

Indy - Jan - June 1939

Page #46

- ✓ 1/13/1939 - 839 - Bids received for 8th contract on Belt (Circumferential) Pkway. Work is construction of 3 bridges for grade separation near Queens approach to Bronx-Whitestone Bridge. ~~(Also 9th & 10th Con-tracts)~~
- ✓ 1/20/39 - 840 - Bids received for construction of grade separation structure at Hillside Ave. on Cross Island section of Belt Pkway. *9th Contract*
- 1/25/39 - 841 - Negotiations completed with John D. Rockefeller, Jr. for transfer of tract of land adjacent to southerly boundary of Ft. Tryon Park. Resume of work accomplished in Washington Heights section.
- 2/10/39 - 842 - Letter to Deputy Mayor Curran on plan for reconstruction of City Hall Park.
- ✓ 2/15/39 - 843 - Hiking trails in city parks. Description.
- ✓ 2/16/39 - 844 - Budget request for 1939-1940
- ✓ 2/24/39 - 845 - 11th Contract on Belt Pkway. Grading and paving of portion of Cross Island Pkway. between Hillside Ave. to 91st Ave.
- ✓ 2/26/39 - 846 - Application for permits for golf and tennis received. List of golf courses and tennis courts.
- ✓ 3/3/39 - 847 - 12th Contract of Belt Parkway. Paving of Cross Island Pkway. at inter section with Bronx-Whitestone Pkway.
- ✓ 3/3/39 - 848 - Bronx Playgrounds Operetta & Orchestral Clubs present "The Mikado"
- ✓ 3/5/39 - 849 - Permit for planting of 8 Elm trees along West side of 5th Ave. from 49th to 51 Sts.
- ✓ 3/10/39 - 850 - 13th Contract on Belt Pkway. Construction of Cross Island Pkway. from Hempstead Turnpike to Linden Blvd.
- ✓ 3/13/39 - 851 - 14th Contract on Belt Pkway. Grading of Southern Pkway. section and paving of North Service Rd. between Baisley Blvd. and Rockaway Branch of L.I. R.R.
- ✓ 3/18/39 - 852 - Completion & opening of 2 new playgrounds in Brooklyn, 1 at 10th Ave. & 42nd St., the other at 13th Ave., bet. 82nd & 83rd Sts.
- ✓ 3/21/39 - 853 - Memo to Mr. Moses on Battery-Brooklyn Bridge & Battery Pk. from Mr. Jennings, Mr. Embury & Mr. Clarke
- ✓ 3/21/39 - 854 - 15th Contract on Belt Pkway. Construction of 3 bridges located at 160th St., Utopia Pkway. & Cross Island Blvd. on Cross Island section.
- ✓ 3/22/39 - 855 - 16th Contract on Belt Pkway. Construction of 3 bridges for grade separations on Cross Island Pkway. on main line of L. I. R. R., at Belmont Spur of L. I. R. R. and at Superior Rd. and paving of the park way between Jamaica Ave. & Hempstead Ave.
- ✓ 3/23/39 - 856 - Board of Estimate to consider laying out park at Rivington St. West of Margin St. City Council requested to change name of Goerick st. to Baruch St.

- ✓ 3/27/1939 - 857 - 16th, 17th, 18th & 19th Contracts on Belt Pkwy. Grading of Cross Island Pkwy. from 41st Ave. through Alley Pond Pk. to Grand Central Pkwy. & paving the Parkway between 46th Ave. & same terminus.
- ✓ 3/28/39 - 858 - Bids opened for erection of signs for Belt Parkway.
- ✓ 3/29/39 - 859 - Park & Police Depts., Manhattan Borough President & Board of Transportation cooperate for rehabilitation of Greeley & Herald Squares
- ✓ 3/29/39 - 860 - 20th Contract on Belt Pkwy. Construction of Cross Island Pkwy. from Stewart Ave. to 104th Ave. including a grade separation structure at Hempstead Ave.
- ✓ 3/31/39 - 861 - Opening of 2 playgrounds in Manhattan, 1 at 150th St. & 7th Ave., other at 139th St. & Lenox Ave.
- ✓ 3/31/39 - 862 - Bids opened for construction of 2 of 5 bridges at intersection of Cross Island Pkwy. with Grand Central Parkway.
- ✓ 3/31/39 - 863 - Final span of westerly roadway of Cross Bay Parkway Bridge connecting Broad Channel with the Rockaways set in place.
4/1/39 863b - Band select. on
- ✓ 4/2/39 - 864 - Golf courses to open on April 8th. Clay tennis courts on April 15th
- ✓ 4/3/39 - 864a - Letter to G. Whalen from R.M. re signs on Billy Rose's Aquacade.
- 4/6/39 - 865 - Easter Flower Show at Prospect Park, Brooklyn
- ✓ 4/6/39 865A - Claremont Inn - Reopen
- ✓ 4/7/39 - 866 - Correspondence between Board of Education & Dept. of Parks on vandalism in parks.
- ✓ 4/4/39 - 867 - L.I. State Park Commission Release on fishing.
- ✓ 4/11/39 - 868 - Bids for planting on Grand Central Parkway between 84-94 St. adjoining North Beach Airport.
- ✓ 4/13/39 - 869 - Children spring planting in individual garden plots. Locations in 5 Boroughs.
- 4/13/39 - 870 - Reopening of Claremont Inn on 4/8/39. List of prices.
- ✓ 4/13/39 - 869a - Close of swimming pools as play centers. To reopen 5/27/39
- ✓ 4/19/39 - 871 - Opening of Schmul Park, unveiling of plaque.
- ✓ 4/20/39 - 872 - City officials at preview of N.Y.C. Bldg at World's Fair, Long description & comments of officials.
- ✓ 4/21/39 - 873 - 23rd contract on Belt Parkway. Construction of a portion of Shore Pkwy from Bay Parkway to Bay 49th St. Includes grade separation structure at Bay Parkway & 26 Ave.
- ✓ 4/24/39 - 874 - Delay in delivery of material making it necessary to postpone opening of playground at Atlantic Ave. & 89 St., Queens.
- ✓ 4/24/39 - 875 - Pitch & putt golf course at Jacob Riis Park will open on Sat. 4/29. Activities at games area - 10¢ fee per half hour.
- ✓ 4/25/39 - 875A - Best Route to World's Fair for Westchester Co. residents

- 4/25/39- 875a- Release to Westchester County Newspapers re routes to World's Fair for Westchester County Motorists. (Best routes.)
- ✓ 4/26/39- 876- Reopening of Tavern on Green, Central Park on 4/28. List of prices.
- ✓ 4/26/39- 877- Areas in 5 Boroughs for Kite Flying.
- ✓ 4/27/39- 878- Bids, 5 bridges for Belt Parkway. Substructure over Mill Basin on Shore Parkway; 4 bridges on Southern Parkway at 150 St., Van Wyck Blvd., 130 St. & Lefferts Boulevard.
- ✓ 4/28/39- 879- 26th contract Belt Pkwy. Paving 1 section of Cross Island Pkwy from its intersection with Bronx-Whitestone Parkway to 39 Ave., Queens.
- ✓ 5/1/39- 880- Bids Belt Pkwy, Cross Island Parkway from Hillside Ave. to Grand Central Parkway including grade separation structure at Union Turnpike
- ✓ 5/2/39- 881- Landing floats provided by Park Dept. for visit of fleet in Hudson.
- ✓ 5/12/39- 882- 28th contract, Belt Pkwy. Paving of Shore Parkway from Flatbush Ave. to Pennsylvania Ave. (about 3½ miles) includes construction of a 4 span steel structure supported on steel piles to carry Shore Parkway traffic over Rockaway Avenue.
- ✓ 5/13/39- 883- Completion of erection of Vanderbilt Gates at Conservatory Gardens at 105 St. & Fifth Ave.
- ✓ 5/15/39- 884- 5 page release on last issue of Flushing Meadow booklet re Basic Improvements. Descriptive.
- ✓ 5/19/39- 885- 2nd Amateur Photographic contest "Youth & Age in Our City Parks & Pldgs" begins 5/20 closes 9/20. Description, age groups.
- ✓ 5/19/39- 886- Model Sail & Motor Boat Races at Central Park. Classes & prizes.
- ✓ 5/23/39- 887- Finals of marble contest.
- 5/25/39- 888- (Number skipped)
- ✓ 5/25/39- 889- "Learn to Swim" Campaign. List of places, etc.
- ✓ 5/24/39- 890- Letter to Hon. F. H. LaGuardia from R. Moses re Council reducing Park Dept Budget for 1939-40
- ✓ 5/26/39- 891- Reopening of 12 outdoor swimming pools & Floating Baths on 5/27/39 Fees & hours of opening.
- ✓ 5/26/39- 892- Manhattan Annual Athletic Meet for Boys & Girls at 74 St. & Riverside
- ✓ 5/26/39- 893- 30th contract Belt Parkway. Construction of a viaduct from Stillwell Ave. to Shell Rd. & for grading & paving of Shore & Southern Parkways from Pennsylvania Ave. to Baisley Blvd. (Crosses over right of way & tracks of Sea Beach Line & West End Line & etc.)

5/27/39

5/27/39-

894A - Opening of Marine Park Playground

894-

Release on opening of 23rd St. outdoor pool & Mt. Prospect Park in Brooklyn. Copies of programs.

✓ 5/28/39-

895-

NaumbergConterton Mall, Central Park. First of series of 4.

✓ 5/29/39-

896-

Programs in playgrounds for Memorial Day.

✓ 5/31/39-

897-

Locations of free public dancing in 5 Boroughs.

6/2/39-

898-

Summer Recreational Program for pldgs. Detailed plans for summer.

✓ 6/2/39-

898a-

Opening of Cross Bay(Rockaway) ceremonies, description & booklet. 10¢ fee.

✓ 6/3/39-

898b -

Rockaway Improvement project - Sheep Meadow Parkway.

✓ 6/5/39-

899-

Removal of tree guards with memorial tablets - reasons for.

✓ 6/6/39-

900-

31st & 32nd contract Belt Pkway - Shore Pkway for paving Emmons Avenue. through Marine Park to Flatbush Ave. includes erection of superstructure of Plumb Beach Channel Bridge. Grade separation structure on Cross Island Pkway.

✓ 6/7/39-

901-

33rd constructure contract of Belt Pkway between Owl's Head Park & Fort Hamilton. 2 pedestrian bridges included.

✓ 6/9/39-

902-

Bids Belt Pkway. Grade separation structure at Braddock Ave. & at Jamaica Ave on Cross Island Parkway.

✓ 6/9/39-

903-

Dance Festival at Sheep Meadow in Central Park on 6/10. List of pldgs competing and judges.

✓ 6/10/39-

904-

Opening of new outdoor swimming pool in Hudson Park(Caroline St. Program of ceremonies.

✓ 6/15/39-

905-

Annual City-Wide Athletic Meet at Red Hook, 6/17. List of events.

✓ 6/12/39-

906-

Bids-Belt Pkway. Cross Island Pkway from Linden Blvd. to 129 Ave. together with grade separation structure at intersection of Cross Island Pkway with Laurelton & Southern State Pkways.

✓ 6/13/39-

907-

Birth of baby seal to Splashy, father Barker.

✓ 6/15/39-

908-

15 new greens at Clearview Golf Course will open 6/17/39

✓ 6/15/39-

909-

Birth of another baby seal to Waterlily, father Barker.

✓ 6/15/39

909A -

Annual City Wide Athletic Meet - Red Hook Stadium

✓ 6/17/39-

910-

N.Y.C. Pkway Authority - no of cars using Cross Bay Pkway in first 2 weeks of operation.

✓ 6/19/39-

911-

Opening of 2 pldgs in Flushing Meadow Park. List of facilities Opening ceremonies.

✓ 6/19/39-

912-

36th contract Belt Pkway - construction on Southern Pkway between Baisley Blvd. & 159 St.

- ✓ 6/22/39- 913- Finals of 1 Act plays at Mullaly Bldg., Bronx. Detailed - names of plays & pldgs competing.
- ✓ 6/23/39- 914- 3000 children registered for "Learn to Swim" campaign.
- ✓ 6/23/39- 915- 2 recreational areas opened - 1 from 145 St. to 155 St. & Hudson River and the other, Inwood Hill Park. Description.
- ✓ 6/23/39- 915A - Opening of Playground - 145 St. Hudson River.
- ✓ 6/26/39- 916- Bids Belt Pkway construction of 3 bridges - 1) West Alley Rd. 2) Grand Central Pkway 3) Winchester Blvd & Grand Central Pkway.
- ✓ 6/27/39- 917- "Swim for Health" Finals transferred from Highbridge Pool to Astoria Pool on Friday 6/30/39..
- ✓ 6/27/39- 918- Bids grading & paving of Shore Pkway from Cropsey Ave. to Stillwell Ave. & from Shell Road to Coney Island including a grade separation structure at Cropsey Ave.
- ✓ 6/27/39- 919- Concert by All-City High School Band on Mall, Central Park 6/28/39 at 8:30 P.M. Final one of season.
- ✓ 6/30/39 920 - Huron-Clinton Pkway Committee toward NYC. Westchester
- ✓ 6/30/39 921 - Board of Estimate - funds for 9 public bath buildings

June 30
IMMEDIATELY

Lincoln
For Release

921

At the meeting on May 6, 1938, the Board of Estimate made funds available for the purchase of materials and rental of construction equipment for the alteration of four of the nine public bath buildings transferred from the jurisdiction of the Borough President of Manhattan to the Park Department.

Two of these, 409 West 28 Street and 342 East 54 Street, have been completed and will be opened to the public on Saturday, July 1. The other two, East 23 Street and Avenue A and 232 West 60 Street were opened on June 10.

The building at 28 Street opposite Chelsea Park, which originally included a gymnasium, was changed so that the second floor, formerly used for public baths, was converted into a recreation room provided with a removeable stage.

The 54 Street building, originally containing two separate pools - one for women and one for men, both of which were too small to be of any real use, have been reconstructed to provide one large pool sufficiently deep to permit diving at one end. A play area has been provided on the roof of the building.

In each of these structures, the plumbing, electrical, heating and ventilating systems were thoroughly overhauled and cleansing baths for itinerants or those still residing in cold water flats were provided separate from the pool.

These improvements, done with relief labor under the Works Progress Administration and by the Department of Parks, not only provide the advantages of modern swimming pools, but also recreation facilities that have long been denied to the residents of the surrounding neighborhood, and for which there has been an increased demand.

The facilities at both locations will be opened to the general public daily from 7 A.M. to 10 P. M. except that the pools will be closed on Sundays so that they can be emptied and the tiled pool thoroughly cleaned. The cleansing baths will close at 12 Noon on Sundays.

June 30, 1939

921

HIKING TRAILS IN CITY PARKS

There are no designated hiking trails in City Parks, however, there are many excellent walks to attract the hiker. These walks and paths are located as follows:

BOROUGH	PARK	TRANSPORTATION FROM MANHATTAN	LOCATION OF WALKS	REMARKS
Bronx	Van Cortlandt	Bway-7 Ave. Subway to 242nd St. East to Park (5¢ fare). Jerome Ave. Subway to Woodlawn Station. West to Park (5¢ fare).	a. <u>Aqueduct Lands:</u> Gun Hill Road to Yonkers City Line and Moshulu Parkway. b. <u>Rockwood Drive:</u> Moshulu Ave. and Broadway to Yonkers City Line.	10 minute walk from subway station. 15 minute walk from subway station.
	Pelham Bay	Pelham Bay-Lexington Ave. Subway to Pelham Bay Station. North to Park via Eastern Boulevard.	a. Pelham Bay I.R.T. Terminal to Pelham City Line via Eastern Blvd. b. Hutchinson River Pkwy (easterly side of Pkwy) to City Line.	10 minute walk from subway station.
Queens	Cunningham	B.M.T. or I.R.T. to Main St. Flushing Queens Village Bus to Union Turnpike. Walk West 3 mile to Park.	Paths parallel to Grand Central Pkwy connecting Alley Pond with Cunningham Park.	Subway fare 5¢. Bus fare 5¢. There is a bicycle path at Alley Pond where bicycles may be hired.
	Alley Pond	8th Ave. Subway to Jamaica 179th St. Bellerose Bus to Winchester Blvd. Walk North $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Park.		

