WHAT IS AN URBAN PARK? FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK - IN SEARCH OF AN ANSWER

by

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B.A. Political Science, Vassar College (1987)

Submitted to the Department of Urban Studies and Planning in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

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ABSTRACT

Central Park, in New York, has long served as my model of an urban park. It is always an exhilarating place with beautiful landscapes, passive and active spaces, water bodies, and cultural/educational institutions. Although its original design has been dramatically altered by 20th century users, it is still majestic, breathtaking, and a testament of the artistry and profound vision of its designers, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.

Contrary to Central Park, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, in Queens, New York, site of the 1939 and 1964 World's Fairs and first home of the United Nations, is not a particularly inviting place, despite its glorious and historic past. Its flatness, wide paths, open fields, and leftover Fair structures are overwhelming. It is also poorly landscaped and has few amenities. To its credit, it is the second most visited park in the City, after Central Park; has unique cultural/educational institutions and a natural wetland; and is home of the New York Mets baseball team and the United States Tennis Association, sponsor of the United States Open.

There are two purposes for this thesis: first, to determine some of the criteria for a successful urban park by looking at five issues -- purpose, design, program, funding, and citizen involvement in park planning -- and exploring three case studies -- Central Park, in New York; Forest Park, in St. Louis; and White River State Park, in Indianapolis. Each park represents a different stage in the urban parks movement. The second purpose is to make recommendations on improving Flushing Meadows using lessons from the case studies; the current Master Plan; and interviews with park administrators, planners, and designers.

Thesis Supervisor: Dennis Frenchman
Title: Senior Lecturer
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This is dedicated to my family and in memory of my mother.
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CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

With the skill of experienced sailors and adventurers, we navigated our boat around the bend, under a bridge, and through treacherous terrain in search of new landscapes. We discovered the most beautiful skyline: tall buildings, some with identical towers; red roofs contrasting with the paleness of them; and the comforting, warm, yellow glow of the sun dancing on their exteriors. We marvelled at the thick, green trees and weeping willows separating us from the majestic structures peeking over the foliage.

Last semester I took a writing course and was required to keep a journal. The above was written in response to an article the instructor had presented on children and their perceptions of nature.

CENTRAL PARK

The assignment was to reflect on our own experiences with nature and having grown up in New York, I immediately thought of Central Park, which has long served as my model of "nature in the city." The adventure I am referring to is rowing in the Lake at Bethesda Terrace, guarded by the Angel of the Waters. I was six or seven when I first made the turn around "the Point" and sailed under Bow Bridge to discover the beautiful architecture of Central Park West. When I took the required first-year course, Planning and Institutional Processes, one of the assignments was to write about one of the planners we had studied who had most
Figure 1.1 "The Point," Central Park

Source: Rebuilding Central Park: A Management and Restoration Plan

Figure 1.2 Bow Bridge and Central Park West
influenced our own sense of "calling" in the planning profession. Without a doubt, I chose Frederick Law Olmsted, creator of Central Park, because of his profound impact on society - lobbying for comprehensive city planning; beautifying cities with parks and parkways; designing model suburbs; advocating for the creation of national parks; and being a role model for planners, designers, and public officials.

Central Park, with its inspiring, romantic, and naturalistic landscape, has survived dynamic changes in the American landscape during the past century. Robert Moses, masterbuilder of bridges, tunnels, and highways, also left his mark on the New York landscape during his twenty-six year tenure as the City's first Commissioner of Parks and Recreation.

**FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK**

Flushing Meadows Corona Park, approximately six miles east of Central Park, was his dream of the grand park for Queens the way Central Park is for Manhattan. It was to be a high-quality recreation center with ballfields, playgrounds, and an enormous range of activities. Not one to plan on a small scale, in 1935, he convinced City officials to host a World's Fair and the first $2 million in
Figure 1.3 Location Map, Central Park and Flushing Meadows
net revenues, later revised to $4 million, would be dedicated to the redevelopment of the fairground into a world-class park. The 1939 World's Fair failed to generate profits and the Moses vision was far from realized. His next opportunity came in the mid-1960s when he again convinced city officials to host a World's Fair and with the profits, would upgrade existing facilities and construct new ones. The 1964 World's Fair had the same result - there were no profits and the Park remained a "fairground with the fair removed." 

Remaining Fair buildings were renovated and reused. Today, the Park is a combination of left over Fair memorabilia; soccer and ball fields for local residents who have taken advantage of its flat topography and carved out their own fields near the Core area; educational and cultural institutions; a nature preserve; and home of the New York Mets baseball team and the United States Tennis Association, sponsor of the prestigious United States Open.

The only times I visit Flushing Meadows are to attend the US Open since it is not a particularly inviting place:

• it is encircled by multilane highways

---

1 Robert Moses to Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, 15 August 1940, "1941 Capital Budget Request for the Improvement of Flushing Meadows Park After the World's Fair, 1939-1940."

Figure 1.4 Path from Subway to Unisphere, Flushing Meadows.

Figure 1.5 Open Fields, Flushing Meadows
Figure 1.6 New York State Pavilion, Flushing Meadows

Figure 1.7 Wide Paths, Flushing Meadows
the sound of speeding cars is noticeable
the noise from airplanes using LaGuardia Airport, to its north, is deafening
access to the Park is easy but finding one’s way around is not - entrances are not clearly defined and there are no maps or information kiosks to orient visitors
there are few amenities such as food concessions and bathrooms
pedestrian access to the waterfront and marina, major assets for the Park, is almost impossible
there is no sense of wonder or beauty when looking at Meadow Lake, one of two lakes in the Park
everything is on a massive, not human, scale - Fair remnants are enormous and some are in decrepit conditions; paths are numerous and too wide, and flat open spaces stretch endlessly
except for the Unisphere, the 1964 Fair symbol in the Core area, there is nothing interesting to look at while walking from the #7 IRT subway station to the Core on what seems to be infinitely long paths
landscaping is erratic
the area south of Shea Stadium is industrial-looking -- there is a huge parking lot and a subway railyard.

It is apparent I do not have the same passion for Flushing Meadows as I do for Central Park but for many, it is their backyard. It serves their needs, including being a picnic ground for families; a place to relax, bike, stroll, soak up sun, or watch local and professional sports; sports fields for soccer and softball players; and host of ethnic festivals for the many immigrant communities in Queens.
"Fairground as park" is also a successful model of an urban park.

PURPOSE OF THESIS

There are two purposes for this thesis: first, to determine criteria for a successful urban park by looking at five issues: purpose, design (how topography, edges, and circulation are treated), programming (institutions and activities), funding, and citizen involvement in park planning. In the course of the analysis, three case studies are explored: Central Park, in New York; Forest Park, in St. Louis; and White River State Park, in Indianapolis. Each park represents a different stage in the urban parks movement. Central Park, is the grandfather of American parks. Its rural, country-like design was intended to recall America's more innocent, pastoral times before it grew up during the Industrial Revolution. The Management and Restoration Plan, developed by the Parks Department and the Central Park Conservancy, a non-profit, apolitical organization founded a decade ago to raise private funds for the Park, is a landmark document for its sensitive, rational, and detailed approach to the preservation of a delicate landscape. Forest Park, part of the nineteenth century national movement for large urban parks, was planned in the naturalistic style of Central Park, but was quickly and often redesigned in favor of athletic fields, cultural and educational institutions, monuments, and statues. When
it opened in 1876, it included a hippodrome racetrack, an early indication of the future institutionalization of the Park. Today, it is home to almost every major institution in St. Louis and its sports facilities are in great demand. Similar to Flushing Meadows, it is also a former World's Fair site, but unlike the former, which has clung to its physical past, Forest Park has retained few of its structures from the 1904 Fair, enabling it to have recreational, cultural, and educational uses on former fairgrounds. The Fair, though, has been immortalized in the song and movie "Meet Me in St. Louis." White River State Park redevelops an industrial site into a cultural, educational, and family entertainment park. Located in downtown, it is part of the City's strategy for economic and real estate development. Among its goals are to stimulate public and private investment opportunities; produce enough income from a private, commercial entity to maintain and operate the public portions of the Park; and provide another attraction for tourists and conventioneers. The second purpose is to make recommendations for improving Flushing Meadows, based on lessons from the case studies; interviews with park administrators, designers, and planners; and data from the Use and Needs Analysis (1986) report produced by Project for Public Spaces. The Flushing Meadows Corona Park Source Book (1988) produced by the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Corporation Task Force and its "Concept Plan,"
are additional sources.

I have chosen Flushing Meadows because I was fortunate to be at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill when the Planning department was hired to be part of the Task Force to develop a new vision, "Concept Plan," for the Park and to produce the Source Book. Since I was only involved in the early stages of the project, this is an excellent opportunity to learn about Flushing Meadows, discover how the Parks Department is planning for the Park's future, understand the Concept Plan, imagine being the planner in charge of improving the site, and perhaps, even develop an appreciation for the Park.

ORGANIZATION OF THESIS

The thesis is divided into the following sections:

• Chapter 1 - Introduction

• Chapter 2 - Evolution of Urban Parks

highlights changing notions and uses of urban parks -- from rural cemeteries to Olmsted's landscaped, naturalistic, pastoral parks; to the turn-of-the-century reform movement which called for genuine access to parks by the working class, play spaces for children, active recreation, and educational institutions; to the people-generating, special events of the 1960s; to the current trend -- urban park as an economic and redevelopment strategy.

• Chapter 3 - Case Studies

looks at purpose, design, program, funding, and citizen involvement in park planning in Central Park, in New York; Forest Park, in St. Louis; and White River State Park, in Indianapolis. Three models are developed, "park as work of art," "park as real estate," and "park as economic
development," and will be applied to Flushing Meadows.

- Chapter 4 - Flushing Meadows Corona Park

traces the Park's history; highlights current restoration plans; and describes the "Concept Plan," developed by a team of renown architects and planners. Since Bernard Tschumi served as Concept Plan Chair, and is perhaps best known for his Master Plan for Parc de la Villette in northern Paris, it is worthwhile to understand his philosophy and design for, what has been called, a "park of the 21st century."

- Chapter 5 - Conclusions

suggests what are some of the criteria for a successful urban park and makes recommendations for Flushing Meadows.
CHAPTER 2 - EVOLUTION OF URBAN PARKS

... the first really elegant public
gardens or promenades formed in this
country...  

- Andrew Jackson Downing

When the visionary Andrew Jackson Downing, America’s
preeminent landscape gardener and future designer of the
Capitol, White House, and Smithsonian Institution grounds, wrote this in Gardener’s Magazine in 1841, he was not
referring to city parks but to rural cemeteries. Influenced
by the English style of naturalistic and romantic landscapes
with lush greenery, meadows and hills, rugged terrain, and
lakes and ravines, rural cemeteries were popular
destinations for people seeking reprieve from less than
healthy conditions in rapidly industrializing cities.

URBANIZATION OF AMERICA

From the beginning, Chudacoff argues, colonists who
founded settlements in North America from the late 1600s
through mid-1700s were urban-minded. Land was quickly
cleared and developed for centers of trade, communications,

1Andrew Jackson Downing, quoted in David Schuyler, The
New Urban Landscape: The Redefinition of City Form in
Nineteenth Century America, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins

2M. M. Graff, Central Park/Prospect Park: A New
13.

3Schuyler, p. 203.
government, defense, and worship. The port cities of Boston, Newport, New York, Philadelphia, and Charlestown had the largest populations and were early economic powers since they were centers for immigrants and transfer points for products to and from other parts of the world. The following chart indicates the rapid growth of these cities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>1690</th>
<th>1742</th>
<th>1775</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>16,382</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newport</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>6,800</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2.1 Population Growth in Five Port Cities
Source: Chudacoff, p. 4.

In 1790, the first US census counted almost 4 million people but only the above cities had 10,000 or more inhabitants. By 1830, the population increased threefold to approximately 12.9 million people and the number of cities with 10,000 or more inhabitants rose to 23; by 1861, there were 101.

The tremendous increase in population may be attributed to the intensity of commercialization and industrialization.

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5 Chudacoff, p. 3.


7 Chudacoff, p. 32.
European immigrants supplied inexpensive labor to entrepreneurs craving for new and additional markets. Inevitably, rival cities competed with each other for valuable undeveloped lands. Urbanization was an exciting, dynamic, and chaotic process. City officials and real estate developers realized the most efficient way to maximize land use and to sell it was to divide it into rectangular and uniform blocks with right-angle streets. Topography was ignored and little was set aside for open space, but the populace was more concerned with progress and a healthy economy.

By the 1840s, technological innovations had swept America into its own Industrial Revolution. Interchangeable and standardized parts were introduced in factories and manufacturing plants. Improvements in communications meant businessmen and manufacturers no longer needed to rely on stagecoaches and ships for news of potential markets. The most important development may have been the construction of regional railroads linking urban centers. Raw materials and finished products could be transported regularly, quickly, and inexpensively. In 1840, there were 2,800 miles of tracks; two decades later, there were 30,600 miles.

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8 Chudacoff, p. 49.
9 Chudacoff, p. 41.
RURAL CEMETERIES

The ever-increasing numbers of newcomers taxed the ability of cities to provide services. In New York, the demand for housing far exceeded supply and many were forced to live in boarding houses; already crowded neighborhoods; or the infamous, tenement apartment buildings, with narrow air shafts, poor lighting, filth, and cramped quarters. Quality of life was rapidly declining and in jeopardy.

Improving the quality of life became the mission of social reformers. Citing the need to reduce the danger of disease and epidemics, among their recommendations was the relocation of cemeteries to "rural" areas outside of cities. Popular thought was that the public's health was threatened by gases emanating from graves. According to Dr. Francis Allen, the "putrid exhalations arising from grave-yards, will not only feed and strengthen yellow fever when once introduced, but will generate disease equally malignant as yellow fever, and possessing at least some of its characteristics." But, trees and plants would "absorb deleterious gases."

In sharp contrast to the city's rigid gridiron, energy, chaos, and densely built environment, rural cemeteries were reminiscent of more innocent, pastoral times. Mount Auburn, four miles outside of Boston, was America's first rural cemetery. In 1825, Jacob Bigelow, a noted Boston physician

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10 Dr. Francis Allen, quoted in Schuyler, p. 40.
and botanist, suggested a rural cemetery would not only protect the health of citizens but also provide a serene and dignified resting place for the deceased. Cities saw little value in maintaining cemeteries since the land could be developed for economic purposes. Bodies were often exhumed and moved to less desirable locations. New York's potter's field was filled and became Washington Square; the burying ground near Philadelphia's Franklin Square suffered a similar fate and became a promenade. In Boston, Bigelow's proposal met with immediate support from his friends, but since an appropriate site was not immediately available, little progress was made until 1830, when the influential Massachusetts Horticultural Society was founded and the rural cemetery movement gained momentum. Since the Society was interested in starting a botanical garden but lacked funding, civic leaders proposed combining both projects and George Brimmer, an avid horticulturist, offered to sell his seventy-two acres of land to the Society if it would be preserved in its natural beauty for perpetuity. Situated north of the Charles River near Watertown, its rugged terrain is dominated by a hill rising 125 feet above

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12 Schuyler, p. 39.
the Charles. Its designer, General Henry A. S. Dearborn, a lawyer with an engineering background, self-taught scholar of Grecian architecture, and President of the Horticultural Society, relied heavily on literary descriptions of English gardens and Cimetiere du Pere-Lachaise, in Paris, and wisely allowed nature to dictate his plans. Huth notes, unlike Pere-Lachaise, originally designed as a garden, Mount Auburn and other rural cemeteries were specifically established on naturally beautiful sites with the intent of preserving their unique, uplifting, and heavenly qualities.

On September 24, 1831, almost two thousand people attended the dedication ceremony at Consecration Dell and heard Justice Joseph Story, an early supporter of Mount Auburn, praise the rural cemetery movement for purifying, calming, and enhancing city life. While cities were engulfed with vitality, rural cemeteries provided an outlet for quiet, solitude, and contemplation of nature and heaven:

All around us there breathes a solemn calm as if we were in the bosom of a wilderness. Ascend but a few steps, and what a change of scenery to surprise and delight us... In the distance, the City

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13 Acquisitions by the Society increased Mount Auburn from its original 110 acres to almost 156 acres. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Mount Auburn Cemetery, (Cambridge: 19--).


15 Hans Huth, cited in Bender, p. 201.

16 Mount Auburn Cemetery, p. --
Figure 2.2 Consecration Dell, Mount Auburn Cemetery
at once the object of our admiration and our love - rears its proud eminences, its glittering spires, its lofty towers, its graceful mansions, its curling smoke, its crowded haunts of business and pleasure... [We can] indulge in the dreams and hope of ambition. [But here,] the rivalries of the world will drop from the heart; the spirit of forgiveness will gather new impulses; the selfishness of avarice will be checked; the restlessness of ambition will be rebuked...  

Mount Auburn was an instant success. The deceased were in a protected, well-maintained, and dignified sanctuary and the living had one of its first large, public, spaces for recreation. The number of visitors was so great, the Horticultural Society was forced to regulate access to the cemetery. Other cities studied Mount Auburn's design and by 1861, there were at least sixty-six rural cemeteries throughout the country. Downing estimated, in his article "Public Cemeteries and Public Gardens," more than thirty thousand people had visited either Mount Auburn, Green-Wood in New York, or Laurel Hill in Philadelphia.

Despite their popularity, rural cemeteries were criticized for being elitist and placing "symbolism and beauty above utility." Farrell writes:

17 Justice Joseph Story, quoted in Bender, p. 198.

18 Schuyler, p. 44.

Rural cemeteries allowed the Victorian middle class to emphasize its position as a cultural elite... To accentuate their own exceptionalism, the antebellum middle-class supported institutions like rural cemeteries that transcended functionalism... The recurrent claims of 'taste' and 'refinement' in the establishment of rural cemeteries were also signs of class distinction... Urban elites used rural cemeteries to discriminate between themselves and the lower classes, even as they tried to uplift their inferiors through education.

Schuyler also acknowledges the educational purposes and elitist nature of rural cemeteries. They were didactic landscapes, full of monuments that offered visitors moral lessons as well as moments of contemplation. Moreover, these cemeteries were at best only semipublic institutions and were located so far from the city as to make it all but impossible for working people to escape to them from their neighborhoods.

Jackson and Vergara, in support of Farrell and Schuyler, note the large plots and monuments which characterized rural cemeteries, excluded the poor and working class from scenic and prestigious locations. At Mount Auburn, they were buried in the least desirable sites -- near fences, storage sheds, and stables -- and away

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20 Farrell, pp. 110-111.

21 Schuyler, pp. 4-5.
from lakes and hills.\textsuperscript{22}

Concern for the working class, the less fortunate, and inappropriate uses of cemeteries sparked the urban parks movement. During the 1840s and 1850s, proponents of a new urban landscape and the profession of landscape architecture, called for the creation of democratic and accessible public parks for all citizens.\textsuperscript{23} Parks seemed to have been the cure-all of city ills. They were to be retreats from monotonous, straight, paved streets and the impersonality of the masses struggling to survive difficult living and working conditions. They would also create a sense of community and pride, improve health since it was believed epidemics resulted from overcrowding and squalor in tenements, ensure the circulation of breezes which eliminated miasmas, provide play spaces, and educate and enlighten the populace about nature's artistry.\textsuperscript{24}

EUROPEAN PARKS

The beauty and importance of nature in European parks left profound impressions on many Americans who visited them. Although most of these parks were originally for royalty, by the 1840s and 1850s, all citizens were invited


\textsuperscript{23}Schuyler, pp. 55-56.

\textsuperscript{24}Schuyler, pp. 59-60, 62, 65.
to discover and enjoy them. Stephen Duncan Walker, a Baltimore clergyman, considered them "things that strike the traveller with most interest," while novelist Catharine Maria Sedgwick noted the shortsightedness of Americans "who, when they had a whole continent at their disposal, ... left such narrow spaces for what has so well been called the lungs of a city." Horace Greeley, editor of the New-York Daily Tribune, reporting on the Crystal Palace exhibit in London in 1851, wrote "[t]he Parks, Squares, and Public Gardens of London beat us clean out of sight." William Cullen Bryant, poet and editor of the New York Evening Post, regarded them as necessary for the "public health and happiness of the people" and advised New York's leaders to set aside available lands before "the advancing population of the city sweep[s] over them and cover[s] them from our reach." 25

AMERICAN PARKS MOVEMENT

Graff credits Bryant as one of two "prime movers" in the creation of the America's first urban park, Central Park in New York. 26 As a child, he was diagnosed with a "weak chest," which resulted in his firm belief in the benefits of fresh air, light, and exercise. He exercised for an hour and a half every morning by an open window and walked the

25 Schuyler, pp. 54, 63-64.
26 Graff, p. 3.
three miles each way to and from his office. Through his editorials, he became an avid promoter of a centrally located park. While his responsibilities often kept him in the City, he was repelled by its dirty, noisy, crime-ridden, and congested conditions. After visiting his brother's farm in Illinois in 1836, he wrote to him, "The city is dirtier and noisier, and more uncomfortable... than it ever was before. I have had my fill of town life, and begin to wish to pass a little time in the country." 27

Andrew Jackson Downing, the other "prime mover," was raised in the country. Newburgh was a rustic and tranquil town nestled in the majestic Hudson Valley. He worked with his father in a small nursery and spent his free time roaming the magnificent scenery captured by the Hudson River School of Painters. 28 His knowledge of plants, interest in architecture, and preoccupation with landscape gardening were evident in his pioneering works, *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (1841) and *Cottage Residences* (1842). Not only was he a successful author, he was also the editor of the widely-read monthly, *Horticulturist*. 29 Schuyler distinguishes him as the "most articulate early spokesman for the emerging theory of urban

27 Graff, p. 6.

28 Graff, p. 12.

park space in nineteenth-century America... [H]is writings embraced sanitary, scenic, recreational, and reformist ideas."30 After visiting European parks in 1850, he described them as "pleasant drawing-rooms," places where people "gain health, good spirits, social enjoyment, and ... cordial bearing towards their neighbors." Another benefit of parks was their "social influence." Not only would all classes of society be brought together for recreation, but parks also acted as agents of moral improvement, or "popular refinement." They would "soften and humanize the rude, educate and enlighten the ignorant, and give continual enjoyment to the educated."31

Unfortunately, Downing never planned or experienced the parks he had envisioned. In 1852, at age thirty-six, he lost his life while trying to rescue fellow passengers from the Hudson River steamer, Henry Clay, after its boiler burst and engulfed the ship in flames.32 At the time of his death, the desire for parks was still strong but their form and design had not yet been agreed upon by their founders. Downing had hoped his Washington Mall would be a model for a national park. It was to be an "extended landscape garden,... planted with specimen, properly labelled, of all

30Schuyler, p. 74.
31Andrew Jackson Downing, quoted in Schuyler, pp. 65-66.
32Graff, p. 15.
the varieties of trees and shrubs which will flourish in this climate" and would become a "Public School of Instruction in everything that relates to the tasteful arrangement of parks and grounds." 33 Frederick Law Olmsted, on the other hand, viewed the Mall as an expression of "gardening," not "park-making." An orderly and labelled display of plants was inappropriate for a park, which should have seemingly natural landscapes and endless vistas. 34

EUROPEAN INFLUENCES ON OLMSTED

Olmsted’s philosophy on parks, aesthetics, and landscape architecture was shaped by the writings and works of 18th century English landscape gardeners including Lancelot Brown, Uvedale Price, Humphry Repton, and John Loudon; his childhood; and a wealth of experiences and insights gained from extensive travel and an array of occupations in the United States, South America, Europe, and Asia.

Landscaped open spaces for the explicit use and enjoyment of the public first emerged in England during the Victorian period. The Industrial Revolution not only brought wealth and prestige to England, it also created unsightly landscapes of belching black smoke from factories, congestion, and as Chadwick terms, the "industrial worker."

33 Andrew Jackson Downing, quoted in Schuyler, p. 69.
34 Schuyler, p. 76.
He notes another reason may have been the strength of the reform movement:

[T]he Victorian aptitude for passionate reform was brought into play to attempt to improve at once both physical conditions and souls; not to remove the root-cause of the disease itself but merely to alleviate its symptoms by the insertion of limited green (soon to be smoky black) areas within the framework of... [the] street, mill, and factory.

The design of parks has been an evolutionary process. Each artist has enriched the planning of enjoyable, usable, and refreshing parks. In the mid-18th century, when Brown began his career, he emphasized "beautiful" landscapes - smooth, round, sedate, and gentle. In his parks, he usually placed a belt of trees around a particular view to highlight its beauty but when a feature outside the park improved the view, he included it in its design. 35 Contrary to the "beautiful," Price offered the "picturesque," with rugged and rough forests, tangled shrubs, and irregularly sized rocks and stones. 36 While Repton embraced both Brownian landscaping and the picturesque, he placed utility and appropriateness above visual satisfaction. In Sketches and Hints on Landscape Gardening (1794), he identified utility, appropriation, simplicity, order, and the effect of time and

35 Chadwick, pp. 19-21.

the seasons among the "sources of pleasure" in landscape gardening. Chadwick offers evidence of Repton's regard for utility, which he assumes, included convenience, comfort, and neatness:

Such matters as the careful siting of the kitchen garden (as at Finedon), the provision of sufficient storage space for frames, fuel, compost, and tools (as at the Pavilion), or the supply of water to the house (as at Sheringham Bower) were basic to Repton's designs, rather than, as they had been to some earlier protagonists of the art, mere incidentals of no purpose. And this care was not only visible in what might be termed the service aspects of his designs, for the landscape itself was seen as something to be used as well as looked at. 37

The next movement in English landscape design was the "gardenesque," which built on earlier notions of scenery and utility but was unique in that it called for the use of specific plants in a specific manner. According to Loudon,

As all arts are necessarily progressive... [T]his change has given rise to a school which we call the Gardenesque. The characteristic feature of which, is the display of the beauty of trees, and other plants, individually. According to the practice... of Repton, and more especially, to that of all the followers of the Picturesque School, trees, shrubs, and flowers were indiscriminately mixed and crowded together... as they would have done in a natural forest, the weaker becoming stunted, or distorted, in such a manner as to give no idea of their natural

37 Chadwick, pp. 22-23.
forms and dimensions... According to the Gardenesque School, on the contrary, all the trees and shrubs planted are arranged in regard to their kinds and dimensions. In short, the aim of the Gardenesque is to add to the acknowledged charms of the Repton School...

Loudon believed one benefit of the gardenesque was its flexibility – it could be "grouped or connected on the same principles of composition as in the picturesque style, or placed regularly or symmetrically as in the geometric style."  

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

Olmsted's artistic thinking drew on these notions of beauty, picturesque, utility, and clustering to form a whole, but he was also affected by his childhood and Calvinist sentiment of predestination and salvation, duty and obligation, and social responsibility. He was born in 1822 in Hartford, Connecticut, a "charming countryside watered by streams full of salmon and trout, ... surrounded by rural villages, low wooded hills, and thrifty farms that produced corn, tobacco, fruit, hay, grain, and livestock."

