secured for the athletic meets at McCarren Park, Bushwick Playground, Betsy Head Playground and McKibbin Playground. This department erected a number of band stands and staked off and wired sections to keep back the spectators from the main athletic field. The Police Department furnished a number of policemen to maintain order in the playgrounds. Co-operating in this way, we conducted athletic meets which were orderly, well organized and interesting from every point of view.

September 4th.

On Labor Day the Brooklyn Park Playground Athletic Association Championships were held on our new quarter-mile running track and Betsy Head Playground. Fifteen events were on the program, ten of these events being closed to our playground boys and five events being opened to all amateur athletic union novices. In the playground boys events the entries were limited to six boys from each playground in each event. To select these boys athletic try-outs were held in each playground early in August. These try-outs attracted an entry of about 10,000 boys who desired to participate in the finals. From these try-outs were selected the first six boys in each

event, and they in turn—to the number of 1,000—were entered for the final championships. The games attracted about 10,000 spectators. The field was staked off and wired, a band stand erected and a band furnished for the meet. On that afternoon the Bath House at Betsy Head was closed to the public and 640 lockers were used to their full capacity by the athletes. After the athletic meet the athletes were given exclusive use of the swimming pool. The athletic championship was won by the boys from the Bushwick Playground. Enthusiastic supporters from all the playgrounds were among the spectators. The fifteen events, with close to 1,000 entries, were contested in less than three hours, which speaks well for the efficient work of our playleaders and for the A. A. U. men who acted as officials. While the boys were competing for the Labor Day championships at the Central Meet, girls' festivals were held in each playground.

September 16th.

On this day the Brooklyn Park Playground Athletic Association conducted a carnival of water sports in our new swimming pool at Betsy Head Playground. This being the first season when the pool was operated, we had not opened with any special exercises, wishing to have time to experiment with the system of operation rather than open the first day with too great a rush of business. On September 16th, however, an interesting carnival of water sports was arranged and carried out. There were the following events.

- 50 Yards and 100 Yards Dash for Boys who attended Betsy Head Pool regularly.
- 100 Yards Swim Junior Championship of the Met. Assn. A. A. U.
- 100 Handicap Fancy Diving Contest for Men.
- 100 Handicap Swim for Women.

As a special feature a Water Polo Game was played between the New York Athletic Club and the Westside Young Men's Christian Association, and as a final event the United States Volunteer Life Saving Corps gave a life-saving exhibition.

The walks surrounding the swimming pool and the roof of the bath house building were so crowded with spectators that several hundred people were refused admission because of lack of space. This water carnival was pronounced by many prominent athletic officials to have been one of the most successful events of its kind recently held in this section of the country.

In addition to the foregoing, appropriate exercises were held in all playgrounds on Columbus Day, Election Day, Thanksgiving Day and during the Christmas holidays.

Special Celebrations.

During the year this department co-operated with organizations holding outdoor festivals in our various parks. Assistance was rendered at the fol-

lowing celebrations by erecting band stands, supplying benches, roping off sections of park, decorating stands, planting trees, building platforms, etc.

- August 18th—Bird Exhibit at Museum.
- April 28th—1917 Class of Girls' High School, tree planting.
- May 5th—Bay Ridge High School, Arbor Day Exercises.
- May 11th—Baby Day celebrations in a number of parks.
- May 16th—Girls' Branch of the Public Schools Athletic League Spring Festival on Long Meadow, Prospect Park.
- May 20th—Brooklyn Settlement Association Shakespearian Pageant at the Peninsula, Prospect Park.
- May 25th—Greenpoint Public Schools Field Day at McCarren Park.
- May 28th—National Cemetery Garrison and Naval Branches of the Army and Navy, Music Stand, Prospect Park.
- May 28th—Knights of Columbus Memorial Field Mass at the Navy Yard.
- May 28th—Lincoln's Memorial Services at Music Stand, Prospect Park.
- May 28th—Warren Memorial Services.
- May 29th—Public School No. 34 Athletic Field Day at McCarren Park.
- May 30th—Grand Army Celebration, Eastern Parkway.
- June 2d—Boy Scouts' Night Encampment, Long Meadow, Prospect Park.
- June 3d—Boys' Brigade, Parade Eastern Parkway.
- June 4th—Fowler Monument and Martyrs' Monument, Fort Greene Park.
- June 6th—Throop Avenue Presbyterian Church, Band Stand Prospect Park.
- June 10th—Anniversary Day, Prospect, Sunset, Carroll, Canarsie, McCarren, Bensonhurst, Ocean Parkway, Dreamland Park, Bedford and Division avenues.
- (On account of inclement weather some of these celebrations were postponed until a later date.)
- June 15th—Young Woman's Christian Association Picnic, Peninsula and New Rustic Boat House, Prospect Park.
- June 16th—Girls' High School, Band Stand, Prospect Park.
- June 17th—Camp Fire Girls, Prospect Park.
- June 24th—Brooklyn Zoological Zoo Building, Prospect Park.
- July 4th—Knights of Columbus, Band Stand, Prospect Park, Highland Park, and Cypress Hill Taxpayers' Association's Field Day, Highland Park.
- August 27th—Anniversary of Battle of Long Island, Prospect Park.
- September 16th—Antietam Day, Prospect Park.

McCarren Park.

The tennis courts at McCarren Park have been re-arranged and two additional courts laid out, making a total of sixteen. Wire mesh back stops have been placed around all courts. The surface of the running track, consisting mostly of clay, had so hardened that it was very difficult to run upon it even with spiked shoes. To alleviate this condition two inches of cinders were spread over the entire surface of the track and harrowed so that the cinders would mix with the clay. After the harrowing the surface was watered down and rolled. This made a considerable improvement.

A number of field days were held at McCarren Park by the public and parochial schools of the Greenpoint District. The baseball fields were used to a greater extent than ever before and 93 separate baseball teams used this park during the baseball season. It would be highly desirable to erect a swimming pool at this park similar in size to the one at Betsy Head Playground and a handball court should be erected like the one at New Lots Playground. With these improvements, McCarren Park would be one of the most complete outdoor recreation centers in this country. It is planned to open up to the public before spring shower baths, which are being arranged in the brick shelter.

Betsy Head Playground.

This is the first complete year that Betsy Head Playground has been in operation. It was transferred to this department in 1915. The bath house building was not completed until about October 1st. The records of our first year of operation prove beyond a doubt that the people of Brownsville have made no mistake in consenting to a local assessment to purchase the ground upon which this playground was built. The following figures give the approximate attendance.

Betsy Head Playground Attendance.

Athletic Field and Playground.....	855,924
Farm Garden	77,013
Swimming Pool	105,800
Shower Baths	227,388
	<hr/>
	1,266,125

Because of the large number of small children using the girls' playground, it was found necessary to purchase and erect additional apparatus on two small plots adjoining the athletic field. A gymnasium outfit with two horizontal bars, two climbing ladders, two climbing poles, two flying rings and a buck-horse, parallel bars and horizontal ladder was erected on the south plot and 12 large swings, two portable slides and eight see-saws on the north plot. One basketball court in the enclosure of the running track was found inadequate for the number of boys who desired to play this game, and accordingly two additional back stops were erected to provide an additional court. A specially designed baseball back stop, which we in-

tend to use as a standard for the department was erected on the west end of the athletic field. Demands for lawn tennis at this playground were so great that two additional clay courts were laid out on places originally intended for grass. Two hundred and forty steel lockers and fifteen benches were purchased and placed in the Field House for dressing purposes.

The running track was well patronized during the year and the Field House kept open evenings until 9 p. m. for athletes who desired to use the track for training purposes. Considerable use was made of the track by the Kings County Athletic Association and the Brownsville Y. M. H. Association, and a number of field days were held by public schools of the Brownsville section. The two biggest events of the year held on the track were the July Fourth athletic games and the Playground Championships on Labor Day. At each of these games about 10,000 spectators were present. The bank around the track in its present condition is unsatisfactory. After a heavy rain storm a considerable amount of clay washes over the cinder surface of the running track and gives it an unsightly appearance as well as a very muddy surface. It would be desirable to have the bank sodded and a pipe-rail fence erected around the walk. Lights should also be placed around this track, so that it could be used in the evening with greater safety. Application for this purpose has been made to the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity.

Betsy Head Baths and Swimming Pool.

The bath house building at Betsy Head Playground was opened from 8 a. m. to 10 p. m. daily, one side of the building being used for boys and men and the other side for girls and women. Towels and soap are provided for one cent each. This being the first season for the swimming pool, careful attention had to be given to the various details of operation. The pool was in use from June 12th to September 30th. The hours for use of the pool were from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m. for one sex and from 2 p. m. to 10 p. m. for the other. These hours were alternated daily. A charge of five cents was made for the use of the swimming pool, the department providing a bathing suit, towel and soap for each bather. Each bather was required to take a shower bath before entering the water. Swimming instructors supervised the pool continually and performed life guard duties when the attendance was very large. During the periods when the attendance was small individual instructions were given to the bathers in swimming and diving. Several hundred children and adults were taught to swim and dive. The pool is 151 feet long and 60 feet wide, having a depth of four feet at the shallow end and eight feet at the deep end. Two springboards were placed at opposite sides of the pool. Goals for water polo games were erected at the deep end and life rings were placed at convenient points. All of the attendants assigned to the baths were furnished with white uniforms.

Swimming Pool Bathers.

	Men	Women	Total
January .....	.....	.....	.....
February .....	.....	.....	.....
March .....	.....	.....	.....
April .....	.....	.....	.....
May .....	.....	.....	.....
June	7,230	1,522	8,752
July	28,608	10,417	29,025
August	33,909	12,442	46,351
September	10,230	2,042	12,272
October	79,377	26,423	105,800
November .....	.....	.....	.....
December .....	.....	.....	.....
Total Men and Women.....	79,377	26,423	105,800

Shower Bath Bathers.

	Men	Women	Total
January	8,075	7,049	15,124
February	7,010	6,956	13,966
March	10,039	7,388	17,427
April	11,810	8,827	20,637
May	9,118	6,706	15,824
June	10,209	8,989	19,198
July	6,212	14,429	20,641
August	9,006	14,541	23,547
September	9,338	13,332	22,670
October	9,520	11,479	20,999
November	8,144	10,087	18,231
December	9,854	9,270	19,124
Grand Total	108,335	119,053	227,388

The following are some of the records established:

Largest number of men in Shower Baths during one hour.....	300
Largest number of women in Shower Baths during one hour.....	380
Largest number of men in Shower Baths during one day.....	1,000
Largest number of women in Shower Baths during one day.....	1,303
Largest number of men in Shower Baths during one week.....	4,339
Largest number of women in Shower Baths during one week.....	4,389
Largest number of men in Swimming Pool during one hour.....	537
Largest number of women in Swimming Pool during one hour.....	375
Largest number of men in Swimming Pool during one day.....	2,355
Largest number of women in Swimming Pool during one day.....	1,246
Largest number of men in Swimming Pool during one week.....	9,448
Largest number of women in Swimming Pool during one week.....	4,368

Children's Farm Gardens.

The newest feature of our Children's Farm Garden work this year was the opening of the garden at Highland Park. A section of land west of the old Schenck Mansion, on Jamaica Avenue, was selected for the new garden. A wire fence was erected around this plot, a flower bed placed in the centre and flowers planted around the borders. The soil was put into proper con-

dition for this work and 108 individual garden plots were laid out. Three rooms in the Schenck Mansion were renovated and brought into use for storing tools, for Domestic Science work and for exhibition purposes. The work at this garden seemed to be much appreciated by the residents of the neighborhood. It made an attractive addition to the park and was carried on without additional appropriation of money.

The Farm Garden directors commence their work on April 1st and immediately begin to prepare for the first planting. With the assistance of the children all the leaves and fertilizer which cover the plots during the winter are removed, the paths straightened, and the plots spaded and raked. After this, the garden being ready for use, the children are registered and assigned plots. The first lesson in planting is given to groups of about thirty children, assembled around one plot, which is used for a model. Then the children pass to their individual plots and plant their seeds under the direction and supervision of the Farm Garden teachers. Radish, beans, beets, kohlrabi, turnips, lettuce and corn are the vegetables usually planted. In addition to these a number of observation plots are developed, containing wheat, oats, peanuts, rye, clover, cotton, tobacco, peppers, alfalfa, rhubarb and other specimens. The flower beds around the borders and the centre beds are planted with various kinds of flowers.

As the season progresses the children are taught to spade, rake, fertilize, cultivate, weed, thin, transplant, water and harvest. The harvested crops are taken home by the proud gardeners.

The plantings and harvestings are as follows:

McCarren Park first planting April 24th, harvesting June 30th.
McCarren Park second planting July 24th, harvesting October 20th.
Betsy Head first planting April 26th, harvesting July 11th.
Betsy Head second planting July 18th, harvesting October 17th.
Highland Park first planting May 8th, harvesting July 26th.
Highland Park second planting August 1st, harvesting October 21st.

