

“Never too many parks”: The history of Kansas pleasure grounds (1850-1920)

by

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B.S., Iran University of Science & Technology, 2014
M.S., Iran University of Science & Technology, 2016

AN ABSTRACT OF A DISSERTATION

submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

College of Architecture, Planning and Design

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Manhattan, Kansas

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Abstract

Though nineteenth-century parks, also known as “pleasure grounds,” were seen at the time as an antidote to unhealthy high-density urban living in large cities such as New York City, they were embraced by small towns and communities that experienced none of the challenges associated with big city living. Instead, this study argues that parks were seen as a sophisticated sign of modernity. For example, when the state of Kansas was founded in 1861, despite its politically eventful years of the mid-nineteenth century, its settlers felt a strong sense of responsibility and made great efforts to improve their home by creating pleasure grounds for their communities.

This study investigates the story of shaping and developing the pleasure grounds of Kansas between 1850 to 1920 and the attitudes that people had about them. Results show that it was not only major cities of the state like Topeka and Wichita that developed public parks for their citizens; many smaller Kansas towns also embraced the idea of creating pleasure grounds. Their residents were motivated by a sense of competition and believed that by beautifying their living environments, they could stand out in the region and attract newcomers. Local newspapers, city officials, businesses – most notably railroad companies, property owners and public-spirited citizens were the main advocates for creating and improving parks in Kansas. Leisure activities, playing sports, and community gatherings were the principal activities in the pleasure grounds of Kansas. Though smaller in size compared to their counterparts in major cities of the United States, the design features of the rural pastoral landscapes of Kansas pleasure grounds were very similar to their east-coast peers and included alternating clusters of trees and meadows, meandering paths, and free-form lakes. The concept of the nineteenth-century pleasure grounds was groundbreaking at the time but has continued to be relevant, as is evident in today’s ubiquitous city parks.

Keywords: Kansas; Kansans; Park; Pleasure Ground.

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Approved by:

Major Professor
Anne Beamish

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This study investigates the story of shaping and developing the pleasure grounds of Kansas between 1850 to 1920 and the attitudes that people had about them. Results show that it was not only major cities of the state like Topeka and Wichita that developed public parks for their citizens; many smaller Kansas towns also embraced the idea of creating pleasure grounds. Their residents were motivated by a sense of competition and believed that by beautifying their living environments, they could stand out in the region and attract newcomers. Local newspapers, city officials, businesses – most notably railroad companies, property owners and public-spirited citizens were the main advocates for creating and improving parks in Kansas. Leisure activities, playing sports, and community gatherings were the principal activities in the pleasure grounds of Kansas. Though smaller in size compared to their counterparts in major cities of the United States, the design features of the rural pastoral landscapes of Kansas pleasure grounds were very similar to their east-coast peers and included alternating clusters of trees and meadows, meandering paths, and free-form lakes. The concept of the nineteenth-century pleasure grounds was groundbreaking at the time but has continued to be relevant, as is evident in today’s ubiquitous city parks.

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Acknowledgements

When I was a child, I used to ask my father to tell me about his childhood. The most iconic story was his granny who traded a hen of hers with the nearby village school to enroll him in the first grade. She did so when my dad had already missed one school year because of financial issues. I want to thank that woman whose name I even do not remember but whose generosity led to my father's completion of the graduate school and my siblings and I becoming who we are. That hen was for sure a great deal of what she possessed; however, it was probably not all she had. But I know a woman who has sacrificed all she had for our successes. That woman is my mom, Farahnaz Rezvanfar. She gave up all she could to prioritize her family and always wanted us to give up anything but our goals and dreams.

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Traveling about 7000 miles and not seeing my family for almost four years has been definitely very difficult, but my father had walked the distance between two villages to go to school to realize his granny's dream. And I hope my life would one day appear to my mom and dad as a small piece of a dream.

Dorna Eshrati, March 2020

Dedication

**To Parastoo
She knows why.**

Chapter 1: Introduction

Public open spaces are loci of collective memory, and manifestations of a “deeply held and deeply rooted system of shared beliefs.”¹ Parks along with other urban spaces, such as streets and plazas,² play an important role in strengthening a sense of community.³ Parks have provided political, social, economic, and public health benefits, as well as increasing biodiversity, which have made them an important part of urban and rural history.⁴ Woudstra & Fieldhouse believe that the future of parks depends on acknowledging their past because they can reveal the evolution of community values and their effects on the built environment and vice versa.⁵

Creating public open spaces has a very long history but the first example of what we now consider a public park was the Birkenhead Park in Liverpool, which opened to all social classes in the 1840s. Even though park development has had an eventful history over the past two centuries, the very notion of an urban park has remained consistent over time – it meant setting aside “land or water for recreation of the people.”⁶ Bernard Huet, architect and urbanist, highlights this point by stating that the eighteenth and nineteenth century parks are “still fitting for our times” and represent “a nostalgic longing for Acadia that justifies an autonomous position in the city.”⁷

In America, parks have been an essential part of Americans’ collective memory and national identity.⁸ Euro-Americans’ “desire to bring the new land vestiges of what they considered

¹ David Lowenthal, “The American Scene,” *Geographical Review* 58, no. 1 (1968): 61.

² Eduardo E Lozano, *Community Design and the Culture of Cities: The Crossroad and the Wall* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1990).

³ Ian Convery, Corsane Gerard, and Peter Davis, “Introduction: Making Sense of Place,” in *Making Sense of Place: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, ed. D. J. Timothy (United Kingdom: Boydell & Brewer, 2012), vol. 7, no.1.

⁴ Tridib Banerjee, “The Future of Public Space: Beyond Invented Streets and Reinvented Places,” *Journal of the American Planning Association* 67, no. 1 (2001): 9-24.

⁵ Jan Woudstra and Ken Fieldhouse, *The Regeneration of Public Parks* (London and New York: Garden History Society, Landscape Design Trust, and E & FN Spon, with support from English Heritage, 2000).

⁶ Charles Edward Doell, *Elements of Park and Recreation Administration* (Minneapolis, MN: Burgess Publishing Company, 1964), 3.

⁷ Bernard Huet, “A Park est un parc is een park ist ein Park,” in *Modern Park Design: Recent Trends*, ed. Andreu Arriola (Amsterdam: Thoth, 1993), 28.

⁸ Naomi Stubbs, “Pleasure Gardens of America: Anxieties of National Identity,” in *The Pleasure Garden: From Vauxhall to Coney Island*, ed. Jonathan Conlin (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013), 127-149.

to be civilization” was one of the main leading factors in shaping America’s urban landscape.⁹ They were inspired by the concept of Birkenhead Park – using public money to buy and turn plots of land into municipal parks – and started the American urban public park movement.¹⁰

Doell and Fitzgerald in their book *A Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States* stated that the history of urban park development in the U.S. began with “the early objective of providing a place for peaceful refreshment in natural surroundings [and progressed] to the fulfillment of the entire recreation requirements of the whole individual.”¹¹ The most extensive research on the history of American parks was done by Galen Cranz in the *Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*.¹² Cranz divided the history of American urban parks into four stages: The Pleasure Ground (1850-1900), the Reform Park (1900-1930), the Recreational Facility (1930-1965), and the Open-Space System (1965 and after). Later, Cranz and Boland developed a fifth model and called it Sustainable Parks.¹³

Cranz defined the “pleasure grounds” of the second half of the nineteenth century as “the ideal antidote to the highly artificial American cities.”¹⁴ They were vast landscapes of “alternating trees and meadows, undulating hills, slowly meandering waterways, and broad reflecting pools – an idealized agrarian scene, orderly but without the fussy decorations of architecture, sculpture, or flower beds, where sedate family and church groups could stroll, picnic, listen to concerts, go boating”¹⁵ and where people could enjoy “fresh air . . . and sunshine right in the city to alleviate

⁹ Nancy J. Volkman, “Landscape Architecture on the Prairie: The Work of H. W. S. Cleveland,” in *Kansas Cemeteries in History*, ed. Albert Hamscher (Manhattan, Kansas: KS Publishing, Inc., 2005), 43.

¹⁰ Sam Bass Jr. Warner, “Public Park Inventions: Past and Future,” in *The Once and Future Park*, ed. Herbert Muschamp (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1993), 17.

¹¹ Charles Edward Doell and Gerald B. Fitzgerald, *Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States* (Chicago, IL: The Atlantic Institute, 1954), 41.

¹² Galen Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1982).

¹³ Galen Cranz and Michael Boland, “Defining the Sustainable Park: A Fifth Model for Urban Parks,” *Landscape Journal* 23, no.2 (2004): 102-120.

¹⁴ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*, 24.

¹⁵ Galen Cranz, “Changing Roles of Urban Parks: From Pleasure Garden to Open Space (North America),” *Landscape* 22, no.3 (1978): 9.

the problems of city life.”¹⁶ Schenker added that like today’s parks, the nineteenth-century parks were “soft, absorbent, and green in contrast to the paved, walled, hard surfaces of the city.”¹⁷

Though pleasure grounds were seen at the time as an antidote to unhealthy high-density urban living in cities such as New York City; they were also embraced by small towns and cities that suffered none of the issues of industrialized landscapes, but because they were seen as a necessary sophisticated and cultured communal image of modernity. When the state of Kansas was founded in 1861, despite its politically eventful years of the mid-nineteenth century, its new settlers felt a strong sense of civic responsibility and made great efforts to develop their home by improving their public landscape and pursuing the trend of bringing nature back into cities.¹⁸ Creating parks, or “pleasure grounds,” for their communities became an important part of Kansans’ collective memory. The considerable number of records with the keyword “pleasure ground” found in the historical newspapers of Kansas testifies to the popularity of creating and improving such places in the state¹⁹ (See Appendix A). The number of cities and towns that planned to have a pleasure ground (listed in Appendix B) were “never too many” for Kansas communities. As *The Jewell County Monitor* of Mankato, Kansas stated in an article entitled “Never Too Many Parks:”

Some things are never enjoyed in excess. They never breed regrets. . . whoever heard of a city that learned, as it grew from youth to maturity, that it had too many parks? where is the municipality that is sorry it has so many pleasure grounds for the use of its citizens? was there ever a town which felt that its children enjoyed too

¹⁶ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*, 5.

¹⁷ Heath Schenker, *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2009), 175.

¹⁸ Donald Worster, “John Muir and the Modern Passion for Nature,” *Environmental History* 10, no. 1 (2005): 8-19.

¹⁹ It should be mentioned the large number of records associated with the word pleasure ground in Kansas is, on one hand, a reflection of the popularity of creating and improving such places at the time in the state. On the other hand, it is also due to the Kansas Historical Society’s effort to digitize all the pre-1923 Kansas historical newspapers through the Historical Newspaper Archive website, i.e. newspaper.com. A different number of records associated with pleasure grounds may be obtained when using other databases.

much room for their play, its invalids too many quiet nooks for rest and recuperation, its aged and infirm more than sufficient outdoor space for their special wants?²⁰

The rich history of Kansas public parks is one of the less-explored aspects of Kansas history and a manifestation of the “cultural values” that “persisted through a landscape design tradition in a settlement community.”²¹ This study focused on the history of public parks of the nineteenth century, known as “pleasure grounds,” in the State of Kansas and asked:

Why and how were early parks or pleasure grounds introduced to Kansas communities between 1850 to 1920?

To answer the primary question and meet the research objective, the following secondary questions were investigated:

- **What towns and cities of Kansas undertook these parks?**
- **What were the motivations and who were the advocates of creating parks or pleasure grounds from 1850 to 1920 in those towns?**
- **What characteristics did the pleasure grounds of Kansas have?**

As our greatest responsibility in today’s world of “placelessness” is to “build up, not destroy, our relationship to the natural and built past,”²² this study aims to bring attention to one of the unique aspects of the man-made landscapes of Kansas, which is often thought to be “flat

²⁰ “Never Too Many Parks,” *The Jewell County Monitor*, Mankato, Kansas, February 15, 1918, 7, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/425137001>.

²¹ Cathy Ambler, “A Place Not Entirely of Sadness and Gloom: Oak Hill Cemetery and Rural Cemetery Movement,” in *Kansas Cemeteries in History*, ed. Albert Hamscher (Manhattan, Kansas: KS Publishing, Inc, 2005), 37.

²² Robert A. M. Stern, *Houses* (New York: Monacelli Press, 1997).
William A. Stiles, “The Attack on the City Hall Park,” *Garden and Forest* (May 16, 1888): 11.

and featureless”²³ and neglected due to the stereotypical image of the central agricultural states of the US²⁴ even for the people from these regions²⁵. This study of Kansas historic landscapes seeks to highlight “the spirit of Kansas history” that makes Kansas stand out among all the other diverse and resourceful states of the United States.²⁶

²³ Robert W. Richmond, *Kansas, a Pictorial History* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1992), 1.

²⁴ Dorna Eshrati, “Type Versus Stereotype: An Analysis of International College Students’ Perceptions of US Cities and Public Spaces,” *ArchNet International Journal of Architectural Research* 12, no. 2 (2018): 263-280.

²⁵ Dorna Eshrati and Huston Gibson, “Would You Stay? An Analysis of Attachment to a Fly-over Country,” (2018). Unpublished.

²⁶ Edwin C. Manning, “Kansas in History,” in *Collections of the Kansas Historical Society*, Vol. 12, ed. George Washington Martin, (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1912): 10.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Urban Parks

Definition and Roles

Parks are known as one of the major loci of collective memory²⁷ along with streets and plazas.²⁸ Alan Tate in his book *Great City Parks* considers parks one of the “principal products of landscape architecture.”²⁹ Parks, however, are not uniform. It is a landscape type that landscape architect Julia Czerniak believes to be “hard-to-define”³⁰ because it encompasses a range from “small to large” and “pastoral to paved.”³¹ The word “park” originally derived from the French word *parc* or *parque*. The definitions in the *Merriam-Webster* dictionary (2018) for the word “park” refer to both historic and modern functions of parks. They were formerly “landscapes designed for riding, hunting, and other time-honored amusements enjoyed by the upper class.”³² Today they are known mostly as pieces of “land or water set aside for recreation of the people.”³³

In their book on Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture, Olmsted Jr. and Kimball proposed that

whatever the various meaning of the word *park* – to the cottager of Chaucer’s time
watching the deer over the paling of the manor woods, to the courtier of Louis XIV

²⁷ Maurice Halbwachs, French philosopher and sociologist, considered collective memory as our “social” and “historical” memory that expands beyond the world that each person experienced individually (1980: 50-52). Ron Eyerman, a sociologist, considered collective memory as a temporal map that connects individuals or society through time or space and forms individual identity (2001: 7). Aldo Rossi is among the pioneers who used the term “collective memory” in architectural and urban fields. He believes that the history of city is the collective memory of its inhabitants (1982, 128-131), and considering and respecting memories in urban design can lead to an enhanced sense of place attachment and self-identity for people.

²⁸ Lozano, *Community Design and the Culture of Cities: The Crossroad and the Wall*.

²⁹ Alan Tate, *Great City Parks* (New York and London: Routledge, 2001).

³⁰ “U.S. Census of Population for Kansas. 1860-1980,” The University of Kansas Institute for Policy & Social Research (Lawrence, Kansas: The University of Kansas, 2017): 1.

³¹ Julia Czerniak, “Speculating on Size,” in *Large Parks*, ed. George Hargreaves and James Corner (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2007), 19.

³² Ethan Carr, “Introduction,” in *Public Nature: Scenery, History, and Park Design*, ed. Shaun Eyring and Richard Guy Wilson (Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 2013), 1.

³³ Schenker, *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century*, 177.

³³ Doell, *Elements of Park and Recreation Administration*, 3.

philandering through the broad allées at Versatile. . . to the East side urchin of today grasping at his chance for play in Seward Park – it always suggests to us some of kind of green open space with turf and trees.³⁴

From pieces of land that are colored green on planners' maps³⁵ to places of “uplifting picturesque scenes reminiscent of the then-current understanding of nature, and of art’s role within it,”³⁶ urban parks have brought communities numerous spiritual, aesthetic, physical, ecological, social and economic benefits.³⁷ They have “historically functioned as spaces of social control.”³⁸ Parks have also brought cities “direct incomes and collective wealth”³⁹ by attracting new business and increasing property values, tourism, health, community cohesion, clean water, and clean air.⁴⁰

Alexander Garvin, in his book *Public Parks: The Key to Livable Communities*,⁴¹ stated that the key roles of public parks are to improve personal well-being and public health, incubate a civil society, sustain a livable environment, and provide a framework for development. Julia Czerniak, landscape architect, states that parks, particularly large ones, can function in cities as “social catalysts, ecological agents, and imaginative enterprises.”⁴² Galen Cranz, environmental

³⁴ Frederick Law Jr. Olmsted and Theodora Kimball, *Forty Years of Landscape Architecture: Early Years and Experiences 1822-1903* (New York: Putnam, 1928), 3.

³⁵ Kevin Lynch, “The Openness of Open Space,” in *City Sense and City Design: Writings and Projects of Kevin Lynch*, ed. Tridib Banerjee and Michael Southworth, 413-416 (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1996).

³⁶ David Jacques, “Memory and Value,” in *The Regeneration of Public Parks*, ed. Ken Fieldhouse and Jan Woudstra (New York: Garden History Society, Landscape Design Trust, and E & FN Spon, with support from English Heritage, 2000), 21.

³⁷ Ben Whitaker and Kenneth Browne, *Parks for People* (New York: Winchester Press, 1971).

W. Carson Dean, “Richard Stanhope Pullen and Raleigh’s First Public Park, 1887-1920,” *The North Carolina Historical Review* 75, no.2 (1998): 182.

Hazel Conway, “Parks and People: The Social Functions,” in *The Regeneration of Public Parks*, ed. Ken Fieldhouse and Jan Woudstra (New York: Garden History Society, Landscape Design Trust, and E & FN Spon, with support from English Heritage, 2000), 9-19.

³⁸ Jason Byrne and Jennifer Wolch, “Nature, Race, and Parks: Past Research and Future Directions for Geographic Research,” *Progress in Human Geography* 33, no.6 (2009): 757.

³⁹ Peter Harnik and Ben Welle, *Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System* (San Francisco, California: The Trust for Public Land, 2009), i.

⁴⁰ Jon A. Peterson, *The Birth of City Planning in the United States: 1840-1917* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003).

Harnik and Welle, *Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System*.

⁴¹ Alexander Garvin, *Public Parks: The Key to Livable Communities* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2011).

⁴² Julia Czerniak, “Legibility and Resilience,” in *Large Parks*, ed. George Hargreaves and James Corner (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2007), 241-244.

sociologist, believes that “those with an interest in the character of urban life should seize on parks as one of the vehicles for the realization of their particular visions.”⁴³ Frederick Law Olmsted, a pioneer of American park movement, also defined park as “a work of art, designed to produce certain effects upon the minds of men.”⁴⁴

The effect of parks is not automatically positive. Peter Harnik, in his book *Urban Green Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities*, describes drawbacks that a lack of park maintenance can bring for communities. He states that it is not only the design “standards” but also the “politics” in managing parks that make great parks and guarantee their survival through time.⁴⁵ And lacking either of them – design standards or proper management – may turn parks to unsafe and unhealthy places for a city. In *The Death and Life of the Great American Cities*, Jane Jacobs, who was an advocate of urban parks herself, referred to the two-sided story of parks:

Parks are volatile places. They tend to run to extremes of popularity and unpopularity. The behavior is far from simple. They can be delightful features of city districts, and economic assets to their surrounding as well, but pitifully few show this staying power. For every Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia, or Rockefeller Plaza or Washington Square in New York, or Boston Common, or their loved equivalents in other cities, there are dozens of dispirited city vacuums called parks, eaten around with decay, little used, unloved.⁴⁶

⁴³ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*, 246.

⁴⁴ Frederick Law Olmsted, *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted. Supplemental Series, Volume 1: Writing on Public Spaces, Parkways, and Park Systems* (Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University, 1997), 155.

⁴⁵ Peter Harnik, *Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2010), 14.

⁴⁶ Jane Jacobs, *The death and life of great American cities* (New York: Random House, 1961), 89.

For many, parks are an important part of contemporary urban life that solve numerous urban issues.⁴⁷ But not all agree. For example, landscape architect Adriaan Geuze rejects the need for parks in the future because he believes that in some contexts like the Dutch landscape “there is absolutely no need” for creating “the illusions of nature” or “parks” anymore because all the nineteenth-century problems have been solved and a new type of city has been created. For Geuze, the “park and greenery have become worn-out clichés” and the contemporary era needs to respond to its “new order” in other ways.⁴⁸

History of Parks

Ancient Egyptians and Romans created public fora and marketplaces in their cities. The landowning aristocracy system did not provide ordinary people the opportunity to enjoy their time freely in designed green spaces. However, setting aside publicly-owned open spaces within the city for the use of all inhabitants became a common practice as the outcome of industrialization and capitalism in the earlier half of the nineteenth century⁴⁹ when natural and pastoral land were no longer so near at hand⁵⁰.

Before that, park creation was introduced as “sophisticated and robust” in the eighteenth century in western culture.⁵¹ Danish-born Christian Cay Lorenz Hirschfeld (1742-1792), Professor of Philosophy and Aesthetics at Kiel University and also acclaimed as father of landscape garden art, wrote about the provision of public parks in late eighteenth century published in the five-volume *Theory of Garden Art (Theorie der Gartenkunst)* between 1779 and 1785. His doctrines

⁴⁷ Huet, “A Park est un parc is een park ist ein Park,” 28.

⁴⁸ Adriaan Geuze, “Moving Beyond Drawing,” in *Modern Park Design: Recent Trends*, ed. Andreu Arriola (Amsterdam: Thoth, 1993), 37-38.

⁴⁹ Morton White and Lucia White, “The American Intellectual Versus the American City,” *Daedalus* 90, no.1 (1961): 166-179.

⁵⁰ Edwin Robert Seligman and Alvin Saunders Johnson, *Encyclopedia of Social Sciences* (London: Macmillan Company, 1993). Schenker, *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century*.

⁵¹ Harnik, *Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities*, 8.

were adopted by Peter Joseph Lenné (1789-1866), one of the most significant German landscape architects of the nineteenth century and the principal designer of the Tiergarten, Berlin's most popular inner-city park.⁵²

Humphry Repton (1752-1818), whose work was interpreted by John Nash (1752-1835) at Regent's and St James's Parks in London and adapted by Joseph Paxton (1803-1865) at Birkenhead Park in Liverpool in 1845, developed the English pastoral urban park and inspired the public park movement which led to the creation of numerous urban parks in the nineteenth century.⁵³ These new parks were places where the general public could take pleasure without "the attraction of hunting or of conversation . . . This pleasure was perceived to be, in some degree, related to the scenery, and in some degree to the peculiar manner of appreciation which occurred in them."⁵⁴

In America, cities were one of the major topics discussed by nineteenth century intellectuals. White and White in their paper, *The American Intellectuals Versus the American Cities*,⁵⁵ reviewed the very different viewpoints about the decaying state of the nineteenth century American cities. Starting early in the century, nature was admired by the Romanticists and Transcendentalists who envisioned reintroducing nature into the city through pastoral public parks, becoming what Leo Marx called the most important "cultural symbol" of the nineteenth century American urban landscape.⁵⁶

The pastoral public park changed American urban life in the nineteenth century both physically and socially by adding non-productive green spaces to cities and allocating large tracts

⁵² Giselbert Hinz, "Peter Joseph Lenné, Landscape Architect and Urban Planner," *Landscape Planning* 7, no.1 (1980): 57-73.

⁵³ Stephen Anderton, *Lives of the Great Gardeners* (London: Thames & Hudson Ltd., 2016).

⁵⁴ John Rauch, *Public Parks: Their Effects upon the Moral, Physical and Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of Large Cities: With Special Reference to the City of Chicago* (Chicago, Illinois: S.C. Griggs & Company, 1869), 12.

⁵⁵ White and White, "The American Intellectual Versus the American City," 166-179.

⁵⁶ Leo Marx, *The Machine in the Garden Technology and the Pastoral Ideal in America* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1964).

of land for public use regardless of class.⁵⁷ The pastoral landscape style (Figure 1) was in complete contrast to the iron-grid formula of American town planning⁵⁸ in the nineteenth century. It offered all urban residents the opportunity to “put the city behind him and out of his sight and go where he will be under the undisturbed influence of pleasing natural scenery.”⁵⁹



Figure 1- *Pastoral Landscape*, c. 1854-1861, Painting by Asher Brown Durand. Oil on Canvas. Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The United States Urban Park Movement

Whether seen as an element to improve individual and communal lives or an economic booster, “parks have been instrumental in the development of urban America.”⁶⁰ They also have been an essential part of Americans’ collective memory and national identity⁶¹ throughout US history. The

⁵⁷ Tate, *Great City Parks*, 1.

⁵⁸ Peterson, *The Birth of City Planning in the United States: 1840-1917*.

⁵⁹ Doell and Fitzgerald, *Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States*, 33.

⁶⁰ Dean, “Richard Stanhope Pullen and Raleigh's First Public Park, 1887-1920,” 161.

⁶¹ Stubbs, “Pleasure Gardens of America: Anxieties of National Identity,” 127-149.

Boston Common, designated as a public open space in 1634, eventually became a recognizable “park” 200 years later. A total of fourteen parks were created before 1800 in the largest cities of the U.S.,⁶² including the National Mall in Washington, DC, in 1790.⁶³ Today parks encompass a diverse range of scale from National Parks to small community playgrounds.⁶⁴ Public parks are now considered an integral element of urban planning; however, they were not seen as a necessity

⁶² These are the oldest U.S. city parks within the 100 largest cities. The date refers to the year of initial creation or acquisition; in the case of parks whose names have changed, the modern name is given (Harnik, McCabe & Hiple, 2017: 32) It should be mentioned that some of these spaces were not originally designed and transform into what we know as parks much later:

1. Boston Common (Boston 1634)
2. Military Park (Newark 1667)
3. Washington Park (Newark 1669)
4. Franklin, Logan, Rittenhouse, Washington Squares (Philadelphia 1682)
5. Jackson Square (New Orleans 1721; it should be noted that The Territory of Orleans was an organized incorporated territory of the United States that existed from October 1, 1804, until April 30, 1812, when it was admitted to the Union as the State of Louisiana.)
6. San Pedro Springs Park (San Antonio 1729; it should be noted that San Antonio became a part of the U.S. in the first half of the nineteenth century)
7. Main Plaza (San Antonio 1731)
8. Bowling Green (New York City 1733)
9. Columbus, Pittman-Sullivan Parks (San Antonio 1733)
10. El Pueblo De Los Angeles Historical Monument (Los Angeles 1781; Los Angeles and the rest of California became part of the United States in 1848.)
11. National Mall (Washington, D.C. 1791)
12. Garfield Park, Lafayette Square (Washington, D.C. 1792)
13. Public Square, Settlers Landing Park (Cleveland 1796)
14. Duane Park (New York City 1797)

Other parks created in the nineteenth century in the U.S. are:

15. Hamilton, Paulus Hook Park (Jersey City 1804)
16. Tribeca Park (New York City 1810)
17. Gravois, Laclede, Mount Pleasant Parks (St. Louis 1812)
18. Battle Monument, Mount Vernon Square Park (Baltimore 1815)
19. Centennial Regional Park (Santa Ana 1816)
20. Jackson Place Park (St. Louis 1816)
21. Brinkley Park, Colonial Park, Confederate Park, Court Square (Memphis 1819)
22. Unity Island (Buffalo 1823)
23. Broderick Park (Buffalo 1825)
24. Ahearn Park (New York City 1825)
25. Franklin Square, Patterson Parks (Baltimore 1827)
26. Washington Square Park (New York City 1827)
27. Cooper Triangle (New York City 1828)
28. Market Square (Buffalo 1830)
29. Abingdon Square (New York City 1831)
30. Palmer Park New (Orleans 1833)
31. Union Square Park (New York City 1833)

⁶³ Peter Harnik, Charlie McCabe, and Alexandra Hiple, *City Park Facts. San Francisco* (California: The Trust for Public Land, 2017), 32.

⁶⁴ Mohammad Mehdi Sadeghian and Zhirayr Vardanyan, “A Brief Review on Urban Park History Classification and Function,” *International Journal of Scientific & Technology Research* 4, no.8 (2015): 120-124.

in early American cities. British landscape designer and theorist, John Loudon in 1834 predicted that the US democratic culture would not lead to creating large numbers of public parks:

Landscape gardening is practiced in the United States on a comparatively limited scale; because in a country where all men have equal rights, and where every man, however humble, has a house and a garden of his own, it is not likely that there should be many large parks. The only splendid examples of parks and hot-house gardening that, we trust, will ever be found in the United States and ultimately in every country are such that will be formed by towns, villages, or other communities, for the joint use and enjoyment of all inhabitants or members.⁶⁵

In the end, Loudon's prediction was incorrect because later in the nineteenth century, the U.S. was inspired by its democratic culture to develop the notion of national and urban park systems. Therefore, numerous parks were shaped in American cities and towns. "The identification of nature as a refuge removed from the negative social and environmental externalities accompanying industrial production is a common feature of American landscape ideology."⁶⁶

⁶⁵ John Claudius Loudon, *An Encyclopaedia of Gardening* (London: Longman, 1835), 401.

⁶⁶ Michael Heiman, "Civilization over Nature," in *Major Problems in American Environmental History: Documents and Essays*, ed. Carolyn Merchant (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993), 91.

The history of U.S. urban parks has mostly focused on large cities such as New York, Boston and Chicago. Authors⁶⁷ who have written about individual parks usually discussed parks of larger cities. New York City and Central Park have received the most attention of all.⁶⁸

The first comprehensive history of U.S. parks was *Recreation for Community Living*, and a result of a national workshop in 1952 on recreation held in Jackson's Mill, West Virginia. It concluded that there was a need to produce a separate book on the history of parks in the U.S. Consequently, in 1954 Doell and Fitzgerald wrote *A Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States* and briefly discussed park design from the Greeks to the early 1950s as well as the history of recreation in the U.S.⁶⁹ They connected the origin of park design in the U.S. to the open spaces such as plazas, commons, squares that had been included in the plans of early colonial towns like Savannah, Georgia and developed by General James Oglethorpe in the eighteenth century. Even as early as 1682, William Penn had laid out Philadelphia according to a regular plan with square ornamental plots though those plots were not used as such until the nineteenth century.⁷⁰ They also investigated the roots of large park creation in the second half of the nineteenth century such as Central Park design by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.

⁶⁷ Roy Rosenzweig and Elizabeth Blackmar, *The Park and the People: A History of Central Park* (Ithaca, NY and London: Cornell University Press, 1992);

Julia Sniderman Bachrach, *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago's Parks. Placitas* (Chicago: Center for American Places, 2001);

Tate, *Great City Parks*;

Sara Cedar Miller, *Central Park, an American Masterpiece: A Comprehensive History of the Nation's First Urban Park* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2003);

Francis R. Kowsky, *The Best Planned City in the World: Olmsted, Vaux, and the Buffalo Park System* (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press and Library of American Landscape History, 2013); and

Elizabeth Rogers, *Saving Central Park: A History and a Memoir* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2018).

⁶⁸ George F. Chadwick, *The Park and the Town: Public Landscape in the nineteenth and 20th Centuries* (London: F. A. Praeger, 1966).

Geoffrey Jellicoe, and Susan Jellicoe, *The Landscape of Man: Shaping the Environment from Prehistory to the Present Day* (London: Thames & Hudson, 1995).

Schenker, *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century*.

⁶⁹ Cranz and Boland, "Defining the Sustainable Park: A Fifth Model for Urban Parks."

⁷⁰ Elizabeth Milroy, *The Grid and the River: Philadelphia's Green Places, 1682–1876* (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2016).

One of the most extensive research on the history of American parks was done by Galen Cranz in the *Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*.⁷¹ Cranz divided the history of American urban parks into four stages: The Pleasure Ground (1850-1900), the Reform Park (1900-1930), the Recreational Facility (1930-1965), and the Open-Space System (1965 and after). Later, Cranz and Boland developed a fifth model and called it Sustainable Parks.⁷² Cranz's work focused on the motivation, causes, and characteristics of each era of park design in the US and also how each phase evolved into the next one.

Connecting to nature and creating public urban parks became one of the most important movements in 19th and 20th American landscape history and a consequence of “the magnitude and nature of industrial expansion and its environmental crisis.”⁷³ A lack of open space in dense cities led to bringing the country and nature into the city, first in the form of rural cemeteries and later with public parks.⁷⁴ “Pleasure grounds,” the public parks of the second half of nineteenth century America, provided urban residents with fresh air, meadows, and lakes as an antidote to the problems of city life.⁷⁵ Landscape historian, Marie Luise Schroeter Gothein called this period of American landscape history “the park era.”⁷⁶ The nineteenth-century pleasure ground movement, which began with New York's Central Park and quickly followed by other large cities such as Chicago, Boston, and Philadelphia,⁷⁷ considerably changed the appearance of public urban landscape in North America. Even American settlers in the newly established states tried to integrate their own cultural constructs into their communities by developing urban public parks.

⁷¹ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*.

⁷² Cranz and Boland, “Defining the Sustainable Park: A Fifth Model for Urban Parks,” 102-120.

⁷³ Martin V. Melosi, “Environmental Crisis in the City: The Relationship Between Industrialization and Urban Pollution,” in *Pollution and Reform in American Cities, 1870-1930* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1980), 4.

⁷⁴ Dean, “Richard Stanhope Pullen and Raleigh's First Public Park, 1887-1920,” 161.

Clemens M Steenbergen, and Wouter Reh, *Metropolitan Landscape Architecture: Urban Parks and Landscapes* (Bussum, The Netherlands: Thoth, 2011).

⁷⁵ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*.

⁷⁶ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*, 428.

⁷⁷ Dean, “Richard Stanhope Pullen and Raleigh's First Public Park, 1887-1920,” 161.

Though intended for all, because pleasure grounds were usually located on the edge of cities, they were sometimes not accessible enough for the working-class residents.⁷⁸ Consequently, small park advocates wanted the city to establish parks on a few square blocks in the inner city. Eventually, this movement merged with those advocating for children's playgrounds and resulted in the "Reform Park" with special play equipment for children. Later, the Great Depression led to advocating for machine-like efficiency. Therefore, in the context of fighting for economic and political hegemony, a new type of parks called "Recreational Facility" was created. The new "facilities" and no longer really parks were hoped to channel disruptive energies of the public into constructive recreational "activities." In the mid-1960s there was a new attitude that recreation can potentially happen in every urban open spaces and thus created the "Open Space System."⁷⁹

Even though each era had its own distinctive characteristics, each of the models "grew out of an effort to solve urban problems arising from the twin processes of industrialization and urbanization; and therefore, are deliberate mechanism of social control."⁸⁰ Doell and Fitzgerald argued that the history of urban park development in the U.S.

has broadened the arena from merely Central Park in New York to the entire country; from the design for one piece of property to the design of the whole systems of recreation areas; from the planning of parks for only cities to the planning of parks for the metropolitan areas co-ordinated with the plans of the state and the nation; from the early objective of providing a place for peaceful refreshment in natural surroundings to the fulfillment of the entire recreation requirements of the whole individual.⁸¹

⁷⁸ Cranz and Boland, "Defining the Sustainable Park: A Fifth Model for Urban Parks," 102-120.

⁷⁹ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*.

⁸⁰ Cranz, "Changing Roles of Urban Parks: From Pleasure Garden to Open Space (North America)," 9.

⁸¹ Doell and Fitzgerald, *Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States*, 41.

To summarize, the idea of using public money to buy and turn plot plots of land into municipal parks was core to the American park movement,⁸² which was mainly a response to the polluted and rapidly growing cities with crowded tenements, dangerous factory life, epidemic disease, and smoke.⁸³ Parks were intended to provide residents of dense cities “freedom in a limited space”⁸⁴ and make cities a healthier place to live both physically and mentally⁸⁵.

The United States Pleasure Grounds

The word “pleasure” relates to the “short-range pursuits of happiness.”⁸⁶ It comes from Old French *plesir*, also *plaisir* meaning enjoyment, delight, desire. The *Merriam-Webster* dictionary (2018) defines *pleasure* as “a state of gratification” and “a source of delight or joy.” From the earliest of time, people have created private and public landscapes as “external sources” of delight, joy, and happiness because “a pleasing landscape or a bright sunshine exhilarates people’s spirits.”⁸⁷

The term *pleasure ground* or *garden* has had three different meanings in landscape architecture.⁸⁸ Firstly, it referred to private gardens associated with residential estates of the privileged class of England in the 17th century.⁸⁹ Secondly, it was associated with outdoor entertainment venues designed for the general public in an urban or exurban setting. Lastly, it was

⁸² Warner, “Public Park Inventions: Past and Future,” 17.

⁸³ Setha M. Low, Dana Taplin, and Suzanne Scheld, *Rethinking Urban Parks: Public Space and Cultural Diversity* (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2004), 20.

⁸⁴ Whitaker and Browne, *Parks for People*, 9.

⁸⁵ Dean, “Richard Stanhope Pullen and Raleigh’s First Public Park, 1887-1920,” 161.

⁸⁶ Wayne Davis, “Pleasure and Happiness, Philosophical Studies: An International Journal for Philosophy,” *Analytic Tradition* 39, no.3 (1981): 308.

⁸⁷ Rauch, *Public Parks: Their Effects upon the Moral, Physical and Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of Large Cities: With Special Reference to the City of Chicago*, 7-8.

⁸⁸ Lake Douglas, “Certain Pleasures, Ambiguous Grounds: The Etymology and Evolution of the Pleasure Garden,” *Journal of Landscape Architecture* 8, no.1 (2013): 48-53.

⁸⁹ Mark Laird, *The Flowering of the Landscape Garden: English Pleasure Grounds, 1720-1800* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999).

Douglas, “Certain Pleasures, Ambiguous Grounds: The Etymology and Evolution of the Pleasure Garden,” 48.

known as the most popular type of American public park in the second half of the nineteenth century.⁹⁰

In this study “pleasure ground” refers to nineteenth-century public parks. Though some attribute the name to Cranz in her 1982 book *The Politics of Park Design*,⁹¹ the newspapers of the era show that the term was widely used to refer to American public parks. Cranz defined pleasure grounds as “the ideal antidote to the highly artificial American cities.”⁹² They were vast landscapes of:

alternating trees and meadows, undulating hills, slowly meandering waterways, and broad reflecting pools – an idealized agrarian scene, orderly but without the fussy decorations of architecture, sculpture, or flower beds, where sedate family and church groups could stroll, picnic, listen to concerts, go boating”⁹³ and where they can enjoy “fresh air . . . and sunshine right in the city to alleviate the problems of city life.”⁹⁴

John H. Rauch, in his 1869 book *Public Parks: Their Effects Upon the Moral, Physical and Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of Large Cities*, similarly defined pleasure grounds of the nineteenth century. They were:

emphatically the people’s garden – places to which the overtasked laborer and machine of the overcrowded city can, with his wife and children, resort to breathe the breath of God’s pure air, inhale the odors of fresh, blooming flowers, and enjoy

⁹⁰ Douglas, “Certain Pleasures, Ambiguous Grounds: The Etymology and Evolution of the Pleasure Garden,” 48.

⁹¹ Douglas, “Certain Pleasures, Ambiguous Grounds: The Etymology and Evolution of the Pleasure Garden,” 51.

⁹² Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*, 24.

⁹³ Cranz, “Changing Roles of Urban Parks: From Pleasure Garden to Open Space (North America),” 9.

⁹⁴ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*, 5.

the pleasures of a rural retreat on a larger scale . . . than in the gardens created by mere private opulence.⁹⁵

Tate also states that pleasure grounds were based on “the principal of excluding the surrounding city as far as possible and creating balanced compositions of water, pasture and woodland.”⁹⁶ Doell and Fitzgerald in their book, *A Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States*, highlighted the importance of the contrasting landscape and scenery of public parks with cityscapes of the nineteenth century by calling them “landscape parks” that offered “relief to workers confined for long hours in buildings with poor lighting and ventilation.”⁹⁷

Heath Massey Schenker in his book *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century* associated the inclusion of the working class in social and civic activities to the increasing popularity of melodramas in theater⁹⁸ in the same period that led to the creation of new and more public places such as theaters, restaurants, shops and parks.⁹⁹ He argues that public parks were the manifestations of melodramatic imagination¹⁰⁰ in the nineteenth century landscape and found striking parallels between nineteenth-century pleasure grounds and theatrical melodramas. Both “were intended as popular, morally edifying forms of entertainment for the people. . . Both theatrical melodramas and public parks were essentially optimistic in outlook and predicated on a belief in the power of positive influences and role models. Both appealed to the

⁹⁵ Rauch, *Public Parks: Their Effects upon the Moral, Physical and Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of Large Cities: With Special Reference to the City of Chicago*, 6.

⁹⁶ Tate, *Great City Parks*, 195.

⁹⁷ Doell and Fitzgerald, *Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States*, 5.

⁹⁸ René-Charles Guilbert de Pixérécourt, the father of melodrama, believed that theater could not be only a popular form of entertainment, but a means to instruct an emerging middle class in the morals, mores, habits, and manners that was necessary for stability and prosperity of the France post-revolutionary society (Marcoux, 1992).

J. P. Marcoux, *Guilbert De Pixérécourt: French Melodrama in the Early Nineteenth Century* (New York: Peter Lang, 1992).

⁹⁹ Schenker, *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century*, 144.

¹⁰⁰ Peter Brooks, literary critic, in his book *Melodramatic Imagination*, stated that the nineteenth century melodrama was a “mode of conception and expression, a certain fictional system for making sense of experience, a semantic field of force” that affected the nineteenth century culture in numerous ways (Brooks, 1976: xiii)

Peter Brooks, *The Melodramatic Imagination: Balzac, Henry James, Melodrama, and the Mode of Excess* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976), xiii.

senses and aimed to arouse positive emotions, thus serving as a force for moral improvement. Like melodramas in theaters, parks were conceived, at least rhetorically, to span social boundaries.”¹⁰¹

Elizabeth K. Meyer, landscape architect, described the intention of spending time in the nineteenth century large parks as:

Opening up to the psychological and therapeutic effects of scenery, recognizing and empathizing with others, and reinforcing those bonds in relationship to the American landscape. This shared landscape was a visual and spatial register of natural beauty, abundant resources, productivity, regional pride, and national exceptionalism. Its presence in the city reinforced a sense of community and citizenship.¹⁰²

Pleasure grounds were not entirely passive. Later in the nineteenth century, “unstructured almost exclusively outdoor activities” like “racing, galloping and jumping, polo playing, bicycle riding, merry-go-round, toboggan sliding, coasting on rinks, watching shows such as circuses and shooting matches, tennis and croquets, baseball and lacrosse, military maneuvers, and mass meetings” became core park activities. They were intended to create a balance between indoor work hours and leisure time but also “stimulate and exercise the unused part of mind” in daily routine activities.¹⁰³ Not all activities and behaviors were acceptable in pleasure grounds. Some were banned including alcohol consumption, raucous music, dancing and gambling.¹⁰⁴

Originally pleasure grounds were large and located on the outskirts of the city to create the sense of being away from urban life and also because property values were significantly lower on

¹⁰¹ Schenker, *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century*, 146-147.

¹⁰² Elizabeth K Meyer, “Uncertain Parks: Disturbed Sites, Citizens, and Risk Society,” in *Large Parks*, ed. Julia Czerniak, George Hargreaves, and James Corner (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2007), 61.

¹⁰³ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*, 7-8.

¹⁰⁴ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*.

the edge of cities. Therefore, along with health reformers and transcendentalists, real estate stakeholders were advocates for pleasure grounds due to their future potential economic impact on the surrounding areas. The grounds' architectural elements consisted mostly of elaborate entrance gates, belvederes and terraces, which ranged from rustic to neoclassical styles.¹⁰⁵ Botanical and exotic plantings were sometimes seen in early public parks when climate permitted; however, they were more common in private gardens. There were scarcely any flowers, except for stiff carpet-beds¹⁰⁶ for a fairly long time in public parks.¹⁰⁷

Pleasure grounds, with their pastoral landscape, became the place to enjoy balanced material and spiritual pleasure in large cities. Along with balancing life and spiritual needs, contact with nature also had positive impacts on public health since green spaces were considered the “lungs” of cities. These parks also realized social justice because all classes were welcome. Designers who were influential park designers of the nineteenth century repeatedly indicated the importance of being in touch with nature in cities. Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture, highlighted its importance in this way:

occasional contemplation of natural scenes of an impressive character, particularly if this contemplation occurs in connection with relief from ordinary cares, change of air and change of habits, is favorable to the health and vigor of their intellect beyond any other conditions which can be offered them, that it not only gives pleasure for the time being out increases the subsequent capacity for happiness and the means of securing happiness.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁵ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*.

¹⁰⁶ Carpet-bed refers to a patterned arrangement of low or clipped herbaceous and usually varicolored foliage plants.

¹⁰⁷ Doell and Fitzgerald, *Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States*, 21.

¹⁰⁸ Frederick Law Olmsted, “Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove,” *Landscape Architecture* 43 (1952): 17.

Charles Eliot, landscape architect and son of the president of Harvard University, also argued for bringing the country into the city:

The occasionally so pressing want of quiet and peculiar refreshment which comes from contemplation of scenery – the want of which the rich satisfy by fleeing from town at certain seasons, but which the poor (who are trespassers in the country) can seldom fill – is only to be met by the country park.¹⁰⁹

William A. Stiles wrote an editorial in May 1888 in one of the first issues of *Garden and Forest* and stated that:

breathing spaces in a city is quite as essential to the mental, moral and physical health of its people as building space, and . . . the very best use to which a certain portion of its territory can be put, is to cover it with greensward and keep building off it.¹¹⁰

Pleasure grounds reintroduced the soft “nostalgic visions of a simple life, old-fashioned virtue, direct contact with soil, and similar aspects characterized with rural past” into the dense concrete life of cities.¹¹¹ Consequently, urban living necessitated to the creation of numerous pleasure grounds in the United States. Despite the fact that Central Park became the model for pleasure grounds throughout North America, they were manifested differently in terms of design, uses, and associations.¹¹² Therefore, as John Dixon Hunt, landscape architecture historian and

¹⁰⁹ Charles Eliot, “Parks and Squares of the United States Cities,” *Garden and Forest* (October 1888): 412.

¹¹⁰ Stiles, “The Attack on the City Hall Park,” 135.

¹¹¹ Shen Hou, “Garden and Forest: A Forgotten Magazine and the Urban Roots of American Environmentalism,” *Environmental History* 17, no. 4 (2012): 824.

¹¹² John Dixon Hunt, “The Influence of Anxiety, Keeping Europe in the Picture in North American Landscape,” in *Public Nature: Scenery, History, and Park Design*, ed. Ethan Carr, Shaun Eyring, and Richard Guy Wilson (Charlottesville, Virginia and London: University of Virginia Press, 2013), 23-24.

theorist, stated: “by the third quarter of the nineteenth century, there was no absolute idea of what any American park should look like or how it should perform: landscapes were perceived, experienced, or designed vis-à-vis other places.”¹¹³

The Promoters and Precedents of U.S. Pleasure Grounds

Appreciation of Wilderness and Civilization in the Pioneering Era

European promoters of the New World discovery and colonization advertised America’s landscape as the “second Eden,” however, after their arrival in the 17th century, newcomers soon understood that “the American nature – referred to as wilderness by them – was not the so-called “paradise.” “Wilderness not only frustrated the pioneers physically but also acquired significance as a dark and sinister symbol. . . civilizing the New World meant enlightening darkness, ordering chaos, and changing evil to good.”¹¹⁴

For most of their history, early Euro-American settlers considered wilderness “a moral and physical wasteland” and the only proper behavior toward it was only to control and exploit it “in the name of progress, civilization, and Christianity.”¹¹⁵ Consequently, they “subdued” nature and “reduced the land to fruitful subjection.”¹¹⁶ Alexis de Tocqueville explained in his 1831 *Journey to America* how the frontiersmen of Michigan Territory were shocked by his desire to travel for “pleasure” into the novel forest and explore the wilderness. He reported that “living in the wilds, [the pioneer] only prizes the works of man.”¹¹⁷ He compared the Europeans’ perspective toward America’s wilderness to that of Americans in *Democracy in America* (1945):

¹¹³ Hunt, “The Influence of Anxiety, Keeping Europe in the Picture in North American Landscape,” 24.

¹¹⁴ Roderick Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967), 24-26.

¹¹⁵ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 31 & xv.

¹¹⁶ George Cary Eggleston, *Our First Century* (New York: A.S. Barnes & Company, 1905), 255.

¹¹⁷ Alexis de Tocqueville, *Journey to America* (New Haven: Yale University, 1960), 335.

In Europe, people talk a great deal of the wilds of America, but the Americans themselves never think about them; they are insensible to the wonders of inanimate nature and they may be said not to perceive the mighty forests that surround them till they fall beneath the hatchet. Their eyes are fixed upon another sight . . . the march cross these wilds, draining swamps, turning the course of rivers, peopling solitudes, and subduing nature.¹¹⁸

On the frontier, “wild country had only value as potential civilization.” However, wilderness later attracted attention not because of its “wildness” but because it resembled English pastoral countryside to New Englanders.¹¹⁹ The concept of the Sublime, an aesthetic quality in nature distinct from “beauty,” was first popularized in the eighteenth century with *Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful* by Edmund Burke (first published in 1757) and Immanuel Kant’s *Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and the Sublime* (first published in 1763).¹²⁰ Burke based his definition of the sublime on our ideas about “natural power,” which induces “astonishment” and “terror”¹²¹ (Figure 2).

¹¹⁸ Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, ed. Philips Bradley (New York: A.A. Knopf, 1945), 74.

¹¹⁹ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 33.

¹²⁰ Immanuel Kant, *Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and the Sublime* (London : University of California Press, 2003).

¹²¹ Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Inquiry into Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1757) Part III, Section V.



Figure 2- *The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, 1872*, Painting by Thomas Moran(1837-1926). Oil on Canvas Mounted on Aluminum, 84" x 144.25". U.S. Department of the Interior Museum, INTR 03001. Artists such as Thomas Moran captured the sublimity of the newly-discovered West.

In the eighteenth century, admiration for the aesthetic of sublimity led to a greater respect for uncivilized regions and wild nature. Natural grandeur beauty began to be positively associated with God's influence rather than darkness of Satan. The untouched nature was praised spiritually versus the man-made context of cities and rural countryside where "man's work superimposed on those of God."¹²²

Beginning in the nineteenth century, partially as a reaction to the Industrial Revolution, Romanticism became popular because of its emphasis on emotion and individualism as well as the glorification of the past and nature. Romanticism argued that "the natural world should be perceived subjectively, rather than rationally."¹²³ By the 1840s, escaping cities and experiencing

¹²² Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 45-46.

¹²³ Philip Pregill, and Nancy Volkman, *Landscapes in History: Design and Planning in the Eastern and Western Traditions* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1999), 416.

the wilderness became a common practice as well as a genre of literature writers.¹²⁴ “Rural Enjoyment,” and *Notes made during an Excursion to the Highlands of New Hampshire and Lake Winnipiseogee*, and *Journey into Wilderness; an Army Surgeon's Account of Life in Camp and Field during the Creek and Seminole Wars, 1836-1838* are examples of writings on appreciation of the wilderness by authors who lived in large cities of the eastern U.S.¹²⁵ Joel T. Headley, author and reporter for *New York Tribune*, asserted that there was “enhancement” in finding wilderness escape from “the strifes of men and the discords of life.”¹²⁶

Because America’s wilderness had no counterparts in the Old World; it soon became an asset. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the wilderness was recognized as a cultural and moral resource and a basis for American’s national self-esteem. It was the wilderness that made America’s heritage – nature – distinct. Though Romanticism changed the old negative assumptions about the American wilderness into more favorable attitudes, it did not entirely eliminate the instinctive fear of a wilderness condition.¹²⁷

Until about the mid-nineteenth century, wilderness had been framed in terms of Romanticism. Henry David Thoreau, American philosopher and essayist, brought attention to the fact that “in wilderness is the preservation of the World.”¹²⁸ Thoreau was a leader in American transcendentalism¹²⁹ who suggested that the existence of reality in something higher than physical. Transcendentalists separated the “higher realm of spiritual truth” including the natural objects from “the lower one of material objects.”¹³⁰ Despite being rooted in the material world, souls give

¹²⁴ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 60.

¹²⁵ W. H. Herbert, and A. D. Paterson, “Rural Enjoyment,” *The American Monthly Magazine* 1, no.6 (1833): 397.

¹²⁶ Joel Tyler Headley, *The Adirondack, Or Life in the Woods* (New York: Baker and Scribner, 1849), 45.

¹²⁷ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 60-74.

¹²⁸ Henry David Thoreau, *Walking in Excursions: The Writing of Henry David Thoreau* (Boston, MA: Ticknor and Fields, 1893), 275.

¹²⁹ Transcendentalism is an American literary, political, and philosophical movement of the early nineteenth century, promoted by Ralph Waldo Emerson. In his first essay *Nature*, first published in 1836, Emerson under the influence of English Romanticism put forth the foundation of transcendentalism, a belief system that espouses a non-traditional appreciation of nature.

¹³⁰ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 85.

human beings the potential to transcend their conditions¹³¹ by “looking through and beyond Nature” and not by just “looking at her.”¹³² In transcendentalism, the best place to find the spiritual truth was in the “wilderness” environment which was so in contrast to that of city life.¹³³ For transcendentalists, no danger was associated with the wilderness.¹³⁴

Unlike the Romanticist who simply appreciated wilderness, transcendentalists like Thoreau were seeking “values” in the wilderness, its “beneficial effect on thought,” and an individual’s “inward journey.”¹³⁵ Although Thoreau praised the wilderness in his early years, in 1846 when he was about thirty years old, he was shocked by the Maine wilderness. It was “more grim and wild than” what he “had anticipated.”¹³⁶ This experience made him gain greater respect for “a balance between the wilderness and civilization,” which later became what he believed to be “man’s optimum environment.”¹³⁷

Thoreau was not the first to note the conflicting emotions evoked by the sublimity of the wilderness. For example, Thomas Cole, English-born American painter, described the experience of a violent thunderstorm in Catskill Mountains, New York in 1837: “man may seek such scenes and find pleasure in the discovery, but there is a mysterious fear [that] comes over him and hurries him away”¹³⁸ (Figure 3). Cole admitted that “although American history is often so fine, we feel the want of associations such as cling to scenes in the old world. Simple nature is not quite sufficient. We want human interest and action to render the effect of landscape complete.”¹³⁹

¹³¹ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 85.

¹³² Henry David Thoreau, *The Journal of Henry David Thoreau* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1906), 45.

¹³³ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 86.

¹³⁴ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 86.

¹³⁵ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 89.

¹³⁶ Henry David Thoreau, *The Maine Woods* (Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1864), 82.

¹³⁷ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 92.

¹³⁸ James Thomas Flexner, *That Wilder Image ; the Painting of America's Native School from Thomas Cole to Winslow Homer* (Boston, MA: Little Brown, 1962), 40.

¹³⁹ Louis Legrand Noble, *The Life and Works of Thomas Cole* (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1964), 219.

Though proud of this extraordinary landscape, the European history and tradition inherited from their ancestors made Americans want something not quite as wild as the sublime.



Figure 3- View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunder-storm (*The Oxbow*), Northampton Massachusetts, 1836, Painting by Thomas Cole. Oil on Canvas. 51.5" x 76". The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

This change of attitude toward wilderness began with Thoreau after his experience with Maine's sublimity; he declared that a "partially cultivated country" in which one can be in touch simultaneously with wilderness and civilization is the ideal place to live in America.¹⁴⁰ "A more humanized nature was desirable in and around the city, but a wilder nature was desirable elsewhere in the country."¹⁴¹ He suggested that the point of "equilibrium" between the two poles of mere wilderness and fully civilized environment was the "rural" landscape.¹⁴²

¹⁴⁰ Thoreau, *The Maine Woods*, 211.

¹⁴¹ Hou, "Garden and Forest: A Forgotten Magazine and the Urban Roots of American Environmentalism," 832.

¹⁴² Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 95.

The novelty and severity of sublime make it impossible for people to feel absolute pleasure in the wilderness. At the same time, wilderness was not accessible for everybody and could not be experienced frequently. For those who could not travel far, landscape architects such as Charles Eliot, who was an advocate for urban parks, proposed that patches of “wilderness forest” be preserved close to metropolitan areas¹⁴³ in which man could find relief from the “poisonous struggling . . . of city life.”¹⁴⁴ Preserving limited wild areas along with reintroducing nature into cities through the pastoral landscape of urban parks in the nineteenth century promoted by landscape architects such as Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot, resolved “the conflicts between the simultaneous attraction toward wilderness and civilization and flourish both conditions.”¹⁴⁵

The Picturesque and the Role of Andrew Jackson Downing

The natural setting of the nineteenth-century pleasure grounds was also based on the concept of the picturesque. Following the concept of sublimity, William Gilpin, English aesthete, pioneered and defined the idea of Picturesque as the kind of beauty that is agreeable in a picture. He began to expound his principles of picturesque beauty, based largely on his knowledge of landscape painting in *An Essay on Prints* first published in 1768. The roughness, irregularity and intricacy introduced by Gilpin greatly broadened the Classical conception of ordered and proportioned beauty like in Versailles (Figure 4). The late- eighteenth-century taste of appreciating uncivilized nature was also highlighted in Gilpin’s *Remarks on Forest Scenery and Other Woodland Views* (first published in in 1792).

¹⁴³ Charles Eliot, “Charles Eliot to Charles Francis Adams. Oct. 6, 1892,” in *Charles Eliot Manuscript Letters* (Boston, MA: Library of the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, 1892).

¹⁴⁴ Charles Eliot, “The Need of Parks,” *Souvenir of the Beautiful of the Advance Club, Publications of the Advance Club*, no.6 (1891), 63.

¹⁴⁵ Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 104.



Figure 4- *Versailles Palace, 1845-1857*, Painting by James Fuller Queen. Library of Congress. Versailles Palace and Garden was the example of classic ordered proportioned beauty.

John Dixon Hunt, in his book *The Picturesque Garden in Europe*, stated that the eighteenth-century picturesque landscape “to the experienced viewer seemed either to have been composed after a painting or was designed to be the subject of one.” By the nineteenth century, picturesque was no longer necessarily “connected to painting and could involve a cluster of other elements like irregularity, roughness, surprise, variety, a rich busy palette of natural materials, historical associations and other of mental and emotional simulations”¹⁴⁶ and became associated with landscapes (Figure 5). Schenker, landscape architecture historian, argued that such attributes represented class-based relations to the land that not only appealed to elite sensibility but also adopted by middle-class consumers¹⁴⁷.

¹⁴⁶ John Dixon Hunt, *The Picturesque Garden in Europe* (New York: Thames & Hudson, 2002), 6.

¹⁴⁷ Schenker, *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century*, 138.



Figure 5- *The Picturesque Landscape of the National Trust's Stourhead, Wiltshire, England, 2010*, Photograph by Matt Cardy. Personal Archive in Getty Images.

The range of concepts embedded in the nineteenth definition of the picturesque was embraced in the U.S. and led to the development of pleasure grounds in the nation's major cities.¹⁴⁸ The larger parks designed by professional landscape architects, like Andrew J. Downing, Charles Eliot, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Calvert Vaux, motivated other US communities to make "progress to America's civilization"¹⁴⁹ by creating their own pleasure grounds inspired by English naturalism and the picturesque.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁸ Hunt, *The Picturesque Garden in Europe*, 195.

¹⁴⁹ Andrew Jackson Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses* (New York: D. Appleton & Co, 1866) xixxx-1.

¹⁵⁰ Jacquetta M. Haley, and Alexander Jackson Davis, *Pleasure Grounds: Andrew Jackson Downing and Montgomery Place* (New York: Fordham University Press, 1988).

David Schuyler, *Apostle of Taste: Andrew Jackson Downing, 1815-1852* (Baltimore, MD and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996).

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2001), 325.

The idea of creating public pleasure grounds in the American context was interpreted and promoted initially by Andrew Jackson Downing in his book, *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adopted to North America*.¹⁵¹ In this book, Downing rejected the classic styles and advocated the picturesque and beautiful in landscape gardening which “aims at the production of outlines of a certain spirited irregularity, surfaces comparatively abrupt and broken, and growth of a somewhat wild and bold character. . . The trees should in many places be old and irregular, with rough stems and bark.”¹⁵² Downing’s inspirations for use of the picturesque was derived from the theories and works of Humphry Repton and John Claudius Loudon, two leading English landscape theorists and designers,¹⁵³ but he believed that the American context should be taken into account for using the picturesque.¹⁵⁴ One of the main differences in the American context in comparison to that of Europe was that “America has never had a large number of great private estates.”¹⁵⁵ The characteristics that distinguished Downing’s picturesque from its European precedents were long views and connecting the countryside to the town to better appreciate the wealth of underrepresented landscapes through the United States.¹⁵⁶

As places for passive recreation and reflection, the existing small public spaces and ornamental pleasure gardens of the time were not large enough and lacked the desirable tranquility.¹⁵⁷ Downing emphasized that urban parks should be at least five hundred acres and needed “space enough to have broad reaches of park and pleasure grounds, with a real feeling of

¹⁵¹ Andrew Jackson Downing, *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (New York & London: Wiley and Putnam, 1841).

¹⁵² Andrew Jackson Downing, “Public Cemeteries and Public Gardens,” in *Rural Essays*, ed. George William Curtis and Fredrika Bremer (New York: Leavitt & Allen, 1857), 59.

¹⁵³ Haley, and Davis, *Pleasure Grounds: Andrew Jackson Downing and Montgomery Place*.

¹⁵⁴ Judith K. Major, *To Live in the New World: A.J. Downing and American Landscape Gardening* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1997).

¹⁵⁵ Marie Luise Schroeter Gothein, *A History of Garden Art* (New York: J. M. Dent & Sons, 1928), 421.

¹⁵⁶ Hunt, “The Influence of Anxiety, Keeping Europe in the Picture in North American Landscape,” 21.

¹⁵⁷ Schuyler, *Apostle of Taste: Andrew Jackson Downing, 1815-1852*, 480.

the breadth and beauty of green fields, the perfume and freshness of nature.”¹⁵⁸ He predicted more pleasure grounds would appear in American communities as people “would not be contented with the mere meadow and trees” and would desire “pleasure grounds,” which were also called “parks” in the United States.¹⁵⁹ Author Witold Rybczynski, in his book *City Life: Urban Expectations in New World*, noted the relationship of city growth and parks in the nineteenth century and how in the early American urban areas, it was possible and inexpensive to devote large tracts of land to public parks.¹⁶⁰

Just before his sudden death in a Hudson River steamboat fire in the early 1850s, Downing was able to “translate his theories in practice at urban scale and to demonstrate the value of urban parks”¹⁶¹ when he was commissioned to design the public grounds between the Capitol and the Washington monument in Washington DC. Through this project, he hoped to “give an example of the natural style of Landscape Gardening” and “influence the general taste of the Country.”¹⁶² One of the main elements in his proposed design was Smithsonian Park or Pleasure Ground designed in naturalistic style (Figure 6).¹⁶³ After Downing’s death, the project was never completed as designed; and therefore, his only public landscape design did not have the powerful influence on urban landscape in the U.S. as Downing had hoped.¹⁶⁴ However, one should never forget the role of Downing on the American urban landscape; he certainly can be known as the first advocate of pleasure grounds in the US, a place where people could enjoy fresh air and quiet recreation.¹⁶⁵

¹⁵⁸ Andrew Jackson Downing, “The New York Park,” in *Rural Essays*, ed. George William Curtis and Fredrika Bremer (New York: Leavitt & Allen, 1857), 150.

¹⁵⁹ Andrew Jackson Downing, “Our Country Villages,” in *Rural Essays*, ed. George William Curtis and Fredrika Bremer (New York: Leavitt & Allen, 1857), 540.

¹⁶⁰ Witold Rybczynski, *City Life: Urban Expectations in a New World* (New York: Scribner, 1995).

¹⁶¹ Schuyler, *Apostle of Taste: Andrew Jackson Downing, 1815-1852*, 199.

¹⁶² Andrew Jackson Downing, “Explanatory Notes to Accompany the Plan for Improving the Public Gardens at Washington,” *Records of the Commissioners of Public Buildings*, vol. 32 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records, 1851).

¹⁶³ Schuyler, *Apostle of Taste: Andrew Jackson Downing, 1815-1852*, 197.

