

- 1/7/37 - 538 - One-millionth visitor to the 11 new play centers, entered 1/4/37., mission
- 1/19/37 - 539 - Bids received for Horace Harding Blvd. Bridge over flushing river and for a boat basin bulkhead on Flush. Bay in Flushing Meadows Park.
- 1/29/37 - 540 - First part of Gorman Memorial Park will be opened to public 1/29/37 mission
- 2/2/37 - 541 - Bids received in Albany for completion of bridges and roadways on mission Henry Hudson Parkway bet. 239 and 253rd sts. in Riverdale Section.
- 2/4/37 - 542 - Bids received in Albany (4) for the construc. of a bridge to carry 69th Road over the flushing river in Flushing Meadow Park.
- 2/15/37 - 543 - Plans for Bronx-Whitestone Bridge project.
- 2/24/37 - 544 - Bids opened on contract for moving, stockpiling and processing topsail material in Flushing meadow park on 2/24/37.
- 2/25/37 - 545 - Completion of redesign and reconstruction of St. Gabriel's Park mission and reopened on 2/25/37.
- 3/20/37 - 546 - Completion of boat repair shop at Randall's Island for Police Dept. Also reopen playground in Corlears Hook Pk., recreation bldg. at Carmine & Downing Sts., new playground at Liberty Ave. & 102nd St., Queens and new recreation bldg. in Raymond O'Connor Pk., Queens.

- 3/20/37 - 547 - Announcement that applications for Golf & Tennis Permits will be received.
- 3/22/37 - 548 - 1,000,000 car using Henry Hudson Pkwy. Construction of new upper level of bridge. Bondholders asked to consent to new issue of \$2,000,000. (With Picture) (2 pix)
- missing 3/31/37 - 549 - Comm. Moses requests Series A Bondholders \$3,100,000 to grant consent to issuance of \$2,000,000 Series B Bonds in order to build upper level to Henry Hudson Bridge over Spuyten Duyvil (Picture)
- 4/3/37 - 550 - Completion of alterations on Tavern-On-The Green & Claremont Inn. Recreation Bldg. in Jay Hood Wright Pk., Man. in Bklyn., at Union St., Bet. Van Brunt St. & Hamilton Ave., in Queens at 135th & Lincoln Sts., also at 92nd St. & 56th Ave. and at Crocheron Pk. (2 pix)
- 4/11/37 - 551 - Karl H. Gruppe engaged to reproduce original design of statue of Henry Hudson to be placed at Spuyten Duyvil, opposite 227th St. Also acquisition of land to form Memorial Park to Bernard S. Deutsch. (Picture) → NOO
- missing 4/9/37 - 552 - Bids opened for contract for test borings to be made along the shore of Flushing Bay. Names of bidders & figures submitted, also engineer's estimate.
- 4/9/37 - 553 - Opening of recreation bldg. in Sta James Pk. (X-44). (2 pix)
- 4/18/37 - 554 - Erection of stainless steel statues at Astoria Swimming Pool. (2 pix)
- 4/14/37 - 555 - West Side Improvement will be completed next fall. Lift bridge over Jamaica Inlet, connecting Bklyn. & Queens will be opened in summer. (3 pix)
- 4/15/37 - 556 - Parks Department announces the opening of nine of the ten municipal golf courses.
- 4/16/37 - 557 - Marine Parkway Authority announces the taking of estimates for grading and paving of Jacob Riis Park.
- 4/17/37 - 558 - Opening of playgrounds -- Brooklyn, New Utrecht Avenue & 70th Street -- Queens, Crocheron Park. Also of remodeled parks -- Rockefeller Playground, 63rd Street & York Avenue. At West 45th Street, Manhattan, new playground. Stuyvesant Park, Second Avenue between 15th & 17th Streets, rehabilitated. Pictures.
- 4/19/37 - 559 - Closing of play centers for cleaning in preparation of new season. Swimming pools to reopen at 10 a. m., Saturday, May 29th. Figures for winter use of play spaces.
- 4/20/37 - 560 - Hearing before Committee of U. S. Senate on Commerce, Wednesday morning, 10:30, in capitol for authorization of 2,500,000 for improvements to Flushing Bay/ Flushing Meadows Park
- 4/20/37 - 561 - Bids for paving and trolley track relocation of main artery crossing Flushing Meadows Park along Horace Harding Blvd.

- ✓ 4/23/37 - 562 - Postponement of Split Rock Golf Course opening.
- ✓ 4/27/37 - 563 - Bids opened in Albany by State Dept. for paving Hutchinson River Parkway extension in Pelham Bay Park. Dept of Plants & Structures will let contracts for widening Eastchester Creek Bridge.
- ✓ 4/28/37 - 564 - Announcement of second annual opportunity contest for amateur musicians.
- ✓ 4/29/37 - 565 - Split Rock Golf Course opened to public Saturday, May 1st.
- ✓ 4/30/37 - 566 - Announcement that Tavern-on-the-Green and Claremont Restaurant will reopen May 1st. Pictures - 2
- ✓ 4/30/37 - 567 - Opening of new playground & two remodeled park buildings on May 1st: Playground, part of Brooklyn Bridge Plaza development. Buildings -- one on Clove Lakes Park and one in La Tourette. Pictures. (only 1 pix)
- ✓ 5/2/37 - 568 - Tulip beds throughout city -- Pelham Parkway, Mt. Eden Avenue, Van Cortlandt Park, etc.
- ✓ 5/1/37 - 569 - Students from College of Architecture, Cornell University, visit Central Park, West Side Improvement, Triborough Bridge, etc. to study landscaped properties.
- ✓ 5/3/37 - 570 - Per diem employes to be paid in full on rainy days. Open letter over commissioner's signature on this; and arrangement for seasonal employes on revenue producing facilities.
- ✓ 5/7/37 - 571 - Opening of Mary Harriman Rumsey Playground, Central Park, Friday, May 7th. Pictures. (2 pix) ✓
- ✓ 5/7/37 - 572 - Correspondence between Col. Somervell and Commissioner Moses with regard to WPA lay-offs.
- ✓ 5/7/37 - 573 -- Planting of trees and shrubs throughout city parks and parkways.
- ✓ 5/10/37 - 574 - Bids for grading and paving roads and parking spaces on Randall's Island together with incidental drainage structures, topsoiling, irrigation and fencing.
- ✓ 5/11/37 - 575 - Bids opened in Albany by State Dept. for paving Lawrence Street, Rodman Street, & Horace Harding Blvd. General development plan for Flushing Meadow Park & marginal roads.
- ✓ 5/12/37 - 576 - Closing 142 playgrounds due to layoff of 429 WPA play leaders. Civil service personnel will be assigned. ✓
- ✓ 5/12/37 - 577 - Marine Parkway Authority bids for grading Rockaway Inlet Shore and bulkheading. Pictures. (2 pix)
- ✓ 5/17/37 - 578 - Erection of two bronze figures, Central Park Zoo Concession Restaurant. Dancing Bear and Dancing Goat.

missing

- 5/24/37 - 579 - Letter from Commissioner Moses to Jeremiah Maguire about pollution of city waters. List of facilities of public recreational advantages.
- ✓ 5/25/37 - 580 - Last section of new bridge spanning Jamaica Inlet, connecting Brooklyn & Queens was placed May 24th. Jacob Riis Park will be opened June 23rd. Bathhouse facilities 10,000. Parking facilities for 14,000.
- ✓ 5/25/37 - 581 - Bids for New York City building in Flushing Meadow Park. Building to be converted to indoor recreational usage in permanent park layout.
- ✓ 5/29/37 - 582 - First Naumburg concert takes place on Memorial Day, May 30th, Central Park Mall. Program. (Brochure - 1)
- ✓ 5/27/37 - 583 - Reopening 12 swimming pools, May 29th, 10 a. m. Eleven opened last year, twelfth opened in Faber Park, Richmond, was opened five years. Pools listed.
- ✓ 5/27/37 - 584 - Children's garden at Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, sowed first seeds in garden plots.
- ✓ 5/28/37 - 585 - Letter to Allyn R. Jennings from H. L. Peckham, also Colonel Somervell, from Robert Moses, in reference to a 5,000 reduction in personnel.
- ✓ 5/29/37 - 586 - Schedule of dramas, concerts and dancing in borough parks.
- ✓ 5/3/37 - 587 - Change of schedule in time^(hours) for twelve outdoor swimming pools.
- ✓ 5/12/37 - 588 - Opening of playground, Fifth Avenue between 130th and 131st Streets, Manhattan. In Brooklyn at Avenue "L" between East 17th and East 18th. Pictures. (1 picture)
- missing ✓ 5/7/37 - 589 - Letter to Board of Estimate from Commissioner Moses in reference to West Side Improvement, also schedule for additional work.
- ✓ 6/8/37 - 589A - Towers of the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge -- proposals for construction. Bids to be opened June 23rd. Bids for construction of the tower piers and anchorage foundations were opened on June 8th.
- ✓ 6/12/37 - 590 -- Letter from Moses to Somervell and Somervell to Moses, re working eight men eight hours overtime at Randall's Island.
- missing ✓ 6/16/37 - 591 - Opening of new beaches at Jacob Riis and Orchard Beach, Friday, June 25th.
- ✓ 6/18/37 - 592 - Finals of second annual musical instrument contest on the Mall, June 19th, 2:30.
- ✓ 6/19/37 - 593 - Short resume on Fort Tryon Park with pictures of flower gardens. (2 px)

- 6/24/37 - 594 - Change of hours in twelve swimming pools opened May 29th.
- 6/28/37 - 595 - Dedication of plaque in honor of Lillian Wald, June 29th, at playground at Cherry & Gouverneur Streets.
- 6/25/37 - 596 - Finals of magic contest, Sunday, June 27th, 2:30 p. m. on the Mall.
- 6/28/37 - 597 - Exercises in connection with the completion of Fort Greene Park, Tuesday, June 29th, at 1 p. m. Resume of work.
- 6/30/37 - 598 - Second Naumburg Concert, Central Park Mall, July 4th, 8:15.
- 7/2/37 - 599 -- Opening ceremony Marine Parkway Bridge, 10:30 a. m., July 3rd.
- 7/3/37 - 600 - New playground, Seventh Avenue & 86th Street, Brooklyn, and Crotona Park East and Charlotte Street, Bronx. Remodeled building at Victory Blvd and Park Road, Richmond. (2 Pk)
- 7/14/37 - 601 - Completion of issuance of 2,000,000 in 3½ per cent. bonds upper level, Henry Hudson Bridge. Work to be done described.
- 7/16/37 - 602 - Bids opened for test borings proposed bulkhead wall along Shore Road, Brooklyn.
- 7/17/37 - 603 - Opening new playground, 179th Place, North of Jamaica Avenue, and at Sayres Avenue, between 172nd Street & Merrick Road, Queens. New brick building at 161st Street between Second & Third Avenues, Manhattan and new brick building in Highbridge Park. Pictures. (1 Pk)
- 7/19/37 - 604 - Exercises July 20th in all playgrounds in Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn & Richmond for inducement of children.
- 7/19/37 - 605 - Letter to Hon. William O'Reilly from Commissioner reference to President Street Baths.
- missing 7/20/37 - 606 - Park Dept. received bids for grading new roadway through Inwood Hill Park. This is first contract to be paid out of new 2,000,000 bond issue. missing
- 7/24/37 - 607 - Opening three new playgrounds & new automobile parking field. In Queens at 173rd Street & 106th Avenue; at 174th Place & 112th Avenue; in Richmond, Beechwood Avenue between Cleveland Street & Crescent Avenue. New parking field in Astoria Park. Pictures.
- 7/26/37 - 608 - Completion of concrete bandshell & outdoor dance floor at Colonial Park. Listing of seven areas for free outdoor dancing.
- 7/28/37 - 609 - Opening of five playgrounds by Mayor La Guardia: Brooklyn -- Pitkin & New Jersey Avenues; Howard, Pacific & Dean Streets; Lafayette & Reed Avenues. Bronx -- 182nd Street & Belmont Avenue. Queens -- Woodside Avenue between 52nd & 54th Streets.
- 7/29/37 - 610 - Third Naumburg series, Central Park Mall, July 31st. Programs.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

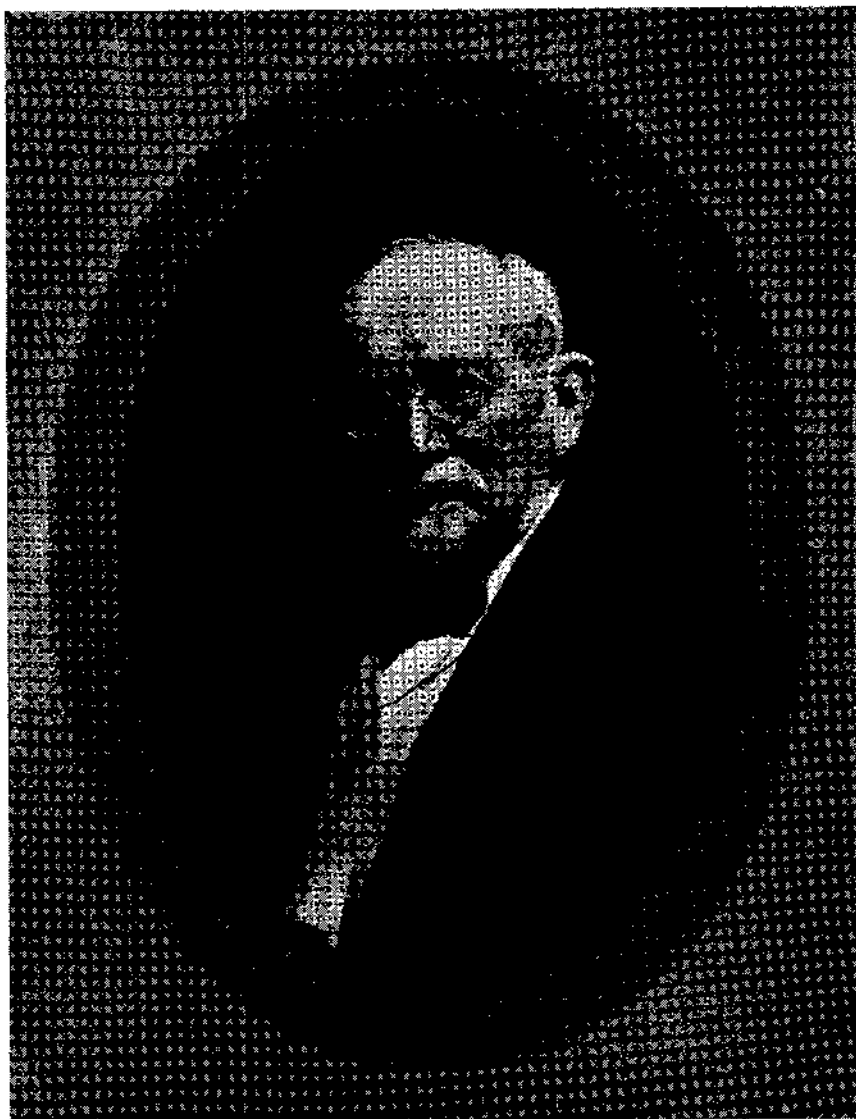
610
For Release July 29 and 30

The third concert of the Naumburg series of concerts will be given on the Mall, Central Park, on Saturday July 31 at 8:15 P.M.

Jaffrey Harris will conduct the Naumburg Orchestra and J. Alden Edkins, Bass-Baritone, will be the guest soloist.

This is the Memorial Concert contributed by the sons of Mr. Elkan Naumburg on the anniversary of his death.

End



ELKAN NAUMBURG

MEMORIAL CONCERT

SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 31st, 1937

EIGHT FIFTEEN O'CLOCK

CENTRAL PARK : : ON THE MALL

THE NAUMBURG ORCHESTRA, Jaffrey Harris, *Conductor*

THE MALL—CENTRAL PARK

SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 31ST, AT 8:15 O'CLOCK

MEMORIAL CONCERT

THE NAUMBURG ORCHESTRA

JAFFREY HARRIS, *Conductor*

J. ALDEN EDKINS, *Bass-Baritone, Soloist*

Program

•
"The Star Spangled Banner"

Adagio Sostenuto from the Sixth Symphony . . . *Tschaikowsky*

IN MEMORY OF ELKAN NAUMBURG

Founder of these Concerts

1. Overture—"Barber of Seville" *Rossini*
2. Andante Sostenuto from the First Symphony *Brahms*
3. "Slavonic Dances" *Dvorak*
4. "Il Lacerato Spirito" from "Simon Bocanegra" . . . Verdi
J. Alden Edkins
5. Introduction and Cortege from "Coq d'Or" . . *Rimsky-Korsakoff*

INTERMISSION

6. Concert Overture in C Minor *Jaffrey Harris*
7. (a) Introduction to Act Three from "Lohengrin"
(b) Prelude to Act Three from "Die Meistersinger" } *Wagner*
(c) Entrance of the Gods into Valhalla
8. Song of the Flea *Moussorgsky*
J. Alden Edkins
9. Waltz—"Tales from the Vienna Woods" *Strauss*
10. Final from the Fourth Symphony *Tschaikowsky*
"America"

THIS CONCERT is contributed by MR. WALTER W. NAUMBURG and MR. GEORGE W. NAUMBURG, sons of MR. ELKAN NAUMBURG, who donated the bandstand on The Mall and lived to see it put to the purpose he had in mind of erecting a veritable Temple of Music.

MR. ELKAN NAUMBURG had been impressed with the need of an adequate bandstand in Central Park by reason of his custom, long years in practice, of contributing Orchestral Concerts of high quality, in the cause of good music for the people, on three holidays, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. His sons, continuing this custom in his memory, have added a fourth concert to the NAUMBURG series by giving a similar concert on July 31st, the anniversary of their father's death.

THE NAUMBURG concerts for the season of 1937 are therefore set down for May 30th, at 8:15 P. M., July 4th, at 8:15 P. M., July 31st, at 8:15 P. M., and September 6th, at 8:15 P. M. These dates to be remembered by lovers of good music.

CITY OF NEW YORK

HON. FIORELLO H. LAGUARDIA, *Mayor*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

IMMEDIATELY
JULY 28, 1937

For Release

689

*
Mayor LaGuardia will open five playgrounds, constructed by the Department of Parks with relief labor and funds, on Friday, July 30th, at 4:00 P. M. Separate exercises will be held at each of the following playgrounds:

BROOKLYN - Pitkin and New Jersey Avenues

Howard, Pacific and Dean Streets

Lafayette and Reid Avenues

BRONX - 182nd Street and Belmont Avenue

QUEENS - Woodside Avenue between 52nd and 54th Streets.

The Mayor will be present at the Queens playground at Woodside Avenue, 52nd and 54th Streets. Besides the Mayor and Park Commissioner Robert Moses, Honorable Joseph J. Kraebel, Alderman of the 60th Queens Aldermanic District, and Mr. Pierce H. Power, Vice-President of the Queens Chamber of Commerce will participate in the ceremonies. The exercises will be broadcast to each of the other playgrounds and amplified by separate public address systems.

These playgrounds are five of the twenty-four sites in neglected areas selected by the Commissioner of Parks and acquired by condemnation after authorization by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment on July 15, 1936.

Owing to the ever-increasing demand for roller-skating facilities, four of the new playgrounds are equipped with modern roller-skating tracks, and all are completely equipped with play apparatus and are appropriately landscaped.

608
Library
608
Telephoned to
City News 7-16

ARSENAL CALLING BABYLON
TO COMMISSIONER MOSES
FROM A R JENNINGS

JULY 26, 1937

THE FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR APPROVAL:

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE JULY 27TH, ~~KMMH~~ 1937.

THE PARK DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THE COMPLETION OF THE BRICK AND CONCRETE BAND SHELL AND GRANOLITHIC OUTDOOR DANCE FLOOR AT COLONIAL PARK, BRADHURST AVENUE AND 147TH STREET IN THE HARLEM SECTION OF MANHATTAN ON TUESDAY NIGHT JULY 27TH.

MAYOR LA GUARDIA, PARK COMMISSIONER ROBERT MOSES AND BILL ROBINSON, THE RADIO AND MOVIE STAR, WILL BE PRESENT AT ~~8:30~~ ^{8:30} P.M. TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE AREA FOR THE DANCING WHICH WILL BE HELD EVERY SUCCEEDING TUESDAY NIGHT FROM 8:30 P.M. TO 10:30 P.M. BILL ROBINSON WILL ADD TO THE ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT BY GIVING ~~SOME OF HIS INIMITABLE~~ ^{an} EXHIBITION OF DANCING.

THE FOLLOWING SEVEN AREAS ARE ALSO OPEN FOR FREE OUTDOOR DANCING IN THE CITY PARK SYSTEM DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS FROM 8:30 PM TO 10:30 P.M.

LOCATION

SCHEDULE

MALL, CENTRAL PARK	TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
PROSPECT PARK PICNIC GROUNDS	MONDAYS
MULLALY RECREATION CENTER	WEDNESDAYS
JACKSON HEIGHTS PLAYGROUND	MONDAYS
MC DONALD PLAYGROUND	WEDNESDAYS
ROOSEVELT PLAYGROUND	FRIDAYS
ASTORIA POOL	EVERY SECOND FRIDAY

- E N D -

TRANS 7/26/37 2:05 PM

OK AB

Miss Sewell
Delivered

For Release July 24, 1937

607

The Department of Parks announces the opening of three new playgrounds and a new automobile parking field today.

In Queens, at 173rd Street and 106th Avenue, the new playground for the North Jamaica is the first section of a large recreational area which is being constructed to be completed. It is for small children and has slides, swings, see-saws, sand tables, play houses and a rectangular wading pool which can be used for volleyball when not in use as a pool. Benches and shade trees are also provided. When the entire area is completed, it will have facilities for baseball, football, tennis, roller-skating, basketball, horseshoe pitching and paddle tennis, as well as a four lap, mile running track.

At 174th Place and 112th Avenue, in St. Albans Memorial Park, the new playground is equipped with see-saws, swings, slides, jungle gym, merry whirl, play houses, sand tables and a concrete shower basin. Permanent concrete benches and shade trees are also part of the landscaped layout.

In Astoria Park under the Triborough Bridge, the new parking field has a concrete surface and will accommodate 384 cars. No fee is charged for the use of this facility, which should provide great convenience for patrons of the popular Astoria pool, which has had as many as 14,619 visitors in one day.

In the new Brighton section of Richmond, at Beechwood Avenue between Cleveland Street and Crescent Avenue, the new playground has a fully equipped small children's section besides facilities for handball, basketball, horseshoe pitching, paddle tennis, shuffle board and softball for older children and adults. Here, too, benches and shade trees are also provided.

End

July 23, 1936

The Park Department announces that Mayor LaGuardia, Park Commissioner Robert Moses, Hon. James J. Lyons, President of the Borough of the Bronx, Hon. James A. Deering, Alderman of the 27th District, Victor Ridder, Works Progress Administrator and Roderick Stephens, President of the Bronx Board of Trade will speak at the dedication exercises coincident with the opening of the new bathing beach and bath house facilities at Orchard Beach, Pelham Bay Park on Saturday, July 25th at 1:00 P.M.

Although the entire development, a WPA project, has not been completed, the facilities to be opened include a crescent-shaped white sand beach approximately 200 feet wide at high tide, and 2500 feet long facing the Sound; a beach walk and concrete seawall, which forms the backbone of the beach; two temporary parking fields that will accommodate 3500 cars and a section of the two-story bath house having 1568 lockers for men and 540 lockers and 192 dressing rooms for women.

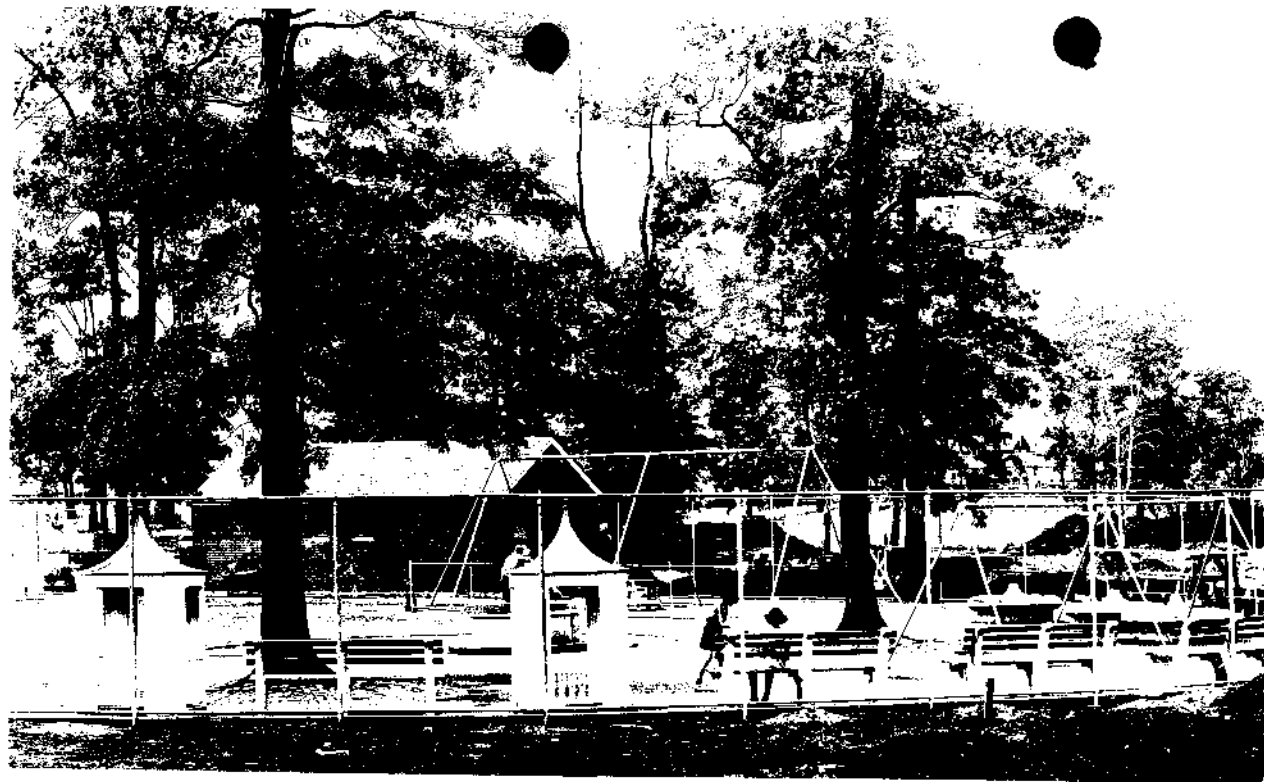
A new four-lane traffic relief road approximately two miles long, running from Eastern Boulevard to the bath house, eliminates the former narrow circuitous route from Eastern Boulevard to City Island. Bus and taxi service will be in operation from the bath house to the Pelham Bay station of the Lexington Avenue line of the Interborough Rapid Transit.

When completed, Orchard Beach will compare favorably with Jones Beach. Over 115 acres of land will have been added to Pelham Bay Park by the addition of between 3,500,000 to 4,000,000 cubic yards of fill and the new beach, approximately one mile long, will not occupy any land that was formerly part of the park.

There will be a brick pavilion with limestone trim and colonnades of simplified Greek architecture, with lockers and dressing room facilities for over 5400 persons, a cafeteria, rest rooms and a loggie terrace on the second floor facing the Sound; a Mall 250 feet wide and 1400 feet long, with benches and trees along the edges, connecting the bath house with a large lagoon for small boating. This lake will be provided with a tidal dam to keep the water at a permanent level.

In the Rodman Neck section there will be parking space for 7000 cars; athletic fields with nine baseball diamonds, seven football fields, thirty-two tennis courts, a completely equipped children's play area and a field house with dressing room, lockers, toilet and shower facilities. A small boat harbor will be provided. The Split Rock and Pelham Bay Golf Courses and Golf House, about one mile distant from the beach, were opened this spring.

The entire development is fitted into a landscape scheme taking full advantage of the natural rocky hillsides and weeded areas.



St. Albans Park
Plyd. Lucas.

Clipping Room
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Monday
For Release July 19, 1937

July 17, 1937.

605

Hon. William O'Reilly,
472 Baltic Street
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Alderman:

I note in the press that you were one of the speakers at a rally of South Brooklyn residents to protest about the progress of work on the President Street bathhouse, and at this meeting a bathtowel march, whatever that is, on the Mayor at the Summer City Hall, was suggested by Assemblyman Mangano.

I had already explained the situation to the Assemblyman, and his attitude indicates clearly that he is more interested in making a personal and political issue out of this matter than he is in doing something for the people of your community. I was surprised, however, at your presence at the rally, and assume that you do not know the facts.

The facts are as follows:

1. The President Street bath was a disgraceful institution, far from providing facilities for large numbers of people of your district during the summer. It had only a very small pool, not much more than a large bathtub. By no stretch of imagination could more than fifty people have used this pool, at one time, with any degree of safety or comfort. The water in this pool was polluted with raw sewage which leaked in from an adjacent sewer main, and the entire building was constructed with an incredible lack of intelligence and skill. As a matter of fact, it could not possibly have passed an honest building inspection at the time it was constructed.

2. This building was also used for tub and shower baths. The actual records showed a very small usage for this purpose, and indicated beyond any question that far from being a great neighborhood attraction, these baths had few users. Incidentally, there was a great deal of petty thievery and other troubles, due to the mixing of grown-ups and children.

3. This building was turned over to the Park Department by the Borough President of Brooklyn for reconstruction and because

Page 2.

of the bad conditions there. Our studies indicate that the proper use was as a local gymnasium for the children of the neighborhood, and our plans were made accordingly. We included some shower baths in place of the tubs, at the earnest request of some local people, with a separate entrance to these shower baths so that grown-ups could use them.

4. As we proceeded with the work, we found that the building had to be completely reconstructed. It was difficult to arrive at a structural steel design satisfactory to the Building Department. Delivery of steel ordered by the relief authorities is now expected early in September. Work will progress then with relief labor but the building cannot be completed until late in the fall.

In view of these facts it is preposterous to suggest at the hottest time of the year that the President Street bath reconstruction will have any vital effect on any large number of people in the neighborhood or that a towel brigade march on City Hall has any sense.

Your district immediately adjoins Red Hook, and you are fully aware of all the improvements which have been made at Red Hook, including the new swimming pool, which is readily accessible to the people of your neighborhood. Hundreds of thousands of people in the city have to go a great deal farther to get to one of the new pools. Let me add that in this general section of Brooklyn we also have another swimming pool at Sunset Park, and that considering that we only had the resources to build eleven new pools in the entire city and reconstruct one old one, this part of Brooklyn has not been neglected or overlooked.

May I suggest that if you want to do something worth while for your community, you ask the local people to support the request which I have submitted to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to round out and purchase as a permanent playground, the Brooklyn Union Gas Company property at the head of the Gowanus Canal fronting on Douglas, Nevins and Degraw Streets and Third Avenue. We have a small temporary playground there now on a

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

*For Release*_____

Page 3.

permit from this Company, and we are able to buy at the assessed valuation of the land the entire block which includes the present temporary playground. If this new playground is added to others established in your district, and if you will examine the map, you will see that more has been done in the last three and a half years for recreation in this part of Brooklyn than was done in the previous fifty years.

I am sending a copy of this letter to my friend, Alderman Frank Cunningham who, I am sure, will be in sympathy with its contents.

Very truly yours,

Robert Moses

Commissioner

*Library
man. delivered*

604
For Release July 19, 1937.

On Tuesday, July 20th, at 3:00 P.M., special exercises will take place in all the Park Department playgrounds in Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn and Richmond in an effort to induce children to become regular attendants at the playgrounds, make wider and more intensive use of the facilities and by taking children off streets reduce accidents. "Get A New Member" will be the campaign slogan of the children who now use the Park Department recreational facilities daily.