Because of the Paralysis Epidemic the first harvestings were spread over several days, as it was thought advisable not to have the children congregate in large numbers. Interesting programs were arranged and carried out for the second harvesting festivals in the Fall. In addition to the garden work, lessons in Domestic Sciences and Manual Training were given at each garden. The articles made by the children were exhibited at the harvest festivals.

The model of McCarren Farm Garden and Farm House made by the instructors and children in 1915 was exhibited this year in several of the department stores of Brooklyn.

A number of plots were assigned to the kindergarten classes of public schools and thousands of children visited the gardens in groups for nature-study lessons.

At the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Exhibit, McCarren Park Farm Garden was awarded a silver cup, the first prize for having the best community

garden in Brooklyn. The McCarren Park children also received a number of individual prizes for their exhibits, as did the children of Betsy Head Farm Garden. The Highland Park Farm Garden groups were not ready in time for this exhibit. Garden clubs have been organized which have created a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for work of this nature. A picturesque building conforming to the surroundings was erected at McCarren Farm to be used as a Tool House and Work Shop for the boys. It contains also a small greenhouse where small groups mix soil, sow seeds in beds, transplant seedlings and study insects which attack greenhouse plants.

Metropolitan Avenue Pier.

This pier was opened under the supervision of this department during the summer months of the year and provided a very comfortable resting place for the people in the vicinity of the pier. During the months of July and August a Playleader was assigned to the pier who conducted quiet games and folk dancing with the smaller children. Band concerts were given every Sunday during July and August.

Social Centre, McCarren Park.

The Social Centre commenced in the Farm House at McCarren Park in the latter part of 1915 was continued during this year. The demand for the use of this building by clubs in the section of McCarren Park far exceeds the capacity of the house. A number of forms of social activities are conducted through the year by the seventeen clubs which use the buildings as a meeting place. All of these clubs are carefully organized and conducted by well chosen leaders. During the past season amateur theatricals, musical concerts, lectures, debates, cooking demonstrations, talks on home and civic welfare, conferences, suppers, luncheons, and community choral singing have constituted the principal activities.

Parade Grounds.

A new system of issuing permits for Saturday and Sunday use of the Parade Grounds was put into operation this season. Instead of going to the Parade Grounds on the morning of the day on which games were to be played the managers of the baseball teams made application in writing on the Monday previous to the Saturdays or Sundays on which they desired to play and assignments were mailed to the managers on Tuesday of each week. When no further diamonds were available the teams were notified of this fact. In many cases, when it was not possible to assign the teams diamonds at the Parade Grounds, they were given space at McCarren Park and Highland Park, thus creating a larger use of the diamonds at both of

these places. During the season the following baseball leagues held tournaments at the Parade Grounds:

Y. M. C. A. League	Bush Terminal League	Y. M. Hebrew Association
Drug and Chemical League	Royal Arcanum League	Fire Insurance League
Manual Training H. S.	Postal B. B. League	Associated Banks League
Junior Police 144 Post	Brooklyn Amateur League	Erasmus Hall
St. Francis College	Borden Milk Company	Boys' High School A. A.
Y. M. C. A. Younger	Y. M. C. A. Older School	Commercial High School
School Boys	Boys	Y. M. C. A. Employed Boys
Washington League	Public School, Dist. A. L.	Catholic B. B. League
Brooklyn Daily Eagle B.	No. 11	St. James Academy Marine
B. L.	P. S. A. O. Dist. 32-36	Insurance League
Sunday School A. L.	Police Department Dist.	Marine Insurance League
N. Y. Union Printers'		
League		

In examining our records it was found that 673 distinct teams played baseball at the Parade Grounds during the season. Even with the twenty-five diamonds with which the Parade Grounds are equipped we were unable to accommodate all of the teams who desired to play, and the following is a record of the number of teams which could not be accommodated. The majority of these were teams making application for Saturday or Sunday afternoon permits.

Instances in which no diamonds were available:

Week Ending	No.	Week Ending	No.
April 16.....	55	June 4.....	51
April 23.....	15	June 11.....	52
April 30.....	26	June 18.....	53
May 7.....	55	June 24.....	24
May 14.....	50	July 8.....	20
May 21.....	78	July 15.....	1
May 28.....	102	July 22.....	7

It is believed that the opening of baseball diamonds at Dyker Beach Park will considerably relieve the pressure upon the Parade Grounds.

Approximate total attendance for certain special activities:

Playgrounds and Athletic Fields.....	4,226,017
Farm Gardens	218,596
Betsy Head Shower Baths.....	227,388
Betsy Head Swimming Pool.....	105,800
Musical Concerts	232,200
Vocal Concerts	7,700
Ice Skating	320,079
Coasting	46,500

5,384,280

The above does not include bathers using our beaches, equestrians using Bridle Path, people boating on the lakes, vehicles using road and parkways or persons using parks for quiet passive recreation, neither does it include attendance at large celebrations on the Long Meadow in Prospect Park.

MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

During each year the care and maintenance of existing park properties is the underlying problem of the department. Although this work is not so appealing to the general public as are some of the other departmental activities it is of itself very interesting, and the manner in which it is accomplished determines in a very large degree the success of the Department. Taking the year as a whole the largest operation is the handling of the daily problems connected with the collection and removal of litter, cleaning walks, lawns and roads, repairing buildings; bridges and roads; cultivating walks, lawns, flower beds, trees and shrubs; handling large crowds of people and making provision for their comfort, and doing the hundred and one other odd jobs that are included in the Maintenance and Improvement of Park Properties.

The manner of handling this work has not been materially changed from that of the preceding year. It is divided into suitable units under the immediate charge of Foremen. The small parks are operated on the group system. The Purchasing Department, together with the shops, storehouse and stables have been brought into closer contact, and as a result, these important business divisions are more effective than formerly. The methods of handling permits have been improved, and the inspection and records of street openings systematized and standardized. For the purpose of furnishing reliable and up-to-date data to determine accurately the exact distribution of labor on each operation a time sheet has been worked out and will be put into operation the first of the year. The information furnished by these sheets from each separate unit will, when collected and analyzed, form a basis for estimating comparative efficiency between the separate units doing similar work, and also furnish valuable data for use in preparing budget requests upon a more scientific basis. This, together with a comprehensive work program enables us to make plans for future improvements and extensions upon very detailed and certain information.

The continually increasing demands and the greatly stimulated activities in every direction all through the year have thoroughly tested the organization as established. The continuing decrease in allowance in the budget for doing the work has made it necessary to hold all departments to a high state of efficiency and the situation demands and receives spontaneous and enthusiastic response on the part of the men in each branch of the service.

The only consequential change in the organization from the preceding year followed as the result of the appointment of one of our arboriculturists to a position as forester in another Department. The work of this division has been handled for a number of years by three units, each unit headed by an arboriculturist. During the last two years, however, the operations of these units had made very considerable increases in effectiveness and we found that it would be practicable, as well as economical, to reorganize the work on a two unit plan. The result has been thoroughly satisfactory, and

through the greater flexibility of the forces it promises to be an improvement over the former method.

In addition to the accomplishment of the regular maintenance work and making improvements (the more important of which will be mentioned later on), a considerable amount of time has been spent during the year in perfecting plans for future improvements. The altering and remodeling of the Picnic House in Prospect Park is the most important project of this character. The Picnic House is a building 63x90 feet in size. It was built 45 years ago. Important repairs were absolutely necessary. In considering this need it appeared that by making some radical changes in the plan of the building its usefulness might be very greatly increased and by some slight modifications of the exterior its architectural value might be very considerably enhanced. A study was made and plans prepared to adapt the building to use through the entire year.

The plans call for relocation of toilets in the basement, an inclosing of the veranda by windows in winter and by screens in summer. The work was commenced during the year and will be rapidly pushed to completion.

Heretofore the public has had access only to the veranda surrounding the main building. In working out the plans, however, it has been possible to arrange for the removal of all the partitions and other obstructions in the main building, and to leave it, as well as the veranda, entirely accessible to the public. This will provide for a large assembly hall, and aside from furnishing additional facilities to the crowds of picnickers during the summer season will be available at all other times for new activities. A large double fire place will be built, and the interior fitted up in such a manner as to make it attractive for entertainment of various kinds. A complete kitchen will be installed in the basement, also dressing room and toilets for men and women, and it is proposed to issue permits to reputable organizations or individuals for the use of the building evenings, for a reasonable fee. The proximity of the building to the street car lines makes it specially accessible, and through the early completion of the plan it is expected that the building will be made ready for use during the the coming summer.

ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

As indicated earlier in this report, the demands of the public and their use of the park properties continue to increase. There was, however, a noticeable falling off in the attendance of small children at the playgrounds and the picnic grounds. On account of the epidemic in Infantile Paralysis we decided, after a consultation with the Department of Health, to close the sand boxes and wading pools in the playgrounds and to withhold the issuance of picnic permits. This, together with the general apprehension, very naturally reduced attendance. On account of the epidemic special attention was given to sanitation throughout the entire system.

The usual requirements for the National Holidays were fulfilled as heretofore. Decorated grandstands were provided generally throughout the city for Decoration Day and Fourth of July, as well as for Anniversary Day. The increased popularity of Baby's week made it necessary for us to furnish a considerably larger amount of cooperation in the way of building reviewing stands and furnishing decorations.

The review of the Boy Scouts was much larger than heretofore and called for additional facilities.

A new and interesting event was the presentation by the Social Settlement of Brooklyn of Shakespearian Pageant on June 17th, at the Peninsula between the Rustic Boat House and the Miniature Yacht House. Several hundred children and young men and women in costume representing characters from Shakespearian plays passed in review before the Queen and Ladies and Gentlemen of her Court. This was followed by Folk Dancing. The spectacle was witnessed by a large and appreciative audience, as well as by the delegates of the Association of Settlements, who were assembled from all over the country for their National Convention.

The above event was preceded by a gathering of the Camp Fire Girls, which was greatly appreciated by the participants and their friends.

On April 29th, the Brooklyn Zoological Society assisted in the formal opening of the first section of the new Zoo Building. A speakers' platform was erected, the building was decorated, and addresses were made by the President of the Zoological Society, and by other officials and citizens.

NEW EQUIPMENT.

The principal additions to Equipment were:

By Purchase—

- Two (2) bottom dump trucks.
- One (1) high power tree sprayer.
- One (1) 3½-ton automobile dump truck.
- One (1) gasoline engine and centrifugal pump.

By Transfer through Sinking Fund—

- One (1) 20-inch band saw and table.
- One (1) 12-inch jointer.

In addition to the above there were made in the shops three hundred and sixty (360) portable benches for use in celebrations. The designs of this bench was developed by Superintendent G. W. Parker of the Hartford Park Department. Its use has simplified the problem of providing seating arrangements at celebrations and results in great reduction of costs of transportation and breakage. The following equipment was also made in the shops:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 Arboriculturist wagons. | 10 Road carts. |
| 2 Flat trucks. | 6 Stone boats. |
| 1 Rack truck. | 1 Feed cart for stable. |
| 4 Dump carts. | 2 Harrows. |
| 3 Tool carts. | 2 Wheelbarrows. |
| 3 Snow plows. | |

We also developed a design for a cement bench leg. This design was substantially adopted by the National Pasture League as their model for adaptation to the profile which they have developed through a scientific study. We later made several benches according to their plan.

A lot of valuable building material and heating equipment was secured through the Sinking Fund Commission by transfer of abandoned buildings belonging to the Department of Docks and Ferries. We took the buildings to pieces and saved the material.

AMERSFORT PARK.

Two Tennis Courts were marked out on the lawns early in the season and maintained throughout the Summer and Fall. During the coldest weather in January and February we were successful in making a small skating rink by spraying water on the lawn—the water froze as it fell and we were able to secure sufficient thickness and area for skating.

BEDFORD PARK.

A beautiful Austrian Pine was presented to the Department and planted near the Children's Museum by the Women's Health Protective Association. Extensive repairs have been made to the exterior and interior of the Children's Museum, and to the Comfort Station. The retaining walls supporting the bank around the comfort station had been seriously disturbed by the frost and it was necessary to take them down and relay them. On account of the density of the shade and poor soil conditions we have been unable to maintain satisfactory lawns in certain parts of the park, and this Fall all these places were covered with compost and cultivated. The flag pole was repaired and repainted.

BENSONHURST PARK.

Pipe rail fences were repainted, cobble stone gutters relaid and extended, and the strip of lawn between the driveway and the beach, extended and cultivated.

BETSY HEAD PLAYGROUND.

This extensive playground was turned over to the Department in the Fall of 1915. Some of the buildings, however, needed additions and some substantial changes in order to enable the public to enjoy full use from them. A large amount of thought and time was required to bring this large plant into full operation.

The smaller field containing the Farm Garden, Children's Playground, Farm House, and Mothers' Building, Sand Boxes and Wading Pool, required a number of additions, as follows:

A concrete curb was built along the side of the walk between the Farm Garden and the Playground and a similar curb on the opposite side adjoining the playground. On the playground side a cement gutter was added to act as a storm sewer to handle the surface water of the playground and prevent the excessive washouts which had followed each storm on account of insufficient provision for drainage.

