PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATURALISTIC CITY PARK WITH ATHLETIC FAGILITIES

by

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to present the conclusions derived from an investigation of the recreational needs of an average American city of 15,000 population, and to design a large naturalistic park with athletic facilities to fulfill these needs.

The chief reason for choosing this problem was that there is an ever increasing need for parks of this type in the United States. In many cases this want is due to lack of adult recreational facilities of any kind. In other places, those existing facilities have been outgrown by an increase in the size of the city; but the most important factor is an increase in the exigency for recreation by the average adult.

The increasing need for adult recreation is a result of changing conditions brought about by the age of industry. These changes have had a tromendous effect on all cities. The factories have brought smoke and dirt. Rapidly expanding cities have resulted in long monotonous rows of masonry and stone buildings. The city has become an area characterised by formality and monotony.

The advent of the sutomobile has perhaps wrought the greatest change. Living in the city is now characterized by hurrying cars, with their noise mingling with the noise of street cars, buses and other machines. All this noise.

bustle and crowding has had a detrimental effect on the residents of the average city. As these conditions become acute and oppressing, a complete antithesis is needed. This is to be found in the country or in large naturalistic areas, where the formality of the city can be forgotten.

The most influential factors to increase the need for adult recreation has been the abortening of the average man's working day. Nolen (23) stated that in a city of 100,000, assuming all the time not used in working, sleeping and eating is recreation, every individual spends five hours out of each 24 in recreation independent of Sundays and holidays. This gives a total of 20,833 days or 57 years of recreation time each day in this city. With this staggering total of recreation hours, surely a city should provide for at least one hour a day of this time.

Nolen defined recreation as: "Recreation, in the mind of the average American citizen of any sex, age or climate, spells primarily enjoyment; it is pleasure, relaxation, a good time."

It is generally agreed that adults need recreation. Hubbard and Kimball (18) supported the need for recreation in these words:

Everyone needs recreation, that is, something to de and to think of that is not work, something different from the ordinary routine of existence; and everyone at times needs inspiration that is something to make him see the world and his place in it in some broader way, to feel the presence of the larger forces of the universe. Hen's recreations

will differ as mon differ, but as all city dwellers are alike in suffering, each in his degree, from the restriction and crowding of the city, so they are alike in needing some recreation which will offset this restriction.

Recreation is important, however, to more than just the individual. It affects the entire community. Nolem (23) expressed the opinion that recreation has an important relation to the productivity and wealth of a community of any size. He said that all over America proper recreational facilities will tend to increase the community output in quantity and in value. Hubbard and Kimball (18) listed four things which a community to be successful must provide for its members. These are: a place to live, a place to work, facilities for transportation, and opportunities for recreation and inspiration.

Therefore, as facilities for adult recreation are needed both from the standpoint of the individual and the community, these should be provided in every city. In this solution a park is designed to supply these facilities in as practical and beautiful way as possible.

GENERAL METHOD

In studying this problem, the first thing done was to decide upon the type of park to be developed. A naturalistic city park with athletic facilities was chosen, as there is a need in the United States for parks of this type, and such

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a park would have a wide variation of problems to be solved in the design. With this decision made, the next step was to narrow the problem down to designing a park to fulfill definite needs, and to select a known area on which to develop it.

Rather than spend time searching for a city actually needing a park of the type chosen, an imaginary city was set up with definite existing conditions and lacking such a park. This, of course, allowed a great deal of freedom on the part of the designer in setting these conditions. However, several actual cities were kept in mind, including Manhattan, Eansas, and it is felt that the city as finally set up was representative of a great many small cities throughout the United States.

A population of approximately 15,000 was assigned to this city. The location was arbitrarily set for the eastcentral portion of Kansas. The city was assumed to be similar to Manhattan in most considerations, such as having a college, few industries and being situated in a ferming community.

For this problem certain definite existing recreational facilities were set, namely: two fine golf courses, adequate recreational and park facilities for the negro population, an excellent system of neighborhood playgrounds, and a few very small "passing through" parks. Therefore, no provision for the part played by these facilities was

necessary in this problem, and more space could be given to the adult recreational and inspirational meeds.

