

1912 Annual Report Notes.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS.

BOROUGH OF QUEENS.

December 26, 1912.

Hon. Wm. J. GAYNOR, Mayor:

Dear Sir—In accordance with your request I transmit herewith a condensed summary of the work accomplished by this Department during the year 1912.

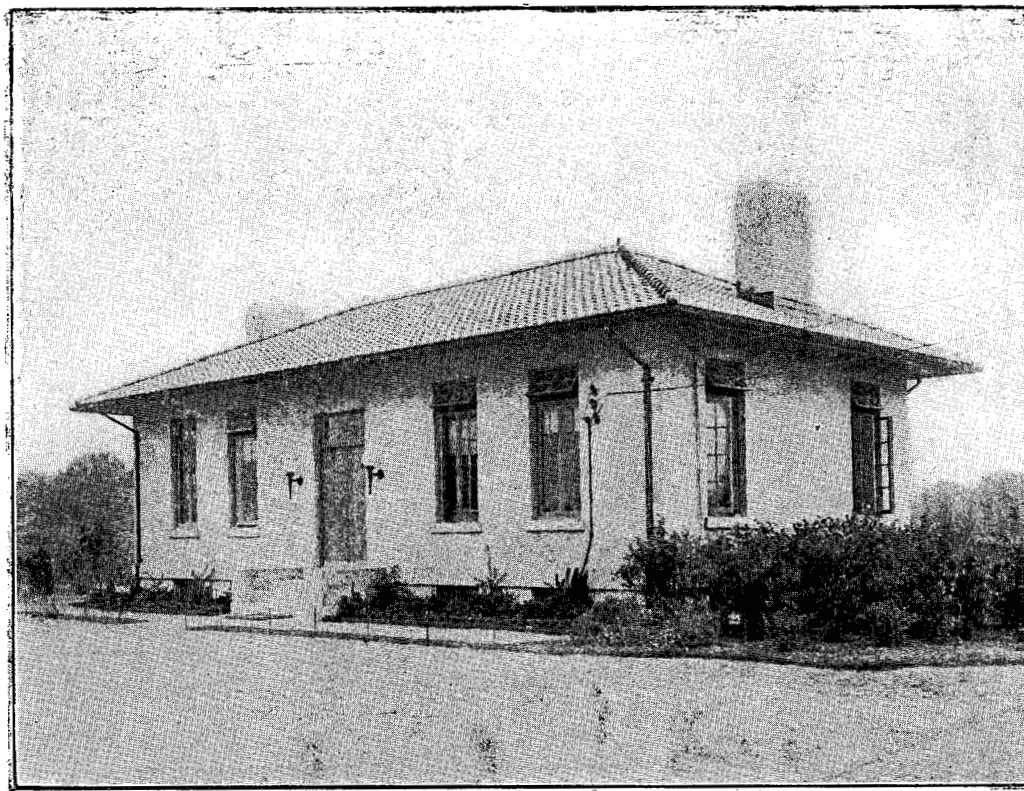
I have thought it wise, with your permission, to reserve a statement of the plans which I propose to carry out during the coming year, for the report of the Park Department, now in course of preparation.

Respectfully,

WALTER G. ELIOT,

Commissioner of Parks,

Borough of Queens.



"OVERLOOK," THE BEGINNING OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, QUEENS PARK DEPT.

SYNOPSIS.

THE PARK DEPARTMENT OF QUEENS.

Separated from former Brooklyn and Queens Department by chapter 644, Laws of 1911, which became a law July 11, 1911.

Walter G. Eliot, appointed Commissioner by Mayor, July 24, 1911.

Temporary headquarters, July 24, 1911, to December, 1912, the Arsenal, Central Park, Manhattan.

Department separated and organized for distinct administration with its own budget, 1st of January, 1912. Budget allowance, 1912, \$165,123.

Parks under his jurisdiction on 24th July, 1911, 11; also 4 street triangles.

Park area under his jurisdiction July 24, 1911, 688.92 acres.

Triangle areas under his jurisdiction July 24, 1911, .75 acres.

New park areas acquired in 1912, in acres, 312.50.

Number of Gardeners to maintain parks in 1912, 16.

Number of Laborers to maintain parks in 1912, 32.

Work Done in 1912 as Follows.

Designs ordered and completed by Landscape Architect for following parks: Forest, Kissena, Linden, Rainey, Wayanda, Kings, Leavitt, Telawana. (partial).

Designs approved for administration building, to be located in Forest Park, August 30, 1911. Plans and specifications for first part (hallway) of it approved and contract let December 11, 1911. Latter completed and occupied by Department, December 17, 1912. Site graded and sodded, road approaches built.

Seven thousand dead chestnut trees felled and removed from Forest Park.

All existing roadways in Forest Park repaired and perfected.

"Forest Lodge" repaired and made serviceable.

Ponds cleaned and made available for skating.

Eighteen-hole golf course improved and all causes of complaint concerning it removed.

New steel golf lockers added in golf house.

New cross-park walks and steps constructed.

Two baseball fields at Myrtle and Woodhaven aves. laid out and contract let for their construction.

Surveys, plans and specifications completed for automobile roadways and return drives, covering west half of Forest Park, ready for contract letting about December 31.

Temporary band stand erected for concerts in Forest Park.

Three-quarters of a mile of Tungsten lamps installed in important cross roads through Forest Park.

Four entrances to park widened and improved. Telephone service installed connecting all principal parks.

Greenhouses, restocked and entirely repainted and repaired; new hot frames constructed; new water connections installed; reserve tank and tower constructed; temporary forge, garage and carpenter shop erected. New roads and approaches to "Forest Lodge" built, graded and surfaced. Linden Park, Corona, partly regraded, sodded, and new walks now being built.

Linden Park Pond, heretofore unsanitary, pumped dry and now being cleaned and converted into one-acre lake.

Unused Bridge Department toll houses, 8 by 16 feet in size, secured and placed.

one in Linden, one in Rainey, one in Upland and one in College Point Park for use as tool houses, etc., for Park Foremen.

Rainey Park river-front protected by construction of solid concrete sea wall 560 feet long, on subaqueous foundations.

Kissena Lake Park improved and extensively cleared; approaches, banks, etc., planted. Roads surfaced extensively. Twenty-three acres of Police Farm added to it for development into athletic and recreation grounds in 1913.

Pauper burial ground of two acres, in village of Queens, transferred to this Department, cleared, ploughed, monumented and made ready for development and planting in the spring. Will hereafter be known as Wayanda Park.

Leavitt Street Park, in Flushing, acquired, and plans for its drainage by Sewer Department secured. Will be developed in 1913 into a neighborhood park and recreation center.

Upland Park, Jamaica, cleared and improved with new walks.

Rockaway Park beach cleaned and kept clean, boardwalk extensively renewed, and in places repaired as far as funds were available. Is yet in very dangerous condition.

Maps being prepared for submission to the Mayor and Board of Estimate and Apportionment, showing location of present parks, and suggesting such future parkways and parks as should be acquired in order to prevent acquisition of disconnected or less desirable sites by the City.

A very efficient Bureau has been created for the care of street trees and for the study and development of our park trees and the improvement of the present nursery of 50,000 young trees, for future park and street planting. The nursery is one of the finest in the east.

The excellent work of this Bureau has completely stopped the unnecessary mutilation of street trees by the telephone and electric light construction gangs, and such work is now supervised with perfect satisfaction, both to these companies and to the Department.

The original entrance door of the Kings Manor House, in Kings Park, Jamaica, has been restored, and the rotted roof is about to be repaired to stop destructive leaking.

The so-called comfort facilities are both grossly inadequate and a disgrace to a civilized community.

Plans and specifications were made and a contract advertised for the most economical comfort station that would provide adequate facilities, together with a bandstand and shelter above it. The bids, however, exceeded by four or five thousand dollars the \$10,000 appropriation available. This sum should be provided without delay that construction may begin as soon as frost is out of the ground in the coming spring.

Kissena Lake, Kings and Forest Parks are all without any comfort stations whatever, a condition that should not be tolerated for an instant. They can be built for about \$13,000 to \$15,000 each. They should not be built for less if they are expected to be permanent and to serve their purpose properly.

Extensive planting has been done to beautify the Queensboro Bridge Plaza and Kings Park. It has apparently given wide satisfaction to both the press and the public if their public expressions of approval mean anything.

It is hoped that the \$10,000 working fund requested for each Borough by the present Park Commissioners, in their financial estimate for 1913, will be granted, to enable them to begin the systematic street tree planting requested by the Tree Planting Association, the cost of which is returned by assessment on the abutting owners.

The matter is now being considered by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Respectfully,

WALTER G. ELIOT,

Commissioner of Park.

Hon. WILLIAM J. GAYNOR, Mayor,
City Hall, New York.

Sir—On July 24th, 1911, under a law enacted July 11th, 1911, you appointed the undersigned Commissioner of Parks for the Borough of Queens, which by said law was separated as a department from the then combined departments of parks for the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. I beg herewith to give you an account of the work which has been done and other work which is under way in the department for the period ending December 31st, 1912.

Respectfully,

WALTER G. ELIOT,
*Commissioner of Parks,
Borough of Queens.*

Dec. 31st, 1912.

December 31st, 1912.

FOREWORD

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

I would neglect an important duty and rob myself of a privilege, did I not at this time acknowledge with grateful thanks the valuable aid which has been rendered to me in the organization of this Department by the Secretary of the Park Board, Colonel Clinton H. Smith. The accident of circumstances which proved that there was no available building existent in the Queens parks suitable for a department headquarters rendered necessary a headquarters in the office of the Park Board and it was my rare good fortune to be situated at a desk adjoining that of the Secretary.

On all matters connected with park history and organization, the services of 34 years under not less than fifty-nine commissioners of parks, and a remarkably retentive memory rendered Colonel Smith one of the most valuable assets that could have been placed at the disposal of a new commissioner. Up to date I have never known of an instance where it was desirable to know what had been important matters of policy or occurrences in the past history of the Board that I did not find it readily, with absolute accuracy, at the tongue's end of the Park Board's Secretary. His faithfulness to the duties of his office and his interest in all park matters, it seems to me, entitle him to the consideration of every City official as one of the most valuable public servants now in the service of the City.

Nor would it have been possible, without embarrassment or friction, to have succeeded in smoothly accomplishing the organization and effective operation of such a department without the cordial and sincere coöperation and the Nestor-like experience of my Brother Commissioner, Honorable Michael J. Kennedy, from whose domain and control the Queens system was set off by the bill creating the office. I can only adequately thank him here for his unselfish and cordial coöperation.

In closing, I make further acknowledgment to Honorable Thomas J. Higgins, Commissioner for The Bronx, and William J. Zartmann, for years Chief Engineer and Superintendent of the Brooklyn Parks, for advice and assistance of which their past experience had made them masters.

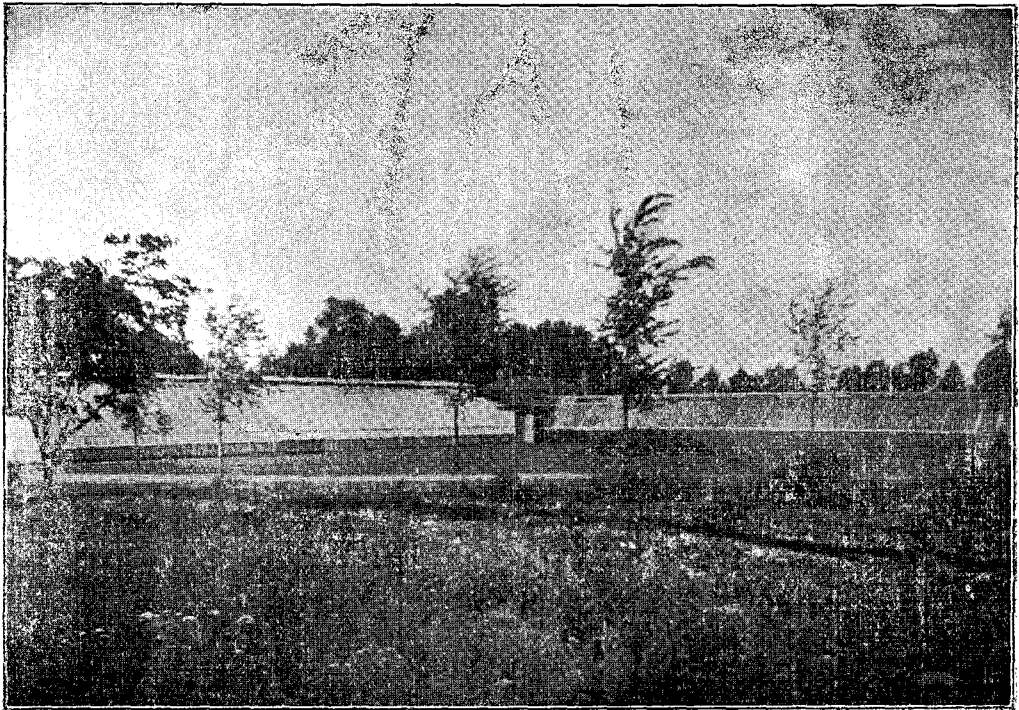
With regard to the coöperation of the various heads of the New York City departments, as well as the Borough President of Queens, I do not believe that there has been a time in the history of the City when it was possible to secure such complete and cordial coöperation and unstinted assistance between the departments.

Respectfully,

WALTER G. ELIOT,
*Commissioner of Parks,
Borough of Queens.*

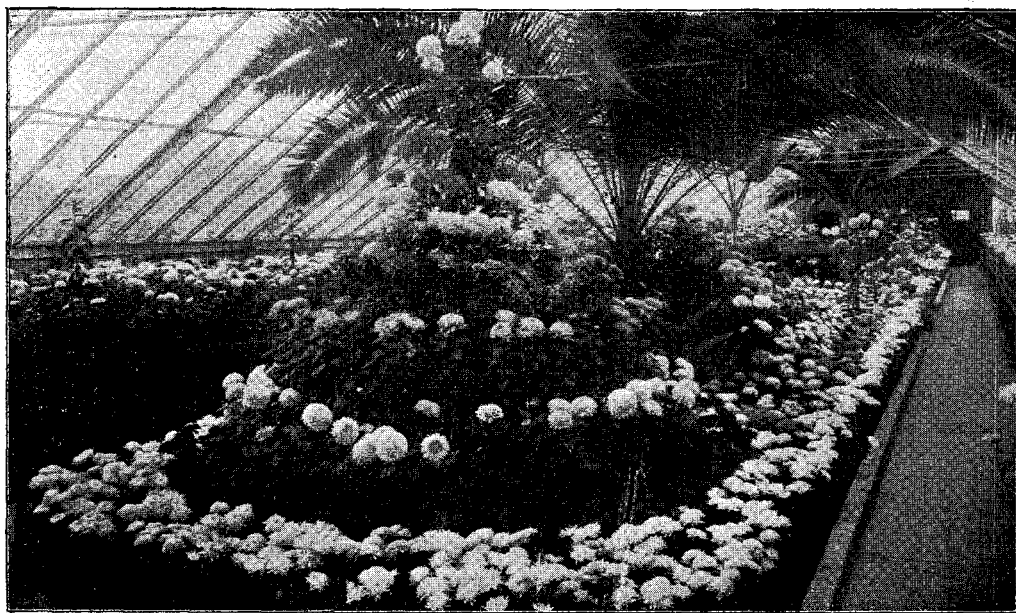
The parks of Queens, at the time they were taken over by the new department, consisted of the following, by name and area, as of the date of July 24, 1911:

Name.	Area in acres.
Ashmead Park.....	.27
College Point Park.....	1.14
Forest Park.....	536.00
Flushing Park.....	1.02
Upland, Park Jamaica.....	5.50
Kings Park.....	11.50
Kissena Lake Park (estimated).....	65.00
Linden Park.....	3.00
Poppenhausen Park.....	.05
Rainey Park.....	5.09
Unnamed Park, Jackson Ave. and 6th St., L. I. C.....	.05
Unnamed Park, Jackson Ave. and 11th St., L. I. C.....	.01
Unnamed Park, Jackson Ave. and 12th St., L. I. C.....	.01
Unnamed Park, Vernon and Nott Aves., and Hancock St., L. I. C.....	.08
Highland Park.....	59.60
	<hr/>
	688.32
Forest Parkway, Jamaica Ave. to Forest Park.....	.25



PART OF THE GREENHOUSES, FOREST PARK.

MAP



FOREST PARK—VIEW IN THE GREENHOUSES, CHRYSANTHEMUM WEEK.

FOREST PARK.

Forest Park, the largest, was developed in no sense beyond having around a portion of its boundaries a rusty iron railing; fairly developed hot-houses for the propagation of plants intended largely for Brooklyn and to a smaller extent for Queens; a well-constructed and very much up-to-date club house, well equipped for golf purposes, which cost \$35,045.00.

By far the most conspicuous portion of this park was a comparatively creditable golf links of eighteen holes, the management of which was conducted under many difficulties. It was the subject of endless letters of complaint from an over-exacting group of golf players who endeavored to demand as complete an equipment as could be found on private links, which usually require four or five times the expenditure of money that had been appropriated to this golf course.

In addition to the above so-called facilities in the park there were two houses in more or less bad repair, occupied by park foremen. One of these buildings, having some small outbuildings, was in particularly bad repair.

Forest Park also was suffering from a blight which had killed all the chestnut trees, several thousand in number, and left them gaunt spectres against an otherwise beautiful landscape.

The one principal roadway extending through the park had been fairly well maintained in the face of an ever-increasing pleasure traffic.

One of its best and least conspicuous features was a nursery containing a considerable variety of hardy trees. It had been established by the Arboriculturist of the Brooklyn Department, but needed considerable attention.

Beyond the above, Forest Park was largely a wilderness of trees through which the public roamed at will, committing such depredations as they felt inclined and for which there never had been provided any police protection worthy of the name.



THE CONCERT GROVE, FOREST PARK.

None of its by-paths or main paths were lighted and in this respect it was a disgrace to the City.

KISSENA LAKE.

This park, purchased in 1909, had about five acres of its area mowed and under some sort of cultivation, with a few paths or crude roads through the entire area. It had no buildings upon it except a 5' x 6' shack. In other respects it was very much as nature made it.

It contains within its boundaries a considerable area approximating 16.4 acres of submerged or partially submerged woods and swamp land, through which the water flowed from springs. In that condition it was a breeding place of the most objectionable kind for mosquitoes.

COLLEGE POINT.

Under the charge of a single man during the hours of eight to five, throughout the year, this park has long been a pleasant space for the enjoyment of citizens of the village of College Point.

It consists of small turfed spaces with paths running through them and a fountain of some pretension in the center. It was inexpensive to maintain and little money has been spent upon it. It was in fair condition when it came into the present hands.



THE PUBLIC GOLF CLUB HOUSE, FOREST PARK.

UPLAND.

Formerly known as Highland Park, Jamaica, it consists of 5.50 acres which had been cared for daily by one man and comprised an attractive lawn facing on Highland Avenue, backed by a pond produced by the wash of surface water from the vicinity.

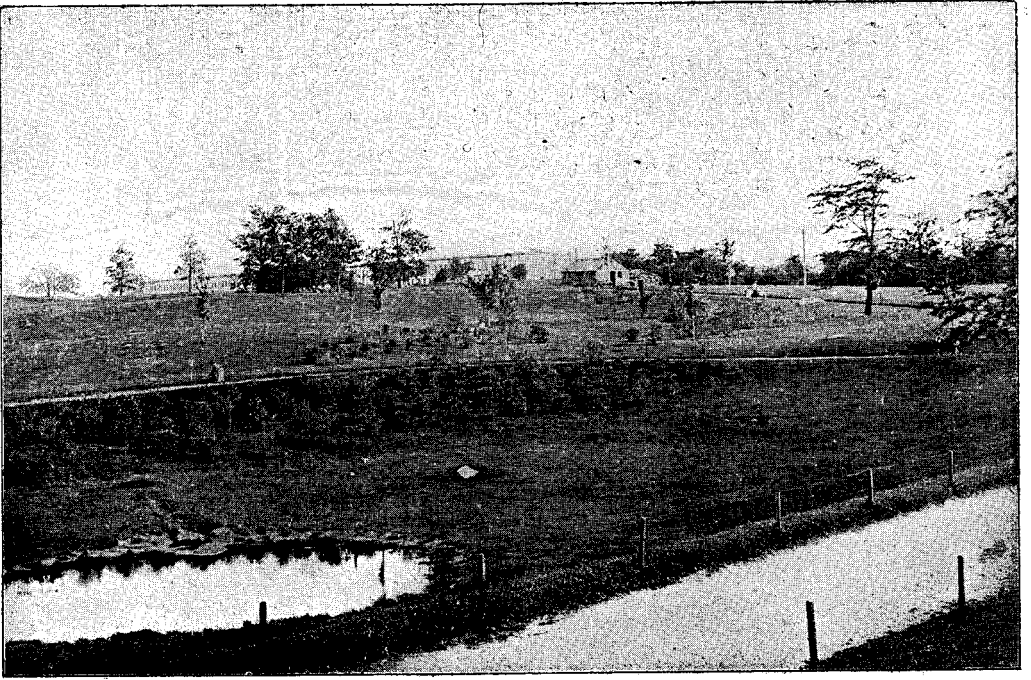
The remaining area of the park consists of woods in their natural condition. The whole park is now well surrounded with dwellings of a high class. No money whatever, so far as your Commissioner can discover, has ever been expended thereupon, and only through the personal interest of the man in charge had anything in the way of a park been made out of it. His work reflected the greatest credit upon him.

However, it was a park only in name.

Besides the above-mentioned park spaces the Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, came into possession of nothing beyond a few small triangles at street intersections in Long Island City, Jamaica, and elsewhere, six in all. They are parks in name only.

ROCKAWAY.

At the time this Department came into being Rockaway Park was a stretch of beach, nearly a mile long, fronting the Atlantic Ocean and backed by a system of streets with one or two east and west avenues resulting from a real estate development known as Rockaway Park. It was at the time uncertain whether the Park Department had any



"VIEWS IN HIGHLAND PARK IN 1911."

jurisdiction over the beach front, although it was admitted that they were responsible for the upkeep of the streets mentioned. All of these streets were more or less completely built up with handsome detached residences, and there were a few stores on the avenues.

As far as I can discover it has cost the city not one dollar for its acquisition. It was deeded to it by the following* instruments, and is destined to be one of the most magnificent park prizes ever acquired. The reason for this can be understood by noting the character of the restriction clauses.

It is already patronized by the most orderly class of people that frequents any portion of the Atlantic beach front.

HIGHLAND.

This park, nearer to the Brooklyn Park Administration Building and a large and growing population, was found to be in a higher state of development than any other in the jurisdiction of the present Department of Queens. It was well maintained. Its greatest faults were lack of proper lighting and police protection.

Its natural advantages are remarkable and it is already one of the handsomest small parks in the Greater City, as will be seen from accompanying photographs.

KINGS.

This park, located in the heart of the village of Jamaica and consisting of a square of land acquired in 1897, contains an old colonial homestead, used now as a museum. In addition to this, the Brooklyn Park Commissioner had improved the park and recently fenced it, thereby effectively protecting it. It was in a higher state of cultivation than most of the others.

RAINEX.

As the photographs will show, this was merely a vacant lot of 5.09 acres on the river front of Ravenswood, Long Island City, and was in an utterly neglected and disreputable condition, through no fault of the former department.

Money for its improvement had been appropriated but recently, the expenditure of which has developed upon this Department. The accompanying photograph will show its condition when received.

PARK ACQUISITIONS.