¹⁶⁴ Schuyler, *Apostle of Taste: Andrew Jackson Downing, 1815-1852*, 227.

¹⁶⁵ Andrew Jackson Downing, “A Talk about Public Parks and Gardens,” *Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste* 3, no.4 (1848): 153-158.

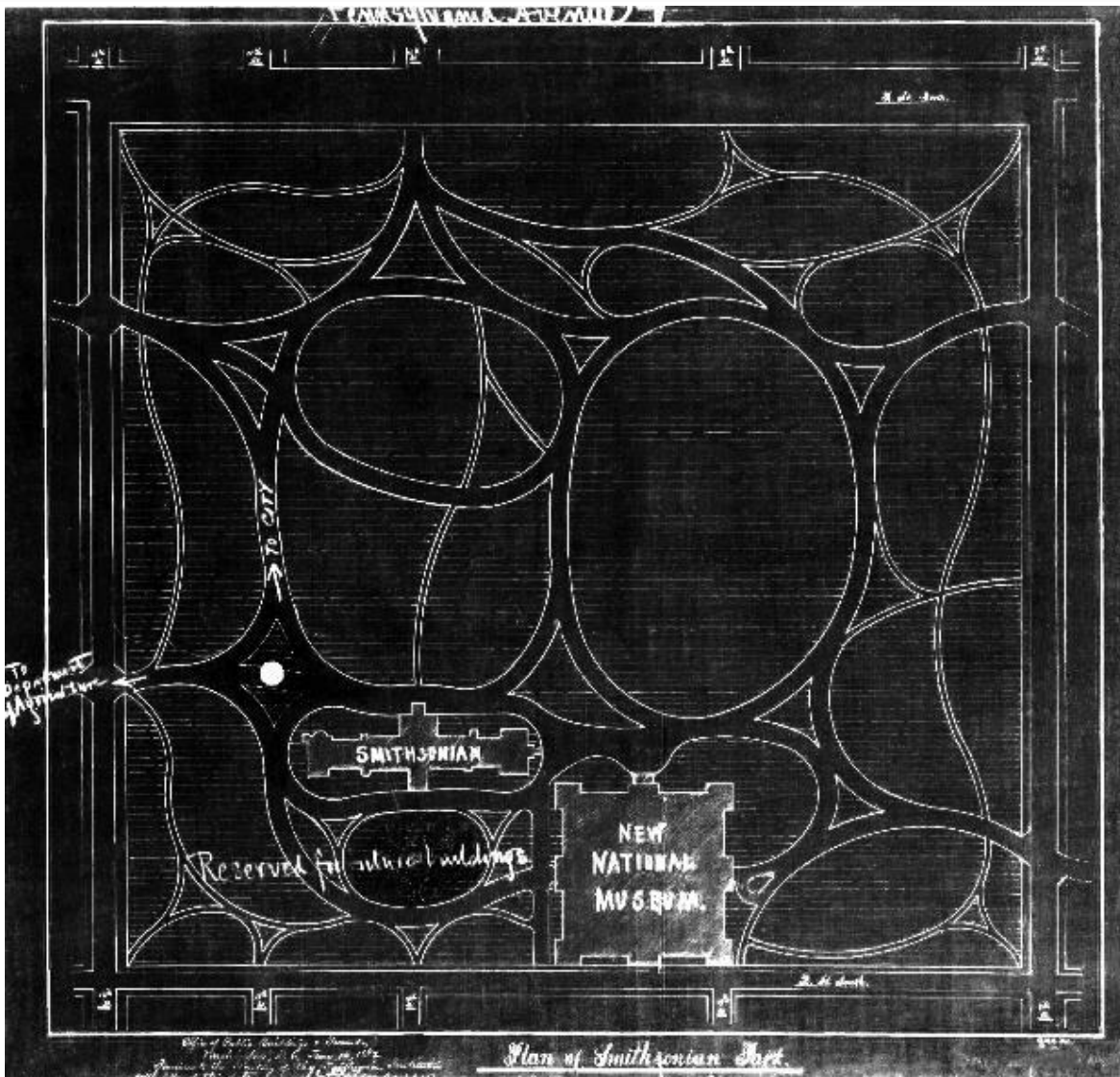


Figure 6- *Plan of Smithsonian Park, Covers the Mall between 7th and 12th Streets, Washington D.C., 1882*, Illustration by United States Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. Library of Congress. Smithsonian Park, a pleasure ground designed in naturalistic style, was one of the main elements in Downing’s proposed design for the public grounds between the Capitol and the Washington monument.

Before the design of Smithsonian Park, the Romantic approach to landscape design could be found in the private gardens in the 17th century in England, but in 1845 it was introduced into public realm by Joseph Paxton’s design of the Birkenhead Park in Liverpool¹⁶⁶ (Figure 7).

¹⁶⁶ Kowsky, *The Best Planned City in the World: Olmsted, Vaux, and the Buffalo Park System*, 8.



Figure 7- *Swiss Bridge, Birkenhead Park, Merseyside, England, 1847*, Illustration. Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre. Birkenhead Park was the first example of what we now consider public parks. It was designed by Joseph Paxton in the Romantic aesthetic.

The foundation of American pleasure grounds was the English preference for “naturalism” in landscape over the more “geometric arrangement”¹⁶⁷ and the rejection of “artificial setting” of commercial pleasure gardens¹⁶⁸ (Figures 8 & 9),¹⁶⁹ which provided “jaded urbanites with a pleasant suburban retreat, a place in which to amuse themselves, entertain family and friends, eat, drink, listen to music, admire paintings and sculpture, and enjoy a variety of other spectacles, the most important of which was the crowd itself.”¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁷ Schuyler, *Apostle of Taste: Andrew Jackson Downing, 1815-1852*, 1.

¹⁶⁸ It is worth mentioning that Cranz herself referred to public parks of the second half of the nineteenth century as “pleasure gardens” in her earlier article in *Landscape* journal in 1978 entitled “Changing Roles of Urban Parks: From Pleasure Garden to Open Space.” Four years later in her book, *The Politics of Park Design* (1982), she used the term “pleasure grounds.”

¹⁶⁹ Heath Schenker, “Pleasure Gardens, Theme Parks, and the Picturesque,” in *Theme Park Landscapes: Antecedents and Variations*, ed. Terence Young and Robert Riley (Washington, D.C: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2002), 71.

¹⁷⁰ Jonathan Conlin, *The Pleasure Garden: From Vauxhall to Coney Island* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), 1.

These more naturalistic spaces gradually became “liberated” as “a new autonomous spatial type” known as pleasure grounds in the nineteenth century.¹⁷¹ This was exemplified by the choice of Olmsted and Vaux’s “picturesque naturalism” design with “stately trees framing rolling meadows, large bodies of water, wooded islands, and a few carefully chosen architectural accents” in contrast to all the other “excessively ornamental and artificial, lively, unpredictable and crowd-filled” proposals for the New York’s Central Park design competition in 1858.¹⁷² The choice “reflected the preference of the board’s Yankee Republican majority for the English naturalistic design tradition.”¹⁷³ In other words, pleasure gardens can be considered as the historical equivalent of today’s theme parks; while pleasure grounds are a very distinct type of public parks, comparable to today’s city parks.

¹⁷¹ Steenbergen, and Reh, *Metropolitan Landscape Architecture: Urban Parks and Landscapes*, 183.

¹⁷² The credit of the original idea of creating a large public park in New York City often is given to William Cullen Bryant, the editor of *New York Post* and also Andrew Jackson Downing.

Schenker, *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century*.

Schenker, “Pleasure Gardens, Theme Parks, and the Picturesque,” 85-86.

¹⁷³ William A. Mann, *Landscape Architecture: An Illustrated History in Timeline, Site Plans, and Biography* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1993), 357.



Figure 8- Province of New York Map showing Ranelagh Garden, New York, 1776, Illustration by Jefferys & Faden. Library of Congress.

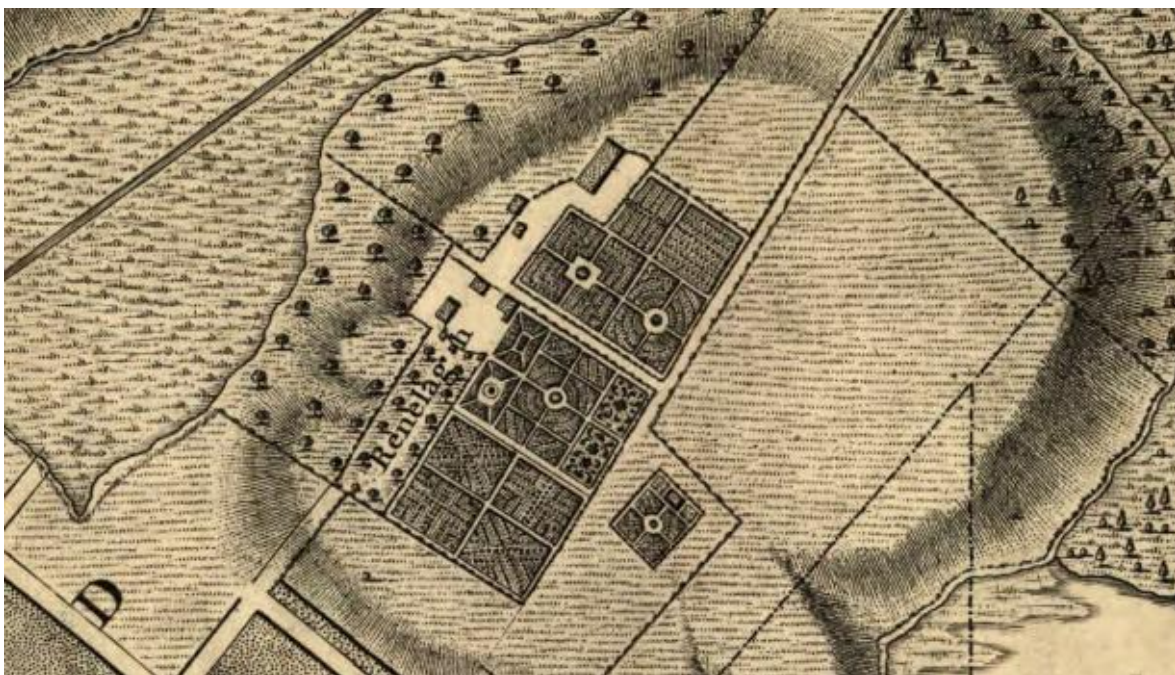


Figure 9- Detail of Ranelagh Garden, New York, 1776, Illustration by Jefferys & Faden. Library of Congress. Ranelagh Garden was one of the New York's first pleasure gardens and was named after London's formal Ranelagh Garden.

Rural Cemetery Movement

Another of the early forces behind the American park movement of the nineteenth century were picturesque burial grounds, known as Rural Romantic Cemeteries, which were intended for refreshing passive reflection and recreation.¹⁷⁴ In America, the industrial revolution brought large populations to ever-more-congested cities, which led to increasingly overcrowded urban burial grounds. Such graveyards were blamed for the diseases gripping cities in the early nineteenth century.

Romanticism had a great influence on the transformation of burial grounds in America in the early nineteenth century. English Romanticism influenced Americans' perspective toward death¹⁷⁵ and “encouraged people to consider death a natural occurrence, and to accept the coming of death as a friendly visit.”¹⁷⁶ It also shifted Americans' attitude toward nature and led them to perceive it as “a pure force able to invigorate men and women sensitive enough to see it with their whole spirit.”¹⁷⁷

While the English had developed the naturalistic garden style, it was the French who first built a burial ground as a picturesque garden landscape.¹⁷⁸ It was the establishment of the Cemetery of Père Lachaise in Paris, France in 1804, that considerably changed the burial ground and initiated the Rural Cemetery Movement (Figure 10).

¹⁷⁴ Pregill, and Volkman, *Landscapes in History: Design and Planning in the Eastern and Western Traditions*, 479.

Rogers, *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History*, 313.

¹⁷⁵ James R. Cothran, and Erica Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement* (Columbia, SC: The University of South Carolina Press, 2018), xii.

¹⁷⁶ James J. Farrell, *Inventing the American Way of Death, 1830-1920* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1980), 33.

¹⁷⁷ John R. Stilgoe, *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1982), 6.

¹⁷⁸ Cothran, and Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*, 33.



Figure 10- *Père Lachaise Cemetery from the Gothic Chapel, Paris, c. 1800s*, Illustration by Pierre Courvoisier. Courtesy Bibliothèque du MAD (Library Des Arts Decoratifs), Paris, Maciet Collection. The picturesque landscape of the Père Lachaise Cemetery became the pioneer for a the change of burial grounds as public recreational spaces.

Later in the 1840s and this time in England, public-health reformer, Edwin Chadwick proposed the use of burial grounds to increase the amount of open space for public recreation in densely populated areas of English cities. Peter Thorsheim argues in “The Corpse in the Garden: Burial, Health, and the Environment in Nineteenth-Century London,” that “changes in attitudes toward death, decay, and disease enabled reformers to envision a transformation of London’s derelict graveyards, whether conceived as sacred spaces or sinister ones, into places where people might reconnect with the natural world.”¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁹ Peter Thorsheim, “The Corpse in the Garden: Burial, Health, and the Environment in Nineteenth-Century London,” *Environmental History* 16, no. 1 (2011): 39.

The first attempt to enhance a burial ground in the American context was the New Burying Ground – now called Grove Street Cemetery - in New Haven, Connecticut and set an important precedent for later rural cemeteries in America. The ten-acre New Burying Ground on the outskirts of the city was purchased in 1796 by a voluntary association of private individuals (Figure 11).¹⁸⁰



Figure 11- *Grove Street Cemetery Entrance, New Haven, Connecticut, n.d.*, Illustration by Henry Austin. Courtesy Historic American Buildings Survey. Library of Congress. Grove Street Cemetery, designed by Henry Austin in 1845, was the first American example of enhancement in burial ground design.

Less than four decades later, it was the establishment of Mount Auburn Cemetery outside of Boston in 1831 by Dr. Jacob Bigelow that popularized burial grounds as large-scale picturesque

¹⁸⁰ Cothran, and Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*, 37.

landscapes in the U.S., which became known as “rural cemeteries.” Marie-Luise Gothein refers to the “park cemetery” as “a distinctively American contribution to landscape architecture.”¹⁸¹ While park-like burial grounds had been created in other countries, such as Père Lachaise in Paris, the most successful ones were built in North America. Mount Auburn Cemetery¹⁸² (Figures 12 and 13) was the first and most renowned American rural cemetery, and had a major influence on public taste and the enthusiasm for large burial grounds.¹⁸³ When naming Mount Auburn, the word “cemetery” was substituted for “burying ground” or “graveyard” to alter the associations with death and decay. Cemetery derives from Greek “dormitory” implying a “tranquil sleep.”¹⁸⁴ Dr. Jacob Bigelow, one of the founders of Mount Auburn believed that Bostonians needed to “create a silent city for their dead in a symbolic natural setting, for the cemetery would represent the city itself as repository of former residents and place of display of a high culture.”¹⁸⁵ In her book on Mount Auburn, *Silent City on a Hill: Picturesque Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery*, Blanche Linden-Ward, landscape historian, stated that “the creation of Mount Auburn reflected the modernization of American culture.”¹⁸⁶

¹⁸¹ Gothein, *A History of Garden Art*, 428.

¹⁸² The other admired examples of rural cemeteries in America were Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati and Graceland Cemetery in Chicago.

¹⁸³ Derek Plint, Clifford, *A History of Garden Design* (London: Faber and Faber, 1962).

Conlin, *The Pleasure Garden: From Vauxhall to Coney Island*, 203.

¹⁸⁴ Ken Worpole, *Last Landscapes : The Architecture of the Cemetery in the West* (London: Reaktion, 2003).

¹⁸⁵ Blanche Linden-Ward, *Silent City on a Hill: Picturesque Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery* (Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 1989), 172.

¹⁸⁶ Linden-Ward, *Silent City on a Hill: Picturesque Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery*, 192.

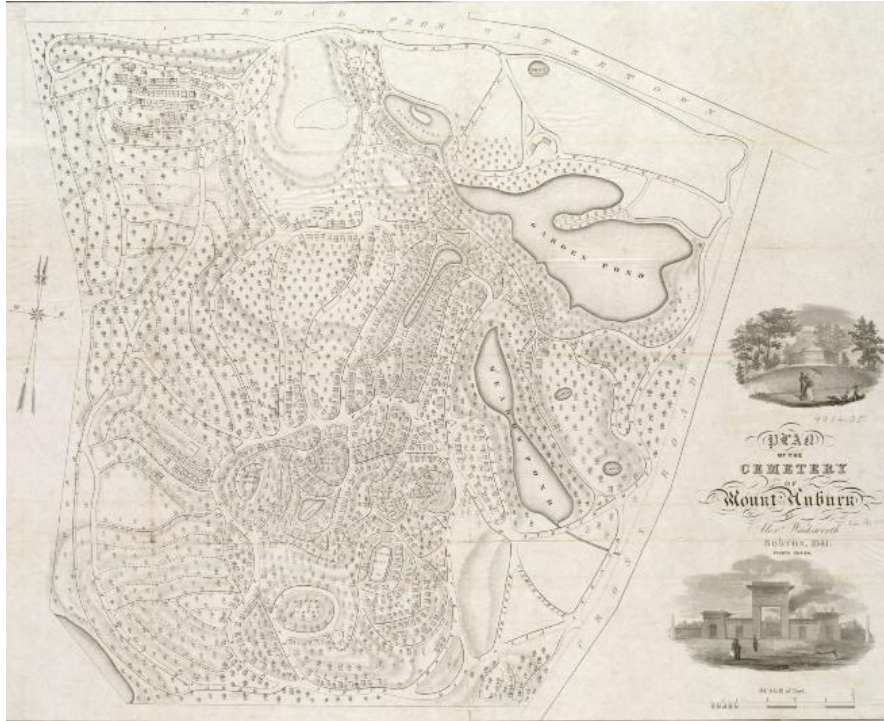


Figure 12- *Mount Auburn Cemetery Located on the Line Between Cambridge and Watertown in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 4 miles west of Boston, 1841*, Illustration by Alexander Wadsworth. Boston Public Library, Norman B. Leventhal Map Center. Mount Auburn Cemetery became a model for rural cemeteries throughout the North America.



Figure 13- *Mount Auburn Cemetery Located on the Line Between Cambridge and Watertown, Massachusetts, 1882*, Illustration. Courtesy of Historic New England. Mount Auburn Cemetery introduced open green spaces to nineteenth century Boston.

In 1869, John Rauch described to the role of these new rural cemeteries in changing the U.S urban appearance:

arising from the growing taste of landscape gardening and the promptings of the affection and respect for the memory of the sacred dead, we have in the United States the finest rural cemeteries in the world, which we think may be regarded as a sure evidence of our advancement in civilization and enlightenment.¹⁸⁷

Rural cemeteries not only gave city inhabitants new recreation spaces, but these picturesque rural landscapes met “the prevalent nostalgia for rusticity” felt among many American urban residents.¹⁸⁸ In their book, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century*, James R. Cothran and Erica Danylchak¹⁸⁹ described the founding motivations as well as physical and design characteristics of rural cemeteries: They were large tracks of land, located on the outskirts of cities and created as a response to urban problems such as diseases, and the overcrowded conditions of burial grounds in cities. The design characteristics of these burial landscapes were intended to foster contemplation, moderate fear, and refresh the soul. Rural cemeteries were usually used for touring or excursions. The main elements of rural cemeteries design were: monumental gateways, partially fenced or hedged boundaries, informal and curvilinear roads and paths, diverse plant materials, gently rolling hills, informal grouping of diverse trees and shrubs, picturesque water features like sinuous lakes and meandering streams, picturesque views and vistas, family/group plots and individual graveyards, commemorative sculptures, and a few structures such as chapels, receiving tombs and mausoleums.

¹⁸⁷ Rauch, *Public Parks: Their Effects upon the Moral, Physical and Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of Large Cities: With Special Reference to the City of Chicago*, 18.

¹⁸⁸ Hou, “Garden and Forest: A Forgotten Magazine and the Urban Roots of American Environmentalism,” 823.

¹⁸⁹ Cothran, and Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*.

Jeffery Smith, in his book *The Rural Cemetery Movement, Places of Paradox in Nineteenth-Century America*,¹⁹⁰ discussed the topic of cemetery design and social class. Even though rural cemeteries were usually open to the public, the burial patterns were not democratic. Rural cemeteries sorted the dead by social class through design, and restricted admission to a more elite clientele on Sundays.¹⁹¹ Access to rural cemeteries became more restricted and even less democratic over time. Increasing wealth, reduced work hours, an growing taste for travel, and new electrical and transportation technology made visiting rural cemeteries more convenient for the public, which led to even stricter regulations for public use of cemeteries in the late nineteenth century.¹⁹²

Despite being the pioneer of the movement, not all the rural cemeteries were replicas of Mount Auburn. For example, the Atlanta Cemetery, founded in 1850, had picturesque design elements such as curvilinear roads embedded in a grid pattern¹⁹³ (Figure 14).



Figure 14- *The Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, Georgia, 1840*, Illustration by Augustus Koch. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. The grid pattern of Oakland Cemetery made it as one of the atypical examples of rural cemeteries.

¹⁹⁰ Jeffery Smith, *The Rural Cemetery Movement, Places of Paradox In Nineteenth-Century America* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2017).

¹⁹¹ Smith, *The Rural Cemetery Movement, Places of Paradox In Nineteenth-Century America*, 141.

¹⁹² Smith, *The Rural Cemetery Movement, Places of Paradox In Nineteenth-Century America*, 97-113.

¹⁹³ Cothran, and Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*, 59.

The rural cemetery movement was not limited to large cities. Smaller towns and existing burial grounds also incorporated some of the design elements of rural cemeteries. In *Practical Landscape Gardening*, published in 1855, after describing the landscape characteristics of a rural cemetery, G. M. Kern noted that these features “are applicable, not only to the magnificent and expensive Cemeteries attached to larger cities, but also to the more confined village Burying-Ground, which by tasteful arrangement of a few flowers, shrubs and trees, may be made a most beautiful place.”¹⁹⁴

After the Civil War, interest in rural cemeteries began to decline on the east coast, initially because their naturalistic landscapes were difficult to maintain and as a consequent lost much of their pleasant atmosphere.¹⁹⁵ Eventually, the rural cemeteries also began to be overcrowded by architectural elements, which led to their decline. “The Noticeable hand of man tipped the balance away from the predominance of nature within America’s rural cemeteries”¹⁹⁶ and “unfettered additions of monuments and ornamentation became visually and psychologically oppressive”¹⁹⁷ to the extent that the later rural cemeteries were more like “outdoor sculpture museums”¹⁹⁸ (Figure 15 & 16).

¹⁹⁴ G. M. Kern, “The Cemetery,” in *Practical Landscape Gardening: With Reference to the Improvement of Rural Residences, Giving the General Principles of the Art, with Full Directions for Planting Shade Trees, Shrubbery and Flowers, and Laying Out Gardens* (Cincinnati: Moore, Wiltach, Keys & Co., 1855), 267.

¹⁹⁵ Ambler, “A Place Not Entirely of Sadness and Gloom: Oak Hill Cemetery and Rural Cemetery Movement,” 23.

¹⁹⁶ Cothran, and Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*, 149.

¹⁹⁷ Cothran, and Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*, 150.

¹⁹⁸ Cothran, and Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*, 139.



Figure 15- *Birds Eye View of Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, n.d.*, Painting by John Bachmann. Library of Congress. The open picturesque landscape is visible in the main design for the cemetery.



Figure 16- *Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, 1860-1920.*, Photograph by H. Ropes & Co. Library of Congress. The use of man-made elements were gradually became obsessive in rural cemeteries.

Furthermore, city life began to change with more leisure time due to reduced work hours, greater urban accessibility because of new electrical and transportation technology,¹⁹⁹ and new types of public spaces such as urban parks (which did not have graves and funerary monuments), zoological gardens, and museums. These reasons along with changing taste in landscape, such as the preference for more pastoral settings instead of controlled nature, all led to the decline of the rural cemetery movement in metropolitan areas of America mid-1860s.²⁰⁰

Adolph Strauch was the first person to propose and implement “an intentional set of landscape principals to remedy the excesses created by the earlier rural cemetery.” The new generation of cemeteries became widely popular after the Civil War and known as a “landscape-garden cemetery” or “the landscape lawn plan,” as Strauch called them.²⁰¹ The landscape lawn plan with its softer and more naturalistic design characteristics ultimately “suggested the pleasure of a park more than meditative mysteries of a cemetery”²⁰² and became the precedent for the urban park movement in the second half of the nineteenth century. But other scholars such as Jeffrey Smith conceptualizes the change slightly differently. He believes that the very physical and functional similarities that rural cemeteries and parks eventually merged them into one in the late 1890s.²⁰³

The creation of urban parks overlapped with the history of rural cemeteries. As the number of people visiting rural cemeteries boomed just before the mid-nineteenth century, the possibility of a more suitable landscape type for recreation and pleasure was envisioned.²⁰⁴ Andrew J. Downing, American landscape designer, observed in 1849 that “the idea [of a rural cemetery] took the public mind by storm” and that “there is scarcely a city of note in the whole country that

¹⁹⁹ Smith, *The Rural Cemetery Movement, Places of Paradox In Nineteenth-Century America*, 97-113.

²⁰⁰ Ambler, “A Place Not Entirely of Sadness and Gloom: Oak Hill Cemetery and Rural Cemetery Movement,” 23.

²⁰¹ Cothran, and Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*, 150.

²⁰² Denise Otis, *Grounds for Pleasure: Four Centuries of the American Garden* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2002), 116.

²⁰³ Smith, *The Rural Cemetery Movement, Places of Paradox In Nineteenth-Century America*.

²⁰⁴ Cothran, and Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*, 187.

has not its rural cemetery.”²⁰⁵ He advocated for an alternative recreational landscape – public parks:

The great attraction of these cemeteries. . . lies in the natural beauty of the sites and in the tasteful and harmonious embellishment of these sites by art. . . . Does not this general interest, manifested in these cemeteries, prove that public gardens, established in a liberal and suitable manner, near the large cities, would be equally successful?²⁰⁶

He asked: “can you doubt that if our large towns and suburban pleasure grounds . . . [became places] where the best music could be heard daily, would become the constant resort of the citizens?” He added that these pleasure grounds would “soften and allay some of the feverish unrest of business which seems to have possession of most Americans, body and soul.”²⁰⁷ Although some public park-like grounds existed at the time like the Boston Common, there was no real provision for public parks until the design of New York’s Central Park that significantly changed the history of urban landscape in America.²⁰⁸

To summarize, the common belief that the miasmas and gases escaping from rotting bodies in graves were a threat to public health²⁰⁹ led to burial grounds being developed that were more pleasant spaces and places to escape the bustle of urban life,²¹⁰ which were later used as early models of public parks.²¹¹ Later, the increase of urban land values made cemeteries an ideal place

²⁰⁵ Andrew Jackson Downing, “Public Cemeteries and Public Gardens,” *Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste* 4, no. 1 (1849): 9-11.

²⁰⁶ Downing, “Public Cemeteries and Public Gardens,” 372.

²⁰⁷ Downing, “A Talk about Public Parks and Gardens,” 157.

²⁰⁸ U. P. Hedrick, *A History of Horticulture in America to 1860* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1950), 257-258.

²⁰⁹ Peterson, *The Birth of City Planning in the United States: 1840-1917*, 32.

²¹⁰ Albert N. Hamscher, *Kansas Cemeteries in History* (Manhattan, Kansas: KS Publishing, Inc., 2005), x.

²¹¹ Schuyler, *Apostle of Taste: Andrew Jackson Downing, 1815-1852*, 188.

as recreational public spaces because the land was already available at no cost for cities.²¹² Besides providing people with leisure spaces to spend time, rural cemeteries made urban citizens more proud of their cities as they were considered as “a symbol of civilization, a sign that a community possessing one valued culture and good taste.”²¹³

Comparing rural cemeteries to pleasure grounds (Table 1), one could say that “a rural cemetery without burials” could have been seen as “a park.”²¹⁴ However, a deeper analysis reveals that there are distinctions; it was the democratic nature of pleasure grounds, that was open to any social class and offered a wide range of activities to spend their gradually increasing leisure time. This feature has contributed to pleasure ground popularity over time. In contrast, rural cemeteries became less democratic over time as mobility and public demand to use them as recreation spaces increased.

Another reason that pleasure grounds persisted over time, unlike rural cemeteries, is that landscape designers remained loyal to the very motivation that gave rise to the movement — creating green spaces to foster “good spirits and social enjoyment for the benefit of weary urbanized population.”²¹⁵ In contrast, rural cemeteries became more man-made with fussy decorations of architecture and less like an open pastoral landscape intended for the refreshment of urban residents.

²¹² Schuyler, *Apostle of Taste: Andrew Jackson Downing, 1815-1852*, 188.

²¹³ Hamscher, *Kansas Cemeteries in History*, x.

²¹⁴ Smith, *The Rural Cemetery Movement, Places of Paradox In Nineteenth-Century America*, 42.

²¹⁵ Cothran, and Danylchak, *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*, 189.

Table 1- Comparison of Rural Cemeteries and Pleasure Grounds

Characteristics	Rural Cemeteries	Pleasure Grounds
Goal	Escape from dense urban cores	
Size	Large	
Location	Exurban	
Aesthetic	Drew inspiration from the picturesque English landscape garden tradition	
Landscape Elements	Picturesque landscape elements such as alternating trees and meadows, undulating hills, slowly meandering waterways, and broad reflecting pools, and curvilinear roads and paths	
Architectural Elements	Monumental gateways, family/group plots and individual graveyards, commemorative sculptures, and a few structures such as chapels, receiving tombs and mausoleums	Mostly elaborate entrance gates, belvederes and terraces, which ranged from rustic to neoclassical styles
Activities	Passive activities like strolling and picnicking	
	Remembering and commemorating deceased loved ones	Other activities such as racing, galloping and jumping, polo playing, bicycle riding, merry-go-round, toboggan sliding, coasting on rinks, watching shows such as circuses and shooting matches, tennis and croquets, baseball and lacrosse, military maneuvers, and mass meetings” became the core of park activities
Users Social Class	Rural cemeteries sorted the dead by social class through designs, and restricted admission to a more elite clientele on Sundays	All classes of public were welcomed
Design Change Over Time	Became less democratic and more and more man-made with fussy decorations of architecture and less like an open pastoral landscape for the refreshment of urban residents	landscape designers remained loyal to the very motivation that had given rise to the movement - creating green spaces to foster “good spirits and social enjoyment for the benefit of weary urbanized population”

Despite the similarities between rural cemeteries and public parks, Jeffrey Smith, in his book *The Rural Cemetery Movement, Places of Paradox in Nineteenth-Century America*, argued that it is historically inaccurate to see rural cemeteries as the same as parks. He claimed that it is

“more accurate to suggest that parks look like cemeteries” because “cemeteries came first and their appearance predates most early urban parks and even served as the prototype for them.”²¹⁶ It is worth emphasizing that more than introducing a new landscape type to nineteenth-century cities, rural cemeteries were ahead of any urban counterpart and could be considered the pioneer of city planning. “The rural cemetery movement and its associated design and management principals “sought to regulate cemeteries in ways that cities would not envision until later in the century which were managing built design, density, class, race, appearance, and access through their rules and regulations.”²¹⁷

The Central Park Design by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux

Frederick Law Olmsted began as the superintendent of Central Park and later joined Calvert Vaux, A. J. Downing’s former partner, to design the park. Continuing in the tradition of Downing, Olmsted favored the English or natural style of landscape architecture.²¹⁸ He referred directly to Birkenhead Park, his English inspiration for public park design, in his book *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England*, originally printed in 1852, as follows:

Walking a short distance up an avenue, we passed through another light iron gate. . . we passed into a thick, luxuriant, and diversified garden. Five minutes of admiration, and a few more spent in studying the manner in which art had been employed to obtain from nature so much beauty, and I was ready to admit in

²¹⁶ Smith, *The Rural Cemetery Movement, Places of Paradox In Nineteenth-Century America*, 41.

²¹⁷ Smith, *The Rural Cemetery Movement, Places of Paradox In Nineteenth-Century America*, 142.

²¹⁸ Marie, *A History of Garden Art*, 427.

democratic America there was nothing to be thought of as comparable with this People's Park.²¹⁹

What most impressed Olmsted about Joseph Paxton's Birkenhead Park was that it was free and open to all classes and provided everyone from Liverpool with an opportunity to embrace nature. Olmsted admired that "all this magnificent pleasure ground is entirely, unreservedly, and forever the people's own. The poorest British peasant is as free to enjoy it in all its parts as the British queen."²²⁰ For Olmsted, appreciation of nature should not be restricted to the upper classes and should definitely not be "a monopoly, in a very peculiar manner, of a very few, very rich people."²²¹

Echoes of Birkenhead Park are visible in the spatial structure of Central Park with the simultaneous inclusion of the garden, the meadow and the wilderness in the design.²²² The park became a place for "communicativeness" or "commonplace civilization."²²³ The design of Central Park "shut the city out" and created the feeling "being out of the city in the city."²²⁴ Olmsted and Vaux designed the park to create the "greatest possible contrast with the restraining and confining conditions of the town, those conditions which compel us to walk circumspectly, watchfully, jealously, which compel us to look closely upon others with sympathy"²²⁵ (Figures 17 to 19). Melvin Kalfus in his book, *Frederick Law Olmsted: The Passion of a Public Artist*, stated that Olmsted's underlying motivation and philosophy of park design was to provide "his fellow men .

²¹⁹ Frederick Law Olmsted, *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England* (Amherst, MA: Library of American Landscape History, 2002), 91.

²²⁰ Olmsted, *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England*, 93.

²²¹ Frederick Law Olmsted, *The California Frontier, 1863-1865*, ed. Victoria Post Ranney (Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990), 504.

²²² Steenbergen, and Reh, *Metropolitan Landscape Architecture: Urban Parks and Landscapes*, 212.

²²³ Charles Beveridge, and Paul Rocheleau, *Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape* (New York: Rizzoli, 1995), 49-50.

Adam Gopnik, "Olmsted's Trip," *The New Yorker*, March 31, 1997, 96-104.

²²⁴ Steenbergen, and Reh, *Metropolitan Landscape Architecture: Urban Parks and Landscapes*, 212 & 222.

²²⁵ Olmsted, *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted. Supplemental Series, Volume 1: Writing on Public Spaces, Parkways, and Park Systems*, 189.

. . . with a retreat from the torments that he and they had suffered in city life.”²²⁶ Though not common, this idea was not original. Fifteenth-century Italian architect Leon Battista Alberti stated in 1484 that a city needs “a place to take the air in.”²²⁷



Figure 17- *Central Park Aerial View with the Reservoir in the Foreground, New York, 1933*, Photograph by Fairchild Aerial Surveys Inc. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. The Central Park design contrasted with the grid-iron geometry of New York City.

²²⁶ Melvin Kalfus, *Frederick Law Olmsted: The Passion of a Public Artist* (New York, NY: New York University Press, 1990), 283.

²²⁷ Whitaker and Browne, *Parks for People*, 6.

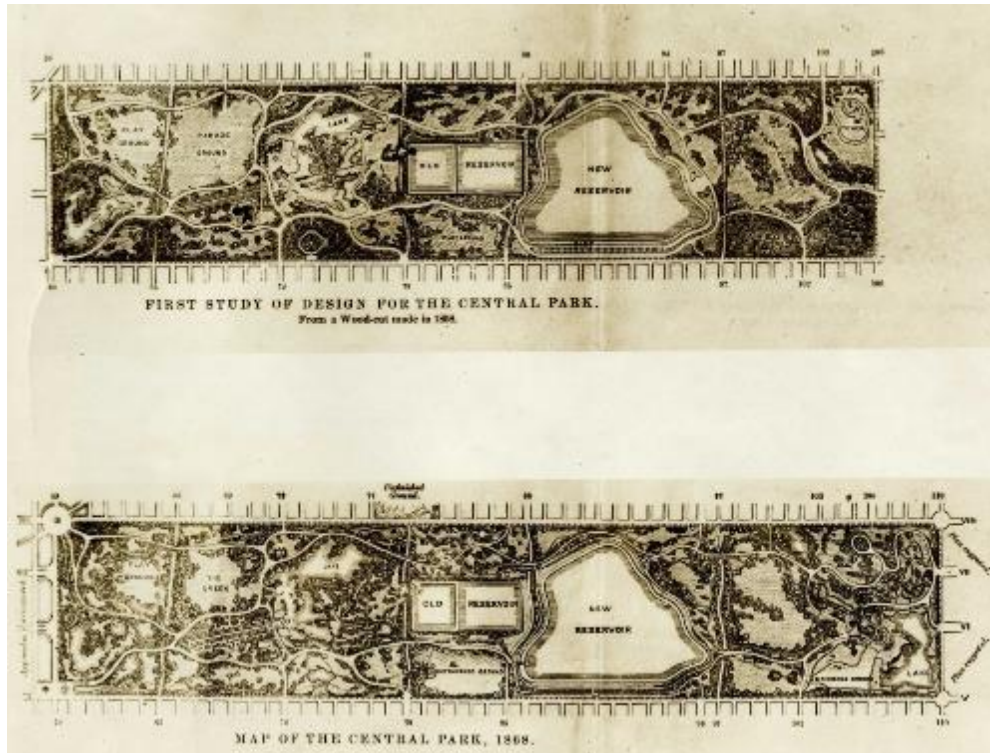


Figure 18- *Central Park Map, New York, 1868*, Illustration. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive.



Figure 19- *Central Park, New York*, Photograph. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive.

The Central Park design²²⁸ was inspired by a pastoral approach to landscape design²²⁹ that attempted to provide urban areas with an imitation of rural scenery for renewing the human soul²³⁰ (Figure 20). “The first real park made in this country,” became the forerunner of many parks in many other American cities, of which Olmsted and Vaux designed more than forty,²³¹ most notably Brooklyn Prospect Park, Brooklyn (1866); Riverside Estate, Chicago (1869); the Emerald Necklace, Boston (1880); and the World’s Columbian Exposition, Chicago (1893).



Figure 20- *Central Park, New York*, Photograph. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Inspired by pastoral landscape, the sheep’s meadow was used for picnicking, resting in the shade, and strolling.

²²⁸ For more information on the design of Central Park see: Cynthia Brenwall, *The Central Park: Original Designs for New York’s Greatest Treasure* (New York: Abrams, 2019); Rogers, *Saving Central Park: A History and a Memoir*; Miller, *Central Park, an American Masterpiece: A Comprehensive History of the Nation’s First Urban Park*; and Rosenzweig and Blackmar, *The Park and the People: A History of Central Park*.

²²⁹ About a century later than the design of Central Park, Leo Marx in his book *The Machine in the Garden Technology and the Pastoral Ideal in America* (1964) argued that the pastoral ideal has been at the core of the meaning of America.

²³⁰ Lee Hall, *Olmsted’s America: An “Unpractical Man” and His Vision of Civilization* (Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Company, 1995).

²³¹ Chadwick, *The Park and the Town: Public Landscape in the nineteenth and 20th Centuries*, 190.

Olmsted not only gave birth to the new profession of landscape architecture,²³² but also started the fifty-year pleasure ground movement in the U.S. Following the Central Park design by Olmsted and Vaux called the “Greensward,” landscape architects began to integrate country into the city to decrease the “tension between rural simplicity and urban sophistication and between good, honest labor and rapid industrialization.”²³³

Olmsted believed that the ultimate goal of parks was to promote psychological and physical health.²³⁴ Therefore, the main principle used for designing landscapes in the late 1860s was “to create aesthetically attractive parkland for passive recreational pleasures”²³⁵ for a wide range of people including “parents, strollers, picnickers, horseback and carriage riders, bicyclists, band concert goers, realtors, and, when accessible to them, laborers.”²³⁶

Representing an “ideal of civil society,”²³⁷ Olmsted and Vaux proposed the following design principals and spaces in parks:

1. **Preserving natural scenery:**²³⁸ The park’s design was inspired by the pastoral style and included elements such as a picturesque pasture for sheep (retained until 1934) and woodland rambles for urban citizens to escape the city. The Olmsted-Vaux design provided people with “spacious meadow with gentle rises and scattered clumps of trees arranged about its indeterminate boundaries into an illusionistic rural scenery.”²³⁹

²³² Julius Gy Fabos, and Gordon T. Milde, and V. Michael Weinmayr, *Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.; Founder of Landscape Architecture in America* (Amherst, MA: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1968).

²³³ Stubbs, “Pleasure Gardens of America: Anxieties of National Identity,” 135.

²³⁴ Dean, “Richard Stanhope Pullen and Raleigh’s First Public Park, 1887-1920,” 162.

²³⁵ Dean, “Richard Stanhope Pullen and Raleigh’s First Public Park, 1887-1920,” 161.

²³⁶ Peterson, *The Birth of City Planning in the United States: 1840-1917*, 47.

²³⁷ Schenker, *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century*, 183.

²³⁸ It should be noted that in 1836 architect Richard Morris Hunts attempted to formalize some parts of the Central Park and harmonized with the geometric surrounding grid iron context. Also, during the 1930s Depression, the Central Park was known to be very unsafe and a place of crime. However, the greater parts of the Olmsted and Vaux’s original design has survived and remained functional.

Anderton, *Lives of the Great Gardeners*, 168.

²³⁹ Rogers, *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History*, 341.

2. **Avoiding formal design except in very limited areas:** Olmsted and Vaux’s vision of a proper pleasure ground was the “rejection of any institutional structures” in parks and keeping them open for psychological benefits of the users.²⁴⁰ Natural features were kept and deemphasized as necessary²⁴¹ to give people the opportunity for “unconscious or indirect recreation.”²⁴² However, Olmsted and Vaux were aware that the whole park could not be reduced to a simple pastoral landscape.²⁴³ In Central Park, for example, they included “small and rich varied elements” within the larger context of the park.²⁴⁴ For instance, the Bethesda Terrace provided visitors the chance to admire the flowers in its formal garden and fountain, which contrasted with the overall pastoral style of the park (Figure 21). Other examples of formal elements in the Greensward plan were the Mall (Figures 22 & 23) and the flower garden.²⁴⁵
3. **Spaces for recreational activities:** Olmsted and Vaux were flexible and expected water to be used for boating in summer, which Olmsted himself was fond of,²⁴⁶ and in winter for skating. Grounds for cricket and children’s play were also included.²⁴⁷ Adding the cricket ground was probably inspired by the one in Birkenhead Park.²⁴⁸ Olmsted and Vaux hoped that these types of design elements would positively influence the morals of the Manhattan community and bring the benefit of association between classes of the population.²⁴⁹

²⁴⁰ Schuyler, *Apostle of Taste: Andrew Jackson Downing, 1815-1852*, 210.

²⁴¹ Chadwick, *The Park and the Town: Public Landscape in the nineteenth and 20th Centuries*, 184.

²⁴² Beveridge, and Rocheleau, *Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape*, 35.

²⁴³ Jellicoe, and Jellicoe, *The Landscape of Man: Shaping the Environment from Prehistory to the Present Day*, 281.

²⁴⁴ Jellicoe, and Jellicoe, *The Landscape of Man: Shaping the Environment from Prehistory to the Present Day*, 281.

²⁴⁵ Chadwick, *The Park and the Town: Public Landscape in the nineteenth and 20th Centuries*, 187.

²⁴⁶ Frederick Law Olmsted, and Theodora Kimball Hubbard, *Frederick Law Olmsted, Landscape Architect, 1822-1903* (London & New York: The Knickerbocker Press, 1922), 66.

²⁴⁷ Chadwick, *The Park and the Town: Public Landscape in the nineteenth and 20th Centuries*, 187-188.

²⁴⁸ Olmsted, *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England*, 93.

²⁴⁹ Melvin Kalfus, *Frederick Law Olmsted: The Passion of a Public Artist*, 278.

4. **Using native trees and shrubs:** Olmsted and Vaux mainly used local species especially in heavy border plantings.²⁵⁰ And
5. **Providing circulation by means of curvilinear paths and roads laid in wide-sweeping curves:**²⁵¹ The traffic circulation system separated walkers, horseback riders, and carriages with strategic use of bridges allowed the parks to be accessible in different ways. Avoiding sharp turns, the routes allowed passengers to focus on the carefully arranged scenery, with its charming architecture and vistas.²⁵²



Figure 21- *Lake and Terrace, Central Park, New York, 1905*, Photograph by Detroit Publishing Co. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Photograph Collection. The Terrace is among the very few formal elements of the Central Park design.

²⁵⁰ Gothein, *A History of Garden Art*, 428.

²⁵¹ Gothein, *A History of Garden Art*, 428.

²⁵² Brenwall, *The Central Park: Original Designs for New York's Greatest Treasure*, 48-51.



Figure 22- *Central Park Mall, New York, 1906*, Photograph by Harold A. Caparn. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. The formal axis of the Mall was in contrast to the overall pastoral design of Central Park.



Figure 23- *Central Park Mall, New York, n.d.*, Illustration. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive.

Central Park also brought economic advantages to the area. Olmsted was the first person who hypothesized that the “taxes from the increased real estate value generated from Central Park would be greater than the cost of the park.”²⁵³

As powerful as the pleasure ground movement was, it was not inevitable. If Vaux, the former partner of Downing, had not lobbied the Board of the Commissioners of Central Park to reject the redevelopment plan of engineer Egbert L. Viele and to hold a design competition for the park, the whole story of American park development history could have taken a very different path. The Central Park design was so influential that it represented “what people think a public park should be” now.²⁵⁴ Central Park gave birth to the “American pastoral style” and the profession of landscape architecture.²⁵⁵

The Large-Scale Influence of Park Design on Urban Planning

In Olmsted’s earlier career, a park was meant to be “a large tract of land set apart by the public for the enjoyment of rural landscape, as distinguished from a public square, a public garden, or a promenade, fit only for urbanized pleasure” as he declared in his 1870 address “The Justifying Value of a Public Park.”²⁵⁶ Central Park, for example, once fully assembled in the 1863 was 843 acres or 1.3 square miles. However, he later modified this in his book *Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns*, where he stated that in contrast to Central Park, small parks, dispersed throughout city and accessible by “a short walk would be more desirable than a single area of great extent, however rich in landscape attractions it might be.”²⁵⁷

²⁵³ Harnik, *Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities*, 3.

²⁵⁴ Anderton, *Lives of the Great Gardeners*, 164.

²⁵⁵ Tate, *Great City Parks*, 144.

²⁵⁶ Frederick Law Olmsted, “The Justifying Value of a Public Park,” *Journal of Social Science* 12 (1880): 147.

²⁵⁷ Frederick Law Olmsted, *Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns* (New York: Arno Press & The New York Times, 1970), 17.

Park System Movement

By linking individual parks into a working whole, Olmsted and Vaux created the concept of the “park system.”²⁵⁸ An example of this new type of park was Olmsted-Vaux’s park system for Buffalo, NY begun in 1868. Instead of designing a single large park, they proposed three parks with tree-lined parkways and boulevards to connect them.²⁵⁹ Another example of Olmsted’s regional scale of planning urban parks is the metropolitan park system of Boston commissioned in 1875²⁶⁰ (Figure 24). Olmsted’s idea of expanding the design of a single park to a larger regional scale moved parks into the realm of city planning.²⁶¹ It inspired other cities in the U.S. such as Kansas City, Missouri²⁶²; Hartford, Indiana; and Essex County, New Jersey to design a unified system of parks, parkways and boulevards,²⁶³ which created a new type of “regional city.”²⁶⁴



Figure 24- *Plan of Portion of Park System from Common to Franklin Park, Boston, MA, 1894*, Illustration by Olmsted & Eliot. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. The idea of considering urban parks as a part of the larger scale of city planning was first introduced by Olmsted’s plan for Boston Park System.

²⁵⁸ Bernie Dahl, and Donald J. Molnar, *Anatomy of a Park: Essentials of Recreation Area Planning and Design* (Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press, 2003), 3.

²⁵⁹ Kowsky, *The Best Planned City in the World: Olmsted, Vaux, and the Buffalo Park System*.

²⁶⁰ Fabos, and Milde, and Weinmayr, *Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.; Founder of Landscape Architecture in America*.

²⁶¹ Silvia Barry Sutton, “Introduction,” in *Civilizing American Cities: Writings on City Landscapes*, ed. Frederick Law Olmsted (New York: Da Capo Press, 1997), 17.

²⁶² “In Kanas City, George E. Kessler, a young German trained landscape architect, convinced the park board to build a park system with the aim of reshaping and updating the whole city.” Peterson, *The Birth of City Planning in the United States: 1840-1917*, 53-54.

²⁶³ Doell and Fitzgerald, *Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States*, 6.

²⁶⁴ John Nolen, and Henry V. Hubbard, *Parkways and Land Values* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1937), xi.

City Natural Ideal and City Beautiful Movements

The concept of introducing parks into cities at a larger urban scale first attracted attention with “The City Natural Ideal.” In 1888, Charles S. Sargent, botanist and the first director of Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University, founded a magazine called *Garden and Forest: A Journal of Horticulture, Landscape Art, and Forestry* (later simply known as *Garden and Forest*), which was published until 1897 and edited by William A. Stiles, a lifelong friend of Frederick Law Olmsted and one of the leading advocates of New York’s Central Park. Influenced by the newly established pleasure gardens of the large east-coast cities, the magazine promoted a movement called the “City Natural Ideal,” which is considered one of the roots of American environmentalism because it focused on “bringing nature into city and city people into nature” to enhance the “psychological, aesthetic, moral and physical” aspects of human lives.²⁶⁵ An article in the magazine stated in 1892 that:

It is universally admitted” that “there is no longer any need of argument to prove that ample and convenient open spaces for public resort and recreation are essential not only to the pleasure and comfort, but to the physical health and the mental and moral growth of the people.²⁶⁶

The significance of connecting with nature was a constant theme in *Garden and Forest*. In 1895, an editorial, entitled “The Defacement of Scenery,” stated that:

contact with natural beauty is one of the potent agencies for establishing sound minds in sound bodies; and since this is the source and condition of all directed

²⁶⁵ Hou, “Garden and Forest: A Forgotten Magazine and the Urban Roots of American Environmentalism,” 821-822.

²⁶⁶ Charles S Sargent, “Parks for Growing Cities,” *Garden and Forest*, Vol. 5 (February 10, 1892): 61.

ambition and effort, a reckless destruction of this beauty is a blow not only at one of the highest and most satisfying pleasures of the people, put at the public health and the public wealth.²⁶⁷

The City Natural Ideal's focus, reconnecting nature and city, was in contrast to what would later come to be known as the City Beautiful Movement that aimed to "promote architectural improvement and man-made elegance" and to transfer "America's wealth and enterprise" into "architectural grandeur."²⁶⁸ The City Natural Ideal had four main principals which all related to the concept of balancing wilderness and civilization:

1. **The social justice advantage of parks:** People, whatever their class and gender, need nature in their lives.
2. **The environmental justice advantage of parks:** Urbanization threatens to deny people the means of satisfying the need for nature, and it is up to planners and architects to design cities in better ways to overcome this threat and making cities fulfilling places to live.
3. **Comprehensive preservation of cities green spaces in different scales:** Nature can be experienced in gardens as well as wilderness. Within the confines of the city the experience of natural gardens is most appropriate, ranging from potted plant on the window ledge to grand urban park of carefully organized but still naturalistic beauty.
4. **The American democratic culture of preserving nature:** City people should take an interest in the fate of nature far away, including support for national forests and parks and for protection of natural resources for present-day and future generations.²⁶⁹

²⁶⁷ Sargent, "Parks for Growing Cities," 81.

²⁶⁸ Hou, "Garden and Forest: A Forgotten Magazine and the Urban Roots of American Environmentalism," 821.

²⁶⁹ Hou, "Garden and Forest: A Forgotten Magazine and the Urban Roots of American Environmentalism," 822.

Even though promoting and conserving green spaces at different scales was advocated by *Garden and Forest*, promoting urban parks remained the main goal of the magazine.²⁷⁰ Later in the 1890s, the beautification of public parks became the focus and expanded the design of urban landscape to the whole city, which led to the “City Beautiful Movement.” The movement proposed “making urban areas more attractive through planned improvement projects such as decorative architecture and natural landscaping.”²⁷¹ Creating public spaces including parks were a key aspect of beautifying cities and played an important role in American cities urban development and gave citizens a sense of pride for living in a beautiful city.

In America, the City Beautiful Movement was popularized by the World’s Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. The Exposition landscape was designed by Olmsted and the buildings were designed by a number of architects under the guidance of the architect Daniel Burnham (Figure 25). Olmsted and his junior partner, Henry S. Codman, chose Chicago’s lakefront as the fair site after inspecting seven possible alternatives.²⁷² On the site, buildings with neoclassical façades were juxtaposed with open public spaces to give the visitors an experience of grandeur²⁷³ (Figures 26 and 27). One of the public open spaces of Olmsted’s plan was “the Wooded Island in the picturesque naturalized lagoon” which contrasted with the urban context of Chicago²⁷⁴.

²⁷⁰ Hou, “Garden and Forest: A Forgotten Magazine and the Urban Roots of American Environmentalism,” 827.

²⁷¹ Dean, “Richard Stanhope Pullen and Raleigh’s First Public Park, 1887-1920,” 162.

²⁷² Peterson, *The Birth of City Planning in the United States: 1840-1917*, 62.

²⁷³ Fabos, and Milde, and Weinmayr, *Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.; Founder of Landscape Architecture in America*, 91.

²⁷⁴ George B Tobey, *A History of Landscape Architecture: The Relationship of People to Environment* (New York: American Elsevier Publishing Company, 1973), 169.

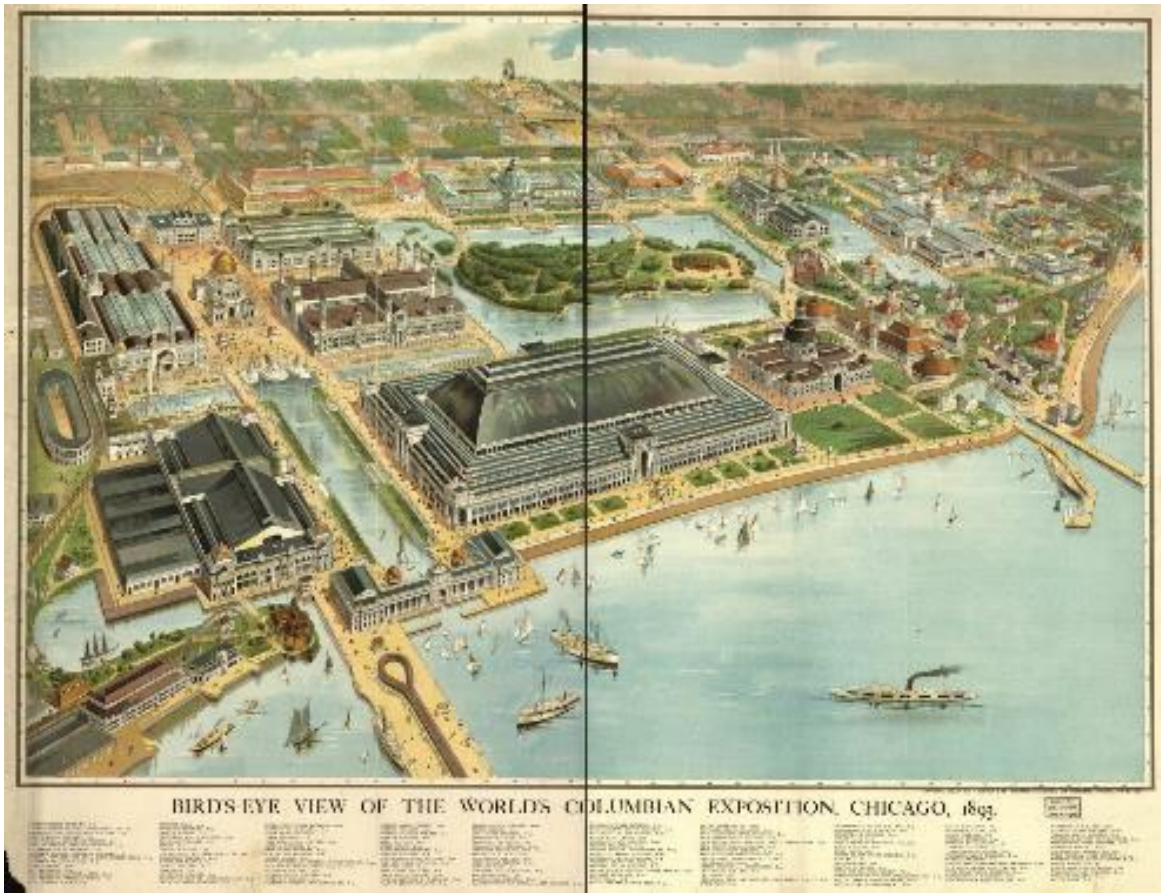


Figure 25- *Aerial View of the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893*, Illustration by Rand McNally and Company. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. The World's Columbian Exposition popularized the City Beautiful Movement through the United States. The Wooded Island in the picturesque naturalized lagoon was a part of the design for World's Columbian Exposition.



Figure 26- *Palace of Mechanic Arts, World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893*, Photograph by Frances Benjamin Johnston. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. The World's Columbian Exposition introduced several neoclassic buildings to the city of Chicago.



Figure 27- *Exposition Grounds, World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893*, Photograph by Frances Benjamin Johnston. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

In contrast to the “poor individualism of architecture” common at the time throughout the U.S., the World’s Fair introduced “unity, harmony, order, beauty, and withal practical convenience” which were later embraced by other American cities.²⁷⁵ George Tobey, landscape historian, explained that:

the 1893 fair represented everything that the United States urban environment was not. It so impressed the visitors with its scale and ordered, classic beauty that, after the fair, every large city with any pretension of self-worth planned to become a City Beautiful.²⁷⁶

The City Beautiful movement flourished throughout America, promoted by architects, landscape architects, and reformers between the 1890s and the 1920s. It also led to the idea of comprehensive urban planning in U.S. by claiming that design could not be separated from social issues and should encourage civic pride and engagement. The goal of the City Beautiful concept was to not only enhance the city’s appearance but also help the flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic by focusing on civic centers, parks, and grand boulevards. The holistic and multipurpose approach to urban planning that was championed by Burnham and displayed at the Columbian Exposition remained at the forefront of architecture, landscape architecture, and design for many years. Even today its impact is still visible in many American cities and also at a smaller scale in the works of individual designers.

²⁷⁵ Gothein, *A History of Garden Art*, 452.

²⁷⁶ Tobey, *A History of Landscape Architecture: The Relationship of People to Environment*, 181.

Kansas

Native Americans of Kansas

For thousands of years prior to any contact with Euro-Americans, native nomadic and hunter peoples occupied fields, valleys and plains of what we now know as Kansas.²⁷⁷ They sustained grasslands through frequent fire-burning mainly for grazing animals (bison, deer and antelope) and also meeting their supplementary agricultural needs (corn, beans and squash).²⁷⁸ In the early 1800s, there were four tribes of Indians living within the present borders of Kansas: the Kanza,²⁷⁹ the Osage, the Pawnee and the Comanche tribes.²⁸⁰

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned the Corps of Discovery with Meriwether Lewis as the leader and William Clark as its second in command²⁸¹ to explore the unknown western country. The expedition passed through eleven future states with the help of Sacajawea, an indigenous woman, who served as the guide on the two-year trek.”²⁸² Following the exploration of the west, native Americans “lost their freedom, suffered indignities, and were victimized by ‘civilization’.”²⁸³ After the Louisiana Purchase, they were pushed to the west of Iowa and Missouri, called Indian Territory by the federal government. With the creation

²⁷⁷ Rita Napier, and Carol Coburn, *History of the Peoples of Kansas: An Anthology* (Lawrence, Kansas: Independent Study, Division of Continuing Education, University of Kansas, 1985), 1.

²⁷⁸ Napier, and Coburn, *History of the Peoples of Kansas: An Anthology*, 1.

James Earl Sherow, *Manhattan* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2013).

James R Shortridge, *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1995), 11.

²⁷⁹ It is from this tribe that Kansas probably received its name.

Anna E. Arnold, *A History of Kansas* (Topeka, Kansas: B. P. Walker, State Printer, 1914), 25.

²⁸⁰ Arnold, *A History of Kansas*.

Waldo R. Wedel, “The Kansa Indians,” in *History of the Peoples of Kansas: An Anthology*, ed. Rita Napier and Carol Coburn (Lawrence, Kansas: Independent Study, Division of Continuing Education, University of Kansas, 1985).

²⁸¹ Adrian Zink, *Hidden History of Kansas* (Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2017).

Linden-Ward, *Silent City on a Hill: Picturesque Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery*, 14.

²⁸² Joe H. Vaughan, *Kansas City, Kansas* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2012), 9.

²⁸³ Richmond, *Kansas, a Pictorial History*, 14.

of the Kansas Territory in May 1854, the Kaw, Pawnee and other native residents of these valleys were forced out and eventually removed south to Oklahoma.²⁸⁴

Early Settlements in Kansas

Settlements happened in Kansas much later than many other parts of the United States.²⁸⁵ Before the mid-eighteenth century, what later become the state of Kansas was mainly only used as a transportation route through central North America known as the Santa Fe Trail²⁸⁶ and the country remained in the undisputed possession of the Native Americans.²⁸⁷ Therefore, Kansas was known as “Indian country” during the years of Santa Fe trade.²⁸⁸ In the early 1850s, Euro-Americans began to settle in the vast empty region of the midwestern Great Plains of the U.S, in what would become the state of Kansas.²⁸⁹ The newcomers began to manage landscape differently than Indians. The region had “remained static for thousands of years”²⁹⁰ but the new settlers sought to “change the tribes and to place them under their political dominion”²⁹¹ and convert the lands to

²⁸⁴ “By the nineteenth century, the Kansa lived in northeastern and western Kansas and the southeast, and the outskirts of some Pawnee hunting grounds to the north. Further west were the hunting territories of the Cheyenne, Arapaho and the other nomadic tribes. Their territorial boundaries were, of course, different from those defined by Euro-Americans, who claimed their territory and established political domination over it” (Napier & Coburn, 1985: 1). The Kaw and Pawnee Nations remain today in Oklahoma.

Sherow, *Manhattan*, 11.

²⁸⁵ Huber Self, and Stephen E. White, “One Hundred and Twenty Years of Population Change in Kansas,” *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science* 89, no.1/2 (1986): 10.

²⁸⁶ “The Santa Fe Trail was a great road about 775 miles long, beginning successively at Missouri towns, Franklin, Independence, and Westport, and extending westward to Santa Fe. Four hundred miles of its length were in Kansas (Arnold, 1914). Travel began in it in 1822 as the primary artery for U.S. trade with Spanish Southwest (Richmond, 1992).

Arnold, *A History of Kansas*, 43.

Richmond, *Kansas, a Pictorial History*, 22.

²⁸⁷ Arnold, *A History of Kansas*, 45.

²⁸⁸ Arnold, *A History of Kansas*, 57.

²⁸⁹ The settlers were native-born Americans, Germans, Irish, Scandinavian, Welsh, English and even a few black people, both slave and free.

Shortridge, *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas*.

William Elsey Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century* (Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1928), 320.

²⁹⁰ H. C. Miner, *Kansas: The History of the Sunflower State, 1854-2000* (Lawrence Kansas: Kansas Historical Society and University Press of Kansas, 2002), 18.

²⁹¹ Napier, and Coburn, *History of the Peoples of Kansas: An Anthology*, 2.

“farms and towns.”²⁹² Consequently, the first settlements were filled with “hatred, struggle, and bloodshed.”²⁹³

Kansas Territory was officially opened to settlement by the U.S. government in 1854 with the Kansas–Nebraska Act²⁹⁴ (Figure 28). Abolitionist Free-Staters from New England and pro-slavery settlers from neighboring Missouri rushed to the territory to determine whether Kansas would become a free state or a slave state.²⁹⁵ It led to a series of violent confrontations that made the Territory known as “Bleeding Kansas”²⁹⁶ and continued for years as a prelude to the coming American Civil War.²⁹⁷

The Bleeding Kansas conflict was seen as a battle between freedom and slavery and has often been regarded as the most significant time in mid-nineteenth century Kansas and a major reason for which Kansas was “the most advertised state in the Union.”²⁹⁸ As stated by Senator Atchison of Missouri, writing in September, 1855, to his Southern friends, “the [Kansas] contest . . . is one of life and death, and it will be so with you and your institution if we fail. . . in a word, the prosperity or the ruin of the whole South depends on the Kansas struggle.”²⁹⁹

²⁹² Napier, and Coburn, *History of the Peoples of Kansas: An Anthology*, 59.