In the playgrounds there are activities and facilities available for all age groups. For the very small children there are kindergarten swings, wading pools, sandboxes, doll houses, puppet and marionette shows, handicraft, song-plays and story-telling hours. For children between the ages of six and eleven years there are large swings, slides and jungle gyms. Group and team games, in addition to such activities as arts and crafts, music and dramatics, are also conducted under the supervision and direction of the playground directors.

The children over twelve years of age are organized into clubs that train them for good citizenship, respect for authority and obedience to rules and regulations and inculcate loyalty to their playground and create a greater interest in their local neighborhood, parks and playgrounds.

The Borough of Queens conducted a special member drive on June 16th, and as a result of the special program there has been a marked increase in attendance at both the large and small playgrounds.

On July 20th, at each playground a special program will be conducted consisting of singing, athletics, demonstrations of various games, arts and crafts, music and dramatics. Athletic, civic, dramatic, handicraft, literary, orchestral, glee, social, checker and chess clubs are permanent fixtures in most of the playgrounds at present. A Junior Park Protective League has also been organized to prevent unnecessary vandalism and destruction to lawns, trees and shrubs in the parks and playgrounds.

End

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July 17, 1937
For Release

683

The Department of Parks announces the opening of two new playgrounds and two new buildings, today.

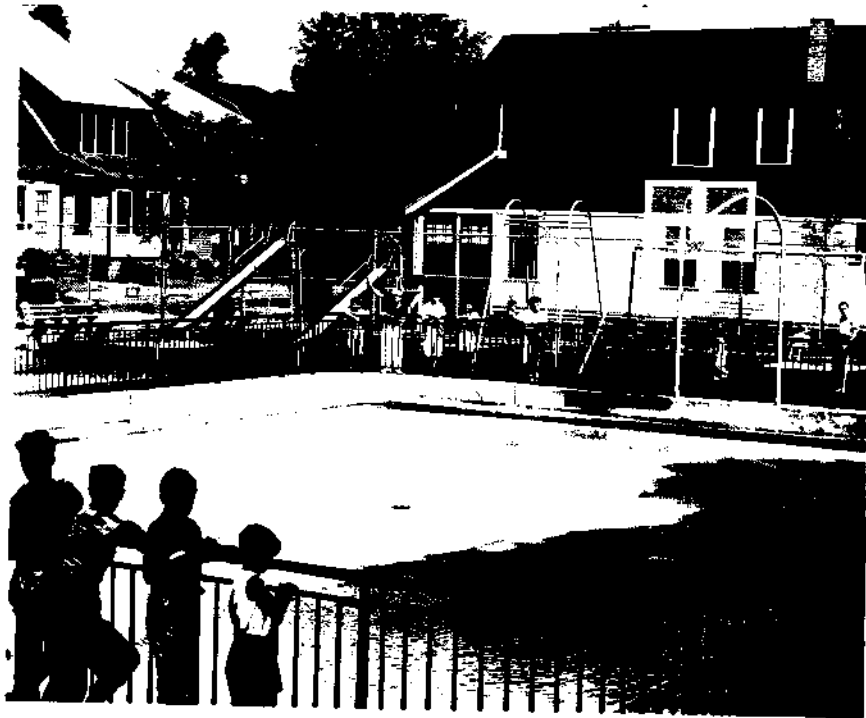
In Queens, at 179th Place north of Jamaica Avenue, the new playground is equipped with see-saws, swings, slides, jungle gym, sand tables, play-houses and a rectangular wading pool, 50 feet x 70 feet, for small children. There is also a large open play area and shuffle board and handball courts for older children. Benches and shade trees are also provided.

At Sayres Avenue between 172nd Street and Merrick Boulevard in St. Albans Memorial Park, the new playground has facilities for softball and basketball, besides see-saws, swings, horizontal bars and ladders. Here too, benches and shade trees are part of the layout.

In Manhattan, at 101st Street between Second and Third Avenues in Yorkville Playground, the new brick building, with slate roof, houses boys' and girls' comfort stations and a large play-room for indoor games during inclement weather.

At 173rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue in Highbridge Park, a new brick building, with copper roof, will be used as a concession stand to serve spectators and bathers at the swimming pool.

End



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

July 16, 1937

Library Man
delivered
For Release

682

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks, at the Arsenal, Central Park, for a contract for Test Borings on the line of the proposed Bulkhead Wall along Shore Road, Brooklyn. The three lowest Bidders were:

Standard Drilling Co.
60 East 42nd Street, N.Y.C.\$2437.50

Riley Engineering & Drilling Co.
1733 East 31st St., Brooklyn, N.Y..... 3350.00

Sprague & Henwood, Inc.
11 West 42nd Street, N.Y.C..... 4000.00

and the Engineer's Estimate was \$2500.00.

This contract is first step toward the improvement of one of New York's finest stretches of shore front, overlooking the lower Bay and the Narrows.

The information on sub-surface conditions obtained from about twenty-five test borings will be used to determine the design and the amount of material necessary for a new bulkhead wall to be built from Fort Hamilton to Owl's Head Park. The new wall will be similar to the one already completed around Fort Hamilton and will create a strip of land for the future construction of Shore Parkway from Fort Hamilton to Owl's Head Park. This stretch of parkway will be an important link in the Brooklyn Circumferential Highway, connecting with the proposed Hamilton Avenue tunnel on the north, joining with the completed portion past Fort Hamilton and ultimately running past Coney Island, through Marine Park and over the new Marine Parkway Bridge to Jacob Riis Park.

After the new bulkhead wall is completed a wide pedestrian promenade will be constructed connecting with the section recently completed in front of Fort Hamilton. Reclaimed land behind the wall will form new park areas totalling 24.3 acres to provide recreational facilities between the parkway and the Old Shore Road.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

601

For Release Immediately
July 14, 1937

The Henry Hudson Parkway Authority announced today that it had successfully completed the issuance of \$2,000,000 in new $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ sinking fund bonds for the addition of an upper level to the Henry Hudson Bridge and for increased roadway facilities through Inwood Hill Park and the Spuyten Duyvil section of the Bronx. Recently the Authority, through its bankers, James H. Causey & Co., Inc., and Stranahan-Harris, approached the bondholders of the original issue of \$3,100,000 and received the consent of the holders of over two-thirds of the issue so that the new offering could be made immediately. Under the original bond resolution the Authority was limited to the issuance of \$1,400,000 in bonds after the first full year's successful operation. The operation of the Henry Hudson Bridge, however, since it first began collecting tolls on December 14 of last year, has been so successful that it dispelled any doubts as to the ability of the Authority to finance the additional issue. The three millionth car passed over the bridge on Saturday, July 10, a few days less than seven months' full operation.

The anticipated opening of the West Side Improvement on October 1 of this year made it imperative to start immediately on the provision for additional traffic facilities over the Henry Hudson Parkway from its junction with the West Side Improvement at the end of Riverside Drive to West 239th Street in the Bronx. The present use of the Henry Hudson is so heavy that the existing facilities are taxed to the limit at peak periods. When the new parkway, being constructed as part of the West Side Improvement from 72nd to Dyckman Street, is completed the additional facilities leading traffic to the Henry Hudson Parkway will be so greatly increased that the present facilities of the Henry Hudson Parkway would be considerably overtaxed. Therefore, it is planned to use the present level of the bridge and the present pavement through Inwood Hill Park for southbound traffic only

7

and to construct a new parkway roadway from Dyckman Street through Inwood Hill Park to lead onto the proposed upper level of the Henry Hudson Bridge to bring the northbound traffic from Manhattan into the Bronx. The toll gates will be increased in number from a total of eight to eight in each direction. A pedestrian underpass will be built under the new roadway in Inwood Hill Park so that the parkway will not split the park and the existing walk system, with a few minor changes, will be held intact. When the Henry Hudson Bridge was built it was designed to carry an upper level when needed and the new construction will be carried on without interrupting the flow of traffic over the lower level.

Through the Spuyten Duyvil area of the Bronx, parkway roadways were only constructed two lanes in width in each direction from the north end of the bridge to West 239th Street and Riverdale Avenue, from which point the central roadways were widened to three lanes in each direction to the city line. At this point the Henry Hudson Parkway joins the Saw Mill River Parkway and through this the Westchester County Parkway System. The Authority now proposes to widen the central roadways through the Spuyten Duyvil section from two to three lanes in each direction to provide the needed roadway capacity for both the upper and lower levels on the Henry Hudson Bridge. At the same time it is proposed to widen the landscaping area so that this section may be adequately landscaped as a true parkway and the sidewalk widths will be increased from ten to fifteen feet to allow for proper development in this local area. On July 9 the Board of Estimate and Apportionment approved the plan and instituted the proceeding for the acquisition of the additional land necessary for the improvement of this section. It is estimated that the title will actually vest about August 1 of this year. The cost of the additional land, as well as the construction, will be paid for entirely by the Henry Hudson Parkway Authority.

Construction has already been started on the new junction of the West Side Improvement and the Henry Hudson Parkway where a contractor is preparing the ground work for the construction of the new bridge over Dyckman Street. The first contract, to be paid for out of the new bond issue consisting of the grading of the new roadway through Inwood Hill Park was advertised by the Authority on July 10 and bids will be received by the Authority on July 20. Approximately two weeks later bids will be received for the construction of the upper level of the Henry Hudson Bridge, which has already been designed in anticipation of the bond issue. This, in turn, will be immediately followed by contracts covering the work through the Spuyten Duyvil area.

It is anticipated this work will be completely let this year or the beginning of 1958. This will mark the completion of probably the most important urban express artery in the country. It connects on the north the Bronx, Westchester, upper New York and New England, and on the south Manhattan, Brooklyn and through the George Washington Bridge, Midtown and Holland Tunnels, New Jersey and the eastern part of the United States south of New York. It will be possible to proceed from Canal Street in Manhattan to the city line at Westchester without the interference of cross traffic and red lights.

ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner

The Department of Parks announces the opening of two new and one remodeled buildings today.

In Brooklyn at Seventh Avenue and 86th Street, in Dyker Beach Park, the new brick golf clubhouse has a large lounge, a check-room, men and women's locker rooms with showers, and a professional shop and show-room. The building is not quite completed and work is still proceeding on the East Wing, which, when completed, will be used as a modern restaurant with a large dining room.

In The Bronx at Crotona Park East and Charlotte Street, in Crotona Park, the new brick building has comfort facilities for boys and girls and a play director's room.

In Richmond at Victory Boulevard and Park Road, in Silver Lake Park, the old garage and engineers' building has been remodeled into a modern golf clubhouse. On the first floor there is a large lounge, a cafeteria and men's locker and shower rooms. On the second floor there is a sitting room and women's locker and shower rooms.

End



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

Miss Sewell

598

Immediate Release

June 30 1937

*Telephoned to City News
June 30.*

The second Naumburg Concert of the Season will take place
on the Mall in Central Park on Independence Day, July 4 at 8:15 P.M.

Lajos Shuk will conduct the Naumburg Orchestra. Hazel Hayes,
Soprano, and Alice de Cevee, Pianist, are to be the guest soloists
of the evening.

Other Naumburg Concerts will be given on July 31 and September 6
at the same location in Central Park, completing the series of four
which is given every year for the music lovers of New York City.

*6/30
OK
WRCW*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

597
For Release

MONDAY
June 28, 1937

The Department of Parks announces that exercises in connection with the completion of the rehabilitation of Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, will take place on Tuesday, June 29th, at 1:00 P.M.

Besides Mayor LaGuardia, Park Commissioner Robert Moses and Raymond V. Ingersoll, Borough President of Brooklyn, Col. Wm. A. Dawkins, Col. Casper V. Gunther and Captain R. A. Koch, will participate in the ceremonies.

For more than a year relief forces have been busily engaged in remodeling and renovating this 30-acre historic park, bounded by Myrtle Avenue, St. Edwards Street, Washington and DeKalb Avenues. Work has progressed in sections so that the public were not excluded from the park.

The Martyrs' Monument erected in 1907 at a cost of \$200,000., standing on a hilltop like a sentry over the remains of American Revolutionists who died aboard British Prison Ships in Wallabout Bay, has been renovated and furnished with new bronze doors and grilles. Two new completely equipped playgrounds have been added to the park; one for small children at the DeKalb and Washington Avenues entrance, and the other for older children at the St. Edwards Street and Myrtle Avenue side of the park.

The entrance and Plaza at Myrtle Avenue leading up to the Monument has been redesigned and reconstructed on a scale commensurate with the Monument, and laid out to provide not only benches under shade trees for passive recreation, but also a roller skating area.

The comfort station has been renovated and modernized; walks realigned; many permanent benches placed; the contours of landscaping changed, lawn areas reseeded and many new trees planted, all fitting into a comprehensive landscape scheme.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Library mailed

For Release June 25, 1937

596

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the Magic Contest will take place on Sunday, June 27 at 2:30 P.M. on the Mall, Central Park.

As a result of playground and borough eliminations, 14 boys have been selected to represent the boroughs in the final competition. All kinds of magic acts from "The Boy Magician" to "A Symphony in Silks" will be performed.

The judges of the contest are Mr. John Cooper, ventriloquist, and Mr. D. Belmont, Magician. Contestants will be judged according to performance and showmanship.

End

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Library mailed 595
For Release June 28, 1937

The Department of Parks announces that a plaque will be dedicated in honor of Lillian D. Wald on Tuesday, June 29th, at 2:45 P.M., at the playground - Cherry, Monroe and Gouverneur Streets, Manhattan.

Besides Mayor LaGuardia and Park Commissioner Robert Moses, Miss Helen Hall, Mr. George W. Alger and Mrs. Felix M. Warburg will speak at the ceremonies. As a tribute to Miss Wald, more than one hundred nurses and supervisors of the Visiting Nurses Service will attend in uniform, as well as many of her friends and former associates. Miss Wald, who celebrated her seventieth birthday on March 10th last, will not be able to attend as she has been confined to her home in Westport, Connecticut, because of poor health.

On March 9th, 1937, the Board of Aldermen honored Miss Wald, founder of the Henry Street Settlement, by adopting a resolution naming in her honor this playground in the heart of the district where she has done her charitable work for many years.

The plaque which has been erected on the recreation building reads as follows:

THIS PLAYGROUND
IS NAMED FOR

LILLIAN D. WALD

IN APPRECIATION
OF HER PIONEER WORK
FOR CHILDREN
AND DISTRICT NURSING
IN THIS CITY

1937

The Park Department announces that the Mary Harriman Rumsey Playground in Central Park, on the site of the old Casino, is completed and will be opened to the public Friday, May 7th, without formal ceremony, although later this month a cast bronze plaque, now in place, will be unveiled by the Harriman family and interested friends, in memory of Mrs. Rumsey who, as a philanthropist, was enthusiastically interested in child welfare.

After a legal conflict which started shortly after Commissioner Moses took office in January, 1934, the city gained on May 1st, 1936, an unanimous victory in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on the question of the Park Department's right to remove, for purposes of other park development, buildings which has been erected solely as incidental to park use. Immediately W. P. A. workmen started to tear down the old Casino, formerly an exclusive high-priced restaurant and night-club set aside for a few people of wealth, and of no use to the general public.

This one and one-quarter acre area occupied by the Casino building and its parking space, now offers facilities for a juvenile age group not provided for in the marginal playgrounds for small children located around the perimeter of Central Park and marks another step in setting aside active play space within the park to insure to older people the enjoyment of nearby spaces for quiet and relaxation. Besides swings, slides and other play equipment, a large oval-shaped wading pool has been constructed. Encircling it is a roller-skating track, around whose outer edge are permanent benches under shade trees for guardians of children and for children to adjust their skates. Comfort facilities for boys and girls, separated by a latticed open shelter, are incorporated in a brick building of Georgian architecture. The entire area, including paths and landscaping was designed to connect and fit the playground to existing surrounding park features.

End

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

*Library
mailed*

IMMEDIATELY
For Release JUNE 24, 1937.

594

The Department of Parks announces that, beginning June 26th, the hours of operation of its twelve swimming pools which opened Saturday, May 29th, will be extended from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

To date, this year, the pools have been used by 276,088 people, of which 12,515 were children under fourteen years of age admitted during the weekday free periods from 10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Swimming meets are being held daily at the various pools to determine teams which will compete at the swimming carnival to be held Saturday afternoon, June 26th, at Red Hook Pool in Brooklyn, as a feature of "Swim-For-Health-Week." Medals will be awarded to the individual winners, and the Major Namm Trophy will be presented to the pool whose team scores the most points.

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593

Department of Parks
The Arsenal
64th Street & 5th Avenue
Manhattan

June 19, 1937

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Department of Parks announces that in Fort Tryon Park on Broadway from 192nd Street to Dyckman Street many perennial plants are flowering in great profusion. Besides delphiniums, there are also roses, sedums and a fine show of other flowering plants in profusion.

This 70 acre Park, formerly the estate of C.K.G. Billings, was acquired and developed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. at a cost of \$7,000,000. prior to being turned over to the City. It is situated on one of the highest points in Manhattan and commands an impressive view across the Hudson to the Palisades. Despite its rugged terrain it is a spot of natural beauty and abounds in fine trees, shrubs, and flowers which have been set out in the fashion of a fine private estate. The terraced slopes and foliage make an effective background for the floral displays.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Miss Sullivan
mailed
For Release June 18, 1937.

592

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the Second Annual Amateur Musical Instrument Contest for the children will take place on the Mall, Central Park, on Saturday, June 19 at 2:30 P.M.

The winners of the borough final eliminations will compete at the finals. The contestants have been divided into three age groups: the sixth through the ninth year; tenth through the thirteenth year and the fourteenth through the sixteenth year. Pianists may use the piano provided by the Department of Parks. All other contestants will bring their own instruments some of which will be drums, fife, saxophone, xylophone, accordion, harmonica, violin. Each contestant will be permitted one solo to be completed within five minutes.

Bronze medals will be awarded to the borough winners and one gold and one silver medal will be awarded to the winners in each of the age groups.

The judges of the contest will be Miss Frederique Petrides, Conductor of the Orchestrette Classique; Mr. Herman Katims, concert pianist and Mr. Arthur T. Cromin, Director of the New York Schools of Music.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

590
For Release

IMMEDIATELY
June 12th, 1937

(Copy)

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
Arsenal
64th Street and Fifth Avenue
New York City

June 12, 1937

Col. Brehon Somervell, Administrator
U. S. Works Progress Administration
for The City of New York
70 Columbus Avenue
New York City

Dear Colonel:

I have your terrifying letter telling me that Mr. Brady, the general superintendent in charge of the Bronx Park relief forces, whose jurisdiction includes Randall's Island, may go to jail for six months or be subjected to a large fine, or both, for working eight mechanics eight hours overtime to complete the cafeteria at Randall's Island in time for its formal opening. This overtime has no effect on your pay-rolls or on the earnings of these mechanics, because the plumbers can only get 56 hours a month or a total of \$84 and the electricians only 52 hours a month or a total of \$86.28.

The fine and imprisonment business is bunk of the old army rough stuff variety. You can pull this sort of thing on the Florida Ship Canal, but not in New York City. You know that this was an emergency, and that the law permits exemptions for emergency work. It was in fact so trivial that I knew nothing about it, and it was handled as a matter of routine. Quite incidentally, the terrible incident you complain of happened three days before Brady took over the Randall's Island work and when Richard Johnson, who resigned to take a position with one of the contractors at the World's Fair, was in charge. So you will have to sick the bloodhounds on Johnson.

Brady happens to be one of the first class superintendents to whom we are indebted for getting results in spite of the red tape and general collapse of W.P.A. efficiency. You ought to be grateful to people of this kind instead of harrassing them. As a matter of fact, Brady, like Johnson and the other remaining first rate superintendents, will drop out of the relief program shortly and go back into private construction work where good executives are adequately paid, where they work under normal conditions and not in a mad house, and where their services are appreciated.

I have some sizable construction contracts under my direction throughout the city, and observe daily the glaring contrast between this work and relief work. Any administrator who tries to make a major issue out of eight men working eight hours' overtime is just looking for something to quibble about.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner

(Copy)

U. S. WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
70 Columbus Avenue
New York, N. Y.

June 11, 1937

Hon. Robert Moses, Commissioner,
Department of Parks,
The Arsenal,
64th Street and Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Commissioner Moses:

I am returning without my approval a request made by your department for my authorization, after the fact, for working eight mechanics eight hours' over time on May 28th.

Were Mr. Brady an employee of the United States he would be subject to the penalties provided in the act of March 3, 1913, namely, \$1000 fine or imprisonment for not more than six months or both.

May I again ask you to issue the necessary instructions to your department to see that persons are not worked more than the eight hours provided by law.

Sincerely yours,

BREHON SOMERVELL

Administrator

(Copy)

TRIBOROUGH BRIDGE AUTHORITY

389-A
June 8, 1937

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1937

TOWERS OF THE BRONX-WHITESTONE BRIDGE

Proposals for the construction of the towers of the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge will be opened Wednesday, June 23rd, at the office of the Triborough Bridge Authority on Randall's Island.

This is the second major contract to be advertised since the project was financed by the Authority in April; bids for the first, covering the construction of the tower piers and anchorage foundations, having been opened on June 8th.

Eight bids were received. The low bidder was Frederick Snare Corporation with a bid of \$1,893,558. This was well within the original estimate made for this part of the work. The contract was awarded to the low bidder and work will begin as quickly as the necessary formalities can be completed. The work program calls for the completion of the Bronx Anchorage foundation by December, 1937 and of the Bronx Tower pier by February 15, 1938, also for the completion of Queens Tower pier by April 15, 1938 and of the Queens Anchorage foundation by May 15, 1938.

The Bronx-Whitestone Bridge will span the East River between the Whitestone section of Queens at approximately 145th Place and the peninsula known as Old Ferry Point in the Bronx. The entire project embraces not only the East River suspension bridge and its approaches but also parkway connections from Eastern Boulevard in the Bronx and Northern Boulevard in Queens, the latter crossing the Flushing River via a double leaf bascule bridge.

The suspension bridge will have a center span of 2,500 feet and side spans of 735 feet. In length of clear span between towers it will be the

(Copy)

TRIBOROUGH BRIDGE AUTHORITY

June 8, 1937

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The suspension bridge will have a center span of 2,300 feet and side spans of 735 feet. In length of clear span between towers it will be the

third longest ever built, being exceeded only by the spans of the Golden Gate Bridge and the George Washington Bridge.

The towers are to be erected on concrete piers founded on rock and located in the river shoreward of the pierhead lines on either side. They will be of structural steel. Care has been used in their design to secure simplicity along with a distinctive appearance in keeping with their monumental character. Each will consist of two cellular columns or shafts connected at the top and just below the roadway level by arched portals. They will be 380 ft. high and will support the two main cables; 6,800 tons of structural steel are required for the two towers.

Time is an extremely important element in the entire project and the period allowed for the tower contract is carefully fitted into the complete construction program in order that the bridge may be finished and ready to serve World's Fair traffic June 1, 1939. The first several months of the tower contract time will be spent in the preparation of the contractor's working drawings, the fabrication of the steel in the shops and in other work preliminary to actual erection of the towers at the site. Early in 1938 the tower piers are to be ready for the erection of the tower steel and by the middle of June, 1938 the towers must be completed in order that the erection of footbridges and spinning equipment for the cables may proceed.

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Miss Sullivan
Man. believed - Bt mailed

June 12th, 1937.

For Release

588

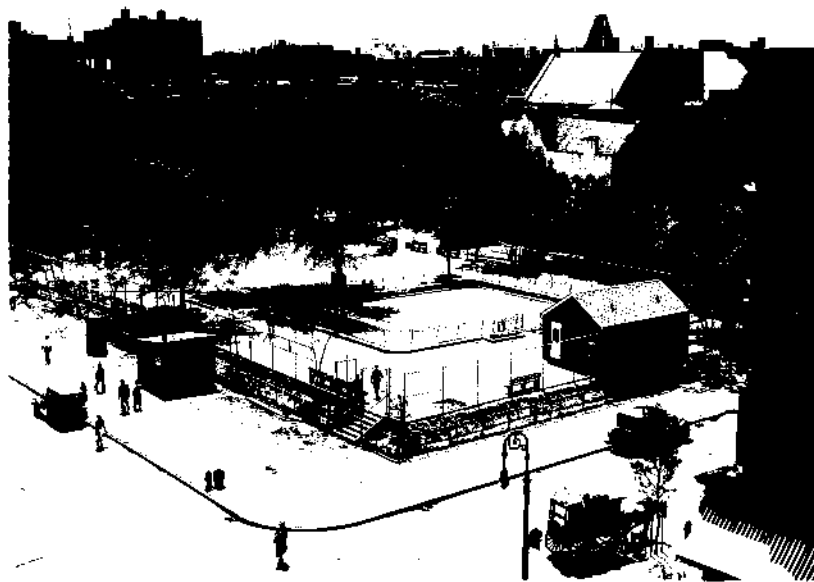
The Department of Parks announces the opening of two new playgrounds and a recreation building today.

In Manhattan, at Fifth Avenue between West 130th and West 131st Streets, the new playground is equipped with swings, see-saws, slides, jungle gym, sand tables, playhouses, a rectangular wading pool, handball and shuffleboard courts. There is also a large open play area for group games. Around the perimeter of the playground is a landscape area with shade trees under which are benches for mothers and guardians of children. A small brick comfort station with slate roof which has facilities for boys and girls is also provided.

In Brooklyn, at Avenue L between E. 17th and E. 18th Streets, the new playground has swings, see-saws, slides, sand tables, playhouses, handball, horseshoe pitching and shuffleboard courts. There is also a wading pool, a softball diamond and an oval shaped roller skating rink. Benches and shade trees are also provided.

These playgrounds are two of the twenty-four sites in neglected areas selected by the Commissioner of Parks and acquired by condemnation after authorization by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

In the playground at Bedford Avenue and Avenue X, the new brick recreation building of "T" shape design has comfort facilities for boys and girls, a mother's room and a large playroom for indoor games during inclement weather.



COPY

587

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
PRESS RELEASE
JUNE 3, 1937.

The twelve outdoor swimming pools operated by the Department of Parks opened for the season on Saturday, May 29th, at 10 A. M. It was originally planned to operate the pools from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M., until June 26th, when the pools will be open until 10 P. M. Due to the extreme heat on Tuesday, June 1st, the hours of operation were extended to 8 o'clock and this extension of operations will be in effect on all days when the heat is oppressive.

For the holiday weekend, 41,776 children and 18,745 adults took advantage of the hot weather and the opening of the pools. For Tuesday, June 1st, the attendance was 14,782 of which 980 were children admitted during the free period from 10 A. M. to 12:30 Noon.

Copies to: Commissioner Moses, 80 Centre Street, N. Y. C.
A. E. Howland, L.I.S.P.C., Babylon, L.I., N.Y.

V. J. Jenkins
Clipping Room ✓
General File

Notes: This release was given over the phone to City News on June 2, 1937, at 5:10 P.M. -

J.A.Sherry/MS.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Delivered
For Release May 29th, 1937

As part of its recreational program to provide open air enjoyment to the users of parks during the summer months, the Department of Parks announces the following schedules of dramas, concerts and dancing.

The dramas, conducted by the Federal Theatre Group, start on Tuesday, June 1st, the concerts on Sunday, May 30th, with the Naumberg Concert on the Mall in Central Park, and the dancing on Monday, June 7th, at the Prospect Park picnic grounds, Brooklyn, and at Jackson Heights Playground in Queens.

DRAMA SCHEDULE

SUMMER 1937

BROOKLYN

Owl's Head Park	Tuesdays
Gravesend Park	Wednesdays
Kelly Park	Thursdays
Prospect Park	Fridays

QUEENS

Highland Park	Tuesdays
Forest Park	Wednesdays
King Park	Thursdays

BRONX

St. Mary's Park	Tuesdays
Crotona Park	Wednesdays

MANHATTAN

Corlears Hook Park	Thursdays
Washington Square Park	Fridays
Roosevelt Park	Saturdays

RICHMOND

Silver Lake Park	Tuesdays
Wolf's Pond Park	Saturdays

CONCERT SCHEDULE

SUMMER 1937

MANHATTAN

Mall

Goldman Band Concerts	8:30 P.M.
Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday - (except July 4th)	
Starts June 16 - ends August 15	

Judge Prince Concerts	8:30 P.M.
June 22, 26 - July 3, 10, 17, 24	

Naumberg Concerts	8:15 P.M.
May 30 - July 4, 31 - Sept. 6	

BROOKLYN

Prospect Park Music Grove

Goldman Band Concert	8:30 P.M.
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	
Starts June 16 - ends August 15	
Judge Prince Concert	3:00 P.M.
June 27 - July 4, 11, 18, 25	
New York State Symphonic Band	8:30 P.M.
Wednesdays - Starts June 9	

BRONX

Poo Park

Hudson Concert Band	8:30 P.M.
Mondays - Starts June 7th	

QUEENS

Forest Park

Manhattan Concert Band	8:30 P.M.
Sunday, Tuesday, Friday	
Starts June 8th	

King Park

Hudson Concert Band	8:30 P.M.
Wednesdays - Starts June 9th	

These three bands will alternate at Forest Park.

DANCE SCHEDULE

SUMMER 1937

<u>Location</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Date of First Dance</u>
Mall, Central Park	Tuesdays & Thursdays	June 8th
Prospect Park Picnic Grounds	Mondays	June 7th
Mullaly Recreation Center	Wednesdays	June 9th
Jackson Heights Plgd.	Mondays	June 7th
Mc Donald Plgd.	Wednesdays	June 9th
Roosevelt Plgd.	Fridays	June 11th
Colonial Plgd.	Tuesdays	June 8th
Astoria Pool	Every second Friday	June 11th

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

U. S. WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
70 Columbus Ave., New York, N.Y.

Miss Sullivan
Delivered
For Release

585
Immediate
May 28, 1937

May 20, 1937

Brehon Somervell
Administrator

Mr. Allyn R. Jennings
General Superintendent
Department of Parks
The Arsenal, Central Park
New York, N. Y.

Dear Allyn:

In accordance with the understanding expressed by Commissioner Moses in his letter of May 7th and Colonel Somervell in his reply of May 11th, employment on the Parks Projects will be reduced by 5,000 persons on June 1st.

In order that this office may have time to arrange for the necessary discharges and transfers involved, it is requested that the names of the 5,000 persons be furnished this office not later than Friday, May 28, 1937.

Sincerely,

H. L. PECKHAM
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
In charge of Operations

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

May 26, 1937

Col. Brehon Somervell
Works Progress Administrator
70 Columbus Avenue
New York City.

Dear Colonel:

The list of an additional five thousand relief workers to be transferred from the Park Department will be furnished to you on Tuesday, June 1st. There has been considerable difficulty in working this out, because of the problem of keeping work going on existing projects, maintaining order and some semblance of efficiency. This cut will, of course, seriously delay the completion of the Park Projects.

Cordially,

ROBERT MOSES
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

584
For Release IMMEDIATELY
MAY 27, 1937.

Saturday morning at 10:30 A.M. in the Children's Garden at Fort Green Park, Myrtle Avenue and North Portland Street, Brooklyn, neighborhood children will sow the first seeds in the new little garden plots.

Each child will have an individual garden 4 x 8 ft. for the first planting. They will plant early vegetable seeds which can be harvested in time to allow another group of children to plant the seeds for fall harvesting.

Although this Garden is in the heart of a heavily congested area a rural touch is added, by an old fashioned dipping well from which the youngsters can fill their watering cans to water their gardens. It differs however, from the country well by being only 18 inches deep.

