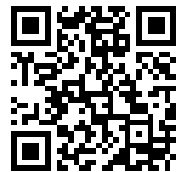


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*Report of the Special Park  
Commission to the City Council of ...*

Dwight Heald Perkins, Special  
Park Commission, Chicago, John J. Bradley











*agriculture.*

**HENRY SANDFORD,**

N. W.,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Chicago Special  
Park Com.





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47. A small brook on the Divide near Willow Springs. Ash and Butternut in the foreground.

# City of Chicago

HON. CARTER H. HARRISON, MAYOR



Report of the

## Special Park Commission

TO THE

City Council of Chicago

ON THE SUBJECT OF A

## Metropolitan Park System.

---

REPORT COMPILED BY  
 DWIGHT HEALD PERKINS  
 1904

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1904.

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# CITY OF CHICAGO.

## SPECIAL PARK COMMISSION.

CITY HALL, CHICAGO.

December, 1904.

*To His Honor, The Mayor and City Council of Chicago:*

GENTLEMEN:—Pursuant to the provisions of resolutions adopted by the City Council November 6, 1899, your Special Park Commission has the honor to present the accompanying report on the subject of a Metropolitan Park System for the City of Chicago and its vicinity.

This report was compiled by Mr. Dwight H. Perkins, a member of your Commission, under a contract authorized by your honorable body on September 28, 1903. Mr. Perkins engaged Mr. Jens Jensen, also a member of your Commission, to prepare the landscape architect's part of the work. The report was considered carefully by a sub-committee and approved by the Commission.

Your Commission recommends that your honorable body approve this report and that such parts of it as refer to recreation area lying outside the limits of Chicago, but serviceable to our population, be referred to the recently organized Outer Belt Park Commission.

Your Commission further recommends that plans for internal park improvement, suggested in the report, be referred to existing or future park boards in whose territory the recommended improvements would be made, and that they be respectfully urged to aid in carrying to successful conclusion the general scheme for a metropolitan park system.

Your Commission has arranged, within the narrow limits of its appropriation, for the publication and circulation of this report among the citizens of Chicago and residents of Cook County outside the city, for the purpose of education, publicity and promotion, so essential to the consummation of the proposed Metropolitan Park System.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. BRADLEY,  
*Chairman.*

A. W. O'NEILL,  
*Secretary.*

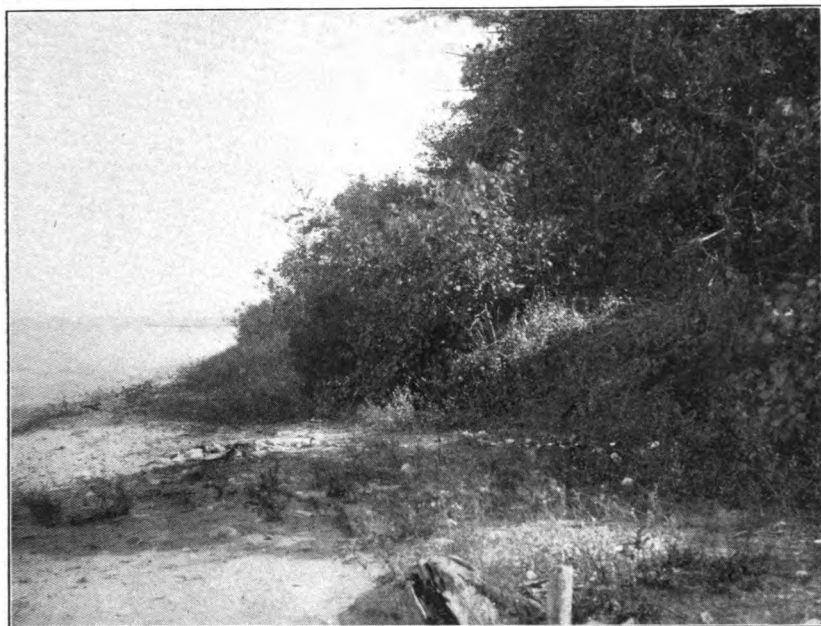
CHICAGO, September 6, 1904.

*To the Honorable, the Special Park Commission of the City of Chicago:*

GENTLEMEN:—Your Sub-Committee on Metropolitan Park Report, to which was referred the report made for this Commission under contract by Mr. Dwight H. Perkins, begs leave to report that it has carefully considered the same and recommends that the report be adopted and that the recommendations contained therein be concurred in.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY G. FOREMAN,	} <i>Sub-Committee</i> <i>on Metropolitan</i> <i>Park Report.</i>
FREDERICK GREELEY,	
JENS JENSEN,	
WILLIAM E. DEVER,	
JOHN P. GARNER,	
JOHN A. RICHERT,	
FRED A. BANGS,	



1. Forest covered bluff—Shore of Lake Michigan at north line of Cook County.



3. A clump of White Pine on the Lake Bluff near the County line, Cedar is seen down in the ravine.





# THE METROPOLITAN PARK REPORT.

---

## *To the Special Park Commission:*

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to submit the following report relating to a Metropolitan Park System for the City of Chicago and its vicinity:

## INTRODUCTION.

This report has been prepared as directed by the City Council for the purpose of ascertaining and describing the present park and playground facilities available for the citizens of Chicago and its environs in comparison with their requirements. It is also designed for the purpose of making suggestions for such increase of park facilities as the study of conditions would show to be desirable at the present time and in the near future.

An historical sketch of the growth of the present park system of Chicago is given in the first part of this report. A praiseworthy beginning is shown in the pioneer park work of 1839, the forties and fifties, in the establishment of the great systems of 1869, and finally in the creation of playgrounds and small parks from 1900 to 1904.

A comparison is given between Chicago and other American cities, also with London and Paris. It is here shown that Chicago has not kept pace with other cities which are now solving problems quite as difficult as those before us.

A statement of the problem follows in the third part, beginning with the crowded inner districts in which improper conditions are indicated by maps. Following along lines of probable increase of population the danger of a growth of these deplorable conditions is pointed out. The necessity for outlying parks is also shown.

A description of the country surrounding Chicago is next given. Its character is illustrated by typical photographs.

A comprehensive system of parks is suggested and shown on maps Nos. 1 and 5. This system includes both the inner and outer districts, each portion being studied in relation to its

neighbors and to the whole district. This comprises the entire area of Chicago and all of Cook County, except the five most southern townships and the five townships in the northwest corner of the County.

The whole matter of a harmonious plan for an outer system, including details as to localities within and, if deemed advisable, outside of Cook County, is recommended for reference to the Outer Belt Park Commission.

Internal park improvements, as suggested in the body of the report, are recommended for reference to existing park boards which have authority over the territory where an expansion of recreation area is deemed advisable.

The scheme outlined should be considered by the general public in its entirety, leaving detailed and expert consideration to park commissions.

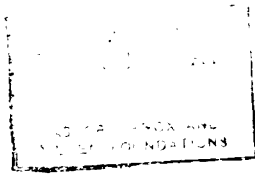
The central business district, the treatment of transportation facilities and terminals and the river problems are briefly discussed in relation to the park system and the plan of the city. A detailed report, prepared by Mr. Jensen, describing the forests and other vegetation in the outlying country, is given. This portion emphasizes the value of these districts to the community and points out the danger of leaving them longer unreserved for the public.

Accurate forestry surveys, giving boundaries, topography and exact character of vegetation in each portion of the proposed areas are essential at the beginning for the consummation of this or any similar plan, but that work together with such questions as unification, political action and finance are left to subsequent investigation and action.

Letters describing the scope of this inquiry and soliciting suggestions, both local and general, were sent to each alderman, each county commissioner, park commissioner, the officers of all village or town boards and of townships and to numerous improvement associations and civic organizations. Acknowledgment is gratefully made to many citizens, as well as to those who, in answer to these letters, gave valuable assistance in the preparation of this report.



2. Glencoe—The mouth of a ravine near the County line.



## PART ONE.

### HISTORICAL.

#### CHICAGO'S FIRST PARK.

In 1839 Dearborn Park was located on the lake front and shown on the original plat for the city. It was the park of Chicago. That half square on Michigan Avenue was to be to Chicago its entire system of pleasure grounds. It is significant that even at that early date Chicago's breathing space was located upon the lake shore, which then bordered Michigan Avenue. Dearborn Park is now entirely occupied by the Public Library building.

The city, in growing to its present size and importance, has fulfilled the remarkable prophecy of La Salle in 1682. Regarding this prophecy, the following is quoted from "Gale's Reminiscences of Early Chicago:"

"Scientists explain the causes of the various ocean currents, trade winds and many other wonderful and marvelous operations of nature, but few have ever been able to account for the early tide of immigration or give a valid reason why the constantly growing current of humanity should flow to the little, shallow, obscure stream known by the Indians and trappers who dwelt in the vicinity or employed it in their portages as the Che-ca-gou. Some had unquestionably believed in its great future, their faith being attested by their presence. Yet but few early travelers or settlers have left on record their reasons for such faith. One man, however, in 1682—more than two centuries ago—predicted a wonderful career for our city, and gave such an argument for his judgment as to stamp him a person of such exceptional foresight that his marvelously accurate prediction seems almost the offspring of inspiration.

#### LA SALLE'S CHICAGO PROPHECY.

"I quote from a letter of the brave and distinguished explorer, Robert Cavelier de La Salle, to a friend in France:

"After many toils I came to the head of the great lake and rested for some days on the bank of a river of feeble current now, flowing into the lake, but which occupies the course that formerly

the waters of these great lakes took as they flowed southward to the Mississippi River. This is the lowest point on the divide between the two great valleys of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi. The boundless regions of the west must send their products to the east through this point. This will be the gate of empire, this the seat of commerce. Everything invites to action. The typical man who will grow up here must be an enterprising man. Each day as he rises he will exclaim, 'I act, I move, I push,' and there will be spread before him a boundless horizon, an illimitable field of activity; a limitless expanse of plain is here—to the east water and all other points of land. If I were to give this place a name I would derive it from the nature of the place and the nature of the man who will occupy this place—ago, I act; circum, all around; 'Circago'.

"The recollections of this statement, imparted to an Indian chief, remained but indistinctly, and when the Americans who built Fort Dearborn came to these wilds, they heard what they thought to be the legendary name of the place, and pronounced it as did the Indians, Che-ca-go, instead of Circago, as La Salle had named it.

"Gladly among the brilliants of that prophecy do we find the jewel of our name. By the Circago of La Salle in its transition from the Latin 'circum ago,' through the Che-ca-gou of the Pottawattomies to the Chicago of to-day, is forever banished the 'Wild onion' and the 'Pole-cat' theories with which unfeeling nomenclators sought to blast us.

"Let us be thankful to the gifted Frenchman for giving us a name so in harmony with his remarkable prediction and with the characteristics of our city and people."

---

Chicago is now continuing its park development, so that it may be commensurate with the work begun in 1839 and be made consistent with its park necessities and development in all other lines.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL PARKS.

The second park established was Washington Square in 1842. It was a part of Bushnell's Addition and was dedicated to the public.



4. Sheridan Road, north of Glencoe.



5. Indian Mound—Winter view near County line in Glencoe.



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Jefferson Park followed in 1848. It was given by the Canal Trustees.

In 1854 the land for Union Park was given by Mr. S. S. Hayes. This comprised 17 acres and was the principal park of the city.

Ellis Park was established in 1855.

Vernon Park was established in 1857 by the Philadelphia bankers, represented by Henry D. Gilpin.

Douglas Monument Park, on the Lake Shore at Thirty-fifth Street, is on a portion of the original "Cottage Grove," for which the avenue is named, and which was the late Senator Douglas' residence.

Woodland and Groveland Parks, semi-private in character, and the grounds of the original Chicago University, were also portions of the Douglas estate.

In 1868 Wicker Park was established by Mr. Chas. Wicker, of Milwaukee Avenue.

These and thirty-four other parks—all small—some being merely triangles between intersecting straight and diagonal streets, were established in the sixties or seventies. They were of undoubted value in every way, but were never large enough to meet the needs of the people for breathing space. They are located and described in detail in the appendix and are printed in green on Map No. 1. They are also shown at larger scale and labeled on Map No. 5.

Prior to 1869 there were several efforts on the part of citizens to establish parks, notably one appearing in book form entitled "J. Mason Parker's Plea for Public Parks," and the advocacy by James H. Woodworth in the early sixties of a sixty-acre tract near Stewart Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street.

#### BEGINNING OF LINCOLN PARK.

In 1860 a committee of North Side citizens petitioned the City Council to establish a park in the sixty-acre tract between Webster Avenue and Menominee Street, extended to the lake. This tract is a part of the present Lincoln Park. Prior to this date most of the land south of this piece and north of North Avenue had been used as a cemetery. The greater portion of the shore lands east and north of the cemetery were sand wastes and swamps.

At that date (1860) the first reference to a "Park" in this locality in a public document was made in the report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Works. Nothing important was done, however, until 1864, when the City Council passed an ordinance definitely appropriating certain lands for park purposes.

In 1865 the name "Lincoln" was given to this park, burials were prohibited in the cemetery and \$10,000 was appropriated for park improvement. Work was carried on by the city for four years, but not vigorously enough to satisfy north-siders, who joined in the movement of 1869 to secure state legislation, establishing the park commissions and defining their powers.

#### PARK MOVEMENT IN 1869.

Nothing systematic or general in character was done until 1869, when it was proposed to institute the chain of parks and connecting boulevards starting at Lincoln Park and including Humboldt, Garfield, Douglas, Washington and Jackson Parks.

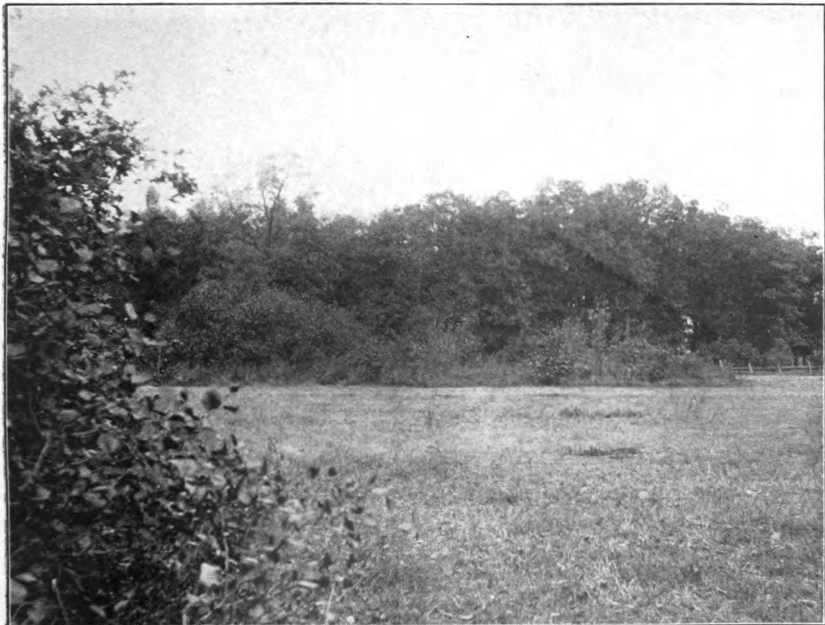
When these improvements were advocated it was stated that they were too large and so remote that they would never be used by Chicago citizens. Union Park was still adequate for the west side. But the new park advocates had faith in Chicago's expansion and realized its great future. They carried the plan through to a successful termination. Those parks are now enjoyed by hundreds of thousands, but are barred by distance to other hundreds of thousands who live in the river wards.

No question concerning Chicago's development or its growth, which is compelled by continental conditions, can be permanently settled. It is upon the constant principle of expansion that Chicago must depend. What it did in 1869 was good, but thirty-five years was too long to remain inactive.

Former citizens served their generation with foresight and wisdom, but their provisions were manifestly inadequate for present needs. So we of to-day are called upon to act again for Chicago with a faith similar to that shown by them. In fact, already some of our representatives have begun the good work. But they need to be encouraged and stimulated by the people. They need the co-operation of every citizen.



6. Green Bay Road in Glencoe, looking north.



7. A typical view of the edges of the Skokee.



## RECENT PARK AND PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT.

In 1899 a small organization of citizens, known as the Municipal Science Club, undertook the study of parks and playgrounds for Chicago. A committee was formed to investigate conditions and report. It did so, and in addition prepared resolutions calling for municipal action.

These resolutions were introduced in the City Council by former Alderman William S. Jackson and adopted.

In conformity with these resolutions the Special Park Commission was formed, with Alderman Jackson as Chairman. Mr. Jackson remained at the head of the commission for two years. He was devoted to the service, enthusiastic and energetic in his efforts in its behalf. Since his retirement from the commission he has shown a keen interest in its work. Chairman Jackson was succeeded by Alderman Ernst F. Herrmann, who served at the head of the commission with great ability and remains a member. He was succeeded by Alderman John J. Bradley, the present chairman.

In the beginning it took but little study to show that the necessary provision for open spaces in the crowded districts could not be made by city government under the financial limitations which then existed and will continue to exist until a new charter for the city is obtained.

From general corporate funds the city has made the following appropriations for the work of the Special Park Commission:

In 1900, \$11,500. In 1901, \$15,000. In 1902, \$20,000. In 1903, \$20,000, and in 1904, \$20,000.

With these funds and with the assistance of private citizens the commission has equipped and maintained municipal playgrounds. There were five in the beginning and the number has been increased to nine in 1904.

The location of these playgrounds has been controlled somewhat by the terms upon which land could be obtained without the expense of purchase, although in no case were they established in sparsely settled districts. Some are in densely populated regions.

## CHICAGO'S MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS.

The playgrounds are located as follows: The Webster Playground at 33rd Street and Wentworth Avenue; the Moseley at 24th Street and Wabash Avenue; the Holden on Bonfield Street near W. 31st Street; the McLaren on Polk Street near Laffin Street; the Adams on Seminary Avenue near Center Street; the Jones on Plymouth Court near Polk Street; the Northwestern Elevated, at the Larrabee Street Station of the Northwestern Elevated Road; the Orleans at Institute Place and Orleans Street, and the Lincoln Playground, on West Chicago Avenue near Lincoln Street.

These playgrounds vary in area from one to five acres. Each is controlled by an experienced director. He is assisted by a policeman and in summer time by an assistant director, who is always a woman and a trained kindergartner. Over the directors is a general athletic director who has control of all grounds. This director, Mr. Beutner, is a professional athletic coach and his services are available without expense to any individual or team.

Various teams make the Webster field their training quarters and athletes are being developed out of boys who have no other opportunity. In each ground there is a playground apparatus of various kinds for smaller children and for girls. Each has a shelter building, a covered sand court for babies, and the necessary toilet and store room. In addition, the Webster ground has a bath building in which shower baths of hot and cold water can be taken without charge. There is also a locker room for the use of men and boys wishing to change clothing before and after exercise. The athletic field also has a superior 5-lap running track and a smaller one has been built at the Moseley playground.

## BENEFICIAL EFFECT OF MUNICIPAL ATHLETICS.

The corner gangs, through the influence of playgrounds, have become the athletic gangs of the neighborhood. The surplus of animal spirits is not as it was before, apparent in juvenile turbulence, vandalism and petty thefts, but in athletic and gymnastic competition. Mothers living in the neighborhood of these playgrounds realize that they can send or bring their



8. Oaks are killed by cutting out under-brush and pasturing.



9. Destruction of woodlands now going on.





children early in the morning to the grounds and find them in the evening safe and well behaved.

The activities of children in the grounds are principally devoted to physical training, combined with pleasure and recreation. The children rapidly become well-trained performers on the apparatus and the playgrounds assume an important factor in physical development for both boys and girls. They learn to respect property rights. They realize quickly that the playgrounds are their own, that vandalism and the desire to destroy is a hurt to themselves and consequently they support the directors in protecting property. While the boys and girls find pleasure and recreation in these grounds they lay the foundations for good citizenship and respect for law and order and appreciation of the value of public property.

The attendance in these playgrounds for the year 1903 was 734,693, nearly three-quarters of a million people. There will be more than a million admissions for the year 1904. Most of the grounds are open the entire year, the center spaces being flooded in winter and converted into skating rinks. Space does not permit a more detailed statement in reference to these playgrounds, the importance of which, in the life of the city, is already recognized by a majority of citizens. The evidence of this recognition lies in the approval of the small park bond issues, which the people ratified by their votes.