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

Henry
For Release
June 30
920
IMMEDIATELY

The Department of Parks is conducting a party of 29 Michigan state officials and citizens, representing the Huron-Clinton Parkway Committee, on a two-day tour (June 30 and July 1) of the New York City, Westchester and Long Island Park Systems.

This committee has sponsored state legislation which has been passed and signed by the Governor of Michigan, which provides for the incorporation of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority to permit the Counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland and MacComb in Michigan to join in a Metropolitan District for planning, promoting, and acquiring, constructing, owning, developing, maintaining and operating parks and parkways.

Attached is a list of names of those comprising the group and copies of the itinerary.

June 30, 1939

Sent to city news only (12 c.)

920

PRESS

Mr. Lou Tendler, The Detroit News, Detroit.

Mr. Whalesby, The Detroit Times, Detroit.

CITY OF DETROIT

Mr. Henry W. Busch, Commissioner of Parks & Boulevards
900 Water Board Bldg., Detroit.

Mr. Herbert Russell, City Planner & Secretary, City Plan
Commission, 1700 Water Board Building, Detroit.

DETROIT AUTOMOBILE CLUB

Mr. Charles T. Bush, Director, % C. A. Strelinger Co., Detroit

Col. Sidney D. Waldon, Director, 4612 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Mr. Richard Harfst, General Manager, 139 Bagley St., Detroit.

Mr. William J. Trepagnier, Editor, Motor News, Detroit.

CHRYSLER CORPORATION

Mr. James Lee, Director of Public Relations, Chrysler Corporation

GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

Mr. Paul Garrett, Director of Public Relations

AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Mr. Richard Tupper, Director of Public Relations,
Pennsylvania & 17th Sts.,
Washington, D. C.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS-WAYNE COUNTY

Mr. William F. Von Moll, Supervisor, Trenton, Michigan.
Representing the Out-County Supervisors.

THE HURON-CLINTON
PARKWAY COMMITTEE

THE FOLLOWING IS THE GROUP THAT IS GOING
TO NEW YORK TO MAKE AN INSPECTION OF THE
PARKS AND PARKWAYS

HURON-CLINTON P/W COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Harry B. Earhart, 3965 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit.

Mr. Leroy C. Smith (Wayne County Highway Engineer)
Director - Wayne County Parks)
3800 Barlum Tower, Detroit.

Mr. Luther D. Allen, Member Board of Oakland County Road Commission,
Pontiac, Michigan

Prof. H. O. Whittemore, Landscape, Parks & Playgrounds Dept.,
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Mr. Robert L. McNamee, Engineering, State Bank Bldg., Ann Arbor,
Michigan.

Col. Sidney D. Waldon, 4612 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Mr. Arthur Stace, c/o The Ann Arbor News, Ann Arbor, Michigan

WAYNE COUNTY PARK TRUSTEES

Mr. Michael J. O'Brien, Chairman, 3800 Barlum Tower, Detroit.

Mr. Charles L. Wilson, Secretary, 3800 Barlum Tower, Detroit.

Mr. John F. Breining, Trustee, 3800 Barlum Tower, Detroit.

Mr. Joseph W. Gross, Ass't Secretary, 3800 Barlum Tower, Detroit.

Mr. J. M. Bennett, Superintendent, 3800 Barlum Tower, Detroit.

OAKLAND COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Mr. Lee O. Brooks, Chairman, 550 Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Mich.

Mr. John A. Bradley, Member, 550 Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Mich.

Mr. Leon V. Belknap, County Highway Engineer, Pontiac, Mich.

BOARD OF COMMERCE - Detroit

Mr. James Vernor, Jr., Vice-President, 320 W. Lafayette, Detroit.

Mr. Harvey Campbell, Secretary, 320 W. Lafayette, Detroit.

The Department of Parks announces that the All-City High School Band, conducted by Mr. Albert A. Becker, will give the final concert of the season on the Mall, Central Park, Wednesday, June 28th at 8:30 P.M. 919

The band is composed of 94 students selected from all the high schools of New York City, and is part of the extra-curricular program of the Music Department of the Board of Education.

During the past season the band made several public appearances, including two winter concerts and two appearances at the World's Fair.

The program for the concert on Wednesday night is as follows:

"Star Spangled Banner"

Overture - "Morning, Noon and Night"

March - "Laurentian"

Selection - "Waltz Dream"

Descriptive - "The Whistler and His Dog"

"Procession of the Knights" - Parsifal

March - "The Pride of the Marines"

"Pan Americana"

"Pizzicato Polka"

"Children's March" - Goldman

"On the Mall" - Goldman

"The Spirit of Pageantry" - Fletcher

"God Bless America"

"America"

All musical programs of the All-City High School Band are given under the supervision of George T. Gartlan, Director of Music, Board of Education, New York City. 919

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

For Release ~~IMMEDIATELY~~

918

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for grading and paving of Shore Parkway from Cropsey Avenue to Stillwell Avenue and from Shell Road to Coney Island Avenue, together with a grade separation structure at Cropsey Avenue.

Between Stillwell Avenue and Shell Road a steel viaduct is now being erected under another contract.

The bridge at Cropsey Avenue is a two-span steel structure supported by concrete filled steel pipe columns at the center and by concrete and stone faced abutments at the ends.

To date contracts totaling \$19,273,689 or 77% of the entire Belt Parkway have been let since this project was approved on October 13, 1938.

The three low bidders were:

Ross Galvanizing Works 395 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.	\$683,955.00
Reiss & Weinsier, Inc. 105 Court Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.	707,805.00
B. Turecamo Contracting Co. Foot of 24th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.	720,912.00

June 27, 1939

918

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

June 26

For Release IMMEDIATELY

Bids on a contract for the construction of three more bridges on the Belt Parkway were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal.

917

These bridges are on the Cross Island Parkway section and provide for grade separations at West Alley Road, at Grand Central Parkway, and at Winchester Boulevard and Grand Central Parkway.

These bridges, together with three other bridges at this point which are already under contract will provide for a complete separation of grades at the intersection of Cross Island Parkway, Grand Central Parkway and Winchester Boulevard in addition to carrying West Alley Road traffic over Cross Island Parkway.

To date contracts have been let for fifty of the sixty-three bridges required on the Belt Parkway since the project was approved on October 13, 1938.

The three low bidders were:

Candeloro Construction Corporation 55 West 42nd Street, N.Y.C.	\$453,703.90
Reiss and Weinseir Inc. 105 Court Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.	485,774.50
Highway Improvement & Repair Company 125 Barclay Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.	491,519.40

June 26, 1939

917

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

For Release ~~IMMEDIATELY~~

Bids on a contract for the construction of three more bridges on the Belt Parkway were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal.

These bridges are on the Cross Island Parkway section and provide for grade separations at West Alley Road, at Grand Central Parkway, and at Winchester Boulevard and Grand Central Parkway.

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June 26, 1939

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June 26, 1939

916

916

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

Friday after-
noon, June 23
Saturday morn-
ing, June 24,
1939

For Release

915

The Department of Parks announces that on Friday, June 23, two more recreation areas in Manhattan were opened to the public, one from 145 Street to 155 Street and the Hudson River, and the other in Inwood Hill Park, north of Dyckman Street between the Hudson River and the New York Central Railroad tracks.

These two recreational areas mark another step in the park development of the Washington Heights-Inwood Section of Northern Manhattan, which makes it one of the few neighborhoods in the City which is properly planned and developed from a scenic and recreational standpoint.

At the 145 Street location, the ceremonies took place at 3:30 P.M. with Park Commissioner Robert Moses presiding. Besides Mr. Moses, Mrs. J. J. Rooney of the Washington Heights Playground Conference, Alexander MacGregor, Assistant to the Works Progress Administrator, Borough President Stanley M. Isaacs of Manhattan, participated. After the speaking exercises, there was a program of recreational activities and a baseball game inaugurating the opening of the area which includes ten double handball, seven paddle tennis, one basketball, thirteen shuffleboard and fifteen horseshoe pitching courts, a roller skating mall, a soft baseball field, a completely equipped playground and a pedestrian promenade.

A boat basin is planned from 149 to 150 Streets where smaller craft in the flotilla of pleasure boats, the outboards, the open inboard runabouts and even the sailing power and paddle canoes will be served and housed. Inside the bulkheading will be six floats for this type of craft, and provision outside the bulkheading for the mooring of cruisers.

This area from 145 to 155 Streets was transferred, by action of the Board of Estimate, from the Department of Docks to the Department of Parks on October 13, 1938.

915

Upon the completion of the 145 Street program, the official party made an inspection of the Inwood Hill Park area. Here, the former unattractive riverside dump, north of Dyckman Street and west of the New York Central Railroad tracks, has been converted into a 20-acre recreation area containing two full-sized hardball diamonds and two junior ball diamonds. In the north end, an archery range is planned. Paralleling the river front is a wide promenade. A footbridge over the railroad and parkway underpass permits visitors in the upper part of Inwood Hill to reach this waterfront area expeditiously. The Henry Hudson Parkway Authority contributed largely to this development not only by extensive landscaping on the adjacent parkway, but also by making a sponsor's contribution to the W.P.A. to aid them in reclaiming this land into a recreation area.

Both these improvements are landscaped with trees and shrubbery and benches have been placed to provide rest and a view of the river.

The work was planned by the Park Department and performed by the Works Progress Administration.

915 A.

P R O G R A M

OPENING OF PLAYGROUND

145 Street and Hudson River
Manhattan

June 23, 1939

3:30 P.M.

Band Selections

Honorable Robert Moses, Commissioner, Department of Parks
- Chairman

Mrs. J. J. Rooney, Washington Heights Playground Conference

Alexander MacGregor, Assistant to Works Progress Administrator

Honorable Stanley M. Isaacs, President, Borough of Manhattan

National Anthem

Baseball Game

Playground Activities

Inspection of Inwood Hill Recreation Area

915 A

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

IMMEDIATELY
For Release

The Department of Parks announces that up to date close to 3000 boys and girls have registered for the "Learn to Swim" campaign being conducted in the municipal swimming pools. 914.

The children are broken up into small groups and after being given land drills in which they are shown the correct arm movements, they are taken into the pool for lessons in floating, elementary crawl and backstroke. These lessons are given under the tutelage of capable pool operators, and it is thought that about 90% of the group will be able to swim at the end of the campaign which is June 26th. Adults are also taking advantage of this "Learn to Swim" campaign, and about 500 have registered so far.

The Department of Parks is cooperating in the "Swim for Health" campaign from June 26 to July 1. During the week, eliminations will be held at the various pools to decide the make-up of teams to represent the pools in the City-wide championships which will culminate "Swim for Health" week.

Medals for the competitors placing first, second and third in each event will be awarded by the "Swim for Health" Association, and a cup will be given to the members of the team that scores the most points. The meets will be held at Highbridge Swimming Pool, 173 Street and Amsterdam Avenue, Friday afternoon, June 30, at 1 o'clock.

The Department of Parks also announces that the free period for children under 14 years of age from 10 A.M. to 12 Noon on weekdays has been extended in all the municipal swimming pools to include Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. This is effective this coming Saturday, June 24th.

June 23, 1939

914

913.

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the One-Act Play Contest for the children of Park Department playgrounds will take place Saturday, June 24, at 2:00 P.M. at Mullaly Playground, 162 Street and River Avenue, Bronx.

Numerous plays were reviewed by the board of judges during the elimination held in each of the five boroughs. The following plays were selected for the finals: "Pandora", Jackson Heights Playground, Queens; "The Beggar Maid", Zimmerman Playground, Bronx; "Three Pills in a Bottle", Roosevelt Playground, Manhattan; "Nimble Wit and Fingerkin", McDonald Playground, Richmond.

The persons who have consented to act as judges at the finals on June 24 are as follows: Mrs. Mabel Hobbs, author and dramatic teacher, Mr. Clark Frederickson, National Recreation Association, and Mr. James A. McKague, dramatic coach.

Plaques will be awarded to the playground children who put on the three best plays.

June 22, 1939

913

Library

912
For Release IMMEDIATELY

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks for the construction of another section of the Belt Parkway on Southern Parkway between Baisley Boulevard and 159th Street.

This contract provides for the paving of the Parkway and the north and south service roads between the limits mentioned and the widening of the existing bridge at Rockaway Boulevard.

The existing structure which is now 42 feet wide between curbs will be widened to accommodate six lanes of traffic separated by a five foot center mall with a nine foot sidewalk on its north side. The completed structure will carry the Parkway traffic over Rockaway Boulevard.

To date, thirty-six contracts have been let for the construction of the Belt Parkway since this project was approved on October 13, 1938 for a total of \$18,135,000. or 72% of the total cost.

The work under this contract is to be completed on or before December 30, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

Petracca & Banko 6919 Queens Blvd, Winfield, L. I.	\$392,818.50
Lieb Construction Co. 415 Lexington Ave., N. Y. C.	\$411,568.00
William P. McDonald 33-15 Lawrence St., Flushing, L. I.	\$426,370.00

June 19, 1939

912

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

For Release IMMEDIATELY

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June 19, 1939

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

Flushing Meadow
For Release Monday,
June 19, 1939

The Park Department announces the opening of two playgrounds in Flushing Meadow Park adjacent to the Grand Central Parkway, one just south of Horace Harding Boulevard and the other south of Northern Boulevard on 114th Street. 911

On Monday, June 19th at 4 P.M. ceremonies in connection with the opening will be held at the latter location. Commissioner Moses of the Department of Parks will act as Chairman, and Colonel Brehon Somervell, Works Progress Administrator, Borough President Harvey of Queens, and Mayor La Guardia will participate as speakers.

These two recreation areas are part of the plan for the ultimate development of the park after the Fair is over and will provide recreation facilities for the present children of the adjacent communities and for an increase in population as additional housing develops around the park.

In the playground near Horace Harding Boulevard there is a comfort station, twelve shuffleboard, one basketball and ten handball courts, a softball diamond, a sand pit, a shower basin, and a completely equipped playground including apparatus for those of kindergarten age.

In the playground on 114th Street just south of Northern Boulevard, there is also a comfort station, wading pool, a sand pit, two softball diamonds, four handball courts and a complete installation of play apparatus. 911

910

During the first two weeks of its operation 218,847 cars used the new Cross Bay Parkway Bridge linking the Rockaways with the main traffic arteries and parkway system in Queens. Toll collections amounted to \$22,514.35.

The new and improved traffic facility opened on Saturday, June 3 drew 99,262 cars during its first week of toll operation and the volume increased in its second week, ending Friday, June 16, to 119,585, or a total of 218,847 for the two week period, according to the traffic count announced by the New York City Parkway Authority.

There appeared to be every indication that despite the establishment of a toll (10¢) on the Cross Bay span, the popularity of this route to the Rockaways is not only being maintained but even increased.

The widened viaduct roadways, the parkway plaza approach and shorefront park and drive in the Rockaways, all part of the Rockaway Improvement undertaken by the Parkway Authority are expected to draw a record volume of Summer visitors to the Rockaways.

While traffic and revenue on the improved Cross Bay route gratified the Parkway Authority, equally satisfying was the increase in traffic over the Marine Parkway Bridge which connects the Rockaways with Brooklyn.

With its toll reduced to 10¢, coincident with the opening of the new Cross Bay Parkway Bridge, the Marine Parkway Bridge carried 134,276 cars during the two week period ending June 16, as compared with 84,909 carried during the same period in 1938, an increase of nearly 50 per cent.

June 17, 1939

910

NEW YORK CITY PARKWAY AUTHORITY
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

June 17
IMMEDIATELY

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June 17, 1939

709 A

The Department of Parks announces that the Annual City-Wide Athletic Meet for boys and girls of Park Department playgrounds will take place at Red Hook Stadium, foot of Henry Street and Gowanus Bay, Brooklyn, Saturday, June 17th, at 2:00 P. M.

During the month of May, each playground held preliminary contests and practice sessions in preparation for the borough-wide meet which was conducted in each of the five boroughs. The five who qualified in the finals of the 18 track and field events of the various borough meets are eligible to compete at the City-Wide Meet on Saturday.

It is expected that about 500 boys and girls of various classifications, ranging from the 85 lbs. class to the unlimited class, will participate in the meet at Red Hook Stadium.

All the competitors have demonstrated their superior athletic ability by qualifying in the various borough meets. In addition, they have been thoroughly trained in the fine points of dashing, long distance running, baton passing, broad jumping and high jumping.

With this background of experience and preparation, the expected large crowd of spectators, anxious to have their native borough boys and girls carry off the palm of victory, can look forward to a day full of surprises and keen competition.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to those who place 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in each event.