Flower beds and other sections of this "Bit of Country in the City", will be occupied with plants of economic interest such as cotton, peanuts, flax, wheat, Indian Corn and old-fashioned herbs. All these should prove interesting and educational to children and adults who will visit this garden to enjoy the growing plants and flowers from convenient benches located within the garden.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Miss Sullivan 583
Reelwood
For Release MAY 27, 1937

The Department of Parks announces the reopening of its twelve swimming pools on May 29th at 10 A. M. Eleven of these are new pools opened last year for the first time; the twelfth, located in Faber Park, Richmond, has been in operation for five years.

During the fall, winter and spring, these pools have been operating as free play centers. Various facilities, such as handball, volleyball, paddle tennis, etc., were provided and used by approximately 2,000,000 children and adults under competent Park Department supervision. For the past month they have been closed to the public in order to do the necessary cleaning and repairing to put them in readiness for summer operations, and the floors and side walls of the pools have been freshly painted.

Last year these pools were used by approximately 1,800,000 people, although only open for less than 50% of the normal operating season, and despite the fact that none of them were completed in final form. This year the construction has been entirely finished and all facilities that were temporary have been replaced with permanent ones. They are located as follows:

Manhattan:	Hamilton Fish Thomas Jefferson Colonial Highbridge	E. Houston & Sheriff Streets 111th to 114th St. & First Ave. Bradhurst Ave., W. 145th to 147th St. Amsterdam Ave. & 173rd Street
Brooklyn:	McCarren Sunset Red Hook Betsy Head	Nassau Ave. & Lorimer Street 7th Ave. & 43rd Street Clinton, Bay & Henry Streets Hopkinson, Dumont & Livonia Streets
Bronx:	Crotona	173rd Street & Fulton Avenue
Queens:	Astoria	Barclay Street and 24th Avenue
Richmond:	Faber Tompkinsville	Faber St., bet. Richmond Terrace & Kill Van Kull Arrietta Street at Pier No. 6

From May 29th to June 26th, the pools will open at 10:00 A.M. and close at 6:00 P.M. From June 27th until the termination of the season, the pools will open at 10:00 A.M. and close at 10:00 P.M. daily. In cool weather, the water will be heated.

On weekdays from 10:00 A. M. to 12:30 P.M. the free period for children under 14 years of age, during which no adults are admitted to the pool areas will be continued. After 1:00 P.M. on weekdays and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, there is a 10 cent charge for children under 14 years of age and a 20 cent charge for older children and for adults.

An extensive aquatic program has been planned for the coming swimming season. Group swimming and diving instructions, intra and inter-pool competition, water shows, water polo tournaments and life saving and first aid classes will make up the major portion of the program. The season will be climaxed with the annual five borough swimming and diving championship, on a date to be announced in the future.

Orchard Beach at Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, and Jacob Riis Park, on the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens, will open on Saturday, June 19th.

At Jacob Riis Park there will be accommodations for approximately 14,000 cars, in the largest single unit paved parking space in the United States, while the bath house has been enlarged to accommodate 10,000 patrons and provide a modern up to date beach restaurant. An 18 hole pitch and putt golf course, shuffleboard and other amusements will line a new mile long 40 foot boardwalk. The former inadequate beach has been materially widened, with new concession buildings flanking a mall opposite its widest part.

The opening of the new Marine Parkway Bridge, on July 3rd, which will connect Brooklyn with the Rockaways, will afford easy access to and from Jacob Riis Park and should tremendously increase its popularity.

At Orchard Beach there will be parking facilities for approximately 5,000 cars, a bath house to accommodate 7,000 patrons, a wide mile long beach promenade and modern restaurant facilities. An open air, terrazzo surfaced dance floor fronts the bath house.

Recreational areas will be available to the public at both beaches, providing shuffleboard, paddle tennis and handball courts, and other amusements similar to those at Jones Beach.

At both beaches there will be a 25 cents parking fee for automobiles; a charge of 15 cents for a child's locker, 25 cents for an adult's locker and 50 cents for a dressing room (per person). Beach shops are also provided where bathing accessories may be purchased and where beach umbrellas and chairs may be rented at a nominal charge.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Miss Sullivan
Delivered
For Release

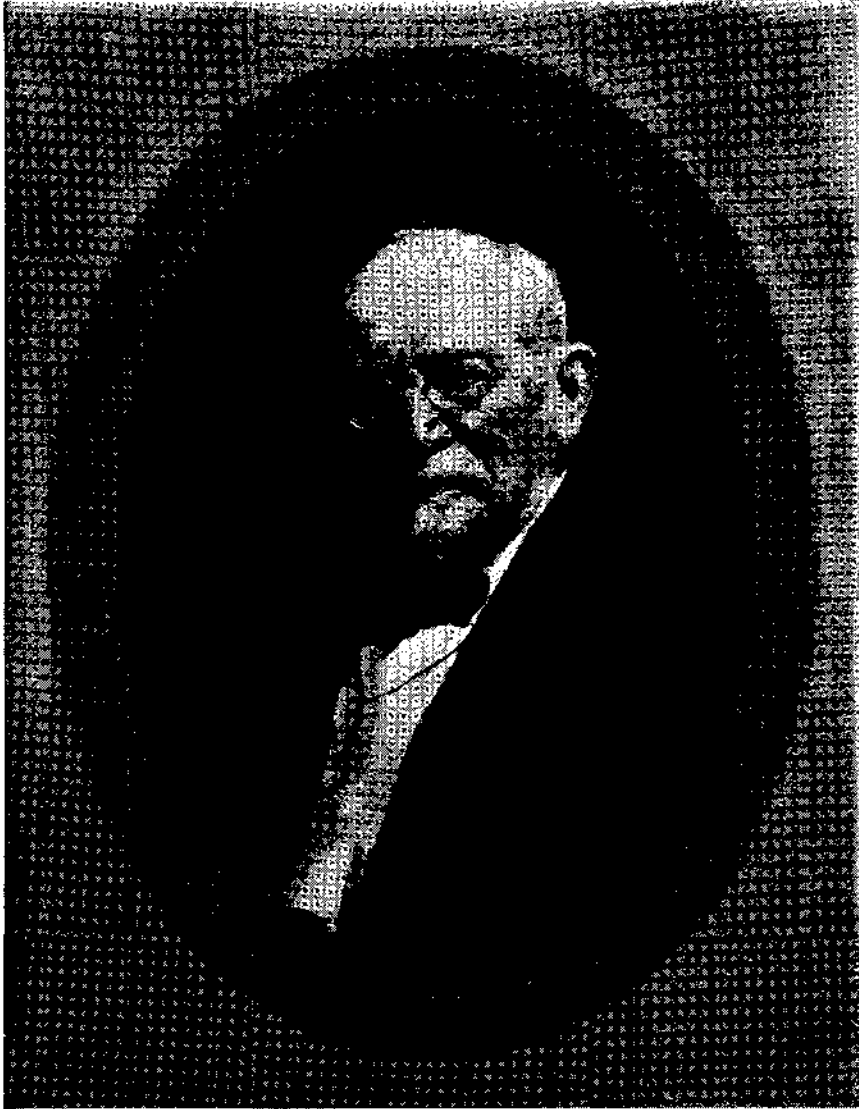
MAY 29, 1937

582

The first Naumburg concert of the season will take place on Memorial Day, Sunday, May 30th, at 8:15 P.M., on the Mall, Central Park. Leon Barzin will conduct. Arnold Eidus, violinist, will be the guest soloist for the evening.

This is one of several concerts given on the Mall throughout the summer and is looked forward to by all music lovers.

Attached is copy of the program.



ELKAN NAUMBURG

DECORATION DAY CONCERT

SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 30th, 1937

EIGHT FIFTEEN O'CLOCK

CENTRAL PARK : : ON THE MALL

THE NAUMBURG ORCHESTRA, Leon Barzin, *Conductor*

THE MALL—CENTRAL PARK
SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 30TH, AT 8:15 O'CLOCK
DECORATION DAY CONCERT

LEON BARZIN, *Conductor*

Soloist: ARNOLD EIDUS

Program

•
"The Star Spangled Banner"

1. Overture "Egmont" *Beethoven*
2. Violin Solo "Symphonie Espagnole" *Lulo*
I. IV. and V. Movements
Arnold Eidus
3. Overture "Die Meistersinger" *Wagner*

INTERMISSION

4. Impressions of Italy *Charpentier*
5. Violin Solo "Gypsy Airs" *Sarasate*
Arnold Eidus
6. Selection "Naughty Marietta" *Herbert*
7. (a) Valse Triste *Sibelius*
(b) Prize Song ("Die Meistersinger") *Wagner*
8. Waltz "Voices of Spring" *Strauss*
"America"

THIS CONCERT is contributed by MR. WALTER W. NAUMBURG and MR. GEORGE W. NAUMBURG, sons of MR. ELKAN NAUMBURG, who donated the bandstand on The Mall and lived to see it put to the purpose he had in mind of erecting a veritable Temple of Music.

MR. ELKAN NAUMBURG had been impressed with the need of an adequate bandstand in Central Park by reason of his custom, long years in practice, of contributing Orchestral Concerts of high quality, in the cause of good music for the people, on three holidays, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. His sons, continuing this custom in his memory, have added a fourth concert to the NAUMBURG series by giving a similar concert on July 31st, the anniversary of their father's death.

THE NAUMBURG concerts for the season of 1937 are therefore set down for May 30th, at 8:15 P. M., July 4th, at 8:15 P. M., July 31st, at 8:15 P. M., and September 6th, at 8:15 P. M. These dates to be remembered by lovers of good music.

CITY OF NEW YORK

HON. FIORELLO H. LAGUARDIA, *Mayor*

*Miss Sullivan
Tel to City News
mailed to Bldg. Bureau*

For Release IMMEDIATELY
MAY 25, 1937

581

The New York City World's Fair Commission took bids today on the construction of foundations for the New York City building in Flushing Meadow Park. The three low bidders were:

1. Palmo Construction Co.
105-15 - 103rd Avenue
Ozone Park, L.I. N.Y. \$178,484.00
2. Reiss & Weinsier, Inc.
105 Court Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 184,367.00
3. J. P. Rice Bldg., Co.
11 West 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 186,976.20

The Engineer's estimate was \$180,000.00

This is the first of five contracts for the construction of this building, which has been estimated to cost \$1,049,096. During the period of the Fair, the building will be used for exhibits of the activities of the various City Departments, Authorities and the Borough President's Offices. The New York City World's Fair Commission is at present planning the arrangements of these exhibits and the Chairman of the Commission, General George A. Wingate, will make this report public shortly.

Following the Fair, the building will be converted to indoor recreational usage and will be the dominant structure in the permanent park layout. It will house all types of indoor recreational activities, one of which will be a large ice-skating rink. The building is located on the major axis of the main park area, between Horace Harding Boulevard and the Long Island Railroad, and is directly adjacent to the east side of the Grand Central Parkway Extension. During the period of the Fair, it will face the Perisphere and Trilon, which feature will dominate the center of activity of the Fair.

The next contract for this building, which will involve the construction of the superstructure itself, will be let after authorization by the Board of Estimate at its meeting Friday, May 28th. The other contracts; plumbing, electrical, and heating and ventilation will follow in rapid sequence.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Miss Sullivan
Delivered
For Release IMMEDIATELY
May 25, 1937
5080

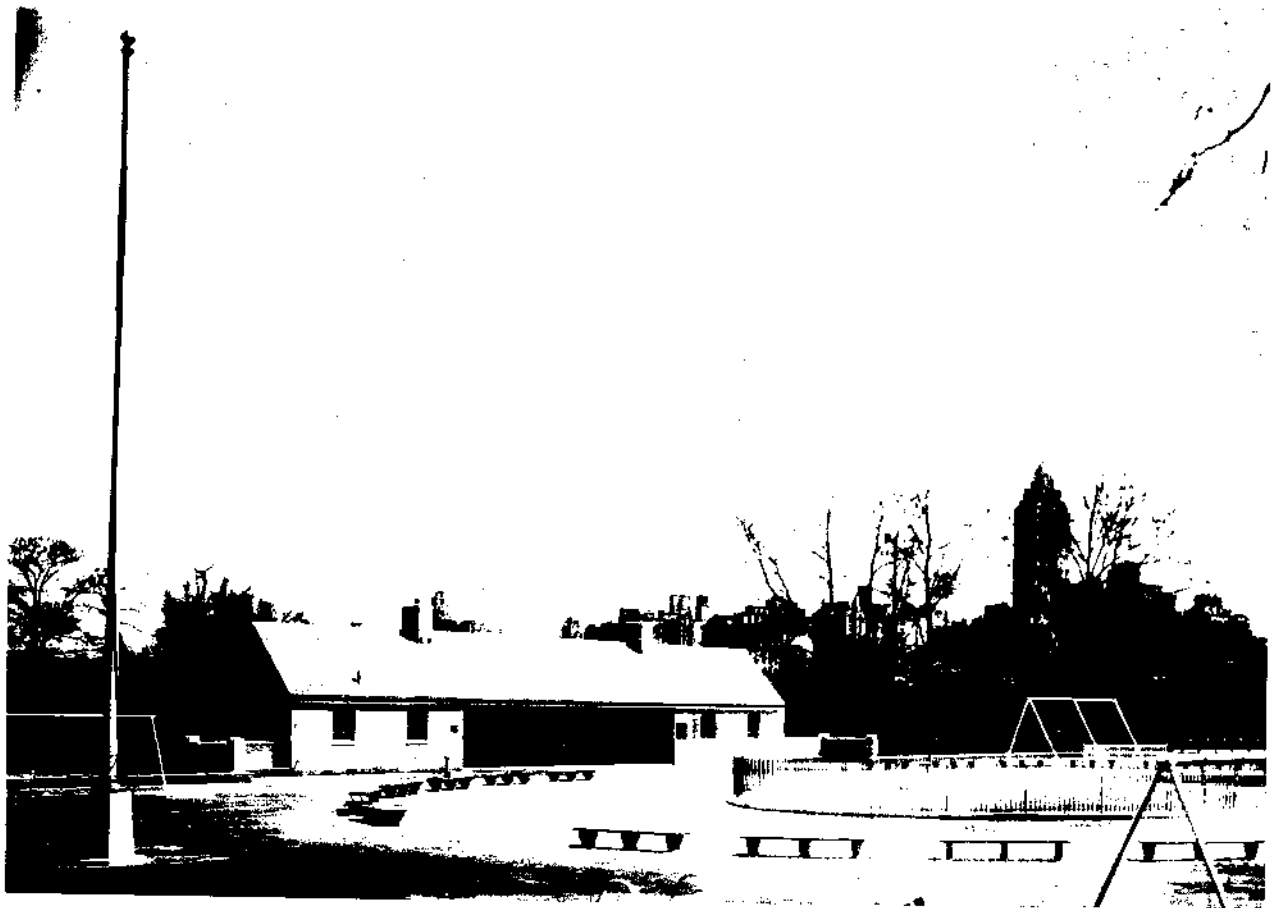
The Marine Parkway Authority announces that the last section of the new Marine Parkway Bridge, spanning Jamaica Inlet and connecting Brooklyn to Queens, was placed on Monday afternoon, May 24th. The span, mounted on barges, was floated in position at flood tide. The receding tide permitted the section to settle into place at 9 P.M. when the barges floated clear.

Under a recent speeding up agreement with the American Bridge Company, the schedule calls for the opening of the bridge on July 3rd, ¹²~~thirteen~~ months after it was started.

The bridge, which will replace the existing ferry line, will be slightly more than 4000 feet long, with three 500 foot spans in the center bridging the channel flanked by six shorter spans on either side. The flanking spans will have a clearance of 50 feet above mean high water. The central section, the longest vertical highway lift span in the world, will be 55 feet above high water in its normal position and will raise an additional 95 feet to permit the passage of large vessels.

The bridge will make a connection between what is now the end of Flatbush Avenue and Jacob Riis Park in Queens, and will not only shorten the traveling time to the Rockaway Peninsula for many thousands of motorists, but will relieve congestion that now exists on other arteries.

The reconstructed and expanded Jacob Riis Park will be opened on June 23rd. The facilities at the park will include areas for pitch-and-putt golf, archery, shuffleboard, and other amusements similar to those at Jones Beach. The existing bathhouse has been enlarged to provide facilities for 10,000 persons and there will be parking facilities for 14,000 automobiles in the largest single unit paved parking space in the United States.



Mrs. Sullivan
Delivered
For Release MONDAY
MAY 17, 1937

578

Two bronze figures will be erected in the fountain basins at the ends of the outdoor eating terrace of the concession restaurant building in the Central Park Zoo.

The figures, six feet high, representing a dancing bear and a dancing goat, were cast by the Roman Bronze Works, Inc., and designed by Frederick G. R. Roth, who executed the Sophie Irene Loeb Memorial fountain in Heckscher Playground, and also many of the carved panels on the Zoo buildings.

These amusing and decorative figures set on granite blocks, will, because of their position, fit harmoniously into and add gaiety to the Zoo landscape. Around the base of the bear are five frogs, and around the goat five ducks, which are connected to the water system; and from the mouths and bills of each, water will spray.

- E N D -

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Miss Sullivan
Rel. to City News - others mailed
577
For Release **IMMEDIATELY**
May 12, 1937

The Marine Parkway Authority took bids today for the construction of steel sheet pile bulkheading and incidental grading along the Rockaway Inlet Shore of Jacob Riis Park. The new bulkheading extends eastward approximately one-half mile from the Queens abutment of the Marine Parkway Bridge. At the easterly termination of this contract, the Borough President of Queens will construct additional bulkheading, behind which fill will be placed for the extension of Beach Channel Drive. The work under the present contract is to be completed by August 14th.

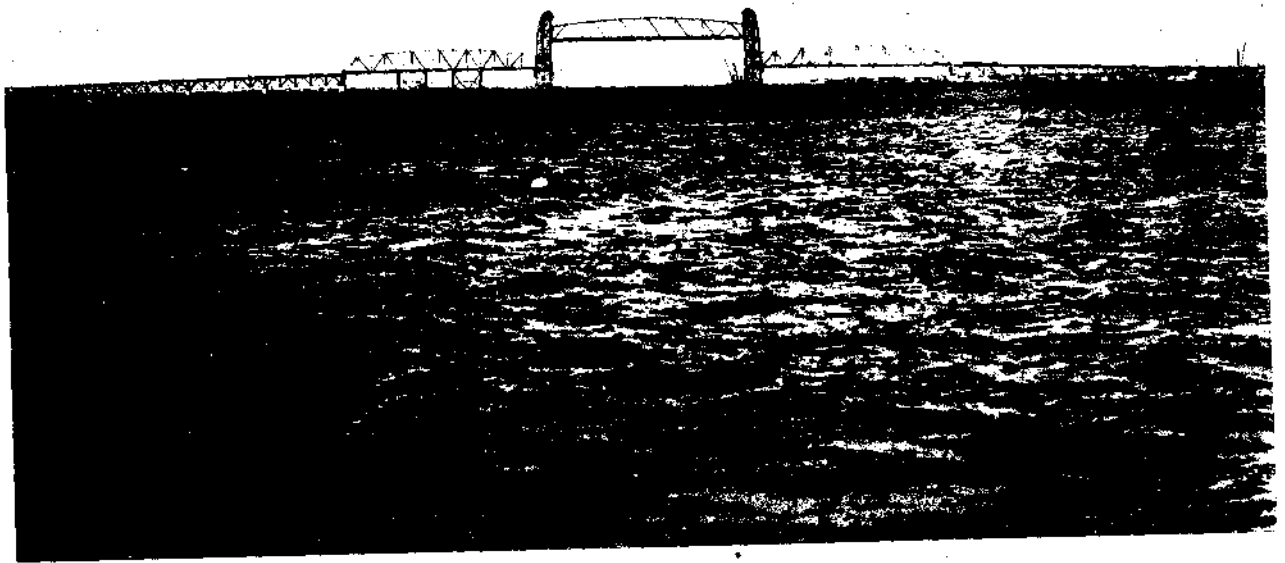
The three lowest bidders were:

A. M. Hazell, Inc., 117 Liberty Street, New York City \$182,942.
Charles F. Vachris, Inc., 827 Remsen Ave., Bklyn., N.Y. 189,056.
Frederick Snare Corp., 114 Liberty Street, New York City 212,590.

Alternate bids were taken on constructing only the easterly two-thirds of this bulkhead, with the intervening space to the bridge left in its present state. On this alternate, the three lowest bidders were:

A. M. Hazell, Inc., 117 Liberty Street, New York City \$137,068.
Charles F. Vachris, Inc., 827 Remsen Ave., Bklyn., N.Y. 141,685.
Allen N. Spooner & Son, Inc., Pier 11, North River, N.Y.C. 156,412.50

E N D





20 May 576
For Release IMMEDIATELY
MAY 12, 1937

Because of the layoff today of 429 WPA play leaders on maintenance and operation of playground areas, 142 playgrounds have been closed, and will remain closed until the City provides the funds for Civil Service employees to take their places:

In Manhattan 66; in Brooklyn 23; in The Bronx 8; in Queens 38 and in Richmond 7.

The removal of an additional 1571 WPA men on park maintenance has resulted in the abandonment of maintenance, wholly or in part, of 91 areas throughout the city. It is hoped that the permanent Civil Service personnel requested will be assigned before these areas are completely destroyed:

41 of these areas are in Manhattan; 19 in Brooklyn; 13 in The Bronx; 12 in Queens and 6 in Richmond.

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment has been requested to appropriate funds for the employment of 800 regular Civil Service employees to take the place of the transferred part-time WPA workers. The withdrawal of personnel and closing of play areas will be reported to the Police Department to guard against vandalism and destruction in the unprotected areas.

The transfer of still further WPA workers from park construction projects has also resulted in the abandonment or curtailment of construction on 26 partially completed projects:

11 of these are in Manhattan; 4 in Brooklyn; 8 in The Bronx; 1 in Queens and 2 in Richmond.

Work has also been stopped on the erection of permanent concrete benches to replace the worn out iron benches formerly used throughout the system, rehabilitation of lawn areas and bridle paths and miscellaneous repairs to older structures in the park system.

575

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release May 11, 1937

Bids were opened today in Albany by the State Department of Public Works for the contract for paving Lawrence Street, Rodman Street and Horace Harding Boulevard, a total length of two miles. The engineers estimate was \$775,000.00. The three lowest bidders were:

Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc. First National Bank Bldg., Freeport, L.I.	\$714,784.04
J.P. Burns Dumont, New Jersey	719,635.90
Garofano Construction Co., Inc. Mount Vernon, New York	722,085.00

The contract plans were prepared by the Engineer of Highways, Borough of Queens, from layout designs prepared by the Department of Parks. This work follows the General Development plan for Flushing Meadow Park and marginal roads. The roadways are important traffic arteries and are essential to the operation of the bus and passenger traffic during the Fair. Horace Harding Boulevard is the main east-west artery between Northern Boulevard and the Grand Central Parkway and will carry large volumes of traffic from the north and south marginal roads. Horace Harding Boulevard has been realigned through the park so as to eliminate sharp curves existing in the present road which will be used as a detour during the construction of the new roadway.

Upon completion of the road, the present Strong's Causeway will become part of the park area. The construction of this roadway will be carried on concurrently with three major projects in this area: (1) Construction of the Boulevard bridge over the Flushing River, which is being built under the direction of the New York State Department of Public Works by Chas. F. Vachris, Inc.; (2) The pedestrian overpass over Horace Harding Boulevard. This is to be built by the World's Fair and will connect the State Amphitheatre with the Theme Building. The center portion of this structure will remain after the Fair. During the Fair, a temporary structure will be

built as part of the bridge to carry buses in addition to pedestrian traffic; (3) The construction of a 48" water main in the line of the present Strong's Causeway. This work is being done under the direction of the Department of Water Supply, Gas & Electricity by Oak Hill Construction Company.

Lawrence and Rodman Streets, forming the easterly boundary of the main portion of the park, will be paved with bituminous macadam and will have a 24-foot roadway next to the park, a 30-foot central mall containing the trolley tracks, and an outer roadway 32 feet wide.

The portion of Corona Avenue to be paved under this contract will connect Horace Harding Boulevard with 111th Street, which forms the west boundary of the main portion of the park.

This work will tie in the access roads from the Grand Central Parkway Extension and will complete the traffic cloverleaf at this point.

This is the second of seven contracts to be let by the State Department of Public Works with funds appropriated this year for construction of basic traffic facilities needed for the development of Flushing Meadow Park, and to handle the crowds expected at the Fair. Out of seven similar contracts let last year, two have been completed and the other five are well under way and will be completed this summer.

End

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Miss Sullivan - Delivered
For Release Immediately
May 10, 1937

574

The Department of Parks took bids this afternoon for grading and paving roads and parking spaces on Randall's Island, together with incidental drainage structures, topsoiling, irrigation and fencing.

This is the first of a series of contracts to supplement the bulk of the work on Randall's Island, including the Stadium and cafeteria being completed by relief forces. It is also the first contract to be let in the 1937 Capital Outlay Budget of the Park Department, and is the first unit in a \$3,000,000 program being financed from this source. In order to make the Stadium accessible last year, temporary roads on freshly deposited fill were laid by the Triborough Bridge Authority. The fill having settled satisfactory, permanent pavement can now be placed safely. Subsequent contracts will provide a lighting system and complete the landscaping of the Island.

The three lowest bidders are:

1. J. Leopold & Co. Inc. \$297,671.25
60 East 42nd Street
New York City
2. Elmhurst Contracting Co. Inc. 315,412.75
5304 - 97th Place
Corona, Long Island
3. B. Turecamo Contracting Co. 316,366.75
New Cropsey Lane
Brooklyn, New York

The engineer's estimate was . . . \$376,537.00

Miss Sullivan
Delivered

573
For Release IMMEDIATELY
MAY 7th, 1937

Coincident with Arbor Day, the Park Department announces that 19,000 trees and 468,400 shrubs will be planted this year throughout the city park and parkway system.

Not many people realize the volume of work performed by the forestry section of the Park Department, in caring for 1,195,671 woodland park and parkway trees occupying 2,315 acres and 977,750 street trees which shade our parks and streets throughout Greater New York. Many wooded and planted areas, in which little or no forestry work had been done in the past, have been, through modern silviculture, transformed into sections of park-like appearance and are now maintained on a normal basis, thereby permitting requests for the care of trees received from citizens and other sources to be handled with more promptness and precision than heretofore.

For the past several years requests from citizens to have work done on trees have become so numerous that, at the present time, they require a great volume of work. In 1936, 30,169 requests were received, of which 27,904 were inspected and taken care of, in addition to the routine forestry work.

The pruning of trees constitutes the major operation of the forestry section and is carried on continuously throughout the year. During the past year, 136,393 street and park trees were pruned - an increase of 40,025 over the previous year.

4,552 trees barked by automobiles, horses and vandals were cared for. 18,662 trees with cavity work and old wounds in a bad state of decay were attended to. On the new parkways and playgrounds, 17,990 new trees were staked, guyed and braced to prevent them from being dislodged, blown over and uprooted by vandals, storms or high winds. Over 5,000 undernourished trees were fertilized, using approximately 48 tons of material.

Due to storm damage and general clean-up of dead, diseased and undesirable trees, 21,473 trees were removed.

- 2 -

The control of insect pests and fungi diseases is one of the forestry section's important functions and a major operation. In controlling the Tent Caterpillar, Japanese Beetle, Tussock and Gypsy Moth, the Dutch Elm disease and other pests, the department used 3,049,015 gallons of spray solution in treating 483,354 trees and 393,683 shrubs and plants. Much more spraying could have been accomplished if additional adequate equipment had been available. Spraying activities continue throughout the year except in extreme cold weather. During June, July and August, the lack of equipment necessitated working spray crews in two shifts, starting at 4:30 in the morning and working until 8:30 P.M. Considerable time was lost in having worn-out and obsolete equipment laid up for repairs. Two new spray machines were purchased and used in 1936, and four more will be available for use this year.

The City Park Department, in cooperation with the State Conservation Department, made considerable progress in checking the advance of the Gypsy Moth in The Bronx, where heavy infestations were found within the city limits. In this area a systematic inspection of all shade, fruit and woodland trees and also shrubbery was made for Gypsy Moth egg masses which, after being located, were destroyed.

Considerable headway was made in controlling the spread of the Dutch Elm disease by the removal and burning of 230 trees and stumps. The progress made in stamping out this disease is gratifying when one realizes that these represented one-third of the number found in 1935, and only one-sixth of those discovered in 1934.

End

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK**

Vol. 4-1000

For Release May 7, 1937

The Park Department announces that the Mary Harriman Ramsey Playground in Central Park, on the site of the old Casino, is completed and will be opened to the public Friday, May 7th, without formal ceremony, although later this month a cast bronze plaque, now in place, will be unveiled by the Harriman family and interested friends, in memory of Mrs. Ramsey who, as a philanthropist, was enthusiastically interested in child welfare.

After a legal conflict which started shortly after Commissioner Moses took office in January, 1934, the city gained on May 1st, 1936, an unanimous victory in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on the question of the Park Department's right to remove, for purposes of other park development, buildings which has been erected solely as incidental to park use. Immediately W. P. A. workmen started to tear down the old Casino, formerly an exclusive high-priced restaurant and night-club set aside for a few people of wealth, and of no use to the general public.

This one and one-quarter acre area occupied by the Casino building and its parking space, now offers facilities for a juvenile age group not provided for in the marginal playgrounds for small children located around the perimeter of Central Park and marks another step in setting aside active play space within the park to insure to older people the enjoyment of nearby spaces for quiet and relaxation. Besides swings, slides and other play equipment, a large oval-shaped wading pool has been constructed. Encircling it is a roller-skating track, around whose outer edge are permanent benches under shade trees for guardians of children and for children to adjust their skates. Comfort facilities for boys and girls, separated by a latticed open shelter, are incorporated in a brick building of Georgian architecture. The entire area, including paths and landscaping was designed to connect and fit the playground to existing surrounding park features.

End

CENTRAL PARK CASINO:

Closed - February 25, 1936
Court Order to condemn building - May 1, 1936
Demolition started - May 6, 1936

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

570
Immediately
May 3, 1937

For Release

570

Hereafter all regular employes paid on a five day or six day limit per week will be paid in full on rainy days but hourly seasonal employes on revenue producing facilities will be paid only for hours of actual needed work. The Park Department is grossly undermanned and I have repeatedly complained about this. Our greatly expanded facilities are being used to capacity and we lack the force to maintain and protect property and people. Police protection in the parks is a joke. The Police Commissioner does not have enough men for his own work. I have agreed to change the recent ruling as to regular per diem men because it may work too great a hardship in their case, but the fact is that the public should come first and that the city should decide whether to keep up the playgrounds, parks and parkways or give them up. Personally, I have been consistently in favor of a per annum salary for our regular men.

ROBERT MOSES

COMMISSIONER

*
Miss Sullivan
Telephoned to City News
5-1

May 1st, 1937

569

To be phoned to City News for immediate release: -

A group of students from the College of Architecture of Cornell University are making a ^{the} week-end study of landscaped properties and facilities in the New York City park system.

The group under the guidance of City park executives will visit Central Park, West Side Improvement, Fort Tryon Park, Henry Hudson Parkway, Triborough Bridge, Astoria and Hamilton Fish Swimming Pools, Flushing Meadow Park, the future site of the New York World's Fair 1939, Inc., and also many other park properties in the various boroughs.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

*Miss SULLIVAN
Delivered 4-20* 578
For Release May 2, 1937

Last fall the Park Department, as part of its horticultural program, bedded 115,000 Tulip bulbs at various locations throughout the city.