#### FUNDS PROVIDED FOR PARK BOARDS.

The Special Park Commission, finding that funds were not available for proper prosecution of this work, and not wishing to become an extra taxing body, concluded that the best course to pursue was to secure an enlargement of the powers of the existing park boards. This it did by securing from the Legislature an enabling act, which permitted the park boards to locate parks and pleasure grounds not more than ten acres in area in any portion of their district.

The Commission also secured acts in 1901 from the Legislature by which the South Park Commission was enabled to issue bonds to the extent of \$1,000,000 and to levy a tax for maintenance of the small parks to be established. A similar act for a \$1,000,000 bond issue was passed for the West Park Board and

another of like character for a \$500,000 bond issue was secured for the Lincoln Park Board. Because of certain technicalities the south side bond act was not available and it was therefore revised by the Legislature of 1903 at the request of the South Park Commissioners. As a result they are improving sites and the Lincoln Park Board is taking steps to acquire land for small parks.

#### PARK BOARDS RECEIVED REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Special Commission made an investigation of conditions in all the crowded districts of the city and recommended sites in each division to the three Park Boards. The passage of the Lundberg Act for a further bond issue enabled the South Park Commissioners to establish parks anywhere within their district and removed the ten-acre limitation in area.

The South Park Commissioners are making fourteen new parks, seven large and seven small, one being 322.68 acres in area. These are shown on Maps 1 and 5. This Board has recognized the need of increased park facilities in the great manufacturing center at South Chicago by locating there three new parks with a total area of 86.86 acres. One of these parks is on the lake front and its area of 57.41 acres can be greatly increased by filling in the water along the present shore. Each of these parks will be supplied with a field house in which will be gymnasiums, baths and rooms that can be used for assembly hall, library and club quarters. There also will be in each park modern out-door features, gymnasiums and swimming pools, except that in the large park bathing will be in the lake.

In the vicinity of the Stock Yards the South Park Board has located for the great population there four parks, aggregating 90.84 acres, one containing 60.60 acres. Each park will be supplied with field house, gymnasium and swimming pool.

Reference to the map will show parks located on the south side, north of 39th Street, all of which are to be equipped like the others referred to.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF GRANT PARK.

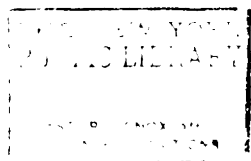
The lake front, so far as it is limited to Grant Park, is being enlarged to five times its present size, as now in use, and will be



10. A Clearing in Lowlands once Forest-covered.



11. Typical Skokee View.



elaborately improved. The dominating feature will be the Field Columbian Museum Building located in the center. Some persons do not favor this plan, believing that a better arrangement would result if buildings were located at the ends of the park, leaving the center open.

The lake shore north of the river is already improved with a parkway and preserved for the people.

The connection of the north and south systems across the river is now taking form at the hands of a Special Committee, composed of members from the City Council, the South Park Board and the Lincoln Park Board. This committee is at work on a plan which contemplates widening Michigan Avenue to 125 feet from Park Row to the river, widening Pine Street similarly from the river to Chicago Avenue, and the erection of a bascule bridge connecting the two avenues.

The Commissioners of Lincoln Park have concurred in the recommendations of the Special Park Commission in regard to small park sites. When the proceeds of their bond issue become available they will proceed to purchase land.

Through a \$1,000,000 bond act of the Legislature, the Lincoln Park Commissioners are building an extension of 215 acres at the north of Lincoln Park, as shown on Map 1. They are also continuing the North Shore Drive and beach southward to connect with the boulevard east of the Chicago Avenue Water Works.

#### NO PARK EXTENSION ON THE WEST SIDE.

The West Park Board has done no new construction in the period from 1900 to 1904, the entire income being taken up for maintenance. They have been stopped from purchasing sites for small parks by the adverse opinion of the attorney for a prospective bond purchaser in regard to the constitutionality of the West Park bond act. A suit is now in progress which it is hoped will establish the constitutionality of the act, or in some way make it possible for this board to proceed. Small parks are more seriously needed in the crowded wards within this district than in any other portion of the city.

The following statement of funds available for each of the park boards (being the amounts realized from taxation in 1902)

with the areas of parks and miles of boulevard maintained, is instructive.

The fixed charges are paid from the amounts given below. They are greater in proportion in the case of Lincoln Park than for the other two districts.

	Received from 1902 Taxes.	No. of Acres of Park Maintained.	No. of Miles of Boulevard Maintained.
Lincoln Park Board. ....	\$306,068.84	365.79	7
West Park Board. ....	691,624.94	652.76	23.14
South Park Board. ....	634,585.39	1,334.95	17.28

## PART TWO.

### COMPARATIVE PARK DATA.

It has been shown that Chicago's park extension does not compare favorably with its development in other lines. It is equally true that Chicago's park development does not compare favorably with that of other cities. In 1870 Chicago was second in the list among American cities, but from its former high place it has dropped to rank thirty-two among American cities of 100,000 inhabitants and upwards. In Chicago, in 1900, there was only one acre of park for each 846 persons. But that is not the worst feature of Chicago's present condition. As Prof. Zueblin points out in his chapter on parks and boulevards in "American Municipal Progress:"

"The quantitative estimate is fallacious. In Chicago 700,000 people live more than a mile from any large park. [at the present writing the number is nearer 900,000]. The wards without parks are those in which population is most dense. Eleven wards which contain the bulk of the park and boulevard system include 1,814 acres of park space, the population being about 425,000, or 234 people to the acre of park space. *The remaining twenty-three wards, with a population of over 1,000,000 contain 228 acres, or 4,720 people to each acre of park space.*"

The following table shows the increase of city and park area, of population of Chicago and the relations between the same from 1840 to 1904:



13. Giant Elm in the Skokee lowlands.





Year.	Population.	Area in Acres.	Acres of Park.	No. Acres of City Area to One Acre Park.	Population per Acre of Park.
1840. . . . .	4,479	6,806	2	3,403	2,239
1850. . . . .	28,269	8,966	11	815	2,570
1860. . . . .	109,206	11,518	37	311	2,951
1870. . . . .	306,605	22,823	1,887	12	162
1880. . . . .	503,298	22,823	2,000	11	251
1890. . . . .	1,105,540	111,734	2,006	55	551
1900. . . . .	1,698,575	111,734	2,006	55	846
1904. . . . .	1,962,251	122,008	3,179	38	617

This table would show an encouraging condition from 1900 to 1904 if it were not for the unequal distribution, which is discussed further on in the "Statement of the Problem," but at best it indicates insufficient progress, for 617 is far too many persons per acre of park area, even if equal distribution existed. And further, this table applies only to territory within the city limits, and we are obliged to consider most of Cook County--wherever Chicagoans live.

Park experts state that each large city should have one acre of park to each twenty acres of city area and that there should also be one acre of park to each 100 inhabitants. It is obvious that these ideal ratios would not secure good results without proper distribution.

For detailed comparison of Chicago with other American cities the following is quoted from President Henry G. Foreman's address to the Outer Belt Park Commissioners, April 21, 1904:

#### CHICAGO'S PHENOMENAL GROWTH.

"Chicago's phenomenal growth, I believe, warrants this commission in providing an extensive outer park area. To illustrate the relative magnitude of this growth I have gone back to 1830 and made decennial comparisons of the populations of four large American cities up to 1900 and carried the comparison on to 1903.

"In 1830 New York had a population of 202,589, Chicago about forty persons, Philadelphia 161,410 and Boston 61,392. In 1903 New York had 3,716,139, Chicago 1,873,880, Philadelphia 1,367,716 and Boston 594,618. The figures for 1903

are the estimates of the Federal Census office and may be accepted as conservative.

"The city directory estimates, which usually are made along generous lines, indicate the 1903 population in these four cities as follows: New York, 3,583,930 (less than the Federal estimate); Chicago, 2,231,000; Philadelphia, 1,500,000 and Boston, 603,183.

"From 1840, when Chicago was well established with a population of 4,470 (having been incorporated in 1837), to 1903, this city's percentage of increase in population, based on directory figures for 1903, was 49,811. For the same period New York's percentage, similarly based as to 1903, was 1,046, Philadelphia, 581, and Boston 546. On the Federal estimate for 1903, Chicago's percentage of growth was 41,754; New York's 1,088 Philadelphia's 521, and Boston's 537.

"This is indeed a tremendous growth for Chicago, even on the conservative Federal population estimate.

#### LAGS BEHIND IN PARK GROWTH.

"But, while Chicago from 1840 to 1903 has shown an enormous percentage of increase in population, has it made a proportionate increase in applied park facilities for its great population? Emphatically no.

"In 1869 the act creating the present park system was passed by the General Assembly. By 1880 the ragged city system had been improved and increased until there were 2,000 acres. In 1880 Philadelphia led American cities in park area, having 2,819 acres. Chicago was second. New York was third with 1,007.25 and Boston had 233 acres. In 1903 Chicago, including authorized additions, had 3,174 acres; Philadelphia, 3,503 acres; New York, 8,074 acres, and Boston, 12,878 acres.

"Chicago during the period 1880-1903, using the Federal estimate for 1903, increased in population 272.40 per cent, but in park area increased only 58.70 per cent. For the same period Philadelphia increased 61.46 per cent in population and 24.26 per cent in park area; New York increased 208.07 per cent in population and 701.25 per cent in park area; and Boston increased 63.88 per cent in population and 5,427 per cent in park area.



14. American Black Cherry on the edge of the woods near the Skokee.



"So, while Chicago has exceeded greatly the other three cities in population growth it has fallen far behind Boston and New York in the percentage of park growth.

#### CHICAGO PARKS AND THOSE OF OTHER CITIES.

"But to take up the comparison on a broader scale I have made a careful investigation of recreation areas in the leading cities of the United States and have put the results into comparative tables, so that we may see at a glance how Chicago stands in regard to parks when placed side by side with other American cities. The showing is not flattering to Chicago.

"In 1880, eleven years after the present system of parks and boulevards was projected, this city, in the acre area of the system stood, as stated, next to Philadelphia, which then had the largest acreage of parks of any city in the Union. At that time Chicago in population was fourth among the cities of the United States, being exceeded by New York, Philadelphia and Brooklyn. So in 1880 Chicago stood well in regard to parks.

"But how does it stand to-day? While our city for some time has been second in population, in the acre area of its parks it has slipped back to seventh place among the cities of the United States.

"That we may put our best foot forward I have included in the Chicago total, additions now being made or authorized, to the system on the three sides of the city.

"Here are the cities and the figures, collected from data furnished in 1903 by Park Boards in the various localities:

City	Acre Area of Parks.
1. Boston.....	12,878
2. New York.....	8,074
3. Los Angeles.....	3,737
4. Newark, New Jersey, and environs.....	3,548
5. Philadelphia.....	3,503
6. San Francisco.....	3,411
7. Chicago.....	3,174
8. Washington.....	2,911

"These figures do not include boulevards. Chicago is the second city in this respect, having forty-eight miles of such drives, while New York is first with sixty-one miles. New Orleans has forty-one miles, Boston thirty-four miles and Minneapolis twenty-seven miles. Other cities have shorter systems.

## CHICAGO IN TEST AS TO USEFULNESS.

"But acreage of parks and miles of boulevards do not set a fair standard for measuring the effectiveness of open air recreation facilities. Parks are not made for cities. They are made for the people who live in cities. Parks are useful in their application to human needs.

"Let us then make the crucial test of the utility of Chicago's park system as compared with the utility of systems in other localities. Let us figure the number of inhabitants to each acre of park in several American cities.

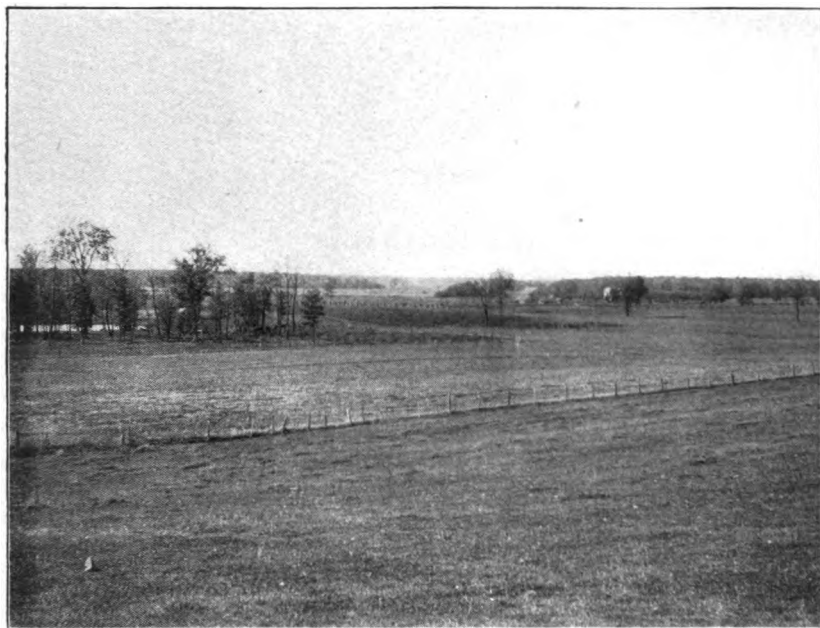
"For this comparison I wrote to the proper officials in nineteen cities known to have large park area. When the figures were received and tabulated, Chicago was found at the bottom of the list—nineteenth—and eighth below the general average for all.

"Here is the table with population on the basis of the Federal estimate for 1903:

City.	Inhabitants to Each Acre of Park.
1. Meriden, Conn. . . . .	25.1
2. Los Angeles, Cal. . . . .	31.6
3. Lynn, Mass. . . . .	34.6
4. Boston, Mass. . . . .	46.2
5. Newark, N. J., Orange and East Orange. . . . .	88.8
6. St. Paul, Minn. . . . .	98.9
7. Washington, D. C. . . . .	100.7
8. San Francisco, Cal. . . . .	104.4
9. Minneapolis, Minn. . . . .	131.5
10. Omaha, Neb. . . . .	153.8
11. Hartford, Conn. . . . .	160.3
12. St. Louis, Mo. . . . .	280.5
13. Providence, R. I. . . . .	324.1
14. Detroit, Mich. . . . .	323.6
15. Philadelphia, Pa. . . . .	390.1
16. Baltimore, Md. . . . .	425.4
17. New York, N. Y. . . . .	460.3
18. New Orleans, La. . . . .	508.6
19. Chicago. . . . .	590.4
Average of all. . . . .	206.6

"Going a little deeper into this matter it was found that in a comparison with cities in the United States, of a population of 100,000 and upward, Chicago stood in the limelight as No. 32!

"This certainly is a bad showing for the second city in population, the second city in miles of boulevards, the seventh city in park acreage and, as some believe, the first city in destined



12. Skokee view looking west from Green Bay Road.

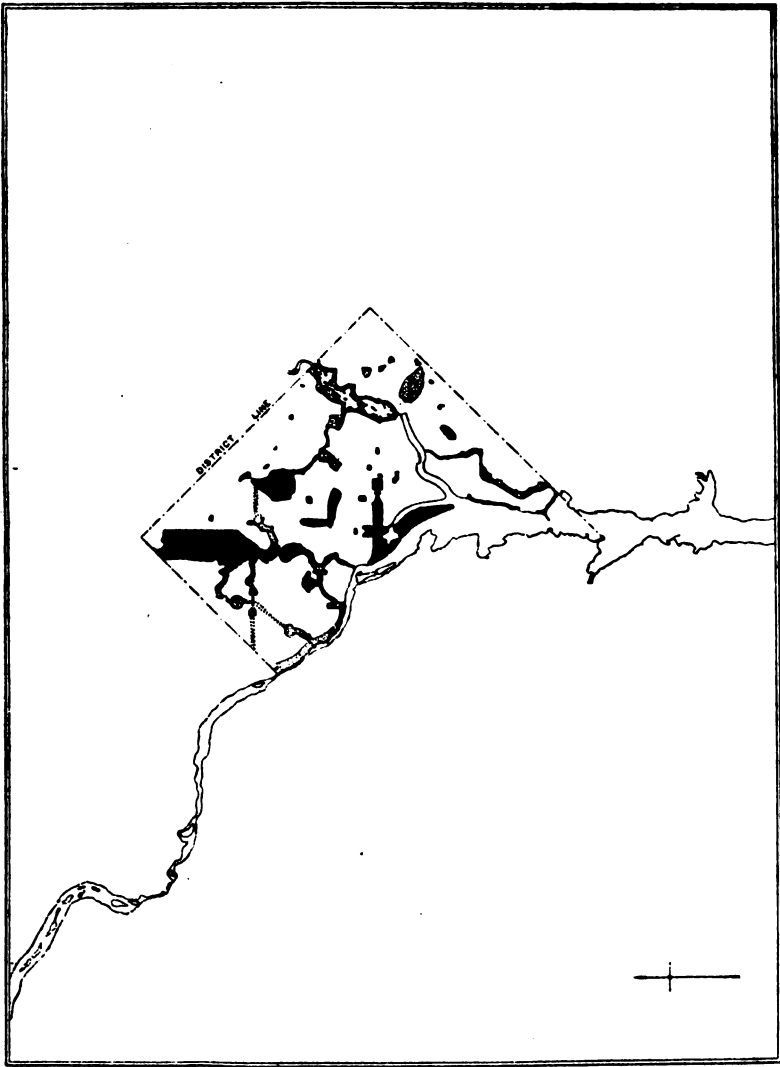


15. Desplaines River near Madison Street Bridge.

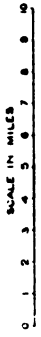


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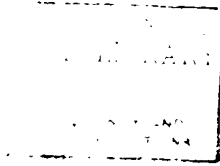
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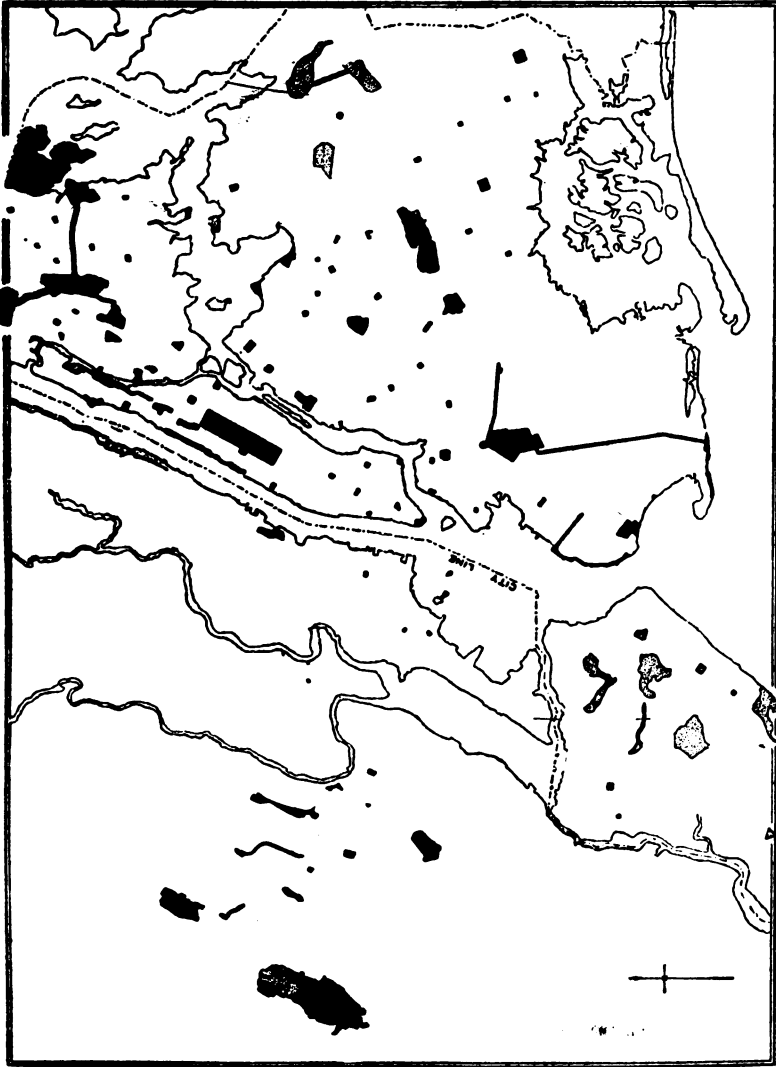
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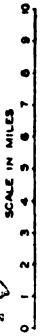
(From the 1902 Report of The Park System of the District of Columbia.)