In order to enclose the playground and farm garden a wrought iron fence was built along one end, and an arbor the length of the walk dividing the playground and farm garden. This arbor is in two parts, each one hundred feet long, and when properly planted and covered with vines will make a very agreeable shelter and handsome addition to the plot.

The flag pole and all of the exterior woodwork on the buildings in this plot were repainted.

Around the wading basins was built a cement sidewalk on the outer edge of which was constructed a curb, carrying an ornamental wrought iron fence. Four openings were left in the curb and fence. These openings were connected with the surrounding walks by cement sidewalks. It was necessary to build the above in order to enable the Playleaders to bring the wading pool under proper control. The means of entrance and exit from the pool is now limited to the four openings in the fence, and aside from securing better control it has made a very great improvement in appearance.

In connection with the Farm Gardens, which had been established last year, we added this spring a Model Back Yard Garden and enclosed it and the surrounding grass plots by pipe rail fence.

In the larger field, in which the bath house is located, a number of changes were made. Among the more important are the following:

Memorial Gate and Fountain. Through the generosity of Mrs. Isaac L. Rice, in memory of her husband the late Isaac L. Rice, work was commenced on a memorial gate and fountain at the entrance to the Athletic Field, opposite the Children's Playground. Completion of this has been delayed owing to the impossibility of securing the casting of the bronze figure for the fountain. It will be finished in the Spring.

In the Bath House Building the experience we had at the close of last year made it clear that it would be impossible to get full use of the shower baths unless a radical change was made in the water system, owing to the failure of the mixing valves originally installed. Consequently the system was changed early in the year by installing hot and cold water pipes for each shower. By this change each bather is able to secure a bath at the temperature he desires within the limits of the temperature of the water in the street mains and up to 110° Fahrenheit. The maximum temperature is controlled by an automatic valve on the hot water line. In making the change only one side of the bath house was closed at a time, and since the change the patrons of the shower baths are receiving much greater satisfaction, and there has been a marked reduction in the amount of coal used for heating the water. During the year 333,134 shower baths were taken.



FIELD DAY AT BETSY HEAD PLAYGROUND



SWIMMING POOL, BETSY HEAD PLAYGROUND

With the approach of summer we completed plans for opening the swimming pool. Inasmuch as we had no experience along this line, and on account of the attractiveness of the pool itself and the enthusiasm of the people in the neighborhood, we anticipated some considerable difficulty in handling the business. Consequently great care was taken in figuring out all of the details of the operation. It was found necessary to reconstruct the room originally designed for an office and to use it for storage and distribution of bathing suits. It was also necessary to build booths at the entrance to bring them under proper control and to prevent undue confusion in handling the crowds. Our anticipations in reference to the crowds were fully realized and the provision made for handling them seemed to be ample. During the season the pool received 105,796 bathers. Frequently we were called upon to handle between 3,000 and 4,000 bathers a day.

The Athletic Field House with its two shower baths and locker room and toilets was turned over to us by the contractor shortly after the first of the year, and as the season developed and the athletic field was completed this building was used very extensively.

Athletic Field.

Inside the oval a baseball diamond was added, together with wrought iron and mesh wire backstop. At the sides apparatus was installed for boys' playgrounds and outdoor gymnasium. Two additional tennis courts, one on each side of the swimming pool and athletic field house, were added. A rink for ice skating was made during the winter inside the oval, and although not finished until late in the season was patronized by over 20,000 skaters.

Planting.

Comprehensive study was made of both fields in conjunction with the landscape architect, and a substantial amount of the work was executed during the year. Two hundred and sixty-eight (268) trees were planted and twenty-seven hundred and six (2706) shrubs. As soon as these are established and the planting plans completed the appearance of both fields will be very attractive.

Crowds.

In addition to the problem of handling the regular daily attendance at the playgrounds, farm gardens, bath and athletic field house, a number of important athletic and aquatic meets were held and several times provisions were made for handling crowds of 8,000 to 10,000 people.

Bushwick Park.

A number of important improvements were made at this park. All the grass plots were enclosed by pipe rail fences. The amount of fence erected for this purpose was 12,000 linear feet. After the installation of the

fence we were able to re-sod and maintain the borders along the walks, also to carry out a comprehensive planting scheme according to plans which had been worked out in conjunction with the landscape architect covering re-arrangement and addition to shrubbery plantations. In this work thirty-one (31) new trees, and one hundred and sixty (160) new shrubs were planted.

In addition to the above a careful study was made of soil conditions and late in the year a compost pile was established in the park and this will be ready for use early next year.

The flag pole, comfort station and shelter were thoroughly overhauled, repaired and repainted.

Bushwick Playground.

On account of the extension of Woodbine street it was necessary to remove the wrought iron fence along the back line of the Boys' Playground, and to reset it about 20 feet in from the new street line, in order to accommodate the cut and excavation at this point. Plans have been prepared and corporate stock funds are available for the building of a retaining wall and resetting of this fence after the excavation is completed.

The tennis court was laid out in the Girls' Playground and surfaced with clay.

The frames supporting the awnings over the swings were repaired and repainted.

Borough Hall.

The flagstone sidewalks surrounding this park are very extensive in area, in poor condition and should be replaced. The expense of maintenance, and the generally unsatisfactory condition of it in spite of frequent repairs during the year make this necessary. A comprehensive study of the arrangement of flower beds and shrubbery was made and changes were made in accordance with these plans. The result proved satisfactory and with a slight modification will be continued next year. We were called upon by the Committee having charge of the Christmas Tree Celebration, to attend to the setting up of the 31 Christmas trees provided for this year's celebration and the work was done on short notice and in a creditable manner.

Columbia Heights Park.

The flagstone pavements in front of these small parks were relaid and repaired. Oriental plane trees were planted on the sidewalk in front of each park. The wrought iron fences were repaired and repainted.

Canarsie Park.

The comfort station was thoroughly repaired and repainted inside and out.

Some absolutely essential repairs were made to the old Schenck Mansion to make it water-proof. This very interesting old building is still in

condition to be restored to its original condition and it is regrettable that funds are not available for this purpose, as it is one of the most ancient and interesting of the old Dutch houses.

Carroll Park.

The three fountains in the center of this park had not been in use for a number of years. Because of the fact that there is no means for preventing improper use of the fountains when filled with water, it seemed improbable that they would ever be used again. Consequently it was deemed advisable to remove the curbing and to make the space available for an addition to the Plaza in the center of the park. This work was done during the year, and the extra space made a very great improvement to the Plaza. As soon as the walks in the park are relaid conditions will be much better than heretofore. All of the lawns received a dressing compost, and certain portions of the lawns extensive cultivation. The comfort station was repainted inside and out. The fences were also painted.

City Park.

The inside of the Comfort Station was repainted; cement floor was made under the baby swings in the playground; extensive repairs were made to the sidewalk. A compost pile was set up and will be ready for use early next year. Flag pole repainted. A number of plantations of shrubs were transplanted and grouped at the entrances, and the result forms a pleasing example of what can be accomplished by this method at trifling expense.

Coney Island.

The open shelters on Seaside and Dreamland beaches were repaired and repainted inside and out; also the brick shelter in Seaside Park. The seven flag poles on the beaches and in the park were repaired and repainted. Extensive repairs were necessary to the bulkhead, extending from Ocean Parkway eastward, on account of damage done by the winter storms. The exterior fences at Seaside Park were repainted. The sea wall along the Concourse was repainted, and the concrete retaining wall and bulkhead on Seaside Beach was rebuilt. The latter job was an important piece of work and by reinforcing the concrete with steel beams we believe that it will prove sufficient and permanent.

In an attempt to improve conditions and to enable us to handle the crowds more satisfactorily we placed 25 picnic tables on both Seaside and Dreamland beaches, together with benches, and they seemed to be very much appreciated. We will increase the number of tables next year, and we believe that it will be the means of relieving a very large part of the congestion, and will also do away to a large extent with the scattering of litter on the beach. In this connection it may be interesting to state that during last season we removed 2,500 double truck loads of rubbish from these beaches, besides large quantities that were burned.

Early in the season a bulkhead was constructed by the Department of Public Works between the end of the Municipal Bath and the Ocean to protect the foundations of the building from further encroachments by the sea. The construction of the bulkhead was successful in protecting the foundation, but the building of it has developed a number of cross currents that are disturbing the beach to the east of the Municipal Bath House.

In continuing and extending the work of social service which we commenced two years ago on the beach, arrangement was made early in the summer for a playleader to live on the beach all during the season in a tent. Co-operating with her were two women attendants. They gave special consideration to moral and social conditions, and their work was very effective. Conditions were far more satisfactory than heretofore. In this connection arrangements were made to receive and provide for the care of small children and infants. Special tents were provided with baby hammocks. In addition, special benches were provided for nurses and attendants, and the privileges were used very extensively by institutions and societies interested in Child Welfare Work. Each Saturday, Sunday and holiday arrangements were made to provide a special detail of men representing the Department to patrol the beaches and assist in the policing and proper handling of the crowds.

A careful study was made of the very urgent requirements for additional bath house facilities, and plans have been prepared for an adequate building to meet this need; and it is sincerely hoped that funds may be made available for its construction.

Nine (9) trees were planted on Dreamland Beach to replace trees that had been destroyed and two (2) on Seaside Park.

Cooper Park.

Two tennis courts were marked out on the central grass plots and proved to be very popular. The comfort station was repaired and repainted inside and out. Flag pole repainted.

Two (2) trees were planted to replace trees that had died, and a number of large private bushes were removed for transplanting to other parks, and this thinning out process has improved the appearance of the park.

Cuyler Gore.

Flower beds in this small triangle were re-designed and re-located, and some of the shrubs were transplanted, in accordance with a study made in conjunction with the landscape architect.

Dyker Beach Park.

The cleaning and grading of the Picnic Grove was completed. The floor of the bridge on the traffic road was relaid, and temporary repairs were made to the long bridge on the automobile road. It is hoped that now that money has been provided for the filling of the swamp that the work may be completed early enough next year to eliminate the necessity of ex-

tensive repairs to this bridge. An old building on the ground was thoroughly overhauled and put in use by the engineers as an office in making the survey for the filling of the marsh land.

Under advice from the Board of Health considerable extension was made to the ditching of the swamp of the salt marshes to prevent mosquito breeding, and the work proved to be effective. Extensive repairs were necessary to the sluiceway; and in the Fall the grass and weeds in the salt meadow were cut and burned preparatory to flooding with surface water for the skating season.

Arrangements were perfected, through the cooperation with the Marine and Field Club, for making four additional golf holes on park property, and also turning over to them the care of three holes formerly used by the Dyker Meadow Club. By this arrangement the Marine and Field Club now have an eighteen hole course, partly on park property, partly on the Government Reservation at Fort Hamilton and partly on private property. By the terms of this arrangement a citizen may secure from the Department without charge a permit to play upon this course upon the same basis as a guest of a member of the Marine and Field Club.

At the easterly end of the main drive was a short stretch of 300 feet on Cropsey avenue which had never been paved or surfaced. This stretch was regraded and surfaced. For this work 75 yards of gravel, 20 yards of sand and 20 yards trap rock screenings, together with 800 gallons of asphalt binder, were used.

Fort Greene Park.

The wrought iron fence between the park and the Brooklyn Hospital was repainted, the hospital sharing in the expense. One thousand four hundred (1,400) feet of new pipe rail fence was installed around grass plots. Extensive repairs were made at the Martyrs' Monument to the electric elevator.

As has been noted elsewhere in the report, a retaining wall was constructed for several hundred feet along St. Edwards street and Myrtle avenue; and the grade of the Plaza was raised and otherwise improved. According to a carefully prepared plan the field has been graded to provide for a wide avenue extending from the corner of the plot to the granite steps leading to the Martyrs' Monument. This path will make a dignified and suitable approach to the upper Plaza from the street and the lower level on either side of this path are playgrounds. These have been graded and enclosed by a wrought iron fence removed from along Flatbush avenue in Prospect Park. The playground on the Myrtle avenue side provides for a farm garden, back yard garden and play field for girls and children. A building that had formerly been used at this location by the engineers of the Aqueduct Commission was required as a gift and removed to a suitable location on this plot. This building was then remodeled and fitted up as a cottage, and will be used as a comfort station and play house. It will also

provide suitable quarters for use in connection with the farm garden. The site of the farm garden was heavily manured and cultivated and the ground will be ready for planting next spring. Both playground fields were graded, drained and irrigated. In the field adjoining St. Edwards street a coating of puddling clay was used for resurfacing, and the plot graded to make provision for flooding in Winter for an outdoor skating rink. This field was opened for skating the last day in the year and promises to be very popular. Two (2) arc lamps have been installed so that it can be used evenings.

Special attention was given to the planting of shrubs on the banks, particularly on the bank facing the Brooklyn Hospital. For this purpose six hundred (600) selected shrubs were used. Three hundred yards of compost were used in cultivating shrubs and lawns, and plans prepared for further improvements to plantations of shrubs next year.