The most intensive bedding was in the five center malls on Mt. Eden Avenue from Walton to Weeks Avenues. Here 15,860 double early bedding Tulips of the varieties Couronne D'or, Mr. Van Tubergen and Orange Nassau, ranging in color from orange-red to cream-yellow provide a central motive in a formerly barren area. The five blocks have been rehabilitated to form a series of turn panels enclosing geometrically arranged flower beds and encircled by broad walks around the edges of which have been placed permanent concrete benches with shade trees at their backs. The early tulips now in blossom will be at their height on Sunday.

Other tulip beds are located in the Bronx at Pelham Parkway, the Colonial Gardens in Van Cortlandt Park, and on Claremont Parkway. In Manhattan tulips have been set in City Hall, Foley Square, Union Square, Washington Square, Dyckman House, and Carl Schurz Parks, in the Plaza at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue, and around the Seal Pool in the Zoo in Central Park; in Queens there will be a display in King Park, Jackson Heights Playground, and Buddy Monument at 108th Street and Myrtle Avenue; while in Brooklyn - Columbia Heights, Brower and Prospect Parks; and in Richmond, at the Cloves Lake Field House in Cloves Lake Park, there are further displays.

End

566

April 30, 1937

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release

The Department of Parks announces that the Tavern-On-The

Green and Claremont Restaurant will reopen on May 1st.

MISS SULLIVAN
Received 4-30

The Tavern, formerly the old Central Park Sheepfold, located on the west side of Central Park opposite 67th Street, remodeled and opened to the public as a popular priced restaurant in 1934, has been entirely redecorated. New equipment has been provided in the kitchens and dining rooms. It will be operated this year by the Savarins Management Inc., who also operate restaurants in the Waldorf Astoria, the Equitable Building, the New York Life Building and Pennsylvania Railroad stations in New York, Philadelphia, Washington and Pittsburgh. The Tavern will open at 7:30 in the morning, when a canter breakfast will be served for equestrians and other early visitors to the park. Breakfast will be from 50 cts. up, luncheon 85 cts. and up, and dinner \$1.35 and up; or one may eat a-la-carte.

The historic Claremont was built in 1806, and is recognized as one of New York's landmarks, overlooking the Hudson River on Riverside Drive north of Grant's Tomb. The exterior has been repainted and the interior has been renovated. It will open on May 1st at 6:30 P.M., for dinner. A new cocktail bar has been provided and the indoor seating capacity increased considerably. Luncheon will be \$1.00, dinner \$1.50, special supper \$1.00, and breakfast on Sundays until 1 P.M., 50 cts. and up.

At both locations tree-shaded outdoor dining terraces, with their gay sun umbrellas, will be much more attractive than in former years. The trees and flowering shrubs planted three years ago are now fully established and will soon be blooming profusely. Entertainment in the form of music and dancing will be provided nightly.

X
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL: Regent 4 - 1000

Shen • OK 565
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Miss Sullivan
Telephoned to City News & 4-29
Brought Home News.

The Park Department announces that the Split Rock
Golf Course located at Split Rock Road and Shore Road, The
Bronx, will open to the public on Saturday, May 1, 1937, at
6:00 A. M.

Playing conditions have been improved consider-
ably due to rehabilitation work during the winter with re-
lief forces under the supervision of the Department of Parks.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Miss Sullivan -
Mailed all papers.
For Release

564

APRIL 28th, 1937.

The Department of Parks announces that it will conduct the second annual Opportunity Contest for Amateur Musicians. The contest will be open to both junior and senior musicians and will be held on the Mall, Central Park, during the month of June.

Any boy or girl in the five boroughs who hasn't reached his 17th birthday is eligible to enter the junior division which is divided into three age groups; 6th thru 9th year, 10th thru 13th year, 14th thru 16th year. Playground and district eliminations will be conducted prior to the borough eliminations which will be held on Saturday, May 29th, at 2:30 P.M., at Roosevelt Playground, Manhattan; Mullaly Playground, Bronx; Forest Park, Queens; and on June 7th at 8:30 P.M. at Silver Lake Park, Richmond. The four best musicians will be chosen from each age group to represent the borough at the semi-finals. The final contest will take place on the Mall, June 19th, at 2:30 P.M.

All other contestants over 16 years of age are eligible to enter the senior division. With the exception of Manhattan, where the borough finals will be held on the Mall, Central Park, the borough eliminations will be conducted at the same locations mentioned above at 8:30 P.M. on the following days; Tuesday, June 1, Manhattan and The Bronx; Thursday, June 3, Brooklyn and Richmond; Monday, June 7, Richmond. At this time the five best musicians will be selected to represent the borough at the city-wide final contest on the Mall on June 10 at 8:30 P.M.

Each contestant will be permitted one solo which rendition must be completed within five minutes. Any type of music may be played. The basis of rating by the judges will consist of tone, technique and rythm 60%, execution 30%, type of selection 05%, appearance (position considered) 05%. Contestants may register in any of the following groups:

- A. Piano
- B. Violin, viola, cello, basso
- C. Banjo, mandolin, guitar, ukelele, zither
- D. Trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba, mellophone (alto) bugle
- E. Clarinet, oboe, flute, bassoon, fife, saxophone, English horn
- F. Xyl-ophone, drums
- G. Harp
- H. Accordians
- I. Bagpipes, one man bands
- J. Miscellaneous

Suitable prizes will be awarded to the winners. Entry blanks may be secured from playground directors or by applying to the borough offices of the Department of Parks.

* * * *

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

*Miss Sullivan
City News & Mail
delivered* - 563

For Release - ~~April 27, 1937~~

Bids were opened in Albany today by the State Department of Public Works for a contract for paving the Hutchinson River Parkway Extension in Pelham Bay Park.

Of 9 bids received the three lowest were:

Rusciano & Sons Corp., 728 East 212th St., New York City	\$ 329,229.
Tuckahoe Construction Co., Inc., Tuckahoe, N.Y.	353,050.
Bronx Water Works Corp., 1 Riverdale Ave., New York City	358,080.

The engineer's estimate was \$401,669.50.

The contract provides for paving four lanes of parkway from its present terminus at the Boston Post Road at the Westchester County Line and Eastern Boulevard at Bartow Station: also for the construction of a temporary macadam roadway from the latter point to the Eastchester Creek Bridge for northbound traffic only. Details of the contract include grading, paving in concrete and macadam, construction of curbs and culverts, topsoiling, installation of drainage, guard rails, traffic markers, etc.

The Department of Plant and Structures will let contracts during May for the widening of the Eastchester Creek Bridge, and the Borough President of the Bronx is now engaged in widening and paving Eastern Boulevard between the Pelham Bay Terminus of the I. R. T. Subway and Middletown Road. When all these projects are completed through communication between the Triborough Bridge and the Hutchinson River Parkway in Westchester County will be established.

Clifford R. Jones *Doc. 100-1-562*
Box 100-1-562 *4-23*
For Release - Immediately

The Department of Parks announces that due to weather conditions the ~~opening of the~~ Split Rock Golf Course in Pelham Bay Park, The Bronx, is unplayable and will not be open until Saturday, May 1st.

~~Fees for all Park Department courses are the same as last year, \$10 for a season permit, \$5 for a limited permit good from Monday to Friday exclusive of holidays, \$3 for a junior limited permit good from Monday to Friday exclusive of holidays. Daily fees are \$.75 from Monday to Friday and \$1.00 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Reservations may be made at the following borough offices, for starting time on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:~~

Bronx	Zabrowski Mansion, Claremont Park	- Tremont	2-5400
Brooklyn	Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park	- South	8-5300
Queens	Overlook Forest Park, Kew Gardens	- Cleveland	3-4500
Richmond	Field House, Clove Lakes Park	- Cibrales	7640

let. Apr. 20 & 27-1977

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Clipping Bureau
Manhattan Believes - others mailed (561)
561
For Release April 20, 1937

Bids were opened today in Albany by the State Department of Public Works on a contract for paving and trolley track relocation of the main artery crossing Flushing Meadow Park along Horace Harding Boulevard, Lawrence and Rodman Streets, and Corona Avenue. The three lowest bidders were:

Johnson, Drake & Piper, Freeport L.I.	- \$ 298,703.50
J. P. Burns, Dumont, N.J.	- 318,185.50
The Imnick Construction Co., Meriden, Conn.-	322,755.20

This contract was prepared, in accordance with the City Park Department's basic scheme for the development of Flushing Meadow Park, by the Engineer of Highways, Borough of Queens. It is one of the most important paving jobs in connection with the improvement of Flushing Meadow Park, the site of the 1939 World's Fair.

The portion of Horace Harding Boulevard passing through the park will be paved with concrete on a new alignment connecting the existing bridge over Grand Central Parkway Extension and the new bridge over the Flushing River, now under construction. Strong's Causeway, the present route through the park, will be abandoned and will become a part of the park. There will be two 44 foot widths of pavement, separated by a 10 foot island and a wrought iron fence to discourage pedestrian crossing except at properly protected places. East and west-bound trolley tracks of the Corona Avenue line pass through the park on Horace Harding Boulevard and new tracks will be laid along with the new pavement.

Lawrence and Rodman Streets, forming the easterly boundary of the main portion of the park, will be paved with bituminous macadam and will have a 24 foot roadway next to the park, a 30 foot central mall containing the trolley tracks, and an outer roadway 32 feet wide.

The portion of Corona Avenue to be paved under this contract will connect Horace Harding Boulevard with 111th Street, which forms the west boundary of the main portion of the park.


This is the first contract out of seven to be let by the State Department of Public Works with funds appropriated this year for construction of basic traffic facilities needed for the development of Flushing Meadow Park, and to handle the crowds expected at the Fair. Out of seven similar contracts let last year, two have been completed and the other five are well under way and will be completed this summer.

End

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Clipping Bureau - Del. Mantalan
Queens &
560
For Release IMMEDIATELY
APRIL 20, 1937

560



A hearing before the Committee of the United States Senate on Commerce will be held Wednesday morning at 10:30 in the Capitol. The Committee is considering the Federal bill, introduced by Senator Copeland, for the authorization of \$2,500,000 for improvements to Flushing Bay at the north end of Flushing Meadow Park. It is proposed that this money be devoted to dredging, bulkheading and the erection of a monumental watergate at the boat basin which is now under construction by the State Department of Public Works.

Grover A. Whalen, President of the World's Fair Corporation, will present the plans for the improvements. Aiding him will be the members of the Committee on Basic Improvements of Flushing Meadow Park, a group of City and State officials charged with the coordination and progress of the various governmental agencies involved in its construction. Representatives of commercial and shipping interests, as well as proponents of pleasure boating facilities, will also be present.

End

Attached:
Report on Improvement
of Flushing Bay

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1937

The Department of Parks announces that the winter and spring use of the play centers inaugurated September 24th last year terminated yesterday so that the areas can be cleaned, painted and generally prepared for the coming swimming season. The swimming pools will re-open to the public 10 A.M. Saturday, May 29th. Children under 14 years of age will be admitted free from 10 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. every day except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. After 1 P.M. children under 14 years of age will be admitted for ten cents and all others for twenty cents.

2,021,100 children and adults have made use of the facilities offered since the close of last year's swimming season. In the pool areas handball, shuffle board, paddle tennis, basket ball, volley ball and various group games were provided for. During the winter when the weather was too cold, the activities were moved into the buildings where social dancing and calisthenics were conducted besides ping pong, checkers, quoits and other quiet games. These games were at all times under the competent supervision of men trained to instruct in and conduct the activities.

Tournaments were arranged in the various sports and team and individual winners were selected to compete in city-wide championships. The boys' basket ball play center championship was won by a team from Astoria and the girls' basket ball championship by a team representing Crotona. Individual handball championships were won by members of the Highbridge team. Girls from the Red Hook Play Center won five of their eight matches and the girls from Sunset won the other three. Checkers proved an attraction, especially among older men, with groups of 50 participating daily.

The Department of Parks announces the opening today of two new playgrounds, two new park buildings and two remodeled park areas.

In Manhattan at 63rd Street and York Avenues, the new Rockefeller Playground which was acquired on permit from the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, is equipped with garden swings, play houses, sand box and benches with shade trees.

At West 45th Street, just east of Tenth Avenue, the new playground has see-saw, swings, jungle gym, garden swings, slides, sand tables, play houses and game tables for chess, checkers and backgammon, and also benches and shade trees.

In Stuyvesant Park, Second Avenue, between 15th and 17th Streets, the northwest section of the park has been rehabilitated. This is a passive recreational area, and around its two semi-circular walks there are continuous rows of permanent concrete benches. Also in Stuyvesant Park in the south end of the section west of Second Avenue the octagonal shaped brick comfort station opened temporarily for public use last summer is entirely completed and reopened.

In Brooklyn, in the playground at New Utrecht Avenue and 70th Street, the new brick recreation building is of octagonal design with rectangular wings and houses comfort facilities for boys and girls, a mother's room and a large play room for indoor dressing in inclement weather.

In Queens, at 214th Place and 35th Avenue, Crocheron Park has been completely redesigned and reconstructed. The entire 44 acres have been regraded and landscaped. New walks, benches, drainage and irrigation systems have been installed.

The Marine Parkway Authority announces the receipt of estimates today for the completion of the grading and paving in Jacob Riis Park, Queens.

This contract will connect the traffic circle at the Rockaway terminus of the Marine Parkway Bridge with Washington Avenue at the southeast corner of the Park, and will also connect with the extension of Beach Channel Drive which is to be constructed by the Borough President of Queens.

The three lowest bids received were:

1. Good Roads Eng. & Contracting Co.
Wantagh, L.I. \$176,469.00
2. Woodcrest Construction Co.,
415 Lexington Ave., NY City 176,796.00
3. The Immick Co. Inc.
Meriden, Conn. 180,095.00

The Engineer's estimate was \$189,000.00

The work being done in Jacob Riis Park will be completely finished upon the opening of the Marine Parkway Bridge on July 3, 1937.

End

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

*Miss Sullivan - Del. to Man. papers -
others mailed* (536)
For Release Immediately
4-15-37

556

The Department of Parks announces the opening of nine of the ten golf courses under its jurisdiction on Saturday morning, April 17th at 6 A.M. Due to weather conditions, the opening of Split Rock Golf Course will be deferred to April 24th, weather permitting, as play at this time would be very detrimental to the future use of this course.

The new club houses at Dyker Beach and Silver Lake Golf Courses are not as yet completed and temporary arrangements have been made at these two courses to accommodate golfers.

Fees will be the same as last year, \$10 for a season permit, \$5 for a limited permit good from Monday to Friday exclusive of holidays, \$3 for a junior limited permit good from Monday to Friday exclusive of holidays. Daily fees are \$.75 from Monday to Friday and \$1.00 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Reservations may be made at the following borough offices, for starting time on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Bronx	- Zabrowski Mansion, Claremont Park	- Tremont	2-5400
Brooklyn	- Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park	- South	8-2300
Queens	- Overlook, Forest Park, Kew Gardens	- Cleveland	3-4600
Richmond	- Field House, Clove Lakes Park	- Gibraltar	2-7640

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS TO WEST SIDE IMPROVEMENT
AND MARINE PARKWAY OPENINGS

*Clipping from
Mailed all
papers.*

The West Side Improvement from 72nd Street to Dyckman Street will be completed next fall. The Express Highway will not be opened in sections during the summer because this would interfere with park reconstruction work and would simply create serious traffic congestion at such entrances as at 79th and 96th Streets. The entire Express Parkway will be opened to traffic from 72nd to Dyckman Street in September.

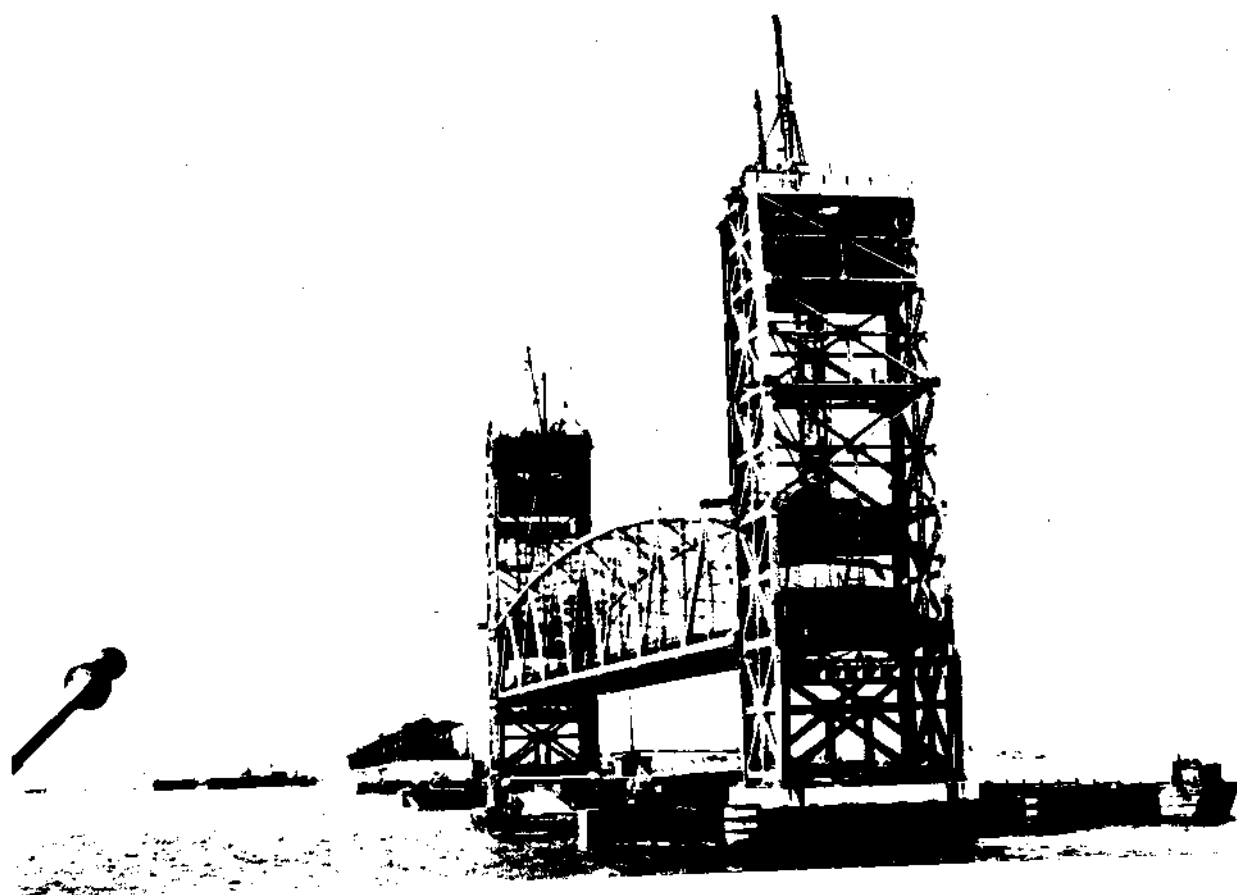
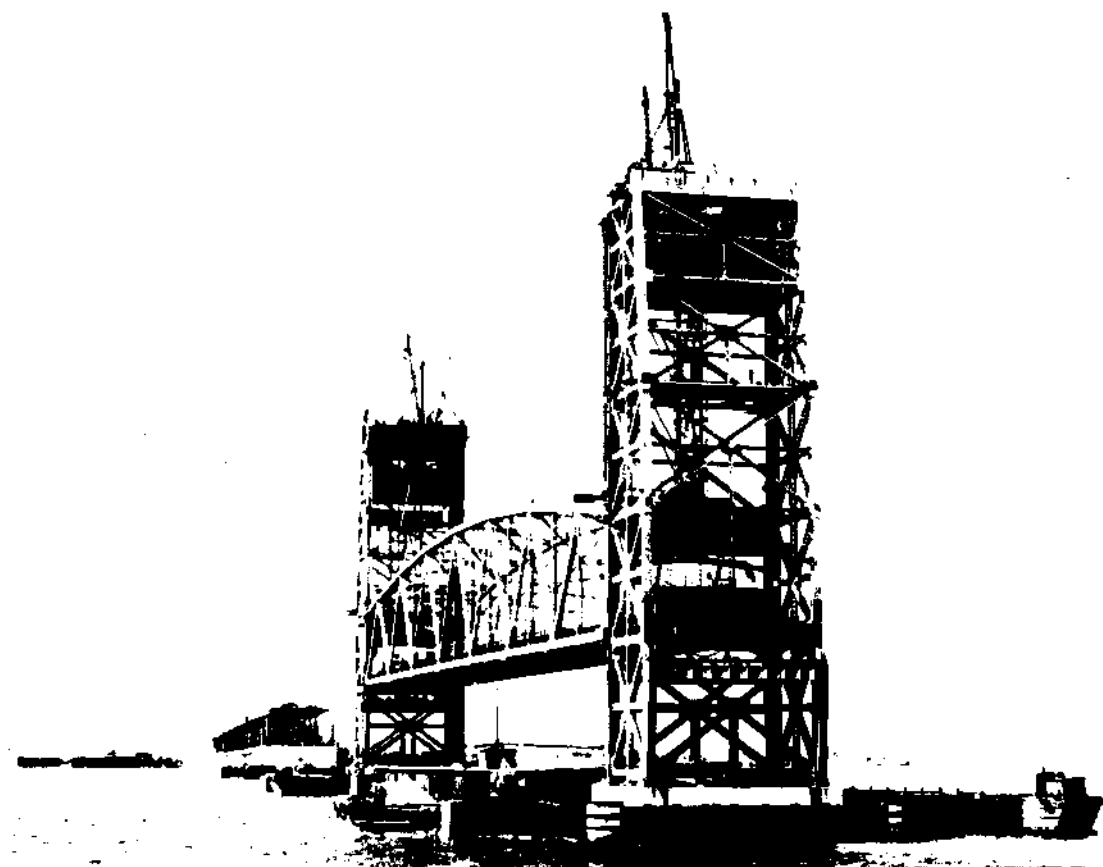
Almost all of the reconstructed Riverside and Fort Washington Parks will be opened to the public on or before the opening of the Parkway, but considerable landscaping and cleanup work will have to be done during the remainder of the fall. The new upper level of the Henry Hudson Bridge, including an additional bridge over Dyckman Street and wider approaches, will be completed in the late fall.

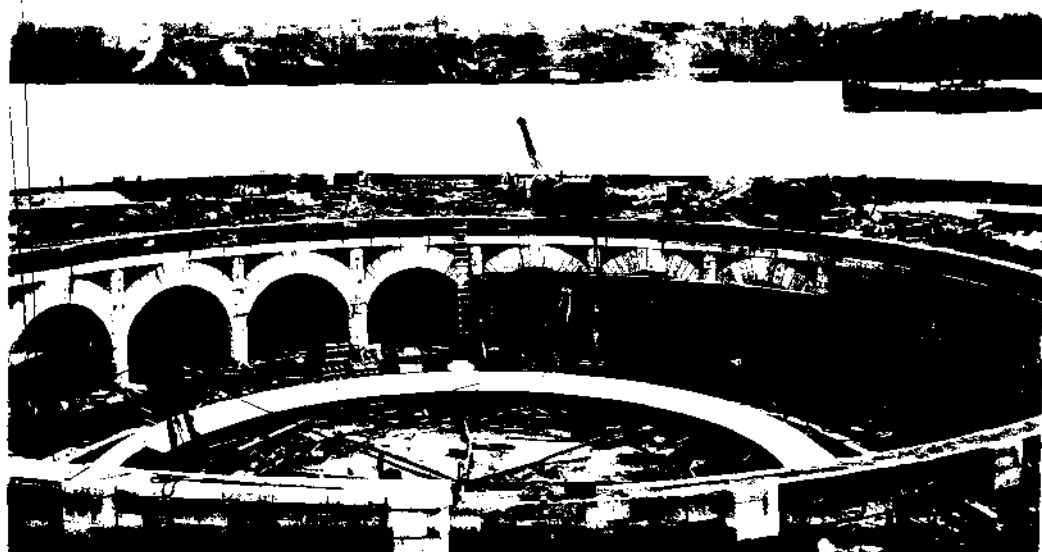
It will be necessary for the public to be patient during the summer with conditions along Riverside Drive because most of the area will be torn up and work will be proceeding at top speed on many contracts.

As to the Marine Parkway Authority and the new lift bridge over Jamaica Inlet, connecting Brooklyn and Queens and the improvements at Jacob Riis Park, these will be available to the public during the present summer. Under a recent speeding up agreement with the American Bridge Company, the new bridge, originally scheduled for opening on August 1, will open on Saturday, July 3 at noon. While a good deal of work will remain to be completed on that date, the bridge will be opened to traffic and will afford access to Jacob Riis Park and the Rockaways from Brooklyn. This schedule calls for the opening of the bridge thirteen months after it was started, which is believed to be a record for this kind of construction. The toll charge for passenger automobiles on the Marine Parkway will be fifteen cents. There will be no charge for pedestrians. Truck charges will be from twenty-five cents up. Buses, excepting those operating on a regular schedule under permit and franchise, will be charged fifty cents for the use of the bridge.

/s/ ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

553

Clipping Bureau
Del. Manhattan & Bronx
Home News
For Release
When mailed IMMEDIATE
Apr. 9, 1937

The Department of Parks announces the opening of a new recreation building in St. James Park at Jerome Avenue and 191st Street, The Bronx.

The opening of this building marks the completion of the redesign of this eleven and one-half acre park, the reconstruction of which began in 1935.

The building is constructed of brick with a slate roof and provides men's and women's comfort station facilities, a mother's room and a large play room for indoor games during inclement weather.

The twelve earth surfaced tennis courts which were formerly in the park, have been resurfaced, eight with clay and four with asphalt, thereby providing longer periods of play during the early spring and late fall when alternating periods of freeze and thaw ordinarily render clay courts unusable. During sub-freezing temperatures the asphalt courts are also flooded for ice-skating. One hundred and eighty-nine new concrete benches have been installed, four thousand new trees and shrubs planted and seven new concrete drinking fountains installed, all fitting into a comprehensive landscape scheme.

The old frame maintenance sheds for the storage of tools have been removed and the old comfort station will be demolished next week.



551
Miss Mact - Bellevue
X Home News - Manhattan
For Release (551)

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Sunday
April 11, 1937

*
The Henry Hudson Memorial Column which stands as a landmarker in Spuyten Duyvil, opposite 227th Street, was dedicated by Governor Charles Evans Hughes during the Hudson-Fulton celebration in 1909. It had been intended to surmount the Doric shaft with a bronze statue of Henry Hudson. Plans had advanced to the stage of having a model made by Karl Bitter, N.A., the eminent sculptor, who died in 1915. In an endeavor to raise funds for the statue, its plaster cast was placed on display in the lobby of the Hotel Astor. Considerable comment was caused at the time by the disappearance of the model from its place of exhibition.

Park Commissioner Robert Moses, Sole Member of the Henry Hudson Parkway Authority, announces that the Authority will furnish the statue and he has retained Karl H. Gruppe, who for years was associated with Mr. Bitter, to undertake the reproduction of the original design. Fortunately, the sculptor's widow, who resides at 209 East 72nd Street, has a photograph of the original model and it will be used as a basis for the reproduction.

The statue will be completed at the time of the completion of the widening of the Henry Hudson Parkway and the double-decking of the existing bridge over the Harlem Ship Canal.

The shaft extends 100 feet from the ground and the statue will be 16 feet in height. It will represent the famous navigator and explorer clad in rough sea-going garments over which he wears a loose sheepskin jerkin. He stands erect, with one hand readily near the hilt of his sword, gazing out over his river.

The north and south faces of the shaft contain recesses intended for bronze bas-reliefs, which were to have been executed by H.M. Shrady, A.N.A. These bas-reliefs, each 7'2" x 9'6", will also be designed and executed by Mr. Gruppe. Mr. Gruppe has been in charge of the monument restoration projects of the Park Department since early 1934 and has superintended the rehabilitation of many of the City's monuments since that time. Notable among these projects have been the Maine Memorial and the Columbus Monument at Columbus Circle, the Seventh Regiment Monument at Fifth Avenue and 67th Street, the Joan of Arc Statue on Riverside Drive, and the restoration of the Wynn Memorial Fountain in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. At the present time, he is superintending the reproduction of the famous St. Gaudens bas-relief which forms part of the base of the Admiral Farragut Monument in Madison Square Park.

Additional land is being acquired in the vicinity of the statue to form a memorial park to the late Bernard S. Deutsch, and plans have been prepared to enclose the entire plot with an ornamental wrought iron fence in which a memorial gateway to the late Aldermanic President will be set at West 227th Street, opposite

The Department of Parks announces the opening of four new and one remodeled recreation buildings and a new playground on April 3rd, as well as the completion of alterations of the Tavern-On-The Green in Central Park and the Claremont Inn on Riverside Drive. The two restaurants will be opened in early May.

In Manhattan a new recreation building has been completed at Jay Hood Wright Park, Fort Washington Avenue and 174th Street. It is of granite construction with slate roof, the central section is of octagonal shape connected to rectangular wings by semi-circular loggias; the building contains a comfort station for men and women, a mother's room, a large play-room and a director's room.

In Brooklyn, at Union Street, between Van Brunt Street and Hamilton Avenue, a new brick building has comfort station facilities for boys and girls and a large play-room. The old building at Red Hook playground at Pioneer and Richard Streets, has been completely renovated and has modern comfort station facilities for boys and girls as well as a play-room for indoor games.

In Queens a new playground has been constructed at 135th Street and Lincoln Street. It has been equipped with swings, see-saws, slides, sand tables, play-houses and a wading pool for small children. Handball, shuffleboard and table tennis courts, a large play area with a soft ball diamond and an oval roller skating track has been constructed for older boys and girls.

In the Newtown Elmhurst section, at 92nd Street and 56th Avenue, a new recreation building of brick construction is ready for use by the public. It contains a boys and girls' comfort station, a mother's room and play-room.

At Crocheron Park, 33rd Avenue and 215th Place the new building has a comfort station, a large lounge, locker rooms and shower baths.

The Tavern-On-The Green, at Central Park West and 66th Street will be under new management this season. It will be operated under the direction of the Savarins Management Inc. The Tavern has been entirely renovated and will accommodate 450 persons for table service, provided by waitresses,

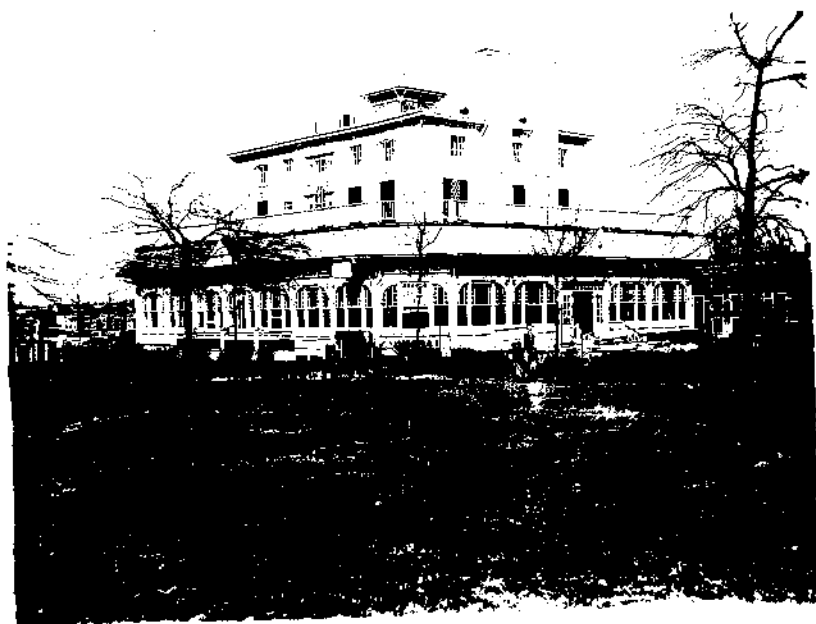
- 2 -

who will supplant the waiters used last year.