²⁹³ Arnold, *A History of Kansas*, 55.

²⁹⁴ There were no true non-native communities in Kansas in the true sense before the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 (Richmond, 1992). The first settlers began to arrive, in what is Atchison County, in June 1854 (Connelley, 1928) and Leavenworth, the first town in Kansas, was laid out in the same year. . . The eastern border of Kansas, generally, was settled in about the same manner and the near the same time that these settlements already noted were formed (Connelley, 1928). Richmond, *Kansas, a Pictorial History*, 22.

Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 324.

Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 325.

²⁹⁵ Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 320.

²⁹⁶ Bleeding Kansas, Bloody Kansas or the Border War was a series of violent confrontations in the United States between 1854 and 1861 which emerged from a political and ideological debate over the legality of slavery in the proposed state of Kansas.

²⁹⁷ Zink, *Hidden History of Kansas*, 23.

²⁹⁸ Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 985.

²⁹⁹ D. R. Atchison, “Will Kansas Be Free!,” *New York Tribune*, November 2, 1855, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/50604655>.



Figure 28- *Kansas Territory Map, Kansas, 1854*, Illustration. Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Territory did not have the geographical borders of the contemporary state of Kansas. The Territory extended from the Missouri border in the east all the way to the heights of the Rocky Mountains in the west.

Kansas Population After Settlement

Within six years of being settled, Kansas had a population of 107,206 in 1860.³⁰⁰ One year later, they entered the Union as a free state on 29 January 1861.³⁰¹ The population boomed in the next three decades³⁰² reaching about one and a half million in 1890³⁰³ (Figure 29) despite drought and periodic economic depression.³⁰⁴ The rapid pioneer expansion was due to successful farming,

³⁰⁰ The University of Kansas Institute for Policy & Social Research, *U.S. Census of Population for Kansas. 1860-1980* (Lawrence, Kansas: The University of Kansas, 2017).

³⁰¹ Kansas lost its far western territory and Denver in February 28, 1861, when the territory of Colorado was created to govern it. Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 607.

³⁰² During the four years of the Civil War Kansas did not make a larger gain in population or in progress (Arnold, 1914: 114).

³⁰³ The University of Kansas Institute for Policy & Social Research, *U.S. Census of Population for Kansas. 1860-1980*.

³⁰⁴ The drought of June 1859 to November 1860 caused nearly a third of the 100,000 Kansas settlers to leave the Territory, another third had to be given aid from the east (Arnold, 1914).

Arnold, *A History of Kansas*, 105-106.

Shortridge, *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas*.

helped by improvements in agricultural technology and regular rainfall,³⁰⁵ as well as the promise of other economic opportunities like railroad development.³⁰⁶

One of the major factors that stimulated the westward expansion was the Homestead Act of 1862 that offered free land to farmers. The act offered 160 acres to any citizen or prospective citizen twenty-one years or older for the payment of filing fees on the condition that he live on the land for five years and make certain improvements.³⁰⁷ Additionally, railroad companies received large land grants from the federal government with the aim of making improvements to the newly settled states,³⁰⁸ and reinforcing the Union by connecting the west coast to the East. The Transcontinental Railroad was completed after the Civil War in 1869.³⁰⁹

Railroad companies advertised the state widely. They encouraged people to move to the state, and sold lands to settlers, thereby raising money and increasing business.³¹⁰ The railroad caused the region to blossom by connecting it to the east and west, shaping towns and enriching settlers' lives,³¹¹ and came to be recognized as the "greatest promotor and facilitator of Western settlement."³¹²

³⁰⁵ Richmond, *Kansas, a Pictorial History*, 117.

³⁰⁶ Prior land grants to railroads, the local climatic extremes and also the attractions of the already-developed central and eastern cities led settlers not choose to migrate to Western Kansas in large numbers (Self, 1978; Napier & Coburn, 1985; Shortridge, 1992: 186).

Huber Self, *Environment and Man in Kansas: Geographical Analysis* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1978), 16.

Napier, and Coburn, *History of the Peoples of Kansas: An Anthology*, 137.

Shortridge, *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas*, 186.

Shortridge, *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas*, 1.

³⁰⁷ Richmond, *Kansas, a Pictorial History*, 79.

³⁰⁸ Napier, and Coburn, *History of the Peoples of Kansas: An Anthology*, 137.

Self, *Environment and Man in Kansas: Geographical Analysis*, 16.

³⁰⁹ Zink, *Hidden History of Kansas*.

Linden-Ward, *Silent City on a Hill: Picturesque Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery*, 74.

³¹⁰ "Union Pacific through Kansas was given land amounting to a strip ten miles wide on each side of its line. Several other companies, including the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, received grants amounting to five miles on each side" (Arnold, 1914). Arnold, *A History of Kansas*, 180 & 184.

³¹¹ Miner, *Kansas: The History of the Sunflower State, 1854-2000*, 130.

³¹² Virgil W. Dean, *John Brown to Bob Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas History* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2006), 6.

Once settled, the population of Kansas experienced slower growth in the 20th century³¹³ (Figure 29). Today's Kansas population annual growth rate of 0.57% ranks as 31st among all 50 states. It is the 15th largest state in the US in surface area, but in population, it is only the 33rd most populated.³¹⁴ The Kansas migration rate, or the difference between in-migration and out-migration, has also decreased steadily from 2011 to 2016.³¹⁵ Kansas now has more than 6,000 ghost towns and dwindling communities.³¹⁶ Only two regions in the state (East Central and South-Central regions) has a positive population growth in 2015 to 2016.³¹⁷

³¹³ Self, and White, "One Hundred and Twenty Years of Population Change in Kansas," 10.

³¹⁴ "Kansas Population," US Census, World Population Review, last modified January 1, 2018, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/states/kansas-population/>.

³¹⁵ "State Migration Rates," US Census, Governing, last modified December 1, 2018, <http://www.governing.com/gov-data/census/state-migration-rates-annual-net-migration-by-state.html>.

³¹⁶ "Kansas Population," US Census.

³¹⁷ The University of Kansas Institute for Policy & Social Research, *Kansas Statistical Abstract* (Lawrence, Kansas: The University of Kansas, 2017).

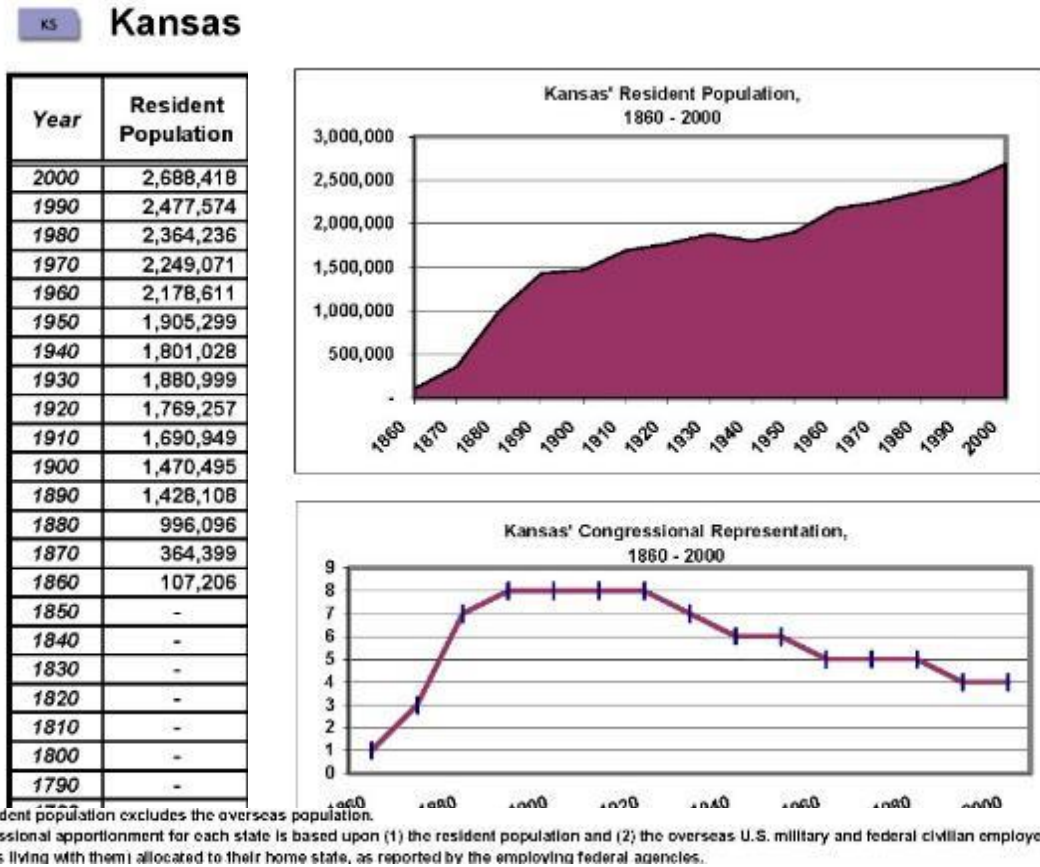


Figure 29- *Kansas Resident Population, 1860-2000*, Illustration by United States Census Bureau.

Summary

Appreciation of civilization and the rural pastoral landscape were originally a response by early settlers to the horror associated with the wilderness of the New World. This along with the desire to commemorate the dead in a symbolic natural setting led to the creation of the picturesque burial grounds, known as Rural Cemeteries. On the other hand, the Rural Cemeteries modeled after the English Romantic landscape provided urban citizens with places for refreshing passive reflection and recreation. Opening Birkenhead Park in Liverpool as the first publicly-owned green urban space accelerated realizing the idea of creating public parks in American cities which was primarily advocated by Andrew Jackson Downing. Fredrick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux officially began the United States park movement by designing Central Park and providing the New Yorkers with

a place to escape from the issues associated with living in metropolitan areas. As the first American pleasure ground, i.e. urban park in the nineteenth century, Central Park became the model for several other pleasure grounds and at a larger scale, the development of urban park systems. The extent of the effects of the pleasure ground movement was to the point that it even encouraged people of non-urban areas to promote the concept of creating public parks in their communities which is the main topic of this research. Figure 30 shows the main points discussed in Chapter 2.

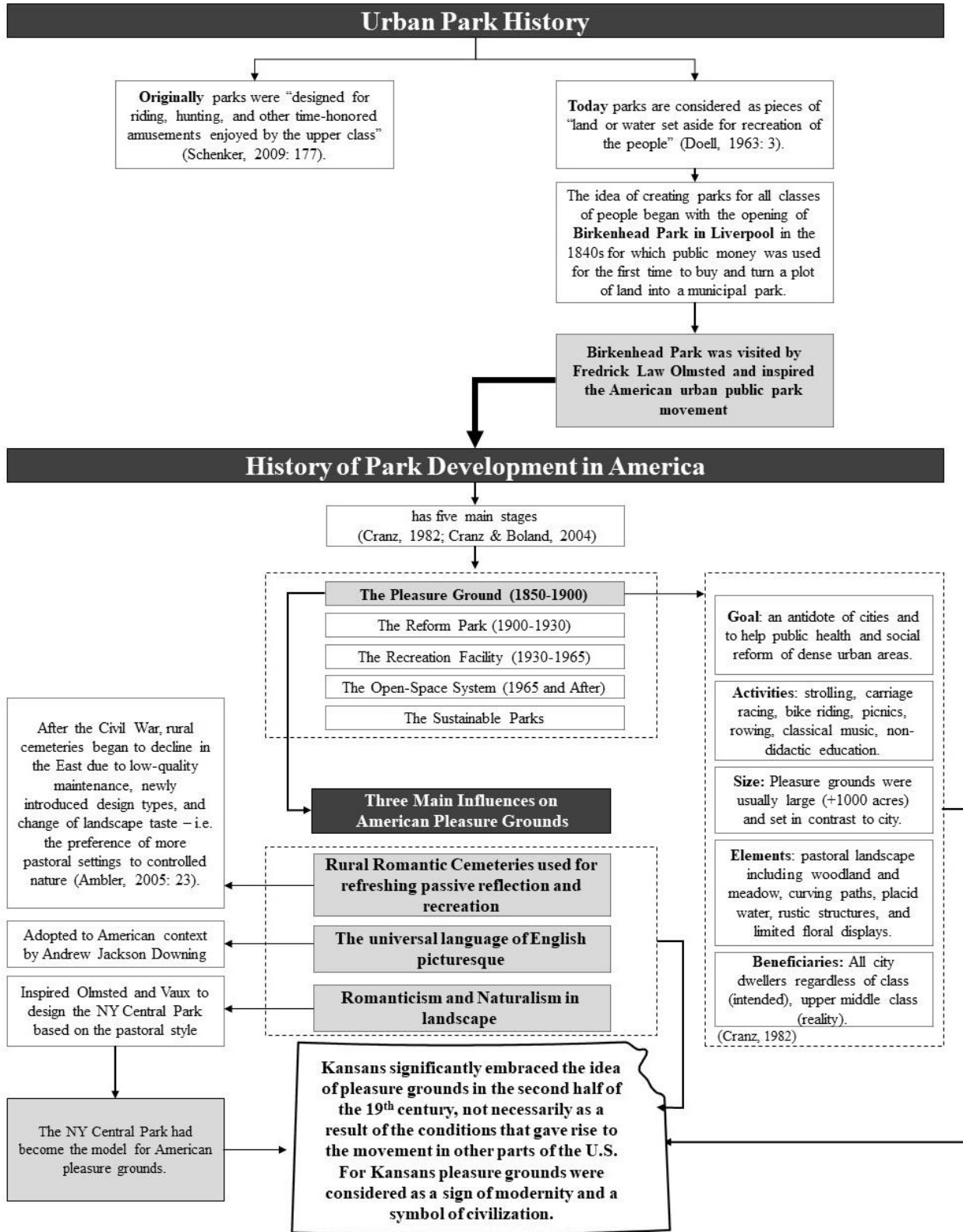


Figure 30- Summary of the Creation of Parks in America, 2019, Illustration by Author. Courtesy Dorna Eshtrati Personal Digital Archive.

Chapter 3: Methods

A qualitative historical research methodology was used to answer the research questions, which required searching for evidence, collecting and organizing that evidence, evaluating it, and constructing a valid and reliable narrative from the evidence.³¹⁸ The outcome of this research was an analytical narration telling the story of Kansas pleasure grounds from 1850 to 1920.

Data Collection

Data was collected in the form of words, but also included other forms of information such as photographs, drawings and maps. The data sources were historical newspapers, drawings and maps. To check data validity, triangulation was done through cross verification from two or more sources to arrive at consistency across data.³¹⁹ Contradictions in evidence for narrative history were either resolved or admitted that they could not be resolved.

Visual data came from reliable sources such as the online Kansas Historical Society collection, called Kansas Memory, and the Library of Congress.³²⁰ The primary source of text-based data was historic newspaper databases, mainly the Historical Newspaper Archive that is the largest online archive of Kansas newspapers. Data extracted from historical newspaper articles can be extraordinarily rich because they can reflect not only descriptions of people, places, events, and material culture, but also information about what was on the minds of Kansans and their ideas about pleasure grounds of the nineteenth century. Moreover, newspaper articles are often highly reliable because of low temporal distance, i.e. the length of time between an event and the recording of an event. Other primary sources such as city documents were also reviewed for additional data.

³¹⁸ Linda N. Groat, and David Wang, *Architectural Research Methods* (Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2013), 137.

³¹⁹ Richard Marius, and Melvin E. Page, *A Short Guide to Writing about History* (New York: Pearson, 2007), 57.

³²⁰ Appendix D includes the copyright status and/or permissions granted for reprinting the images used in this research.

For the purposes of this study, the selected primary and secondary sources were produced within a specific time frame. The time period of this study began in 1850 when the pace of settlement accelerated. The endpoint chosen for the research was 1920. This period was selected because the term “pleasure ground” was in common use, as opposed to “park,” (Figure 31) and it also falls into Cranz’s “Pleasure Ground Era.” The concept and purposes of public parks also began to change by the early 1900s. The original pleasure ground began to transition into a new type of urban park called a “reform park” with very different goals and characteristics.³²¹

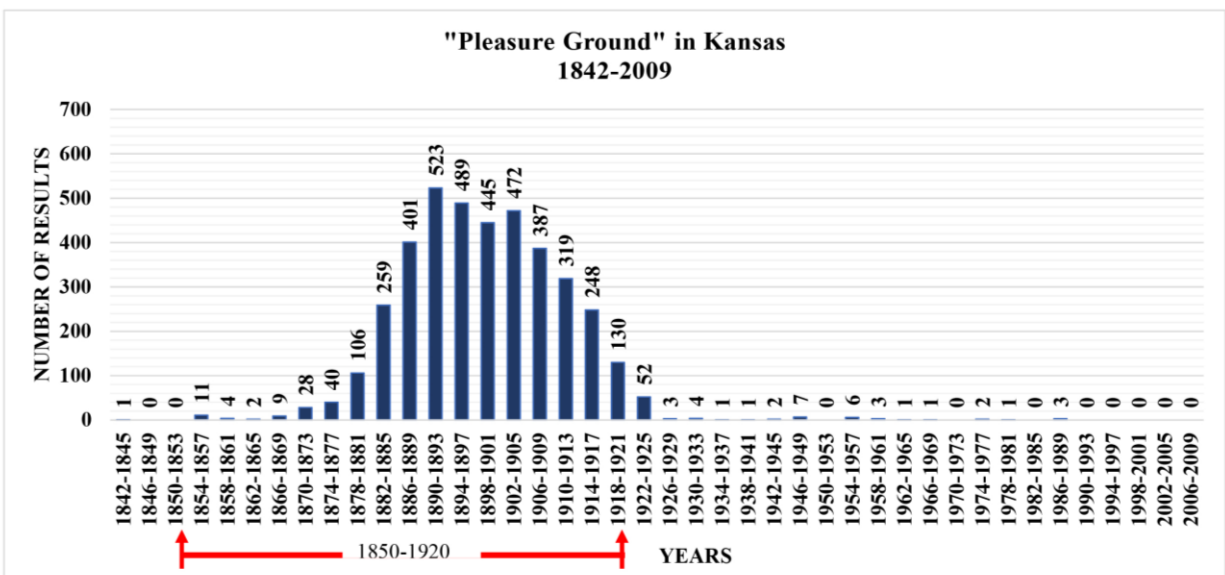


Figure 31- *The Usage Frequency of the Term “Pleasure Ground” in Kansas Newspaper Articles, 1842-2009, Articles*, Illustration by Dorna Eshrati based on Newspaper Archive Data. The Historical Newspaper Archive.

To collect data from the Historical Newspaper Archive, the word “pleasure ground” was searched for and filtered for sources within the state of Kansas. The articles were then filtered to include those written between 1850 and 1920. This produced 3,763 records within that time period with the word “pleasure ground” in them.³²² Some were duplicates. In these cases, if the same

³²¹ Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*.

³²² If the time had permitted, the records associated with the word “city park” could have been searched and investigated to find supplementary data but that had required reading an additional of 122,643 records only in the time period of the study.

article was published in multiple newspapers – a common practice then – the original version with the earliest publication date was used. In summary, to guide the data collection, resources had to meet one of these criteria:

1. It had to directly be concerned the focus of study i.e. the pleasure grounds of Kansas between 1850 to 1920.
2. Or it had to be related to the technological, design, economic, and/or ideological context of Kansas pleasure grounds.

Each article in the Historical Newspaper Archive containing the word “pleasure ground” was read online, and if relevant (met criteria 1 or 2) was saved as a PDF file. The Historical Newspaper Archive allows articles to be cropped and saved as PDF or JPEG files. The PDF format was preferred because PDF files could be later converted into searchable documents if required.³²³ It should be noted that once each article was saved, the website automatically kept all the information about the article in the header of PDF files which was then used for the citation.

After each article was saved, it was re-read individually and notes were taken in a Microsoft Office Word file. The format of each note started with the article citation in the Chicago 16th Edition (Author-Date System) followed by the notes relating to the article. Direct quotes were typed between quotation marks. Personal memos were typed in italic format to distinguish them easily from the actual summary notes.

³²³ The reason why computer-assisted data collection methods like NVivo 12 Plus is not used in for data collection is that in order to take full advantage of such software, text-based documents should be searchable to be read by the software. However, due to the quality old scans and considering the fact most of the scans lose quality after being cropped from large pages of old newspapers, not all the saved files can be successfully converted into searchable manuscripts. Therefore, they cannot be identified by the software and used for data analysis. That is why, even though attempted, computer-assisted data collection methods like were not helpful in this research.

The Word file was organized with a table of contents so information relevant to each pleasure ground and each city would be together in individual sections. The research design called for the information to be ordered chronologically to produce a historic narration of Kansas pleasure grounds. Therefore, the notes on each individual park were typed in chronological order. In addition, to answer the supplementary question “what towns and cities of Kansas undertook these parks?”, each city was organized separately in the data collection process. This also made accessing the information on each individual city and park more convenient. Appendix B shows the list of the cities in which pleasure grounds were built or proposed. The list was extracted from the articles found on the Historical Newspaper Archive. To check the validity of data, obtain further information, and arrive at consistency across data, other primary sources like city documents were searched to find further evidence about the information found in historical newspapers.

Data Analysis

To analyze the data, cities and towns were divided into two groups based on their populations in 1890.³²⁴ The population in 1890 was chosen as it is almost in the middle of the time frame of the research (1850-1920) and can be considered as an indication of the size of the cities and the towns at the time. Also, the 1890 populations were available for all the cities and towns.³²⁵ The population of these cities and towns can be found in Appendix B. Those cities and town which had or proposed pleasure grounds in the nineteenth century were divided as follows:

³²⁴ In the first round of data analysis, it was considered to have three groups of cities: Large, medium and small. However, no significant difference was found between the attributes of the pleasure grounds of larger cities of a Kansas (such as Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, Leavenworth, Atchison, Fort Scott, and Lawrence) and those of more medium-sized ones (like Hutchinson, Arkansas City, Emporia, Parsons, Pittsburg, Ottawa, Salina, Newton, Winfield, Junction City, and Wellington). Therefore, they grouped together.

³²⁵ Even though 1885 is exactly the middle of the research time frame, due to not finding the populations of this year for all towns, it was decided to use the population of 1890 which is roughly the middle of the research time frame.

1. **Large and medium cities and towns:** These municipalities had a population of 4000 or above in 1890. The following cities and towns, ordered from large to small, were grouped together in order to compare and contrast their pleasure grounds: Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, Leavenworth, Atchison, Fort Scott, Lawrence, Hutchinson, Arkansas City, Emporia, Parsons, Pittsburg, Ottawa, Salina, Newton, Winfield, Junction City, and Wellington.
2. **Small towns:** These municipalities had a population under 4000 inhabitants in 1890 and included: Abilene, El Dorado, Olathe, Independence, Manhattan, Paola, Chanute, Clay Center, Holton, Girard, Galena, Hiawatha, Beloit, Kingman, Coffeyville, Burlington, Garnett, Cherryvale, Marion, Rosedale, Larend, Dodge City, Lyons, Iola, Caldwell, Sterling, Ellsworth, Harper, Garden City, Burlingame, Pratt, Sabetha, Humboldt, Yates Center, Baxter Springs, Hays, Florence, Alma, Cherokee, Cawker City, Kiowa, Saint John, Kinsley, Smith Center, Mulvane, Sedgwick, Cader Vale, Burr Oak, Attica, Waverly, Colony, Moran, Meade, Hartford, Bonner Springs, White City, Argonia, Perry, Almena, Alta Vista, Morrill, Netawaka, Altoona, and Bluff City.

To start data analysis, all the notes were read one more time in order to extract codes, categories, and themes for both groups of “large and medium cities and towns” and “small towns.” The following steps explain the process of data analysis through coding, categorizing, and finding themes.

- 1- **Coding:** Coding is a process of searching and identifying concepts and finding relationships between them. Codes are the smallest point of meaning assigned to an excerpt of text. In the first step of coding, each note was read line-by-line and coded to include as many details as possible. The language used in the codes was chosen to be as close as

possible to the original texts. The analysis of the data becomes more profound as the codes become more detailed. When attributing codes, the goal was to highlight words, phrases, sentences, or even paragraphs that described a specific phenomenon addressing the research questions.

2- **Categorizing:** Then the texts with similar codes were put into categories and moved around in order to better reveal the data. Categories were formed when similar codes could be merged to get a broader sense of the data. Identified categories helped cluster the data in meaningful groups. As codes were gathered into categories, and then grouped into larger more overarching themes, it was necessary to have more abstract names for the categories in order to make them more inclusive.

3- **Finding Themes:** By analyzing and sorting the codes into categories, consistent and overarching themes were revealed. Themes are broader concepts which constitute several categories or one depending on the research questions. Given the primary and secondary research questions, themes were attributed to the articles that related to the:

- Advocates of creating pleasure grounds in early Kansas communities;
- Motivations for creating pleasure grounds in early Kansas communities; and
- Characteristics of Kansas pleasure grounds.

For example, the theme of “the advocates of creating pleasure grounds in large and medium cities and towns” had these categories: newspapers, city officials, businesses and companies, public-spirited citizens and property owners. The category of “public-spirited citizens” had these codes:

- People were willing to pay for parkland purchase, improvements or maintenance through fundraising or taxations. Also, people shared stocks in owning parks.

- Women played an important role in developing and improving parks in Kansas.

The codes and categories of each of the themes were organized into tables to make the writing process more efficient. Appendix C shows a sample table of codes, categories, and themes extracted from the data related to pleasure grounds in larger cities of Kansas.

Synthesis

The lists of codes, categories, themes, and associated images and maps were then used to write the narrative in Chapter 4: Findings. Links between different categories concepts and/or themes were found to construct an overall portrait of the history of pleasure grounds in Kansas. Revisions were made until the final material is ready for presentation and defense. The time frame of the research is presented in Appendix E.

Chapter 4: Findings

In the early 1850s, Euro-American settlers arrived in the “flat, arid, treeless lands”³²⁶ of what would become the state of Kansas. Settlement in this new place required many adjustments in their lives, not only in crops, housing, fuel, [and] transportation,³²⁷ but also in their approach to shaping their environment. “The undeveloped qualities gave the land much of its value”³²⁸ and attracted outsiders to settle in Kansas and farm. However, in the early years of settlement, frequent failure due to a “lack of experimental knowledge of how farming ought to be done in this unknown region” branded the state “as a part of the Great American desert.” The state became known as “starving Kansas”³²⁹ and it was widely believed that Kansas land “would not support agriculture.”³³⁰

Despite a flood of misfortunes in the early years of settlement, including strife, warfare, depression,³³¹ and natural disasters,³³² the settlers did not give up and eventually achieved great success over the next decades and made Kansas one of the most fruitful of the states.³³³ It was not only the agricultural success or the “bountiful crops of sunny Kansas”³³⁴ that made the state unique in the mid-nineteenth century,³³⁵ Kansans also made significant effort to develop urban and rural landscapes in their new home. Landscape historian Nancy J. Volkman believes that the new Kansas settlers were motivated to alter the landscape to “recreate elements of their past” and to

³²⁶ Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 137 & 957.

³²⁷ Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 137 & 957.

³²⁸ Volkman, “Landscape Architecture on the Prairie: The Work of H. W. S. Cleveland,” 43.

³²⁹ Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 957.

³³⁰ Zink, *Hidden History of Kansas*, 74.

³³¹ The Panic of 1873 was the most important financial crisis of the time that triggered a depression in Europe and North America that lasted from 1873 until 1879.

³³² The drought of 1859-1860 and 1874, deadly blizzards of January 1866, and the grasshopper plague of 1874 were the most notable natural disasters in the early years of settlement in Kansas.

³³³ Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 957.

Richmond, *Kansas, a Pictorial History*, 59.

³³⁴ Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 984.

³³⁵ In the early 1900s, Kansas had more acres in farms than any other state except Texas, which is three times as large
Connelley, *History of Kansas State and People: Kansas at the First Quarter Post of the Century*, 965.

make “psychological and functional links between their former and new homes” in order to overcome “their fear of the new environment and its natural forces such as fire and wind.”³³⁶

Hence, “the first Free State settlements in Kansas were strongly influenced by New England, so much so that the state has sometimes been seen as a Yankee-Puritan commonwealth set in the middle of the great plains.”³³⁷ The environment of Kansas however, did not allow its early settlers to recreate the vast wooded landscapes from which many of these displaced New Englanders had come. Instead, they attempted to create other types of familiar landscape such as home yards, cemeteries, institutional grounds and public parks to “bring civilization to the prairie lands.”³³⁸ One of the very first open public spaces created in the state of Kansas was a rural cemetery in Lawrence.

The Emergence of Rural Cemeteries in Kansas

Interest in rural cemeteries in Kansas rose in the mid-1860s as the popularity of these cemeteries began to decline in the east.³³⁹ The movement began in Kansas with the creation of the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence (Figure 32). It was platted in 1865 to honor the 143 victims of Quantrill’s raid in 1863, which was a part of the Bleeding Kansas conflict that burned nearly all of Lawrence³⁴⁰ (Figure 33). The new tastefully-designed rural cemetery also allowed residents to make a political statement in favor of the free-state tradition, and it was also hoped that it would be seen as a sign of Lawrence’s sophistication and attract investment capital.³⁴¹

³³⁶ Volkman, “Landscape Architecture on the Prairie: The Work of H. W. S. Cleveland,” 43.

³³⁷ Richmond, *Kansas, a Pictorial History*, 117.

³³⁸ Volkman, “Landscape Architecture on the Prairie: The Work of H. W. S. Cleveland,” 43-44.

³³⁹ Albert N Hamscher, *Kansas Cemeteries in History* (Manhattan, Kansas: KS Publishing, Inc., 2005), x.

³⁴⁰ William Quantrill’s raid on the Free-State town of Lawrence, Kansas (also known as the Lawrence Massacre) was an attack during the American Civil War (1861–65) and a defining moment in the border conflict. At dawn on August 21, 1863, Quantrill and his guerrillas rode into the Unionist town of Lawrence, Kansas, where they burned much of the town and killed between 160 and 190 men and boys.

³⁴¹ Ambler, “A Place Not Entirely of Sadness and Gloom: Oak Hill Cemetery and Rural Cemetery Movement.”

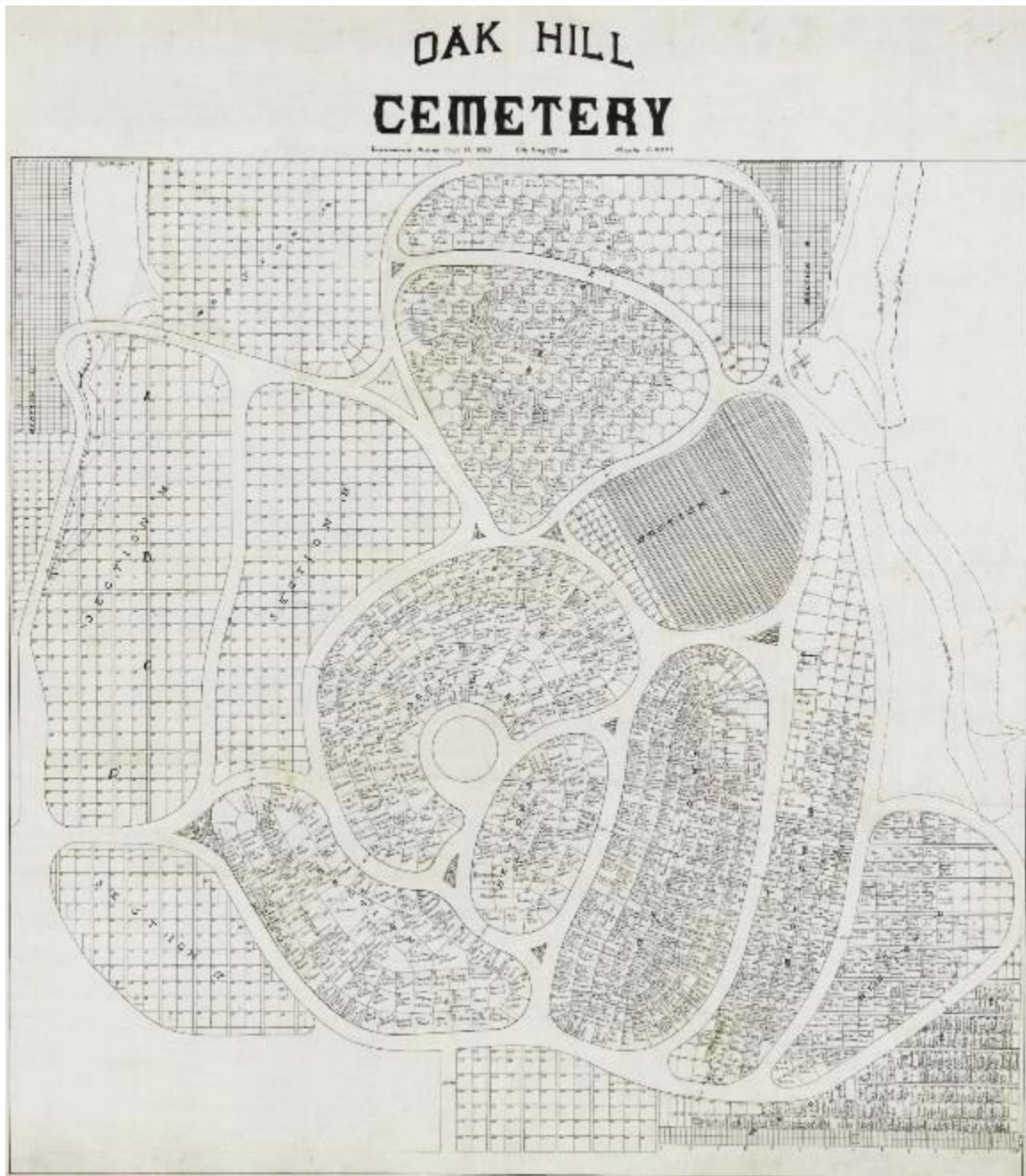


Figure 32- *Map of Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Kansas, 1913*, Illustration. City of Lawrence Park and Recreation Department. The Oak Hill Cemetery located in east Lawrence was the first rural cemetery built in Kansas.



Figure 33- *The Ruins of Lawrence, Kansas after William Quantrill's Raid, 1863*, Illustration by a Correspondent, Published in *Harper's Weekly*, V. 7, No. 351 (1863 September 19), p 604. Courtesy of the Allen County Public Library, Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection. Quantrill's raid in 1863 was a part of the Bleeding Kansas conflict and burned nearly all of Lawrence.

Competition among Kansas towns prompted an interest in the development of other rural cemeteries in the state. For example, just five years after the establishment of Oak Hill Cemetery, Junction City hired Horace William Shaler Cleveland, a well-known Chicago landscape gardener in 1870 to design its Highland Cemetery.³⁴² The initial promoter of Highland Cemetery was John A. Anderson who was at the time the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. He highlighted the importance of cemeteries to small communities – even more than parks – by publishing an article in *Junction City Weekly Union* in 1871:

³⁴² Cleveland is known to be an influencer on the landscape design of the nineteenth century in Kansas. His employment in Junction City, recommended by Frederick Law Olmsted, led him to two other large projects in Kansas – the statehouse grounds in Topeka and the Western Branch of the National Military Home in Leavenworth. Ambler, “A Place Not Entirely of Sadness and Gloom: Oak Hill Cemetery and Rural Cemetery Movement,” 28.

Cemeteries should be more common than parks, just in proportion that villages outnumber cities. Every town should have a garden of its dead, and especially should the new towns of the West take hold at once. . . With wise and persistent effort any town may establish a first-class cemetery in a few years, and . . . it would not be long before the unsightly enclosure which are new as common, would be replaced by tastefully arranged cemeteries.³⁴³

Kansas rural cemeteries, unlike those of the east coast, were not forerunners of public parks because by the time they first were introduced in the State in 1865, the pleasure ground movement had already started in the east and the construction of Central Park was under construction. In addition, the very function of rural cemeteries – as spaces for public recreation in dense living environment that inspired the early pleasure grounds – was not the main reason why rural cemeteries were introduced in Kansas. Therefore, it should be said that the pleasure ground movement had more influence on Kansas than the very few examples of the rural cemeteries in the state. The term “rural cemetery” was only used extensively in the 1880s in Kansas local newspapers, versus the use of the terms “pleasure ground” and “city park,” which were discussed far more widely starting in the mid-nineteenth century (Figures 34).

³⁴³ “Highland Cemetery,” *Junction City Weekly Union*, April 8, 1871, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76341618/>.

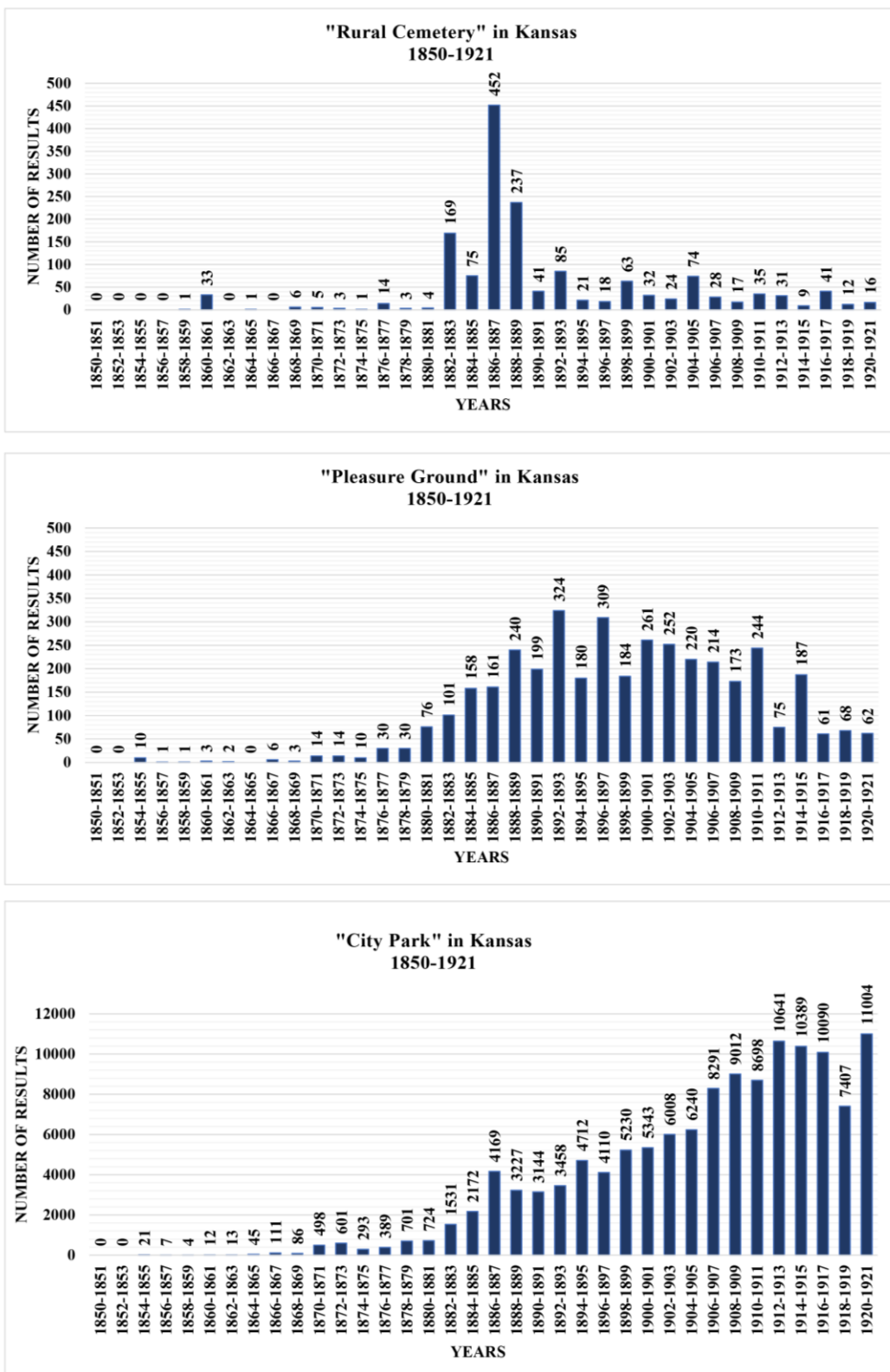


Figure 34- The Frequency of the Usage of Terms “Rural Cemetery,” “Pleasure Ground” and “City Park” in Kansas Newspapers Articles, 1850-1921, Illustration by Dorna Eshtrati based on Newspaper Archive Data. The Historical Newspaper Archive.

The Emergence of Pleasure Grounds in Kansas

The history of Kansas nineteenth-century parks or pleasure grounds has never been investigated in depth. Few resources can be found even on the more general topic of the history of designed or man-made landscapes in Kansas. Two books are the exception. The first is a series of articles on the history of burial grounds in the state called *Kansas Cemeteries in History* (2005). David Sachs and George Ehrlich in *Guide to Kansas Architecture* (1996) also illustrate where, how, and why Kansans assembled and altered their physical surroundings. The authors have amassed information on 700 architectural structures—including homes, businesses, schools, churches, courthouses, theaters, bridges, and barns spread throughout all 105 counties.³⁴⁴ In spite of few publications, it is clear that Kansans thoroughly embraced the idea of creating “pleasure grounds.”³⁴⁵

Kansans, like the other pioneers of the nineteenth-century park movement, usually used the word “pleasure ground” to refer to what we know today as city parks. A parlor game created by Wichita residents to be played at parties illustrates how widespread the use of the word “pleasure ground” was. The answers to the questions were names of Wichita streets. For example, the answer to the clue “The Pleasure Ground” was “Park” Street.³⁴⁶ Local newspapers also played a crucial role as boosters of the movement. Newspaper editors and reporters wrote extensively about the pleasure ground movement and the parks of large American and European cities. For instance, the *Topeka Daily Capital*, in July 1886, reported that the “pride and joy of Chicago” were “her parks” and how proudly they are maintained “in spite of the flatness of the marsh and the

³⁴⁴ David H. Sachs, and George Ehrlich, *Guide to Kansas Architecture* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1996).

³⁴⁵ Dorna Eshrati, “Early Kansans and the Creation of Public Parks,” *Conference of Kansas Association of Historians* (2019). Dorna Eshrati, “An Overview of the Rich History of Public Parks in Early Kansas,” *Conference of the Alliance of Historic Urban Landscape AHLPL* (2019).

³⁴⁶ “The Following Guessing Game,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, March 25, 1905, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76816145/>.

prairie land” on which they are constructed.³⁴⁷ In the *Atchison Daily Patriot*, a large Philadelphia park of 2,000 acres was listed as one of the “items of interest” next to very surprising ones like the fact that “in Asia among the Mongols and Kalmyks,³⁴⁸ a woman must not speak to her father-in-law, nor sit down in his presence.”³⁴⁹

The idea of “a national parkway from the Atlantic to the Pacific” also gained enough momentum be reported in *The Emporia Gazette* in 1897 with the hope that Kansas would be a part of it. The proposed parkway would lead “from one beautiful pleasure ground to another,” pass through “great tracts of woodland patrolled by government foresters” and link together “suburb after suburb by great boulevards which tend to bring civilization to distant homes by affording safe and easy communication between them.”³⁵⁰

The parks outside the United States were also admired in Kansas, most notably the large parks of Europe. For example, it was mentioned that “among the prime necessities of a great city is a spacious public park, a pleasure ground for the use of citizens” for which London reserved several thousands of acres.³⁵¹ Details about some proposed changes³⁵² in St. James’ Park³⁵³ and its potential harm to the park was of enough concern to be reported in the McPherson *The Democrat-Opinion*.³⁵⁴ Another European precedent was the Bois de Boulogne³⁵⁵ in Paris. It was given to the

³⁴⁷ “Glimpses of Chicago,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, July 1, 1886, 7, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64877476/>.

³⁴⁸ The Kalmyks are a Mongol subgroup in Russia, whose ancestors migrated from Dzungaria in 1607. They created the Kalmyk Khanate in 1630–1771 in Russia’s North Caucasus territory.

³⁴⁹ “Items of Interest,” *Atchison Daily Patriot*, Atchison, Kansas, November 4, 1871, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/80356199/>.

³⁵⁰ “American Pleasure Ground,” *The Emporia Gazette*, Emporia, Kansas, June 24, 1897, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/380867093/>.

³⁵¹ “A Public Park,” *Weekly Atchison Champion*, Atchison, Kansas, September 17, 1870, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/95928542/>.

³⁵² The proposed changes included substituting the famous iron suspension bridge with a stone one and also adding a memorial of King Edward.

³⁵³ St James’s Park is a 23-hectare (57-acre) park in the City of Westminster, central London.

³⁵⁴ “St. James Park in Danger,” *The Democrat-Opinion*, McPherson, Kansas, May 12, 1911, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/421908544>.

³⁵⁵ The Bois de Boulogne is a large public park located along the western edge of the 16th arrondissement of Paris, near the suburb of Boulogne-Billancourt and Neuilly-sur-Seine. The land was ceded to the city of Paris by the Emperor Napoleon III to be turned into a public park in 1852.

city by Napoleon III in 1852 and was described as the “most fascinating pleasure ground in Europe.”³⁵⁶

The newly-established American National Parks were sometimes referred to as “pleasure grounds” in Kansas newspapers at the time. It was likely a way to publicize how other states were managing their landscapes by creating a “permanent pleasure-ground for the amusement and instruction of the people.”³⁵⁷ Among the most discussed were Yellowstone National Park,³⁵⁸ Niagara Falls pleasure ground³⁵⁹ and Yosemite Park, which was known as the “greatest American pleasure ground.”³⁶⁰

The American pleasure ground, which was thought to reflect well on the town and its inhabitants, was widely admired in Kansas newspapers. In 1897, *The Burlington News* wrote that:

The idea of public parks is one of recent origin, thought of and advocated by an American, and is being carried out with all the energy of the nineteenth century, the old world patterning after the new. A neat, attractive park is an ornament and a credit to any city. It tells of tasty and refined inhabitants. It is an index to the character of the people. Pleasant parks with trees and vines and plants and flowers tend to the elevation of man.³⁶¹

³⁵⁶ “Outdoor Life in Paris,” *Winfield Daily Courant*, Winfield, Kansas, May 27, 1880, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/365195848>.

³⁵⁷ “The National Park,” *Empire City Echo*, Empire, Kansas, January 24, 1878, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/387588817/>.

³⁵⁸ “Why Is It Thus?,” *Washington Weekly Post*, Washington, Kansas, September 5, 1889, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/386336549>.

³⁵⁹ “Ottawa County Commercial, Supplement,” *Minneapolis Commercial*, Minneapolis, Kansas, July 27, 1887, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/375027020>.

³⁶⁰ “The New National Park,” *The Western Economist*, La Crosse, Kansas, January 1, 1891, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/425856198/>.

³⁶¹ “A Blooming’ Success,” *The Burlington News*, Burlington, Kansas, November 20, 1897, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/518228043/>.

The nineteenth-century park was also believed to be a democratizing force, as discussed by *Kansas Farmer*:

There was a time when parks and pleasure-grounds were a luxury that only a few could enjoy. Wealthy landowners, with refined tastes and sensitive to the beautiful in nature, surrounded their homes with beautifully laid out grounds. A stately building towered out of the foliage of magnificent trees and shrubs, between which were provided open spaces for formal gardens with a profusion of rare flowering and foliage-plants. From the verandah, or pergola, the eye could roam over a clean stretch of rich green turf, bordered with a bank of shrubby growth and trees, with a variety of forms in body and sky line. Some who possessed still more wealth could add fountains, lakes, bridges, pavilions, grottos, etc. to their still larger grounds. But all these grounds were exclusive, to be enjoyed only by their occupants and invited guests; the ‘people’ could admire them from a distance only. By a process of evolution the park has come down to the cities and towns. The park idea has become so general that everybody has an appreciation of and a desire for beautiful natural surroundings.³⁶²

To highlight the importance of having a park, “a metropolis without a park” was compared to a “crown without jewels” by the *Salina Herald*.³⁶³ In 1899, *The Caldwell News* also advocated for parks, calling them “a good thing for a town.” The newspaper promoted the idea of reserving land for “acquisition of a pleasure ground” and improving it later in the future as “a few dollars

³⁶² “Beautifying Country Homes,” *Kansas Farmer*, Topeka, Kansas, January 31, 1907, 13, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/210165487/>.

³⁶³ “City Park,” *Salina Herald*, Salina, Kansas, July 14, 1887, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/483855020/>.

now will get more and better situated lands than hundreds will a few years hence.”³⁶⁴ *The Leavenworth Times* brought attention to the need for a public park for the city by referring to parks of large cities of the country. The statement also indicates how public parks were defined in the nineteenth century:

Every city in the country of any size whatever has one or more ‘breathing places,’ or in other words, public parks, where the stifled citizen can go, and, resting in the cooling shade, or floating upon the waters of the lake to get the cares and discomforts of the town. New York has its world-famous Central Park, Philadelphia its historic Fairmount, Chicago its Lincoln, St. Louis its Shaw’s garden – every city has, with few exceptions, a place of rest and recreation for its people. Here the citizen is . . . free to have a good time and enjoy himself; free to shake of the city’s dust and be relived from the incessant clatter of business. A park is a place in which to be comfortable, and that is the kind of a place we want and need in Leavenworth.³⁶⁵

To achieve a pleasure ground in Kansas, trees would have to be planted. *The Atchison Daily Champion* compared the experience of Illinois to that of Kansas: “To a Kansan, Illinois seems a timbered country, and he fails to realize that originally the site of the average Illinois town was as bare as the high plains of Western Kansas. ‘Plant trees’ was once the word in the Illinois newspapers as it is in Kansas journals.” The article rejected the assumption of “prairie people” that “a vast amount of time is necessary for the growth of trees and the improvement of public

³⁶⁴ “The Funerals,” *The Caldwell News*, Caldwell, Kansas, July 27, 1899, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/164657378/>.

³⁶⁵ “A Public Park,” *The Leavenworth Times*, Leavenworth, Kansas, June 2, 1881, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/77002972/>.

grounds.”³⁶⁶ *The Fort Scott Daily Monitor* suggested that “if a town is spread upon that flat prairie, as so many hundreds are in the middle west, let its people not despair of opportunity to vary what may seem a hopeless monotony in environment” because they were able to create “delightful popular pleasure grounds.”³⁶⁷

The moral effect of spending time in pleasure grounds was also mentioned in a few articles in Kansas newspapers. The *Clifton News* saw pleasure grounds as an alternative to other types of recreational activities. The newspaper declared that: “we need not tempt the poor to spend their wages on railway excursions or gambling tables of a popular summer resort. But we should recognize the necessity of giving them once a week a chance for outdoor amusements.”³⁶⁸ In an article entitled “What’s a Park Worth?”, *The Wichita Beacon* argued that “the value of a city park is not expressed in the acres of land it contains nor in the dollars, and cents it costs.” They pointed out that:

A park’s worth to a community is best measured in the good that it does. The city park beautiful is the only road back to nature that a city can have.

It is a paying investment.

It pays in happy, shouting children.

In care-free and gleeful boys and girls.

In invigorating frolic in the great out-of-doors.

In smiles that partake of the sunshine.

In fresh air which God made for mankind to live in and thrive in.

³⁶⁶ “About Towns,” *The Atchison Daily Champion*, Atchison, Kansas, September 28, 1889, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/109932864/>.

³⁶⁷ “Village Improvement,” *Fort Scott Daily Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, June 24, 1902, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/365841904/>.

³⁶⁸ “Progress of The Prohibition Party,” *Clifton News*, Clifton, Kansas, October 09, 1891, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/425114726/>.

In rest of the right sort.³⁶⁹

It is no wonder then that their many advantages and benefits caused Kansans to admire and appreciate pleasure grounds. They certainly never regretted the parks, and were convinced that they could never have “too many parks.”³⁷⁰

Pleasure Grounds in the Larger Cities of Kansas

Advocates of the Pleasure Ground Movement

The main advocates of the pleasure ground movement in the larger Kansas cities were newspapers, city officials, companies and businesses, property owners, and public-spirited citizens.

Newspapers

Local newspapers produced many articles about pleasure grounds advocating for their establishment, development, and maintenance as well as reporting on the events and activities held in them. Some newspapers described how to establish a pleasure ground. For example, *The Daily Eclipse* proposed locations for a pleasure ground and a fairground in Parsons, which they described as requiring “entirely different” landscapes and urged the town to not merge the two places.”³⁷¹

Newspaper writers also actively encouraged municipalities to secure parklands because of the growing value of lands in towns. If the town faced financial constraints, they suggested that improvements could be postponed or done in stages. For example, in 1872 *The Leavenworth Times* wrote in favor of turning a portion of the Government Reserve, the Fort Leavenworth Military

³⁶⁹ “What’s a Park Worth?,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, March 31, 1910, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76765666/>.

³⁷⁰ “Never Too Many Parks,” *The Jewell County Monitor*, Mankato, Kansas, February 15, 1918, 7, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/425137001/>.

³⁷¹ “Last night there was,” *The Daily Eclipse*, Parsons, Kansas, June 10, 1882, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418877617/>.

Reservation, adjoining the city into a “breathing place” so the people of Leavenworth would not “have to pay a million of dollars to secure such a place for a park” in the future.³⁷²

In 1885, *The Atchison Daily Champion* argued that “one of the several mistakes made in the laying out of Atchison, was in not setting apart, forever, ground for a public park; a spot of earth dedicated to rest and ramble while grass grows and water runs.” *The Champion* hoped that “the island” on South Street would be developed into a “satisfactory pleasure ground” by implementing “a good original plan made by a competent landscape gardener.” The newspaper went on to propose that: “a park should be ‘laid out’ for good and all, before the ground is touched. To take a naturally attractive spot and dig and chop around in it at random, after the fashion our streets are worked, year after year, is a waste of money which results in disfigurement. A plan, however simple, should be taken at the start and adhered to.”³⁷³

In the early 1900s, *The Fort Scott Weekly Monitor* also declared that “every city should have parks. They are just as necessary and just as valuable in small towns as in large ones”³⁷⁴ and in 1902 argued for the land known as Buck Run to be transformed into a pleasure ground.³⁷⁵ The proposal was supported by the citizens³⁷⁶ and it was suggested that the shrubbery be cleared to make the ground “one of the most beautiful natural parks in Kansas.”³⁷⁷ The *Monitor* interviewed “some three dozen of the city’s most prominent businessmen and heaviest taxpayers, all of whom,

³⁷² “A Park – A Breathing Place,” *The Leavenworth Times*, Leavenworth, Kansas, May 05, 1872, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/95894191/>.

³⁷³ “A City Park,” *The Atchison Daily Champion*, Atchison, Kansas, February 01, 1885, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/109396859>.

³⁷⁴ “Every city should have parks,” *Fort Scott Daily Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, July 03, 1903, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/365801366/>.

³⁷⁵ “Fort Scott Has,” *Fort Scott Daily Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, November 08, 1902, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/365852491>.

³⁷⁶ “Upper Buck Run Valley,” *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, September 27, 1902, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/367268923/>.

³⁷⁷ “The Question of Converting,” *Fort Scott Daily Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, November 10, 1902, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/365852526/>.

with four exceptions, expressed themselves as highly in favor of the building of the park.”³⁷⁸ The park’s opponents wanted the money to be spent on road improvements.³⁷⁹

Besides motivating the citizens, the newspapers sometimes demanded that the city officials take action to establish a pleasure ground. For instance, as early as the 1870s, *The Salina County Journal* wanted the city councilmen to “awaken” and work toward improving the city park by leasing it.³⁸⁰ *The Salina Herald* also insisted that the city needed “a fine park” and urged its readers to follow up: “Let not our interest in this important matter abate until our fair city with her schools and colleges and wide, shaded, commercial thoroughfares possesses also that crowning diadem of thrifty citizenship, a fine park, for now the question is of easy solution, but later on it will become a matter of extreme solicitude.”³⁸¹

To provide Wellington with more parks, *The Wellington Journal* encouraged its readers to keep talking about it with the city councilmen:

Keep urging the matter of a city park. Speak to the councilmen from your ward the next time you meet them, and give them to understand that you want a pleasure ground of some sort. The improvement that has been made in the appearance of Wellington within the past four years is wonderful, and the strangers refer to the general appearance of the city in flattering terms. But Wellington is short in the matter of parks. She hasn’t a single pleasure ground, and when strangers ask about the parks here they express surprise that such a beautiful and prosperous city has

³⁷⁸ “The Buck Run Park,” *Fort Scott Daily Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, July 07, 1903, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/365801415/>.

³⁷⁹ “Concerning the Park,” *Fort Scott Daily Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, December 19, 1902, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/365796922/>.

³⁸⁰ “If the city councilmen,” *The Salina County Journal*, Salina, Kansas, May 02, 1872, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/72156535>.

³⁸¹ “City Park,” *Salina Herald*, Salina, Kansas, July 14, 1887, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/483855020/>.

no park. There are places close in that look unattractive now that can be made attractive with the expenditure of a few hundred dollars, and satisfy the longing of the people for a park. . . . If the people will urge it upon the councilmen, some favorable action will be taken.³⁸²

Petitions for a park in Wellington continued to be published, which suggested possible tracts to be purchased and converted into a park.³⁸³ The newspaper repeatedly asked that the council “take the JOURNAL’S advice” and “give the people a park.”³⁸⁴ In 1909, the newspaper proposed a financial plan for the park that was modeled after Arkansas City and included “an inter-city baseball league,” which required “very little time and practically no expense.” The newspaper argued that “teams from the different stores and offices . . . could play evening games and thus insure a substantial income from their games. The money from the games could be used as it was at Arkansas City, in establishing a fine park in Wellington, a resort where visiting crowds could be entertained and where entertainments of all kinds could be had. It would be a credit to the city and would give Wellington an advantage she does not now have.”³⁸⁵

In terms of maintenance, the newspapers had strong opinions. For example, *The Ottawa Republic* rejected the use of Ottawa’s Forest Park as a pasture for sheep and wrote in 1877:

³⁸² “Keep urging the matter,” *The Wellington Journal*, Wellington, Kansas, May 13, 1902, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/427911605/>.

³⁸³ “Up to the Hour,” *The Wellington Journal*, Wellington, Kansas, April 21, 1902, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/427907547/>.

“The Journal Is Glad,” *The Wellington Journal*, Wellington, Kansas, April 23, 1902, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/427907912/>.

“It is really too bad,” *The Wellington Journal*, Wellington, Kansas, April 26, 1902, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/427908137/>.

“Will Come Out Even,” *The Wellington Journal*, Wellington, Kansas, October 01, 1902, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/427901403/>.

³⁸⁴ “Up to the hour,” *The Wellington Journal*, Wellington, Kansas, April 21, 1902, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/427907547/>.

³⁸⁵ “How to Pay for a Park,” *The Wellington Daily News*, Wellington, Kansas, July 13, 1909, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/62313677/>.

We like sheep also, But we like the beautiful, and picturesque, as well, and hang us if we can see any consistency, or beauty or picturesque in the turning of a lot of sheep – several hundred of ’em – into Forest Park, as was done by action of somebody in the council, last week. Forest Park is a pleasure ground belonging to people in which the people take great pride, and where the people would have no more idea of pasturing and corralling sheep.³⁸⁶

Advocating for pleasure grounds by newspapers continued until the late 1910s. For instance, in 1910 *The Hutchinson Gazette* admonished the town for its lack of a pleasure ground in the city: “What would you think of the owner of a vast yard without a shrub or green spot upon it, who would reject a proposition to make it a flowery garden for a mere pittance [pittance], compared to the value of his possessions? Not much, would you? Hutchinson, as far as public pleasure ground is concerned, is in a position identical with that barren yard.”³⁸⁷

City Officials

City officials and park commissioners sometimes advocated for pleasure grounds. For example, in 1896 *The Jeffersonian Gazette* suggested that the park improvements done by Councilman Fred W. Read in Lawrence warranted building a memorial statue of him. The newspaper reported that Read had converted “Lawrence parks from dumps for dead dogs and empty cans to sylvan shades fit for the rambles of the gods or of the fair daughters.”³⁸⁸

³⁸⁶ “We like to see consistency,” *Ottawa Weekly Republic*, Ottawa, Kansas, August 23, 1877, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/367051809>.

³⁸⁷ “What Would You,” *The Hutchison Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, June 13, 1910, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418166135/>.

³⁸⁸ “Among the Many Public,” *The Jeffersonian Gazette*, Lawrence, Kansas, July 02, 1896, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/199535357/>.

In 1904, *The Wichita Beacon* acknowledged the work of city officials in promoting parks and reported that “no public holdings” in Wichita were “more carefully looked after than the parks.” Every member of the park commission, which consisted of C. L. Davidson, G. M. Dickson and J. H. Stewart, was “an enthusiast” for the development of pleasure grounds and financial considerations were the only limits for “provision made for the pleasure of the people.”³⁸⁹ Three years later, the newspaper brought attention to the past efforts of city officials in this way: “Do you stop to think when you enjoy an outing in one of Wichita’s parks that all that ground, those swings for the kiddies, the comfortable benches and the tables for your lunch did not “just happen” there, but were planned for in advance by the city fathers for your comfort?”³⁹⁰

Landscape architect George E. Kessler also advocated for the pleasure ground movement within the park and boulevard system for Kansas City, KS. Kessler was the superintendent of Merriam Park in Kansas City, Kansas in the late 1880s, and then became the secretary and engineer in chief of the park board of Kansas City, Missouri. His success in designing and running the park system in Kansas City, Missouri made him a renowned figure, with newspapers calling him “probably the greatest landscape architect in America”³⁹¹ and “one of the world’s most celebrated and successful landscape architects.”³⁹² He continued to advocate for the park and boulevard system in Kansas into the early twentieth century. For example, in his 1907 lecture to the Merchant Club of Kansas City, Kansas, he argued for more parks and boulevards on the Kansas side of the city. In his lecture, he showed “many of the beautiful parks of the other cities” and “some of the

³⁸⁹ “Excellent System of Beautiful Park.” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, May 30, 1904, 20. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76878375/>.

³⁹⁰ “City Parks That Represent a Value of a Half Million Dollars,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, September 29, 1917, 68, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76775875/>.

³⁹¹ “Landscape Architect To Improve Fair Ground,” *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, June 09, 1901, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418883891/>.

³⁹² “To Beautify Fair Grounds,” *The Hutchinson Times*, Hutchinson, Kansas, June 11, 1909, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/419112621/>.

places in Kansas City, Kansas, which could be made to resemble these places.”³⁹³ One year later, he was asked by the city to participate in an improvement plan for Shawnee Park in Kansas City, Kansas.³⁹⁴ In 1920, he was offered the position of city planner of Kansas City, Kansas while maintaining his job as the city planner for Kansas City, Missouri. With this new appointment, it was hoped that “the two cities which are separated only by the state line may be developed under a unified plan. Kessler was very much in demand. In addition to his position in Kansas City, both Kansas and Missouri, he was also the city planner for other cities such as Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Wichita Falls, Texas; and Dallas, Texas.”³⁹⁵

Despite the enthusiasm to officially involve Kessler in the park and boulevard system of Kansas City, Kansas, his suggestions were not as welcome on the Kansas side of Kansas City as they were in the Missouri side. In the early 1900s, when Kansas City, Missouri was busy implementing Kessler’s plan of park and boulevard system, the opportunity to continue Kessler’s plan into the Kansas side of the city was fought in a lawsuit from citizens who thought that spending money on public parks and boulevards were unconstitutional. Ultimately, it was determined that the city had a right to build parks, but by then the parks and boulevard movement had lost momentum.³⁹⁶ As a result, Kansas City, Kansas adopted Kessler’s plan only for individual parks and boulevards.³⁹⁷

³⁹³ “Stereopticon Lecture,” *The Kansas City Kansas Globe*, Kansas City, Kansas, October 25, 1907, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/59662414/>.

³⁹⁴ “To Improve Shawnee Park,” *The Kansas City Kansas Globe*, Kansas City, Kansas, June 08, 1908, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/59387676/>.

³⁹⁵ “Kessler Offered Job,” *The Kansas City Kansas Republic*, Kansas City, Kansas, December 31, 1920, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/478007754/>.