NEW YORK



Solid black indicates public parks  
Shading indicates proposed parks



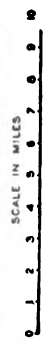
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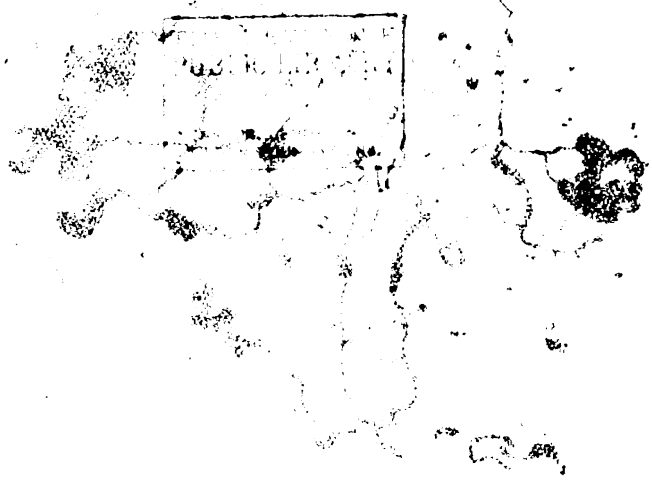
**BOSTON**



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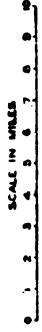
(From the 1902 Report of The Park System of the District of Columbia.)



LONDON



Solid black indicates public parks



(From the 1902 Report of The Park System of the District of Columbia.)





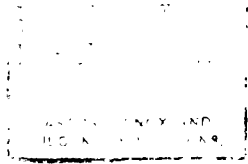
**PARIS**



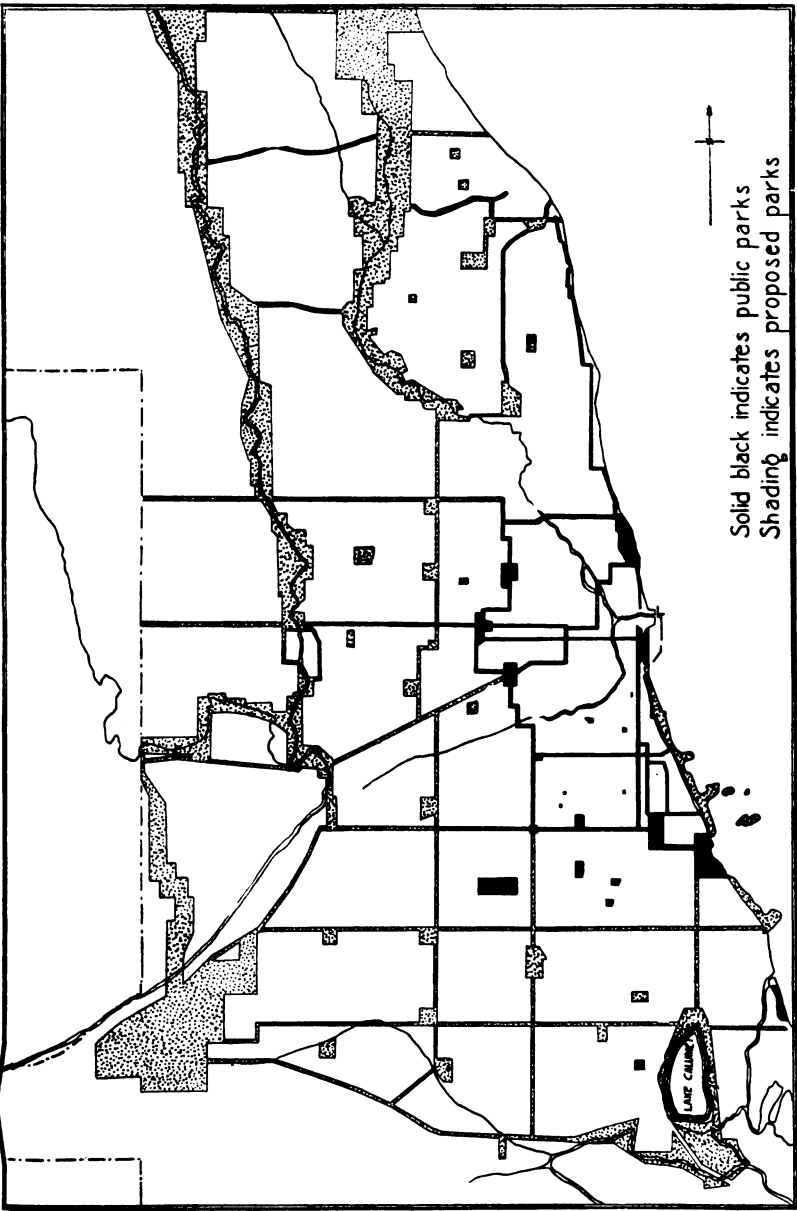
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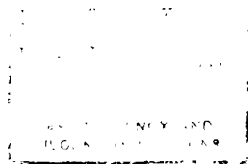
SCALE IN MILES  
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(From the 1902 Report of The Park System of the District of Columbia.)



CHICAGO





greatness. Yet I believe most Chicago people would be surprised to learn that we do not possess the most effective park system in the United States.'

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The small maps on the adjacent pages give graphic comparison of the areas of park lands in Chicago and other cities.

Attention is called to the distribution in Washington, where the parks give better service than they do in Philadelphia. Although the area is much larger there, it is concentrated too much in Fairmount Park.

#### PARK EXPENDITURES IN THE EAST.

Comparison of finances with other cities would reveal the fact that Chicago pays less proportionately for parks than eastern cities.

When the expense of establishing small parks in the crowded districts is objected to, it is well to remember that New York paid over \$1,500,000 for the land of Mulberry Bend Park of only 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres and \$2,500,000 for Seward Park of only 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

When Central Park was established in 1853, strenuous objection was made because it was so remote from the people. Now more than half the people live north of 59th Street and the extra taxes due to the increased value of Central Park frontages would almost run New York's park system. If the public could get the benefit of the unearned increment enjoyed by owners of adjacent property, due to the establishment of this park, the benefit would be enormous.

In Boston, two men—Sylvester Baxter and Charles Eliot—started the work which has resulted in the Metropolitan Park System. What they considered a dream which might take generations to accomplish was actually started in two years and accomplished in seven.

Nothing can be more inspiring to the proud and energetic citizens of Chicago than the history of this movement in Boston.

The following quotation, which is from Prof. Zueblin's "American Municipal Progress," is made:

"The best park system in the world is that of Boston and its suburbs. The chief features of this system are the Boston Com-

mon and Public Gardens, the seventy small parks and playgrounds scattered about Boston, the local parks of the several municipalities in the metropolitan district and the metropolitan reservations, ranging from central parks and local playgrounds to great rural preserves.

IDEA WHICH LED TO BOSTON'S SYSTEM.

"The first public suggestion for a metropolitan park system for Boston appeared in an article printed in the *Boston Herald*, in January, 1891, in which a summary was given of the conditions of Boston and its suburbs, based on the census of 1890.

"A plan was proposed to include a chain of parks from the already existing Lynn Woods around three-quarters of a circle to the Blue Hills on the south. According to the original statement, 'under metropolitan management a chain of pleasure grounds might, at a comparatively slight expense, be laid out around the city to the northward and westward, forming a continuous communication from Lynn Beach around to a connection with the southern systems, the whole forming together with the present Boston parks, one of the grandest park systems in the world.'

"The late Charles Eliot, who was Secretary of the Trustees of Public Reservations, was so impressed with the idea, which he had privately recommended to Governor Russell, in December, 1890, that he called a conference of the Park Commissioners of Boston and its suburbs on December 16, 1891. The result was the presentation and subsequent enactment of a bill by the Legislature of 1892, providing for a metropolitan park commission to consider the problem of parks for this entire district. Mr. Eliot was made landscape architect and Mr. Sylvester Baxter secretary of the commission. The entire summer was spent in investigating the delightful surroundings of Boston, much being unknown territory to the commission.

"The report which the commission presented in 1893 was so ambitious that even the authors of the plan scarcely hoped for its acceptance. Their expectation was that an educational campaign might gradually bring the people to an appreciation of this comprehensive scheme. Nevertheless, the unanimous support of the legislative committee, to which the bill was referred, of



16. Eastern bank of Desplaines River near North Avenue.



17. Ash Coppice—Desplaines Valley near River Forest.





Mayor Matthews, of Boston, and of the press resulted in a prompt enactment of the bill. The Metropolitan Park District was created, including eleven cities and twenty-five towns, a park commission was appointed and the first loan of \$1,000,000 was authorized. Since then more than \$10,000,000 have been expended, of which \$3,000,000 have been devoted to boulevards and parkways and the remainder to securing more than 10,000 acres in the reservations. One-half of this amount was secured from the several municipalities and one-half from the State.

#### FRUITION OF A SUPERB SCHEME IN TEN YEARS

"The fact that within ten years so ambitious a project should have been not only carried out but amplified, is perhaps the most encouraging incident in American municipal progress in the last decade of the nineteenth century. The commission to execute these plans was appointed in 1895, and the work of the last seven years belongs almost in the realms of romance. The commission has acquired 10,000 acres of forest, sea shore and river bank, has not merely secured some of this area, but has developed much of it. Land has also been bought for seventeen miles of parkways, of which twelve have been constructed and are in use.

"The forest reservations aggregate more than 7,000 acres, and though they have been selected on the basis of intrinsic merit by a happy accident, they are so located as to make an equable distribution of park areas over the entire metropolitan district. The most important of these reservations is the Blue Hills, which includes the highest elevation of land in view of the Atlantic Ocean from Maine to Florida, covering an area, if two lakes on the margin of the reservation are included, of more than 5,000 acres. This makes the largest tract devoted to recreation belonging to any municipality in the United States. The reservation lies due south of Boston from nine to eleven miles distant from the State house.

"In a semicircle from this point, running to the Lynn Woods, near the sea on the north, is a continuous succession of river and forest reservations along the Neponset, Charles and Mystic rivers, together with the local parks of Boston, Brookline and Cambridge, and including the other great reservation of the

metropolitan commission on the north—Middlesex Fells. This region contains over 1,800 acres of wild and rocky woodland, to which must be added 1,100 acres held by the metropolitan water board and the local water boards of Winchester and Medford, which, for all practical purposes, also constitute a park area. The Lynn Woods, over 2,000 acres in area, form another one of the local parks which must be included in the provision for the metropolitan district because of its great beauty and extent, although, like Franklin Park in Boston, it is not included in the administration of the Metropolitan Park Commission.

#### FIVE MILES OF SEASHORE RESERVATIONS.

“The addition of five miles of seashore reservations on the east makes a nearly complete circle of parks and parkways about the metropolitan district. Of these beach reservations the foremost is Revere Beach, where the great bathing facilities are located.

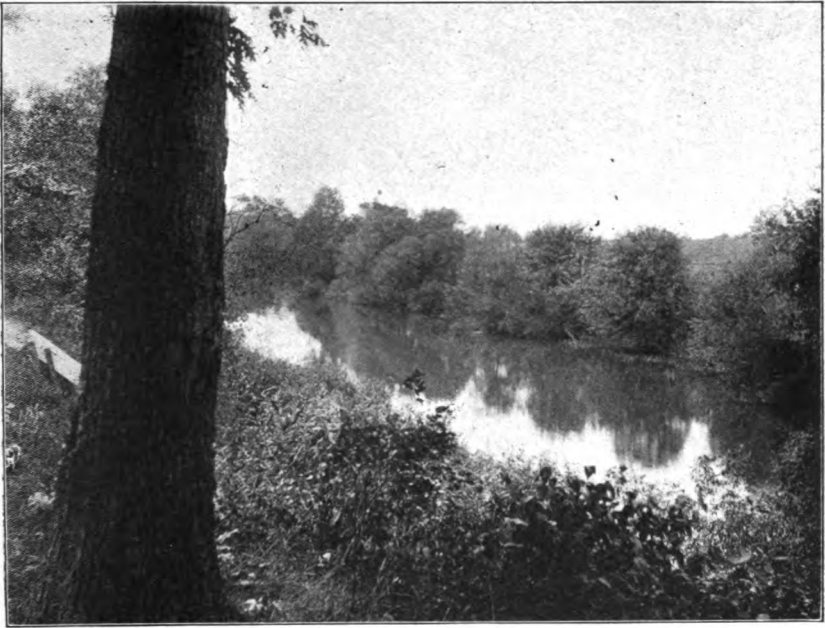
“A second important sea shore reservation is Nantasket Beach, which was secured in consequence of the destructive storm of 1898. There are also 1,800 acres in the river reservations, to which must be added the holdings of the local boards of Cambridge, Waltham, Newton and Medford.

“This great metropolitan system, then, includes forest reservations in the first place; in the second, the protection of five miles of sea shore for the benefit of the public; in the third instance, the preservation of the banks of nearly all the streams in the Metropolitan District; and fourth, a system of parkways and boulevards which will connect all of these different elements.”

## PART THREE.

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

A description of existing conditions in the crowded or central river wards in Chicago may be derived from the report of the City Homes Association on Tenement Conditions. The facts relating to overcrowding, high rate of mortality, infectious disease, juvenile crime and delinquency and the utter absence of park



18. View of the Desplaines river from the east bluff near North Ave. Willows and soft maples are on the low west edge, flat prairie land in the distance.



19. Opening in the forest close to the Desplaines river—Young seedling trees in the foreground.



or playground facilities are shown by Maps 2, 3 and 4. The data upon which these maps were drawn were collected and compiled by Mr. A. W. O'Neill, Secretary of the Special Park Commission. It is unnecessary to point out the startling coincidence in the areas where such conditions are prevalent.

It is also impossible to avoid the conclusion that parks and playgrounds must be established in the midst of such areas and that immediately and regardless of expense.

For convenience in referring to the maps the territory is divided into zones.

Zone 1. This is the central district within the present park chain. It is shown on Map 1 and at larger scale on Map 5. Maps 2, 3 and 4 refer only to Zone 1.

Zone 2. This is the region through which the present chain runs.

Zone 3. This extends from the north county line to Lincoln Park, thence westerly around the city, terminating at the lake south of Jackson Park.

Zone 4. This comprises the Desplaines Valley, starting at the north county line, extending southward to the Drainage Canal, thence westerly and southerly along Salt Creek, Flag Creek and the Desplaines River to Mt. Forest and the Sag Valley. From this point it returns easterly through the Sag and Calumet Valleys around Blue Island and to Lake Calumet.

#### CHICAGO'S LACK OF FORESIGHT.

In spite of the park work begun in 1869, Chicago suffers to-day because of lack of foresight, particularly with reference to the central districts. It struggles against the handicap caused by lack of confidence in future growth or a failure to realize that the city, as well as the individual, must either progress or retrograde.

Transportation facilities are inadequate, the elevated loop for years has been overcrowded and is becoming an obstruction instead of an assistance to travel. The Drainage Canal had only to be opened to reveal the fact that the river could not deliver the required volume of water. The obstructing tunnels are diverting millions of tons of water freight from the Chicago River; imperfect and wasteful combustion is creating the smoke nui-

sance; track elevation was only begun after hundreds of lives had been sacrificed; the postoffice is still far from completion. We are told that it could not handle much more than half of Chicago's business if it were complete to-day, and three large branch offices are now proposed as a result. The streets are narrow, radial arteries scarcely exist and there are no open areas in the business district. These and many other items indicate the enormous waste of treasure, time and human life due to the lack of forethought and confidence in the future of our city when it was originally planned. All these errors have to be rectified at the expense of millions of dollars when thousands, or even hundreds, might have done the work in the beginning.

In the hope that similar mistakes may not be made in regard to parks, the study and suggestions in relation to Zones 3 and 4 have been made. There it is possible to exercise preventive measures and at the same time provide parks for millions of citizens of the future city. The prevention of disease and of juvenile crime with its effect upon adult citizenship follows the establishment of accessible pleasure grounds. This has been demonstrated in many cities, particularly in Chicago at the municipal playgrounds.

#### FIGURING ON THE FUTURE CITY.

Reference is directed to that portion of the Arnold traction report where an estimate of the future population is made upon a mathematical and scientific basis. The estimates are evidently made with the desire and intention to be conservative.

Mr. Arnold shows that the rate of increase of population in Chicago in 1902 was 7.7 per cent. At 7 per cent compounded, the population in 1952 would be over 13,000,000. Calculating at the very low rate of 3 per cent, which has been shown to be the average rate of many American and European cities, would give Chicago in 1952 over 5,000,000 inhabitants. But these cities had more nearly reached a point in their growth in conformity with the demands made upon them than Chicago had in 1902. It is reasonable to assume that the rate of increase will be half way between 3 and 7 per cent, the present rate. At 5 per cent, Mr. Arnold shows by his table, that the population in 1952 may be 8,000,000, using a decreasing rate of increase. This is within



20 A Characteristic "Run-off."



21. Hawthorn and ash seedling in pasture lands. The parent trees are near by.





the present city limits. Allowing for the population beyond those limits and within Cook County, it is conservative to assume that a population of 10,000,000 will be within the area of this report within fifty years.

Chicago is not only a city of continental importance; it is a city of importance to the world. It is situated in the greatest producing region of America. It is on the inland seas, which have a commerce and a population equal to that of the ocean, and the lake regions have not yet begun to be fully populated.

When the Panama Canal is finished and the waterways are completed to the Gulf, Chicago will be the shipping point from a vast territory to South and Central America and all the Pacific and Asiatic ports. It is to-day the greatest railroad center in the world. Coal, iron and labor meet on cheaper terms in Chicago than in any other point, as is evidenced by the great iron industries at the mouth of the Calumet, which are only starting in their growth. Chicago is to-day a great manufacturing center as well as a trading and shipping point, and for these and many other similar reasons it is believed that the Arnold calculations are conservative.

It should be stated that many thoughtful men believe accurate forecasts of population growth are not possible. However, these men believe firmly in the destined greatness of Chicago, but they make only rough estimates of the future population of the city. The science of cities is now so generally understood that the citizens of Chicago cannot plead ignorance as an excuse for neglect to provide for the needs of the future.

It is assumed that several years will elapse before all of such a plan as the following one can be carried out. It is imperative, however, that as much as possible should be done or provided for now to avoid the rise in values, the destruction of the forests or a break in the continuity of arrangement.

#### REQUIREMENTS OF ZONE 1.

In this Zone the problem is curative and imperative. Playgrounds and small parks should be so placed that no one could live more than one-half mile from some one of them. This should be done for conditions as they are, and they are rapidly growing worse.

The "natural features," so-called, to be seized upon, are the river banks (which are all docks) and the limestone quarries.

It has been found possible to locate a proper number of parks either on vacant land or upon land where the buildings are not valuable. Reference to the table in the appendix will show the wards within this zone in which there are no parks at all.

#### REQUIREMENTS OF ZONE 2.

Zone 2 needs no comment except to call attention to the short section of Western Avenue Boulevard near the river, which is still incomplete, with the recommendation that it be finished at once. The west parks and boulevards, particularly Western Avenue near the Drainage Canal, need improvement, as in portions they have not been finished.

The extension of Lincoln Park northward is now under way and will be completed within a few years.

#### REQUIREMENTS OF ZONES 3 AND 4.

The parks in the outlying zones must be located as near as possible in accordance with the future populated areas.

Population is influenced by three factors—proximity to the business center, the character and position of transportation and the desirability of certain areas for residence purposes. It must be remembered, however, that Chicago has more than one business center, particularly when manufacturing districts are considered.

South Chicago and the Calumet District is already an important center and is bound to increase in importance until it rivals the present center within Zone 1. The Stock Yards is another, as also is the head of the Drainage Canal, where the McCormick works are located. The belt traversed by the Chicago Terminal Transfer Line is occupied by factories and will soon have many more. Thousands of men find their business "center" here.

It is reasonable to assume that new lines of transportation will be built, which will increase facilities for expansion and cause people to settle in areas now without proper transportation. It is also safe to assume that lines of population now started will



22. Dead Walnut trees, the effect of sewers.



extend in the same direction, and a third assumption is logical, which is that within fifty years practically all of the territory surrounded by Zone 4 will be in use for residence, transportation or business purposes. There will be but little space then left for agricultural uses. It would, therefore, be safe to arbitrarily locate a park of twenty to forty acres in every section if there were not opportunities to do something better.

Instead of acquiring space only, the opportunity exists for reserving country naturally beautiful. The bluffs and beaches along the lake shore, the Skokee, the North Chicago River Valley, the Peterson Woods at Bowmanville, the Desplaines Valley, Salt Creek, Flag Creek, Mt. Forest, the Sag Valley, Palos Heights, Blue Island Ridge, Calumet River and Lake—all these should be preserved for the benefit of the public in both the city and its suburbs and for their own beauty and scientific value which, if once lost, cannot be restored for generations. Another reason for acquiring these outer areas is the necessity for providing for the future population, which will extend to the boundaries of Cook County and occupy the intervening sections as well.