A canter breakfast will be served each morning for equestrians using the bridle paths beginning at 8 A.M., and special provisions will be made for afternoon tea from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. Liquid refreshments may be secured at the standup bar and will also be served at the tables.

Claremont Inn on Riverside Drive will again be operated under the direction of the Riverside-Claremont Inc. The structure has been completely redecorated and will provide greater seating capacity. Breakfast, luncheon, tea, dinner and late suppers will be served. An orchestra for dancing will be provided in the evenings.

E N D





3/4/37

WEST SIDE IMPROVEMENT - K-7172nd St. to St. Clair Pl.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cal. No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	February 7, 1936	18	\$ 279,000
2	February 5, 1937	41	179,000
3	February 7, 1936	18	957,000
4	June 19, 1936	181	1,924,000
5	April 3, 1936	71	2,201,000
6	August 26, 1936	11	2,231,000
7	June 19, 1936	180	1,453,000
8	January 15, 1937	103	<u>1,776,000</u>
			\$ 11,000,000

St. Clair Pl. to Henry Hudson Highway, at Dyckman St.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cal. No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
9	December 4, 1936	36	\$ 2,190,000
10	December 4, 1936	36	220,000
11	February 5, 1937	41	860,000
12	December 4, 1936	36	1,050,000
13	July 15, 1936	4	800,000 (Engineering)
13	February 5, 1937	41	<u>1,850,000</u>
			\$ 7,000,000

February 8, 1937

72nd St. to St. Clair Pl.

Section 1	\$ 279,000	February 7, 1936	Cal. #18	P. 455
" 2	179,000	February 5, 1937	" 41	
" 3	957,000	February 7, 1936	" 18	P. 455
" 4	1,924,000	June 19, 1936	" 181	P. 3011
" 5	2,201,000	April 3, 1936	" 71	P. 1455
" 6	2,231,000	August 26, 1936	" 11	P. 3565
" 7	1,453,000	June 19, 1936	" 180	P. 3010
" 8	1,776,000	January 15, 1937	" 103	

11,000,000

St. Clair Pl. to Dyckman St.

Section 9	\$2,190,000	December 4, 1936	Cal. #36	P. 5367
" 10	220,000	" " "	" "	"
" 11	860,000	February 5, 1937	" 41	
" 12	1,050,000	December 4, 1936	" 36	"
" 13	310,000	July 15, 1936	" 4	P. 3206
" "	490,000 (Eng.)	" " "	" "	"
" "	<u>1,880,000</u>	February 5, 1937	" 41	

\$7,000,000

72nd St. to Dyckman St. March 5, 1937 " 54 \$1,919,000

- ✓ 8/3/37 - 611 - Bids opened for paving and drainage of East service road in Flushing Meadow Park from Long Island Railroad to Boat Basin on Flushing Bay.
- ✓ 8/3/37 - 612 - Bids received for superstructure, plumbing, heating, ventilating & electrical contracts for the city buildings, World's Fair.
- ✓ 8/4/37 - 613 - Commissioner announced fireworks display at Jacob Riis Park every Friday evening throughout August.
- ✓ 8/9/37 - 614 - Park Commissioner asks that locked school recreation facilities be opened to the public.
- ✓ 8/9/37 - 615 - Hillbilly musical contest. Listing of parks where held.
- ✓ 8/11/37 - 616 - Third anniversary of model playgrounds -- listing of locations.
- ✓ 8/16/37 - 617 - Announcement of wading pool activities throughout playground systems to take place August 17th.
- ✓ 8/22/37 - 618 - Schedule of eliminations for the barber shop quartet contest.
- MISSING 8/6/37 - 619 - Next steps in City Parks Program by Robert Moses. (Interview, Evening Journal)
- ✓ 8/12/37 - 620 - Finals for 1937 golf championship, La Tourette Golf Course.
- ~~MISSING~~ 8/17/37 - 621 - Moving of Bronx Administrative Office to new administration building at Bronx Park East and Birchall Avenue, Bronx Park.
- ~~8/17/37 - 622 - Bids for construction of bulkheading along South Shore of Flushing Bay. Helen Hamchuck, 2 two millionth person to make use of facilities at twelve municipally operate swimming pools.~~
- 8/17/37 - 623 - Second annual city-wide diving and swimming championship, Astoria pool, August 20th.
- 8/16/37 - 624 -
- ✓ 8/27/37 - 622 - Bids taken bulkheading along South Shore of Flushing Bay/
- 8/17/37 - 623 - Helen Hamchuck, two millionth person to make use of facilities at twelve municipally operated swimming pools.
- ✓ 8/27/37 - 624 - Second annual city-wide diving and swimming championship contest at Astoria Pool, August 20th.
- ✓ 8/27/37 - 625 - Letter of Commissioner to Interstate Sanitation Commission on development of waterfront areas.

- ✓ 8/23/37 - 626 - Henry Hudson Parkway Authority announces that bids were taken today on paving the new upper level northbound approach from Dyckman Street to Henry Hudson Bridge; contract being part of widening program, and also includes upper deck on Henry Hudson Bridge.
- ✓ 8/24/37 - 627 - Finals of Harmonica Contest on Mall, August 25th
- ✓ 8/24/37 - 628 - Memorandum on 1938 Budget Request, August 24th, 1937, signed by Commissioner Moses.
- ✓ 8/25/37 - 629 - Police protection needs to be increased in City Parks to prevent crime and vandalism.
- ✓ 8/25/37 - 630 - Letter to Herald Tribune, replying to article which had appeared regarding controversy between the Board of Education and Commissioner Moses on play areas.
- ✓ 8/26/37 - 631 - Finals of children's amateur singing contest on Friday, August 27th on Mall, Central Park.
- ✓ 8/27/37 - 632 - 4,000,000th car passed over Henry Hudson Bridge... Traffic so heavy that second bond issue has been made to build upper deck...
- ✓ 9/3/37 - 633 - Finals of Hill Billy Contest on Mall, Central Park, September 8th.
- ✓ 9/8/37 - 634 - Letter to Interstate ~~Sanitary~~ Sanitation Commission on pollution of various areas.
- ✓ 9/10/37 - 635 - Informal opening of new playground at 30th Road between 45th & 46th Streets, Astoria, making total of 236 playgrounds added to recreational system...
- ✓ 9/10/37 - 636 - Official opening of new Williamsbridge ^{Reservoir} ~~Reservoirs~~ Plgrd, 208th Street & Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx. Parade, games, dances, track events and speeches.
- ✓ 9/11/37 - 637 - Barber Shop Quartet Contest, Randall's Island, Sunday, September 12th. Announcement, names of participants and prizes.
- ✓ 9/11/37 - 638 - Closing of swimming pools and beaches. Conversion of swimming pools into active play areas and reopening as such, September 18th.
- ✓ 9/16/37 - 639 - Letter of Commissioner Moses, which accompanied tickets for Arsenal Grandstand on Legionnaires' Day.
- ✓ 9/17/37 - 640 - Announcement of opening of Horace Harding Blvd.
- ✓ 9/17/37 - 641 - Announcement of formal opening of Conservatory Gardens in Central Park on September 18th.

- ✓ 9/17/37 - 642 - Reviewing stand for legion parade. Erection.
- ✓ 9/20/37 - 643 - Letter to Interstate Sanitation Commission from R. Moses, calling attention to park development from Palisades Interstate Park south to the Narrows. Projects bordering along these waters.
- missing 9/23/37 - 644 - Letter to Benjamin Schiffeldrin, in reference to salaries of playground directors. From R. Moses.
- ✓ 9/27/37 - 645 - Report on revenue producing facilities, resume of years 1934 to 1937.
- 9/28/37 - 646 - Bids opened by State Department of Public Works for completion of road beds in Flushing Bay
- 9/28/37 - 647 - Presentation announcement -- Report on Great Kills Harbor (booklet with maps etc.)
- ✓ 10/3/37 - 648 - Official opening of six-and-seven-tenths miles of parkway in connection with West Side Improvement, October 12th.
- missing 10/7/37 - 649 - Triborough Bridge Authority took bids for completion of work on Grand Central Parkway extension between St. Michael's Cemetery and Northern Boulevard.
- 10/11/37 - 650 - Exercises in connection with opening of West Side Improvement, October 12th.
- missing 10/11/37 - 651 - Announcement of Henry Hudson Parkway being closed to motoring public from 7 p. m. to 7 a. m. until November 1st.
- missing 10/11/37 - 652 - Letter from Commissioner Moses to Board of Estimate attaching a copy of statement to press in answer to questions as to the 1938 Executive Budget for maintenance and operation of park system.
- 10/15/37 - 653 - Announcement of informal ceremony at completion of three new playgrounds: Queens, Liberty Avenue between 172nd & 173rd Streets; Harlem, Colonial Park on Bradhurst Avenue Between 148th & 150th; Randall's Island west of cafeteria building.
- 10/15/37 - 654 - Announcement of 5,000,000th car passing over Henry Hudson Bridge.
- 10/ /37 - 655 - List of interesting places in the parks of New York City.
- missing 10/23/37 - 656 - Announcement of exhibition of handicraft by children of parks playgrounds, week of October 25th in building D of Roosevelt Playground.
- 10/26/37 - 657 - Announcement of new playground, two redesigned park areas and new recreation and comfort station building: Queens, 43rd Street between Greenpoint & 47th Avenue; in Manhattan at Second Avenue & East 17th Street; in Stuyvesant Park; in Mt. Morris Park, Madison Avenue between 120th & 124th Streets.

- missing 10/27/37 - 658 - Fourth annual review of Civil Service Personnel and equipment, October 28th, 10. a.m.
- missing 10.28/37 - 659 - Announcement of special parties and programs to celebrate Hallowe'en in parks on October 29th & 30th.
- 10/29/37 - 660 - Chrysanthemum exhibit in Conservatory Gardens, Central Park. Annual chrysanthemum show at Prospect Park Greenhouse, October 31st, 10. a.m.
- 10/30/37 - 661 - Informal opening of two new playgrounds. One at Williamsburg Housing Project on Scholes Street between Graham & Manhattan Avenue; the other at Dahill Road & 38th Street, Brooklyn.
- missing 11/4/37 - 662 - Announcement of social dances for the winter season.
- missing 11/8/37 - 663 - Letter by Commissioner Moses in answer to petition requesting area in Riverside Park for dogs.
- 11/13/37 - 664 - Announcement of 2 new playgrounds in Brooklyn - Powell & Sackman Streets and at South 3d and Berry Streets.
- 11/4/37 - 665 - Report from Mr. Moses to Board of Estimate on proposed development of Wards Island and Pedestrian Bridge. Recommends purchase of property on East River Drive between 103d and 104th Sts for playground. Submission of property lots 17 to 24 inclusive and 121 in Block 1697. Maps and pictures.
- 11/11/37 - 666 - Letter from Thelma Johnson suggesting Liberty for name of Park. Letter to Thelma Johnson from Com. Moses.
- missing 11/22/37 - 667 - Supplementary description by Commissioner Moses as to proposed pedestrian bridge to Ward's Island, explaining that it may be reached by Queen's residents by a ramp without payment of toll.
- missing 11/26/37 - 668 - Announcement of closing of golf courses, also figures of attendance at the ten municipal courses for past season.
- 11/27/37 - 669 - Opening of three new playgrounds and a section of a re-designed recreation area in Betsy Head Park. Playground locations: Manhattan -- east of Harlem Housing Project, between West 150th Street & West 154th Street; At Ninth Avenue between 27th and 28th Streets in Chelsea Park on the roof of the new Health Center Building. In Queens, at Brookville Boulevard and Weller Avenue in Brookville Park.
- 11/29/37 - 670 - Announcement by Commissioner Moses of acceptance from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., of a plot of ground on 150th Street west of Seventh Avenue for a playground. (Bill Robinson playground!)

- Wissung 12/3/37 - 671 - Statement in regard to assault on Charles Klein in Central Park, and stressing of need for more park policemen. By Commissioner Moses.
- Wissung 12/6/37 - 672 - Letter to press from Commissioner Moses accompanying report explaining request to Board of Estimate for the immediate acquisition of rights-of-way for new parkways...mentioning also proposed improvement of beaches, forthcoming program for four-year parks program, and proposed extension of East River Drive.
- 12/11/37 - 673 - Announcement of opening without ceremonies of Hutchinson River Parkway Extension.
- Wissung 12/13/37 - 674 - Bids opened for planting and seeding along the Grand Central Parkway Extension between the Long Island Railroad and Horace Harding Boulevard, in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens.
- 12/18/37 - 675 - Opening new playground in Queens at 90th Street between 88th Avenue and 89th ave. Total number to-date is 358.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

675
SATURDAY
For Release DECEMBER 18, 1937

The Department of Parks announces the opening
of a new playground in Queens today.

The new playground at 90th Street between 88th
and 89th Avenues is equipped with swings, see-saws, slides,
sand tables, play houses and portable shower. Basket ball
and volley ball courts encircled by an oval-shaped roller
skating track are also provided. Shade trees and permanent
concrete benches are included in the landscape treatment.

This playground will make a total of 250 which
have been added to the Park Department's recreational sys-
tem since the beginning of the present administration. The
total number available today is 358.

- E N D -

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

673
For Release DECEMBER 11, 1937

The Department of Parks announces that the Hutchinson River Parkway Extension will be opened to the motoring public, without ceremonies, today. This project, which started on May 15th of this year, and which is the newest link in the parkway system of The Bronx connects the highways of that Borough with Westchester County and New England. The former terminus of the parkway was at Boston Post Road at the Westchester County line, and it has been extended southward to Pelham Bridge Road at Bartow Station, providing a route to Eastern Boulevard, the Triborough Bridge, and the new Bronx-Whitestone Bridge now under construction at Ferry Point. The State Department of Public Works is preparing plans for the separation of grades at the intersection of City Island Road with Pelham Bridge Road, so that the increased parkway traffic on the former artery will not interfere with City Island and Orchard Beach visitors.

This new two-mile Parkway, planned by the Park Department and built by the State Department of Public Works with State and Federal highway funds has **two** concrete lanes in each direction, separated by a central mall. The grading is sufficiently wide to permit the construction of an additional lane on either side when necessary.

Further to avoid congestion, the Department of Plant and Structures is widening the Pelham Bridge over Eastchester Creek, by the elimination of the westerly sidewalk, thus providing additional roadway space for another lane of traffic, as the bridge was actually only three lanes wide.

Preliminary studies are also being made to extend Hutchinson River Parkway along Westchester Creek with a new bridge over Eastchester Creek to Eastern Boulevard and Ferris Avenue, where it will meet the portion now being built by the Triborough Bridge Authority as an approach to the new Bronx-Whitestone Bridge. This will route through traffic from Westchester County and New England directly to Queens and Long Island without coming in contact with the heavy local traffic from Orchard Beach and City Island.

At midnight, today, the four and one quarter mile Henry Hudson Parkway from Dyckman Street to the Westchester County line, the first completed link in the express highway and parkway system that will extend the full length of Manhattan Island and The Bronx, will have been one year in operation. On November 30th, the six millionth car passed through the toll booths and it is estimated that approximately 6,219,487 cars will have passed through by the end of today.

Library

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

MONDAY,
For Release NOVEMBER 29, 1961

678

Park Commissioner Moses announced that he has accepted from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. the gift of a plot of ground on the north side of West 150th Street just west of Seventh Avenue, to be used as a neighborhood playground. In 1934, Bill Robinson, the tap dancer, made arrangements with Mr. Rockefeller for the use of this property for playground purposes and, after a survey of the neighborhood, Commissioner Moses agreed that the Department of Parks would develop the playground. Mr. Rockefeller gave his permission promptly and it was opened to the public on November 4, 1934.

Although it is small, it takes care of an unusually large number of children in this congested neighborhood and has been so successful that Mr. Rockefeller decided that it should be made a permanent part of the playground system. It has been difficult to find adequate recreation space in this section of the city and every small area that can possibly be made available is a help.

One unit of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments, located on the opposite side of 150th Street, alone could fill this play area, and the Harlem Housing Development, which is just around the corner, has greatly increased the need for additional recreation space in this section of the Borough. The space now occupied by the Harlem Housing Development was originally used by the tenants of the Dunbar apartments as a play area.

With the development of this last open area in Harlem as a housing project, it became necessary to find additional land and arrangements have been made with the Board of Transportation to use the block between 150th and 151st Streets just east of Seventh Avenue and with the New York City Housing Authority for the use of the property along the Harlem River in front of the housing development. A large two-block area is to be acquired in conjunction with the extension of the East River Drive and probably will be located in the vicinity of 145th Street and the Harlem River.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

*For Release*_____

MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 29, 1937

(Copy)

ROCKEFELLER CENTER
NEW YORK
Room 5600
30 Rockefeller Plaza

November 17, 1937

Dear Mr. Moses:

I have your letter of November 16th inquiring whether I would be willing to give to the City the three lots on West 150th Street which you are now operating, under a temporary permit, as a playground.

With the completion of the Federal Housing group in that neighborhood, it is quite obvious that the playground facilities are inadequate and that permanent play areas should be provided for the children of that section. In view of this and particularly because of the very remarkable record you have made in providing scores of new playgrounds for the children of the City, I am very glad to comply with your request and cooperate with you by deeding to the City this parcel of three lots on the northerly side of West 150th Street and situated 100' west of Seventh Avenue.

To make this gift effective, a deed will be executed and transmitted to you within the next few days.

With kindest regards and sincere appreciation of your very notable public service, I am

Very sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR.

Hon. Robert Moses
Commissioner of Parks
The Arsenal, Central Park,
New York, N. Y.

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 29, 1937

November 18, 1937

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York City

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

Thank you very much for your agreement to deed to the city for playground purposes your three lots on West 150th Street. This places the city further in your debt, and with the completion of the playground on the Board of Transportation property south of the new Harlem Housing Development, the school playground addition on Lenox Avenue and the projected new play areas along the East River Drive Extension north of 125th Street, will greatly improve recreational conditions in Harlem.

Cordially,

(Signed) ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner

Library

The Department of Parks announces the opening of three new playgrounds and a section of a redesigned recreation area today.

In Manhattan, lying east of the Harlem Housing Project along the Harlem River between West 150th Street and West 154th Street, the new playground is equipped with swings, seesaws, slides, jungle gym, sand tables, playhouses, a basketball court and horizontal bars and ladders. Shade trees and permanent concrete benches are also part of the landscape design. This playground was developed in conjunction with the Housing Authority who set aside the land lying between the buildings and the river for this purpose. Immediately to the south of the new apartment buildings erected by the Authority, a large rectangle of land will shortly be developed to provide for adolescent recreation.

At 9th Avenue between 27th and 28th Streets in Chelsea Park on the roof of the new Health Center Building which was opened on July 13th, 1937, the playground has sand tables, playhouses, garden swings and a large open play area. Large privet shrubs in individual boxes, permanent concrete benches and an enclosed loggia are also provided.

In Queens, at Brookville Boulevard and Weller Avenue in Brookville Park, the new playground is equipped with swings, seesaws, slides, jungle gym, sand tables, playhouses, ping pong tables, horizontal bar and ladder, basketball and volley ball courts; also, a circular wading pool surrounded by shade trees and permanent concrete benches. Brookville Park, which occupies a long narrow valley and is entered from the Sunrise Parkway at the north, is being completely constructed as a modern park with modern facilities, of which this playground forms one unit. With the completion of the planting and preparation of lawn areas, the balance of the park, except for grass seeding, will be completed by the end of the year.

These three playgrounds will make a total of 249, which have been added to the Park Department's recreational system since the beginning of the present administration. The total number available today is 357.

In Brooklyn, at Livonia Avenue between Amboy and Herzl Street in Betsy Head Park, the reconstruction consists of handball, basketball, volley ball and horseshoe pitching courts. A modern swimming pool to replace the former inadequate and unsanitary layout has already been opened in this park and plans are being prepared now for a new bathhouse to replace the old one destroyed by fire last summer. The courts being opened today form the second reconstructed unit to be completed in this park.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Release

666

Liberty

November 11, 1937

Miss Thelma Johnson
110-31 166th Street
Jamaica, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Thelma.

I have your letter recommending that we name the new park and playground development at Liberty Avenue and 172nd Street "Liberty Park." This is one of the most sensible suggestions for naming a park and playground area that we have received and we will note this in our records so that whenever the area is referred to from now on it will be called by that name.

It will, of course, be necessary for the proper City authorities to adopt resolutions naming this area and we shall take care of this the early part of next year.

In addition to the reasons you mention for naming this Liberty Park, we believe that it is a proper designation because it is located on Liberty Avenue and agrees with our theory that the names given to parks should be definitely associated with their locations.

Thank you for sending this suggestion to us.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

110-31 166th Street
Jamaica, N.Y.
Oct. 26, 1937

Dear Sir,

I am a little girl of 10 years old.
I suggest that the new park that is near
Public School 116 and Liberty Ave. should
be named Liberty Park. Because Liberty in
our country means a great deal, and besides
it means Freedom.

Respectfully yours,

(s) Thelma Johnson

665

31A-1

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

November 4, 1937

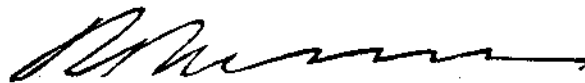
Board of Estimate and Apportionment
Municipal Building
New York City

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing a report on the proposed development of Wards Island when it is vacated by the State and becomes a City Park as provided by law, and on the necessity for the future construction of a pedestrian bridge between this island and the Manhattan shore of the East River. I believe that property should be acquired immediately to insure a proper approach to this structure from East 103rd Street and to fit into the present playground area on the East River Drive between 103rd Street and 104th Street.

In accordance with Section 442-A of the Charter, I request the approval of your Board and the separate approval of the Mayor of the selection of the property known as lots 17 to 24 inclusive, and 121 in Block 1697, technical description of which is attached, for park purposes, and ask that a proceeding to acquire title to this property be authorized. The assessed value of the area is \$50,000. I further request that your Board approve the purchase of the part of this area known as lots 17 to 24 inclusive, which is assessed for the year 1937 at \$40,000. at a price not to exceed \$44,000.00.

Very truly yours,



Commissioner

REPORT ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF WARD'S ISLAND
AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE BETWEEN
THE ISLAND AND EAST 103RD STREET, MANHATTAN

The Metropolitan Conference of Parks, of which I was chairman, recommended in February, 1930, that both Ward's and Randall's Islands be set aside for park purposes and that the House of Refuge, the New York City Children's Hospital and the Manhattan State Hospital for the Insane be removed from these islands as rapidly as possible. An act was prepared to establish these parks and to provide for the removal of the inmates, patients and employees of the State and City institutions to other points outside the city where land was cheaper and the site more desirable from the point of view of operation. This act was never adopted but, subsequently, on April 7, 1933, Chapter 144 of the Laws of 1933 became effective and provided for the removal of the House of Refuge from Randall's Island within two years of that date, and the Manhattan State Hospital on Ward's Island within ten years. The last of the inmates of the House of Refuge were removed from Randall's Island on May 19, 1935. This was accomplished only because the Triborough Bridge Authority and the Park Department insisted upon the removal and a great deal of unnecessary confusion. All of this could have been eliminated had the evacuation been properly planned in advance. It was definitely understood by all the parties concerned that the Triborough Bridge Authority and the Park Department had to proceed with the construction of the bridge but lack of available space in State institutions, and the natural reluctance on the part of the employees on the island to leave this location, so convenient to the city, made an orderly removal impossible. Finally the State assumed the responsibility for the inmates in both the Children's Hospital and House of Refuge in State Institutions for the feeble minded or insane. The development of Randall's Island Park is now practically complete.

The problem of removal of the inmates from the Manhattan State

Hospital on Ward's Island has been discussed with Dr. Tiffany, the new head of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, and he has agreed that he will work with the Park Department so as to eliminate the confusion which attended the Randall's Island matter. The situation has been improved by the passage of a bill by the State Legislature at the instance of Governor Lehman providing for a referendum on a State Bond Issue of \$40,000,000. for completing various institutional developments. This was approved on November 2nd and will provide means for expediting the removal of the remaining inmates on Ward's Island. The census at this hospital has dropped within the last few years from 7,214 to a present figure of about 3,200, which indicates that, while there is a problem, it is not nearly as difficult as it was a few years ago when the bill establishing the park was passed and it can and should be disposed of promptly. The new bond issue will permit the immediate planning of additional facilities at state institutions outside the city limits and thus provide for the 3,200 patients on Ward's Island. Some of the buildings have already been abandoned and many are only partially used so that it will be possible for the city, with the cooperation of the Department of Mental Hygiene, to proceed promptly in an orderly fashion to develop the Island for the recreation of the people in this section of the city.

Recently, a committee of distinguished physicians, who were anxious to use a part of Ward's Island as a site for a medical museum, called on Governor Lehman and enlisted his support in furthering the project. He agreed that he was favorably inclined toward the establishment of this museum and he would do what he could to help in the matter. Their plan which would call for the use of approximately twenty acres of land and probably two of the existing buildings, can be worked into our plan for the development of the park and I have informed them that I would be glad to cooperate with them on the project.

Ward's Island, which is $254\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent, is divided into two parts. The northeasterly corner, composed of $77\frac{1}{2}$ acres, is the site of a sewage disposal plant and the balance of the area, or 177 acres, has definitely been set aside for park development. The tremendous value of this island as a park can be readily understood when you consider that it is only 900 feet distant from the upper east side of Manhattan, which records show to be the most congested section of the City of New York. The island has an assessed value of \$7,974,600. without the improvements and it would cost the City of New York at least \$65,000,000. to acquire a similar area on Manhattan Island, assuming that it would be a physical possibility to set apart such a large area without seriously interfering with Manhattan traffic. This is equivalent to an area in Manhattan bounded by the East River, 100th Street, Park Avenue and 115th Street, which area is assessed at \$53,800,000.

Ward's Island can be reached at the present time only by means of the Triborough Bridge and Randall's Island. The Triborough Bridge Authority as a part of its project constructed a low level bridge connecting Randall's and Ward's Islands. This serves the purpose admirably at the present time, and will continue to meet the need of vehicular traffic but not that of the local people in Manhattan and Queens who wish to walk to Ward's Island.

It is obvious from a glance at the city map that this park should serve the people living between 86th Street and 114th Street in Manhattan and the people from Astoria in Queens. It is also obvious that these same Manhattan people, and the records show there are about 200,000 of them, would have to walk north to 125th Street, across the Triborough Bridge and south again on Randall's Island across the bridge to Ward's Island, the area which is supposed to serve their section of the city. This means that they would walk a distance of about three miles to get to a park, which just will not happen. When I was

first appointed to the Triborough Bridge Authority I had a study made of the possibility of moving the Manhattan Approach southerly to about 103rd Street so that the toll plaza and ramps to the island would have been on Ward's Island. Land acquisition at 125th Street in Harlem had progressed to a point where plans could not be changed and this logical proposal was abandoned.

I have had engineering studies made to determine the best way of making this island accessible to the rehabilitated east side and I find that a pedestrian bridge is desirable and essential if the city is to take advantage of this extremely valuable piece of city property. This structure can be a lift span fifteen feet wide, with a 55 foot clearance above mean high water the same as the Manhattan connection of the Triborough Bridge. The lift span would be 300 feet between towers and would be flanked by two fixed spans each 245 feet long between the lift span and the shores. These fixed spans would be reached by long sloping ramps at either end. The same people who would have to walk three miles to reach the island, by the present method would have their walking distance cut to approximately 1,000 feet by the construction of this bridge.

The construction of the East River Drive from 92nd Street to 125th Street will cause this section to be rebuilt as a residential community and the zoning has already been changed so that any new construction will be residential in character. The Board of Education has recently selected a site for a new high school along this Drive and property values are on the increase. A long narrow strip of property will have to be acquired for the Manhattan approach to this bridge and I have found a plot which is available and in the right location on the north side of East 103rd Street west of the small playground on the East River Drive between 103rd Street and 104th Street. It would cost the city almost as much to acquire the frontage along 103rd Street

as it would to acquire the whole plot to a depth of 100 feet. The acquisition of this additional land will also permit the Park Department to properly landscape the approach and also extend the facilities provided in the small neighborhood playground now operating between 103rd and 104th Streets on the Drive. This property, which is approximately 250 feet by 100 feet has an assessed value of \$50,000 and should be acquired immediately and, as soon as a definite schedule for the removal of inmates from Ward's Island has been established, funds should be appropriated to cover the cost of the design of the pedestrian bridge.

You will find that the following exhibits, which are attached, will give a clearer picture of the problem.

1. Air view of proposed bridge connecting Manhattan and Ward's Island.
2. Map showing Ward's Island superimposed on the upper east side of Manhattan.
3. Proposed development plan of the island.
4. Miscellaneous air views showing Ward's and Randall's Islands.
5. Map showing density of population in the area to be served by Ward's Island Park.

Library
For Release SATURDAY
November 13, 1937
664

The Department of Parks announces the opening of two new playgrounds today.

In Brooklyn, at Powell and Sackman Streets between Glenmore and Pitkin Avenues, the new playground is equipped with swings, see-saws, slides, playhouses, sand, play and ping-pong tables. Handball and paddle tennis courts, a rectangular wading pool and a large play area encircled by an oval shaped roller skating track are also provided. Shade trees and permanent concrete benches form part of the landscape design.

Also in Brooklyn, at South Third and Berry Streets, the new playground is for small children and has swings, see-saws, slides, playhouses, sand tables, a play area and a rectangular wading pool, which can be used as a volley ball court in spring and fall. The entire plot is encircled by a landscaped area with shade trees. Permanent concrete benches have also been installed. These areas are two more of the sites selected by the Commissioner of Parks, and acquired by condemnation after authorization by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment in 1936, to take care of the recreational needs of neglected neighborhoods. They will make a total of 246, which have been added to the Park Department's recreational system since the beginning of the present administration. The total number available today is 354.

The Department of Parks announces the informal opening today of two new playgrounds, one of which was opened in part some time ago.

In Brooklyn, at the Williamsburg Housing Project, on Scholes Street between Graham and Manhattan Avenues, the new playground is equipped with swings, see-saws, slides, jungle gym, playhouses, sand table, horizontal and parallel bars. An oval shaped wading pool, two large play areas for games, horse shoe pitching and handball courts are also part of the layout. Shade trees have been planted around the entire perimeter and permanent concrete benches have been provided.

At Dahill Road and 38th Street, also in Brooklyn, the new playground, the wading pool section of which was opened some time ago, has facilities for handball, basketball, volley ball, soft ball games, a roller skating track, horizontal ladders and bars and a generously equipped small children's playground with slides, swings, see-saws, playhouse and sand tables. Shade trees and permanent concrete benches are also included in the design. This area is another one of the twenty-four sites selected by the Commissioner of Parks and acquired by condemnation after authorization by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, on July 15, 1936 to take care of the recreational needs of neglected neighborhoods.

These two playgrounds will make a total of 244 which have been added to the Park Department's recreational system since the beginning of the present administration. The total number available today is 358.

E N D

660 Library
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release IMMEDIATELY

The Park Department announces that at the Conservatory Gardens in Central Park, just off Fifth Avenue at 105th Street, which was opened to the public on September 18th, there is an unusual display of chrysanthemums.

At the north end around the lily fountain there are over 2000 white plants in flower and at the south end around the Burnett Memorial Fountain, there are about 1500 white, crimson, yellow and bronze plants.

This profuse bloom of chrysanthemums, now, that the other plants are through flowering, will provide an attraction until a heavy frost destroys them.

Aside from the floral display the garden offers a place in which to relax, rest, and enjoy the beauty and inspiration of nature.