Roper continues her vivid description of the thriving city:

Although inland, it had become one of the most important ports and distributing enters in New England.
Stage and coastwise shipping lines

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38 John Claudius Loudon, quoted in Chadwick, pp. 54-55.
39 John Claudius Loudon, quoted in Chadwick, p. 58.
connected it with the rest of the nation, and the Connecticut River, navigable to ocean-going ships, linked it with the world beyond the seas. Warehouses and shops crowded the waterfront... [W]holesale houses... unloaded at their own wharves ships laden with goods from remote ports. [M]erchants dealt in groceries, dry goods, West Indian wares, lumber, soap, rope, jewelry, and nautical gear. Substantial homes, some of them almost two hundred years old, lined the shady streets... City and country still mingled harmoniously... and pleasant countryside lay within walking distance.\(^4\)

His father, a successful merchant and ardent admirer of nature's beauty frequently took his family on long trips through the Connecticut Valley, upper New York and Canada, and along most of the New England coast from Connecticut to Maine in "search of the picturesque." The Olmsteds had visited Trenton Falls and Lake George before they became popular tourist sites. Olmsted would later recall these trips to be the happiest memories of his early life.\(^41\)

His happy memories were soon replaced by loneliness, bitterness, and a long search for his calling. After the birth of his brother, John, and shortly thereafter, the death of his mother, he was placed under the tutelage of village ministers. His father hoped they would instill in


\(^{41}\) Fisher, p. 8.
him devoutness and morality. At age seven, he was sent to Reverend Zolva Whitmore in North Guilford. Fortunately, the Reverend enjoyed gardening and flowers and lived near the woods, which the curious Olmsted explored in his spare time. His free and pleasant life at North Guilford came to an end when the senior Olmsted thought his son should receive a more rigorous education and prepare for Yale. Olmsted never formally attended the university; at fifteen, he contracted sumac poisoning in his eyes and was advised to forgo college and spend as much time as possible outdoors until he recovered. He was then sent to Frederick Barton, who taught civil engineering at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. Here, he spent most of his time outdoors fishing, hunting, and collecting plants and rocks. He also learned the basics of surveying and town planning, which he later refined as a landscape architect.

Following his stay with Barton, a stint as a clerk in a fabric shop, and an unpleasant year as an apprentice seaman bound for Canton, China, the twenty-two year old Olmsted returned to Connecticut and turned to scientific farming since he enjoyed the outdoors.\textsuperscript{42} He sought to transform farming into "an honorable and learned profession" based on scientific and technological advances\textsuperscript{43} and started by


\textsuperscript{43} Fisher, p. 10.
visiting his uncle's farm in Cheshire, Connecticut. A few months later, he apprenticed on a farm near Waterbury, Connecticut and after observing farming techniques on George Geddes' prize-winning farm in Syracuse, New York, he started his own farm at Sachem's Head, Connecticut. Since he was near Yale, he often visited John and his classmates, Charles Loring Brace and Frederick Kingsbury, who would become his life-long friends. In 1848, he abandoned his rocky and infertile farm and relocated to Southside, Staten Island where his father had purchased another farm for him and which he transformed into a landscaped work of art. He moved his barns behind a hill, realigned the driveway so it approached his home in a graceful curve, and converted the mudhole behind his home into a small pond surrounded by stones and plantings. He also served as Secretary of the Richmond County Agricultural Society, founded to encourage local farmers to improve their roads, upgrade their tools and farming methods, and develop an appreciation for architecture and landscapes. An admirer of Downing, who recommended his fellow citizens decorate their homes and properties with plantings, Olmsted sold shade trees and evergreens and was hailed by his neighbors as having "special knowledge, inventiveness, and judgement" in landscaping and siting buildings.

Life as a farmer, though, was not satisfying enough,

McLaughlin, pp. 6-7.
so, in 1850, Olmsted, his brother, and Brace embarked on a leisurely walking tour of England, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Ireland, and Scotland. He was clearly excited and impressed with Joseph Paxton's Birkenhead Park, in Liverpool, and wrote in great detail about it in *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England* (1852):

Five minutes of admiration, and a few more spent in studying the manner in which art had been employed to obtain from nature so much beauty, and I was ready to admit that in democratic America, there was nothing to be thought of as comparable with this People's Garden. Indeed, gardening, had here reached a perfection that I had never before dreamed of... [S]o much taste and skill as had evidently been employed;...[W]e passed by winding paths over acres and acres, with a constant varying surface, where on all sides were growing every variety of shrubs and flowers, with more than natural grace, all set in borders of greenest, closest turf, and all kept with most consummate neatness. At a distance of a quarter of a mile from the gate, we came to an open field of clean, bright, greensward, closely mown, on which a large tent was pitched and a party of boys in one part, and party of gentlemen in another, were playing cricket. Beyond this was a large meadow with rich groups of trees, under which a flock of sheep were reposing, and girls and women with children, were playing. While watching the cricketers, we were threatened with a shower, and hastened back to look for shelter, which we found in a pagoda, on an island approached by a Chinese bridge. It was soon filled, as were the other ornamental buildings, by a crowd of those who, like ourselves, had been overtaken in the grounds by the rain;

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45 McLaughlin, pp. 7-9.
Figure 2.3 Birkenhead Park, Liverpool

Source: Chadwick, p. 78
and I was glad to observe that the privileges of the garden were enjoyed about equally by all classes... The summer-houses, lodges, bridges, etc., were all well constructed, [and one] of the bridges which we crossed was... an extremely light and graceful erection... But this is but a small part. Besides the cricket and an archery ground, large valleys were made verdant, extensive drives arranged - plantations, clumps, and avenues of trees formed, and a large park laid out. And all this magnificent pleasure-ground is entirely, unreservedly, and forever the people’s own. The poorest British peasant is as free to enjoy it in all its parts as the British queen. 46

While Walks and Talks established Olmsted as an author, it was his coverage of slavery in the south which brought him recognition as a keen and critical commentator on American society. 47 He looked to Northerners to end slavery and recommended the creation of "institutions that shall more directly assist the poor and degraded to elevate themselves... The poor need an education to refinement and taste and the mental & moral capital of gentlemen." To that end, the mission of the newly organized Children’s Aid Society, in New York, was to educate and improve the lives of the poorest in the City. In a letter to Brace, Executive Secretary of the Society, Olmsted urged him to "get up parks, gardens, music, dancing schools, reunions which will

46 Frederick Law Olmsted, quoted in Chadwick, pp. 71, 89.

47 McLaughlin, p. 12.
be so attractive as to force into contact the good & bad, the gentlemanly and the rowdy."\footnote{Charles E. Beveridge and David Schuyler, eds., The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted: Creating Central Park 1857 - 1861, vol. III, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983), pp. 8-9.}

While Olmsted encouraged Brace to create parks, it was he who would be the leader of the parks movement. In 1857, the centrally-located park Bryant and Downing had lobbied for was about to be realized and Olmsted would serve as its first Superintendent and eventual designer. Central Park marked the beginning of his illustrious career in landscape architecture.\footnote{McLaughlin, p. 18.} Olmsted made the distinction between gardening and his profession:

\begin{quote}
Landscape Architecture is the application or picturesque relation of various objects within a certain space, so that each may increase the effect of the whole as a landscape composition. It thus covers more than landscape gardening. It includes gardening and architecture and extends both arts, carrying them into the province of the landscape painter. In all landscape architecture there must not only be art, but art must be apparent.\footnote{Frederick Law Olmsted, quoted in Fisher, p. 29.}
\end{quote}

Except for the two years (July 1861-August 1863) he served as General Secretary of the Sanitary Commission during the Civil War, he spent almost forty years (1857-1895) redefining and revolutionizing the American landscape. He
designed, or co-designed, twenty-two parks in fifteen cities and his firm created almost a thousand parks in two hundred cities.\textsuperscript{51}

Olmsted's work and reformist attitude were inspired and reinforced by his Calvinist upbringing and the writings of Thomas Carlyle, John Ruskin, and Johann von Zimmermann. In \textit{Sartor Resartus} (1820s), Carlyle preached man was a "Symbol of God" and had a responsibility to work hard and perform to the best of his abilities in all his endeavors. According to Ruskin, moral and social reform could be achieved through reflection and appreciation of natural beauty. Not only did his vivid descriptions of exquisite European landscapes in \textit{Modern Painters} (1847) and \textit{The Seven Lamps of Architecture} remind Olmsted of his travels through the Northeast and Canada with his parents, it also brought back memories of the travel books by Benjamin Silliman and Timothy Dwight his father had read to him.\textsuperscript{52} He considered Zimmermann's \textit{Solitude} (1798), "one of the best books ever written" since Zimmerman foresaw people's need for an escape from a busy city. While man could only be civilized by a society rich in culture, knowledge, and technology, it also bred greed, conflict, vice, confusion, and anxiety. Occasional solitude, in a quiet environment abundant with greenery and


\textsuperscript{52}Fisher, pp. 20-22.
soothing waters, would refresh the mind and soul, and enable
man to re-create himself\textsuperscript{53} and return to society ready "to
promote the welfare and happiness of his fellow
creatures."\textsuperscript{54} Olmsted's parks, with their scenic views;
large, open, rolling meadows; lush greenery; and gentle
water bodies provided the appropriate environment for quiet
contemplation but his strong belief that parks should
exclude more active uses was often at odds with city
residents who wanted play spaces.

REFORMING URBAN PARKS

Turn of the century reformists saw the need for play
spaces and advocated the creation of neighborhood
playgrounds and play equipment in public parks. In New
York, photographer and author Jacob Riis was one of the
first to suggest the need for play areas near neighborhoods
and public schools so recreation would be readily available
and was a leader in the campaign for neighborhood
playgrounds and parks.\textsuperscript{55} Social reformers convinced city
officials to redefine the purposes of parks. They were no
longer quiet places to enjoy nature, but were to be (1)

\textsuperscript{53}Fisher, p. 80.

\textsuperscript{54}Johann Georg von Zimmermann, quoted in Fisher, p. 80.

\textsuperscript{55}Allen F. Davis, "Playground, Housing and City
Planning," in Donald A. Krueckeberg, ed., Introduction to
Planning History in the United States, (New Brunswick: The
Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University, 1983),
p. 75.
truly for the working class, who had been excluded from parks either because they were too far away or prohibited activities the working class enjoyed, including gambling, drinking, and animal fighting; (2) areas for active recreation; and (3) education.

Park programming during the "reform park movement," as Cranz characterizes the first three decades of this century, incorporated more activities for the working class, including folk dancing, festivals, crafts, and year-round athletic facilities. There were skating, skiing, and sledding in winter and ball games and tennis during warmer months. Swimming also became a popular sport; it's original intent was to encourage the working class, many without baths, to be hygienic. During the 1920s, golf became the latest popular sport and parks wanted "golf for everybody," but finding enough land was often a problem.\textsuperscript{56} The design of parks moved away from aesthetics and toward utility. Rolling meadows were leveled for ball fields, grass was replaced with more durable surfaces for sports, water filled wading and swimming pools rather than fountains, and fieldhouses replaced open parkland and provided indoor activities and community and social services.\textsuperscript{57} Policy makers justified placing museums, botanical gardens, zoos, 


\textsuperscript{57}Cranz, pp. 91, 93.
and concert stages in parks since they provided the masses with an enjoyable form of education.58 "If we can give people information in a playful way in the park, it will be a good thing to do."59

THE RECREATION PARK

By the 1930s, parks were no longer seen as mechanisms for social reform or even as amenities, but as necessary outlets for relaxation and recreation. Shorter and fewer working days, rising standards of living, and improved automobiles and roads enabled people to take greater advantage of their leisure time.60 Not only were parks inexpensive forms of entertainment during the Depression, they also provided jobs to thousands of unemployed workers. In New York, Parks Commissioner Robert Moses supervised Works Progress Administration (WPA) relief workers who built new parks, playgrounds, beach facilities, and swimming pools.61 At Forest Park, WPA employees built several new facilities, including the Cascades, a seventy-five foot

60 Cranz, pp. 103, 106.
waterfall west of the Art Museum.  

"ANYTHING GOES"

Cranz argues the dark days of the parks movement were not during the Depression and World War II, but during the tumultuous 1960s when "people power" turned parks into anti-war demonstration sites, rallying grounds, and havens for drugs. The middle class added to the "urban crisis," by staying away, citing their dangerous and inhospitable conditions. To resusitate parks, administrators took an "anything goes" approach and devised participatory, people-generating events. In New York, Parks Commissioner Thomas Hoving, authorized events known as "Hoving's Happenings" -- New Year's Eve parties; a lunar eclipse watch; jazz and rock concerts; individually-styled weddings; a Check-A-Child low-cost child care program; and cultural events, usually considered for the elite - The Philharmonic performed free concerts and Shakespearean characters came to life at the Delacorte Theater.  

URBAN PARKS TODAY

Like most things that go out of style, only to return, parks have also come back to life, not for their social reform purposes but because they are still soothing

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61 Cranz, pp. 137-140; Rogers, etal, p. 13, 115.
contrasts to densely-built and rapid-paced cities. With the current trend toward physical fitness, parks are also "free" health clubs for joggers, bikers, skaters, and weekend athletes. Current and future challenges in park management and recreation planning are finding a balance between active and passive uses, preventing overuse and encroachment of parkland, and maintaining the quality of facilities and parkland at a time when city funds are limited and park budgets are greatly reduced because they are "considered a luxury."

Parks are not a luxury; they are still a necessity. Tony Hiss writes "parks ... allow us to sense our kinship with all of life as well as with each other" and landscape architect Bruce Kelly, in the same article, insightfully and persuasively notes:

it's open space that gives definition to a town, because it creates a structure you can hold in the mind, and at the same time gives people the very things that hold them in cities: what we now call 'livability' and 'quality of life.'

For many, Central Park is a treasured friend -- its familiar landscape ("structure") breeds continued excitement and pleasure ("quality of life"). Loyal users of Forest Park

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⁴ Tupper Thomas, Prospect Park (Brooklyn, New York) Administrator, quoted in Walters, p. 40.

and Flushing Meadows have similar feelings for their parks. Forest Park is home to almost every cultural, recreational, and educational institution in the City. Spacious, flat Flushing Meadows is a ball field, home of professional sports and cultural/educational institutions, and a former World's Fair site all at the same time. Each park has a citizen's group -- Central Park Conservancy, Forest Park Forever, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Action Committee -- watching over its respective park and coming to its defense when it is threatened with new and/or inappropriate uses or is in need of maintenance and attention. White River is not a community park and has not completely developed its "structure" so it may not have a large or dedicated constituency.

SUMMARY

Rural cemeteries, one of America's first public, open space for recreation, fell out of favor when they were criticized for being didactic and elitist. Located on the outskirts of cities, the working class could not afford to travel to them. As cities rapidly industrialized, reformers including Bryant, Downing, and Olmsted advocated for "breathing spaces" within the city. Central Park was to be "the people's park," a retreat from the unhealthy conditions of urban living but, it was mostly frequented by the well-to-do, to which Olmsted belonged, and did not take into consideration the types of recreation the working class
wanted. Turn of the century reformers called for genuine democracy and access to park facilities by the working class, active recreation, and the placement of educational and cultural institutions in parks. Institutions, including zoos, museums, gardens, and bandstands, have remained in parks and are accepted parts of the landscape. Today, parks are no longer seen as laboratories for social reform but are still places for relaxation, sports, culture, education, and entertainment. The newest role for parks is economic development and urban redevelopment. The three case studies presented in the following chapter reflect the changing notions, designs, and programs of urban parks.
CHAPTER 3 - CASE STUDIES

CENTRAL PARK

Central Park is an 843 acre landmark in the heart of Manhattan extending 2 1/2 miles from 59th to 110th Streets and 1/2 mile from Central Park West to Fifth Avenue.\(^1\) Almost seventy percent of its users are from Manhattan but, with more than half a million out-of-town visitors annually, it is one of New York's three leading attractions, along with the Statue of Liberty and the United Nations.\(^2\) It is as valuable and cherished as the neighborhoods and institutions surrounding it. The always energetic Upper West Side contrasts with its neighbor to the east. Central Park West is quiet and lined with elegant residences and distinguished institutions, the New York Historical Society and the Museum of Natural History. Fifth Avenue, long associated with the upper class, also has expensive apartments and many of the City's landmarks and prestigious institutions, including Temple Emanu-el, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim Museum, and Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. Immediately east of Fifth

\(^1\) 1 mile = 5,280 feet

\(^2\) Based on a 1973 user study conducted by Donald Sexton of Columbia University and a 1982 survey conducted by William Kornblum and Terry Williams of the City University of New York. Results highlighted in Rogers, et al., p. 24.
Figure 3.1 Location Map, Central Park
Avenue are the world-renown Madison and Park Avenues with their trendy boutiques, exquisite art galleries, upscale offices, and high-priced homes. Central Park North is residential and Central Park South is lined with glamorous hotels, including The Plaza.

DESIGN

The site for the Park was originally two large swamps; part of a salt marsh; and rocky, thin-soiled land scattered with squatter shacks, strewn with garbage, and overflowing with runoff from nearby pigpens and slaughterhouses. 4,825,000 cubic yards of earth and rock, including 700,000 cubic yards of imported topsoil were maneuvered in the process of transforming the infested, unsightly land into a healthy, serene, inviting environment.5

In 1857, Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, an English-born and -trained architect won the competition to design the Park,6 the first in America specifically planned as a retreat from the chaotic, impersonal, congested, and unhealthy conditions of the rapidly-growing and industrializing city to its south. As social reformers,

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1Rogers, etal, p. 45.
2Walters, p. 37.
3Rogers, etal, p. 45.
4see Appendix A for text of their Greensward Plan.
Figure 3.2 Greensward Plan
they also saw it as a "democratic development of the highest significance"\(^7\) -- a "people's park" for all to enjoy, regardless of class. By introducing nature to city residents, they would develop an appreciation for aesthetics, improve and refresh their physical and mental well-being, and instill civility among the uneducated and less fortunate.

Central Park was modeled after the mid-18th century European romantic style with open meadows, rolling hills, lush greenery, water bodies, and the separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. It combined Brown's "beautiful," Price's "picturesque," and Repton's "appropriateness." Three types of landscapes -- meadows, parkland, and woodland -- were carefully juxtaposed to stir different emotional responses, from pastoral calm to rugged and wild. Meadows were open and grassy with loosely spaced trees; parkland were composed of single standing trees or in clumps with well spaced canopies allowing only a smattering of shade to fall on the thin covering of grass below; and woodland were imitations of forests.\(^8\) Cast iron, brownstone, brick, granite, and wood structures were carefully placed among these landscapes to heighten their

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Figure 3.3 Three Types of Landscapes
beauty.²

Edges

Except at the Reservoir, a low, plain stone wall defines the Park's rectangular shape. It is neither unfriendly nor obstructive; rather, it suggests there are surprises ahead and its many entrances lead visitors to different sights, activities, and other entrances. The walls are so permeable, the Park is often treated as a street and people walk through it on their way to or from work or when traveling crosstown. Trees on the sidewalk and on both sides of the wall buffer visitors from the sights and sounds of the City. Four traffic circles at each corner, on the other hand, announce major vehicular entrances.

Topography

Olmsted and Vaux paid careful attention to topography. They believed the Park should be pastoral where appropriate, but a range of scenery producing various emotions would provide the best environment for an uplifting, refreshing, civilizing experience.

The northern end has significant contrasts -- there are steep terrain, cliffs, and rocks, which once served as lookout points during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 and open, sweeping, rolling hills. In the southwest

²Rogers, etal, p. 33.
Figure 3.4 Rock Outcroppings

Figure 3.5 Park Perimeter
and Sheep Meadow, the land is mostly flat but the southeast
has stunning, irregularly shaped rock outcroppings. South
of the 79th Street transverse road is the Ramble, with its
rugged, rocky, and wooded formations.

Circulation

Olmsted's much-heralded, grade-separated circulation
systems were modeled after Paxton's Birkenhead Park, with is
separate routes for vehicles, carriages, and pedestrians. The circulation systems were to be inconspicuous, allowing
visitors to enjoy views of inviting meadows, sparkling
waters, disorderly woodlands, and whimsical architecture.
Road widths were scaled according to the volume they were to
bear and abutting landscapes were planned according to the
mode and speed of travel. There are four circulation
systems in the Park and underpasses at all intersections:

- Transverse roads

  include four sunken, east-west roads validating
  Repton's principle of "appropriation" by allowing
crosstown vehicular traffic to pass through and
under without interfering with Park users. At
the time they were built, there was no need for
them since the City was still to the south and the
east and west were undeveloped.

- East and West Drives

  form a six-mile loop around the Park. Originally
intended as carriage routes, broad and sweeping

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10 Chadwick, p. 185.
12 Chadwick, p. 185.
Figure 3.6 Circulation
landscapes were planned for spectators to enjoy slowly. With the advent of the automobile, the Drives were treated as streets and shortcuts through the City. New vehicular entrances at Sixth and Seventh Avenues and Central Park South and at 67th, 77th, 90th, and 106th Streets and Central Park West were cut to accommodate more cars. The Drives have also been reengineered and straightened to allow faster traffic.

- Pedestrian paths

allow visitors to traverse the entire Park and are landscaped with benches, water fountains, lamps, and garbage cans.

- Bridle trails

are more for recreation than circulation. Over the years, the southern trail has been lost to the Zoo, Wollman Skating Rink, and the Hecksher Ballfields. The northern trail is intact and circles the Reservoir, tennis courts, and North Meadow.\(^2\)

**PROGRAM**

The Park is well used during the day and throughout the week, from morning bikers, joggers, strollers, bird watchers, till dusk when the homeless take over. James Barron characterizes it as "the world's most competitive park" since it is used by so many people in different ways.\(^3\) In fact, the middle and southern end suffer from overuse but the north is underused because of its rocky and steep topography. Despite the multitude of activities, a 1982 users' survey conducted by the City University of New


### Major Activity Categories, Central Park Visitors, Summer and Fall, 1982
(in percent)

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Weekend</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>59.7</td>
<td>57.7</td>
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<td>8.7</td>
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<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs/Deviance</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>80.8</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>80.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City University of New York sample for Central Park Planners, 1982.

### Figure 3.7 Major Activity Categories

### Types of Relaxation by Central Park Visitors, In Rank Order and by Weekday and Weekend, 1982
(in percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Relaxation</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Weekend</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>25.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relaxing</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking in the Park</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wandering</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunbathing</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City University of New York sample for Central Park Planners, 1982.

### Figure 3.8 Types of Relaxation
Figure 3.9 Central Park Sectors
York, indicates relaxation was, and continues to be, the dominant activity, with sports a distant second.\textsuperscript{15}

The authors of the \textit{Management and Restoration Plan}, divide the Park into sectors, not only reflecting its varied landscape but also its diversity of activities. The Park proves it can satisfy most user needs without having many structures. Many proposals have been made to "improve" the Park, but City officials, starting with Olmsted, and citizens have fought to maintain its openness and to prevent institutional encroachment. The Metropolitan Museum of Art is an exception and has expanded several times because it is one of the world's greatest institutions and has the political clout and support of City officials to be treated as such. Within each section, activities overlap, but the main uses are listed below:

- **passive**

  Southeast Corner - The Pond and bird sanctuary; Chess and Checkers, open-air chess tables

  Strawberry Fields on West 72nd St

  The Dene between 66th and 72nd Streets off Fifth Avenue

  Sheep Meadow from 65th to 72nd Streets off Central Park West

  Cherry Hill, west of Bethesda Terrace

  Conservatory Water between 72nd and 79th Streets off Fifth Avenue

  The Pool on 102nd and Central Park West

\textsuperscript{15}Rogers, et al, pp. 24-25.
"Improvements" Suggested for Central Park since 1900

1. Exposition Building, 1901.
2. Drill ground, 1904.
3. Selling off lower park for building lots, 1914; proposed for west side of Fifth Avenue by Mayor La Guardia in 1930.
5. Opera House, 1910.
6. Outdoor theater seating 50,000, 1914; opera amphitheater proposed 1931.
8. Relocation of Central Park West streetcar tracks, 1917.
9. Trenches in North Meadow as war display, 1918.
10. Large stadium, 1919.
11. Airplane field, 1919.
12. Sunken oriental garden, Memorial Hall for war trophies and sports amphitheater, 1920.
13. Music stand and road connecting drives to be called Mitchel Memorial, 1920.
14. Underground parking lot for 30,000 cars, 1921; proposed many times since.
15. Police garage, 1921.
17. Swimming pool, circus and running track, 1923.
20. Central roadway to relieve city's traffic congestion, 1923.
21. Statue of Buddha, 1925.
22. Carillon tower, 1925.
23. Fountain of the Seasons, 1929.
24. Promenade connecting Metropolitan and Natural History museums, 1930.
26. Armory and stables, 1940.
27. Plaza of South America, 8 acres, 1941.
30. El Station as monument to Elevated Railroad, 1955.

Sketch by Ken Fitzgerald, based on information supplied by Alan Becker

Figure 3.10 Proposed "Improvements"
Figure 3.11 Original and Contemporary Sheep Meadow
The Great Hill bound by Central Park West, Frederick Douglass Circle, the West Drive, and the north edge of the Pool Conservatory Garden on 105th Street and Fifth Avenue

- **active**

  Southwest Corner - six softball diamonds at Hecksher Ballfield; bridle trail

  Southeast Corner - Wollman Skating Rink; miniature golf course in Wollman Rink

  Mall - Rumsey Playground, an underused playground converted into a playing field

  The Lake - boating

  The Great Lawn - six ballfields

  Reservoir - tennis courts; bridle trail

  North Meadow - seven baseball fields; five softball fields; six handball courts; concrete bleachers; bridle trail

  The Meer - Lasker Skating Rink and Swimming Pool

- **educational/cultural**

  Southeast Corner - The Dairy has lectures and workshops for children; exhibits; and visitors' information

  The Zoo and the Children's Zoo

  The Great Lawn - Belvedere Castle hosts programs for families during the weekend and school groups during the week; open-air Delacorte Theater; the Swedish Cottage marionette theater; the Metropolitan Museum of Art

- **natural**

  Southeast Corner - bird sanctuary

  The Ramble - south of 79th Street Transverse Road; has rocky outcrops; a variety of plants; and the
Figure 3.12 Belvedere Castle
Figure 3.13 Metropolitan Museum of Art

Source: City Merchandise Postcards
Figure 3.14 The Ramble

Source: Graff, p. 90.
stream, the Gill

The Pool - small two acre body of water near 102nd Street and Central Park West
The Ravine - tucked between the Great Hill and Conservatory Garden and the Meer in the north, the Ravine is heavily wooded and completely screens out the City's skyline

The Blockhouse - south of 110th Street and east of Frederick Douglass Circle; habitat for trees and wildlife; not heavily visited because of harsh terrain, cliffs, and steep ravines; the Blockhouse is an open-roofed fort built in 1814, when it appeared the British would attack New York from the north; one of two buildings predating the Park

The Meer - second largest water body in the Park

• commercial

Strawberry Fields and the Midwest Walkway - Tavern on the Green restaurant

The Lake - Loeb Boathouse Cafe restaurant

• playgrounds

Southwest Corner - Hecksher Playground

Strawberry Fields and the Midwest Walkway - two between 66th and 77th Streets off Central Park West

The Dene - two between 66th and 72nd Streets off Fifth Avenue

Conservatory Water - one on 77th Street off Fifth Avenue

The Great Lawn - three between 81st and 86th Streets off Central Park West; two between 79th and 85th Streets off Fifth Avenue

Reservoir - three playgrounds between 90th and 97th Streets off Central Park West; one in the corner of 96th Street and Fifth Avenue

The Pool - one on 100th Street off Central Park West

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East Meadow - one on 100th Street off Fifth Avenue

The Blockhouse - one off Central Park North and Douglass Circle

The Meer - one 108th Street of Fifth Avenue; one on Central Park North off Lenox Avenue

- unprogrammed

The Mall

Bethesda Terrace

- administrative/Park-related

The Arsenal, headquarters for the Parks Dept.