Fort Hamilton Park.

In cooperation with the Police Department an attractive Police Patrol Box was built and located on a small plot at the junction of the Shore Drive and Fourth avenue. The tool house was removed to a new location on the same plot, and both these small buildings were screened by appropriate plantations of shrubs. Thirty-seven (37) trees and one hundred and forty-four (144) shrubs were planted. A new walk was constructed from Fourth avenue to the Shore Road, connecting these two buildings. Flag pole was repaired and painted.

A natural boulder bearing a bronze tablet was erected opposite the park at the junction of the Shore Road and Fort Hamilton Parkway by the Daughters of the Revolution, to commemorate the first resistance to British Troops in New York State during the Revolutionary War. We provided for the relocation of the curb around the monument and for grading and sodding. A compost heap of several hundred yards was set up and will be available for use early next season. The contractor has commenced work on the new park shelter, funds having been provided for this work.

Fulton Park.

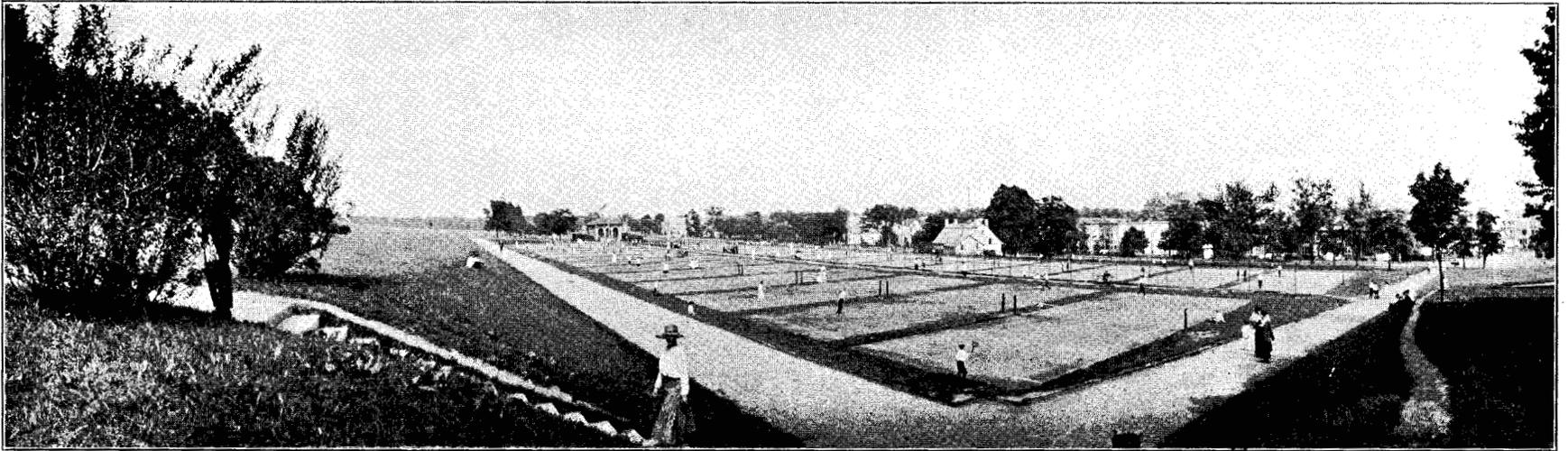
The Comfort Station and Shelter House were repainted inside and out. Flag pole repainted. Lawns were regraded and resodded. Twenty-two (22) trees were planted.

Highland Park.

Grading for an extension to the area to be flooded for skating in Winter was extended in such a manner as to make the field available for a regulation baseball diamond. A backstop was installed and the field was used very extensively. Tennis backstops of wire mesh on a tubular frame set in concrete, one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet in length were installed at the tennis courts. A new and larger flag pole was set up in a new location. The hill between the Comfort Station and Skating Pond was graded



NEW BRIDLE PATH TUNNEL, PROSPECT PARK



TENNIS COURTS AT HIGHLAND PARK

to provide better foundation for building a slide for coasting. The foot ball fields were regraded and extended. A Children's Farm Garden with one hundred and twenty (120) plots was laid out adjacent to the Schenck Mansion; and provision was also made for a Model Back Yard Garden. Both were enclosed by a wire mesh fence, and three (3) rooms in the Schenck Mansion were remodeled to meet the requirements of the school farm. Another room was remodeled to use as a tool room for employes of the Department. Some of the panels of the wrought iron fence removed from along Flatbush avenue in Prospect Park were reset to replace the old wooden fence along the westerly boundary of the park. Additional catch basins and drainage were installed at the tennis courts. Work on extending the bank at the upper level of the park along the Highland Boulevard was continued, and holes were dug and top soil provided for planting of sixty trees next Spring.

The skating at Highland Park has proven so successful last year that a portable skate house 24x30 feet, with provision for shelter, checking and refreshment counter, was made and erected in time for the first skating of the season. Two (2) arc lamps were installed to illuminate the pond.

Irving Square.

The comfort station and shelter was painted inside and out. Flag pole repainted. Outside walks repaired.

Lee Avenue Gore.

Sixty-five (65) selected shrubs were planted in the grass plots surrounding this triangle.

Lincoln Terrace Park.

To accommodate the increasing crowds visiting this park a careful study was made of the situation. A plan was prepared in conjunction with the landscape architect providing for enlarging the walks and increasing the size of the upper plaza, and establishing three (3) smaller plazas at the intersection of walks at the lower level. The work for grading and developing the walks and plaza according to this plan was completed during the year. Pipe rail fences were installed surrounding all grass plots. The lawns on the lower level were cultivated and re-seeded. All shrubbery plantations were carefully studied and a complete rearrangement made by transplanting and additions of new stock. Some work was done toward improving drainage conditions but considerably more work will be necessary in this direction before this situation is properly in hand. The new walks and plazas were given a top dressing of limestone screenings, and the appearance of the park and its utility were very greatly enhanced by these changes. In addition we installed several flower beds. The comfort station and the flag pole were repainted.

Linton Park.

An 8 inch vitrified sewer was laid for 150 feet, connecting the comfort station with the street.

McCarren Park.

The tennis courts were rearranged permitting the addition of two (2) more courts, making a total of sixteen (16) courts, and all were given a resurfacing of fine clay. The drainage to the tennis field was improved so that they can be played on very shortly after the most severe storm. Seven hundred (700) feet of wire backstop was erected on tubular frame set in concrete. An attractive play house was built to replace the shed formerly used on the North Twelfth street playground. An attractive tool house, work shed, and greenhouse was built for use in connection with the Farm Garden. At the Farm Garden a Model Back Yard Garden was established. A portable skate house, similar to the one made for Highland Park, was built and erected in time for the first skating of the season. The two (2) flag poles and the Farm House were repainted. Thirty-seven (37) trees were planted, and a large number of shrubs were added to the Farm Garden plot.

The use of the Farm House as a social centre during the Fall and Winter months continues with pleasing results.

McKibbin Playground.

Fences were repainted. The tennis and handball courts were given a surface dressing of fine clay. A new sewer basin was installed to take care of surface drainage.

McKinley Park.

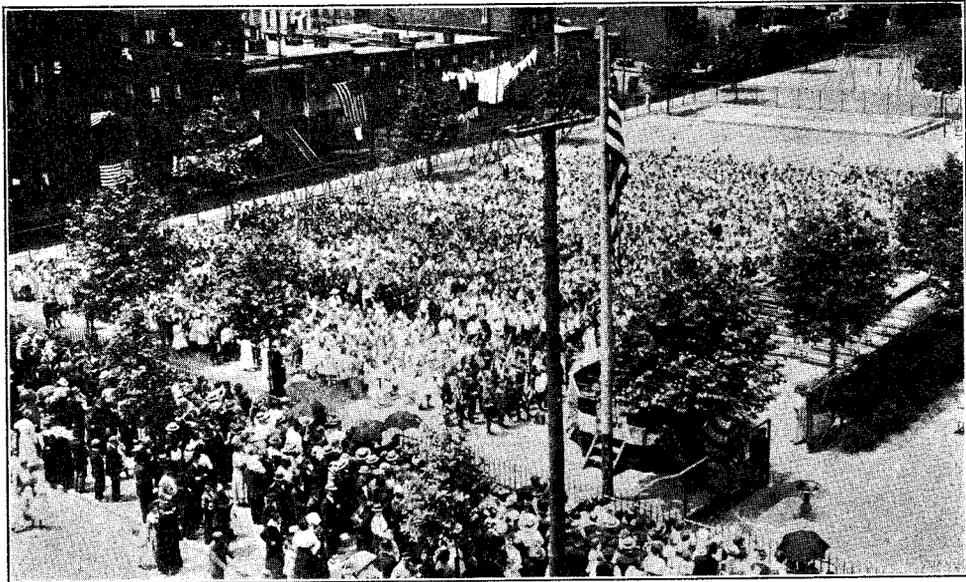
Extensive grading was done to increase the area flooded for the skating rink, and to improve the hill used for coasting. A hedge of ninety-three (93) selected privet bushes was planted along the side of the park at Seventh Avenue, to screen the area used for skating rink in the Winter and playground in the Summer. Two hundred and eight (208) trees were planted in the groves for reforestation.

McLaughlin Park and Playground.

Cement floor was laid under swings and other apparatus. Top dressing of clay was given to the tennis court. New sand box was installed. New awnings were provided for all swings. Several hundred shrubs were planted on the banks surrounding the Girls' Playground.

New Lots Playground.

A plan has been prepared for altering and extending the Children's Play House. A large tree was transplanted to allow for the extension of this building. Tennis courts were given a top dressing of clay. Interior of the comfort station, and flag pole, repaired.



FLAG DAY AT BUSHWICK PLAYGROUND



ATHLETIC MEET, McCARREN PARK

Ninety-fifth Street Gore.

This plot was turned over to the Department during the year. We graded the plot and prepared for sodding and planting.

Parade Ground.

Eight (8) of the twenty-five (25) diamonds were resurfaced with clay and made to conform to the regulation standard. New base plates with anchors were provided for all diamonds. Base lines and gallery lines were plainly marked each day.

The cricket fields and football fields were generally improved, and the field proper, as well as the ground in front of the athletic building, received extensive resodding. A comfort station was built at the end of the field adjacent to Parade Place, together with proper sewer connections, and the building surrounded by plantation of large selected shrubs. Special care and attention was devoted to the Bowling Green. Four (4) flag poles were repainted. The posts of the chain fence in front of the field house were repaired. Police station repainted throughout.

A concession was given permitting the erection of a marquee and several small umbrella stands on the baseball field during the season. Also a concession permitting the renting of camp chairs for spectators at the games.

During the World's baseball series a bulletin board was erected in front of the Field House, direct telephone and telegraphic connections were made with one of the newspaper offices and a graphic representation and score board followed the progress of the game during each day of the series.

Underhill Gore.

The interior of this small triangle was rearranged, according to a formal plan, and the surrounding grass plots were enclosed by pipe rail fences. Permanent benches were installed, and the exterior grass plots heavily planted with shrubs.

Red Hook Park and Playground.

Tennis courts were given a top dressing of clay. Cement floors were put down under the swings in the playground; lawns extensively cultivated; flag pole repainted.

Saratoga Park.

Electric lights were installed in the comfort station and shelter. Flag pole and fences were repainted. Lawns were extensively cultivated and fertilized.

Sunset Park.

An additional tennis court was added, making four (4) in number. All were resurfaced with clay. Pipe rail fences and flag pole, and interior of comfort station, were repainted. Compost pile was set up in the Fall. Extensive cultivation was made of all shrubbery plantations.

Tompkins Park.

The extensive alteration and repairs to the shelter, comfort station, and library building were completed early in the year in conjunction with the Library Board. The completed building adds very materially to the facilities of the library, and the additions to the comfort station make very satisfactory and adequate accommodations. In making alterations to this building a study was made of the surrounding walks and approaches. Extensive changes and additions were made to accommodate the new requirements. All new walks were provided with pipe rail fences. Eight (8) trees and eleven (11) large selected shrubs were planted and made to properly screen the building. Flower beds were relocated and very greatly extended. All lawns were cultivated and fertilized.

Unnamed Gore.

A small triangle at the corner of Bushwick and Myrtle avenues was transferred to this department by the Borough President. We graded the plot and planted five (5) trees.

Williamsburg Bridge Playground.

Extensive repairs to the playhouse and apparatus were made. The playground surface was given a dressing of fine ashes.

Prospect Park.

There have been so many improvements throughout Prospect Park during the year that at certain periods conditions have seemed very much disturbed. This was inevitable. However the excessive rains early in the season made it necessary to do practically all construction work after the middle of July.