In Brooklyn, the Annual Fall Chrysanthemum Show at the Prospect Park Greenhouse, Prospect Park West and 9th Street, will be opened on Sunday, October 31st at 10 A.M.

The display has over 4,000 pots of chrysanthemums on exhibition. The ground bed is laid out in groups of various formations, with the popular large bloom varieties in all shades of pink, yellow, red and bronze. Some of the attractive plants are the Pooketts, Turners, John S. Bush, Rise of Day and the Melba.

Surrounding this feature of the display, banked on the sides of the show house are 75 varieties of smaller size chrysanthemums such as the Pompons and the Anemone, in the shades of bronze, red, yellow and white. Some of the outstanding chrysanthemums in this class to be exhibited, are the Titan Tangerine Bronze, Norman Pink and Bronze, Mrs. Harrison Craig-Orange and Crimson, Betty Rose Pink and Yellow, Crimson Glow, Crimson Red.

The exhibit will be open every day from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and the Park Department extends a cordial invitation to view the display for three weeks.

E N D

October 29, 1937

Library

57
TUESDAY
For Release OCT. 26, 1937

The Department of Parks announces the opening today of one new playground, two redesigned and reconstructed park areas and a new recreation and comfort station building.

In Queens, at 43rd Street between Greenpoint and 47th Avenues, the new playground is equipped with swings, see-saws, slides, playhouses, horizontal bars and ladders. A rectangular wading pool which is encircled by an oval shaped roller skating track, handball courts and a large play area for soft ball games, have also been provided. Shade trees which have been planted around the perimeter of the entire area and permanent concrete benches complete the design.

This area is one of twenty-four sites selected by the Commissioner of Parks, and acquired by condemnation after authorization by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, July 15, 1936, to take care of the recreational needs of neglected neighborhoods. It will make a total of 242 playgrounds which have been added to the Park Department's recreational system since the beginning of the present administration. The total number available today is 350.

In Manhattan, at 2nd Avenue and East 17th Street in Stuyvesant Park, another section of this park has been remodeled. This section, like the remainder of the park is for passive recreation and is equipped with continuous rows of permanent concrete benches around its semi-circular walks. Shade trees and landscaping complete the layout.

In Mount Morris Park, Madison Avenue between 120th and 124th Streets, the entire east half of the park has been remodeled with new walks, grading and landscaping.

The new recreation building is of white brick construction with black brick trim around windows and doors. It has separate comfort facilities for men, women, boys and girls, a milk station and a large play room for indoor games during inclement weather.

Dec 15 1907 655

Library

See X
Page 2

INTERESTING PLACES IN THE PARKS OF NEW YORK CITY

MANHATTAN

BATTERY PARK - At the southern extremity of Manhattan.

Barge Office, a branch of the custom house.

Ferries to Brooklyn and Staten Island, known collectively as South Ferry.

THE AQUARIUM - formerly Fort Clinton - since modified into Castle Garden, now the Aquarium.
Managed by the New York Zoological Society.
The collections include both marine and fresh-water forms of life.

BOWLING GREEN- Triangular space at the foot of Broadway. The oldest park in the city.

BRYANT PARK - At 42nd Street and Sixth Avenue.

A fine formal park in business section of city.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY. Open air reading room.

CENTRAL PARK - 59th St. to 110th St., Fifth Avenue to Central Park West

Central Park contains 879 acres of beautiful lawns, wooded spaces, meadows and lakes.

THE MALL - Central Park's central and chief promenade, a quarter of a mile long, planted with parallel rows of stately elms. In summer, concerts are given at the north end of the Mall at the Naumberg Music Shell. Dancing is also held at this area.

CONSERVATORY GARDEN - Fifth Avenue and 105th Street. - An entirely new garden about 420 feet wide and 760 feet long. The northern section contains a lily pool surrounded by planting areas. The center section is a large level lawn area surrounded by hedges, with granite steps at the entrance to the garden at Fifth Avenue and a fountain west of the lawn area. The southern section contains the BURNETT MEMORIAL BIRD BATH and is planted with a large variety of flowers. A large number of flowering trees have also been planted.

EIGHTEEN MARGINAL PLAYGROUNDS for small children.

MARY HARRIMAN HUMSEY PLAYGROUND on site of former Casino restaurant near 72nd Street entrance.

Manhattan (cont.)

HECKSCHER PLAYGROUND - near Seventh Avenue and 59th Street - a small children's playground, wading pool, playground baseball diamonds and horseshoe pitching courts.

BOAT HOUSES near Fifth Avenue and 72nd Street entrances. Row boats may be rented.

NORTH MEADOW PLAYGROUND - near 97th Street entrance, center of park. Excellent games on thirteen baseball diamonds.

TAVERN-ON-THE-GREEN - Moderate priced restaurant at Central Park West and 67th Street.

THE ZOO - Fifth Avenue and 64th Street entrance.

Opened in 1934, consists of nine new buildings built around a quadrangle, the center of which contains a sunken garden with a seal pool and flying cages. A wide variety of animals, birds and reptiles are on exhibition. At the Zoo Cafeteria, food and refreshments may be purchased at reasonable prices.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART - Main entrance at Fifth Avenue and 82nd Street.

CITY HALL PARK - Broadway and Chambers Street.
City Hall where the government of the city is conducted. X

FORT TRYON PARK - Fort Washington and Northern Avenues.
Donated to New York City by John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
Most beautifully landscaped park in New York City. Terraces provide excellent view of Hudson River and the Palisades.
A new building is now being constructed for the Cloisters, a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
Moderate priced restaurant.

MADISON SQUARE PARK - 23rd to 26th Streets, Broadway and Madison Avenues.

One of the older parks in business section.

MANHATTAN SQUARE PARK - 77th to 81st Streets, Central Park West to Columbus Avenue.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.
Akeley Memorial Hall of African Mammals.
The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial.
The Hayden Planetarium.

RANDALL'S ISLAND - East River opposite 125th Street; entrances from Manhattan, Bronx and Queens approaches to Triborough Bridge.

Sports Stadium, seating 21,441; Track Meets, Football Games; Light Operas.

Cafeteria.

Manhattan (cont.)

SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT PLAYGROUND - Chrystie and Forsythe Streets, Canal to East Houston Streets.

Seven blocks of children's playgrounds, wading pools and sports areas, with five recreation buildings.

STUYVESANT SQUARE - Fifteenth Street and Second Avenues.

Filled with fine old trees and surrounded by hospitals, St. George's Church and Friends Meeting House. This was a part of the Stuyvesant property.

UNION SQUARE - Broadway at 14th Street.
Outdoor meetings often take place in the square.

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK - At the southern terminus of Fifth Avenue.
Surrounded by old residences and New York University buildings.

RIVERSIDE PARK AND DRIVE - Lies along the high banks of the Hudson, between 72nd and Dyckman Streets.

WEST SIDE IMPROVEMENT - The plan for the West Side Improvement along Riverside Drive from 72nd Street to Dyckman Street includes a wide variety of facilities for active recreation. When this work is completed, there will be eight children's playgrounds with wading pools and recreational buildings; twelve full-size baseball fields and seven soft ball diamonds. A miniature Randall's Island track and field layout will be a feature. Thirty handball, twenty horseshoe and fifteen tennis courts, plus a large number of shuffle boards, basket ball, paddle tennis and other court games are being constructed. Three new boat basins will be built for motor boat fans; bicyclists will have an exclusive river front track, while roller skating enthusiasts will have eighteen city blocks of track and two roller hockey rinks.

THE GINGKO TREE - On the north side of Grant's Tomb there is a gingko tree sent to New York by Li Hung Chang in 1897.

CLAREMONT RESTAURANT - One of the historic landmarks of the city. It stands on a bluff just behind Grant's tomb.

HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY - Dyckman Street to Van Cortlandt Park - Bridge over Spuyten Duyvil Creek connects Manhattan and the Bronx.

EAST RIVER DRIVE - This new parkway from 92nd Street to the approach of the Triborough Bridge at 125th Street is lined with trees and benches.

B R O N X

BRONX PARK - East 180th Street and Bronx Park East.

The park area is 698 acres of natural woods and open spaces.

THE BOTANICAL GARDEN - a botanical garden, museum and arboretum for the collection and culture of plants, flowers, shrubs and trees.

ZOOLOGICAL PARK - Eleven miles of fences surrounding the park encloses 264 acres, of which 30 are water. There are 14 large and 10 small animal houses - eight miles of walks and roads. The collection consists of 2636 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

BRONX AND PELHAM PARKWAY - A two and one-half mile parkway connecting Bronx and Pelham Bay Park.

PELHAM BAY PARK-Eastern Boulevard and Long Island Sound.

This is the largest of the city parks - 2125 acres.

ORCHARD BEACH - a crescent of white sand one mile long, provides a new bathing beach. There are lockers and dressing room facilities for 5400 persons, and a parking space for 8000 cars. A cafeteria and a terrace overlooking the Sound and a mall 250 feet by 1400 feet long, lined with benches and trees, will connect the bath houses with a large lagoon for small boating.

VAN CORTLANDT PARK - 242nd Street and Broadway.

Area contains 1112 acres of rocky woodland, lake, stream and a large parade ground.

The parade ground contains liberal facilities for baseball and cricket.

THE COLONIAL GARDEN - In the southeastern section of the park, is one of the distinct features.

B R O O K L Y N

PROSPECT PARK - Prospect Park West and Union Street.

Area contains 526 acres.

This park is noted for its spacious meadows, large variety of trees and shrubs and large lake.

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES and the BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN are located on the northeast side of Prospect Park.

THE ZOO at this park is one of the most modern and beautiful menageries in the country. In the center of the area there is a seal pool from which walks radiate to the buildings housing lions, horned animals, monkeys and birds. The elephants reside in a large domed building in the center of the group. The bear dens of huge boulders, simulating a mountain side, are built into the slope which rises toward Flatbush Avenue. A restaurant occupies a corner of the area.

Facilities for outdoor recreation includes areas for boating, horseback riding, croquet, field hockey, picnics, lawn tennis and music grove for band concerts.

OCEAN PARKWAY - A five and one-half drive, lined with trees from the Ocean Parkway entrance at Prospect Park to Coney Island.

SHORE ROAD DRIVE- A beautiful three-mile parkway from Owl's Head Park at Fourth Avenue and 67th Street passes Owl's Head Park at Colonial Road and continues along the Narrows to Fort Hamilton, and then to Dyker Beach Park.

MARINE PARKWAY BRIDGE - From southern end of Flatbush Avenue connecting Brooklyn with Jacob Riis Park in Queens.

Q U E E N S

One of the outstanding features of Queens' borough is the Grand Central Parkway and its extension. Starting from the Triborough Bridge approach, it passes Flushing Meadow, Hillside and Alley Pond Parks and continues on into Eastern Long Island.

ALLEY POND PARK - Grand Central Parkway and Springfield Boulevard.

486 acres of wooded areas ideal for outdoor picnics, with fireplaces, tables and benches; nature trail, athletic field with baseball diamonds, hockey and soccer fields and tennis courts.

CHISHOLM PARK - Poppenhausen Avenue, East River and 119th Street.

Area - 28 acres.

Old Chisholm Mansion erected about a century ago, has interesting historical background, and is located on top of a hill overlooking the river. It was used for the Mayor's summer office in 1937.

CUNNINGHAM PARK - Grand Central Parkway and Cross Island Boulevard.

Area - 459 acres.

Native woodland, ideal for outdoor picnics, with fireplaces, tables and benches, tennis courts and recreation area.

FLUSHING MEADOW PARK - Union Turnpike North to Long Island Railroad and North along Grand Central Parkway Extension.

Area - 1054 acres.

Site for New York World's Fair 1939 (now under construction.)

FOREST PARK - Myrtle Avenue, Union Turnpike and Park Lane South.

Area - 538 acres.

Wooded area with picnic grounds, playgrounds, athletic field, baseball diamonds, golf course and music grove.

JACOB RIIS PARK - Beach 149th Street and Atlantic Ocean.

Area - 234 acres.

Splendid bathing beach - the world's largest single unit concrete parking space accommodating 14,000 automobiles; beach games and thirty foot walk; modern self-service food-bar.

R I C H M O N D

CLARENCE T. BARRETT PARK - Broadway, Glenwood Place and Clove Road.

Area - 8 acres.

The zoo in this park presents a varied exhibit. The primary function is to provide facilities for teaching some phases of natural history and biology to pupils of the community.

CLOVE LAKES PARK - Victory Boulevard and Slosson Avenue.

Area - 191 acres.

Three large lakes used for model yachting and fishing in season; children's playground, athletic field, bridle path and picnic ground, with fireplaces, tables and benches.

LA TOURETTE PARK - Forest Hill and London Roads.

Area - 580 acres.

Original LaTourette homestead used for golf club-house. Wooded area for picnic grounds.

SILVER LAKE PARK - Forest Avenue to Clove Road and Victory Boulevard.

Area - 207 acres; elevation 260 feet above sea level.

Reservoir one and one-half miles in circumference, ideal for walking.

WILLOWBROOK PARK - Richmond and Rockland Avenues.

Area - 118 acres.

Wooded area with picnic grounds, fireplaces, tables and benches. Lake for boating and fishing in season.

WOLFE'S POND PARK - Raritan Boulevard from Holton to Cornelia Avenues.

Area - 224 acres.

Wooded area for picnic ground, with fireplaces, tables and benches; bathing beach, baseball field, bridle path, children's playground and lake for boating.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Library

654
For Release IMMEDIATELY

The Henry Hudson Parkway Authority announced that the five millionth car passed over the Henry Hudson Bridge spanning the Harlem River at 12:10 noon, Friday, October 15th, 1937. It was owned and driven by Mr. James J. Carroll of 427 West 51st Street, New York City, enroute from his home to Greenwich, Conn. He is the manager of Carroll's Restaurant located at 875 Tenth Avenue, New York City.

The volume of traffic over this bridge which was opened ten months ago yesterday has been far greater than anticipated with the result that revenues are two and one half times the carrying charges. It was necessary for the Authority to issue a new \$2,000,000. bond issue last July and award contracts for the erection of an upper deck for the bridge and additional connecting roadways and landscaping through Inwood Hill Park from the bridge to Dyckman Street, and also the widening of the parkway to three lanes each in each direction from Kappock Street to 259th Street.

This work, which is already under way, will be completed in the spring of 1938, ready to meet the demands of the increased traffic pace further evidenced since Columbus Day when the final link of the parkway from 72nd to Dyckman Streets was opened.

In accordance with the custom previously established, the Authority donated a fifty-trip booklet of tickets to Mr. Carroll.

E N D

October 15, 1937

Library

6 5 3
For Release

FRIDAY
OCT. 15, 1957

The Department of Parks announces the completion of three new playgrounds which will be opened to the public this evening and tomorrow. Two of these playgrounds, which have been completely equipped with flood lights, will be opened this evening by Mayor LaGuardia and Park Commissioner Robert Moses, who will officiate at informal ceremonies featured by programs staged by playground children.

One of these playgrounds is in Queens and is located on Liberty Avenue between 172nd and 173rd Streets. The other is in Colonial Park in Harlem and is located on Bradhurst Avenue between 148th Street and 150th Street.

The new Liberty Avenue Playground has a football field, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, roller skating track, and a quarter-mile running track. A fully equipped playground for small children is also part of the development. The entire perimeter is landscaped with shade trees and grass plots, with permanent benches installed under the shade trees. The Mayor and the Park Commissioner will open this area at 8 o'clock and entertainment will be furnished by the boys' band of the Church of St. Catherine of Sienna and singing and dancing acts of the playground children.

After leaving the Queens' Playground at 8:15, the officials will motor to the playground in Harlem which will be opened promptly at 8:45. Prior to the arrival of the Mayor and the Park Commissioner, the children of the neighborhood will take part in a parade from 145th Street and Bradhurst Avenue which will be led by a fife and drum corp. Entertainment here will be featured with a program of songs and music by the Colonial hill-billies, an organization of Harlem playground children that won third place in the recent city-wide contest on the mall in Central Park. Members of the New York State Temporary Commission on Urban Colored Population have been especially invited to attend these opening exercises.

The Colonial Park Playground has been planned for small children and is equipped with swings, see-saws, slides, jungle gyms, playhouses and sand tables. The permanent benches and trees placed in this new area form a part of the general landscape scheme of this ten-block recreational park. Other units at this park already open to the public include the swimming pool and bath house, dance floor and band shell, and two additional playgrounds lying to the north of the one to be opened this evening.

The third playground on Randall's Island will be opened on Saturday and is located in the shadow of the Triborough Bridge, west of the new cafeteria building. It was planned for kindergarten and junior children and is equipped

FRIDAY
OCT.15,1937

with swings, see-saws, basketball, volleyball, horse shoe pitching, shuffleboard, and paddle tennis courts. Sand tables, playhouses and a large wading pool are also a part of the development. The shade trees and permanent benches are a part of the general landscape scheme of the 194-acre recreational area planned on Randall's Island.

These three new playgrounds make a total of 241 which have been added to the Park Department recreational system since the beginning of the present administration. Prior to January, 1934, there were only 108 in the five boroughs. The total number available on Saturday will be 349.

E N D

MONDAY
OCT. 11, 1937

For Release

650

X The Department of Parks announces that exercises in connection with the opening of the West Side Improvement in Riverside and Fort Washington Parks, Manhattan, will take place on Columbus Day, October 12th.

Besides Park Commissioner Robert Moses who will preside, Governor Lehman, Mayor LaGuardia, Frank J. Taylor, Comptroller of the City of New York, Samuel Levy, President of the Borough of Manhattan, James J. Lyons, President of the Borough of The Bronx, R. E. Dougherty, Vice-President of the New York Central System, and M. J. Madigan, President of Madigan-Hyland, Consulting Engineers, will participate in the exercises. Mr. Moses will be introduced by Russell B. Corey, President of the West of Central Park Association, an organization which has been identified with various movements to improve the West Side of Manhattan.

The ceremonies will start at 10:45 A.M., with a motor parade from Dyckman Street south along Riverside Drive. The parade, which will be headed by the Police Department Band, will pause just north of the George Washington Bridge while Governor Lehman cuts a ribbon across the temporary northerly entrance to the parkway, and will then proceed to 79th Street, where the speaking will take place at 11:15 sharp. Stations WEAJ, WINS and WNYC, will broadcast this part of the exercises.

The completion of the West Side Improvement and the Henry Hudson Parkway not only provides a major traffic artery and new lawns and extensive planting areas to serve as ever-changing foregrounds for the river views, but also a noteworthy recreational plant. Its opening, through Riverside and Fort Washington Parks from 72nd to Dyckman Streets, will provide, at a total cost of \$24,340,000., an immediate usable section of a great marginal waterfront development. 132 acres of new park land valued at \$30,000,000., have been made by filling land under water and covering 2-1/2 miles of railroad tracks. Approximately 3,000,000 cubic yards of fill from exterior sources have been used.

Besides the 6-3/4 miles of new parkway which will be added to the 4-1/2 miles of the Henry Hudson Parkway previously opened on December 12th last year, there will also be available for use 78 acres of play area including completely equipped children's playgrounds, comfort stations, athletic fields, tennis courts, handball courts, baseball and football fields, roller skating and bicycling tracks. The entire area west of the railroad at Inwood Hill Park extending from Dyckman Street to the Harlem Ship Canal, will be devoted exclusively to active recreation. Three miles of promenades and 26-1/2 miles of

MONDAY
OCT. 11, 1937

winding foot paths with benches under shade trees will be available for pedestrians and those seeking rest and quiet. Plans have also been developed for marine recreational facilities in the form of four boat basins located respectively at 79th Street, 96th Street, 148th Street and Dyckman Street. All but the 148th Street basin, which will be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Docks, will be operated by the Park Department. The basins at 79th and 96th Streets are actually under construction.

The rocky shore of Fort Washington Park is being developed for the purpose of restoring and preserving its natural scenic beauty as an area for passive recreation.

Along with all the new development west of the Riverside Drive wall, the rehabilitation of the upper level bordering the Drive is now taking place. Thousands of new trees and shrubs are being planted, the lawn areas are being reconditioned, paths are being widened and repaired, and hundreds of new benches are being placed.

On October 15th, work in connection with the renovation of Grant's Tomb, which was dedicated in 1897, will be completed by the monument restoration group of the Park Department. The entire interior has been cleaned and worn floors and broken carved marble have been restored. The exterior of the structure has been waterproofed.

While the new development will be opened to the public on Columbus Day, much construction still has to be progressed before it is finished. At 96th Street, the tardy completion of two parkway bridges will necessitate the use of short stretches of temporary pavement. North of 96th Street, the completion of the major play area of the development is dependent upon the progress of bulkheading and placing of additional fill. Here, too, the parkway will run partially on temporary pavement. North of George Washington Bridge, Riverside Drive will be used for both north and south bound traffic for several months until the south-bound parkway drive, which ties into the Henry Hudson Bridge approach at Dyckman Street, is completed. The approach to the new upper deck of the Henry Hudson Bridge is being progressed through Inwood Hill Park, contracts have been let for the upper decking of the bridge structure, and the entire improvement of this stretch of the parkway will be completed early in the spring.

MONDAY
OCT. 11, 1937

At present the Riverside Drive area is patrolled by four different police precincts. Because of the increased number of people who will use the new park areas for active and passive recreation, and to prevent serious accidents, children will have to be prohibited from approaching the roadways where automobiles will be traveling uninterruptedly at 35 miles per hour. In order to obtain adequate police coverage to safeguard life and City property, the Park Department is asking the Police Department to consolidate this new area, together with Fort Tryon, Inwood Hill and Satkura Parks, into and under the jurisdiction of one precinct with an approximate total force of 100 park-conscious, special-trained officers of all titles. At present there is a building available at 155th Street and Riverside Drive suitable as a headquarters for this purpose.

Properly to maintain and operate this intensive development in the manner and during such hours as the public has learned to demand in the past four years, the Park Department has requested from the budget authorities 222 new positions at an annual cost of \$343,780.50.

END

Library

The Department of Parks announces that on Tuesday, October 12th, the 6.7 miles of parkway now under construction in Riverside and Fort Washington Parks in connection with the West Side Improvement will be officially opened to the public, thereby adding another vital link in a great arterial express highway and parkway system for the City of New York.

The new parkway will be officially known as the Henry Hudson Parkway and will connect, at Dyckman Street, with the 4.5 miles of parkway previously opened on December 12th, 1936. After the opening exercises on Columbus Day, motorists will be able to proceed uninterrupted from Canal Street over the West Side Express Highway and the Henry Hudson Parkway to the Saw Mill River Parkway and at the City line at the north end of Van Cortlandt Park.

Besides the parkway there will also be available for public use, 78 acres of play area including children's playgrounds, athletic fields and tennis courts. The entire area west of the railroad at Inwood Hill Park extending from Dyckman Street to the Harlem Ship Canal, will be devoted exclusively to active recreation. Promenades and winding foot paths with benches under shade trees will be available for pedestrians and those seeking rest and quiet. Plans have also been developed for marine recreational facilities in the form of four boat basins located respectively at 79th Street, 96th Street, 148th Street and Dyckman Street. All but the 148th Street basin which will be under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Docks, will be operated by the Department of Parks. The basins at 79th and 96th Streets are actually under construction.

The opening of the West Side Improvement through Riverside and Fort Washington Parks from 72nd to Dyckman Streets will provide at a total cost of \$24,340,000., an immediate usable section of a great marginal waterfront development. 132 acres of new park land valued at \$30,000,000., have been made by filling land under water and covering of the railroad tracks. Approximately 3,000,000 cubic yards of fill from exterior sources have been used.

The new upper level of the Henry Hudson Bridge now under construction, and which will provide one-way traffic to motorists northward bound, will be completed in May of 1938.

645

For Release SEPTEMBER 27, 1951

The Department of Parks announces that a report of its revenue producing facilities, which include 368 tennis courts, 10 golf courses, 12 swimming pools, 2 beaches and Randall's Island Stadium, by comparison over a period of four years operation, indicates a steady and consistent gain in usage by the public and revenue to the City. This gain is shown by figures compiled by the Department, based on operations for the years, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937.

P O O L S

During 1934, the two swimming pools--Faber Pool in Richmond, and Betsy Head in Brooklyn, attracted a total of 123,765 persons with a resulting revenue of \$9,248. In 1935 there were 104,389 patrons, resulting in a revenue of \$8,398. The year 1936 saw 10 additional pools opened by the Department as follows:

IN MANHATTAN

Hamilton Fish Pool
Colonial Pool

East Houston & Sheriff Streets.
Bradhurst Ave. & 145th to 147th
Streets

Highbridge Pool
Thomas Jefferson Pool

Amsterdam Ave. & 173rd Street
111th to 114th Sts. to 1st Ave.

IN BROOKLYN

Sunset Pool
McCarren Pool
Red Hook Pool

7th Avenue and 43rd Street
Nassau Ave. & Lorimer Street.
Clinton, Bay & Henry Streets

IN BRONX

Crotona Pool

173rd St. & Fulton Avenue

IN QUEENS

Astoria Pool

Barclay St. & 24th Drive

and

IN RICHMOND

Tompkinsville Pool

Arrietta St. at Pier #6

While they were not opened in time for a full season's operation, 1,777,860 people used the facilities in 1936, with a total income of \$177,270. In 1937 with all pools (except Betsy Head in Brooklyn) operating

a full season, the attendance records show 2,391,600 persons used the swimming pool facilities, with a total revenue to the City of \$255,000. Of the total attendance, 763,250 were children admitted free each weekday morning. The fact that the income does not balance the operating and maintenance costs this year by approximately \$20,000 is due primarily to the operation of the bathhouses and drained pools as free play centers during the non-swimming season, or 70% of the year, although revenues were also reduced because of a fire which destroyed the bathhouse at Betsy Head Pool in Brooklyn early in August, necessarily limiting the usage of this facility. A new structure has been planned and will be ready for use for the 1933 season.

The increase of usage and resultant revenue of swimming pools in this Department during the past four years is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
1934	\$ 9,248.73	128,765
1935	8,338.14	104,899
1936	177,270.13	1,777,860
1937	255,000.00	2,391,609

B E A C H E S

Jacob Riis Park, on the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens, and Orchard Beach in Pelham Bay Park, The Bronx, have completed a highly successful operating season showing gains in popularity and income. In 1934 and 1935, Jacob Riis Park was the only revenue producing beach front equipped for bathing under this Department's jurisdiction. On July 25, 1936, Orchard Beach was opened with a bathhouse accommodating 6,800 people, a parking space for 4,000 cars and a newly made white sand beach. Jacob Riis Park was completely reconstructed, the beach being enlarged, the bathhouse renovated, and boardwalk, pitch and putt golf course and beach games added.

The season just closed attracted 4,248,400 visitors to the two beaches with a resultant revenue to the City of \$187,800. These facilities show a profit of \$61,900 over operating and maintenance costs notwithstanding the fact that they were not opened until June 25th of this year, a loss of four weeks operation.

The following figures show the gain in attendance and revenue, inclusive, over the past four years operation at the beaches:

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Jacob Riis Park	1934	\$ 71,883	500,000
Jacob Riis Park	1935	59,907	500,000
Orchard Beach and Jacob Riis Park	1936	89,917	1,555,000
" " " " " "	1937	187,800	4,248,400

GOLF COURSES

There are ten golf courses operated by the Department of Parks, of which three have been built since 1934, while the seven old ones have been modernized. They show a substantial increase in usage and income over previous years, with 1937 showing a profit of \$28,000 over the maintenance and operation costs.

The following figures show the comparison over a period covering the past four years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
1934	\$161,200	343,107
1935	124,171	321,840
1936	172,573	447,409
1937	230,000	585,000 (estimated)

T E N N I S

The tennis courts of this Department have also enjoyed increased attendance, and while not yet showing a profit over maintenance and operation costs, do show a consistent increase in revenue. The gain in permits and income in the 1934 - 1937 period follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>Permits</u>
1934	\$37,173	13,781
1935	41,913	15,384
1936	40,087	18,584
1937	54,110	19,992

The current year shows an operating and maintenance deficit of approximately \$3,800.

RANDALL'S ISLAND STADIUM

The Municipal Stadium located on Randall's Island in the East River opened on July 11, 1936 with the Olympic trials. There was little further summer activity, and after three weeks of light opera, a short football season closed the Stadium activities for 1936. During this 1936 season, 234,900 persons visited the Stadium, and \$13,425 was derived in revenue from all sources.

The 1937 season to date shows an attendance of 232,350 persons and a total income of \$27,190. While this income is about \$2,000 under the operating and maintenance costs at this time the deficit should be substantially lowered by a series of football games now scheduled for afternoons and nights. The first game was played last Wednesday night.

In the future, the Park Department will only enter into profit-sharing agreements for the use of the Stadium instead of the type entered into in the past, which, in order to popularize its use, only guaranteed the City's expenses for the particular event scheduled.

The opera season this year, while originally scheduled to start on June 29th, was delayed four weeks due to labor difficulties within the theatrical profession. The operettas presented proved one of the most successful and popular events of the Stadium season. The performances were highly publicized by the producers, and on several occasions it was necessary to turn away as many as 3,000 persons. The two day I.C.A.A.A.A. track meet and the Labor Carnival also proved successful, with several long-standing records being broken in the former.

- E N D -

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

IMMEDIATELY

For Release

September 20, 1937

643

Library

Interstate Sanitation Commission
60 Hudson Street
New York City

Gentlemen:

In connection with the present hearing on waters in the Hudson River from Palisades Interstate Park south to the Narrows, I should like to call your attention to park developments now approaching completion or planned for construction in the near future. These developments involve the use of the actual water front and will be vitally affected by the quality of the water.

The West Side Improvement and Henry Hudson Parkway projects include all of the Hudson River frontage of Manhattan Island from West 72nd Street northward. Within this stretch plans have been developed for four Boat Basins, located respectively at 79th Street, 96th Street, 148th Street and Dyckman Street. All but the 148th Street Basin, which will be under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Docks, will be operated by the Department of Parks. The basins at 79th and 96th Streets are actually under construction. We have previously, at these hearings, called to your attention the subject of boat basins for small pleasure craft, and the bearing of the quality of water upon the proper usage of such facilities.

Actual construction under way or completed on the West Side Improvement includes nearly three miles of promenade built in the bulkhead line in the following locations:

West 72nd to West 83rd Streets
West 91st to West 116th Streets
West 158th Street to Fort Washington Park

Other water front developments in this section about to be opened to the public include children's playgrounds, athletic fields and tennis courts. The entire area, west of the Railroad at Inwood Hill Park, extending from Dyckman Street to the Harlem Ship Canal, will be devoted entirely to active recreation.

The rocky shore at Fort Washington Park is being developed for the purpose of restoring and preserving its natural scenic beauty as an area for passive recreation. The object of such a development is practically defeated by water pollution.

I recommend, therefore, that your Commission designate the waters of the Hudson River between the Harlem Ship Canal and West 72nd Street as Class "A".

Yours very truly,

/s/ ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

642
For Release IMMEDIATELY

The Department of Parks announces that it has erected stands for the American Legion Convention Corporation for use during the parade on September 21st at the following locations:

Between 40th and 42nd Streets in front of the New York Public Library, 4000 seats for use by the Legion and reserved for disabled veterans and Gold Star Mothers.

Between 58th and 59th Streets, a reviewing stand seating 100 for use by the Legion for the reviewing officials, and also at the same location, accommodations for newspaper reporters and photographers.

Between 64th and 65th Streets in front of the Arsenal, bleachers seating 1000 for city officials only. As tickets for this stand have already been distributed to the various city officials and no more are available, the Department of Parks requests that the public, city employees and officials refrain from phoning or making any further application for them.