The Ramble - 79th Street Maintenance Yard

The Great Lawn - 97th Street Security Center

FUNDING

Central Park is not just a municipal park; it is one of the City's most prized landmarks and is one of two parks with its own budget. While the Park applies for annual renewable State grants for small planning projects,16 its main source of funds comes from the Central Park Conservancy. Regardless of the amount of money the Conservancy raises in private funds, the Park also receives its share of the Parks' budget. However, the City is once again facing severe financial hardships; the Parks' budget could be reduced by forty-five percent and the Department

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could lose almost half of its 4,500 employees.\textsuperscript{17}

In the late 1970s, when the City was in financial straits and the Park could not be maintained properly, the non-profit Central Park Conservancy was founded to raise monies from corporations, philanthropies, and individuals. It is a public-private partnership -- the Central Park Administrator is appointed by the Mayor but is also chief executive officer of the Conservancy and is paid by the Conservancy.\textsuperscript{18} The Conservancy also provides half the Park's $10 million annual operating budget, half the funds for capital projects, and employs almost half the Park's 234-person staff. Park and Conservancy staff share responsibilities in maintaining and restoring the Park. The City pays for trash removal, repairs, and Urban Park Rangers while the Conservancy cares for plants, trees, lawns, and manages concerts and visitor services.\textsuperscript{19} In its ten year history, the Conservancy has raised $70 million\textsuperscript{20} and for the past fiscal year, funded more than half the cost of maintaining and restoring the Park.\textsuperscript{21}


\textsuperscript{18}Rogers, etal, pp. 153-154.

\textsuperscript{19}Andrew Yarrow, "Private Money is Keeping Central Park Healthy," \textit{The New York Times}, 29 October 1990.


\textsuperscript{21}Cramer, 1 May 1991.
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT
IN PARK PLANNING

People admire Central Park for its beauty, openness, greenery, and inviting environment and demonstrate in many ways their affection and commitment to preserving it as the City's backyard. For example, when Moshe Safdie revealed his design for the redevelopment of the Coliseum site, outside the Park on Columbus Circle, New York magazine, simply put "The Shadow" on its cover referring to the giant shadow which would supposedly be cast from the towering building onto the Park. The Municipal Arts Society's demonstration against "the shadow" brought prominent celebrities to the Park. The City eventually rejected Safdie's design and hired another firm.

The Municipal Arts Society's demonstration was highly publicized but there are more subtler ways citizens are involved in Park planning. They contribute money and time to the Conservancy. By making donations, they indicate their support and approval of the Park's efforts to provide a special place for its users. The Conservancy also sponsors, through its LIVE (Learning and Involvement for Volunteers in the Environment) program, hands-on opportunities for Park cleanups, spruceups, and maintenance.

Citizens are also involved with Park plans through their Community Boards, organizations made up of local residents and businessmen who advise City officials on land use, zoning, community planning, budgetary, and municipal
services issues. User studies will also become a regular planning tool since they reflect the needs, wishes, and attitudes of Park users. A recent user study revealed that many ball players interested in playing at North Meadow were unable to because they did not have permits and there are no mechanisms in place to ensure that permit holders actually show up for their games. Consistent with views expressed by interviewees in the 1982 user study, the Park will not dedicate any more land for ballfields, but must solve questions of greater access to ballfields.

CONCLUSION: PARK AS WORK OF ART

When Olmsted founded landscape architecture, he noted that "in all landscape architecture, there must not only be art, but art must be apparent." The Conservancy has raised millions of dollars because there is only one Central Park, it is a historic landmark, and it holds a special place in the hearts and minds of its users. "Nature in the City" is as beautiful, valuable, and irreplaceable as the treasures in the City's museums. There is also a longing to hold onto the past and to be reminded of more innocent times. Lush green rolling meadows, parkland, and rugged woodland; dramatic rocks; graceful bridges, each with their

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23 Rogers, et al., p. 31.
24 Frederick Law Olmsted, quoted in Fisher, p. 29.
own design; rustic shelters; calm waters, and innovative circulation systems are welcomed contrasts to the steel, glass, and concrete City.

Age and overuse have taken their toll on the Park but City officials, the public, and private foundations are committed to is gentrification and continued care. The Central Park Management and Restoration Plan, developed by the Parks Department and the Conservancy, is a prototypical document for its long-term, sensitive, rational, and detailed approach to the preservation and upkeep of the Park's exquisite and cherished landscape. It includes recommendations, where appropriate, for returning the Park to its former open, pastoral state. Over the years, prominent preservationists and landscape architects have revived weakened bridges and reclaimed deteriorating areas. While various artists were commissioned for different sections, the Park remains a single work of art because of their respect for the integrity of the design. Among the completed restoration projects, funded by the Conservancy, are the Cherry Hill landscape and fountain; the Bethesda landscape, fountain, and terrace; the Dairy and its landscape; and Belvedere Castle.²⁵

Belvedere Castle, designed by Vaux to crown Vista Rock at the Great Lawn, is one of the few buildings in the Park.

The beauty and spaciousness of the Park results from limited institutional encroachments. The sprawling, illustrious Metropolitan Museum of Art is an exception since it is also a City jewel and is treated as such by the City. It justified its expansions into the Park, beginning in 1971, by citing its limited space but growing collections. According to Graff, Andrew Green, Comptroller of the Board of Commissioners of Central Park in 1871, realized he made a mistake in allowing the Museum to locate on Park property. Cultural institutions, he believed, should be near parks but not in them so they may be used exclusively for park purposes. To his credit, he prevented the construction of a race track; the siting of a zoological garden on North Meadow; and the 1893 World's Fair, Columbian Exposition, from being held in the Park. The Fair would have destroyed the work of art. The Mayor and Park Commissioners supported plans to remove all the trees on North Meadow, replant them elsewhere, and return them to North Meadow after the Fair. Instead, Chicago hosted the Fair, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America, and the zoo was constructed in the Bronx.²⁶

While North Meadow was not destroyed by the Fair, its open meadows have long been replaced with ball fields and fences. Athletic fields have been part of the Park's landscape since turn of the century reformers advocated for

²⁶Graff, pp. 59-60.
their creation. But, there are still many breathtaking views and landscapes for the eighty percent of visitors who use the Park for passive purposes, including people watching and relaxation.27

"Park as Work of Art" is a powerful model and an affirmation of Olmsted's lasting impact on park design and landscaping. Central Park is not the only Olmstedian park to be treated as an art piece. In Chicago, the Chicago Park District has created the Department of Research and Planning, including a Preservation Planning division, with the intent of refurbishing its historic parks, some designed by Olmsted and his sons. Edward Uhlir, head of the Department, plans to restore Sherman Park, designed by Olmsted's sons, by relocating sports facilities elsewhere and recreating the Park's original bucolic landscape. Some long-demolished Park structures, including a Daniel Burnham conservatory, may be also be reconstructed.28 In Buffalo, Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks was founded in 1978 to restore the six parks Olmsted designed in the late 1860s and 1870s. Two years later, it hosted the founding conference of the National Association of Olmsted Parks, dedicated to preserving and promoting Olmsted's works and legacy. Today, landscape architect Bruce Kelly is part of the design team


for Buffalo Greenways, an ambitious, long-term master plan for extending and reconnecting the City's parks and parkways.

Beautiful parks give definition to cities. Their unique design and programming leave deep impressions on their users and as Kelly notes, give "people the very things that hold them in cities: what we now call 'livability' and 'quality of life.'" ²⁹

²⁹Hiss, pp. 39-40.
FOREST PARK

Forest Park, on the western edge of St. Louis County, is the jewel of St. Louis. Similar to Central Park, it is approximately 2 miles long but is twice as wide and at 1,370 acres, is closer in size to Flushing Meadows. Surrounding the Park is a mixture of neighbors -- Washington University in the northwest, mansion-size homes in the north, and highrises in the northeast. The institutional complexes of Washington University Medical School, Barnes Hospital, and St. Louis Children's Hospital are on the east. To the south are the Arena, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, McDonnell Planetarium, and residences. Residential neighborhoods are also west of the Park. 30

Its creation, purpose, and design were greatly influenced by Olmsted, who visited St. Louis in 1863 as Secretary of the US Sanitary Commission. He met with Henry Shaw, a wealthy retired merchant and devoted botanist who had established a public botanical garden in 1859, and most likely discussed the social and healthful benefits of large urban parks. They were "breathing spaces" for citizens escaping from the industrial City's filth, noise, and congestion. Ten months after his visit, the State legislature asked voters to approve a "Central Park" for St. Louis, created a Board of Commissioners, and instructed it

30 Loughlin, pp. 235, 244.
Figure 3.15 Location Map, Forest Park
to find a site.\textsuperscript{31} Park supporters, mostly businessmen and professionals, eagerly anticipated reaping financial benefits for locating the Park away from the City. Land bordering the Park would eventually increase in value since homes, built on larger plots, would attract "men of tastes and means\textsuperscript{32}" and pleasant views of the Park would be more desirable than views of buildings, transportation lines, or factories. The proposed site, almost two miles west of the City, immediately met with intense criticism for being too big and too far. After unsuccessful court challenges by affected land owners, the State legislature approved the site.\textsuperscript{33} Three hundred men cleared commons, fields, orchards, fences, barns, shacks, and coal mines. The forest, on the western edge, that had given the Park its name, was cleared for roads and scenic vistas.\textsuperscript{34}

By 1901, Forest Park had achieved national recognition as St. Louis' outstanding park and given its size, was chosen to host the 1904 World's Fair, celebrating the centennial anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase.\textsuperscript{35} The

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{31}Loughlin, pp. 4-5.
\item \textsuperscript{32}Attorney Alonzo Slayback, quoted in Loughlin, p. 10.
\item \textsuperscript{33}Loughlin, p. 8.
\item \textsuperscript{34}Loughlin, p. 16.
\item \textsuperscript{35}The Louisiana Purchase (1803) extended the American frontier when the United States purchased from France lands west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. The Fair, scheduled to open in 1903, was delayed until the following year since exhibitors, including the federal
\end{itemize}
Figure 3.16 World's Fair Site
Figure 3.17 Park Locator Map (1901-1904)
Fair, occupying 1,272 acres, almost the entire Park, required much of the forest to be uprooted; dirt roads to be paved; and the meandering River Des Peres to be temporarily covered, rerouted, and shortened because it flowed through all but two exhibit sites. Fair officials had agreed to restore the Park "in accordance with landscape gardening ideas."

One thousand five hundred seventy six structures were constructed, including forty-four from American states, cities, and territories. The federal government offered a 228 feet long, 84 feet wide, and 50 feet high bird cage, big enough for approximately one thousand birds to fly freely. A tunnel underneath allowed visitors to walk through. There were also a ferris wheel, capable of carrying 1,440 people, from the 1893 Fair and balloon rides which sailed near the athletic fields of the third modern Olympics, and first in the United States. Twenty-two countries were represented and from April 30, 1904 through December 1, 1904, more than twenty million visitors went to the Fair.

Except for the Palace of Fine Arts, which would be home of the relocated Art Museum, the bird cage, and some buildings for Washington University, all other structures

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36 Loughlin, p. 80.
37 Loughlin, p. 71.
38 Map of Forest Park.
39 Loughlin, pp. 80, 95.
Figure 3.18 US Government Birdcage
were demolished. Dismantling and restoring the Park took longer than anticipated; nine years passed before City and Fair officials agreed on a restoration plan. George Kessler, chief landscape architect for the Fair, was hired to redesign the Park. He shared Olmsted's views on the purpose and design of urban parks. They were for "rich and poor alike" to enjoy "the quiet repose of the country and... freedom from the City cares and annoyances." The Park should be "restored on the simplest possible lines and in complete harmony with its eastern portion." It should also "retain [its] sylvan beauties [and emphasize] the careful preservation of natural scenery... and constant protection against permanent encroachment of any structures, except those essential to public comfort." However, his plans were never realized and the Park received piecemeal planning.

When Fair officials returned the Park to the City, there were new landscaping; paved roads; bridges; water and sewer systems; and massive structures, including the statue of the Apotheosis St. Louis; the World's Fair Pavilion, a refreshment stand; and the Jefferson Memorial, honoring Thomas Jefferson's role in the Louisiana Purchase.41

40 George E. Kessler, quoted in Loughlin, p. 83.
41 Loughlin, p. 82.
DESIGN

Designed by Maximillian Kern, a European-trained landscape gardener, it was to be naturalistic, similar to Central Park, with gentle slopes, sprawling green lawns, and lakes and ponds created from the "wild and uncontrollable" River des Peres and storm water runoff from the park. A medley of "tints and color and of light and shade" would compose an "open harmonious whole." But, unlike Central Park, it was to be a driving park for carriages with networks of curvy roads and spectacular views around each bend. At frequent intervals, concourses, or openings in roads, would lead to scenic spots for congregating and resting.

Not only would the Park offer terrific views, it would also have many activities. In his plan, he included potential uses, financially infeasible during the early stages of the Park's development, to stimulate and heighten discussions on future uses. The eastern section, nearest the City, would be the "congregating and rambling grounds of the masses," and would be "brilliantly lighted during the early hours of the night." He envisioned a formal promenade in the southeast, much like Central Park's Mall, which in the future, could be joined by an aquarium, music pavilion, arts and science museum, or zoo.42

The Park was quite impressive when it officially opened

42 Maximillian Kern, quoted in Loughlin, p. 16.
Figure 3.19 1876 Plan for Forest Park
on June 24, 1876. Despite its distance from the City, people eagerly boarded trains or drove carriages to see the newest attraction. There were twenty miles of "promenade walks" and nineteen miles of driving road; lakes were full; and in the north, daring drivers could speed around the hippodrome racetrack. Olmsted would certainly have considered it an inappropriate structure for a quiet, country landscape. Between 1876 and 1885, the forest was still a major feature of the Park since most activities, structures, and statues were north of the River.\footnote{Loughlin, p. 20.}

The forest, however, would quickly disappear along with Kern's vision of an "open harmonious whole." Whereas Olmsted and Vaux treated Central Park as a single work of art, meticulously planned every landscape, placed structures only where they would bolster views, and ferociously defended their Plan against proposed "improvements," Forest Park has not been as fortunate. Over the last century, its naturalistic landscape and forest have been greatly and carelessly sacrificed for political, reformist, and financial reasons. It has been treated as real estate and has been redeveloped at different stages according to the visions and goals of whomever had money and political clout at the time.\footnote{See Appendix B for maps on evolution of Park.} For example, the St. Louis Amateur Athletic Association (Triple A), a private club founded in 1897, was
Figure 3.20 Park Locator Map (1876–1885)
NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATOR MAP
(1876–1885)

1. Aubert Place, A-10
2. Sturmer's Subdivision, A-3
3. City limits (1876 and after), A-2 to I-11
4. Clayton Road (later Clayton Avenue), G-1 to F-11
5. Forest Park Subdivision, A-10
6. King's Highway (later Kingshighway Boulevard), A-10 to I-11
7. Lindell Avenue (later Lindell Boulevard), C-10 and I-11
8. Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks, I-4 to H-11
10. River des Peres, A-3 to I-8
11. St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad tracks, L-3 to I-11
12. St. Louis County Railroad route, proposed later Rock Island Railroad tracks, C-1 to E-11
13. St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern (later Wabash, then Norfolk and Southern) Railroad tracks, A-1 to E-11
14. Skinker Road (later Skinker Boulevard), A-3 to G-2
15. Union Avenue (later Union Boulevard), A-4 to C-9

Figure 3.21 Neighborhood Locator Map (1876–1885)
allowed to remain in the Park when the World's Fair required its relocation. A Club member designed a new clubhouse and when it opened two months later, the Club began construction of two baseball diamonds, a quarter-mile running track, a nine-hole golf course, and ten tennis courts. The Museum of Fine Arts also received permission to locate in the Park and its Board of Control had absolute power to choose the site. Not surprisingly, it chose the highest point, now known as Art Hill, with its scenic views. The Parks Department did not consider a Master Plan necessary since there were enough land for more activities, monuments, and statues. Somehow, funding was always available. Today, the Park is saturated with athletic fields, institutions, statues, monuments, structures, and parking lots and lacks the naturalistic, beautiful landscape of Central Park. Landscape architect Bruce Kelly, commissioned by Forest Park Forever (FPF), a non-profit, public-private partnership founded by the City in 1987 to raise funds for the Park, is currently working on a Master Plan to beautify the Park and chart its future by solving its circulation, parking, and drainage problems.

\[\text{References}\]

45 Loughlin, p. 73.
46 Loughlin, pp. 42-43.
47 Loughlin, p. 138.
48 Telephone interview with Pisy Love, first President of Forest Park Forever, 22 May 1991.
Edges

Forest Park is not surrounded by a wall but by multi-lane roads and highways. Since automobiles are the main mode of transportation in the City, vehicular access to the Park is excellent from every direction. To its north, the four-lane Lindell Boulevard separates stately homes from the Park. The six-lane Interstate 64, formerly US Highway 40, is perceived as the southern edge because most activities are to its north. On the east, the eight-lane Kingshighway Boulevard separates the Park from medical institutions and on the west, Skinker Boulevard separates residential neighborhoods from the Park. Traffic lights on Lindell, Kingshighway, and Skinker control traffic flow and enable pedestrians to cross and enter the Park.

Topography

Washington Drive divides the Park into a hilly western section, suitable for golf, and a flat eastern half, suitable for ball fields.

Circulation

The Park was conceived as, and remains, a driving park. Every activity is encircled with roads allowing visitors several ways of reaching their destination. Winding roads, many with "y" junctions, are confusing and dangerous. The

49 Telephone interview with Dan Skillman, Construction and Maintenance Engineer, St. Louis Department of Parks, 24 May 1991.
current Master Plan calls for the creation of a loop system with minor roads coming off it and the elimination of unnecessary roads. Unlike Central Park, with its comprehensive pedestrian circulation system, the Park does not have a pedestrian feel. There are almost no paths and as a result, it is difficult to walk from one area to another. There are also few benches, except near recreation areas, for pedestrian use. A well-used, but not comprehensive, bicycle path snakes around the Park and through the middle.

PROGRAM

The Park is unique in that it is home to almost every major institution in the City. Compared to Central Park, it has fewer passive and "natural" areas but many more sports facilities and educational/cultural institutions. Almost half the Park has specific purposes, leaving little room for flexible and passive uses. Current uses include:

- passive

  picnic grounds in the southwest; in Concourse Drive; east of Hampton Avenue; north of Steinberg Skating Rink

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50 Telephone interview with Jerry Pratter, Chair, Master Plan Committee and member of Forest Park Forever, 14 April 1991.

51 Telephone interview with Sue Strommen, Director, Development and Public Relations, Forest Park Forever, 17 May 1991.

52 Bruce Kelly and David Varnell, Planning Summary, Forest Park, p. 2.
Figure 3.22 Map of Forest Park
• active

Municipal Golf Course
Triple A Golf Course and Tennis Club
Davis Tennis Center, softball, rugby
Post Dispatch Lake - boating
Archery Range near Science Center
Aviation Field north of Community College - baseball, softball, rugby
Central Field - soccer, softball
Cricket Field north of Municipal Opera

• educational/cultural

Art Museum
Missouri Historical Society
Zoo
Science Center; McDonnell Planetarium
Municipal Opera
Jewel Box, floral conservatory

• natural

Kennedy Forest - southwest

• playgrounds

between Oakland Avenue and US 40 south of Zoo and Zoo parking lot
southeast corner east of Fire Alarm Headquarters
near Lindell Pavilion
Figure 3.23 The Jewel Box
administrative/Park-related

Park Administration, Maintenance - north of US 40 and Arena

Mounted Police - east of Aviation Field

Lindell Pavilion in the north off De Balivere - home of Forest Park Forever

FUNDING

The Park is currently funded by the City, but, with limited public funds, there are no capital monies for restoration projects. There may not even be enough funds to keep one of its institutions open. The City's proposed budget includes closing the Jewel Box, eliminating the $800,000 horticultural division, and laying off its twenty employees who care for the City's plantings. Subsidies to Steinberg Skating Rink would be reduced by $60,000, the Davis Tennis Center would receive $25,000 less, and funds for park concerts would be cut by $8,000 to $12,000.  

Some lease agreements between the City and institutions require funds to be returned to the Park specifically for improvements. But cultural and educational institutions do not generate revenues for the Park because they are public entities and are subsidized by a Museum-Zoo tax on City and County residents. Since the City of St. Louis is


not part of the County of St. Louis, but the Park is used by the region, one method for generating funds, may be establishing a City/County tax district solely for the Park.\footnote{Pratter, 14 April 1991.}

In late January 1991, the City began a program where residents may "round up" their water or property tax bills to the next dollar and excess funds would be earmarked for Park improvements.\footnote{"Forest Park: Many Improvements Since '89," \textit{West End News}, 18 April 1991.} Since bills will be sent out in November and payments are due at the end of the year, the City will not know how much revenue it has raised until next year. Residents may not be willing to have more of their money spent on City facilities and in the past, have rejected proposals to raise the sales tax by half of one cent. The purpose of increasing the sales tax was to have tourists share the cost of enjoying and maintaining the Park. Allocation of funds, based on park size, would have given Forest Park approximately one-third.\footnote{Skillman, 24 May 1991.}

Given its age, Forest Park Forever is not at the same level of fundraising sophistication as the Central Park Conservancy. To its credit, it has raised over one million dollars and has contributed funds to several projects, including the recent landscaping of Murphy Lake in the

\begin{flushleft}
\footnote{Pratter, 14 April 1991.}
\footnote{"Forest Park: Many Improvements Since '89," \textit{West End News}, 18 April 1991.}
\footnote{Skillman, 24 May 1991.}
\end{flushleft}
northeast near the elegant Central West End neighborhood. It has also raised $250,000 from Board members for the Master Plan. After the Plan is approved by all parties involved and the scope of necessary work is clearly defined, the organization will approach corporations and private philanthropies to assist with the Plan's realization.59

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN PARK PLANNING

Similar to Central Park, Forest Park has many loyal constituents who often voice and demonstrate their concerns over traffic, congestion, and haphazard development. They have had success in preventing projects from being built, including the Zoo’s proposed 9.8 acre breeding farm and Barnes Hospital’s proposed bridge over Kingshighway.60

In 1978, an Advisory Task Force, comprised of citizens; State, Regional, and City agencies; and professionals was created to chart the Park’s future and resolve circulation, landscaping, and land use problems. At least two Community Participation Workshops were held by the City’s Community Development Agency and a team of designers, headed by a St. Louis firm, was hired to develop a Master Plan. A conceptual Draft Master Plan was issued in 1983 but funds


60 Telephone interview with Anabeth Calkins, Central District Parks Manager, St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, 1 May 1991.
were never committed for its implementation.\textsuperscript{61}

Bruce Kelly, well-known for his contributions to the 
Central Park Management and Restoration Plan, is working with the City, institutions, and FPF, and adding to the 1983 Master Plan by developing concrete plans for solving the Park's drainage, circulation, parking, and landscaping problems. Unlike the 1983 Master Plan process, which included public hearings, ongoing review by the Advisory Task Force, and a series of workshops, this time the process is top-down with decisions and negotiations being made by City officials, institution heads, and citizens of FPF. Active citizen participation has not been pursued nor have public attitude studies been conducted since consensus building among many users drains energy and time from the actual planning process. Once the Master Plan has been agreed upon by all parties, it will be presented to the public.\textsuperscript{62} Both Jerry Pratter, Chair of the Master Plan Committee and member of FPF, and Anabeth Calkins, Central District Parks Manager, believe it will be more difficult for the public to object to the Master Plan if both institutions and public officials support it.

CONCLUSION: PARK AS REAL ESTATE

Forest Park contrasts with Central Park in several

\textsuperscript{61}Skillman, 24 May 1991.

\textsuperscript{62}Pratter, 14 April 1991.
ways. From the beginning, supporters, founders, and administrators saw it not as a work of art, but as real estate. Businessmen and professionals anticipated land values around the Park would increase since views of trees and water would be more desirable than views of buildings, transportation lines, or factories. Even private athletic clubs were allowed to be sited in the Park. The public was invited to use their facilities but not participate in their competitions. Even without the clubs' ballfields and tennis courts, there were many activities for the public including croquet, baseball, tennis, boating, and ice skating.

The integrity of the Park's design was sacrificed in favor of the 1904 World's Fair. Unlike Central Park which rejected proposals to host the 1893 Columbian Exposition, St. Louis boosters lobbied for the right to host the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Among the reasons they cited for the Park as the logical site was its existing infrastructure, appeal to tourists, and location near pleasant neighborhoods.

Fair officials had agreed to restore the Park in "accordance with landscape gardening ideas" and George Kessler, chief landscape architect for the Fair and post-Fair designer, advocated preserving natural scenery and limiting "permanent encroachment of any structures, except those essential to public comfort." However, the Park was not returned to its pastoral past but, instead, was further
saturated with athletic fields, cultural and educational institutions, statues, monuments, structures, and parking lots.

"Park as Real Estate" has negative and positive ramifications. Public land has been developed for exclusive uses, reducing the amount of flexible and passive use areas. But, the multitude of activities serves the recreational needs of local and regional users as well as tourists. Another problem with the model is that, unlike private real estate ventures which developers expect will generate revenues, the Park does not receive enough revenues from its institutions. If it were private property, its owners would reap profits from institutions leasing their land, but since the Park is public property and institutions are subsidized by a City/County tax, it is dependent on the City for funding rather than institutions. Unfortunately, the City has limited funds and no budget for capital projects. One method of raising funds for the improvement and maintenance of facilities may be creating a City/County tax specifically for the Park or raising funds from private sources.