Relative to the size of the park, Butler (4) recommended as an ideal minimum one acre of park for each 100 population. Butler (6) found that in 1935 the average park acreage for 600 cities in the United States with a population of 10,000 to 25,000 to be 153 acres. Other authorities supported this recommendation regarding area. Therefore, a park area of not less than 150 acres would be adequate for this city.

Among the areas of which a topographic map was available was one of 155 acres. This area had a variation in elevation of 60 feet with a natural creek, and a rolling terrain. Actually this area is the Kansas State College compus. After due consideration of other sites, this area was selected as being more nearly the right size and having a topography that would lend itself well to park design.

The relation of the site to the imaginary city was set approximately the same as the present campus is with Manhattan. That is, with a medium class residential section on the east of the area; medium to high class residential section on the south; an undeveloped subdivision to the west; and on the north, farm land.

A topographic map of the campus was obtained, and from it a new map was made. This new map consisted of contours at intervals of two feet, changed to conform as nearly as possible to the topography prior to any building. The

boundries, adjacent streets and orientation were retained without change. It was assumed that there were no drives, buildings, or trees on the property.

Thus with a city having definite conditions and a topographic map of the area to be developed, work on the design was ready to begin. Throughout the designing of the park, research was done to determine size, type and extent of facilities recommended by authorities for parks in cities of this size. All athletic areas were designed with regulation sizes as given by Hicks, Harrington, Loy, Davis (17).

The park was divided into two distinct but interrelated areas: the larger, a naturalistic area, and the smaller, an athletic area. Both were planned primarily for adult recreation.

The naturalistic area to be of greatest value needed to occupy the greater portion of the area. The important features to be included were: large open meadows and vistas, woods and groves, shelters and comfort stations, a concession building, pionic areas, paths and trails. To enhance the naturalistic effect and the enjoyment of this area, all drives were kept to a minimum and were made as inconspicuous as possible.

The athletic area, due to the character of its use, would not be wholly naturalistic and would have more concentrated use than the naturalistic area. It should be kept because of this in as small a space as possible. The main

features of this area were to be the recreation building, swimming pools and outdoor athletic fields.

In connection with either area, it was thought advisable to provide an outdoor theatre, gardens, and children's playgrounds to fill the needs of families visiting the park. Also provisions were necessary for a maintenance group and parking near the areas of greatest use and those areas which would draw large crowds.

In the actual designing of the park, the first approach was by small "thumbnail" sketches--at a scale of 1 inch = 160 feet. In these sketches the general location of the main features in relation to each other were studied.

Next, more designs were worked out, using the best points of the preceding studies, at the scale of the final design--1 inch = 80 feet. In these studies, tree groupings, and the location of all the features of the park were studied.

With a satisfactory design found, more studies of the planting plan, grading plan and detail plan were made at 1 inch = 30 feet--the scale of the final plans. Thus, the final designs were a composite of the best points of all the preceding studies.

Finally two typical construction details were worked out as a representative sample of the types of construction to be used.

As soon as all these studies were completed they were drawn up and rendered in final form in Plates I, II, III,

IV and V.

The design of this park is not complete, but there was not the time in the scope of this problem to work out complete plans. However, representative samples of the major requirements of a complete plan were studied and worked out.

To accompany the designs a report was written to the mayor and city commissioners of this imaginary city. In this report the need for this park and the advisability of constructing the park as designed are discussed.

SUMMARY

There is a growing need for parks of this type in cities all over the nation. This is due to crowded city conditions, and the fact that the average person has more leisure time for recreation. This problem was designed for a particular condition, but the general needs and conditions throughout the nation were kept in mind when setting up the problem and in the designing of it.

The designer feels that the development of parks of this type for cities the size of Manhattan and larger would be very desirable. Consideration should be given the landscape design of such parks so that they will fill all the needs possible without detracting from the beauty of the area.

It is felt that this is a representative sample of conditions often existing, and that this solution is one way

for solving the city's problem of providing recreation areas for its citizens.