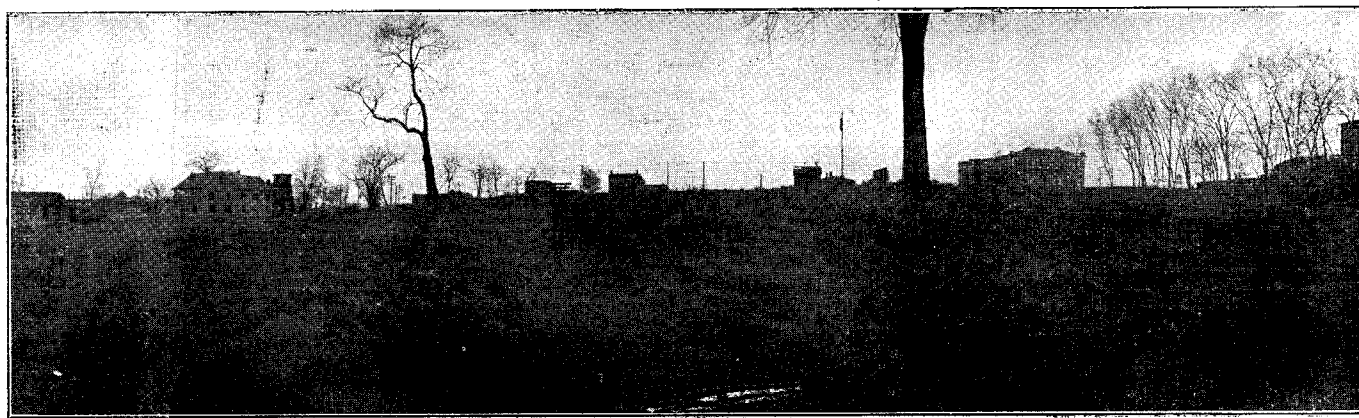
In addition to the before-mentioned park areas there have since been added to my jurisdiction new parks as follows:

TELAWANA.

Consisting of an area about a mile long on the Rockaway Peninsula extending from the line of the Neponsit property westward and half a mile in width between Jamaica Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It is a strip of sand dunes with bay and ocean beach fronts entirely devoid of any building whatsoever. It is designed for a combination pleasure ground and a site for various seaside hospitals and sanitarium. Before the City took possession there was constructed a narrow macadamized roadway known

* See history of the parks at the end of this report.

KINGS PARK, 1911.



RAINEY PARK, LONG ISLAND CITY, 1912, BEFORE DEVELOPMENT.

as Washington avenue, which extends through its center from east to west and terminates in a street at right angles, also macadamized. Both of these are rights of way reserved for the public. Washington avenue is not within the complete control of the Department.

FLUSHING COMMON (at Leavitt Avenue).

This area is a low-lying, swampy space of about 7.61 acres, situated a block or two north of Broadway in the heart of Flushing, and through the middle of which extends an open drain.

The area has cost the city nothing material for its acquisition, but it will constitute a valuable asset very highly appreciated by the citizens of Flushing.

THE POLICE FARM.

Largely through the efforts of your Commissioner the ground formerly occupied as a training ground for the police horses and in the possession of the Police Department was turned over to the Sinking Fund and by them to this Department as a highly desirable and much-needed addition to the Kissena Lake Park, Broadway, Flushing. It consists of about 23.12 acres,* principally upland, which border the northerly side of the N. Hempstead turnpike. It is designed for a much needed recreation ground for the citizens of both Jamaica and Flushing, being equally accessible from each place.

WAYANDA.

Formerly the Pauper Burial Ground, is supposed to have had two or three interments in it, all evidences of which have been obliterated. It consists of a two-acre space adjoining a public school in the village of Queens and on one of the many highways of the Borough. This property was also turned over to the Department of Parks through the efforts of your Commissioner, as it was a neglected spot, of use to nobody, and an eye-sore to the neighborhood. It faced the Roman Catholic Church and the rectory, which, like the school property, is kept highly improved. With very trifling expense it will be properly turned into a parklike resting place for old and young.

RESERVOIR SITE IN FOREST PARK.

On taking charge of the Department your Commissioner found that a large area, consisting of sixty-six acres, in the most vital portion of Forest Park was under the control of the Department of Water Supply, Gas & Electricity, having been secured by it years ago for a projected reservoir. It covered practically the whole of the main portion of the golf links, upon which much money had been expended by the City. The Commissioner, finding that the idea of a reservoir had been abandoned, secured a transfer of this property to the Park Department for park uses.

* It embraces about 2.6 acres of swamp.

THE FOLLOWING LIST, THEREFORE, SHOWS THE NAMES AND DETAILS OF THE VARIOUS
PARKS OWNED BY THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS ON DEC. 31, 1912.

Park No.	Area in acres.
1. Forest Park.....	536.00
2. Telawana (or Rockaway Beach Park).....	262.58
3. Kissena Lake Park (at Broadway, Flushing).....	65.00
Kissena Lake Park Addition (Police Farm).....	23.12
4. Highland Park (near Brooklyn line).....	59.60
5. Rockaway Park (beach frontage and streets deeded).....	17.87
6. Kings Park, Jamaica.....	11.50
7. Flushing Common (Leavitt Ave.), Flushing.....	7.61
8. Upland Park, Jamaica.....	5.50
9. Rainey Park (Long Island City).....	5.09
10. Linden Park (Corona).....	3.00
11. Wayanda Park (pauper burial ground).....	2.00
12. College Point Park.....	1.14
13. Flushing Park (the Public Square).....	1.02
14. Poppenhausen Park (College Point).....	.05
15. Ashmead Park in Jamaica.....	.27
16. Sanford Angle, Jackson Ave. and 6th St., L. I. C.....	.05
17. Bowley Angle, Jackson Ave. and 11th St., L. I. C.....	.01
18. Gleason Angle, Jackson Ave. and 12th St., L. I. C.....	.01
19. Cassidy Angle, Vernon Ave. and Nott Ave. and Hancock St., Ravens- wood.....	.08
	<hr/> 1,001.50

Which shows a total gain of 312.58 acres.

Conditions under which the present park areas were turned over to the Queens Department were probably largely due to the piecemeal way in which some of the present park areas were acquired from time to time under the old departments.

Portions of the larger, and, in some cases, the entire boundaries of the smaller, parks, were found to be unmarked by proper monuments, and the visible boundaries were, therefore, uncertain.

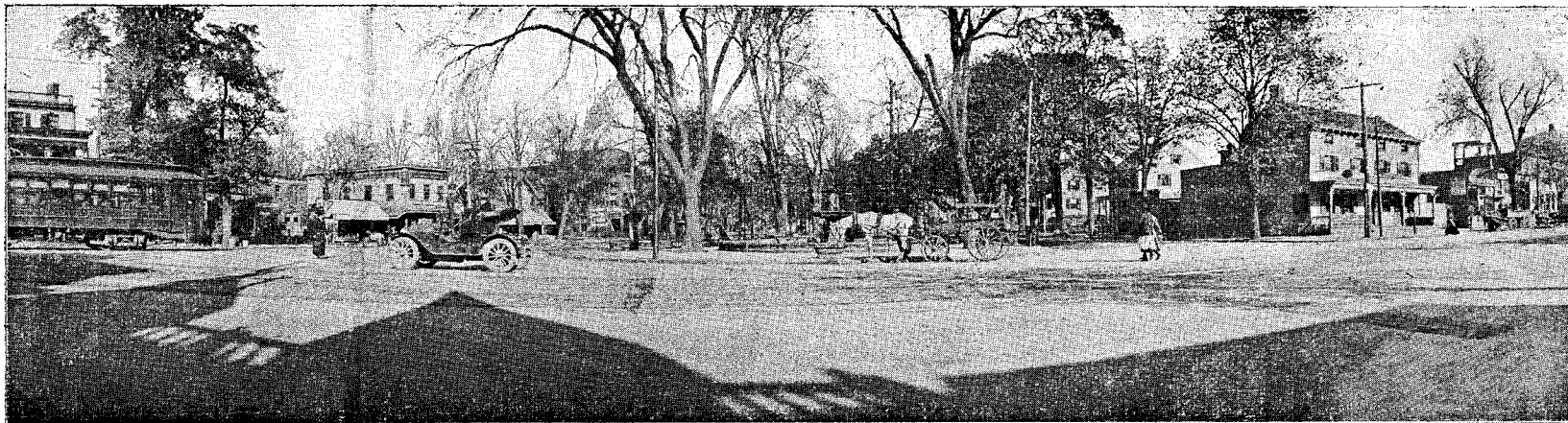
Some of these monuments have recently been set by the present Department, and as others are to be set before the end of the present year it is hoped all of them will soon be properly outlined.

It was much the same with the fencing.

That of Kings Park, in Jamaica, had just been completed prior to the separation of the Departments. It produced results of the most satisfactory kind, preventing what had been a serious mutilation of that park caused by the almost common practice of pedestrians cutting across the park, at any point from the bounding streets. The subsequent sodding and seeding has added greatly to its beauty.

No other park can be said to have been provided with anything like a proper fencing of this nature, except a portion of Forest Park which was fenced many years ago with an iron fence. The unfenced portions extend for a distance of nearly 35,440 feet and the lack of fencing and monumenting in said portions has led to a suit against the City for the recovery by former owners of the property bought by the City. The suit in one case is now in the hands of the Corporation Counsel for defense and involves something like fifteen or twenty acres of very valuable land.

In the opinion of your Commissioner, a temporary protective fence should be erected immediately after the acquisition of park areas and a permanent fence completed around each of those now in possession of the Department. Contracts were



FLUSHING PARK.

MAP

prepared for the erection of such fences in Forest Park, but were rejected by the Finance Department investigator. In the case of Forest Park lack of it has led to the stealing of a very considerable amount of timber in the form of trees chopped down and removed. Most of such marauding was done at night or at times when lack of park guards or insufficient police protection offered the best opportunities therefor.

All of this has now been stopped.

Proper drainage for the different parks has not even been attempted. In most of them stagnant, mosquito-breeding pools and submerged bits of woodland are a menace to the health and comfort of wide areas. This is especially the case with Forest, Linden and Kissena Lake parks, and Flushing Common.

For Forest a request was made by Commissioner Kennedy to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for corporate stock to the amount of about \$207,000 to improve it.

For Kissena Lake Park I asked for a similar, but smaller, sum in my corporate stock budget request for 1912. Up to date no action has been taken, although I strenuously urged it. The matter is still before the Board of Estimate's Corporate Stock Committee.

In Linden Park, Corona, the aid of the Board of Health was effectively solicited and resulted in steps being taken by the Borough President of Queens to have Linden street properly graded to prevent the inflow of cesspool drainage into the park. The work of regrading, sodding, planting, and rehabilitating the park is going on at the present time and will be completed about June 1st, 1913. The complete cleaning of the pond therein and the construction of a clay bottom with sloping concrete shoreline is well under way.

In the matter of drainage a very bad condition of affairs also exists at Upland Park, on Highland avenue, in Jamaica, due to an influx of surface drainage from adjoining property and from the half-finished streets of one or more development companies.

To control this a request has been presented by this Department to the Board of Estimate for the acquisition of three and one-fifth acres of additional park areas to the northeast of the present park in connection with an offer of the donation of another acre adjoining it by Mr. Robt. W. Higbie. The matter is now before the present Board of Estimate.

In Upland Park the lack of fencing and monumenting has led apparently to trespassing by an adjoining development company at the northerly end with consequent sequestration for a development street of a corner of the park which the city owns.

With regard to the water supply needed for each and all of the parks, no adequate provision has been made.

Small pipes have been laid in one or two places, in both Highland and Forest, to serve urgent needs over short areas, but in the case of each and every park the need of a proper water pipe system is manifest and provision should be made immediately for at least a beginning. In most of the parks it would be entirely possible to supply this from tube wells by pumps owned and operated by the park, instead of paying, as we do at present, local water companies charging rates considerably above those paid by Manhattan and Brooklyn. For this purpose corporate stock to a small amount should be provided.

ACQUISITION OF NEW PARK AREAS.

This subject is one of immediate urgency if Queens is ever to be supplied with even the most limited percentage of general parks. The danger and expense of longer delaying it admits of no dispute. The particular obstacle to the purchase of the largest areas most needed at the present time appears to be the general attitude of the Comptroller, which seems to be such as will be maintained for the next 20 years if the usual argument that "the City has insufficient funds" is to be admitted. The subject has been threshed out, one might say, a hundred times by the different Boroughs during the last fifty or a hundred years, and it may be that the only way it will ever be promptly accomplished for Queens will be by Legislative creation of a commission to acquire by private purchase as well as by condemnation the areas which such a commission shall deem necessary or urgent at the present time. The legislative act for the purpose should specifically state the amount of money to be expended therefor, to be provided by the City at large, or part by the City and part by the Borough, according to the circumstances of the individual park spaces. Such a commission should, in the opinion of your Commissioner, consist of the Mayor, the Park Commissioner, the Landscape Architect, the Chief of the Queens Topographical Bureau, Chief Engineer Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and a representative of such body of citizens as the Chamber of Commerce of The City of New York.

The futility of merely placing new parks upon the topographical tentative maps of the Borough of Queens has already been shown.

Local property owners, fearing that any portion of the expense therefor would be placed upon them, as some proportion certainly should, have caused pressure to be placed upon the Borough President and the Topographical Bureau for the removal of such parks before or after the adoption of the map.

Queens Borough is peculiarly conditioned in this respect. The conditions are far different from those in other Boroughs, in that it consists of what were formerly scattered and locally interested small villages or towns, having few interests in common and an unreasonable jealousy of each other. Anything of a park nature, or, in fact, any improvement which one community wanted was fought, and is still, to a considerable extent, fought by the others almost unitedly.

Under such circumstances, unless a commission of intelligent experts such as has been outlined is constituted to take the matter up in a broad way and on scientific lines, Queens has little hope of being properly or even meagrely supplied with the necessary parks for its future development, because development companies and local building operators are fast taking up all the areas available for such purposes. In this connection it should be interesting to note that the best landscape practice seems to indicate that areas containing extensive percentages of swampy lands are far better adapted to park purposes than uninterrupted sweeps of upland, and are obtainable at a much lower figure than upland would cost.

It is the opinion of your Commissioner that such areas as are deemed necessary to be purchased at the present time should not be immediately and extensively improved until such steps are taken as may be necessary to protect their boundaries and make them as available for public use as small appropriations over an extended period of time can produce, limiting the developments to the smallest possible tax upon the maintenance force.

THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PARKS TO BE ACQUIRED.

It is not the purpose of your Commissioner to recommend at this time the purchase of what are known as neighborhood parks for the reason that they can be safely

acquired after it is no longer possible to acquire the larger areas; and for the further reason that they are not necessarily a part of a comprehensive system or plan for the whole of the Borough which should be marked out and carried into execution at the *earliest* possible moment before land becomes unavailable therefor.

I would most strongly urge that the most careful consideration be given to the plan of assessment for the purchase of such parks as may be necessary for a *System* for the reason that any park belonging to such a system should be paid for by the City at large. I offer as my opinion, and that of most of the experts on Park matters in different parts of the country, that the City as a whole should pay as its share 50 per cent. at least, and I would urge that in no case should an assessment upon the abutting owners be more than 20 per cent. nor less than 10 per cent. Such local assessment is always more than compensated by the immediate rise in the value of abutting property if it is known that a park is to be acquired there, while the park which belongs to a *system* is enjoyed at one time or another by every citizen of the Greater City.

In the case of local or neighborhood parks, however, the benefit is merely local and should be assessed at least 50 per cent. upon the adjacent owners and at least 30 per cent. or more upon the Borough. The balance upon the City at large.

This proportion is established almost by common usage and consent in most of the principal cities of the country, if the reports therefrom speak truly.

By acquiring parks after the methods above suggested the honor or abuse will not be borne by any one local administration which will not then be made a target for political attack to an extent, as at present, which makes a Borough President unwilling to go into the park matters with any enthusiasm when his political head may be at stake.

Such a condition of affairs has been largely responsible for the lack of adequate parks in Queens.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF PARKS.

As expressing fully my views on another matter I quote the following:

"Conclusions and Recommendations in the Matter of the Improvement and Development of Our Parks." Adopted March 4, 1912, by your Parks Advisory Committee through its Chairman, Mr. A. H. Spencer:

"It is my view that many of the causes of our troubles with regard to our parks are deep-seated and fundamental, and, broadly speaking, uncontrollable by our Park Department; at best, it must of necessity be by slow processes that such conditions will be created as will correct the present shortcomings, which are:

"Undeveloped rapid and cheap transit facilities.

"Congestion of our population.

"Chronic disregard on the part of the public of public property rights which, despite repeated assertions to the contrary, is *not* confined to the foreign-born element.

"Untidiness of the population at large.

"Lack of general discipline of the population, most often traceable to the home.

"Insufficient playgrounds for children and young people, who, in order to develop body and mind, must play.

"During the past thirty years great progress has been made toward remedying these evils, and without doubt that progress will continue. Plain necessity will finally curb the national characteristic of carelessness and ill-treatment of nature's gifts. Referring to category mentioned above—

"1. (Cheap and rapid transit.) This is being pushed by all concerned with due regard for the questions before the City.

"2. (Congestion of population.) This is receiving like attention by the authorities, by public-spirited bodies, and by individuals.

"3 & 4. (Disregard of public property; untidiness of population.) This would find partial solution by a greater coöperation between various City Departments, *i. e.*, School, Police, Street Cleaning, Highways, etc., the heads of which should meet AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE (weekly or monthly), with the Mayor presiding, for the discussion of inter-departmental matters.

"5. (Lack of discipline.) This will, I am sure, receive attention through persistent publicity and through appeal to parents or guardians and through the schools and the pulpit.

"6. (Insufficient playgrounds.) This lack of recreation space, if corrected, or remedied as far as possible (using, perhaps, to that end some of the means below mentioned) will not only save our parks but give us, within ten or twenty years, the finest in the world:

"(a) Additional and sufficient police protection (younger men).

"(b) The coöperation of the pupils of our schools, who should be put upon their honor and a considerable number given badges of authority by school principals and teachers and enlisted as Park Scouts.

"(c) Coöperation of our City magistrates.

"Larger appropriations would, of course, be necessary, but it is safe to predict that these funds would be forthcoming (it is hoped in the form of a substantial bond issue) after a definite plan worthy of respectful consideration has been adopted.

"Remedy suggested with regard to playgrounds:

"Reduction in tax rate to owners of vacant lots which will be thrown open for use as playgrounds.

"The closing to transit traffic (as distinguished from local traffic) of one street in five for certain hours (after school each day during the school term and all day during vacation); one street at a time to be closed in that manner for one week—the street to its north or south, as the case may be, to be closed for the following week, and so on. The intention being to close each street not more than seven days during the months.

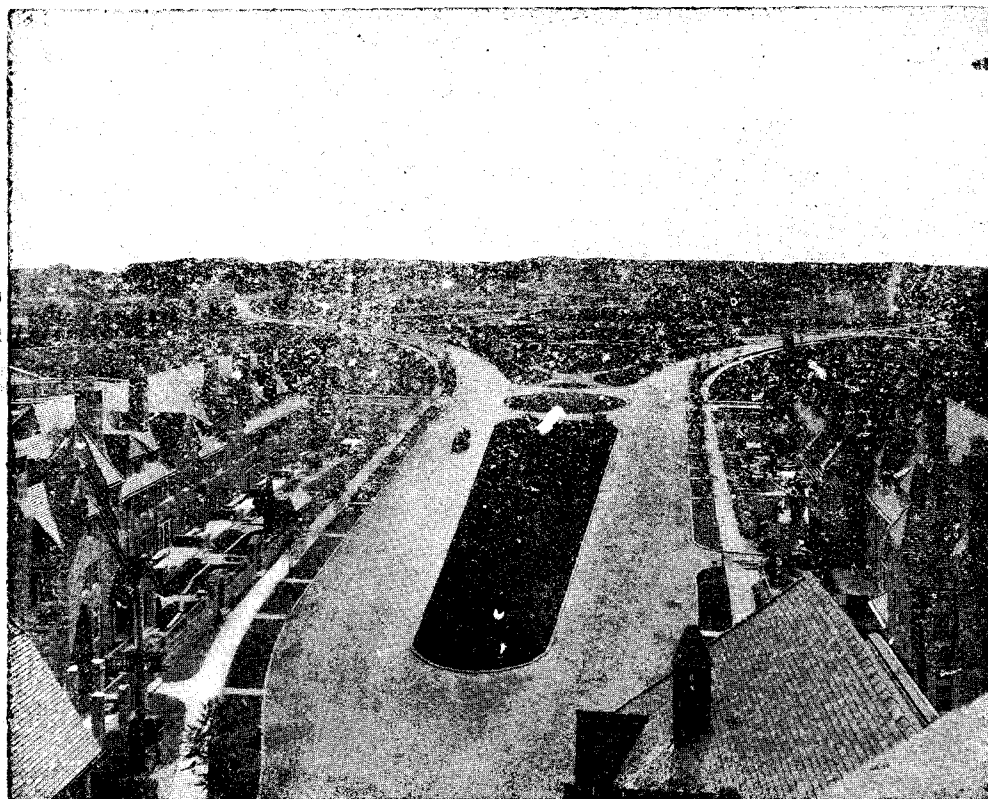
"*Summing up and Recommendation.*—Settle the playground question first and the park-care question will adjust itself. I recommend that, until the playground question is settled, no aggressive campaign be started for the rehabilitation of our park lawns, as money so spent would be much in the nature of a waste; but efforts be continued to preserve them in their present state.

"Chief efforts in the line of vegetation should be confined to trees (nursing the old ones and planting saplings), and to shrubs.

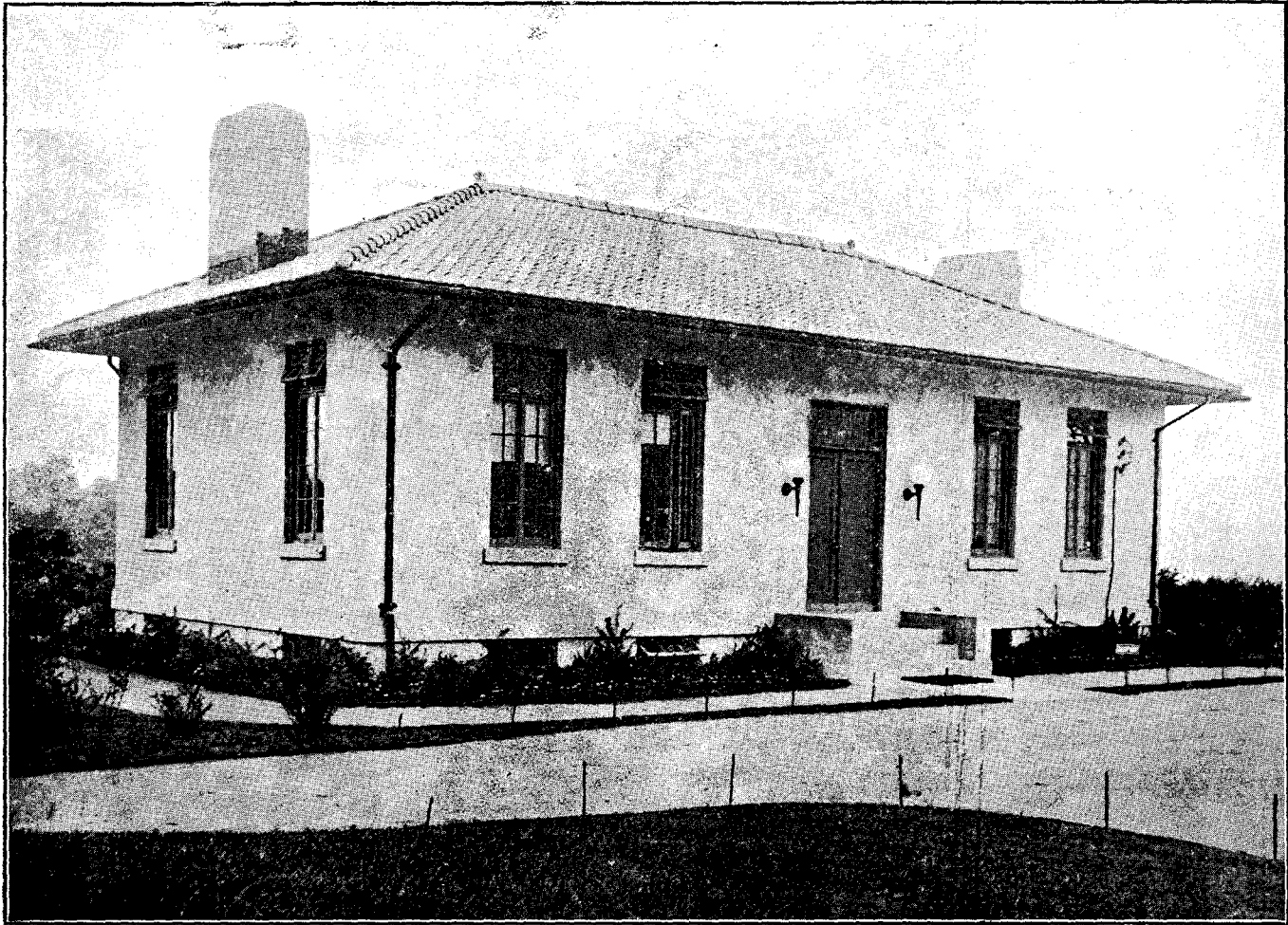
"Mature trees cannot be purchased; their development takes from 25 to 50 years; *trees are a matter of time, not of money.*

"Bushes, on the contrary, take comparatively little time to develop into a park ornament, and can readily be acquired at any time; they are practically a matter of money.