While Forest Park represents the "Recreation Park," a departure from Central Park's "work of art," it does share similarities with the latter. First, there is great interest in beautifying the Park with landscaping, improving scenic views, and creating more areas for passive uses. Second, the Master Plan also attempts to make the Park more
cohesive by improving vehicular and pedestrian circulation. Finally, remembering the Park's history is also important; the City was at the center of attention during the World's Fair. While most structures were torn down after the Fair, that exciting time in the City's history is fondly recalled and immortalized in the song and movie "Meet Me in St. Louis." The Fair is still used as a marketing tool to draw attention to Park events. In 2004, there may be celebrations in the Park commemorating the centennial anniversary of the World's Fair.\textsuperscript{83}

\textsuperscript{83}Love, 22 May 1991.
WHITE RIVER STATE PARK

White River State Park is an ambitious redevelopment of 250 acres of industrial land in downtown Indianapolis. The irregularly defined Park is approximately 1 mile long and less than 1 mile wide with the White River in the center. It is bound on the north by the sprawling campus of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI); on the south by the multilane Washington Street; on the east by the six-lane West Street, the State Capitol and Convention Center complexes, and downtown Indianapolis; and a residential neighborhood on the west.

The White River State Park Development Commission, created twelve years ago by the Indiana General Assembly, is responsible for the realization of a year-round, "new-generation, world-class urban state park unparalleled in creativity and excellence." While the Park is intended to meet future recreational needs of the State and to celebrate Indiana's history and accomplishments in athletics, health, and agriculture, its main purpose is economic development through real estate development, tourism, sports, and new employment opportunities. When completed, it could generate $25 million annually from tourists, employ 1,000 new permanent workers, and 1,200

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Figure 3.24 Location Map, White River State Park

Source: Indianapolis Regional Center General Plan 1980-2000
Figure 3.26 Map of White River State Park
seasonal workers. The Park has been financed with State and private monies under an agreement that it will be self-sustaining and, unlike municipal parks, no public funds will be required for its maintenance. The Commission expects the family entertainment complex, most likely to be developed by Knott’s Berry Farm, to generate enough income from private businesses leasing space in the complex to cover the cost of maintaining public sections of the Park.

DESIGN

The concept for the 1981 Master Plan, developed by Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff (HNTB), Cesar Pelli and Associates, Charles Moore, Edgardo Contini, Danadjieva/Koenig Associates, Geiger Berger Associates, Hammer Siler George Associates, Roy Mann Associates, and Zooplan Associates, was "urban transformation -- the park’s openness becomes the counterpoint to the city’s density." Yet, the Plan seemed to contradict its own stated purpose by proposing towering structures and a multitude of activities. It was also intended to "forcefully integrate the site into its state, regional, and urban context through the completion of developments partially in place: IUPUI on the

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The site, its context and urban links.

Site activities, organization and linkages.

1. Park Symbol
2. Celebration Plaza
3. Organized Entertainment
4. Zoo
5. Cultural
6. Military Park
7. Pedestrian River Crossing
8. Parking

Figure 3.27 White River State Park Master Plan
north and the State Office Complex on the east." 67 The Park is an extension of the downtown to its east and the campus on its north.

Each element of the Master Plan -- the Grand Entry, Indiana Tower, Public Open Spaces, White River Park Zoo, Military Park, Performing Arts Quadrangle, and Indiana Landing -- was developed by an individual member of the team. The Grand Entry, a "brightly flowered bowl," would lead to Pelli's 750 feet Indiana Tower at the end of Washington Street and would be the Park's landmark similar to the Unisphere in Flushing Meadows. Danadjieva/Koenig Associates proposed demolishing the Washington Street bridge, which already provided a link between downtown and the Park, and constructing a new pedestrian bridge further north to connect public open spaces on both sides of the River -- Celebration Plaza on the east bank and Fountain Plaza/Water Spire on the west. 68 The new bridge, at the site of the original National Road Bridge, traversed by settlers on their westward journey, would have agricultural and crafts exhibits, festivals, concerts, entertainment, and sitting areas on the lower level. The upper level would offer dramatic views of downtown and the Park. 69 The most important element of the Park, the White River, would be

67 HNTB, p. 1.4.
68 HNTB, pp. 1.7-1.9.
69 HNTB, p. 2.20.
Figure 3.28 Indiana Tower
Figure 3.29 Open Space Site Plan
Figure 3.30  Fountain Plaza
landscaped with limestone terraces in celebration of the City's famous limestone quarries. A promenade would be constructed on the west bank while pastoral meadows, flowers, trees, a nature trail, and limestone rock gardens would be on the east bank. Islands of "wilderness gardens, vanishing and reappearing... and accessible only by water," would be sanctuaries for "the bird population of the floodplain." Celebration Plaza would "open the park to the White River and become a foyer to activities occurring on it... such as festivals, parades, exhibits, and concerts." The Plaza would also have a Winter Garden/International Center with exhibits on regional plants, a horticultural school, and restaurants featuring international cuisines. A Water/Fire Fountain, symbolizing elements of the State flag, would announce special events and celebrations and McCormick's Rock, would celebrate the first settlers of the City. A small amphitheater and boat landing twenty feet below the Plaza would entice people to the River's edge. Fountain Plaza, the anchor on the west bank, would have water cascading down its exterior and restaurants and entertainment in the interior. It would be a "day/night, year-round stage for enjoying the river and constitutes a destination point within the park." 

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70 HNTB, pp. 2.22-2.23.
71 HNTB, pp. 2.18-2.19.
72 HNTB, p. 2.24.
Other destination points include the Zoo, Military Park, Performing Arts Quadrangle, and Indiana Landing. The Zoo, conceptualized by Zooplan Associates and designed by James Associates, would occupy most of the southern end. For Military Park, the City's oldest park, in the northeast corner, Danadjieva/Koenig proposed retaining its formal axial roads and realigning the canal westward when it intersects Ohio Street. From the center of the southern edge, the canal would travel south to the HNTB-envisioned Performing Arts Quadrangle where the 5,000 seat Music Hall; Drama School, for the IUPUI Drama department; Art School; and Crafts Center would front on a public space. Moore's Indiana Landing would be the super-activity, fantastic, celebratory, amusement, family entertainment complex. The first part would be a public, commercial, year-round space for restaurants and shops. Beyond that would be the controlled, admission-charged amusement area with rides and activities. On the west bank, east of the Zoo, would be the water entertainment complex with a wave pool, jacuzzi, or water slides.

Today, the only components of the Master Plan in existence are the Zoo, which the Master Plan Team knew would relocate to the site, and Military Park, which was already in place. The glorious and optimistic "urban

73 HNTB, pp. 2.26, 2.32.
74 HNTB, p. 2.10.
Figure 3.31 Military Park
Figure 3.32 Performing Arts Quadrangle
Indiana Landing: Plan

1. Entrance
2. Tarkington Square
3. Commercial District
4. Printoh Plaza
5. Admission Gate
6. Ski Ride
7. Otho Max Theatre
8. Balloon Ride
9. Ferris Wheel
10. Midway Fair Plaza
11. Ferry Dock
12. East Lake
13. Boat Ride
14. Aqueduct Bridge
15. Manna
16. Westlake-Water World
17. Wave Pool

Figure 3.33 Indiana Landing
transformation" may never be fulfilled because of financial constraints, environmental considerations, and political decisions. For example, the cost of building Indiana Tower is enormous; the River is so polluted, the Board of Health has limited the number of activities on the River; and the pedestrian bridge, formerly a six-lane highway, connecting Washington Street to the Zoo is structurally sound and there are no plans to demolish it. 75

While the Master Plan identified where and what activities would occur, the actual development of the Park has been determined by which institutions have their own funding for construction and operations and whether they meet the Commission's mandate for educational and recreational opportunities for Indianans and visitors. The 64-acre Zoo, approximately seventy percent developed and in need of additional funding before it may be completed, 76 and the River Promenade, built to screen the Zoo's mechanical systems, are on the western bank of the River. The historic Military Park is in the northeast and to its south is the impressive Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art, named in honor of businessman and philanthropist Harrison Eiteljorg. After World War II, his

75 Telephone interview with Laurie Wildey, Director of Park Administration, White River State Park, 12 April 1991.

76 Telephone interview with Carl Webber, Project Architect, James Associates, at the time the Zoo was designed; currently at Plus 4 Architects, Indianapolis, 12 April 1991.
Figure 3.34 Map of White River State Park
travels took him to the West, where he developed a life-long appreciation for the West and its art. The Native American collection features pottery, basketry, woodcarvings, and clothing. The American West collection consists of drawings, sculptures, and paintings, including works by Albert Bierstadt and Georgia O’Keefe. 77 Southwest of the Museum is the Pumphouse, site of the first public water service for the City in 1871. Restored in 1979, it is now on the National Register of Historic Places and serves as a Visitor and Information Center and Commission headquarters. 78 Northwest of the Pumphouse is The National Institute for Fitness and Sport (NIFS), a non-profit organization with the dual mission of being a national center for research on health, exercise physiology, and sports medicine and a community center for education, fitness, and athletic and youth development. 79

There are three buildings which are not part of the Park. The Acme Evans flour mill, west of the Eiteljorg Museum, will relocate when its lease expires in 1993 and its five acres 80 may be redeveloped as part of the family entertainment complex. South of the mill and east of the

77 Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art brochure.

78 Commission, The Pumphouse factsheet.

79 The National Institute for Fitness and Sport brochure.

80 Commission, p. 6.
Pumphouse is the Beveridge Paper Company, manufacturer of poster boards. The Commission wants to develop the land as part of the family entertainment center but has no funds for its acquisition. The last building, the Indiana Power and Light plant, near NIFS, will remain since it is extremely costly to relocate its utilities. Presently, the plant is only running its steam operations but will generate power in the future when need arises.

The most prominent feature of the Park is the River but there is little activity on it. Stringent Board of Health regulations prohibit most recreational uses on the River since it is polluted and may cause health problems. But, Knott's Berry Farm, potential developers of Indiana Landing, the family entertainment complex, intends to make the River a destination for visitors since it is "'the symbol of life'; the well-spring of the Capital and vital artery of the State." In the original Master Plan, Indiana Landing was in the southern section of the Park but Knott's' proposal extends to all parts of the Park, retains the Washington Street bridge, and embraces both banks of the River, replacing the Master Plan's Celebration and Fountain Plazas. Preliminary plans include educational, cultural, and historical exhibits; indoor and outdoor amusements and

\[81\] Wildey, 24 May 1991.
\[82\] Terry E. Van Gorder, President and CEO, Knott's Berry Farm, presentation to the City of Indianapolis, 7 February 1991, p. 2.1.
Figure 3.35 Knott's Berry Farm's Indiana Landing
rides; a Winter Garden, with an activity center for children; an OMNIMAX theater; a crafts village; two full-service themed restaurants; shops; and nightclubs. Knott's believes it can successfully create a Tivoli Garden-like amusement experience and still have strong educational components, similar to the turn-of-the-century belief that education in a fun way is a bonus. Indiana Landing also borrows from the 19th century philosophy that parks were to be escapes from the tensions and pressures of cities. It is to be a "'pressure relief' valve, an escape of Man from his ordinary, everyday life experience."

Edges

The Park successfully integrates downtown and the University so its edges are blurred. New York Street at IUPUI's athletic fields in the northwest and Military Park are the farthest northern boundaries. In between, the boundary runs along the River until NIFS. Except for the sign indicating NIFS is part of the Park, its location suggests it is part of IUPUI's facilities. The southern boundary is the rerouted Washington Street. The six-lane West Street, the eastern edge, separates downtown from the Park. The western edge is the multi-lane White River.

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van Gorder, pp. 1.7, 1.1.
Topography

The Park's major asset is that it is 25'-30' above the River. The Washington Street pedestrian bridge, IUPUI, and the River Promenade provide opportunities to look at the River.

Circulation

Within the Park, each institution provides its own area for vehicular and pedestrian circulation. The former six-lane Washington Street highway, uniting downtown and the Zoo, became a pedestrian bridge when Washington Street was relocated south of the Park to separate vehicular and pedestrian traffic within the Park and to provide enough land for the Indianapolis Zoo. 85

PROGRAM

The Park has elements of John Fondersmith's 86 checklist for an "ideal downtown," which includes: (1) a mix of uses to create a lively space at night and on the weekends as well as during the workday. The Zoo and Eiteljorg Museum host receptions and parties for conventioneers, athletic facilities at NIFS are available,

85HNTB, p. 1.3.

and conventions sometimes sponsor fitness runs through the Park. (2) Open space and major water features -- the River is the main water feature but there are no activities on it. Not only is it polluted, it is also floodprone and its flood walls need to be rebuilt. The Commission and the Army Corp of Engineers are considering placing recreation facilities into rebuilt flood walls. (3) Arts and a range of downtown cultural facilities -- the 1981 Master Plan called for a Performing Arts Quadrangle but it does not exist. In Knott's proposal, the Quadrangle is replaced by a Museum District. Currently, only the Eiteljorg Museum is in place. The Indianapolis Historical Society may relocate to the Park.

Except for the prototypical NIFS, the Park has educational and cultural activities traditionally associated with parks. It does not have ball fields since they do not meet the Commission's mandate and are available in other parks. Existing activities include:

- passive

Military Park hosted the first State fair and was used as a marshalling ground for Civil War troops. Today, it is heavily populated with lunctime picknickers and people relaxing.

87 Wildey, 24 May 1991.
88 Wildey, 12 April 1991.
89 HNTB, p. 2.38.
90 Wildey, 12 April 1991.
• educational/cultural

The Eiteljorg Museum of Indian and Western Art (opened June 1989; cost $14 million91) -- during its first summer, it hosted a segment of the Smithsonian Institution's travel and education program and attracted 2,000 - 3,000 visitors a week.92

The Indianapolis Zoo (opened June 1988; cost $64 million93) -- the original Master Plan, developed by James Associates, included two major overlooks toward the River and housing but was abandoned when the service area, originally sited south of Washington Street, was found to be contaminated, and was relocated onsite. The design was again compromised when the Army Corp of Engineers rejected plans to alter the retaining wall, resulting in the River Promenade. Constructed adjacent to the Zoo, it screens the Zoo's mechanical systems and protects the animals from the public.94 Despite these setbacks, the Zoo is the proud owner of the only enclosed, environmentally-controlled, year-round whale and dolphin showcase in the country and draws approximately one million visitors each year.95

The National Institute for Fitness and Sport (opened November 1988; cost $12 million96) -- a non-profit organization charged with a dual mission of being a sophisticated, hi-tech, national research center for physical fitness and health and, equally important, providing facilities for the community and developing community-based programs such as Big Brothers and

91Commission, p. 5.
92Wildey, 12 April 1991.
93Commission, p. 4.
94Webber, 12 April 1991.
95Commission, p. 4.
96Commission, p. 6.
Figure 3.37 Aerial view of Indianapolis Zoo

Source: Doug Bartlow, IUPUI photographer
Figure 3.38  Aerial view of The National Institute for Fitness and Sport with Military Park in foreground

Source: Doug Bartlow, IUPUI photographer
Six centers, Human Performance Research, Health and Fitness Services, Educational Programs, Athletic Development, Youth Development, and the Fitness Center work with IUPUI's Medical and Physical Education Schools, the American College of Sports Medicine, and the Olympic Training Center to understand the human body and to develop programs for maintaining and improving health, physical fitness, and athletic performance of all ages and abilities.

Visitor and Information Center - in the renovated Pumphouse; provides exhibits and overview of activities

- open space

The River Promenade is a spectacular, half-mile long, 15-foot wide path defined by 1,272 refrigerator-sized limestone blocks piled up 15 feet high on the River's flood wall. According to its designer, Angela Danadjieva, it is "a visual mitigation project," to hide the Zoo's mechanical facilities. It starts at the parking lot, travels westward, and ends in a residential neighborhood. Engraved in the walls are images of the State Capitol; the Empire State Building; and the National Cathedral, in Washington, D.C. commemorating the use of Indiana limestone in their construction.

The Promenade is a practical solution to screening mechanical space but obstructs the Zoo's view of the River. There are opportunities to see the River outside the Zoo. Thickly planted trees on the eastern end hide the River but further west, past the slanted-roof Whale and Dolphin Pavilion, the River is visible from the railing until

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97 Telephone interview with John Arends, Director of Marketing and Communications, The National Institute for Fitness and Sport, 7 May 1991.

98 The National Institute for Fitness and Sport brochure.


100 Angela Danadjieva, quoted Mannheimer, p. 58.
Figure 3.39 River Promenade
Courtesy John Arends, NIFS

Figure 3.40 Promenade Looking East to Downtown
Figure 3.41 Promenade with Retaining Wall

Figure 3.42 Promenade with Iron Railing
Figure 3.43  Amphitheater at Western End of Promenade
Figure 3.44 Promenade Engravings of State Capitol, Washington Cathedral, and Empire State Building

Source: Architecture, August 1990, p. 64.
another series of trees interrupt the view. From there, the vertical flood wall angles, the River returns to view, and an amphitheater, reminiscent of ancient ruins, offers ample sitting space and views of downtown.

- industrial
  
  Acme-Evans flour mill
  Beveridge Paper Company
  Indiana Power and Light

- administrative/Park-related
  
  The Pump House serves as the Visitor and Information Center and Commission offices.

FUNDING

White River is not a traditional state park in that it was conceived as a partnership and real estate development between the State and private institutions. During the past decade, the State legislature has provided $34 million for land acquisition from seventy four owners, utilities relocation, and operating expenses. 101 But, with a slowing economy, the State does not have enough resources to fund the Park. It will not receive its fourth quarter allotment this year nor has it been included in the State's budget for the next two years. 102 The City has contributed some funds but the development of the Park has been achieved mostly by private funds. In particular, the Lilly Endowment, founded

101 Wildey, 12 April 1991.
by Eli Lilly, the pharmaceutical giant, has been the most generous benefactor. It contributed $5 million to the State for initial site and feasibility studies and land acquisition, and has given millions in grants to the Eiteljorg and NIFS.\textsuperscript{103} It also made a significant contribution to the Zoo, allowing it to construct its Whale and Dolphin Pavilion.\textsuperscript{104}

As with any real estate venture, there are risks and for the Park and its institutions, that includes being self-sustaining. Unlike Central Park and Forest Park, White River does not receive State or City subsidies for its operations. The realization of Indiana Landing is extremely important since it must generate enough revenues for the Commission to cover the cost of maintaining public portions of the Park. The Commission is still negotiating with Knott's Berry Farm and conducting feasibility studies. It may be five years before Indiana Landing is developed.\textsuperscript{105}

Funding is a critical issue closely related to the cost of enjoying the Park. Since the Zoo receives no public funds, it charges $7.00 admission for adults, $5.00 for seniors 62 years and older, $4.00 for children ages three to twelve, and $45 for membership.\textsuperscript{106} Despite the high cost

\textsuperscript{103}Commission, p. 2.

\textsuperscript{104}Webber, 12 April 1991.

\textsuperscript{105}Wildey, 24 May 1991.

\textsuperscript{106}Indianapolis Zoo brochure.
of admission, it has received more than one million visitors each year since it opened. The Eiteljorg Museum is more reasonable - it charges $2.00 for adults; $1.50 for seniors, full-time students, and children from 3-18; $1.00 for children 4-12; and free for children 3 and younger.

NIFS has a range of membership fees to ensure its affordability to the community. Currently, there are approximately eight hundred members. City and State employees receive discounted rates; University students pay an initial $75 and $30 each month for use of the Fitness Center; and individuals pay a one-time $250 fee and $40 each month.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN PARK PLANNING

During the Master Plan process, the Commission embarked on an aggressive public awareness program through speeches and newsletters while the Master Plan team conducted three state-wide, prime-time, one-hour television workshops. Nine telephone lines, including two toll free, were available for citizen use. The West Side Task Force on White River Park, a group of neighborhood organizations, was also involved in reviewing design and planning proposals.

Suggestions for programs in the Park included helium

107 Commission, p. 4.
108 Eiteljorg Museum brochure.
balloon rides, boat rides, restaurants overlooking the River, aquarium/planetarium, ice skating rink, bicycle trails, unique rides through the Park, and children's play area. Currently, none of these events exist but Knott's Indiana Landing includes amusements, educational and cultural exhibits, and activities for children.

Among citizen concerns were automobile noise and pollution, preserving wildlife and landscape along the River, and maintenance and security. The Master Plan addressed automobile noise and pollution by rerouting Washington Street south of the site to separate vehicular and pedestrian traffic within the Park and locating the parking lot in the southeast, furthest away from residential neighborhoods. Danadjieva/Koenig proposed creating islands in the River as sanctuaries for existing bird populations. To date, there are no sanctuaries in the River but there are unplanned landscaping -- thickly planted trees at the eastern end of the Promenade and just before the retaining wall angles (see Figure 3.38). With regard to maintenance and security, each institution is responsible for providing its own. The Park is also fortuitously located near the IUPUI medical center and the City fire station, eliminating the need to have its own facilities.

There is ongoing dialogue between the Commission and a

\[110\] HNTB, pp. 3.2-3.4.

\[111\] Wildey, 1 March 1991.
core of citizens who regularly attend open meetings but it has little impact on decision making and planning for the Park. Citizens often call for more passive uses, but the Commission’s response is that other parks in the City fulfill that role. The purpose of White River is to attract tourist and conventioneer dollars.\textsuperscript{112}

CONCLUSION: PARK AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There are several important lessons from the "park as economic development" model. First, master plans must be realistic and implementable. The 1981 Master Plan envisioned a grand "urban transformation" with Pelli’s 750 feet Indiana Tower marking the beginning of a thrilling and entertaining experience. The tower is too expensive to construct and other elements, including demolishing the Washington Street pedestrian bridge and building a new one further north are impractical. The visionary Master Plan cannot be implemented because the Development Commission does not have the necessary financial resources. Second, parks should capitalize on their special features. While the White River is at the center of the Park, there are no major activities are on it. The Commission is currently negotiating with Knott’s Berry Farm and conducting feasibility studies to determine what activities may be developed on the River and what the economic impact will be.

\textsuperscript{112} Wildey, 12 April 1991.
for the Park. The Commission recognizes the economic and recreational benefits of transforming the River into the center of attention. Third, there must be interesting and unique activities to bring visitors into parks. While the Park's slogan "It's All in the Park!," may be more appropriate for Forest Park, the Park does have special activities including the innovative NIFS; the sophisticated Whale and Dolphin Pavilion; and a major contribution to the history of American Indian and western art. Finally, with limited public funds, parks need revenue-generating activities so that funds may be reinvested for their maintenance and improvement. Indiana Landing is suppose to be the revenue-generating enterprise that will enable the Park to be self-sustaining.
CHAPTER 4 - FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK

LOCATION

Flushing Meadows Corona Park is a 1,255 acre, tongue-shaped park in the heart of Queens, approximately six miles east of Central Park. It is the second largest park in New York, stretching 3 1/2 miles north-south and 1 mile at its widest section, the Core. The southern two-thirds are dominated by lakes. Meadow Lake, approximately 3/4 of a mile long and 1,000 feet wide, is the largest lake in the City. Willow Lake, to its south, is a protected wetland. The Park is also situated among diverse neighborhoods. To its northwest are Jackson Heights and North Corona which have black populations. West of the Core are Corona and Elmhurst, predominantly Italian and Hispanic. South of these neighborhoods is Rego Park, with a large Indian population. At the southern end are Forest Hills and Kew Gardens with Jewish communities. To the northeast is Flushing, with a large Asian population. Kew Garden Hills, in the southeast, is predominantly white.¹ Other unique features about its location include (1) being part of the Kissena Corridor, a greenbelt comprised of Alley Pond, Cunninghamn, and Kissena Parks, created by Robert Moses,

Figure 4.1 Location Map, Flushing Meadows
Figure 4.2 Site Map, Flushing Meadows

Source: Flushing Meadows Corona Park Task Force, Source Book.
Figure 4.3 Regional Parklands

Source: Flushing Meadows Corona Park Task Force, Source Book.
frst City Commissioner of Parks and Recreation (1934-1960).\textsuperscript{2} Today it is in the middle of a greenbelt from the Brooklyn/Queens border to Nassau County. (2) It is directly in the flight path of planes using LaGuardia Airport, approximately one mile north, and (3) except for the western edge of the Core, where a tall chain link fence separates the Park from Corona, it is encircled by highways. On the north are the intersections of Astoria Boulevard, the Whitestone Expressway, and Northern Boulevard. The Grand Central Parkway runs north-south along its western edge; the Van Wyck is on its eastern edge. There are also east-west links across the Park -- Roosevelt Avenue, the #7 IRT subway line, the Long Island Railroad (LIRR), the Long Island Expressway (formerly Horace Harding Boulevard), and 69th Road/Jewel Avenue.

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

In 1984, Project for Public Spaces (PPS), a non-profit planning, management, and design firm founded in 1975 to improve public spaces, was hired by the Department of Parks and Recreation to assist with the planning and management of the Park by understanding who the users were, how the Park was used, and what user and Park needs were. From 1984 - 1985, PPS conducted on-site interviews in English and Spanish, mailed surveys to Queens residents in adjacent

\textsuperscript{2}Rogers, et al, p. 12.
neighborhoods, and interviewed Park staff.

According to PPS, the Park receives more than six million visitors annually, including two million who use the Park on a regular basis, more than one million who come for special events and ethnic festivals, and more than three million who attend Mets baseball games at Shea Stadium and tennis matches during the US Open.\(^3\) Similar to Central Park, where the majority of users are from Manhattan, almost 81% of users are from Queens. Seven percent are from Brooklyn, 5% from Manhattan, 3.6% from Bronx, and 2% from out of state. Of the people from Queens, 14% live in Corona, 13.5% in Flushing, 8% in Jackson Heights, 6% in both Woodside and Elmhurst, 4.5% in Astoria, 3% in both Forest Hills and Jamaica, 2% in Rego Park, and 21% from other parts of Queens.

The Park is a gathering place for families; more than half of the visitors come with their families or spouses.\(^4\) The Park receives the greatest number of visitors during summer Sundays. With no special events occurring, more than 25,000 people use the Park. Approximately 15,000 are in the Park during a typical summer Saturday and during the week, there are about 6,000.\(^5\) Another indication of a strong

\[^3\text{Project for Public Spaces, Flushing Meadows Corona Park Use and Needs Analysis, April 1986, p. 16.}\]

\[^4\text{PPS, p. 19.}\]

\[^5\text{PPS, p. 16.}\]
local constituency is that 49% of visitors use the Park a few times a week and more than 17% of weekday users go to the Park everyday.

Visitors often stay for long periods of time. Weekenders usually spend more time than weekdayers. Almost 42% stay between 3 and 6 hours; 13.5% stay for more than six hours, and only 9% stay less than one hour. Similar to Central Park, most visitors use the Park for relaxation (56%), picknicking and watching sports (42%), enjoying nature (41.7%), and strolling (29.9%). The ratio of males to females is fairly even during the day throughout the week but in the evening, shifts dramatically to mostly males, who either play or watch sports.

Almost half the users are from Latin American countries. Another major use group is school children. On weekdays during the school year, students visit the Hall of Science, Queens Museum, the Carousel, and the Playground for All Children.