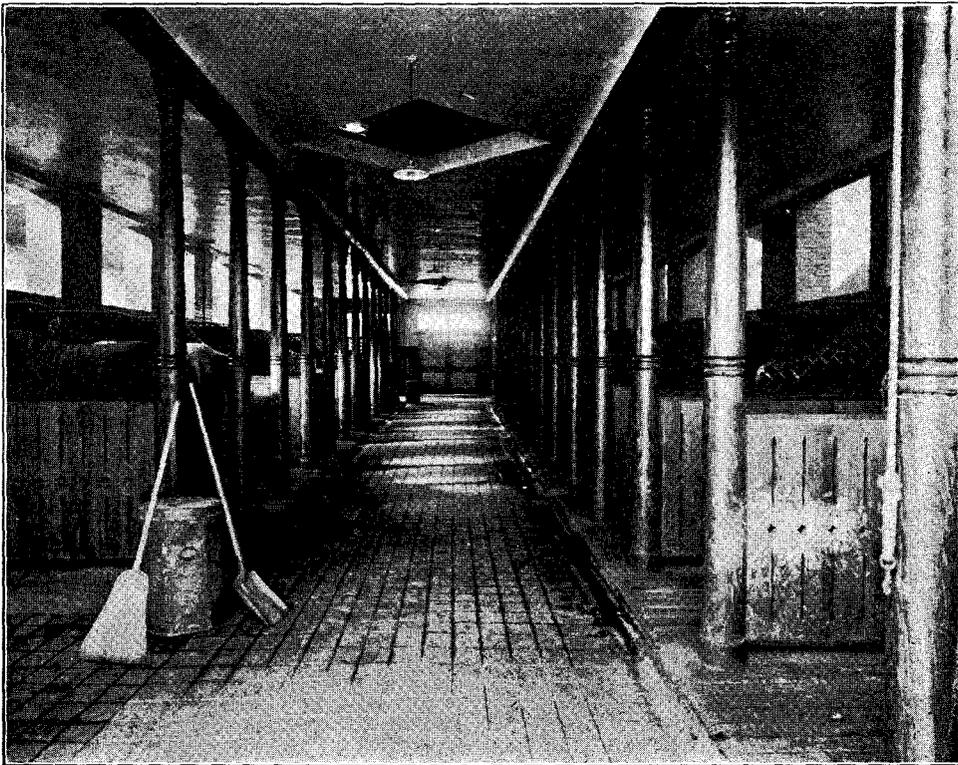
Possibly the most important improvement of the year has been in connection with the new Bridle Road and separate entrance for equestrians. Included in this work are the improvements in and around the old Duck Pond section.

This development is not entirely completed. Inasmuch as no special appropriation was provided except for the building of the tunnel, we were obliged to carry on the work with departmental forces as circumstances governing the regular operations permitted. Consequently progress has seemed slow. However, when the tunnel was opened on November twenty-fifth the work had advanced to a point where considerable realization could be had of the splendid improvement this extension is to make. With its final completion every section of Prospect Park will have been brought into a state of development. It is interesting and significant that this will come next year, just fifty years after the opening of the park.

The tunnel under the East Drive was built by contract from an appropriation of twelve thousand (\$12,000) dollars provided for the purpose. It consists of a concrete arch with retaining walls and parapet. In excavat-



PICNIC GROUNDS, PROSPECT PARK



IMPROVED STABLES, PROSPECT PARK

ing for the tunnel a heavy layer of puddling clay was reached. This clay was used extensively for surfacing tennis courts and making skating rinks throughout the city.

The tool house for the workmen in this section was removed to a new location inside the service yard and fitted with lockers for the men. A new and somewhat larger tool house was built near it for the pruners and climbers. Service roads leading from the East Drive to the yard were constructed and the banks and approaches were screened by transplanting a large number of trees and shrubs.

Storehouse, Stables and Shops.

When the contract for building the storehouse was completed early in 1914, the building required suitable fixtures, also considerable work in the way of grading and drainage before full advantage could be taken of the ample room provided. There had been no money specially provided for installing fixtures or doing the other work. Consequently as opportunity allowed this work has progressed slowly by departmental forces. Lack of provision for handling surface water around the building made it impossible to use the basement as it was flooded several times during the year. Outside of the storehouse was a large amount of heavy, bulky equipment, and used material that could not properly be stored inside of the building. During this year practically all of these matters have been disposed of permanently. It will still be necessary to make some additions to the fixtures, but the grading and drainage problems have been solved and the work done. At the rear of the storehouse a large storeyard has been enclosed by a substantial board fence which screens the unsightly material and equipment from view and enables us to store it in an orderly and accessible manner. And this Fall with the hanging of the workmen's bell in the belfry we properly felt that the work on the new storehouse had been completed and that we had come into its full use and occupancy.

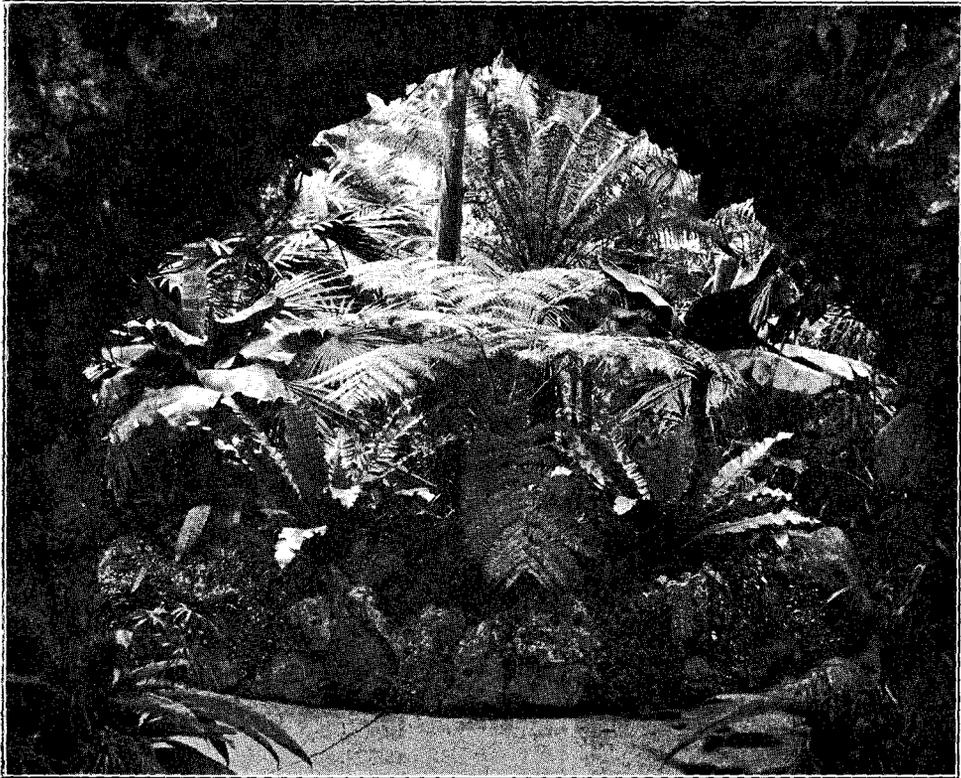
When the merchandise in the old storehouse was removed it left that building available for use as a much needed extension to the shops. According to the plan made at that time the paint, plumbing and tinsmith's shops were removed to this building, and the remodeling, re-equipping, and bringing up to date of the main shop building was commenced. Since that time this work has progressed and during the year it has been finished. The final work completed this year consisted of the following: Making a suitable room for the shop offices on the ground floor adjoining the men's club room, which had been constructed the year before. Putting a metal ceiling in the blacksmith's shop, together with a ventilating shaft. The rebuilding of the stairs to the carpenter shop. The construction of a loading platform, enabling us to load directly onto wagons from the upper floor. The installation of a complete steam heating plant. Building new work benches throughout, and providing individual lockers for the mechanics. Substantial additions were also made to the equipment and provision made for suit-

able protection to the machinery to provide against accident. The improvements at the shop during the past three years, together with the tuning up of the personnel to a higher degree of efficiency, accounts to a very great extent, for the annual reduction of approximately \$22,000 in this part of our work.

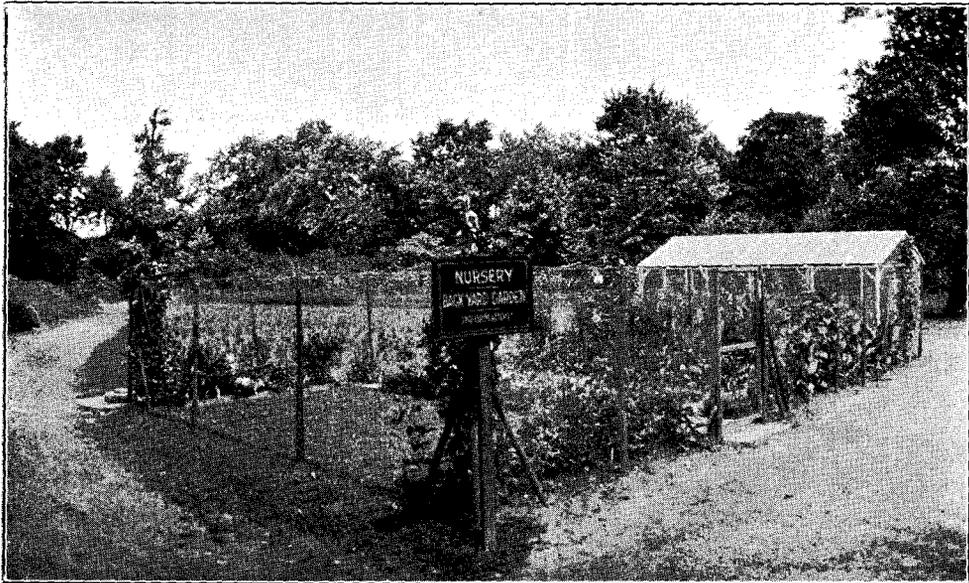
With the improvements at the storehouse and the shops the unsightly and miserable condition of the stables had become more apparent, and provision had been made in the 1916 budget for the necessary alterations, additions and improvements. This work was done during the year. The temporary wooden stable being beyond repair was removed. By the building of a brick addition to the main stable, and cutting openings in the walls to admit light and air, we are now able to accommodate thirty-seven (37) horses under very convenient and sanitary conditions. The wooden floor of the old stable was removed and replaced by concrete. Movable wooden floor racks are furnished for each stall, together with modern drainage and flushing facilities. Two (2) box stalls are provided, one fitted up as a hospital. An attractive office for the stable foreman, permanent concrete watering troughs, cabinets for harness and veterinary supplies, iron mangers, and new electric lighting throughout, complete this improvement. Adjacent to the stable, and including the ground formerly occupied by the old wooden stable, covered sheds have been built around an open court, providing shelter for twenty-eight (28) carts and wagons. So that it is now for the first time possible to keep nearly all of the rolling stock of the Department under cover and protected from the weather. In connection with the building of the shops and the alterations of the stables, the plan provided for the building of an ornamental brick wall enclosing the stable yard. This relieved the objectionable and confused condition at this point. Now the approach to the greenhouse from Fifth street is made attractive. At the point where the walk approaches the greenhouse an ornamental pergola has been built. Passing through the pergola one finds an attractive flower garden surrounded by a profuse plantation of rhododendrons and ornamental shrubs. The whole plant included in the storehouse, shops and stables are now distinctly creditable and worthy of the Department.

Greenhouses.

The two (2) Orchid houses were thoroughly overhauled and repaired, new concrete benches were installed, the roofs practically rebuilt, and permanent concrete gutters replaced the old zinc gutters. This work practically completes the general overhauling of the greenhouses that was commenced three (3) years ago. There are a few buildings yet to be finished. The work has been done in such a manner that we believe it will last. The joints of all of the woodwork were white-leaded before framing, and all exposed angle iron, except trusses and rafters, have been replaced or covered by concrete.



FERN HOUSE, PROSPECT PARK



MODEL BACK YARD GARDEN
Lincoln Road Entrance, Prospect Park

A large amount of glass was broken by the explosion at Black Tom Island. Fortunately this happened in the summer so that there was no injury to the plants from exposure.

A number of important gifts of plants were made during the year by individuals, and a number of valuable exchanges were effected with other departments. All the camelias and azaleas received a thorough cleaning and re-potting and are showing a splendid improvement in growth and flowering. The growing and bedding plant activities resulted in an increase of stock and improvement in quality. There were also increases in the output of the cold frames. The nursery and stock ground was extended and improved, and the approach to the greenhouses from the new Pergola was ornamented by parterres of very carefully selected plants. The banks and entrance were profusely planted with rhododendrons and ornamental shrubs. In addition to the care and development of the plants in the exhibition houses the following were grown in the propagating houses and frames :

Plants raised by cutting and seedings.....	32,500
Summer bedding plants.....	90,000
Flowering and decorative plants.....	11,130
Bulbs and roots.....	35,000
	168,630

Flower Garden.

The Easter Flower Show, and the Chrysanthemum Show in the Fall attracted thousands of people. On Easter Sunday twenty-seven thousand five hundred (27,500) people visited the display. A display was also made at Christmas time of Poinsettias and other appropriate flowers. All of the shrubs on the surrounding banks of the Formal Flower Garden were extensively cultivated and renewed by the addition of fresh stock. The manner of planting the three (3) large flower beds next to the Terrace was changed from former years, and all during the summer they contained handsome examples of every intricate carpet bedding which appeared to be greatly admired. A portion of the Old Fashioned Garden was set aside as a Shakespearian Garden in connection with the Ter-Centennial Shakespeare celebration.