## PART FOUR.

### PROPOSED SYSTEM OUTLINED.

#### ZONE 1.

The recommendations of sites in Zone 1 follow in the main those of the Special Park Commission to the three park boards, except that most of the sites therein mentioned as first, second or third choice are all included in this report as desirable. They are shown on Map 1 and on map 5 at larger scale and listed and locations given in part seven from No. 1 to No. 38.

Those sites which have been recently purchased by the South Park Commissioners are indicated on the map as portions of the existing systems of parks and should be studied in relation to the proposed sites. Many sites not included in the Special Park Commission reports are added in this report.

Various river sites are included, notably on Ogden Island and in the lumber district, in which liberal bathing facilities are assumed.

The quarries on either side of Grand Avenue, near Rockwell Street, have practically reached their lot lines and may not go much deeper. Both should be acquired and connected by a gorge under Grand Avenue and turned into a mountain park reversed. It is cool and flat at the bottom and should be made a valuable public recreation place.

Kuhn's Park, on Milwaukee Avenue, should be turned from private into public ownership.

All these parks should be equipped as pleasure or playgrounds first and as ornamental parks secondarily, if there is not space enough to combine the two ideas. Each one should be especially studied in detail and should include as much equipment as is being put in the new small parks on the South Side.

#### ZONE 2.

No recommendations are made for Zone 2, except to carry out the plans already in existence.

#### ZONE 3.

##### SECTION 1.

Lake excursionists from the city should be provided with an entrance to the park systems of Zones 3 and 4 at the northern boundary of Cook County in Glencoe. The wooded bluff and ravines at that place should be preserved.

Park space three-eighths of a mile wide and one mile long is shown on Map 1. This connects on the west with the Skokee Park, which continues southward to a point opposite the north line of Evanston, where it follows the North Branch of the Chicago River in a southwesterly direction. It turns with the river and continues until Bowmanville is reached.

Most of the people in the shore villages north of Evanston live east of the Chicago & North Western railway tracks. Parks are shown on the lake shore in Wilmette, Kenilworth and Winnetka. These, with Sheridan Drive and the private grounds around most of the residences, furnish sufficient open space and beauty for the residents of those portions. It is only necessary to give people living inland sufficient access to the lake.

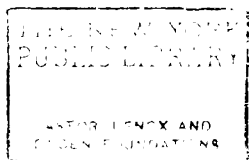


23. Grove of Hard Maple, Underbrush and other trees removed—Desplaines Valley near Glendon Park—Natural state still visible at the right.



24. Eroded bank on the Desplaines River near Madison Street bridge.





The densely peopled areas, particularly in Rogers Park and Evanston, are sure to be west of the tracks. The Evanston extension of the Drainage Canal is shown on Map 1. It is made the central feature of a park system, both west and east of the Chicago & North Western Railway. Co-operation of the Sanitary District with the City of Evanston should result in a residence and pleasure park district, with streams and lagoons of clear lake water of immense value.

The Skokee Park from the lake to Bowmanville comprises about 8,300 acres and the smaller parks together about 1,000 acres. The Skokee is a marsh and next to the lake is considered by many Chicago's most beautiful natural feature. The view is unbroken for miles and the coloring from spring to fall is as variable as on the lake. Along the edge and on islands in the center are numerous original forests of rare beauty and interest.

The Peterson Woods in Bowmanville form the southern end of the Skokee and Chicago River Park. This is a virgin forest within four blocks of street cars and seven miles of the Court House. Some of the largest elms in the country are here and nearly, if not quite all, varieties of the flora of this region are found growing there luxuriantly. It gives an excellent opportunity for the preservation of species and the study of botany and dendrology. An old Indian trail can still be traced through this territory. It has been preserved with great care by the owner, who has planted there many trees in addition to the native growth, so that it is practically a museum of trees native to this soil and climate. It is now an arboretum and only needs to be acquired and preserved.

The photographs for this section are in order from north to south from plate No. 1 to 14. The parks are from No. 39 to No. 56, on Map No. 1.

## SECTION 2.

The south half of Zone 3 extends from Belmont Avenue southward between the present chain and the Desplaines Valley.

There are few, if any, natural features to be preserved. The problem is to provide open spaces near the people. The thickest population at present is along the Galena division of the North-Western Railroad. Seven parks, from 20 to 160 acres in area, are shown in this region.

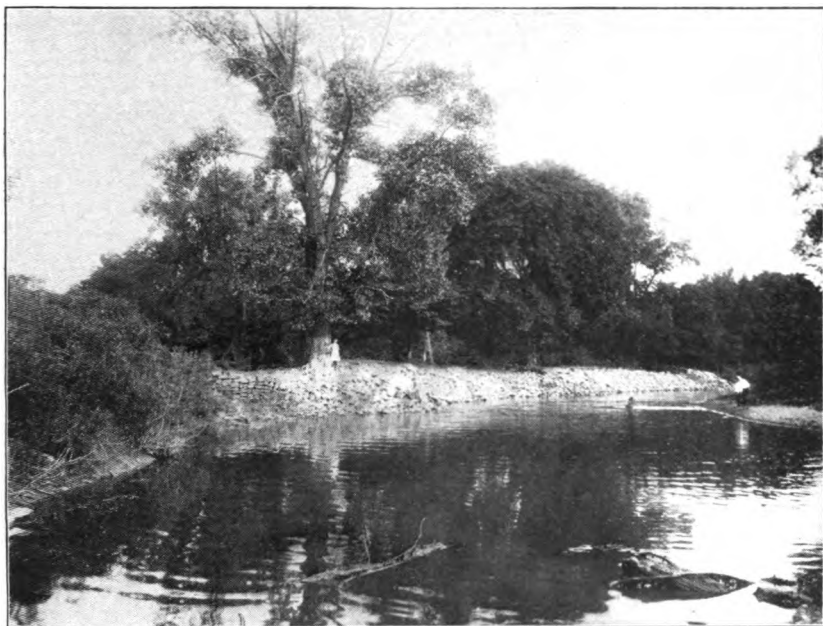
Nine parks, from 160 to 200 acres in area, are shown south of Twenty-second Street. This group centers on West Forty-eighth Avenue, extending three miles each side of this street.

The most eastern part of the group—the John Sherman farm of 320 acres—half on each side of Western Avenue centering on Ninety-first Street, is recommended for park purposes. Beautiful woods extend eastward to the tracks of the suburban branch of the Rock Island Railroad. Plants peculiar to this region grow here and students from a distance, as well as local residents, value this tract greatly. (See Map 1, sites from No. 57 to No. 76.)

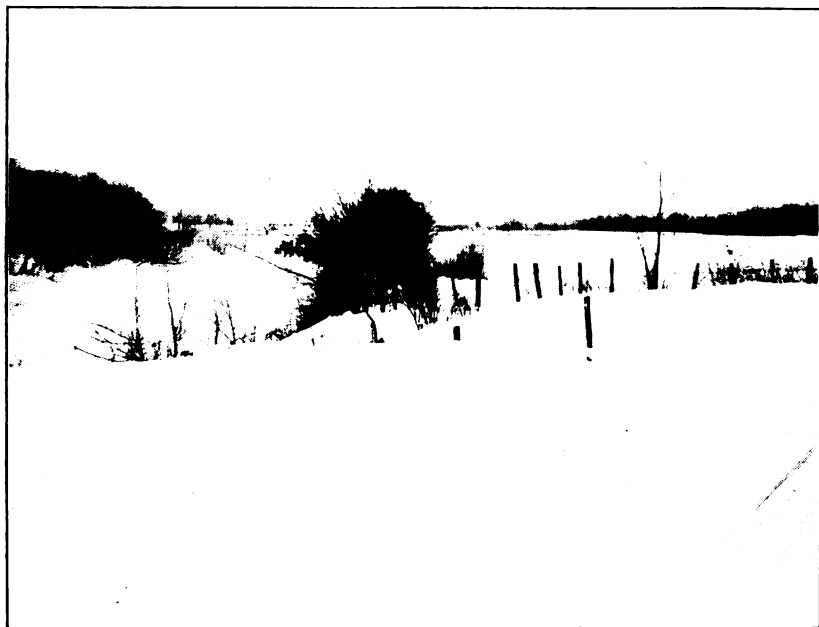
#### ZONE 4.

As stated above, Zone 4 begins on the north line of Cook County at the shore of Lake Michigan and for two miles coincides with Zone 3. It extends westward along the county line until the Desplaines River is reached. From this point it extends southward in the Desplaines Valley until it reaches the Drainage Canal. The park recommended here is twenty-five miles long, varies from one-eighth of a mile to a mile in width and contains about 9,000 acres. It is large enough to preserve the natural forests and to provide the parks and pleasure grounds for eight towns now along its banks and as many more in the future. There is space for country roads and for bridle paths through its entire length. There is also space for a trolley line, which should be separate from all other roads, running through the woods and grass, crossing all other roads above or below grade, connecting all towns along the river and transferring with all steam and electric lines from the city. Such a road, which would take the people for a low fare to all parts of the park, could be arranged so as not to interfere with the quiet enjoyment of the beauties of the landscape. The plates for this portion number from 15 to 37.

Sewage at present flows into the river and its quantity is bound to increase. This problem will come before the Sanitary District Trustees for solution. They may build some kind of a reservoir toward the north so as to maintain a more constant supply of water for dilution and flushing, or they may cause each town to put in sewage filtration plants, which discharge water over 90 per cent pure. In any event brick intercepting sewers



25. Rubble stone used as a bank protector on the Desplaines near River Forest. The stone should be covered with vegetation.



26. Forest destroyed along Desplaines River.



along the river should not be permitted because their effect would be to destroy the forests.

An adequate country park west of the center of the city would lie along the county line. It is recommended that Washington Boulevard be extended to this line.

Salt Creek penetrates groves of rare beauty. A parkway should be constructed along its course from Riverside to the Du Page County line. From this point a similar parkway should be constructed in a southerly direction along or near Flag Creek until the Drainage Canal is crossed. A beautiful country drive could be built about one mile east of Flag Creek on high ground overlooking miles of charming prairie landscape.

#### BEAUTIES OF THE SAG AND DESPLAINES VALLEYS.

Sag Valley and the Desplaines Valley join about five miles southwest of Mt. Forest. Between these valleys lies some of the highest ground in Cook County. It is covered with natural, self-perpetuating forests and rolling farmland. The Sag Valley is filled with farms and through it will be cut the Canal which will connect South Chicago with the Drainage Canal. To the south of Sag Valley are the hills, ravines and forests of Palos.

A great natural park should be acquired extending, as shown by the map, from the Desplaines Valley across the heights and the Sag Valley into Palos, comprising about 7,000 acres. This should be kept in its wild state under the care of a forester for the use of future generations, and in a large portion a second arboretum should be established and maintained.

Another use for this vast area, which is the only one not long and narrow in shape, is to provide a summer outing and camping place for the people of the city. It is well wooded, fairly watered and lakes may be made in portions by damming. It is the only section within short distance and cheap fares of Chicago which is distinctly hilly and from which distant views may be obtained. Photographs of this region number from 38 to 52.

The Calumet River in Blue Island and Wildwood should become the center of a park similar to the one described for the Desplaines. Calumet Lake, with at least 3,000 acres of land around it, should be made a park at once before values rise so high as to make the cost prohibitive. It is the center of what

is now one of the greatest manufacturing and industrial regions in the world. This park would be used by tens of thousands of people now and by hundreds of thousands later on.

This region is also of great interest to the scientist. It is particularly interesting from the standpoint of geological and botanical history and should be preserved for such reasons in addition to its value as a park for toiling thousands. The distinctive feature is the lake, providing facilities for all kinds of aquatic sports. The water is surrounded by fields and marshes, which in turn may be enclosed by high trees, thus shutting off the view of the city. Portions of the marshes and reedy waters would be reclaimed by dikes and windmill pumps, making more land for park purposes than now appears. This could be done without interfering with towns or factories now upon its banks and would still permit the unbroken circuit of park land. Photographs for this section number from 53 to 59. Parks suggested for this zone are numbered from 77 to 84 on Map No. 1.

#### BOULEVARDS AND COUNTRY DRIVES.

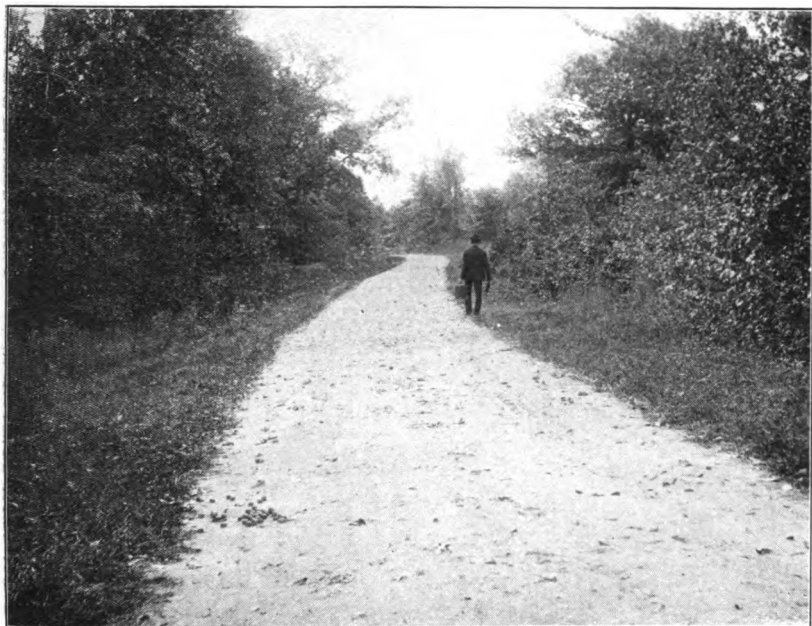
In addition to steam and electric roads it is necessary to provide opportunities for driving or bicycling from every portion of the city to every park and from each park to its neighboring park. Chicago is singularly lacking in drives which are not ruined by trolley lines. "Circuits" practically do not exist.

Where possible it is proposed to establish country drives through woodland or open country in the centers of sections and not on established straight section lines, for the purpose of laying the roads out in long and safe curves suggested by topography and scenery and for the further purpose of separation from traffic.

Where such treatment is not possible, section lines are followed with the idea that they will be deviated from where advisable when studied in detail. The suggested boulevards and drives are shown on Map 1.

#### THE LAKE FRONT.

The lake front as being built is described in the historical part of this report. The shore north of the river is boulevarded and preserved for the people. The connection of the north and

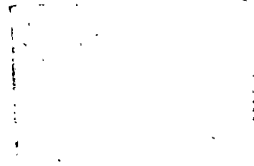


27. Road west of the Desplaines River near Glendon Park looking south.



28 Slippery Elm—Desplaines Valley—It's wonderful growth is due to the free access of light and air.





south systems across the river to complete the park chain is also described above, and when built will give necessary completion and unison to the separate parts of the system.

Much has been published about a boulevard on the submerged lands east of the present shore line connecting Grant, Jackson and Calumet Parks and extending to the Indiana State line. It is suggested that that boulevard be made with considerable land for park purposes on each side as well as the proposed lagoon between it and the shore. Chicago cannot move the Illinois Central road, but it can move the shore line eastward.

It is also recommended that the Hyde Park reefs and those opposite 79th Street be covered with material and raised above the surface to form peninsula and island parks, as shown by the maps. When the subways are built the excavated material should be used for this purpose and the spoil banks of the Drainage Canal are also available. The reefs are of limestone and are a menace to all navigation, not excepting pleasure yachts. The areas which it is proposed to fill have not over 15 feet of water on them.

It is proposed to treat the shore south of Jackson Park as far as 79th Street in the same manner as north of the park. Chicago should acquire, as far as possible, a bay or harbor enclosed by islands so that the lake may be made available for many uses. It should and can be more like Portland, Boston and New York.

#### THE BUSINESS DISTRICT.

The Metropolitan Park problem, if it be completely stated, cannot omit the city's park, street and river plan in the central or business district. What that district needs is "open space." It has been frequently noticed that when "improvements" are made on down town property, the greatest and most evident is when the old building is razed and before the new one is started, while the "open space" still exists.

What the business district also needs is expansion and a re-arrangement of railway terminals. There is a square mile of

territory north and east of the river, west of the lake and south of Division Street, which should be added to it for office building purposes. At a meeting of the Architects' Guild of Chicago these questions were considered and it was the opinion of those present that the main river from State Street to the north and south branches should be made the center of a grand open city park, laid out on formal lines, with municipal and other public buildings facing upon it.

Mr. George L. Harvey presented a plan with this idea worked out, which razed all buildings upon the present water line, opened up both South and North Water Streets to the river, moved the produce warehouses to a better location further east and made a new mouth to the river at Division Street. This scheme would serve the commercial interests much better and not in any way conflict with the existing requirements of navigation. This new river would be crossed only by one steam railroad and that a suburban one, while the other suggestion which has been made for a second mouth at Sixteenth Street to relieve congestion and restore river traffic is crossed by so many railroads as to make it impracticable.

The north and south branches of the river should be made as attractive as the Seine or the Thames, and when universal subways are built for all kinds of traffic crossing the river and entering the business district it will be possible to do away with all bridges, making even greater possibilities than exist in Paris or London.

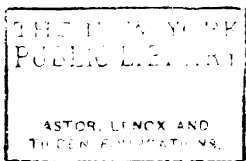
Recurring to the central district and the proposed "open space" along the present main river, it should be noted that the City of Chicago and the County of Cook need for the transaction of governmental business several public buildings located at such points that while convenient and easy of access, they could still be surrounded by considerable open space. A public building is one of the most impressive manifestations of the power and strength of government. A commission should be appointed to study the details of re-arranging the central district.



29. Where the forest has been untouched Glendon Park—Desplaires Valley.



30. Young seedling gradually moving out into cultivated fields. Seedlings consist of Plum, Crab, Hawthorn, Cherry, Elm and Linden.



## PART FIVE.

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.

In the annual report of the Special Park Commission, presented to the City Council in January, 1901, the general recommendation was made that the districts containing outlying park reservations should be brought under the territorial jurisdiction of existing park boards until such time as the City and County could be united or a consolidated district made coterminous with the County.

Since that time, steps have been taken looking to a new charter for the City of Chicago. While this proposed charter, if adopted, would consolidate several municipal bodies, it would not include Cook County, which would remain a separate government, as it is to-day.

In the summer of 1903, as stated in the annual report of this commission for that year, the Board of Commissioners of Cook County authorized the appointment of a commission for the creation of an *outer belt of parks* and boulevards for the County of Cook and City of Chicago. Mr. Henry G. Foreman, President of the Board of County Commissioners, has appointed this Outer Belt Park Commission. It is organized to "devise plans and ways and means and do all things that may be necessary to obtain and to carry to a successful conclusion the scheme for the creation and establishment of such Outer Belt of Parks and Boulevards."

The Special Park Commission has made its recommendations for small parks to the existing park boards. It would now seem fitting that the recommendations in regard to a system of outer park reserves should be made to an organization authorized to take up and carry to a practical conclusion only the work of creating a system of outer reservations for the great population of Chicago and Cook County.

I therefore recommend that such portions of this report as deal with parks and boulevards lying outside the limits of the City of Chicago be referred to the Commission for the Creation of an Outer Belt of Parks and Boulevards for the County of Cook and the City of Chicago. This commission, while appointed by authority of the County Commissioners, is represent-

ative of the city as well, and will conserve the interests of all citizens within its jurisdiction. Upon the invitation of the President of the County Board and by authority of the City Council, His Honor the Mayor, appointed four aldermen to represent the Council on this new commission.

I also recommend that suggested park improvements lying within the city limits be referred to the respective park boards in authority over the localities named.

## PART SIX.

### REPORT OF THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.

BY JENS JENSEN.

The movement for the acquisition of large forest park areas within Cook County is in embryo. This fact is evidenced by the absence of surveys defining the existing forest areas.

The study of the vegetation indigenous to the forest tracts of this county, which furnishes the basis for this part of the report, has been extensive and has covered a period of more than fifteen years. It has been made partly in the interest of botanical science and largely for the purpose of obtaining an intimate acquaintance with the distribution of the flora in this and adjoining counties.