The list of events for the City-Wide Playground Meet on Saturday, June 17th, at Red Hook Stadium, is as follows:

EVENTS

Boys

<u>85 lb. class</u>	<u>100 lb. class</u>	<u>120 lb. class</u>	<u>Unlimited class</u>
50 yard dash	60 yard dash	70 yard dash	100 yard dash
Potato Race	200 yard relay	440 yard relay	880 yard relay
	Standing Broad Jump	Running High Jump	Half Mile Run

Girls

<u>85 lb. class</u>	<u>110 lb. class</u>	<u>Unlimited</u>
40 yard dash	50 yard dash	60 yard dash
Potato Race		Basketball Throw
Egg and Spoon Race		

Unlimited

SENIOR BOYS & GIRLS MIXED RELAY -440 YARDS

2 girls to run 55 yards each
1 boy to run 110 yards
1 boy to run 220 yards

The Park Department Band will provide music for the meet.

709 A

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

909

IMMEDIATELY

*For Release*_____

At 2:00 a.m. June 15th another baby seal was born at Central Park Zoo. Father is "Barker" and Mother "Waterlily". Baby seal weighs eight pounds and is 10 inches long. Both the new youngster and the calf born on June 12th are doing splendidly. Photographs can be taken immediately.

June 15, 1939

909

909

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

Bob H. H. H.

For Release IMMEDIATELY

908

The Department of Parks announces that the fifteen new greens at Clearview Golf Course will be open for play on Saturday morning, June 17th, for week ends. As the grass is still tender they will not be open for week day play at this time. When the condition of the greens warrant, they will be opened for week day play.

June 15, 1939

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908

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

For Release _____
IMMEDIATELY

907

The Department of Parks announces the birth of a baby seal at the Central Park Zoo.

At 11:50 P.M. June 12th, Splashy, one of the three cow seals in the seal pool, gave birth to a ten pound offspring.

The father of the new animal is Bull Barker, who along with Splashy produced a calf last June.

Photographs may be taken at any time.

June 13, 1939

907

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

Library

For Release

June 12, 1939

906

IMMEDIATELY

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks, at the Arsenal, for the construction of another section of Cross Island Parkway from Linden Boulevard to 129th Avenue, together with a grade separation structure at the intersection of Cross Island Parkway with Laurelton and Southern State Parkways.

This structure, a single span stonefaced bridge, together with its connecting access drives will provide for an uninterrupted flow of traffic to and from Cross Island Parkway and the existing Southern State and Laurelton Parkways.

This contract also provides for the grading and paving of Cross Island Parkway between the limits mentioned above.

To date construction contracts let for the construction of the Belt Parkway system since the project was approved on October 13, 1938 amount to \$17,743,000 or 70% of the total cost.

The work under this contract is to be completed on or before December 30, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

Tully and DiNapoli 30-11 12th Street, Astoria, L. I.	\$413,431.55
Petracca & Banko 6919 Queens Blvd, L. I.	418,360.50
Johnson, Drake & Piper Freeport, L. I.	437,100.00

June 12, 1939

906

Library

FOR RELEASE: June 15, 1939
June 16, 1939

The Department of Parks announces that the Annual City-Wide Athletic Meet for boys and girls of Park Department playgrounds will take place at Red Hook Stadium, foot of Henry Street and Gowanus Bay, Brooklyn, Saturday, June 17th, at 2:00 P. M. 905

During the month of May, each playground held preliminary contests and practice sessions in preparation for the borough-wide meet which was conducted in each of the five boroughs. The five who qualified in the finals of the 18 track and field events of the various borough meets are eligible to compete at the City-Wide Meet on Saturday.

It is expected that about 500 boys and girls of various classifications, ranging from the 85 lbs. class to the unlimited class, will participate in the meet at Red Hook Stadium.

All the competitors have demonstrated their superior athletic ability by qualifying in the various borough meets. In addition, they have been thoroughly trained in the fine points of dashing, long distance running, baton passing, broad jumping and high jumping.

With this background of experience and preparation, the expected large crowd of spectators, anxious to have their native borough boys and girls carry off the palm of victory, can look forward to a day full of surprises and keen competition.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to those who place 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in each event.

The list of events for the City-Wide Playground Meet on Saturday, June 17th, at Red Hook Stadium, is as follows:

EVENTS

Boys

<u>85 lb. class</u>	<u>100 lb. class</u>	<u>120 lb. class</u>	<u>Unlimited class</u>
50 yard dash	60 yard dash	70 yard dash	100 yard dash
Potato Race	200 yard relay	440 yard relay	880 yard relay
	Standing Broad Jump	Running High Jump	Half Mile Run

Girls

<u>85 lb. class</u>	<u>110 lb. class</u>	<u>Unlimited</u>
40 yard dash	50 yard dash	60 yard dash
Potato Race		Basketball Throw
Egg and Spoon Race		

Unlimited

SENIOR BOYS & GIRLS MIXED RELAY -440 YARDS

2 girls to run 55 yards each
1 boy to run 110 yards
1 boy to run 220 yards

905
The Park Department Band will provide music for the meet.

* On Saturday, June 10, at 10:30 A.M., exercises will be held in connection with the formal opening of the new outdoor swimming pool in Hudson Park, Seventh Avenue and Clarkson Street, Manhattan. 904

Besides Hon. Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks, who will act as Chairman, Philip Kummer, a neighborhood youngster, Mr. Joseph K. Guerin, President of the Greenwich Village Association, Mrs. Mary K. Simkhovitch, Director of Greenwich House, the Right Reverend Monsignor John J. Hickey, Pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Alexander MacGregor of the Works Progress Administration, and the Hon. Stanley M. Isaacs, Borough President of Manhattan, will participate. Mr. Isaacs will attend as Mayor La Guardia's representative.

Upon the conclusion of the speeches, as part of the program, there will be an aquatic show featuring children developed and trained in other pools under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks.

The new outdoor pool is 50' x 100' with a diving pool 50' x 26' and will provide much needed bathing facilities for this congested section of Manhattan.

The adjacent bath building, transferred from the Borough President of Manhattan under the new City Charter, has been completely renovated to provide increased recreational facilities. Besides containing men and women's locker and shower rooms and comfort stations, it also houses on the second floor a large gymnasium and large play room. On the mezzanine floor there is a running track, while on the roof of the building there is a large fenced-in play area.

The pool will be operated the same as all others under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks. On weekdays from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., there is a free period for children under 14 years of age in the swimming pools. No adults are admitted to the pool areas during this free period. After 1 P.M. on weekdays and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays there is a 10¢ charge

904

for children under 14 years of age and a 20¢ charge for children over 14 years and adults at the swimming pools.

Two others of the nine bath buildings transferred from the Borough President of Manhattan will also reopen on the same day, 232 W. 60 Street and 35 West 134 Street.

At 60th Street, the building has been renovated to add a gymnasium to the top floor and also to connect it to the present recreational building at 59 Street which also has been renovated so that the locker and shower facilities for the users of both the pool and gymnasium can be accommodated. In addition, there is an outdoor swimming pool now under construction.

The 134th Street building, built in 1922, has been completely modernized to increase the bathing facilities.

These bath buildings, originally designed for the use of people living in cold water flats whose bathing facilities were non-existent, will continue to function as public baths with increased recreational facilities in a more sanitary, efficient and useful manner.

The work in connection with these improvements was planned by the Department of Parks and performed by the Works Progress Administration.

The Department of Parks announces that approximately 450 girls of Park Department playgrounds, ranging from 8 to 16 years of age, will participate in the Fifth Annual Dance Festival scheduled to take place on the Sheep Meadow, Central Park, 66th Street and West Drive, Saturday, June 10th, at 2:30 P. M.

This Dance Festival is one of the outstanding features of the recreational program prepared for the children of Park Department playgrounds. Thousands of spectators attend the dance exhibition annually and such a high standard of terpsichorean ability has been established that the girls are eager to perpetuate the enviable reputation attained in past performances.

For the past five weeks, the children have attended regularly the various instruction classes conducted in designated playgrounds of the five boroughs, where they have been taught intricate dance steps, which require poise, grace and rhythmic coordination to bring about that precision in execution so necessary in group dancing.

In addition, each member of the dancing class is given instructions in the art of making costumes which will be worn by the performers. These costumes play an important ^{part} in the estimate of the judges since the appearance of the costume will add to or detract from the dancing performance.

On the Sheep Meadow next Saturday, there will be 15 groups in all composed of three from each of the five boroughs which were selected as the result of elimination contests. Ten of the units, two from each borough, will demonstrate Folk Dancing, characteristic of various nations, and the remaining five, one from each borough, will perform classical numbers.

Due to the fact that the steps in different folk dances vary in difficulty it was decided to classify the folk dances into "Junior" and "Intermediate". Therefore, out of the total ten folk dance numbers, each borough will enter a group in each of the two classifications.

Plaques will be awarded to the best dancing group in the classical division and in the "Junior" and "Intermediate" divisions of the folk dances.

The dances which will be given and playgrounds represented by the dancers are as follows:

JUNIOR FOLK DANCES

903

"Ace of Diamonds"	- Model Playground, Richmond
"Krakowyak-Ulana" - Polish Dance	- 23rd Street, Sunset, Leif Eiriksson, New Utrecht and Owls Head Playgrounds, Bkly

- "Swedish Schottische" - O'Connell and Laurelton Playgrounds,
Queens
- Scotch Folk Dance - Jay Hood Wright Playground, Manhattan
- "Wooden Shoes" - Dutch Dance - St. James, Fort #4, 166th and Morris
Avenue and Mullaly Playgrounds

CLASSICAL GROUP

- "Valse Bleue" - St. James and Mullaly Playgrounds, Bronx
- "The Dance of the Flowers" - Roosevelt Playground, Manhattan
- "The Garland Dance" - Jackson Heights and Newtown Playgrounds,
Queens
- "Spring Blossoms" - New Lots, Riverdale and Snediker Avenues
Playgrounds, Brooklyn

INTERMEDIATE FOLK

- "JoEstel Kivanok" - Hungarian Dance - Thompson Hill and Windmuller Playgrounds,
Queens
- Finnish Folk Dance - Payson Avenue Playground, Manhattan
- Irish Folk Dance - De Matti Playground, Richmond
- "Kamarinskaya" - Russian Dance - Lindsay and Williamsburg Housing Play-
grounds, Brooklyn
- Gypsy Mazurka - Zimmerman, Williamsbridge, Crotona Park
Playgrounds, Bronx

The following persons have consented to act as Judges:

Miss G. Sorensen, Savage School for Physical Education; Miss Agnese M. Roy,
Albertina Rasch Studios; Mrs. Louise Fokine of the Fokine Ballet School;
and a representative from the Folk Festival Council.

The Park Department Band will render a few selections prior to the
opening dance and at various intervals during the course of the performance.

6/9/39

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

For Release ~~IMMEDIATELY~~

902

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the construction of grade separation structures at Braddock Avenue and at Jamaica Avenue on the Cross Island Parkway section of the Belt Parkway system.

The grade separation structures for Braddock Avenue will be a double span concrete bridge with stone facing and will carry Braddock Avenue traffic over Cross Island Parkway.

At Jamaica Avenue traffic will be carried over the Parkway on a similar structure.

Included in this contract is also the necessary grading and paving to complete the parkway access roads, and service roads in the vicinity of these bridges.

With the letting of this contract the construction of 40 of the 63 bridges required for the construction of the Belt Parkway will be under contract.

The three low bidders were:

National Excavation Corp. 10 East 40 Street, N.Y.C.	\$404,768.00
William P. McDonald Construction Co. Flushing, L. I.	445,247.00
Garafano Construction Co. 420 Lexington Ave., N. Y. C.	458,641.50

June 9, 1939

902

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

For Release_____

IMMEDIATELY

901

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks for the construction of a section of the Belt Parkway between Owl's Head Park and Fort Hamilton.

The work includes the paving of this section of the Parkway, together with the construction of a promenade which will skirt the water front and join the existing promenade at Fort Hamilton to form a continuous waterfront walk from Owl's Head to Dyker Beach Park.

This area has been greatly enlarged by the realignment of the old winding bulkhead wall at the shorefront and the filling in of the reclaimed area under a previous contract.

Two pedestrian bridges will provide access to the promenade over the Parkway and the reclaimed areas not needed for the roadway proper will be developed for playground, recreational and park purposes under future work.

Today's letting is the thirty-third contract to be let for the construction of the Belt Parkway since this project was approved on October 13, 1938. These contracts already let provide for construction along 26 miles of the thirty-mile Belt Parkway.

The three low bidders were:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. B. Tusecamo Contracting Co.
Foot of 24th Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. | \$297,150.84 |
| 2. Highway Improvement and Repair Co.
125 Barclay Street, N. Y. C. | 309,751.60 |
| 3. Ross Galvanizing Works
395 Kent Ave., Brooklyn | 316,998.00 |

June 7, 1939

901

900

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for two more Belt Parkway contracts.

One contract on Shore Parkway provides for the paving of the parkway from its connection with Emmons Avenue through Marine Park to Flatbush Avenue and includes the erection of the superstructure of the Plumb Beach Channel Bridge. The grading of this area together with the work of the construction of the foundations of this bridge was performed under a previous contract. The bridge over Plumb Beach Channel is a three-span plate girder bridge and provides a channel clearance of thirty-five feet above mean high water.

The second contract provides for a grade separation structure on the Cross Island Parkway which will carry parkway traffic under the relocated Winchester Boulevard and also provides for the paving of the latter artery.

To date thirty-two contracts for 65% of the work have been let for the construction of the Belt Parkway for a total of \$16,627,820. since this project was approved on October 13, 1938.

The three low bidders were:

For Paving Shore Parkway from Emmons Avenue to Flatbush Avenue:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mill Basin Asphalt Co.
5410 Avenue U, Brooklyn, N. Y. | \$ 437,833.50 |
| 2. Johnson Drake & Piper
Freeport, L. I. | 441,332.80 |
| 3. Arthur Gallow, Inc.
260 E. 167 Street, N. Y. C. | 469,602.50 |

For Grade Separation at Cross Island Parkway at Winchester Blvd.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Andrew Weston Co., Inc.
Woodmere, L. I. | 222,580.00 |
| 2. The Immick Company, Inc.
50 Church Street, N. Y. C. | 222,840.00 |
| 3. Arthur Gallow, Inc.
260 E. 161 Street, N. Y. C. | 228,218.40 |

June 6, 1939

900

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Heaslip

899
For Release

June 5, 1939

Letters and statements have appeared in the Press since Memorial Day as to the removal of tree guards with memorial tablets from the trees along Eastern Parkway and Prospect Park Plaza.

Directly following the Armistice, there was a pronounced wave of tree dedications in memory of those who had lost their lives in the World War and several thousand of such trees were dedicated in New York City. Bronze plaques on iron guards were the means of marking the veterans' trees. As the trees grew, root action, wind-swaying and other causes forced the guards out of position and, in many cases, either broke them or bent them so that repairs were necessary.

Aside from the high maintenance cost of this type of equipment, the trees, by their natural growth, have now reached the stage where they are distinctly hampered by the limiting size of the guards. It is obvious that when a tree passes 12" in diameter it cannot be enclosed in a 12" square cage. As to affixing plaques to the tree trunks, this is entirely impractical as this would work swift and irreparable injury to the tree as it would form a local spot where infectious diseases would develop. Then too, the increase in the girth of the tree would naturally tear out the supports of the plate.

We have taken up with the veterans' organizations the question of providing a more suitable and more permanent type of memorial for the soldier dead. Granite stones set at the trees' bases with bronze name plates embedded in their tops are the best way that we know of to designate the trees as memorials. One should not lose sight of the fact, however, that a city tree is an impermanent fixture at best as can readily be seen from the tremendous loss of street trees in last September's hurricane. We are now advocating the combining of all the names of a particular group on one bronze tablet to be erected at some suitable central location which can be protected, and I trust that we will be successful with our efforts to have this more permanent form of memorial furnished by the interested veterans' organizations. This type of memorial would be really permanent.

899

898 B

FOR RELEASE:

FRIDAY P.M.-
JUNE 2, 1939
SATURDAY, A.M.-
JUNE 3, 1939

Ceremonies marking the completion of what amounts to a major "face lifting" operation in the Rockaways will be held on Saturday, June 3rd when the reconstructed Cross Bay Parkway approach and Rockaway's new Shorefront Parkway and park are officially opened.