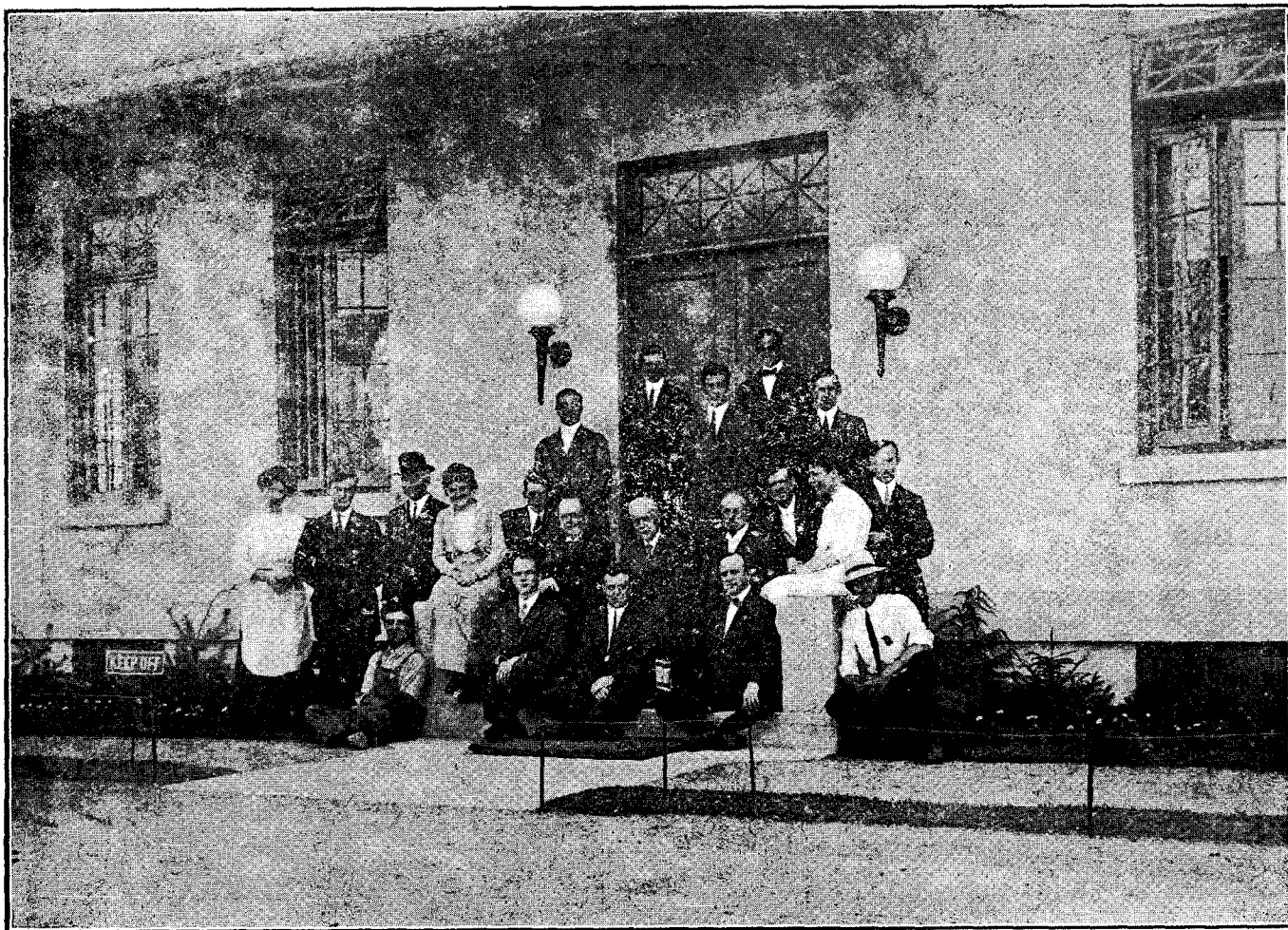
"Grass lawns can, with the necessary funds, be provided at any time and within a comparatively short period; these are also mainly a matter of money."



FOREST HILLS GARDENS FROM STATION SQUARE.
Forest Park shown in the background. X shows location of Queens Park Department.



"OVERLOOK," FIRST PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, QUEENS PARK DEPT.



THE OFFICE FORCE AND PART OF THE FIELD FORCE.

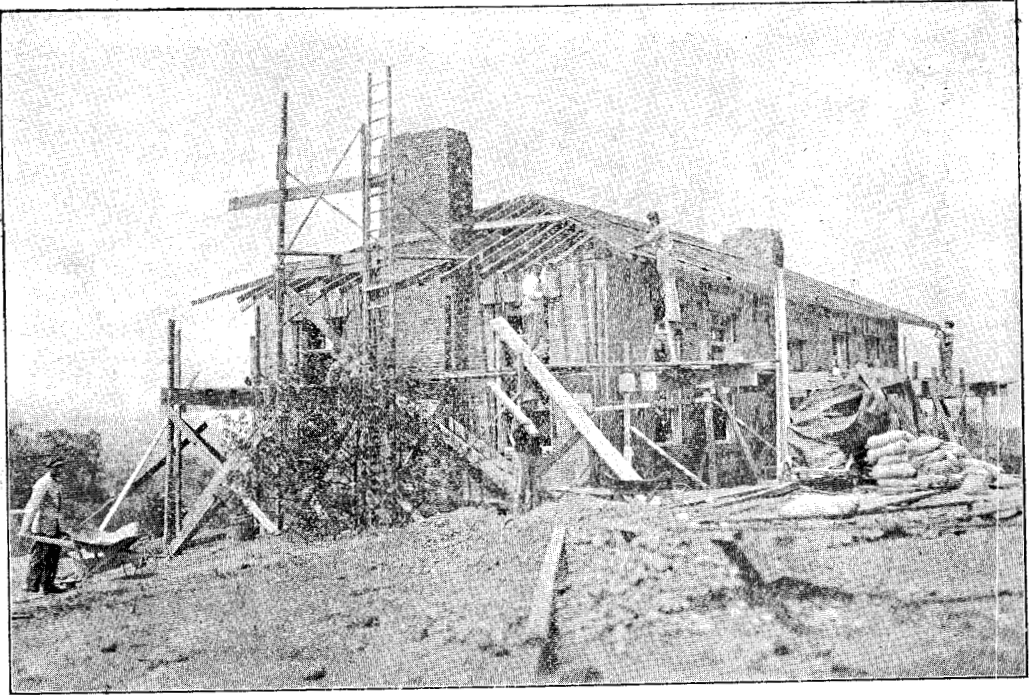
THE PARK SYSTEM OF QUEENS.

Queens has few parks. Those which she does possess are capable of remarkable development along the lines of æsthetic beauty and for recreational purposes.

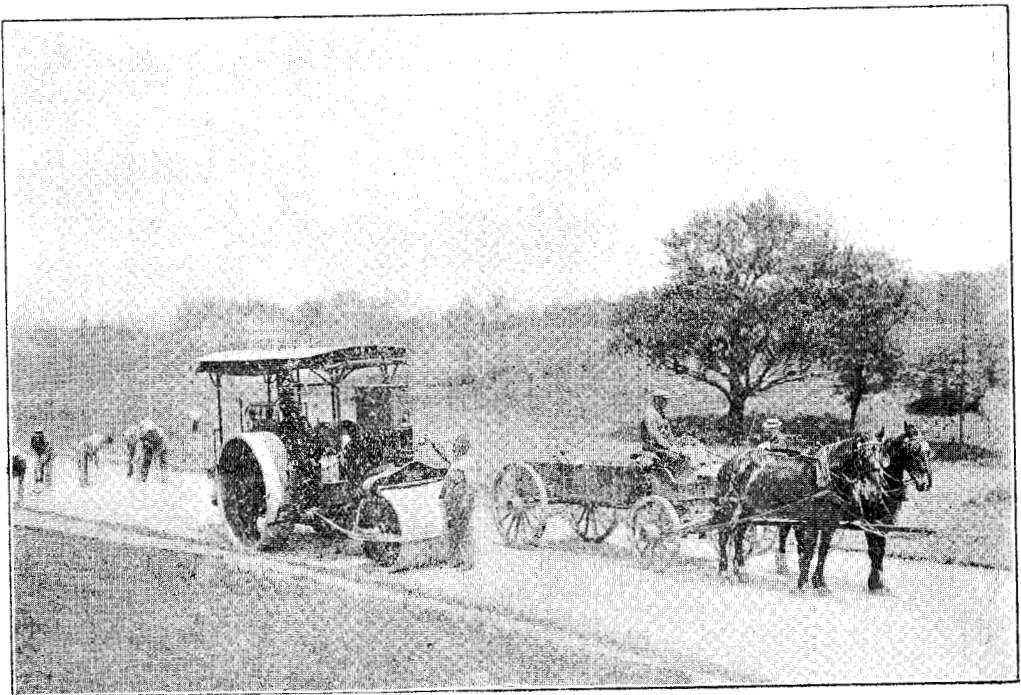
Its largest park, known as Forest Park, is ten acres larger than the celebrated Prospect Park of Brooklyn. At present it is largely covered with forest, as its name implies, and is in a transition state, but it is by nature capable of becoming the handsomest park in our whole city system. Owing to its long and narrow shape, it is available for an immense number of people occupying a wide area, and the coming year will probably see remarkable changes in it. There are extensive lumbering operations going on at the present time for the removal of dead and unsightly trees and this work will be followed up by the cutting of roads and paths already planned. It has one of the best golf links of eighteen holes that can be found in any park and is provided with a handsome club house, amply equipped with lockers and conveniences, all of which are open to the public, free, under proper restrictions.

A part of the building for the headquarters of the Queens Park Department has been erected in the extreme northeasterly end of the park. It is designated as "The Overlook" and commands a view of the entire greater city in a circle of twenty miles.

Forest park cost the county of Queens nothing, as it was purchased by Brooklyn. A connecting parkway is being put upon the map which will enable the visitor from Brooklyn to drive through the Eastern parkway, through Highland Park and this connecting parkway into Forest Park, from whence a vehicle can pass through the entire length of Forest Park and beyond to Flushing or Jamaica, over well developed roads. Within the limits of this park is to be found a nursery with a wide variety of trees, established by the Department two or three years ago and comprising over 160,000 specimens for use in the future parks and streets of Queens. Extensive green-



"OVERLOOK, THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION 1911-12.



FOREST PARK—WORKING ON THE ROADS—MAY, 1912.

houses in a high state of development are also in use and provide the flowers for use in this and all other Queens parks.

The changes and improvements in Forest Park are of such a character as to have rendered the service of the golf fields thoroughly satisfactory to the players, so that the Park Department is now in receipt of few, if any, complaints of any nature. The links have been greatly improved and the engineering force is laying out a system of piping, with the intention of keeping the greens in a shape more approaching that of some of the expensive private links. Much sodding and improvement of that nature has been completed and is still going on.

The lumber operations there have been progressing at a rapid rate and all of the dead trees have been felled. A great deal of it is already sawn into merchantable material. Many thousands of them have been felled—few of the remaining trees can be removed until hard frost sets in without destruction to the undergrowth.

Surveyors have the lines for the new roads and the contracts will soon be ready for advertising.

The greenhouses have been largely repainted. A vast number of repairs of all sorts have been made in the buildings and properties of the park and many new and needed machines, like road rollers, gasoline lawn mowers, watering carts, pruners and climbers and general work vehicles have been added, temporary stables rebuilt and added to, repair sheds, carpenter shop, manure pits, pumping tanks and new mains have all been added.

The emergency part of an administration building, now designated "The Overlook," is approaching completion. It is designed for and intended to be the main office of the department. The department moved into it on December 12th and it was at once seen to be far too small to serve its purpose.

An additional two-story building and an adjoining comfort station will be needed at once.

The following letter explains itself:

"The Overlook," Richmond Hill, L. I.

March 11, 1913.

CLIFFORD R. PETTIS, Esq.,

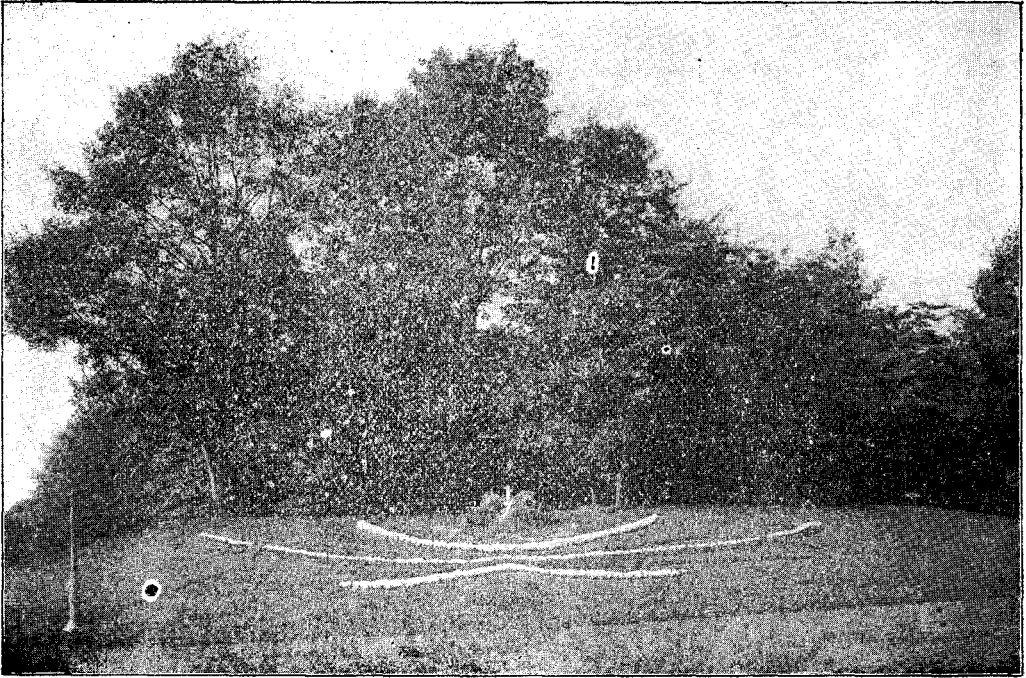
Supt. of State Forests, Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir—As one interested in the culture and care of trees throughout this state, you may perhaps attach some value to information concerning the condition of trees in that section of Long Island embraced by Queens County. To this information we would like to add our opinions of the causes which brought about existing conditions, for we contend that, in view of circumstances, the extent of their infection by disease or insect pests is neither abnormal nor something at which we should wonder. The following will easily prove our contention.

During the past decade tree care in this section has been almost entirely neglected. Only since the establishment of an independent park department in Queens has sufficient systematic care been secured for them. But the time (a little more than a year) has been much too short to repair the damage done by long years of neglect.

When Commissioner Eliot took charge of the Park Department of Queens, the state of woodlands here can best be shown by describing the condition of Forest Park (a typical example of forest in this section) at that time.

Some six or seven thousand chestnut trees, left dead by the chestnut blight which ravaged the species throughout the state years ago, were still standing, although it



ARTISTIC GARDENING, FOREST PARK. A BASKET OF FLOWERS.

RESULTS OF THE CHESTNUT BLIGHT, FOREST PARK.

must certainly have been known that they contained spores of the dangerous disease which destroyed them. The place was thick with dead undergrowth.

Saplings were allowed to spring up when and where they chanced. As no one attempted to thin out the woods, great numbers of trees died for want of light and lack of food, due to improper spacing. This dead wood, or rather, the unhealthy, slowly dying trees, afforded many breeding places for insect and fungous life. Trees springing up and growing haphazard very often are found in any but the surroundings for which nature has fitted them. In view of circumstances, if these trees are extensively infected, can we say that it is due to plague? Would it not be abnormal and even unnatural if they were not infected?

Experience has taught us that all kinds of life are adversely affected by improper surroundings. In them plant or animal life invariably meets with conditions with which it cannot cope. Take the hickory tree, for example. Trees of this species, given access to a plentiful supply of sunlight, properly spaced, kept clear of undergrowth, we have found in excellent condition. They are, in fact, practically immune from disease. Their bark is soft and tender. Almost invariably these will be found infected by beetle pests. This is due in great part to the fact that the weakened tree is prone, naturally, to infection, in no small measure, too, to the beetle's aversion to working in the sunlight, and in these particular cases to the impeding of the food

supply by heavy undergrowth. Naturally, these trees, placed in environments for which they were ill adapted by nature, at length succumbed. This result was only natural, for one cannot expect a tree, under such conditions, to survive and grow to maturity any more than he would expect a child, ill-fed, ill-clothed and neglected, to grow to strong, hardy manhood.

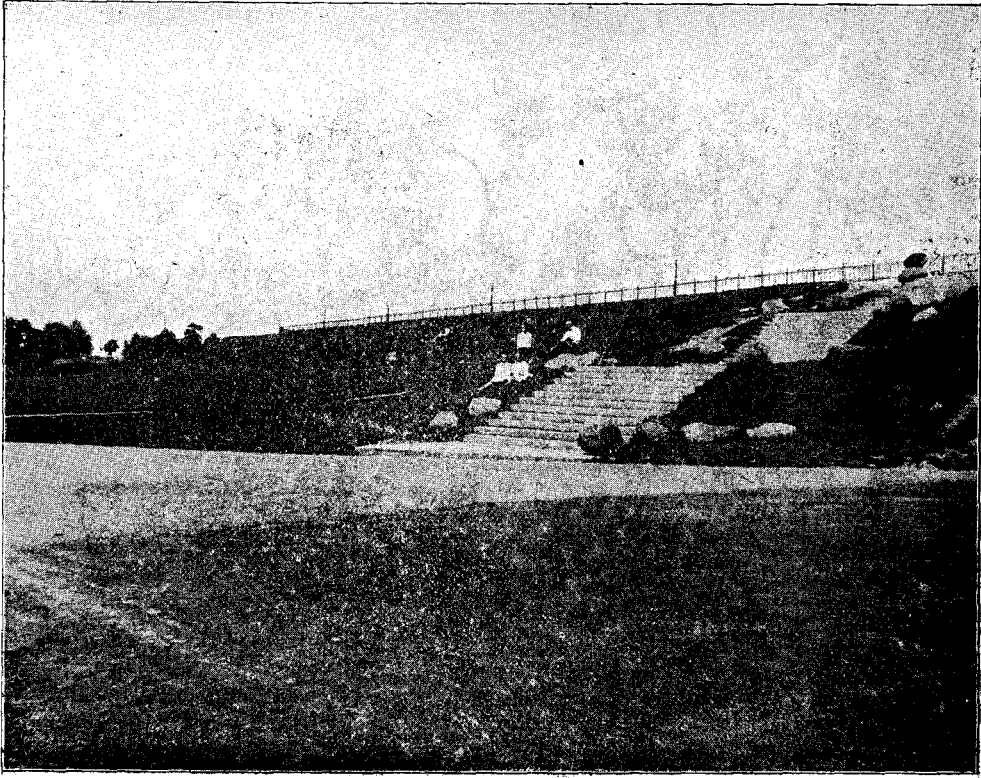
Since Commissioner Eliot has taken office he has had the dead chestnut trees removed, infected trees have been cut down and burned, and he is now bending his best efforts to secure funds for removing these tree stumps, clearing out the dead wood and undergrowth. Measures for thinning out the forest, that the remaining trees will be properly spaced, hence having access to sufficient sunlight, unimpeded food supply, etc., are now under advisement. ?

In this way we shall, by compelling the growth of trees in none but proper environment, force nature to fight with us. What additional measures we are taking to exterminate destructive diseases have been related in our report, submitted to the conference recently held at your office.

Very truly yours,

JAMES F. BURNS,

Arboriculturist, Dept. of Parks, Borough of Queens.



HIGHLAND PARK—1911.

November 9, 1912.

Hon. W. G. ELLIOT, *Commissioner of Parks,*
Borough of Queens.

Sir—In compliance with your order for an accounting of the tree stumps and felled trees in Forest Park, the following is the result of the accounting of the men assigned to that work:

Number of tree stumps over 6 inches in diameter, branded red.....	8,727
Included in this number, cut within the present year, branded red and white..	6,551
Number of felled trees in Forest Park.....	1,782
Number of trees felled, set aside as city property, at present lying in Forest Park	1,107

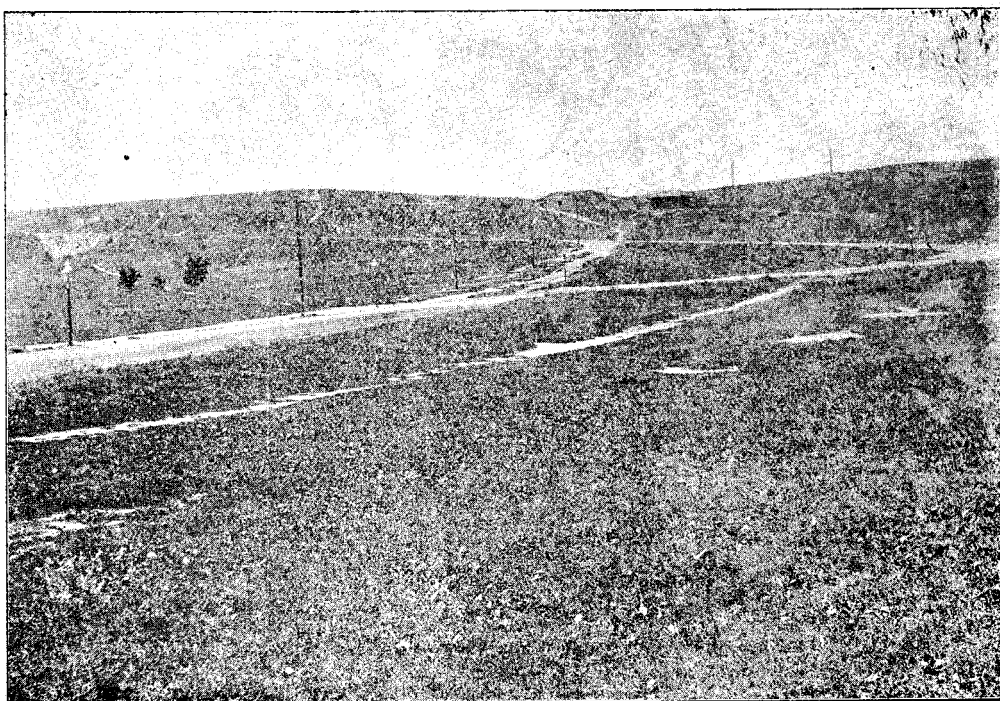
The records from which this accounting has been taken are set forth in the books of this Department.

Respectfully,

JAMES F. BURNS, *Arboriculturist.*

HIGHLAND PARK.

Of approximately 59.6 acres, is situated on the Borough line between Brooklyn and Queens, the principal portion of which, especially the more highly developed part, is in Queens and the lower land, fronting on Jamaica avenue, in Kings, subject to the



HIGHLAND PARK IN 1911.