The illustrations were taken in regular sequence in the order indicated by their numbers, starting at a point near the north county line at the shore of Lake Michigan and following the areas indicated on maps and described later, to the Calumet and South Chicago district.

One of the purposes for which forest parks should be acquired is to preserve for present and future generations lands of natural scenic beauty situated within easy reach of multitudes that have access to no other grounds for recreation or summer outings. A second purpose is to preserve spots having relation to the early settlements of Chicago and which are therefore of historical significance, and still another is to preserve the flora in its primeval state for the sake of the beauty of the forest and for the benefit of those desiring knowledge of plants indigenous there.



31. European Willow (*salix alba*) along the Desplaines River north of River Grove.



33. Green Ash in the River Bottom, Desplaines





The most conspicuous physiographic features in Chicago and its vicinity are the Lake Plain, the Valparaiso and the Lake Border Moraine.

Generally speaking, this region is a great plain, above which rise a few elevations varying from sand ridges to bluffs. Examples are found in Lincoln Park, the ancient lake beaches and in the bluff to the north and southwest known to geologists as moraines.

On the north shore these bluffs reach a height from 100 to 125 feet, at Blue Island from 60 to 90 feet and at Mt. Forest and Palos from 170 to 185 feet above Lake Michigan.

#### GEOLOGICAL FORMATION IN AND AROUND CHICAGO.

Chicago is situated on the lake plain, commonly called prairie. This plain, which during the latter part of the ice-period was covered with water—Lake Chicago—consists of glacial drift, the average depth of which is from 75 to 125 feet under the central part of the city. The depth increases or diminishes in accordance with the levels of the underlying limestone rock. This rock rises gradually toward the south and is plainly visible along the Drainage Canal. It also rises to the surface in several places within the city limits and is quarried for lime and for macadam. It is known as Niagara limestone and constitutes the solid foundation upon which Chicago rests.

The glacial drift is a soft blue till, beneath which are remnants of a hard till of an earlier age. Goth tills are filled with bowlders of all sizes, representing the pre-cambrian, upper silurian and devonian rocks. Towards the lake the drift has been covered later with sand, varying in depth from 5 to 20 feet, which has blown into ridges.

The predominating character of the landscape around Chicago is that of the prairie. By prairie is understood a treeless plain of fertile grass lands.

Variation from this general level is almost wholly found in elevations formed by glacial drift (moraine) and shore deposits of prehistoric lakes. Erosions formed by great volumes of running water and the action of waves have left their visible marks and in places have formed abrupt banks similar to those cut by

rivers. They have an interesting, and for our topography, a bold and beautiful effect. (Plate 49.) It is these bluffs and elevations that command far-reaching and beautiful prospects. (Plate 38.) In themselves they form a pleasing feature in the landscape and may be seen from distant points.

Natural drainage, uneven surface favorable for catching seeds carried by wind or weather, and comparative immunity from vast prairie fires, favored tree growth on these uneven lands.

The greater part of these lands were not as well adapted for agriculture nor as readily cultivated as were the prairies. They consequently were left untouched to a considerable degree by the early settler. With the growth and prosperity of Chicago some wooded tracts became the property of wealthy land owners and were thereby shielded from the invading ax.

We therefore find here whatever is left of forest lands in the vicinity of Chicago. It is reasonable to recommend the acquisition of lands for forest parks in such areas as above described. They may be found north of the city along the shores of Lake Michigan, in the drainage basins of the Chicago and Desplaines Rivers, in what is known as the Sag outlet and along Blue Island.

#### FEATURES OF THE CALUMET DISTRICT.

Of an entirely different nature is the land south of Chicago, the Calumet District. Alluvial deposits formed by Lake Michigan in the work of centuries have lifted these lands above the present level of the lake and left as an indication of a previous inundation Lake Calumet. The preservation of this lake until the present day is perhaps due more to the action of the winds than to anything else.

With the exception of a few sand ridges—old beaches—(Plate 58) the entire region presents almost one dead level, entirely devoid of scenic beauty, with the exception of that attraction afforded by the placid waters of Lake Calumet (Plate 57), which forms a characteristic landscape feature peculiar to this section.

In a general way the proposed areas consist of swamp and rolling lands, but there exists enough variation in the different sites to name them according to their natural features.



32. Soft Maple in River Bottom near River Forest.



Thus, the Skokee suggests meadow scenery (Plate 11). The Desplaines Valley, river scenery (Plate 15), the Sag environments, hilly scenery (Plate 51) and the Calumet District, lake scenery (Plate 56) save for the interference of man these lands will remain unchanged indefinitely just as they did for centuries before the arrival of the white man.

This inquiry is chiefly based upon the character of the forest park areas as they exist to-day, both with regard to their primary vegetation and the possibilities for their preservation. Forests in the country are independent and self-perpetuating, but the encroachment of the smoky city makes them dependent upon man for preservation. Park areas are so located in this report, however, as to guarantee to large portions the permanent conditions of country parks under which they now exist.

According to the topographical conditions there are two types of vegetation, one indigenous to rolling lands, the other the swamp of marsh lands.

Taking Fort Dearborn as the first settlement of this region, perhaps little of the remaining forests can be called primeval in their entirety. Most of the lands have been cut over once and some twice, yet scattered or grouped over the entire district trees remain, showing an age extending years beyond the original settlement. (Plates 13, 14, 28.)

#### PICTURESQUE WORK OF MAN.

Man's interference with the forest is visible everywhere, and this has in many instances produced a picturesqueness that has rendered some tracts, especially along the Desplaines River, most beautiful and established a precedent that should be encouraged. (Plate 19.) One thing is certain, that the present growth, if not entirely primeval, is a true descendant of the species which covered these lands before man's intervention. It is also a gratification to know that no species of any prominence has become extinct, although the introduction of new ones has not been noticeable. One species was found not indigenous to the district, the common white willow. (Plate 31). It had been planted here to protect the river bank from erosion where presumably some previous owner had carelessly removed such protection supplied by nature. The type of vegetation distributed

over the entire area varies little. Certain species may be more pronounced in one locality than in the other and a few characteristic only in certain localities, as for instance, the red cedar, white pine, common and creeping juniper that are found in the ravine and on the lake bluffs in the northern tract. (Plate 3.) These varieties, mixed with scrub pine, were indigenous to the sand ridges along the lake shore, but the building of Chicago has destroyed them there.

In the Mount Forest region oak predominates (Plate 41) to-day. The hard maple has been entirely cut out over great areas and annual fires and browsing herds keep the undergrowth down. The present growth in some instances seems to have been subjected to care in its even distribution and here represents a rather attractive forest scene.

In some sections the hard maple still forms a prominent part of the forest, but here also the ax has done its destructive work. (Plate 44.)

One owner has cleared away all trees and undergrowth with the exception of the hard maple. (Plate 23). The stand is open enough to admit sufficient light for the full development of the trees and a beautiful grove of sugar maples will be the result. Such treatment, if not overdone, is worthy of approval.

In the Calumet tract little remains but limited stands of oak (Plate 59). The once dense forest further south along the little Calumet River and Thornton Creek (Plate 55) has disappeared long ago. Only infrequent remnants remain in the form of the farmer's wood lot. (Plate 53.)

#### MIXTURE OF FOREST GROWTH.

Outside of minor changes in the forest produced by man's intervention mentioned above, the entire forest area consists of a mixture varying from soft maple (Plate 32), willow, swamp oak, ash (Plate 33), elm (Plate 28), cottonwood (Plate 36), linden, hackberry, red maple, alder, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, ninebark, blackhaw, wild grape vine, roses, etc., on the bottom or moist lands, to oak, hard maple, hickory, butternut, walnut, mulberry, ironwood, hop hornbeam, juneberry, white ash, American bird cherry (Plate 14), wild red cherry, choke cherry, crab-

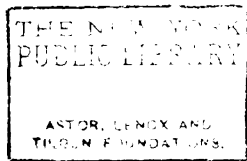


34. Abandoned pasture immediately reoccupied by seedlings.



36. Cotton Woods—Desplaines Valley.





apple, arrow-wood, witch-hazel, hazel, sumach, honeysuckle, etc., on the higher level.

This happy mixture makes the forest not only more interesting with its varied vegetation, but picturesque and harmonious with the idea of a forest park (Plate 37). Wherever the forests have not been disturbed save by the cutting out of natural trees, a most luxuriant undergrowth results (Plate 29). The bad habit of some owners of annually burning down the undergrowth so they can "see through," shows its ruinous effect; but its influence in bringing about changes in the type of the vegetation is not appreciable.

Severe thinning out of the forest for pasture purposes, especially where oak predominates, has in some instances shown its damaging influences and the once luxuriant forest is gradually dying out (Plate 8). Such proceedings demonstrate that a removal of the undergrowth in oak forests, together with a severe thinning out, is injurious to the trees and should be discouraged. To encourage the undergrowth in such places where a greater congregation of the public is not desirable, or where on account of the location undergrowth is considered advisable, will not only enhance the beauty of the forest, but tend to preserve the great mass of beautiful and interesting vegetation that covers the forest floor. Such plants as violets, dogtooth violets, hepaticas, trillium, phloxes, anemones, spring beauty, asters, goldenrod, etc., help to enrich the forest scenery and destruction of them would deprive the forest of its greatest beauty and one of the chief reasons for which these lands are to be preserved. How quickly the forest will take possession of abandoned pasture land (Plate 24) is noticeable in a few instances where land has been bought up for speculation and left alone. No special types seem to take hold of these fields, but a mixture of such trees as constitute the adjoining forest is here reproduced.

#### PROTECTION FOR YOUNG GROWTH.

Such pioneers of the forest as the hawthorn (Plate 21), protected from attack of browsing cattle by its thorny branches, gradually advance upon the pasture lands (Plate 30) and under their protection, young ash, elm and maple seedlings get a foothold. How responsive vegetation is, if not molested by fire or

grazing herds along our country roads, and how much it adds to beautifying these public highways, is well worth mentioning here (Plate 27). Crab, thorn, hazel, choke cherry are quick to take possession of the vacant space left along the roadways, and later come elm, oak, maple, ash and other trees. Cottonwood invariably finds a welcome home along the eroded sides of an open ditch (Plate 52), soon followed by other types brought by birds. These efforts of nature are worthy of careful study for reproduction under similar conditions.

It is fortunate that coppice woods are almost entirely absent and its mention here is due to showing the strong reproductive powers of an ash coppice. In this instance it is green ash and at an age not yet strong enough to crush out the competing seedlings (Plate 17) that form part of the growth. It is not improbable that this piece of coppice has killed out competitors of other varieties. Its complete hold of the ground here rather tends to verify this assertion as the tree growth surrounding it is of the usual mixture and no difference exists in the character of the land. Such growth as this coppice wood presents is monotonous and ugly to the highest degree; it kills any other vegetation of interest and beauty, leaving the whole a barren and uninteresting tree cover.

The wooded banks along the Desplaines River give this stream its charm and beauty. Commencing with arrow-head and other aquatic plants fringing the water edge and followed by dogwood, hawthorn, blackhaw, silver maple, various willows, especially on the lower shore (Plate 18) and majestic elm, ash, linden and cottonwood, it becomes one of the prettiest landscape scenes of the entire area (Plate 15). However, where the industrious farmer has robbed the banks of their luxuriant vegetation, and grain fields (Plate 26) have replaced the forest along the river, the scenery becomes less beautiful and incompatible with the forest park idea.

#### NECESSARY TO PRESERVE RIVER VIEW.

It not only becomes necessary for the preservation of the river scene to protect the tree growth on these banks, but for the preservation of the banks themselves. This growth keeps the steep banks intact (Plate 16) and preserves them from erosion.



35. Large Oak in open space near the Desplains between North and Chicago Aves. Instance of growth not hindered by other trees.

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Remove the protection afforded by vegetation and the spring floods will soon do destructive work upon these cuts formed by the river as the work of centuries (Plate 24). Where the bluffs command noteworthy prospects, vegetation of low growth should be encouraged, offering the same protection to the bluffs without impairing the view of the beautiful landscape beyond (Plate 40).

The openings or sunny spots in the forest previously referred to are not always due to the ax, but in some instances represent hollows filled with water, or natural run-offs or drainage channels, either forming continual running creeks (Plate 47), which in the course of time have cut deep crevasses into the otherwise almost level surface, or run-offs caused by the accumulation of water during the spring thaws or heavy rainstorms on adjacent level lands. These prevent the growth of any vegetation except grass (Plate 20). The run-offs due to spring thaws prevent seeds of trees or shrubs from obtaining a foothold in dry years, which might be favorable for re-forestation such open spaces. Whatever the causes, these run-offs become a beautiful diversion from the monotonous forest and they arouse special interest in the greater variation of vegetation encouraged through the introduction of more light.

Hawthorn, crab and plum brighten up these openings during spring in a most charming manner and their fruit in autumn makes them interesting also. Filled up with tree growth, these natural drains lose their bold character and beautiful effect. (Plate 40) and prevent views over lower lying lands to great distances.

#### FORMATION OF BOG LANDS.

Hollows or depressions on the level surface not provided with a natural outlet for the escape of the gathered water gradually fill up with decayed vegetable matter and in this condition are known as bogs (Plate 43). Here the oak forest has pushed itself to the very edge of the wet hollow and moisture-loving button bushes have penetrated beyond the water's edge.

Depressions of a more prominent type attributed to glacial spurs are found in the Palos region (Plate 48). Here a brook drains the land enough to render it fit for agriculture. In con-

sequence the tree growth has been removed, greatly beautifying the landscape. Such scenic effects are worthy of reproduction where conditions of like nature exist.

Prevailing tree growth on the bolder slopes often shut off beautiful prospects from the higher elevation (Plate 39). Clearings in the wooded slope of the east side of the Skokee swamps have brought to view, from the Green Bay road, these wood-fringed plains and farm lands to the west (Plate 12). A similar opening into the tree-covered slope towards the lake would reveal the blue waters of Lake Michigan to the east and here create one of the grandest prospects of the entire region.

A retrenchment of the same character would command great views from the higher elevation at Palos and Mt. Forest over the Sag and Desplaines Valley and the low prairie lands toward the east.

#### SWAMPS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE.

Almost as important as the forest covered lands are the swamps or marshes that form a considerable part of the proposed park areas in the Skokee (Plate 11) and Sag district (Plate 50). Nature has here created one of the prime factors of beautiful landscape, which is unbroken distant view. Their origin is prehistoric and of glacial nature. The Skokee is known as an old back bay and the Sag the outlet of ancient Lake Chicago, formed in the ice period.

In the Calumet District these marshes are too much the controlling feature. They demand some modification.

Water and land represent almost one dead level, only interrupted by a few tree-covered ridges (Plate 58)—ancient lake beaches. The vegetation found in these swamps varies very little. Sedge, flag, spike-bull and bog-rush, cat-tail, reed and water plantain cover the greater part of these low and partly submerged lands, fighting for supremacy in the deeper waters with pond weed and white and yellow water lilies. A retrenchment of this swamp vegetation must necessarily become one of the important steps in reclaiming such lands for park purposes, the Calumet district especially.



37. Mixed Forest near River Forest on the Desplaines—Butternut, Cottonwood, Oak, Elm, Mulberry, Hard Maple, Linden, Hawthorn, Blackhaw, Hazel, Sumac, etc.



38. View across Sag Valley. Palos in the Distance.





In places where an open beach is not necessary, the tall reed with its feathery plume and the stately cat-tail become an attractive and harmonious feature in the landscape (Plate 56), but when permitted to crowd into the lake for hundreds of feet, they lessen the beauty of the water prospect and interfere with the boating and water sports that are destined to make this lake park renowned. A reclamation of the swamp lands bordering the lake to the south and north for public utility will eventually become necessary, but their present topography should be left undisturbed.

It might be well to give the proper Indian name to this district which is "Conamic" (snow beaver). It seems that the English-speaking people took this word for Calumet (pipe), which word they received and understood from the French settlers. Calumet is a Norman word meaning reed, such as was used for the pipe-stem. Later this word was used for the whole pipe. The Indian word Conamic and Calumet sounded enough alike to make it probable that the early settlers and explorers made the mistake.

#### MENACE OF ARTIFICIAL SEWERAGE.

Manufacturing is gradually killing out the woodlands along the north branch of the Chicago River and artificial sewerage has exterminated the beautiful groves north and south of the city. These facts stand as a lesson to be well observed. Public improvement which lowers the present level of the underground water permanently will have an injurious effect upon existing vegetation.

That the character of the vegetation depends chiefly upon topographical conditions and that these together form the most prominent part of the landscape, must be conceded. We have also seen that where one type of vegetation dominates the landscape becomes less picturesque and even monotonous, as for instance in the Calumet district and the southern part of the Skokee. But where a happy combination of the two—meadow and forest—exists, the beauty of each is perceptibly enhanced. By this we must conclude that the closer we get to the latter state the more beautiful and interesting will our forest parks be-

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come. In addition, stretches of meadow will encourage outdoor sports.

The treatment of the different sites will vary according to physical and natural conditions. Generally speaking, sunny openings are desirable. Wherever feasible, the growth of the forest should be encouraged on new cultivated or pasture lands, where it tends to beautify the scenery and should be restricted where its introduction in the meadow will seriously impair the pastoral landscape or the natural water courses and run-offs. For the opening up of views or vistas wherever desirable distant prospects can be obtained from higher elevations, the adjoining lower lands should be acquired.

#### FARM LANDS NEED MODIFYING.

The forest covered lands like those on the woody slopes of Palos visible from Mt. Forest, or those along the west shore of the Skokee visible from the Green Bay road on the east, constitute a beautiful setting in the landscape and should also be secured. Farm lands now under cultivation west of the Skokee will need some modification, according to their possibilities in beautifying the landscape. Here they may be treated as grassy plains and there again covered with tree growth. Even in their present state of straight edges and sharp outlines over these clearings in the forest (Plate 10) they present a landscape picture full of interest and beauty. To change the Skokee from a wet and impenetrable marsh to a dry grass plain may eventually become necessary, yet any drainage scheme that will tend to injure adjoining forests must be avoided.

By the introduction of a few more "wooded islands" to the south and the encouraging of a dense and luxuriant growth to the very edge (Plate 7), this grand meadow scene would become more beautiful, but any other tree growth must be kept out of the open plain.

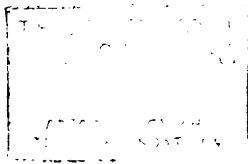
An attempt to preserve the tree-covered bluffs of the Desplaines River and its beautiful scenery would be in vain without possessing control over both sides of the river. This will also keep under surveillance any obstruction on the lower side that may tend to shut off distant prospects attainable from the higher bluffs.



39. View across Desplaines Valley—Willow Springs in the foreground—A portion of the trees should be removed.



40. A ravine at Mt. Forest—Undergrowth needed to prevent erosion.



The question of artificial drainage endangering the existence of the forest can be repeated with emphatic words: Drains of any importance must, under no circumstances, be permitted if the forest is to remain in its present state. That sewers are less detrimental to tree growth on heavy clay lands than on porous sandy grounds is not doubted, but practical conditions explain their deadly work even in the supposed waterproof sub-soil along the Desplaines (Plate 22). The great fertility of the soil in the Desplaines Valley has produced a tree growth not exceeded anywhere else in this part of the state, especially where the individual tree has had a chance to perfect its development (Plate 35).

Such beautiful growths will be well worth encouraging and will ultimately develop a forest park with special characteristics entirely its own, yet perfectly in harmony with the future plan of this valley for it must be looked upon as a great pleasure drive and waterway, quite as much as a forest park. Again, such treatment would provide beautiful picnic grounds for the multitudes that will visit these woodlands. Such growth should be distributed over their entire length, or the continual wear and tear of human tramping may otherwise overtax the strength of the forest and cause its destruction. In the Mt. Forest tract conditions are more favorable for encouraging the forest idea. Lands now in pasture should be re-forested, except where interfering with distant prospects or detrimental to the scenic effect of the forest itself.

#### RESTORE THE MIXED FOREST.

The mixed forest that formerly covered these hills should again be introduced, partly for scenic beauty and interest, but also to insure a forest of a more healthy character. Where erosion tends to destroy the tree growth (Plate 45) or otherwise interfere with the beauty of the scenery, undergrowth, if encouraged, will soon cover up the damaged slopes, prevent further erosion and enhance the beauty of the landscape. Brooks and bogs must be left alone. They add variety and beauty to the scene and here supply the forest with water and drainage.