Besides Commissioner Robert Moses who will preside as chairman, the Honorable John J. Halleran, Commissioner of Borough Works, Queens; Honorable Andrew J. Kenny, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Rockaways; Colonel Charles L. Hall, United States District Engineer, New York; Mr. M. J. Madigan, President, Madigan-Hyland, Consulting Engineers and Governor Alfred E. Smith will speak at exercises to be held at noon at the intersection of the new Shorefront Parkway and the Cross Bay Parkway Plaza approach between Beach 94th and Beach 95th Streets.

The Rockaway Improvement project gives the Rockaways a splendid new parkway approach, widened thoroughfares, a traffic separator ending the present bottle-neck congestion at the Rockaway end of the Cross Bay Route, a two mile shorefront parkway and park and play areas paralleling the parkway along the beach front.

The extensive improvements, undertaken by the New York City Parkway Authority, of which Mr. Moses is the sole member, have transformed the old time beach resort of blighted shacks, cheap amusements and limited play space into a modern shorefront playground of the type and character of Jones Beach.

Gone are the catch-penny enterprises that flourished along the boardwalk. In transforming this area in the heart of the Rockaways from a seaside midway into an inviting beach and shorefront park, the many shacks and lean-to structures along the boardwalk and other dilapidated buildings have disappeared. More than 700 buildings were removed to clear the way for the improvements.

The project begins on the southerly edge of Broad Channel where Cross Bay Boulevard meets the new Jamaica Bay viaduct, the new Cross Bay Parkway bridge.

898 B

The new span, a reconstruction of the old viaduct with the addition of a new bridge and roadway on the westerly side provides double the roadway capacity of the old bridge. A new twin lift span with wider roadways replaces the old draw bridge at the Rockaway end of the viaduct, and the traffic separator at Beach Channel Drive on the Rockaway bay shore distributes traffic

in all directions over six ample lanes by a system of overpasses and depressed roadways.

At the Rockaway end of the Cross Bay route a landscaped parkway approach plaza has been constructed between Beach 94th and Beach 95th Streets, leading to the new Shorefront Parkway, the park area, boardwalk and beach.

The Shorefront Parkway, a major and striking improvement in itself extends for nearly two miles between Beach 73rd and Beach 109th Streets and provides two 30-foot roadways for traffic in either direction, separated by landscaped malls twenty foot wide. The twenty foot sidewalk area adjacent to the private property is also planted with shrubs and trees.

The parkway is separated from the boardwalk by park and playground space along its entire length. This play area, 100 feet in width, has promenades along which will be found an adequate number of benches and drinking fountains.

Rockaway visitors who have found the crowded beach unsafe and even impossible for active play will be afforded an opportunity for such play in the play areas in the park and bathers and others who prefer to loll on the beach and sun themselves will not be inconvenienced.

Courts for handball, paddle tennis, shuffleboard and other games will be available in the park area. There will be an asphalt roller-skating rink centrally located in the park and playgrounds for small children, fully equipped with play apparatus such as see-saws, swings, slides, sand boxes, exercise units and play houses.

Attractive park buildings at convenient locations will replace the ill-kept and inadequate comfort stations found hitherto under the boardwalk. These buildings will be accessible from the park, boardwalk or beach and will contain also first aid stations, food bars, supervised as to the cleanliness and quality of the fare served; and beach and umbrella concessions.

At either end of the parkway, Beach 73rd and Beach 109th Streets have each been widened to provide two 40-foot roadways separated by malls.

The Rockaway Improvement, like other recent bridge and parkway projects, has been planned as a self-liquidating venture. It will be paid for in 10 cent tolls by the motorists who use the new and vastly improved causeway.

Moreover, so successful has been the operation of the Marine Parkway Bridge by the New York City Parkway Authority that the toll on this span is to be reduced to \$.10 with the opening on Saturday of the Cross Bay project. Thus, the Rockaway visitors will be able to enter or leave this new shorefront play area by either route.

Soon a new approach parkway from the north will connect with Cross Bay Parkway in Broad Channel, improving its present connection with the Southern

Parkway link of the Belt Parkway system.

In the near future the actual work in the field will start on the elevation of the Long Island Railroad tracks now running at grade through the Rockaways, and choking up traffic at every street crossing. In place of the tracks at street level, we shall have an additional roadway restricted against parking and private access on the old railroad right-of-way. The new elevated structure will eliminate the danger to people and interference with automobile traffic formerly experienced in the Rockaways. Toll collections on the new Cross Bay Parkway Bridge will begin at 2 P.M. on Saturday.

June 1, 1939

FOR RELEASE:

FRIDAY P.M.-
JUNE 2, 1939
SATURDAY, A.M.-
JUNE 3, 1939

Ceremonies marking the completion of what amounts to a major "face lifting" operation in the Rockaways will be held on Saturday, June 3rd when the reconstructed Cross Bay Parkway approach and Rockaway's new Shorefront Parkway and park are officially opened.

Besides Commissioner Robert Moses who will preside as chairman, the Honorable John J. Halleran, Commissioner of Borough Works, Queens; Honorable Andrew J. Kenny, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Rockaways; Colonel Charles L. Hall, United States District Engineer, New York; Mr. M. J. Madigan, President, Madigan-Hyland, Consulting Engineers and Governor Alfred E. Smith will speak at exercises to be held at noon at the intersection of the new Shorefront Parkway and the Cross Bay Parkway Plaza approach between Beach 94th and Beach 95th Streets.

The Rockaway Improvement project gives the Rockaways a splendid new parkway approach, widened thoroughfares, a traffic separator ending the present bottle-neck congestion at the Rockaway end of the Cross Bay Route, a two mile shorefront parkway and park and play areas paralleling the parkway along the beach front.

The extensive improvements, undertaken by the New York City Parkway Authority, of which Mr. Moses is the sole member, have transformed the old time beach resort of blighted shacks, cheap amusements and limited play space into a modern shorefront playground of the type and character of Jones Beach.

Gone are the catch-penny enterprisos that flourished along the boardwalk. In transforming this area in the heart of the Rockaways from a seaside midway into an inviting beach and shorefront park, the many shacks and lean-to structures along the boardwalk and other dilapidated buildings have disappeared. More than 700 buildings were removed to clear the way for the improvements.

The project begins on the southerly edge of Broad Channel where Cross Bay Boulevard meets the new Jamaica Bay viaduct, the new Cross Bay Parkway bridge.

The new span, a reconstruction of the old viaduct with the addition of a new bridge and roadway on the westerly side provides double the roadway capacity of the old bridge. A new twin lift span with wider roadways replaces the old draw bridge at the Rockaway end of the viaduct, and the traffic separator at Beach Channel Drive on the Rockaway bay shore distributes traffic

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in all directions over six ample lanes by a system of overpasses and depressed roadways.

At the Rockaway end of the Cross Bay route a landscaped parkway approach plaza has been constructed between Beach 94th and Beach 95th Streets, leading to the new Shorefront Parkway, the park area, boardwalk and beach.

The Shorefront Parkway, a major and striking improvement in itself extends for nearly two miles between Beach 73rd and Beach 109th Streets and provides two 30-foot roadways for traffic in either direction, separated by landscaped malls twenty feet wide. The twenty foot sidewalk area adjacent to the private property is also planted with shrubs and trees.

The parkway is separated from the boardwalk by park and playground space along its entire length. This play area, 100 feet in width, has promenades along which will be found an adequate number of benches and drinking fountains.

Rockaway visitors who have found the crowded beach unsafe and even impossible for active play will be afforded an opportunity for such play in the play areas in the park and bathers and others who prefer to loll on the beach and sun themselves will not be inconvenienced.

Courts for handball, paddle tennis, shuffleboard and other games will be available in the park area. There will be an asphalt roller-skating rink centrally located in the park and playgrounds for small children, fully equipped with play apparatus such as see-saws, swings, slides, sand boxes, exercise units and play houses.

Attractive park buildings at convenient locations will replace the ill-kept and inadequate comfort stations found hitherto under the boardwalk. These buildings will be accessible from the park, boardwalk or beach and will contain also first aid stations, food bars, supervised as to the cleanliness and quality of the fare served; and beach and umbrella concessions.

At either end of the parkway, Beach 73rd and Beach 109th Streets have each been widened to provide two 40-foot roadways separated by malls.

The Rockaway Improvement, like other recent bridge and parkway projects, has been planned as a self-liquidating venture. It will be paid for in 10 cent tolls by the motorists who use the new and vastly improved causeway.

Moreover, so successful has been the operation of the Marine Parkway Bridge by the New York City Parkway Authority that the toll on this span is to be reduced to \$.10 with the opening on Saturday of the Cross Bay project. Thus, the Rockaway visitors will be able to enter or leave this new shorefront play area by either route.

Soon a new approach parkway from the north will connect with Cross Bay Parkway in Broad Channel, improving its present connection with the Southern

Parkway link of the Belt Parkway system.

In the near future the actual work in the field will start on the elevation of the Long Island Railroad tracks now running at grade through the Rockaways, and choking up traffic at every street crossing. In place of the tracks at street level, we shall have an additional roadway restricted against parking and private access on the old railroad right-of-way. The new elevated structure will eliminate the danger to people and interference with automobile traffic formerly experienced in the Rockaways. Toll collections on the new Cross Bay Parkway Bridge will begin at 2 P.M. on Saturday.

June 1, 1939

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The Department of Parks announces that free public dances will be conducted weekly commencing June 1st at various parks and playgrounds according to the following schedule:

- Mondays Prospect Park, Picnic House Parking Area, 5th Street and Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Jackson Heights Playground, 25th to 30th Avenues at 84th Street, Jackson Heights, Queens
- Tuesdays Mall, Central Park, Manhattan
- Colonial Park, Bradhurst Avenue & West 147th St., N.Y.C.
- Wednesdays La Guardia Playground, South 4th & Havemeyer Streets, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Poe Park, Grand Concourse & East 192nd Street, Bronx
- McDonald Playground, Forest & Myrtle Avenues, Staten Island
- Thursdays Mall, Central Park, Manhattan
- Victory Field, Woodhaven Boulevard & Myrtle Avenue, Queens
- Fridays Roosevelt Playground, Chrystie and Forsythe Streets, Manhattan
- Astoria Pool, 19th Street opposite 23rd Drive, Astoria, L.I.
(Dancing on alternate Fridays beginning June 2nd)

A special program has been arranged for the opening dance on the Mall on Thursday, June 1st. Mark Warnow and Sammy Kaye will be guest conductors.

Music for the dances will be provided by the WPA Federal Music Project. All dances will begin at 8:00 P.M. and end at 10:30 P.M.

Some of the rules governing the conduct of the dances are: gentlemen are requested to wear jackets and remove hats while on the dance floor; two ladies are not permitted to dance together and 'cutting in' is not allowed; no smoking is permitted on the dance area.

May 31, 1939

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Mr. Heaslip

For Release
Monday
May 29, 1939

The Department of Parks announces that well rounded programs have been prepared for the boys and girls of Park Department Playgrounds in commemoration of Memorial Day, Tuesday, May 30th at 2:00 P.M.

Patriotism will be stressed in the form of flag raising ceremonies, singing of national anthem, and discourses by leading local citizens on the significance of this day in the calendar of American Holidays.

Many of the programs will feature athletic meets which will include dashes, high jumping, broad jumping and novelty events such as egg and spoon race, potato race, three legged race and wheelbarrow race; also recitations and dance festivals comprising popular children's dances viz., Virginia Reel, Carousel, Hansel and Gretel and children's polka.

Where the facilities permit, softball games and roller skating races will be included in the playground schedule of Decoration Day activities.

Some of the recreational areas at which the celebrations will take place are as follows:

Manhattan	Heckscher Playground, Central Park, St. Catherine's Playground, Seward Park, Tompkins Square Park, Kelly Playground, and Columbus Playground.
Brooklyn	Stillwell and Avenue U Playground, Seaside Park Playground, Neptune Ave. and West 25th Street Playground, Ave. L and East 17th Street Playground and La Guardia Plgd.
Queens	Jackson Heights Playground, Von Dohlen Playground, Highland Upper Playground, Liberty Park Playground and Corona 111th Street Playground.
Richmond	Crescent Ave. Playground, Schmul Park Playground, and Lincoln Ave. Playground.
Bronx	Williamsbridge, Mullaly, and Crotona East Playgrounds.

May 27, 1939

896

Mr. Haslip
For Release MAY 28, 1939

895

The Department of Parks announces that the first Naumberg Concert in a series of four for the 1939 season will be given on Decoration Day, Tuesday, May 30th, at 8:15 P. M. on the Mall, Central Park.

The music will be rendered by the Naumberg Orchestra with Jaffrey Harris conducting and Germaine Bruyere as soprano soloist.

Included in the program will be well known selections by Liszt, Verdi, Beethoven, Tschaikowsky and Wagner.

The other Naumberg concerts will take place on the Mall, Central Park, at 8:15 P. M. on July 4th, July 31st and September 4th.

May 26, 1939

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Mr. Henslip

For Release IMMEDIATELY

On Saturday, May 27, the Department of Parks will conduct exercises officially opening the 23 Street and Avenue A outdoor swimming pool in Manhattan; and in Brooklyn, Mount Prospect Park on the site of the old Mount Prospect Reservoir adjacent to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden; and the Marine Park recreation area north of Avenue U. At this latter location, a plaque will be unveiled in honor of Frederick B. Pratt and Alfred T. White who assembled and donated land for the development of Marine Park.

At 23 Street and Avenue A, Mrs. Grace Tenny of the Goddard House, Father Joseph Larsen of the Carmelite Church and Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Mayor of the City of New York, will participate in the ceremonies with Robert Moses, Commissioner of the Department of Parks, presiding. Aquatic sports will follow the speakers. The ceremonies start at 10:30 A.M. Here the old bath building inherited from the Borough President of Manhattan as a result of the new City Charter has been completely renovated. To augment the inadequate indoor facilities, outdoor swimming and diving pools have been added. Immediately adjacent to the north, a new playground for children is being built.

At Mount Prospect Park, the exercises will start at 12:00 Noon and besides Commissioner Moses and the Mayor, Honorable Joseph Goodman, Commissioner of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, and Honorable Raymond V. Ingersoll, President of the Borough of Brooklyn will speak. This area, formerly the site of the old Mount Prospect Reservoir and bordered by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Science and the new Brooklyn Central Library, has been completely developed as a park including a small children's playground. These exercises will also mark the completion of the new laboratory building for the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity and the adjacent playground for the Park Department.

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At Marine Park, north of Avenue U, the exercises will start at 2:30 P.M. and the speakers will be Joseph B. Milgram, Chairman of the Pratt-White Memorial Committee, Senatory William M. Calder, Honorable Raymond V. Ingersoll and Mayor La Guardia. Commissioner Moses will preside. After the speeches, Mr. Charles Pratt, a son of Frederick B. Pratt, will unveil the memorial plaque. Here the exercises mark the completion of a large modern recreation area in a rapidly growing community. The improvement includes playgrounds for children of all ages, and tennis, handball, croquet, horseshoe, basketball courts and bicycle track, as well as baseball and football fields for adults.

During the various ceremonies, Commissioner Moses will announce the completion of work on several other projects in Brooklyn and Manhattan, all of which were planned by the Park Department and constructed by the Works Progress Administration.

May 26, 1939

P R O G R A M

OPENING OF MT. PROSPECT PARK

May 27, 1939

12 Noon

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Band Selections

Honorable Robert Moses, Commissioner, Department of Parks
- Chairman

Honorable Joseph Goodman, Commissioner, Department of
Water Supply, Gas and Electricity

Honorable Raymond V. Ingersoll, President, Borough of
Brooklyn

Honorable Fiorello H. La Guardia
Mayor of the City of New York

National Anthem

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P R O G R A M

OPENING OF MARINE PARK PLAYGROUND
AND
UNVEILING OF PRATT-WHITE MEMORIAL
PLAQUE

May 27, 1939

2:30 P.M.

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Band Selections

Honorable Robert Moses, Commissioner, Department of Parks
- Chairman

Joseph B. Milgram, Chairman, Pratt White Memorial Committee

Senator William M. Calder

Honorable Raymond V. Ingersoll, President, Borough of
Brooklyn

Honorable Fiorello H. La Guardia
Mayor of the City of New York.