Besides these stands the Department of Parks has issued a permit to the American Legion Convention Corporation to erect stands seating 18,000 on the west side of Fifth Avenue from 59th to 79th Streets. Tickets for these stands are for sale at the Legion Headquarters - 3000 seats at \$2.50 each, 10,000 seats at \$2.00 each, 2500 seats at \$1.50 each, and 2500 seats at \$1.00 each.

E N D

September 17, 1937

The Park Department announces the formal opening of the Conservatory Gardens in Central Park at 5th Avenue and 105th Street, Manhattan, on Saturday, September 18th at 12:30 P. M.

Besides Park Commissioner Robert Moses, Dr. John H. Finley, Editor of the "New York Times", will speak at the ceremonies.

A large formal flower garden was one of the original stipulations for the Central Park design competition, held in 1857. It was never built and the present improvement may be considered the fulfillment of this requirement after a lapse of eighty years.

The existing design consists of a hedge-bordered central grass panel flanked on the north and south by flower gardens and double rows of mature flowering crab apple trees, which were brought down the Hudson River on barges from an upstate orchard.

The west end of the central panel is terminated by a fountain pool and a semi-circular treatment of three terraces surmounted by a wrought iron pergola. Mature wisteria vines, presented to the Park Department by Mr. Hunter K. Sekine, Medford, Long Island, N. Y., are planted against this ornamental structure. Each of the three terraces contains Japanese Yew hedge forming a solid bank of foliage to frame the fountain.

The central feature of the south flower garden is an ornamental pool containing water lilies and surrounded by a boxwood hedge. In the pool is a small bronze fountain, commemorating Frances Hodgson Burnett, which was dedicated by Mayor LaGuardia on May 28th, 1937. The sculptress was Miss Fessie Vonnoh.

The north flower garden also contains a lily pond, around which are grouped four geometrical flower beds. The outlying border features a permanent plantation of trailing roses.

Throughout the growing season the garden will present floral displays in season, starting with spring bulbs, followed by summer flowering annuals, and displaying chrysanthemums in the fall. The south garden will feature a collection of herbaceous perennials, among which are grouped a quantity of striking new delphinium hybrids developed by Dr. V. Simkovitch and presented by him to the Park Department.

E N D

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

640
IMMEDIATELY
For Release Sept. 17, 1937

The Park Department announces the opening of Horace Harding Boulevard from Queens Boulevard through Flushing Meadow Park to Rodman Street, on Saturday, September 18th, at 11:00 A. M.

Formal exercises will be held on the westerly end of the new roadway just east of Queens Boulevard. Besides Park Commissioner Moses, who will preside, Grover A. Whalen, President of the New York World's Fair, George U. Harvey, President of the Borough of Queens, Raymond V. Ingersoll and Joseph J. Darcy, District Engineer, New York State Department of Public Works, will speak.

The story of Horace Harding Boulevard dates back to 1923, when a group of citizens headed by J. Horace Harding, provided funds for a topographical survey. In 1924 a final map was submitted to, and adopted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and grading was begun by the city in 1926. In the fall of 1928 a thirty-foot asphalt roadway was completed between the east end of Strong's Causeway and the Nassau County line.

Since that time, this important city artery has lain relatively idle, throttled by the lack of a connection from the west at Queens Boulevard. In Nassau County, the state authorities, recognizing the potential value of this thoroughfare, proceeded with the improvement of its extension from the city line to Mineola Avenue.

The Horace Harding Boulevard project within the city limits was resurrected last year when the State Legislature under Chapter 465, of the Laws of 1936 provided funds for the construction by the State Department of Public Works of various street, highway, bridge and other basic improvements in connection with the development of Flushing Mead-

IMMEDIATELY
Sept. 17, 1937

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

*For Release*_____

ow Park as the site for the New York World's Fair in 1939. Immediately contract plans and specifications for the completion of Horace Harding Boulevard between Queens Boulevard and the east end of Flushing Meadow Park were begun under the supervision of the City Park Department. Construction contracts were let forthwith, and with an additional appropriation provided by the State Legislature this year under Chapter 125 of the Laws of 1937, the entire project including grading, drainage, paving and bridges has rapidly progressed, and is completed and will be opened tomorrow for public use.

The new project provides twin roadways of concrete from Queens Boulevard for a distance of two miles easterly to and through the Flushing Meadows, where it connects with the older section of Horace Harding Boulevard paved in 1928. The section through Flushing Meadow Park passes over the Grand Central Parkway Extension on a double span stone-faced bridge, under the pedestrian bridge provided by the World's Fair across the Boulevard, and finally over Flushing Creek on a seven-span steel and concrete structure.

While the proposed World's Fair provided the necessary incentive to complete Horace Harding Boulevard to afford a direct connection between Queens Boulevard and the Fair grounds, the need for opening up this important artery for the relief of traffic congestion in Queens has become pressing. Traffic conditions on existing parallel highways such as Northern Boulevard, Roosevelt Avenue and the Grand Central Parkway have already reached the saturation point. The completion of the westerly section of Horace Harding Boulevard will help materially to ease traffic movement in the Borough of Queens.

E N D

ROBERT MOSES
COMMISSIONER



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL
64TH STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE
CENTRAL PARK
NEW YORK CITY

ALLYN R. JENNINGS
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
WILLIAM H. LATHAM
PARK ENGINEER
WILLIAM R. C. WOOD
SENIOR PARK DIRECTOR
JAMES A. SHERRY
CHIEF CLERK

September 16, 1937

The Park Department is erecting a grandstand between 64th and 65th Streets directly in front of the Arsenal headquarters of the Department for seating city and state officials during the parade of the American Legion which will be held September 21st.

The number of seats are extremely limited, as the balance of the blocks on 5th Avenue have been turned over to the American Legion for the erection of stands for sale to the general public.

I enclose tickets for your use.

If for any reason you will be unable to use any or all of these tickets, I would appreciate it greatly if they could be returned to me, as the demand for additional seats is undoubtedly going to be tremendous owing to the limited facilities available.

Cordially,

Commissioner

Attach.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

638
For Release IMMEDIATELY
SEPT. 11, 1937

Library

The Department of Parks announces the closing for swimming of the twelve pools and two beaches under its jurisdiction on September 12, 1937. Parking facilities and games areas including the pitch putt golf course at Jacob Riis Park will be kept open throughout the month of September.

Immediately after closing the pools, they will be converted into active play areas and reopened for use on Saturday, September 18th. Facilities will be provided for 47 paddle tennis, 50 shuffle board, 12 basket ball, 44 handball courts and various group games. It is planned to have leagues formed in these sports and regularly scheduled games between clubs. These play centers will be opened free to the public from 2 P. M. until 10 P. M. daily except on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays when the hours of operation will be from 10 A. M. until 6 P. M. Last year the facilities were used by 2,021,100 persons.

E N D

BARBER SHOP QUARTET CONTEST

The Department of Parks wishes to announce that the Third Annual American Ballad Contest will take place at Randall's Island Stadium, Sunday, September 12th at 8 P.M., in conjunction with the opera "Roberta".

As the result of elimination contests, there are two champion quartets from each borough in the finals in addition to one quartet from Jones Beach.

There has been great interest in all the elimination contests and it is expected that a large attendance will be attracted to Randall's Island on Sunday evening.

The quartets will start to sing at 8 P.M. sharp. Each quartet will render their selections between the acts and during the intermissions of the opera. Five minutes will be allowed each quartet to sing one or two songs.

The names of the quartets, together with the individual names of each quartet, are as follows:

DECK OFFICERS' QUARTET - JONES BEACH

1. Stuart Stocker
2. Jack Cunningham
3. Roy Cerdan
4. Harry Tompkins

THE LITTLE SHAVERS - BRONX

1. Dan Murphy
2. William Nerich
3. George Lohr
4. Charles Thuern

THE FOUR SPEED DEMONS - BRONX

1. George White
2. Walter Lange
3. George Miller
4. Ray Bissinber

THE FOUR JAYS - QUEENS

1. Julian Klucznik
2. James Caden
3. Joseph Weidner
4. John Weidner

BLESSED SACRAMENT LYCEUM - QUEENS

1. John F. Fitzsimmons
2. John J. Bradt
3. Henry Rotanz
4. Vincent De Ikayo

HANK'S MELODY BOYS - RICHMOND

1. Arthur Erickson
2. Roy Erickson
3. Hank Erickson
4. Leif Erickson

THE MELODIERS - RICHMOND

1. Pat Thompson
2. Richard Swanson
3. Leif Swanson
4. Edwin Nelson

THE COLUMBIANS - MANHATTAN

1. S. Vamvakotis
2. C. Sylvester
3. J. Smith
4. H. Smith

GREEN BROTHERS QUARTET - MANHATTAN

1. Channel Green
2. Warren Green
3. Robert Green
4. Peter Green

SELAH JUBILEE QUARTET - BROOKLYN

1. T. Ruth
2. N. Townsley
3. A. Antley
4. C. Antley

TRI-BORO QUARTET - BROOKLYN

1. Milton Lackenbauer
2. Harry Kay
3. Otto Ziegler
4. James Ricca

The following prizes will be awarded to the winning quartets:

- 1st - Electric Clocks
- 2nd - Electric Razors
- 3rd - Combination Brush, Comb and Razor Sets

Metallic ash trays will be awarded to each member of the eight remaining quartets.

The Judges at this contest will be:

1. Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia
2. Park Commissioner Robert Moses
3. Dr. Sigmund Spaeth
4. Mr. Luther C. Steward

Library

For Release

IMMEDIATELY
SEPT. 10, 1937

636

The Park Department will officially open to the public at 3 P. M. on Saturday, September 11th, the new Williamsbridge Reservoir Playground, located at 208th Street and Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx.

Besides Park Commissioner Moses, Capt. Howard L. Pockham, Deputy Works Progress Administrator of New York City, Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx and Alderman John C. McGinley of the 32nd District, who will speak at the ceremonies, there will be a parade and dances participated in by 200 children from Park Department playgrounds throughout The Bronx. Starting at 4 P. M. there will be track events and tennis matches, followed by a football scrimmage between the Varsity teams of Fordham University and Manhattan College. At 4:35 there will be an open 1000 yard medley relay race in which the New York Curb Exchange, Lenox Hill, New York Pioneer, Grand Street Boys and New York Athletic Clubs will participate. At 4:45 the ceremonies will close with an invitation mile in which Glenn Cunningham, America's most consistent milor, will participate.

This 19.7 acre oval-shaped depressed area, formerly the Williamsbridge Reservoir, was acquired by transfer from the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, through the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund on June 27, 1934, for recreation purposes, with the stipulation that no swimming pool would be constructed on the site. The present development started in 1935 and was completed to its present stage with relief forces and funds. It includes a four laps to the mile cinder running track, a ball diamond, a football field, 16 hard-surfaced tennis courts, 2 large completely equipped playgrounds, a wading pool and a granite faced reinforced concrete recreation building and field house. This building is largely constructed from stone taken out of the old reservoir, a most economical and attractive material for the purpose. Leading up to the street level are ramps, landscaped slopes, walks with ample benches under shade trees for those seeking passive recreation, and also a one-half mile promenade for pedestrians. The northern portion of the area, which is being developed with shade trees, benches and walks for quiet relaxation will be completed and opened to the public in December.

The Department of Parks announces the informal opening today of a new playground at 30th Road between 45th and 46th Streets, Astoria, Queens, making a total of 236 playgrounds added to the Park Department recreational system since the beginning of the present administration. Prior to January 1934 there were 108 playgrounds in the park system. The total number now available is 344.

This area is one of twenty-four sites selected by the Commissioner of Parks, and acquired by condemnation after authorization by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, July 15, 1936, to take care of the recreational needs of neglected neighborhoods.

The present development which includes a completely equipped small children's playground as well as handball courts for older children and benches for mothers and guardians, is the first part of the development of the entire block bounded by 30th Road, 31st Avenue and 45th and 46th Streets, the balance of which has been acquired by the Board of Education as a site for a Junior High School. The Department of Parks and the Board of Education are cooperating jointly to develop the expanded area to take care of the active recreational needs of all ages of this thickly populated neighborhood, as well as those attending the school. When completed it is planned to have, besides the playground opening today, two soft ball diamonds, volley ball, paddle tennis and basketball courts. The entire development including the school building will fit into a comprehensive scheme and will be bordered with a narrow fence enclosed landscaped area with shade trees.

Ultimately the playground will be divided into two sections, one for small children, the other for adolescents. The adolescent area will be adjacent to the school and during school hours will be used exclusively by the students. After school hours and during summer months, this area will be open to the general public and will be operated by the Department of Parks. The playground for small children will be under the jurisdiction of the Park Department continuously and open at all times to the public. It will be operated under regular Park Department rules which apply to all recreation areas.

ROBERT MOSES
COMMISSIONER



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL
64TH STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE
CENTRAL PARK
NEW YORK CITY

634
31A-2

ALLYN R. JENNINGS
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
WILLIAM H. LATHAM
PARK ENGINEER
WILLIAM R. C. WOOD
SENIOR PARK DIRECTOR
JAMES A. SHERRY
CHIEF CLERK

September 8, 1937

General File
634

Interstate Sanitation Commission
60 Hudson Street
New York City

Gentlemen:-

In connection with your present hearing on waters adjacent to the shores of Brooklyn and Queens from Sanford Point to the Narrows, the Park Department has one water front development directly affected and a number which may be affected indirectly by these waters.

Attached is a print of a plan of which you have received copies at former hearings, on which the area under consideration is indicated in brown crayon, the park development directly affected in red, and the other park developments, indirectly affected, in green.

Preliminary plans have been prepared for a basin for small boats, to be constructed in connection with the redevelopment of Shore Drive and Park, along the east shore of the Narrows. The basin will be of the same type as others now under construction at various points in the city, and will be for the accommodation of pleasure boats. The necessity for having the waters in the vicinity of this type of basin of reasonable purity is obvious and has been fully presented at former hearings, so that it should not be necessary to go into the problem in full detail at this time.

You are already familiar with the boat basins under construction in Flushing Bay, and with the bathing beach proposed for future development at Dyker Beach Park on the east shore of Gravesend Bay. These developments are within the areas which would be affected on account of tidal and current action, if the waters being considered at your present hearing are polluted.

The Department has also under its jurisdiction a major park and swimming pool development along the east shore of Hell Gate in Astoria; a fully developed park area in Rainey Park on the east

Interstate Sanitation Commission

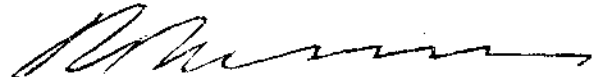
September 8, 1937

shore of the East River at 34th Avenue, Queens; a large park development with swimming pool, athletic and general recreation areas at the Henry Street Basin in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn; a major park development at Owl's Head, Brooklyn; and a park and parkway development for which plans are now being prepared, and on which construction will start within a few months, along the east shore of the Narrows from Owl's Head to Fort Hamilton.

These areas, although they make no direct use of their natural water frontages, are affected indirectly by the condition of the water. Particularly at Rainey Park, the present pollution of the water is most offensive, and unless the natural waters on which all of these areas front are reasonably clean, the public will not get full benefit from these park developments.

I recommend, therefore, that your Commission designate the waters of the East River from Governor's Island to Hell Gate as Class "B" and the balance of the waters under consideration at your present hearing as Class "A".

Very truly yours,



Commissioner

September 8th, 1937

Interstate Sanitation Commission
60 Hudson Street
New York City

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The Department has also under its jurisdiction a major park and swimming pool development along the east shore of Hell Gate in Astoria; a fully developed park area in Rainey Park on the east shore of the East River at 34th Avenue, Queens; a large park development with swimming pool, athletic and general recreation areas at the Henry Street Basin in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn; a major park development at Owl's Head, Brooklyn; and a park and parkway development for which plans are now being prepared, and on which construction will start within a few months, along the east shore of the Narrows from Owl's Head to Fort Hamilton.

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- 2 -

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Very truly yours,

/s/ ROBERT MOSES

COMMISSIONER

Library

633

IMMEDIATELY
For Release Sept. 3, 1937

633

The Department of Parks announces that on Wednesday, September 8th, at 8:30 P. M. on the Mall, Central Park, the finals of the Hill Billy Contest will take place. This contest will bring forth many heretofore unknown Hill Billy artists. In each group there are from 3 to 6 players and singers. Inasmuch as each champion troupe represents some local community or institution in the city, it is expected that on Wednesday, there will be approximately 10,000 in attendance at the Mall.

An added feature of this contest will be "Tod's Gang" from Jones Beach and the "Red Bank Hill Billies" of New Jersey. Other competitors include the "O'Connell Hill Billies" and the "Brown Jug Mountaineers" of Queens; the "Lincoln Center Rhythm Band" of Manhattan; the "St. James Hill Billies" and the "Mosholu Mountaineers" of The Bronx; "Slim and His Bar 'X' Rangers" of Staten Island, and "Chick and Charlie" and "Zeb and Zeke" of Brooklyn.

The judges will be Fields and Hall of the "Streamliners" and Zeke Manners of "Zeke and His Gang". Other persons who have been invited to act in this capacity are Colonel Jack Major, Bill Butler and Zeb Carver.

E N D

The Henry Hudson Parkway Authority announced today that the 4,000,000th car passed over the Henry Hudson Bridge at 2:50 P.M.

In accordance with the custom previously established, a fifty-trip booklet was given free to Wm. A. Ohlsen, the driver of the 4,000,000th car. Ohlsen is a chauffeur and butler for Dr. George A. Wyeth, and was returning from Manhattan to the doctor's residence at Maplelawn in Riverdale-on-the-Hudson.

Traffic has been so heavy since the opening of this bridge on December 14th, 1936, that the Authority has been successful in completing a second bond issue for the construction of additional roadways and an upper deck to the bridge. Two contracts have already been let for the grading and paving of an additional roadway through Inwood Hill Park and a pedestrian underpass. Additional contracts will be advertised in the early part of September for the construction of the upper level of the bridge, which has already been designed and the widening and landscaping of the parkway through the Spuyten Duyvil area in The Bronx. The new roadways and bridge will be completed and ready in the spring of 1938 for the anticipated increase in traffic upon the completion of the West Side Improvement from 72nd Street to Dyckman Street.

E N D

August 27th, 1937.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

August 26-1937 Library
For Release IMMEDIATELY

The Department of Parks announces that it will conduct the finals of the children's amateur singing contest on Friday, August 27th, at 2:30 P.M. on the Mall in Central Park.

Preliminary auditions have been conducted in the playgrounds since the vacation period started. Contestants have been divided into two age groups - 8 to 12 years, and 13 to 16 years. At the final borough eliminations, two winners from each group were selected to compete in the finals.

Gold and silver medals will be awarded to the winners in each class. The remaining borough finalists will receive bronze medals.

Mr. Alberto Bimboni, Director of the Orpheus Glee Club of Philadelphia and Flushing, N.Y.; Mr. Randolph Hanson, Director of the University Glee Club and Mrs. A. L. Wolbarst, Chairman of City Music League Auditions will act as Judges of this competition.

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August 26th, 1937.

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

August 25, 1937.

To the New York Herald Tribune:

An article appeared in your issue of last Sunday regarding what was styled a "current controversy" between the Board of Education and myself.

The person who prepared it missed the point and confused the issue by injecting, on his own accord, controversial opinions which do not enter into the picture, and by talking about recreational areas which he says really come under the jurisdiction of other city departments and the Police Athletic League. The issue is not at all involved. I have pointed out the lack of coordination of the city's recreational facilities and have made certain suggestions, among which was the perfectly obvious one of opening up closed play areas under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, which were built at great cost to meet the recreational needs of the immediate neighborhoods.

To inject a new element into the discussion, as was done by your writer when he expounded the philosophy of "passive" and "active" park areas, does not help the problem at all. There must be give and take, and it all boils down to the inalienable right of the children of the city to play, and what public spaces should be devoted to this purpose. I believe it to be axiomatic that, in order to preserve the passive features of parks, children and adolescents must be provided with adequate active spaces to keep them from wrecking the lawns and planted areas in their exuberance.

The notions that "the Board of Education regards its playgrounds as educational institutions," and that organization of a playground from their point of view requires elaborate supervision for such features as singing, patriotic exercises, talks by directors, handiwork, housekeeping, tap dancing and sewing are just the bunk. While I do not decry the cultural features in recreational areas and, as a matter of fact, sponsor many such activities in our program, I feel that the major purpose to be served is to give healthy children adequate opportunity for development of their bodies in proper surroundings.

I also believe that the children themselves have a pretty good idea of how to play without formal instructions in this art, and that they resent regimentation! For instance, at our running tracks at Macombs Dam, Van Cortlandt and Williamsbridge Parks in the Bronx, McCarren Park in Brooklyn, and Forest Park in Queens, We do not provide trainers but we do sponsor races. We don't need professors of ballistics to teach the average New York boy how to play baseball; instructors of mechanical engineering to conduct classes in top-spinning; or associate professors of mathematics to apply the principles of plane geometry to show playground children how to shoot marbles. Our supervisors, therefore, find that their principal duty lies in seeing that the games and exercise of the children are conducted in a fair and orderly manner. I have found no difficulty in obtaining the services of a high type of personnel for just this purpose from the playground directors' list established by the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Your writer made no reference to the vicious custodian system which throttles the use of many facilities, nor did he mention the top-heavy bureaucratic set-up of the Board of Education, which relishes red tape as its major dish and which makes every Principal a little policy-deciding king with apparent defiance of centralized control. He also omitted the fact that the recreational staff in the schools is given a ten-week summer vacation, which is taken when the closed facilities stand in greatest need of being thrown open to the children.

The 1938 budget request of the Department of Parks made public yesterday, is not unique in its proposed increases. If the greatly expanded recreational facilities of the city are to be operated, it will be reflected in rising budgets unless there is a complete coordination of every city department, board and bureau interested in recreation in utilizing every available person they have for the full operation of publicly owned recreational facilities. There is no sense in pyramiding costs by the operation of play areas which duplicate each other, nor by the short-sighted policy which does not draw to the utmost on the tremendous reservoir of trained people in the Board of Education to operate the facilities which are kept closed. The sooner that the Board of Education realizes its duty, uses its recreational staff to the greatest advantage and provides personnel to operate **the closed play areas**, the sooner will the general recreational problem of the city be met. If their action is not voluntary, it should be forced by the executives of the city, or, if necessary, by enlightened public opinion.

/s/

ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner of Parks

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Lebanon
629 *For Release*
IMMEDIATELY

The Park Department now that its four year program of expansion and improvement of park facilities is nearing completion has again carefully analyzed the requirements for police protection.

It has been obvious that insufficient park and police personnel has been a factor in the poor appearance of parks and has been primarily responsible for vandalism and crime. Many of the small as well as the large parks have been positively unsafe for visitors especially at night. The cost of vandalism in the park system has been more than half a million dollars annually. Copper and brass fittings are constantly being stolen, benches broken, shrubs, flowers and trees and lawn areas ruined. Statuary is in a constant state of disrepair due to the theft of bronze pieces and breakage by vandals who seem to take particular delight in climbing upon them. Restricted lawn areas and sidewalks are constantly being used for ball playing, bicycling and roller skating with the result that lawns are ruined and the walks are unsafe for pedestrians or those seeking quiet and rest on adjacent benches. Cases of holdups and assaults are frequent. Unlicensed peddlers without proper Health Department food handlers permits are almost impossible to control.

There are many things in a park system which ordinary park attendants cannot do and which require the respect and authority which go only with the policeman's uniform. Unless an adequate police force is assigned to the parks we cannot hope to improve present conditions materially and to cope with the minority of disorderly and destructive persons who interfere with the orderly enjoyment of park facilities by the majority.

Additional police will be required in 1938 not only to protect the existing facilities but also many new ones which will be completed during the balance of this year and during the first part of 1938. The 48 additional playgrounds to be built before the end of this year will bring the total of these areas to 384, an increase of 300 percent in the four years of this Administration. All of these will require the vigilance of patrolmen, and in the

For Release

case of improved and enlarged parks, definite and constant assignment of full time police.

The completion of the Hutchinson River Parkway through Pelham Bay Park, The Bronx, and the West Side Improvement in Manhattan, will require additional police. In addition, Randall's Island with its operas, the 12 swimming pools and the completed development of Orchard Beach in Pelham Bay Park and Jacob Riis Park on the Rockaway Peninsula, are attracting unusually large crowds of people and need more police to enforce ordinances and prevent vandalism.

While Police Commissioner Valentine has cooperated in every way with the Park Department, he, himself, has been so short of men and officers that he has not been able to afford the protection which the parks need. It is obvious that the needs of past years have increased materially and in order to help the Police Department obtain sufficient men to give adequate coverage to city parks, Park Department officials are appearing at the budget hearing today to aid the Police Commissioner in obtaining the necessary additional patrolmen.

The present inadequate assignment of 496 patrolmen to city parks must be brought up to 694 for the winter months and 1,027 for the summer months if vandalism is to be eliminated and the parks made safe for the public. As repeatedly stated in connection with the park budget, there is no sense in expanding the city recreational system to meet insistent public demands unless our citizens are prepared to pay for proper maintenance. Sufficient police are just as much a requisite as sufficient engineers, gardeners, laborers and playground directors.

E N D

August 25, 1937

628

MEMORANDUM ON 1938 BUDGET REQUEST

FOR THE

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

AUGUST 24, 1937

In presenting the fourth budget request of the consolidated park system of New York City, I want to call particular attention to the fact that this request is based on the completion of a four year program of expansion and improvement of park facilities with which everyone is familiar. We now know definitely what the physical inventory of our five-borough plant will be on January 1st, 1938, and this budget request is therefore based on actualities, unless a study of the new charter shows that the Department of Parks is required to maintain certain areas now under the jurisdiction of other agencies. I have asked the Corporation Counsel to advise us on these charter questions. I have not included any of these questionable areas in the preparation of the 1938 request, and if it is decided that certain of them will fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks, a special supplemental budget request will be made.

In 1934, the first year of the park consolidation, the budget of the Park Department had reached a low of \$4,656,710.07. It was immediately obvious that this inadequate budget was a major contributing factor to the shabby, uncared for appearance of the parks and to their unsatisfactory operation. While facilities for all kinds of recreation, active and passive, for

all age groups were being expanded three-fold throughout the five boroughs, subsequent budgets provided little increase. With the full understanding of relief executives and of the city authorities, the deficit was made up by the assignment of relief workers to the maintenance and operation of parks, parkways and playgrounds, although I repeatedly warned the responsible city officials that the relief work would some day stop and that the problem of providing civil service employees for this work should be met squarely. In the spring of this year, the situation reached its climax when an order of the Works Progress Administration withdrew all the relief workers engaged in the maintenance and operation of the park system and forced the closing of many playgrounds and the abandonment of maintenance and repair in many park areas.

This order brought home to the people of New York the fact that sufficient personnel must be provided by the city if the expanded facilities were to be operated. The public answer was unmistakable. The Board of Estimate and the Board of Aldermen, with the approval of the Mayor, made available sufficient funds to replace the W.P.A. forces with regular full-time city employees. As of July 1st, this increased personnel modified our 1937 budget to a total of \$7,717,324.75.

As to the increase in the 1938 budget, the mandatory salary increments and restorations amount to \$177,700.00, and to continue the additional forces allowed for the last six months of 1937, the amount required is \$506,320.00. The Sharkey Bill placing the labor classes in this Department on a per annum, instead of a per diem, basis has been reported favorably by the Committee on Local Laws of the Municipal Assembly. I am heartily in favor of this bill as I believe that the employees under my jurisdiction should receive the same consideration as those in other departments. The effect of this measure on the 1938

budget will be to increase it by \$181,280.00. Adjustments in salaries for 47 individuals amount to \$15,572.00, and I call particular attention to the fact that only 9 of these merited increments are for the executives accountable for the proper operation of the park system, and the \$3,410.00 for these men is only 21% of the total adjustments. There are no Deputy Commissioners in the Department of Parks and the size of the staff in responsible control is small. The sum total of the above four items, which are required merely to maintain the forces now employed, will bring the budget to \$8,598,196.75.

However, our construction program is not at a standstill and many new facilities now under way will be added to the park system. Additional forces will be required to maintain these playgrounds and parks which will be completed during the balance of the year and during the first part of 1938. 48 additional playgrounds to be built before the end of the year will bring the total of these areas to 384 (an increase of over 300 percent in the four years of this Administration). The projects now being constructed under the 1937 Capital Outlay Budget will require additional men. The State Department of Public Works will complete the Hutchinson River Parkway through Pelham Bay Park and turn it over to the city. Of major importance, from a standpoint of new park facilities, will be the completion this fall of the West Side Improvement, which is adding 132 acres of intensively developed river front park to the city system. The cost of the services of the additional personnel required to maintain and operate these totally new facilities amounts to \$771,047.50.

With the help of the various relief agencies, we have been able to keep the physical plant of the park system in a good state of repair, but the same order of the Relief Administrator that took the maintenance workers away also put a stop to this repair work. The 1937 budget provided for a total of 154 mechanics

throughout the five boroughs. This force is absurdly inadequate for the amount of work that has to be done on the old, as well as the new and expanded, facilities to keep them from rapid deterioration. For instance, there is only one electrician allowed to the entire Borough of Manhattan with its 154 park structures. To keep park structures in the proper state of repair to which the public has become accustomed will require additional mechanical forces, the cost of which amounts to \$262,161.00.

I have pointed out in former budget requests that there are more than a million street trees whose care and maintenance is the responsibility of the Park Department. In addition to this vast number, thousands of new trees have been set out during the last four years in parks and playgrounds and along streets and parkways. Here, again, the various relief agencies have been of great help to the Department but here, also, the men formerly assigned have been withdrawn by order of the relief authorities. To continue the essential care of this forest of trees will require additional climbers and pruners whose wages will amount to \$231,042.00.

In order to operate our full complement of automotive equipment and the essential additions which we are now requesting, an increased force of automobile enginemen will be necessary and their salaries will amount to \$140,760.00.

The public is familiar with the changed appearance of many of the city monuments for whose care this Department is responsible. The restoration has been done by a small group of relief workers but they will be withdrawn on December 31st of this year. Unless a small force of skilled artisans is provided, the statues will again fall into the disrepair in which they were found in January 1934. These employees will cost the city \$13,400.00 a year.

This budget request includes a few new clerical and semi-technical positions which are also occasioned by the discontinuance of relief work in maintenance and operation, and for which the Board of Estimate was asked to provide funds for the last six months of 1937. These funds were not provided and the new positions total \$69,243.00.

The foregoing increases represent practically all of the additions to the personal service schedule for 1938, and they are for the operation and maintenance of the free recreation facilities of the Department. The beaches, swimming pools, golf courses, tennis courts and stadium, revenue producing facilities which pay for themselves and place no burden on the taxpayer, will require no increase in personal service next year. On the contrary, we show a decrease of \$4,336.75 which is based on our experience in this year's successful operation.

Coming now to materials, supplies, equipment, etc., I have asked for an increase of \$1,121,300.89.

\$566,778.00 or half of this total is for repairs to park streets and roads. We asked for these funds in the 1937 budget and withdrew our request on the assurance of the Board of Estimate that they would be provided by a combination of contributions from the relief authorities and from the city. Anyone riding over these pavements will bear witness to the fact that this promise has not been kept. I said before that no substantial sums had been spent on the repair of these roads for the last six years despite the fact that they carried as much, if not more traffic than many of the streets which are under the jurisdiction of the various Borough Presidents. If these arteries are to remain open and are to provide a reasonably safe means of travel, this sum must be included in the 1938 budget.

Since 1934, only seven new pieces of automotive equipment have been added to our inventory, which totals 367 units today. It is obvious that the life of such equipment is limited and, figured on five years obsolescence, it would be necessary to replace 73 units each year. Such replacements have not been made since 1934. We, however, are asking for the replacement of only 42 units. The greatly expanded facilities of the Department require the addition of 51 new units and their cost, together with the replacements, will be \$128,730.00.