Bluffs, affording views of surrounding country, where openings are desired, may be covered with shrubby vegetation that will not obstruct distant prospects and will help to bring out the

bold form of the bluff to better advantage. As pointed out before, any modification that tends to destroy the marsh character of the Calumet district destroys forever the possibilities of preserving these lands in their natural state for coming generations.

To build a beach-like elevation around the lake for driving and promenading, covered with a harmonious and fitting tree growth, would frame the lake most beautifully and form a pleasing setting from opposite shores.

Elevating the low lands south of Lake Calumet would destroy the ancient lake beaches. Eventually these lands must be reclaimed, but a few windmills will keep them dry at a reasonable cost and preserve their present topography. With a belt of woods surrounding the great Lake Park it will form some day a beautiful oasis in one of the world's greatest manufacturing districts.

To conclude, roadways will have to be built in some instances and especially to points commanding views over the surrounding country.

Such roads as form the connecting link between the different reservations should not be walled in with vegetation which will obstruct the view of adjacent farm land prospects. Fires and grazing animals must be kept out of the forest, the flora protected from vandalism, the forest cleared of dead wood and the growth retrenched or encouraged according to its qualification for beautifying the scenery. All this should be done.

We may then succeed in encouraging and protecting the forests so that it may be restored to its original condition. We see remnants to-day—picturesque in themselves—so situated that viewed from a distance they are revealed not only as beautiful themselves, but valuable as settings for the adjacent country. They may now be seen and enjoyed from the public highways and from the homes of thousands of people.

They may and should form natural gateways to the city. They are monumental in character and should embellish the highways that enter our great metropolis.

The forest park, great in area, rich in vegetation, will ultimately become a great source of knowledge for the student of silviculture and forestry and will assist in making Chicago an educational center in such lines.

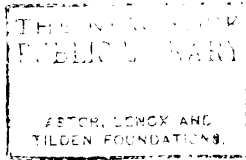


41. General character of the forest on the Great Divide of Mt. Forest.



42. Cleared forest lands at Willow Springs.





## PART SEVEN.

### SPECIFIC PARK AND PLAYGROUND SITES RECOMMENDED.

#### ZONE 1.

1. Block bounded by Southport and Wrightwood Avenues and Mariana Street (extended) and Perry Street. Area, 9½ acres.

2. Holstein Park should be enlarged by extensions east and west or by adding an open square to the northeast. Area, 5 acres.

3. Block bounded by Milwaukee, Maplewood and Powell Avenues and Frankfort Street (Kunz Park). Area, 3¾ acres.

4. The Adams Playground conducted by the Special Park Commission on ground owned by George E. Adams on Seminary Avenue between Maud and Center Streets. Recommendation that ground be purchased and playground made a part of general system. Area, 1 acre.

5. Portion of block bounded by Burling, Orchard, Willow and Center Streets. Area, 3 acres.

6. Playground at Larrabee and Alaska Streets near North Avenue. This site is owned by the Northwestern Elevated Railroad Co. The playground is conducted by the Special Park Commission and should be permanently maintained as a part of the general system. Area, 350x90 feet.

7. Tract bounded by Reese, Vedder and Larrabee Streets extending to the Schiller School. Area, 6 acres.

8. Block bounded by Blackhawk, Bradley, Noble and Cleaver Streets. Area, 3 6-10 acres.

9. Block bounded by Western, Oakley and Haddon Avenues and Cortez Street. Area, 8½ acres.

10. Portion of block on West Chicago Avenue east of Lincoln Street. The Special Park Commission has established a playground on this site. Area, 200x125 feet.

11. Tract bounded by Chicago Avenue, Cornell, Noble and Chase Streets. Area, 8 acres.

12. The south end of Ogden Island. This would connect directly with Ogden Boulevard if it should be cut through from

Union to Lincoln Parks. If present streets are boulevarded to connect these two parks, they would also touch the south end of Ogden Island. Area, 20 acres.

13. Block bounded by Elm, Hill, Sedgwick and Orleans Streets (House of Good Shepherd site). Area,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

14. Portion of block bounded by Gault Court, Milton Avenue and Oak Street. Area,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

15. The city property east of the water works at Chicago Avenue and Pearson Street, should be converted into a playground. Area, 400x215 feet.

16. Portion of block at southeast corner of Orleans Street and Institute Place. This site is a public playground under the management of the Special Park Commission. The property is owned by the Northwestern Elevated Railroad Co. It should become a part of the general system. Area, 240x109 feet.

17. Block bounded by Elizabeth and Ohio Streets, Sinnott Place and Center Avenue. Area,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

18. Portion of block at northwest corner of Grand Avenue and Morgan Street (Chicago Commons Playground site). The area of 3-10 acre should be increased to at least 1 acre.

19. The stone quarries at Rockwell and Huron Streets, Western Avenue and Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, bisected by Grand Avenue. Area, 56 acres.

20. Block bounded by Oakley and Leavitt Streets, Grand and Austin Avenues. Area,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

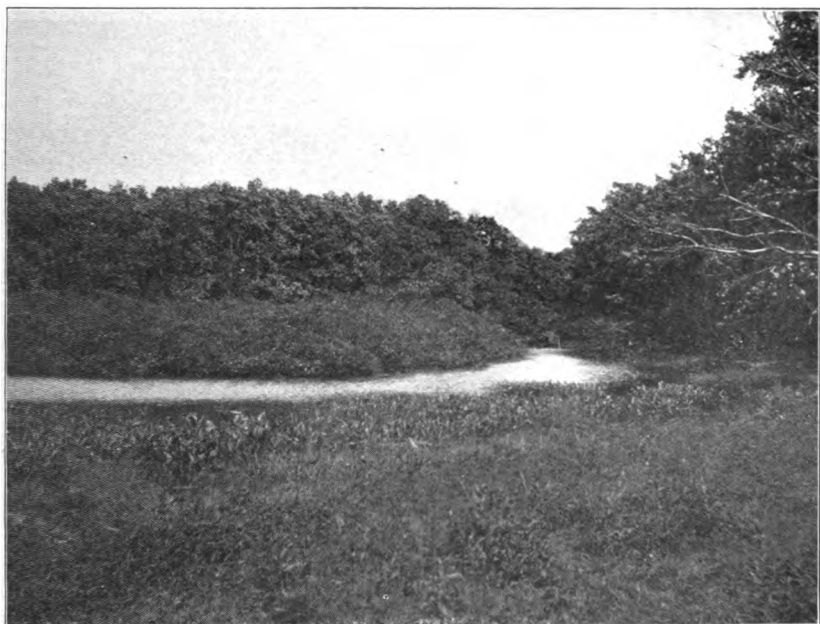
21. Portion of block bounded by California and Talman Avenues, Fulton and Kinzie Streets. Area,  $9\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

22. Block bounded by Lincoln, Wood and Fulton Streets and Carroll Avenue. Area,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

23. McLaren playground, on ground owned by the city on West Polk Street near Laflin Street. Recommendation that additional land be purchased and site doubled. Otherwise same recommendation as for other grounds now maintained by the city. Area, 175x185 feet.

24. Block bounded by Forquer, Ewing and Halsted Streets and the Dante school ground. Area, 4 acres.

25. Block bounded by Robey, Fourteenth, Hastings and Lincoln Streets. Area,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acres.



43. Water bog necessary to tree life. This is 100 feet above the valley at Mt. Forest.



45. Roadway along the Sag, looking east. The erosion of the bank is probably due to the use of material from it for building the adjacent road.

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

26. Block bounded by Fourteenth Place, Barber, Union and Jefferson Streets. Area, 3 acres.

27. Block bounded by Lincoln, Wood, Nineteenth and Eighteenth Streets. Area, 8 acres.

28. Block bounded by Twentieth, Twenty-first, Fisk and May Streets. Area,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

29. A water front park should be located on the west side of the river, both sides of Eighteenth Street. Area, 1 acre.

30. Ground lying between Halsted Street and slip on north side of the river. This should be a bathing site. Area,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre.

31. Block bounded by Twenty-second Place, Twenty-third, Robey and Lincoln Streets. Area,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

32. Moseley Playground, on city property at northeast corner of Twenty-fourth Street and Wabash Avenue. Area, 200x200 feet. Same recommendation as for No. 23.

33. The George C. Walker tract between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-sixth Streets, South Park and Lake Park Avenues, with its riparian rights, should be converted into a park and connected with the future boulevard and parkway on the submerged lands along the lake shore. Recreation piers should be established here. Possible area over 50 acres.

34. The Myrick Homestead on north side of Thirtieth Street, between Cottage Grove and Vernon Avenues, should be converted into a playground. Area,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

35. Webster Playground, on city property at Wentworth Avenue and Thirty-third Street. Recommendation that it be made a part of the general system and so arranged as to cooperate properly with Armour Square at Thirty-third Street and Shields Avenue. Area, 3.9 acres.

36. Holden Playground, on Bonfield Street near Thirty-first Street, on property belonging to the University of Chicago and to G. L. Storer, of Madison, Wis. Area, 288x102 feet. Recommendation similar to No. 4.

37. A river park should be created on the island between the Drainage Canal and the river, opposite Robey Street. Area, 20 acres.

38. When Thirty-seventh Street is boulevarded from the lake to Western Avenue it should be widened between Morgan Street and the river to form a park of 15 acres.

## ZONE 3.

## SECTION 1.

39. Chicago River Valley and Skokee Marsh. Area, 8,320 acres.
40. N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, Township New Trier. Area, 40 acres.
41. N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33, Township New Trier. Area, 40 acres.
42. Park at head of Evanston Drainage Canal on the lake. Area, 20 acres.
43. East end of Lincoln Street on lake at Evanston Water Works. Area, 5 acres.
44. Tract bounded by Chicago & North-Western Railroad, Lincoln Street, Ridge Avenue and Colfax Street. Area, 60 acres.
45. W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 11, Township of Niles, extending north to Central Street. Area, 80 acres.
46. Tract bounded on the north by Church Street, on the south by Dempster Street, lying one-half in Sec. 14 and one-half in Sec. 15, in the Township of Niles. Area, 160 acres.
47. S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 21, Township of Niles. Area, 40 acres.
48. N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 25, Township of Niles. Area, 40 acres.
49. The lake shore of Rogers Park. This is already included in plans of the local park district. Area, 60 acres.
50. E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 36, Niles Township. Area, 80 acres.
51. Tract at junction of Clybourne and Lincoln Avenues, in S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 34, and in a portion of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35. Area, 80 acres.
52. Peterson Woods, between Kedzie, California, Foster and Lincoln Avenues. Area, 280 acres.
53. Tract at Montrose Boulevard and North Robey Street, Chicago & North-Western Railroad and Cullom Avenue (extended). Area, 20 acres.
54. Tract bounded by Southport, Cornelia and Racine Avenues and Addison Street. Area, 20 acres.



44. Grove of Hard Maples on the slope near Willow Springs. The work of the ax is evident.





55. Bickerdike Homestead, Elston and California Avenues, School and Melrose Streets. Area, 8 acres.

56. Tract between Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Chicago & North-Western Railroad belt, near Irving Park Boulevard and Milwaukee Avenue. Area, 6 acres.

## SECTION 2.

57. Tract bounded by 52nd and 48th Avenues, Belmont and Diversey Avenues. Area, 160 acres.

58. Site bounded by Wrightwood and Drake Avenues Ballou and Dunning Streets. Area, 5 acres.

59. Tract bounded by North Avenue, Division Street, 52nd and 48th Avenues. Area, 160 acres.

60. Tract at southwest corner of West Division Street and West Fortieth Avenue. Area, 30 acres.

61. Tract at Armitage and North Avenues, east of Oak Park Avenue. Area, 200 acres.

62. Tract between Madison Street and Wisconsin Central Railroad, extending  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile west of Oak Park Avenue. Area, 80 acres.

63. Tract west of Austin Avenue between Madison Street and Franklin Avenue. Area, 20 acres.

64. S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 16, Cicero Township. Area, 40 acres.

65. Tract bounded by Central Avenue, West 52nd Avenue, 22nd and 16th Streets. Area, 160 acres.

66. Tract bounded by Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, Crawford and Ridgeway Avenues and 26th Street. Area, 55 acres.

67. Tract bounded by West 48th and 52nd Avenues, 47th Street and Archer Avenue. Area, 220 acres.

68. Tract bounded by 79th and 83rd Streets, West 48th and 52nd Avenues. Area, 160 acres.

69. Tract bounded by Harlem Avenue, Chicago and Calumet Terminal Railroad, 79th and 83rd Streets. Area, 160 acres.

70. S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 13, Palos Township, running along border of Calumet feeder. Area, 160 acres.

71. Tract bounded by 99th and 103rd Streets, West 48th and 52nd Avenues. Area, 160 acres.

72. Tract south of 111th Street, between Stony Creek and West 44th Avenue. Area, 220 acres.

73. Tract between 83rd and 91st Streets bisected by Western Avenue. Area, 340 acres.

74. Tract between 103rd and 107th Streets, extending  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile east of Halsted street. Area, 80 acres.

75. Tract between South Park Avenue and State Street, extending  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile south of 95th Street. Area, 80 acres.

76. Tract bounded by 73rd and 77th Streets, South Park and Indiana Avenues. Areas, 80 acres.

#### ZONE 4.

77. Desplaines River Valley. Area, 8,800 acres.

78. Salt Creek Valley. Area, 1,600 acres.

79. Flag Creek Valley. Area, 1,920 acres.

80. Mt. Forest district between Desplaines and Sag Valleys. Area, 7,360 acres.

81. W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 36 of Worth Township. Area, 120 acres.

82. Calumet River Valley district. Area, 700 acres.

83. Lake Calumet district. Area, 2,880 acres.

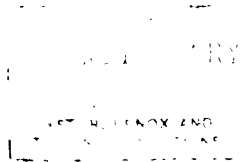
84. Submerged land and Hyde Park limestone reefs. Area, 1,500 acres.



46. View of a typical country road in the rolling prairie—Southwest of Riverside.



48. Depression drained by a brook.



**ACREAGE BY ZONES OF SITES RECOMMENDED.**

Following is the acreage of sites recommended, arranged in numerical order, by zones:

ZONE 1.		ZONE 3. SECTION 1.		ZONE 3. SECTION 2.		ZONE 4.	
Site.	Acreage.	Site.	Acreage.	Site.	Acreage.	Site.	Acreage.
1	9.25	39	8,320	57	160	77	8,800
2	5	40	40	58	5	78	1,600
3	3.75	41	40	59	160	79	1,920
4	1	42	20	60	30	80	7,360
5	3	43	5	61	200	81	120
6	.75	44	60	62	60	82	700
7	6	45	80	63	20	83	2,880
8	3.6	46	160	64	40	84	1,500
9	8.5	47	40	65	160		
10	.6	48	40	66	55		
11	8	49	60	67	220		
12	20	50	80	68	160		
13	1.75	51	80	69	160		
14	1.5	52	280	70	160		
15	2	53	20	71	160		
16	.6	54	20	72	220		
17	2.50	55	8	73	340		
18	.3	56	6	74	80		
19	56			75	80		
20	3.75			76	80		
21	9.25						
22	3.75						
23	.7						
24	4						
25	3.75						
26	3						
27	8						
28	3.75						
29	1						
30	.5						
31	3.5						
32	.9						
33	50						
34	2.25						
35	3.9						
36	.7						
37	20						
38	15						
<b>Total.</b>	<b>271.80</b>		<b>9,359</b>		<b>2,550</b>		<b>24,880</b>

RECAPITULATION.

Zone.	Acreage.
1.....	272
3 (Section 1).....	9,359
3 (Section 2).....	2,550
4.....	24,880

Grand Total.....37,061

Respectfully Submitted,

DWIGHT HEALD PERKINS.

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49 Bluffs bordering Sag Valley.



50. Marshes in Sag Valley in Winter.







51. Hills of Palos south of the Sag.



52. Cottonwood along the side of the Calumet feeder, Sag Valley.





53. A small grove of original forest left near the Little Calumet.



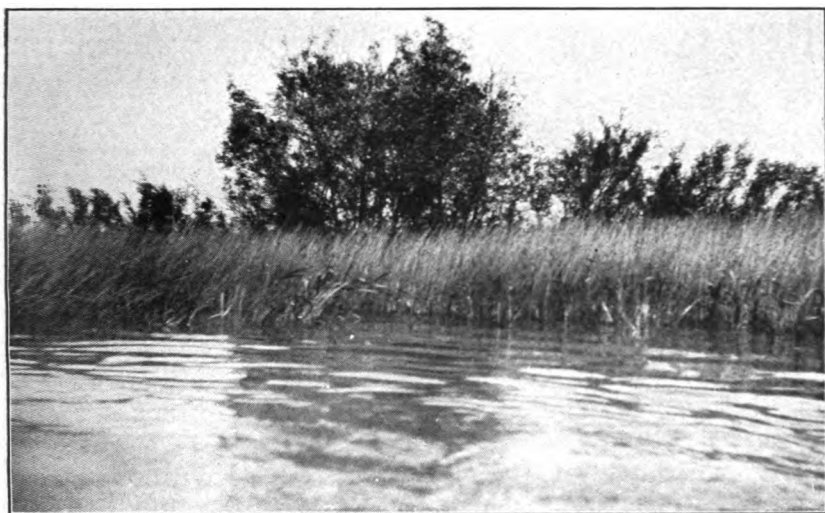


54. The Grand Calumet near Hegewisch.



55. Thornton Creek.—The Forest has almost disappeared.

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56. East Shore of Lake Calumet.



57. Marshes at South end of Lake Calumet.



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58. Forest covered ridge, south end of Lake Calumet.



59. Grove of Oaks, south end of Lake Calumet.

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16	800	55,809	69.81	W	03	16,344	2.7	West Park Board.
17	720	68,638	95.33	B	94	73,019	0.6	City.
18	640	33,568	52.45	U	37	1,932	22.5	West Park Board.
19	640	53,514	83.62	V	14	8,715	4.99	West Park Board.
20	800	55,846	69.81	C				West Park Board.
				J				West Park Board.
				D	18	6,083	7.1	City.
21	960	54,252	56.51	P				City.
				A				Lincoln Park Board.
				K				Lincoln Park Board.
				U				City.
				O	91	2,476	14.6	City.
				A				City.
22	960	57,258	59.12	W				City.
23	800	50,863	63.54	C	e.			Lincoln Park Board.
				R				City.
				N	91	222	196.0	City.
				O				City.
				L				Lincoln Park Board.
24	1,120	52,269	46.67	N	e.			City.
25	4,160	66,219	16.38	L				City.
					00†	239	181.9	Lincoln Park Board.
26	4,640	59,609	12.84	G	53	112,469	0.38	City.
27	20,480	59,825	2.92	C				City.
				R				City.
				N				City.
				E				City.
				J	86	3,439	12.3	City.
				I				City.
				R				City.
				K				City.
28	1,760	59,347	33.72	K				City.
				P				City.
				H	28	3,949	11.2	West Park Board.
				L				West Park Board.
29	6,400	61,195	9.56	P				West Park Board.
				*C				South Park Board.
				*D	72	674	64.5	South Park Board.
				*S				South Park Board.
				G				South Park Board.
30	1,280	54,220	42.34	*P	01	7,734	5.6	South Park Board.
31	11,200	62,483	5.58	G				South Park Board.
				*H	63	172	252.8	South Park Board.
				*M				South Park Board.
32	8,480	58,430	6.89	N				City.
				F				City.
				A	39	626	69.6	City.
				N				City.
				72				City.
				*O				South Park Board.
33	12,944	56,601	4.37	D				City.
				A	45	1,218	35.7	City.
				*P				South Park Board.
34	3,200	39,200	12.25	I	97	7,887	5.5	West Park Board.
				S				West Park Board.
35	4,960	40,800	8.22	M				City.
				H	10	2,893	15.0	City.
				A				City.