Unveiling of Plaque by Mr. Charles Pratt

Call to Colors and Raising of Flag

National Anthem

894A

Two contracts were added to the construction schedule of the Belt Parkway today when bids were opened by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the construction of a viaduct from Stillwell Avenue to Shell Road, and for the grading and paving of Shore and Southern Parkways from Pennsylvania Avenue to Baisley Boulevard.

The viaduct which crosses over the right of way and tracks of the Sea Beach Line and the West End Line, and under the B. M. T. elevated structure at Shell Road, is approximately 2740 feet long. The roadway slabs will be carried on a steel superstructure supported by steel columns, which in turn will be supported on steel pipe piles.

The paving contract will add another $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of completed paving on the Belt Parkway.

To date, thirty contracts have been let for the construction of the Belt Parkway, since this project was approved on October 13, 1938. These contracts provide for the grading of 28 miles of the 32-mile parkway, for the completed paving along 23 miles of its length, and for the construction of 37 of the 63 bridges required.

The three low bidders were:

Viaduct - Stillwell Avenue to Shell Road

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. P. T. Cox Construction Co., Inc.
154 Nassau Street, New York City | \$1,051,224.00 |
| 2. Frederick Share Corporation
114 Liberty Street, New York City | 1,054,792.00 |
| 3. Garafano Construction Co., Inc.
420 Lexington Avenue, New York City | 1,060,660.00 |

Paving Pennsylvania Avenue to Baisloy Boulevard

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Garafano Construction Co., Inc.
420 Lexington Avenue, New York City | \$847,015.00 |
| 2. Petracca & Banko
6919 Queens Boulevard
Winfield, Long Island | 849,735.00 |
| 3. Andrew Weston Co.
Woodmere, Long Island | 871,250.00 |

MAY 26, 1939

For Release May 26, 1939

892

The Department of Parks announces that the annual athletic meet for boys and girls of Park Department playgrounds in the Borough of Manhattan will take place at 74th Street and Riverside Drive, New York City, Saturday, May 27th, at 2:00 P. M.

For the past three weeks, each playground held preliminary contests and practice sessions in preparation for this borough-wide meet which will include 18 track and field events.

Approximately 400 boys and girls of various classifications, ranging from the 85 lb. class to the unlimited class, have submitted their entries.

All competitors have been thoroughly trained by the directors of their respective playgrounds in the fine points of dashing, baton passing, broad jumping and high jumping.

The five who qualify in the finals of each event on Saturday will represent the Borough of Manhattan in the inter-borough track and field championships on Saturday, June 17th, at Red Hook Stadium, located at Henry Street and Gowanus Bay, Brooklyn, at which the winners of the other borough track meets will compete for city-wide honors.

Athletic meets are scheduled to take place in the remaining four boroughs on the following dates:

Bronx - May 27th - 10:30 A.M. - Macombs Dam Park, 162nd Street and River Avenue

Queens - June 3rd - 1:00 P. M. - Victory Field, Woodhaven Boulevard and Myrtle Avenue

Brooklyn - June 3rd - 1:30 P. M. - Red Hook Stadium, Henry Street and Gowanus Bay

Richmond - June 10th - 1:00 P. M. - Clove Lakes, Clove Road and Victory Boulevard

May 25, 1939

892

The Department of Parks announces the reopening of twelve outdoor swimming pools and the Floating Baths on Saturday, May 27th at 10 A.M. They are located as follows:

Manhattan:	Hamilton Fish Thomas Jefferson Colonial Highbridge Floating Baths	E. Houston & Sheriff Streets 111th to 114th St. and First Avenue Bradhurst Ave. W. 145th to 147th Streets Amsterdam Ave. & 173rd Street 93rd Street and Hudson River
Brooklyn:	McCarren Sunset Red Hook Betsy Head	Nassau Ave. & Lorimer Street 7th Ave. & 43rd Street Clinton, Bay and Henry Streets Hopkinson, Dumont and Livonia Avenues
Bronx:	Crotona	173rd Street and Fulton Avenue
Queens	Astoria	Barclay Street and 24th Avenue
Richmond	Faber	Faber St. bet. Richmond Terrace & Kill Van Kull
	Tompkinsville	Arrietta Street at Pier No. 6

During the Fall, Winter and Spring these pools have been operated as free play centers. Various facilities, such as hand ball, volley ball, paddle tennis and so forth were provided and used by approximately 1,020,000 children and adults. On April 16th they were closed as play centers and the areas cleaned, painted and put in readiness for the coming season.

From May 27th to June 24th, the pools will open at 10 A.M. and close at 6 P.M. From June 24th until the termination of the season, they will open at 10 A.M. and close at 10 P.M. When the heat is oppressive, the pools will remain open later than 10 P.M., and if the evening hours are cold, or if there is rain, they will close at an earlier hour depending upon the amount of patronage.

On week days from 10 A.M. to 12:30 Noon, there will be a free period for children under fourteen years of age, during which hours, no adults will be admitted to the pool areas. After 1 P.M. on week days and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, there is a 10¢ charge for children under fourteen

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years of age and a 20¢ charge for older children and adults.

Group swimming and diving instructions, intra-pool contests, water shows, water polo tournaments, life saving and first aid classes will be part of the aquatic program.

The new modern bath house at Betsy Head, which was built to replace the old bath house which was burnt in 1937, will open to the public with locker accommodations for 5,500 patrons.

A new outdoor pool, which has been constructed at 23rd Street and Avenue A will open for the first time on Saturday morning with formal exercises at 10:30 A.M. The same aquatic programs will take place at this new pool as will take place in the other pools.

Orchard Beach, located in Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx, Jacob Riis Park and Rockaway Beach in the Rockaway Peninsula, Queens, Coney Island in Brooklyn and South Beach in Staten Island will also open on Saturday, May 27th. There are bath house accommodations at Jacob Riis Park, Orchard Beach and Coney Island. At Jacob Riis Park there will be accommodations for 14,000 cars and bath house accommodations for 10,000 patrons. At Orchard Beach there are accommodations for 6000 cars and the bath house will accommodate 6000 patrons. The bath house at Coney Island will accommodate 10,000 patrons. At Jacob Riis Park and Orchard Beach there will be a 25¢ parking fee for automobiles.

The bath house fees at all locations are: 15¢ for child lockers and 25¢ for adult lockers. At Jacob Riis Park and Orchard Beach 50¢ per person for a dressing room.

Recreation areas will be available to the public at Jacob Riis Park, Orchard Beach and Coney Island which will provide shuffle Board, paddle tennis and hand ball. The charge for the use of these facilities will be 10¢ per person, per half hour. Besides these games areas, at Jacob Riis Park there is also an 18-hole pitch and putt golf course. A charge of 50¢ is made for each round of golf played, which includes golf clubs and balls. Beach chairs and umbrellas may be rented at Orchard Beach and Jacob Riis Park at a nominal charge. Beach shops are provided where bathing accessories may be purchased.

Immediately

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

May 24, 1939

For Release

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Hon. Fiorello H. La Guardia
Mayor of The City of New York
Summer City Hall
World's Fair, N. Y.

890

Dear Sir:

We have made a careful study of the Council's action last Saturday by which the Park Department's budget for 1939-1940 was reduced \$285,561. Before taking action on the Council's resolution you should be apprized of the disastrous effect this reduction in funds will have on the City's expanded park system. You will have in mind that the park facilities were increased 35 percent in the last year, and that an increase of only 6 percent was allowed in the budget as submitted to the Council.

The report of the Council's Committee on Finance, headed by Councilman Kinsley, was arbitrary and represented ignorance of the requirements of the public and the department. In some details it was grossly inaccurate. If the budget, as adopted by the Council should stand, the expanded park system of the City will deteriorate rapidly. Even without the reduction made by the Council we will have difficulty in maintaining reasonable standards of maintenance, service and protection to the public. With this further reduction there is not the slightest question that new and old facilities not only cannot be operated creditably, but that the parks will not be safe for women and children seeking recreation.

Dealing with individual items more specifically, the Council cut out 20 additional Climbers and Pruners allowed in the Board of Estimate budget. This means that we will lose at least 5,000 street trees alone during the coming year. The loss of trees in parks will be comparable.

The Council cut the appropriation for Laborers \$56,661., which means a loss of \$33.00 per year for each Laborer now working in the department. The Park Laborers are now underpaid. They are the only uniformed force which does not have annual salaries, sick leave and other benefits. Aside from this human factor, the effect of this cut is to reduce the department's available labor by 10,300 man days. This means that 30 playgrounds will be unattended for more than half the time during the next year.

The Council reduced the item for permanent Assistant Gardeners so that all Assistant Gardeners now in the department will suffer a pay cut of \$110.00 per year. The actual loss in labor to the department will be about 8,000 man days. This is equivalent to the work required to keep 80 baseball diamonds in first class condition for a season.

In the appropriation for temporary Assistant Gardeners the Council cut out half of the 200 new positions provided for the care of 50 new playgrounds, 3,702 acres of park development, and 15 miles of parkways, all made available to the public since the adoption of the last budget. This cut means that we will be unable to take care of landscaping on the Hutchinson River, Henry Hudson, Whitestone, and Shore Parkways, and the shore front parkway in Rockaway. This landscaping cost \$150,000. and will be largely lost inside of a year unless it is properly taken care of.

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May 24, 1939

The allowance of additional Carpenters, Housesmiths, and Plumbers, was slashed by over 50 percent, without considering the fact that the department's mechanical repairs are far behind schedule already. Without these additional mechanics we will be forced to close recreation buildings and comfort stations for lack of repairs of all kinds.

The Council's reduction of \$5,000. for Assistant Gardeners for golf courses means that two courses will not have the additional two Assistant Gardeners each allowed in the Board of Estimate budget. This means that these two courses cannot be kept up to a reasonable standard, and it may even mean the loss of portions of the playing areas, just as we lost all the greens on the Clearview Course last year for lack of adequate care. The Council did not take into consideration the fact that the golf fees have been revised to provide additional revenue to cover the cost of these additional men.

The Council's cut of \$5,000. in the code for Contingencies means that we will be able to uniform only half of the personnel on the Rockaway, Coney Island and South Beaches. We modified the budget this year so as to employ the lowest paid available labor on the beaches with the understanding that we would furnish uniforms for this personnel.

The Council's reduction of \$12,000. for supplies and equipment for revenue producing facilities means that we will be unable to provide equipment for the new games areas at Coney Island and Rockaway Beaches; for the new outdoor swimming pools at East 23rd, Carmine, and West 60th Streets in Manhattan; and for the new bathhouse in Betsy Head Park. The games areas cannot be operated without equipment. The swimming pools and the bathhouse can be opened to operation, but they cannot be operated with reasonable safety; and if we proceed without this equipment, you can expect that the City will be the defendant in an increased number of damage suits. This money was also intended to provide umbrellas and chairs for rental in the new Rockaway Beach development. This is a facility which always returns a profit to the City treasury.

Such arbitrary action obviously springs from the cheapest political motives, and has no place in an honest City administration. Unless you veto the Council's action on the Park budget, you must expect a deteriorated park system, a dissatisfied public, and a collapse of the morale of the employees of one of the major City departments. I assume, of course, that you will veto these cuts and that they will not be passed over your veto.

Very truly yours,



Commissioner

5/24/39

"LEARN TO SWIM" CAMPAIGN

The Department of Parks announces that the second annual "Learn to Swim" Campaign will commence in all Park Department swimming pools on Monday, June 5th, and continue through Saturday, June 24th.

Various civic, health and recreational agencies including the Board of Education have been requested to cooperate in this intensive drive to teach as many as possible how to swim by conducting similar campaigns in their own pools during the period June 5th - June 24th.

According to available statistics, about 6000 persons are drowned each year in the United States and approximately 339 in New York City. Drownings occupy the very prominent position of third place in the accidental death toll of the nation.

During July and August when the peak of the swimming season is reached, drownings and deaths resulting from automobile accidents are about on a par in the number of fatalities due to accidental means. It has been estimated that 50% of the drownings occur in rivers and an equal percentage of all drowning victims were unable to swim.

Furthermore, a survey by the United States Department of Commerce of the accidental deaths in the United States by age groups reveals that drowning victims are found most frequently among boys and girls of the secondary school age, i. e., between 12 and 19 years old.

In view of the widespread anxiety on the part of all age groups to learn how to swim as evidenced by last year's response to the "Learn to Swim" Campaign and the consistently high correlation between drowning and inability to swim, the Park Department decided that free swimming instructions would be given at the various outdoor pools under its jurisdiction during the period of the "Learn to Swim" Campaign.

With the launching of this "Learn to Swim" crusade, it is anticipated that a marked decrease in drownings will be realized as well as an improvement in City Health, Happiness and General Welfare.

The list of Park Department outdoor swimming pools which will be available for the people of New York City during the "Learn to Swim" Campaign is as follows:

<u>Manhattan</u>	Hamilton Fish Pool	East Houston & Sheriff Streets
	Colonial Pool	Bradhurst Ave., W. 145-147 Streets
	Highbridge Pool	Amsterdam Ave. & W. 173 Street
	Thomas Jefferson Pool	111-114 Streets and 1st Avenue
	23rd Street Pool	23rd Street and Avenue A
	Floating Pool	93rd Street and Riverside Drive

<u>Brooklyn</u>	Sunset Pool	7th Avenue & 43rd Street
	McCarren Pool	Nassau Ave. & Lorimer Street
	Red Hook Pool	Clinton, Bay and Henry Streets
	Betsy Head Pool	Hopkinson, Dumont & Livonia Avenues
<u>Bronx</u>	Crotona Pool	173 Street & Fulton Avenue
<u>Queens</u>	Astoria Pool	Barclay Street and 24th Drive
<u>Richmond</u>	Faber Pool	Faber Street, between Richmond Terrace & Kill Van Kull
	Tompkinsville Pool	Arrietta Street at Pier #6

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

Children	10:30 - 11:30 A. M. Daily
Children	2:00 - 3:00 P. M. Daily
Adults	5:00 - 6:00 P. M. Daily

It is expected that reconstruction at the following Park Department indoor pools in Manhattan will be sufficiently completed to have them open during the "Learn to Swim" period.

<u>Manhattan</u>	409 West 28th Street
	35 West 134th Street
	23rd Street and Avenue A
	232 West 60th Street

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

Children	2:00 - 4:00 P. M. Daily
Adults	7:30 - 8:30 P. M. Daily

Admission to the indoor pools is free at all times. Admission to the outdoor pools is free for children 14 years of age and under every week day, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excluded, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 12:30 P. M. Adults are not permitted in the pools during the children's free morning period. An admission fee of 20¢ is charged for adults in the outdoor pools. There is no extra charge for instruction.

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	Betsy Head Pool	Hopkinson, Dumont & Livonia Avenues
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<u>Queens</u>	Astoria Pool	Barclay Street and 24th Drive
<u>Richmond</u>	Faber Pool	Faber Street, between Richmond Terrace & Kill Van Kull
	Tompkinsville Pool	Arrietta Street at Pier #6

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Children	2:00 - 3:00 P. M. Daily
Adults	5:00 - 6:00 P. M. Daily

It is expected that reconstruction at the following Park Department indoor pools in Manhattan will be sufficiently completed to have them open during the "Learn to Swim" period.

<u>Manhattan</u>	409 West 28th Street
	35 West 134th Street
	23rd Street and Avenue A
	232 West 60th Street

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

Children	2:00 - 4:00 P. M. Daily
Adults	7:30 - 8:30 P. M. Daily

Admission to the indoor pools is free at all times. Admission to the outdoor pools is free for children 14 years of age and under every week day, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excluded, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 12:30 P. M. Adults are not permitted in the pools during the children's free morning period. An admission fee of 20¢ is charged for adults in the outdoor pools. There is no extra charge for instruction.

"LEARN TO SWIM" CAMPAIGN

The Department of Parks announces that the second annual "Learn to Swim" Campaign will commence in all Park Department swimming pools on Monday, June 5th, and continue through Saturday, June 24th.

Various civic, health and recreational agencies including the Board of Education have been requested to cooperate in this intensive drive to teach as many as possible how to swim by conducting similar campaigns in their own pools during the period June 5th - June 24th.

According to available statistics, about 6000 persons are drowned each year in the United States and approximately 339 in New York City. Drownings occupy the very prominent position of third place in the accidental death toll of the nation.

During July and August when the peak of the swimming season is reached, drownings and deaths resulting from automobile accidents are about on a par in the number of fatalities due to accidental means. It has been estimated that 50% of the drownings occur in rivers and an equal percentage of all drowning victims were unable to swim.