THE ZARTMANN BRIDGE, HIGHLAND PARK.

jurisdiction of the Kings Commissioner. It is a remarkably picturesque park, having within its confines a very early Dutch colonial house known as the Schenck Mansion; a distributing reservoir of considerable acreage belonging to the Brooklyn Water Department, which adds greatly to its beauty; ball fields, music stands, where concerts are given, as in Forest Park, during the summer, also very attractive gardens, walks and places of rest. It is patronized by a large number of visitors, especially on Sundays and holidays and from one portion of the park a magnificent view extends out over Jamaica Bay toward the Rockaways to the Atlantic Ocean. The principal part of its area is on a plateau high above the surrounding region of East New York, Woodhaven, etc.

KISSENA LAKE PARK.

Until recently the principal park in Queens, beyond those already enumerated, was a comparatively recent purchase known as Kissena Lake Park, in the Broadway section of Flushing, containing about 65 acres, part of it in lake, fed by rapid springs, and part of it in swamp forest.

The entire park is surrounded by finished or finishing streets belonging to the Queens street system and by the embankment of an abandoned section of the Long Island Railroad. It is wooded and capable of development at no great expense into a beautiful and unusual city park, work upon which is progressing slowly but effectively. Its great drawback is the lack of funds for its development, but it lies in a most desirable position between the Flushing-Jamaica turnpike (one of the best roads in



SKATING ON KISSENA LAKE, DECEMBER, 1912.



SKATING ON KISSENA LAKE, DECEMBER, 1912.

Queens) and the Flushing-Jamaica trolley, so that it is accessible for a five-cent fare from a large area of the Borough.

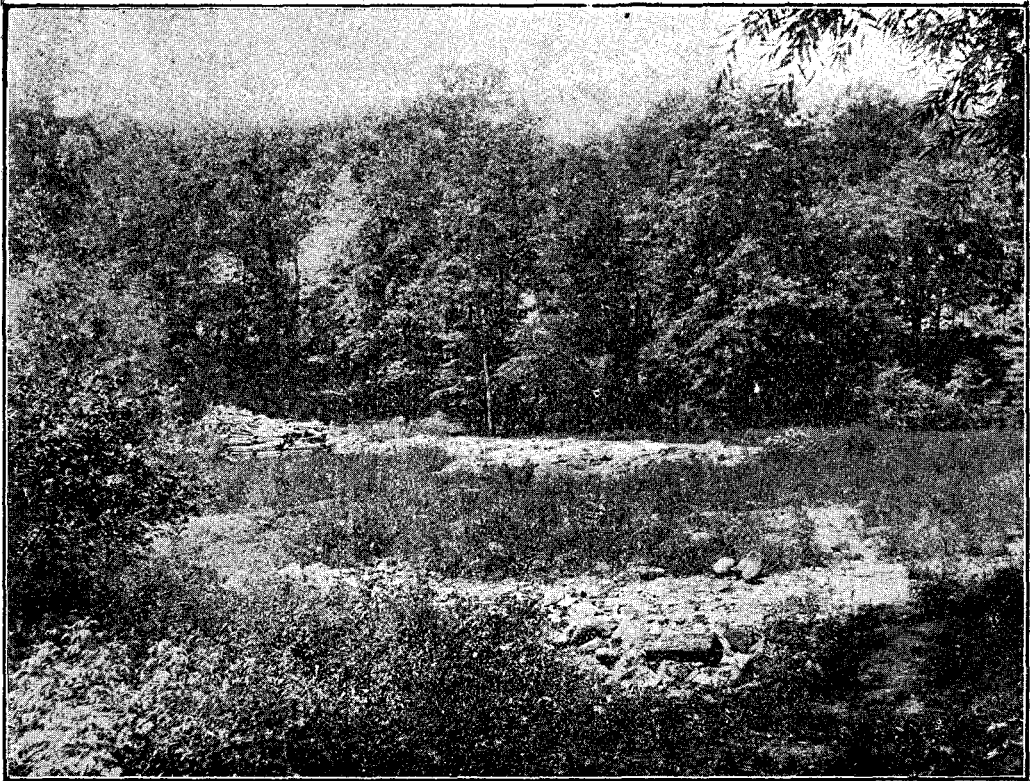
With regard to Kissena Lake Park, few people realize what great improvements in the appearance of that park have taken place within the year, without any appropriation whatever. The entire Rose avenue front of the park has been graded and seeded and the steep banks have been either sodded or planted with *Rosa Wichuriana*, a form of creeping rose which holds the surface, prevents wash and makes a most beautiful effect when it has fairly started to grow. The result of this has been to encourage the abutting property owners to grade and complete an avenue which otherwise would not have been finished for two or three years.

The Commissioner is investigating the possibilities of opening bathing facilities, properly regulated, in this lake, which is fed by springs, and hopes to be able to put it into operation early next summer, if the analysis of the water and other details prove to be favorable.

In connection with this park the Police Training Grounds are now a portion of it, and it is planned to open there an athletic track and recreation center. The engineers are now planning it.

ROCKAWAY PARK.

Queens is not without ocean front facilities for the enjoyment of its population. Rockaway Park, as before stated, was deeded to and accepted by the City within recent



KISSENA LAKE PARK AS UNIMPROVED.



KISSENA LAKE PARK AS UNIMPROVED.

years as a place where its citizens could have all the privileges of sea beach enjoyment without let or hindrance and without expense. The development company which deeded it, with the streets and avenues lying within the area of Rockaway Park, had built a series of residences, with restrictions thereon, and restricted the beach before deeding it to the City, so that no objectionable features can ever be built thereon. The result is that it draws the best element of the population to its beach on Sundays and holidays during the season. It consists of nearly a mile of sea front bordered by detached residences whose grass lawns come to the edge of the boardwalk. Having only recently come into the possession of the City, it has yet to be shown to what state of attractiveness it can be brought. No money has yet been appropriated by the City for its improvement. Its beach area is about 17.5 acres.

A most serious problem is the lack of enough guards for the protection of this reservation, on which from eight to thirty thousand people will congregate on a single Sunday and for which we have had but one park laborer. No money was, until 1913, provided either for its care or improvement. Loud complaints are coming constantly from the residents demanding the repairing and rebuilding of long sections of the boardwalk. Injuries caused by defects in the latter have already developed into serious suits against the city.

MAP

TELAWANA PARK.*

The new Telawana Park at Rockaway Beach, which, on March 21st, 1912, was purchased by the City for somewhat over a million dollars, is intended to serve a double purpose, namely, that of a public park for seaside enjoyments and a site for a considerable number of buildings for hospital and convalescent purposes. The latter purposes will probably require considerably the larger portion of the area and already there are urgent applications for the appropriation of considerable spaces for the immediate erection of these buildings.

One of them was for a series of low buildings covering a length of nearly 1,200 feet. Another, a space of over 600 feet in length. It is evident already that the number of institutions desiring space will require more area than there is in the entire reservation. As a consequence, the problem which confronts the Board of Estimate and the Park Department is the immediate planning out of this big space by the ablest talent that can be secured in the country, in order that the City can give the maximum accommodations without robbing the citizens at large of the right to enjoy the sea and bay shore at that point.

Your Commissioner sent a map of this area to the Board of Estimate's Park Committee showing the approximate area and the general location of spaces which should be reserved for the public uses and urgently advising that the Board of Estimate secure, in connection with the Department's Landscape Architect, Mr. Lay, the services of some noted consulting landscape architect to submit, at the shortest possible notice, a plan which will meet with the approval of the Board of Estimate.

The urgency of this is due to the fact that money is available, or has been offered, for the immediate construction of one or more of these institutions, and it is the duty of the citizens of Queens, as well as of the City of New York, to insist that this matter be treated seriously and scientifically.

In the wide range of America it would be difficult to find a place more admirably adapted for such uses. Time will unquestionably prove this to be one of the best investments the City has ever made. It is practically a great strip of sand dunes extending one mile west from the most westerly of the Rockaways, known as Neponsit, to the property of the Central Pacific Railroad, which covers the western point of the Rockaway peninsula. The property extends half a mile from the waters of Jamaica Bay on the south to the ocean front.

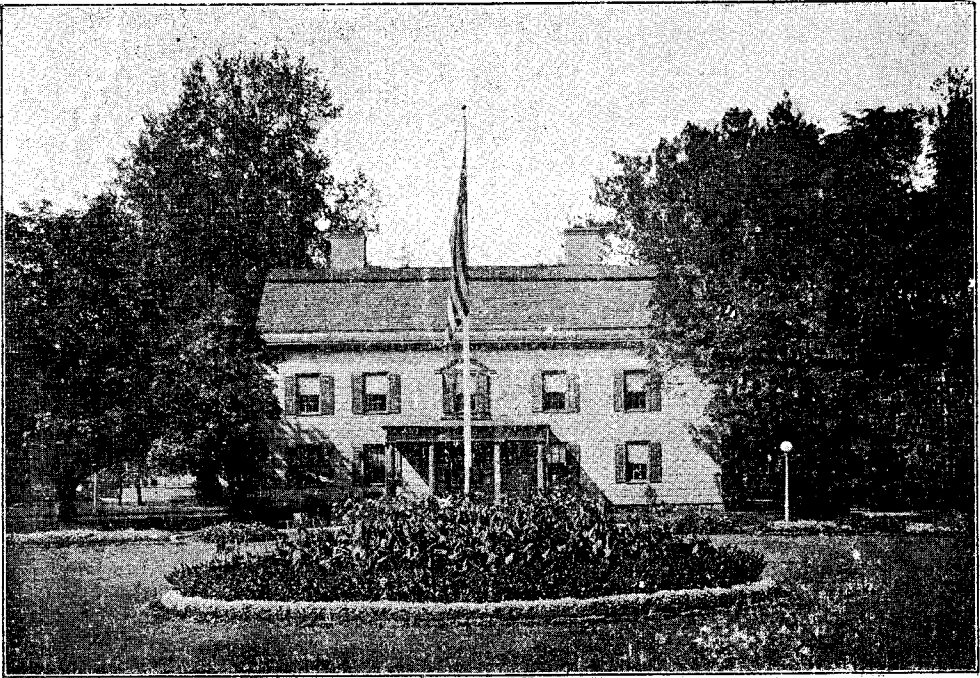
KINGS PARK.

The above described parks constitute the principal part of the park area of Queens, but there are several little areas of half an acre to twelve acres in extent scattered over the Borough in various stages of development, the handsomest being Kings Park, in the heart of the town of Jamaica, on its main street. It is dignified by the presence of the colonial homestead of Governor John A. King, whose father, Rufus King, built it about 125 years ago. The building is occupied as a colonial museum in charge of the "King Manor Association, Incorporated," public-spirited men and women of Jamaica and Queensboro. It is surrounded by old trees and is in a high state of cultivation, and is one of the garden spots of the Borough, containing about eleven and a half acres.

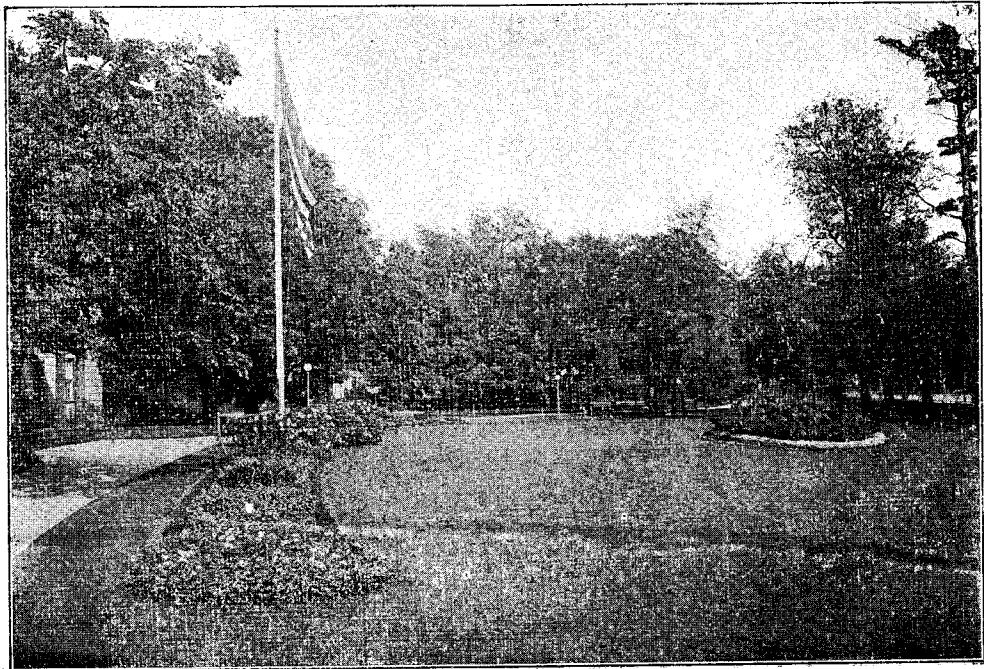
It has been planted with new flower beds.

Plans and specifications for the new combined band stand and comfort station in the rear of the King Mansion were approved by the Municipal Art Commission and the Board of Estimate and believed to be as economical as possible for the size absolutely required. The bids, when opened, showed that not less than fifteen thousand

* Named for "Telawana," "the last of the Rockaway Indians," just as this is likely to be the last of the Rockaway parks.

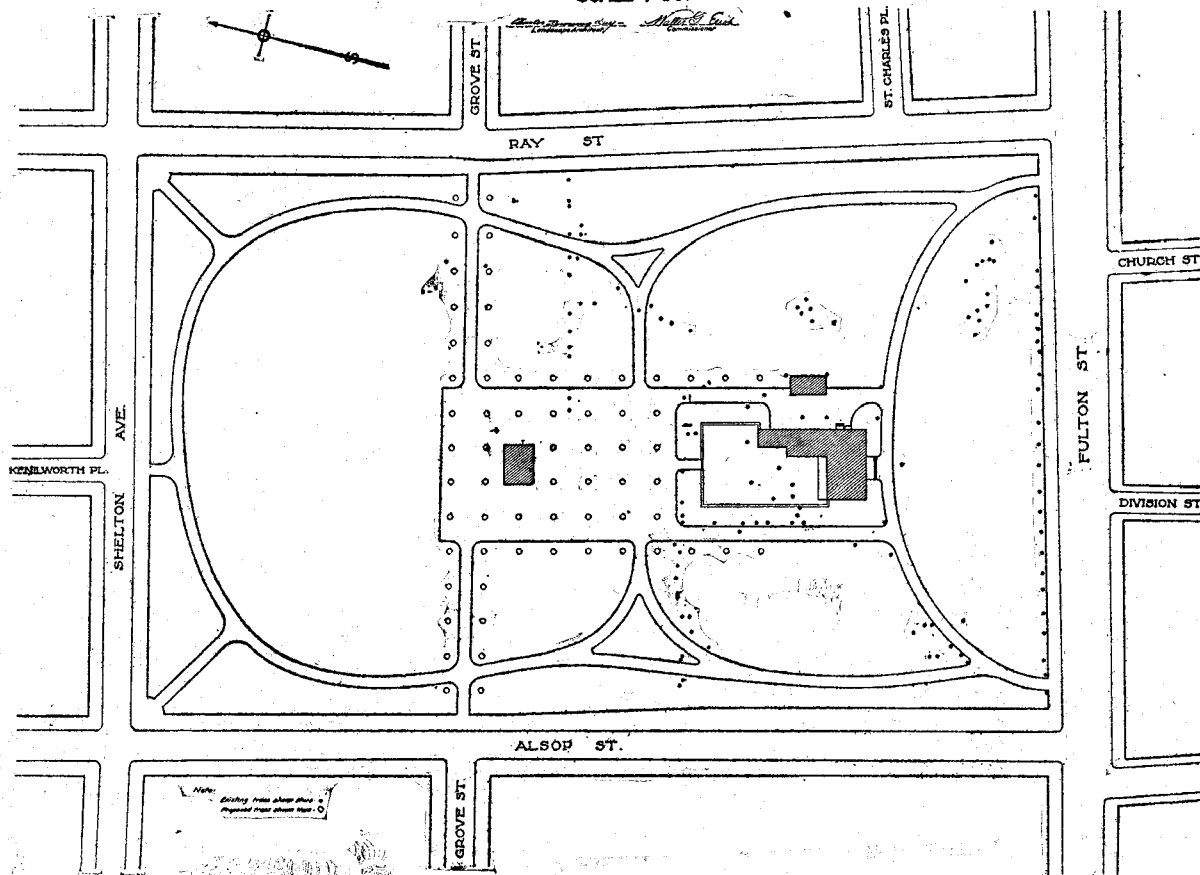


OLD RUFUS KING MANSION—KINGS PARK, 1912.



1912—KINGS PARK, THE APPROACH.

PLAN OF KINGS PARK.
JAMAICA, BOROUGH OF QUEENS.
SCALE: 1"=30'



dollars would build it, while it was hoped that the appropriation of \$10,000 available would suffice. The additional sum was requested and refused.

Five tennis courts have been provided and equipped with nets, etc., and were in use on the northerly side of the park last summer. They will be maintained as long as no damage is done to the turf. They will be periodically shifted.

UPLAND PARK.

Not far away is the little hillside area known as Upland Park, in Jamaica, on the higher ridge of the town, a gift to the City.

No definite plan has been yet made for its improvement. It has thus far been developed along natural lines and with considerable taste by the employee in charge.

It seems to be desirable to wait until the question of the proposed small addition to this park is settled before designing for its future development.

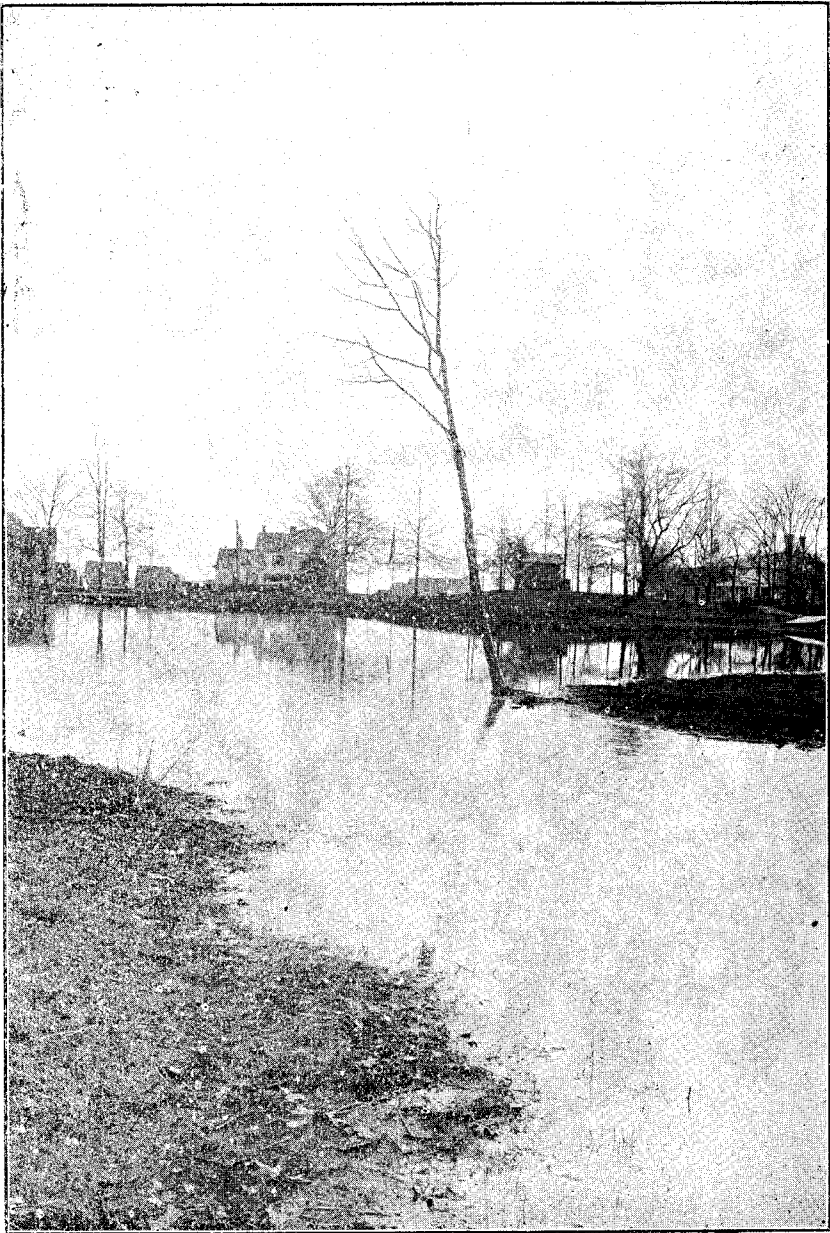
RAINEY PARK.

With the exception of a few unimproved triangles at the junction of streets there are no parks in Long Island City, except an area of five and nine-tenths acres known as Rainey Park, in Ravenswood, fronting on the East River. It will in time become designed and completed by your Commissioner to support a riverside walk and the usual music stand and comfort station.

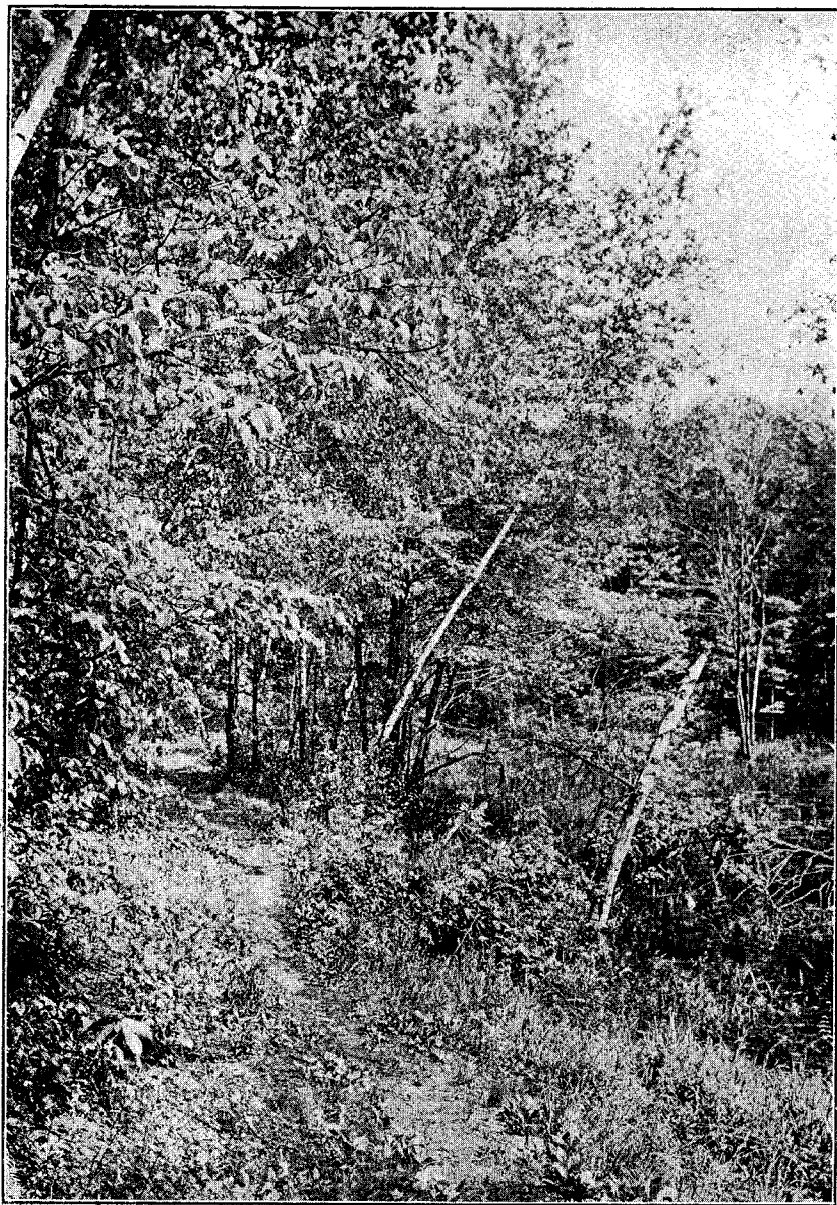
The grading of the surface and proper planting will follow as soon as spring opens and I hope to have it ready for planting about the beginning of May, 1913. It will form one of the prettiest parks in the system.