"VERSAILLES OF AMERICA"

The Park's creation, location, and purpose, were the dream of the influential and legendary Robert Moses. He had

⁵PPS, p. 20.
⁶PPS, p. 21.
⁷PPS, p. 17.
⁸PPS, p. 17.
envisioned a grand park in Queens with recreational and athletic facilities to rival Central Park. He predicted the site of the future park would eventually be the geographic and population center of the City since it was easily reachable from highways and public transportation. Not one to plan on a small-scale or think narrowly, Moses proposed hosting a World's Fair on the site and with the profits, transform the Park into "the Versailles of America, with broad tree-line allees, fountains and water basins, [and] sheltered gardens and courts." Given its size, central location, and accessibility, the Park would have regional and local appeal. It was to be the most ambitious, extensive, and self-sustaining, recreation center in the City. Physical divisions created by highways and transportation lines were to be incorporated into the planning of different types of recreation. The Core area, north of Horace Harding Boulevard, would have baseball and football fields, field hockey, tennis courts,

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11 "Flushing Meadow Park to Become Versailles of America After Fair," The Flushing Meadow Improvement, October 1936, p. 2.


Figure 4.4 Permanent Plan for Park After Fair
playgrounds, large swimming and wading pools, a pitch-putt golf course, a model yacht basin, and an outdoor stage.\textsuperscript{14} The New York City Building would become a great indoor recreation center with ice and roller skating, sports exhibitions, and conventions. South of Horace Harding Boulevard would be Meadow and Willow Lakes. A pedestrian walk and bridle path would encircle them. Concerts would play during the evening for the enjoyment of boaters.\textsuperscript{15} The amphitheater at the northern end of Meadow Lake would have indoor daytime activities including games and drama and handicraft classes. Evening activities would consist of stage presentations, pageants, concerts, and water shows.\textsuperscript{16} An arboretum devoted to native plants, including the world's largest collection of willows, would be located between the Lakes.\textsuperscript{17} Borrowing from the success of Central Park's marginal playgrounds, Fair planners proposed locating playgrounds along the periphery of the Park, closer to residents and away from regional aspects of the Park.\textsuperscript{18}

\textsuperscript{14} "Permanent Plan for Park After Fair," \textit{The Flushing Meadow Improvement}, December 1936, pp. 4, 18.

\textsuperscript{15} "136 Acres of Lakes and Their Use After the Fair," \textit{The Flushing Meadow Improvement}, November 1936, p. 18.

\textsuperscript{16} "Permanent Plan for Park After Fair," \textit{The Flushing Improvement}, December 1936, p. 18.

\textsuperscript{17} "Flushing Meadow Park to Become Versailles of America After Fair," \textit{The Flushing Meadow Improvement}, October 1936, pp. 1-2, 8.

\textsuperscript{18} "Marginal Playgrounds in Flushing Meadow Park," \textit{The Flushing Meadow Improvement}, January 1937, p. 10.
1939 WORLD'S FAIR

The 1939 World's Fair themes of "Building the World of Tomorrow" and the 150th anniversary of George Washington's inauguration celebrated the end of the Depression and the optimism of a "new day." The Fair was organized in a system of radiating streets and fanlike segments. At the center was the Fair's central theme building, the 610' triangular tower Trylon and 180' diameter Perisphere.\(^\text{19}\) A north-south axis connected the Court of Communications to the Plaza of Light which continued southward to the Amphitheater at the northern end of Fountain Lake. Constitution Mall extended eastward from the Trylon and Perisphere to the Lagoon of Nations and beyond to the Court of Peace, where international exhibitors were located.\(^\text{20}\) Seven categories of attractions, Production and Distribution; Transportation, Communications and Business Systems; Food; Medicine and Public Health; Science and Education; and Community Interests,\(^\text{21}\) introduced visitors to the future Ages of Consumerism and the Machine and the wonders of the "American

\(^{19}\) City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation, "Historical Development of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Queens, New York," p. 4.


\(^{21}\) Department of Parks and Recreation, "Historical Development of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park," p. 4.
Figure 4.5 1939 World's Fair
Figure 4.6  Trylon and Perisphere
Way of Life." Attractions included the first RCA television broadcast, Einstein's talk on cosmic rays, robots by Westinghouse, uses of nylon and lucite, exhibits on space and rocket travel, 3D movie techniques, color photography, and the automobile.

Approximately 45 million visitors went to the Fair but it failed to be a profitable venture. Without sufficient funding and with the gloom of World War II approaching, the bold plans for the Park's transformation could not be carried out. What remained were the path system, vegetation and plantings, a time capsule, the New York City building, and the State Amphitheater and Boathouse. The Trylon and Perisphere were dismantled and its four thousand tons of steel were used for the war effort.

FROM FAIR TO DIPLOMACY

After World War II, from 1946-1950, the New York City building served as temporary headquarters of the newly founded United Nations. In 1947, the historic event, the founding of Israel, occurred at the United Nations. Mayor William O'Dwyer, interested in having the prestigious institution remain in the City, appointed Moses to head a committee to determine the appropriate site for its permanent

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23 Department of Parks and Recreation, "Historical Development of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park," p. 4.
home. Not surprisingly, Moses suggested Flushing Meadow, citing its easy access to Manhattan; convenience to rail, road, and air transportation; and extensive network of utilities left from the Fair. The City, willing to abandon its plans for a park and any vestiges of the Fair, offered to restrict private development in surrounding areas and to build housing for the organization's international staff. Instead, the United Nations chose Manhattan's East Side and in 1951 relocated to its new home along the East River.²⁴

1964 WORLD'S FAIR

The Park would soon be the center of attention again, when Moses organized its second World's Fair. Resigning his post as Parks Commissioner, he became Fair Corporation President and pledged to make the Fair a profitable enterprise and to realize his vision for a distinguished park with recreational, educational, and sports facilities. The 1964 Fair, celebrating "Man's Achievements on a Shrinking Globe in an Expanding Universe," and "Peace Through Understanding," retained the radial layout of the previous Fair and facilities were planned for reuse after the Fair. The Unisphere, a globe with the continents placed on open grids, was constructed by the US Steel Corporation and placed on the foundation which had supported the Trylon

and Perisphere. From any viewpoint, every continent could be seen, suggesting interdependence and unity among nations. Three structures from the previous Fair were reused — the New York City Building, the Amphitheater, and the Boathouse. General Motors, Ford Motors, Chrysler, General Electric, and IBM were among the exhibitors. The Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and Michelangelo's Pieta were also showcased. This time, almost 52 million visitors went to the Fair, but again, it failed to make a profit. As with the previous Fair, some structures were left for permanent use or display — the Unisphere; Hall of Science; New York State Pavilion; Singer Bowl (renovated in 1973 and renamed Louis Armstrong Stadium in 1978, home of the US Tennis Association and the US Open); Pools and Fountains; the Rocket Thrower; Time Capsule II; Whispering Column of Jerash (gift from King Hussein of Jordan), the Exedra (from the Vatican Pavilion), Administration Building (Olmsted Building; Parks Department offices); Passarelle Building, Heliport (Terrace on the Park catering); the Marina, and Press Building (currently a police station).

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Figure 4.7  United States Tennis Association
National Tennis Center

Source: Architectural Record, February 1980, p. 110
Figure 4.8  The Rocket Thrower
POST FAIR PLANS

In 1964, the Park received a new name, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, but kept its problems. When the Park was returned to the City by the Fair Corporation in 1967, it had received $220 million in permanent improvements but was still an empty fairground trying to be a park. Some playgrounds were built, the Zoo was constructed, and there were a few ball fields. Over the years various schemes have been proposed for improving the site. In 1967, Parks Commissioner Thomas Hoving assembled an international team of designers, Kenzo Tange, Marcel Breuer, and Lawrence Halprin, to create a Flushing Meadows Sports Park. Each of their ten schemes, none which went beyond the schematic phase, ignored the Park's formal layout. In some schemes, even the lakes were removed. By the early 1970s, the City was in a financial crisis and the entire park system was neglected.

When the City recovered from its crisis, officials turned their attention toward improving the Park. Renewed interest in the Park has sparked a debate about what is the purpose of the Park and what is a "park of the 21st Century?" Local press has often called it a "park with an

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27Department of Parks and Recreation, "Historic Development of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park," pp. 5-6.

- **Marina and Winter Boat Storages** - Approximately 400 slips on floating docks, with winter storage space for 150 boats. The Parks Department is currently discussing the possibility of expanding the Marina in the future.

- **La Shea Restaurant** - A restaurant fronting on Flushing Bay within the Marina. It serves continental cuisine for lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch. It also includes a disco.

- **Waterfront Promenade** - Approximately 2 miles long. It is proposed to be restored as a pedestrian promenade, with kiosks and concessions, stretching from LaGuardia Airport to the Flushing River.

- **USTA and Louis Armstrong Stadium/National Tennis Center** - Relocated to the Park from Forest Hills; holds the annual U.S. Open Tournament for two weeks in August and September. Facilities include a tennis arena, various smaller exhibition and practice courts (9 indoor and 27 outdoor), and a food concessionaire. The tennis courts are open to the public by fee year-round. The Louis Armstrong Stadium is used only during the U.S. Open, which draws approximately 350,000 people during its two-week stay. It is also available for other uses.

- **Long Island Rail Road Station** - On the Port Washington Branch; operates during major events at Shea Stadium and the National Tennis Center/USTA.

- **Passarelle Building** - The Reach Program is designed to help handicapped adults and is housed in the Passarelle Building, along with the Police Athletic League.

- **Pitch & Putt Golf Course** - Approximately 15-acre golf putting range; the only facility of its type in the City. Open seven months of the year.

- **Bicycle Rental** - New in 1988; housed in a temporary trailer near the Pitch & Putt Golf Course.

- **Softball Areas** - 12 ballfields available for use by Park permit.

- **Soccer Fields** - 7 fields available for use by Park permit.

- **Cricket Field** - One available.

Figure 4.9 Existing Uses and Facilities

Source: Flushing Meadows Corona Park Task Force, *Source Book*
Fountain of the Planets - Terminus of Fountain Alley (the Park's main east-west axis), the Fountain is part of the Flushing River. It is a major Park focal point and potentially the largest fountain in New York City. The Fountain is not now in operation.

Queens Botanical Garden - 39 acres, including formal Gardens on Main Street and an Arboretum at the entry to the Kissena Corridor Park; free to the public.

Vatican Exedra - Marker on the site of the 1964 World's Fair's Vatican Pavilion where Pope John XXIII visited.

Theater in the Park - Originally part of the New York State Pavilion of 1964, it is currently seeking a resident Company.

New York State Pavilion - Designed by Philip Johnson for the 1964 World's Fair, its two major components are a large oval arena with a terrazzo map of the State on the floor of the open center (the original translucent plexiglass roof was removed), and a tripartite cylindrical observation platform tower (the tallest structure in the Park). It is not currently in use.

Ederle Amphitheatre and Pool - On the north side of Meadow Lake, this former "Aquacade" of the 1939 Fair is not now in operation. The structure is being stabilized and the facility will be programmed in the early 1990s, with complete renovation of the Amphitheatre to follow.

The Boathouse - This facility on Meadow Lake has not been operated for the past few years; however, sailing classes are conducted adjacent to the Boathouse by a Red Cross group twice each summer (lake condition permitting).

Model Plane Field - Located on the east side of Meadow Lake, the field requires a Park permit for plane operators.

Willow Lake Natural Area - Undeveloped area used for passive recreation and birdwatching; it has become a major bird habitat. The creek and lakefront area have been designated a freshwater wetland by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Meadow Lake - Two and one half miles in circumference, and the largest lake in the metropolitan area, this shallow lake is used for sailing and boating; however, recent plant growth has interfered with these functions. The adjacent shoreline is used for jogging, picnicking, and bicycling.

Picnicking Areas - Located near the Zoo, the Barrier Free Playground, the Van Wyck/soccer fields area, and around Meadow Lake.
• Remote-Controlled Car Field - Parking lot currently inaccessible from the road system, used for radio-controlled model cars.

• New York City Building
  The Queens Museum - Occupies the northern half of New York City's 1939 World's Fair building and presents fine arts exhibitions, and holds workshops, films and lectures. The City Panorama model of New York City from the 1964 World's Fair is housed in this building. The Museum is currently in its 15th year. Renovation plans are underway, designed by architect Rafael Vinoli.

  Ice Skating Rink - Open seasonally (November - April), it occupies the southern half of the 1939 World's Fair New York City Building.

• Rocket Thrower - Sculpture from the 1939 World's Fair on the principal east-west axis.

• Unisphere - Theme structure of the 1964 World's Fair, this stainless steel globe is at the intersection of the Fair axes and on the site of the 1939 Trylon and Perisphere.

• The Whispering Column of Jerash - From an ancient Roman Temple, the gift of King Hussein of Jordan.

• Swedish Playground - A prefabricated, modular play-unit that has become very popular and has recently been expanded.

• Israeli-American Friendship Grove - Site to be developed commemorating the formation of the State of Israel by the United Nations.

• Time Capsule - One each from the 1939 and 1964 World's Fairs, encircled by a sitting area.

• Playground For All Children (Barrier Free Playground) - A three and one half acre landscaped playground accessible to both able-bodied and handicapped children. This is an interborough facility.

• The Carousel - Impeccably restored by Carlos Colon (who also restored the Central Park Carousel); includes a food and trinkets concession. Open all year, 50¢ a ride.

Queens Zoo - Created in 1967. Ten acres are being converted into open-air animal habitats for North American fauna. The Zoo also includes an aviary in a Buckminster Fuller geodesic dome that was Great Britain's Pavilion in the 1964 World's Fair. The Children's Zoo/Farm is a petting farm with horse and carriage rides. Both are free to the public. Upon completion of this current capital
renovations project at the Zoo, management of the Zoo will
be undertaken by the New York Zoological Society.

- **Terrace on the Park** - Private, kosher caterer housed in the
  Port Authority Heliport and "Top of the Fair" Restaurant of
  the 1964 World's Fair.

- **New York Hall of Science Museum** - 30,000 square feet,
  reopened in 1986-87 for current use. Houses "hands-on"
  exhibits on science and technology, classroom and lab
  facilities, multi-media library, snack automat, and gift
  shop utilized by 225,000 visitors annually. An exhibit
  shop is under construction. Major spaces of the 1964
  World's Fair building remain to be renovated including a
  planetarium and an 8,000 square foot Great Hall walled in
  undulating concrete and stained glass. The exterior 23
  acres are also slated for renovation, including the
  existing Space Park.

- **Police Station** - Special Operations Division headquarters
  across from the Olmsted Center in the former Press
  Building; does not service the Park.

- **Olmsted Center** - New York City Parks Department Capital
  Projects, Design, and Construction Headquarters.

- **Shea Stadium** - Home of the New York Mets baseball team, it
  seats 55,662 and hosts 80 games a year. Its parking lots
  are operated by Kinney; those near the IRT subway are used
  for park-and-ride commuters on weekdays.

- **IRT Subway Station** - The subway station on the IRT #7 line
  at Willets Point/Shea Stadium operates daily.

- **Food Vendors** - Distributed throughout the Core Area,
  including a total of 27 food carts (7 with American food
  around the Unisphere and 7 serving Spanish food around the
  soccer fields), a Spanish food truck, and 2 ice cream
  trucks (1 at Meadow Lake and 1 in the Core). In addition,
  10 food trucks under concession to the Zoo park along the
  walk in front of that facility.
identity crisis." Donald Trump once offered to build a domed football stadium and another promoter once suggested building a 2.5 mile, 35-foot wide asphalt racetrack around one of the lakes. There have also been proposals to restore the Ederle Amphitheater into a NIFS-like facility with an Olympic size pool, a running track, fitness center, and weight room. The latest proposal, the expansion of the Tennis Center, has upset community groups, including the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Action Committee, as well as other residents and some local officials. Similar to Forest Park, they argue, the Park's open space and greenery are being sacrificed in favor of institutional encroachment and economic development.

Although Flushing Meadows is the highest revenue-generating park in the City because of its concessions, its revenues are given to the City's General Fund for city-wide projects rather than reinvested in the Park. The new site, in the northeast, would occupy 31 acres and have three new stadia

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30 Carol Polsky, "Fairgrounds or People's Park?" Newsday, 14 July 1985, p. 7.


with capacities of 24,000, 12,000, and 5,000. There would also be fifteen outdoor courts and a 4,800 sf food court. The proposed site is currently occupied by the pitch-n-putt golf course, lawn and picnic space, and a Parks Department supply and maintenance building. The Louis Armstrong Stadium would be demolished and the site would be used for parking. The twenty-nine outdoor and nine indoor courts would remain and be used as practice courts.\textsuperscript{33}

\textbf{1983 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN}

The Parks Department sees Flushing Meadows as a recreation and sports center, a historical and cultural attraction, and an environmental preserve. Its conservative and realistic 1983 Capital Improvement Plan reconfirms the significance of the Park's history and similar to the Central Park Management and Restoration Plan, focuses on maintaining and upgrading what is already in the Park. Groundbreaking ceremonies on November 10, 1987 marked the start of the Park's ten-year restoration plan. The Capital Improvement Plan resolves many of the criticisms cited in the Introduction. Currently under way is the reconstruction of the marina piers, the Flushing Promenade, and the relandscaping and upgrading of the Core.\textsuperscript{34} The Unisphere, 


\textsuperscript{34}Jean Sidebottom, "Facelift Set For Flushing Meadows Park," \textit{Queens Tribune}, 24-30 December 1987.
the Park's symbol, will be landscaped with a new decorative pavement, benches, plantings, and a sculpture celebrating the Park's history. New piping will be installed in the Unisphere fountain and water will leap up to the globe, recreating the World's Fair scene. The reflecting pools near the Rocket Thrower will also be restored. The entrance of the Queens Museum, formerly the New York City Building, will be relocated from its northside to its east, facing the Unisphere, and will be transformed into a unique combination of green space and plaza with decorative pavement. Emphasizing the symmetry of the Core, rose gardens with pathways will be planted on both sides of the plaza. Future plans include (1) creating a more human scale environment and visually stimulating landscapes with different plant materials. Unnecessary paths will be replaced with grass while others will be narrowed and trees will be planted to reduce the expansiveness of the meadows. (2) Discouraging active recreation in the Core and relocating it near the perimeter of the Park, closer to roads and neighborhoods. The Core area would be reserved for passive uses. (3) Restoring the existing perimeter road to improve vehicular circulation around the Park and (4) installing maps, and pedestrian and vehicular signs to orient and direct visitors.35

35 Interview with Adrian Smith, Director of Capital Projects and landscape architect, 22 March 1991.
FLUSHING MEADOWS CONCEPT PLAN

In June 1990, a Concept Plan was introduced by the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Corporation, a non-profit organization originally founded in 1986, to promote the development of a sports complex and raceway. When the complex was not developed, its function shifted to assisting the Borough President and the Parks Department with the development of a Master Plan, raising funds for the Park (currently inactive), and serving as an advocacy group for the Park's diverse constituents.\(^{36}\) The Corporation created a Task Force of well-known and respected designers and planners to formulate a "conceptual and spatial framework which responds to the unique challenges and historic opportunities of a great urban park."\(^{37}\) Alan Plattus, Yale Associate Professor of Architecture, chaired the Task Force; Karen Alschuler, Planner and Partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, was Site Analysis Chair; William Alschuler, museum consultant, served as Program Chair; Nicholas Quennell, architect and landscape architect was Landscape Design Chair; and Bernard Tschumi, Dean of Columbia's School of Architecture and Planning and designer of Parc de la...
Villette in Paris, was Concept Plan Chair. 38

PARC DE LA VILLETTE

Tschumi is probably best known for his competition winning design for La Villette. Before discussing the Concept Plan, it is important to understand his philosophy on what an urban park is and how it is reflected in his design for La Villette.

In March 1982, French Socialist President Francois Mitterrand announced with great fanfare his government’s lavish, $1.5 billion 39 state-funded “Grands Projets,” program for public improvements to mark Paris’ leadership role in defining, symbolizing, and bringing culture, arts, education, science, and technology to its citizens and the world. 40 In June 1982, the government-sponsored Etablissement Public du Parc de la Villette issued a detailed, two-volume competition brief for the redevelopment of an industrial site, cut in half by two canals and surrounded by elevated highways, 41 in northern Paris into

38 Flushing Meadows Corona Park Corporation, "Flushing Meadows Corona Park Task Force Concept Statement."


41 "A Park for the 21st Century?" Art in America, p. 106.
an "active, experimental, and permanent ... model of urban ecology and cultural practice." The Park would not be a traditional Parisian park, which it argued, and I am not convinced is true, perpetuated symbols of glory and ethic that belong to the past. It would seem that no park has managed to cater to the practical needs of twentieth century man. They are becoming more and more sporadically used, exclusive and irrelevant to the city and city life... Today green areas are exclusive and segregationist... Three categories are particularly underrepresented: teenagers, who find parks devoid of any suitable facilities, workers who use them only very occasionally, even during week ends, and immigrant workers who, more than anywhere else, feel "left out"... As a result of their inactivity and sporadic use, parks are becoming more and more disused and cut off from society, having neither a program nor a plan to offer... Having no function, nor acting as a symbol, the Parisian park is dying.

The brief called for many activities, including workshops, thermal baths, playgrounds, exhibitions, restaurants, concerts, scientific experiments, games, and competitions, to be located in the "garden city" and "garden-in-the-city" and to be accessible to all. The former would be "the center of activity, shows, and experimentation," where "the crowd will not be lonely and celebrations will find their


\[43\] Etablissement Public du Parc de la Villette, pp. 6-7.
ideal setting." The latter would serve as "the centre of relaxation, of well-being of both body and mind, [and] Nature will ... be the guiding force..." Cann notes the contradiction between the sponsor's criticism of nineteenth-century Parisian parks as "irrelevant" and its request for an imaginative array of "garden, a jungle, a meadow, pleasure gardens, a garden of humor, gardens of reason, ... a science fiction garden," suggesting its continuing desire for the park to be nature in the city.

Tschumi rejects the role of nature in parks and the Olmstedian notion of the park as the antithesis of the city:

During the twentieth century we have witnessed a change in the concept of the park. It can no longer be separated from the concept of the city. Our new urban parks are to be based on cultural invention, education, and entertainment as opposed to a previous belief in pure aesthetics. The inadequacy of the civilisation vs. nature argument under modern-city conditions has invalidated the time-honoured prototype of the park as an image of nature. We now oppose the notion of Olmsted, widespread throughout the nineteenth century, that 'in the park the city is not supposed to exist.'

He conceived of La Villette as parts of a large building --

\footnote{Etablissement \textit{Public du Prc de la Villette}, pp. 20-21.}
\footnote{Bernard Tschumi, quoted in Peter Neal, "Parc de la Villette," \textit{Landscape Design}, February 1988, p. 32.}
Figure 4.10 Map of Parc de la Villette

Figure 4.11 Folly, Cafe la Villette

points or follies -- systematically distributed around the site. Each folly is placed on a grid at almost 400 feet intervals and intersects "lines," 16 feet wide pedestrian paths, and "surfaces," geometric forms placed near large scale open air activities. Cann is critical that landscape elements - gardens, allees, fields - are relegated to the role of filler space between follies and other buildings. "The landscape of the park ... is merely that part left over around the building."49

The merits of la Villette as a "park of the 21st century" are still being debated. There is not a middle ground regarding its design and Tschumi's philosophy. It is either "the most exciting, most challenging landscape design project underway today in Europe," or it is "far removed from the actual need of the locality[;] [w]hat is needed in reality is above all more parks and green spaces irrespective of the way in which they are designed."50 Freiman, correctly notes and eloquently writes, "However inspiring the intellectual grounding of the park, ultimately for most people what is realized on the site is all

48 Neal, p. 33.
49 Cann, p. 55.
50 Cedric Price and Johanna Spalink, quoted in Neal, p. 34.
What is there, according to Parisian landscape architect Michel Viollet, is "a series of spaces between buildings which form a table for displaying an exhibition of contemporary city furniture, a stamp album of gardens, and a geometry of lines and trees."  

La Villette breaks new ground on the purpose and design of an urban park, but its rigid, impersonal, out of scale structures, and calculated design is not a better alternative. More like White River, it is a place for an experience, an amusement/tourist destination rather than a community park for the people. What happens to the Park when the novelty wears off? Nineteenth century parks are still in existence and, despite the claims of the Etablissement, are still well-used because they are unpretentious, open, and uncluttered with signs of city life. Tschumi is in a minority when he claims the "park as nature in the city" is irrelevant. La Villette would never have been accepted in America because there is strong sentiment that a park be abundant with trees and grass.

**FLUSHING MEADOWS CONCEPT PLAN**

The Concept Plan for FMCP is as daring, challenging, and non-traditional as La Villette. But, it does include elements of greenery and naturalistic, landscaped meadows.

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51 Freiman, p. 65.

Figure 4.12 Flushing Meadows Corona Park Concept Plan

Source: Flushing Meadows Corona Park Task Force, Concept Plan.
CONCEPT PLAN DESCRIPTIONS

1. The Waterfront Promenade - The flushing bay edge of the Park offers outstanding opportunities for viewing, strolling, dining and water-based activities. The Plan builds upon the new Promenade Plan currently in design, by the Parks Department, by adding a central focus, the beginning of the new Forest Walk, and the northern terminus of the Mall. It features an improved treatment of the main waterfront, an expanded new promenade, a dramatic bridge over the Whitestone Expressway, and parking.

2. The Marina - The Marina dramatically marks the northern edge of the Park and establishes activity on flushing bay. It will include boat slips for seasonal and transient use, and water taxi and ferry landings linking FMCP to the myriad of waterfront developments in the region. It will also include other waterfront recreational activities as part of a long-term development plan.

3. Bridge-Tower - A dramatic pedestrian bridge with handicapped accessibility will be constructed over the Whitestone Expressway, to connect the waterfront Promenade and Marina to the main body of the Park, to signal from the highway, the exciting presence of FMCP, and to provide spectacular views north and south across the Park.

4. Pedestrian Bridges into Park - New pedestrian bridges will be constructed, and old ones renovated, providing easy access to the Park from the surrounding neighborhoods. Electronic information kiosks will be provided at key locations, operated by the Parks Department. Complete with banners and lighting, the bridges will be both inviting and will act as giant signs for motorists to identify the Park. The bridges will be designed for aesthetics and safety.

5. Parking - Parking will be relocated and rationalized, providing better access to Park activities. The total number of spaces is approximately equivalent to existing conditions. Extensive parking will be available along the edges of the Park under the highways and in a new parking area on either side of the long Island Expressway.

6. Bus Stop - Bus stops will be added at strategic locations to improve transit access to surrounding neighborhoods. They will include electronic information kiosks.

7. The River Edge - FMCP will reclaim the flushing river edge, establishing a green border, public pathways and bicycle routes, potential water taxi slips, and appropriate river edge landscaping. The revitalized river edge will invite neighbors to enjoy full facilities of this outstanding regional park.

8. Williams Point - Future plans for this area should focus on continuing the promenade along flushing river, linking it to existing park land and possibly including green space along with other planned development.