Near the Flower Garden, at the Lincoln Road Entrance, we have a work yard, including about one hundred (100) hot house frames. In conjunction with our efforts to increase the growing operations we decided to enlarge this yard and take advantage of all the available area for the establishment of a small nursery in which to develop cuttings of ornamental shrubs and vines for ground cover. In preparing this plot we installed a thorough system of drainage by use of agricultural tile, and then prepared the soil by intensive cultivation. We also established at this point a Model Back Yard Garden. A small space was set aside for a State Tree Exhibit in cooperation with the New York State Conservation Commission. We also built a small greenhouse to use in bringing into bloom some early varieties of chrysanthemums for display in the flower garden. Among others we pro-



SECTION OF FORMAL FLOWER GARDEN, PROSPECT PARK

duced three (3) specimen plants of "Pacific Supreme," each plant having from three to four hundred blossoms. In this yard were grown, and from it we planted in outside flower beds, over one hundred thirty thousand (130,000) flowers, plants and shrubs, and about five thousand (5,000) vines for ground cover. From this station we also prepared and distributed about one hundred seventy thousand (170,000) tulip and other bulbs for planting in flower beds throughout the system.

Rose Garden and Vale of Cashmere.

Early in the Spring soil was removed from twenty-four (24) of the fifty (50) large beds in the flower garden to the depth of two (2) feet and replaced by fresh soil. A subsequent planting produced a wonderful profusion of bloom, and all during the season the three thousand (3,000) rose bushes were in splendid condition. Perfect examples of the hundreds of varieties were produced. Special attention was given to the cultivation and replacement of shrubs in the Vale of Cashmere, and to the aquatic plants in the pool, as well as to the three (3) pools in the Rose Garden.

Menagerie.

In connection with the gift to the Department of the first section of the new Menagerie Building it was necessary for the Department to supplement the work included in the gift by a substantial amount of work. Concrete floors for animal's cages were built. Installation of electric wiring and fixtures; painting the inside of the building and cages; changing plumbing and heating fixtures, and making cement floors in the basement. It was also necessary to do a good deal of work in connection with securing proper approaches and exits to the building. The old carriage sheds adjoining the Dairy Cottage were removed, together with some of the temporary cages. The bear and wolf cages were connected by an adequate sewer with the main sewer in the park, and water lines and electric conduit for the new building were installed. At the sides of many of the walks in the vicinity of the Menagerie Building walls were built of heavy boulders to retain the banks. After completion of the walls the banks were refilled, top soiled, and prepared for sodding.

At the Menagerie we care for and have on exhibition three hundred and seventy (370) specimens representing the following varieties or families:

- 92 Cloven hoof animals
- 9 Reptiles.
- 14 Bears.
- 137 Rodents.
- 3 Cats (lions, leopards, etc.).
- 52 Birds.
- 33 Fowl.
- 18 Dog family.
- 2 Swine family.

Forty (40) animals and birds were presented to the Menagerie during the year.

Wild Life.

To promote wild life in Prospect Park, two hundred and fifty Squirrel Houses were set up on the trees, and the little animals received weekly during cold weather an allowance of 150 pounds of food material.

One hundred and twenty-seven Bird Houses were distributed through various sections of the park, chiefly at the entrance ways, on the Peninsula and on the Lake Islands.

Thirty-two suet oxes and a number of half cocoanuts filled with seed were put up for Winter feeding. A number of shrubs bearing attractive bird food were planted on the islands of Prospect Lake. It is hoped by these methods that the number of song birds frequenting Prospect Park may be increased at all seasons.

Bridle Path and Roads.

The main roadways inside of Prospect Park were extensively resurfaced during the year by contract. The West Drive, from the main entrance to Lincoln Road, comprised one contract. The work done consisted of the removal of the asphalt binder and several inches of the crown, and resurfacing with asphalt. Another contract covered the principal part of the West Drive from Third street to the Circle. A third contract involved the rebuilding of the road and waterproofing over the Terrace Bridge.

A new roadway was constructed for the purpose of securing a suitable automobile and carriage approach to the Menagerie. For this purpose we enlarged that part of the Bridle Path from the East Drive to the Menagerie, this section being no longer required as bridle path after the opening of the separate entrance for equestrians. The building of this road required the removing and transplanting of a number of good sized trees and handling a large amount of material. After the road was constructed it was given a surface coating of tarvia.

Planting.

The work of planting trees, shrubs and vines for ground cover was very active, both in the Spring and Fall. As already indicated the banks enclosing the work yard at the Duck Pond were very heavily planted. Inside the entrance at the Park Circle all of the old plantations were renewed and very greatly extended, as were also plots adjacent to the stable and storehouse. The banks along Ninth avenue received a large number of additional shrubs. An extensive plantation of *Rosa Wichuriana* was made on the bank at the Third street entrance, and important work was done throughout the park in reforestation in the woodland areas. During the year there were planted in the park one thousand five hundred ninety-four (1,594) trees; thirteen thousand three hundred ninety-three (13,393) shrubs and vines. Three hundred thirty-nine (339) trees and seven hundred seventy (770) shrubs were transplanted. All of the lawns in Prospect

Park were fertilized, and most of the ground around the trees and shrubs, where on account of shade and unsatisfactory soil conditions it has been difficult to maintain the grass, was fertilized and cultivated.

Next year being the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Prospect Park it is our plan and expectation that the lawns, trees and shrubs, as well as the buildings and structures, shall be in excellent condition.

General Improvements.

Contracts were let for taking up, water-proofing and restoring the roof of the extension to the Boat House, and the repairing of the tile roof to the main building, also for restoring the plaster and repainting the interior of the upper floor of the boat house. Extensive repairs were made to the Memorial Arch at the Park Plaza. The angle iron supports of the massive bronze figures of the *Quadranda* had become exposed to the weather, and were so badly rusted that it was necessary to remove, replace and reinforce them in order to make the figures safe. The contractor did not complete his work, and it was necessary for departmental forces to complete it. In addition the whole monument received a thorough repointing.

A wrought iron picket fence along Ocean and Parkdale avenues, from the Willink entrance to the Circle, was installed about twenty-five years ago, and the bottom of the pickets and the lower rail had in many places rusted to such an extent that extensive repairs were called for in order to avoid the necessity of a new fence. We employed the system which we had developed last year in restoring fences of this character and built a concrete curbing along the base of the four thousand six hundred (4,600) feet of fencing, and after the iron work had been repainted the fence is as good as new and presents a better appearance than it did even when new.

Important extensions were made to the main irrigation system of the park by continuing the four-inch (4") main, and the installation of hydrants at the Menagerie Hill, and in the vicinity of the Picnic House and Litchfield Mansion.

At the shelter at the Willink entrance a very substantial screen and seats of a suitable design to harmonize with the architecture of the building were installed to divide the covered space in the center of the building from the entrance to the toilets. Very extensive repairs were made to the men's and women's comfort stations at the main gate of Prospect Park. These stations are below the surface of the ground. The water-proofing of the walls had deteriorated and it was necessary, in the case of the women's comfort station, to build an area around three sides of the building and then make the whole water-proof. In the case of the men's toilet it was necessary to reconstruct the roof, and then reset all of the marble slabs forming the interior trim of the walls, as well as to replace many of the fixtures. The toilets at the Picnic House were removed from the upper floor to the basement in accordance with the plans prepared for extensive alterations to this building. The men's toilets formerly occupying one end of the shop were

removed to a new location more conveniently situated, with reference to the public at the easterly end of the stable.

New bubble fountains were placed at the Menagerie and at the Croquet Shelter House. The pool under the falls at the head waters of the brook line was thoroughly cleaned of all muck and decaying vegetable matter, and the entire brook line had a thorough overhauling and cleaning. During the Spring the Bay on the lake adjacent to the Ford Bridge was shut off from the lake by the dam and the water in the Bay pumped out, and then the muck removed from the bottom. The amount secured was about two thousand (2,000) cubic yards, and this material was carted to the work yard in the Duck Pond section for use in making compost. The original experiment a year ago in making compost was so successful that we decided to materially increase our effort in this direction, and two piles were set up. We produced about three thousand six hundred (3,600) cubic yards. This provided fertilizer for all of Prospect Park, as well as for a large number of the small parks, and for all of the tree planting operations.

A new work and storage yard was located back of the greenhouses for the use of the men having charge of the Tennis Field and adjoining sections of the park. A new tool house with lockers for the men was erected and a large quantity of leaves collected in the yard for fertilizer.

At the Ninth street entrance work has been commenced by the contractor having charge of the masonry work involved in the building of the Lafayette Monument. This is to be a gift to the city by bequest of the late Henry Harteau and is being constructed according to a design by Mr. Daniel Chester French. The impressive monument is to be completed in a few months.

The filling and grading operations connecting Duck Island to the main land at the Peninsula was completed and extensions made to storm sewers at this point.

The shore line of the lake was practically restored throughout. The cobble stone wall was rebuilt and back-filled.

SKATING AND COASTING.

In addition to the areas flooded in many of the small parks and playgrounds for skating, special attention was given to improve skating conditions on Prospect Park lake. New methods were devised for the expeditious and economical cleaning of the snow, and an interesting experiment was made in flooding the ice at night with a temperature below 20° Fahrenheit for the purpose of resurfacing and increasing the thickness of the ice. For this purpose we used water from the mains, and the result was so successful that a centrifugal pump of large capacity was purchased to use on future occasions. Three (3) Ice Carnivals were given during the winter. The ice was illuminated by hundreds of Chinese lanterns, and on Washington's birthday and New Year's Eve the Boat House and bridges were decorated with flags and banners.

By the extension of the water mains at Menagerie Hill we were able with much less difficulty to supply water for icing the hill for coasting. The slide increases in popularity, and in spite of the fact that at frequent



SKATING IN PROSPECT PARK

intervals fully one hundred (100) sleds per minute leave from the starting platform we thus far have had no accident.

TREES AND SHRUBS, PARKS AND BOULEVARDS.

In addition to the planting of trees and shrubs, already mentioned, in the parks and playgrounds, all of the parkways have received careful attention.

The most important planting operation on the parkways was the work done on Bay Ridge Parkway. At the junction with Fort Hamilton Parkway the mounds for a distance of several hundred feet on each side of the roadway were regraded, fertilized and planted according to a carefully studied plan. The completion of this work makes a delightful improvement and suitably marks the commencement of this driveway.

In the block between Fourth and Fifth avenues the existing plantations were extended and improved. A number of Lombardy Poplars were planted on the heights near Fifth avenue to screen the elevated railroad structure. A path was made leading to the Bay Ridge High School, and the stone wall at the southern side of the parkway was heavily planted with rhododendrons.



ATHLETIC FIELD FLOODED FOR SKATING



PLAYGROUND OUTING AT PROSPECT PARK

For the above planting on Bay Ridge Parkway eleven hundred and seventy-one (1,171) trees and twenty-two hundred and thirty (2,230) shrubs were used.

The grass plots at the lower end of Ocean Parkway were enclosed by pipe rail fences and the enclosure planted with shrubs.

Summary of work on trees and shrubs in parks and parkways:

Trees pruned	5,905
Trees removed	921
Trees sprayed	3,591
Trees planted	3,429
Shrubs pruned	12,097
Shrubs planted	19,531
Shrubs removed	2,220
Trees brushed	390
Tree Guards repaired	607
Trees wired	198
Shrubs transplanted	770
Trees and shrubs cultivated.....	21,323
Holes dug	5,129
Sods cut	8,100
Sods laid	4,000
Stumps removed	47
Trees transplanted	366

CARE OF STREET TREES.

During the past year the usual work of pruning, spraying, removing dead trees, treatment for disease, etc., has been carried on. In the matter of pruning, owing to the small force of men employed compared with the amount of work to be done, it has been possible to do but little more than to prune the individual trees for which requests have been made by residents. The pruning of the trees throughout the entire Borough, especially the removal of unsightly dead wood, broken branches, etc., important as this work is, has had to be sidetracked to a large extent for the still more important work of combating insect pests and the special attention required to insure the healthy growth of young trees. All dead trees, however, have been systematically removed throughout the Borough.

In the work of spraying, large sections have been properly cared for at least in the matter of that most unpleasant enemy, the Tussock Moth Caterpillar. Larger areas of the city were treated than ever before, owing to the addition to our equipment of a second high-power spraying apparatus. These machines are strikingly effective compared with our low-pressure pumps which depend for their power upon carbonic acid gas. The price of this gas has increased very greatly of late years, which makes this method of distributing the spraying liquid expensive. The large volume

of liquid which can be applied by the high-power machines makes them very economical in the matter of time even for spraying low trees, and time is the important element both from the standpoint of cost and from the standpoint of the effectual destruction of insect pests. While our spraying season for the Tussock Moth Caterpillar extends over a period of about six (6) weeks, the most effective work is done during the first week or ten days, while the caterpillars are young.