³⁹⁶ Stephanie A. Rolley, “Fading Green to Gray: George Kessler’s Impact at the Kansas-Missouri State line,” in *Perspectives in Landscape History* (University Park, Pennsylvania: The Center for Studies in Landscape History, Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999), 54.

³⁹⁷ Rolley, “Fading Green to Gray: George Kessler’s Impact at the Kansas-Missouri State line,” 57.

In addition to Kansas City, Kessler also was engaged in the design and improvement of landscapes in a few smaller cities of Kansas including Hutchins's fair ground³⁹⁸ and Fort Scott's Gunn Park.³⁹⁹ In his designs, he advocated for "trees, shrubs and grasses in all parts of large grounds."⁴⁰⁰

Companies and Businesses

Some businesses such as railway and electric companies, banks, and land development companies owned pleasure grounds in the larger Kansas cities. Railway companies were the most common owners because of the economic revenues they generated. They did this by extending their railways to the parks so that their services would be more intensively used. In 1905, *The Wichita Daily Eagle* reported that building electric railways had led to "the creation of parks, pleasure grounds, summer cottages for city people's families to live in during the hottest months at a nominal cost." The newspaper encouraged its readers to allow their land to be used for extending the railway networks: "Anyone who has the opportunity offered them to secure an electric railway line through their premises or farm will be very foolish not to do so, but should aid and encourage every way possible to secure its building."⁴⁰¹

In the early 1880s, The Gulf Railway along with Kansas City and Fort Scott bought eighty acres of land in Johnson County, Kansas, eight miles south of Kansas City, which became Merriam Park.⁴⁰² It was estimated that \$100,000 would be spent by the railroad company for its

³⁹⁸ "Landscape Architect To Improve Fair Ground," *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, June 09, 1901, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418883891/>.

³⁹⁹ "To Visit Gunn Park," *Fort Scott Tribune*, Fort Scott, Kansas, September 13, 1910, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/61406664/>.

⁴⁰⁰ "Will Have Wire Fence," *The Hutchinson News*, Hutchinson, Kansas, February 17, 1910, 11, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/477789402/>.

⁴⁰¹ "What Has the Interurban Railroad Done," *The Wichita Daily Eagle*, Wichita, Kansas, May 07, 1905, 19, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63980334/>.

⁴⁰² "Merriam Park," *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, Jun 21, 1883, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67704672/>.

improvements.⁴⁰³ In another example, it was reported in 1887 that the Hutchison Streetcar Company owned Riverside Park. The company aimed for the park to “be equipped regardless of expense, the projectors merely aiming at making this the most popular and handsome place of recreation in the state.”⁴⁰⁴

There were other businesses that purchased and owned parks such as the Topeka Land and Development Company that owned Auburndale pleasure ground in Topeka.⁴⁰⁵ Bank of Topeka also took possession of Topeka’s Garfield Park twice in 1897 and 1902 as owners lost the park to the Bank for defaulting on mortgages.⁴⁰⁶

Public-Spirited Citizens

Citizens also played an important role in the creation and improvement of parks in nineteenth-century Kansas. Wealthy residents donated land and money and other public-spirited citizens, most notably women, were deeply engaged in the improvement and beautification of Kansas towns and cities through the pleasure ground movement. One example of a generous land donation by a community member was in 1884 when Mr. J. W. Hartzell provided the city of Topeka with what *The Topeka State Journal* called a “long felt want,” a resort pleasure ground. The place was to be named Avon Park⁴⁰⁷ but became known as “Hartzell Park” until it was finally named as “Garfield Park.”⁴⁰⁸

⁴⁰³ “As To Merriam Park,” *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, June 26, 1884, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67767990/>.

⁴⁰⁴ “Riverside Park,” *The Weekly Democrat*, Hutchinson, Kansas, Mar 31, 1887, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/419529036/>.

⁴⁰⁵ “Auburndale,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, May 23, 1888, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64572448/>.

⁴⁰⁶ “Resurrect A Park,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, July 25, 1905, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323176810/>.

⁴⁰⁷ “Tip Top,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, May 14, 1881, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67586154/>.

⁴⁰⁸ “Garfield Park,” *The Daily Commonwealth*, Topeka, Kansas, March 19, 1884, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/61683301/>.

Also, in 1903, C. F. Drake offered the city of Fort Scott a tract of land to be turned into a park.

He made the following conditions under which he would make the donation:

- 1- That the land donated shall be used for park purposes only, and that the city shall exercise strict police regulations over the same.
- 2- That the city improves the grounds by placing a suitable fountain therein, constructing proper walks through the same, trimming the trees and making such other improvements in the way of flower beds, etc., as will add to the beauty of the park and contribute to the pleasure of the citizens of Fort Scott.
- 3- That the city shall construct suitable sandstone walks on the north, east and west sides of said tract of land and park out into the streets a distance of 18 feet from the line of said tract of land, and shall construct proper curbing and also construct a retaining wall where necessary.
- 4- That the park shall be known as ‘Drake Park,’ which name shall be placed and permanently maintained over the main entrance or on the fountain.
- 5- That in case the city fails to improve said grounds as indicated above within a reasonable time, or if it fails to properly maintain and protect the same as a public park, the title to said land shall revert to me, my heirs or assigns.

The Forts Scott Daily Monitor was convinced that the council would “gladly accept the gift.”⁴⁰⁹

Winfield’s Riverside Park was also a donation. The land was purchased in the early 1880s by Capitan Lowry, M. L. Robinson, Captain S. C. Smith, J. L. Horning, A. Spotswood and M. L. Read, who gave it to the city “for the purpose of holding public gathering of all kinds, Sunday and

⁴⁰⁹ “C. F. Drakes’ Proposition,” *Forts Scott Daily Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, November 02, 1903, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/365806513/>.

public school picnics, camp-meetings and other pleasure and business assemblage.” The *Winfield Courier* observed that “these gentlemen have shown a public spirit that is commendable, and deserve, as they have received, the thanks of the people of the city, for whom they have done so much.”⁴¹⁰

Ordinary citizens also contributed to the parks financially. People were willing to pay their share for parkland purchase, improvements or maintenance through donations or voting for increased taxation. Residents also owned stocks in parks. For instance, Pittsburg’s Forest Park was financially managed by the members of Forest Park Stock Company who lived both in Pittsburg and across the US.⁴¹¹ In another example, in 1913 the park improvement committee of Newton’s Commercial club planned to raise money for building the “Sand Creek dam” not only to beautify the city but also to make bathing, boating and fishing possible in the Athletic Park. The committee wanted “this splendid improvement go through with a rush.”⁴¹²

Women heavily influenced pleasure grounds in Kansas. Not only were they engaged in park management, but there were cases when they wanted to establish parks exclusively for women and children. For example, Hutchinson’s Elmdale Park Association was run by women.⁴¹³ When they took charge of the land, Mrs. Wetzell, one of the association members said, “the railroad was hauling dirt out there for filling. Then other persons began to haul dirt and pretty soon there were a lot of big holes there that were full of water all summer.”⁴¹⁴ Mayor F. L. Martin confessed that

⁴¹⁰ “Riverside Park,” *Winfield Courier*, Winfield, Kansas, June 09, 1881, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/384768760/>.

⁴¹¹ “New Forest Park,” *Pittsburg Daily Tribune*, Pittsburg, Kansas, May 19, 1900, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/365178999/>.

Some stockers were C. Willard Mack and Maude Leone from Pittsburg, KS; Miss Hurst from Atchison, KS; Mr. and Mrs. Dorenta and the Bickett family from New Orleans; The Columbine Trio and Charles Norris from St. Louis; Hayward and Hayward, and Gillihan and Belmore from Omaha, and Miss Clara Hazel Chicago

⁴¹² “Editorials By Kansan Patrons,” *The Evening Kansan-Republican*, Newton, Kansas, March 20, 1913, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/93498820/>.

⁴¹³ “Will Have a Picnic,” *The Daily Independent*, Hutchinson, Kansas, June 26, 1903, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/419172412/>.

⁴¹⁴ “Elmdale Park,” *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, May 22, 1909, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418822545/>.

the “progressive spirit of a band of women” made Elmdale Park “a pretty little place out of nothing but a big hole in the ground.”⁴¹⁵ In addition, the pleasure ground movement and its associated benefits attracted the attention of the Hutchinson Women’s Club. During one of the club’s meetings in 1911, Dr. Cady remarked that: “The East were far in advance of the West in their civic improvements . . . In every large city were parks, pleasure grounds all free to the children.” Dr. Cady then asked why such could not be done on Hutchinson’s river banks.⁴¹⁶

One of the most important female promoters of pleasure grounds in Kansas was Dr. Eva Harding, a medical doctor,⁴¹⁷ who advocated for parks in Topeka. One of her proposals was for the women of Topeka to purchase Garfield Park for a reasonable price and call it “Woman’s Park.” She thought that it would be “an ideal pleasure ground” to be used exclusively by women and children. She suggested that “the park should be free, offer free band concerts, and permit intoxicating liquors to be used on the grounds, but under the management of women.”⁴¹⁸ Likewise, a group of women made a petition for the “Ladies Park of the City of Ottawa.” The petition included specified details of how the park should be laid out. They wanted the park to be a resource for “for the growth and happiness of a people” beyond “mere raising of beef and pork, corn and

⁴¹⁵ “Elmdale Park,” *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, May 22, 1909, 6.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/418822545/>.

⁴¹⁶ “Suggestive Report,” *The Evening Kansan-Republican*, Newton, Kansas, February 24, 1911, 3,
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/94174224/>.

⁴¹⁷ “Dr. Harding (1855-1920) was educated at Purdue University and University of Iowa and received her medical degree from Hahnemann Medical College in Chicago. Dr. Harding first went to Atchison to practice but moved to Topeka in 1892 where she opened her office at 710 South Kansas Ave. She lived above the office but acquired the property which ran from College to Boswell where she had a summer cottage surrounded by flower gardens. This location she named “Ragged Robin.” She became revered by those to whom she ministered medically, especially those of limited means, because she always provided them care. She was an outspoken advocate for education, prohibition, woman suffrage, care for delinquents and children generally, and the homeless. She campaigned nationally for the creation of kindergartens and in Kansas for a State Textbook Commission. She was an ally of Carry Nation and she badgered state politicians into bettering the living conditions for the youth in the Boys Industrial School in Topeka. She was the first Kansas woman to run for national political office, first for Congress as a Democrat and then for the Senate as a Socialist.” Retrieved from <https://sites.google.com/site/collegetherilltopeka/Home/hall-of-fame-inductees/dr-eva-harding>

⁴¹⁸ “Wants the Women to Buy It,” *The Daily Press*, Topeka, Kansas, November 08, 1895, 1,
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/418604015/>.

wheat” and also beyond “fashion and style of dress.” The women of Ottawa wanted something that would tell them of “nature and nature’s God,” a pleasure ground.⁴¹⁹

Whether as ordinary citizens, park association members, or park commissioners like Mrs. F. W. Sellers who was appointed as Wellington’s park commissioner in 1916,⁴²⁰ women were important leaders in providing larger cities of Kansas with pleasure grounds. The history of Topeka’s Gage Park was a good illustration of how different stakeholders worked together to improve the park. The park was first donated by Mr. Guilford G. Gage to the city of Topeka in 1899. His wife, Louisa H. Gage, remained an advocate for the park even after her husband’s death. In 1910, the role of the donors of Topeka’s Gage Park was acknowledged by *The Topeka State Journal* in this way: “Although the city has spent a [considerable] sum of money in developing this park, it never would have been in existence had it not been for the munificence of the late Mr. G.G. Gage, nor would it take on the attractiveness that it will were it not for the desires and the generosity of his widow. Even on her bed of pain, she apparently has no thoughts except those which relate to the bettering of the conditions of her fellow [citizens].”⁴²¹

In 1905, the residents of North Topeka were willing to pay for the purchase of the land and turn it over to the city for management with the expectation that the Board of Park Commissioners would take care of and manage it as they did other city parks. They wanted to “put up the cash necessary without calling on any outside aid or soliciting subscriptions from any other part of the city.”⁴²² In 1911, Gage Park was owned by people of Topeka and *The Topeka State Journal*

⁴¹⁹ “Petition For A Park,” *The Ottawa Daily Republic*, Ottawa, Kansas, May 26, 1891, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/77232436/>.

⁴²⁰ “Talked of parks,” *The Monitor-Press*, Wellington, Kansas, March 22, 1916, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/381979664/>.

⁴²¹ “A Gage Memorial,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, June 23, 1910, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323176022/>.

⁴²² “Resurrect A Park,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, July 25, 1905, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323176810/>.

reflected on their willingness to sell the park to the city for “a fair price and under arrangement whereby the payment can be made during a period of years” and called it an indication of “the large public-spiritedness of the Topekans.” City commissioners promised to buy an additional ninety acres of land for Gage Park.⁴²³ However, Commissioner Miller declared that he would not vote for the purchase of the extra ninety acres at Gage park unless a park for east side of Topeka was secured. He believed that: “What we need is more parks. We need some place where we can take our coats off and act natural. What we want on the East side is an athletic field with a grandstand, a swimming pool, a wading pool and other features that will be used to the best advantage by East side residents.” Commissioner Miller’s eagerness to promote a park for east side Topeka was driven by public demand⁴²⁴ because Dr. Eva Harding was also agitating for a playground for East side children.⁴²⁵

Property Owners

Even though privately-owned pleasure grounds were not very common in larger Kansas cities, there were three: Mound Park in Leavenworth, Frank Manny’s pleasure ground in Winfield, and Carey’s Park in Hutchinson. Mound Park in Leavenworth, a 40-acre “first-class pleasure ground,” was owned by George Wells, who was reported to always be on the grounds in his office on the shore of the ground’s beautiful lake.⁴²⁶ The Frank Manny’s pleasure ground in Winfield was visited by a *Winfield Daily Courant* columnist who described the ground in 1880 as follows:

⁴²³ “Park Plans Moving Along,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, May 31, 1911, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323580860/>.

⁴²⁴ “Got Their Ears to Ground,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, June 02, 1911, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64068240/>.

⁴²⁵ “To Petition for an East Side Park,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, June 07, 1911, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64068370/>.

⁴²⁶ “Delightful Mound Park,” *The Leavenworth Standard*, Leavenworth, Kansas, August 08, 1896, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/387756394/>.

Frank has some six or seven acres of nice land beautifully shaded, which he is fixing up in first-class style. Flowerbeds, rockeries, drives, walks and lawns are being made to beautify the grounds and make them, in truth, pleasure grounds. When completed, this will be one of the most popular resorts in or around the city, and we doubt, not but our citizens will make good use of it in the way of picnic parties. We will say more of it when completed.⁴²⁷

Carey's Park was a 150-acre pleasure ground in Hutchison lying along and back from the Arkansas River, on the east side of Riverside Park and owned by Mr. Carey. *The Hutchison Gazette* claimed that "after the \$50000 park bond proposition was defeated, he immediately set to work to make a vast garden of the land which he had owned for several years but which had been adopted for no particular purpose heretofore. The improvement plan started in spring 1913 and would go on until it was built and equipped and "one of the finest free parks in the west.". Mr. Carey said that his park would not be not on the market and assured residents that under no consideration would he consider selling it.⁴²⁸

Motivations for the Pleasure Ground Movement in Larger Kansas Cities

The main reasons for creating and improving pleasure grounds in the larger cities of Kansas were a sense of competition among cities to beautify their living environment, the civic pride associated with the grounds, and the positive economic effects of parks on the surrounding neighborhood.

⁴²⁷ "We yesterday took a drive," *Winfield Daily Courant*, Winfield, Kansas, April 16, 1880, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/365195085/>.

⁴²⁸ "Carey's Park Will Be Place of Beauty," *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, April 30, 1912, 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418605256/>.

Competition

The pleasure grounds of east coast cities were admired by Kansans and were seen as models for Kansas. For example, in Wichita's 1911 Annual Report, Sam F. Stewart, the commissioner of parks and public buildings, reported that in the center of Riverside Park there was "a botanical garden surrounded patterned after the celebrated public gardens of Boston, which are the admiration of all visitors to that city." The botanical garden of Riverside Park was called "equal in extent to the Boston public gardens and in a few years will be equally as attractive."⁴²⁹ It claimed that Wichita had "the attraction to draw the people, just as Paris, Berlin and other cities" and by "improving, its pleasure grounds and boulevards" Wichita was expected to "lead cities of its size and class in America in civic attractiveness."⁴³⁰

Referring to the historically successful European riverfront developments and the ignorance of such "potentialities as fields for the landscape artist" in American cities,⁴³¹ *The Kansas City Globe* argued that the riverfront was not valued in Kansas City:

The prime difficulty is the tardiness of the discovery that there was a river flowing by the city. That it had banks and that therein there was possibility of park and pleasure ground development richer than any other feature the town's fortunate location held out. While the civic sense of beauty was dormant. Before there was a dream that the town owed itself a duty to be beautiful, the gist natural feature was

⁴²⁹ "The Annual Report of Sam F. Stewart," *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, February 01, 1911, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76319802/>.

⁴³⁰ "Wichita's Parks and Rivers Add to City's Attractions," *The Wichita Eagle Daily*, Wichita, Kansas, October 08, 1911, 12, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63708159/>.

⁴³¹ "The Missouri Front River," *The Kansas City Globe*, Kansas City, Kansas, August 08, 1913, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/58533175/>.

appropriated by railroads and other ugly things, and when the modern sense of city charms arrived it found eviction of ugliness costly.⁴³²

Two weeks later, *The Kansas City Globe* published statistics comparing the city's amount of park acreage to other "pleasure ground cities of the country." Unfortunately, Kansas City, Kansas placed at the bottom of the list, while Kansas City, Missouri ranked seventh out of the twenty-two listed cities. To increase the city's park acreage, building parks along the riverfront was seen as the solution.⁴³³ The newspaper suggested that "it is not too late for Kansas City, Kansas, to avail itself of many of the advantages of river front landscapes."⁴³⁴ The lost opportunities of the Kaw River along with future possibilities of developing Missouri riverfront park in Kansas City, Kansas were described as follows:

If the founders of Kansas City had been moved by the considerations which direct the makers of city plans of the present day, the Kaw river banks would have been reserved for parks and boulevards sufficient to meet the desires not only of the present population but for all time to come. Those who have laid out the industrial district in the blue valley count the modern dwellings and paved streets. Of no more consequence than the river itself which they hope to utilize for boats and fishing, with spots here and there devoted to shaded parks, flower beds, and artistic walks. If the Kaw river must for some years to come yield to the aggressions of the industrial plants, we still have the Missouri river within the city limits with its

⁴³² "The Missouri Front River," *The Kansas City Globe*, Kansas City, Kansas, August 08, 1913, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/58533175/>.

⁴³³ "Park Statistics in Charts," *The Kansas City Globe*, Kansas City, Kansas, August 25, 1913, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/510843160/>.

⁴³⁴ "The Missouri Front River," *The Kansas City Globe*, Kansas City, Kansas, August 08, 1913, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/58533175/>.

hundreds of acres available for factory sites, parks and boulevards. The prospect that the government will dyke the Missouri from the Kaw to the water works plant, makes it expedient to hope that the Kansas city, Kansas , of a few years hence may see the realization of the best dreams of a city beautiful in a river front embellished with fine works of art, the pride and delight not only of those living today but of generations yet to come.⁴³⁵

Despite the ongoing push to provide Kansas City with more acreage of pleasure grounds, Kansas City was still seen as a role model within the state and created a sense of competition for other towns to also provide their citizens with pleasure grounds. For instance, when arguing for the new Vinewood Park in Topeka in 1902, advocates pointed out that “Kansas City has 165,000 population, and supports seven such parks, making one for each 23,000 of the population. Topeka has nearly 50,000 population, and ought to be able to afford one good park.”⁴³⁶ One year later in 1903, it was claimed that Vinewood Park had “every kind of amusements that are to be had in other cities.”⁴³⁷

Not all cities could compete with Kansas City. In Newton the parks beautification scheme took on a more realistic approach as *The Evening Kansan* explained: “Of course, Newton cannot expend her thousands on her parks like Kansas City is doing at present, but she can do considerable in a modest way that will make her parks a pleasant retreat for her tired citizens.”⁴³⁸ In another case, the “rejuvenation” of Parsons’ only park, Marvel Park, in 1920 was expected to “furnish the

⁴³⁵ “The Missouri Front River,” *The Kansas City Globe*, Kansas City, Kansas, August 08, 1913, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/58533175/>.

⁴³⁶ “More Parks Are Needed,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, March 26, 1902, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63923260/>.

⁴³⁷ “Topeka’s Fine Railway System,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, November 08, 1903, 24, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63216812/>.

⁴³⁸ “Beautify the City,” *The Evening Kansan*, Newton, Kansas, February 08, 1898, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/94048942/>.

people with a place of recreation and amusement similar to that furnished the Kansas City public in Swope Park.”⁴³⁹ The *Parsons Daily Republican* wrote that “it is true that Marvel Park is not of the magnitude of Swope Park, but neither is Parsons as large as Kansas City. The city of Parsons does not need such a large park as Swope but it has ‘taken the bit in its teeth’ and proposes to make a genuine city playground out of the material it has.” When the renovation plans were complete, the newspaper claimed that “Parsons will have a public park of which it can be proud; it will be a municipal showplace.”⁴⁴⁰

Sense of Pride

The sense of pride people had for their towns led to civic improvements including the development of pleasure grounds. Local newspapers acted as boosters, proudly reporting on the conditions of the towns and their pleasure grounds. For instance, the improved pleasure ground at the mouth of the Kaw in Kansas City was expected to make the park “famous in the world.”⁴⁴¹ In addition, a Topeka pleasure ground, which originally was to be named as Avon Park, aimed to become the “the most attractive spot in this section of continent” after its improvement plan was done.⁴⁴² Moreover, regarding Gage Park, *The Topeka State Journal* claimed that “if there is any city of the size of Topeka that has such a public park within its reach, it has not been discovered as yet, at least , in this section of the country.”⁴⁴³

⁴³⁹ Swope Park is an 1,805-acre city park in Kansas City, Missouri. It is the 51st-largest municipal park in the United States, and the largest park in Kansas City. It is named in honor of Colonel Thomas H. Swope, a philanthropist who donated the land to the city in 1896.

⁴⁴⁰ “Dressing Up Marvel Park,” *Parsons Daily Republican*, Parsons, Kansas, May 02, 1920, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/366120367/>.

⁴⁴¹ “Citizens of Kansas,” *The Olathe Mirror*, Olathe, Kansas, November 26, 1896, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/60782855/>.

⁴⁴² “Tip Top,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, May 14, 1881, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67586154/>.

⁴⁴³ “A Gage Memorial,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, June 23, 1910, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323176022/>.

Economic Benefits

The creation and improvement of pleasure grounds were also done with the hope of generating economic benefits. Attracting visitors and new inhabitants to towns and increasing the surrounding real estate value were the main economic-oriented goals for improving parks. For example, W. B. Harrison, president of the Union National Bank in Wichita, declared that Riverside Park was the reason for his decision to move to Wichita:

When I was thinking of locating here, some friends drove me thru Riverside Park. While I had been in Wichita many times I had never before seen either the river or the park and I was surprised beyond expression. To my thought, the only drawback of any consequence this great southwest country has, is trees and water. In its river district Wichita has both, in prolific growth of trees and remarkable charm of stream. The natural beauty of Little River is hard to describe. It winds around curve after curve as gracefully as the neck of a swan. Its banks are covered with foliage and shaded with great oaks, cottonwoods and walnuts. Its bed is clean, and its water is cool and quite clear for this climate. Some two miles of this quiet, silent, serviceable stream lies within the city limits, easy of access to the entire population. No city park in America offers such a convenient pleasure ground as this, or at such a price.⁴⁴⁴

Pleasure grounds also increased the value of properties neighboring them. In 1914, Hutchinson's West Side Park, when improved to become more of a beauty spot, was expected to enhance property values. The cost of improvements was estimated to be approximately \$1,500.

⁴⁴⁴ "Is Little River Appreciated," *The Wichita Daily Eagle*, Wichita, Kansas, August 01, 1920, 19, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64042033/>.

The surrounding property owners were to be taxed, from \$1 to \$1.75 a lot. Somewhat surprisingly, the property owners directly adjoining the park were “taxed twenty-five cents less than those living a block away because the appraisers decided that “those a block or so away from the park derived greater benefit than those adjoining the park.”⁴⁴⁵

In 1909, *The Wichita Beacon* reported that the real estate value increased near Riverside Park: “So popular has Riverside park become during the past two years that building lots in that vicinity are at a premium, and some of the finest residences in the city have been built in that vicinity recently.”⁴⁴⁶ In 1917, the newspaper reported the value of Wichita’s parks at half a million dollars. The real estate value alone of the city parks amounted to \$430,000, the equipment to \$2,324,03, the buildings to \$430,000, the collection in the zoo to \$2,805,41⁴⁴⁷, the furniture to \$2,334,41 and the bath house to \$3,172,80. In 1917, the city expected to spend \$13,508.04 to run Wichita’s parks, which was \$3,000 more than the previous year. The role of parks in creating jobs was also acknowledged. Five persons were employed to keep up the bathing beach alone; two life savers, one matron, one cashier and one locker man. There were five laborers at work all the time in the different parks of the city; both Linwood and Hyde Parks had keepers; there was a special florist who attended to the flowers in all the parks, while Riverside had an animal keeper, and a night policeman.⁴⁴⁸

⁴⁴⁵ “Park To Cost Tax Payers \$1 to \$1.75,” *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, March 11, 1914, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76852568/>.

⁴⁴⁶ “Park Improvement,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, April 01, 1909, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76852568/>.

⁴⁴⁷ However, the zoo was claimed to be worth more than that as the price of animals, mostly imported had gone up on account of the war.

“City Parks That Represent a Value of a Half Million Dollars,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, September 29, 1917, 68, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76775875/>.

⁴⁴⁸ “City Parks That Represent a Value of a Half Million Dollars,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, September 29, 1917, 68, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76775875/>.

Pleasure grounds also contributed to the surrounding businesses. In 1905, *The Topeka State Journal* highlighted the poor condition of the Garfield Park and recalled its former role in creating economic revenue for North of Topeka:

The waning popularity of Garfield has made itself felt to the business men on that side of the river. In the years past when Topeka held its band concerts, its Fourth of July celebrations and its Grocers and Butchers picnics out in the grove beside the Soldier, the business men found it a profitable undertaking to encourage as much of that kind of thing as possible. It put dollars in their pockets. The crowds stopped on the North side and bought things. It brought out of town people to that side of the river and they made purchases. It was found to be a good investment.⁴⁴⁹

Pleasure grounds also generated revenue through gate fees, amusements, and performances, which made some of the parks financially self-sufficient and also provided job opportunities for the citizens. For instance, in 1912, it was reported that the amusement promoters of Topeka's pleasure grounds were "under contract with the city to pay over to it ten cents on every dollar they take in" to "turn enough money into the city to pay for all the improvements that have been made in these parks."⁴⁵⁰

Revenue was enough in some parks that they were able to donate a portion. For example, in the mid-1880s Topeka's Garfield Park's new manager, Col. P. W. Taylor, decided to give "one-half the gate fees above the expenses, to all societies who hold entertainments, and on all other

⁴⁴⁹ "Resurrect A Park," *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, July 25, 1905, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323176810/>.

⁴⁵⁰ "Topeka's Parks," *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, June 03, 1912, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323593291/>.

days the one-half of gate fees, as above stated, shall be applied to some object of public charity, and all Sabbath service to be under the direction of the Young Men's Christian Association."⁴⁵¹

Other Benefits

Though not intended primarily as a means to escape urban-related conditions, pleasure grounds of Kansas also brought communities environmental, spiritual, and moral benefits. Pleasure grounds as “breathing spaces” for cities and towns was often mentioned in Kansas newspapers. *The Farmers Advocate* of Topeka stated that:

Our cities are coming to see the need more and more of providing a breathing place and pleasure grounds for their citizens, and to that end are doing a good work in the way of park making. The ideal city should have one of these parks in every portion of the city where residences around. To secure such park sites it is very essential that our city councils act promptly and early in securing them before the advancing price of real estate makes their purchase well nigh impossible.⁴⁵²

The Wichita Beacon asserted that investing in parks would result in a “harvest in health and happiness.” An article entitled “What’s a park worth?” highlighted the spiritual and moral benefits of park for people:

The value of a city park is not expressed in the acres of land it contains nor in the dollars, and cents it costs. A park’s worth to a community is best measured in the good that it does. A public recreation spot and playground is a community asset. It

⁴⁵¹ “Garfield Park,” *The Daily Commonwealth*, Topeka, Kansas, March 19, 1884, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/61683301/>.

⁴⁵² “Park Planting,” *The Farmers Advocate*, Topeka, Kansas, March 29, 1906, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/368725076/>.

is makes happier and healthier adults. It gladdens the hearts of children and makes of them natural and noble men and women. The city park beautiful is the only road back to nature that a city can have. It is a paying investment. It pays in happy, shouting children. In care-free and gleeful boys and girls. In invigorating frolic in the great out-of-doors. In smiles that partake of the sunshine. In fresh air which God made for mankind to live in and thrive in. In rest of the right sort. There are a few of the dividends from a well regulated city park. . . Who doesn't love flowers and trees and flowing water? What tonic is better than the sight of a child at play or a mother at rest? . . Who can put a value on rest and exercise?⁴⁵³

Characteristics of Pleasure Grounds in Larger Kansas Cities

Natural and Naturalistic Features

When choosing a location for a pleasure ground, several aspects were considered such as: the existence of trees or woods, distance to cities, accessibility to public transportation, and the presence of water. Riverfronts were among the most popular spots to establish pleasure grounds. Sometimes artificial lakes were also created by building dams. Access to water not only provided desirable scenery but also created the conditions to provide the pleasure seekers with activities like swimming, canoeing, boating, bathing and fishing. Water in pleasure grounds usually consisted of rivers or streams of water, lakes, ponds and pools.⁴⁵⁴

⁴⁵³ "What's a Park Worth?," *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, March 31, 1910, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76765666/>.

⁴⁵⁴ In one case, not having any surface of standing water was considered healthy due to avoiding diseases like malaria. In Merriam Park in Kansas City, Kansas there were no pools or ponds of standing water; hence it was claimed that the visitor, no matter how long he remained, needed have no fear of malaria. For more information, please read "Merriam Park," *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, January 21, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67704672>.

In terms of vegetation, Kansas pleasure grounds had wooded areas, allées, meadows, lawns, and flowerbeds. For instance, in 1881 Winfield’s Riverside Park had “beautiful, shaded and winding walks, fine lawns, the pleasure of the river, [and] the luxuriant velvet grass upon the finest camping ground in the State.”⁴⁵⁵ Non-native species were sometimes planted in the parks. For example the trees of Hutchison’s Riverside Park’s allée, “lover’s lane,” which stretched from the park entrance to its theater, were shipped from “far away Holland.”⁴⁵⁶

In Kansas pleasure grounds, wooded landscapes were particularly valued because they contrasted to the treeless land of the state. For example, *The Topeka Daily Capital* wrote about “a gem of wooded landscape that baffles description” in the Auburndale pleasure ground in this way:

It is covered almost entirely by a plentiful growth of forest trees, from the slender sapling to the massive oak and cottonwood. The entrance to Auburndale leads through a perfect archway of elms and oaks, and on either side trails upward on the trunks into the lower branched, the classic woodbine, with now and then a sprinkling of fragrant honeysuckle. Reaching the higher portion of grounds, a magnificent view of the most delightful scenery is afforded on all sides. Great oaks, spreading their broad branches for hundreds of feet round, affording a dense shade, are numerous, while the natural undulations give the place the appearance of rather regular foot-hills of a great mountain. Oh! the scenery absolutely baffles description, and we will give it up.⁴⁵⁷

⁴⁵⁵ “Riverside Park,” *Winfield Courier*, Winfield, Kansas, June 09, 1881, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/384768760/>.

⁴⁵⁶ “Riverside Park To Be Greater Still,” *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, March 08, 1913, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418822278/>.

⁴⁵⁷ “Auburndale,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, May 23, 1888, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64572448/>.

When Hutchinson’s Carey’s Park was upgraded, they planted many hundreds of young trees. They selected “pin oak, hard and soft maple, burr oaks, black locust, box elder and more than 200 evergreens of several varieties. . . The sand hills were covered with a growth of plum trees, dogwood and grapevines. Portions of the tract were already “wooded in fine shady trees” to meet the necessities of the public who was going to “journey to this picture place on hot summer afternoons . . . without awaiting the young forest.”⁴⁵⁸

In 1883, Merriam Park in Kansas City, Kansas was “covered with a splendid growth of trees, all in a perfect health and leaf, thus furnishing unequaled shade, while the improved portions were perfectly sodded with bluegrass and clover, rivaling the best kept city lawns.”⁴⁵⁹ The park was reported in 1884 to be the “most beautiful section of Kansas:”

East ward from the Fort Scott road the land, for half the depth of the park or more, stretches an almost level lawn and through the trees a glimpse of a huge dance pavilion. . . The view is enticing, but only partly reveals the natural beauties of the grounds. . . The walk, the curbing’s of which are of dressed stone, is flanked on either side by large shade trees, while along the entire length shrubbery has been planted and artistic flower beds laid out. About midway between the rustic bridge and the depot is a cluster of forest trees growing so close together that their branches fairly brush against each other at every stir of the breeze. Here, where the shade is dense and most refreshing, a number of swings have been put up, while directly south, and just across the walk, are the croquet grounds. Level as a floor and barren of everything in the shape of verdure. East of this pleasing spot the roadway and

⁴⁵⁸ “Carey’s Park Will Be Place of Beauty,” *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, April 30, 1912, 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418605256/>.

⁴⁵⁹ “Merriam Park,” *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, Jun 21, 1883, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67704672/>.

walk blend, but soon part, forming an arc of a circle. . . A few natural trees grouped about the place, but the spot draws its chief feature of loveliness from the magnificent flower beds and handsome shrubbery. Some of the latter are exceedingly rare and are found only in large nurseries in eastern cities.⁴⁶⁰

Man-Made Features

Design Plan

The picturesque rural landscape was the favored design approach for Kansas pleasure grounds (Figure 35). The choice of landscape design was reflected in a “Petition For A Park” in Ottawa. It was claimed that “a rural landscape view” would “command the attention of all passersby, and be a strong inducement and argument to men and women of wealth and letters.” The petition reminded the town that first “a plan be made of the park, marking out the walks, the alleys and avenues, together with the beds and mounds for flowers and shrubbery.”⁴⁶¹

The use of a picturesque rural aesthetic can be clearly seen in the plan for Topeka’s Gage Park designed by renowned landscape architect George E. Kessler, and published in *The Topeka Daily Capital* in 1900 (Figures 36 and 37). Like the pastoral landscapes of famous American pleasure grounds, Kessler’s plan consisted of defined borders with trees, a free-form lake, a pool partially covered by aquatic plants, a greenhouse, a nursery, meandering paths, and naturalistic

⁴⁶⁰ “As To Merriam Park,” *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, June 26, 1884, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67767990/>.

⁴⁶¹ “Petition For A Park,” *The Ottawa Daily Republic*, Ottawa, Kansas, May 26, 1891, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/77232436/>.

meadows. It also had some formal elements such as a defined entrance leading to designed ornamental flower gardens flanked by two allées of trees.⁴⁶²

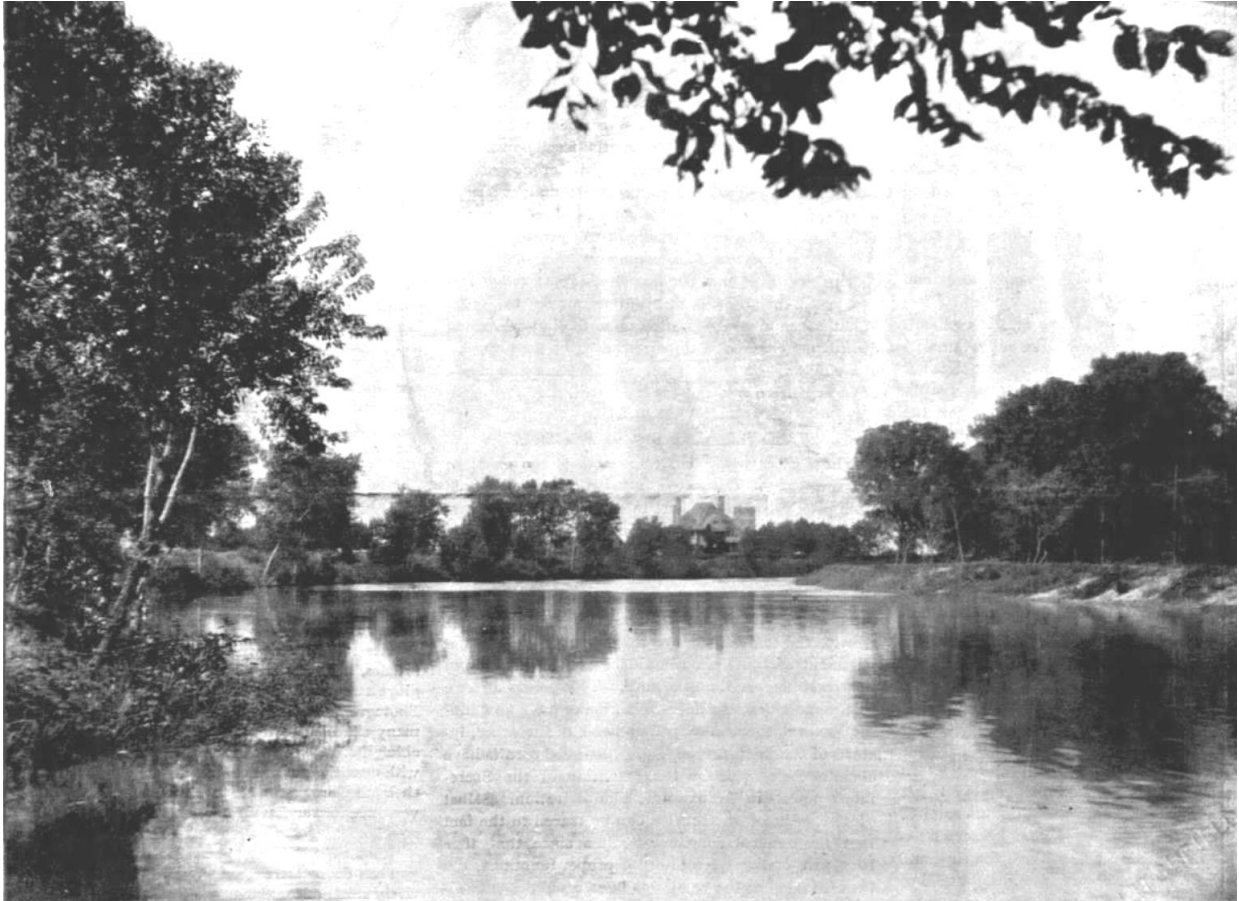
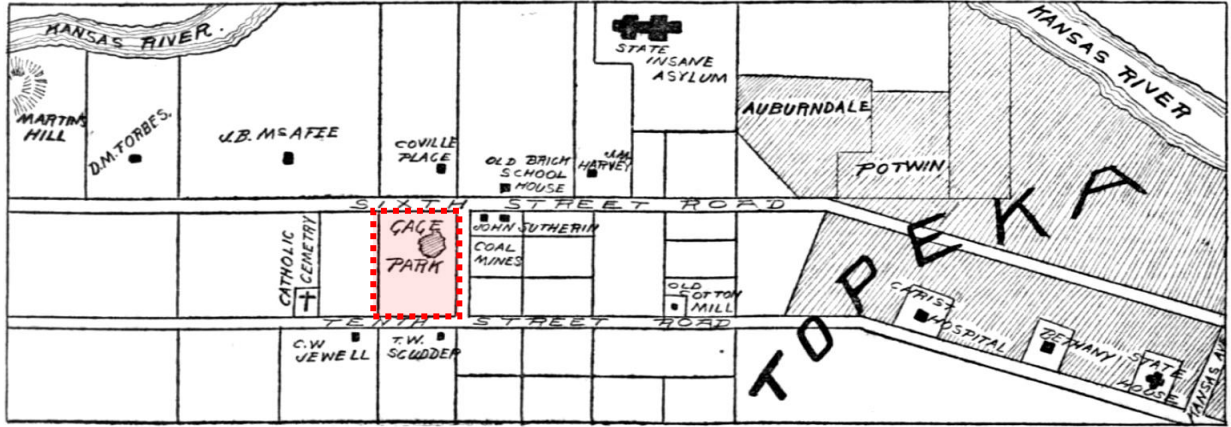


Figure 35- *View of What Was Called the “New Park” Looking West Toward the Campbell’s Residence, Wichita, Kansas, 1898*, Photographed by Litchfield, Kansas Historical Society. The scene shows the picturesque rural landscape of the park.

⁴⁶² “Central Plan Gage Park,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, November 11, 1900, 17, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63351590/>.



SKETCH SHOWING LOCATION OF GAGE PARK, ON TENTH STREET ROAD, TWO MILES WEST OF STATE HOUSE.

Figure 36- *The Location of Gage Park on Topeka Map, Topeka, Kansas, 1899, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.*

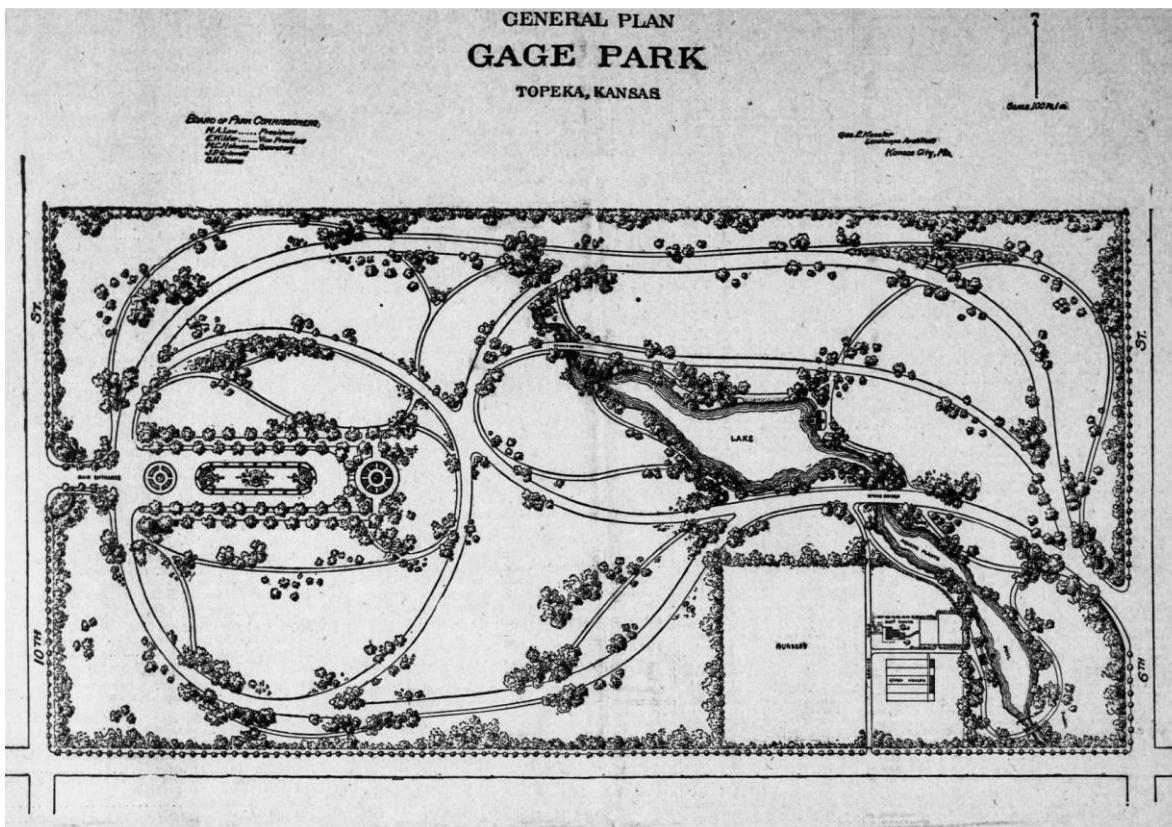


Figure 37- *Gage Park Plan by George E. Kessler, Topeka, Kansas, 1900, Illustration, The Kansas Historical Society.* The plan show the picturesque and pastoral rural landscape approach in landscape design widely used in the pleasure ground design in the nineteenth century. The north arrow was not located correctly as the 6th street is actually the northern edge of the park. Kessler's design cannot be seen in today's Gage Park.

Unlike Topeka’s Gage Park, very few pleasure grounds were designed by renowned landscape architects in Kansas. Even in more populated areas of the state, very few cities pre-planned the design of their pleasure grounds. Usually the parks were developed in multiple incremental stages. However, some cities did have had a plan. For example, in 1865, Junction City Council appointed “a committee to receive plans for laying out into appropriate avenues walks and squares, the City Park, and for planting the same in trees and shrubbery.” The committee was “authorized to offer a premium of ten dollars, to be paid out of the City Treasury, for the best plan or diagram for such purpose, to be determined by the Council.”⁴⁶³

In Atchison it was suggested that they should have “a good original plan made by a competent landscape gardener” before the ground for a park would be “touched.” *The Atchison Daily Champion* added that “perhaps the best plan would be the simplest; to take a piece of woodland, inclose it, and lay out footpaths first and drives later.”⁴⁶⁴ The newspaper also thought that the plan “should be accompanied by careful estimates of the cost, and the outlay should be kept within the estimated limits.”⁴⁶⁵ A couple of months later in October 1885, the Atchison Council voted for a public park in South Atchison which would become “the pleasure ground of the city with lakes for swans, bowers for lovers, drives for carriages, walks for footmen, trees for shade, fountains to purify the air, and flowers to twine all in beauty.”⁴⁶⁶

Lawrence was another city that attempted to design their city park with “well-defined and matured plans and landscape drawings . . . from some first-class landscape engineer” to avoid

⁴⁶³ “An Ordinance,” *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, December 9, 1865, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76652540/>.

⁴⁶⁴ “A City Park,” *The Atchison Daily Champion*, Atchison, Kansas, February 01, 1885, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/109396859>.

⁴⁶⁵ “Is Anything Further To Be Done with the City Park?,” *The Atchison Daily Champion*, Atchison, Kansas, April 14, 1886, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/109360445/>.

⁴⁶⁶ “Gould’s Purchase,” *The Trades Union*, Atchison, Kansas, October 24, 1885, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/384280658/>.

“miscellaneously and promiscuously” plantation of trees under its three-year agreement with the park lessee, a nursery.⁴⁶⁷ A plan would “answer the expectations” of Lawrence citizens and also secure the survival the trees planted.⁴⁶⁸ Accordingly, Mayor Gravenor received the following valuable recommendations from Messrs. Jenney, Schermerhorn & Bogart, of Chicago, architects, civil and landscape engineers:

- 1- A carefully prepared colored drawing, at a scale of say twenty-five feet to the inch, thirty-two inches square showing all the different features of the park. This should be exhibited at some proper place, in order that the citizens may become interested in the park, and thereby assist in completing it.
- 2- A tracing of this drawing, with all necessary figures, to enable your engineer to layout the work upon the ground.
- 3- A specification of the planting, that proper trees and shrubs may be elected and put in their proper places. This, although often undertaken without any previous study, is in reality one of the most difficult problems that can be presented to a landscape artist, involving as it does, a thorough knowledge of the habits, foliage and general characters of the material used for on their judicious selection and grouping depends the gracefulness and artistic effect of the whole work. Scarcely less important is the form and colors of the foliage, which should be harmonious, and at the same time avoiding monotony. It is scarcely necessary to add, that all trees and shrubs should be adapted to the climate.
- 4- The drawings are absolutely necessary before any work is done upon the park, for the design must be studied as a whole before any details can be executed. The condition, that

⁴⁶⁷ “The City Park,” *Lawrence Daily Journal*, Lawrence, Kansas, October 14, 1870, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/59463212/>.

⁴⁶⁸ “Inaugural Address of Hon. Curdon Crovenor,” *Lawrence Daily Journal*, Lawrence, Kansas, May 3, 1870, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/59540006/>.

the park grounds are leased for a nursery, with the understanding that the large planting shall be introduced at once, makes the specifications of such planting an immediate necessity. In regard to the design of your park, we would advise that it be simple, without the introduction of any other drives than the one now passing through it. There should be walks, lawns, and graceful groupings of trees, flowering shrubs, with edges and detached bits of flowers to give color and to unite the planting with the grass below. There should be seats and vine-covered rustic arbors, but no attempt at miniature hills and valleys.⁴⁶⁹

Architectural Elements

Following the usual formula of pleasure ground design in North America, architectural and sculptural elements were to be avoided as much as possible. However, to meet the needs for maintaining the pleasure grounds as well as accommodating the visitors, some buildings were inevitable, such as dance pavilions, theater buildings, public comfort stations, bathhouses, dining halls, summer kitchens, greenhouses, restrooms, and rustic shelters. The parks also often had ornamental entrance gates and rustic bridges. For instance, *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor* reported in 1884 that Merriam Park in Kansas City, Kansas had a dance pavilion and a rustic summer kitchen for picnic parties which was “furnished with a fine cooking stove and the necessary utensils.”⁴⁷⁰ In 1909, the Topeka Park Commissioner Board adopted a “standard design” for public comfort stations in the city parks (Figure 38).⁴⁷¹ *The Topeka Daily Capital* also published a proposed restroom design for Willow Park in Topeka (Figure 39).⁴⁷²

⁴⁶⁹ “The City Park,” *Lawrence Daily Journal*, Lawrence, Kansas, October 14, 1870, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/59463212/>.

⁴⁷⁰ “As To Merriam Park,” *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, June 26, 1884, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67767990/>.

⁴⁷¹ “Mall in Topeka,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, March 24, 1909, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323127227/>.

⁴⁷² “Mall in Topeka,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, March 24, 1909, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323127227/>.

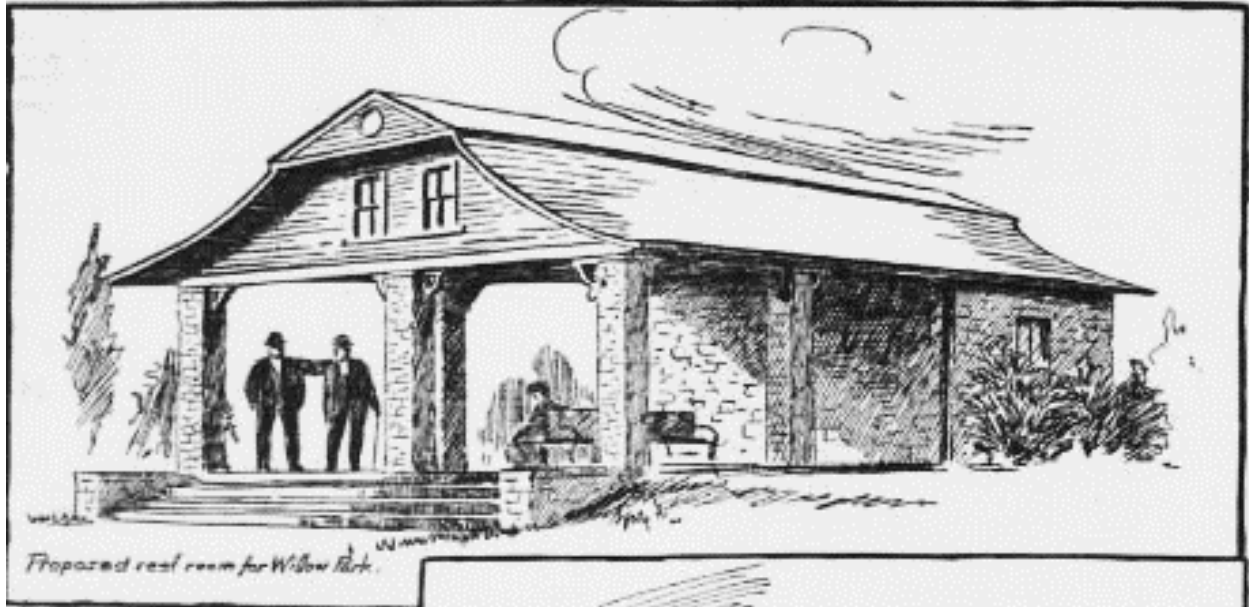


Figure 38- *Proposed Design for Restroom in Willow Park, Topeka, Kansas, 1909, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.*



Figure 39- *Standards Design for Public Comfort Stations, Topeka, Kansas, 1909, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.*

Some pleasure grounds had greenhouses to protect their plants during winter. For example, in 1916, It was reported that Gage Park kept over 27,000 individual plants in the park greenhouse over the cold season (Figure 40). The plants were planned to be planted into the fifty-two flower beds of the park in Spring 1916 by N. N. Kline, the park florist.⁴⁷³



Figure 40- *Gage Park's Greenhouse, Topeka, Kansas, 1916*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society. The green house located on the pleasure grounds was used to protect plants in cold seasons.

⁴⁷³ "Seeking Sign of Spring Go Out to Gage Park," *The Topeka Daily Capitol*, Topeka, Kansas, March 19, 1916, 30, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64456353/>.

Even though sculptural elements were usually avoided in pleasure grounds, two cities proposed to add “a bronze tablet” and “a monumental column” to commemorate people. In 1910, Louisa H. Gage erected an archway in memory of her husband in Topeka’s Gage Park (Figures 41 to 43). In the same year, *The Topeka State Journal* suggested that the city place “a bronze tablet in a huge boulder which nature conveniently located near the entrance of Gage park” to acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Gage donations to the park.⁴⁷⁴ Moreover, the erection of a soldiers' monument in Fremont Park, Emporia was proposed by the Woman's Relief Corps No. 70 in 1912. The goal was to raise \$1,000 to “insure a handsome and lasting memorial to the soldiers of the country” and to “add to the beauty and interest” of this pleasure ground.⁴⁷⁵ A similar “monumental column” was requested to be installed in Ottawa’s proposed park to tell the “coming generations that we honored their fidelity to the nation and the constitution.”⁴⁷⁶



Figure 41- *Gage Park Gate, Topeka, Kansas, 1911*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society.

⁴⁷⁴ “A Gage Memorial,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, June 23, 1910, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323176022/>.

⁴⁷⁵ “A Soldier Monument,” *The Emporia Weekly Gazette*, Emporia, Kansas, April 11, 1912, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/3561070/>.

⁴⁷⁶ “Petition For A Park,” *The Ottawa Daily Republic*, Ottawa, Kansas, May 26, 1891, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/77232436/>.



Figure 42- *Gage Park's Archway, Topeka, Kansas, 2019*, Photographed by Author. Courtesy Dorna Eshrati Personal Digital Archive.
The Archway was built in 1910 by Mrs. Gage in memory of her husband.



Figure 43- *Gage Park's Archway Memorial, Topeka, Kansas, 2019*, Photographed by Author. Courtesy Dorna Eshrati Personal Digital Archive. This plaque is on right foot of the park's archway.

Amenities

In terms of circulation, the pleasure grounds had meandering walks (Figure 44), bridges, carriageways, bridle paths, automobile drives, and sometimes ornamental gate entrances. In 1883 the newly-developed portion of Merriam Park in Kansas City was described in this way: “The surface of the portion is gently undulating, and a purling brook crosses it from north to south, spanned here and there by rustic bridges. A larger portion lies about thirty feet higher, and is crescent shaped, partially surrounding the lower portion. This higher ground is reached by an easy ascent, so uniform that an invalid can easily climb or descend at any point.”⁴⁷⁷

⁴⁷⁷ “Merriam Park,” *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, Jun 21, 1883, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67704672/>.

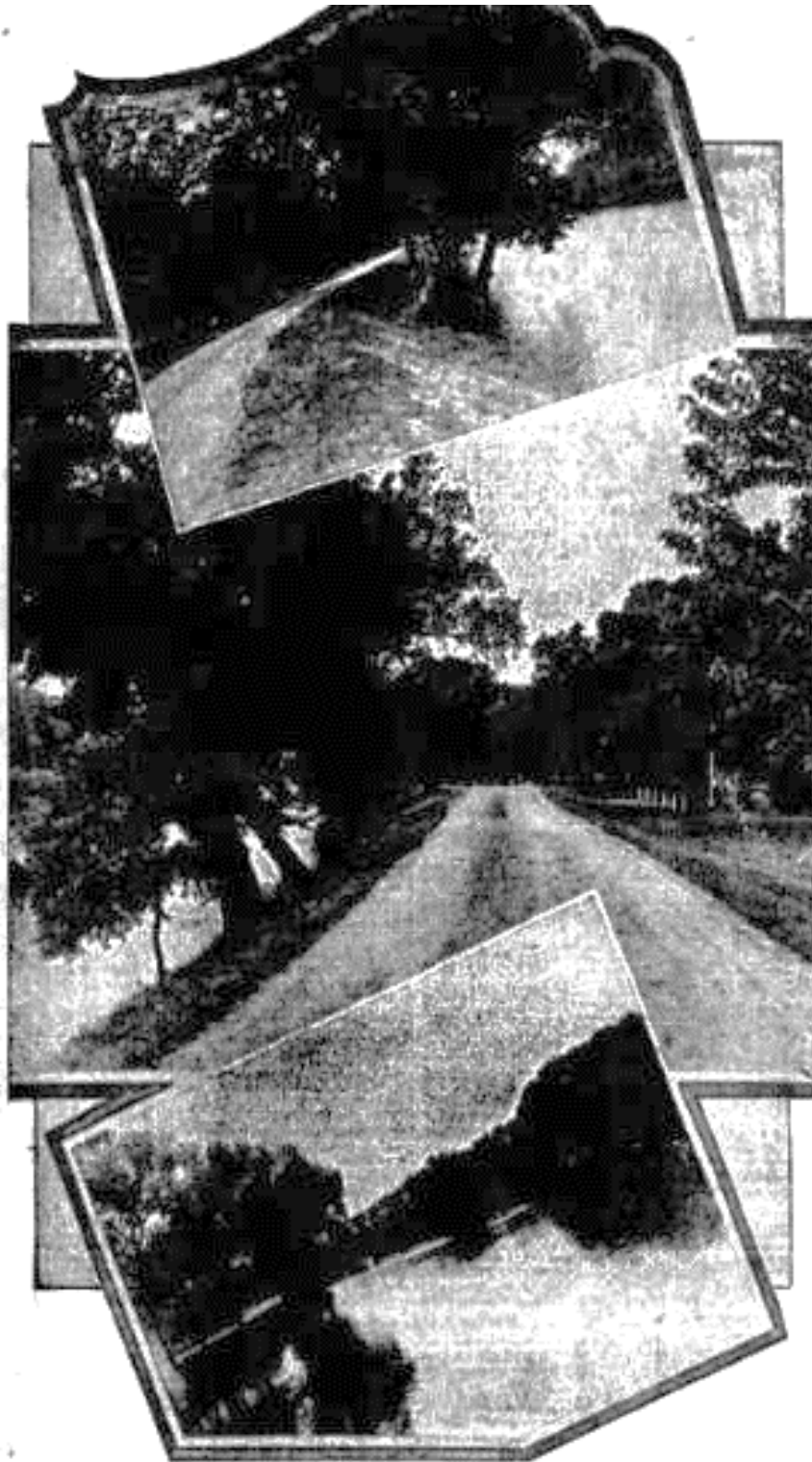


Figure 44- *Views of Riverside's Park Walkways, Wichita, Kansas, 1917*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society.

Throughout their undulating grounds, the nineteenth-century parks of the larger cities in Kansas offered visitors a wide range of amenities and facilities including:

- Sports and physical activities facilities such as baseball diamonds, bicycle race tracks, tennis courts, ice rinks, and lakes and pools for swimming and fishing;
- Amusement features such as merry-go-rounds, see-saws, swings, and roller coasters (Figures 45 and 46);
- Children’s playgrounds;
- Animal exhibitions or zoos;
- Features to provide comforts for visitors like shaded areas with seating areas, restrooms, water fountains, cafes, and booths selling ice cream and refreshments;
- Outdoor auditoriums with theater and bandstand;
- Some pleasure grounds held nighttime events like moving pictures shows and in one case Topeka’s Garfield Park had a casino; and
- Infrastructure such as lighting, border fences, and sewer and drainage systems.

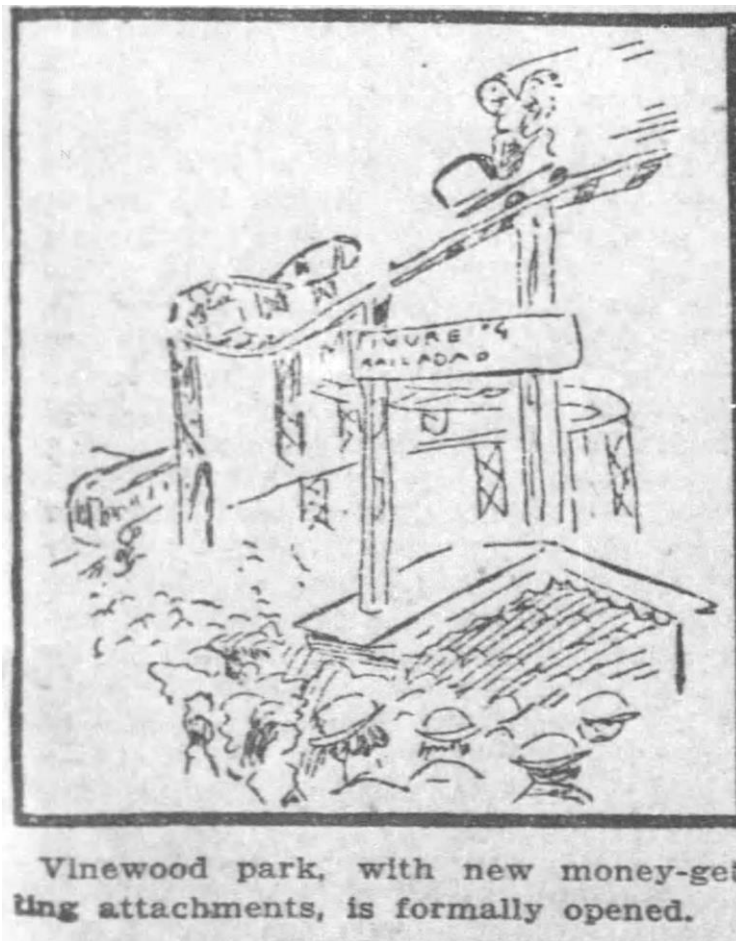


Figure 45- *Roller Coaster at Vinewood Park, Topeka, Kansas, 1904*, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society. The newly installed roller coaster of Vinewood Park called as the “money-getting attachment” was depicted by *The Topeka State Journal* cartoonist. The cartoon was one of the seven illustrations reporting interesting weekly local news.

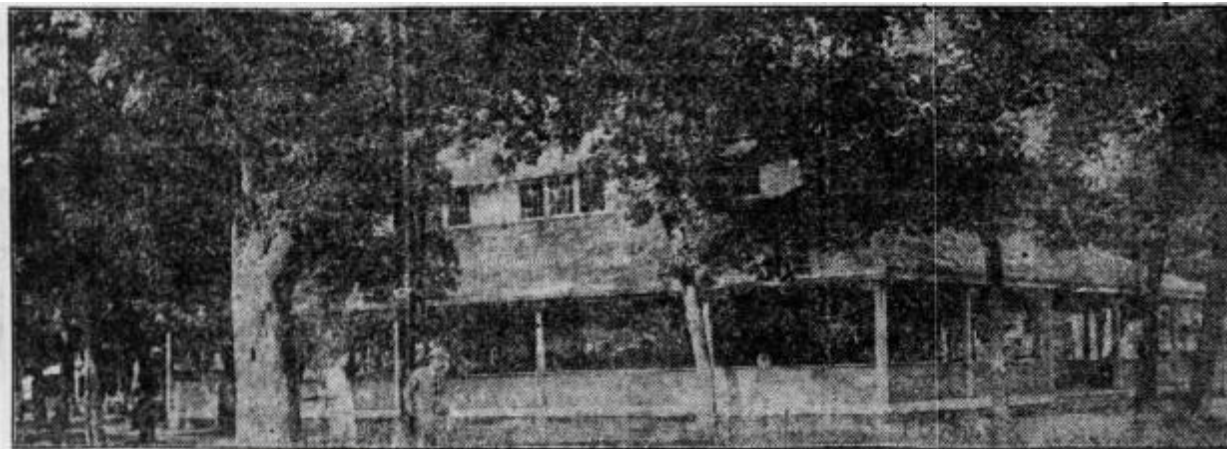


Figure 46- *The Structure Encompassing Garfield Park's Merry-Go-Round, Topeka, Kansas, 1913*, Photograph, Historical Newspaper Archive.