9. The Ring Road - A narrow, mostly one-way roadway will allow access at the perimeter of the Park, and can accommodate a service system.

10. The Forest Walk - The Forest Walk is an intensively planted, continuous pathway winding through the Park, connecting flushing bay to borough hall and adjacent neighborhoods, providing active sports and walking meadows, and providing an address within the Park for all major uses, institutions and concessions. It is an adventure to be taken in segments, by foot or by bike, and each section of the Forest Walk will reflect the dynamic of the Park area as it passes through, with consistent design elements.

11. New Car Park Structure - New parking will accommodate slightly more cars and improve service to Shea Stadium, the USTA and FMCP.

12. Shea Stadium

13. Subway Station - To be rebuilt and expanded.

14. The Passarelle Ramp - This World's Fair remnant will be enlarged and structurally improved. It will include modern station chambers, a new entrance, and a grand Park gateway with an electronic information system, and will connect to Shea Stadium, the USTA, and parking facilities.

15. Air Rights over the Rail Yards - Subject to future plans, develop into deck parking and a potential site for new Park facilities, such as a sports medicine facility or expansion of existing facilities, as described under Concept Plan design/compatibility criteria.

16. LIRR Station - To be rebuilt and expanded.

17. New Bridge over Railroad Tracks

18. Linear Park - The remnant in its existing location, however, a new set of Laws will provide the foundation for a part of the long term development plan.

19. Police Building - To be renovated. Will provide police access to the Park.

20. The Mall Edge (9th Ave Line) - The western edge of the Mall is linked to artistic and cultural programming, with a pedestrian boulevard serving Edele Amphitheater, Theatre in the Park, the New York Hall of Science, Science Park, and the Queens Museum. This edge will provide an excellent location for outdoor sculpture installations under the direction of the Queens Museum. The treatment of the edge will vary, depending principally on the immediate park surroundings. It will involve a visual edge, flexible in its dimensions and delineated by planting, primarily using soft surface materials.

21. The USTA - The USTA will be provided with opportunities for substantial improvement and expansion of its facility, including improved parking. The USTA should be encouraged to maximize encroachment on green areas of the Park.

22. Information System Pylons - Pylons in key locations will contain lighting, emergency phones, and electronic information, other pylons will mark the mall edges along the full length of the Park.

23. The Pitch and Putt Golf Course
24. The Flushing River - Regeneration of the Flushing River will dramatically restructure the landscape east of the Core Area, easing the more rigid geometry of the 1964 World's Fair plan and emphasizing the waterfront as a distinct characteristic of the Park within the newly landscaped area.

25. The East Meadow - The East Meadow will provide an unbroken naturalistic landscape area to the Park for the first time in its history. It will be one of the new meadow areas in the Concept Plan. The East Meadow is comparable in scale to the Sheep Meadow in Central Park, and will be accessible to the dense residential neighborhoods surrounding the Park, as well as to the rest of FMCP's users. Trees from the World's Fair plantings will be carefully maintained and augmented to provide a delightful juxtaposition of old and new, and a clear and permanent reference to the World's Fair. Topography and planting will be used to buffer meadow areas from adjacent highways.

26. Edge Treatment - New plantings and provision of topographic relief will soften the visibility of the hard highway edges of the Park, and diminish some highway noise. The treatment will respect the local environs and be treated so as not to interfere with security and Park vistas.

27. Soccer and Baseball Fields

28. Neighborhood Sports Clusters

29. Queens Botanical Garden - Bordering FMCP to the east, Queens Botanical Garden will be the subject of its own improvement program. Garden administrators should also be encouraged to supervise special plantings near the eastern edge of the Park.

30. Brooklyn-Greenpoint/Bridge - With improved accessibility, FMCP will become part of the continuous chain of green through Brooklyn and Queens which now finds FMCP a missing link.

31. Entrance and Car Park - This former entrance to both World's Fairs will be substantially enhanced and will provide better accessibility to the Park for both the adjacent neighborhoods and motorists.

32. Trylon and Perisphere - A new Trylon will be erected to provide a landmark and mark the 1939 World's Fair east-west axis. A new Perisphere will be located adjacent to the Trylon.

33. The Mall Edge (Sports Line) - The eastern edge of the Mall will be characterized by a tree-lined pedestrian walkway, with appropriate lighting. Providing a different walk-through experience than the Forest Walk, this linear boulevard will allow for immediate access to the various activity areas and athletic fields along its edge, as well as to the adjacent meadow areas. At the north, it ends at the Marina; and at the south, at a new connection to Borough Hall. The treatment of the edge will vary, depending principally on the immediate park surroundings. It will involve a defined edge, flexible in its dimensions and delineated by planting, primarily using soft surface materials.

34. Mall Edge Bridges

35. The Central Recreation Area - Programmed activity areas in the central Core Area of the Mall can accommodate chess and checker tables, lawn bowling, and other recreation facilities, as well as an open area for low-intensity recreational activity. Adjacent areas could incorporate outdoor sculpture.

36. Earth Sculpture Location

37. The Whispering Colonies of Jerash

38. River Cafe - A new cafe, with open and river views, will be constructed at the river's edge

39. The Rocket Thrower

40. The Core Garden - Extensive new Park Department plans for installation of a Core Garden landscape will be implemented with modifications to accommodate the Festival Grounds.

41. The Unisphere - The Unisphere and its fountain will become the focal point of the new Festival Grounds, giving fresh significance to the symbol of international celebration remaining from the 1964 World's Fair. It will also be the focus of a nighttime show in late summer, recalling the 1939 Fair, to run along the Art's Edge of the Mall.

42. The Queens Museum - The Queens Museum will continue to provide innovative, internationally-oriented cultural exhibits and programs, and the Queens Museum and the Zoo, in cooperation with the Parks Department and the New York Hall of Science, will provide additional nature programs in the Willow Lake area and at the Marina.

43. Science Park - New outdoor facilities, conceived and managed by the New York Hall of Science, will provide interactive exhibits, including a model of the earth's core. Science Park, with the Zoo, will connect additional nature programs in the Willow Lake area and at the Marina.

44. The Zoo and Children's Farm - The Zoo will be under the auspices of the New York Zoological Society as a completely remodeled facility for North American fauna. It will be linked by a new gateway to the Children's Farm. In cooperation with the Parks Department and the New York Hall of Science, the Zoo will conduct additional nature programs in the Willow Lake area and at the Marina.

45. Science Park - This new outdoor facility, conceived and managed by the New York Hall of Science, will provide interactive exhibits, including a model of the earth's core. Science Park, with the Zoo, will connect additional nature programs in the Willow Lake area and at the Marina.

46. The New York Hall of Science - The New York region's outstanding science museum will expand into larger quarters, build an outdoor Science Park and in coordination with the Zoo and the Parks Department Nature Resource Group, create new Nature programs at a Willow Lake interpretive center and the Marina.

47. Terrace on the Park - This catering facility will be renovated and restabilized by the Parks Department to be used in its current capacity with ground level services added after the Zoo renovation. The continued future use of the Terrace on the Park should be reviewed, and relocation of the facility within the Park should be carefully considered.

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51. The Festival Grounds - To provide a superior space for the major festivals. The Festival Grounds will contain built-in infrastructure, including restroom facilities, changing rooms, and an indoor running track. The facility will also include a year-round pool, and a boardwalk around the outside of the structure. Exhibition space may be located within the lower levels.

52. New Playground - Located near the sports fields, new playgrounds will provide recreation for families of active sports players. The new Amenities Cluster consisting of restrooms, changing facilities, and equipment storage, will directly service these facilities.

53. Meadow Lake - The lake will remain an active water recreation center. The Lake edge will be reconfigured to give greater shore variety, a better drained and planted shoreline, and higher and better views.

54. Meadow Lake Boat House - A new enlarged boat house will provide expanded water activities, including sailing, rowing, sculling, windsurfing, and a new cafe and separate snack bar, toilet facilities, Park information, and sports equipment rental.

55. The Vatican Exedra - Carefully designed plantings will create a green passage over the Grand Central Parkway and, as with the Science Park Bridge, will announce the Park's presence to passing motorists.

56. The Time Capsule - A new time capsule will be put in place at the opening of the reborn FMCP.

57. New York State Pavilion - The structure will be partially removed and the remainder rehabilitated for a restaurant operation, with potential for special event uses, such as exhibitions.

58. Theater in the Park - The Theater will be revitalized, and will become an active component in the cultural programming of FMCP.

59. Planted Bridge - Carefully designed plantings will create a green passage over the Grand Central Parkway and, as with the Science Park Bridge, will announce the Park's presence to passing motorists.

60. The Amenity Clusters - This dramatic space beneath the highways at the intersection of the U.E. and Grand Central Parkway will be revitalized with the addition of a portion of the Forest Walk, planted with bamboo. This link will provide better access to the Lake Area from the Core.

61. Under-the-Pretzel interchange - The land immediately to the east of the Meadow Lake will become a new Sports Area, replacing many of the current, randomly-scattered fields with quality, full-size soccer, and baseball fields and a cricket field. This and the Core Recreation Area will include space to allow some fields to be fallow, with new parking spaces discreetly tucked under the highway. New Amenities Clusters near the Fields and along the Lake edge will serve spectators and players alike.

62. Lake Edge Boardwalk - Along the water, the Mall Edge will become a wooden boardwalk for lifting pedestrians above the fauna and flora, providing wonderful views and access to the water.

63. Meadow Lake Promenade - Reconfiguration of the western boundary of Meadow Lake will accomplish several goals: a more generous and visible area of green and buffer to the highway, a promontory lakeside view of the Lake, and a potential link to the western neighborhoods.

64. Neighborhood Park - Two parks will be provided - one in its existing location on the west side of the Park between Jewel Avenue and the U.E., and a new park to connect to the newly repaired pedestrian bridge near Willow Lake.

65. Pavilion - This dramatic space beneath the highways at the intersection of the U.E. and Grand Central Parkway will be revitalized with the addition of a portion of the Forest Walk, planted with bamboo. This link will provide better access to the Lake Area from the Core.

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While the Plan recognizes the importance of the Unisphere area as a gathering place and even proposes a new trylon and perisphere at the end of the east-west axis, it attempts to unify the park by imposing "layers of systems and elements." Primary Elements include (1) a north-south mall running the length of the Park from the marina to Borough Hall. The eastern edge would provide access to activity areas, athletic fields, and adjacent meadows. The western edge would link artistic and cultural programs and would host outdoor sculptures. Pylons would define these edges. (2) the forest walk, a densely planted pedestrian pathway would start from the marina, snake around the Park, and wind up at Borough Hall. (3) waterways - the Flushing River would be another unifying element, connecting with the reflecting pools and both lakes; and (4) meadow areas on the eastern and western edges of the Park would be quiet zones. These elements would be supported by Secondary Systems -- (1) a ring road around the Park would guide vehicular circulation and (2) entry points and pedestrian paths would improve connections to surrounding neighborhoods, transit links, and the proposed Brooklyn/Queens Greenway, which would extend the existing Queens greenbelt into Brooklyn.53

The Plan is visionary and ambitious and, similar to La Villette, is most successful at (1) pushing the limits of

park design and planning with its use of plants, water, structures, and activities; and (2) serving as a scale with which I measure my definition of a park and, as Repton wisely insisted upon, appropriateness. The Plan acknowledges existing structures and uses, cleverly unifies the Park, devises new entrances, and distributes activities throughout. It includes festival grounds, gardens, neighborhood sports clusters, and amenities clusters. The mall, though, raises debate about its appropriateness. A 1,000 foot wide Mall\textsuperscript{54}, would reinforce the hugeness of the Park and pays little respect to the current restoration of the Core and to the Lakes by imposing pylons in them. Willow Lake, a natural wetland, should not be unnecessarily disturbed. Rather than maintaining and upgrading what already exists, such as at Central Park and Forest Park, the realization of the Plan would mean almost starting from the beginning. The forest walk, reintroducing the Flushing River, and electronic information pylons are some of the interesting and imaginative elements but, as the 1981 White River Master Plan proves, master plans need to be realistic and implementable. Elements should not be on such a grand scale, they become too expensive or infeasible to build. Conceptually, the Plan is unique but realistically, would require tremendous amounts of capital for construction and

SUMMARY

Flushing Meadows is to Queens what Central Park is to Manhattan. It is well used for sports and family gatherings by residents in surrounding communities. But it lacks the glamour of Central Park because there have never been enough funds to improve its landscape or maintain its structures. There is great desire to preserve and care for Central Park because it is a landmark and is the first park designed by Olmsted. Flushing Meadows deserves the same devotion and care because, in its short fifty year history, it has hosted several historic events -- two World’s Fairs, the first home of the United Nations, and the founding of Israel. The Capital Improvement Plan acknowledges the historical nature of the Park by relandscaping the Unisphere area and making it a more inviting space. Not only does the Park have historic significance, it is also a major sports and recreation center; home of cultural and educational institutions; and two lakes, including a wetland preserve. The Capital Improvement Plan focuses on improving these other elements so the Park will, in the future, be have regional and local appeal, as originally envisioned by its founder, Robert Moses.
CHAPTER 5 - CONCLUSIONS

WHAT IS AN URBAN PARK?

Urban parks are no longer mechanisms for social reform as Olmsted and other 19th century reformists had envisioned. But, the reasons for their creation -- "the lungs of a city," necessary for the "public health and happiness of the people," and "places where people gain social enjoyment" still exist. They are "nature in the city," places for relaxation and social gatherings, and inexpensive forms of recreation and entertainment. They are also pages of American history. Their purpose, design, and program have evolved over the years and reflect America's own evolution.

They can be "works of art," such as Central Park. Its openness, delicate, and naturalistic landscape is a welcomed relief from the steel, glass, and concrete City towering above its walls. Eighty percent of its visitors are involved in passive activities, including people watching, relaxing, and thinking.¹

Urban parks can also be centers for sports, culture, and education. Forest Park does not have the beautiful, naturalistic, and picturesque landscape of Central Park, but because of its size, is able to support many athletic facilities, including two much-sought-after golf courses. During the 1920s, golf became the latest popular sport and

¹Rogers, et al., pp. 24-25.
parks throughout the country wanted "golf for everybody," but finding enough land was often a problem.\(^2\) According to the National Golf Foundation, since 1970, the number of US golfers has more than doubled, to 24.7 million and almost eighty percent of golfers play at least half of their rounds on public courses.\(^1\) The Park is a recreation center; for those not interested in sports, they may enjoy nature by going to the forest or they may attend cultural and educational activities, including the Historical Society, the Art Museum, the Zoo, and the Municipal Opera.

An urban park may also be a strategy for economic development and downtown revitalization. White River is not a community park with ball fields but, a real estate venture with traditional urban park elements -- cultural and educational institutions. Under an agreement with the State, the Park and its institutions must be self-sustaining since, unlike other municipal or state parks, they will not receive public funds for their maintenance and operations. The Park needs revenue-generating activities to cover the cost of maintaining its public sections.

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL URBAN PARK?

A successful urban park is an inviting and uplifting, never boring, space. Its design, landscape, or program

\(^2\)Cranz, p. 70.

generate continued enjoyment, satisfaction, and surprise. It is a friend; an easily accessible place one wants to spend time in and is eager to return.

It has a balance between open and built-up spaces, flexible and programmed uses, and passive and active areas. It is a place for solitude and appreciation of nature as well as for social activities, athletics, culture, and education. Forest Park, with many dedicated uses, is interested in creating more passive and flexible areas.

Activities must be affordable, allowing as many people as possible to participate. Most educational and cultural institutions are heavily subsidized by public funds. In Central Park, the most popular feature is the Zoo, and admission for adults is only one dollar. In Forest Park, there are no admission fees to cultural and educational institutions because they are subsidized by County and City taxes. White River, though, does not receive public subsidies and admissions to the Zoo are expensive. Although it receives a million visitors each year, it is not clear how many are repeat visitors or from the local area.

A successful urban park has local and regional appeal. A strong neighborhood constituency ensures its well being and continued use and as a regional attraction, it draws tourists and their dollars. Central Park and Forest Park have local and regional users; Flushing Meadows is currently a community park; and White River is intended to be a
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FLUSHING MEADOWS

In thinking about recommendations for the Park's improvement and the issues addressed in the case studies, among the questions I have had to struggle with are:

- What is the purpose of Flushing Meadows?
- Who are the constituents? Is it a community park or a regional one?
- How does limited city funding affect park planning?
- Is it a work of art or a recreation center with ball fields and institutions?
- How should passive and active uses be distributed?
- Is institutional encroachment into parkland acceptable?
- What role do citizens play in park planning?

Flushing Meadows has several purposes. First, it is a reminder of its glorious past. The Unisphere and other Fair structures give the Park its identity. Second, as Project for Public Spaces indicated, it is a place for Queens residents, a rich mix of ethnic groups, and their families to relax, picnic, and watch or play sports. Third, it is a recreation center with educational and cultural institutions and two professional sports stadia. Fourth, it is an environmental preserve.

My recommendations for improving Flushing Meadows are based on current Park plans, models developed in Chapter 3,
and interviews with park administrators, designers, and planners. Unlike the White River Master Plan, which was ambitious but infeasible because of costs, the 1983 Capital Improvement Plan is conservative and realistic. It recognizes that there are limited public funds for improvements and construction. With a slowing economy, an inactive fundraising organization, and no private benefactors, the Park must make choices on what is appropriate for improvement. Similar to the Central Park Management and Restoration Plan, the Plan focuses on improving what is already in the Park and resolves many of the criticisms cited in the Introduction (see pages 13, 16, 172, 173).

Recommendations for improving Flushing Meadows:
Drawing from the Central Park "park as work of art" model, I support the Parks Department's efforts to beautify the Core area and to maintain the Park's formal layout. The radial design and the Unisphere is the work of art and will an enjoyable passive space.

Not only do people want to hold onto a work of art because it is unique and irreplaceable, they also want to hold onto the past. While Forest Park may have demolished most of its Fair structures, that special time in its history is still fondly remembered and celebrated. There are World's Fair Committees, "Meet Me in St. Louis" is a popular song, and Park events often link themselves to the
Fair. Flushing Meadows is the only Park to host two World's Fairs. People still smile when they recall the extravaganza and excitement of the Fairs and what exhibits they remembered or liked the most. Where else could The Pieta, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights have been exhibited for millions to enjoy?

The Park has a strong local constituency. It is a gathering place for families to picnic, relax, and watch or play sports. Drawing from the experiences of Forest Park, I recommend that quality ball fields be constructed on former fairgrounds for local athletes. Since Moses envisioned the Park to be a recreation center for local users and planned many ball fields, and the Park is flat and suitable for them, regulation-size fields should be created around the Fountain of Planets, where soccer players have appropriated the land, and existing facilities by Meadow Lake should be maintained or upgraded.

There is great ethnic and cultural diversity among the Park's users. Remembering the Park as the first home of the United Nations, the Park has capitalized on the rich histories and experiences of its users by hosting ethnic festivals.

While the Park is a community resource, given its size and location in the heart of a proposed greenbelt extending from Brooklyn to the Nassau County, it should be a regional attraction. Festivals are one way and another is to make it
a center for sports and recreation, similar to Forest Park. When the marina and promenade are reconstructed, the Park will have a major recreation facility. There will be boating in Flushing Bay and visitors will have access to the waterfront. The expansion of the USTA is reminiscent of the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s expansion into Central Park. Citizens often oppose institutional encroachment because, they argue, institutions give back little to the communities they impact. The US Open is another uniquely-New York institution and with the City’s desperate need for revenues, the USTA will most likely construct its proposed stadia in the northeast area. If the City had not agreed to its plan, the USTA could have relocated its headquarters and tournament to a number of cities. Part of the reason Central Park is so appealing is that is free of many institutions. But, in the case of Flushing Meadows, it already has a professional sports-feel to it. My recommendation is to have Flushing Meadows serve as the center of sports and recreation but, in return for taking open space, the City should be committed to the development of the Brooklyn/Queens Greenway, linking Olmsted's Prospect Park, in Brooklyn, with the park system created by Moses during the the 1930s-1960s. No institutions in these parks may encroach on parkland.

As the proposed USTA expansion demonstrated, revenue-generating activities are extremely important to the City.
Flushing Meadows is the highest revenue-generating park in the City because of its concessions, but its revenues are not reinvested in the Park. They are placed in the City's General Funds. The Park needs to raise money for its own projects. It must be agressive in convincing philanthropies and corporations that the historic and artistic nature of the Park needs to be preserved. Another method of raising funds may be drawn from the White River experience. My recommendation is to have a revenue-generating source solely for the Park. Revenues would be used for the restoration and maintenance of Fair memorabilia. The only developable area is Meadow Lake. It could be a Knott's Berry-like family entertainment center with activities for all ages. The Ederle Amphitheater can be redeveloped for cultural, educational, and commercial ventures. Another important part of the Knott's proposal is having quality food. The New York State Pavilion, currently unused and in a deteriorating state, should be developed as a cafe or restaurant. It would give the Pavilion a purpose, provide a much-needed amenity, be a destination for visitors, and also serve Theater in the Park patrons.

Other Fair remnants could also be included as part of a Meadow Lake family entertainment package. The Observation Towers, near the Pavilion, from which the skyline of New York may be seen, should be renovated and offered as part of a Meadow Lake family entertainment package or as part of an
admission ticket to any of the cultural or educational institutions in the Park.

Flushing Meadows is a unique place and I do appreciate it for its place in history, its one-of-a-kind institutions and facilities, and see its potential to be the grand park of Queens Moses had envisioned more than half a century ago.
APPENDIX A - GREENSWARD PLAN

Description of a Plan for the Improvement of the Central Park "GREENSWARD."

REPORT.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SUGGESTIONS

A general survey of the ground allotted to the park, taken with a view to arrive at the leading characteristics which present themselves, as all-important to be considered in adapting the actual situation to its purpose, shows us, in the first place, that it is very distinctly divided into two tolerably equal portions, which, for convenience sake, may be called the upper and lower parks.

THE UPPER PARK

The horizon lines of the upper park are bold and sweeping and the slopes have great breadth in almost every aspect in which they may be contemplated. As this character is the highest ideal that can be aimed at for a park under any circumstances, and as it is in most decided contrast to the confined and formal lines of the city, it is desirable to interfere with it, by cross-roads and other constructions, as little as possible. Formal planting and architectural effects, unless on a very grand scale, must be avoided; and as nearly all the ground between the Reservoir and 106th Street (west of the Boston road) is seen in connection, from any point within itself, a unity of character should be studiously preserved in all the gardening details.

THE LOWER PARK

The lower park is far more heterogeneous in its character, and will require a much more varied treatment. The most important feature in its landscape, is the long rocky and wooded hill-side lying immediately south of the Reservoir. Inasmuch as beyond this point there do not appear to be any leading natural characteristics of similar consequence in the scenery, it will be important to draw as much attention as possible to this hill-side, to afford facilities for rest and leisurely contemplation upon the rising ground opposite, and to render the lateral boundaries of the park in its vicinity as inconspicuous as possible. The central and western portion of the lower park is an irregular table-land; the eastern is composed of a series of graceful undulations, suggesting lawn or gardenesque treatment. In the extreme south we find some flat alluvial meadow; but the general character of the ground is rugged and there are several bold, rocky bluffs, that help to give individuality to this part of the composition.
THE GREENSWARD PLAN: 1858

The City-Hall park for the purposes of a thoroughfare and the further contraction it is now likely to suffer; together with the constant enormous expenditure of the city, and sacrifices of the citizens, in the straightening and widening of streets, are all familiar facts, that teach us a lesson of the most pressing importance in our present duty. To its application we give the first place in our planning.

THE TRANSVERSE ROADS

Our instructions call for four transverse roads. Each of these will be the single line of communication between one side of the town and the other, for a distance equal to that between Chambers street and Canal street. If we suppose but one crossing of Broadway to be possible in this interval, we shall realize what these transverse roads are destined to become. Inevitably they will be crowded thoroughfares, having nothing in common with the park proper, but every thing at variance with those agreeable sentiments which we should wish the park to inspire. It will not be possible to enforce the ordinary police regulations of public parks upon them. They must be constantly open to all the legitimate traffic of the city, to coal carts and butchers’ carts, dust carts and dung carts; engine companies will use them, those on one side [of] the park rushing their machines across it, with frantic zeal at every alarm from the other; ladies and invalids will need special police escort for crossing them, as they do in lower Broadway. Eight times in a single circuit of the park will they oblige a pleasure drive or stroll to encounter a turbid stream of coarse traffic, constantly moving at right angles to the line of the park itself.

The transverse roads will also have to be kept open, while the park proper will be useless for any good purpose after dusk; for experience has shown that even in London, with its admirable police arrangements, the public cannot be secured safe transit through large open spaces of ground after nightfall.

FOREIGN EXAMPLES

These public thoroughfares will then require to be well lighted at the sides, and, to restrain marauders pursued by the police from escaping into the obscurity of the park, strong fences or walls, six or eight feet high, will be necessary. One such street passes through the Regent’s Park of London, at the Zoological Gardens. It has the objection that the fence, with its necessary gates at every crossing of the park drives, roads or paths, is not only a great inconvenience, but a disagreeable object in the landscape.

To avoid a similar disfigurement, an important street, crossing across the garden of the Tuileries, is closed by gates at night, forcing all who would otherwise use it, to go a long distance to the right or left.

The form and position of the Central Park are peculiar in respect to this difficulty, and such that precedent in dealing with it is rather to be sought in the
Such being the general suggestions that our survey has afforded, it becomes necessary to consider how the requirements of the Commissioners, as given in their instructions, may be met with the least sacrifice of the characteristic excellencies of the ground.

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

Up to this time, in planning public works for the city of New York, in no instance has adequate allowance been made for its increasing population and business; not even in the case of the Croton Aqueduct, otherwise so well considered. The City-Hall, the best architectural work in the State, and built to last for centuries, does not at this time afford facilities for one-third the business for which it was intended. The present Post-Office, expensively fitted up some ten years ago, no longer answers its purpose, and a new one of twice its capacity is imperatively demanded. The Custom-House expressly designed for permanence and constructed to that end at enormous expense less than twenty years ago, is not half large enough to accommodate the present commerce of the city.

The explanation of this apparently bad calculation is mainly given with the fact, that at every census since that of 1800, the city's rate of increase has been found to be overrunning the rate previously established.

A wise forecast of the future gave the proposed park the name of Central. Our present chief magistrate, who can himself remember market-gardens below Canal street, and a post-and-rail fence on the north side of City-Hall park, warned his coadjutors, in his inaugural message, to expect a great and rapid movement of population toward the parts of the island adjoining the Central Park. A year hence, five city railroads will bring passengers as far up as the park, if not beyond it. Recent movements to transfer the steamboat-landings and railroad stations, although as yet unsuccessful, indicate changes we are soon to expect.