Furthermore, a survey by the United States Department of Commerce of the accidental deaths in the United States by age groups reveals that drowning victims are found most frequently among boys and girls of the secondary school age, i. e., between 12 and 19 years old.

In view of the widespread anxiety on the part of all age groups to learn how to swim as evidenced by last year's response to the "Learn to Swim" Campaign and the consistently high correlation between drowning and inability to swim, the Park Department decided that free swimming instructions would be given at the various outdoor pools under its jurisdiction during the period of the "Learn to Swim" Campaign.

With the launching of this "Learn to Swim" crusade, it is anticipated that a marked decrease in drownings will be realized as well as an improvement in City Health, Happiness and General Welfare.

The list of Park Department outdoor swimming pools which will be available for the people of New York City during the "Learn to Swim" Campaign is as follows:

<u>Manhattan</u>	Hamilton Fish Pool	East Houston & Sheriff Streets
	Colonial Pool	Bradhurst Ave., W. 145-147 Streets
	Highbridge Pool	Amsterdam Ave. & W. 173 Street
	Thomas Jefferson Pool	111-114 Streets and 1st Avenue
	23rd Street Pool	23rd Street and Avenue A
	Floating Pool	93rd Street and Riverside Drive

<u>Brooklyn</u>	Sunset Pool	7th Avenue & 43rd Street
	McCarren Pool	Nassau Ave. & Lorimer Street
	Red Hook Pool	Clinton, Bay and Henry Streets
	Betsy Head Pool	Hopkinson, Dumont & Livonia Avenues
<u>Bronx</u>	Crotona Pool	173 Street & Fulton Avenue
<u>Queens</u>	Astoria Pool	Barclay Street and 24th Drive
<u>Richmond</u>	Faber Pool	Faber Street, between Richmond Terrace & Kill Van Kull
	Tompkinsville Pool	Arrietta Street at Pier #6

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

Children	10:30 - 11:30 A. M. Daily
Children	2:00 - 3:00 P. M. Daily
Adults	5:00 - 6:00 P. M. Daily

It is expected that reconstruction at the following Park Department indoor pools in Manhattan will be sufficiently completed to have them open during the "Learn to Swim" period.

<u>Manhattan</u>	409 West 28th Street
	35 West 134th Street
	23rd Street and Avenue A
	232 West 60th Street

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

Children	2:00 - 4:00 P. M. Daily
Adults	7:30 - 8:30 P. M. Daily

Admission to the indoor pools is free at all times. Admission to the outdoor pools is free for children 14 years of age and under every week day, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excluded, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 12:30 P. M. Adults are not permitted in the pools during the children's free morning period. An admission fee of 20¢ is charged for adults in the outdoor pools. There is no extra charge for instruction.

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February - May 23-
For Release IMMEDIATELY

The Department of Parks announces that the city-wide finals of the marble contest for boys and girls up to twelve years of age will be held at Heckscher Playground on Thursday, May 25 at 4:00 P.M.

Playground and district finals were held prior to the borough eliminations at which the five best players were selected to represent the borough at the city-wide finals on Thursday.

Medals will be awarded to the winners of the finals.

In case of rain the contest will be held at the same time on Friday, May 26.

May 23, 1939

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May 23, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Library

886

Friday,
May 19, 1939

For Release

On Saturday, May 20, 1939, at 1:30 P.M., the Department of Parks will conduct Model Sail and Motor Boat Races at Conservatory Lake, 72nd Street and 5th Avenue, Central Park, Manhattan.

Any boy or girl eighteen years of age or younger may enter a sail or motor boat in any of the following classes, provided he owns the boat and sails it himself.

SAIL BOATS

- Class (a) from 12" - 18"
(b) " 18" - 25"
(c) " 25" - 32"
(d) " 32" - 40"
(e) " 40" - 50"
(f) Constructed models to 30"

MOTOR BOATS

- Class (g) Electric and spring
powered
(h) Steam and gasoline
driven

Note: All boats to be measured for overall length from stern to bow, but not including bowsprit.

A contestant may enter Class (f) in addition to the other classes if his boat is a home built model.

Boats are to sail along a pre-determined course and instructions will be given to contestants on the day of the races. Contestants must apply at the judges' booth not later than 12 noon on Saturday for measuring in of boats and assigning of race numbers.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the winners of each event.

Each of the boroughs mentioned below will hold similar model yacht and motor boat races according to the following schedule:

May 20 - Bronx: Crotona Park Lake - 2:00 P.M.

May 20 - Brooklyn: Prospect Park Lake - 2:00 P.M.

June 3 - Richmond: Martlings Pond - Clove Lakes - 2:00 P.M.

Entry blanks for the above events may be secured from the respective Borough Directors whose addresses are as follows:

Manhattan Mr. Kenneth Franklin - Arsenal Building, Central Park,
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886
May 18, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Friday,
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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
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FOR RELEASE
May 19, 1939

Library

For Release

The Department of Parks announces that the second amateur photographic contest depicting "YOUTH AND AGE IN OUR CITY PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS" will begin on May 20th and will end on September 20th, 1939.

All pictures submitted by the contestants must represent scenes in parks, parkways, pools, beaches and playgrounds under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks during the year 1939.

The initial amateur photography contest conducted by the Park Department last year indicated such widespread interest on the part of both children and adults that it was decided to classify the entrants according to the following age groups:

Class A - Children up to 14 years of age

Class B - Children between 15 and 18 years of age

Class C - Persons over 18 years of age

Rules governing the contest are:

1. All pictures must be 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" prints and mounted on stiff paper or cardboard.
2. The name, address and age group of the contestant should be clearly written on the reverse side of each picture.
3. The Department of Parks shall have the right to reproduce any picture submitted for park purposes.
4. Negatives must be available upon request.
5. Contestants may submit no more than five pictures.
6. Pictures may show spring, summer, fall or winter activities.
7. The decision of the judges shall be final in all cases.
8. Prizes will be awarded to the three contestants in each age group who submit the best pictures. No competitor is eligible to win more than one prize.

Grand prizes have been donated by R.H. Macy & Co., Abe Cohen's Exchange, Inc., Willoughby's and the Park Association of New York City, Inc.

Those desirous of entering the contest are requested to submit photographs between May 20th and September 20th. The names and addresses of the various borough directors who will receive photographs are:

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The initial amateur photography contest conducted by the Park Department last year indicated such widespread interest on the part of both children and adults that it was decided to classify the entrants according to the following age groups:

Class A - Children up to 14 years of age

Class B - Children between 15 and 18 years of age

Class C - Persons over 18 years of age

Rules governing the contest are:

1. All pictures must be 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" prints and mounted on stiff paper or cardboard.
2. The name, address and age group of the contestant should be clearly written on the reverse side of each picture.
3. The Department of Parks shall have the right to reproduce any picture submitted for park purposes.
4. Negatives must be available upon request.
5. Contestants may submit no more than five pictures.
6. Pictures may show spring, summer, fall or winter activities.
7. The decision of the judges shall be final in all cases.
8. Prizes will be awarded to the three contestants in each age group who submit the best pictures. No competitor is eligible to win more than one prize.

Grand prizes have been donated by R.H. Macy & Co., Abe Cohen's Exchange, Inc., Willoughby's and the Park Association of New York City, Inc.

Those desirous of entering the contest are requested to submit photographs between May 20th and September 20th. The names and addresses of the various borough directors who will receive photographs are:

Manhattan	- Mr. Kenneth S. Franklin	- Arsenal Building, Central Park 64 St and Fifth Avenue, New York City
Brooklyn	- Mr. Richard C. Jenkins	- Litchfield Mansion, 5th Street and Prospect Park West, Brooklyn
Queens	- Mr. Philip J. Cruise	- Overlook, Forest Park, Kew Gardens, Queens
Bronx	- Mr. George Quigley	- Administration Building, Bronx Park East and Birchall Avenue, Bronx
Richmond	- Mr. James Mallen	- Clove Lakes, New Brighton, Richmond

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE
May 19, 1939

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Richmond	- Mr. James Mallen	- Clove Lakes, New Brighton, Richmond

Mrs. Herslip

MONDAY,
MAY 15, 1939

884

Thoughtful and far-sighted civic planning has ensured for New York City a rich heritage after the great World's Fair has passed into history. Within a very short time after the last Fair rocket has flared in the sky and the echo of the barker has faded on the wind, a splendid 1200 acre public park, accessible from all parts of the city by unsurpassed transit facilities and a system of parkways and boulevards, will have emerged.

More than that, an extensive area of Queens Borough surrounding the park will have been saved from haphazard development which in years past has resulted in the slow creation of blighted areas, and instead will make a large and desirable section of the borough available for residential development. To this purpose, Flushing Meadow Park, is a major contributing factor.

The story of the efforts and agencies that have made this happy heritage possible is told in salient detail by the men who directed this outstanding example of long-range civic planning in the final edition of "The Flushing Meadow Improvement," the official publication of the City and State officials in charge of basic improvements in Flushing Meadow Park as well as with the preparation of the park site for the World's Fair.

This publication, issued periodically during the progress of the basic improvements which converted a malodorous dump area into a glorious World's Fair with, ultimately, a completed metamorphosis in the form of a great park and recreational center, is compiled under the direction of Park Commissioner Robert Moses and a coordinating committee.

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The committee, comprising the men who have worked with Commissioner Moses in effecting the wholesome transformation of this great Queens area includes Allyn R. Jennings, General Superintendent of Park Department, chairman; James A. Dawson, Park Director in Charge of Design; Major Irving V. A. Huie, Commissioner of Public Works; James F. Evans, Director of State Parks; Joseph J. Darcy, District Engineer of the State Department of Public Works; Arthur E. Howland, Chief Engineer of the Long Island State Park Commission; Charles U. Powell, Chief Engineer of the Queens Topographical Bureau; George E. Spargo, Executive Officer and Harry Sweeny, Park Director, of the Park Department.

The opening article, signed by Commissioner Moses, reviews the basic improvement work and contains some of the material used by Mr. Moses in an article on the subject which appeared some time ago in the Saturday Evening Post under the title "From Dump to Glory."

"Other expositions in this country have left permanent civic improvements behind them. It has been the rule to dredge waterways, fill in swamps and reclaim land for future park use as well as for the Fair itself," writes Mr. Moses. Municipal parks have usually been the residuary legatees."

"What distinguishes the Flushing Meadow reclamation for the New York World's Fair of 1939 from its predecessors, Mr. Moses adds, "is not only the huge scale of operations but the fact that the entire permanent civic improvement has been planned in advance, written into law and cemented by a binding contract.

"There will be nothing to fight about when the Fair is over. There will be no squabbles about obligations of the Fair to the city no questions as to what the city will inherit and no arguments as to what is temporary and what is permanent. In this respect we have taken the lessons of other American fairs to heart."

(3)

The bill for the permanent City and State improvement program, serving not alone the Fair, but the future park and including the closely related improvements affecting the entire area surrounding the Fair, will come to \$59,000,000.

The Committee on Basic Improvements estimates that the cost of converting the Fair grounds into a park will be approximately \$5,500,000 of which \$4,000,000 will be required in 1940.

Under the law, and the contracts binding the City and the Fair Corporation, net revenues of the Fair, after payment of bonds and other liabilities, are to be distributed as follows: the first \$2,000,000 is allotted to the Park Department for the development of Flushing Meadow Park, after which \$1,700,000 is to be used to reimburse the city for the extension of the city's subway system from Queens boulevard to a Fair terminal in World's Fair Boulevard.

The next \$4,000,000 or any part thereof is to be divided equally between the State and the City, with the city's share to be devoted to the development of the park.

The remainder of the Fair's revenues is destined to go to charitable institutions.

While a conservative estimate based on attendance surveys indicates that 1939 revenues will in all likelihood be sufficient to carry out this program including something for charitable purposes, a second Summer's operation of the Fair in 1940 would almost certainly bring about the result.

There is ample evidence in the rapid rate of growth in Queens that the great park planned for the Flushing meadows will be required with all of its facilities to meet the normal recreation needs of the surrounding Queens communities, as soon after the Fair as it can be developed.

Since the removal of the Corona dump the population in the Flushing-Corona-Kew Gardens areas bordering on the Fair site has increased 25 per cent.

With the protective zoning features surrounding park and parkway development the area for a considerable distance round the 1200 acre park, traversed by landscaped parkways and served by landscaped parkways and served by excellent rapid transit facilities will be ideal for residential development.

With the rapid and sustained increase in population in Queens, particularly in the Flushing and Jamaica areas, little or no vacant land would soon have been available for adequate park purposes.

The plan for the park has been prepared with every effort to locate its recreational facilities at points where they will serve the the greatest number of people.

Aside from its primary purpose in serving a large and growing section of Queens, this great park, larger than Central Park in Manhattan, is so well served by transit of all sorts, as well as by parkways and highways, that it is accessible within thirty minutes ride of any point within a ten mile radius.

Everything that a great city park can and should be has been the objective of the planners of Flushing Meadow park. In its broad acres there will be provision for both active and passive recreation. There will be pleasant gardens and promenades, formal park development for rest and peacefulness. There will be woodland areas of less formal development, and bird sanctuaries.

In addition, there will be tree-bordered open meadows for pageants and festivals, childrens gardens where children may plant, cultivate, and harvest flowers and garden produce under the guidance of competent instructors.

There will be playgrounds at points convenient to residential areas for children of all age groups. There will be ample

(5)

facilities for all active sports, tennis, baseball, football, golf, archery, la crosse, hockey, roller-skating, ice-skating in the Winter, six miles of bicycle paths, five miles of bridle path,s Picnic grounds will be provided bordering Meadow Lake. Facilities will be provided for model yacht racing.

In addition to the wide variety and number of play facilities, throughout the extensive park area, pageants, water operas such as have become popular at Jones Beach, musical shows, band concerts and spectacles can be staged in the 12,000 seat Amphitheatre on Meadow Lake, erected by the State for the Fair but constructed as a permanent improvement for the park.

The New York City Building which houses the city's own exhibits at the Fair, will be an outstanding feature of the park. This handsome, fire-proof, air-conditioned permanent structure covering two and a half acres will be converted into a great indoor recreation center. Half of the main floor space, 180 x 116, has been constructed to provide for ice-skating or ice-hockey. Provision is also made for indoor baseball, gymnastics exhibitions, theatrical presentations, basketball, regulation tennis, badminton, shuffle-board. Track events and roller-skating rink facilities will also be available in the building.

This latest and last of The Flushing Meadow Improvement booklets tells the sorty of what the city will get after the Fair is over and just what everything costs. It is an informative and inspiring story of progressive planning for the future.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release

May 13th

883

1939

The work on the erection of the famous Vanderbilt Gates at the entrance to the Conservatory Gardens in Central Park at 105th Street and Fifth Avenue was completed today.

The gates, 16 feet high and 15 feet wide, and fence 9 feet high, were fabricated in Paris of wrought iron with scroll work and ornamentations of cast bronze. They were designed by George B. Post in 1894 for the mansion of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt at 58th Street and Fifth Avenue.

The gates and fence, placed in storage when the mansion was demolished in 1928, will now through the generosity of Mrs. Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, daughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt, make a beautiful permanent portal to the Gardens, the first of their kind in the City.

The work was performed by Abraham M. Goldsmith who started on December 19, 1938 under the supervision of the Department of Parks and under contract from Mrs. Whitney, at a cost of \$15,000.

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

Library

May 12
For Release IMMEDIATELY

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks for the paving of the Shore Parkway section of the Belt Parkway system from Flatbush Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue, approximately 3-1/2 miles in length. The work also includes the construction of a four-span steel structure supported on steel pipe piles to carry the Shore Parkway traffic over Rockaway Avenue.

This contract is the 28th to be let for the construction of the Belt Parkway since this project was approved on October 13, 1938. Contracts already let provide for the grading of 26 miles of the 32-mile parkway, the completed paving of 16 miles of parkway and the construction of 36 of the 63 bridges required.

This portion of the parkway has been graded under a previous contract by means of hydraulic fill pumped in from adjacent areas in Jamaica Bay.

The three low bidders were:

Johnson, Drake & Piper Freeport, L. I.	\$658,717.
William P. McDonald Construction Co. 3315 Lawrence St., Flushing, L. I.	662,786.
Petracco & Banko 6919 Winfield Avenue, Winfield, L.I.	683,054.