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONERS

Gentlemen:

In compliance with your request for information on the advisability of establishing a naturalistic park with athletic facilities in your city, the following report is submitted:

Your city has urgent need for a park of the type proposed. This is true not only of your city, but of many cities all over the nation. No longer do the small "passing through" parks of a block or two suffice. There are a number of these in your city, and these parks do offer a valuable contribution to the welfare of the people of your city. However, a different kind of park is needed. This type of park is a recreational park to serve all the members of your community. Too many residents of your city are at present deprived of contact with nature in its unaltered beauty. It is true that as yet one can drive in an automobile to natural areas in the country and obtain this contact. However, these areas are usually either privately owned and vulnerable to private exploitation or are roadsides and other public property which may be ruined by unsupervised

use. Also, not everyone has the transportation facilities to get to these places.

We must, as progressive men and women, look into the future. Not only will the present natural areas be fewer, but city conditions will be more congested. It is our present duty to set aside an area and to develop and preserve the beauty and naturalness of it for our children and all the future generations to enjoy. A naturalistic park would fulfill all these needs, both present and future.

There is another problem that is becoming more pressing as time goes on. The present trend is towards shorter working hours, which of course gives more leisure time to the average man. There must be more healthful ways provided for him to spend this leisure time.

It has been estimated that every individual spends five hours out of every 24 in recreation of some form. The city should provide a means of spending at least one hour a day of this time in healthful recreation.

Two types of recreation are needed, a passive type requiring little physical activity and an active type such as participation in athletic games and contests. Facilities for both types should be provided in one park if possible.

A careful and extensive investigation has been made of the recreational needs of your city. All your present facilities have been noted and compared with other cities, and minimum standards as recommended by many authorities. The recreational facilities for children were far above minimum standards and the average found in other cities. It was found, however, that existing adult recreational facilities were inadequate with several exceptions. The "passing through" parks are excellent and well-maintained. They serve a breathing spot to the near-by residents, but that is all. The two golf courses are very fine, however, only those who like to play golf and can afford the membership fees are able to take advantage of their benefits. The small recreation park for negroes is adequate, but serves only a small portion of the total population.

For the great majority of the people living in your city there are few municipal recreation facilities. The people must rely almost entirely on commercial amusements, those of their own home, or the automobile. In comparison with other cities your provision for adult, outdoor recreation is far below the average in both areas and standards.

The accepted minimum for recreational and park area is one acre of park for 100 people.

Even including your golf courses which would normally not be included, your present park area does not come up to the minimum of 150 acres for your city.

To meet the minimum recreational standards you should develop an additional park of not less than 100 acres and one of 150 to 200 acres would be ideal. In the future as the population grows, more parks should be added. This would be more practical than developing too large a park at present.

A survey has revealed the fact that there is available an area well suited to the development of a park of the type which you need. This area can still be secured at a reasonable cost, and is readily accessible to a large portion of the residential area. If this tract of land is not secured in the near future, it will undoubtedly be swallowed up by the expanding residential section of your city.

The area referred to is the old J. M. Blank estate, which joins the city on the northwest. The boundries of this property are Anderson avenue on the south, Manhattan avenue on the east, and farm reads on the other two sides. To the west is a new residential development and the land to the north is still farm land. This site has an area of 155 acres.

This area is at present mostly farm land, with an interesting terrain, and a natural creek, which

could be developed into a very beautiful natural area. The northwest corner is relatively level and well-drained, while the rest of the area is rolling. There is a variation in elevation of 60 feet in the area.

Using this area for the park, the accompanying plans have been prepared for a naturalistic and athletic park to fulfill the needs of your city. The naturalistic area, or the greater portion of the park has been designed to fulfill the need for inspiration and relaxation. Here there is opportunity for intimate contact with nature. Drives have been kept to a minimum and a complete system of walks and trails have been laid out to encourage walking and hiking. Shelters with rest room have been stragetically placed to serve all portions of the park. Ficnie facilities have been provided near the creek with tables, fireplaces and parking areas.