In 1896, Mound Park in Leavenworth was called a “first-class pleasure ground” with attractions such as: elegant forest trees, a lake for bathing or boating, standpipes at convenient distances where fresh drinking water could be obtained from an artesian well, swings, rustic seats, merry-go-rounds, see-saws, electric nighttime illumination, and other requisites for such a first-class pleasure ground.⁴⁷⁸ The “chief attractions” of Hutchison’s Riverside Park when it opened in summer 1913 were: a dancing pavilion, a music band, large merry-go-round, duck pond, zoo and electric lights consisting of some 1,400 small globes.⁴⁷⁹

The pleasure grounds of Kansas were also widely used for playing sports. *The Kansas City Globe* reported that the sports facilities of Heathwood Park, Kansas City was one of the main attractions of the pleasure ground. In addition to “all kinds of appliances [that] are at hand for the amusement of children and young people,” the most important feature was reported to be the two baseball diamonds which were in constant use Saturdays and Sundays and every evening during the week in the summer time.⁴⁸⁰ *Kansas City Globe* described July 7th, 1912 as an average day for the use of the baseball fields as follows:

Yesterday was an average Sunday at the park, the crowd numbering perhaps 3,000 persons. . . The field was a little small for two other games, the fielders overlapping each other in the center fields and in the right field of the west grounds and the left field of the east grounds, but it only added to the excitement when the west grounds

⁴⁷⁸ “Delightful Mound Park,” *The Leavenworth Standard*, Leavenworth, Kansas, August 08, 1896, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/387756394/>.

⁴⁷⁹ “Riverside Park Opens,” *The Hutchinson News*, Hutchinson, Kansas, May 2, 1910, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/477804853/>.

⁴⁸⁰ “Baseball at Heathwood,” *The Kansas City Globe*, Kansas City, Kansas, July 8, 1912, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/59637638/>.

and the left fielders were chasing home run drives through the east diamond and into crowd, of which kind of plays there were several.⁴⁸¹

Pleasure grounds continued to offer the same types of amenities well into the late 1910s.

In 1917, Wichita's Riverside Park was described as follows:

Riverside Park is really three parks, separated by the river. The south park is a favorite camping ground for automobile tourists and the drives are used on Sundays during the summer as a race track for motorcycles. There as a pool, shallow enough for the smallest children, to say nothing of the sport to be derived from fishing from the Central Avenue bridge. Central Riverside contains the municipal bathing beach, the boathouse, the playgrounds, the zoo, the moving pictures, the conventionalized flower beds. The Park Villa, the lily pond, the fountains and swings are found in North Riverside."⁴⁸² Riverside park had a deer and elk park containing some fine specimens of these animals."⁴⁸³ In 1911, in the annual park report, it was mentioned that a great number of the Riverside Park animals were donated by public spirited citizens.⁴⁸⁴

Parks were also intended to be used at night and offered nighttime activities such as moving picture shows. In the early 1900s, cities began to install lighting in parks. For example, Wichita's Wonderland Park's main access from the Douglas Avenue bridge was fully lighted with electric

⁴⁸¹ "Baseball at Heathwood," *The Kansas City Globe*, Kansas City, Kansas, July 8, 1912, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/59637638/>.

⁴⁸² "City Parks That Represent a Value of a Half Million Dollars," *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, September 29, 1917, 68, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76775875/>.

⁴⁸³ "Excellent System of Beautiful Park." *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, May 30, 1904, 20. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76878375/>.

⁴⁸⁴ "The Annual Report of Sam F. Stewart," *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, February 01, 1911, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76319802/>.

lights in 1906. The park management planned to put “a lot more electric lights in the park proper,” which would turn it into “one of the best-lighted pleasure grounds in the country.”⁴⁸⁵ Also, in 1911, *The Topeka Daily Capital* described the willingness of the residents near Gage Park to fund a \$500 bond to light West Sixth Street and West Tenth Street, which bordered the park, on the condition that the city would light Gage Park with sufficient lamps. The existing lighting condition and the cost for its upgrade were reported in this way:

Two Pinter kerosene [kerosene] lights are now installed on West Sixth street, showing how much of an improvement a string of lights would be on . . . making the drive to the park to the park safe for all kinds of traffic as well as motor cars. It would take about five of these lights on each of the streets mentioned to light them sufficiently and these would cost in the neighborhood of \$500. This would include the maintenance for the first three years.⁴⁸⁶

Apparently, the city accepted the proposal to light the park as one year later Topeka’s parks were reported to be “well lighted at night.”⁴⁸⁷

Inclusivity and Accessibility

In 1887, the *Kansas Pionier* wrote that “for the poorer class, for our laboring element, there is no way to enjoy themselves with their families in the grandeur of sublime nature.”⁴⁸⁸ The nineteenth-

⁴⁸⁵ “At Wonderland Park,” *The Wichita Daily Eagle*, Wichita, Kansas, May 23, 1906, 7, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63982066/>.

⁴⁸⁶ “Will Put Money for Auto Drive Lights,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, May 21, 1911, 23, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64067915/>.

⁴⁸⁷ “Topeka’s Parks,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, June 03, 1912, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323593291/>.

⁴⁸⁸ “A Trip to Chelsea Park,” *Kansas Pionier*, Kansas City, Kansas, May 26, 1887, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/478584517/>.

century pleasure grounds provided shaded places that all classes could enjoy. This idea was advocated by *The Leavenworth Times* this way:

Leavenworth, in comparison with other western cities, lacks not foliage. But we haven't enough, or at any rate it isn't equally divided. The rich have all the shady places, and the poor are exposed to the smiting rays of the summer sunshine, and this fact alone suggests the necessity of a public park. Next to fresh and pure water, we need fresh and pure air, open breathing spaces, where the laboring man and the pale student may rest without feeling a sense of infringement on another man's property.⁴⁸⁹

The pleasure grounds gave all residents equal right to reconnect with nature which was highlighted in an article by *The Wichita Beacon*:

The joys of a public park are priceless-free to all alike. The working man and woman and their children are on an equality with the independent in a public park. There is no favoritism and no partiality. The family in a motor car, the one in a horse drawn vehicle and the one a foot share alike. The perfume of the flowers, the shade of the trees, the velvet of the grassy carpet in a public playground are for all-the rich and the poor.⁴⁹⁰

One individual who favored building a park for Topeka's east side highlighted the suitability of pleasure grounds for people of lower socio-economic class in a letter to the editor of

⁴⁸⁹ "A Shade Without a Steal," *The Leavenworth Times*, Leavenworth, Kansas, July 12, 1872, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/95663452/>.

⁴⁹⁰ "What's a Park Worth?," *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, March 31, 1910, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76765666/>.

The Topeka Daily Capital claiming that “what the poor man wants is parks and sewers, not Sunday theaters.”⁴⁹¹ The amenities of pleasure grounds also attracted people of different ages most notably children. In 1917, *The Wichita Beacon* described the attractions of the city parks for children:

If you want to see a picture out of the history of your own forgotten youth, go to the playgrounds of the parks and watch the children. Half a dozen of them on one teeter, the younger ones clutching at the dresses of the older one to keep from falling; an indistinguishable mass of sliding Betty`s and Bob`s on the swinging log; skirts flying as little girls swing ‘ up in the air and down again’ on the long swings; grimy boys skinning the cat; half a dozen children shooting down the slides at once, ending with a conglomeration of legs and arms at the bottom, which have to be straightened out – an everyday sight at the parks.⁴⁹²

The only report of non-inclusive use of pleasure grounds in Kansas was when C. L. Davidson bought the Waldock Farm, east of Wichita in 1899. The place had been “well known as one of the best picnic grounds in the state” in which “every summer parties from Wichita and other towns spend vacations.” The new owner wanted the grounds to be used exclusively by Wichita people and their friends. A specific notice warned people of Pratt, Kansas not to have any “pleasure and picnic parties” to which Pratt residents responded that they “will retaliate” and “will get even with Wichita.”⁴⁹³

Most pleasure grounds did not have entry fees, but some did charge gate fees, which included admission to the events held at the parks. And some parks charged visitors only for the

⁴⁹¹ “Got Their Ears to Ground,” *The Topeka Daily Capitol*, Topeka, Kansas, June 02, 1911, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64068240/>.

⁴⁹² “City Parks That Represent a Value of a Half Million Dollars,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, September 29, 1917, 68, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76775875/>.

⁴⁹³ “Will Retaliate,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, April 26, 1899, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76989344/>.

special events and amusements (Figure 47). The prices were intentionally kept low so all could afford to visit. Special rates were offered to children, lodges, societies, and Sunday Schools. Also sometimes seasonal tickets were available at lower rates. Topeka's amusement promoters agreed with the city "not to charge more than five cents for each ride on the merry-go-rounds, roller coasters, etc., or for admission to any of the special amusement places. That puts these amusements within the reach of the humblest pocketbooks, and makes these parks amusement places for all the people."⁴⁹⁴ However, it was hoped that charging an entrance fee would exclude "thuggish looking persons, and all others of objectionable characters" to Lawrence's Amusement Park "so that the people of the town may be sure their park will at all times be a very clean and decent place to go."⁴⁹⁵



Figure 47- *Advertisement of Performances at Riverside Park, Hutchison, Kansas, 1909*, Illustrations, Kansas Historical Society. In the 1900s advertisements of the events held in Hutchinson's Riverside Park, the admission price was frequently noted to be 10 cents which covered the special events held at the park.

⁴⁹⁴ "Topeka's Parks," *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, June 03, 1912, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323593291/>.

⁴⁹⁵ "Enjoyed Park," *The Daily Gazette*, Lawrence, Kansas, July 11, 1901, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/194486801/>.

To be easily accessible to people regardless of class or age, pleasure grounds were located either inside or close by on the edge of the cities. Two key criteria when selecting locations for pleasure grounds in Kansas were to find places where people could “cheaply enjoy in nature and nature art” and “yet be in the city.”⁴⁹⁶ For instance, the term “at our doors” was used to refer to the accessible location of Auburndale pleasure ground in Topeka.⁴⁹⁷ Additionally, there were different means to reach pleasure grounds. Carriages, buggies, street railway lines, cable and later automobiles ensured inexpensive and easy accessibility for pleasure seekers of all classes.

Concerns about accessibility sometimes led to smaller but more accessible pleasure grounds. For example, when considering Hutchinson’s Elmdale Park, Mayor F. L. Martin asserted that: “I would rather spend the city’s money for this little park than for a larger piece of ground further from the center of the city.”⁴⁹⁸ He and other commissioners were “heartily in favor of any scheme that will give Hutchinson any parks and would like to start a park system that will be a credit to the city within a few years.”⁴⁹⁹ A preference for smaller but connected pleasure grounds led to larger cities such as Topeka and Wichita to create a park system that provided parks for every section of the cities.

In Topeka, smaller playgrounds accessible to children in all parts of cities were advocated. In article called “People Want Better Parks,” *The Topeka Daily Capital* reflected on the need for more smaller playgrounds in this way: “A campaign should be commenced now to increase the

⁴⁹⁶ “A Trip to Chelsea Park,” *Kansas Pionier*, Kansas City, Kansas, May 26, 1887, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/478584517/>.

⁴⁹⁷ “Auburndale,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, May 23, 1888, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64572448/>.

⁴⁹⁸ “Elmdale Park,” *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, May 22, 1909, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418822545/>.

⁴⁹⁹ “Elmdale Park,” *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, May 22, 1909, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418822545/>.

number of parks so that every portion of the city will have its own pleasure grounds. In the city, the idea is to make small parks and playgrounds for mothers and children.”⁵⁰⁰

As the 1900s approached, the city of Wichita aimed to develop such a park system and “make its parks and playgrounds pleasantly accessible.”⁵⁰¹ It was claimed that “early in the history of the town the need for attractive parks and recreation grounds was felt by the people who began at that time to lay the foundation for the splendid park system” which became “such a source of pleasure to all who see them” in the twentieth century. In 1904 the entire park system in Wichita comprised 217 acres of land.⁵⁰² In 1911, Wichita intended to create a “comprehensive park and boulevard system. . . and to become a more beautiful Peerless Princess.” The plan was to “improve and beautify its pleasure grounds already acquired and link its parks, playgrounds and drives together, with new boulevards and drives to gain the distinction of being the most attractive city of its size in America.”⁵⁰³

Early in the twentieth century, the Wichita park system included parks of all sizes, from the small five-acre Henry Park to Riverside with hundred and fifty acres.⁵⁰⁴ Riverside Park in Wichita, located in the northwestern portion of the city, was reported as the largest park in the city in 1904. The park was described as follows: “It is really a chain of three parks, separated by the river which winds gracefully through it. This park is about 150 acres in extent and by reason of its size and the beauty of its natural timber, it is the most popular park in the city.” Linwood Park, the oldest park in Wichita, located in the southeastern part of the city, was 40 acres in 1904. McKinley

⁵⁰⁰ “People Want Better Parks,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, October 18, 1908, 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63924954/>.

⁵⁰¹ “Wichita’s Parks and Rivers Add to City’s Attractions,” *The Wichita Eagle Daily*, Wichita, Kansas, October 8, 1911, 12, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63708159/>.

⁵⁰² “Excellent System of Beautiful Park,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, May 30, 1904, 20, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76878375/>.

⁵⁰³ “Wichita’s Parks and Rivers Add to City’s Attractions,” *The Wichita Eagle Daily*, Wichita, Kansas, October 8, 1911, 12, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63708159/>.

⁵⁰⁴ “City Parks That Represent a Value of a Half Million Dollars,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, September 29, 1917, 68, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76775875/>.

Park in in the northeastern Wichita was reported as “a small pleasure resort” which was 10 acres. Hyde, Lincoln and Union Park were “each about a block in size . . .and located at convenient intervals in the southern and southwestern part of the city and though small, all of them are being made more beautiful each year and as a result are becoming more popular.”⁵⁰⁵

Accessibility also played a significant role in choosing the location of a park in Wellington. In an article titled “Where Should the Park Be?,” it was proposed that “for a town of Wellington’s size the park ought to be close to the business center” and locating it further meant “either the building to it of a streetcar line—which couldn’t possibly pay—or that the majority of people who want to visit it must either hire a livery rig or pay bus fare.” A park located far away from the business district was said to make “a good enough park for the people who have buggies or automobiles, but the rest of the population would simply ‘pass it up.’” The article asked, “is it fair to tax the public for what would be a benefit to only a limited class?”⁵⁰⁶

However, stretching the public transportation system to pleasure grounds was not difficult in the large cities of Kansas and was actually favored by residents and, not surprisingly, the transportation companies. In some cases, railway and electric car companies owned the parks and thus guaranteed park accessibility. For example, in Kansas City’s Merriam Park, which was owned partially by the Gulf Railway, the railway passed “along the entire front of the park and the depot and platform are at the gate, thus allowing visitors to walk from the cars to the green lawn and shade, only a few steps distant.” The carriage ways were “thoroughly macadamized and the meandering walks perfectly graveled and guttered.”⁵⁰⁷ Establishing parks by transportation

⁵⁰⁵ “Excellent System of Beautiful Park,” *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, May 30, 1904, 20, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76878375/>.

⁵⁰⁶ “Where Should the Park Be?,” *The Monitor-Press*, Wellington, Kansas, May 14, 1902, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/383141864/>.

⁵⁰⁷ “Merriam Park,” *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, Jun 21, 1883, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67704672/>.

companies benefited both the park users and the transportation companies. *The Parsons Daily Sun* highlighted the benefits of extending streetcars to the city pleasure ground both for park users and the streetcar company in this way: “such a venture on the part of the railroad would pay well and it is to be hoped that the railroad officials will act favorably on the matter.”⁵⁰⁸

As mentioned, accessible locations were usually selected for new pleasure grounds. However, in case of Topeka’s Vinewood Park, modern means of transportation made Topekans to want a park “outside the city.” *The Topeka Daily Capital* reported in 1902:

The city of Topeka has for many years been greatly in need of accessible parks that were worthy the name parks. . . It would seem, however, that even larger parks than they contemplate are really needed by Topeka’s population, and which must of necessity be located outside the city. An opportunity to have such a park, connected with the city by a modern electric railway is furnished by the proposed improvement of Vinewood park, if the franchise is granted by the city council.⁵⁰⁹

One year later, in 1903, *The Topeka Daily Capital* reported that Vinewood Park was owned by the Topeka Railway company,⁵¹⁰ which had extended its lines to the park and built some five miles of road. It was therefore claimed that “no street railway in the country is more appreciated by the people who patronize it liberally.” Topeka’s street railway system was called “unexcelled”

⁵⁰⁸ “To Be Opened Sunday,” *The Parsons Daily Sun*, Parsons, Kansas, May 20, 1904, 4, <https://kansashistoricalopencontent.newspapers.com/image/60254982/>.

⁵⁰⁹ “More Parks Are Needed,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, March 26, 1902, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63923260/>.

⁵¹⁰ “When electric car service was introduced in Topeka, March 28, 1889, and for more than a year thereafter, the Topeka Rapid Transit system was the largest electric railroad plant in the world, and became the means of changing from horse to electric power more street railway systems in the United States than any other one cause. Richmond, Va., with but nine cars in operation, ranked next to Topeka at that time with St. Joseph, Mo., a four-car plant, holding third place. . . The roads of the Topeka Railway Company operated in every section of the city and suburbs, and a frequent time schedule was maintained to all points” Retrieved from “Topeka’s Fine Railway System,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, November 08, 1903, 24, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63216812/>.

and Topekans were “proud of it.”⁵¹¹ Figure 48 shows one of the Vinewood cars of the Topeka Railway Company.



Figure 48- *One of the Cars of Topeka Railway Company that Provided Access to Vinewood Park, Topeka, Kansas, 1903*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society.

Another effort in 1910 to make pleasure grounds more accessible was in Topeka. Gage Park was considered “a trifle far removed from the center of population, but it was hoped that the park would be “brought nearer” when street railway connections were made and when the city grew westward towards the park. Then it would “only be on the outskirts of the city, just where a big and serviceable park should be.”⁵¹² On May 14, 1911, improvements in transportation along with good weather encouraged 7000 people to visit Gage Park, “Topeka’s popular pleasure ground.” Of that gathering, 400 people reached the park by automobile and half walked to the park.⁵¹³ About two years later, in July 1913, companies and individuals were invited to launch an

⁵¹¹ “Topeka’s Fine Railway System,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, November 08, 1903, 24, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63216812/>.

⁵¹² “A Gage Memorial,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, June 23, 1910, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323176022/>.

⁵¹³ “Crowd at Gage Broke Record,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, May 15, 1911, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64067695/>.

“automobile passenger service” and run their cars from Sixth and Jackson streets every ten or fifteen minutes to Gage Park “as an experiment” to see if it would be “popular enough to make it expedient to continue the line during the summer months.”⁵¹⁴ The interest in using public transportation to travel to the park continued. Finally, in summer 1914, Gage Park’s electric car line provided regular services to the park (Figure 49). On Sundays, the service was available every 15 minutes “for benefits of bathers and park visitors.”⁵¹⁵



Figure 49- *Gage Park’s Electric Car Advertisement, Topeka, Kansas, 1914*, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society. The advertisement highlighted the chance to visit the park’s zoo and bathing beach for only 5 cents through the electric cars.

⁵¹⁴ “Inaugurate Auto Line Sunday to Gage Park,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, July 4, 1913, 10, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64111546/>.

⁵¹⁵ “Gage Park,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, July 9, 1914, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323590746/>.

Public transportation made the pleasure grounds of large cities accessible for Kansans. For instance, in 1891 the Seneca Secret Society Lodge planned a “Grand Excursion” to Chelsea Park in Kansas City, Missouri. The cost was \$1.25 to take the train from the cities of Seneca, Oneida or Morrill to reach Kansas City and then take streetcars to Chelsea Park.⁵¹⁶

As the use of private automobiles gradually increased in the twentieth century, parking was added to pleasure grounds. For example, in the 1920 renovation plan of Parsons’s Marvel Park “a large space for the parking of cars” was set aside. The *Parsons Daily Republican* reported that “every provision has been made so that congestion will be reduced to a minimum. The roads through the grounds will be rolled and thoroughly oiled, making them the equal of any boulevards in the country.”⁵¹⁷

In summary, public transportation and later private automobiles made pleasure grounds in the larger cities and towns of Kansas accessible to the public. Transportation service to the parks was increased to meet the demand when events were held. And reasonable-priced services led to the use of pleasure grounds by all classes of people.

Management and Maintenance

Implementing fines for those who littered parks,⁵¹⁸ not letting people gather the fruit from trees,⁵¹⁹ and asking park neighbors to paint their houses to beautify the vicinity of parks⁵²⁰ were a few of

⁵¹⁶ “Grand Excursion,” *The Morrill Weekly News*, Morrill, Kansas, June 5, 1891, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/380138736/>.

⁵¹⁷ “Dressing Up Marvel Park,” *Parsons Daily Republican*, Parsons, Kansas, May 02, 1920, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/366120367/>.

⁵¹⁸ There was \$100 fine for those who attempted to dump rubbish into or obstruct the water of the creek of Hutchinson’s Sylvan Park. For more information read “Sylvan Park is Commission’s Choice,” *The Hutchinson Gazette*, Hutchinson, Kansas, July 7, 1909, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418886506/>.

⁵¹⁹ “Salina boys think they are being grievously discriminated against in favor of the squirrels. Oakdale park, one of the local pleasure grounds, is fairly teeming with walnuts, also with squirrels, and the park board won’t permit the boys of the town to gather the nuts. The squirrels are to have the call on them for their winter food supply.” For more information read “Jayhawker Jots,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, September 24, 1908, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323203643/>.

⁵²⁰ The neighbors of the Shawnee Park were also asked in 1916 to paint their houses to enhance the visual quality of the park vicinity. One year later all the houses did so which became the motivation for others to paint up. The Press advocated such movement in this way: “A little paint will go a long ways, won’t cost much and is the greatest beauty maker in the world.” For

the actions taken to maintain pleasure grounds in Kansas. The parks were run and managed by park commissioners, park associations, park clubs, private owners or sometimes by the general public.

Some parks considered adopting maintenance rules even before the establishment like Garfield Park for which a system of rules was suggested to be put together in order to keep it “clean, orderly and respectable.”⁵²¹ Another very common way to protect parks was to fence them so they would not be used as pastures for animals. In 1885, *The Atchison Daily Champion* advocated for fencing one of the city’s park:

A fence should be constructed that nothing from a cow to an earthquake could overthrow; not a paling fence to be used for kindling; not a wire fence to sag down, but a fence fit to ‘brace the battle and the breeze.’ The ground selected, and this sort of a fence built around it and the rest of the work of giving Atchison a public park would be plain sailing.⁵²²

Atchison probably witnessed the negative experience of other cities like Topeka. In 1870, the Topeka City Park had become a “cow pasture.” New improvements were suggested:

The fence is all down, and the grounds are occupied as a cow pasture. This is an improvement on last winter, when the park was used as cemetery for cats. The work of improving this ‘pleasure ground’ should be commenced at once. A suitable fence should be constructed; the grass coaxed to cover the ground; some benches put up

more information read “Have Wrought Wonderful Change,” *The Press*, Kansas City, Kansas, April 27, 1917, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/484658031/>.

⁵²¹ “Tip Top,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, May 14, 1881, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67586154/>.

⁵²² “A City Park,” *The Atchison Daily Champion*, Atchison, Kansas, February 01, 1885, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/109396859>.

under the trees; and the cows turned into the street, so their places could be supplied on pleasant evenings by pairs of young ‘lovyers,’ who could stroll about the blissful conversation about the weather, or sit down and admire the majestic Kaw, the glory of the sunset, and each other.⁵²³

In some cases, the public was asked to help maintain the pleasure grounds. *The Atchison Daily* described the communal responsibility of looking after the city park:

Every citizen of Atchison should resolve himself into a committee of one to prevent this noble tract, with its hills and dales, its forest trees, and its views of bluff and river, town and country, from ever being spoiled by ignorance, stinginess or jobbery. Every natural beauty it possesses should be preserved, and enough art, and no more be employed to employed to preserve and bring out the work of nature. No contractor should be ever be allowed to dig and delve and deface the grounds merely that he may have job. Not a tree should be cut down without good reason, nor shovel full of earth turned without a purpose. . . It is the people’s park, let the people look over their property, and here after keep an eye on it.⁵²⁴

One of the several schemes proposed to put the G. A. R. Park and Reunion Grounds in Pittsburg back into shape was to earn “several hundred dollars” by cutting trees and selling some of the valuable oak and walnut timber in the park. The other suggestion, which was expected to be acted upon, was to have “a good old-fashioned work bee.” Here is how the plan was put forward:

⁵²³ “That Park,” *The Kansas State Record*, Topeka, Kansas, April 22, 1870, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/366149123/>.

⁵²⁴ “On the Fourth of July,” *The Atchison Daily Champion*, Atchison, Kansas, June 30, 1886, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/109299044/>.

All of the comrades of the Grand Army post, and others who will assemble at the grounds, and put in a day working on the improvements, clearing out the underbrush, and making roads and rustic bridges. Several days will be put in this way. The ladies of the Relief Corps can serve beans and coffee to the workers. It will be expected that the businessmen and others of the city who will not care to take the time to get out and work, will pay \$1.50 or \$2 with which to hire a man to work in their place. It is also proposed to take sticks from the timber and set the old soldiers to whittling, and make five hundred or a thousand canes of oak and walnut. These will be tagged with a suitable inscription, such as 'G. A. R. Park, 1903,' and then sold for a quarter a piece, and thus bring in a little sum.⁵²⁵

Sometimes parklands were leased to individuals in return for park improvements. That was the case in Ottawa's College Park in the late 1870s. It was reported that Mr. Lester, the lessee, gave the park "good attention" and that he took pride in "cultivating and beautifying" it. *The Independent Journal* reported in May 1878 that:

This spring he is laying out the portion surrounding his green-house in fine style, with sodded walk and flower beds, in which he will grow large quantities of all kinds of flowers during the season. The ravine that winds through the park gives diversity to its surface, and will in time afford opportunity for the construction of small rustic bridges and other artificial adornments, beneath the shade of the willow trees already growing finely along its banks.⁵²⁶

⁵²⁵ "Working on the Park," *The Pittsburg Headlight*, Pittsburg, Kansas, October 08, 1903, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/85445552/>.

⁵²⁶ "The East Half of College Park," *Independent-Journal*, Ottawa, Kansas, May 09, 1878, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/384026562/>.

Despite having rules, a lack of proper maintenance and unprofitable management sometimes led to poor-quality conditions in some pleasure grounds in Kansas. Human error and natural disasters were the main causes for damage done to the pleasure grounds of Kansas. For example, on July 12, 1901 “the grass in Forest park, Atchison’s only pleasure ground, caught fire while the workmen were trying to inflate a balloon, and the grass was so dry that the fire swept over the entire park of twenty acres. Many trees caught on fire and were burned.”⁵²⁷

In 1911, an article entitled “To Sue Farmers” published in *The Daily Gazette of Lawrence* reported that “farmers owning property in the Wakarusa, Haskell and Eudora drainage district may find themselves defendants in a \$1,550 damage suit . . . for the value of 118 trees cut along the bank of the Wakarusa, where it flows through Browns’ grove” which was “frequently used for “a pleasure ground” and the location for “many annual picnics.” The owner claimed that the removal of these trees has “taken the shade from the creek bank and almost ruined it for these purposes.”⁵²⁸

Natural disasters like floods also threatened pleasure grounds. In July 1902 due to excessive rain, the Kaw River was eighteen inches above the danger line. Shawnee Park, Kansas City was threatened by the flow of water from the catch basin of the Shawnee sewer at Shawnee Avenue and Packard Street. A group of citizens who wished to save the park by building dikes met opposition from residents living adjacent to the park because they worried that “the water thus obstructed would find its way into their cellars.”⁵²⁹

Despite the crucial role that management played in maintaining the parks, they were not the only factors affecting the success of parks. For example, it was reported in 1905 that Topeka’s

⁵²⁷ “The Grass in Forest Park,” *The Abilene Weekly Chronicle*, Abilene, Kansas, July 17, 1901, 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/381359721/>.

⁵²⁸ “To Sue Farmers,” *The Daily Gazette*, Lawrence, Kansas, October 09, 1911, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/194662786/>.

⁵²⁹ “Armourdale Under Water,” *Kansas City Daily Gazette*, Kansas City, Kansas, July 12, 1902, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/61552046/>.

Garfield Park lost its popularity due to the establishments of other parks in the vicinity. *The Topeka Daily Capital* described the park's condition as "totally unfit for a pleasure ground, leaving the North Side [of Topeka] without [a] park."⁵³⁰ Building Vinewood Park and the unprofitable operation of Garfield under the direction of Marshall's Music Band, which was compounded by the destructive flood in 1903 were all known to "divert pleasure-seekers into new channels"⁵³¹ and therefore drastically affected the popularity of Garfield Park.

The story of managing and preserving Junction City's pleasure ground is probably the most comprehensively recorded. In 1863, it was reported that the Junction City Park lawn was "totally ruined" due to an accidental prairie fire. *The Smoky Hill and Republican Union* wrote that "it seemed as though tame grasses burned with greater fierceness than the wild growth of our prairies."⁵³² After the prairie fire, the Junction City Council decided to lease the city park to a private individual on condition that they would "insure its care and ornamentation."⁵³³ In 1866, the lessee, a nursery, planted trees protected by a hedge around them.⁵³⁴

Meanwhile in 1864, a man named S. M. Strickler used the park as a cattle pasture. The case was reported in *The Smoky Hill and Republican Union*:

A Police Item - S. M. Strickler was brought before His Honor, Mater Hall, last Tuesday, for having appropriated the City Park to his own use as a cattle yard. It appears that the culprit is extensively engaged in buying up cattle, and having no

⁵³⁰ "The Residents of North Topeka," *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, October 09, 1903, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63216423/>.

⁵³¹ "Resurrect A Park," *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, July 25, 1905, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323176810/>.

⁵³² "Ruined," *The Smoky Hill and Republican Union*, Junction City, Kansas, October 17, 1863, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/161604792/>.

⁵³³ "City Council," *The Smoky Hill and Republican Union*, Junction City, Kansas, October 03, 1863, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/161604743/>.

⁵³⁴ "We Noticed a Decided Improvement," *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, November 17, 1866, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76651173/>.

place to keep them, had the audacity to turn them into that beautiful Park! This so excited the ire of the City Dads that he was arraigned forth with the thought of the beautiful walks, the ornamental cedars, and the iron railing, all being ‘chawed up.’ doubtless biased “the Court” against him. He desired to plead his own case, but ‘the Court’ told him to ‘dry up,’ and instantly mulcted him in the sum of five dollars.⁵³⁵

This led the city to fence the park.⁵³⁶ Also, on November 18, 1865, the city passed three ordinances regarding the park fence stating that:

- 1- It shall be unlawful for any person to hitch, fasten or tie any horse, mule or other animal to the fence of the City Park, and any person offending against this section shall be fined in any sum not less than one nor more than ten dollars, with costs.
- 2- Any person who shall wantonly break down injure or destroy fence surrounding the City Park, or any grass, tree or shrub, growing in said park, or who shall turn into the enclosure of said park any horse, ox or other animal shall for each such offence be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, and costs of prosecution.
- 3- It is hereby made the duty of the Marshal to street all persons guilty of violating this ordinance, and take them before the Mayor to be dealt with.⁵³⁷

In October 1868, after several failed attempts to grow trees in Junction City’s park, General Knox offered to plant new trees in the park. He believed in “digging for each tree a hole similar in size to a small cellar, thus loosening the earth, and giving the roots a free and easy chance to

⁵³⁵ “A Police Item,” *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, March 26, 1864, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/161584183/>.

⁵³⁶ “We Saw Thiele,” *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, November 25, 1865, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76652523/>.

⁵³⁷ “An Ordinance,” *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, December 9, 1865, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76652540/>.

spread” and also “in mulching underneath so that no drought can affect them.” His plan was to “have every citizen interested either to do so many hours’ work, or dig a certain number of holes for trees, or have it done, under his supervision.” He also intended to record “the names of all who take a hand in this matter, which is to constitute a roll of honor, and to be presented to the city authorities” when the job would be completed.⁵³⁸ Two months later, the plan was realized with the help of volunteers, especially Mr. Babcock who “drew up a most beautiful landscape plan.” The plan had provisions for clumps of trees and circulation modeled after the Gettysburg Cemetery in Philadelphia.⁵³⁹ One year later, *The Junction City Weekly Union* credited the improved condition of the city park to General Knox’s experience and the effort that he put into laying out and beautifying the ground.⁵⁴⁰

The next year in 1869, Mr. John Davis, an experienced horticulturalist from Decatur, Illinois, sent *The Junction City Weekly Union* the following communication:

Decatur, ILL., Nov 22, 1869.

Editors Junction City Union. I see by your paper that some donations of trees have been received for the Junction City Park. Now if such is the order of the day, I, too, would be glad to add a small donation in the spring. How is this? Are donations for that purpose acceptable? Are you grounds ready for them? What sorts are most needed? Are vines, shrubs, and roses needed, or only forest trees? What is the present condition of the park? How large is it? Where located? Give us an article on the subject in the Union. please. Major Adams showed us the Manhattan park

⁵³⁸ “General Knox,” *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, October 10, 1868, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76339582/>.

⁵³⁹ “General Knox,” *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, December 12, 1868, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76339819/>.

⁵⁴⁰ “The Junction City Park,” *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, December 04, 1869, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76340679/>.

last September. It is fenced and in a good state of cultivation, ready to receive the trees. Junction City should not be behind in this matter, and she will not, if the friend to her prosperity are kept posted as to her plans and necessities.

Cordially yours. John Davis.

After giving a positive description of the condition of the park at the time, the newspaper “cheerfully” published answers and suggestions to Mr. Davis:

First, your question, ‘How is this?’ All right. Second; ‘Are donations for that purpose acceptable?’ Indeed, they are. ‘Are your grounds ready for them?’ General Knox says they are. “What sorts are needed?’ You can’t miss it by using your judgment, when you will understand that we have now one hundred and fifty trees planted, consisting of hard maple, balsam fir and a few hemlocks. General Knox says he will furnish you plans & e., from which you can form a correct idea of what we want, after seeing, as here stated, what we have already on hand and planned. Don’t be afraid to send all the plants, shrubs, young trees and roses you can afford, for we can and will put them to good use. Speaking of the Manhattan park and its high state of cultivation, one would suppose your travels never extended farther west than that antediluvian burg; but, Mr. Davis, when you next visit Kansas, don’t fail to see the country and people west of there and we will assure you it will not in the least be necessary for you to sign further praises to the ‘New Jerusalem.’⁵⁴¹

⁵⁴¹ “An Interesting Letter,” *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, December 18, 1869, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76340705/>.

General Knox promised to send Mr. Davis information of the park improvements, the park dimensions and number and types of trees that already had planted. Mr. Davis then agreed to send “at least one hundred and fifty trees, free of cost, and no charge for packing or shipping.”⁵⁴² In spring 1870, Mr. Davis sent the first box of evergreens to be planted in Junction City’s Park.⁵⁴³ The ups and downs of Junction City Park and the efforts to maintain it continued; in the early 1880s, it was reported as “the sickest pleasure ground in Kansas.” However, shortly after it was again improved by John A. Anderson when he was the pastor of the nearby Presbyterian church and the park became “a very handsome bit of green . . . and covered with the ampelopsis.”⁵⁴⁴

Uses

Leisure Activities

Pleasure grounds were places of recreation and amusement and were used for a variety of activities including strolling, picnicking, barbecuing, tenting and camping, playing sports, swimming, boating, bathing, fishing, canoeing, music concerts visiting animal exhibitions, dance shows, theaters and moving pictures, vaudeville entertainment, and holiday celebrations, particularly the Fourth of July. For both special events and daily use, the pleasure grounds were popular and well used. The cartoonist of *The Topeka State Journal*, for example, illustrated the typical daily use of Vinewood Park as a resting place by the butchers of the city shown in Figure 50.

⁵⁴² “An Interesting Letter,” *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, December 18, 1869, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76340705/>.

⁵⁴³ “The Following Note,” *The Junction City Weekly Union*, Junction City, Kansas, April 16, 1870, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76340895/>.

⁵⁴⁴ “There Is No Country,” *The Atchison Daily Champion*, Atchison, Kansas, April 19, 1884, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/109161193/>.



Figure 50- *Grocers and Butchers Rest and Picnic at Vinewood Park, Topeka, Kansas, 1910*, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society. The cartoonist of *The Topeka State Journal* illustrated the daily use of Vinewood Park as a series of cartoons in the local newspaper during the first week of August 1910.

How the parks were used in the early twentieth century were very similar to those in the mid-nineteenth century. Activities that took place in Wichita's Riverside Park in 1911 was described as follows:

It is an ideal spot for picnics and outdoor meetings and scarcely a week passes but some assembly of this kind is held there during the summer season. Splendid drives have been built throughout this park, their labyrinthine windings affording pleasure to large number of people who resort there for an afternoon or evening drive. These driveways pass beneath the spreading branches of native forest trees . . . Shaded walks are found at intervals to allure those who love to indulge in a stroll in the

woods and rustic seats are conveniently placed to afford rest when wearied with this form of exercise. Here are fountains, a miniature lake with pond lilies, great flower beds, beautiful bridges, a lake for wild waterfowl and above all that never-failing source of pleasure to old and young alike. . . Riverside swarms with picnickers during the summer. Indeed there seems to be much to attract. There is the fish ponds, so full of gold fish that there is room for no more. Alligators in another pond remind one of Florida. For those who wish to cool off there is the bathing beach, with its corps of lifesavers, or of one wished to be entertained there are free moving picture shows every night during the summer.⁵⁴⁵

The advertisements of Hutchinson's newspapers, Figures 51 to 61, illustrate the type of leisure activities and events that were held in the city's Riverside Park in the early twentieth century.

⁵⁴⁵ "The Annual Report of Sam F. Stewart," *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, February 01, 1911, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76319802/>.

Follow the Crowd
— TO —
Riverside Park
The Gate and Band Concert
Free Next Week

The following program will be presented at the Air Dome prices, 10c and 20c.

—
MARTELLE AND LEVY
In Their Rousing Comedy Sketch.

—
MOVING PICTURES.

—
MARTIN AND CROUCH
In talking Knock-About Acrobatic Comedy Act-Stops. Laugh from start to finish.

—
MOVING PICTURES.

—
THE MUSICAL BRENNAN'S
In a happy agglutination of Music and Comedy.

Just Think of It!

—
With each paid ticket to the audome there will be presented a street car ticket to ride home free.

—
THE FINEST DANCING PAVILION IN THE STATE.
For this week to each person purchasing 25c worth of dance tickets at one time will be presented with two street car tickets. Bring your girl or wife, or some other fellow's girl and enjoy one big week.

—
Vaudeville Show at 8:30 Sharp.

—
Band Concerts Sunday Afternoon and Evening.
Ten Cents Admission at the Gate on Sunday.

Figure 51- Advertisement of Performances at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1908, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

Riverside Park

Big List of Attractions for Fair Visitors

Zoo No one should visit Hutchinson without seeing the collection of animals, waterfowl, etc. at Riverside. This is finest collection in this part of the country.

Dancing There will be music and dancing at the Park Pavilion every night during the Fair week, beginning Monday.

Free Show There will be a Free Show in the Air-dome every night—Moving Pictures and High Class Vaudeville. Park admission admits to all.

Figure 52- Advertisement of Performances at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1909, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

RIVERSIDE PARK

Four (4) Big Vaudeville Acts Beginning Today—Continuing All This Week.

ROSER'S TRAINED DOGS The Limit in Canine Intelligence.	RAPOLI The World's Greatest Juggler.
THREE COOK SISTERS Harmony Singers.	GEO. ROWLEY Shakespearian Dancer.

SEATS RESERVED AT WINSLOW'S BOOK STORE.
Riverside Park is an ideal place to spend the day. Plenty of shade, comfortable seats, a veritable playground for the children, the big coaster going all the time, miniature railway, roller-skating, and free vaudeville in the best open-air theater in the state.
DANCING WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS.

Figure 53- Advertisement of Performances at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1912, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

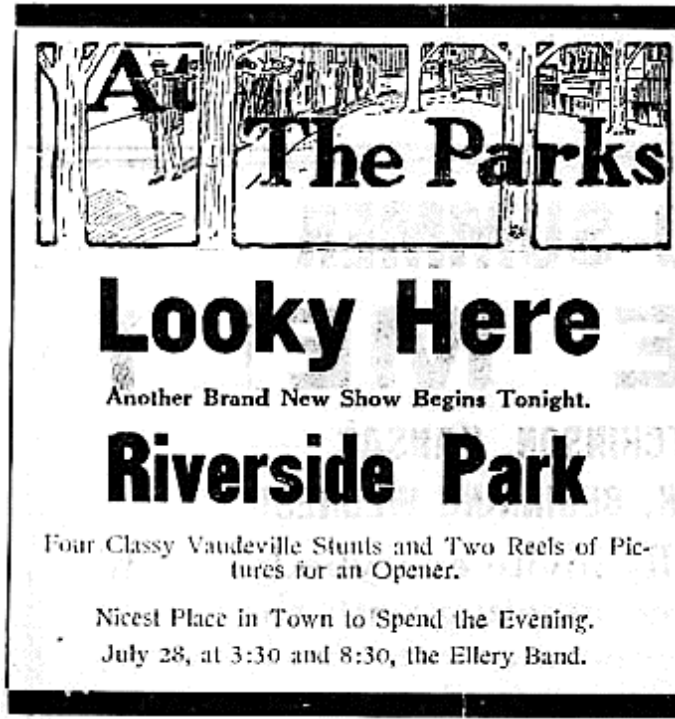


Figure 54- Advertisement of Vaudeville Performance at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1912, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.



Figure 55- Advertisement of Afternoon Concert at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1913, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

RIVERSIDE PARK

NEW PROGRAM

TODAY

4 Big Acts

I

**GLICK & DALE--The
Singer and the Maid.**

II

**EVANS SISTERS---
The Two Colleagues.**

III

**LEW BRENISON---
The Dutch Comedians.**

IV.

**UNADA & IRVING--
Scenic singing and in-
strumental novelty.**

Figure 56- Advertisement of Performances at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1914, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

Tractor Visitors Welcome
—TO—
Riverside Park
"The Coney Island of Kansas"

Matinee This Afternoon at 3:30 | Two Big Shows To-Night

4 Big Acts of Vaudeville

- 1—Kinzo, the Japanese Novelty Juggler.
- 2—Bank Breazeale Duo, the Daintiest of Musical Offerings.
- 3—Reno & Reno, Harmony Singers and comedy entertainers.
- 4—Lortie, Alexander and Griff, Comedy Acrobats and Aerial Novelty.

3 Reels Motion Pictures

Roller Coaster — Miniature Railway | Riverside Park 7-Piece Concert Orchestra and Other Features
Big Animal Zoo—Sunken Gardens

Don't miss paying a visit to Riverside Park
You'll be royally entertained

Figure 57- Advertisement of Performances at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1915, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

Celebrate the Fourth of July
—AT—
RIVERSIDE PARK
"The Coney Island of Kansas" Entertainment for Everyone—Old and Young

Matinee and Night
Big free matinee at 3:30 p.m.
Two Shows at Night
There's a big laugh for you if you're here on the 4th of July

Fire Works at Night
A new attraction and original display of great beauty and variety...
In the Distance

Riverside Park July 4th

The Giant Dips—the Thriller. A ride built at a cost of \$10,000.
The Rivers of The World. A Beautiful Scenic Water Ride.
Dancing, Skating, Free Show and a Big New Free Cabaret.
Plenty of Shade, Water, Room, Free Attractions for the Children.

Hutchinson's Amusement Resort
Representing an Investment of Over \$60,000.00
MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW
MEET YOUR FRIENDS THERE
Go With the Crowd to **Riverside Park**

Figure 58- Advertisement of 4th of July 1916 at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1916, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

Riverside Park
TONIGHT
8:00 Cabaret Opens
Music by Riverside Park
Orchestra.
Ward and Perry, Cabaret En-
tertainers.
8:30 Park Theatre
Overture.
Melroy Sisters, Singers and
Dancers.
Weber and Wilson & Co.,
1916 Dancing Review.
Intermission.
Jack and Mabel Price, Black
and Tan Singing and Talk-
ing.
Jungle Man, the Largest
Chimpanzee in captivity.

Figure 59- Advertisement of Performances at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1916, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

Riverside Park
SPECIAL ATTRACTION
FOUR MASTER
Vaudeville
Acts
Free Cabaret and orchestra
music.
Come out and take in the
Rivers of the World, the
Giant Dip, Dancing, and
Roller Skating.
Riverside Park

Figure 60- Advertisement of Vaudeville Performance and Other Attractions at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1916, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.



Figure 61- Advertisement of Performances at Riverside Park, Hutchison, KS, 1918, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

Picnics

Large picnics were a popular leisure activity in Kansas pleasure grounds. The photograph below (Figure 62) shows Topeka’s Vinewood Park being taken over by picnickers. During the Capital’s third annual Children’s Day picnic on August 19, 1901, about 10,000 attended.⁵⁴⁶ To celebrate the formal opening of Newton’s Athletic Park in summer 1914, a large picnic was planned. Though the park had been open for some time, it never had an official opening. The park committee planned a great basket dinner and picnic on June 6. The plan was to have “all the business houses in the city to close at 4 o’clock in the afternoon on June 6” to be immediately followed by basket dinner, a band concert, boat races and other amusements such as merry-go-round for children and baseball and canoe races.⁵⁴⁷ Two days before the picnic, the event was advertised (Figure 63) in *Newton Kansas* assuring a very enjoyable time at the picnic: “If you do not care to laugh it would be best for you not to come to the picnic, but if you would enjoy a good hearty laugh at the expense of others, make arrangements so that you can attend the picnic.”⁵⁴⁸

⁵⁴⁶ “Was a Great Day for Children,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, August 20, 1910, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63971416/>.

⁵⁴⁷ “Town Picnic To be Held June 6,” *The Evening Kansan-Republican*, Newton, Kansas, May 26, 1914, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/94052745/>.

⁵⁴⁸ “Stores Urged to Close Tomorrow,” *Newton Kansan*, Newton, Kansas, June 04, 1914, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/379168983/>.

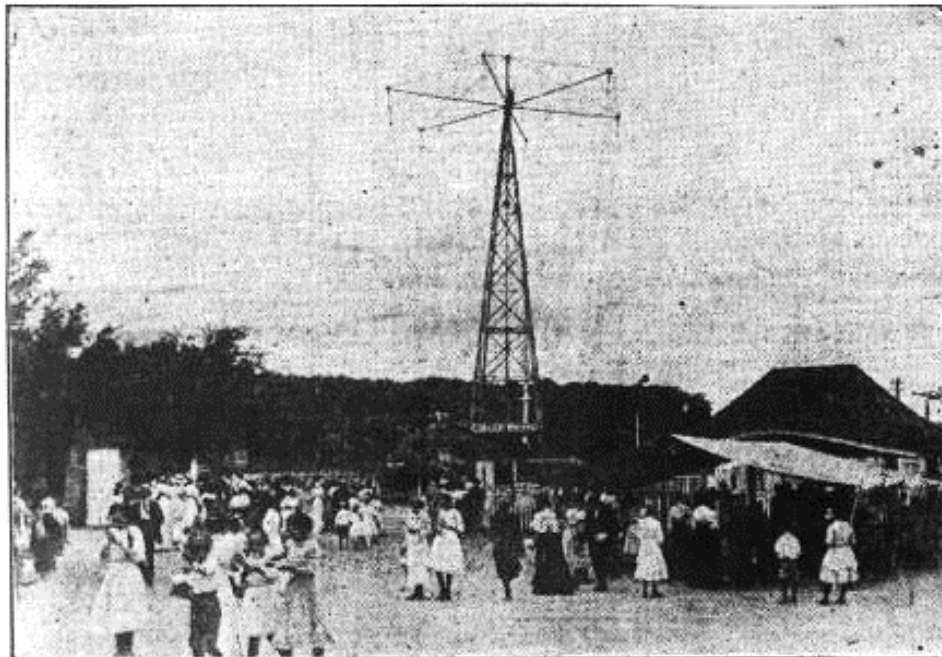


Figure 62- *The Youthful Picnickers at Vinewood Park, Topeka, Kansas, 1910*, Photographed by Strickrott, Kansas Historical Society. The park hosted Capital's third annual Children's Day picnic on August 19, 1910.

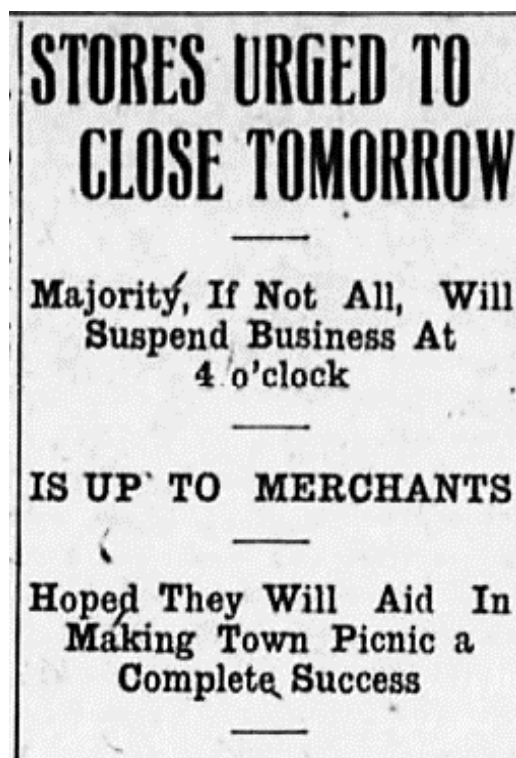


Figure 63- *Athletic Park Opening Picnic, Newton, Kansas, 1914*, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

Professional communities such as newspaper workers, retailers, grocers, butchers,⁵⁴⁹ and farmers⁵⁵⁰ also held picnics in the pleasure grounds of larger cities and towns of Kansas. For instance, in summer 1913 Walnut Grove was chosen for the gathering of the newspaper community who worked at *The Wichita Eagle*⁵⁵¹ (Figure 64). And in June 1914 the park was to host the Wichita's retailers' annual picnic when intense heat and a sudden one-hour rain cut the attendance down to about 1700 while the management expected at least 10,000 people.⁵⁵² The Broad Gauge Club No. 2 held a picnic in Wichita's McKinley Park in the summer 1909. "The event was for the celebration of the anniversary of Emancipation Day. The estimated attendance was 1,000 persons. The cool shade of the beautiful little park, swing, barbecued beef, and pork, refreshments of many kinds, speaking by some of the best known of local orators and music by a band were the chief attractions. Seven beavers were barbecued."⁵⁵³

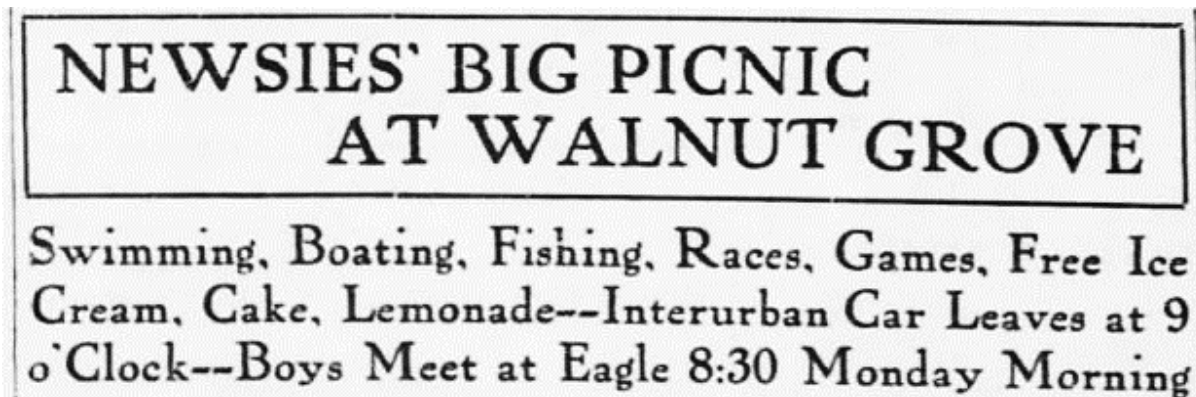


Figure 64- *The Call to The Wichita Eagle Workers Picnic, Wichita, Kansas, 1913*, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

⁵⁴⁹ "Resurrect A Park," *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, July 25, 1905, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323176810/>.

⁵⁵⁰ "Yeoman Day in Park," *The Salina Daily Union*, Salina, Kansas, August 15, 1905, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/113167574/>.

⁵⁵¹ "The Newsies's Big Picnic at Walnut Grove," *The Wichita Daily Eagle*, Wichita, Kansas, June 29, 1913, 22, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/65248013/>.

⁵⁵² "Wichita Retailers Have Annual Picnic," *The Price Current*, Wichita, Kansas, August 01, 1914, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/486688970/>.

⁵⁵³ "McKinley Park is Dedicated," *The Sumner County Star*, Wellington, Kansas, August 11, 1909, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/382053821/>.

Fourth of July Celebrations

One of the most highly-attended events held at Kansas pleasure grounds were the Fourth of July celebrations. George Edward Kessler who was the superintendent of Merriam Park in Kansas City, Kansas in the late 1880s wrote about the activities planned for the Fourth of July 1887 in the *Fort Scott Daily Monitor*, which included music bands, games, and entertainment. He estimated that 50,000 people would visit the park, 20,000 more than the previous year. No intoxicating liquor, improper characters, and questionable games were allowed.⁵⁵⁴

In 1913 approximately 10,000 visitors celebrated the Fourth of July in Topeka's pleasure ground, Garfield Park, with skyrockets, Roman candles, and other fireworks, which cost about \$600. Happily, the day was reported as "free from painful experiences as any Fourth ever observed in Topeka" and "one of the safest and most quiet Independence days in the knowledge of the oldest Topekans had passed into history." The only accident that happened was to a man who "was struck by one of the pieces of fireworks in Garfield Park. His coat caught fire and was burned, but the man himself was not injured." Also, two people were arrested because of violating the city ordinance forbidding the shooting of fireworks within the city.⁵⁵⁵

Camping

Another popular group activity in the pleasure grounds of larger towns was camping. In the 1880s, the higher elevations of Merriam Park in Kansas City was considered to be the best place for "an encampment for any purposes" especially for army camps where "tents could be pitched on the

⁵⁵⁴ "Fourth of July at Merriam Park," *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, May 27, 1887, 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/56892707/>.

⁵⁵⁵ "Fireworks Flash in Brilliant Hues." *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, July 05, 1913, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64111548/>.

higher grounds so arranged that each tent could be seen from the lower level, and the lower level utilized for drill and parade.”⁵⁵⁶

In July 1908 Vinewood Park in Topeka became home for more than forty tents of Chautauqua family campers who came to stay in the park for a ten-day program, making the park look like “soldiers camp.” Women were reported to be very active setting up the tents: “The ladies were very busy this morning taking possession of their tented homes. Any unfortunate man that happened along was seized upon by at least six ladies and put to work at six to nine tasks at once.” One of the ladies said “the mosquitoes are pretty bad, but who cares for a little thing like that. It's fine out here and we are all having a lovely time. This campground is cool and shady and well away from the amusement features of the park,” as she deftly juggled three eggs in a frying pan. The Chautauqua assembly planned to use the 1000-seat park auditorium to hold the “sessions of the association and the meetings of the members and the private lectures and talks on literature and cooking and demonstrations of the common and abstract sciences.” A Hungarian orchestra from Budapest and Marshall's Band also entertained the campers.⁵⁵⁷

Animal Exhibitions

Zoos and animal displays were another attraction offered in Kansas pleasure grounds. For example, Gage Park attracted about 7,000 visitors in the spring of 1911 who came to see its baby buffalo⁵⁵⁸ (Figure 65). In 1916, it was reported that the park's zoo had canaries, a kangaroo,

⁵⁵⁶ “Merriam Park,” *Fort Scott Weekly Monitor*, Fort Scott, Kansas, January 21, 1883, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67704672>.

⁵⁵⁷ “Rows of Tents,” *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, July 21, 1908, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/323197129/>.

⁵⁵⁸ “Crowd at Gage Broke Record,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, May 15, 1911, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64067695/>.

alligators, bears, cats, monkeys,⁵⁵⁹ swans, a buffalo, and a deer herd (Figures 66 and 67).⁵⁶⁰ Topeka's park commissioner had a plan to "to let the kids name the baby animals including a buffalo calf, a baby deer and cygnets," which resulted in Teddy, the alligator and Clare, the Swan.⁵⁶¹

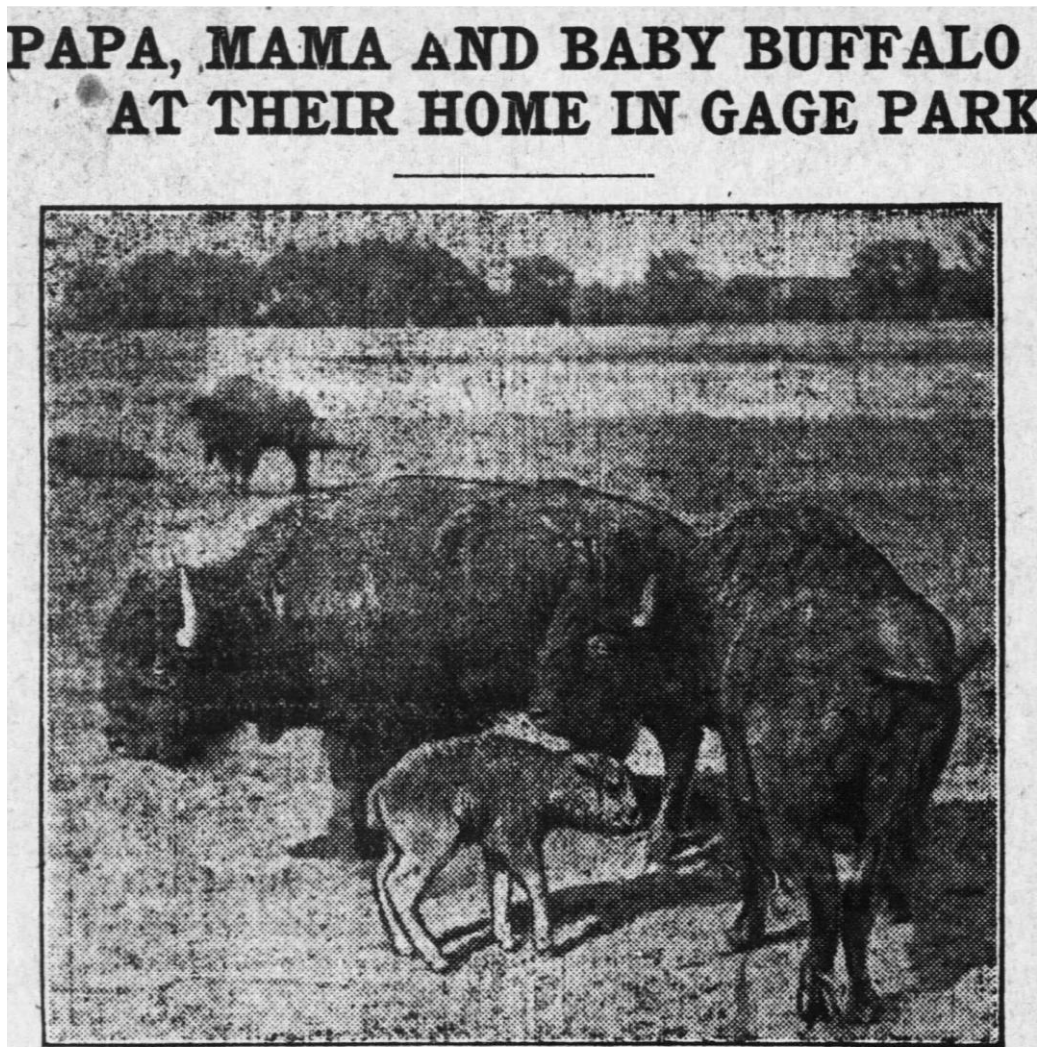


Figure 65- *Buffalos of Gage Park Zoo, Topeka, Kansas, 1911*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society.

⁵⁵⁹ "Seeking Sign of Spring Go Out to Gage Park," *The Topeka Daily Capitol*, Topeka, Kansas, March 19, 1916, 30, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64456353/>.

⁵⁶⁰ "Spring in All Its Loveliness Has arrived at Topeka's Big Gage Park," *The Topeka Daily Capitol*, Topeka, Kansas, April 09, 1916, 19, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64460769/>

⁵⁶¹ "Spring in All Its Loveliness Has arrived at Topeka's Big Gage Park," *The Topeka Daily Capitol*, Topeka, Kansas, April 09, 1916, 19, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64460769/>.



Figure 66- *Gage Park, Topeka, Kansas, 1911*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society.



Figure 67- "*Midget*" and "*Newsie*," *Pets of Gage Park Zoo, Topeka, Kansas, 1913*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society.

Performances

Music concerts, open-air theaters, moving picture shows, and vaudeville acts were typical performances hosted in pleasure grounds. The open-air concert held in Silver Lake Park, a pleasure grounds twelve miles west of Topeka, was described in 1894 by one of the attendees as follows:

In saying this I am only voicing the sentiments of every living creature who was in a condition to fully enjoy this balmy spring day, the air laden with the perfumes of sweetest flowers, the earth carpeted with green and festooned with clustering vines, while the air throbbed with songs of love birds. Along the road on either side to this pleasure ground fishing resort, is one a continual stretch of fine estates and plantations, not ordinary farms. The singing was delightful and the selections just suited to the occasion. The gentle wind kissing the billowy waves of this beautiful lake added pathos to the heart-touching melodies of these many voices in perfect chord and harmony.⁵⁶²

Vaudeville performances and band concerts were common features of Topeka's Garfield Park during the summer of 1902 with performances changing weekly. For example, the performances offered in early July included an eccentric knockabout comedian, grotesque dancing, a Chinese impersonator, a monologue and buck-dancing⁵⁶³ performance, a scotch dancer, a Spanish dancer, cloud-swing⁵⁶⁴ and comedy pictures.⁵⁶⁵

⁵⁶² "The Topeka Tally-ho," *The Lance*, Topeka, Kansas, May 12, 1894, 7, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/386207196/>.

⁵⁶³ Buck dancing is an energetic step dance performed in minstrel and vaudeville shows considered to be a precursor to tap dancing.

⁵⁶⁴ The cloud swing is an aerial act that usually combines static and swinging trapeze skills, drops, holds and rebound lifts.

⁵⁶⁵ "Vaudeville at Garfield," *The Topeka Daily Herald*, Topeka, Kansas, June 28, 1902, 12, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/387441184/>.

In 1906, *The Kansas City Kansas Globe* described the different activities taking place in Kansas City parks in an article called “At The Parks.” There was music provided by the Royal Italian Band, the Hopkin’s theatre, the Vivians’ sharpshooting act (i.e. shooting in different positions and breaking glass balls), the Rader brothers’ singing and dancing act, the Macarts’ Monkeys show in which there was one dog in the cast that did a bit of dancing, “The New Teacher” comedy sketch, and the aerial act of the five flying Birketts.⁵⁶⁶

Sports and Games

From baseball to pie-eating, sports, games and contests were widely enjoyed by park visitors. In the 1914 annual picnic of Wichita’s retailers at Walnut Grove Park, attendees were disappointed when two contests were cancelled because “the pies to be used in the pie-eating contest were stolen, and a needle-threading contest was also called off, as the articles to be used were lost.” However, winners of the contests, athletic and otherwise, were agreeably surprised when some of the prizes were announced. Everything from a sack of flour to cigarettes was included in the list of premiums. For example, *The Prince Current* reported that:

In the contest held in front of the grand stand at the ball diamond, the ‘weaker’ sex showed the proper way to drive nails, how far a baseball can be thrown and also how fast a woman can run. The men, especially the 200 pounders, were visibly affected by the heat. Only three entered the fat men's race and all three were awarded prizes. The time on the race was not given out. A list of contest and winners follows:

⁵⁶⁶ “At The Parks,” *The Kansas City Kansas Globe*, Kansas City, Kansas, June 18, 1906, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/59684708/>.