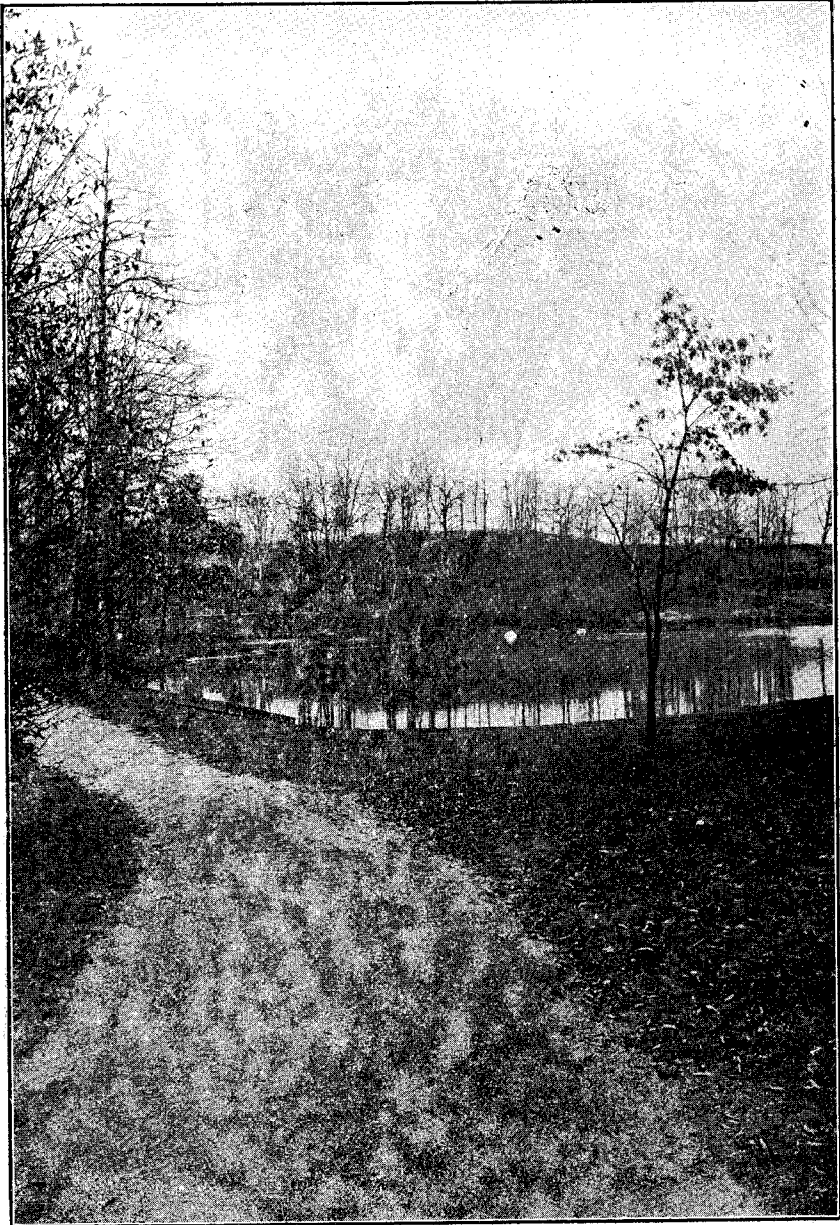
UPLAND PARK IN 1911, UNIMPROVED.



UPLAND PARK IN 1911.



WOODLAND SCENE IN UPLAND PARK.



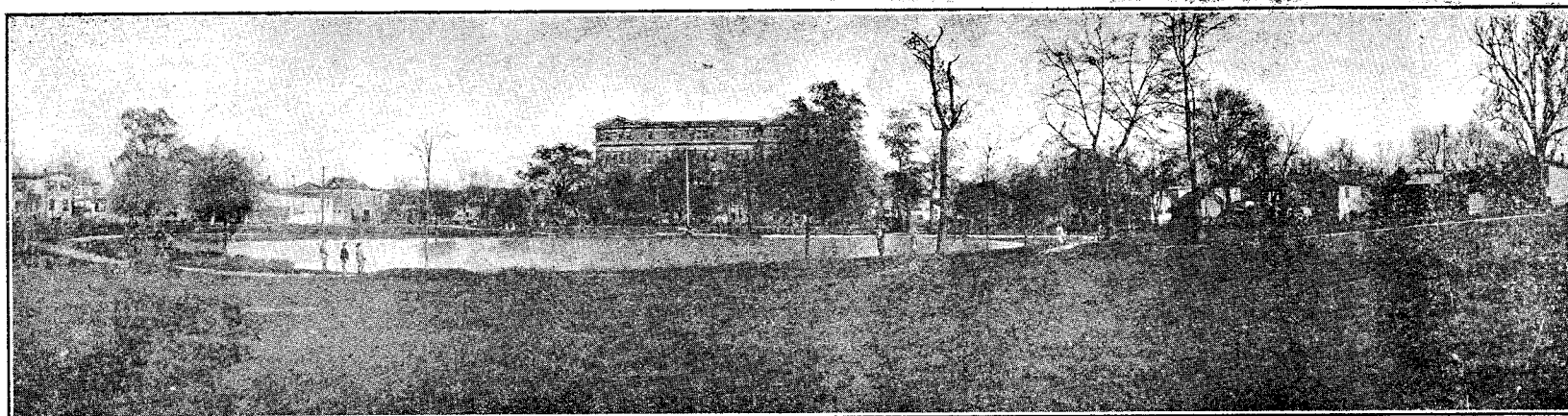
IMPROVEMENTS IN UPLAND PARK, 1912.



URANO PARK IN 1912.



UPLAND PARK IN 1912.



LINDEN PARK AS UNIMPROVED.

LINDEN PARK.

In Corona is a similar square of three acres known as Linden Park, containing a wading and skating pool in the center. It is bounded by four streets, on one of which is a modern public school. It is undergoing renovation and improvement at the present time.

A very serious problem confronted the Commissioner in the contemplated improvement of Linden Park. It appeared to be absolutely essential that the street on the northwesterly side of the park should be previously graded by the City authorities because seepage and drainage from neighboring houses produced a species of swamp on one side of the park, producing the foulest sort of odors and becoming a menace to health. It also prevented the proper cleaning of the pond in the park. Appeal to the Health Department and Borough President Connolly was effective. The pond has since been pumped dry, is being cleaned, and proper approaches to it built. The whole surface of the park has been raised, regraded and nearly resodded. It will be

ready for the coming summer's use. Proper sewerage being impossible at present, a comfort station cannot be built now, although badly needed; but a band stand should be.

WAYANDA PARK.*

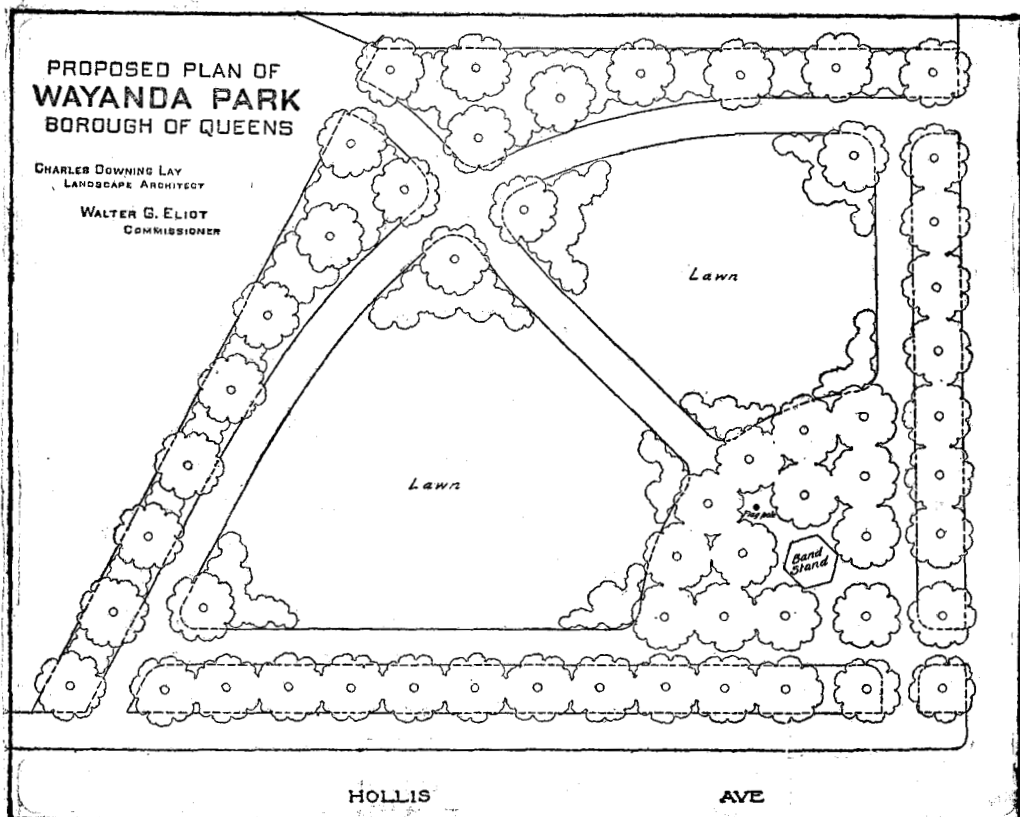
It would be unjust to overlook the little area of two acres formerly owned as a pauper's burying ground, adjoining the handsome public school at Queens, Long Island, which has recently been turned over to the Department of Parks, and which is being turned into a most attractive neighborhood park at very slight expense.

QUEENSBORO BRIDGE PLAZA.

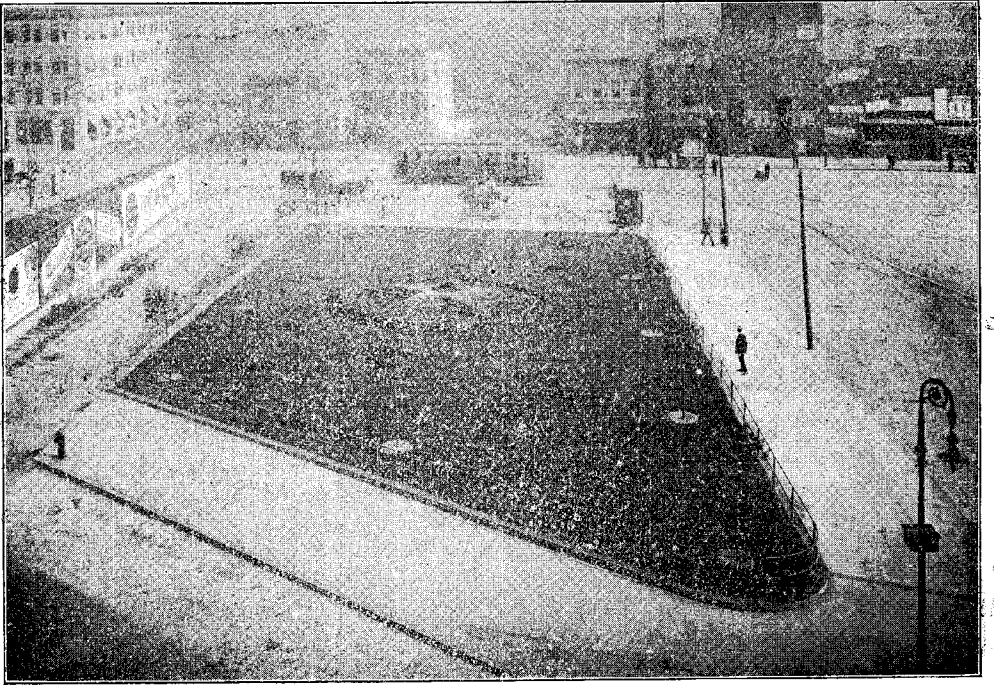
At the request of Bridge Commissioner O'Keeffe I took up jointly with his Department the planting of flower beds, trees, etc., on the Queensboro Bridge Plaza. It was early completed and the trees, as well as the flowers, have proved satisfactory to everybody concerned.

COLLEGE POINT PARK.

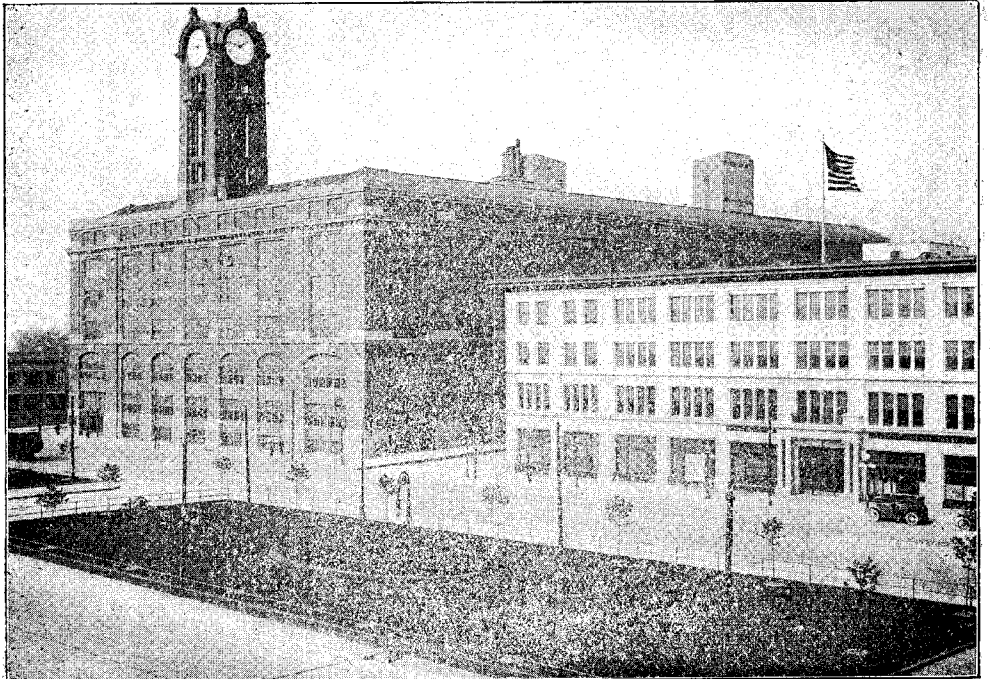
Another similar, but less developed, park is the College Point Park of about one acre in a square surrounded by four streets. It boasts the possession of a fountain.

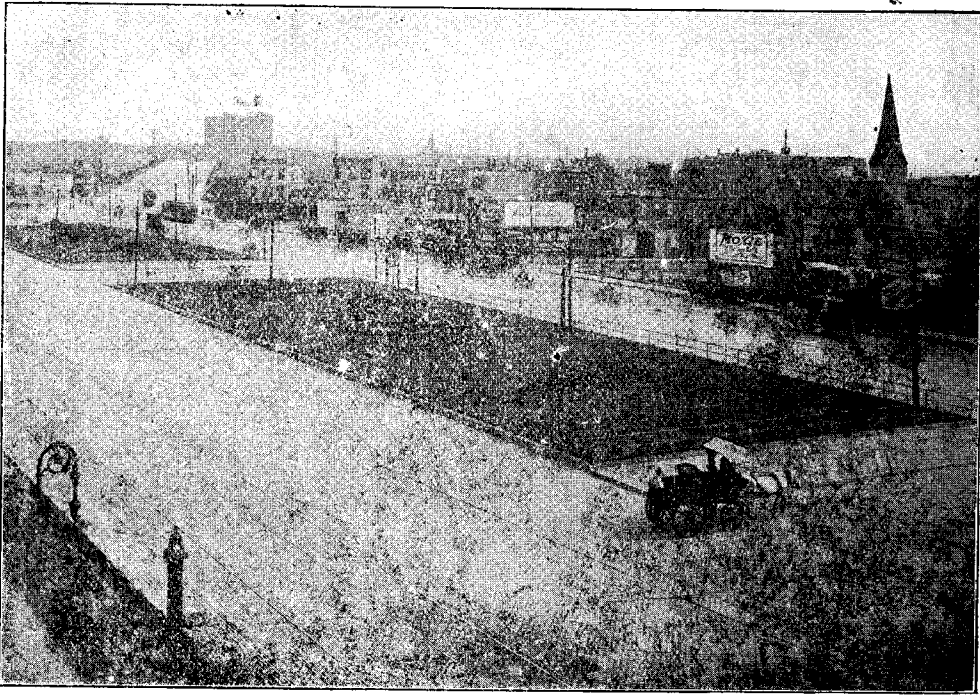


* Indian for "The Place of Happy Hearts."

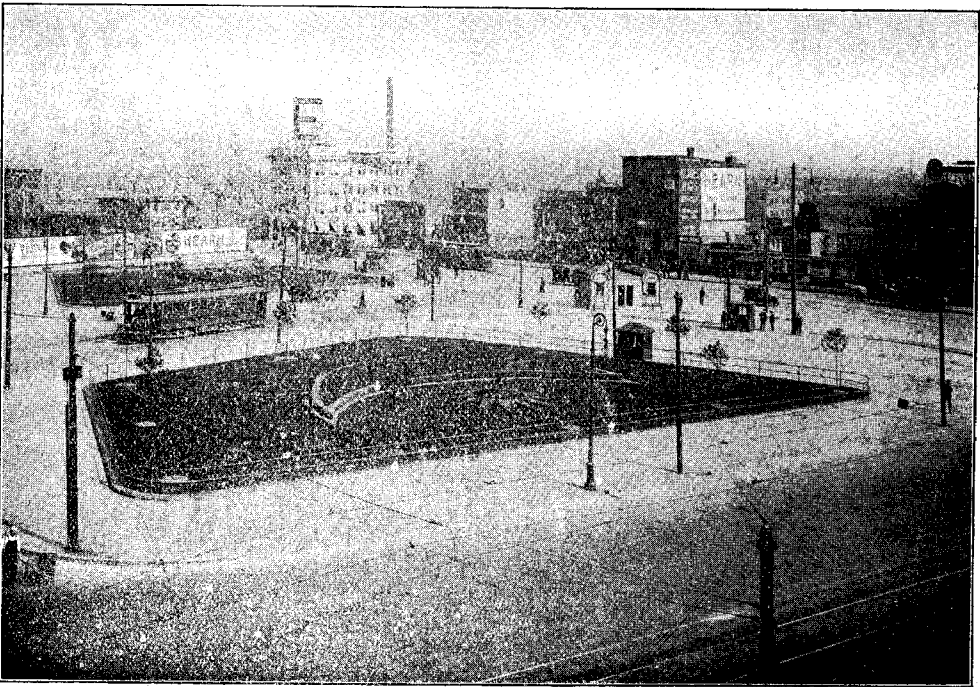


ORNAMENTAL GARDENING, BRIDGE PLAZA, LONG ISLAND CITY.





ORNAMENTAL GARDENING, BRIDGE FLAZA, LONG ISLAND CITY.



ORNAMENTAL GARDENING, BRIDGE PLAZA, LONG ISLAND CITY.

A very much needed and appreciated addition to this park was the copper-sheathed ticket booth secured from the Bridge Department and transferred to this park as a Foreman's office and tool house. It was one of several no longer needed on the Queensboro Bridge owing to the order issued by your Honor making traffic over this bridge free.

FUTURE PARK AREAS.

But Queens has as yet scarcely awakened to the great necessity which will face her all too quickly in the matter of a park system. There are portions of the Borough where extensive parks should be acquired as an absolutely essential part of a proper system in this great borough of 128 square miles. They should be acquired at once without fuss or delay and without prolonged haggling. Neglect to do so will impose a curse upon Queens that will be all too far reaching in the future. Provisions are now being made in this connection by the Topographical Bureau to lay out on the finished maps of the Borough certain necessary streets or avenues for the exclusive use of pleasure traffic and known as parkways. This is being done under the joint coöperation of the Borough President, the Department of Parks and the Topographical Bureau, all of whom are working in the greatest accord. But the great difficulty which stands in the way of park acquisition is the lack of a proper system by which parks, admittedly needed and which should be placed upon the topographical map, are wiped off because the acquisition is allowed to drag along for such time in every case that it forms a blight upon the property comprised within the desired area as well as the assessable surrounding and adjoining property. Some means should be discovered for obviating this. If ever the law of excess condemnation becomes a reality the park problem will be solved and the most enormous saving to acquiring communities result. In fact, they will pay for themselves in the hands of an ordinarily intelligent park department or Board of Estimate.

The need for neighborhood parks, entirely distinct from any great park system, is felt at the present moment less in Queens than in any other Borough, except in certain closely settling regions like Newtown, Corona, Flushing, Whitestone and Astoria. Some provision should be made without delay in the Maspeth section before land becomes too expensive. Such parks should unquestionably be assessed upon the local property benefited. But for such areas as, in the judgment of park experts, are a necessary part of a great system it is a grave injustice to local residents and the greatest obstacle to acquisition to have more than ten to twenty per cent. of the cost of such acquisition assessed upon the local or abutting owners.

As one of the best instances of this might be cited the recent case of the proposed Cryders Point park at Whitestone, which was wiped off the map after being put there, on the recommendation of park experts, because of the fear that it would be made a local assessment and seriously cripple abutting owners.

A great many demands have been made, and are being made in increasing numbers, for the opening of the connecting roadway through the Cypress Hills Cemetery, from the Highland Parkway, in order to give a continuous driveway from Prospect Park to and through the Borough of Queens.

The matter is in the hands of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. For some time it was held in abeyance by the Comptroller, under the plea that the City had no money to expend in the purchase of the cemetery area embraced within the limits of said parkway and that the cemetery demanded prices so high as to become prohibitive, *i. e.*, prices at grave lot rates instead of the usual lot prices. Since then the matter seems to be progressing more favorably. This office, jointly with the Queens Topographical Bureau, has completed a survey of the route and plans are soon to be ready for submission to the Board of Estimate and the cemetery authorities for a conference.

The need for such a roadway is growing much faster than that for any public road in Queens. The location of this parkway has been approved by both the Park Department and the Topographical Bureau and by the Chief Engineer of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and is favorably considered by the cemetery authorities.

MUSIC IN PARKS.

The matter of music in the parks of Queens is one which the public little appreciates. Last year money was provided for thirty concerts in the various parks, five of which were given in Forest. The Budget Committee cut down the appropriation for 1912 to \$1,500, which was enough for only thirteen concerts. In other Boroughs the appropriation was either increased over 1911 or remained the same. I am glad to say that for 1913 \$3,000 was provided.

THE ACQUISITION OF FURTHER PARK AREAS AND PARKWAYS.

Maps are attached to this report as follows:

No. 1. Map showing the five boroughs and the areas now devoted to parks.

No. 2. Map showing suggestion for Queens parkways.

No. 3. Map showing, without too definite fixing thereof, sites desirable for the park system of the future.

No. 4. Map showing the areas recommended for parks in the report of Olmsted Brothers to the New York Improvement Commission, 1906.

An examination of No. 1 will emphasize the almost absolute lack of north side water front parks as well as the lack of one or two large areas in the Whitestone section and in the Oakland-Creedmoor section which will be extremely desirable within the next five or eight years, but which should be taken seriously into consideration at this early date.

It will be noted in this connection that no mention is made of neighborhood parks or playgrounds. The first reason for this is that, in my judgment, the selection and maintenance of playgrounds should come properly within the scope and jurisdiction of the Recreation Commission and such selection should be recommended by them only. The second reason is that in the creation of neighborhood parks, which would seem properly to be a charge largely upon adjacent owners, the question of their selection is more largely a matter of local choice and the Park Commissioner would prefer to content himself with calling the attention of the citizens to the desirability of establishing as many of these, within reason, as they are willing to pay for.

Furthermore, development companies who have been laying out a large portion of the Borough, very largely control such matters before the lots come into the hands of individual owners.

Taking the Sage Foundation Homes Company's and other development companies' experience, there is likely to be an increasing tendency on the part of home buyers to demand a larger and larger portion of neighborhood park space than in the case of lands now developed, if such companies hope to attract buyers.