Without doubt, the most important work carried on in the streets has been that of setting out young trees. This work has increased from year to year, until at last we are planting more trees in Brooklyn than are being removed, a most gratifying result, for it means that the Borough will at least hold its own in the matter of trees and not become the utterly barren city that was threatened a few years ago, when the number of trees removed was out of all proportion to the small number planted. This happy condition of affairs has been brought about through the Department taking in hand directly the planting of city street trees at the uniform price of \$8 per tree. For this sum the Department provides tree, stake, wire guard, and top soil, with all incidental labor, and guarantees the tree for three years. Blocks of trees have been planted in various sections of the city, so that all interested may see the great value of such an improvement.

Nearly seven hundred (700) trees were planted on Bedford Avenue between Eastern Parkway and Division Avenue, the most extensive work of the kind the city has yet undertaken exclusive of parkways. The species adopted for this avenue was the Oriental Plane, and the trees have shown a flourishing growth during the past season. Only nine (9) trees failed, two of which were poisoned by gas and five (5) were destroyed by automobiles. The openings in the sidewalk were made three by four (3 x 4) feet for these trees, and the holes were increased in area to four by five (4 x 5) feet at a depth of three (3) feet so as to hold about two (2) cubic yards of top soil. A 3" x 3" chestnut stake was used to support the tree, and it was protected by a ¾" mesh wire netting guard of No. 14 wire. Trees 2 to 2½" in diameter were used for planting.

SUMMARY OF CITY STREET TREE WORK.

Trimmed	20,211
Removed	11,400
Sprayed	34,066
Scraped	7,421
Planted	1,881
Dressed	3,821
Guards repaired	3,248
Cemented	6
Holes dug	1,227
Transplanted	2

Manured	543
Cultivated	15,230
Walks cut	485
Complaints received and attended to.....	7,806

An account of the Department's efforts and results in the planting of street trees will be found earlier in this report.

MAINTENANCE OF PARK ROADS.

Owing to the excessive rains early in the season and continuing through July it was impracticable to do the work contemplated by our extensive road program as soon as desirable. As a result, the parkways, as well as the park drives, were in a very disturbed condition until late in the summer. This condition was unsatisfactory for the Department, and unfortunately for the public also.

Our road program was large. In the first place, provision for this work has been limited for a number of years past; and, in the second place, the asphalt binder mat surfacing on a number of the important roadways had worn out and had to be replaced.

The pavements of the majority of the department roadways are of a temporary nature, being in general old waterbound macadam or waterbound gravel roadways, surfaced with an asphalt mat which varies in thickness from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch, composed of asphalt oil, sand and stone chips, and which depends upon the elements and traffic for its proper taking up of mineral aggregate, its density and ultimate thickness. It developed that this method of surfacing, which is still satisfactory upon roads where automobile traffic is light and conditions favorable, will soon have to be abandoned where automobile traffic is heavy and conditions of grade not the best, such as the East and West Drives of Prospect Park and sections of main roadway of Ocean Parkway. The above conclusions are brought forth by the following considerations: The service period of the asphalt mat on these roadways was from two to three years under traffic conditions as they existed three years ago; and as the motor vehicle traffic has more than doubled in the last three years, and is steadily increasing, it is obvious that the life of the asphalt mat is shortened to a little over one year, or practically made impossible of maintenance, except at a prohibitive cost.

After departmental investigations of the various types of surfacing of temporary pavements subjected to considerable automobile traffic were made, it was decided to try a tar-bound surface in place of the asphaltic mat. This type of surface, which is of a temporary nature and requires yearly renewal, can be applied at less expense than the asphalt mat; and upon the roadways upon which it has been applied, viz.: Highland Park Drive, Bay Parkway, Menagerie Road, Prospect Park, two small drives,

Prospect Park, Avenue C intersection of Ocean Parkway, and traffic road of Ocean Parkway, it has so far proved satisfactory as an emergency treatment.

It will be necessary for the City, in the very near future, to replace all temporary pavements on parkways where traffic is heavy, or where grade is excessive and sharp turns exist, with pavements of a permanent type. It is apparent that such temporary pavements, regardless of the type of surfacing, will soon be impossible of satisfactory maintenance from an economical standpoint and without subjecting the public to great inconvenience at repair periods.

During the year 1916 a new system of daily and final job reports for roadways was established, which will enable the Department to accurately determine the unit, maintenance and construction cost for each type of pavement and to properly chart all necessary roadway data.

Bay Parkway.

Early in the season we resurfaced the Drive from Ocean Parkway to 64th Street, making temporary repairs to cover a very urgent situation. For this purpose we used five hundred (500) cubic yards of $\frac{5}{8}$ " screenings; one hundred (100) cubic yards of fine screenings, and twelve hundred (1,200) gallons of dust laying oil.

Later in the year this part of the Drive was entirely resurfaced and regraded under contract.

At the lower end extensive repairs were made of a temporary nature, from Cropsey Avenue to 80th Street. Fifty (50) cubic yards of $\frac{5}{8}$ " screenings and two hundred and fifty (250) of tarvia were used in doing this work.

The intersection of Bay Parkway at 66th Street was reconstructed, under contract, with six inches of new stone with tar top.

Bay Ridge Parkway.

This parkway—from Fort Hamilton to First Avenue—was patched with binder and screenings throughout the season.

Bushwick Avenue.

From Eastern Parkway Extension to Highland Boulevard. The sheet asphalt pavement was repaired during the spring and fall of the year under contract guarantee.

Dyker Beach Park Drive.

This drive was patched during the spring of the year with asphalt binder, screenings and sand.

Eastern Parkway.

In the spring of the year the excess crown on the main roadway at the Washington Avenue intersection was removed by Department forces and roadway surface replaced with asphalt binder, sand and screenings. The

sheet asphalt pavements on the north and south traffic roads were repaired during the spring and fall. The repairs to these roadways were exceptionally heavy, due to the large amount of traffic on account of the main roadway being closed off for subway construction purposes. The repairs amounted to approximately 4,000 square yards.

Eastern Parkway Extension.

Pending the construction of new asphalt pavement on this roadway, emergency repairs were made in the late fall of the year from Ralph to Bushwick Avenue.

Ocean Parkway.

The main drive at Coney Island Hospital from Avenue "Y" to the bridge, a distance of 1,700 feet, was regraded and resurfaced. For this nine hundred (900) cubic yards of 1½" trap rock, five hundred (500) cubic yards of ⅝" screenings, three hundred (300) cubic yards of fine screenings, five hundred (500) cubic yards of sand, and ten thousand (10,000) gallons of asphalt binder were used.

The main drive from Avenue "C" to Avenue "H," a distance of 475 feet, was regraded and resurfaced where necessary. Parts of the surface were in good condition and were not disturbed. About 75% of the area was repaired. For this purpose we used two hundred and fifty (250) cubic yards of ⅝" screenings, two hundred and fifty (250) cubic yards of sand, and sixteen thousand nine hundred (16,900) gallons of asphalt binder. At Avenue F the intersection was rebuilt, and at this point we used twenty (20) cubic yards of 1½" trap rock, and ten (10) cubic yards ⅝" screenings.

In the late fall of 1916 the entire main roadway from Park Circle to Coney Island was thoroughly gone over and patched with tarvia and stone chips.

The Traffic Road from Coney Island Concourse to Neptune Avenue, a distance of two thousand (2,000) feet, was entirely remade. The roadbed was scarified, regraded and resurfaced. For this job we required one thousand (1,000) yards of 1½" trap rock, two hundred (200) yards of fine screenings, one hundred and sixty-six (166) yards of ⅝" screenings, and ten thousand (10,000) gallons of tarvia.

Another stretch of the Traffic Road from Kings Highway south, for a distance of 875 feet, was also scarified and remade as above. For this job we used two hundred fifty (250) cubic yards of 1½" trap rock, eighty-five (85) yards of ⅝" screenings, fifty (50) yards of fine screenings and two hundred fifty (250) gallons of tarvia.

Early in the season we put down at the intersection of Avenue "C," as an experiment, a very carefully constructed macadam road surfaced with tarvia. This intersection is subjected to very heavy mixed traffic, and after observing the manner in which this piece of the roadway stood up, we

decided to use the tar in resurfacing the two stretches of traffic road, as above indicated.

The Speedway, from Avenue J to Kings Highway, was entirely regraded and resurfaced. The Speedway is a mile and a half long. For this job we required three hundred (300) cubic yards of loam and one hundred (100) cubic yards of sand.

The Bridle Road of Ocean Parkway was regularly harrowed and shaped throughout the year, additional sand being spread on same when necessary.

The Cycle paths were lightly coated with limestone screenings where necessary and surface regulated throughout the year.

The sheet asphalt traffic road on Ocean Parkway, between Park Circle and Kings Highway was repaired under contract in the fall of the year, the quantity of work being approximately 250 square yards of replacements.

In co-operation with the Police Department, we built and erected two (2) attractive patrol boxes at Avenue "C" and Avenue "J."

The entire bridge over Coney Island Creek was replanked with three-inch yellow pine.

Parkside Avenue.

The sheet asphalt pavement on this roadway was repaired, under contract, in the late Fall of the year. The quantity of work performed was approximately 100 square yards.

Pennsylvania Avenue.

The sheet asphalt pavement on this roadway, between Jamaica and Belmont avenues, was repaired under contract during the Spring and Fall of the year, the quantity of work being approximately 75 square yards. The Belgian block pavement on the remainder of this roadway was adjusted during the year by Department forces.

Prospect Park.

The East Drive from the main entrance to Lincoln Road, approximately 15,000 square yards, was resurfaced and coated with asphalt binder and sand under contract. The work included the removal of the excess crown over the entire roadway, which averaged approximately six inches in depth for the whole area. The surplus material removed by the contractor in carrying out this work has since been used by the Department in constructing a roadway from the East Drive to the Zoo; two small departmental traffic roads from the Duck Pond to the East Drive; and for patching the Eastern Parkway Extension and Fort Hamilton Avenue. On sections of the West Drive, aggregating 20,000 square yards in area, the old asphalt binder was removed, the surface regulated and again covered with asphalt binder and sand under same contract as the East Drive work. The remainder of the roadways in Prospect Park were patched throughout the year by department forces. The old Bridle Road, from Zoo to East Drive,

was thoroughly cleaned, scarified and shaped and put in very good condition during the Fall of the year. A new bridle road, 3,400 feet in length, from the Prospect Park Plaza to the Zoo, via Flatbush Avenue, old Duck Pond, and new tunnel, was constructed by the Department during the Spring and Fall of the year. Surfacing material used in this work was secured from the old roadways during repair periods. Section of the roadway pavement in front of the stables, store yards, which was in very bad condition, was replaced with Belgian block pavement and bridge stones by Department forces during the Summer. The section of the roadway on the East Drive over the new tunnel was reconstructed as a tar top road by Department forces in the late Fall of the year. Great difficulty was experienced in this work on account of the frosty condition at that time; the quantity of material used being as follows:

1½" trap rock	125 cu. yds.
Fine trap rock screenings.....	35 cu. yds.
Tarvia	20 barrels
Trap rock chips	10 cu. yds.

Prospect Park Plaza.

The asphalt block pavement on this plaza was repaired in the Spring and Fall of the year, the amount of work performed being approximately 120 square yards of replacements.

Shore Road.

The roadway from Bay Ridge Avenue for a distance of eight hundred (800) feet north was regraded and resurfaced. For this purpose we used two hundred fifty (250) cubic yards of ⅝" screenings, fifty (50) cubic yards of sand, and fifteen hundred (1,500) gallons of asphalt binder. At the intersection of Bay Ridge Avenue we resurfaced the driveway. For this we used twenty (20) cubic yards of 1½" trap rock, four (4) yards of ⅝" and six (6) yards of fine screenings, together with one hundred fifty (150) gallons of tarvia. This intersection was put down early in the season as an experiment similar to the one at Ocean Parkway and Avenue "C."

To improve the drainage at Bay Ridge Avenue a storm sewer was constructed about one hundred fifty (150) feet in length.

Along the banks of the Shore Road leading to the newly filled-in ground back of the sea wall, five (5) trails were constructed, each about two hundred (200) feet long and five (5) feet wide. For this we required one hundred (100) cubic yards of earth fill, and in many places we built rustic retaining walls and handrails, also necessary steps and ramps.

On the lower level the newly filled ground which we graded and seeded last Fall presented a greatly improved appearance. Late this Fall we commenced the further cultivation of this tract at Bay Ridge Avenue, but were unable to finish on account of the cold weather.

Highland Parkway.

The hill at the eastern end of Highland Parkway was entirely resurfaced from Jamaica Avenue to the brick pavement at the westerly end of Highland Park. Three hundred (300) feet of this stretch was also regraded. For this job we used ninety-five (95) cubic yards of 1½" trap rock, three hundred (300) cubic yards of 5/8", and fifty-seven (57) cubic yards of fine screenings, together with thirty-two hundred fifty (3,250) gallons of tarvia. All the hand rail and wrought iron picket fence at the Vermont Street bridge was repainted.