A concession building has been planned near the picnic areas. This building, containing a cafe and picnic supply store, will yield revenue which will help in the maintenance of that area, and will elso house the caretaker of the picnic area. By this close supervision the picnic area can be better maintained and supervised.

The most important factor of all is that the whole design of this part of the park has been

naturalistic. Wative or adapted trees and shrubs have been recommended throughout. Long vistas and views have been retained, with small groves and woods scattered over the area. The whole park has been surrounded by a belt planting of trees and shrubs giving a full enclosure and the old stone wall surrounding the area has been left intact. In fact, every effort has been made to keep the area as nearly natural as possible.

The athletic portion of the park has been carefully worked out. It has been placed in the northwest corner of the park. This location in the park was selected for several reasons. First, this was the most nearly level portion of the park, and by locating the athletic area here the amount of grading necessary was reduced to a minimum, also this section would have made a less interesting naturalistic development. Second, this is the highest portion of the park and is the best drained part.

Most of this athletic area has been allotted to outdoor athletic fields and playgrounds. Fields of regulation size have been provided for most of the commonly played outdoor group games including: footbell, basketbell, baseball, softball, volley ball, soccer, and hockey. Regulation courts have been provided for the more common games played by two to four

including tennis, paddle tennis, roque, croquet, shuffleboard, horseshoe, tether tennis, and clock golf. In addition, there is a quarter-mile track and jumping pits for track events. Open areas are also provided for unorganized games or could be laid out for other games in the future. Walks serving these fields have been provided and the entire area has been planned to be not only useful, but attractive as well.

Swimming has been provided in two units. There is a large L-shaped main pool, and in addition a small shallow pool for children and beginners. The larger portion of the main pool is relatively shallow water, as this part of swimming pools gets the most use. The pools have been planned for a maximum daily attendance of 1500 and an average daily attendance of 450. Thus, the pool will accommodate the expected attendance effectively and still be of an economical size.

Stands for spectators have been provided for the swimming pools, and more important athletic fields, including football, track, baseball, softball, and tennis. Knock-down bleachers would serve the other areas and for extra crowds.

A recreation building or field house has been provided adjacent to the swimming pools. This building was planned to serve for dressing rooms to the outdoor athletic area, especially to swimming pools

in the summer, and as a recreation building and community center for the entire year. The main part of the building contains an indoor swimming pool, part of the men's dressing rooms, pool control room for both the indoor and outdoor pools, a gymnasium, offices and meeting rooms, a lounge, and rest rooms. The gymnasium was designed with a stage at one end and a balcony at the other end. This room can be used as a gymnasium, an auditorium or as a dance floor. In the wing, or other unit of the building, are the main dressing rooms, recreation room and a small kitchen for occasional banquets.

The recreation building terminates the mall or main approach to the park. On the east side of the mall are the formal gardens consisting of five separate units, the perennial garden, the evergreen garden, the water garden, the bulb garden, and the rose garden. Adjacent to these gardens is a wild or informal garden. Across the mall from these gardens was placed the garden theatre for band concerts, outdoor plays and pageants. It will seat approximately 1950 people.

The playgrounds have been located adjacent to the athletic area. They have not been designed to serve the role of neighborhood playgrounds, or to serve the whole city. Rather, they are for the

children's play while their parents are using the recreational facilities of the park. It is recommended that these playgrounds be supervised to allow the parents complete freedom to enjoy the rest of the park and to prevent misuse of the area.

In general, these playgrounds consist of a wading pool with sandboxes and apparatus for small children, a playground area with apparatus for children of grade school age, and an area for older children.

As this park will be used by many people who will drive to it by automobile, parking areas have been provided. Also when some athletic contest, band concert, pageant, or other public event is staged, many cars must be parked. The three main parking lets, which are located close to the athletic area, will park approximately 700 cars. Extra parking areas have been provided which will park over a thousand cars. Under ordinary circumstances, these extra parking areas will be playgrounds or just an open meadow, and be used only in cases of extra large crowds. The drives are not planned wide enough to allow parking so seldom should parking be allowed on them.

A small area has been set aside for the maintenance group. This group consists of a building containing the foreman's office, shops, locker rooms for employees, and garages for equipment. There is also a small

greenhouse for early starting of flowers in the spring, and a small nursery for replacements of shrubbery and trees.