Referring to the larger areas, it would seem evident from past experience that the method of acquiring extensive tracts for park purposes is far more economically and successfully accomplished from the City's point of view by clearly indicating the general location where land is desirable for such purpose and placing in the hands of a proper commission the areas indicated, leaving them to select from properties offered in competition those areas which they find best adapted or most economical for park purposes.

It is not the intention of the Queens Commissioner to recommend the purchase within the next year of more than one of these areas, and that should be the largest

MAP

one in the most undeveloped section of the Borough where a general park will be required in order that it may be possible to secure it before the march of improvement and building development has taken it entirely out of the market at a reasonable price.

PARKWAYS.

In regard to parkways, the lines on Map No. 2 indicate such portions of existing lines of communication or roads as are either now, or about to be, placed upon the map of Queens, which will form the most useful parkway connections between the System Parks at the least expense.

The length of the Conduit Parkway as estimated will be 7.1 miles, from Brooklyn to Nassau County line.

The length of the Interborough Parkway as estimated will be 12.1 miles, from Highland Parkway through Cypress Hills Cemetery, Forest Park, Union Turnpike, Head of the Vleigh road and east to the county line. (See footnote.)

The length of the Crossover Parkway as estimated will be 7.2 miles, from Conduit Parkway to the North Shore Parkway.

NOTE.—Action to establish the Conduit Parkway was instituted by the introduction of a bill into the Legislature by Senator Torborg, copy of which is given below. It was passed and approved by Mayor Gaynor, but was vetoed by Gov. Sulzer for the reason shown in the following letter from Asst. Corporation Counsel McGoldrick.

LAW DEPARTMENT OF CITY OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Albany, June 19th, 1913.

S—TORBORG—I—163, Pr. 1723

Re; Boulevard, Brooklyn water conduit.

My dear COMMISSIONER:

Your letter of the 16th with reference to the above bill is at hand. It passed the legislature and was approved by Mayor Gaynor. Governor Sulzer vetoed it, however, upon the ground that the object sought to be accomplished was covered by the recent Home Rule Law for cities. The bill, therefore, violated the Home Rule principle.

Yours very truly,

EDWARD J. MCGOLDRICK,

Assistant Corporation Counsel

MR. WALTER G. ELIOT,

Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Queens,

The Overlook, Forest Park, N. Y. City.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

G. O. 556.

Nos. 165, 1723.

Int. 163.

IN SENATE,

January 15, 1913.

Introduced by Mr. TORBORG—read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Affairs of Cities—reported favorably from said committee with amendments, and ordered reprinted as amended and when reprinted to be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

AN ACT

TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AS A BOULEVARD OF CERTAIN LANDS IN THE BOROUGHES OF BROOKLYN AND QUEENS, IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The proper authorities of the city of New York vested by law with the power to cause the improvement of streets and avenues in such city, are hereby authorized and empowered to improve as a boulevard the strip of land now owned by such city on which is located the Brooklyn water conduit extending from Highland park southeasterly through the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens to the dividing line between the borough of Queens and the county of Nassau. The expense of such improvement shall be defrayed from the street improvement fund of such city. Such boulevard shall be paved along such parts as street traffic may be carried on thereon and properly ornamented with trees and shrubbery in such manner as to conform generally to the appearance of the Highland park boulevard which connects with such new boulevard at the northwesterly end thereof. When completed, such boulevard shall be under the charge and control of the department of parks of such city.

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

THE INTERBOROUGH PARKWAY.

Extract from a report to Borough Pres. Connolly of Queens by the Chief Engineer of the Topographical Bureau, March, 1913.

"The extension of Eastern Parkway from Highland Boulevard to the western boundary of Forest Park will make a complete parkway, uniting Prospect Park, Highland Park and Forest Park, which will be one of the most picturesque parkways in the City, following the ridge of hills that overlook the southerly slope of Brooklyn and Queens, from which can be viewed a very rare panorama of housetops and verdure, with bay and ocean in the distance.

"At the westerly boundary of Forest Park the Park Department will carry the road to the present drives, which lead to Union Turnpike and Queens Boulevard, at which point a broad highway called Grand Central Parkway is planned upon the city map, which will connect with the proposed Grand Central Boulevard of Long Island, thus forming a complete parkway route between Prospect Park Plaza and all Long Island. Prospect Park Plaza is the hub from which most of the important highways of Brooklyn radiate and is easily reached from all points of Manhattan.

MAP No. 4
 PARK AREA PROPOSED
 5,266 ACRES.
 PARKWAY AREA PROPOSED
 95 MILES



"Thousands of automobiles may be seen in fine weather following the Eastern Parkway and Highland Boulevard to Ridgewood Reservoir. Here they are forced to follow the park drive down a steep grade to Jamaica Avenue, thence by way of Jamaica Avenue to Forest Parkway, where they again ascend a steep hill into the park.

"To say the least, this is an exceedingly awkward detour. Jamaica Avenue is overcrowded with traffic; two trolley tracks occupy the street, which is only seventy feet wide in Brooklyn and sixty-six feet wide in Queens, besides which great numbers of slow moving farm wagons from Long Island use the highway.

"This improvement is entirely metropolitan and should be paid for as Mosholu and similar parkways were. There is practically no property on either side of the route that can be assessed for such an improvement, as the adjacent land is practically all owned by the City or in use as cemeteries.

"The acquisition of the part of this parkway that passes through Cypress Hills Cemetery was made possible by a special act of Legislature passed in 1908, allowing the City of New York to lay out such a street and to condemn the cemetery property necessary for the improvement.

"A survey was made of the route for this parkway in accordance with the act, and, on April 1st, 1910, the matter was referred to a committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, consisting of the Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen, President of the Borough of Queens and President of the Borough of Brooklyn, which committee reported that, on account of the cost of the improvement, in view of the demands upon the City for other improvements, the Board would not be justified in undertaking the project. 'It is, therefore, recommended, without prejudice to the merits of the improvement, that the plan be not approved or incorporated on the map of the City at this time.'

"Chapter 404 of the Laws of 1908, whereby this improvement is made possible, provides that 'within one year the engineer of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the City of New York shall make surveys and prepare a map showing the exact location and course of the said street, road, avenue or parkway, *which map shall, as soon as practicable, be approved by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.*'

"It appears from the above that unless the City takes advantage of this special permission of the Legislature, the cemetery corporations might claim that the act no longer applied in that the conditions might be different than they were when the permission was granted. In the light of past experience with highways that adjoin cemeteries, it would be especially unfortunate if the city were to lose this right.

"In the three years that have passed since this committee reported to the Board the use of automobiles has greatly increased and recent highway improvements in Queens and Long Island have made this a favorite route for automobilists.

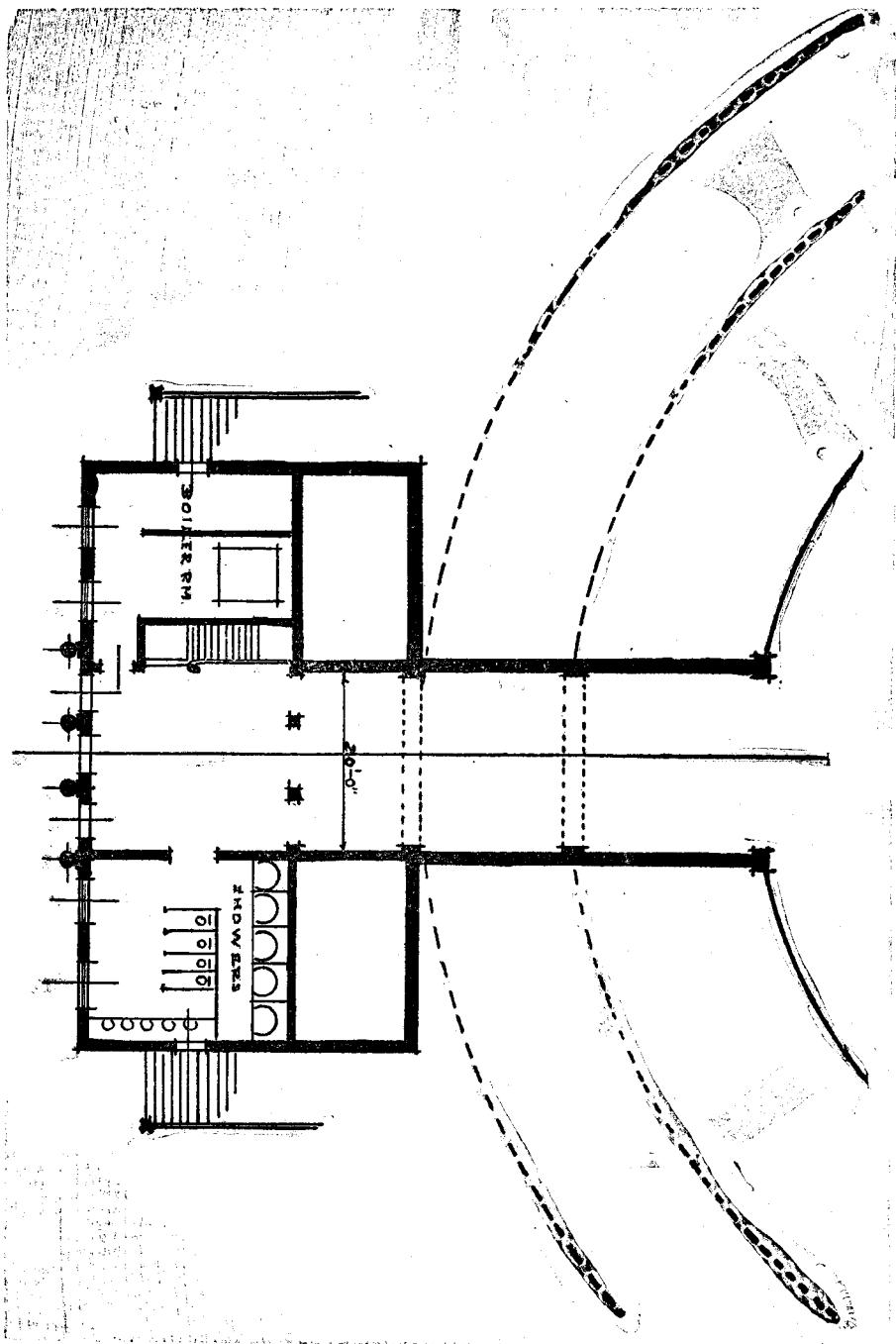
"The Park Department of Queens has prepared a map showing the area of land required for the parkway and the graves affected by the improvement."

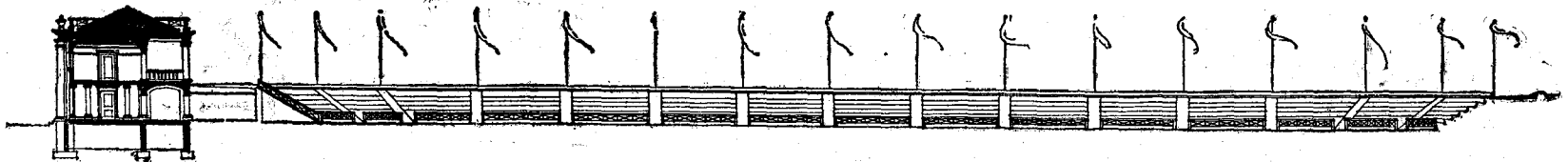
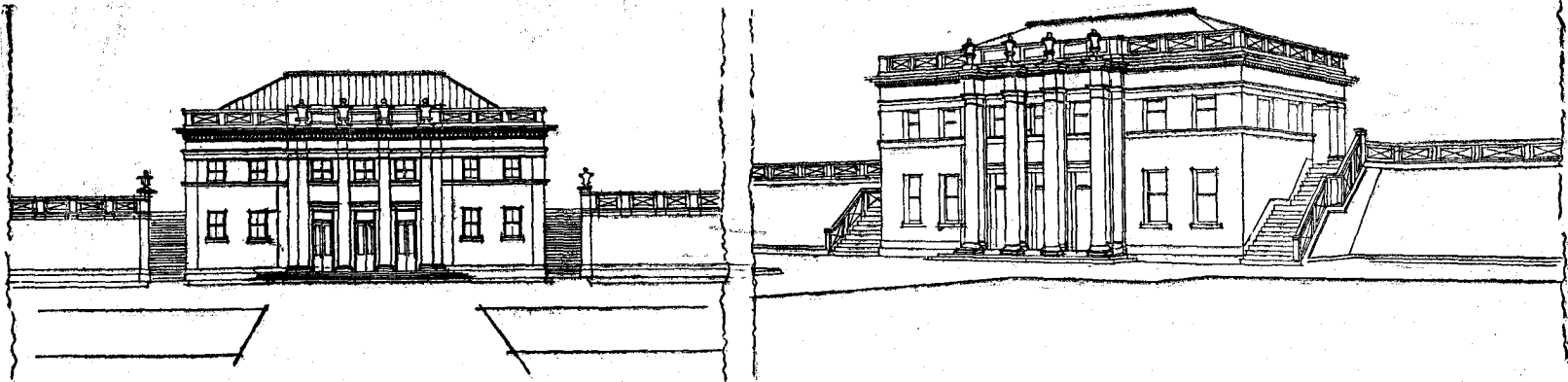
THE NEED OF A STADIUM.

The ever-increasing interest of the public in athletic competitions and field sports emphasizes the necessity for providing for the future in this respect.

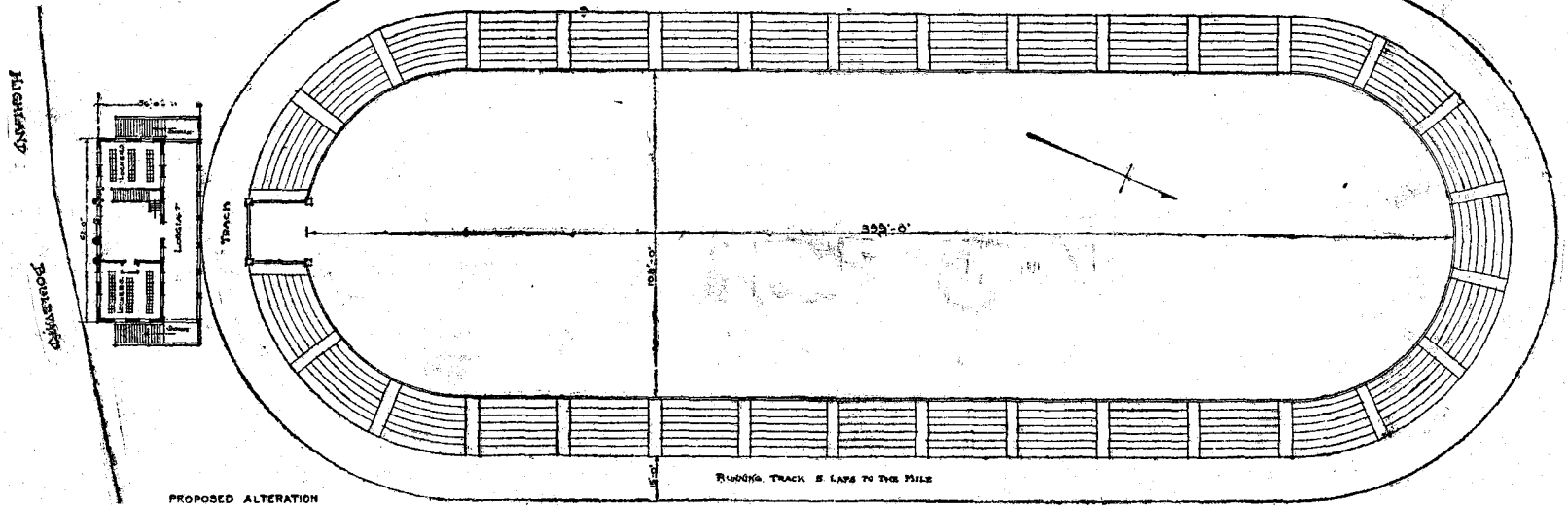
Only recently a proposition in Manhattan has brought such matters prominently before the public.

It would seem from the experience of the past that if provisions for a stadium were made within the next few years in each Borough it would be a matter of comparatively little expense; yet if left to the time in the future when public demand cannot be overlooked it will involve millions.





SECTION



PROPOSED ALTERATION
OF ABANDONED RESERVOIR IN
HIGHLAND PARK, RIDGEWOOD, Boro Q
FOR USE AS A
STADIUM AND LOCKER BLD'G

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
STADIUM IN HIGHLAND PARK
FRANK J. HELLMAN - ARCHITECT
60 ADAMS ST. BROOKLYN, N.Y.
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

City of New York
BOROUGH OF QUEENS
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
WALTER G. ELLIOT,
Commissioner

APR 4, 1913

There are places in Queens where a stadium could be constructed in excavation instead of being built above ground and thereby save greatly the cost of construction.

At the present moment Queens appears to be particularly fortunate in having inherited in the region of Highland Park, on the Brooklyn border of the borough, an abandoned reservoir which the Department intends to convert, at no great expense, into a small but very attractive stadium.

APPROPRIATE PLACES FOR PUBLIC MONUMENTS.

Experience in the past, in Manhattan and elsewhere, having proved that there are few places within the area of our larger and smaller parks where monuments to public characters are appropriate, it would appear desirable that some systematic plan be devised by which street intersections and such other small areas as from time to time come within the jurisdiction of this Department should be made available for the erection of such monuments, applications for which are ever increasing, and your Commissioner bearing this in mind is preparing a comprehensive plan indicating such locations for the purpose as would be desirable.

It would seem particularly appropriate that one or two of the long parkways contemplated for Queens should provide for a series of such monuments in addition to the individual or historic monuments appropriate for street intersections and the Commissioner hopes, in the near future, that, in conjunction with the Art Commission, at least one extensive parkway can be selected and an appropriate design therefor drawn up which will in time make such a parkway a memorial or historic parkway.

PARK POLICE.

The policing of the parks, as has been indicated elsewhere in this report, is one of so serious an import that it should not be passed over lightly.

After careful discussion of the matter in the Park Board and with the Parks Advisory Committee your Commissioner requested in his budget for 1913 that a provision be made for the appointment of ten park guards, as a regular part of the Tax Levy Force to be under the sole jurisdiction of the Commissioner and for whom it was intended to secure the proper power of arrest as is done in such parks as the Druid Hill Park in Baltimore and parks of similar extent and character in other large cities. A spirit of economy or lack of opportunity to investigate the necessity therefore led the Budget Committee to eliminate said item from the Budget. Thus the parks of Queens, notably Forest, Highland and Kissena, are left for another year with the absolutely insufficient protection accorded by the Police Department, through no fault of theirs, but which is due to lack of men enough to assign thereto.

Almost immediately after the approval of the budget the inevitable resulted—the murder of an Italian citizen in one of the most public places in Forest Park, the evidences showing a violent and prolonged struggle before the victim was killed with no less than forty-three stab wounds in his body.

It is a well-known fact that the policing of the park is far less satisfactory and far less efficient under the present system than with the old system of independent park police.

The character of work to be done is radically different from that of the regular policeman.

This work can be most economically done by men who can be doing at the same time other work which the police could not be called upon to do and which is of a maintenance character.

A very desirable alternative plan, approved by the entire Park Board, was sug-

gested by the following bill fathered by the Crotona Park Association and later introduced by Senator Griffin, but failed to become a law:

STATE OF NEW YORK.

3d Rdg. 623.

No. 1964.

Int. 1567.

IN SENATE,

April 1, 1913.

Introduced by Mr. GRIFFIN—read twice, and by unanimous consent the rule was suspended and said bill ordered to a third reading and printed, and referred to the Committee on Affairs of Cities, retaining place in the order of third reading.

AN ACT

TO AMEND THE GREATER NEW YORK CHARTER BY ESTABLISHING A PARK POLICE FORCE.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Greater New York charter, as reenacted by chapter four hundred and sixty-six of the laws of nineteen hundred and one, is hereby amended by inserting therein a new section, to be section two hundred and ten-a, to read as follows:

SEC. 210-a. The park board shall and hereby is directed, having first obtained authority from the board of estimate and apportionment, to appoint a force to be known as the park police, consisting of as many men and officers as the commissioners of parks of the said city may from time to time deem necessary to preserve order and to protect the property in the public parks of the city of New York, squares and places, and which force shall be under the exclusive control and direction of the said park board. The said board shall have power in its discretion on conviction by said board or by any court or officer of competent jurisdiction, of a member or officer of the force known as the park police, of any legal or criminal offense, or neglect of duty, violation of rules, or neglect or disobedience of orders, or absence without leave, or any conduct injurious to the public peace or welfare, or immoral or improper conduct or any breach of discipline, to punish the offending party by reprimand, or forfeiting and withholding pay for a specified time, suspension without any pay during such suspension, or by dismissal from the force; but no more than thirty days' pay or salary shall be forfeited or deducted for any offense. The board is also authorized and empowered, in its discretion, to deduct and withhold pay or compensation from any member or members of the park police force for or on account of absence for any cause without leave, lost or sick time, sickness or other disability, physical or mental; provided, however, that the pay, salary or compensation so deducted and withheld shall not, except in the case of absence without leave exceed one-half thereof; and said board is authorized and empowered from time to time to make and prescribe rules and regulations to carry into effect and enforce the provision of this section. No member of the park police force under the penalty of forfeiting the salary or pay which may be due him, shall withdraw or resign except by permission of the commissioners of parks. Absence without leave of any member of the park police force for five consecutive days shall be deemed and held to be a resignation and a member so absent shall at the expiration of said period, cease to be a member of said park police

force, and be dismissed therefrom without notice. No leave of absence, exceeding twenty days in any one year, shall be granted or allowed to any member of the park police force except upon condition that such member shall waive and release not less than one-half of all salary, pay or compensation and claim thereto, or any part thereof, during such absence. Each member of said force shall, by virtue of his appointment, be invested with the same powers within the limits of said public parks, squares and places and that portion of the streets and avenues bounding the same as lie adjacent thereto as if he had been appointed to a similar rank in the force of the police department of the city, and shall take an oath to be prescribed by said board and may be allowed compensation by said board subject to the approval of the board of estimate and apportionment equal to that allowed to members of the police force of similar rank and grade. The said board shall have power to establish ranks and grades in said park police force and in accordance with civil service rules to promote the members of said force from a lower to a higher rank, or to reduce such members from a higher to a lower rank.

The board of estimate and apportionment and the board of aldermen as provided for under the charter of the city of New York at present shall make each year suitable appropriation for the salaries and maintenance of the said park police force and for its equipment as may be recommended to the board of estimate and apportionment and the board of aldermen by said park board. The park police shall be uniformed and the same general regulations shall apply as to the payment for uniforms as now exist in the police department except that the park board shall have the exclusive right to select the color and material of the uniforms to be worn. It shall be the duty of the park board to distribute the police force hereby provided throughout the parks of the city of New York so that adequate protection may be given to the public and the property of the city within said parks.

SEC. 2. This act shall go into effect on the first day of January, nineteen hundred and fourteen, and the board of estimate and apportionment shall in its discretion make suitable appropriations for carrying out its provisions in the budget for nineteen hundred and fourteen.

PRIVATELY OWNED INDENTATIONS IN PARK BOUNDARIES.

In the case of two or three of the parks now owned by the City, notably Forest and Upland Parks, the purchase or cession of the original property has left small indentations in private hands which are a menace to the present value or permanent beauty of the park. Your Commissioner has considered the gravest of these which should be secured immediately at the comparatively small expense of a few thousand dollars and made them the subject of a special request for consideration by the Finance Department, but each one of them has been rejected on the plea that there are no funds therefor. The most important of them is the property of the so-called Eldorado Hotel and summer garden, located at the corner of Woodhaven and Myrtle avenues and Forest Park, where a doubtful patronage and the maximum narrowing of the park area involved a series of buildings which could be made available for park uses and which are located on twenty-two full sized lots. This property was offered to both private parties and the Department for a sum not to exceed \$30,000. It should not be tolerated for a moment as an encroachment upon the park area. This request was submitted and rejected.