Park Circle.

Very careful consideration was given to a plan for rearranging the Park Circle for the purpose of improving traffic conditions, and also the appearance of the plaza by replacing a large part of the unused area in the centre by a circular grass plot enclosed by curbing.

In accordance with the above plan, a circular plot 220 feet in diameter was enclosed by concrete curb. Subsequently the balance of the paved area was regraded and resurfaced. Both of these jobs were by contract.

Inside of the Circle a large amount of gravel and other material from the old roadbed had to be excavated in order to provide for top soiling. About one-half of this work was done by Departmental forces, and the balance will be completed early in 1917, when the whole area will be turned into a grass plot with trees around the circumference.

Fort Hamilton Parkway.

Owing to the fact that the question of jurisdiction on Fort Hamilton is still unsettled, and as we had no funds for taking care of the street, the situation on this important thoroughfare was extremely unsatisfactory all through the year. In order to overcome absolutely dangerous conditions we filled a number of holes and depressions at street intersections, using for this purpose one hundred (100) cubic yards of 1½" trap rock.

CORPORATE STOCK CONSTRUCTION WORK.

Shore Road.

The contract for furnishing and depositing 250,000 cubic yards of earth filling back of the sea wall along the Shore Road, between 94th Street and Fort Hamilton Avenue, at a cost of \$44,793, which was begun in 1915, was completed in August, 1916. The contract for furnishing and depositing an additional 30,000 cubic yards of earth filling for filling in the gullies along the banks was begun in June, 1916, and completed in October, 1916, at a cost of \$10,712.10. With the completion of these two contracts all of the lands formerly under water between the sea wall and the banks of the Shore Road has been filled in up to a level of approximately six feet

above mean high water, with the exception of a strip approximately one thousand feet long at the foot of 94th Street. This area is to be left unfilled for the present and may be used for recreation purposes. The work on the contracts for the construction of a comfort station and shelter house situated at Third Avenue and the Shore Road was begun in October, 1916, and the work is approximately 50% completed at the beginning of 1917. The cost of this work is \$6,853. The contract for furnishing and placing 10,000 tons of rip rap along the Shore Road, between Latting Place and Fort Hamilton, for reinforcing the rip rap foundation of the existing sea wall, was completed in October, 1916, at a cost of \$2,205.74.

Dreamland Park.

The work on the contract for the removal of the old timber steamboat pier and four timber jetties in front of Dreamland Park was continued during 1916 and is now approximately 95% completed. The work on this contract has progressed slowly owing to the difficulty of the nature of the work involved. The contract for extending seven timber groynes at Dreamland Park, exclusive of wooden piles at a cost of \$2,136, was awarded by the Park Board on November 23, 1916. This contract provides for the extension of the existing groynes in order to provide proper protection to the beach and to aid in the further reclamation of the beach. An order was authorized by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for building up and reinforcing of existing groyne in the Park, at a cost of \$684.85. The work was completed in May, 1916.

Bushwick Playground.

The contract for constructing a concrete retaining wall along the north boundary line of Bushwick Playground, between Knickerbocker and Irving avenues, was awarded by the Park Board on September 14, 1916, in the amount of \$4,818. This work was held in abeyance pending the completion of the work on Woodbine Street under the jurisdiction of the President for the Borough of Brooklyn, but the work will be begun in 1917 as soon as weather conditions permit.

Prospect Park.

The contract for the construction of reinforced concrete tunnel under the East Drive near the Willink entrance, Prospect Park, was awarded by the Park Board on June 1, 1916, at a cost of \$11,350, and the work was begun on July 11, 1916. The work is practically completed at the beginning of 1917. The tunnel provides a passage underneath the East Drive for the new section of bridle road entering the Park on Flatbush Avenue and connecting with the old bridle road near the Menagerie. The contract for the construction of vitrified pipe sewers in the old duck pond section of Prospect Park, in the amount of \$1,068, was completed on December 9, 1916. The construction of these sewers was made necessary in connection with the

construction of the reinforced concrete tunnel and the new bridle road. During the past year the irrigation and water supply system in Prospect Park was extended by installing two-inch water-pipe lines at the Tennis Building and to supply the old-fashioned flower garden north of the Litchfield Mansion, and a line of four-inch cast iron pipe was installed near the Menagerie Building. The cost of this work was \$898.25. In connection with the construction of the tunnel under the East Drive the twelve-inch cast iron water main was reconstructed at a cost of \$470. Plans and specifications for a small comfort station in Prospect Park near the 15th Street Plaza were completed, but the work has been postponed at the request of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Dyker Beach Park.

The preparation of plans and specifications for the filling in of the marshy land at Dyker Beach Park, for which an appropriation of \$93,000 was authorized by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, has been under way, and the contract for this work will be transmitted to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for approval early in 1917, so that the work can be started as soon as weather conditions permit in the Spring.

Eastern Parkway Extension.

The preparation of plans and specifications for the improvement of Eastern Parkway Extension, between Ralph Avenue and Bushwick Avenue, including the construction of new asphaltic concrete pavement on a concrete foundation, the construction of malls in the center of existing parkway and other incidental work, for which an appropriation of \$120,000 was authorized by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, has been in progress and the contract for this work will be forwarded to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for approval early in 1917.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

The work on the contracts for the erection of the Laboratory Building and Greenhouses, in the amount of \$164,725, which was begun early this year, has progressed satisfactorily and it is expected that all of the work will be completed in 1917. The Children's Garden House for use in connection with the farm gardens in the southerly extension of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has been completed under contract at a cost of \$6,408. Plans and specifications for additional greenhouses in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden were approved by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment on August 16, 1916, at an estimated cost of \$11,000. The contract for the construction of a Rock Garden was completed early in the year at a cost of \$1,349.

Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

An appropriation of \$400,000 for the completion of additions "F" and "G" of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences was authorized by the

Board of Estimate and Apportionment on December 28, 1916, and the preparation of plans and specifications for this work is now under way.

Betsy Head Playground.

The contract for the construction of concrete gutter and curb, vitrified drains and concrete coping, and wrought iron picket fences in the Children's Playground, Betsy Head Memorial Playground was completed on August 14, 1916, at a cost of \$1,726.48. The contract for the construction of a cypress arbor and railing along the walk on the north side of the Children's Playground, Betsy Head Memorial Playground was completed on August 24, 1916, at a cost of \$1,700. The contract for the erection and completion of playground apparatus in the playground and athletic field, Betsy Head Memorial Playground was completed on July, 27, 1916, at a cost of \$1,125.

MUSEUMS OF THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

The Central Museum on Eastern Parkway, the Children's Museum in Bedford Park and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden are under the general management of the Trustees of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. They receive appropriations from the City for maintenance, but their collections are provided for entirely from private sources. The construction work is done through the Department of Parks and the bills are audited through this Department.

Central Museum.

The situation with reference to the unfinished condition of sections " F " and " G " of the Museum building remained unchanged physically during the year 1916, but on December 8, 1916, the Board of Estimate, upon the application of the Commissioner of Parks and the Trustees of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, approved an appropriation of \$400,000 to finish these sections and turn them over to the Trustees for Museum purposes. The plans submitted by the Architects are to be taken under immediate consideration and the work is to be pushed with all possible dispatch, so as to meet the demand for space for the installation of the rapidly growing Museum collections and to provide for the circulation and convenience of a public which, in view of the imminent completion of the subway extension on the Eastern Parkway, will undoubtedly grow into large figures. This is also foreshadowed by the record of the last two years; 446,109 visitors were counted during 1916, as against 355,318 the previous year, which in itself was a gain of nearly 100,000 over the year 1914. The widening activities of the Museum and the corresponding increase in the Museum's treasures has thus attracted more of public attention than ever and proved of the best educational value to the community

Every department of the Museum has felt the impulse of the larger growth. The Library of the Museum, with its collection of books and periodicals, increased to over 23,000 volumes, together with the Print Gallery, which is now in successful operation, attracted an attendance of 38,475 visitors during the year 1916.

The services of the Docent are in constant demand by the children of the public schools, who attend in classes accompanied by their teachers, and her aid is frequently sought by groups of adults who desire to study the Museum's collections under intelligent guidance. The total number of children visiting the Museum for talks in the galleries during the year 1916 was 7,043, with 291 teachers. A feature which has encouraged the attendance of children has been the establishment of lectures illustrated with motion pictures of a kind specially selected for them.

In connection with the School Art League, lectures were given in the auditorium on Saturday mornings. The total attendance of children for these and the other lectures held at the Museum during the year was 5,421.

Important lectures on Japanese art were also given in the auditorium under the direction of the Curator of the Department of Ethnology, who has also installed the Avery collection of Chinese enamels—one of the finest in the world—in a special gallery richly adorned after the Chinese manner.

On January 29, 1916, the Swedish National Fine Arts Exhibit from the Panama-Pacific Exposition was inaugurated in the Museum and continued for five weeks to an extraordinary attendance of 141,256. Of this number over 22,000 witnessed the motion pictures of Swedish life which were shown in the auditorium of the Museum during the continuance of the art exhibition in the galleries.

Another special exhibition of great importance was held during the month of December in the Museum's galleries, namely, the paintings of the distinguished Spanish artist, Ignacio Zuloaga.

Among the important accessions in the Department of Fine Arts for the year were:

An altar-piece representing a Madonna with cherubs by Bernardino Luini.

Portrait of Col. Isaac Barre by Gilbert Stuart.

Portrait of Prof. Hooper by Joseph Boston.

Landscape by Alder Weir.

Portrait—Anita Ramirez, in black, by the distinguished Spanish artist Ignacio Zuloaga.

Gifts of sculpture from Frederic B. Pratt, George D. Pratt and Mrs. Benjamin Prince.

Colonial and early American furniture.

A large and valuable collection of Egyptian antiquities with a library of 2,500 volumes accompanying the same, from Mrs. Edwin H. Blashfield, Miss Theodora Wilbour and Mr. Victor Wilbour.

In the Print Gallery during the past year there were successive exhibitions of interesting collections, among which were: the Swedish Prints (Print section of the Swedish Art Exhibition), Memorial Exhibition of the wood engravings of Henry Wolf; Japanese prints; French wood engravings by Alfred and Fanny Prunaire; and the exhibit of the Brooklyn Society of Etchers.

In the Department of Natural Sciences a special gallery illustrating the bird life of Long Island was fitted up and opened to the public. Several realistic habitat groups were also installed, such as the Bahama coral group; flight of gulls at sea; a group of sharks cast from specimens caught on the south shore of Long Island, etc.

In the month of September, owing to the postponement of the opening of the schools due to the prevalence of infantile paralysis in Brooklyn, at the instance of the Board of Education, a Teachers' Institute was held at the Museum attended by 1,000 teachers a day from Districts 33 and 35. The occasion proved profitable and enjoyable both to the teachers and to the Museum authorities.

Children's Museum.

At the Children's Museum the attendance was increased over that of the previous year in spite of the epidemic, which lasted for three months during the season when the children ordinarily are accustomed to use the Children's Museum and the adjoining Bedford Park in large numbers. The epidemic practically put an end to the presence of children in the Museum during this period. Nevertheless, the total attendance for the year was 187,612, an increase of 1,848 over the year 1915.

Two thousand and five teachers visited the Children's Museum during the year 1916 and many loans of specimens for study were sent out to the public schools.

The Library at the Children's Museum, with its collections of books on history, nature study and art, was used by 50,512 children, a striking testimony of its usefulness as a department of the Museum.

The presentation of the geographical models to the Children's Museum in 1914 has been followed by the establishment of a woman's auxiliary association whose purpose it is to aid in the increase of the Children's Museum collections. With that end in view they obtained the enthusiastic support of the combined women's clubs of Brooklyn, and raised a fund from which a series of geographical models were made by Dwight Franklin and at present occupy an entire room in the Children's Museum.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

During 1916 the development of the grounds in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has gone forward, covering grading and soil improvement of the south addition, including the laying out of children's gardens on their permanent location bordering the Brighton Beach railroad cut, the construction

and planting of border mounds along the Flatbush Avenue and Malbone Street fence lines, the extension of the brook to a point near the southwest gate, and the erection of the special children's building. During the year a rock garden was laid out and partly planted.

During the year the laboratory building and plant houses along Washington Avenue have progressed well toward completion and it is anticipated that these buildings can be dedicated during April, 1917. The completion of these buildings, the erection of the children's building, the construction of the rock garden and other developmental work has been made possible by the generous gift of \$100,000 by citizens of Brooklyn, supplementing appropriations by the city of corporate stock of a like amount.

During 1916 over 2,600 children and adults registered for courses of instruction at the Garden, and the work of public education reached a total of nearly 40,000 persons. Over 300 special lectures have been given at the Garden to classes accompanied by their teachers from public and private schools, and over 300 children have cultivated plots in our children's gardens. The total attendance at the Garden for the year was nearly 363,000.

Respectfully submitted,

RAYMOND V. INGERSOLL,
Commissioner of Parks,
Borough of Brooklyn, New York City.