The 17,000 lots withdrawn from use for building purposes in the park itself, will greatly accelerate the occupation of the adjoining land. Only twenty years ago Union Square was "out of town;" twenty years hence, the town will have enclosed the Central Park. Let us consider, therefore, what will at that time be satisfactory, for it is then that the design will have to be really judged. No longer an open suburb, our ground will have around it a continuous high wall of brick, stone, and marble. The adjoining shores will be lined with commercial docks and warehouses; steamboat and ferry landings, railroad stations, hotels, theatres, factories, will be on all sides of it and above it: all of which our park must be made to fit.

The demolition of Columbia College, and the removal of the cloistered elms which so long enshadowed it; the pertinacious demand for a division of Trinity churchyard; the numerous instances in which our old graveyards have actually been broken up; the indirect concession of the most important space in
These will afford facilities for crossing the park to all vehicles of classes which it will be proper to admit upon them, such as hackney coaches and all private carriages; and thus seven transverse roads will be really provided to be used during daylight. Four roads will probably be amply adequate for the night traffic needing to cross the park; but it might be questionable if this number would be sufficient during the day.

The Exterior

As it is not proposed that the park proper shall be lighted at night, it is well worth while to consider if the advantages which it offers as an interesting promenade, may not yet in some way be obtained at night.

Fifth Avenue

The ordinance that regulates the width of Fifth avenue, allows a space of fifteen feet on each side, exclusive of the sidewalks and the roadway; consequently, a space thirty feet in width, for promenade, is already on this side of the park for its whole length.

Eighth Avenue Railroad

On the Eighth avenue, a similar arrangement may probably be effected, and as there would be no occasion to back up carts against the park side of the avenue, it is feasible to carry the railway tracks close to the edge of the promenade, thus leaving a clear space for carriages on the building side, and making the access to the park side more clean and convenient.

Fifty-Ninth and One Hundred and Sixth Streets

On the southern boundary it is not desirable to reduce the already moderate width of the carriage way. It is, on the other hand, a question whether, as the streets and the park both, in reality, are the property of one owner—the City—this street should not be treated in a similar manner. It will, from its position, be in time rather crowded with traffic, and will, therefore, have some claim to be widened on this ground alone. As a question of beauty of arrangement for the park itself, however, it is conceived that if by this management a more stately character than could otherwise be obtained will be secured to the outer boundaries of the park, it will be cheaply purchased at the sacrifice of a few feet, at the south end, off its present length of two and a half miles. In riding along any of the avenues, the eye cannot fail to be struck with the great difference in dignity of effect, between such streets as Fourteenth and Twenty-Third, and those intermediate; and it would be a matter of regret, that the source of effect so
long and narrow Boulevards of some of the old Continental cities of Europe, than in the broad parks with which, from its area in acres, we are most naturally led to compare it. The Boulevards referred to are, however, generally used only as promenades, not as drives or places of ceremony. In frequent instances, in order not to interrupt the alleys, the streets crossing them are made in the form of causeways, and carried over on high arches. This, of course, prevents all landscape gardening, since it puts an abrupt limit to the view. Some expedient is needed for the Central Park, by which the convenience of the arrangement may be retained, while the objection is as far as possible avoided.

The Present Design

In the plan herewith offered to the Commission, each of the transverse roads is intended to be sunk so far below the general surface, that the park drives may, at every necessary point of intersection, be carried entirely over it, without any obvious elevation or divergence from their most attractive routes. The banks on each side will be walled up to the height of about seven feet, thus forming the protective barrier required by police considerations; and a little judicious planting on the tops or slopes of the banks above these walls will in most cases entirely conceal both the roads and the vehicles moving in them, from the view of those walking or driving in the park.

If the position which has just been taken with regard to the necessity for permanently open transverse thoroughfares is found to be correct, it follows necessarily that the 700 acres allowed to the new park must, in the first instance, be subdivided definitely, although it is to be hoped to some extent invisibly, into five separate and distinct sections, only connected here and there by roads crossing them; and if the plan of making these thoroughfares by sunken roads is approved, they will, as it appears to us from the nature of the ground, have to be laid down somewhat on the lines indicated on the plan. If so, the problem to be solved is narrowed in its dimensions, and the efforts of the landscape gardener can be no longer directed to arranging a design that shall agreeably use up the space of 700 acres allotted, but [instead] to making some plan that shall have unity of effect as a whole, and yet avoid all collision in its detailed features with the intersecting lines thus suggested. It is on this basis that the present plan has, in the first instance, been founded. If the sunken transverse roads were omitted, the design would not be less complete in character, but it is, on the other hand, so laid out that the transverse thoroughfares do not interfere materially with its general or detailed effect.

Surface Transverse Roads

After having planned the park drives agreeably to these views, we observed that three additional, moderately direct, transverse roads had occurred.
position of minor importance. If, next, we stand upon that portion of the rock which (a little north of the large cherry-tree) is at grade-height, we find that there is another rocky hillock [U] within a short distance, in the direction a visitor to the park would most naturally pursue—that is to say, towards the centre of the park. This can be easily reached by slightly raising the intermediate ground; by then sweeping to the right, the natural conformation of the surface offers an easy ascent (by the existing cart-way over Sixty-Third street) to a plateau (two rods west of the powder-house), directly connected with the extensive table-land which occupies the centre of the lower half of the park.

From this plateau (now occupied mainly by the nursery) a view is had of nearly all the park up to the Reservoir, in a northerly direction; and on looking to the south and west, we perceive that there are natural approaches from these directions, which suggest that we have arrived at a suitable point of concentration for all approaches which may be made from the lower part of the city to the interior of the park.

The Avenue

Vista Rock [P], the most prominent point in the landscape of the lower park, here first comes distinctly into view, and fortunately in a direction diagonal to the boundary lines, from which it is desirable to withdraw attention in every possible way. We therefore accept this line of view as affording an all-sufficient motive to our further procedure. Although averse on general principles to a symmetrical arrangement of trees, we consider it an essential feature of a metropolitan park, that it should contain a grand promenade, level, spacious, and thoroughly shaded. This result can in no other way be so completely arrived at, as by an avenue; which in itself, even exclusive of its adaptability for this purpose, contains so many elements of grandeur and magnificence, that it should be recognized as an essential feature in the arrangement of any large park. The objection to which it is liable is that it divides the landscape into two parts, and it is therefore desirable to decide at what point this necessity can be submitted to with the least sacrifice to the general effect. The whole topographical character of the park is so varied, so suggestive of natural treatment, so picturesque, so individual in its characteristics, that it would be contrary to common sense to make the avenue its leading feature, or to occupy any great extent of ground for this special purpose. It must be subservient to the general design, if that general design is to be in accordance with the present configuration of the ground, and we have therefore thought that it should, so far as possible, be complete in itself, and not become a portion of any of the leading drives. There is no dignity of effect to be produced by driving through an avenue a quarter of a mile long, unless it leads to, and becomes an accessory of, some grand architectural structure, which itself, and not the avenue, is the ultimatum of interest. An avenue for driving in should be two or three miles long, or it will be petite and
easily obtained, should be lost in connection with the grand approaches to the
park because it does not happen that its boundaries at present coincide with the
wide streets laid out on the working plan upon which the city is being con-
structed.\textsuperscript{13} If, moreover, the advantage of the evening promenade is allowed to
be of importance, we should be sorry to dispense with this section of it, which
would be the only portion having a direct communication from the Sixth and
Seventh avenues.

\textbf{TREATMENT OF BOUNDARY LINES}

For the purpose of concealing the houses on the opposite side of the
street from the park, and to insure an umbrageous horizon line, it is proposed, as
will be seen in the plan, to plant a line of trees all around the outer edge of the
park, between the sidewalk and the roadway. On approaching the Fifth and
Eighth avenue entrances, this line of trees along Fifty-Ninth street will come
prominently into view, and have a handsome effect if the street is widened; but if
Fifty-Ninth street is allowed to remain as a narrow street, it is feared that it will be
difficult to prevent this boundary line of the park from having a contracted and
somewhat mean appearance. Hence, we have thought it proper in our plan to
assume the advantage and practicability of this arrangement to be conceded; but,
if this should not be the case, it will be readily perceived that it forms no essential
part of our design.

On the space originally provided for a sidewalk on the park side of the
streets and avenues, there will, in any case, be room for such a line of trees as we
have proposed. The continuous exterior mall should by no means be given up,
even though it cannot be made in all parts as wide as we have proposed. At many
points, and frequently for quite long distances, it will form an elevated terrace,
commanding extensive views over the park, of the most interesting character; and
a mere parapet-wall three or four feet high will, in such cases, be all-sufficient for
the safety of promenaders and the protection of the park from interlopers.

\textbf{FIFTH AVENUE ENTRANCE}

The handsomest approach from the city is certain to be along the Fifth
avenue, and it has been thought necessary to view with special care the angle of
the park first reached from this direction, because it will be generally felt that
immediate entrance should be had at this point.

The grade of the avenue has been established so high, that considerable
filling-in would be required to avoid a rapid descent; but directly this single
difficulty is overcome, the ground beyond has great advantages for the purpose of
a dignified entrance to the park. A massive rock [T] that will be found in
connection with this requisite made-ground offers a sufficiently large natural
feature to occupy the attention, and will at once reduce the artificial feature to a
the rock at this point, and offers a suggestion for a picturesque approach, with a
portcullis gate, and with the main park drive carried over it at a higher level.

PLAYGROUND

The natural southern boundary of the table-land occupied by the parade
ground is a rapid slope that occurs about in the line of Sixty-Sixth street; in this
slope it is proposed to sink one of the transverse roads; and on a level plane below
it, stretching to the south, a playground, about 10 acres in extent, is located, as
indicated on the plan [C]. We have thought it very desirable to have a cricket
ground of this size near the southern boundary of the park, and not far from the
Sixth and Eighth avenue railroads, which offer the most rapid means of access
from the lower part of the city.

In this playground, sites are suggested for two buildings of moderate
dimensions: one for visitors to view the games, which would be appropriately
located on a large rock [V] that overlooks the ground; and the other [W] for the
players, at the entrance from the transverse road, by which an exit could be
obtained from the playground after the other gates were closed. Only one mass of
rock of any considerable magnitude would require to be blasted out for the
purpose of adapting this ground to its intended purpose; its position is indicated
on the plan by a red cross, and the object of its removal will be seen on
examination. This part of the design is illustrated in study number 2.19 The
ground at the south-west corner of the park it is proposed to fill in sufficiently to
make, on the plan indicated, an agreeable Eighth avenue entrance.

THE LOWER LAKE

To the south-east of the promenade, and between the Fifth and Sixth
avenue entrances, it is proposed to form a lake of irregular shape, and with an
area of 8 or 9 acres [A]. This arrangement has been suggested by the present
nature of the ground, which is low, and somewhat swampy. It is conceived that,
by introducing such an ornamental sheet of water into the composition at this
point, the picturesque effect of the bold bluffs that will run down to its edge and
overhang it must be much increased; and that by means of such a natural
boundary this rocky section of the park will be rendered more retired and attrac-
tive as a pleasant walk or lounge.20 The proposed effect of this part of the design,
as it will appear from the Fifth avenue entrance, is indicated on study number 1.

THE ARSENAL

To the south-east of the promenade will be found that portion of the
park in which the present Arsenal [L]21 is situated. This ground is undulating and
disappointing. We have therefore thought it most desirable to identify the idea of
the avenue with the promenade, for which purpose a quarter of a mile is not
insufficient, and we can find no better place for such a grand mall, or open air
hall of reception, as we desire to have, than the ground before us.

The Promenade

In giving it this prominent position, we look at it in the light of an
artificial structure on a scale of magnitude commensurate with the size of the
park, and intend in our design that it should occupy the same position of relative
importance in the general arrangement of the plan, that a mansion should
occupy in a park prepared for private occupation. The importance that is justly
connected with the idea of the residence of the owner in even the most extensive
private grounds, finds no parallel in a public park, however small, and we feel
that the interest of the visitor, who in the best sense is the true owner in the latter
case, should concentrate on features of natural, in preference to artificial,
beauty. Many elegant buildings may be appropriately erected for desirable pur-
poses in a public park; but we conceive that all such architectural structures
should be confessedly subservient to the main idea, and that nothing artificial
should be obtruded on the view as an ultimatum of interest. The idea of the park
itself should always be uppermost in the mind of the beholder. Holding this
general principle to be of considerable importance, we have preferred to place
the avenue where it can be terminated appropriately at one end with a landscape
attraction of considerable extent, and to relieve the south entrance with only so
much architectural treatment as may give the idea that due regard has been paid
to the adornment of this principal promenade, without interfering with its real
character.

This avenue may be considered the central feature in our plan for laying
out the lower park, and the other details of arrangement are more or less designed
in connection with it.

Parade Ground

To the west is the parade ground [D], containing about 25 acres, that
may, at a moderate expense, be levelled and made suitable for its purpose; and
also some eight or ten acres of broken ground, that will be more or less available
for military exercises. Such a broad open plane of well-kept grass would be a
refreshing and agreeable feature in the general design, and would bear to be of
much greater extent than is here shown, if the lot were of a different shape; but
under the circumstances, 25 acres seems as much as can well be spared for the
purpose. A military entrance from Eighth avenue is proposed to be made at
Sixty-Ninth street, which has been already, at considerable expense, cut through
THE GREENSWARD PLAN: 1858

The plan of the flower-garden itself is geometrical; and it is surrounded by an irregular and less formal plantation of shrubs that will serve to connect it with the park proper. In the centre it is proposed to construct a large basin for a fountain, with a high jet; other smaller jets are prepared for, as indicated; and, in connection with the north wall, which will be somewhat below the surface of the ground below, it is proposed to arrange some such wall foundation as the celebrated one of Trevi. The water for this fountain will, in the present case, be supplied from the overflow from the skating pond, and also from the Reservoir, and will fall into a semi-circular marble basin, with a paved floor. Such a fountain is out of place unless it can be furnished with an ample supply of water; but, in the position assigned to it on our plan, there will be no difficulty in procuring all the water that can be required for the purpose; and it seems desirable, therefore, to take advantage of the opportunity offered, for the effect of a sculptured fountain of this sort is quite distinct from that produced by a jet d'eau.

A colored plan of this part of the design is illustrated to an enlarged scale on study number 11.

To the north-west of the promenade is a slope, offering an appropriate site for a summer-house that in such a situation should have some architectural pretension; and further to the west, near Eighth avenue, is a stretch of table-land, terminated by an abrupt rocky descent, that suggests itself as well suited for a Casino or refreshment house.

From the upper end of the promenade the rocky hill-side to the north, surmounted by Vista Rock at its highest point, comes into full view; and on this rock it will be generally conceded a tower should be erected—but by no means a large one, or the whole scale of the view will be destroyed. To the north and north-west of the promenade, a tract of low ground is proposed to be converted into the skating pond called for in our instructions; and the picturesque scenery between Vista Rock and the promenade will thus be heightened in effect, when seen from the south side of this lake, of about 14 acres. A terrace approach, as shown on the plan and on study number 3, is proposed, from the avenue to the water. This feature, although by no means absolutely necessary, would add much to the general effect, and could be introduced at any future time, if it is preferred at present to treat the ground occupied by it in a less artificial style.

Immediately in the vicinity of Vista Rock is the south wall of the present reservoir. This wall occupies the whole of the middle of the park, and is a blank, uninteresting object that can in no way be made particularly attractive. We have, therefore, thought it necessary to bear this in mind in arranging the general plan, and have given a direction to the lines of drive leading this way from the lower part of the park that will enable them to avoid the wall of the reservoir altogether. The necessity for doing this has induced us to commence diverting the lines of drive at the south end of the grand promenade, which seems to offer a sufficient reason for so doing, and to lead them afterwards on their northerly course in such
agreeable in its character, and will offer pleasant opportunities for shady walks. The arsenal itself, although at present a very unattractive structure, and only tolerably built, contains a great deal of room in a form that adapts it very well to the purposes of a museum. It is proposed, therefore, to improve its external appearance, so far as may be necessary, without changing its shape or usefulness, or going to any great expense; and as it occurs rather near the Fifth avenue entrance, and is, therefore, likely to occupy too considerable a share of attention if left exposed to view from the south, it is intended, as early as possible, to plant in its vicinity forest-trees calculated to become handsome specimens of large size, and that will, after a few years, prevent the museum from attracting an undue share of attention in the general landscape.

Music-Hall

To the east of the promenade, there will be a half-mile stretch of lawn and trees extending from the vicinity of Fifty-Ninth street to Seventy-Second street, and this will be the dress ground of the park; and in a prominent position on this ground, and immediately connected with the grand mall, the site for a music-hall, called for in our instructions, has been set apart [N]; and we have suggested that a palm-house and large conservatory should be added to this music-hall whenever it is built.

This site is recommended because it is conspicuous, without being obtrusive, and is easy of access from the promenade and from one of the leading avenue entrances; while, to the north, it commands from its terraces and verandas the finest views that are to be obtained in the lower part of the park. It also overlooks the site which we have selected as most appropriate for the flower-garden, called for in our instructions [O]; and this we consider a decided advantage, as the most attractive view of a flower-garden is from some point above it that will enable the visitor to take in at a glance a general idea of the effect aimed at.

The Flower Garden

The garden is located in low ground to the north-east of the promenade, and is designed close to Fifth avenue, the grade of which at the centre line of the garden is about twenty feet above the present level of the ground; this, for the reasons above stated, we consider a desideratum, and have suggested that over the arcade or veranda that we propose should be built against the east wall of the park in connection with the garden, a structure should be erected, with an entrance on a level with the avenue, so as to give an opportunity for a view of the garden, both from this level and from another story above it. This idea is not, of course, necessary to the design, and the sketch submitted is merely a suggestion, to show what may be done at some future time.
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which continues past the old and new reservoirs to the upper end of the site. The spaces remaining for park use will, however, be so much contracted by the reservoir walls and embankments, that extended landscape effects are out of the question.

WINTER DRIVE

It is intended, therefore, as the soil and situation are adapted to the purpose, to arrange in this locality a winter drive about a mile and a half in length, and to plant somewhat thickly with evergreens, introducing deciduous trees and shrubs occasionally, to relieve the monotony of effect that otherwise might occur. Large open glades of grass are introduced among these plantations of evergreens, as the effect aimed at is not so much that of a drive through a thick forest, crowded with tall spindling trees, as through a richly wooded country, in which the single trees and copses have had plenty of space for developing their distinctive characteristics to advantage.

BERCEAU WALKS

Immediately south and west of the present reservoir, terraces have been already formed, and these can readily be converted into continuous arbors, or berceau walks. Access will thus be provided to all the gates of the reservoir, and the wall will itself be planted out. The effect of these closely shaded walks will also, it is conceived, offer an agreeable contrast to the views obtainable from Vista Rock, in the immediate vicinity.

POLICE STATION

In the northern section of this locality, and in connection with one of the transverse roads, will be found the house of the Superintendent, the office of the Commission, the police station [Z], and other necessary buildings, such as stables, &c. The site is not far from the one at present occupied by the police, and is thought to be well suited for its purpose. By making a private entrance along the wall of the reservoir, the whole establishment can be immediately connected, by means of the transverse road, with the city streets, and at the same time be central and elevated without being unpleasantly prominent. It is proposed, as will be seen on the plan, to make short connections from the park roads to the transverse thoroughfare north of the present reservoir, so as to admit of visitors shortening the drive in this way if preferred.

RESERVOIR RIDE

The new reservoir, with its high banks, will take up a great deal of room in the park, and although it will offer a large sheet of water to the view, it will be
a way that they may pass naturally to the east and west of the reservoir. If any
drive proceeded in the direction of the line of avenue, and at once crossed the
ground proposed to be occupied by the lake, the reservoir would inevitably
become the terminal feature of the lower part of the park, and this would be
disagreeable. The skating pond will offer a sufficiently natural barrier to this
direct mode of proceeding, and will furnish a reason for locating the promenade
in its proposed position, and also for terminating it where suggested; and by
carrying a road along the edge of the water, an opportunity will be given to
lengthen out the drive commanding the principal views in this vicinity; the lake
will also help to give a retired and agreeable character to the hill-side beyond,
which is well adapted for pic-nic parties and pleasant strolls. Even if the reservoir
did not occur in its present position, the conformation of the ground is such that
the roads would naturally take, to a considerable extent, the direction indicated,
leaving the centre of the park undivided by a drive.

The management of the ground between the skating pond and Vista
Rock appears to be indicated by its form and the character of its present growth. It
is well sheltered, and large masses of rock occur at intervals. The soil is moist,
and altogether remarkably well adapted to what is called in Europe an American
garden—that is, a ground for the special cultivation of hardy plants of the natural
order Ericaceae, consisting of rhododendrons, andromedas, azaleas, kalmias,
rhodoras, &c. The present growth, consisting of sweet-gum, spice-bush, tulip-
tree, sassafras, red-maple, black-oak, azalea, andromeda, &c., is exceedingly
intricate and interesting. The ground is at present too much encumbered with
stone, and with various indifferent plants. By clearing these away, and carefully
leaving what is valuable—by making suitable paths, planting abundantly, as
above suggested, and introducing fastigiate shrubs and evergreens occasionally,
to prevent a monotony of bushes—the place may be made very charming.
Where the hill-side approaches the lake, sufficient openings are proposed to be
left for occasional glimpses, or more open views, of the water; and glades of fine
turf are intended to occur at favorable intervals, so as to offer pleasant spots for
rest and recreation. 23

Playground

To the east and south-east of the present reservoir, the general con-
formation of the surface continues to be of the same easy, undulating character
as that to the east of the promenade, and can be treated in a similar manner. The
whole space is intended to be occupied with stretches of well-kept turf, with fine
groups and single trees, so planted that they may appear to advantage, and not
crowd each other. That portion which is immediately east of the reservoir is set
apart for one of the playgrounds; and in the strip of land between the main drive
and the reservoir wall, a reserved garden is provided for, with gardener's house
attached; this will be needed in connection with the flower-garden already de-
scribed. On the west side of the reservoir, the ground is of an irregular character.

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THE ARBORETUM

The north-east section of the upper park is shown as an arboretum of American trees, so that every one who wishes to do so may become acquainted with the trees and shrubs that will flourish in the open air in the northern and middle sections of our country.

This arboretum is not intended to be formally arranged, but to be so planned that it may present all the most beautiful features of lawn and wood-land landscape, and at the same time preserve the natural order of families, so far as may be practicable. The botanical student will thus be able to find any tree or shrub without difficulty. We have selected this tract, of about 40 acres, in the upper angle of the site, so as to interfere with the more special requirements of the park as little as possible. The spot chosen is in some measure separated from the rest of the grounds, by a ridge of land between Fifth and Sixth avenues, and includes the buildings on Mount St. Vincent. The wooden structures would be removed, and the brick chapel converted into a museum and library of botany, similar to that at Kew, but with more specific regard to landscape and decorative gardening. In the park itself there will be numerous specimens of all the trees, native or foreign, that are likely to thrive; but it is proposed to limit this particular collection to American trees, because the space necessary for a complete arboretum would occupy several hundred acres, and also because it will afford an opportunity to show the great advantage that America possesses in this respect. No other extra-tropical country could furnish one-quarter the material for such a collection. In the whole of Great Britain, for example, there are less than twenty trees, native to the island, that grow to be over 30 feet in height; while in America we have from five to six times that number. There are, indeed, already over forty species of the largest native trees standing in the park, which is nearly equivalent to the number to be found in all Europe.

It is proposed to plant from one to three examples of each species of tree on open lawn, and with sufficient space about each to allow it to attain its fullest size with unrestricted expanse of branches; the effect of each tree is also to be exhibited in masses, so as to illustrate its qualities for grouping. Space is provided to admit of at least three specimens of every native tree which is known to flourish in the United States north of North Carolina; also for several specimens of every shrub; these latter, however, except in particular instances, are not expected to be planted singly, but in thickets, and as underwood to the coppice masses—as may best accord with their natural habits and be most agreeable to the eye. Further details of this part of the design will be found in the explanatory guide to the arboretum, submitted with the plan, in which the proposed arrangement of all the trees is set forth in order.

The leading features of the plan have now, it is thought, been referred to. It has not been considered necessary to especially particularize the different trees proposed to be used in the various parts of the park. For the purposes of the
at too high a level to become a landscape attraction from the ordinary drives and walks. It is suggested, therefore, that all round it a ride shall be constructed, and carefully prepared for this purpose only; and although this feature may be somewhat costly in the first instance, it is conceived that the result would be worth the outlay, for the sake of its advantages as a ride over a mile and a half in length, commanding the view of the reservoir, and uninterfered with by the regular drives, although in connection with them at different points.

On the east of the new reservoir, the park is diminished to a mere passage-way for connection, and it will be difficult to obtain an agreeable effect in this part of the design, unless some architectural character is given to it. It is not recommended, however, to attempt any such effect immediately, or out of the funds of the Commission, but to accept the high bank of the reservoir as a barrier to the west, for a few years; because it is thought that as soon as this part of the city is built up to any considerable extent, it will not be difficult to obtain an enriched architectural effect, appropriate to the purpose, without expense to the Commission. An arcade, 100 feet deep, could be substantially built, and the drive could be carried above this arcade, on a level with the reservoir and overlooking Fifth avenue, the remainder of the ground being filled in; and it is thought that as this arcade may be lighted from the rear, and will face a fashionable thoroughfare, it will offer, at not distant period, very valuable lots for stores, or other purposes; and as it is a third of a mile in extent, it may be a source of revenue, in rent, to the park fund, instead of a burden on it.

Tower on Bogardus Hill

The north-westerly portion of the park, above the new reservoir, is planned very simply, in accordance with what we conceive to be the suggestion of the ground. The evergreen drive is continued nearly to the foot of Bogardus Hill, and then, somewhat changing its character, turns to the east. At this point a branch road crosses a brook that is made to expand into a pool a little below the bridge; and this road then winds gradually to the top of the hill, which offers an available site for some monument of public importance, that may also be used as an observatory tower. If, as is not improbable, the transatlantic telegraph is brought to a favorable issue while the park is in an early stage of construction, many reasons could, we think, be urged for commemorating the event by some such monument as the one suggested on the plan, and in study number 9. The picturesque effect of a spring of clear water, that already exists in this vicinity, may be heightened, as suggested in study number 10.