A liberal offer by the Sage Foundation Homes Company of an indentation close by the administration headquarters of this department met a similar fate, and another triangular piece of small dimensions at the corner of Union Turnpike and Metropolitan avenue, which is destined to be a very important highway, was strongly recommended

for immediate purchase but also met with denial, since which time a road house and undesirable saloon has been constructed thereon at the cost of many thousand dollars. I afterward learned that this had been the subject of similar recommendations by former commissioners but failed of approval owing to personal and political factional difficulties. A further very desirable area which could be immediately acquired and the value of which is very rapidly increasing is a small corner of $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent which should be acquired to complete the natural boundaries of the Upland Park in Jamaica. This park was given, as heretofore stated, by citizens of Queens and has cost the City an insignificant sum for maintenance up to date. It is one of the most naturally beautiful spots in the Borough.

Both the citizens in the neighborhood and civic bodies, as well as your Commissioner, have recommended and urged that the City buy these $3\frac{1}{2}$ additional acres for the purpose outlined and for the additional reason that it will thereby acquire another acre of land by gift from Mr. Robert W. Higbie. This matter is now before the Board of Estimate.

In the several cases outlined above the failure of the City to buy the property, which in the end will certainly be required, will ultimately involve it to an amount five to ten times the present price and hold the city authorities up to public criticism, accusation and scandal.

It has become evident that the rolling stock and live stock used in the daily maintenance and construction work of the parks should be properly housed and protected from the inclemencies of the weather. Furthermore, it is not practical or economical for all such buildings to be in one location, for the reason that the parks are widely scattered over an immense territory but the main buildings, work shops and storehouses should unquestionably be placed in Forest Park in as concentrated and central a position as possible on a general plan to be approved by the Commissioner and the Art Commission. Steps looking toward this end were taken and plans submitted and approved by the Art Commission therefor, beginning with plans for the most needed, viz., the wagon-sheds, but the matter has been held up in the Board of Estimate on a report from the Department of Finance, which claims that the funds at the disposal of the Department were not applicable to even the preliminary work therefor.

Such report suggested that corporate stock should be specially voted for such purpose and the Commissioner has made such request for consideration by the Board of Estimate. So absurd are the present conditions that, for instance, valuable office desks, arriving after the building in Forest Park, for which they were intended, had closed, had to be left on the wagon in the open with no more protection against the inclemencies of the weather than a piece of tarpaulin.

It might be interesting to note in this connection that there are no safe or appropriate buildings or places within anything like reasonable reach of two or three of these parks. I cannot too strongly emphasize the necessity for building such service buildings as are required on a general plan and of such materials as will make them both permanent and sufficiently artistic to be appropriate, and not an eye-sore to a finished park.

The materials therefor should be as inexpensive as possible, but a perishable or inartistic design or construction should not be tolerated.

LACK OF SHELTERS IN ALL PARKS.

At the present time the parks in Queens are absolutely without shelters of any kind in case of storm or stress. The same is true with regard to refreshment facilities. Some inexpensive but permanent shelters should be supplied immediately in Kissena Lake, Highland, Forest and Rainey Parks.

The necessity for these is perfectly obvious to anybody who visits the parks even for a moment.

FENCES.

It is impossible properly to care for any park under my jurisdiction unless provided with a proper fence. There is lacking of the circumferential iron fencing in Forest Park no less than 35,440 feet.

The resulting depredations are becoming more serious every day. Money should be provided to continue the present iron fence around the unfenced portion at the earliest possible date, the cost of which is estimated at thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000).

The new park at Leavitt street and Myrtle avenue, in Flushing, should be supplied with a permanent iron fence, which will be needed even as early as the coming summer before the improvement of the park has gone beyond the stage of draining and filling, as this is particularly a neighborhood park near the most built-up portion of Flushing and within two blocks of its main business center. The necessity for a fence in this particular instance is greater than usual if any sort of care is to be given to its improvement and preservation.

Upland Park in Jamaica has at present no boundary fence at all, even on the highway known as Highland avenue, upon which it fronts. As a result it has been encroached upon both by development companies to the north and private interests on each side. The park is in a reasonably developed condition already and needs protection. It involves 2,355 feet of iron fencing, the estimated cost of which is forty-seven hundred and ten dollars.

Linden Park, Corona, which has undergone extensive regrading and improvement, will, even before this report is in print, require that the present antiquated and decaying fence, no longer appropriate for any purpose, be replaced with a proper iron fence to protect it from the school children on the one side and careless citizens on the other three sides. The park is not only one of unusual attractiveness, as the accompanying photographs will show, but, also, it is of a character quite similar to that of Kings Park, Jamaica, the fencing of which has proved to be one of the most timely acts of the past administration. As the home of the Borough President as well as a large city school fronts upon this park it is entitled to more than careless consideration. It involves 1,470 feet of iron fencing, which will cost in the neighborhood of twenty-nine hundred and forty dollars.

The only other park needing immediate attention in this respect is Rainey Park, in Long Island City, where public clamor has for some time been loud.

Before this report is in print the expensive sea wall and the necessary grading of the park surface will be completed and it would be the height of folly to attempt to plant or maintain it in the absence of such fencing. It will require an appropriation of \$4,688 to provide for an iron picket fencing of 2,038 feet.

It should not be necessary to state here that it is the worst possible business policy to leave unfenced for another year the city properties above named.

A suit against the City for the recovery of property amounting to some fifteen acres in one of the most valuable portions of Forest Park has resulted from the failure to fence it. The Corporation Counsel's office intimated to the Department that the lack of fencing at that point rendered the suit more difficult to defend in the legal proceedings under way.

TEMPORARY FENCING FOR FOREST PARK.

A request was made to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to permit the purchase out of the available corporate stock issue for the improvement of Forest

Park of enough chestnut railroad ties (now being made by a contractor out of the diseased chestnut trees he is felling in the park) to construct the needed fences. It proved to be a fact that heavy railroad ties cost but 45c. to 55c. each in the open market, while very much lighter 4" x 4" "fence posts" cost no less and had no such lasting qualities.

THE FOLLOWING EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND APPORTIONMENT EXPLAINS ITSELF.

"The Secretary presented the following communication from the Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Queens, requesting approval of the form of contract, specifications and estimate of cost (\$2,600) for furnishing and delivering chestnut posts for use in Forest Park, together with a report of the Comptroller recommending that said request be disapproved, for the reason that the Department has sufficient material in its possession from which suitable fence posts can be made; also an additional communication from the Commissioner of Parks on the subject:

The City of New York, Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, October 23, 1912.

"To the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, City of New York:

"Gentlemen:—Herewith I beg to forward for the approval of your Honorable Board, as required, form of proposed contract and specifications for furnishing and delivering chestnut posts for use in Forest Park in the Borough of Queens.

"The material embraced within this contract is estimated to cost \$2,600, and will be chargeable against the fund provided by corporate stock issue designated C.D.P.-242B 'Improvement of Forest Park.'

"Respectfully,

"W. G. ELIOT, *Commissioner of Parks,*
"Borough of Queens."

"Department of Finance, City of New York, Bureau of Municipal Investigation and Statistics, December 27, 1912.

To the Board of Estimate and Apportionment:

Gentlemen:—On October 23, 1912, the Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Queens, requested approval of the form of contract, specifications and estimate of cost in the sum of \$2,600, for furnishing and delivering chestnut posts for use in Forest Park, Borough of Queens. In connection therewith I report as follows:

"In March, 1912, the Commissioner entered into a contract with the Viaduct Contracting Company for the removal of dead and diseased timber, standing or down, which might be marked for cutting by the Forester of the Park Department, within Forest Park; the contractor to pay the sum of \$100 and give the Queens Park Department 20 per cent. of all timber cut, which timber was to be of every diameter cut.

"It is estimated that the contractor cut and removed 9,000 dead or diseased chestnut trees. The contracting company took 80 per cent. for its part, leaving 1,800 as the Department's share. An examination of the trees allotted to the Department shows sufficient material from which fence posts can be made at very little cost.

"The chestnut posts proposed to be purchased are about 8 inches wide, 6 inches thick and 8½ feet long, and have been dressed for railroad ties. If timber of these dimensions were used for fence posts there would be a waste of one-third of the

material. The use of railroad ties for fencing in parks has not been adopted by any of the other Park Commissioners.

"If posts of the size mentioned are required on the ground of durability, it would be more economical to have posts constructed of concrete.

"In view of the fact that the Department has sufficient material in its possession from which suitable fence posts can be made, I recommend that the request for approval of the plans and specifications for the fence posts be not approved.

"Respectfully,

"WM. A. PRENDERGAST, *Comptroller.*"

"The City of New York, Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, January 8, 1913.

"To the Honorable, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, 277 Broadway, New York City:

Gentlemen:—Referring to the report of the Comptroller recommending the disapproval of the form of contract, specifications and estimated cost for furnishing and delivering chestnut posts for use in Forest Park for the reason that this department has sufficient material in its possession from which suitable fence posts can be made (No. 56 on the Calendar), I beg to say that it is technically true that this Department has some material in its possession from which suitable fence posts can be made, but to use this material for that purpose would be a piece of gross extravagance of which I am unwilling to be guilty.

"The fact is that the same amount of lumber which will have a market value of \$1.20 in the form of fence posts will have a market value of \$3.45 if cut into two-inch plank, for which this Department has a still more imperative need.

"Respectfully,

"WALTER G. ELIOT, *Commissioner of Parks,*
Borough of Queens.

"The following resolution was offered:

"Resolved, That the Board of Estimate and Apportionment hereby disapproves of the request of the Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Queens, as set forth in a communication dated October 23, 1912, for the approval of the form of proposed contract, specifications and estimate of cost (\$2,600) for furnishing and delivering chestnut posts for use in Forest Park, Borough of Queens.

"Which was adopted by the following vote:

"Affirmative—The Mayor, the Comptroller and the Presidents of the Boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, The Bronx, Queens and Richmond—13.

"The Secretary was directed to transmit a copy of the report of the Comptroller to the Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Queens."—*City Record*, January 22d, 1913.

The above statements made by the Honorable Comptroller are so misleading and untrue as to be due to either willful or gross ignorance.

The mistaken assumption that fence posts 6 x 8 inches in cross-section, would involve a waste of one-third of the material assumes that a fence post 5 x 6 inches in section and standing above the ground 5½ feet would, under the conditions of dampness and shade, alternate wetting and drying, which exist around the Forest Park boundaries now unfenced, withstand rotting at the ground surface for any

length of time when subject to the strain of men and boys climbing over a 5½-foot or 6-foot wire fence, where the posts are set 8 feet apart, speaks for itself.

Rotting at the ground under such conditions need be but slightly advanced before the strain of a climber over the upper strands of wire fencing will readily overturn or destroy the posts.

The necessity for the use of such heavy posts as 6 x 8 inches is due to the desirability that such a fence should last at least ten years, owing to the lack of money in the City treasury for the completion of the present permanent iron fences, a distance of 35,000 feet, and at a cost of at least thirty thousand dollars.

Furthermore, chestnut posts 5 x 6 inches command a price in the market of 70 cents each and have to be made to order. The conditions of the market are such that there seems to be a special price, much under the ordinary cost of lumber, at which railroad ties can be bought, and the railroad tie in this case happened to be more available, at a price approximating 45 to 55 cents each, with every expectation of outlasting by more than four times a 5 x 6 fence post, while, at the same time, it makes a much more appropriate and ornamental bounding fence for a city park.

Again, at the above price they could be bought successfully by competition from either the contractor cutting such ties on the premises (for sale to the Long Island and other railroads), or they could be bought elsewhere and delivered by the railroad at the very ground where they were to be used. Proper reinforced concrete posts cost \$2.00 each.

There is no doubt that it was a grave mistake that this plan was not followed out. A similar opportunity is not likely to recur. All available chestnut ties on Long Island are practically purchased or contracted for by the Pennsylvania Railroad. The park remains unfenced, and the result is endless destruction by marauding, impossible to prevent without fencing, and, in the present condition of the city finances and the temper of the Board of Estimate, there is little likelihood that the permanent fence will be constructed for many years.

In this connection I may say that there seems to be a growing tendency on the part of subordinates in the Finance Department, utterly unfitted by experience or education, to dictate to department heads as to the proper courses to pursue and the proper materials to be used, when the officials and experts of such departments are far better and more competent to decide. Reports are usually made or submitted to the Board of Estimate in a way that makes it impossible for a Commissioner to answer them or to show the fallacies therein, before the matters to which they pertain are settled by a vote of the Board. It is an impertinent assumption of authority by the Finance Department which was never contemplated by the Charter and for which there is no authority therein. One of the most serious results thereof is the delay and expense in the execution of work, caused by the necessity for submitting such matters at all to the Comptroller.

BUREAU OF PARK AND CITY TREES.

The work done by Mr. James F. Burns, Arboriculturist of the Department, has given the greatest satisfaction to Queens citizens, due to his care and treatment of the street trees. The work attendant upon the inspection and supervision of park trees has been so extensive and exacting that I feel able to say that the city is to be congratulated on the amount of work done and the skill attained with the expenditure of so comparatively small a sum devoted to the work in this department. It would be well worth the City's while to double this force for the purpose of protecting the large area through Queens, which such a course could protect, before the march of so-called improvement has led its citizens to destroy large numbers of trees of the valuable growths and varieties for which the Borough is celebrated. A synopsis of the work done by the present force is subjoined.

*Work Performed by Arboricultural Bureau, Department of Parks, Borough of Queens,
During the Year 1912.*

Number.

- 9,149 Trees trimmed and pruned.
- 5,900 Trees sprayed for insect pests, fungi, etc.
- 175 Cavities in trees filled and cemented to prolong their lives.
- 650 Dead or dangerous trees removed to protect life and limb.
- 1,025 Written requests received from residents and civic associations to inspect trees requiring attention.
- 1,175 Applications from telephone and electric light companies to set poles and string wires, that required inspections, reports and supervision.

Nursery Trees Cared for.

- 46,895 Trees cared for and cultivated at Sheep-Fold.
- 1,900 Trees cared for and cultivated at Greenhouse.
- 6,000 Trees trimmed in nursery at Sheep-Fold.

Parks and Boulevards.

- 2,500 Trees trimmed at Forest, Kissena, Kings, College Point, Flushing, Highland and Upland Parks.
- 150 Trees sprayed in parks for insect pests.
- 920 Trees in parks removed.
- 500 Shrubs in parks trimmed.
- 8,400 Pounds of arsenate of lead, in the form of fifteen per cent. paste, used for spraying trees.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

On the establishment of the Queens Park Department and appointment of its first Commissioner, July 24th, 1911, money for improvement was available under the following corporate stock accounts:

C.D.P. 220A	Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, erection of a comfort station, Kings Park.....	\$10,000.00
C.D.P. 239	Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, improvement of Rainey Park.....	18,000.00
C.D.P. 242C	Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, improvement of Kings Park.....	3,000.00
C.D.P. 242D	Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, improvement of Linden Park.....	12,800.00
C.D.P. 242B	Department of Parks, Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, improvements in Forest Park, authorized, \$100,000.00.....	100,000.00
Expended.....		\$2,617.14

Encumbrances:

Contract.....	6,237.00
Open Market Order.....	714.93 9,569.07

Leaving April 1, 1912, balance..... \$90,430.93

For park administration and maintenance the regular budget appropriated for the year 1912, \$165,120.30.

Of this sum the requirements of the civil service and other unavoidable delays caused a loss to the Department of \$12,600, which had to be returned Dec. 31st, 1912, unexpended to the City treasury.

In addition to the regular budget allowance, however, special revenue bonds were issued for the following amounts:

For Superintendent's automobile runabout.....	\$ 950.00	
For Maintenance labor from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, R.D.P. 304, wages temporary employees.....	3,600.00	
		<hr/>
Making an available total, for all purposes.....	\$313,470.30	

As Queens parks had never been under separate administration and accounting the budget allowances for administration, supplies and finances were, of necessity, at first a matter of guesswork and uncertainty. The appropriations by the Budget Committee were, therefore, fixed as follows:

PERSONAL SERVICE.

Administration—Executive Salaries, Regular Employees:

Secretary to the Commissioner.....	\$2,500.00	
Assistant Superintendent.....	2,400.00	
Chief Clerk.....	2,100.00	
Forester.....	1,500.00	
Arboriculturist.....	1,500.00	
Clerk.....	1,500.00	
Clerk.....	600.00	
Clerk.....	300.00	
Stenographer.....	1,200.00	
Stenographer to Commissioner.....	1,050.00	
Messenger.....	1,050.00	\$15,700.00

Engineering—Salaries, Regular Employees Tax Levy and Corporate Stock Force:

Principal Assistant Engineer.....	\$4,000.00	
Assistant Engineer.....	2,400.00	
Clerk.....	900.00	
Assistant Engineer.....	3,500.00	
Transitman.....	1,800.00	
Transitman.....	1,500.00	
Draftsman.....	1,650.00	
Draftsman.....	1,500.00	
Rodman.....	1,050.00	
Rodman.....	900.00	
Axeman.....	900.00	
Inspector (General).....	1,800.00	

Schedule total.....	\$21,900.00	
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Tax Levy part allowance.....	\$4,000.00	4,000.00
Corporate Stock part allowance.....	17,900.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$21,900.00	

Maintenance—Parks and Boulevards, Salaries, Regular Employees:

Superintendent of Supplies and Repairs.....	\$1,800.00	
Head Gardener.....	1,500.00	
Foreman, three at \$1,200.....	3,600.00	
Gardener, two at \$1,200.....	2,400.00	
Gardener, thirteen at \$900.....	11,700.00	
Automobile Engineman.....	1,200.00	22,200.00

Wages, Regular Employees:

Carpenter, two at \$5 per day (279 days).....	\$2,790.00	
Plumber, one at \$5.50 per day (279 days).....	1,534.50	
Painter, two at \$4 per day (279 days).....	2,232.00	
Blacksmith, one, at \$4.50 per day (279 days).....	1,255.50	
Blacksmith's Helper, one at \$3.50 per day (279 days).....	976.50	
Stationery Engineer, two at \$4.50 per day (366 days).....	3,294.00	
Attendant (female), three at \$2 per day (366 days).....	2,196.00	14,278.50

Wages, Temporary Employees:

Pruner and Climber at \$2.50 per day (3,500 days).....	\$8,750.00	
Engineer at \$4.50 per day (600 days).....	2,700.00	
Driver at \$2.50 per day (1,080 days).....	2,700.00	
Laborer, at \$2.50 per day (8,000 days).....	20,000.00	
Playground Attendant, at \$3 per day (366 days).....	1,098.00	
Playground Attendant, at \$2 per day (366 days).....	732.00	35,980.00

Trees in City Streets—Salaries, Regular Employees:

Foremen, two at \$1,200.....	2,400.00
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Wages, Temporary Employees:

Pruner and Climber at \$2.50 per day (2,580 days).....	6,450.00
	\$101,008.50

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS.

Administration.....	\$5,200.00
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Maintenance:

Parks and Boulevards.....	\$18,757.50	
Trees in City Streets.....	1,500.00	20,257.50
		\$25,457.50

Repairs and Replacements by Contract or Open Order—Maintenance:

Parks and Boulevards.....	2,000.00
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Housing, Storage and Repairs of Apparatus, Machines, Harness and Vehicles, except automobiles—Maintenance:

Parks and Boulevards.....	350.00
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Maintenance, Repairs and Storage of Automobile:

Administration.....	500.00
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Vehicular Transportation, Horses and Vehicles with Drivers—Maintenance:

Parks and Boulevards:

Driver, with horse and vehicle, at \$3 per day (900 days).....	\$2,700.00		
Driver, with team and vehicle, at \$5 per day (1,500 days).....	\$7,500.00	\$10,200.00	

Trees in City Streets:

Driver, with horse and vehicle, at \$3 per day (250 days).....	750.00		
Driver, with team and vehicle, at \$5 per day (450 days).....	2,250.00	3,000.00	13,200.00

Shoeing and Boarding Horses, including veterinary service.—Maintenance:

Parks and Boulevards, fuel.....	\$150.00		
Parks and Boulevards, forage.....	1,950.00		
Parks and Boulevards, special contract obligations.....	524.30		
Parks and Boulevards, music.....	1,500.00		
Telephone service, Administration.....	525.00		
Contingencies, Administration.....	1,000.00		

Purchase and Original Equipment of Apparatus, Machines, Harness and Vehicles, except automobiles—Maintenance:

Parks and Boulevards.....	\$8,855.00		
Trees in City Streets.....	3,800.00	12,655.00	

Purchase of Furniture and Fittings—Administration.....	1,000.00		
Purchase and Original Equipment of Automobiles—Administration.....	2,250.00		

Purchase of Horses—Maintenance:

Parks and Boulevards.....	1,050.00		
			\$165,120.30

Results proved that modifications were imperative and amendments were authorized until, on December 26th, 1912, the budget had assumed the following form:

PERSONAL SERVICE.

Administration—Executive—1097—Salaries, Regular Employees:

Secretary to Commissioner.....	\$2,500.00		
Superintendent.....	4,000.00		
Assistant Superintendent.....	2,400.00		
Bookkeeper.....	1,650.00		
Arboriculturist.....	1,500.00		
Clerk.....	300.00		
Stenographer.....	1,200.00		
Stenographer to Commissioner.....	1,050.00		
Messenger.....	1,050.00		
			\$15,700.00

Engineering—1098—Salaries, Regular Employees, Tax Levy and Corporate Stock Force:

Principal Assistant Engineer.....	\$4,000.00
Assistant Engineer.....	2,250.00
Clerk.....	1,050.00
Tax Levy \$4,000 Assistant Engineer.....	3,539.00
Corp. Stk. 17,900 Transitman.....	1,850.00
————— Transitman.....	1,500.00
\$21,900	
Draftsman.....	1,650.00
Draftsman.....	1,650.00
Rodman.....	1,050.00
Inspector (General).....	1,800.00
Forester.....	1,650.00
	\$21,900.00

Maintenance—Parks and Boulevards—1099—Salaries, Regular Employees:

Superintendent of Supplies and Repairs.....	\$1,800.00
Head Gardener.....	1,500.00
Foremen, three at \$1,200.....	3,600.00
Gardener, two at \$1,200.....	2,400.00
Gardener, thirteen at \$900.....	11,700.00
Automobile Engineman.....	1,200.00
	\$22,200.00

1100—Wages, Regular Employees:

Carpenter, two at \$5 per day (279 days).....	\$2,790.00
Plumber, one at \$5.50 per day (279 days).....	1,534.50
Painter, two at \$4 per day (279 days).....	2,232.00
Blacksmith, one at \$4.50 per day (279 days).....	1,255.50
Blacksmith's Helper, one at \$3.50 per day (279 days).....	976.50
Stationery Engineer, two at \$4.50 per day (366 days).....	3,294.00
Attendant (female), three at \$2 per day (366 days).....	2,196.00
	\$14,278.50

1101—Wages, Temporary Employees:

Pruner and Climber, at \$2.50 per day (3,500 days).....	\$8,750.00
Engineer, at \$4.50 per day (600 days).....	2,700.00
Driver, at \$2.50 per day (1,080 days).....	2,700.00
Laborer, at \$2.50 per day (8,000 days).....	20,000.00
Playground Attendant, at \$3 per day (366 days).....	1,098.00
Playground Attendant, at \$2 per day (366 days).....	732.00
	\$35,980.00

Trees in City Streets—1102—Salaries, Regular Employees:

Foremen, two at \$1,200.....	\$2,400.00
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1103—Wages, Temporary Employees:

Pruner and Climber, at \$2.50 per day (2,580 days).....	6,450.00
	\$101,008.50

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS.