In conclusion, this park as designed will adequately and beautifully fill the recreational needs of your community. There will be a few times when certain facilities will be overcrowded, but to plan a unit for the maximum size of crowd expected, regardless of the number, is extravagant in design, maintenance and operation. Rather a park should be designed, as this one is, for the greatest possible value from the standpoint of freedom, speciouaness, and wild beauty, and still adequately serve the needs of the community and those who will use the park. The facilities, under normal circumstances, should accommodate all the normal daily crowds for years to come; to make them any larger would be unvise; and if made smaller, they would not adequately eare for the average attendance.

This project should be adopted promptly, while this area is still available, and while funds for it can be obtained.

Respectfully submitted,

E. A. Johnson, L. A.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I

The general plan.





EXPLANATION OF PLATE II

The detail plan.



Plate II

- EXPLANATION OF PLATE III

The planting plan.



Plate III

EXPLANATION OF PLATE IV

The grading plen.



EXPLANATION OF PLATE V

Two construction details.



Plate V

PLANT LIST1

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Symbol	Botanical Name	Common Name
Aca. pen.	Acanthopenax pentaphyllum	(Five-leaved Aralia)
Amo. fr.	Amorpha fruticosa	Indigobush
Ber. men.	(Berberis mentorensis)	Mentor Barberry
Ber. th.	Berberis thunbergi	Japanese Barberry
Car. arb.	Caragana arborescens	Siberian Pea-Tree
Cel. sc.	Celastrus scandens	American Bittersweet
Ceph. occ.	Cephalanthus occidentalis	Common Buttonbush
Cl. pan.	<u>Clematis</u> paniculata	Sweet Autumn Clematis
Cor. mas	Cornus mas	Cornelian-Cherry
Cor. pan.	Cormus paniculata	Grey Dogwood
Cor. st.	Cornus stolonifera	Red-Osier Dogwood
Cot. ac.	Cotoneaster acutifolia	Peking Cotoneaster
Cyd. jap.	Cydonia japonica	Flowering Quince
Eu. ala.	Euonymus alatus	Winged Euonymus
Bu. atr.	Euonymus stropurpureus	Wahoo
Eu. pat.	Euonymus patens	Spreading Euonymus
Eu. rad.	Euonymus radicans	Wintercreeper

1All names used are accepted by Standardized Flant Names (51) except those in parenthesis.

Symbol.	Botanical Name
Ex. gr.	Exochorda grandiflora
For. sus.	Forsythia suspense
For. vir.	Forsythia viridissima
Hib. syr.	Hibiscus syriacus
Hyd. arb.	Hydranges arborescens
Kol. ama.	Kolkwitzia amabilis
Idg. amu.	Ligustrum ammense
Mg. 1b.	Ligustrum 1bota
Idg. reg.	(Idgustrum regelienum)
Lon. fr.	Lonicera fragrantissima
Lon. heck.	(Lonicers heckrotti)
Lon. mas.	Lonicera maacki
Lon. mor.	Lonicera morrowi
Lon. tat.	Lonicera tatarica
Mah. aq.	Mahonia aquifolium
Fh. cor.	Philedelphus coronarius
Ph. gr.	Philadelphus grandiflorus
Pr. to.	Prunus tomentosa
Rha. cath.	Rhamnus cathartica
Rho. kerr.	Rhodotypes kerrieides
Rhu. can.	Rhus canadensis
Rhu. gla.	Rhus glabra
Rhu. typ.	Rhus typhina

Common Pearlbush Weeping Forsythia Greenstom Forsythia Shrub-althea Smooth Hydranges (Beautybush) Amar Privet Ibota Privet Regel Privet Winter Honeysuckle (Goldflame Honey-suckle) Ammr Honeysuckle Morrow Honeysuckle Tartarian Honeysuckle Oregon Hollygrape Sweet Mockorange Big Scentless Hockorange Manking Cherry Common Buckthorn Jetbead. Fragrant Sumac Smooth Sumac Staghorn Sumae Rose-acacia