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May 12, 1939

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

*For Release*_____

881

Mr. Heaslip

For Release IMMEDIATELY

In order that the general public might be able to visit the 38 warships of the U. S. Navy now assembling in the Hudson River, the Park Department has provided landing floats at 72nd, 77th, 79th, 83rd, 94th, 97th and 99th Streets.

From the 72nd and 94th Street floats, free passage will be provided by navy gigs, and from the 77th, 83rd, 97th and 99th Street floats, boats operated by concessionaires will ply back and forth to the various ships at a charge of 25¢ each way per person.

Ships of the fleet will be open to visitors from 1 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. daily during the visit of the squadron.

During hours of 10 A.M. to 10 P.M., concession boats will also make excursion trips around the fleet at 50¢ per person.

Aside from the landing stages, the Department of Parks has also erected in Riverside Park, two nautically designed buildings, one located at 72nd Street and the other at 97th Street. Each building contains comfort facilities for men and women; a first aid station, an information booth, and a Navy Shore Patrol office.

To facilitate the handling of the large crowds of persons usually attracted to the fleet, two elaborate bulletin boards have been erected, one at 72nd Street and the other at 96th Street, showing the location of the various ships moorings. Directional signs and wire fencing have been placed where necessary adjacent to paths, the parkway and river front to protect park shrubbery, lawns and human lives.

Immediately after the departure of the fleet later in May, the temporary landing stages, buildings and fencing will be removed and the park restored to its original design.

MAY 2, 1939

881

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Library *may*
For Release

IMMEDIATELY

Bids were opened today, by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal in Central Park for another section of Cross Island Parkway, from Hillside Avenue to Grand Central Parkway.

The work under this contract provides for the paving of the parkway between the limits mentioned above and includes the construction of a grade separation structure at Union Turnpike.

A portion of this work passes through the lands of the Creedmoor Hospital where it has been necessary to relocate the hospital road, to provide it with access to Union Turnpike and Commonwealth Boulevard.

The bridge over Union Turnpike is a double span stone faced reinforced concrete structure and will carry both the Union Turnpike and the Creedmore Hospital traffic over the Parkway.

This work is part of the Belt Parkway system which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration.

To date, the work under contract on this project calls for the grading of 26 miles and the paving of 14 miles of the 32 mile Belt Parkway system.

The three low bidders were:

Tuckahoe Construction Co. 116 Columbus Avenue Tuckahoe, N. Y.	\$430,747.50
Garofano Construction Co. 420 Lexington Avenue, N.Y.C.	432,095.80
Petracca & Banko 6919 Queens Blvd., Winfield, N.Y.	436,726.70

MAY 1, 1939

880

880

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MAY 1, 1939

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For Release ~~IMMEDIATELY~~

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks, at the Arsenal in Central Park, for the paving of a section of Cross Island Parkway from its intersection with the Bronx-Whitestone Parkway to 39th Avenue in the Borough of Queens.

This contract is the 26th to be let for the construction of the Belt Parkway, since this project was approved on October 13, 1938, for a total of \$12,979,000. The contracts already let provide for the grading of 26 miles of the 32 mile project, the paving of 13 miles and the construction of 34 of the 63 bridges required.

The work under this contract, in addition to providing for the paving of the parkway between the above mentioned limits also provides for the paving of service roads adjacent to the Parkway between Cross Island Boulevard and Fort Totten.

The work under this contract is to be completed on or before December 15, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

J. Leopold & Co. 60 East 42 Street, N.Y.C.	\$772,415.00
Wm P. McDonald Flushing, N.Y.	787,355.00
Highway Improvement & Repair Co. 125 Barclay St., N.Y.C.	822,585.00

APRIL 28, 1939

879

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Library

Apr 4
IMMEDIATELY

For Release

Five more bridges on the Belt Parkway were placed under construction, when bids were opened on two contracts today 878 by the Department of Parks, at the Arsenal, in Central Park.

One contract provides for the construction of the substructure for the bridge over Mill Basin on Shore Parkway. The second contract provides for the construction of four bridges on Southern Parkway - at 150th Street, Van Wyck Boulevard, 130th St., and Lefferts Boulevard respectively.

The bridge at Mill Basin is to be a steel girder type with a center bascule span, and will be 864 feet 6 inches long between abutments. The center bascule span will provide a clear channel at Mill Basin - 131 feet wide, and an underclearance of 35 feet with the span down. The bases of the piers which support the bascule span will be built in steel sheet-pile cofferdams, with the sheet piling left in place as a protection against scour.

The work under this contract provides for the construction of all the piers and abutments complete in all respects and ready for the superstructure.

The bridges, located respectively at 150th Street, Van Wyck Boulevard, 130th Street, and Lefferts Boulevard are stone faced, reinforced concrete bridges and in each case carry the street over the Parkway.

With the letting of today's contracts, 34 of the 63 bridges required for the Belt Parkway System, which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration will be under contract.

The three low bidders on each contract were as follows:

Substructure Mill Basin Bridge

P. J. Carlin Construction 405 Lexington Avenue, N. Y. C.	\$721,557.00
Frederick Snare Corporation 114 Liberty Street, N. Y. C.	727,335.00
Charles F. Vachris 827 Remsen Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.	734,794.50

Southern Parkway Bridges at 150th Street, Van Wyck Boulevard,
130th Street, and Lefferts Boulevard

Mill Basin Asphalt Corp. 5410 Avenue "U", Brooklyn, N.Y.	\$309,381.50
P. J. Carlin Construction 405 Lexington Avenue, N. Y. C.	329,527.65
Cayuga Construction Corp. 5 Beekman Street, N. Y. C.	330,194.50

878 (4/27/39)

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(4/27/39) Cayuga Construction Corp. 5 Beekman Street, N. Y. C.	330,194.50

Five more bridges on the Belt Parkway were placed under construction, when bids were opened on two contracts today by the Department of Parks, at the Arsenal, in Central Park.

One contract provides for the construction of the substructure for the bridge over Mill Basin on Shore Parkway. The second contract provides for the construction of four bridges on Southern Parkway - at 150th Street, Van Wyck Boulevard, 130th St., and Lefferts Boulevard respectively.

The bridge at Mill Basin is to be a steel girder type with a center bascule span, and will be 864 feet 6 inches long between abutments. The center bascule span will provide a clear channel at Mill Basin - 131 feet wide, and an underclearance of 35 feet with the span down. The bases of the piers which support the bascule span will be built in steel sheet-pile cofferdams, with the sheet piling left in place as a protection against scour.

The work under this contract provides for the construction of all the piers and abutments complete in all respects and ready for the superstructure.

The bridges, located respectively at 150th Street, Van Wyck Boulevard, 130th Street, and Lefferts Boulevard are stone faced, reinforced concrete bridges and in each case carry the street over the Parkway.

With the letting of today's contracts, 34 of the 63 bridges required for the Belt Parkway System, which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration will be under contract.

The three low bidders on each contract were as follows:

Substructure Mill Basin Bridge

P. J. Carlin Construction 405 Lexington Avenue, N. Y. C.	\$721,557.00
Frederick Snare Corporation 114 Liberty Street, N. Y. C.	727,335.00
Charles F. Vachris 827 Remsen Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.	734,794.50

Southern Parkway Bridges at 150th Street, Van Wyck Boulevard,
130th Street, and Lefferts Boulevard

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release

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877

The Department of Parks announces that the following areas have been designated for Kite Flying:

- Manhattan - Great Lawn, Central Park
- Brooklyn - Long Meadow, Prospect Park; Marine Park; McCarren Park;
Canarsie Park; Columbia and Halleck Park
- Queens - Alley Pond Park; Cunningham Park; Kissena Park; Juniper
Valley Park
- Richmond - Willowbrook Park; Glove Lakes Park; Walker Park
- Bronx - Van Cortlandt Park

On Saturday, April 29th, at 2:00 P.M., the Park Department will conduct a Kite Flying Contest for boys and girls - 7 to 16 years of age - in each of the boroughs, at the following locations:

- Manhattan - Great Lawn, Central Park (opposite 82nd Street)
- Brooklyn - Long Meadow, Prospect Park
- Queens - Alley Pond Park
- Richmond - Willowbrook Park
- Bronx - Williamsbridge Playground

The events will include a reeling contest for children 7 to 10 years; an altitude contest and a looping contest for contestants 11 to 16 years; and a special novelty and artistic competition open to all age groups. In the latter classification, kites will be judged for size, shape, and construction, mode of flying, etc. Certificates of award will be given to the winners of each event.

* * *

877

876

876

The Department of Parks announces that the Tavern on the Green in Central Park will reopen on April 28th.

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 popularly priced restaurant in 1934, has been entirely redecorated,

This year, it will be operated again by the Savarin's 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.

Breakfast will be from 50¢ up; luncheon 85¢ and up, and dinner \$1.35 and up - or one may eat a la carte. After 9 P.M., there will be a minimum charge of \$1.00.

Entertainment in the form of music and dancing will be provided nightly.

APRIL 26, 1939

✓ 876

(COPY)

FOR RELEASE TO WESTCHESTER COUNTY NEWSPAPERS, TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1939

The Triborough Bridge Authority, Westchester County Park Commission and the Committee of City and State officials in charge of Basic Improvements at Flushing Meadow Park to provide a site for the World's Fair of 1939 have indicated, on the accompanying map the best route to the World's Fair for Westchester County residents.

In most part, these routes will be marked in both the City and the County with Trylon-Perisphere direction signs; while in the City, these signs will be supplemented, on the main highway routes, by the street lights to the right hand of the Fair-bound motorist being encased in yellow globes.

It will be noted that a "traffic shed" extends midway through the Bronx and is carried up into Westchester. On the west side of the County, the motorist is urged to avoid congestion by using the Saw Mill River and Henry Hudson Parkways to Dyckman Street, thence by the Harlem River Drive, St. Nicholas Avenue, 145th Street, Deegan Boulevard (the new west approach to the Triborough Bridge) and along the Grand Central Parkway to the Fair.

In central Westchester the Bronx River Parkway is open throughout its length and also there is recommended the optional route from the Hawthorne Circle via the Bronx Parkway Extension to Valhalla by way of Central Westchester Parkway and Westchester Avenue to the Hutchinson River Parkway, which connects with Eastern Boulevard and Whitestone Bridge Approach.

All traffic to the east of Central Park Avenue (Route 100) is urged to follow any of the marked routes to the new Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, which opens on Saturday, April 29th, and whose Queens portal is but a short distance from the World's Fair.

ATTACH - MAP

875a

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

Library April 24, 1939
For Release IMMEDIATELY

The Department of Parks announces that the pitch and putt golf course at Jacob Riis Park will open for play on Saturday, April 29th. A charge of 50¢ a round is made for this course.

The games areas, including shuffle board, paddle tennis and hand ball courts will be open for play and a charge of 10¢ per half hour per person is made. During the winter these games areas are free to the public.

There is no charge made for parking at Jacob Riis Park or Orchard Beach until May 27th.

APRIL 24, 1939

Library

April 24
1939

For Release ~~IMMEDIATELY~~

The Department of Parks announces that because of delay in delivery of materials, it has been necessary to postpone the opening of the playground at Atlantic Avenue and 88th Street, Queens. This work, which was to be completed by May 6th, will not be ready for the use of the public until later in the month. As soon as the work has reached a point where a definite date can be determined, it will be announced through the press.

APRIL 24, 1939

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

Library *Apr. 21-1939*

For Release IMMEDIATELY

Bids were opened today, by the Department of Parks, at the Arsenal in Central Park for the construction of a portion of the Shore Parkway section of the Belt Parkway from Bay Parkway to Bay 49th Street.

The work under this contract provides for grading and paving the parkway between the limits mentioned above and also provides for the construction of grade elimination structures at Bay Parkway and 26th Avenue.

Parkway traffic will be carried over Bay Parkway by means of a single span steel girder structure with stone-faced wing walls. A stone-faced reinforced concrete structure will carry the parkway over 26th Avenue.

This contract is the 23rd to be let for the construction of the Belt Parkway which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration. Contracts now let on this project total \$11,000,000 or 44% of the total project.

The work under this project is to be completed on or before December 30, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

B. Turecamo Contracting Co. Foot of 24th Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.	\$746,062.
Johnson Drake & Pipe Co. Freeport, N. Y.	\$747,945.
Ross Galvanizing Works 395 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.	\$771,626.

APRIL 21, 1939

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK**

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

872

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY,
For Release APRIL 20, 1939

City officials, members of the New York City World's Fair Commission, were given a preview of the city's own show in the City Building at the World's Fair yesterday.

Mayor LaGuardia's reaction was fairly typical. "I expected to be disappointed. Instead, I was agreeably surprised and gratified." Council President Newbold Morris expressed his entire satisfaction and delight.

The City Commission, comprising in general the members of the Board of Estimate, leaders of the City Council and some of the leading citizenry indicated the attitude of the average Fair visitor craning their necks and voicing appropriate exclamations at the wonders of the exposition.

The dramatization of the controls and services, the manifold functions that go to make up the government of New York City's 7,000,000 inhabitants presented in a coherent, living pageant in the great main hall of the City Building drew general praise from the members of the City's Commission.

Miss Fannie Hurst, Secretary of the Commission, and novelist of distinction, who knows something about humanities, herself, expressed her delight with the manner in which the functions of the city's government were "humanized and dramatized so that the average Fair visitor would receive a comprehension which mere recitation of facts and figures might never convey."

Borough President Stanley M. Isaacs of Manhattan thought the exhibits highly informative and effective and Borough President Raymond V. Ingersoll of Brooklyn said that the show was "thrilling." Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx said it was "a fine show and well done" but regretted that the great map murals failed to place Marble Hill "properly" in the Borough of the Bronx. Staten Island's Borough President, Joseph A. Palma joined in the general commendation.

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872

Even the captious Councilman found nothing to criticize and Councilman James A. Burke of Queens, arch critic of some of the city's policies anent the Fair, was positively enthusiastic. "It's a fine job, the city's exhibit, and it has been accomplished without extravagance," said Mr. Burke.

The official party was conducted in the tour of inspection by Murray W. Stand, Director of the City Commission.

The extensive city exhibit set up in orderly fashion in the great hall of the handsome City Building, one of the few permanent structures at the Fair, was constructed at an expenditure considerably under the square foot cost of the municipal exhibits at the Chicago and San Francisco fairs.

In several of the departmental exhibit units, animated demonstrations of the department's work are presented. The city firemen are shown in actual drills at a mock tenement house blaze. Real firemen scale ladders of a four story structure, rescue real people, demonstrate the use of fire nets by actual leaps from the roof or upper story windows of the "building."

The Police Department's exhibit features a stage presentation of a mystery thriller, "Murder at Midnight", and the visitor sees before him the commission of a crime and its ultimate solution, utilizing all the resources of the department's detective routine and laboratory procedure in the tracing of clues, leading ultimately to the arrest of the culprit.

Cycloramas, dioramas, graphic photomurals are all utilized as visual aids in presenting the governmental functions; even the Budget Director's work is dramatized by a sort of "digestive" machine which receives departmental requests in the form of moving "eggs" of light. After "treatment" based on current and estimated revenues the "eggs" emerge appropriately reduced in size to conform to the city's financial abilities.

The visitor, throughout the city exhibit, is invited to participate in the show by operating an intriguing array of push buttons and levers setting the lights, mannikins, cycloramic drums and other equipment in motion.

The preview visitors were invited to pick up a phone at the Police exhibit and call a policeman. That having been done, they stood by, watched the alarm flashed on the signal board, watched and heard it relayed to cruising radio cars, observed it coming over the teletype tickers in the precinct station houses and were able to visualize the ready response.

They viewed the intricate but efficient system which relays a fire alarm. They sent in an alarm and watched the actual workings of the Fire Department's alarm telegraph bureau.

In addition to the departmental exhibits, grouped about the city's "theme center", the Board of Estimate, the city's show at the Fair includes motion pictures and illustrated lectures on city government and its various phases and functions, presented in a small auditorium.

Adequate space is also provided in the City Building for a public lounge where the weary visitor may rest in comfortable air conditioned surroundings and obtain a comprehensive view of the entire exhibit, or listen to music which will be provided from a balcony vantage by concert bands and orchestras.