Horticultural supplies formerly bought with relief funds, recreational equipment which will be needed to replace the worn out swings and slides, etc., additional fuel supplies for the many new buildings constructed this year and the various materials, supplies and equipment necessary adequately to maintain and operate the facilities which have been added this year amount to \$290,356.50.

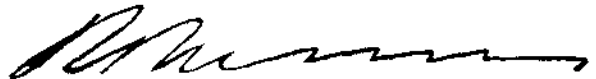
The foregoing additions in other than personal service are for the free park facilities. When we built the new golf courses and completely reconstructed the old ones, when we created the entirely new Orchard Beach in The Bronx and rebuilt the inadequate Jacob Riis Park in the Rockaway Peninsula of Queens, we assumed that the relief authorities would provide the equipment necessary for the proper operation of these facilities. However, the relief authorities refused to supply this equipment. Items such as automotive lawn mowers, compost mixers, etc., for the golf courses and modern beach equipment for the two beaches are included in this request for additional funds. A substantial part of this increase is for equipment which will bring adequate returns to the city. For instance, up to August 15th., we have received a return of \$26,343.75 on the rental of beach chairs and umbrellas. We need 2,000 more umbrellas and 1,000 more beach chairs next year as this type of equipment does not last forever.

The total increase over 1937 in other than personal service for these revenue producing facilities is \$135,436.39. It does not represent a real addition to the annual budget as a major proportion of the items are of a non-expendable character, good for many years of operation, and will, as in the case of the beach umbrellas, produce additional revenues for the city.

To summarize, the total request for 1938 is as follows:

Personal Service	\$9,452,987.50
Other Than Personal Service	1,775,250.89
Total Budget Request for 1938	11,228,238.39

As is required by charter, I also submit the Personal Service Request for the Department for the first half of 1939 which, it will be noted, is one-half of the required Personal Service of 1938.



Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

627 627
IMMEDIATELY
For Release. August 24, 1937

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the Harmonica Contest will be conducted on the Mall, Central Park, on Wednesday, August 25, at 8:30 P.M. Playground and district eliminations have been going on for the past five weeks in each of the boroughs. At the final borough eliminations, boys and girls competed in each of three groups: Class A, under sixteen years, Class B, fifteen to eighteen years and Class C, over eighteen years.

The two best players in each group were selected to represent the boroughs at the finals. Each contestant will be required to play two selections not longer than four minutes each in duration. The Boys' Harmonica Band of Queens will play a medley of three songs as an added feature of the program.

Mr. Rudolph Wurlitzer, Miss Nicki Harmon of the Harmonica Institute of America, and Miss Lee Edwards, Editor of the Accordion World and Mr. Milt Herth, world's foremost exponent of the electric organ, have been invited to judge this contest.

E N D

60
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

626
IMMEDIATELY
*For Release*_____

The Henry Hudson Parkway Authority announces that bids were taken today on paving the new upper level northbound approach from Dyckman Street to the Henry Hudson Bridge. This contract is part of the widening program from Dyckman Street to Riverdale Avenue in The Bronx, which also includes placing an upper deck on the Henry Hudson Bridge for northbound traffic which will be reached by the Parkway Drive on which bids were taken today.

Included in the bidding is a pedestrian underpass which will permit visitors to Inwood Hill Park to proceed under both north and southbound driveways, making the entire area of the park available for pedestrians.

The three low bidders were:

The Immick Company, Inc. Meriden, Connecticut	\$111,426.00
Garofano Construction Co., Inc. Mount Vernon, New York	118,065.00
Arthur Gallow, Inc. 260 East 161st Street The Bronx, New York City	118,835.00

The Engineer's Estimate was \$119,000.00.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

GENERAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release IMMEDIATELY

August 16th, 1937

Interstate Sanitation Commission
60 Hudson Street
New York City

Gentlemen:

Submitted herewith are copy of letter of May 24th to your Chairman, and print of map outlining the boating and bathing facilities now in operation, and definitely planned, for development in city park waterfront areas.

In connection with your present hearing on waters south of the Narrows, I call your particular attention to existing bathing beaches being operated by this department at Jacob Riis Park and Rockaway, in Queens, and at Wolfe's Pond Park in Richmond. I call your attention also to bathing beaches proposed at Canarsie Beach on Jamaica Bay, Dyker Beach on Gravesend Bay, and at Marine Park, Great Kills, Richmond.

The Jacob Riis beach has recently been expanded and improved, and is now the finest natural bathing beach within the city limits. Both this beach and Rockaway beach are extensively used. Wolfe's Pond beach, although small, receives a highly concentrated use on week-ends. The proposed beach at Marine Park, Richmond, will accommodate over 100,000 bathers, when completed. All of these four beaches are now in waters which are suitable for bathing, although they cannot properly be classed as completely clean.

The other two proposed beaches at Canarsie and Dyker Beach are badly needed, as evidenced by the numbers of people who go swimming at and near these locations in spite of the highly polluted waters. We realize that it may be some time before the waters adjacent to those two beaches will be suitable for bathing, if present schedules for sewage disposal are carried out.

In the area under consideration in your present hearing, the Park Department has three boat basins in various stages of improvement.

At Marine Park, Richmond, Great Kills harbor has been partially dredged and is already being used by hundreds of private pleasure craft. When this harbor has been completely dredged, as part of the park and bathing beach improvement, it will be the largest small boat harbor in this section of the Atlantic seaboard.

-2-

Construction is only started at Marine Park, Brooklyn, and Jacob Riis Park, Queens, on accommodation for small boats; but, with the completion of the development of these two parks, there will be added facilities for many more hundreds of private pleasure boats.

In addition to the bathing beach and boat facilities which make direct use of waterfront facilities, the Department has under its jurisdiction the recently completed extension of Shore Parkway around Fort Hamilton, Bensonhurst Park, and the Dreier Offerman playground, fronting on the east side of Gravesend Bay, and the large Neptune Avenue athletic and play center, on the north side of Coney Island, also fronting on Gravesend Bay.

It is also planned to extend Shore Parkway along the east shore of Gravesend Bay to a point just beyond Bensonhurst Park. All of these developments utilize the shore front for what might be called inactive recreation. The character of the water along these shores has a direct bearing on the amount of use the public will make of these developments. It is, of course, desirable that the water be clean and inoffensive to the patrons of these park areas.

As was stated in the Park Department's recommendation at your last hearing on New York City waters, the plans presented herewith for bathing beach and boat basin improvements represent our plans as far as they have progressed to date. With the inevitable increase in population in the city, and particularly in the outlying districts along the north shore of Jamaica Bay, and in Richmond, the demands for additional natural bathing facilities will unquestionably be greatly increased, and we can safely anticipate that the public will demand more bathing beaches in these two sections.

I recommend, therefore, that all New York City tidal waters, south of the Narrows, along the shores of Brooklyn, Queens, and Richmond, be designated by your Commission as Class A.

Very truly yours,

/s/ ROBERT MOSES
COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

624 624
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
For Release

On Friday, August 20th, at 1 P. M., and on Saturday, August 21st, at 2 P. M., the Second Annual City-Wide Diving and Swimming Championship Meet for children of the swimming pools of the Department of Parks will be held at Astoria Pool, Astoria, Long Island.

Twelve outdoor pools and one indoor pool will be represented at this meet, which was won last year by Astoria Pool in close competition with the other pools.

The diving events will be held on Friday afternoon, with each participant required to do a swan, jack, and two optional dives. These dives will be made from the low board and the high board.

The swimming events, scheduled for Saturday afternoon, consist of: 25 and 50 meter free style; 25 and 50 meter breast stroke; and 25 and 50 meter back stroke, together with a 200 yard relay team.

Boys and girls will enter in their respective events. Teams competing for this championship have been selected from the various pools by means of daily swimming meets, the winners of these meets making up the team for the individual pool.

There will be three classes of entries: Junior, Intermediate and Senior, these groups being based on the age, height and weight of each contestant. Entries for this meet closed Monday evening, August 16th.

A plaque will be awarded to the pool scoring the most points, and medals for first, second and third place of each event will be awarded.

Astoria Pool will be open for regular patrons during this meet, and spectators will be permitted in the pool area in civilian clothes during the meet, without charge.

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Today at approximately 11 o'clock Helen Hanchuck of 1632 Washington Avenue was the somewhat bewildered center of interest at Crotona Pool, East 173rd Street and Fulton Avenue, The Bronx. At that time the Department of Parks bestowed upon her the distinction of being the two-millionth person to make use of the facilities available at the twelve municipally operated swimming pools under the jurisdiction of that Department.

Since the opening of the swimming pools for the current season on May 29th, 1957 - 1,486,776 children under the age of 14 have attended the pools during free periods set aside for them exclusively from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. each day, except Saturdays, and Sundays. In addition to this free period attendance, 513,324 children and adults have paid admission to enter the swimming pools throughout the City this season.

Pretty young Helen Hanchuck was greeted at the entrance of Crotona Pool by the Supervisor of the Pool, who, after advising her of the fact that she was the two-millionth visitor, presented to her a memento of the occasion, with the compliments of the Department of Parks, amidst the cheers of about 3,000 happy children.

End

Arch *Library* *622*
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

IMMEDIATELY

For Release *Aug. 17-37*

The Department of Parks took bids this afternoon for the construction of bulkheading along the south shore of Flushing Bay. The contract calls for about one-half mile of bulkheading along Northern Boulevard between the boat basin, which has been constructed with State funds, and the new asphalt plant at the mouth of the Flushing River now being constructed by the Borough President of Queens. The bulkhead is to be extended west of the boat basin for 1,000 feet to a point about 400 feet south of the gasoline station on the Grand Central Parkway. Between this point and the Jackson's Creek Boat Basin, near North Beach, further rock bulkheading will be placed by the Contractor on the Queens-Midtown Tunnel, under an agreement with the City. Work on this phase of the Flushing Bay improvement will start next month.

Construction will consist of placing rock, or gravel fill, dependent upon sub-surface conditions, and the rapidity with which settlement of the material is accomplished.

The three lowest bidders were:

Arthur A. Johnson Corporation 29-28 Hunter Avenue Long Island City, N.Y.	\$342,640.
Welsh Bros. Contracting Co., Inc. 35 Purvis Street Long Island City, N.Y.	578,400.
Tufano Contracting Corporation 168-22 - 91st Avenue Jamaica, L. I.	591,665.

out

and the Engineer's estimate is \$383,000.

The bulkheading is designed to retain the shore line on both sides of the boat basin being constructed by the State, along Northern Boulevard and the new Bronx-Whitestone Bridge connection, and along the Grand Central Parkway

- 2 -

north of Northern Boulevard.

It is necessary that the bulkhead be in place before the Federal Government dredges the new channel and turning basin for which an appropriation of \$505,000 is now pending before Congress.

The face of the bulkhead will be dressed with riprap and, after settlement has stopped, a coping and railing will be constructed along the top, with a promenade running the entire length.

The contract is to be complete before next spring. This construction, along with the boat basin built by the State and the dredging to be done by the Federal Government, will clean up the present unattractive shore and the malodorous mud flats in the immediate vicinity of the only water entrance to the World's Fair and Flushing Meadow Park.

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621

The Department of Parks announces that on Monday, August 16th, The Bronx administrative office will be moved to the new administration and garage building at Bronx Park East and Birchall Avenue in Bronx Park.

The new building is completely fireproof in construction, the facade being of brick, the floor of steel and concrete, and the roof of slate.

When the building is completed, it will house beside the administrative office, a modern garage for vehicles, with a repair shop. There will also be plumbing, electrical, carpenter and paint shops where the maintenance work of the borough will be done.

This office issues permits for golf, tennis, baseball and other athletic activities, street tree planting and picnics, as well as handling all other office work attached to the operation of parks in The Bronx.

The telephone of the new office is Westchester 7-5200.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

620
For Release ~~IMMEDIATELY~~

August 12, 1937

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

The final 36 holes of the 1937 Championship for the New York City Golf Courses will be held on the La Tourette Golf Course in Richmond on Sunday, August 15, 1937.

Two hundred and thirty-six players from the various courses have filed entries for this tournament. Prizes will be awarded to the low gross and runner up scorer of the tournament and also to the low net and runner up players in the A. B. C. and D. groups. The low gross and low net scorers among the women players will also receive prizes.

The team prize will be awarded to the four low gross players from any one course and medals given to the individual members of the team.

The Park Department announces that the Barber Shop Quartet Contest which was conducted so successfully in the fall season of the last two years, will be held again during the latter part of this month.

Eliminations in the various boroughs will be held according to the following schedule:

Manhattan	- Washington Square Park	- Thursday, Aug. 26 - 8:30 P.M.
Bronx	- Poe Park	- Thursday, Aug. 26 - 8:30 P.M.
Brooklyn	- Prospect Park, Music Grove	- Friday, Aug. 27 - 8:30 P.M.
Richmond	- McDonald Playground	- Wednesday, Aug. 25 - 8:30 P.M.
Queens	- Forest Park, Music Grove	- Monday, Aug. 23 - 8:30 P.M.

Entries for this contest must be filed before August 20th, at the borough offices located as follows:

Manhattan	- The Arsenal, Central Park
Bronx	- Zbrowski Mansion, Claremont Park
Brooklyn	- Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park
Queens	- The Overlook, Forest Park, Kew Gardens, N.Y.
Richmond	- Department of Parks, Clove Lakes Park, S.I.

A feature of this year's contest will be that the winning quartet which will be selected on September 13th at the Randall's Island Stadium, will be given a contract to sing in connection with the operetta to be held at the Municipal Stadium at Randall's Island from September 14th to September 19th.

Quartets outside of the city limits but within the metropolitan area may compete with permission of the Committee.

617

The Park Department announces that on August 17th, and in case of inclement weather, August 18th, a program of wading pool activities will take place throughout its playground system.

Activities such as balloon races, gold fish hunt, wading pool water polo, wading pool arch ball, water dashes and other wading pool stunts will constitute the program.

Since January 1st, 1934, one hundred and nine wading pools and eighty-one portable showers have been added to the City Park System, all of which have been extremely popular with small children. The average daily attendance has been approximately 133,000 children, ranging from three to nine years of age. During hot weather in congested neighborhoods, it is not unusual to find 500 to 700 children at one time in one of the larger wading pools.

These wading pools are so constructed that they can be used for recreational activities not only during the summer months but also throughout the year. In the pool at Roosevelt Playground, the area is used as a wading pool from 10 A.M. until 6 P.M. and at 8: 30 P.M., after the pool has been drained, dancing takes place. During spring and fall seasons of the year the pool areas are used for such activities as basketball, volleyball and group games. In the winter months they are flooded for ice skating.

The first wading pool was built in 1924 in Hamilton Fish Park and proved so popular that many more were constructed throughout the city and in other sections of the United States. In all large playgrounds which are constructed today by the Department of Parks, there is included a wading pool of the type as outlined above. It has been reported that other cities are now following the plan of the Department of Parks by constructing wading pools that can be used for various activities throughout the year.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release

616

Three years ago today the Park Department as the first step in a new uniform policy for the wider use of all recreational facilities in the five boroughs, established and opened with new equipment a group of playgrounds to serve as model standards for the entire City Park System.

In celebration of the third anniversary of these play areas, birthday parties will be held in each in which the playground children will participate. The playgrounds will be gayly decorated, and a festive program arranged, including songs, dances, impersonations, plays and group party games. Where facilities permit, athletic contests and soft ball games will constitute part of the program as well as the salute to the flag and the playing of the national anthem.

In many of the areas, mothers' clubs will furnish refreshments.

The playgrounds in which parties will be held are as follows:-

MANHATTAN

DR. GERTRUDE B. KELLY MODEL PLAYGROUND, West 17th Street
between 8th and 9th Avenues.

THOMPSON STREET PLAYGROUND, 95 Thompson St. between Spring
and Prince Streets.

PLAYGROUND, Northwest corner Lewis and Rivington Streets.

PLAYGROUND, 83 Roosevelt Street between Cherry and Oak Sts.

CORLEARS HOOK PLAYGROUND, Corlears St. cor. S.S. Cherry St.

GREAT LAWN PLAYGROUND, Central Park, Northwest cor. opposite
86th Street.

INWOOD HILL PARK PLAYGROUND, Payson Ave. and Dyckman Street.

ST. NICHOLAS PARK PLAYGROUND, St. Nicholas Ave. and W. 141 St.

BROOKLYN

PLAYGROUND, East 95th Street, Avenues K and L.

JAMES J. BYRNE MEMORIAL PARK AND MODEL PLAYGROUND (Gowanus
Playground) 4th to 5th Aves., 3rd to 4th Sts.

BRONX

PLAYGROUND - E. 141st St. between Brook and St. Ann's Aves.

QUEENS

ALLEY PARK PLAYGROUND - N. of Grand Central Parkway near
76th Avenue.

CUNNINGHAM PARK PLAYGROUND - Grand Central Parkway, opp.
193rd Street.

JACKSON HEIGHTS MODEL PLAYGROUND, 25th to 30th Aves. 84th
to 85th Streets

RICHMOND

MODEL PLAYGROUND - Jewett and Castleton Avenues

HILL BILLY MUSICAL CONTEST

The Department of Parks will sponsor a contest, unfamiliar to the residents of New York City, known as a "Hill Billy Musical Contest".

The "Hill Billies" represent groups of people who inhabit the mountainous districts of South Carolina and the adjoining states. They are what the ancient latins would call "Sui Generis" - in a class by themselves. Living in the seclusion and quietude of wooded mountains, segregated from the din and confusion of worldly affairs, they have, in clannish fashion, acquired a style of dress, manner of living and means of enjoyment strikingly peculiar to themselves.

In the sphere of music, song and dance, they are nonetheless individual. The clear crisp air of high altitudes has developed in them strong bell-like voices which find melodious expression in tunes of their own composition to the accompaniment of home-made musical instruments and dances created by the terpsichorean "Hill Billies".

The Park Department is of the opinion that a contest embracing the musical, dancing and singing characteristics of this singular class of people would be extremely interesting, amusing and entertaining to residents of metropolitan New York.

The "Hill Billy Musical Contest" will be conducted for residents of New York City, and the metropolitan area on Wednesday, September 8th, on the Mall, Central Park at 8: 30 P.M. The contest will consist of two divisions, one for amateurs and the other for professionals.

Each of the five boroughs will conduct eliminations at the following locations:

- Manhattan -- Washington Square Park, Thursday, August 26th, 8: 30 P.M.
- Bronx -- Poe Park, Thursday, August 26, 8: 30 P.M.
- Brooklyn -- Prospect Park, (Music Grove) Friday, August 27, 8: 30 P.M.
- Richmond -- McDonald Playgd., Friday, August 27, 8: 30 P.M.
- Queens -- Forest Park, (Music Grove) Monday, August 16, 8:30 P.M.

Troupes from Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties and the Metropolitan Districts may compete provided they receive the approval of their Recreation Department and of the Department of Parks.

RULES OF CONTEST

1. Combination musical instruments, song and dance contest.
2. Troupe to consist of two or more persons.
3. Novelty instruments and vocal interpolations permitted and credit will be given for their use.
4. Each act to dance, play and sing a medley of Hill Billy tunes of not more than eight minutes duration.

Semi-finalists will be allowed an encore.

In selecting the winners of the contest the judges will take the following factors into consideration:

1. Musical Technique (Rhythm, Harmony and Melody).
2. Interpretation and Presentation (Selection and use of Instruments; selection of blending of songs).
3. Appearance of costumes.
4. Originality

Suitable awards will be made to winners in each division.

Entry blanks may be secured at the Borough Offices of the Park Department or at the Arsenal, 64th Street and Fifth Avenue, New York City. No fee required.

E N D

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Library
For Release MONDAY
August 9, 1937

614

PARK COMMISSIONER ASKS THAT LOCKED
SCHOOL RECREATION FACILITIES BE
OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

Although the Department of Parks has trebled its recreational facilities since January 1, 1934, to make up for the neglect of former Administrations, the recreational needs of many neighborhoods are still unsatisfied. There are a number of neighborhoods throughout the City where a tremendous tax has been placed on the park facilities owing to bad planning on the part of the Board of Education. In some cases there is a complete lack of outdoor recreational facilities, and in others, there has been an entire unwillingness on the part of the school authorities to share their facilities at all hours and periods of the year with others.

One of the most difficult negotiations I had to carry on was to obtain the use for recreation of the Consolidated Edison land at the rear of Haaren High School, 10th Avenue and 59th Street, Manhattan. This was done in a large measure because of the urgent request of the local school authorities. It is quite obvious that intelligent planning would have provided a playground adjacent to the school when it was built. It is scandalous that so many of the school recreational facilities should be closed to the general public outside of school hours, and especially in the summertime, when there is such a tremendous demand for them particularly in congested and underprivileged neighborhoods. I have been deluged with letters and requests for additional summer play facilities since schools are out and I find case after case where there are existing school play facilities which are closed in the neighborhoods from which the complaints arise.

Up to the present time I have been unable to obtain anything like reasonable cooperation in this matter, especially in the absence, until very recently, of a Director of Extension Activities in the Board of Education. A vacancy has existed in this position for over three years.

All park playgrounds, swimming pools and other recreational facilities in the City Park system are open from 10 A.M. to dark and in some neighborhoods the playgrounds which are provided with floodlights are open at night. The Department of Parks' playgrounds and facilities are open seven days each week, every day of the year. Not only has an effort been made to provide wholesome play for children, but emphasis has also been placed on adult recreation. So great has been the interest in some of the activities and facilities that it has been impossible to accommodate and satisfy all groups of individuals. There are approximately two hundred applications for baseball permits every month which cannot be granted. During

the fall and winter months hundreds of requests are received for indoor basketball courts which the Department of Parks cannot accommodate, as there are only nine municipal gymnasiums under its jurisdiction.

It would aid the Department of Parks and satisfy the needs of many neighborhoods greatly if the Board of Education with its numerous elementary, junior high and high schools would open all of its facilities and increase its leisure time program to accommodate more children and adults. The janitors or rather custodians of the Board of Education buildings will not open them unless they receive additional compensation for doing minor casual extra cleaning, some of which is unnecessary. A survey of school buildings shows that most supervised school playgrounds are only open from 1:30 to 5:30 P.M.; it shows that they are in many cases closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. It also discloses that in some cases a school recreational area is opened one or two blocks from a park playground. Up to the present time there has been no cooperation or coordination and a great deal of overlapping. In the face of a great demand for more playgrounds, the widest possible use has not been made of Board of Education areas. There has been a great waste of public funds in the past and also at present because of this lack of coordination and cooperation and the demand of school custodians to be paid for cleaning of school premises and keeping them open beyond regular hours.

I have been informed that if a basketball team from a commercial organization uses a school gymnasium from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., it must pay approximately \$3.00 and extra fees for use of toilets and dressing rooms and that at 7:30 P.M. the school custodian receives another fee if a different group uses the gymnasium. This is just one problem in connection with the reorganization of the old Department of Extension Activities and its new department of recreational and community activities that will have to be solved. Swimming teachers of the Board of Education receive annual salaries and two months vacation. An additional appropriation of approximately \$44,000 is necessary to open the school showers and swimming pools during the summer months. At P.S. #89, 134-135th Streets and Lenox Avenue, Manhattan, which is an old type school building with inadequate recreation facilities, there is a supervised small shower room approximately 10 ft. square, while one block away there is a beautiful indoor swimming pool with swimming instructors, operated by the President of the Borough of Manhattan. At 120th Street and Madison Avenue, Manhattan, there is a park playground with the various units of equipment,

also a wading pool and field houses, while one block away, there is an indoor Board of Education playground conducted in an old type school building, and operated from 1:30 to 5:30 P.M. Another example of overlapping is the Vacation Playground at P.S. #158 at York Avenue and 78th Street, Manhattan, whereas the Park Department John Jay Park and Playground is only one block away. Many other examples could be cited but those are sufficient to point out the utter lack of coordination and overlapping.

Most anyone who gets around the City is aware of the Board of Education facilities which lie around unused at least part if not all the time in the face of the tremendous public demands for them. As to specific examples, take Abraham Lincoln High School at Guider Avenue and Ocean Parkway in the Coney Island section of Brooklyn. Here, there is a complete athletic field closed to the general public during the summer with no other recreational area nearby to take care of the neighborhood needs. Bushwick High School at Madison and Irving Avenues offers a similar condition, and Tilden High at Tilden Avenue and East 57th Street, and Manual Training High at Seventh Avenue and 5th Street, also have areas which are unused. We have found forty-two Public School yards which are never opened, most glaring of which are P.S. #69, P.S. #101, P.S. #106, P.S. #107, P.S. #111, P.S. #117, P.S. #125, P.S. #162, P.S. #198, P.S. #200, and P.S. #235. These are either in intensively developed sections or in sections which have no playgrounds at all.

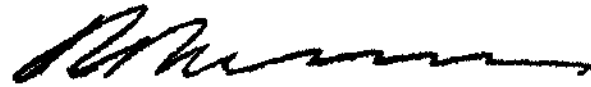
In Manhattan, at Seward Park High School on the lower East Side there are handball courts and a running track with grass growing on it through lack of use because the gates are locked. Public School yards at P.S. #152, #132 and #95, are also closed. George Washington High School play area seems to be open on weekends only.

In Queens, at the Newtown Athletic field, with a track, baseball diamond and showers, the grass has grown knee high and the area remains unused.

In The Bronx, Samuel Compers Industrial High School and Morris High School Annex have large fields which are closed for the summer and badly needed to satisfy the recreational needs of the neighborhood.

Space does not permit a full list of all the closed facilities, but those listed above are sufficient specific examples of City property lying unused in congested sections where land values are enormously high and the neighborhood recreation needs cannot be remedied overnight.

Within the past week Park Department executives have taken up this problem with the Board of Education through Mark McCloskey, the newly appointed Director of Recreational and Community Activities. Our side of this problem, which is the public side, has been fully explained to the new Director and it is our intention to cooperate with him and the Board of Education to the fullest extent possible. His problems in breaking down the inertia, red tape and bureaucratic traditions of the Education Department and the janitor-custodian racket are formidable. I am certain that if he receives adequate authority from his supervisors and cooperation from his colleagues, he will be able to solve many of these problems. The Park Department has made some very specific recommendations, which, if they are carried out, will open some of the locked recreation facilities of the Education Department before this summer is over.


Commissioner of Parks

END.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release AUGUST 4th, 1937

Commissioner Robert Moses announced today that the Department of Parks and the Marine Parkway Authority are cooperative in the presentation of a spectacular Fire Works display at Jacob Riis Park on every Friday evening throughout August.

A huge parachute shell will release a large American flag which will float through space, at 8:45 P.M., as a notice to the people that the main display will start in fifteen minutes. At the same time several noise signal shells will be fired as a salute to the National colors. At 9:00 P.M. a Prismatic Fire Illumination shall open the display during which time hundreds of special shells shall be fired. Some of the special features are Hanging Chains of Fire, Aerial Water Falls, Weeping Willows whose branches drop to the ocean, Floating Festoons of Aerial Sleigh Bells, Huge Repeating Shells similar to those constructed especially for the Great Lakes Exposition, new experimental shells which are to be offered for the coming New York World's Fair, Yellowstone Geysers, Maypole Girandolas that drop ribbon-like streamers with rainbow combination colors, Special Prismatic and Rainbow Batteries, Huge Colored Duration Stars, Triple Chrysanthemum Shells covering 1000 square feet, Crescendo Display, Boy Scout Jubilee Shells, Cherry Blossom Shells, Aerial Flower Garden bombs, Mystic Wheels and Search Lights. For the finale at one lighting a hundred shells shoot into the sky and burst with various effects, including Flying Fish, Gold and Silver Serpents, Devil Chasers and Myriads of Feathery Stars.

Jacob Riis Park with a 70-acre parking field will provide unlimited accommodation for any who may come by motor.

The Boardwalk and beach areas will provide an excellent view of the display as well as a restful place to cool off.

- 2 -

The game areas and dancing at the Central Mall will provide entertainment before and after the display.

Refreshments may be obtained at the Central Mall buildings.

Jacob Riis Park may be reached by people living in easterly Queens and the Rockaways by proceeding westerly along Rockaway Beach Boulevard to its terminus at the park.

People living in Brooklyn, Manhattan and the westerly portion of Queens will of course reach the Jacob Riis Park much more easily and quickly by proceeding to the southerly end of Flatbush Avenue and across the new Marine Parkway Bridge, directly into Jacob Riis Park.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
TEL. REGENT 4-1000

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For Release Immediately
Aug. 3, 1937

Bids for the construction of the City Building which will house the city's exhibit at the New York City World's Fair 1939 were received at the Park Department offices - The Arsenal - this afternoon. Bids received covered the superstructure, plumbing, heating, and ventilating and the electrical contracts. The three low bidders on each of the four contracts were as follows:

Contract for Superstructure

Psaty & Furhman, Inc., 369 Lexington Avenue	\$ 556,000.
Cauldwell, Wingate Co., 101 Park Avenue	564,000.
J. Weinstein & Rubin Bldg. Corp., 11 W. 42nd St.	582,200.

Contract for Plumbing

J. H. Bodenger, 53 Tenth Avenue	29,654.
J. L. Murphy, 340 E. 44th Street	30,953.
James McCullough, 429 W. 44th Street	30,970.

Contract for Electrical Work

H. Z. Altzberg, Inc. 1776 Broadway	75,700.
J. Livingston & Co., 420 Lexington Avenue	76,500.
E. J. Electrical Install., 227 E. 45th Street	78,115.

Contract for Heating, Air Conditioning, ventilating and Ice Rink

Riggs Bistler Co., 516 Fifth Avenue	259,000.
J. L. Murphy, 340 E. 44th Street	279,963.
James H. Martin, 1841 Broadway	282,427.

The New York City World's Fair Commission will consider the award of these contracts at a meeting which will be held on August 10th,

End

August 3rd, 1937

Bids were opened today in Albany by the State Department of Public Works for the contract for the paving and drainage of the East Service Road in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, from the Long Island Railroad to the boat basin on Flushing Bay. The Engineer's Estimate was \$157,465.

The three lowest bidders were:

A. W. Banko, Inc.	\$128,632.00
Hastings on Hudson, New York	
J. P. Burns	128,857.75
Garafano, Inc.	132,091.50

The East Service Road forms the northerly portion of the interior park road system.

The plans were prepared by the Department of Public Works in Babylon and are based on the General Development Plan for Flushing Meadow Park which was prepared by the Department of Parks. The East Service Road parallels the Grand Central Parkway Extension, connecting the Intra-Mural Drive, a portion of which has been completed by the World's Fair Corporation, with the boat basin on Flushing Bay. This drive, in the ultimate park, will provide access to parking fields adjacent to the City Building. During the Fair, the entire Intra-Mural Drive will be the main express bus route around the perimeter of the Fair.

The road will consist of 44 feet of concrete pavement, divided by a 22-foot grass panel, providing two lanes of traffic in each direction. Starting just south of the Long Island Railroad, it runs north under the recently completed Long Island Railroad bridge, skirting to the left of the permanent Utility Building to be built for the park by the World's Fair Corporation, passing under the new Roosevelt Avenue bridge, and thence along the west side of the city parking field, which ultimately will be the main athletic field, to the axis of the boat basin. Upon the completion of the boat basin, the road will pass under the Northern Boulevard bridge as part of a broad, formal mall which will connect the boat basin with the field house and athletic field. From the boat basin, access roads will connect with Northern Boulevard.

The East Service Road will thus form the principal means of access to the World's Fair, and ultimately to the park, for passengers landing at the boat basin.