Long distance throwing for women was won by Miss Pearl Kiker. The prizes were a ham, 10 bread tickets and 5 boxes of spaghetti, Mrs. Lora Mosely won second, and Miss Evelyn Ketcham third, with prizes of a sack of flour and 6 bread tickets for second, and 2 pounds of coffee and 10 packages of Washington crisps for the third place. The potato race was won by Elsie Converse, second place went to Christine Oliphant, and May Conner won third. All of the contestants prizes were crates of peaches for the first and second place winners, and 2 pounds of coffee and 2 packages of breakfast food for the third prize.

Prizes for the fat men's race were a “case of pop and 50 cigars for the first prize, a sack of flour, 10 pounds of Snowdrift and 10 bread tickets for the second, and 10 boxes of breakfast food and 6 boxes of spaghetti for the third place in the heavyweight class.” Prizes for the woman's nail-driving contest were a “carving set, 10 bread tickets, three cans of fruit and six boxes of matches for the winner. Mrs. Smyth was awarded 10 bread tickets, 50 cents' worth of snowdrift and a crate of plums and the winner of third place Mrs. Wright, received two pounds of coffee, 10 bread tickets and six cans of spaghetti.” Everyone who attended the picnic declared satisfaction owing to “the high standard of properly, good taste and educational value as well as effective fun making and entertaining.” The event certainly met its objective, which was described in its slogan: “there's something about it you'll like.”⁵⁶⁷

Of all the physical activities done at parks, water-related sports, especially swimming, was the most popular. Newton's Athletic Park hosted residents who came to escape the summer heat. In 1914, the park was said to have “the appearance of a seaside resort” as residents were “certainly

⁵⁶⁷ “Wichita Retailers Have Annual Picnic,” *The Price Current*, Wichita, Kansas, August 01, 1914, 6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/486688970/>.

taking advantage of the bathing and boating” at the park.⁵⁶⁸ In the same year, in an article titled “Swimming Was Popular,” *The Evening Herald* described how Forest Park’s river in Ottawa was widely used by “people in, on and along the water.” The article continued to say that:

Some boys and men in bathing suits of various fit and design, were swimming or diving from a rope swing beside the ice house. The boys were getting the wetting of their lives on the hot day and it made them feel a good many degrees cooler while the big gallery of people on the banks were cooler from watching them splash and paddle in the water. There were straight dives, ‘belly busters’ and all of the various varieties of plunges. And it was all a pleasure to the partakers and the upward of 150 persons who lined the shore looking at them. The sport promises to become even more popular than it was yesterday. Now that there is a pulmotor⁵⁶⁹ in town there is not quite the fear felt for the ‘getting wet’ pastime that there used to be.⁵⁷⁰

In 1919, by asking the question of “why should about six swans have the privileges denied to hundreds of Topekans, who pay for the upkeep of the park, during this mid-summer [weather]?”, Dr. Eva Haring urged the city to open the three lakes of the Topeka’s City Park for swimming and to “make the park a real pleasure ground for all people, rather than a beauty spot with nicely manicured lawns, well-kept flower beds and a few lakes containing a dozen goldfish.” She believed that was time to make city parks more functional and declared that: “the day of the public park, with its ‘keep off the grass’ signs and its large flower beds that were to be admired by the

⁵⁶⁸ “Big Sunday Crowd at Athletic Park.” *Newton Kansan*, Newton, Kansas, June 25, 1914, 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/379169744/>.

⁵⁶⁹ A pulmotor is an apparatus for producing artificial respiration by pumping oxygen and/or air into and out of the lungs, as of a person who has been asphyxiated by drowning, breathing poisonous gases, etc.

⁵⁷⁰ “Swimming Was Popular,” *The Evening Herald*, Ottawa, Kansas, July 27, 1914, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/93060956/>.

public, ended about the same time that the old-fashioned parlor went out of existence and the wax flowers were discarded.”⁵⁷¹ Her suggestion was apparently taken as historical photographs show Topeka’s parks being widely used for swimming in the summer of the same year (Figures 68 to 70).

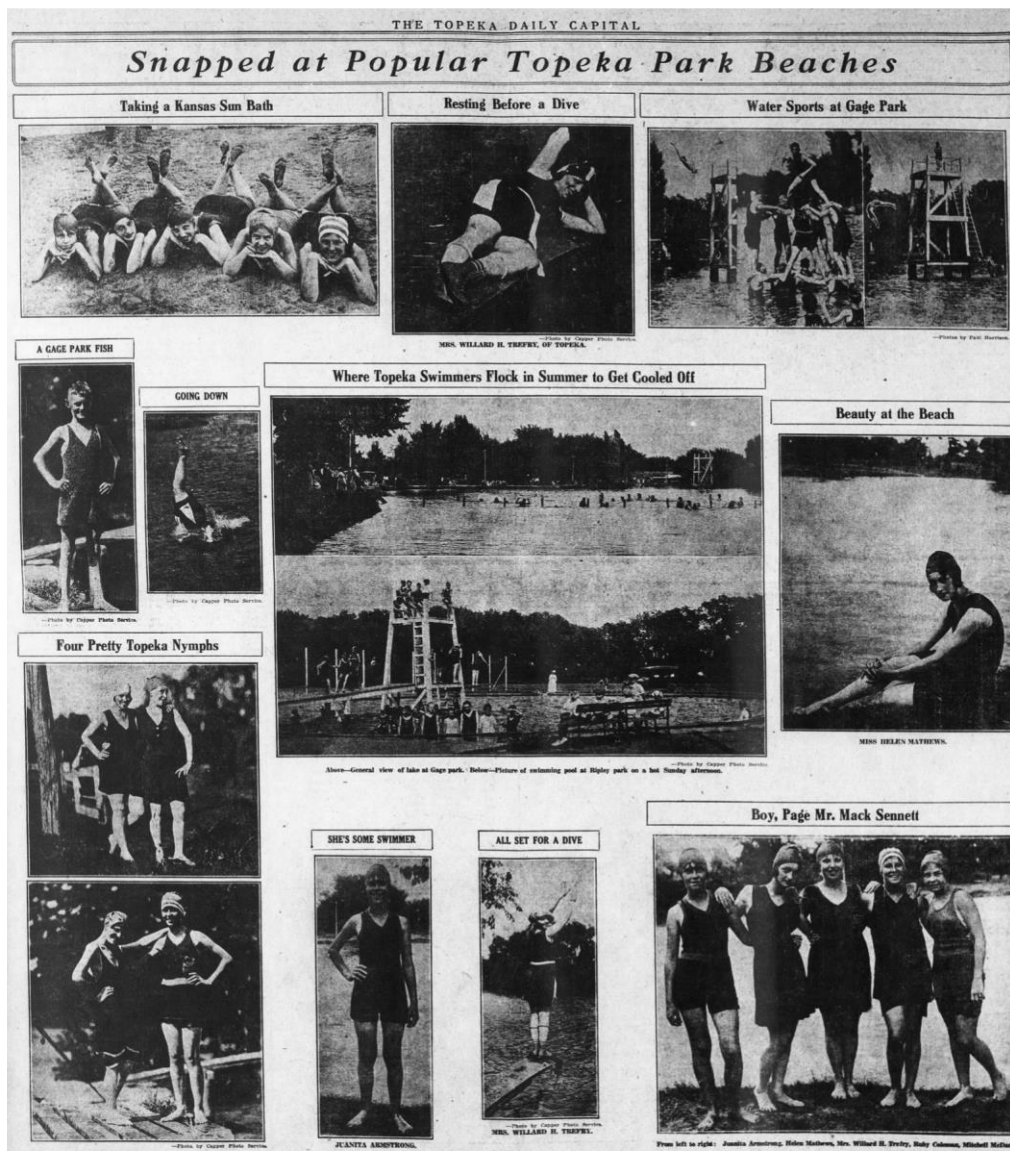


Figure 68- Views of People and Activities Done in the Beaches of Topeka’ parks, Topeka, Kansas, 1919, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society. The Topeka Daily Capital devoted one entire page to illustrate the use the lakes at the Gage and Ripely Parks in summer 1919.

⁵⁷¹ “Dr. Harding Has Plan,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, July 25, 1919, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63281077/>.

Where Topeka Swimmers Flock in Summer to Get Cooled Off

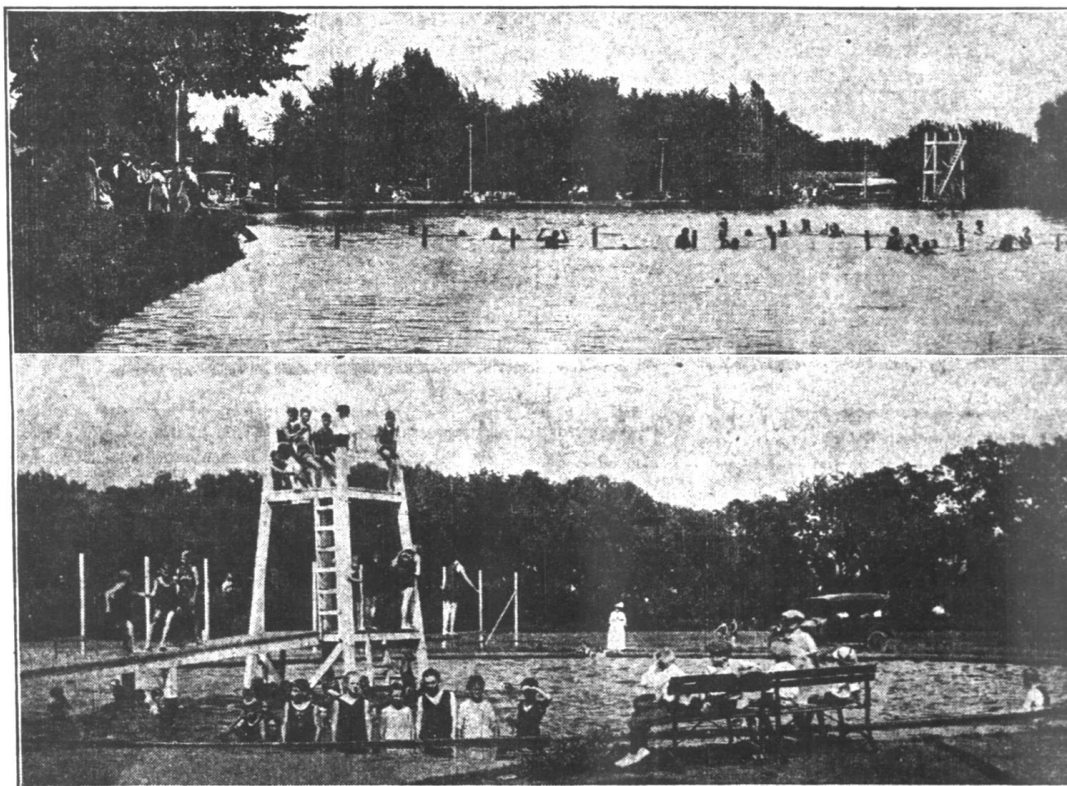


Figure 69- *View of Lake at Gage Park, Topeka, Kansas, 1919*, Photographed by Copper Photo Series, Kansas Historical Society. The photo shows how the lake was widely used by swimmers in summer.

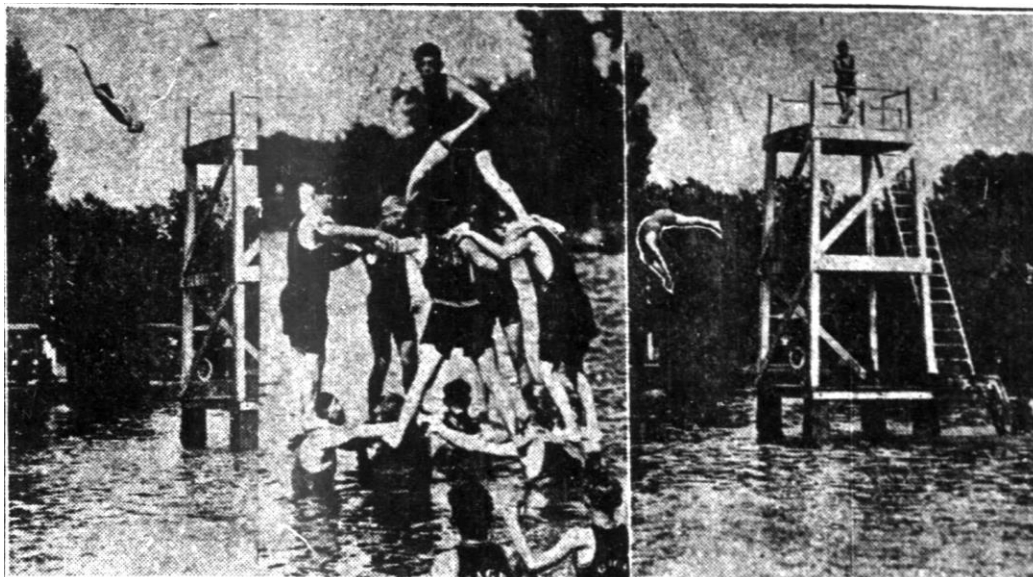


Figure 70- *View of Lake at Gage Park, Topeka, Kansas, 1919*, Photographed by Paul Harrison, Kansas Historical Society.

Wichita's Riverside Park was also widely used for boating and swimming. In the summer of 1920, fifty youth participated in swimming activities organized by the Eagle Swimming Club at Wichita's Municipal beach at Little River. Such activities were known to be an "everyday occurrence" as illustrated by *The Wichita Daily Eagle* in Figure 71. "The center picture shows the crowd of contestants watching the diving contest in The Eagle swimming meet. At the right is one of the lifeguards and his assistant. A youthful swimmer is just about to leave the high diving platform in the lower center view. In the upper corner, we have with us two of the beach Venuses, who believe that bathing suits are made to swim in however. The latest style of 'roll your own' is displayed by the girls. Other views show the various ways the swimmers entertain themselves at the beach, which isn't such a hard job these scorching days."⁵⁷²

⁵⁷² "Little River," *The Wichita Daily Eagle*, Wichita, Kansas, August 01, 1920, 19, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64042033/>.

Scenes Such as Shown Below Everyday Occurrences at Riverside Bathing Beach

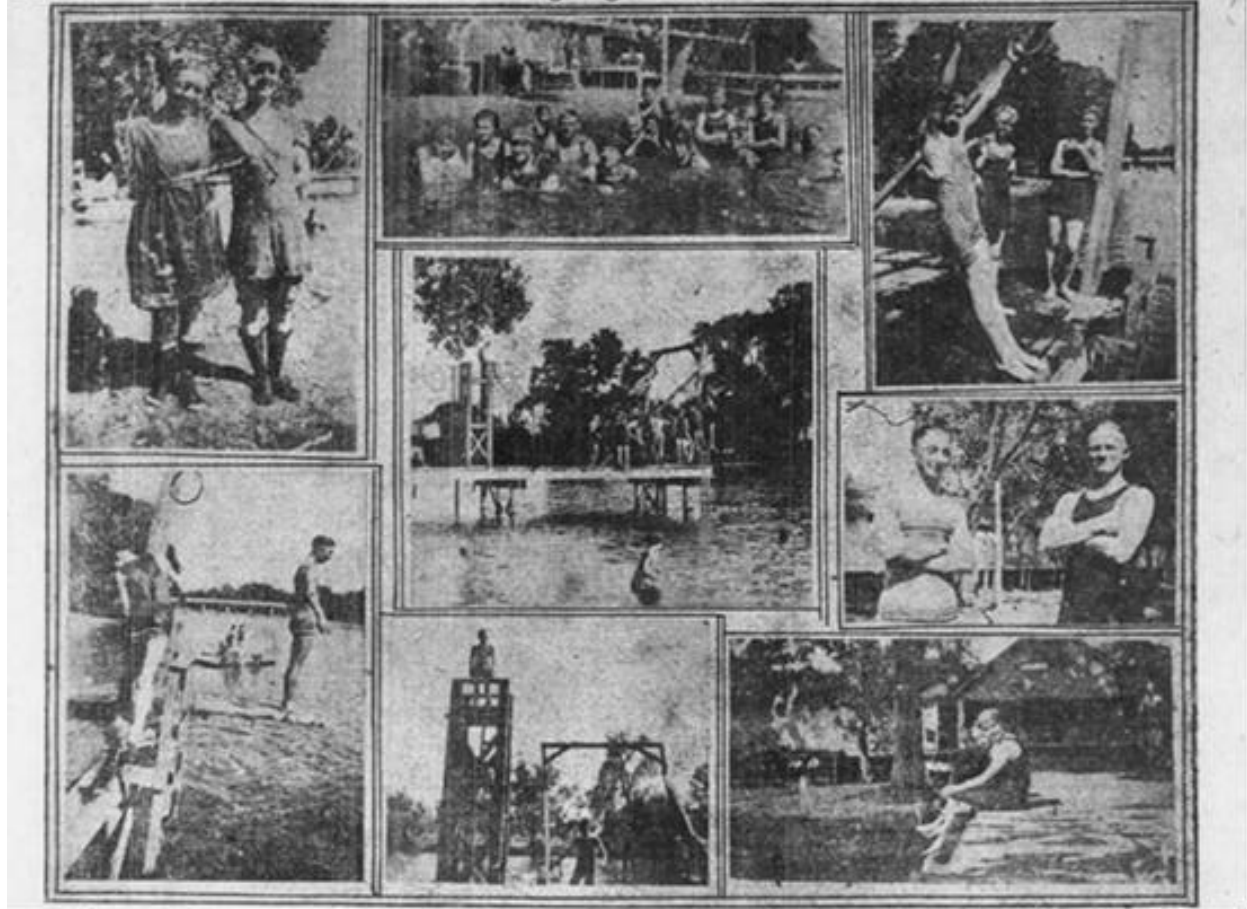


Figure 71- *Swimming Activities at Riverside Park, Wichita, Kansas, 1920*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society.

Besides bathing and swimming, lakes, pools and rivers of pleasure grounds were also used for other activities such as boating (Figures 72 and 73). In winter, the lakes and rivers were used for skating. *The Salina Evening Journal* reported in the winter of 1915 that:

Hundreds of people enjoyed the few days of skating that they were given, and for the first time in the history of the town mothers flooded a small portion of Oakdale park and were willing that kids should go skating, as there was no danger of their being gobbled by the river. “ The journal suggested providing the park with an ice

rink where it could be flooded at night the ice could be kept smooth and snow could be removed . . . to insure skating all through the winter.⁵⁷³



Figure 72- *Boating at the Lagoon at Vinewood Park, Topeka, KS, 1908*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society.



Figure 73- *Boat Scene on Little Arkansas at Entrance to Riverside Park, Wichita, KS, 1920*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society.

⁵⁷³ “Build Rink for City Skaters,” *The Salina Evening Journal*, Salina, Kansas, November 13, 1916, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/96071605/>.

Community Gatherings

Besides places to seek pleasure, the nineteenth-century parks of larger cities and towns in Kansas were used to host political and religious gatherings and meetings. The first reported political use of pleasure grounds was in 1872 when Topeka’s City Park hosted the Republican General State Ratification meeting to nominate Ulysses S. Grant and Henry Wilson. Arrangements were made to provide the attendees with railroad transportation and furnish them with about two thousand seats.⁵⁷⁴ The meeting was called “a magnificent demonstration, exceeding in numbers and enthusiasm any political gathering ever before held in the State.”⁵⁷⁵

In August 1896, the candidates for Governor gave speeches at Shawnee Park, Kansas City. Of all the campaigners, J. W. Leedy, the Democratic and Populist candidate for Governor received the most applause by the crowd that consisted mainly of young people. The pleasure ground was “filled to overflowing, and the promises made by the speakers filled the hearts of those who heard them with the hope that better times were near at hand. . . The cool breezes of the evening after a warm day had put the people in excellent spirits and it was an auspicious time for a campaign talker to do his best.”⁵⁷⁶ A wooden platform was built to accommodate the speakers however, its “fragile” condition caused it to fall to the ground. “A small portion of it, however, was left standing, and this served for a rostrum. There was a little excitement when the platform fell, for, as is customary on such occasions there were a number of alarmists present, and they shouted that someone had been hurt. The little panic was soon over, however.”⁵⁷⁷

⁵⁷⁴ “Public Parks,” *The Leavenworth Weekly Times*, Leavenworth, Kansas, April 18, 1872, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76788347/>.

⁵⁷⁵ “The Topeka Meeting,” *Weekly Atchison Champion*, Atchison, Kansas, June 29, 1872, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/162344296/>.

⁵⁷⁶ “Leedy at Armoufnale,” *Garnett Journal*, Garnett, Kansas, August 28, 1896, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67696262/>.

⁵⁷⁷ “Leedy at Armoufnale,” *Garnett Journal*, Garnett, Kansas, August 28, 1896, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67696262/>.

Even though there were examples of parks used for political meetings and gatherings, the *Pittsburg Kansan* disapproved using Lincoln Park for a socialist gathering on a Sunday afternoon:

So if any of the taxpayers or United States citizens have planned to go out to the park Sunday for a quiet Sabbath afternoon they are likely to be disappointed. It is a question whether or not the promoters of this park for a public pleasure ground, ever contemplated that it would be used on Sunday afternoon for a semipolitical Socialistic gathering, and even tho [though] there may be no predecet [precedent], we think Mr. Lindsay over-stepped the lines a little when he gave the park up for such a purpose. Democrats nor Republicans would have no more right in this than Socialists, but Democrats and Republicans have regard for others than themselves.⁵⁷⁸

Religious and professional groups also took trips to pleasure grounds. Religious communities visited and held both pleasure- and religious-oriented picnics. Parks were frequently visited by Sunday Sabbath schools. For example, The M.E. Sabbath School of Lawrence had “a Grand Excursion” to the fine Topeka’s City Park, on Wednesday, July 3rd 1867⁵⁷⁹ using nine cars of a chartered train.⁵⁸⁰ About eight hundred people attended⁵⁸¹ and enjoyed ice cream, refreshments and the Lawrence band.⁵⁸² Also, in 1889 the ladies of Salina’s Swedish Lutheran church invited the city’s Swedish population to celebrate May Day, an old-time holiday custom, in Oak Dale

⁵⁷⁸ “Socialist Misfits,” *Pittsburg Kansan*, Pittsburg, Kansas, June 24, 1916, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/484315344/>.

⁵⁷⁹ “Grand Excursion,” *The Daily Kansas Tribune*, Lawrence, Kansas, Jun 28, 1867, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/60527882/>.

⁵⁸⁰ “The Excursion to Topeka,” *The Daily Kansas Tribune*, Lawrence, Kansas, July 4, 1867, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/60528260/>.

⁵⁸¹ “The Excursion to Topeka,” *The Daily Kansas Tribune*, Lawrence, Kansas, July 4, 1867, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/60528260/>.

⁵⁸² “Look at the Advertisement,” *The Daily Kansas Tribune*, Lawrence, Kansas, June 27, 1867, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/60527830/>.

Park, Salina.⁵⁸³ Another example of a religious community gathering was the summer 1907 when White City's Seventh Day Adventists had a gathering in Wichita's Riverside Park.⁵⁸⁴ Activities included dining, a book store and prayer (Figure 74).



Figure 74- *Scenes in and about the White City's Seventh Day Adventists in Riverside Park, Wichita, KS, 1907*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society. On the upper left is a view of the dining hall which has a capacity of 500 persons. On the upper right is the kitchen. The center picture is a view of the big book store on the ground. On the lower left is a scene in the main tent at time of prayer. The picture on the lower right shows the German ministers at study in their tent.

⁵⁸³ "An Old-Time Holiday," *Salina Daily Gazette*, Salina, Kansas, May 02, 1889, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/383613915/>.

⁵⁸⁴ "Scenes In And About The Seventh day Adventists' White City In Riverside Park," *The Wichita Beacon*, Wichita, Kansas, August 21, 1907, 10, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/76731503/>.

Pleasure Grounds in Less Populated Areas of Kansas

Advocates of the Pleasure Ground Movement in Kansas Smaller Towns

Newspapers, property owners, and citizens were the main advocates for pleasure grounds in the smaller towns of Kansas. According to newspapers, there was little initiative on the part of city officials and businesses to develop pleasure grounds. Instead, it was property owners who took the lead in providing the smaller towns of the state with pleasure grounds.

Newspapers

In smaller towns, newspapers played an important role in familiarizing the public with the pleasure ground movement. It was common for them to propose securing a tract of land to be turned into a pleasure ground. When there were financial limitations, they often suggested that park improvements be postponed, not abandoned. For example, in 1884 *The Sterling Kansas Bulletin* wrote that “it is the duty of every city to have a park or pleasure ground where residents can resort for shade and recreation” and recommended that the town buy a tract of land, plant trees, and leave further improvements for later.⁵⁸⁵

In 1909, *The Chanute Daily Tribune* was also in favor of developing a pleasure ground for the city and encouraged citizens to take action:

There are few towns in the state, if any, the size of Chanute that do not have at least one good park. Right in this county there is a little town not much over a tenth as large as Chanute that has one of the prettiest little city parks in the state. The Tribune refers to Thayer, where the ladies of the town raised the money necessary

⁵⁸⁵ “Now That the Council,” *The Sterling Kansas Bulletin*, Sterling, Kansas, March 13, 1884, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/478729568/>.

to provide their town with that kind of a public necessity and public pleasure ground. It only takes the good energetic rustling of come public—spirited citizens to secure a public improvement of this kind, and surely there are enough Chanute citizens who are willing to give the necessary time and effort to start an agitation that will get results. The columns of The Tribune are open to anyone who has any good suggestions along this line Sign your name to your ideas and fire them in. Chanute is going to have a good park one of these days, and there is no good reason why it cannot be secured right away.⁵⁸⁶

The call was heeded, for one year later in 1910 a city-owned twelve-acre piece of land known as Rock Quarry was fenced and trees were planted. It was seen as “beginning of [the] park movement in Chanute.”⁵⁸⁷

In an article titled “Why Not Ellsworth?” the *Ellsworth Reporter* also encouraged citizens to visit and take action to improve the city park:

Mr. Citizen of Ellsworth , if you have not noticed this pleasure ground recently , make it a visit and to your surprise you will observe that it has grown unconsciously from a little girl in short dresses to the beautiful young woman waiting to be wooed [wooded] and won. And when you visit the park, come away full of suggestions as to how to improve it. What it needs is the fellow who knows how to take the initiative and do something inside talk. Put your ideas before the mayor and council.

If they are not in position to give what you want bring them to the notice of the

⁵⁸⁶ “A City Park,” *The Chanute Daily Tribune*, Chanute, Kansas, August 04, 1909, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/58985309/>.

⁵⁸⁷ “Offer to Make Park,” *The Chanute Daily Tribune*, Chanute, Kansas, October 19, 1910, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/95658571/>.

commercial club. Let us make it one of the greatest and most attractive little spots in the state. Why not?⁵⁸⁸

The call for a park received “many expressions of approval” and led to more suggestions for civic improvements in Ellsworth, which were described in another article, “Why Not Again?.” These included a public library as well as the establishment of a music band, and a bathing house. The newspaper ended the article by an encouraging residents to continue the discourse about city improvements: “Let the suggestions continue. Talk it in your homes until the head of the house becomes enthusiastic and talks it on the street. Let us pull together for the good of ourselves and our children. Why not, indeed?”⁵⁸⁹

Newspapers sometimes reflected on the effect that pleasure grounds had at a regional scale. For example, in Iola, *The Registrar* reported that the events held in Freeman’s Grove in 1887 led to increasing the popularity of Iola’s pleasure ground not only locally but regionally:

The gatherings that have been held in that Grove during the past three months have done more to advertise Iola favorably not only abroad, but at home also, than all other things together in the past three years. First, was the Fourth of July celebration which brought thousands of people here from all parts of the county and furnished an item for the Associated Press. Then came the Eastern Star picnic which gave another item to all the daily papers in Kansas and Missouri. This was followed by the Camp Meeting with its G. A. R. Day again bringing people here, not only from all parts of this county but from adjoining counties and giving an item to the

⁵⁸⁸ “Why Not Ellsworth?,” *Ellsworth Reporter*, Ellsworth, Kansas, June 30, 1910, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/383515506/>.

⁵⁸⁹ “Why Not Again?,” *Ellsworth Reporter*, Ellsworth, Kansas, July 7, 1910, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/383515604/>.

Associated Press. And last week we had the Fair, a report of which appeared in all of the daily papers and which on account of its unique features, was also noted by nearly all the weekly papers in the State. And as we have stated, in addition to advertising us abroad, these gatherings have added greatly to the popularity of our town in our own county.⁵⁹⁰

Businesses

In smaller towns, businesses were normally not engaged in purchasing pleasure grounds. One exception was in 1910 when the Sugar Company was encouraged to create a pleasure ground for Garden City near the city's lake as the city had "no nearby resort" at the time.⁵⁹¹ Another exception was the Interurban Railway Company which intended to have a pleasure ground near Eureka Lake. The pleasure ground was expected to become "a big attraction," and the company aimed to build an interurban as far as the park by summer 1911.⁵⁹²

Public-Spirited Citizens

Citizens played an important role in providing the smaller towns of Kansas with pleasure grounds possibly due to the fact the municipalities of these newly established towns showed little interest in the pleasure ground movement. The role of public donors in smaller towns became more prominent in the 1910s. For example, in 1916, Mr. George W. Finnup offered Garden City a tract of land that had the potential to be "easily made into a very desirable and pretty pleasure ground."

⁵⁹⁰ "Local Matters," *The Iola Register*, Iola, Kansas, September 23, 1887, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/77785305/>.

⁵⁹¹ "Lake M'Kinnie Would Make Ideal Resort," *Ellsworth Reporter*, Ellsworth, Kansas, July 7, 1910, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/143246825/>.

⁵⁹² "For That Park," *The Manhattan Mercury*, Manhattan, Kansas, February 20, 1911, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/240311519/>.

It was expected that “many citizens” would also be willing to donate trees and shrubbery if the city accepted the tract and designed a plan for a park.⁵⁹³

In 1919, Dr. H.M. Walker, a former Pratt citizen who was living in Los Angeles, California at the time donated \$1500 to develop a permanent camp and pleasure ground in Pratt. In the letter to the president of Y.M.C.A (Young Men’s Christian Association), he wrote:

I am for you and the Association [Association] and for anything which will keep the people from flocking to large cities. Every day it is becoming more and more the duty of every man to work to make the place in which he lives a better place in which to live and to keep the younger generation more content. I hope to see the ground on Turkey Creek owned and fixed up for a permanent camp and pleasure ground and maybe it can be made of some benefit in keeping some of the young people from getting the wanderlust and some others from going to the devil, either of which is a big job.” The letter was published in Pratt Daily Tribune with this title: “Dr. Walker Is Still Strong for the County.”⁵⁹⁴

Another public-spirited citizen offered to buy Lincoln Park (Figure 75) situated two miles west of Cawker City. The *Cawker City Ledger* reported that the financial difficulties of the Lincoln Park Chautauqua Association resulted in selling this 30-acre tract of land to G .W. Dackstader (Figure 76), for the sum of \$2,050 on September 10, 1913. His plan was to “give the park to the ten Protestant Christian churches in Downs, Cawker City and Glen Elder to be held and used by them for the benefit of the public. . . He could think of no more appropriate disposition to be made

⁵⁹³ Richard J. Hopkins, “Concerning Mr. Finnups’s Offer of a Park,” *The Garden City Herald*, Garden City, Kansas, April 27, 1916, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/367332499/>.

⁵⁹⁴ “Dr. Walker is Still Strong,” *Pratt Daily Tribune*, Pratt, Kansas, September 16, 1919, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/366760456/>.

of Lincoln Park than to dedicate it to the church of the living God, to be held in perpetuity as a place where religious and educational meetings might be held, and for the uplifting of all the people.” His action saved what was known “for many years the chief pleasure ground of northern Kansas” and ended the frequently heard rumor that “the Park was to be turned into a pasture or feed lot.” It also preserved “valuable improvements made thereon by the Lincoln Park Chautauqua Association, by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Lincoln Park Woman's Association, and various individuals who made this place their summer home.”⁵⁹⁵



Figure 75- G. W. Dockstader, 1913, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society. He bought Lincoln Park in Cawker City with the intention to give it to the Protestant Christian churches of the region.

⁵⁹⁵ “Lincoln Park Saved to the Public,” *Cawker City Ledger*, Cawker City, Kansas, September 11, 1913, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/421159324/>.

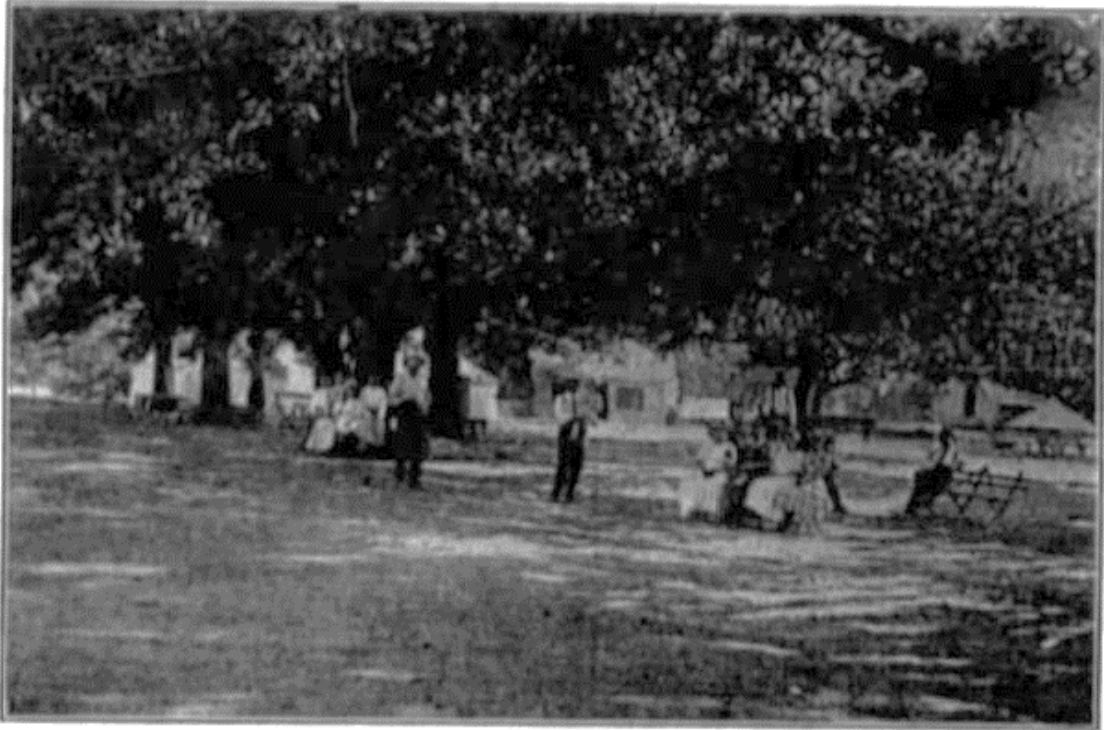


Figure 76- *Lincoln Park, Cawker City, 1913*, Photograph, Kansas Historical Society. The scene is showing people seating on benches shaded by trees in Lincoln Park, Cawker city.

The general public in the state's smaller towns were also engaged in the pleasure ground movement. Writers merely identified as "CITIZENS" published a call for a public meeting to discuss establishing a new pleasure ground for Olathe in 1898. The call "urged that all citizens interested in an enterprise of this kind turn out and aid with their presence and voice in making arrangements to bring into use a public pleasure ground for Sunday School picnics, celebrations, public meetings, and a park where the rich and poor can go and find rest during the hot, sultry evening of summer."⁵⁹⁶

People also invested in park improvement in Harper, which had a population of less than 1400 inhabitants in 1904. The new park for Harper aimed to become "one of the finest in the

⁵⁹⁶ "Public Park Meeting," *The Olathe News-Herald*, Olathe, Kansas, January 14, 1898, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/487769742/>.

state.”⁵⁹⁷ and was to be “formed with a capital stock of Twenty-five Hundred Dollars, to issue stock at Twenty-five dollars per share.”⁵⁹⁸ Only one week later, a permanent organization for the Harper Park Association was formed with a hundred stock subscribers who already had raised \$5300 and intended to recapitalize the Association at \$6000. Achieving such recapitalizing goal was called “an easy matter.”⁵⁹⁹

Sometimes city officials and citizens collaborated to beautify pleasure grounds. An example was the effort to improve El Dorado’s pleasure ground in the summer of 1907 with the aim of making it “the prettiest pleasure grounds in Kansas this season.” Mayor Selig asked the town’s business to close on a Friday afternoon and help with improving the pleasure ground. As a result, “a large number with axes hoes, rakes, scythes and other tools assembled in Riverside to give the park such a cleaning as it never experienced.”⁶⁰⁰

Women also played a role in developing pleasure grounds in smaller Kansas towns. For example, The Forest City Floral Club, composed of about thirty ladies, was in charge of improving Burlington’s pleasure ground which was known as “one of the most beautiful and most inviting parks in the state. . . a desirable pleasure ground for the enjoyment and the recreation of our people.”⁶⁰¹ Another case was the Seventh District Federation of Women’s club in Saint John, also known as The Banner Club of Kansas, which raised “more than \$4,600 in four years, a record

⁵⁹⁷ “Six Thousand Dollars,” *Harper Sentinel*, Harper, Kansas, January 15, 1904, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/385837314/>.

⁵⁹⁸ “Harper Will Have a Fine Park,” *Harper Sentinel*, Harper, Kansas, January 08, 1904, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/385835950/>.

⁵⁹⁹ “Six Thousand Dollars,” *Harper Sentinel*, Harper, Kansas, January 15, 1904, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/385837314/>.

⁶⁰⁰ “Riverside Park,” *The Butler County Democrat*, El Dorado, Kansas, May 31, 1907, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/367564333/>.

⁶⁰¹ “A Blooming’ Success,” *The Burlington News*, Burlington, Kansas, November 20, 1897, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/518228043/>.

equaled by no other woman's organization of its size in the state, and transformed a weed patch into a well-equipped public pleasure ground.”⁶⁰²

Property Owners

It was relatively common for property owners in smaller towns and cities to turn their shaded property into pleasure grounds, especially in towns where city governments had fewer resources to create pleasure grounds. The first privately-owned pleasure ground in one of the smaller towns was W. A. Wallace’s grove who advertised his “Social Park” in Galena in 1881 as follows:

I would say to people that I have opened up a park or pleasure ground east of Galena, on the Joplin road, located on the land of Stone & Co., and am trying to run a social and moral pleasure ground for the past time of those who like to ride in swing, play croquet, or any other simple or social amusement, for young and old, if decent and respectable as I do not ask the patronage of any other class of people. Those of easy virtue or intoxicated persons are requested to stay away, as I don’t want them or their money. Come and while away the leisure hours in simple amusement.⁶⁰³

Also in 1885, it was reported that L. D. Williams, Beloit’s “pioneer merchant,” bought and improved a fifty-acre land to “make the finest picnic or celebration grounds anywhere in Northwest Kansas.” The land was thickly timbered with elm, ash and box elder, while clumps of trees studded

⁶⁰² “Clubs of Big Seventh in Annual Convention,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, September 27, 1914, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63699140/>.

⁶⁰³ “Social Park,” *Galena Miner*, Galena, Kansas, June 20, 1881, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/367543909/>.

the entire surface. He trimmed up and thinned out the timber, had the weeds and underbrush cut down and burned, and seeded a part of the tract with bluegrass.⁶⁰⁴

Another privately-owned pleasure ground in Baxter Springs was described by the *Cherokee County Republican* in this way:

Mr. Win. Black is putting his steamboat in first class shape. In about two weeks it will be ready for use. It is fifty-five feet long, and of comfortable width. It will have a roof, and will be made as comfortable as possible. It will accommodate a goodly number; besides the steamboat, Mr. Black has several small boats. There is no finer place for a good enjoyable picnic than Mr. Black's grove; the trees are of several kinds, and well trimmed, so light and air can find entrance; the view cannot be surpassed. Besides it is near town and there is no need of hiring teams at a great expense, to reach the grounds. It is a great advantage to have such a place near home, as thunder storms are likely to come up any time in summer, and it would only take a short time to reach home, at this convenient place, thus escaping much unpleasantness, Mr. Black is a very pleasant, accommodating gentleman, and will do all in his power to make his patrons enjoy themselves. It is a wonder this lovely place has not been more used. A party from Pittsburg came here a short time ago looking for a place to camp and fish for a while. They were much pleased with Mr. Black's grove, and he expects to hear from them later on.⁶⁰⁵

⁶⁰⁴ "A Park for Beloit," *The Beloit Gazette*, Beloit, Kansas, September 04, 1885, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/419046024/>.

⁶⁰⁵ "A Fine Pleasure Ground," *Cherokee County Republican*, Baxter Spring, Kansas, May 24, 1895, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/376266423/>.

Sometimes more than one single person invested in creating pleasure grounds. For example, Jansen’s Grove in Kiowa was owned by Mr. Jansen and Mr. McBlair.⁶⁰⁶ Paola’s fire fighters also purchased about eight acres of land for 700 dollars in 1906 with the intention to turn it into “the prettiest pleasure grounds in this part of the country,” which would be of “great benefit” to Osawatomie and “make good money for the firemen.”⁶⁰⁷

Motivations for the Pleasure Ground Movement in Kansas Smaller Towns

The smaller towns of Kansas had very similar motives for advocating for, creating, and improving pleasure grounds. A sense of competition with other cities and towns led the citizens to build and enhance their pleasure grounds. The parks gave residents a sense of pride, and they believed that the parks would bring economic benefits.

Competition

Like the larger cities, the smaller towns of Kansas also wanted to stand out among other towns in terms of their pleasure grounds and their city beautification efforts. For example in the early 1900s, Abilene began “agitation for a city park.” In an article called “Should Have a Park,” it was argued “that all other towns in the vicinity have parks and hence there is no reason why Abilene should not get into line.”⁶⁰⁸ In an effort to “make Clay Center the handsome city in the State,” it was suggested that “streets should be lined with shade trees and our parks made parks in fact as well as in name.” They wanted people to know Clay Center as a “musical city,” but also that its citizens

⁶⁰⁶ “Let’s Have Some Fun,” *The Kiowa Journal*, Kiowa, Kansas, June 15, 1911, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/375121180/>.

⁶⁰⁷ “Firemen Buy Their Park,” *The Miami Republican*, Paola, Kansas, June 08, 1906, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/384171491/>.

⁶⁰⁸ “Should Have Park,” *The Salina Daily Union*, Salina, Kansas, August 11, 1901, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/113162832/>.

had “refinement and cultivated taste.”⁶⁰⁹ In Garnett, the proposal to turn the new Lake grounds into a pleasure ground was considered to help “a great deal toward improving” the city. The *Garnett Journal*’s rationale for such move was that “other towns of less importance keep up pleasure grounds.”⁶¹⁰ In Cherryvale, “improving and beautifying” Logan’s Park was promoted as “one more metropolitan touch” for the city. The 1916 improvements of the park gave the town “a regular amusement park just like other first-class cities.”⁶¹¹

The sense of competition also required more amenities and features to be added to pleasure grounds. In Ellsworth’s Railroad Park, for example, the ground had sunk below the surrounding property and had water in it more or less all the time. It was suggested that the town should take advantage of the condition and create facilities for water-related activities because “several Kansas towns have spots like this filled up with water, placing a bandstand in the center for concerts, renting out boats and derive a nice income from the same. Booths could be prepared and nice bathing furnished. In the winter a nice skating pond could be made of it. Ellsworth certainly needs something of this kind if any town ever did.”⁶¹²

The competition with Missouri also affected the less populated towns of Kansas. The *Kansas Farmer and Mail and Breeze* stated that the springs near Bonner, Kansas had everything that the springs at Excelsior, Missouri did, but “people of Bonner have sat quietly by and allowed Excelsior to gather in a harvest of dollars that might as well have gone to the Kansas town.” The newspaper thought that Bonner Springs had great potential to become a beautiful health resort and a popular pleasure ground in Kansas:

⁶⁰⁹ “City Park,” *The Clay Center Dispatch*, Clay Center, Kansas, September 30, 1880, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/383886981/>.

⁶¹⁰ “City Park Suggestion,” *Garnett Journal*, Garnett, Kansas, April 27, 1906, 10, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67706474/>.

⁶¹¹ “Formal Park Opening,” *Cherryvale*, Cherryvale, Kansas, May 31, 1916, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/124490410/>.

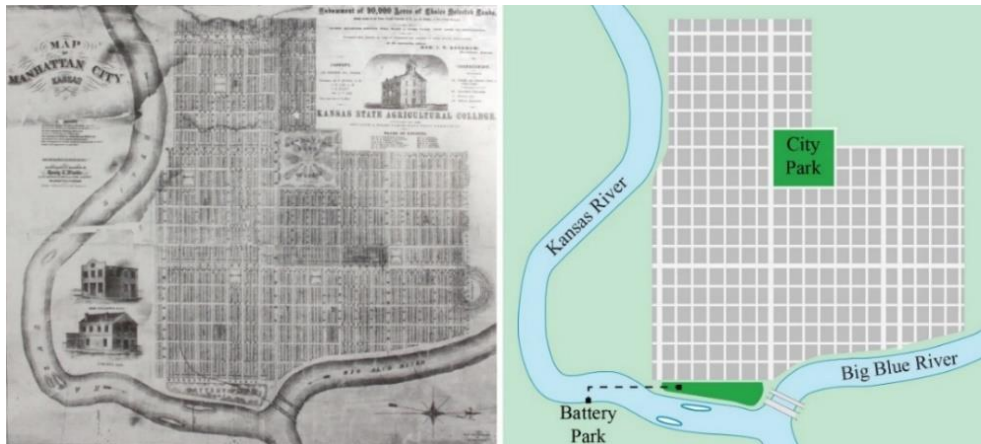
⁶¹² “A Suggestion,” *Ellsworth Reporter*, Ellsworth, Kansas, March 11, 1909, 7, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/383507377/>.

Excelsior Springs is crowded down between the hills. There is really no place for a pleasure ground. Bonner has the land for a most beautiful park. At or near the park are two beautiful little lakes, one immediately adjoining the park and the other, Forest Lake, only a short ride distant. There is the best chance for boating and fishing that we know of in Kansas, It is only 16 miles from Kansas City to Bonner, just half as far as to Excelsior Springs. Kansas City alone would supply sufficient patronage to make the springs resort a great success but there is no reason why the tremendous patronage that now goes from all over Kansas to Excelsior Springs might not be diverted to Bonner Springs. We are surprised that the possibilities of the place have not appealed to men of means long ago.⁶¹³

The source of inspiration for smaller towns of Kansas was generally the major cities in Kansas or Missouri. However, when it was decided to establish a new town at the junction of the Kansas River and Big Blue River in the 1850s, the town founders wanted to have “a good city graced with parks and tree-lined streets,”⁶¹⁴ inspired by Manhattan Island in New York City. Not only did they name the new town Manhattan, but they also considered providing the town with two parks modeled after those in Manhattan Island – Central Park and Battery Park. The Battery Park in New York City was located at the junction Hudson River and East River. In Manhattan, a park with the same name was proposed to be constructed at the junction of the Kansas River and Big Blue River (Figures 74 to 77).

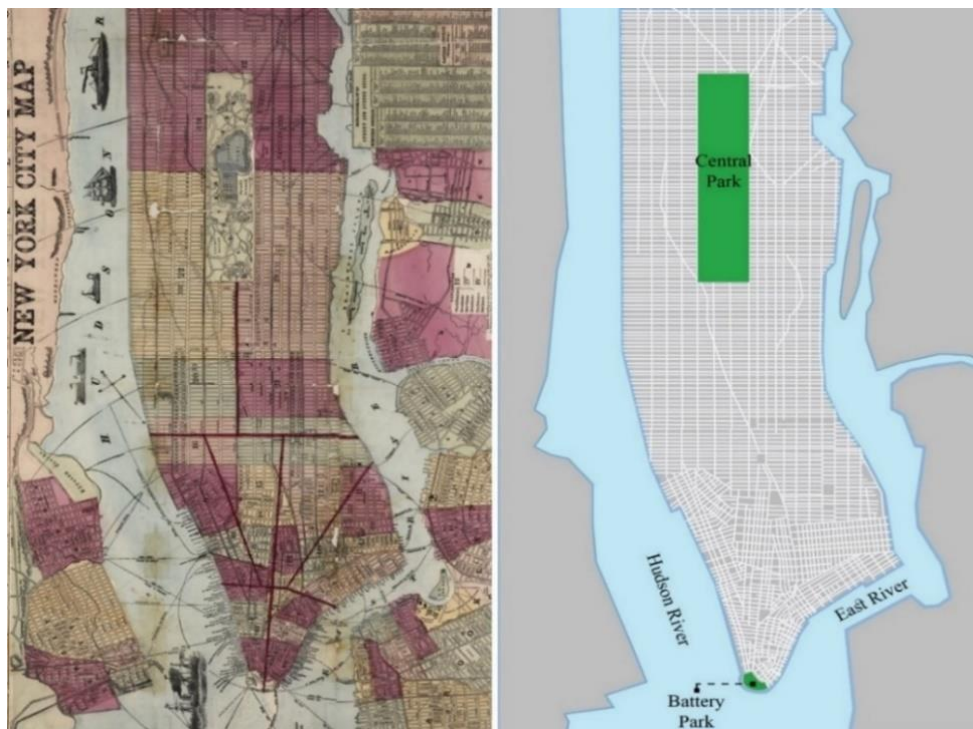
⁶¹³ “A Beautiful health Resort,” *Kansas Farmer and Mail and Breeze*, Topeka, Kansas, July 31, 1909, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/421917774/>.

⁶¹⁴ Sherow, *Manhattan*, 15.



(Left) Figure 77- *Proposed Map of Manhattan, Manhattan, Kansas, 1867*, Illustration by the Henry T. Wardle Real Estate Agency of Manhattan. Special Collections, Hale Library, Kansas State University.

(Right) Figure 78- *Diagram of Proposed Map of Manhattan in 1867, Manhattan, Kansas*, Illustration by Author. Courtesy Dorna Eshрати Personal Digital Archive.



(Left) Figure 79- *The Location of Central Park and Battery Park in Manhattan, New York City, New York, 1847*, Illustration by Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal. New York Public Library Digital Collections.

(Right) Figure 80- *Diagram of Location of Central Park and Battery Park in Manhattan, New York City, New York*, Illustration by Author. Courtesy Dorna Eshрати Personal Digital Archive.

Sense of Pride

In the smaller towns of Kansas, the pleasure grounds played an important role in cultivating community pride. *The Lyons Daily Republican* wrote in 1887 how Lyons had developed “from bare prairie, houseless and treeless” to “a city of 2700 inhabitants” in only ten years for which the city was rightly “proud.” Among all the developments that were thought to generate a sense of pride in Lyons, parks and pleasure grounds were foremost. Other improvements included beautiful homes, shaded streets, substantial business blocks, a system of waterworks for household use, and protection against fire.⁶¹⁵

In 1888, *The Cedar Vale Star* claimed that “nothing gives a town a better name among neighboring townspeople than well-kept yards and streets and comfortable, well-cared for parks or pleasure grounds.” As a result, some of the enterprising citizens of Cedar Vale were “canvassing the project of buying a forty-acre near town, and laying out a race-track, planting trees, and otherwise preparing it for a pleasure ground.”⁶¹⁶ In 1899, *Attica Independent* showed their pride in the city park as follows:

Outside of Wichita no town in Southern Kansas has anything that can compare with our park. In extent design and topography it is a delightful pleasure ground already, and no end to its possibilities. Already it is attracting the attention of people who are planning to come here to make homes, and, our neighboring papers have spoken most complimentary of it. Attica very wisely decided to plant 1,000 trees along their streets, and the papers of the state, and of Kansas City, mention it as a mark

⁶¹⁵ “From bare prairie,” *The Lyons Daily Republican*, Lyons, Kansas, March 18, 1887, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/486897266/>.

⁶¹⁶ “Some of Our More Enterprising Citizens,” *The Cedar Vale Star*, Cedar Vale, Kansas, June 29, 1888, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/419174719/>.

of superior enterprise, and it is, but not a circumstance to the building of an artistic park in a town the size of this.⁶¹⁷

Even the pleasure grounds of very small towns such as Meade, which had only a population of 457 in 1890, was claimed by picnickers in 1888 to be “the loveliest place in Kansas” and “no finer pleasure ground in the State” could compete with it.⁶¹⁸ The town of Altoona with a population of 300 in the early 1900s was said to have “one of the finest natural parks for holding picnics, encampments, etc., in the state” and aimed that this pleasure ground would “be made of the most beautiful parks to be found in this section.”⁶¹⁹ In the early 1900s, Bluff City with a population of only 300 inhabitants was “famed for its beautiful park.” Jeff C. Nevins, a resident of Columbia, Missouri who visited the town described the park in his letter to the editor of the *Columbia Herald*:

This little town is unique in some ways, and is getting to be rather famed for its beautiful park. Just imagine a town of only 300 inhabitants planting and maintaining a ten-acre park; not a wood lot, nor a few trees set in rows like a cornfield, but a beautifully arranged pleasure ground with winding walks, a lakelet, rustic bridges, trees of all kinds in groups and belts, and endless varieties of shrubs and flowers. It seems impossible, but it is true, and people come from all the neighboring towns to see and enjoy it.⁶²⁰

⁶¹⁷ “Outside of Wichita,” *Attica Independent*, Attica, Kansas, May 26, 1899, 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/419723643/>.

⁶¹⁸ “The Halcyon Picnic,” *Meade County Democrat*, Meade, Kansas, July 21, 1888, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/420683579/>.

⁶¹⁹ “Additional Local,” *The Altoona Mirror*, Altoona, Kansas, September 13, 1904, 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/423697133/>.

⁶²⁰ “A Model Kansas Town,” *The Anthony Bulletin*, Anthony, Kansas, October 22, 1903, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/153123345/>.

Economic Benefits

In today's world, the small towns of Kansas may not be perceived as typical tourist destinations, but in the nineteenth century visits by outsiders were important to the economy of these towns. For example, in 1887 Iola's pleasure ground, Freeman's Grove, hosted several picnics and events. Such gatherings "advertised the city abroad" and "added greatly to the popularity of the town in the county." Consequently more outsiders began to do business with Iola's businessmen. They came to visit the pleasure grounds, but in the process discovered the town's businesses. *The Iola Register* reflected on such change of perception in this way:

They were first attracted here by some public meeting held at the Grove. There they came in contact with our business men and found them cordial and generous. They found the town as a town, hospitable and free hearted, not cold-blooded and selfish as prejudiced persons had tried to make them believe. They found that in every line of trade our city offered equal and often superior inducements over any of the neighboring towns. The result is that they now come here regularly and do all their trading here. After these positive demonstrations of the vast benefit accruing to our city by having their grounds open to the public there should no longer be any hesitation in securing control of them.⁶²¹

Also, the proposal to build a dam on the Little River of Sedgwick's pleasure ground in 1901 had economic goals:

It would draw people from all over the county during the summer months for picnics, conventions, and various outdoor meetings. Aside from the advertisement

⁶²¹ "Local Matters," *The Iola Register*, Iola, Kansas, September 23, 1887, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/77785305/>.

[advertisement] the town would receive from such meetings, there is a material side of the question that would resolve itself into dollars and cents into the pockets of our merchants and business men generally. Visitors would trade here, they would leave money here, and if treated right would come again. A dam with boating, fishing and a public pleasure ground would pay.⁶²²

There are no newspaper articles describing the role of park development on land values in the smaller towns of Kansas. However, it is worth mentioning that “facing the park” was advertised as the “desirable location” for a 3-bedroom house in the city of Burlingame that was listed for sale in *The Osage County Chronicle* in 1870 for \$600.⁶²³

Characteristics of Pleasure Grounds in Kansas Smaller Towns

Natural and Naturalistic Features

There is little written about how the sites for pleasure grounds were chosen in smaller towns of Kansas. Access to water and already having trees were the main factors in establishing pleasure grounds for Harper⁶²⁴ and Smith Center.⁶²⁵ In Smith Center, it was suggested that they improve the courthouse yard rather than developing a barren land into a pleasure ground. The *Smith County Pioneer* proposed turning the town’s courthouse yard into a pleasure ground in 1903:

⁶²² “As spring approaches,” *The Sedgwick Pantagraph*, Sedgwick, Kansas, February 28, 1901, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/379842066/>.

⁶²³ “City Property,” *The Osage County Chronicle*, Burlingame, Kansas, April 16, 1870, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/58974300/>.

⁶²⁴ “Harper Will Have a Fine Park,” *Harper Sentinel*, Harper, Kansas, January 08, 1904, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/385835950/>.

⁶²⁵ “Why Not Have a Park,” *Smith County Pioneer*, Smith Center, Kansas, July 30, 1903, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/376562084/>.

Smith Center needs a public park. We have reached a point where people should stop grabbing for money long enough to enjoy the pleasure of existence and make our town a more pleasant place in which to live. The Hansen park which was donated to the city several years ago, has never had a tree planted on it. Never been fenced. It is as naked today as it was a hundred years ago. There is a movement on foot, however, to plant it in shade trees and make it a nice pleasure ground. But that will require a long time and years of waiting. The court house yard is already set with trees, now big enough to shade the ground. It is close to the business part of town and with a very little expense could be made into a nice public park for the use of the entire county. We would suggest that the city of Smith Center ask the commissioners for the use of the court house grounds for this purpose. Sow it to blue grass, keep it watered, put some benches or seats under the trees, and let the town have general charge of the ground and keep them up in nice shape as a resort for the general public. As the town would derive the most benefit, we claim it is the duty of the town to take care of it and make it a beautiful and shady grove, which could be done at very little expense.⁶²⁶

Man-Made Features

Design

The only reports of an intentionally designed park in the smaller towns of Kansas were in southeast Kansas where the engineering firm of George E. Kessler was in charge of the improvements of

⁶²⁶ “Why Not Have a Park,” *Smith County Pioneer*, Smith Center, Kansas, July 30, 1903, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/376562084/>.

John McDaniel's pleasure resort in Altoona⁶²⁷ and a park in Independence.⁶²⁸ For Independence's park, Kessler exhibited two alternative sets of plans in 1917 in Mayor Bittman's city hall office. The plan that attracted more attention was the one that extended the park to the city cemetery, which required the town to purchase eighty lots of land. This plan included an artificial lake, an ornamental garden in the shape of a horseshoe, a swimming pool, a fountain, a children's playground, bandstand, modifying roadways, small flower gardens, as well as baseball fields and tennis courts.⁶²⁹

Architectural Elements

The smaller towns avoided constructing buildings and other architectural elements in their pleasure grounds. For example, the proposal to build Olathe's courthouse in its city park was seen as “a mistake” in 1889 by *The Olathe Leader* also known as *The Johnson County Democrat*:

Every city and town in this country has, or is preparing a city Park, a place which can be made attractive and afford a pleasant resort for the people. We are not behind our neighbors in this matter. For location beauty, size and in everything our Park ranks second to none in the state with a few dollars expended in way of walks, benches etc. it could be made a perfect paradise. Building the court house in the Park, will for ever ruin it and rob the city of a pleasure ground, as there is no other suitable ground that would make such a Park as we now have. Other sites can be obtained that are just as desirable for the court house and we believe the county can

⁶²⁷ “To Open Summer Resort,” *The Altoona Mirror*, Altoona, Kansas, August 24, 1903, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/423685613/>.

⁶²⁸ “New Park Plans Here,” *Independence Daily Reporter*, Independence, Kansas, May 19, 1907, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/95106815/>.

⁶²⁹ “New Park Plans Here,” *Independence Daily Reporter*, Independence, Kansas, May 19, 1907, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/95106815/>.

better afford to pay a good price for a building lot. than to spoil the only pleasure resort within the city limits. Our city is growing, and this question of Parks will in the future be an important matter in the welfare of the city and would it not be well to look at the matter a little now, before a huge building is placed there, and the place robbed of its beauty. We repeat it will be a mistake to build the court house in the City Park.⁶³⁰

One year later, building a new jail in the park was also proposed, but *The Olathe Leader* strongly disagreed with building either the courthouse or the jail and insisted that the public had to weigh in on the matter:

A structure such as they propose to build. . . would be a boon forever to the city and would make our town look much better. Place it in the park and that place is forever killed as a resort for public gatherings, meetings and as a park, and when this is gone we will never get another. The court house and jail do not necessarily need to be so close together simply the matter of a few yards would be no disadvantage. The commissioners claim that the county has no money with which to buy more property and that they see no other way only to put it in the square. WE believe the property owners of that vicinity and the citizens of the city in general can fix the matter of a lot on which to place the jail. Let a public meeting be called at once and the matter discussed and see what can be done about it before it is too late. Now is a chance for property owners around the square to help that part of town and to get a nice building on the north side.” Two weeks later, in article called “The Jail

⁶³⁰ “The Park,” *The Olathe Leader*, Olathe, Kansas, July 11, 1889, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418823559/>.

Again” it was suggested that “the citizens should purchase a couple of lots on the North side of the square and present them to the county as a site for the jail . . . If the citizens of Olathe bought the lot and presented it to the county could the county kick or complain about it? WE think not.⁶³¹

Four months later in May 1922, the newspaper reported that the Stratton property was purchased as the new location for the jail. The newspaper congratulated itself on its role in this achievement as follows:

The purchase of the Stratton property and the location of the new jail thereon, may be counted as another victory and public benefit for the DEMOCRAT. It will be remembered that this paper was the first to openly oppose placing the jail in the square; it was the only paper which kept up the fight for the people. We are not unmindful however, of the assistance rendered by property owners and others, and gladly accord them all the glory. The new location is a splendid one and gives general satisfaction. It proves, as usual that the DEMOCRAT is always on the side of the people, and always has the courage to fight for the right. The park can now be used as a pleasure ground for the people of the county.⁶³²

Amenities

In general, the small towns of Kansas tried to provide their residents with the same park features as their larger counterparts such as sport facilities, seating areas, and children’s playground, as

⁶³¹ “The New Jail,” *The Olathe Leader (The Johnson County Democrat)*, Olathe, Kansas, January 16, 1890, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/487757060/>.

⁶³² “The Purchase of the Stratton,” *The Olathe Leader (The Johnson County Democrat)*, Olathe, Kansas, May 22, 1890, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/487757304/>.

more amenities were believed to bring more people to the pleasure grounds. In an article called “Why Not Use the Park,” the *Manhattan Nationalist* highlighted the role of amenities in park usage and encouraged the Manhattan community to use the park more often:

It seems that with the fine City Park that Manhattan has, it should be made use of more by the people, and thereby be appreciated more. The upkeep of the park each year costs the city quite a sum of money; the people pay for it, why not make use of it and get your money's worth out of it. There is no doubt but that a park is one of the greatest assets a city can have, but the less it is used the greater a burden it becomes. More public gatherings at the park, more community sings, more seats, a permanent platform, dancing, more sports, would each contribute to more usage of the park, which, in turn, would become of more real benefit to our people, and be made the real pleasure ground for the city. As it is, a very small per cent of the people make any use of the park whatever.⁶³³

The newspapers frequently reported on the proposed amenities, but rarely what was actually built or installed. For example, when in 1904 Harper intended to have a park, the plan was to “set out two or three thousands trees, where they can benefit of the city water, to build a driving and race track, fence it, build an amphitheater, put in a baseball diamond and a football gridiron.”⁶³⁴ Other proposed features and facilities were flower beds, grassy lawns, comfortable seats, swings,

⁶³³ “Why Not Use the Park,” *Manhattan Nationalist*, Manhattan, Kansas, July 17, 1919, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/242151668/>.

⁶³⁴ “Harper Will Have a Fine Park,” *Harper Sentinel*, Harper, Kansas, January 08, 1904, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/385835950/>.

sufficient number of stalls to accommodate horsemen, stock pens, a big amphitheater, a floral hall, and a tennis court.⁶³⁵

In 1906, *The Coffeyville Daily Journal* reported on the landscape features and amenities that Coffeyville's Forest was going to have: a lagoon, river bank, groves of trees, shrubs, canoes, a footbridge, a wagon bridge, a number of booths, a bathing pool, a race track, horse stalls and a lighting system of 400 candle power lights.⁶³⁶ The realization of some of the 1906 park plans can be seen on a 1911 map (Figures 81 and 82) showing the extension of the streetcar line to the center of the park, drives, a race track and stables, and the river front. The only article that reported on the infrastructure of a pleasure ground in a smaller town of Kansas was in 1911 when Humboldt's pleasure ground was reported to have a septic tank and sewer outlet.⁶³⁷

⁶³⁵ "Six Thousand Dollars," *Harper Sentinel*, Harper, Kansas, January 15, 1904, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/385837314/>.