RECAPITULATION

Total area of wards; acres	32,526.	Wards 2, 9, 10, 11, 22 and 24.
Total population	1,218,454	based upon ratio of presidential vote, 1904, to estimated January 1, 1905.
Average population per acre	37.4	not included in totals.
Total area of parks; acres	1,218	omitted.
Average population to each acre of park	3.07	figures being made by filling in submerged land between Ave. and Cornelia St.
Park area per capita of population; square feet	10.4	

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Ward No.	Area (Acres)	Population (1904)	Population (1905)	Ward Name	Area (Acres)	Population (1904)	Population (1905)	Board
17	720	68,638	95.33	West Park Board.	03	16,344	2.7	West Park Board.
18	640	33,568	52.45	City.	04	73,019	0.6	City.
19	640	53,514	83.62	West Park Board.	37	1,932	22.5	West Park Board.
20	800	55,846	69.81	West Park Board.	14	8,715	4.99	West Park Board.
				West Park Board.				West Park Board.
				City.	18	6,083	7.1	City.
21	960	54,252	56.51	City.				City.
				Lincoln Park Board.				Lincoln Park Board.
				Lincoln Park Board.				Lincoln Park Board.
				City.	91	2,476	14.6	City.
				City.				City.
				Lincoln Park Board.				Lincoln Park Board.
22	960	57,258	59.12	City.				City.
23	800	50,863	63.54	City.				City.
				City.				City.
				City.	91	222	196.0	City.
				Lincoln Park Board.				Lincoln Park Board.
24	1,120	52,269	46.67	City.				City.
25	4,160	66,219	16.38	City.				City.
26	4,640	59,609	12.84	City.	00†	239	181.9	City.
27	20,480	59,825	2.92	City.	53	112,469	0.38	City.
				City.				City.
				City.				City.
				City.	86	3,439	12.3	City.
				City.				City.
				City.				City.
28	1,760	59,347	33.72	City.				City.
				City.				City.
				West Park Board.	28	3,949	11.2	West Park Board.
				West Park Board.				West Park Board.
29	6,400	61,195	9.56	West Park Board.				West Park Board.
				South Park Board.	72	674	64.5	South Park Board.
				South Park Board.				South Park Board.
				South Park Board.				South Park Board.
30	1,280	54,220	42.34	South Park Board.	01	7,734	5.6	South Park Board.
31	11,200	62,483	5.58	South Park Board.				South Park Board.
				South Park Board.	63	172	252.8	South Park Board.
				South Park Board.				South Park Board.
32	8,480	58,430	6.89	City.				City.
				City.				City.
				City.	39	626	69.6	City.
				City.				City.
				City.				City.
33	12,944	56,601	4.37	City.				City.
				South Park Board.	45	1,218	35.7	South Park Board.
				City.				City.
34	3,200	39,200	12.25	City.	97	7,887	5.5	City.
				South Park Board.				South Park Board.
				West Park Board.				West Park Board.
35	4,960	40,800	8.22	City.	10	2,893	15.0	City.
				City.				City.

RECAPITULATION

Total area of wards; acres	32,526	Wards 2, 9, 10, 11, 22 and 24.
Total population	1,000,000	acres.
Average population per acre	30.74	32,526.
Total area of parks; acres	1,000,000	upon ratio of presidential vote, 1904, to estimated
Average population to each acre of park	1,000,000	January 1, 1905.
Park area per capita of population; square feet	1,000,000	not included in totals.
		published.
		acres being made by filling in submerged land between
		the river and Cornelia St.

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## APPENDIX.

### RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL PARK COMMISSION.

The Special Park Commission, in making this report, is acting under authority of the following resolutions adopted by the City Council November 6, 1899:

WHEREAS, The present park system of the City of Chicago has been and now is a great blessing to our citizens in giving them fresh air and sunshine, which are so difficult to obtain in a crowded and growing city, yet are so valuable in preventing crime and promoting cleanliness and diminishing disease; and

WHEREAS, This system, great and beneficent as it is, fails from lack of small recreation grounds to reach many of our citizens in the crowded central wards who most need such opportunities, so that the present system urgently needs to be supplemented in those districts by breathing places of various sorts, including small parks and playgrounds for children, swimming places, public baths, parkways and the like; and

WHEREAS, Large districts, both within and beyond the city limits, have been opened up and become densely populated since the establishment of our present parks, and in view not only of this growth of population, but of the corresponding growth certain to occur in the future, there is need for an extension of our park system and connecting boulevards into these regions; and

WHEREAS, Land in and about the city can now be obtained at prices much lower than will have to be paid when, by increase in density of population the need for greater park accommodation shall be felt more seriously than at present; and

WHEREAS, All these facts are indicated and emphasized by numerous movements in various parts of the city and suburbs, including many such movements by civic and commercial clubs, professional societies and local improvement associations, from which, in the opinion of this Council, great benefits might result if their efforts were related to those of an official city commission, while such benefits can only be partial and inadequate unless so organized under a general scheme, fair and adequate to the whole population, therefore, be it

#### REQUIRED TO OUTLINE PLANS.

*Resolved*, By the City Council of the City of Chicago, that the present situation of the City of Chicago with regard to parks and other recreation grounds should be systematically studied, so that a consistent plan may



be outlined, to be followed as opportunity may serve, that the public may become informed as to the opportunities in this city and the present accomplishments in other cities, and that waste of labor and cost of spasmodic, separate and unrelated movements, which must of necessity be imperfect and insufficient, may be saved, and to this end be it

*Resolved*, That a committee shall be constituted, as hereinafter stated, which shall systematically procure information as to all facts bearing upon the needs, present and future, of the city in regard to the matters above stated, and shall prepare recommendations for a systematic and concerted plan for the satisfaction of such needs by the addition of parks or other improvements above suggested, either within or without the limits of this city, as they may find desirable, which they shall, as soon as practicable, report to this Council. As members of said committee, His Honor the Mayor, is authorized and requested to appoint nine members of this Council, three from each division of the city, and six citizens not holding official positions, including one lawyer, one civil engineer, one landscape gardener or architect, one physician or sanitary engineer, who shall be of recognized ability in their profession. Each of the three park boards is authorized and requested to appoint one of its members, officers or employes as a member of said committee. Such committee is also authorized to add additional members, not exceeding six; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the said committee be and it is hereby authorized to employ such clerical assistance as may be necessary and as may be approved by the Mayor, such assistants to receive such compensation as the Mayor shall approve.

#### AUTHORITY TO MAKE CONTRACT FOR METROPOLITAN PARK REPORT.

The following action was taken by the City Council at its meeting September 28, 1903, relative to authorizing the Special Park Commission to contract with Mr. Perkins for the making of this report:

Ald. Herrmann presented the following order:

*Ordered*, That the Special Park Commission is hereby given authority to sign and execute a contract on behalf of the City of Chicago with Mr. Dwight H. Perkins for the preparation and completion of a report relating to a metropolitan system of parks, parkways and boulevards in and outside the City of Chicago, with maps, plats, photographs and other data, the cost of said report to be \$1,500, and to be paid for out of the 1903 appropriation heretofore made to said Commission by the City Council; and the City Comptroller is hereby authorized and directed, upon the presentation of vouchers signed in due form by the Chairman and Secretary of said Commission, to pay the amount stated to said Dwight H. Perkins.

Which was, on motion, duly passed.

CITY AND COUNTY COMMISSION FOR THE CREATION OF AN OUTER BELT LINE  
OF PARKS AND BOULEVARDS.

President Henry G. Foreman sent to the Board of Cook County Commissioners, August 3, 1903, the following communication:

*To the Honorable, the Board of Commissioners of Cook County:*

GENTLEMEN:—Since the time is approaching when the present Chicago system of parks and boulevards, including additions recently authorized, will be inadequate to the population, necessitating a still larger recreation area in Cook County, outside the limits of the city, I am persuaded that it would be proper for the Board of Commissioners of Cook County to take steps now looking to the creation of a system of breathing places for a metropolis of upward of five millions souls.

Chicago had a population of about 350,000 in 1869, when the present system was mapped out. The city then in population was fifth among the cities of the United States, and its park acreage as planned placed Chicago on a practical level with Philadelphia, which had the largest area of parks and boulevards of any city in the United States.

In 1902 Chicago's population had grown to more than two million, and for years this city had stood second only to New York in the number of inhabitants, but in the acre area of its parks it had fallen back to sixth place among the large cities of the United States, and to the eighth place among all American cities. It was left behind by cities that had patterned after its park and boulevard system, as planned in 1869. Even comparatively little cities, like Los Angeles, California, and Lynn, Massachusetts, exceeded it in park area. This should stir us to prepare in ample time for the great needs of the future.

By recent legislation the South Park system is to add to its parks Greater Grant Park and several good-sized breathing spots in the south end of the Town of Lake and in the south end of Hyde Park and also a number of small parks. Lincoln Park is to have a large addition to the northward, and small parks are to be created on the North and West Sides. But, even with these additions, soon Chicago will stand in need of much more extensive recreation facilities.

## TIME RIPE FOR OUTER BELT SYSTEM.

The time has come when steps should be taken to create an outer belt line of parks and boulevards. Such a system should embrace the east side of the present inner belt line, extended northward, say to Winnetka, and southward to near the mouth of the Calumet River. Thence the outer belt line could extend up the valley of the Calumet to Blue Island; thence northward to the Desplaines River, and onward, following the valley of that stream, to a point northwest of Chicago; and thence eastward, embracing the Skokee Valley, and finally forming a junction with the Sheridan Road at or near Winnetka. This would make an outer belt line about one hundred and twenty miles.

Land along this line now, and within a few years, could be purchased cheaply. Soon it will be expensive. There are natural forests, especially in the valley of the Desplaines, which could be secured at a low figure and preserved in their natural condition. It would be impossible to re-create these healthgiving forests, if they were once obliterated by the extension of city life into them.

Considering all these things, I therefore recommend that your honorable body authorize the selection of a Commission for the Creation of an Outer Belt Line of Parks and Boulevards for the County of Cook and the

City of Chicago, said Commission to be composed of committees of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, of the mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, of the Park Boards in the City of Chicago, and of ten representative citizens residing in Cook County and so selected as to represent the city and that part of the county lying outside the city.

Inasmuch as the proposed outer belt line of parks and boulevards, as stated in the foregoing, would lie almost wholly within Cook County, outside the limits of the City of Chicago, I feel that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County should properly take the initiative in the creation of such outer belt line of parks and boulevards.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY G. FOREMAN, *President.*

#### COUNTY BOARD RESOLUTIONS.

Acting on the communication of President Foreman, the following resolutions were presented by Commissioner Boeber to the County Board August 3, 1903, and adopted:

**WHEREAS**, The present park and boulevard system, including recently authorized additions thereto, will be inadequate to the future needs of the population of the City of Chicago and the County of Cook; and

**WHEREAS**, The health and comfort of our residents will require a greater system of parks and boulevards lying largely in Cook County outside of the present limits of the City of Chicago, forming an outer belt line of parks and boulevards, as suggested and more fully set forth in the communication of the president of this board presented at this meeting; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That a commission be created to be designated as the Commission for the Creation of an Outer Belt Line of Parks and Boulevards for the County of Cook and City of Chicago, of which the president of this board shall be its first chairman, to whom is referred the subject matter of an outer belt line of parks and boulevards within the County of Cook, which commission shall devise plans and ways and means and do all things that may be necessary to obtain and to carry to a successful conclusion the scheme and object of this resolution, for the creation and establishment of such outer belt line of parks and boulevards encircling the City of Chicago and embracing the valleys of the Calumet and Desplaines Rivers and the Skokee Marsh; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That to carry out the object of this resolution and to create the commission herein provided, the president of this board is hereby made a member of the said commission and directed to appoint four members of this board as members thereof, and the president of this board is also directed to invite the Mayor of the City of Chicago to be a member of said commission, and also directed to invite the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Chicago to appoint four members of said council to be members of said commission, and also directed to invite the South Park Commissioners, the Lincoln Park Commissioners and the West Chicago Park Commissioners each to appoint from their respective boards three members thereof to be members of the said commission, and the president of this board is also directed to appoint as additional members of the said commission ten residents of Cook County, so selected as to represent the city and that part of the county lying outside the limits of the city.

## PERSONNEL OF THE OUTER BELT PARK COMMISSION.

By virtue of the County Board's resolutions the following were appointed members of the Outer Belt Park Commission:

Representing City and County...	{	MR. DANIEL H. BURNHAM, MR. JOHN P. WILSON, MR. JOHN J. MITCHELL, MR. CHARLES L. HUTCHINSON, JUDGE P. S. GROSSCUP, MR. JOHN BARTON PAYNE, DR. J. B. MURPHY, MR. E. A. CUMMINGS, MR. DWIGHT H. PERKINS, MR. W. H. MILLER.
Representing City of Chicago. . . .	{	MAYOR CARTER H. HARRISON, ALD. ERNST F. HERRMANN, ALD. L. P. FRIESTEDT, ALD. D. V. HARKIN, ALD. J. J. BRADLEY.
Representing South Park Commissioners. . . . .	{	COMMISSIONER LYMAN A. WALTON, COMMISSIONER WILLIAM BEST, COMMISSIONER JEFFERSON HODGKINS.
Representing West Park Commissioners. . . . .	{	COMMISSIONER E. H. PETERS, COMMISSIONER FRED A. BANGS, COMMISSIONER G. J. NORDEN.
Representing Lincoln Park. Commissioners. . . . .	{	COMMISSIONER F. T. SIMMONS, COMMISSIONER F. H. GANSBERGEN, COMMISSIONER JAMES H. HIRSCH.
Representing County Board. . . .	{	COMMISSIONER A. C. BOEBER, COMMISSIONER E. K. WALKER, COMMISSIONER JOSEPH CAROLAN, COMMISSIONER JOSEPH E. FLANAGAN. PRESIDENT HENRY G. FOREMAN.

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO OUTER BELT PARK COMMISSION.

The following communications were presented to the City Council, September 28, 1903:

*To the Honorable, the City Council:*

MAYOR'S OFFICE,  
September 24, 1903. }

GENTLEMEN:—I transmit herewith a letter of September 1, 1903, of the President of the Board of County Commissioners extending in conformity with a resolution of the Board adopted August 3, 1903, an invitation to the Mayor and City Council to appoint four members of the City Council to be members of the Commission for the creation of an outer belt line of parks and boulevards for the County of Cook and City of Chicago.

The purposes for which this commission is created meets with my earnest approval. This city has grown to such large proportions and the population has increased so rapidly that more breathing space and recreation grounds are absolutely required, and should be secured before the increase in value of available lands embarrasses and perhaps defeats the project.

I therefore request that the invitation of the Board of County Commissioners be referred to your Special Committee on Small Parks and Playgrounds.

Respectfully,

CARTER H. HARRISON, *Mayor.*

## COUNCIL CO-OPERATION REQUESTED.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
COOK COUNTY,  
CHICAGO, September 1, 1903. }

*To the Honorable Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of the City of Chicago, and the Honorable, the City Council of the City of Chicago:*

GENTLEMEN:—A resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County on August 3, 1903, directs me "to invite the Mayor and City Council of the City of Chicago to appoint four members of said council to be members of the Commission for the Creation of an Outer Belt Line of Parks and Boulevards for the County of Cook and the City of Chicago."

I, therefore, take great pleasure in cordially extending said invitation to your Honorable Body.

Attached hereto, and made a part of this communication, is a pamphlet containing that part of the proceedings of the Board of Commissioners at its meeting on August 3, 1903, outlining the need, purposes and composition of said Commission for the Creation of an Outer Belt Line of Parks and Boulevards.

I trust that soon I may have the pleasure of advising the Board of Commissioners of favorable action on the part of your Honorable Body regarding the subject matter of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY G. FOREMAN, *President.*

Which was referred to the Special Park Commission.

## ACTION OF SPECIAL PARK COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL.

Acting on the above communications, the Special Park Commission presented to the City Council the following report and recommendations, which were concurred in:

SPECIAL PARK COMMISSION,  
CHICAGO, November 2, 1903. }

*To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Chicago in Council Assembled:*

Your Special Park Commission, to whom was referred an invitation from the President of the Board of County Commissioners, in conformity with a resolution adopted by that body August 3, 1903, for the Mayor and City Council to appoint four members of the council to be members of a "Commission for the Creation of an Outer Belt Line of Parks and Boulevards for the County of Cook and City of Chicago," having had the same under advisement beg leave to report as follows:

We desire that the City Council should call the attention of the Board of County Commissioners to the fact that your Special Park Commission, acting under the resolutions which were adopted by the City Council November 6, 1899, is already engaged in the preparation of a metropolitan park report, similar in scope to the one contemplated by the resolution of the County Board, and that a contract has been let by authority of the City Council for the compilation of such report.

Your commission also desires to call the attention of the Board of County Commissioners to the fact that until recently we have confined our efforts to the work of establishing and promoting the establishment of small parks and playgrounds in the congested districts of the city as being a matter of more pressing importance.

We recommend that His Honor, the Mayor, invite the Board of Commissioners of Cook County to appoint two of its members to be members of the Special Park Commission and assist in the continuance of the work now in hand.

We also recommend that the City Council accept the invitation of the Board of County Commissioners embodied in the resolution adopted by that body and extended by its President, Hon. Henry G. Foreman, and that the Mayor be requested to appoint four aldermen to be members of the commission mentioned.

We also recommend that the City Clerk be directed to transmit a copy of this report to the Board of County Commissioners.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST F HERRMANN,  
*Chairman.*

A. W. O'NEILL,  
*Secretary.*

In conformity with the above report and recommendation, His Honor, the Mayor, appointed the following Aldermen to represent the City Council on the Outer Belt Park Commission, November 16, 1903:

Ald Herrmann, Ald. Friestedt, Ald. Harkin, Ald. Bradley.

## PARK EXTENSION LEGISLATION.

Since the organization of the Special Park Commission the General Assembly has passed bills by which authority is given the South Park Commissioners, the West Chicago Park Commission and the Commissioners of Lincoln Park to issue \$7,000,000 of bonds for various objects of park improvement and extension. The principal legislation and the year of enactment are as follows:

1899—A bill prepared by the South Park Commissioners authorizing park districts composed of three towns to buy land for park purposes if it is contiguous to an existing park or boulevard under control of a park board, and to pay for such additional park from the regular tax levy. Under this act the South Park Commissioners established McKinley Park of 34 acres.

1901—Bill prepared by the South Park Commissioners authorizing the issue of \$500,000 of bonds for completion of the South Park system.

Four bills prepared by the Special Park Commission, known as the small park bills. The first is a general enabling bill, authorizing park boards to acquire, improve and maintain small parks or playgrounds within their respective districts, providing the area of each park does not exceed ten acres. The second act authorized the South Park Commissioners to issue \$1,000,000 of bonds for the establishment of small parks and playgrounds. The third act gives the same authority to the west Chicago Park Commission for the issue of \$1,000,000 of bonds. Under the fourth act authority is conferred on the Commissioners of Lincoln Park to issue \$500,000 of small park bonds on the north side. In 1903 the South Park act was amended in order to facilitate the issue of bonds.

1903—Bill authorizing the issue of bonds by the South Park Commissioners for acquiring and improving additional parks without any restriction as to area. Under this act the Commissioners decided to issue \$3,000,000 of bonds for the establishment of new parks of various areas and for the enlargement and completion of Grant Park.

Bill authorizing the South Park Commissioners to increase their general tax levy from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mills to 2 mills on the dollar of assessed valuation for the maintenance of the larger park system.

Two bills, one turning over to the jurisdiction of the south Park Commissioners all submerged lands lying along the shore of Lake Michigan, so as to connect Grant Park with Lincoln Park and Jackson Park, the other bill transferring to the jurisdiction of the South Park Commissioners all submerged lands lying along the lake shore south of Jackson Park to the Indiana state line, with the exception of that portion fronting the property of the Illinois Steel Company in South Chicago.

A bill authorizing the Commissioners of Lincoln Park to issue \$1,000,000 of bonds for the purpose of enlarging Lincoln Park by filling in the submerged lands along the lake front between Fullerton Avenue and Cornelia Street, thereby adding 215 acres to the existing park.

## SMALL PARK AND PLAYGROUND BILLS.

Following is the text of the small park and playground bills as passed and subsequently amended:

A general enabling bill applicable to the three park districts:

*A BILL*

*For an Act to Enable Park Commissioners to Acquire, Improve and Maintain Additional Small Parks or Pleasure Grounds.*

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: That for the purpose of creating additional small parks or pleasure grounds, any board of park commissioners shall have the power to acquire, by purchase, gift, condemnation or otherwise, any lot, block or parcel of land, which shall lie within the district or territory, the property of which shall be taxable for the maintenance of the parks or boulevards under the control of any such board of park commissioners. Any board of park commissioners may acquire as many lots, blocks or parcels of land for small parks or pleasure grounds as it may deem necessary: *Provided*, That each park or pleasure ground so acquired shall not exceed ten (10) acres in area or extent.

SECTION 2. In the event that said board of park commissioners cannot agree with the owner or owners, lessees or occupants or persons interested in any of the said various lots, blocks or parcels of land selected by it as aforesaid, it shall proceed to procure the condemnation of the same in the manner prescribed in the act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois entitled "An Act to Provide for the Exercise of the Right of Eminent Domain," approved April 10, 1872, in force July 1, 1872, and the amendments thereto.