1104—Administration.....		\$3,200.00
Maintenance:		
1105—Parks and Boulevards.....	18,757.50	
1106—Trees in City Streets.....	1,500.00	
	<u>\$25,457.50</u>	
Repairs and Replacements by Contract or Open Order—Maintenance:		
1107—Parks and Boulevards.....	\$2,000.00	
Housing, Storage and Repairs of Apparatus, Machines, Harness and Vehicles, except automobiles.—Maintenance:		
1108—Parks and Boulevards.....	350.00	
Maintenance, Repairs and Storage of Automobiles:		
1109—Administration.....	900.00	
Vehicular Transportation:		
1110—Horses and Vehicles with Drivers—Maintenance: Parks and Boulevards:		
Driver, with horse and vehicle, at \$3 per day (900 days).	\$2,700.00	
Driver, with team and vehicle, at \$5 per day (1,500 days).....	7,500.00	10,200.00
1111—Trees in City Streets:		
Driver, with horse and vehicle, at \$3 per day (250 days).	\$750.00	
Driver, with team and vehicle, at \$5 per day (450 days).	2,250.00	3,000.00
	<u>\$13,200.00</u>	
Shoeing and Boarding Horses, including veterinary service.—Maintenance:		
1112—Parks and Boulevards.....	\$300.00	
Fuel—Maintenance:		
1113—Parks and Boulevards.....	2,450.00	
Forage—Maintenance:		
1114—Parks and Boulevards.....	1,424.30	
Special Contract Obligations.—Administration:		
1115—Parks and Boulevards, music.....	1,500.00	
1116—Administration—Telephone service.....	525.00	
1117—Administration—Contingencies.....	2,000.00	
Purchase and Original Equipment of Apparatus, Machines, Harness and Ve- hicles, except automobiles.—Maintenance:		
1118—Parks and Boulevards.....	8,855.00	
1119—Trees in City Streets.....	2,350.00	
	<u>\$11,205.00</u>	
Purchase of Furniture and Fittings:		
1120—Administration.....	\$1,500.00	
Purchase and Original Equipment of Automobiles:		
1121—Administration.....	2,250.00	
Purchase of Horses.—Maintenance:		
1122—Parks and Boulevards.....	1,050.00	
Total.....	<u>\$165,120.30</u>	

FROM THE FOREGOING IT WILL BE SEEN THAT THE MAINTAINCE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT WAS CONDUCTED WITH THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL:

Office Staff.....	8
Engineering Staff.....	9
Outdoor Staff.....	12
Number of Gardeners..... (1 Head Gardener)	14
Number of Foremen of Laborers.....	3
Number of Pruners and Climbers.....	20
Number of Drivers.....	3
Number of Laborers.....	35
Number of Painters.....	2
Number of Carpenters.....	2
Number of Plumbers.....	1
Number of Blacksmiths.....	1
Number of Blacksmith's Helpers.....	1
	<hr/>
	111
Number of Wagons.....	5
Number of Horses.....	6

CORPORATE STOCK. *

C.D.P. 201	Additional Greenhouses, Forest Park.....	\$283.48
C.D.P. 218	Asphalt Tile Walks, Kings Park.....	573.88
C.D.P. 231	Construction of Water Pumping Plant.....	170.11
C.D.P. 239	Improvement of Rainey Park.....	109.34
C.D.P. 242B	Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, improvements in Forest Park.....	100,000.00
C.D.P. 401	Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, improvement of Kings Park.....	3,000.00
C.D.P. 401A	Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, erection of comfort station in Kings Park.....	10,000.00
C.D.P. 402	Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, improvement of Rainey Park.....	18,000.00
C.D.P. 403	Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, improvement of Linden Park.....	12,800.00
C.D.P. 404	Plans and specifications for permanent improvements.....	1,000.00

* Note: Transferred at my request from Brooklyn Department as unexpended balances to complete work unfinished.

REVENUE BOND FUND.

(Obtained in 1912 by Commissioner.)

C.D.P. 303	Purchase of Automobile.....	\$950.00
C.D.P. 304	Wages, Temporary Employees.....	3,600.00

After exhausting eligible lists of over one hundred and fifty first grade (\$300) clerks it was found that no person would accept that salary and serve in Queens on

account of the expenses incurred in going to and from their homes and the office. The position was, to our great inconvenience, never filled and was abolished in the budget requests for 1913.

Your Commissioner made application for an estimated amount of corporate stock required during the year 1912 for the Department of Parks, Borough of Queens, as follows:

SCHEDULE "A"—NEW AUTHORIZATIONS.

Title of improvement.	1912.
General Improvement of Triangle at Nott and Vernon Aves., Long Island City..	\$1,000
General Improvement of Triangle at 12th St. and Jackson Ave., Long Island City.	250
General Improvement of Triangle at 11th St. and Jackson Ave., Long Island City.	250
General Improvement of Triangle at 6th St. and Jackson Ave., Long Island City.	350
General Improvement of College Point Park, including erection of a store house..	5,800
General Improvement of Plaza, Main St., Flushing.....	1,000
Erection of a music stand in Kings Park, Jamaica.....	2,500
General Improvement of Highland Park, Jamaica, including the erection and equipment of a comfort station.....	16,450
General Improvement of Kissena Lake Park, including construction and equipment of lake building and comfort station.....	75,400
General Improvement of Rockaway Park, including construction of a board walk and the erection and equipment of a park building.....	80,000
General Improvement of New Rockaway Beach Park, including erection and equipment of a bath house and comfort station.....	75,000
General Improvement of Rainey Park, including erection and equipment of comfort station and music stand.....	15,000
Linden Park—Erection and equipment of a music stand and comfort station....	17,250

Details to Accompany Estimated Amount of Corporate Stock Required to be Authorized During 1912, Department of Parks, Borough of Queens.

SCHEDULE "A"—NEW AUTHORIZATIONS.

Title of improvement.

- No. 1. General Improvement of Triangle at Nott and Vernon Aves., Long Island City..... \$1,000
- This space recently enclosed with a temporary fence, needs a permanent fence of iron pickets to prevent trespass. It has been an eyesore for a considerable period and needs arrangements for light at night and the proper planning and treatment thereof to meet the needs of the neighborhood.
- No. 2. Triangle, Twelfth St. and Jackson Ave., Long Island City..... 250
- This Triangle directly faces the St. John's Hospital and the court house and requires iron picket fence, proper deep fertilization and planting. It is in full view of and is a corner stopping place for large numbers of people attending the court, the municipal building and the hospital, at a trolley stopping place, and is very conspicuous.
- No. 3. Improvement of Triangle at Eleventh St. and Jackson Ave., Long Island City..... 250

- No. 4. General Improvement of Triangle at Sixth St. and Jackson Ave., Long Island City..... 350
- Requires deep soiling, planting, painting of the present iron picket fence and providing of three lights. It is in full view of the Borough Hall and directly opposite the Queens Borough Public Library. Also a stopping place for passengers for the trolley.
- No. 5. General Improvement of College Point Park..... 5,800
- Practically the only open space or recreation ground in the whole of College Point. The necessary requirements of this park are a proper fence of iron pickets surrounding the whole park, with ornamental corner entrance thereto, the painting of said fence, the repairs and replacements of the water connections supplying the fountain and drinking fountain, erection of proper drinking fountain.
- Estimated cost of the above..... 3,500
- Planting trees..... 500
- Planting shrubs..... 300
- Erection of a modest park keeper's storehouse and temporary comfort station, estimated to cost..... 1,500
- No. 6. General Improvement of Plaza at Main St. and Broadway, Flushing, including general resodding where possible, planting and general improvement..... 1,000
- This is the central plaza of the old Village of Flushing and the most conspicuous feature of the entire village, facing the main business, residential and thoroughfare sections on the three sides. It has long been neglected. A much larger appropriation than this will undoubtedly be needed in the year 1913. No money of any sort has been expended thereon for a long period.
- No. 7. Erection of a modest music stand in Kings Park, Jamaica, so constructed as to be of a permanent character..... 2,500
- The people of Jamaica, of which this is a picturesque and well improved centre and most popular resort at all seasons of the year, are entitled to, and much need, a music stand at the present time in this park. Concerts are given here during the summer and it has been the habit to erect a temporary stand and remove the same at the end of the season, involving both expense each year and very serious damage to the highly improved lawns and shrubbery. The purpose is to erect such a stand as will be permanent.
- No. 8. General Improvement of Upland Park, Jamaica, including the erection and equipment of a comfort station..... 16,450
- This park is in a well built up section, being rapidly finished, and is surrounded by well developed and well improved streets. It is utterly without water facilities for the maintenance of the park, which will cost approximately..... 2,500
- A fence 1,970 feet, of painted iron pickets, is needed to protect it from devastation; cost..... 4,450

In the absence of walks, the turf and shrubbery is damaged and such walks are badly needed; estimated cost	1,500
Planting of shrubs and trees	1,000

From its particularly attractive location and surroundings it has been a resort for a large number of people in the summer time and is more and more patronized each year. A pond upon the property is utilized in winter as a skating pond and needs to be properly cleaned and protected from being a menace to health in summer time; in connection therewith a comfort station estimated to cost

7,000

which will also include proper store rooms for the workmen in the park, is greatly needed, there being no facilities whatever at the present time, either to protect the park keepers or add to the necessary comforts of the people who visit it.

No. 9. General Improvement of Kissena Lake Park, including construction and equipment of lake building and comfort station. Itemized as follows:

No provision of any consequence has been made for this park since its purchase, and portions of it are a breeding place for mosquitoes and pests. It is estimated that drains and general improvements of that nature will be required, amounting to

10,000

and roads and paths, of which there are scarcely any at the present time, amounting to

25,000

The improvement and creation of small lawns and the planting and sodding of extensive areas to the amount of

10,000

are badly needed.

An iron picket fence to prevent entrance at improper points and destructive trespassing is needed to prevent considerable destruction by theft. Fence and painting thereof estimated at

15,400

In addition to the above the lake is available for boating, canoeing, etc., for which facilities the public have made frequent demands upon this Department. During the summer time and in the winter a proper lake building for the convenience of skaters and the above-named sports is almost indispensable. No store house for the park keeper and his employees and gardeners, nor comfort station, has been provided but should be without further delay. Estimated cost

15,000

During the winter, the lake is used as a skating pond, patronized by an average of 1,500 to 2,000 people in a single day.

Total

\$75,400

No. 10. General Improvement of Rockaway Park, including construction of a proper boardwalk and the erection and equipment of a park building ...

\$80,000

Also the improvement of small street intersections. Itemized as follows:

Some of the streets of Rockaway Park are in the jurisdiction and charge of this Department and some of them need proper surfacing,

which comes within the agreement under which the park was turned over to the City.

Estimated cost of new boardwalks, foundations and planking	50,000
(Planking now badly rotted.)	
Building for park and storage purposes	10,000
Improvement of street surfaces, sodding, etc	20,000
Total	\$80,000

- No. 11. General Improvement of Te'awana Park, including erection and equipment of a bath house and comfort station \$75,000

This is the newly acquired park of 263 acres which is now nothing but a strip of sand extending from the bay to the sea and requires, with bath house and comfort station, estimated cost 60,000
and walks for approaches thereto (only those absolutely needed) 10,000
fencing and protection, pending more extensive improvements next year (only where absolutely needed), estimated cost 5,000

- No. 12. General Improvement of Rainey Park, including the erection and equipment of combined comfort station and music stand \$15,000

This has become, already in its rough state, the only resort for a very considerable number of people during a large part of the year, from a large section in Long Island City and Astoria, otherwise entirely unimproved with park privileges. This is in addition to work now going on heretofore authorized for the construction of the proper sea wall and paths and provides for a small part of the tree planting and sodding needed to make it properly available. Concerts are given here by this Department during the summer time and involve considerable expense for temporary music stands, which before the completion of this year will lead to large destruction of already planned improvements.

- No. 13. Linden Park, Corona, erection of a combined music stand and comfort station \$17,250

This park is the only recreation ground of a large built up section in the heart of Corona and is the playground for a large public school facing it on one side of the square. It is absolutely without store rooms for the keeper's outfit and lacks very necessary comfort facilities for numbers of people, amounting to thousands.

The above requests met the fate of all requests of all the City Departments in 1912 and nothing was voted, the new subways requiring most of the City's available funds.

Following a suggestion from the Comptroller's office, made later, the following outline of the *emergency needs* of the Department was transmitted.

September 6, 1912.

"THE HONORABLE, THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND APPORTIONMENT,
277 Broadway, New York City.

GENTLEMEN: In conformity to your resolution of Nov. 16th, 1911, as modified by resolution of December 1st, 1911, I submitted under date of Jan. 3rd, 1912, estimate of prospective requirements of Corporate Stock for this Department for the year beginning July 1st, 1912.

This estimate was corrected as to form under date of February 5th, 1912, at the request of the Comptroller and in a letter addressed to him.

It is understood that the Corporate Stock Budget Committee is not likely to prepare a Corporate Stock Budget for this year.

With respect to certain of the items included in my estimate as above, it is possible that action might be deferred by your honorable body until after January 1st, with no more serious result than that the public would be deprived for just so much longer time of a comprehensive and developed park system in the Borough of Queens.

There are, however certain items in the estimate which I made, as above, with respect to which the necessity is much more urgent and the consequences of delay on your part much more serious, and I, therefore, beg to renew my application so far as it relates to the several items hereinafter enumerated.

College Point Park

Fence and painting.....	\$3,500	
Park Keeper's Storehouse.....	1,500	\$5,000

Upland Park, Jamaica

Comfort Station.....	\$7,000	
1,970 ft. fence, at \$2.90.....	4,450	
Water System for park work.....	2,500	13,950

Kissena Lake Park

Lake Building, Comfort Station, and general improvements.....		15,000
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Rockaway Park

New boardwalk, foundation and planking.....	\$50,000	
Maintenance of streets.....	20,000	
Buildings for park and storage use.....	10,000	80,000

Telawana Park

Walks and drainage.....	\$10,000	
Fencing and water system.....	5,000	15,000

Linden Park, Corona

1,470 ft. fence and painting.....	\$3,350	
Music stand.....	2,500	
Cleaning pond and cementing shore.....	500	6,350

Total.....		\$135,300
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I shall be very glad to appear before the proper committee at such time as may suit its convenience with respect to these requests.

Respectfully,

WALTER G. ELIOT,
Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Queens.

It met the fate of its predecessor.

UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,

BOROUGH OF QUEENS.

WALTER G. ELIOT, *Commissioner.*

July 30, 1911.

With a Borough population of 284,041 by census of 1910 there were 11 parks, comprising 688.92 acres, or one (1) acre to each 412 of population.

The following figures were prepared by the Brooklyn Park Department:

THE PARK DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK.

Comparison of the various Boroughs.

Boroughs.	Total area of the Borough (acres).	Total Park Area (acres).	Percentage in parks.	No. of parks.	Approximate per capita investment in parks (dollars).
Manhattan and Richmond...	50,538	1,509.1	10.5	64	148.30
Bronx.....	26,017	3,943.0	15.2	53	79.00
Brooklyn.....	49,680	1,078.7	2.4	40	30.76
Queens.....	81,720	688.92	.84	11	8.80
(or 127.9 sq. miles)					

Approximate Value of Parks (dollars).

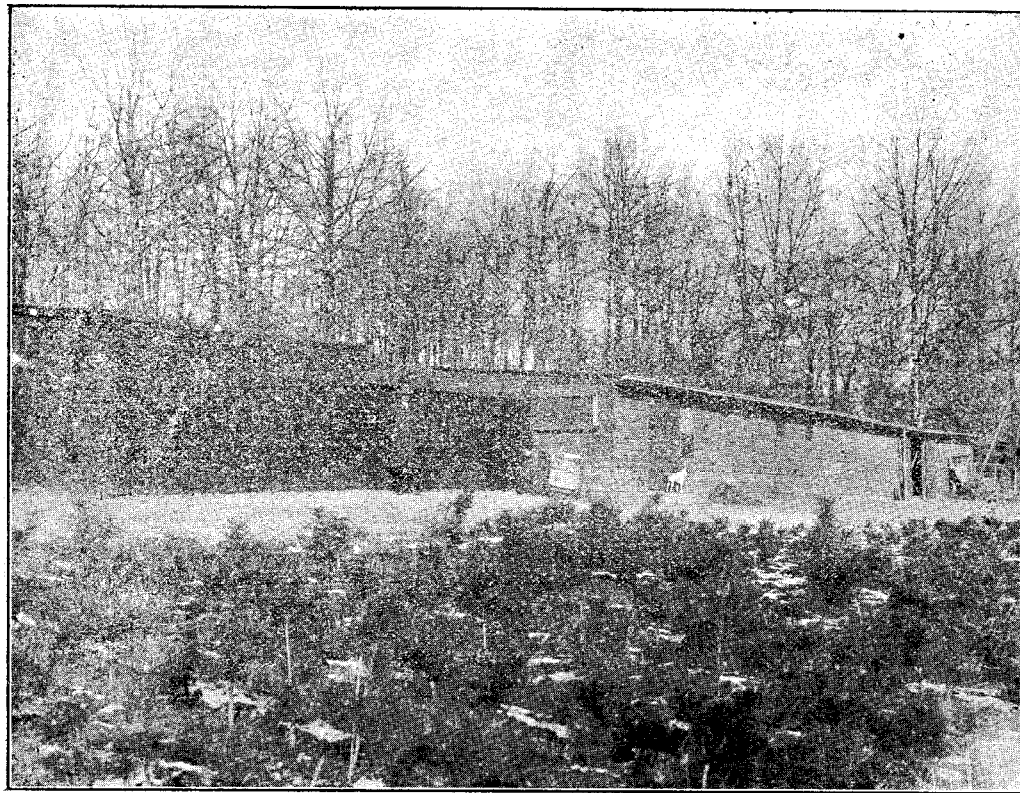
409	millions (Manhattan and Richmond).
33½	" (Bronx).
56½	" (Brooklyn).
2½	" (Queens).

Comparison of Queens Park Area with that of Other Cities of Equal Population.

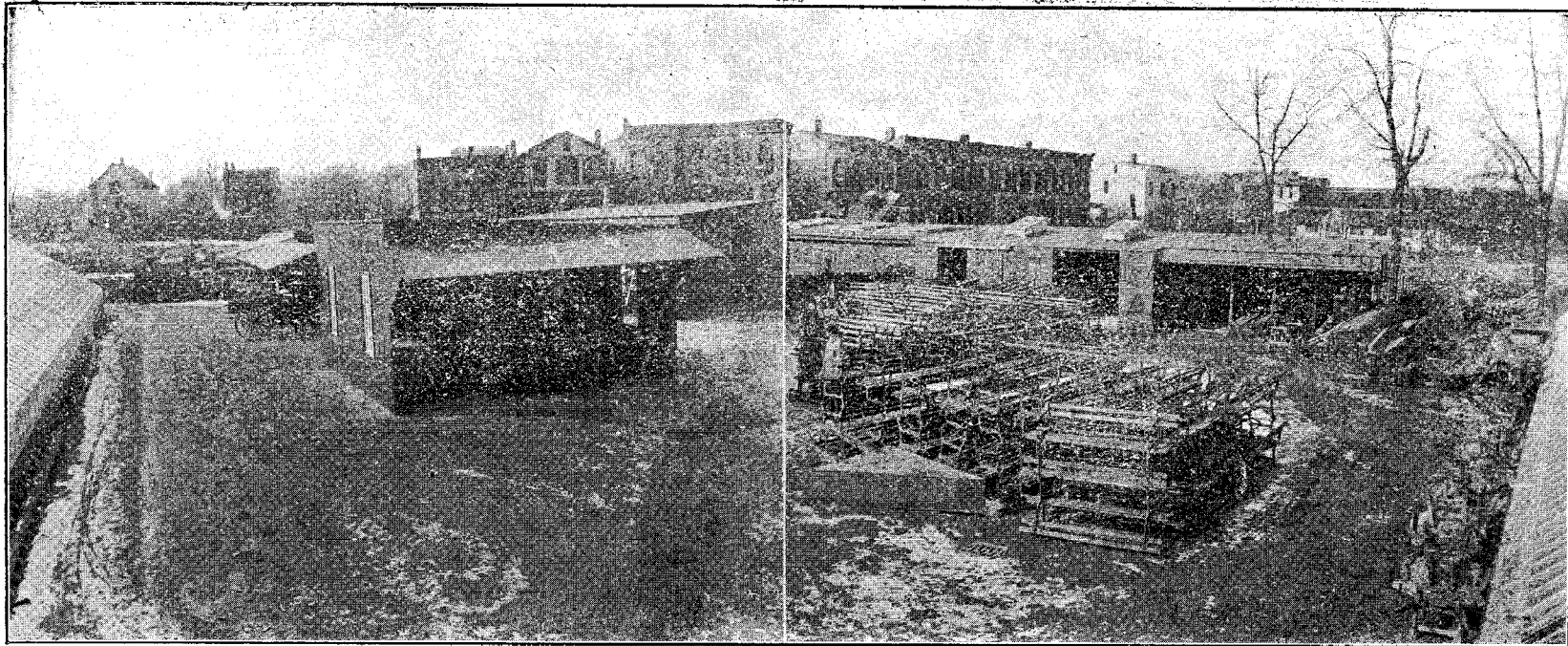
City.	Approximate population.	Approximate park area (acres).	Population to the acre
Borough of Queens.....	250,000	689	412
Minneapolis.....	250,000	3,379	88
Toronto, Canada.....	250,000	1,222	270
Washington, D. C.....	250,000	943	363
New Orleans.....	250,000	897	390

Note among the other large cities the following:

Boston.....	1,262,000	10,258	65
Philadelphia.....	1,500,000	3,583	418
St. Louis.....	750,000	2,641	284



THE DEPARTMENT "STABLES" (!)
Formerly the Sheepfold.
Where all the horses of the Department are housed.



THE DEPARTMENT STORES, SHEDS AND SHOPS.

Showing where a spark can cause a loss of \$20,000 worth of Park property and greenhouses.

Comparison of Park Areas, Etc. (1910) by Charles Downing Lay.

	Manhattan.	Brooklyn.	Bronx.	Queens.	Richmond.	Hartford, Conn.
Area (acres).....	12,576	38,977.8	26,522.8	81,720	36,600	11,040
Population (1910)...	2,331,542	1,634,351	430,980	284,041	85,969	98,915
Density (average population per acre)...	185.4	41.9	16.2	3.5	2.3	8.96
Area of parks.....	1,448.38	1,133.43	3,939.30	*688.91	63.56	1,371.59
Population per acre of parks.....	1,610	1,443	110	412.3	1,350	72.15
Percentage of total area in parks.....	11.5	2.9	14.86	.8	0.17	12.42

* Excluding Telawana Park.

HISTORY AND COST OF QUEENS PARKS.

FOREST PARK.

Was acquired under the provisions of Chapter 461 of the Laws of 1892 entitled "An Act for the establishment and government of a public park or parks in the County of Kings, or adjacent thereto, and providing that the same shall be a work of the County of Kings, and to authorize said County to provide for the means therefor by the issue of bonds." This act was amended by Chapter 474 of the Laws of 1895.

Section 1 of the Act of 1892 authorizes the Commissioner of Parks of the City of Brooklyn to select and locate parks in the County of Kings, or adjacent thereto. The act further provides that upon the completion of the purchase or condemnation the said Commissioner shall designate such park by appropriate name, and shall have the exclusive government, management and control, subject, however, to the laws of the State, of such park or parks, with all of the powers and duties then conferred upon him as Commissioner of Parks of the City of Brooklyn by Chapter 583 of the Laws of 1888 and the amendments thereof.

Section 8 of said Act of 1892 provides that said park or parks shall be exempt from assessments and taxes, and that no streets or avenues shall be laid out, opened or used therein, except with the written consent of said Park Commissioner first obtained.

Title to Forest Park became vested in the The City of New York by virtue of section 608 of the Greater New York Charter of 1897, and became part of the map or plan of the City in pursuance of section 432 of that Act.

(Extract from minutes of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of June 18, 1909, i. e., "Laying out a marginal street or parkway on easterly side of Forest Park, etc., etc.," in a report by Theo. Connolly, Acting Corporation Counsel.)

Forest Park—536 Acres—Cost \$1,150,000 (about) (see attached memoranda).

Queens Topographical Bureau, October 7, 1912.

Hon. WALTER G. ELIOT,

Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Queens, City of New York.

Dear Sir:—In response to your request of September 10, 1912, for information relative to the legal status of the parks of Queensboro, I enclose herewith a tabulation of extracts from deeds of various grantors to the City of Brooklyn and County of Kings, whereby the City acquired the title to Forest Park. These deeds are all in possession of the Comptroller of the City of New York. If you desire to be certain that all of Forest Park is included in these conveyances, it will be necessary to plot each parcel from the description of the deed.

Respectfully, CLIFFORD B. MOORE,
Engineer in Charge.