⁶³⁶ "Park Man Arrived," *The Coffeyville Daily Journal*, Coffeyville, Kansas, June 13, 1906, 1, <https://kansashistoricalopencontent.newspapers.com/image/58473277/>.

⁶³⁷ "Humboldt Now," *Allen County Journal*, La Harp, Kansas, October 12, 1911, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/478789502/>.

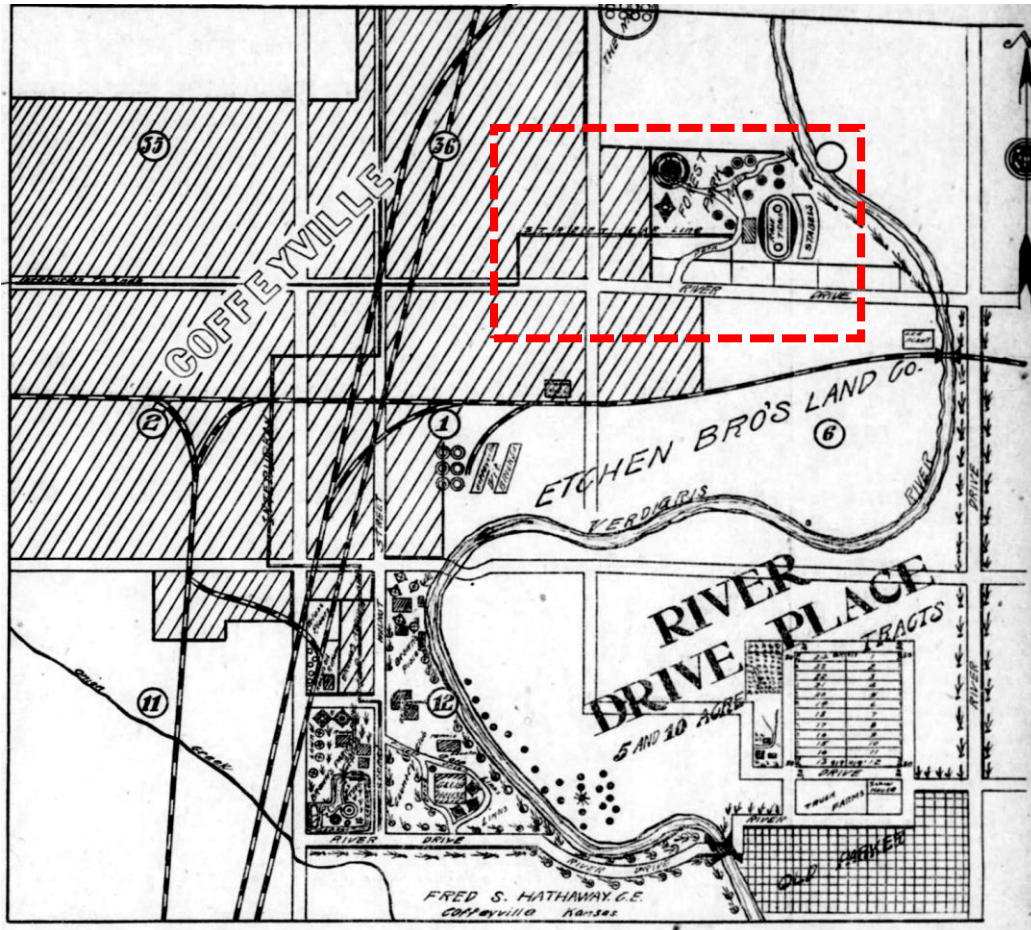


Figure 81- Map of Coffeyville, Coffeyville, Kansas, 1911, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society. The map shows the streetcar line was extended to the center of Forest Park.

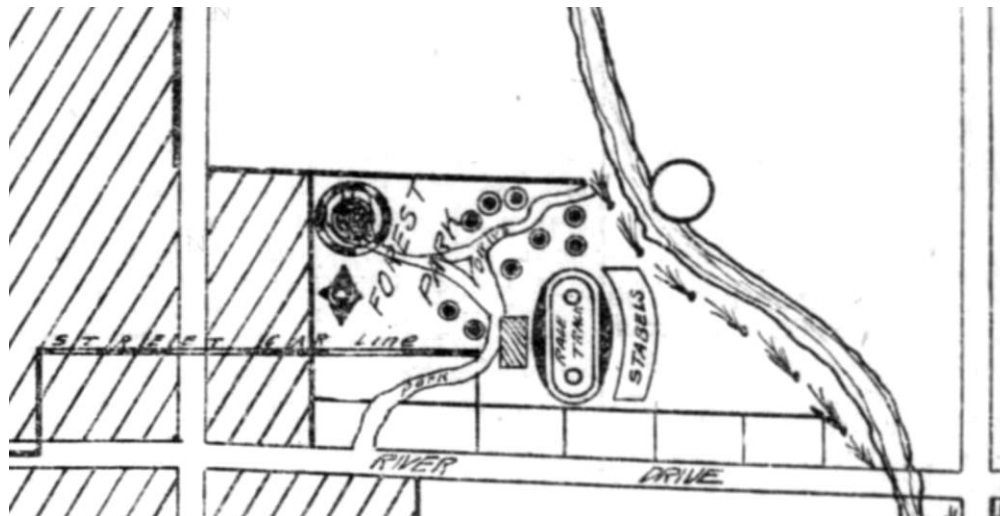


Figure 82- Plan of Forest Park Showing the Streetcar Line Extending into the Park, Coffeyville, Kansas, 1911, Illustration, Kansas Historical Society.

Accessibility

Though not often reported, there were attempts and realized plans for making the pleasure grounds more accessible via public and private transportation. For instance, Coffeyville’s streetcar line was extended to the city’s Forest Park, visible on the 1911 map of the city (as shown in the previous page in Figures 81 and 82). Also in the late 1910s, Caldwell’s Drury Park was “easily reached by automobiles over the good roads for people from Caldwell, Bluff city, Anthony, Harper, Wichita, Perth, Corbin, Hunnewell, Renfrow, Medford, South Haven, Wakita, Manchester, Breckenridge, Enid, Nash, Garber, Billings, Deer Creek, Numa, Wellington, Pond Creek and many other small towns in Kansas and Oklahoma.”⁶³⁸

In addition, to make “Fort Riley and the military reserve one of the greatest and most attractive points in the west for summer gatherings of people” an electric railway, pavilions, and a lake for boating were among the promises made in 1892. With the help of the Union Pacific and the establishment of the electric streetcar, Fort Riley was expected to become “the great resort of Kansas” where the old soldiers of Kansas could “meet once a year without cost,” and the younger generation could “see the army of their country in all its features and perfections.”⁶³⁹

Management and Maintenance

Very few reports were written about the management and maintenance of pleasure grounds in the smaller towns of Kansas. One example was Cherryvale’s Logan Park. In 1907, after the offer to lease the park for “grazing purposes” had been turned down, it was decided that the park would “be devoted to the use of pleasure grounds for the people only.” It was announced that “the habit

⁶³⁸ Location and History of Drury,” *The Wellington Daily News*, Wellington, Kansas, January 30, 1918, 7, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63203853/>.

⁶³⁹ “A Kansas Pleasure Resort,” *The Junction City Tribune*, Junction City, Kansas, May 26, 1892, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/384851014/>.

of pasturing those animals in the park at night” would not be “tolerated anymore.”⁶⁴⁰ It was known that regular park maintenance added to the attractiveness of the park:

On pretty Sundays, the people do not go to our park in the Square, but they meander off to the southward, to the New Lake. It seems that the lake is the main resort for picnic parties, walks, drives and kindred amusements, and if the grounds were leveled up to some extent, benches built among the trees, scattered boards timbers removed, which only serve to hinder pleasure seekers, and if the trees were trimmed and the driveways to the lake improved, the attractiveness is tenfold.⁶⁴¹

Financial constraints sometimes compelled smaller towns to only purchase the land and either do improvements in stages or postpone them. In 1916, when a tract of land was donated to Garden City for a pleasure ground, it was suggested that “plans could be devised for improvements covering a period of five or ten years, thus enabling the city to improve the park as its means would permit.”⁶⁴² *The Mulvane News* also compared the town’s unwillingness to secure a tract for a park for the future generations to “committing a crime” and encouraged taking steps toward having a park in this way:

We must have a park. The matter should have been provided for thirty, twenty, ten years ago, and we each ourselves mentally chaslising [chastising] the older citizens of the town for not doing their duty in those days. The cost would have been trifling

⁶⁴⁰ “Stock Not Allowed In Park,” *Cherryvale Journal*, Cherryvale, Kansas, April 26, 1907, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/418609591/>.

⁶⁴¹ “City Park Suggestion,” *Garnett Journal*, Garnett, Kansas, April 27, 1906, 10, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/67706474/>.

⁶⁴² Richard J. Hopkins, “Concerning Mr. Finnup’s Offer of a Park,” *The Garden City Herald*, Garden City, Kansas, April 27, 1916, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/367332499/>.

then the matter of location an easy one. It is different now, but it is easy as compared to that it will be in five or ten years hence. It takes more than money to build a city park. It requires time as well. The longer we put off the matter the greater the crime we are committing [committing] against the future of this town. . . Let's get busy and do something for the future of the community. We have been selfish long enough.⁶⁴³

Uses

Leisure Activities

The leisure activities that took place in nineteenth-century pleasure grounds of smaller cities of Kansas were very similar to those of larger cities. Drury Park in Caldwell was a typical example, described as “a pleasure resort, pure and simple, with bathing, boating, fishing, shady lanes, and mossy banks.”⁶⁴⁴ Alma was planning to celebrate summer 1896 in its pleasure ground with these activities:

The band will conduct a number of fetes at the park this season. . . Any number of amusements will be provided, and hammocks, swings, boats, etc., will be supplied for the comfort and pleasure of those who attend. An invitation will be extended to all the bands and singing societies in Wabaunsee county, and the band hopes to

⁶⁴³ “Our Next Great Need,” *The Mulvane News*, Mulvane, Kansas, March 02, 1916, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/376500010/>.

⁶⁴⁴ “Location and History of Drury,” *The Wellington Daily News*, Wellington, Kansas, January 30, 1918, 7, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63203853/>.

make this the event of the season, and the biggest picnic that has ever been engineered by an Alma organization.⁶⁴⁵

In 1900, *The Waverly Gazette* promoted the advantages of having a summer concert series in Waverly's pleasure ground:

With a fine band organization there is no earthly reason why Waverly should not have a band concert about once a week this summer. A band stand could be put up in the park, a number of seats arranged and a very pleasant evening passed there once each week or two. It would help bring crowds to town. It would demonstrate the beauties and benefits of a public pleasure ground. It would awaken an interest in and by the band which would doubt less result in the perfection of a band that would spread the name and fame of Waverly over Kansas. It would arouse an interest in developing and beautifying in the park. It would give an opportunity for the people of the best town in Kansas to get together and become better acquainted. It would be an event always looked forward to with pleasure and always recalled with pleasant recollections. What would be nicer than to spend an hour or two during the cool and pleasant part of the day—listening to nice music. Visiting congenial friends, lolling in hammocs, playing croquett and enjoying that sense of relief from work and worry always engendered by stirring music and pleasant associations?⁶⁴⁶

⁶⁴⁵ "The Beautiful Natural Pleasure Ground," *The Alma Enterprise*, Alma, Kansas, July 10, 1896, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/101157643/>.

⁶⁴⁶ "With a Fine Band," *The Waverly Gazette*, Waverly, Kansas, April 20, 1900, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/422150379/>.

In another article entitled “Let’s Have Some Fun,” *The Kiowa Journal* regretted low attendance at the city’s pleasure ground, Jansen’s Grove, and encouraged the citizens to hold a three-day picnic on the ground.⁶⁴⁷ Even though the *Journal* had expected this project to receive enough encouragement to be pushed to a successful conclusion, one year later the *Journal* reported that “everyone got too busy looking for a cloud in the skies, and rain, to take enough interest in the plan.” But the *Journal* did not give up and proposed that the coming Fourth of July 1912 would be “a good time to start this picnic off in good shape” and make the annual Fourth celebration in Kiowa a “custom” to be held every year. The newspaper also advocated a homecoming event:

The homecoming celebration has been a success wherever tried. It is becoming more and more popular every year. An annual picnic, wherein the entire city and country surrounding could join could not help but be popular. Few cities have a grove like unto Jansen's Grove, where such an event could be successfully held. Inasmuch as all who attend would furnish their own refreshments to a large extent, little but ice water would need to be provided, and possibly, a speaker or two, and the band.⁶⁴⁸

It is worth mentioning the unique event held in November 1897 in Burlington’s pleasure ground — the floral show called “The Chrysanthemum Show.” The exhibition was organized by the ladies of The Forest City Floral Club who displayed “splendidly arrayed, artistically arranged, flowers of glowing hues and genial fragrance.” The show also offered visitors four booths where candy, ice cream, fruits, flowers, coffee and sandwiches was sold by “sweet human flowers— lovely young ladies.” The other entertainment for the event was playing the Cantata, “Carnival of

⁶⁴⁷ “Let’s Have Some Fun,” *The Kiowa Journal*, Kiowa, Kansas, June 15, 1911, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/375121180/>.

⁶⁴⁸ “There Have Been,” *The Kiowa Journal*, Kiowa, Kansas, May 30, 1912, 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/375128636/>.

Flowers,” under the direction of Mrs. J. E. Woodford. The ticket to all parts of the show was 10 cents and a sum of \$64 was earned on the first night.⁶⁴⁹

There is no indication that admission fees were charged for everyday use of the pleasure grounds in the smaller towns of Kansas. However, admission fees were charged for special events such as the Fourth of July celebration of 1908 in Dodge City. Dodge City’s newspaper, *The World Brotherhood*, reported the story of a man who refused to pay the gate fee for his family to participate in the Fourth’s celebration:

There we were met by a man who with his wife and little ones complained bitterly that he had come to the park expecting that everything was open and free to all who came, but he was held up for a price of 25 cents for each adult as an entrance fee and ten cents for a seat on the lower rows of seats where the grand stand is entered and up on the (plutes) Grand stand 25 cents we have been since informed. The man would not stand for all this on the glorisous [glorious] old fourth of July and refused to enter the gates.⁶⁵⁰

Though leisure activities were the chief attractions of pleasure grounds, they were not the primary focus of Cawker City’s Lincoln Park. Having donated the park to the Protestant Christian churches of Downs, Cawker City and Glen Elder in 1913, Mr. G. W. Dockstader asked that the park be mainly used for “religious and educational” purposes. Hence, it was argued that:

The Park must be used only for meetings of an edifying character, nothing of an immoral or degrading nature being permitted, and the regulations covering its use

⁶⁴⁹ “A Blooming’ Success,” *The Burlington News*, Burlington, Kansas, November 20, 1897, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/518228043/>.

⁶⁵⁰ “The Fourth of July 1608,” *The World Brotherhood*, Dodge City, Kansas, July 10, 1908, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/428322941/>.

being made by the Christian churches will of course be of such a nature as to permit the freest possible use of the grounds and buildings, commensurate with their proper maintenance and the carrying out the design of the donor, which is to make Lincoln Park a great religious and educational meeting place.

However, Mr. Dockstader also believed that people “should not be deprived of the privilege they have so long had of camping at the Park, and this provision will not interfere in any way with any use the churches may make of the grounds.”⁶⁵¹

Not all the events held in the pleasure grounds of smaller towns of Kansas received positive feedback. For instance, Dodge City’s 4th of July celebration in 1908 was criticized by the city’s newspaper, *The World Brotherhood*. It called the celebration “a very tame affair” in comparison to the “the fourth of July of a generation ago.” The newspaper said the reason for comparing an old style Fourth of July celebration to that of 1908 was to “indicate to what base purpose the day has been prostituted and the degeneracy to which we have fallen.” Unfortunately, there was:

No massing of the citizens in the park or other place from which [which] to merge into pleasure grounds, where young and old could [would] spend the day as freemen in commemoration [commemoration] of our deliverance from British usurpation and toryism. No parading of the Sunday school from church to park. No notable appointed to tell of the patriotic [patriotic] valor which gave the 4th of July a place in history. No barrels of free lemonade prepared in the early morning by a committee to quench the thirst of the crowds who came from near and far to celebrate. No well filled lunch baskets to unpack and no place on extended tables

⁶⁵¹ “Lincoln Park Saved to the Public,” *Cawker City Ledger*, Cawker City, Kansas, September 11, 1913, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/421159324/>.

erected for the occasion or unpacked on the grass under the shade of trees where family group [group] resorted to satiate hunger and thirst. All these things have passed away and we live in another age. Due notice was given however by the printed hand bills that there would be a game of baseball on the fairgrounds in the afternoon and some horse racing would take place in front of the grand stand.⁶⁵²

Community Gatherings

Religious group gatherings were some of the most common events held in pleasure grounds. In August 1888, W.C.T.U. (The Woman's Christian Temperance Union) held a picnic in Rosedale's little pleasure ground, Sweet Spring Grove, for which booths, stalls and stands were installed and decorated with snowy curtains, green, glossy boughs and the National colors. The many attractions at the picnic were described as follows:

Chief among the many attractions was the 'baby show,' and an onlooker could almost imagine, from the expression of the face of each mother as she gazed on the crowd of innocent little faces, that she was mentally congratulating herself upon the superiority of her own dimple-faced little darling over its tiny neighbors. Many quaint biblical costumes were worn by the workers, who enacted bits of Bible lore, among whom we found a sweet-faced Rebecca at the well, refreshing the passerby with cool lemonade. The candy, popcorn and ice-cream girls deserve especial mention also, but space forbids further particulars. Taking it all in all the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and when night unfolded her sable pinions over the scene

⁶⁵² "The Fourth of July 1608," *The World Brotherhood*, Dodge City, Kansas, July 10, 1908, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/428322941/>.

happy hearts and merry voices greeted her coming with gladness, for she brought more merrymakers who had been deprived of the day's pleasure by their work.⁶⁵³

After the park was donated to local churches in Cawker City for “religious and educational” purposes, the *Cawker City Ledger* predicted the future of Lincoln Park:

Meetings of every Christian denomination may be held here, camp meetings, union services, revivals, W. C. T. U. conventions, summer camps of the Y. M. C. A. and the Boy Scouts, young peoples societies, Sunday Schools, singing societies, all may make this their headquarter and the influence of the best men and women of the country who come to this greatly favored spot will spread until the whole northwest will feel and acknowledge it. In the past, Lincoln Park has entertained some of the greatest men and women of the world, but the new plan offers greater opportunities than the old one did. Poems, short stories, novels, songs—all have been composed at Lincoln Park, and out of it have come thoughts that have done much toward the upbuilding of the better citizenship of the state and the strengthening [strengthening] of God's kingdom. At Lincoln Park young men and women have been taught the value of education and right living, old men and women have been encouraged and heartened, boys and girls have been stimulated to strive for better things in life and we are proud to know that a new dispensation is in sight which will do even more for our people.⁶⁵⁴

⁶⁵³ “A Day In The Grove,” *Rosedale Era*, Rosedale, Kansas, September 01, 1888, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/489967415/>.

⁶⁵⁴ “Lincoln Park Saved to the Public,” *Cawker City Ledger*, Cawker City, Kansas, September 11, 1913, 3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/421159324/>.

In the smaller towns of Kansas, pleasure grounds were often the places for reunions. The Chikaskia veterans' reunion was held in Caldwell's pleasure ground in 1902. The park won the admiration for "a fairly large crowd," its rustic bridges built across the streams, benches and other arrangements for the public comfort.⁶⁵⁵ The Saint John's pleasure ground was to host the 1914 annual convention of the Seventh District Federation of Women's club, which was in charge of the improvements in the pleasure grounds.⁶⁵⁶

⁶⁵⁵ "A fairly large crowd," *People's Voice*, Wellington, Kansas, September 18, 1902, 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/383260123/>.

⁶⁵⁶ "Clubs of Big Seventh in Annual Convention," *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, September 27, 1914, 4, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/63699140/>.

Chapter 5: Results and Conclusion

Results

Comparison: Pleasure Grounds in Kansas

Motivations and Advocates

The newly-settled towns of Kansas in the nineteenth-century did not suffer any of the overcrowding that larger American cities faced. The idea of developing pleasure grounds in Kansas was pursued primarily because parks were considered as a sophisticated sign of modernity — a symbol of civilization and an expression of civic pride. The towns were also motivated by the perceived economic benefits of the pleasure grounds, which would bring visitors to towns (both in large cities and small towns) and increase real estate value (only reported in larger cities). And it was believed that pleasure grounds brought Kansas communities better health, aesthetic satisfaction, and elevated moral standards.

The main advocates of the pleasure ground movement in Kansas were local newspapers, city officials, businesses, property owners, and public-spirited citizens. City officials and businesses were more involved in the pleasure ground movement in the larger cities in Kansas than in smaller towns. In smaller towns where municipalities were not very engaged in creating pleasure grounds, property owners were the bolder figures who developed pleasure grounds on their properties.

Characteristics and Uses

Even though the reasons for creating pleasure grounds in Kansas differed from those of the major cities of the United States, the Kansas pleasure grounds had almost the same characteristics. Though not surprisingly, the size of the pleasure grounds of Kansas could not compete with some of their counterparts in the east like New York's Central Park.

The main use of pleasure grounds in Kansas was for leisure activities and community gatherings. Group gatherings – most notably large picnics – were popular and hosted by municipalities, religious groups, and professional communities. There were also some reports that the parks were used for political meetings in some of the larger cities of the state.

Leisure activities included strolling, picnicking, barbecuing, tenting and camping, playing sports, swimming, boating, bathing, fishing, canoeing, music concerts, visiting animal exhibits, dance shows, theater, moving pictures, vaudeville entertainments, and holiday celebrations, particularly the Fourth of July. These activities were supported by facilities such as baseball diamonds, bicycle race tracks, tennis courts, ice rinks, swimming pools and fishing lakes. The pleasure grounds also often had amusements such as merry-go-rounds, see-saws, swings, and roller coasters; children’s playgrounds; zoos; seating areas, outdoor theaters and bandstands; and infrastructures like lighting, fences, sewer and drainage systems.

Even though the pleasure grounds of larger cities and towns had more amenities, all parks in the state provided people with a fundamental function of pleasure grounds — allowing Kansans to reconnect with nature. Therefore, all pleasure grounds had natural and naturalistic elements including groves of trees, meadows, allées, flower beds, and water features like streams and lagoons. Architectural and sculptural elements were avoided. The only architectural elements that some of the pleasure grounds had were dance pavilions, theater buildings, public comfort stations, bathhouses, dining halls, summer kitchens, greenhouses, restrooms, and rustic shelters. When walking was not a convenient way to reach pleasure grounds, they were accessible through the use of public transportation and later automobiles. However, once in the pleasure ground, visitors were offered the opportunity to enjoy the rural pastoral landscape through meandering walks, carriageways, bridle paths, and rustic bridges.

Balance: The Underlying Concept of the Nineteenth-Century Pleasure Grounds

The nineteenth-century public park movement, starting with New York's Central Park, allowed residents to connect to nature through picturesque pastoral landscapes. The rural pastoral landscape of pleasure grounds was embraced both in the major east-coast cities of the United States and the newly established towns of Kansas. The pastoral landscape was seen, on one hand, by the residents of large cities as a place to escape from the difficult conditions of urban life. On the other hand, for settlers of the newly established states like Kansas, it was seen as a work of man, a sign of modernity and civilization. Pleasure grounds of the nineteenth century responded to three centuries of Americans' collective memory of communing with nature, as well as to what MacKaye called the desire to be "the pioneer, the husbandman, [and] the townsman," which are "the three sides of Americans' inward nature."⁶⁵⁷ The underlying concept of American pleasure grounds was a *balance* between:

- untouched landscape and highly artificial context of cities i.e. the pastoral landscape;
- the sublime and the beautiful i.e. the picturesque;
- wilderness and civilization i.e. rural;
- spiritual and material comfort; and
- the New-World unfamiliar environment and the collective memory of the Old World; in other words, a balance between what America was and who settlers used to be (Figure 83).

⁶⁵⁷ Benton MacKaye, "A Wilderness Philosophy," *Living Wilderness* 11 (1946): 2.

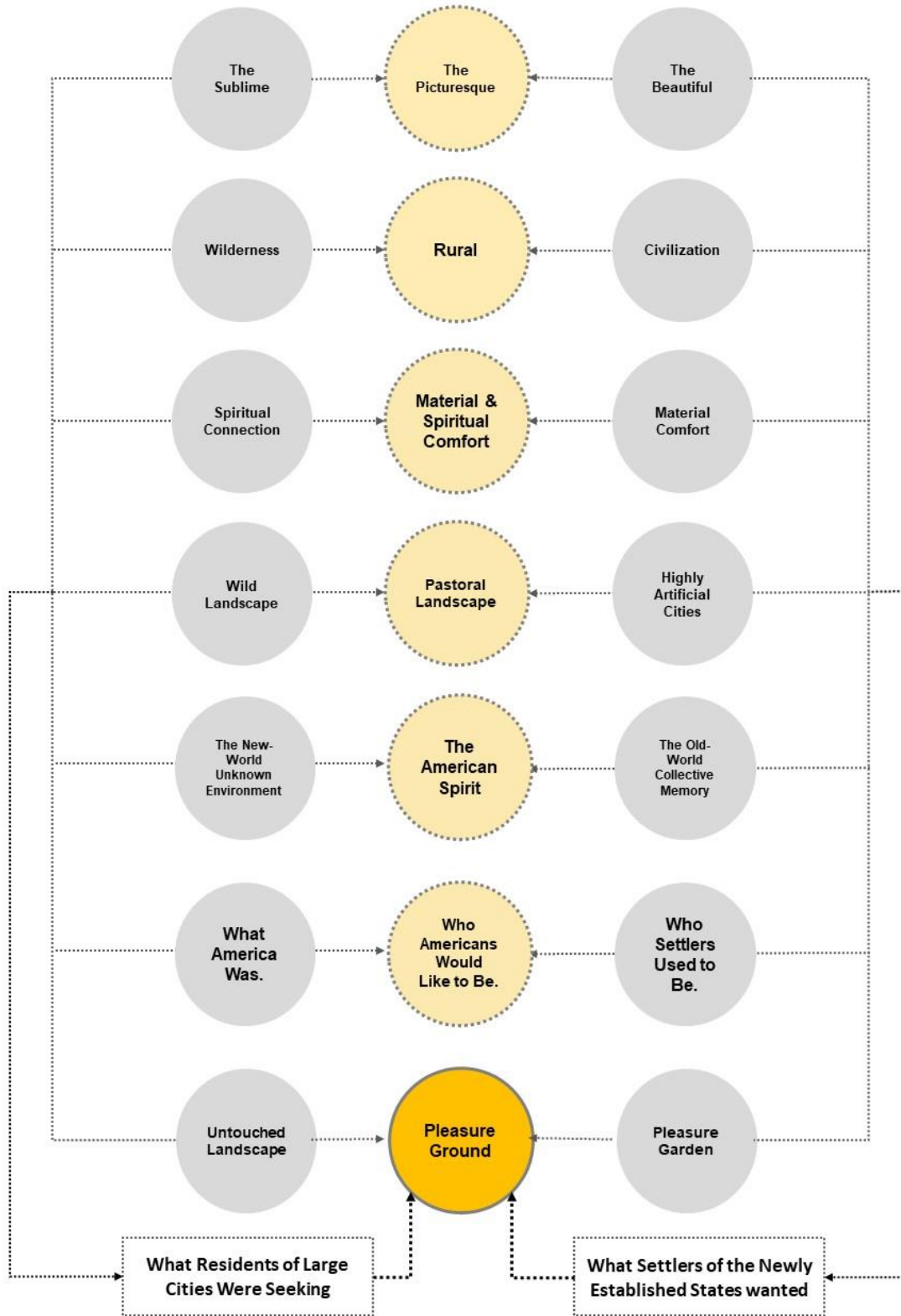


Figure 83- *Pleasure Ground Movement Underlying Concept, 2019*, Illustration by Author. Courtesy Dorna Eshрати Personal Digital Archive.

Conclusion

The opening of Birkenhead Park in Liverpool, England as the first urban park accessible for all classes of people, the rural cemeteries with their passive green recreational spaces, and the design of New York's Central Park were the driving forces of the nineteenth-century pleasure ground movement in North America. The movement first attracted attention in major cities of the east coast where the rural pastoral landscapes of the pleasure grounds were a response to the challenges of living in dense urban environments. Modeled after New York's Central Park, visitors to nineteenth-century pleasure grounds could enjoy fresh air and recreational activities such as strolling, picnicking, listening to concerts, and boating. For residents of the smaller towns of the newly-established states such as Kansas, these places were a symbol of modernity and civilization and were widely embraced in the state. Pleasure grounds also helped to boost Kansans' sense of pride in their cities and generate economic revenues. Newspapers, city officials, businesses – most notably railroad companies, property owners and other public-spirited citizens were the main advocates of creating and improving parks in Kansas in the nineteenth century.

Despite the different motives, the pleasure grounds of Kansas and those of the east coast had almost the same characteristics and hosted the same kind of leisure activities, sports, and community gatherings. Their pastoral picturesque landscapes had meandering walkways and allées surrounded by groves of trees, meadows, shrubberies, flowerbeds, lakes, and rivers. They were equipped with amenities including bathhouses, bathing beaches, baseball diamonds, bicycle race tracks, dancing pavilions, children's playgrounds, outdoor auditoriums, and animal exhibits or zoos. These amenities were accessible by foot, public transportation, and later private automobiles. Such spaces and features of pleasure grounds have remained relevant since the

nineteenth century and are still being enjoyed in today’s city parks. And that is why Kansans “never breed regrets” for creating “too many parks.”⁶⁵⁸

This study focused primarily on historical newspapers. Future research could deepen the narrative by collecting additional data from other sources such as city documents. A couple of pleasure grounds in the cities that have been at the forefront of the movement – such as Topeka, Wichita and Hutchinson – could be selected as case studies and investigated in detail. Also, thematic research can usefully expand this research including the:

- role of women in the park movement in Kansas;
- effects of racial segregation and park usage in Kansas;
- relation of transportation development on the pleasure ground movement in Kansas; and
- transformation of pleasure grounds later in twentieth-century Kansas and the effect of World War I and the 1930s New Deal programs on them.

This study aimed to highlight Kansans’ extraordinary effort in shaping their living environment and bring attention to the rich but often neglected history of man-made landscapes in Kansas. Throughout the time this research was done, many people expressed surprise at the choice of Kansas as a case study for historical research on designed landscapes. A typical reaction was wide eyes and hesitantly questioning “why Kansas?” They ask because today’s parks do not look particularly special or remarkable. However, the results of this study show the unexpected richness of designed landscapes and people’s eagerness to make Kansas cities and towns beautiful through the nineteenth-century park movement. It is hoped that this research will be the start of a shift in

⁶⁵⁸ In an article called “Never Too Many Parks,” *The Jewell County Monitor* wrote in 1918 that “some things are never enjoyed in excess. They never breed regrets. . . whoever heard of a city that learned, as it grew from youth to maturity, that it had too many parks? where is the municipality that is sorry it has so many pleasure grounds for the use of its citizens? was there ever a town which felt that its children enjoyed too much room for their play, its invalids too many quiet nooks for rest and recuperation, its aged and infirm more than sufficient outdoor space for their special wants?”

attitudes toward our less represented landscapes and help to realize the day in which people would not only say but firmly believe “why *not* Kansas?” Every landscape matters. As academics and professionals, we should act upon the concept of inclusion and promote underrepresented landscapes through design, research, and community engagement. Such efforts can help stimulate a change in our stereotypical images of underrepresented places, making them prized locations for travel and living, boosting local people’s sense of attachment, and making small towns and cities again a source of pride for their residents.

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“Yeoman Day in Park.” *The Salina Daily Union*, Salina, Kansas, August 15, 1905, 4. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/113167574/>.

Appendix A: Total Number of Records with the Keyword “Pleasure Ground” in the Historical Newspaper Archive (1850- 1920)

Location	Matches	Location	Matches
New York	4,245	Connecticut	284
Pennsylvania	3,924	Utah	282
Kansas	3,763	Arizona	271
California	2,750	Tennessee	243
Illinois	1,191	Florida	207
Vermont	1,116	Delaware	188
Indiana	778	Mississippi	172
Montana	729	Virginia	158
North Carolina	721	South Carolina	150
New Jersey	720	Hawaii	146
Massachusetts	700	South Dakota	140
Iowa	625	West Virginia	120
Ohio	584	Georgia	114
Louisiana	526	Washington	105
Missouri	523	Arkansas	102
Wisconsin	487	Oklahoma	86
District of Columbia	465	Nevada	57
Maryland	436	North Dakota	56
Oregon	410	New Mexico	46
Alabama	388	Idaho	35
Nebraska	371	New Hampshire	20
Minnesota	332	Rhode Island	9
Michigan	296	Wyoming	8
Kentucky	294	Maine	7
Texas	291	Colorado	2

Appendix B: Kansas Towns That Had or Proposed Pleasure Ground(s)⁶⁵⁹

City	County	Population in 1890
Kansas City	Wyandotte County	38316
Topeka	Shawnee County	31007
Wichita	Sedgwick County	23853
Leavenworth	Leavenworth County	19768
Atchison	Atchison County	13963
Fort Scott	Bourbon County	11946
Lawrence	Douglas County	9997
Hutchinson	Reno County	8682
Arkansas City	Cowley County	8347
Emporia	Lyon County	7551
Parsons	Labette County	6736
Pittsburg	Crawford County	6697
Ottawa	Franklin County	6248
Salina	Saline County	6149
Newton	Harvey County	5605
Winfield	Cowley County	5184
Junction City	Geary County	4502
Wellington	Sumner County	4391
Abilene	Dickinson County	3547
El Dorado	Butler County	3339
Olathe	Johnson County	3294
Independence	Montgomery County	3127
Manhattan	Riley County	3004
Paola	Miami County	2943
Chanute	Neosho County	2826
Clay Center	Clay County	2802
Holton	Jackson County	2727
Girard	Crawford County	2541
Galena	Cherokee County	2496
Hiawatha	Brown County	2486
Beloit	Mitchell County	2455
Kingman	Kingman County	2390
Coffeyville	Montgomery County	2282
Burlington	Coffey County	2239
Garnett	Anderson County	2191
Cherryvale	Montgomery County	2104
Marion	Marion County	2047
Rosedale	Wyandotte County	2000
Larend	Pawnee County	1861
Dodge City	Ford County	1763

City	County	Population in 1890
Lyons	Rice County	1754
Iola	Allen County	1706
Caldwell	Sumner County	1642
Sterling	Rice County	1641
Ellsworth	Ellsworth County	1620
Harper	Haper County	1579
Garden City	Finney County	1490
Burlingame	Osage County	1472
Pratt	Pratt County	1418
Sabetha	Brown County	1368
Humboldt	Allen County	1361
Yates Center	Woodson County	1305
Baxter Springs	Cherokee County	1248
Hays	Ellis County	1242
Florence	Marion County	1229
Alma	Wabaunsee County	1125
Cherokee	Crawford County	1087
Cawker City	Mitchell County	898
Kiowa	Barber County	893
Saint John	Stafford County	865
Kinsley	Edwards County	771
Smith Center	Smith County	767
Mulvane	Sedgwick County	724
Sedgwick	Harvey County	652
Cader Vale	Chautauqua County	640
Burr Oak	Jewell County	597
Attica	Harper County	553
Waverly	Coffey County	548
Colony	Anderson County	474
Moran	Allen County	463
Meade	Meade County	457
Hartford	Lyon County	441
Bonner Springs	Johnson County	400
White City	Morris County	391
Argonia	Sumner County	376
Perry	Jefferson County	375
Almena	Norton County	366
Alta Vista	Wabaunsee County	320
Morrill	Brown County	308
Netawaka	Jackson County	267
Altoona	Wilson County	265
Bluff City	Harper County	194

⁶⁵⁹ Populations in 1890 retrieved from www.population.us

Appendix C: Sample Table of Codes, Categories and Themes of Advocates and Motivations of Creating Pleasure Grounds in Larger Cities of Kansas

Advocates and Motivations of Creating Pleasure Grounds in Larger Cities of Kansas (Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, Leavenworth, Atchison, Fort Scott, Lawrence, Hutchinson, Arkansas City, Emporia, Parsons, Pittsburg, Ottawa, Salina, Newton, Winfield, Junction City, and Wellington)			
Primary Coding	Categories	Themes	Associated Quotes with Their Citations
-Newspaper wrote many articles on the advocacy of pleasure ground developments and maintenance as well as events and activities held in them.	Newspapers	Advocates of creating pleasure grounds in Kansas	<p>- Topeka Commissioners were trying to provide the city with “a park system” by which there would be “adequate parks in every section of every city. Commissioner Stotts had direct supervision over the city park system.</p> <p>-<i>The Atchison Daily Champion</i> in 1885 argued that “one of the several mistakes made in the laying out of Atchison, was in not setting apart, forever, ground for a public park; a spot of earth dedicated to rest and ramble while grass grows and water runs.” <i>The Champion</i> hoped that “the island” on the South Street would be developed into a “satisfactory pleasure ground” through successfully implementing “a good original plan made by a competent landscape gardener” the newspaper person proposed that: “a park should be ‘laid out’ for good and all, before the ground is touched. To take a naturally attractive spot and dig and chop around in it at random, after the fashion our streets are worked, year after year, is a waste of money which results in disfigurement. A plan, however simple, should be taken at the start and adhered to.”</p> <p>- <i>The Fort Scott Weekly Monitor</i> believed that “every city should have parks. They are just as necessary and just as valuable in small towns as in large ones” and advertised in 1902 for the Buck Run ground to be transformed into a pleasure ground.</p> <p>The argument was supported by the citizens of the city and put in this way: “Upper Buck Run valley is a natural park and should be converted into that use by the city. It has no great value as residence property and it is so located that it can never become the site for the erection of factories. . . Such a park would be one of the very best investments that the city could make.” “Large forest trees are plentiful and the undulating surface of the ground eliminates the drainage question. A great part of the earth in this section is covered with a heavy growth of blue grass and it will require little except clearing the shrubbery away to make this one of the most beautiful natural parks in Kansas.” “At the time the matter was being publicly discussed the Monitor obtained interviews from some three dozen of the city’s most prominent business men and heaviest taxpayers, all of whom, with four exceptions, expressed themselves as highly in favor of the building of the park.” The opponents mostly wanted the money to be spent on roads improvement.</p> <p>-The Hutchinson Gazette brought attention to the matter of lacking a pleasure ground in the city in this way: “What would you think of the owner of a vast yard without a shrub or green spot upon it, who would reject a proposition to make it a flowery garden for a mere pittance [pittance], compared to the value of his possessions? Not much, would you? Hutchinson, as far as public pleasure ground is concerned, is in a position identical with that barren yard.”</p> <p>-The Ottawa Republic wrote in favor of improving the condition of Forest Park in this way: “We like to see consistence, we like to see public officers obliging and all that and we like sheep also. But we like the beautiful, and picturesque, as well, and hang us if we can see any consistency, or beauty or picturesque in the turning of a lot of sheep – several hundred of ’em – into Forest Park, as was done by action of somebody in the council, last week. Forest Park is a pleasure ground belonging to people in which the people take great pride, and where the people would have no more idea of pasturing and corralling sheep, then they would have of pasturing and corralling the Common Council there. Said people have played the everlasting mischief</p>

		<p>with the ball ground, and raised hob and ornamental devices on the trotting track, and otherwise made havoc all over the park. Who was the originator of this original scheme anyhow?"</p> <p>-In 1872, The Salina County Journal asked the city councilman to work toward improvements of the park by leasing it: ""If the city councilmen would farm let our city park for a period of year, requiring the lessee to plant trees, lay out walks and other wise improve the premises, they would add laurels to their brows which would be the pride of their posterity. Goodnow, Carver, Wilson, Stanley and Murphy, lovers of the beautiful, awaken yourselves upon this project and make an order to that effect." The <i>Salina Herald</i> also advocated "a fine park" for Salina by calling "a metropolis without a park as a crown without jewels." It wrote to its readers that: "Let not our interest in this important matter abate until our fair city with her schools and colleges and wide, shaded, commercial thoroughfares possesses also that crowning diadem of thrifty citizenship, a fine park, for now the question is of easy solution, but later on it will become a matter of extreme solicitude."</p> <p>-In proposing locations for city park and fairground in Parsons, it was suggested not to merge the two places together. <i>The Daily Eclipse</i> wrote on this matter that "fairground and a public pleasure grounds for the city are entirely different, and although we want them both, yet we want each in its order."</p> <p>-To provide Wellington with more parks, <i>The Wellington Journal</i> asked its reader to act upon it by approaching the city councilmen: "Keep urging the matter of a city park. Speak to the councilmen from your ward the next time you meet them, and give them to understand that you want a pleasure ground of some sort. The improvement that has been made in the appearance of Wellington within the past four years is wonderful, and the strangers refer to the general appearance of the city in flattering terms. But Wellington is short in the matter of parks. She hasn't a single pleasure ground, and when strangers ask about the parks here they express surprise that such a beautiful and prosperous city has no park. There are places close in that look unattractive now that can be made attractive with the expenditure of a few hundred dollars, and satisfy the longing of the people for a park. . . If the people will urge it upon the councilmen, some favorable action will be taken. The is another quarter of a block of ground where the city wells are located, and a very attractive small park could be made there for a very small outlay." Same petitions for a park Wellington were continued to be published suggesting possible tracts to be purchased and converted into a park. It was repeatedly asked that the council should "take the JOURNAL'S advice" and "give the people a park." In 1909, <i>The Wellington Daily News</i> proposed modeling after Arkansas City and forming "an inter-city baseball league" which required "very little time and practically no expense" The newspaper argued that "teams from the different stores and offices . . . could play evening games and thus insure a substantial income from their games. The money from the games could be used as it was at Arkansas City, in establishing a fine park in Wellington, a resort where visiting crowds could be entertained and where entertainments of all kinds could be had. It would be a credit to the city and would give Wellington an advantage she does not now have."</p>
<p>- Park commissioners advocates for park developments in newspaper articles - They lead the park improvements projects - City commissioners used public funds and proposed buying tracks of land to be turned into pleasure grounds (Heathwood Park, KCKS)</p>	<p>City officials</p>	<p>-“The city commissioners when they bought the tract of land that now makes the playground at Heathwood Park did citizens a service that is reaping a rich harvest in the pleasure it affords the people who live in the vicinity.”</p> <p>-However, in 19010 residents in the eastern part of Wichita asked the city commissioners to “establish a benefit district and apportion for the cost to each of them for the purchase of a small tract of land in that vicinity to be used as a park,” The request was questioned by the mayor doubting that “no provision in the commission law that would permit of the city buying the tract for a park, but he would be willing to accede to the wishes of the petitioners if the law permitted such an act. The matter was according submitted to the city attorney who was asked to give his opinion as to the rights of the city to purchase parks in this manner at the next meeting of the board.”</p>

		<p>-In 1917, The Wichita Beacon brought its audience attention to the past efforts of city officials in this way: "Do you stop to think when you enjoy an outing in one of Wichita's parks that all that ground, those swings for the kiddies, the comfortable benches and the tables for your lunch did not " just happen" there, but were planned for in advance by the city fathers for your comfort?"</p> <p>-<i>The Jeffersonian Gazette</i> suggested that the work of Councilman Fred W. Read "for converting Lawrence parks from dumps for dead dogs and empty cans to sylvan shades fit for the rambles of the gods or of the fair daughters" of Lawrence deserved building memorial statute of him .</p> <p>-In 1915, "a movement to have the city buy Marvel Park was initiated at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce . . . Different members told the advantages that would come if the big pleasure ground on the east banks of Labette creek was owned by the city and a committee was appointed to inquire into the feasibility of the plan." <i>The Parsons Daily Sun</i> published a short article written by five member of the community supporting the movement and encouraged its reader to act upon it: "'Recreation' is the fourth great essential need of human nature. First food, then raiment, then shelter, then recreation. The city of Parsons has food, raiment, shelter, but not a suitable place for recreation. A vote for Marvel Park means giving to Parsons citizens the fourth great essential need, recreation – a playground for our children and a pleasure ground for the grownups. Our merchants spend hundreds of dollars yearly inviting the farmers to com and leave their money with them. What have we to offer them outside cold business when they take a day off and come to Parsons? --- (A hand-shake, and 'What will you have today?') Tax payers, fellow citizens! 'Wake up' and get behind this Marvel Park Proposition! It means a bigger and better Parsons! 'Get busy,' so we can show more of the right kind of hospitality to the good people who till the soil. With the right kind of spirit, and a place for the farmer and this neighborhood to feel at home when they come, we will have them coming by the hundreds instead of a 'baker's dozen.' Think ahead! Picture it out for yourself with Marvel Park and Forest Park connected with a bridge on Broadway, and a beautiful driveway --- with Labette creek widened so we can have Belle Isle Lagoon of our own. Think what this means as an added attraction and for our own pleasure. Joplin has her lakeside and electric park. What would Kanas City be without her beautiful parks and boulevards? The purchase of marvel park, which can be secured for a nominal sum, will prove a splendid investment and another big step for parsons."</p>
<p>-Some business such as railway and electric companies, banks, land development companies promoted by purchasing and owning pleasure grounds.</p>	<p>Companies and businesses</p>	<p>-The Gulf Railway along with Kansas City and Fort Scott bought eighty acres of land in Jonson county, Kansas, eight miles south of Kansas City which became the Merriam Park in the early 1880s. It was estimated that \$100,000 would be expended by the railroad company for its improvements. <i>Fort Scott Weekly Monitor</i> appreciated the effort of the railway company for improving the park condition in this way: "The officers of the Gulf railway, especially J. E. Lockwood, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, under whose direction the park has been fitted up, are entitled to great credit and will be remembered gratefully be the multitudes who in all future time will enjoy these magnificent grounds."</p> <p>- <i>The Wichita Beacon</i> advertised in February 1902 that "The Wichita Street Railway company is going to build a park some place in Wichita this summer" for which four different alternatives were suggested as the site for the pleasure ground.</p> <p>- The Topeka Land and Development company owned Auburndale pleasure ground.</p> <p>-25 years after its establishment by Mr. J. W. Hartzell, people of North Topeka decided to "resurrect Garfield park" by purchasing it from the Bank of Topeka, its owner at the time, at a cost of \$8,000 making an approximate cost per lot of about \$1.75, and turning it over to the city free of charge. "The park has undergone a vicarious career; it has had numerous changes of fortune and ownership. The Paramore estate which lost it to the Bank of</p>

		<p>Topeka on a mortgage owned it for a number of years. Foreclosure proceedings were instituted and the Bank of Topeka took possession of a defaulted mortgage in 1897. In the fall of that year Marshall's band took possession, giving two mortgages to the bank aggregating \$998. The band retained ownership until the year before the flood when the bank of Topeka again took over the property. The band had not been able to pay off the mortgage, the receipts from the concerts were not sufficient and all that was done was to keep up the taxes, the repairs, and the expenditure of considerable money in the erection of the casino."</p> <p>-Vice President Meyers of Topeka street railway mentioned about Garfield Park that "they were glad to have the park, that they wanted to encourage the people to travel as much as possible on the cars."</p> <p>-The Hutchison streetcar company owned the city Riverside Park. The company planned the park to "be equipped regardless of expense, the projectors merely aiming at making this the most popular and handsome place of recreation in the state."</p>
<p>-People were willing to pay for parkland purchase, improvements or maintenance through fundraising or taxations. Also, people shared stocks in owning parks. -Women played an important role in developing and improving parks in Kansas.</p>	<p>Public-spirited citizens</p>	<p>-In 1884, Mr. J. W. Hartzell supplied the city of Topeka with what <i>The Topeka State Journal</i> called a "long felt want" a resort pleasure ground. The place was to be named Avon Park but was claimed to be known as "Hartzell Park" Unit it was finally named as "Garfield Park."</p> <p>-Dr. Eva Harding, a medical doctor was a major advocates of park development in Topeka. One of her proposals was for women of Topeka to purchase Garfield Park for a reasonable price and call it 'Woman's Park.' She thought that it would be an ideal pleasure ground for women and children especially, though exclusively." She suggested that "the park should be free, offer free band concerts and permit intoxicating liquors to be used in the ground under the management of women."</p> <p>-In 1905, people of North Topeka were willing to pay for the purchase of the Garfield Park and turn it over to the city for management with the expectation that the board of park commissioners would take care of and manage it as they did other city parks. They wanted to "put up the cash necessary without calling on any outside aid or soliciting subscriptions from any other part of the city."</p> <p>-The role of the donors of Topeka's Gage Park was appreciated by <i>The Topeka State Journal</i> in this way: "Although the city has spent a considerable [considerable] sum of money in developing this park, it never would have been in existence had it not been for the munificence of the late Mr. G.G. Gage, nor would it take on the attractiveness that it will were it not for the desires and the generosity of his widow. Even on her bed of pain, she apparently has no thoughts except those which relate to the bettering of the conditions of her fellow cityans [citizens]."</p> <p>-In 1911, Gage Park was owned by people of Topeka and <i>The Topeka State Journal</i> reflected on public willingness to sell the park for "a fair price and under arrangement whereby the payment can be made during a period of years" was called as an indication of "the large public-spiritedness of the Topekans." City commissioners promised to buy an additional ninety acres of land for Gage park. However, Commissioner Miller declared that he would not vote for the purchase of the extra ninety acres at Gage park "unless the commissioners agrees at the same time to purchase the Nicole tract for an East side park." He believed that: "What we need is more parks. We need some place where we can take our coats off and act natural. What we want on the East side is an athletic field with a grandstand, a swimming pool, a wading pool and other features that will be used to the best advantage by East side resident." Commissioner Miller eagerness to promote a park for east side Topeka was driven from public demands. Dr. Eva Harding was "at the head of the movement and a playground for East side children form her bed at St. Francis Hospital where she has been ill for the past week or two.</p> <p>-In 1903, C. F. Drake wrote the following proposition offering to give to the city the tract of land of city blocks, with the addition of a street: "Fort Scott, Kas., October 19, 1903. To the Honorable Mayor and Council of the City of Fort Scott:</p>

Gentleman: Believing that a park properly maintained will materially contribute to the comfort and enjoyment of the people of this city, and in order to supply the same with as small cost to the city as possible, I propose to donate to the city of Fort Scott the tract of land (containing about four acres) located directly north of Mercy hospital, with the exception of a strip of land forty-five feet in width off the south side of said tract, twenty feet of which strip is to be donated to Mercy hospital and twenty-five feet to be used as a roadway between the park and the hospital grounds. I propose to make this donation on the following conditions:

First—That the land donated shall be used for park purposes only, and that the city shall exercise strict police regulations over the same.

Second—That the city improve the grounds by placing a suitable fountain therein, constructing proper walks through the same, trimming the trees and making such other improvements in the way of flower beds, etc., as will add to the beauty of the park and contribute to the pleasure of the citizens of Fort Scott.

Third—That the city shall construct suitable sandstone walks on the north, east and west sides of said tract of land and park out into the streets a distance of 18 feet from the line of said tract of land, and shall construct proper curbing and also construct a retaining wall where necessary.

Fourth—That the park shall be known as “Drake Park,” which name shall be placed and permanently maintained over the main entrance or on the fountain.

Fifth—That in case the city fails to improve said grounds as indicated above within a reasonable time, or if it fails to properly maintain and protect the same as a public park, the title to said land shall revert to me, my heirs or assigns. Very respectfully
C. F. Drake.”

The Forts Scott Daily Monitor was in “the least doubt but the council will gladly accept the gift.”

-The Hutchison women’s club held a meeting in 1911 in the library of the city with the subject “Civic Improvements” in which improvement in pleasure grounds and parks and the role of women in doing so were largely discussed. One of the speakers was Dr. Cady who mentioned that “the East were fur in advance of the West in their civic improvements, that they seem to realize the need for such . . . and that in every large city were parks, pleasure grounds all free to the children. Dr. Cady then asked why such cold not be done here where we had the creek on whose banks many very pretty places could be found for an ideal pleasure ground, not only for children but the older people [people] as well. Mrs. C. Elder read a paper on “Civic Improvement” and highlighted the works done in other cities and women’s roles in realizing them; she said that “Paris was by far cleaner than any city in this country. But In New York was seen the greatest work that had been done in any large city in this country. There the club women and everyone seemea [seem] to work for one end and that is a clean city and they have succeeded wonderfully. In Chicago the ladies are waging a fight against the smoke and they are positive that in the end they will be victorious.” Then Mrs. Eider told of “the Junior Civic League which exists at Leavenworth under the supervision of Mrs. C. C. Goddard who is president of the Kansas State Federation of Women’s Clubs. This league of young people has done some very effective work and why not such a league in this city. Mrs. Elder asked that every good man and woman in this city strive for a cleaner city.”

- Mayor F. L. Martin confessed that the women who were in charge of the Hutchinson’s Elmdale Park “made it a pretty little place out of nothing but a big hole in the ground.” That there is a park there instead of a dumping ground was due to the energy and the progressive spirit of a band of women in the neighborhood. Elmdale Park Association was run by women. Mrs. M. V. Wetzell, 327 East Bigger street, was one of the women who helped rescue the land. . “When we took charge of the land,” Mrs. Wetzell, said, “the railroad was hauling dirt out there for filling. Then other persons began to haul dirt and pretty soon there were a lot of big holes there that were full of water all summer.

-A group of women form Ottawa made a petition for what shall be known as the Ladies Park of the City of Ottawa. The petition included specified details of the how the park should be laid out. They concluded their petition in this way: “we, the undersigned ladies of the city of Ottawa, most earnestly and respectfully ask the careful consideration of this important

			<p>matter, trusting and praying that you will give and extend to us the means necessary to commence ornamenting this Park in nature's most beautiful and grandest robes, which will be a most significant sign of wealth, and make this city, the one city, of all cities, our homes. Observation teaches us that something else is necessary for the growth and happiness of a people, than the mere raising of beef and pork, corn and wheat, which things are necessary for the support of life, which are easily supplied in this land of plenty. But, there is another portion of men and women, that is higher and beyond corn and potatoes, beef and pork, a something which tells as of nature and nature's God, a something above and beyond fashion and style of dress. Observation teaches us that something else is necessary for the growth and happiness of a people, than the mere raising of beef and pork, corn and wheat, which things are necessary for the support of life, which are easily supplied in this land of plenty. But, there is another portion of men and women, that is higher and beyond corn and potatoes, beef and pork, a something which tells as of nature and nature's God, a something above and beyond fashion and style of dress. Indeed we are told by Jesus Christ Himself that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of the lilies which we shall plant in this garden of flower.</p> <p>We again ask your honorable body, to give this matter serious consideration and grant sufficient aid to have the lands within the Park surveyed and platted into avenues, walks, also to cause the turf to be removed from those avenues and walks and placed upon the low places which may be found on the line of the outside border, to be set with evergreens.</p> <p>We are aware, that this great work cannot be done and finished at once, that it is the work of years, and rebut little money at times, to carry it forward. But the plating of the ground, the removal of the soil from the walks, the building of a stone outlet to make the lake, and the setting out of plants to form the evergreen border is a work that must be done at once, which allows your petitioners to go to work at once in preparing the beds and mounds and the planting of flowers and shrubbery, and other appurtenances which may suggest themselves to our consideration, pledging ourselves to do all the floral and ornamental work of said Park without aid from the city, requiring, however, a controlling power in the management of the affairs connected with said Park, and said Park shall be known as the Ladies Park of the City of Ottawa.</p> <p>With high respect we remain your obedient servants.</p> <p>Mesdames W H Clark, Lyman Reid, H F Sheldon, E M Sheldon, Milo R Harris, H C Branson, J C Shomo, H W Gilley, Sandford Topping, Frank E Crane, E T Snyder, G S Holt, A Franklin, H H Morrill, J W Pollock, A L Hamblin, A W Adams, J P Laird, Horace J Smith, Dillard C Hanes, H A Dunn, L R Crawford, A B Walsh, J D Chamberlain, Misses Julia M Walsh, Mattie Dunn, Bessie Franklin and Scott.”</p> <p>-People and companies who were “connected with the Forest Park Stock Co.” were going to attend the grand opening of Pittsburg's Forest Park. They were from both Pittsburg and across the US. Some stockers were C. Willard Mack and Maude Leone from Pittsburg, KS; Miss Hurst from Atchison, KS; Mr. and Mrs. Dorenta and the Bickett family from New Orleans; The Columbine Trio and Charles Norris from St. Louis; Hayward and Hayward, and Gillihan and Belmore from Omaha, and Miss Clara Hazel Chicago.</p> <p>-One example of more formal role of women in pleasure ground movement in Kansas was the appointment of Mrs. F. W. Sellers as Wellington's city park commissioner in 1916. She was “well known for her interest and effective labors toward providing wellington with a handsome and spacious public park” on the east side of the city.</p> <p>-In the attempt to beautify Newton's parks for Spring 1898 it was suggested that “the citizens, who have schemes for the improvement of the parks or anything else in the beautification line, should submit them in writing to the park committee.”</p> <p>-The park improvement committee of Newton's Commercial club was out with subscription lists at the drug store to raise money for building the “Sand Creek dam” not only to beautify the city but also to male bathing, boating and fishing possible in the Athletic Park. The committee wanted “this splendid improvement go through with a rush. One of the committee</p>
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<p>-Land properties turned their property into pleasure grounds</p>	<p>Property owners</p>		<p>-Mound Park in Leavenworth, a 40 acres "first-class pleasure ground" was owned by George Wells who was always on the grounds in his office on the shore of the ground's beautiful lake.</p> <p>-Carey's Park was a 150-acre pleasure ground in Hutchison lying along and back from Arkansas river, adjoining Riverside park on the east and owned by Mr. Carey. <i>The Hutchison Gazette</i> claimed that "after the \$50,000 park bond proposition was defeated, he immediately set to work to make a vast garden of the land which he has owned for several years but which has been adopted for no particular purpose heretofore. The improvement plan started in started in spring 1913 and would go on "until one of the finest free parks in the west" got constructed and equipped. Mr. Carey said that his park would not be not on the market and under no consideration would he consider selling it. The ladies used to invite new members to association and hold social events which were "expected to promote interest in the Elmdale Park and in the public welfare" of its district.</p> <p>-The Frank Manny's pleasure ground in Winfield was visited by t Winfield Daily Courant columnist who describe the ground as follows: "Frank has some six or seven acres of nice land beautifully shaded, which he is fixing up in first-class style. Flowerbeds, rockeries, drives, walks and lawns are being made to beautify the grounds and make them, in truth, pleasure grounds. When completed, this will be one of the most popular resorts in or around the city, and we doubt, not but our citizens will make good use of it in the way of picnic parties. We will say more of it when completed."</p> <p>-Winfield's Riverside Park ground was purchased in the early 1880s by Capitan Lowrv, M. L. Robinson, Captain S. C. Smith, J. L. Horning, A. Spotswood and M. L. Read, who gave it to the city free, "for the purpose of holding public gathering of all kinds, Sunday and public school picnics, camp-meetings and other pleasure and business assemblage." <i>Winfield Courier</i> mentioned that "these gentlemen have shown a public spirit that is commendable, and deserve, as they have received, the thanks of the people of the city, for whom they have done so much."</p>
<p>-Adding small parks and playgrounds for children was favored over enlarging major pleasure grounds. - Spending tax money on park purposes was questioned in Topeka</p>		<p>Critics of pleasure ground developments</p>	<p>-There were frequent petitions asking for establishing new parks for the areas of Kansas major cities that had not had a park. People of east Topeka pushed the commissioners to prioritize the plan for a park for the east side over enlarging Gage Park. Dr. Eva Harding headed the campaign and stated that "The rich man's park [Gage Park] can wait now. The poor children have never been able to go six miles to Gage park and it would appear that they will not be able to see the animals or exquisite flower beds there for years to come."</p> <p>-Wichita's west side property owners were "unanimously in favor of a park" and The Wichita Beacon declared that "the movement will be pushed."</p> <p>-"400 persons protested against enlarging Huntoon Park in Topeka and presented a petition of remonstrance at the meeting of the city council on Monday evening. . . The idea of the protestors was that on account of the present rate of taxes they couldn't well afford to expend money for park purposes at this time. The Topeka State Journal regretted the action and mentioned that "a very attractive pleasure ground" might have been the result of enlarging the park.</p>
<p>- Considering the parks of the cities of the east coast and Europe as models - Finding the same potentials that large cities of the West coast had for example the value of river fronts for park development</p>	<p>Competition among towns in beautifying cities and standing out in the region. It was attempted to model park improvements after cities of the west coast and sometimes smaller cities uses parks of</p>	<p>Motivations for creating pleasure grounds in Kansas</p>	<p>- "It is certain that the people of Kansas and Missouri have in Merriam Park as beautiful and convenient a pleasure ground as can be found in the west."</p> <p>- Pointing out the successful European river front development throughout history and the ignorance of such "potentials as fields for the landscape artist" in American cities. <i>The Kansas City Globe</i> described neglecting the value of river front was in the context of Kansas City, Kansas in this way: "The prime difficulty is the tardiness of the discovery that there was a river flowing by the city. That it had banks and that therein there was possibility of park and pleasure ground development richer than any other feature the town's fortunate location held out. While the civic sense of beauty was dormant. Before there was a dream that the town owed itself a duty to be beautiful, the gist natural feature was appropriated by railroads and other</p>