The central portion of the upper section of the park is left as open as possible, and can be levelled so far as may be required for the purposes of the playgrounds indicated on the plan, and on study number 7. At present, it is hardly thought that it would be necessary to make the Sixth avenue entrance to the north; but its position is indicated.
cribe Ground; N, Music Hall; X, Summerhouse; B, Skating Pond (Lake); O, Flower Garden; P, Vista Rock; Y, Terrace Approach to Skating Pond [Water Terrace]; Z, House of the Superintendent, Office of the Park Commission, Police Station, Stables, etc.
Features of the park are indicated as follows:

- A, Lower Lake (Pond)
- C, Playground
- L, Arsenal
- T, U, Unnamed Rocks
- V, Playground-Overlook Structure
- W, Small Building for Players’ Use
- D, Pa-
GREENSWARD STUDY NO. 1: VIEW NORTH ACROSS POND FROM NEAR ENTRANCE
AT 59TH STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE

Present Outlines
GREENSWARD STUDY NO. 2: VIEW SOUTH ACROSS PLAYGROUND IN SOUTHWEST SECTION OF PARK

Present Outlines

Effect Proposed
GREENSWARD STUDY NO. 4: VIEW NORTHEAST TOWARD VISTA ROCK

Present Outlines

Effect Proposed
GREENSWARD STUDY NO. 3: VIEW SOUTH TOWARD TERRACE FROM RAMBLE

Present Outlines

Effect Proposed
GREENSWARD STUDY NO. 5. VIEW SOUTHWEST FROM VISTA ROCK ON REVERSE
LINE OF SIGHT OF STUDY NO. 4

Present Outlines

Effect Proposed
GREENSWARD STUDY NO. 6: VIEW FROM RAMBLE ON SAME LINE OF SIGHT AS STUDY NO. 5

Present Outlines

Effect Proposed
GREENSWARD STUDY NO. 7: VIEW SOUTH ACROSS PLAYGROUND IN UPPER PARK FROM BOCARDUS HILL NEAR 103RD STREET AND EIGHTH AVENUE

Present Outlines

Effect Proposed
GREENSWARD STUDY NO. 8: VIEW EAST FROM SAME POINT AS STUDY NO. 7

Present Outlines
GREENSWARD STUDY NO. 8: VIEW EAST FROM SAME POINT AS STUDY NO. 7

Present Outlines

Effect Proposed

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GREENSWARD STUDY NO. 9: VIEW WEST FROM EDGE OF PROPOSED ARBORETUM ON REVERSE LINE OF SIGHT OF STUDY NO. 8

Present Outlines

Effect Proposed
avenue, the American elm naturally suggests itself at once as the tree to be used; and it is to be hoped that the fine effect this produces, when planted in regular lines, may in a few years be realized in the Central Park.

There is no other part of the plan in which the planting calls for particular mention, except to the south of the skating pond; an opportunity is there offered for an exhibition of semi-tropical trees, and it is intended to treat that portion of the park in the manner suggested in study number [5]. A list of the trees to be used is appended to the explanation of the arboretum.

The plan does not show any brooks, except a small one in connection with the pool at the foot of Bogardus Hill, which can always be kept full by the waste of water from the New Reservoir. Mere rivulets are uninteresting, and we have preferred to collect the ornamental water in large sheets, and to carry off through underground drains the water that at present runs through the park in shallow brooks.

As a general rule, we propose to run footpaths close to the carriage roads, which are intended to be 60 feet wide, allowing a space of four feet of turf as a barrier between the drive and the path. Other more private footpaths are introduced, but it is hardly thought that any plan would be popular in New York that did not allow of a continuous promenade along the line of the drives, so that pedestrians may have ample opportunity to look at the equipages and their inmates.

It will be perceived that no long straight drive has been provided on the plan: this feature has been studiously avoided, because it would offer opportunities for trotting matches. The popular idea of the park is a beautiful open green space, in which quiet drives, rides, and strolls may be had. This cannot be preserved if a race-course, or a road that can readily be used as a race-course, is made one of its leading attractions.
APPENDIX B - EVOLUTION OF FOREST PARK

PARK LOCATOR MAP*  
(1876–1885)

1. Bates, Edward, statue, B-13
2. Blair, Francis P., Jr., statue, G-12
3. Cabanne House, F-13
4. Cabanne Spring (probable location), F-15
5. Clayton Road (later Avenue), A-1 to G-14
6. Clayton Road bridge, C-12
7. Cottage restaurant (first location formerly Forsyth mansion), G-8
8. Fish hatchery lakes (original), G-10
9. Hippodrome racetrack, F-6 to G-4
10. King's Highway (later Kingshighway Boulevard), A-14 to H-13
11. Music pagoda (bandstand), see 11, F-6
12. Pagoda Lake, F-8
13. Park keeper's house (headquarters building), G-10
14. Peninsular Lake, E-7
15. River des Peres, A-13 to H-3
16. Round Pond (later Round Lake), F-11
17. St. Louis County Railroad (proposed), D-14 to H-1
18. Skinker Road (later Skinker Boulevard), A-1 to H-3
19. Sylvan Lake, F-11 to G-19
20. Union Avenue (later Union Boulevard), H-10

1 Caroline Loughlin and Catherine Anderson. Forest Park.  
(St. Louis: The Junior League of St. Louis, 1986).
NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATOR MAP
(1876—1885)
1. Aubert Place, A-10
2. Bartmer’s Subdivision, A-3
3. City limits (1876 and after), A-2 to I-1
4. Clayton Road (later Clayton Avenue), G-1 to F-11
5. Forest Park Subdivision, A-10
6. King’s Highway (later Kingshighway Boulevard), A-10 to I-10
7. Lindell Avenue (later Lindell Boulevard), C-10 and I
8. Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks, E-4 to H-11
10. River des Peres, A-3 to I-5
11. St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad tracks, I-5 to I-11
12. St. Louis County Railroad route, proposed (later Rock Island Railroad tracks), C-1 to E-11
13. St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern (later Wabash, then Norfolk and Southern) Railroad tracks, A-3 to E-11
14. Skinker Road (later Skinker Boulevard), A-2 to G-2
15. Union Avenue (later Union Boulevard), A-8 to C-8

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1. Art Museum (approximate proposed location), D-4
2. Bicycle path (western half of park only; eastern half unknown), A-7 to B-1 to G-1 to F-8
3. Boat house, F-11

Bridges
4. Carr Lane, D-8
5. Clayon Avenue, C-12
6. Columbus, F-12
7. Franklin, F-12
8. Jefferson, E-12
9. Lafayette, F-10
10. Lincoln, E-8
11. Lindell Railroad, A-12
12. McKinley, E-8
13. Stable, F-9
14. Sturben, F-4
15. Suspension footbridge, F-12
16. Washington, E-6
17. Waterworks footbridge, F-10
18. Cottage restaurant (second location), D-8
19. Cricket field, F-8
20. Deer Paddock Lake (later Deer Lake), F-8 and 9
21. Faulkner's Drive, C and D-12
22. Fish hatchery lakes (original), G-10
23. Greenhouses and gardener's lodge, A-8
24. Laclede Pavilion, G-13
25. Lake extension, E-5 and 6
26. Lindell Pavilion, C-7
27. Missouri Pavilion (probable location), B-12
28. Mounted Police Station, B-12
29. Pedestrian walkways, F-7 and 8, G-10 to G-13
30. Picnic grounds (probable locations), B-7 to G-7, E-4 and 5, E-11
31. Police Substation (later residence and meteorological observatory with markers), E-10
32. River des Peres, A-13 to H-3
33. St. Louis Amateur Athletic Association (Triple A) Clubhouse (approximate first location), F-5
34. Spring, F-12
35. Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter, E-8
36. Speeding track, G-5 and 6
37. Stableman's residence (probable locations), F-9
38. Zoo (approximate location), F-8
NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATOR MAP
(1885–1901)

Brick and Fire Clay Companies, 1905

1. Evens and Howard Brick Co., H-5 to I-9
2. Hydraulic Press Brick Co., C-9 to I-10
3. Laclede Fire Brick Company, I-4 to 7
5. Missouri Fire Brick Co., H-2 and 3
6. Winkle Terra Cotta Co., I-7
7. Forest Park Highlands, G-7 and 8
8. Forest Park University, G-6
9. Forsyth Boulevard (later Forsyth Avenue), C-3 and 2
10. Kauffman (later Bixby) house, C-10
11. Kings Highway (later Kingshighway Boulevard), A-10 to I-10
12. Lindell Avenue (Skinker Road to Union Boulevard, private street until 1909), C-2 to C-9
13. Lindell Avenue (Union Boulevard to Kings Highway, formerly Park Road, then Forest Park Terrace), C-8 to C-11
14. Lindell Boulevard (east of Kings Highway), C-10 to 11
15. Missouri Pacific Railroad, L-5 to H-11
16. Oakland Avenue, G-2 to G-6
17. Park Road, see 13, C-8 to C-10
18. River des Peres, A-3 to I-3
19. St. Louis Smelting and Refining Works, I-4 and 9

Streetcar Lines, 1901

20. St. Louis and Suburban Railway Company, Forest Park Division, A-9 to C-8
21. United Railways Company, Central Division (formerly Forest Park, Laclede Av. and Fourth Street Railway Company), Laclede Avenue Line, C-9 to D-11
22. United Railway Company, Central Division (formerly Missouri Railroad Company, cable), Olive Street Line, C-10 and 11
23. United Railways Company, Lindell Division (formerly Lindell Railway Company), Chouteau Avenue Line, G-1 to F-11
24. United Railways Company, Lindell Division (formerly Missouri Railroad Company, cable), Olive Street Line, C-10 and 11
25. United Railways Company, Lindell Division (formerly Lindell Railway Company), Clayton Line, B-5 to E-1
27. United Railways Company, Lindell Division (formerly Lindell Railway Company), Euclid Avenue Line, A-10 to H-11
28. Washington University site, C-1 and 2
29. Westmoreland Place, C-8 to C-10
30. Wydown Boulevard, D-2 to E-1
PARK AND NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATOR MAP (1904–1911)

1. ABCD Apartments, F-13
2. Aero Club grounds, C-14 and D-13
3. Art Hill, E-4
4. Art Museum City (St. Louis School and Museum of Fine Arts), D-4
5. Bird cage, C-6

Bridges
6. Education, E-6
7. Liberal Arts, E-7
8. Manufacturers, F-6
9. Transportation, G-3
10. Washington, D-6
11. Buckingham Club, G-13
12. DeBaliviere Avenue, H-4
13. Dredgeable race course, D-14 to C-11 to G-13
14. Fine Arts Drive, D-5 to E-3
15. Forest Park Flood Water Sewer, G-10 to H-4 (course further east unknown)
16. Forest Park Highlands, A-10
17. Forest Park University, A-7
18. Government Drive (probable location), C-4 to F-7
19. Government Hill, D-6 and ?
20. Grand Basin, E-4 to F-5
21. Greenhouses and nursery, A-8 to B-9
22. Jefferson Memorial building, G-4
23. Jefferson, Thomas, statue (sec 22, G-6)
24. Lincoln Pavilion, G-13
25. Lagoon Drive, F-8 to G-2
26. Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company (LPEC) restoration area, east boundary, A-7 to C-6
27. Lindell Avenue (later Lindell Boulevard), G-2 to G-13
28. Lindell Pavilion, G-7
29. Missouri Historical Society (eastern half of Jefferson Memorial Building), G-6
30. O'Neil Fountain (see 22, G-6)
31. Park (amusement area during fair), H-2 to H-6
32. Portland Cement Building, C-4
33. Post-Dispatch Lake, D-6 to E-7
34. River des Peres (western section relocated by LPEC), A-13 to H-3
35. Rock Island Railroad, D-14 to H-1
36. St. Louis, Apotheosis of, statue, E-4
37. Sigel, Franz, statue, F-6
38. St. Louis University playing fields, A-12
39. Skinker Road (later Skinker Boulevard) south of Forsyth Boulevard, A-1 to G-1
40. St. Louis Amateur Athletic Association (Triple A) Clubhouse (second location), C-11
41. Washington Drive (probable location), D-6 to G-6
42. Washington University, G and H-1
43. Wells Drive (probable location), A-1 to B-7
44. Wells Spring, F-12
45. World's Fair Pavilion (Government Hill shelter, originally also Jefferson Pavilion), D-7

Zoo
46. Bear and monkey cages (approximate location), C-6
47. Deer, elk, and buffalo enclosures, C and E-8
PARK LOCATOR MAP (1911–1930)

1. Airfield (later athletic field called Aviation Field), B-10 and 11
2. Airmail hangar, B-11
3. Archery range, B-11
4. Art Hill, E-4
5. Art Museum, City, D-4
6. Athletic fields, A-7, C-13 and 14; central fields, D-9, D-11 to E-10, F-6; Triple A, F-12 (see 1, B-10 and 11)
7. Bird Cage Drive (later part of Washington Drive), C-4 and 7
8. Braille path, B-3 and throughout park
9. Central High School (approximate proposed location), B-13
10. Clay mining (approximate proposed location), A-10
11. Confederate Memorial, G-8
12. Clayton Avenue, A-1 to C-14
13. Cricket field, F-8
14. Dead Man's Curve, B-5
15. DeBaliviere Avenue, H-6
16. Field house and restaurant (former Lindell Pavilion location), G-7
17. Footbridges: suspension, E-5 and E-6; regular, E-5, E-6, E-7, F-5, G-4
18. Frank. Nathan, Bandstand (see 37. F-8)
19. Frontier Women of the French and Spanish Colonies in Missouri. Memorial to the (see 30. G-6)
20. Grand Basin, E-4 and F-5
21. Golf course, whole municipal, G-2 to G-6
22. Golf course, 18-hole municipal, D-1 to G-7
23. Government Hill and illuminated fountain, D-6 and 7
24. Greenhouses and children's garden, A-6 to B-9
25. Guggenheim, Bertha, Memorial (Pan) Fountain, F-8
26. Handball courts, G-7
27. Incinerator, B-6
28. Jahn, Friedrich Ludwig, Memorial, D-5
29. Jefferson Lake, C and D-12
30. Jefferson Memorial building, G-6
31. Jewel Box (first location), B-9
32. Lindell-Kingshighway entrance, G-13
33. Lindell Pavilion (see 16, G-7)
34. Mounted Police Station, B-12
35. Municipal Open Air Theatre (Municipal Theatre), E-8 and 9
36. Musicians' Memorial Fountain, G-2
37. O'Neil Fountain (Fountain Angel, second location), F-8
38. Pagoda Lake, F-8
39. Pedestrian paths to art museum, A-5 to E-4 to G-6
40. River des Peres Lagoon (later shortened), D-12 to G-4
41. River des Peres sewer, A-12 to H-4
42. River des Peres (temporary; see 1, B-10 and 11), Shields, Mary Leighton, memorial, sundial (first location; see 51. D-7)
43. Stadium (proposed location), B-13
44. Tennis courts: Hampton Avenue, B-6; Jefferson Memorial, F-7, Kingshighway, C-14; Triple A, D-11 and 12
45. Tourist camp, automobile, C-3
46. Triple A Clubhouse (second location), C-11
47. Vacation village (approximate location), C-3
48. Wabash (later Norfolk and Western) Railroad, D-14 to H-6
49. Wabash Railroad Bridge (removed), G-12
50. West Pine Drive, G-12 and 13
51. World's Fair Pavilion, D-7
52. Zoo (St. Louis Zoological Park), approximate western boundary, B and C-4
53. Bear Pits, C-5
54. Bird House, C-6
55. Elephant House, C-6
56. Lion House, B-6
57. Primate House, B-6
58. Regal House, B-6
59. Small Mammal Pits, C-6
60. Seal Basin, C-6
Hospitals
18. Barnes, E-10
19. Evangelical Deaconess, G-5
20. Jewish, D-10
21. St. Louis Children’s, E-10
22. Shriners, for Crippled Children, F-11
23. St. John’s, D-10
24. Jewish Orphan's Home, G-3
25. Lake Avenue, A-9 to C-9
26. Lindell Avenue (Kingshighway to Skinker Boulevards), C-2 to C-10
27. Lindell Boulevard (east of Kingshighway), C-10 and 11
28. Mary Institute, B-8
29. Missouri Pacific Railroad, I-4 to H-11
30. Missouri Stables, H-9
31. Oakland Avenue (extension), G-8 to G-10

Park Plaza Hotel, see #4, C-10
32. Pom Oak Apartments, G-5
33. Portland Place, B-8 to B-10
34. Rock Island Railroad, B-1 to E-11
35. Riding and Hunt Club, G-8
36. Skinker Boulevard, A-2 to F-2
37. Skinker Heights, D-3
38. St. Louis University High School, G-10
39. St. Louis University Stadium, G-10
40. Union Boulevard, A-6 to C-8
41. Van Epps, J. E., Stables, G-8
42. Versailles Apartments, F-2
43. Washington University, Main Campus, C-1 and 2
44. Washington University Medical School, E-11
45. West Pine Boulevard, C-10 to D-11
46. Wintzore Apartments, see 42, F-2
47. Young, Taylor R., house, G-3
PARK AND NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATOR MAP (1930–1945)
1. American Legion flower emblem, D-7
2. Archery range (resumed), B-11
3. Arena, A-8
4. Art Hill, E-4
5. Art Museum, City, D-4
6. Army Recreation Camp, B-13 and 14
7. Athletic fields, F-6, Aviation Field, B-9 to 11; central fields, D-11 to E-10
8. Baitcasting clubhouse and docks, E-6
9. Bates, Edward, statue (second location), F-3
10. Bicycle track, A-13 and B-14
12. Bowl Lake, B-13
13. Bridle path (rerouted), G-10 and throughout park
15. Camporee site (temporary; see B-11 and 11)
16. Cascades waterfall, F-2
17. Clayton Avenue, A-3 to C-14
18. Field house, G-7
19. Fish hatchery, building, G-11
20. Forest Park Hotel, F-14
21. Golf courses, municipal 9-hole and 18-hole, D-1 to G-7, Triple A 9-hole, C-9 to D-11
22. Government Hill, D-6 and 7
23. Grand Basin, E-4 and F-5
24. Greenhouses, A-8 to B-9
25. Hampton Avenue entrance, A-7
26. Handball courts, G-7
27. Hangar (formerly armed hangar), B-11
28. Hiking Trail, Nicholas M. Bell, G-13 to C-1
29. Horse exercise track (see 7, B-9 to 11)
30. Ice Park, F-14
31. Frisco Railroad, F-13

Hospitals
29 Barnes, D-14
30 Frisco Railroad, F-13
31 Jewish, E-13
32 St. Louis Children's Hospital, D-13
33 St. Louis Maternity (see 29, D-14)
34 St. John's, E-14
35 Shriners, for Crippled Children, C-14
36 Jefferson Lake, C and D-12
37 Jefferson Memorial building, G-6
38 Jewel Box (second location and St. Louis Floral Conservatory), C-9
39 Kel, Henry E., memorial marker, C-12
40 Kingshighway Drive (probable length, widened to become part of Kingshighway Boulevard), A-14 to G-13
41 Laclede Pavilion (removed), G-13
42 Missouri Historical Society (see 36, G-1)
43 Mounted Police Station, B-12
44 Municipal Theatre, E-8
45 Oakland Express Highway, A-1 to B-14
46 Parade of Progress, General Motors Exposition (temporary, see Athletic fields, Aviation Field, B-9 to 11 and 11)
47 Parking lots, D-9 and E-9
48 Park Plaza Hotel, H-13
49 Post-Dispatch Lake, D-6 to E-7
50 Psychopathic hospital (proposed, 6, B-14)
51 Rock Island Railroad right-of-way (abandoned), H-1 to H-9
52 Rose gardens, C-14, C-9 (Jewel Box)
53 Seven Pools waterfall, C-13
54 Shintomizu (proposed, 6, B-14)
55 Tennis courts, A-5 (relocated, Hampton Avenue), Jefferson Memorial F-7, Kingshighway, C-14, Triple A, D-11 and 12
56 Tompkins Park, Alaskan, C-1
57 Triple A Clubhouse (second location), C-11
58 Union Boulevard, H-10
59 Washiro (later Norfolk and Western) Railroad, D-14 to H-4
60 Washington University Medical School, D-14
61 Winter Garden skating rink, H-7

Zoo (St. Louis Zoological Park)
57 Antelope House and Hoofed Animal Yards, C-7
58 Great Ape House and chimpanzee arena, C-6
59 Primary House, B-6

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NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATOR MAP
(1945–1976)
1. Arena, G-7
2. Barnes Hospital, E-10
3. Barnes Hospital Plaza (formerly Kingshighway Boulevard), E-10
4. Central West End Historic District, A-5 to C-11
5. Chase-Park Plaza Hotel, C-10
6. Cheshire Inn, G-I
7. DeBaliviere Avenue, A-5 to C-5
8. Euclid Avenue (formerly Kingshighway Boulevard), E and F-11
9. Forest Park Avenue, D-10 and 11
10. Forest Park Expressway (Rock Island Expressway), C-2 to D-10
Forest Park Highlands, removed (see 22, G-7 and 8)
11. Hampton Avenue, G-6 to J-6
12. Hi-Pointe corner, G-2
13. Kingshighway Boulevard (new section), E-10 to G-10
14. Kingshighway Boulevard (existing section), A-10 to E-10, G-10 to I-10
15. Kingsbury-Washington Terrace Historic District, A-6 to B-7
16. Lindell Boulevard, C-2 to C-11
17. Missouri Stables (removed), H-9
18. Oakland Avenue, G-1 to G-11
19. Office building (later used by St. Louis Science Center), G-9
20. Restaurant and motel, G-9
21. St. Louis Children's Hospital, E-10
22. St. Louis Community College, Forest Park Campus, G-7 and 8
23. St. Louis University High School, G-10
25. Union Boulevard, A-8 to C-11
26. U.S. Highway 40 (Daniel Boone Expressway), H-1 to F-11
27. Washington University, Brookings Hall, C-1
28. Washington University Medical Center Historic District
Redevelopment Area, C-10 to G-11
ROADS

Carr Lane Drive (1, C and D-8) *
William Carr Lane was the first mayor of St. Louis.

Clayton Avenue (2, C-14 to B-9)
Part of Clayton Road, the main route from downtown St. Louis toward Clayton, in St. Louis County, before the park began. Renamed Clayton Avenue in 1891. Park drive was cut off from rest of road on the west by construction of Highway 40 in the early 1960s.

Concourse Drive (3, D-8 to B-7)
Built before 1900 and named for the concourses, meeting places for carriages.

Confederate Drive (4, G-8 and G-9)
For the nearby Confederate Memorial.

Cricket Drive (5, G-8 and F-8)
For the nearby cricket field, site of cricket games since the 1890s.

Deer Lake Drive (6, F-9)
For nearby Deer Lake, an early zoo location before all the animals were consolidated near the bird cage in the early 1900s.

Faulkner Drive (7, C-12 and D-12)
Built about 1906; named for William R. Faulkner, the driving force behind construction of the Mounted Police Station, which the road served.

Fine Arts Drive (8, E-3 to D-5)
The St. Louis Art Museum was built as the Palace of Fine Arts for the 1904 fair. Road built by LPEC as part of park reconstruction.

Government Drive (9, G-10 to B-2)
Road passes Government Hill, which was the site of the U. S. Government and Missouri pavilions at the fair. LPEC built western portion of Government Drive, re-named eastern section, which had been part of Grand Drive.

Grand Drive (10, G-2 to G-12)
The first named street in the park, shown on the 1876 plan for the park. The grand drive that circled the park.

Jefferson Drive (11, F-11 to C-13)
Named in the early 1890s for Thomas Jefferson.

Lagoon Drive (12, G-2 to F-8)
The Lagoon is the body of water between Post-Dispatch Lake and the Grand Basin. Road probably built by LPEC during reconstruction of Forest Park after St. Louis World's Fair.

Macklind Drive (13, D-9 and D-10)
Macklind Avenue dead-ends into Oakland Avenue nearby.

McKinley Drive (14, F-8 to A-9)
Probably named for William McKinley, who, as President of the United States, issued the proclamation for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (the 1904 World's Fair). Part of McKinley Drive had been section of Grand Drive.

Municipal Opera Drive (15, F-8 to F-10)

*The names of the roads and bodies of water are followed by the number and location on the locator map on p. 272.
River des Peres Drive (16, E-6 to E-7)
For the River des Peres Lagoon.

Summit Drive (17, D-8 to E-9)
Named for the elevation.

Union Drive (18, F-10 to D-8)
An extension of Union Boulevard into the park.

Valley Drive (19, C-2 to C-4)
Named for the elevation.

Washington Drive (20, G-7 to C-7)
Named in the early 1890s for George Washington. Washington Drive was rebuilt in a new location after the World’s Fair by the LPEC, but the name was retained. The bridge that carries Washington Drive over the Lagoon is named Washington Bridge.

Wells Drive (21, F-11 to B-1)
Rolla Wells, mayor of St. Louis from 1901 to 1909, was instrumental in getting the city ready for the fair. Park Commissioner Scanlan, appointed by Wells, named the road, the western part of which was built as part of park restoration after the fair, for Wells. The eastern part of Wells Drive was formerly part of Grand Drive.

West Pine Drive (22, G-12 and G-13)
Connects with West Pine Boulevard; built in 1940s to relieve traffic at the park’s Lindell-Kingshighway entrance.

Bodie Lake (23, B-13)
Located in section of park called the bowl in the 1930s when the lake was built after the River des Peres was put underground.

Bodies of Water

Deer Lake (24, F-8)
Formerly Deer Paddock Lake. Near location of deer paddock, which was part of Forest Park zoo in 1890s.

Fish Hatchery Lakes (25, G-10 and G-11, F-10 and F-11)
Used as fish hatcheries and then as rearing ponds for fish hatched elsewhere from the 1870s through the 1950s. Sylvan Lake, one of the lakes built by Forest Park Commissioners in the 1870s, was broken up to make additional fish hatchery lakes. Sylvan Lake had been popular for boating and ice-skating.

Grand Basin (26, F-5 to E-4)
Name given during World’s Fair to this body of water, which was extensively reshaped by LPEC.

Jefferson Lake (27, D-12 and C-12)
Near Jefferson Drive. Built in late 1930s when River des Peres put underground.

Lagoon (28, E-5 and E-6)
The body of water that connects Post-Dispatch Lake and the Grand Basin, built by the LPEC during park rebuilding after the 1904 World’s Fair.

Lake Louise (29, F-12)
For Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Louis W. Buckowitz. On the original site of the River des Peres, then of the River des Peres Lagoon, reconstructed into present form in 1967.

Murphy Lake (30, G-11)
Lake was in existence before 1900. Called simply “Lake” on early maps. Named Murphy Lake by 1905. Origin of name unknown.

Pagoda Lake (31, F-8)
Island in this lake was site of park’s first bandstand, also called the music pagoda. Bandstand torn down and later replaced with Nathan Frank Bandstand, but the lake name remained.

Post-Dispatch Lake (32, E-7 to D-6)
Named in honor of the newspaper’s successful drive to collect money to dig a park lake extension in 1894. That extension was in about the present location of the Grand Basin, and the original lake, Peninsular Lake, was in about the present location of Post-Dispatch Lake. The newspaper often used the name Post-Dispatch Lake for the entire extended lake, which was drained and reshaped.
for the World's Fair. Only the Grand Basin was refilled for the fair. The lakes were modified into their present shape during park rebuilding following the World's Fair. As late as 1923, the Post-Dispatch called the lake section "the boat house lake."

**River des Peres Lagoon (33, F-6 to F-11)**

Over previous location of River des Peres, as modified by the LPEC, before the river was put into underground sewer pipes. Lagoon gradually shortened to its present length.

**Round Lake (34, F-11)**

Built by the Forest Park Commissioners in the 1870s. Called Round Pond in the early 1900s, when it had a central fountain. Park department employees installed a new fountain with more than 500 nozzles in 1916, a formal landscape around the edge in 1924.
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