Cormon Name

Symbol	Botanical Name
Sp. th.	Spiraes thunbergi
Sp. vh.	(Spiraea vanhouttei)
Sym. ch.	(Symphoricarpos chenaulti)
Sym. rac.	Symphoricarpos racemosus
Sym. vul.	Symphoricarpos vulgaris
Syr. ch.	Syrings chinensis
Syr. per.	Syringa persica
Syr. vul.	Syringa vulgaris
Vib. lan.	Viburnum lantana
Vib. op.	Viburnum opulus
Vib. to.	Viburnum tomentesum
Wei. ros.	Weigels roses
Wis. fl.	Wisteria floribunda

Common Name

Thunberg Spirea Vanhoutte Spirea (Chenault Snowberry) Common Snowberry Coralberry Chinese Lilae Persian Lilae Common Lilae Wayfaring-tree European Granberrybush Deublefile Viburnum Pink Weigela Japanese Wisteria

Deciduous Trees

Acer	C831.	Acer campestre	Hedge Maple
Acer	dasy.	Acer dasycarpum (Saccharinum)	Silver Maple (Soft)
Acer	gin.	Acer ginnala	Amar Maple
Acer	pl.	Acer platanoides	Norway Maple
Acer	rub.	Acer rubrum	Red Maple
Acer		Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple
Acer	tat.	Acer tataricum	Tartarian Maple
Aes.	gla.	Aesculus glabra	Ohio Buckeye

Symbol	Botanical Name
Ass. hip.	Aesculus hippocastanum
Celt. mis.	<u>Celtis mississippiensis</u> (<u>laevigata</u>)
Celt. occ.	<u>Celtis</u> <u>occidentalis</u>
Cer. can.	Cercis canadensis
Crat. cord.	Crataegus cordata-
Crat. crus.	Crataegus crusgalli
Crat. mol.	Crataegus mollis
Dio. vir.	Diospyros virginiana
Fr. am.	Fraxinus americana
Fr. lane.	Fraxinus lanceolata (pennsylvanica)
Gink. bil.	Cinkgo biloba
Gled. tri.	Gleditsia tricanthos
Gym. dio.	Gymnocladus dioica (candensis)
Hic. pec.	Hicoria pecan
Jug. nig.	Juglens nigra
Koel. pan.	Koelreuteria paniculata
Lir. tul.	Liriodendron tulipifera
Mor. rub.	Morus rubre
Pl. occ.	Platenus occidentalis
Pop. delt.	Populus deltoides
Pr. ser.	Prunus serotina
Que. alb.	Quercus alba
Que. imb.	Quercus imbricaria

Sugarberry Hackberry American Redbud Washington Hawthorn Cockspur Thorn Downy Hawthorn Coumon Persimmon White Ash Green Ash Maidenhair-tree Common Honeylocust Kentucky Coffeetree

Common Name

Pecen Black Walnut Goldenrain-tree Tuliptree Red Mulberry American Planetree (Sycamore) Southern Cottonwood Black Cherry White Oak Shingle Oak

Symbol	Botanical Name
Que pal.	<u>Quercus</u> palustris
Que. rub.	Quercus rubra
Rob. ps.	Robinia pseudoacaci
Sop. jap.	Sophora japonica
Til. an.	Tilla americana
Ul. am.	Ulmus americana
Ul. cam.	Ulmus campestris
UL. pum.	Ulmus pumila

Common Name

Pin Oak Common Red Oak Common Locust Chinese Scholar tree American Linden American Fim English Elm Dwarf Asiatic Elm

Coniferous Evergreens

Jun.	pf.	Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriana	Pfitzer Juniper
Jun.	tem.	Juniperus sabina temeriscifolia	Temerix Juniper
Jun.	vir.	Juniperus virginiana	Common Red Cedar
Jun.	gla.	Juniperus virginiana glauca	Silver Red Cedar
Pin.	pond.	Pinus ponderosa	Western Yellow Pine
Pin.	str.	Pinus strobus	White Pine
Pin.	syl.	Pinus sylvestris	Scotch Pine

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