	<p>the larger cities of the state especially Kansas City as precedents)</p>	<p>ugly things, and when the modern sense of city charms arrived it found eviction of ugliness costly.”</p> <p>In 1913, <i>The Kansas City Globe</i> suggested that “it is not too late for Kansas city, Kansas, to avail itself of many of the advantages of river front landscapes.” The possibilities of developing river front park in the past and future of Kansas City, Kansas was mentioned as follows: “If the founders of Kansas city had been moved by the considerations which direct the makers of city plans of the present day, the Kaw river banks would have been reserved for parks and boulevards sufficient to meet the desires not only of the present population but for all time to come.</p> <p>Those who have laid out the industrial district in the blue valley count the modern dwellings and paved streets. Of no more consequence than the river itself which they hope to utilize for boats and fishing ,with spots here and there devoted to shaded parks, flower beds, and artistic walks.</p> <p>If the Kaw river must for some years to come yield to the aggressions of the industrial plants, we still have the Missouri river within the city limits with its hundreds of acres available for factory sites, parks and boulevards. The prospect that the government will dyke the Missouri from the Kaw to the water works plant, makes it expedient to hope that the Kansas city, Kansas , of a few years hence may see the realization of the best dreams of a city beautiful in a river front embellished with fine works of art, the pride and delight not only of those living today but of generations yet to come.”</p> <p>In 1917, the <i>Kansas City Globe</i> published statistics comparing the percentage of city acres comprising park properties where Kansas City stood among the “pleasure ground cities of the country” such as Los Angeles. Kanas City, KS was placed at the bottom of the list, while Kansas City, Mo, ranks seventh. To increase city acres comprising park properties in Kansas City, Kansas, the opportunity of building parks along river fronts was brought to attention.</p> <p>-The Farmers Advocate suggested to built a large-scale pleasure ground to act as a “state park” similar to the one which had been sought in Lincoln, Nebraska: “A state park is a laudable enterprise toward which our legislatures should direct their ambitions and votes. The State Park and Forestry Association of Nebraska has been advocating a state park to be located at the capital city (Lincoln) and it is only a question of a few years probably, at most , when this ideal of our enterprising citizens shall be realized. Here ground should be provided in large enough tracts to justify the name of a state park and the plans for trees and shrubs should be designed by a competent landscape gardener.”</p> <p>-Park in Topeka, which originally was supposed to be named as Avon Park, was hoped to become the “the most attractive spot in this section of continent” after its improvement plan was done.</p> <p>- To argue the development of the new Vinewood Park in Topeka in 1902, it was pointed out by advocates that “Kansas City has 165,000 population, and supports seven such parks, making one for each 23,000 of the population. Topeka has nearly 50,000 population, and ought to be able to afford one good park.” One year later in 1903, it was claimed that the park had “every kind of amusements that are to be had in other cities.”</p> <p>-In the Annual Report of Sam F. Stewart, commissioner of parks and public buildings in Wichita, it was reported that in the center of the Riverside Park there was a botanical garden surrounded patterned after the celebrated public gardens of Boston, which are the admiration of all visitors to that city.” The botanical garden of Riverside Park was called “equal in extent to the Boston public gardens and in a few years will be equally as attractive.” It was claimed that Wichita had “the attraction to draw the people, just as Paris, Berlin and other cities” and by “improving, its pleasure grounds and boulevards” Wichita was expected to “lead cities of its size and class in America in civic attractiveness.”</p> <p>-The necessity to develop a public park for Leavenworth was argued with a comparison to the condition of the city to that of the large cities of the US: “Every city in the country of any size whatever has one or more ‘berating places’, or in other words, public parks, where the stifled citizen can go, and, resting in the cooling shade, or floating upon the waters of the lake forget the cares and discomforts of the town. New York has its world-famous Central Park, Philadelphia its historic Fairmount, Chicago its</p>
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			<p>Lincoln, St. Louis its Shaw’s garden – every city has, with few exceptions, a place of rest and recreation for its people. Here the citizen is free to acs [?] – free to have a good time and enjoy himself; free to shake of the city’s dust and be relived from the incessant clatter of business. A park is a place in which to be comfortable, and that is the kind of a place we want and need in Leavenworth. As a matter of course, we have our fine drives along shaded avenues, and various places of resort, but we have no park, and that is what we should have.”</p> <p>-It was suggested that Kenwood tract along the Smokey River by nature had made a park and which if improved would become to Salina as Central park to New York, Tower Grove or Forest park to St. Louis, Lincoln or South park to Chicago.</p> <p>-In Newton’s parks beautification scheme, a modest approach compared to that of Kansas City was taken. The Evening Kansan reflected this as follows: “Of course, Newton cannot expend her thousands on her paths like Kansas City is doing at present, but she can do considerable in a modest way that will make her parks a pleasant retreat for her tired citizens.”</p> <p>-The “rejuvenation” of Parsons’ only park, Marvel Park, in 1920 was expected to “furnish the people with a place of recreation and amusement similar to that furnished the Kansas City public in Swope Park.” <i>Parsons Daily Republican</i> wrote that “it is true that Marvel Park is not of the magnitude of Swope Park, but neither is Parsons as large as Kansas City. The city of parsons does not need such a large park as Swope but it has ‘taken the bit in its teeth’ and proposes to make a genuine city playground out of the material it has.” With the completion of renovation plans the newspaper claimed that “Parsons will have a public park of which it can be proud ; it will be a municipal showplace</p>
<p>-Reporting the unique condition of park grounds by newspaper writers</p>	<p>Sense of pride in cities and/or the park grounds lead to enhancing the pleasure grounds conditions</p>		<p>-The improvements being made by “public spirited citizens” at the mouth of the Kaw in Kansas City, KS were aimed to elevate the place from a desolate ‘back yard’ appearance to a series of terraces and gardens.” The <i>Olathe Mirror</i> claimed that “the scheme to convert the bluff into a pleasure ground commends itself to every thoughtful citizens. Such a park would become famous in the world.”</p> <p>-Topeka’s City Park were repeatedly called “Central Park” possibly modeling after New York’s Central Park.</p> <p>- To refer to unique possession of the Gage Park by the city of the Topeka, <i>The Topeka State Journal</i> claimed that “if there is any city of the size of Topeka that has such a public park within its reach, it has not been discovered as yet, at least , in this section of the country.”</p> <p>-Winfield’s Riverside Park was called “without doubt, the finest place in the State for the holding of camp-meetings, as there are high and dry places for putting up of tents, and shaded by lordly monarchs of the forest, making it delight fully cool and pleasant in every way.”</p>
<p>-Pleasure grounds for fire fighters, insane asylum patients and troops camps -Pittsburg’s pleasure ground called G. A. R. Park and Reunion Grounds was acted as reunion ground for veterans.</p>	<p>Devoting a place for certain groups</p>		<p>-Pindy Conroy made a park just west of Kansas City hall, Kansas “destined to become a great pleasure ground for the weary fire fighters who are on the road.”</p> <p>-A tract of land was bought to be devoted to Topeka’s insane asylum to provide the “very much needed pleasure ground for female patients” and “give the requisite opportunity for utilizing the labor male patients as will be benefited by out-door work.”</p> <p>-Topeka’s pleasure grounds were suggested to be used for military camps</p>
<p>- Park improvements were done with a hope of future economic revenue for the park and its neighboring businesses. - Attracting new inhabitants to the city through park developments -Gate fees, amusement features and entertainment</p>	<p>Economic benefits</p>		<p>-W. B. Harrison, president of the Union National Bank in Wichita declared the riverside parks as the reason for his decision to move to Wichita: “When I was thinking of locating here, some friends drove me thru Riverside Park. While I had been in Wichita many times I had never before seen either the river or the park and I was surprised beyond expression. To may thought, the only drawback of any consequence this great southwest country has, is trees and water. In its river district Wichita has both, in prolific growth of trees and remarkable charm of stream. The natural beauty of Little River is hard to describe. It winds around curve after curve as gracefully as the neck of a swan. Its banks are covered with foliage and shaded with great oaks, cottonwoods and walnuts. Its bed is clean, and its water is cool and quite clear for this climate. Some two miles of this quite, silent, serviceable stream lies within the city limits, easy of access to the entire population. No</p>

<p>performances brought financial revenues to some of the pleasure grounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pleasure grounds increased the value of real estates neighboring them -Running pleasure grounds provided job opportunities for the citizens -It was advocated to purchase or devote lands to park purposes sooner than later due to the growing value of real estate. 			<p>city park in America offers such a convenient pleasure ground as this, or at such a price.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Garfield Park new manager, Col. P. W. Taylor, decided to give “one-half the gate fees above the expenses, to all societies who hold entertainments, and on all other days the one-half of gate fees, as above stated, shall be applied to some object of public charity, and all Sabbath service to be under the direction of the Young Men’s Christian Association.” -In 1905, <i>The Topeka State Journal</i> highlighted the poor condition of the Garfield Park at the time by recalling its former role in creating economic revenue for North of Topeka: “The waning popularity of Garfield has made itself felt to the business men on that side of the river. In the years past when Topeka held its band concerts, its Fourth of July celebrations and its Grocers and Butchers picnics out in the grove beside the Soldier, the business men found it a profitable undertaking to encourage as much of that kind of thing as possible. It put dollars in their pockets. The crowds stopped on the North side and bought things. It brought out of town people to that side of the river and they made purchases. It was found to be a good investment.” -Amusement promoters of Topeka’s pleasure grounds were “under contract with the city to pay over to it ten cents on every dollar they take in” to “turn enough money into the city to pay for all the improvements that have been made in these parks.” -The Wichita Beacon reported the increase of real estate value near the riverside park in 1909: “So popular has Riverside park become during the past two years that building lots in that vicinity are at a premium, and some of the finest residences in the city have been built in that vicinity recently.” In 1917, the newspaper reported the value of Wichita’s parks half a million. The real estate value alone of the city parks amounted to \$430,000, the equipment to \$ 2,324,03, the buildings to \$430,000, the collection in the zoo to \$ 2,805,41, the furniture to \$2,334,41 and the bath house to \$3,172.80. In 1917, the city expected to spend \$13,508.04 to run Wichita’s parks, which was \$3,000 more than the previous year. Also the role of parks in creating job opportunities was acknowledged in the same article. Five persons were employed to keep up the bathing beach alone; two life savers, one matron, one cashier and one locker man. There were five laborers at work all the time in the different parks of the city; both Linwood and Hyde Parks had keepers; there was a special florist who attended to the flowers in all the parks, while Riverside had an animal keeper, and a night policeman. -In 1872, the Leavenworth Times wrote in favor of a movement being made by people to turn a portion of the Government Reserve, the Fort Leavenworth Military Reservation , adjoining the city into a “breathing place” before the time “when the people of Leavenworth may have to pay a million of dollars to secure such a place for a park.” - Hutchinson’s West Side park was to be more of a beauty spot than a pleasure ground with improvement of its creek which expected to enhance property values. The cost of improvements was estimated approximately \$1,500. The property owners in the benefit district was planned to be taxed, from \$1 to \$1.75 a lot, according to the location of their properties with reference to the park. The property owners directly adjoining the park were “taxed twenty-five cents less than those living a block away. The appraisers decided this, on the theory that those a block or so away from the park derived greater benefit than those adjoining the park.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks as breathing places for cities - Physical, spiritual and moral benefits for people 	<p>-Other benefits</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Developing parks as “breathing spaces” for cities and towns was repeatedly mentioned in newspaper articles. <i>The Farmers Advocate</i> of Topeka referred to the ongoing attempt to create pleasure grounds but asked for more grounds: “Our cities are coming to see the need more and more of providing a breathing place and pleasure grounds for their citizens, and to that end are doing a good work in the way of park making. The ideal city should have one of these parks in every portion of the city where residences around. To secure such park sites it is very essential that our city councils act promptly and early in securing them before the advancing price of real estate makes their purchase impossible.” -<i>The Wichita Beacon</i> called investing in parks as “harvest in health and happiness. In an article entitled “What’s a park worth?” it highlighted the

			<p>spiritual and moral benefits of park for people: “The value of a city park is not expressed in the acres of land it contains nor in the dollars, and cents it costs. A park’s worth to a community is best measured in the good that it does. A public recreation spot and playground is a community asset. It is makes happier and healthier adults. It gladdens the hearts of children and makes of them natural and noble men and women. The city park beautiful is the only road back to nature that a city can have. It is a paying investment. It pays in happy, shouting children. In care-free and gleeful boys and girls. In invigorating frolic in the great out-of-doors. In smiles that partake of the sunshine. In fresh air which God made for mankind to live in and thrive in. In rest of the right sort. There are a few of the dividends from a well regulated city park. . . Who doesn’t love flowers and trees and flowing water? What tonic is better than the sight of a child at play or a mother at rest? . . Who can put a value on rest and exercise?”</p>
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Appendix D: Image Reprint Permissions

Title	Figure 1
Description	Asher Brown Durand, Painter. Pastoral Landscape, c. 1854-1861, Painting. Oil on Canvas. Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Accessed February 16, 2019
Link	https://collection.cmoa.org/objects/d4367e3e-cdff-46e7-8faa-987513337f3e
Copyright	© Public Domain
Contact	N/A
Permission Letter	
N/A	

Title	Figure 2
Description	Thomas Moran, Painter. Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, 1872, Painting. Oil on Canvas. 51.5" x 76". 84" x 144.25". National Museum of American Art, Washington, DC. Accessed February 16, 2019
Link	https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/grand-canyon-yellowstone-17832
Copyright	Smithsonian American Art Museum Lent by the Department of the Interior Museum
Contact	Tracy Baetz, Chief Curator, U.S. Department of the Interior Museum
Permission Letter	

RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Image Copyright

Baetz, Tracy L <tracy_baetz@ios.doi.gov>

Mon 4/6/2020 11:39 AM

To: Dorna Eshrati <dornaeshrati@ksu.edu>

1 attachments (695 KB)

Moran_INTR03001_Eshrati.pdf;

Dear Dorna Eshrati:

Thanks for your email inquiry which has come to me via Riche Sorensen at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Congratulations on the forthcoming publication of your dissertation! There are no fees for using the image of the Interior Museum's *Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone* in your upcoming scholarly publication, and you do have our permission to reprint it there. However, we do ask that you please review complete, sign, and return to me the attached PDF rights and reproductions request form as we do track usage of the image.

Please kindly credit the image as follows. *Please note the catalog number below.* The "L" # sometimes seen in the credit line at the Smithsonian American Art Museum refers to their incoming loan and is not the actual U.S. Department of the Interior Museum's catalog number for the piece:

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Thomas Moran (1837-1926), 1872
Oil on canvas, mounted on aluminum, 84" x 144.25"
U.S. Department of the Interior Museum, INTR 03001

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tracy Baetz

Title	Figure 3
Description	Thomas Cole, Painter. View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunder-storm (The Oxbow), Northampton Massachusetts, 1836, Painting. Oil on Canvas. 51.5" x 76". The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Accessed February 16, 2019
Link	https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/10497
Copyright	© Public Domain
Contact	N/A
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Title	Figure 4
Description	James Fuller Queen, Painter. Versailles Palace, 1845-1857, Painting. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Accessed February 16, 2019
Link	https://www.loc.gov/item/2014649051/
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Contact	N/A
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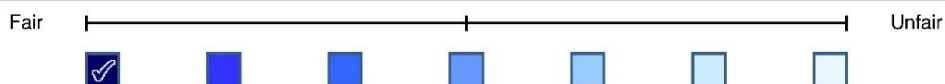
Fair Use Evaluation Documentation

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Name:	Dorna Eshrati
Job Title:	PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning
Institution:	Kansas State University
Title of Work Used:	Versailles Garden
Copyright Holder:	Unknown
Publication Status:	Unknown
Publisher:	Publisher not identified
Place of Publication:	Place not identified
Publication Year:	Between 1845 and 1875
Description of Work:	The image shows a view of Versailles with gardens and fountains in the foreground, and with tourists walking the grounds.
Date of Evaluation:	April 18, 2020
Date of Intended Use:	March 18, 2020

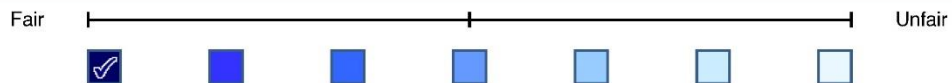
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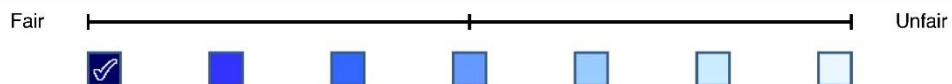
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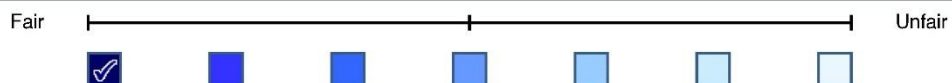
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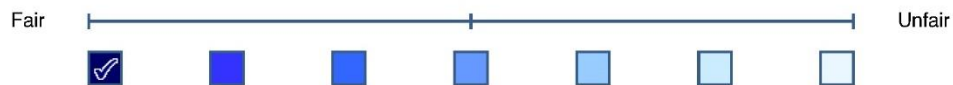
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[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

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Title	Figure 5
Description	Matt Cardy, Photographer. The Picturesque Landscape of the National Trust's Stourhead, Wiltshire, England, 2010, Photograph. Personal Archive in Getty Images. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/news-photo/in-this-composite-image-the-view-of-the-frozen-lake-at-the-news-photo/107293666
Copyright	Matt Cardy, Rights-Managed
Contact	Matt Cardy

Permission Letter

Re: Reprint Permission Request

Matt Cardy <mattcardy@gmail.com>

Sat 4/11/2020 7:58 AM

To: Dorna Eshrati <dornaeshrati@ksu.edu>

Hi Dorna

Please find attached

Best
Matt



mattcardy



greatly appreciate you considering this request and totally understand if it is not possible.

Sincerely,
Dorna Eshrati
Ph.D. Candidate in
Environmental Design and
Planning
College of Architecture,
Planning and Design
Kansas State University
2006 Seaton Hall
Manhattan, KS
Email: dornaeshrati@ksu.edu

Tuesday 2:32am



That's totally fine with me. Do you have the picture already?

Title	Figure 6
Description	United States Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. Plan of Smithsonian Park, Covers the Mall between 7th and 12th Streets, Washington D.C., 1882, Illustration. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.loc.gov/item/88693093/
Copyright	© Public Domain (The work first published in Washington, USA in 1882 with no copyright notice and is now in the public domain.)
Contact	N/A
Permission Letter	
N/A	

Title	Figure 7
Description	Swiss Bridge, Birkenhead Park, Merseyside, England, 1847, Illustration. Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.birkenheadpark1847.com/park-at-war
Copyright	Birkenhead Park, Wirral, UK
Contact	Hannah Shakeshaft, birkenheadpark@wirral.gov.uk , hannahshakeshaft@wirral.gov.uk

Permission Letter

RE: Reprint Permission Request

Shakeshaft, Hannah nee Whittle <hannahshakeshaft@wirral.gov.uk>
on behalf of
BirkenheadPark, Regen <birkenheadpark@wirral.gov.uk>

Wed 4/8/2020 7:35 AM

To: Doma Eshrati <domaeshrati@ksu.edu>

Hello again Doma,

Much quicker response than I expected, permission has been granted ☺

Good luck with your work.

Kind regards

Hannah

Hannah Shakeshaft

Ranger

Forest School Practitioner

Working pattern Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, Alt w/ends

Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre

Park Drive

Birkenhead

Wirral

CH41 4HY

Metropolitan Borough of Wirral

Parks & Countryside

Tel: 0151 652 5197

Mob: 07920150416

Fax: 0151 652 4521

Email: hannahshakeshaft@wirral.gov.uk

Visit our website: www.wirral.gov.uk

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Title	Figures 8 and 9
Description	Jefferys & Faden. Province of New York Map, New York, 1776, Illustration. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3804n.ar110700
Copyright	Fair Use - Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division
Contact	N/A

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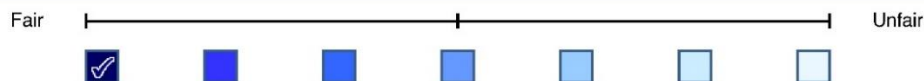
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Name:	Dorna Eshrati
Job Title:	PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning
Institution:	Kansas State University
Title of Work Used:	Plan of the city of New York
Copyright Holder:	Unknown
Publication Status:	Unknown
Publisher:	Jefferys & Faden
Place of Publication:	London
Publication Year:	1776
Description of Work:	To His Excellency Sr. Henry Moore, Bart., captain general and governour in chief, in & over the Province of New York & the territories depending thereon in America, chancellor & vice admiral of the same. This plan of the city of New York, is most humbly inscribed.
Date of Evaluation:	April 18, 2020
Date of Intended Use:	March 18, 2020

Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

The image is used in my Ph.D. dissertation titled Never Too Many Parks: The History of Kansas Pleasure Grounds (1850-1920) to illustrate the literature review on the history of urban park creation. The dissertation will be published online on the K-State Research Exchange and ProQuest Websites.



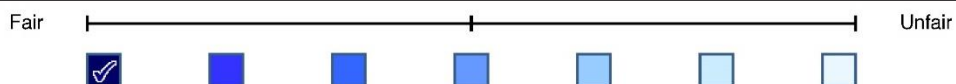
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The image first published/created in 1776 in London. The image is cited appropriately as follows: Jefferys & Faden. Province of New York Map, New York, 1776, Illustration. Library of Congress. Accessed December 10, 2018, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3804n.ar110700>.



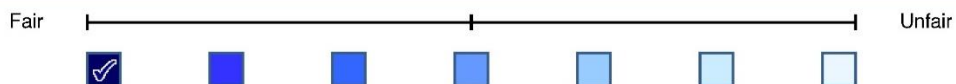
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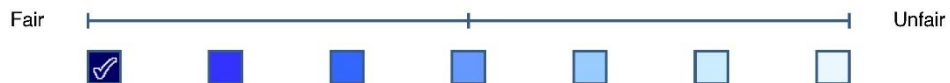
The work is NOT currently under commercial exploitation (out of print, no licensing available, etc.)
The copyright holder cannot be identified or cannot be found after a reasonable search.



The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

***Disclaimer:** This document is intended to help you collect, organize & archive the information you might need to support your fair use evaluation. It is not a source of legal advice or assistance. The results are only as good as the input you have provided by are intended to suggest next steps, and not to provide a final judgment. It is recommended that you share this evaluation with a copyright specialist before proceeding with your intended use.

Title	Figure 10
Description	Pierre Courvoisier. Pere Lachaise Cemetery from the Gothic Chapel, Paris, c. 1800s, Illustration. Courtesy Bibliothèque du MAD (Library Des Arts Decoratifs), Paris, Maciet Collection, Maciet OPT/1/17. Accessed February 16, 2019
Link	http://artsdecoratifs.e-sezhame.fr/search.php?action=Record&id=6169521142366821065
Copyright	MAD Library (Library Des Arts Decoratifs), Paris, Maciet Collection, Maciet OPT/1/17
Contact	Véronique Sevestre / Veronique.Sevestre@madparis.fr / Karine Bomel / karine.bomel@madparis.fr

Permission Letter

Re: Père Lachaise Cemetery - Library Des Arts Decoratifs, Paris

Véronique Sevestre <veronique.sevestre@madparis.fr>

Thu 4/9/2020 10:36 AM

To: Dona Eshrati <dornaeshrati@ksu.edu>

Cc: karine.bomel@madparis.fr <karine.bomel@madparis.fr>

Dear Dona Eshrati,

We authorize you to reproduce the image: <http://artsdecoratifs.e-sezhame.fr/search.php?action=Record&id=1363912495178114703&num=&total=&searchid=5c6e2a004d9f4> to illustrate your dissertation.

However, you will want to display the following copyright: Bibliothèque du MAD, Paris

We hope you will be able to send you the link to your online publication.

Best wishes,
Véronique Sevestre

Le Mardi 7 Avril 2020 22:46 CEST, Dona Eshrati <dornaeshrati@ksu.edu> a écrit:

Title	Figure 11
Description	Henry Austin. Grove Street Cemetery Entrance, New Haven, Connecticut, n.d., Illustration. Courtesy Historic American Buildings Survey. Library of Congress. Accessed February 16, 2019
Link	https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.ct0065.photos/?sp=3
Copyright	Fair Use - Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscape Survey Collection
Contact	N/A
Permission Letter	

Fair Use Evaluation Documentation

Compiled using the [Fair Use Evaluator](http://librarycopyright.net/fairuse/) [cc] 2008 Michael Brewer & the Office for Information Technology Policy, <http://librarycopyright.net/fairuse/>

Name: Dorna Eshrati

Job Title: PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning

Institution: Kansas State University

Title of Work Used: Grove Street Cemetery Entrance, New Haven, Connecticut

Copyright Holder: Unknown

Publication Status: N/A

Publisher: Historic American Buildings Survey, creator

Place of Publication:

Publication Year: Documentation compiled after 1933

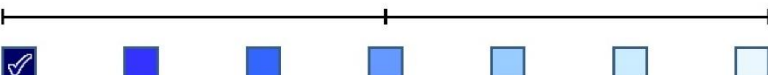
Description of Work:

Date of Evaluation: April 18, 2020

Date of Intended Use: March 18, 2020

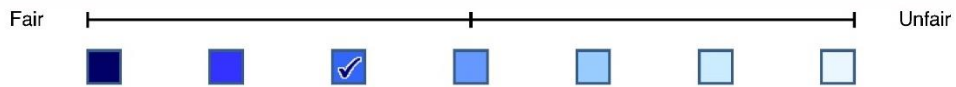
Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

The image is used in my Ph.D. dissertation titled Never Too Many Parks: The History of Kansas Pleasure Grounds (1850-1920) to illustrate the literature review on the history of urban park creation. The dissertation will be published online on the K-State Research Exchange and ProQuest websites.

Fair  Unfair

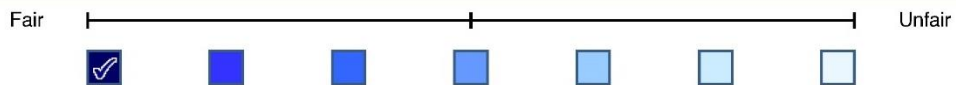
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

The image is cited appropriately as follows: Henry Austin. Grove Street Cemetery Entrance, New Haven, Connecticut, n.d., Illustration. Courtesy Historic American Buildings Survey. Library of Congress. Accessed February 16, 2019.



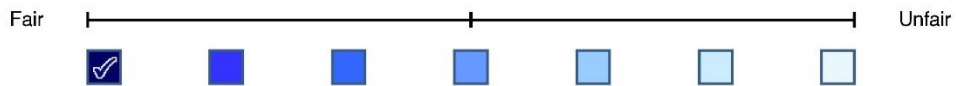
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

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Describe the **Effect** of Your Intended Use on the Potential Market or Value of the Copyrighted Work:

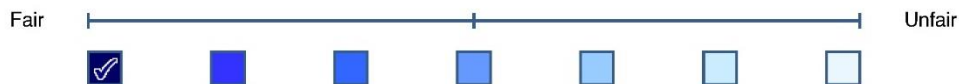
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The copyright holder cannot be identified or cannot be found after a reasonable search.



The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

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Title	Figure 12
Description	Wadsworth, Alexander. Mount Auburn Cemetery Located on the Line Between Cambridge and Watertown in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 4 miles west of Boston, 1841, Illustration. Boston Public Library, Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, G3764.C2 1841 .W3x.. Accessed December 10, 2018.
Link	https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:x059cc34p
Copyright	Boston Public Library, Norman B. Leventhal Map Center
Contact	Eben English, 617-859-2238, eenglish@bpl.org
Permission Letter	

Mount Auburn Cemetery

Boston Public Library <ask@bpl.org>

Tue 4/7/2020 4:27 PM

To: Dorna Eshrati <dornaeshtrati@ksu.edu>

Cc: eenglish@bpl.org <eenglish@bpl.org>

--# Type your reply above this line #--

Reference Librarian

Apr 07 2020, 05:27pm via System

Dear Dorna Eshrati:

You have the Library's permission to use, at no charge, the scan that the Library made of the Mount Auburn Cemetery in your proposed publication. We would appreciate your sending us a copy of the title to add to our collection. Please note that it is used courtesy of the "Boston Public Library".

However, it is necessary that you take responsibility for researching any copyright issues that may be related to the original image itself and accept all liability for any use thereof. We do not hold the copyright and cannot grant permission if there are any rights attached to the artwork or image.

For more information on copyright, please see the BPL's [Copyright/Creative Commons guide](#).

Thank you for contacting the Boston Public Library.

Title	Figure 13
Description	Mt. Auburn Cemetery [sic], Boston, Massachusetts, 1882, Illustration. Courtesy of Historic New England, Arthur Elliot Graphic Collection, GUSN-223368. Accessed April 20, 2020
Link	https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/223368/
Copyright	Historic New England
Contact	Donna E. Russo, archives@historicnewengland.org

Permission Letter



141 Cambridge Street
 Boston, MA 02114-2702
 tel 617.994.5945
 fax 617.973.9050
www.HistoricNewEngland.org

PERMISSION FORM

Date: April 20, 2020
 To: Dorna Eshрати
 From: Donna E. Russo, Library and Archives Specialist

This form serves to authorize Dorna Eshрати to use the following image for educational purposes.

Permission is granted on a non-exclusive basis, *based on image and permissions fees which were waived*. No permanent database may be retained by the client or any third parties of any image from the collections of Historic New England whether licensed for use in the product or otherwise. The image should not be further distributed to any third parties. Any requests for commercial use, or use by any third parties should be directed to Historic New England. There will be no altering or manipulating of the image to change the integrity of the images.

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Title	Figure 14
Description	Augustus Koch. Oakland Cemetery, Part of bird's eye view of Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia, 1840, Illustration. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. Accessed February 16, 2019
Link	https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3924a.pm001220/
Copyright	© Public Domain (The work first published in, USA in 1840 with no copyright notice and is now in the public domain.)
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

N/A

Title	Figure 15
Description	John Bachmann. Birds Eye View of Greenwood Cemetery, New York, n.d., Painting. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Accessed February 16, 2019
Link	https://www.loc.gov/item/2003679939/ .
Copyright	Fair Use - Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

Fair Use Evaluation Documentation

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Name:	Dorna Eshrati
Job Title:	PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning
Institution:	Kansas State University
Title of Work Used:	Birds eye view of Greenwood Cemetery, Near New York
Copyright Holder:	Unknown
Publication Status:	Unknown
Publisher:	Unknown
Place of Publication:	Unknown
Publication Year:	No date recorded
Description of Work:	
Date of Evaluation:	April 18, 2020
Date of Intended Use:	March 18, 2020

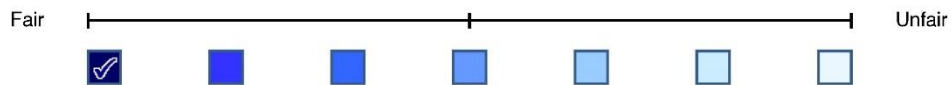
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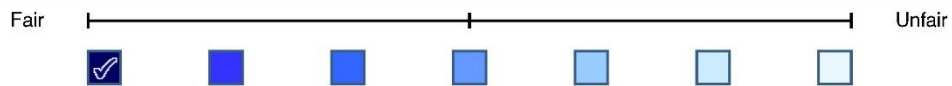
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

The image is cited appropriately as follows: John Bachmann. Birds Eye View of Greenwood Cemetery, New York, n.d., Painting. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Accessed February 16, 2019.



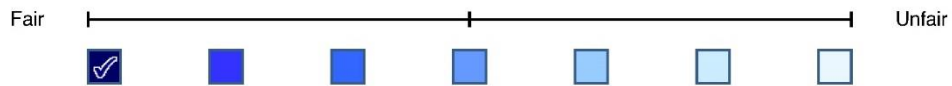
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

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Describe the **Effect** of Your Intended Use on the Potential Market or Value of the Copyrighted Work:

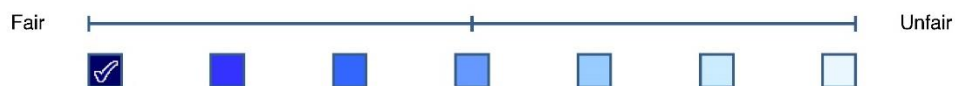
The work is NOT currently under commercial exploitation (out of print, no licensing available, etc.)
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The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

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Title	Figure 16
Description	H. Ropes & Co. Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, 1860-1920, Photograph. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Accessed February 16, 2019
Link	https://www.loc.gov/item/2017656259/ .
Copyright	© Public Domain (The work first published in Washington, USA between 1860 and 1930 with no copyright notice and is now in the public domain. No known restrictions on publication is recorded.)
Contact	N/A
Permission Letter	
N/A	

Title	Figure 17
Description	Fairchild Aerial Surveys Inc., Photographer. Central Park Aerial View with the Reservoir in the Foreground, New York, 1933, Photograph. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14971024835/in/album-72157646626148762/ .
Copyright	Fair Use - Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive
Contact	N/A

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Fair Use Evaluation Documentation

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Name: Dorna Eshrati

Job Title: PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning

Institution: Kansas State University

Title of Work Used: Central Park Aerial View with the Reservoir in the Foreground

Copyright Holder: Fairchild Aerial Surveys Inc., Photographer

Publication Status: Published

Publisher: Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

Place of Publication:

Publication Year: Unknown

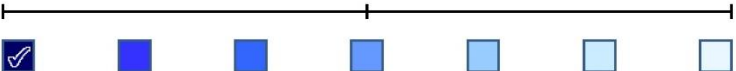
Description of Work:

Date of Evaluation: April 18, 2020

Date of Intended Use: March 18, 2020

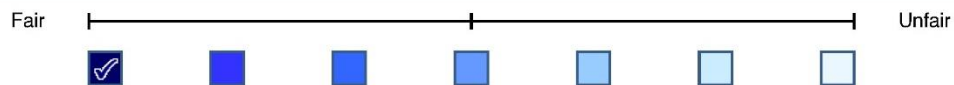
Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

The image is used in my Ph.D. dissertation titled Never Too Many Parks: The History of Kansas Pleasure Grounds (1850-1920) to illustrate the literature review on the history of urban park creation. The dissertation will be published online on the K-State Research Exchange and ProQuest websites.

Fair  Unfair

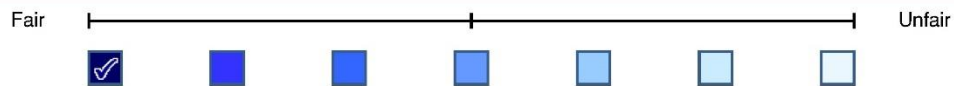
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

The image is cited appropriately as follows: Fairchild Aerial Surveys Inc., Photographer. Central Park Aerial View with the Reservoir in the Foreground, New York, 1933, Photograph. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018.



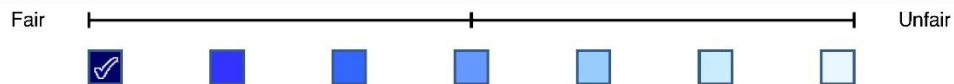
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

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Describe the **Effect** of Your Intended Use on the Potential Market or Value of the Copyrighted Work:

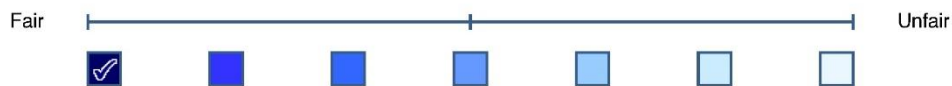
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The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



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Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

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Title	Figure 18
Description	Central Park Map, New York, 1868, Illustration. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14784478129/in/album-72157646626148732/ .
Copyright	Fair Use - Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

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Name: Dorna Eshrati

Job Title: PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning

Institution: Kansas State University

Title of Work Used: Central Park Map

Copyright Holder:

Publication Status: Published

Publisher: Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

Place of Publication:

Publication Year: 1868

Description of Work:

Date of Evaluation: April 18, 2020

Date of Intended Use: March 18, 2020

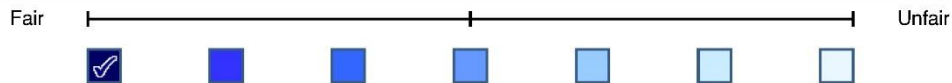
Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

The image is used in my Ph.D. dissertation titled Never Too Many Parks: The History of Kansas Pleasure Grounds (1850-1920) to illustrate the literature review on the history of urban park creation. The dissertation will be published online on the K-State Research Exchange and ProQuest websites.



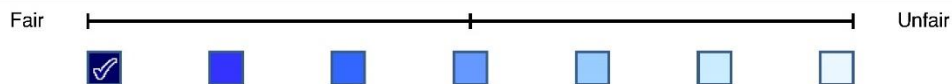
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

The image is cited appropriately as follows: Central Park Map, New York, 1868, Illustration. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14784478129/in/album-72157646626148732/.



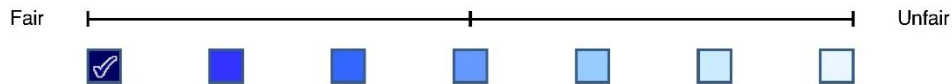
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

The entire image is to be used; however, it is clear that no less than the entire work will achieve the stated purpose of the use.



Describe the **Effect** of Your Intended Use on the Potential Market or Value of the Copyrighted Work:

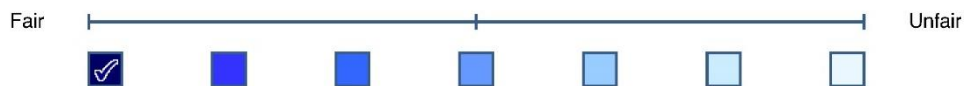
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The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

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Title	Figure 19
Description	Central Park, New York, Photograph. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14784462810/in/album-72157646626148732/ .
Copyright	Fair Use - Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

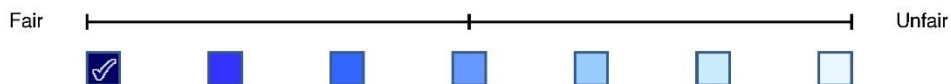
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Name: Dorna Eshrati
Job Title: PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning
Institution: Kansas State University
Title of Work Used: Central Park
Copyright Holder:
Publication Status: Published
Publisher: Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site
Place of Publication:
Publication Year: Unknown
Description of Work:
Date of Evaluation: April 18, 2020
Date of Intended Use: March 18, 2020

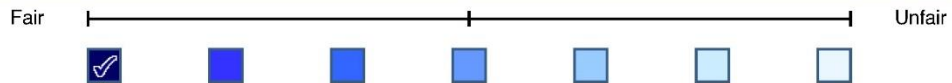
Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

The image is used in my Ph.D. dissertation titled Never Too Many Parks: The History of Kansas Pleasure Grounds (1850-1920) to illustrate the literature review on the history of urban park creation. The dissertation will be published online on the K-State Research Exchange and ProQuest websites.



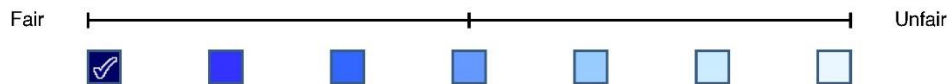
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

The image is cited appropriately as follows: Central Park, New York, Photograph. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14784462810/in/album-72157646626148732/.



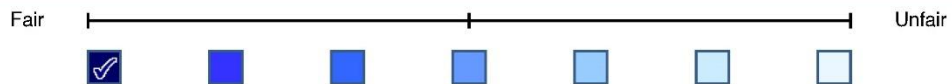
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

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Describe the **Effect** of Your Intended Use on the Potential Market or Value of the Copyrighted Work:

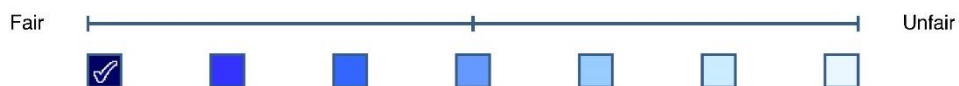
The work is NOT currently under commercial exploitation (out of print, no licensing available, etc.)



The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

***Disclaimer:** This document is intended to help you collect, organize & archive the information you might need to support your fair use evaluation. It is not a source of legal advice or assistance. The results are only as good as the input you have provided by are intended to suggest next steps, and not to provide a final judgment. It is recommended that you share this evaluation with a copyright specialist before proceeding with your intended use.

Title	Figure 20
Description	Central Park, New York, Photograph. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14971194085/in/album-72157646626148732/ .
Copyright	Fair Use - Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive
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Permission Letter	

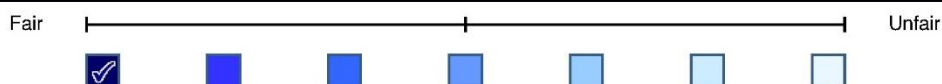
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Name:	Dorna Eshrati
Job Title:	PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning
Institution:	Kansas State University
Title of Work Used:	Central Park
Copyright Holder:	
Publication Status:	Published
Publisher:	Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site
Place of Publication:	
Publication Year:	Unknown
Description of Work:	
Date of Evaluation:	April 18, 2020
Date of Intended Use:	March 18, 2020

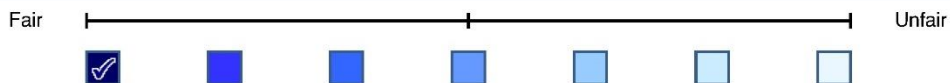
Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

The image is used in my Ph.D. dissertation titled Never Too Many Parks: The History of Kansas Pleasure Grounds (1850-1920) to illustrate the literature review on the history of urban park creation. The dissertation will be published online on the K-State Research Exchange and ProQuest websites.



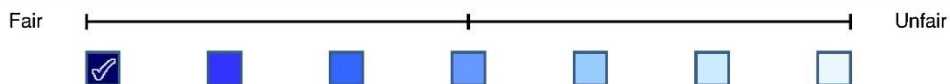
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

The image is cited appropriately as follows: Central Park, New York, Photograph. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14971194085/in/album-72157646626148732/.



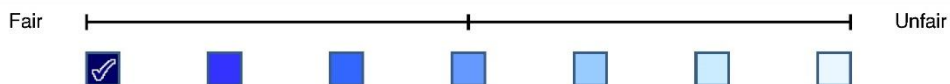
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

The entire image is to be used; however, it is clear that no less than the entire work will achieve the stated purpose of the use.



Describe the **Effect** of Your Intended Use on the Potential Market or Value of the Copyrighted Work:

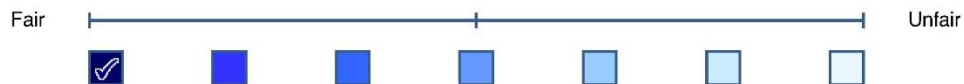
The work is NOT currently under commercial exploitation (out of print, no licensing available, etc.)



The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

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Title	Figure 21
Description	Detroit Publishing Co., Photographer. Lake and Terrace, Central Park, New York, 1905, Photograph. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Photograph Collection. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.loc.gov/item/2016799930
Copyright	Fair Use - Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division
Contact	N/A
Permission Letter	

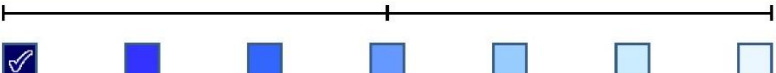
Fair Use Evaluation Documentation

Compiled using the [Fair Use Evaluator](http://librarycopyright.net/fairuse/) [cc] 2008 Michael Brewer & the Office for Information Technology Policy, <http://librarycopyright.net/fairuse/>

Name: Dorna Eshrati
Job Title: PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning
Institution: Kansas State University
Title of Work Used: Lake and Terrace, Central Park, New York, N.Y.
Copyright Holder: Detroit Publishing Co., copyright claimant
Publication Status: Published
Publisher: Detroit Publishing Co.
Place of Publication:
Publication Year: c1905
Description of Work:
Date of Evaluation: April 18, 2020
Date of Intended Use: March 18, 2020

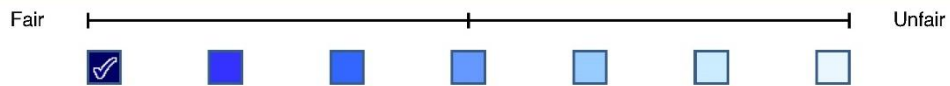
Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

The image is used in my Ph.D. dissertation titled Never Too Many Parks: The History of Kansas Pleasure Grounds (1850-1920) to illustrate the literature review on the history of urban park creation. The dissertation will be published online on the K-State Research Exchange and ProQuest websites.

Fair  Unfair

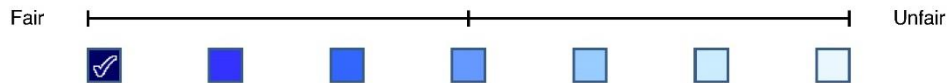
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

“No known restriction on publication” is being reported for this image. The image first published/created around 1905. The image is cited appropriately as follows: Detroit Publishing Co., Photographer. Lake and Terrace, Central Park, New York, 1905, Photograph. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Photograph Collection. Accessed December 10, 2018, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2016799930>.



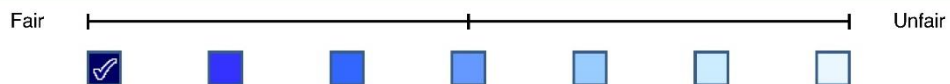
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

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Describe the **Effect** of Your Intended Use on the Potential Market or Value of the Copyrighted Work:

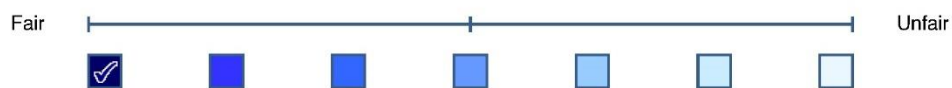
The work is NOT currently under commercial exploitation (out of print, no licensing available, etc.)



The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

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Title	Figure 22
Description	Harold A. Caparn, Photographer. Central Park Mall, New York, 1960, Photograph. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14970847922/in/album-72157646626148732/ .
Copyright	Fair Use - Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

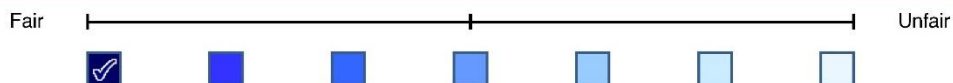
Fair Use Evaluation Documentation

Compiled using the [Fair Use Evaluator](http://librarycopyright.net/fairuse/) [cc] 2008 Michael Brewer & the Office for Information Technology Policy, <http://librarycopyright.net/fairuse/>

Name:	Dorna Eshrati
Job Title:	PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning
Institution:	Kansas State University
Title of Work Used:	Central Park Mall, New York
Copyright Holder:	Harold A. Caparn, Photographer
Publication Status:	Published
Publisher:	National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive
Place of Publication:	
Publication Year:	1960
Description of Work:	
Date of Evaluation:	April 18, 2020
Date of Intended Use:	March 18, 2020

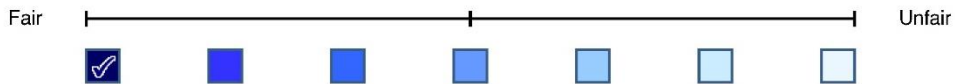
Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

The image is used in my Ph.D. dissertation titled Never Too Many Parks: The History of Kansas Pleasure Grounds (1850-1920) to illustrate the literature review on the history of urban park creation. The dissertation will be published online on the K-State Research Exchange and ProQuest websites.



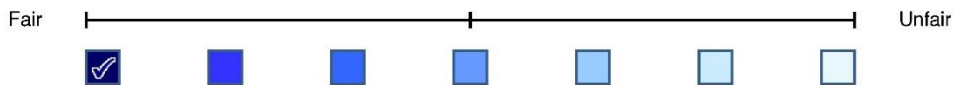
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

The image is cited properly as follows: Harold A. Caparn, Photographer. Central Park Mall, New York, 1960, Photograph. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14970847922/in/album-72157646626148732/.



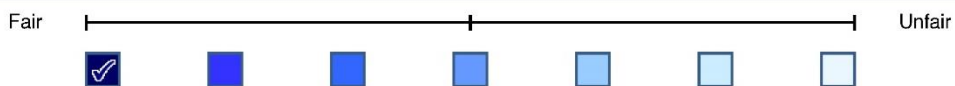
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

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The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

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Title	Figure 23
Description	Central Park Mall, New York, n.d., Illustration. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14970849522/in/album-72157646626148732/ .
Copyright	Fair Use - Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

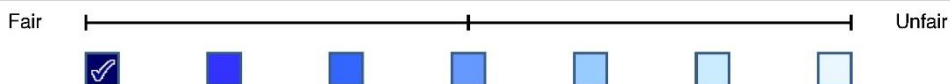
Fair Use Evaluation Documentation

Compiled using the Fair Use Evaluator [cc] 2008 Michael Brewer & the Office for Information Technology Policy, <http://librarycopyright.net/fairuse/>

Name:	Dorna Eshrati
Job Title:	PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning
Institution:	Kansas State University
Title of Work Used:	Central Park, New York
Copyright Holder:	
Publication Status:	Published
Publisher:	National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive
Place of Publication:	
Publication Year:	Unknown
Description of Work:	
Date of Evaluation:	April 18, 2020
Date of Intended Use:	March 18, 2020

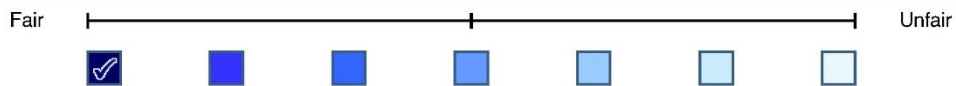
Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

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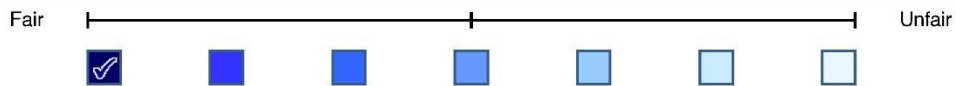
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

The image is cited properly as follows: Central Park Mall, New York, n.d., Illustration. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10, 2018
https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/14970849522/in/album-72157646626148732/.



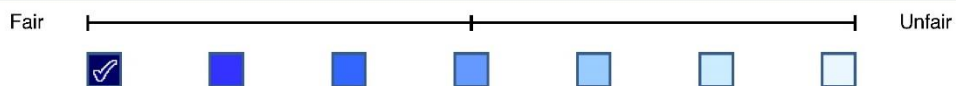
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

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Describe the **Effect** of Your Intended Use on the Potential Market or Value of the Copyrighted Work:

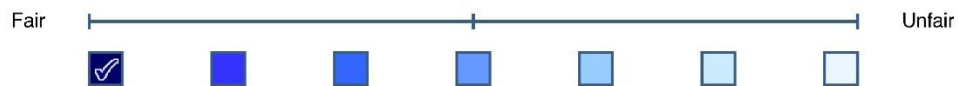
The work is NOT currently under commercial exploitation (out of print, no licensing available, etc.)



The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



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Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

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Title	Figure 24
Description	Olmsted & Eliot. Plan of Portion of Park System from Common to Franklin Park, Boston, MA, 1894, Illustration. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10
Link	https://tclf.org/places/city-and-regional-guides/boston/about .
Copyright	Fair Use - Courtesy of the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

Fair Use Evaluation Documentation

Compiled using the **Fair Use Evaluator** [cc] 2008 Michael Brewer & the Office for Information Technology Policy, <http://librarycopyright.net/fairuse/>

Name: Dorna Eshrati

Job Title: PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning

Institution: Kansas State University

Title of Work Used: Olmsted & Eliot. Plan of Portion of Park System from Common to Franklin Park, Boston, MA

Copyright Holder:

Publication Status: Published

Publisher: National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive

Place of Publication:

Publication Year: 1894

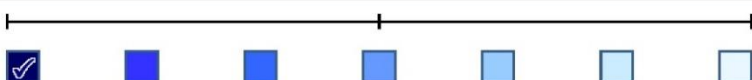
Description of Work:

Date of Evaluation: April 18, 2020

Date of Intended Use: March 18, 2020

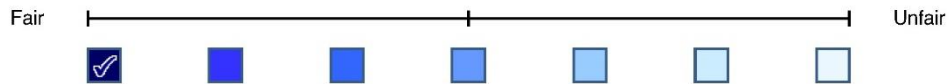
Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

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Fair  Unfair

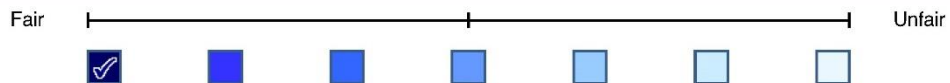
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

The image is cited properly as follows: Olmsted & Eliot. Plan of Portion of Park System from Common to Franklin Park, Boston, MA, 1894, Illustration. National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive. Accessed December 10
<https://tclf.org/places/city-and-regional-guides/boston/about>.



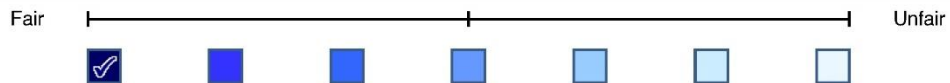
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

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Describe the **Effect** of Your Intended Use on the Potential Market or Value of the Copyrighted Work:

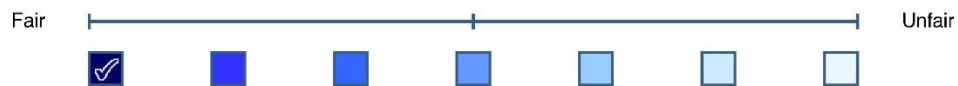
The work is NOT currently under commercial exploitation (out of print, no licensing available, etc.)



The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

***Disclaimer:** This document is intended to help you collect, organize & archive the information you might need to support your fair use evaluation. It is not a source of legal advice or assistance. The results are only as good as the input you have provided by are intended to suggest next steps, and not to provide a final judgment. It is recommended that you share this evaluation with a copyright specialist before proceeding with your intended use.

Title	Figure 25
Description	Rand McNally and Company. Aerial View of the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago 1893, Illustration. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.loc.gov/item/98687181
Copyright	Fair Use - Library of Congress Geography and Map Division
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

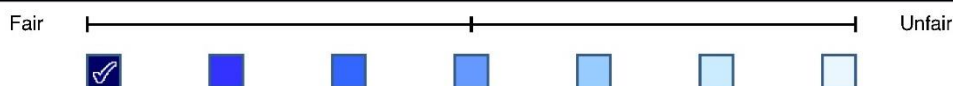
Fair Use Evaluation Documentation

Compiled using the [Fair Use Evaluator](http://librarycopyright.net/fairuse/) [cc] 2008 Michael Brewer & the Office for Information Technology Policy, <http://librarycopyright.net/fairuse/>

Name:	Dorna Eshrati
Job Title:	PhD. Candidate in Environmental Design and Planning
Institution:	Kansas State University
Title of Work Used:	Bird's eye view of the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893
Copyright Holder:	Rand McNally and Company
Publication Status:	Published
Publisher:	National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archive
Place of Publication:	
Publication Year:	1893
Description of Work:	
Date of Evaluation:	April 18, 2020
Date of Intended Use:	March 18, 2020

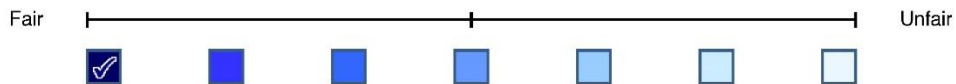
Describe the **Purpose** and Character of Your Intended Use:

The image is used in my Ph.D. dissertation titled Never Too Many Parks: The History of Kansas Pleasure Grounds (1850-1920) to illustrate the literature review on the history of urban park creation. The dissertation will be published online on the K-State Research Exchange and ProQuest websites.



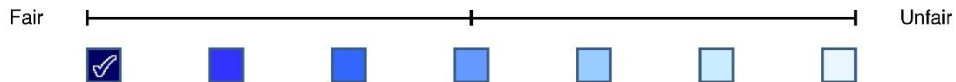
Describe the **Nature** of Your Intended Use of the Copyrighted Work:

The image is cited properly as follows: Rand McNally and Company. Aerial View of the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago 1893, Illustration. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. Accessed December 10, 2018, <https://www.loc.gov/item/98687181>.



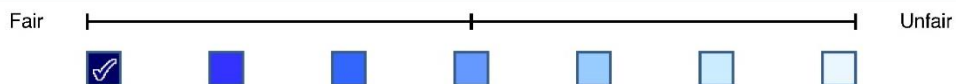
Describe the **Amount** of Your Intended Use in Relation to the Copyrighted Work as a Whole:

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Describe the **Effect** of Your Intended Use on the Potential Market or Value of the Copyrighted Work:

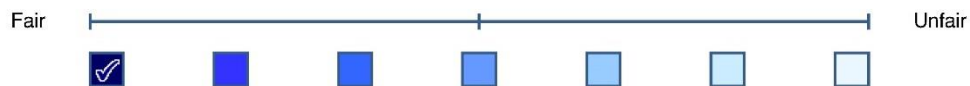
The work is NOT currently under commercial exploitation (out of print, no licensing available, etc.)



The Average **"Fairness Level,"** Based on Your Rating of Each of the 4

Factors, Is:

[see tool disclaimer for important clarifying information]:



Based on the information and justification I have provided above, I, Dorna Eshrati, am asserting this use is **FAIR** under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Code.

Signature: Dorna Eshrati

Date of Signature: 4/18/2020

***Disclaimer:** This document is intended to help you collect, organize & archive the information you might need to support your fair use evaluation. It is not a source of legal advice or assistance. The results are only as good as the input you have provided by are intended to suggest next steps, and not to provide a final judgment. It is recommended that you share this evaluation with a copyright specialist before proceeding with your intended use.

Title	Figure 26
Description	Frances Benjamin Johnston, Photographer. Palace of Mechanic Arts, World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893, Photograph. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Accessed December 10, 2018,
Link	https://www.loc.gov/item/2002710480/ .
Copyright	© Public Domain (The work first created in United States in 1893 with no copyright notice and is now in the public domain.)
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

N/A

Title	Figure 27
Description	Frances Benjamin Johnston, Photographer. Exposition Grounds, World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893, Photograph. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.loc.gov/item/92501035/ .
Copyright	© Public Domain (The work first created in United States in 1893 with no copyright notice and is now in the public domain.)
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

N/A

Title	Figure 28
Description	Eastman's Map of Kansas Territory, Kansas, 1854, Illustration. Kansas Historical Society. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.kansasmemory.org/item/209786 .
Copyright	Kansas Historical Society
Contact	Lauren Gray, Head of Reference, Lauren.Gray@ks.gov

Permission Letter

Re: Reprint Permission Request

Gray, Lauren [KSHS] <Lauren.Gray@ks.gov>

Wed 4/8/2020 12:57 PM

To: Dorna Eshrati <dornaeshrati@ksu.edu>

Hi Dorna,

To reproduce images from our newspapers, please fill out our Permission Form and return it to me. I will waive the fee for your particular use, but we need to keep the signed form on file for statistics.

https://www.kshs.org/research/toolkit/pdfs/microfilm_permission_2017_06.pdf

Also, please credit the images back to the Kansas Historical Society.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Lauren Gray

Head of Reference

Kansas Historical Society

6425 SW 6th Avenue

Topeka, KS 66615-1099

785-272-8681 x284

Lauren.Gray@ks.gov

Your Stories | Our History

Title	Figure 29
Description	United States Census Bureau, Kansas Resident Population, 1860-2000, Illustration. Accessed December 10, 2018
Link	https://www.census.gov/dmd/www/resapport/states/kansas.pdf .
Copyright	©Public Domain
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

N/A

Title	Figure 30
Description	Dorna Eshrati. Summary of the Creation of Parks in America, 2019, Illustration. Courtesy Dorna Eshrati Personal Digital Archive.
Link	N/A
Copyright	Author, Dorna Eshrati
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

N/A

Title	Figure 31
Description	Newspaper Archive. The Frequency of the Usage of Term “Pleasure Ground” in Kansas Newspapers Articles, 1842-2009, Illustration by Dorna Eshrati based on the Historical Newspaper Archive data. Accessed January 10, 2019.
Link	N/A
Copyright	Author, Dorna Eshrati
Contact	N/A

Permission Letter

N/A

Title	Figure 32
Description	Map of Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Kansas, 1913, Illustration. City of Lawrence Park and Recreation Department. Accessed December 10, 2018.
Link	https://cdn.lawrenceks.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/oak-hill-cemetery.pdf
Copyright	City of Lawrence Park and Recreation Department
Contact	Sean Robertson, srobertson@lawrenceks.org / Penny Holler, pholler@lawrenceks.org

Permission Letter

  RE: Reprint Permission Request
 To:  Sean Robertson
 You replied to this message on 4/9/2020 8:59 AM.

This is already in a publicly available document and credited to City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation. It would be appropriate for someone else to use this with the same credit given in a citation.

From: Sean Robertson <srobertson@lawrenceks.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:22 AM
To: Penny Holler <pholler@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: FW: Reprint Permission Request

RE: Reprint Permission Request

Sean Robertson <srobertson@lawrenceks.org>

Thu 4/9/2020 9:40 AM

To: Dorna Eshrati <dornaeshtrati@ksu.edu>

 1 attachments (679 KB)

Approval-of-Request.JPG;

Attached is the response I received from my supervisors. Thank you and stay safe and be well.

Warm regards,

Sean Robertson
Cemetery Admin Support
[Parks and Recreation Department](#)
1141 Massachusetts St.
Lawrence, KS 66044
785-832-3451
srobertson@lawrenceks.org



Title	Figure 33
Description	The Ruins of Lawrence, Kansas after William Quantrill's Raid, 1863, Illustration, Published in Harper's Weekly, V. 7, No. 351 (1863 September 19), P. 604. Courtesy of the Allen County Public Library, Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection. Accessed December 10, 2018,
Link	https://archive.org/details/harpersweeklyv7bonn/page/604/mode/2up/ .
Copyright	Courtesy of the Allen County Public Library, Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
Contact	Emily A. Rapoza, erapoza@acpl.info

Permission Letter

Re: Reprint Permission Request

Emily Rapoza <erapoza@acpl.lib.in.us>

Wed 4/8/2020 3:42 PM

To: Dorna Eshrati <dornaeshrati@ksu.edu>; skoerber@indianamuseum.org <skoerber@indianamuseum.org>; Jessie Cortesi <jcortesi@acpl.lib.in.us>

Hi Dorna,

Thank you for contacting the Lincoln Collection about the "Lawrence, Kansas after William Quantrill's Raid, 1863." Because the image is low-resolution and is for an educational purpose, feel free to use it in your dissertation. If you were to ever print it or include it in a book, let us know and we will put you in touch with our registrar who can tell you about pricing for higher resolution images.

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If we can be of any additional help or information, please let us know. And congratulations on your dissertation!

-Emily

Emily A. Rapoza

Senior Lincoln Librarian, Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
 Allen County Public Library
 260.421.1379
erapoza@acpl.info
 900 Library Plaza
 Fort Wayne, IN 46802

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Title	Figure 34
Description	Newspaper Archive. The Frequency of the Usage of Terms “Rural Cemetery,” “Pleasure Ground” and “City Park” in Kansas Newspapers Articles, 1850-1921, Illustration by Dorna Eshrati based on Newspaper Archive Data. The Historical Newspaper Archive. Accessed February 20, 2019,
Link	https://go.newspapers.com/welcome .
Copyright	Author, Dorna Eshrati
Contact	N/A
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Title	Figures 35 to 4, 44 to 76, 81 and 82
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Lauren Gray

Head of Reference

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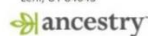
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Let me know if there is anything else I can help you with!

Thanks,

Elisa

Elisa Richardson
 Content Research Manager
 erichardson@ancestry.com
 1300 West Traverse Parkway
 Lehi, UT 84043



Title	Figures 42 and 43
Description	Dorna Eshrati, Photographer. Gage Park's Archway, Topeka, Kansas, 2019. Courtesy Dorna Eshrati Personal Digital Archive.
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Description	Henry T. Wardle Real Estate Agency of Manhattan, Illustrator. Oak Hill Cemetery West Entry Gate, Lawrence, Kansas, Ca. 1895, Illustration, Special Collections, Hale Library, Kansas State University.
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Link	http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/d806f750-f3a1-0130-e22e-58d385a7b928 .
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Title	Figures 80
Description	Dorna Eshrati. Diagram of Location of Central Park and Battery Park in Manhattan, New York City, New York, Illustration. Courtesy Dorna Eshrati Personal Digital Archive.
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Title	Figure 83
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Appendix E: Research Time Frame

Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

- Finished 30 credit hours of coursework
- Filed and submitted Program of Study

Fall 2018

- Did preliminary data collection (Read, saved and took notes on the articles in the Historical Newspaper Archive, filtered firstly based on relevance and then based on chronological order – done until 1881)
- Did extensive literature review
- Wrote proposal draft

Spring 2019

January 2019

- Revised proposal
- Scheduled proposal defense and the Preliminary Exam
- Gave proposal to committee
- Prepared presentation for proposal defense
- Applied and was selected for the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation Scholarship (The \$1000 scholarship award was to offset travel expenses to deliver an oral presentation during the Paper Sessions of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation annual meeting in Detroit, Michigan, May 23-25, 2019. In addition, the conference registration fees was waived, and free one-year membership in the alliance was granted).
- Prepared presentation for the Annual Meeting of the Alliance of Historic Landscape Preservation in Detroit Michigan from 23-25 May 2019
- Defended proposal
- Scheduled the Preliminary Exam
- Filed paperwork for the Preliminary Exam

February 2019

- Made revisions to proposal
- Did the written and oral Preliminary Exams
- Filed and submitted paperwork for candidacy application

March 2019

- Presented an action-research project at the 2019 CELA Conference, Sacramento, California
- Presented the research at the Kansas Association of Historian Annual Conference, Manhattan, Kansas
- Put the dissertation draft into ETDR format
- Finalized Chapter 2: Literature review

April 2019

- Continued collecting data from 1882 to 1895

May 2019

- Continued collecting data from 1896 to 1902
- Presented the research at the Annual Meeting of the Alliance of Historic Landscape Preservation in Detroit, Michigan, 23-25 May 2019

Fall 2019

- Finished data collection from the Historical Newspaper Archive
- Finalized Chapter 1: Introduction, Chapter 2: Literature Review, and Chapter 3: Methods
- Attended the 2019 Virginia Tech Future Faculty Development Program which was an all-expense-paid two-day program for doctoral candidates and post-doctoral scholars traditionally underrepresented in their fields who were interested in Virginia Tech faculty opportunities.

Spring 2020

- Coded collected data
- Wrote Chapter 4: Findings
- Wrote Chapter 5: Results and Conclusion
- Polished and edited writing
- Submitted paperwork for oral defense
- Requested permissions to reprint images
- Submitted the draft of dissertation to committee
- Defended dissertation
- Made revisions
- Uploaded the final version to K-Rex