SECTION 3. It shall be lawful for said board of park commissioners to vacate and close up any highway, street or alley which may pass through, divide or separate any lands so selected or appropriated by it for the purpose herein authorized. *Provided*, That the consent of the municipal authorities having control of said street or alley so taken shall first be obtained.

SECTION 4. Such board of park commissioners shall have the same power and control of the lots, blocks or parcels of land taken under this act as are or may be by law vested in it, of and concerning the parks, boulevards and driveways now under its control.

SECTION 5. Whereas there is a necessity for the immediate acquisition of the small parks contemplated in this act, therefore an emergency exists and this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.



## SOUTH SIDE BOND AND MAINTENANCE BILL.

*An Act to Enable the Corporate Authorities of Two or More Towns, for Park Purposes, to Raise Funds for the Acquisition, Improvement and Maintenance of Additional Small Parks or Pleasure Grounds.*

SECTION 1. That any board of park commissioners which has been by law declared to be the corporate authorities of two or more towns, for park purposes, said board of park commissioners and the successors thereof, as such corporate authorities, shall have, and they are hereby vested with full power and authority, in their discretion, to issue and sell, in addition to the bonds now authorized by law to be issued and sold by such park commissioners, interest bearing bonds to an amount not exceeding one million dollars (\$1,000,000): *Provided*, No bonds shall be issued under this act contrary to the provisions of Section 12, Article 9, of the Constitution of this State.

SECTION 2. Authority is hereby expressly granted to the board of park commissioners, as such corporate authorities issuing said bonds, to levy and collect a direct annual tax upon the property within its jurisdiction, in addition to the taxes now authorized by law to be levied and collected for park and boulevard purposes by such corporate authorities, sufficient in amount to pay the interest on the bonds hereinbefore authorized as it falls due; and also to pay and discharge the principal thereof within twenty (20) years from the date of issuing said bonds; and a further tax, to be expended for the purposes hereinafter set forth, of not to exceed one-half mill on each dollar of taxable property embraced in such park district, according to the valuation of the same as made for the purpose of State and County taxation by the general assessment last preceding the time when such one-half mill tax shall be levied; and the County Clerk of the county in which such park district is located, or such other officer or officers as are by law authorized to spread or assess taxes for park purposes, and other purposes, on receiving a certificate from such park commissioners that the amount mentioned in such certificate, not exceeding the amount aforesaid, is necessary for the purpose herein authorized, shall spread and assess such amount upon the taxable property in said park district, the same as other park taxes are by law spread and assessed, and the same shall be collected and paid over the same as other park taxes are now required by law to be collected and paid.

SECTION 3. The proceeds of the bonds herein authorized shall be used exclusively for the purchase and improvement of the lots, blocks or parcels of land which may be selected for small parks or pleasure grounds, pursuant to an act entitled, "An Act to Enable Park Commissioners to Acquire, Improve and Maintain Additional Small Parks or Pleasure Grounds," approved and in force May 10, 1901; and the proceeds of the annual tax of not exceeding one-half mill on each dollar hereinbefore authorized, shall be used exclusively for the maintenance of parks or pleasure grounds having an area of not to exceed ten acres each; and also

for the purchase of lots, blocks or parcels of land which may, from time to time, be selected for additional small parks or pleasure grounds and for the improvement and maintenance thereof.

## WEST SIDE BOND BILL.

## A BILL

*For an Act to Authorize the Corporate Authorities of Towns to Issue Bonds, to Raise Funds for the Acquisition and Improvement of Additional Small Parks or Pleasure Grounds, and to Provide a Tax for the Payment of the Same.*

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: That in any town which is now included within the limits of any city in this State where the boundaries and limits of any such town are co-extensive with the boundaries and limits of any park district, in which a board of park commissioners shall now exist, having authority by law to acquire, hold, improve and maintain land and the appurtenances in trust for the inhabitants of such town, and of a division or part of such city, and for such parties or persons as may succeed to the rights of such inhabitants, and for the public as a public promenade and pleasure ground or ways, but not for any other use or purpose without the consent of a majority, by frontage of the owners of the property fronting the same, and without the power to sell, alienate, mortgage or encumber the same, the corporate authorities of such town (meaning the town supervisor, clerk and assessor thereof) shall have authority, and such corporate authorities of any such town are hereby empowered, upon the written request to that effect of any board of park commissioners or the successors thereof, which shall now exist within any such town, to issue bonds in the name of such town to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate the principal sum of one million (\$1,000,000) dollars, and such bonds, when so issued by such corporate authorities, shall be delivered to such board of park commissioners to be by them sold in the manner hereinafter provided, and the proceeds thereof used for the purchase and improvement of lots, blocks or parcels of land selected as sites for small parks or pleasure grounds. *Provided*, That the total indebtedness of such town, including the sum of one million (\$1,000,000) dollars hereby authorized to be issued, shall not exceed five per centum of the value of the taxable property of such town, as ascertained by the last assessment for state and county taxes previous to the issue of any such bonds. And such corporate authorities of any such town shall, in addition to the amount of any tax now authorized by law to be levied and collected annually for park and boulevard purposes in any such town, levy and collect annually a tax not to exceed one mill on the dollar upon taxable property in any such town, according to the valuation of the same as made for the purposes of state and county taxation; such tax to be used and expended by such board of park commissioners in governing, maintaining and improving such parks

or pleasure grounds, and in paying the interest and principal of such bonds and other necessary and incidental expenses incurred in and about the management of any such small parks or pleasure grounds. The proceeds of the bonds hereby authorized to be issued for the purpose aforesaid shall be used exclusively by such board of park commissioners for the purchase and improvement of the blocks, lots or parcels of land necessary for said small park or pleasure grounds.

#### METHOD OF ISSUING BONDS.

SECTION 2. Such bonds shall be issued by the corporate authorities of such town aforesaid in the name of said town upon the request in writing of any such board of park commissioners or a majority of the members thereof. Said bonds shall be signed by the corporate authorities in the name of said town, and when so signed shall be delivered by such corporate authorities to such board of park commissioners, who shall, before disposing of the same, indorse upon each one of such bonds a certificate to the effect that such bonds have been issued by the corporate authorities of such town upon the requisition of such board of park commissioners for the issue of such bonds by the corporate authorities of such town. And such certificate, so to be indorsed upon each one of such bonds, shall be evidence that due requisition for the issue of such bonds has been made by such board of park commissioners upon the corporate authorities of such town as aforesaid. Such certificate, so to be indorsed upon said bonds shall be signed by the president, treasurer, auditor and secretary of such board of park commissioners. The said bonds may be of the denomination of twenty-five (\$25) dollars, and any multiple thereof. They shall bear interest at a rate not to exceed five (5) per centum per annum, to be paid semi-annually, and to be evidenced by coupons thereto attached, and the principal shall be payable at such place and at such time, not exceeding twenty (20) years from the date of the issue of said bonds, as such board of park commissioners may determine. Such bonds shall be numbered in regular series and shall be registered upon the records of such board of park commissioners, which registry shall show the number of the bonds, the amount of each bond, when the same is payable, to whom the same is payable and the rate of interest payable thereon. *Provided*, however, that such bonds may be made payable to bearer, or to the order of such person or persons as may be named therein, and when any of such bonds shall be made payable to bearer they shall pass by delivery, and provisions shall be made by such board of park commissioners, at the option of the holder and in his name; and after a second registry of any such bond, they, together with any bonds made payable to any particular person or persons, shall pass only by indorsement and delivery. None of such bonds shall be sold by such board of park commissioners for less than the par value thereof and the accrued interest thereon to the date of sale. And such board of park commissioners is hereby empowered to require of the treasurer of any such board a bond, with security to be approved by the circuit court

of the county in which such parks or pleasure grounds may be located, sufficient in amount and penalty to protect and save harmless any such board of park commissioners from loss of money or sums of money which may or shall, from time to time, come into the hands of the treasurer of any such board of park commissioners from the sale of any of the bonds issued and sold under and by virtue of the provisions of this act. Any person who shall knowingly violate or aid and abet in the violation of any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of embezzlement, and shall be liable to indictment, trial and punishment as in other cases of embezzlement.

PROVISION FOR INTEREST AND SINKING FUND.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of providing for the payment of interest on such bonds as it falls due, and also to discharge and pay the principal thereof, as the same shall mature, any such board of park commissioners is hereby required each year to appropriate from any annual park tax, not heretofore specifically appropriated by law, which may now or hereafter be authorized and directed to be levied upon the taxable property in any such town, whether the same be known as "Boulevard and Park Tax" or otherwise, a sum sufficient to meet the interest upon such bonds as it may accrue, and to provide a sinking fund for the purpose of paying the principal of such bonds, as they shall mature or become due according to the provision of this act.

SECTION 4. Any and all bonds which shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of this act shall contain the condition that, upon the expiration of five (5) years after the date of such bonds, and upon the expiration of each successive year thereafter, such board of park commissioners shall, at any open meeting of the board of such park commissioners, select by lot so many and such an amount of such bonds as may be required to absorb the sinking fund hereinbefore provided; and the principal of the bonds so selected shall become due and payable at the date of the next installment of interest maturing on the several bonds so selected from time to time, and shall cease to bear interest after they severally become due and payable by reason of such selection. Such board of park commissioners, immediately after making such selection, shall make and sign in duplicate a statement of the result thereof and shall file one copy thereof in the office of the town clerk of such town, and the other copy shall be filed in the office of the county clerk of the county in which any such town shall be located; and it is hereby made the duty of any such board of park commissioners to pay and discharge the principal of the bonds selected at the date of the next installment of interest maturing on the bonds so selected from the sinking fund hereinbefore provided for that purpose.

SECTION 5. Any such board of park commissioners is hereby empowered, after the expiration of one year and at any time before five years from the date of any such bonds authorized to be issued according to the provisions of this act, to purchase a sufficient number and amount of such

bonds then outstanding to absorb the annual sinking fund required by the provisions of this act: *Provided*, That such board of park commissioners shall not be authorized to pay for the bonds authorized by this section to be purchased, more than the fair market value thereof at the date of such purchase.

SECTION 6. Whereas there is a necessity for the immediate acquisition of the small parks contemplated in this act, therefore an emergency exists and this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

#### NORTH SIDE BOND BILL.

#### BILL

*For an Act to Authorize the Issue of Bonds to Raise Funds for the Acquisition and Improvement of Additional Small Parks or Pleasure Grounds, and to Provide a Tax for Payment of Same.*

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: That in any town in which a board of park commissioners shall exist where the commissioners of such parks have been named in the act establishing the same, and their successors have since been appointed by the Governor of the State of Illinois, and the supervisor and assessor of said town having been heretofore declared to be corporate authorities, such supervisor and assessor, as such corporate authorities of any such town, are hereby empowered, upon the written request to that effect of such board of park commissioners, or the successors thereof, which shall now exist within any such town, to authorize the issue of bonds in the name of such town, from time to time, to an amount, including the existing indebtedness of such town, so that the aggregate indebtedness of such town shall not exceed five (5) per centum of the value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and county taxes previous to the issue from time to time of such bonds, such authorized issue not to exceed in the aggregate the sum of five hundred thousand (\$500,000) dollars in addition to the amount previously authorized by law; such authority shall be in writing, signed by the supervisor and assessor of such town, a copy of which shall be filed with the county clerk, and another copy shall be filed with the said board of park commissioners to be by them recorded in their record of the proceedings of said board.

SECTION 2. Such bonds shall be issued, when authorized by the corporate authorities of the town as aforesaid, in the name of the said town, by said board of park commissioners, and shall be signed by its president and treasurer and countersigned by its secretary with its seal attached. Said bonds shall bear interest at a rate not to exceed five (5) per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, and the principal shall be

payable at such place and at such time, not exceeding twenty years from the date of the issue of said bonds, as such board of park commissioners may determine.

SECTION 3. Said board of park commissioners may sell said bonds, and the proceeds thereof shall be used exclusively for the purchase and improvement of lots, blocks or parcels of land selected as sites for small parks or pleasure grounds.

SECTION 4. In addition to the amount of money authorized to be raised by taxation on the property of such town for park and boulevard purposes during the next succeeding year, and each year thereafter, the supervisor of said town shall add the amount of interest payable on said bonds during the next year, and each succeeding year thereafter, and shall also add a sum sufficient to pay and discharge the principal of said bonds within twenty (20) years from the date of issuing the same, and shall also add a sum sufficient to maintain said small parks or pleasure grounds.

SECTION 5. Whereas there is a necessity for the immediate acquisition of the small parks contemplated in this act, therefore an emergency exists, and this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

#### SMALL PARK AND PLAYGROUND SITES RECOMMENDED TO THE PARK BOARDS BY THE SPECIAL PARK COMMISSION.

##### WEST SIDE.

On May 27, 1902, the Special Park Commission presented to the West Chicago Park Commission reports, maps and other data dealing with conditions and needs in the congested districts of the west division. The following sites for small parks and playgrounds, to be established from the authorized \$1,000,000 bond issue, were recommended to the Board for adoption:

Two blocks bounded by West Chicago Avenue, Noble, Cornell and Chase Streets. Area, 8 acres.

Block bounded by Noble, Bradley, Blackhawk and Cleaver Streets. Area,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Block bounded by Elizabeth and Ohio Streets, Sinnott Place and Center Avenue. Area,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Block bounded by West 14th Place, Union, Jefferson and Barber Streets. Area, 3 acres.

Block bounded by Fisk, May, 20th and 21st Streets. Area,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Block bounded by Forquer, Taylor and Halsted Streets and Blue Island Avenue. Area,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Portion of block bounded by Forquer, Ewing and Halsted Streets and east to Dante School building. Area, 4 acres.

Part of block bounded by Polk, Mather and Halsted Streets, extending 416 feet east to Polk Street school property. Area, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

(Last three tracts are alternative sites, only one to be selected.)

Tract on Ashland Avenue, extending 125 feet south of 16th Street, east along line of alley across Laffin Street to alley west of Loomis Street. Area, 3 acres.

#### SOUTH SIDE.

October 25, 1902, the Special Park Commission sent to the South Park Commissioners a report on small park sites, needs and conditions in the densely populated regions of that park district. The following recommendations were made for sites to be acquired under the small park acts:

Block bounded by 25th, 26th and La Salle Streets and Wentworth Avenue. Area, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

Tract bounded by Halsted and 29th Streets, west to the alley east of Poplar Avenue and south to buildings on 31st Street. Area, 10 acres.

Block bounded by Emerald and Union Avenue, 32d and 33d Streets. Area, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

Block bounded by Illinois Court, Auburn, 32d and 33d Streets. Area 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

(Last three are alternative sites.)

Block bounded by 47th, 48th and Paulina Streets and Hermitage Avenue. Area, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

Block bounded by 50th, 51st, Honore and Wood Streets. Area, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

(Last two are alternative sites.)

Tract bounded by 42d Street, Union and Lowe Avenues, north to alley south of Root Street. Area, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Block bounded by 35th Street, Wentworth Avenue, La Salle Street and Webster Municipal Playground. Area, 4 1-5 acres.

Tract east of Avenue G to Lake Michigan shore, from 99th to 100th Streets. Area, 7 acres (estimated).

Two blocks bounded by 45th and 46th Places, Princeton and Shields Avenues. Area, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Block bounded by Throop, Elizabeth, 51st and 52d Streets. Area, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

Tract on the north side of 30th Street, between Vernon and Cottage Grove Avenues. Area, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

Block bounded by 57th, 58th, Sangamon and Morgan Streets. Area, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

Block bounded by 67th, 68th, Morgan and Carpenter Streets. Area, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

## NORTH SIDE.

February 3, 1903, the Special Park Commission presented to the Commissioners of Lincoln Park a report covering the matter of sites, needs and conditions in their relation to the question of small parks and playgrounds in the Town of North Chicago. Following were the sites recommended in the congested districts:

Tract on south side of Oak Street, between Gault Court and Milton Avenue, extending south 333 feet. Area, 1 3-10 acres.

Tract between three and four acres in area, to be taken from within the boundaries of Larrabee, Rees and Vedder Streets and Schiller School property.

Block bounded by Elm, Hill, Sedgwick and Orleans Streets. Area, 1 7-10 acres.

Part of block between Burling and Orchard Streets, from 80 feet north of Newberry School lot, extending 516 feet north. Area, 3 acres.



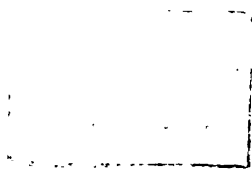


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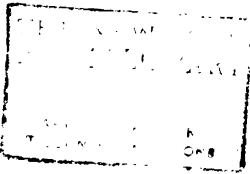
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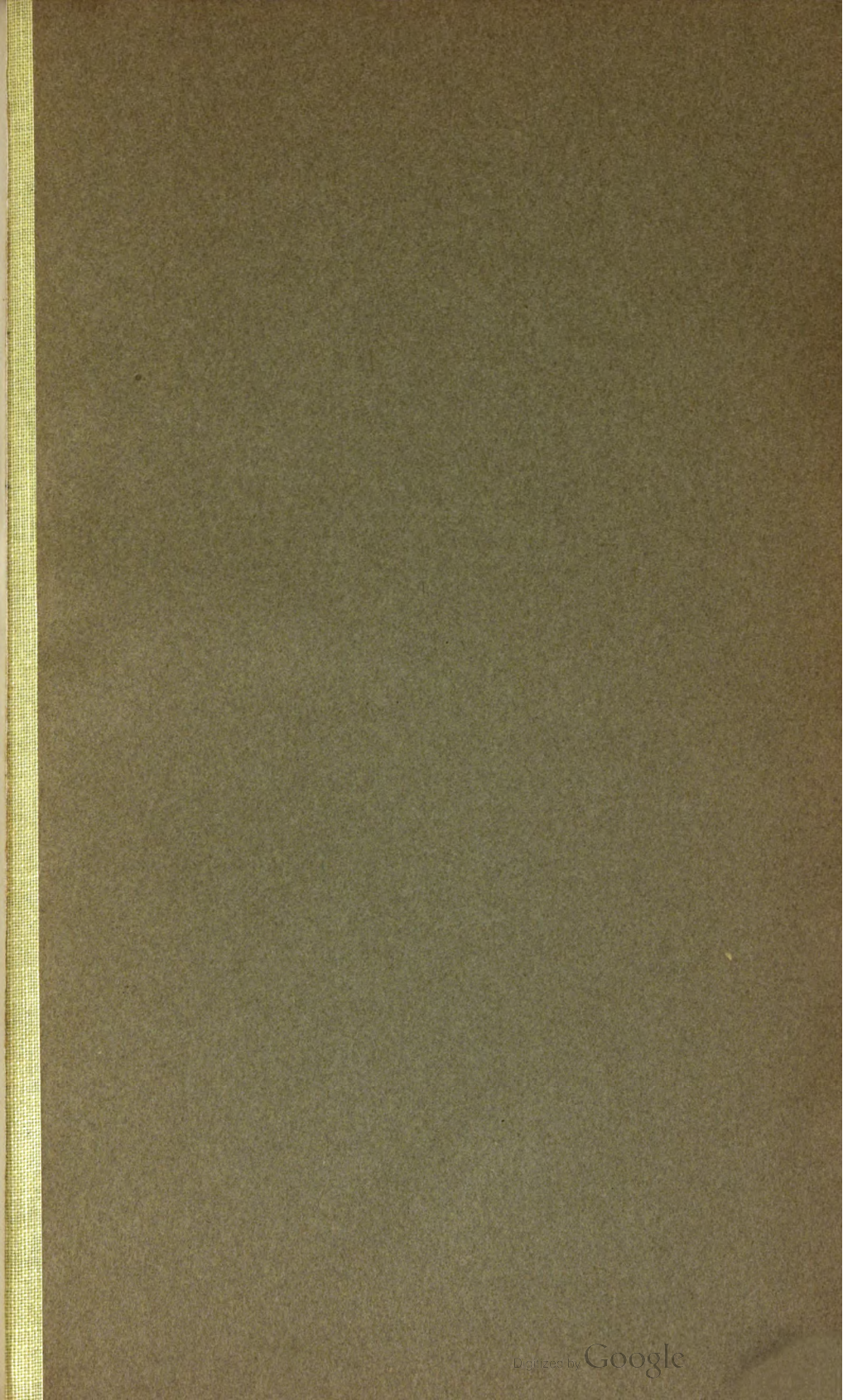
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