In the official party that inspected the city's exhibit, besides those already mentioned, were Councilman Joseph T. Sharkey, Andrew R. Armstrong, Charles E. Keegan, John P. Nugent, Frederick Schick and Councilwoman Genevieve B. Earle. Also present were Miss Mary Dillon, Mrs. Louis A. Dreyfuss, Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase and Mrs. Peter Sammartino.

Mr. Hearlip

For Release ~~IMMEDIATELY~~

871

The Department of Parks announces that ceremonies in connection with the opening of Schmul Park, Wild and Melvin Avenues, Travis, Staten Island, will take place on Thursday, April 20th at 4 P.M.

Hon. Joseph A. Palma, Borough President of Richmond, and Mr. Louis Schmul will participate in the exercises. Park Commissioner Robert Moses will preside.

As part of the exercises, Mr. Schmul will unveil a bronze plaque reading as follows:

"SCHMUL PARK
LOUIS AND HERLINE SCHMUL
Presented this Property
to the
City of New York
IN MEMORY OF HEIMAN AND ROSA SCHMUL
1938."

Approximately one-half of this $3\frac{1}{2}$ -acre plot has been developed by the Works Progress Administration under the supervision of the Park Department into a recreational area, equipped with playground apparatus, for the children of the adjacent community. There is also a one-story brick comfort station.

Later, when sufficient fill is available, the remaining portion of the park will be developed to provide facilities for baseball and other types of group games demanding more space.

April 19, 1939

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871

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release

SATURDAY

APRIL 15, 1939

The Department of Parks announces that the Winter and Spring use of the play centers inaugurated September 17 last year, will terminate Sunday evening, April 16th, so that the areas can be cleaned, painted and generally prepared for the coming swimming season. Swimming pools will reopen to the public at 10 A.M. on Saturday, May 27th.

During the swimming season, children under fourteen 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. on week days and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, children under fourteen years of age will be admitted for \$.10 and all others for \$.20. 1,020,321 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 facilities were provided for ping pong, checkers, quoits and various group games.

APRIL 13, 1939

8694

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

869

IMMEDIATELY

For Release

The Department of Parks announces that on Friday afternoon, April 14th, at 1:30 P.M., the children of the Park Department Gardens will begin Spring planting in the 2000 individual garden plots located throughout the five boroughs as follows:

Manhattan Gardens

Thomas Jefferson Garden	114th Street and Pleasant Avenue
St. Gabriel's Garden	35th Street and First Avenue
Seward Garden	Jefferson and Canal Streets
Amsterdam Garden	189th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

Brooklyn Gardens

Betsy Head Garden	Hopkinson Avenue and Blake Avenue
Fort Greene Garden	Myrtle Avenue and N. Portland Ave.

Queens Garden

Highland Garden	Jamaica Avenue and Cleveland Street
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Richmond Garden

De Matti Garden	Rosebank, Staten Island
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Bronx Garden

Crotona Garden	St. Paul's Place and Fulton Avenue
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The first crop will be radishes, lettuce, scallions and kohlrabi, which will be ready for harvest before the summer crops are planted. The seeds, tools and the instructor are provided by the Park Department.

After the Spring harvest, an entirely new group of children, as well as vegetables will take possession of the garden plots.

As the season advances, little plots along the border of the garden are planted by the children, with flowers, and interesting economic crops like peanuts, broom corn, cotton, wheat, and rye.

Each boy and girl watch the pages of nature unfold its interesting leaves, as well as lend a hand to watering, weeding or rolling a wheelbarrow in these little gardens.

The following are the largest gardens: Thomas Jefferson Park Garden, Manhattan, Fort Greene Park Garden and Betsy Head Park Garden, Brooklyn. Highland Park Garden, Queens, and Crotona Park Garden, Bronx.

April 13, 1939

869

IMMEDIATELY

Bids were opened yesterday by the Park Department at the Arsenal Building 64th Street and Fifth Avenue for planting on the north side of Grand Central Parkway Extension between 85th Street and 94th Street adjoining the North Beach Airport. The project will be supervised by the Park Department with funds provided by the Department of Docks.

The work consists of grading, topsoiling, seeding, and planting of trees and shrubs in an area where the surface had to be lowered approximately five feet to meet future flying requirements at the new airport.

The following were the three lowest bidders:

John Gozo 1625 West 6th Street Brooklyn, N. Y.	\$11,413.15
------------------------------------------------------	-------------

Grand View Nurseries 6 Grand View Avenue Mt. Vernon, N.Y.	11,512.25
-----------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

Roman Landscape Contracting Co., Inc. 551 Fifth Avenue New York, N. Y.	11,605.75
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The engineer's estimate was \$14,683. and the work will be completed in forty-five calendar days.

APRIL 11, 1939



867

9-20-38-25,000 (16G-2413)

**LONG ISLAND STATE PARK COMMISSION
BELMONT LAKE STATE PARK
BABYLON, L. I., N. Y.**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL C. R. BLAKELOCK AT BABYLON 1000 OR BABYLON 1178

Commissioner
Full

April 4, 1939

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Eighty-five rowboats are being made available for the opening of the fishing station at Jones Beach State Park on Saturday, April 15th. It has been rumored that flounders are beginning to arrive in the Great South Bay and should be plentiful within a week or so.

Rowboats, bait, fishing tackle and accessories may be obtained at the fishing station between 8 A.M. and 6 P.M. from April 15th to May 26th and between 6 A.M. and sunset beginning May 27th.

There is no charge made for parking at Jones Beach until May 27th. Boats may be rented for 25 cents an hour or \$1.00 per day.

E N D.

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

Library

For Release FRIDAY
APRIL 7, 1939

The Department of Parks announces that the Board of Education is cooperating in combatting vandalism in parks.

The following are copies of correspondence between the two Departments.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

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

March 25, 1939

Dr. Harold G. Campbell
Superintendent of Schools
500 Park Avenue
New York City

"Dear Dr. Campbell:

With the Easter vacation drawing near I think it would be opportune to make another plea to the school children of the city through your General Circular, in behalf of parks and playgrounds.

Each year we have found that the few days of Easter vacation, coming at a time when frost is just out of the ground and growing things are just budding, have produced more damage to parks in general than a whole month during any other period in the year. Of course we can sympathize with the school children who have been cooped up all winter and are suddenly released into an out-of-doors which is more inviting than it has been since the preceding summer. I request that you include in your next circular, or if none is to be published before the Easter vacation starts, in a special circular, a request substantially as follows:

866

'Every spring the Park Department faces the problem of dressing up the city's parks and playgrounds and putting them into condition for public use during the summer. The ground is soft and growing things have started to bud. Lawns are damaged by anyone walking on them and buds once knocked off of trees and shrubs will not renew themselves until the following year. Damage of this kind cannot be repaired immediately and becomes a blot on the park landscape all through the summer.

'It is only natural for school children to spend their spring vacation outdoors and preferably in parks and playgrounds. The Park Department has done everything it can to provide areas suitable and adequate for active recreation for all the city's children. Some sections of the city may not have as many of these facilities as they should and this lack will be taken care of as fast as funds are made available. In the meantime the city's children must be educated to understand that if they play on a lawn today, they and all their neighbors and relatives will have no lawn there during the summer. Instead, they will have plain dirt. They should be made to realize that the parks were not made for them only, and that they should recognize the rights of others and should leave park developments intact for other people to use.

'All park playgrounds are supervised by trained personnel whose job it is to see that the facilities available are used to the best advantage of all.

'Children should also understand that although their parents may not own their homes and pay real estate taxes to the city, they are still paying taxes every time they buy anything including food, medicine, and the other essentials not subject to the sales tax, and that these taxes are used in part in maintenance and repair of parks and playgrounds. The damage to the city's parks and playgrounds during the past year, resulting from careless use and wilful vandalism, amounted to a quarter of a million dollars. The extra cost of repairs and maintenance on account of this damage could be put into additional play facilities for everyone to use if the few who do the damage would use the playgrounds properly and leave them undamaged for others to enjoy.'

Very truly yours,

/s/ Allyn R. Jennings

General Superintendent "

- 3 -

BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
500 PARK AVENUE

March 31, 1939

Mr. Allyn R. Jennings
General Superintendent
Department of Parks
64th Street and Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

"My dear Superintendent:

In accordance with your request I have again sent out a General Circular asking the teachers and pupils to cooperate with the Department of Parks in the manner outlined in your letter to me.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Harold G. Campbell

Superintendent of Schools"

APR 5 1939

The Department of Parks announces that the historic Claremont Inn built in 1806, and recognized as one of New York's landmarks on Riverside Drive north of Grant's Tomb will reopen at noon on Saturday, April 8th.

Luncheon will be \$1.00, dinner \$1.50 and up, special supper \$1.00, and breakfast on Sundays until 1 P.M., 50 cents and up.

The interior has been redecorated and the tree shaded outdoor dining terrace with its gay sun umbrellas overlooking the Hudson River, will be much more attractive than in former years. Entertainment in the form of music and dancing will be provided nightly.

APRIL 6, 1939

865A

Library

For Release THURSDAY
APRIL 6, 1939

EASTER FLOWER SHOW - PROSPECT PARK

The Park Department announces the opening of the Annual Easter Flower Show at the Greenhouses in Prospect Park (Prospect Park West and 7th Street, Brooklyn) Good Friday, April 7th, at 10 A.M. The show will be open to the public each day thereafter for three weeks from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

The exhibit this year is one of the finest of these annual shows. More than 300 varieties of flowers are represented by 10,000 blooms. The main feature of the show is a huge cross 30 feet high, made of 4,000 pure white Bermuda lilies edged with beautiful light blue Cinerarias, banked with Genistas, Shower of Gold Plant and pink Rhododendrons. Leading to the steps of the cross is a grass path through a sunken garden. In the garden are 200 varieties of Azaleas.

An added feature of the show this year is a Trylon and Perisphere at the opposite end of the show house from the cross. The Trylon, 18 feet high, is made of white Lilies and the Perisphere, 6 feet in diameter, of light pink Coral Bell Azaleas.

As a background for the central motive, the walls of the greenhouse are banked with a colorful display of flowers in great varieties, among which Cineraries, Calceolarias, Sweet Peas, Snapdragons, Lilacs, Flowering Crab-Apples, Peach and Cherries predominate.

APRIL 5, 1939

COPY

April 3, 1939

Hon. Grover Whalen
World's Fair, N.Y.

Dear Graver:

Since you spoke to me yesterday I checked up on the matter of the sign proposed to be put up by Billy Rose on the State Amphitheatre.

There must be a complete misunderstanding on this subject because the sign in question does not at all follow your description. There are in fact three signs, one in the center fifteen feet high by fifty-five feet long with the legend "Billy Rose's Aquacade", and two smaller signs six feet high by fifty feet long at the two extremities of the horseshoe, bearing the legend "Aquacade" and facing northeast and northwest.

Construction of these signs would be an outrageous violation of law and agreement and would be something we should have to oppose strenuously. I should feel it my duty among other things to discuss the matter with the Governor because of his interest in the State Building. After all, the State is constructing at great expense a permanent building on agreement with the City and incidentally with the Fair. This building is supposed to advertise the State's contribution and the State's interest. It is not Billy Rose's building. It is the permanent State Amphitheatre.

It seems to me there should be an immediate conference on this subject before the matter gets out of hand becomes a subject of public criticism and discussion.

I would suggest that arrangements be made to have this matter taken up with your design committee by our committee on basic improvements.

Very truly yours,

/s/ ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner

864A

~~Sunday~~
April 2, 1939

The Department of Parks announces that the ten municipal golf courses will open on Saturday morning, April 8, at 6 A.M. Work is progressing on the courses to place them in playing condition for opening.

On the Clearview Golf Course where fifteen new greens were built last Fall, only three permanent greens will be open for play. However, the remaining twelve new greens are coming along rapidly and it is possible that they may be in use during the month of June. The nine other courses will open with all permanent greens, with the exception of Pelham, where one temporary green will be in play.

Permits are on sale at the five borough offices located at:

<u>Manhattan:</u>	The Arsenal 64 Street & Fifth Avenue New York City
<u>Bronx:</u>	Bronx Park East & Birchall Avenue Bronx, New York
<u>Brooklyn:</u>	Litchfield Mansion Prospect Park Brooklyn, New York
<u>Queens:</u>	The Overlook Union Turnpike & Park Lane Forest Park, Kew Gardens, L. I.
<u>Richmond:</u>	Clove Lakes Park, Victory Boulevard and Clove Road Staten Island, New York

Permits went on sale the 1st of March and through March 31, 1344 golf permits have been sold.

It is expected that with good weather the clay tennis courts will open on April 15. The hard surface courts have been open since March 15 and have been receiving a large amount of play. The tennis permits have been on sale since the 1st of March also and 1179 tennis permits have been sold.

April 1, 1939

8636

139 STREET AND LENOX AVENUE

APRIL 1, 1939

12:45 P. M.

BAND SELECTIONS

Hon. Robert Moses, Chairman
Commissioner of Parks

Bill Robinson
Mayor of Harlem

Col. Brehon B. Somervell
W. P. A. Administrator

Hon. Stanley M. Isaacs, President
Borough of Manhattan

Hon. A. Newbold Morris, President
City Council

CALL TO COLORS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

BAND SELECTIONS

8636

HARLEM HOUSING
SEVENTH AVENUE AND 150 STREET

APRIL 1, 1939

12:00 NOON

BAND SELECTIONS

Hon. Robert Moses, Chairman
Commissioner of Parks

Bill Robinson
Mayor of Harlem

Hon. John H. Delaney, Chairman
Board of Transportation

Col. Brehon B. Somervell
W. P. A. Administrator

Hon. Stanley M. Isaacs, President
Borough of Manhattan

Hon. A. Newbold Morris, President
City Council

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Start Parade to 139 Street and
Lenox Avenue, with bands,
children, troops and mounted
police escorts

139 STREET AND LENOX AVENUE

APRIL 1, 1939

12:45 P. M.

BAND SELECTIONS

Hon. Robert Moses, Chairman
Commissioner of Parks

Bill Robinson
Mayor of Harlem

Col. Brehon B. Somervell
W. P. A. Administrator

Hon. Stanley M. Isaacs, President
Borough of Manhattan

Hon. A. Newbold Morris, President
City Council

CALL TO COLORS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

BAND SELECTIONS

Mr. Haslip

For Immediate Release

863

The New York City Parkway Authority, of which Commissioner Robert Moses is the Sole Member, announces that the final span of the new westerly roadway of Cross Bay Parkway Bridge, connecting Broad Channel with the Rockaways, was set in place at 4 P.M., Thursday, March 30, 1939. This installation placed a rather unique problem before the general contractors, Johnson, Drake & Piper, inasmuch as vehicular traffic over Cross Bay Parkway had to be maintained while the span was being placed. The span, which weighed 150 tons, was constructed on shore by the American Bridge Company, subcontractors for Johnson, Drake & Piper. Arrangements were made with Morritt, Chapman & Scott to take the span from its place of erection, approximately one mile away from the Parkway, by means of their derrick-boat, the "Monarch," to the bridge where the span was carefully lowered into place. This entire operation started at approximately 1 P.M., and the span was permanently placed by 4 P.M., without disrupting vehicular traffic.

At 7 P.M. vehicular traffic was cut off at both ends of the Cross Bay Parkway in order to allow time for the placing of the permanent roadway grating on this span and the installation of two concrete panels. Thirty men worked all night welding the grating floor to the span and pouring the concrete. At exactly 5 A.M., March 31st, the new west roadway of Cross Bay Parkway was placed in operation for vehicular traffic.

From an engineering standpoint this operation was of great interest, inasmuch as it was necessary to obtain one of the largest derrick-boats in the East and to place 250 tons of ballast on the off-side of the derrick-boat in order to float the span from the shore to its final place in the viaduct structure.

3/31/39

✓
863

862-

For Release

IMMEDIATELY

Mr. Jennings
C. J. Puray

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal in Central Park for the construction of two of the five bridges necessary to provide adequately for the free flow of traffic at the intersection of Cross Island Parkway with Grand Central Parkway and Winchester Boulevard.

This contract provides for the reconstruction of the existing bridge which now carries Grand Central Parkway over Winchester Boulevard. Another span will be added to this bridge which when completed will carry westbound Grand Central Parkway traffic over Cross Island Parkway. Winchester Boulevard will be relocated westerly of its existing position and its traffic will be carried under the west bound Grand Central Parkway traffic by means of the second bridge to be built under this contract.

Contracts for the construction of the Belt Parkway are being let at an accelerating pace. Today's letting is the fourth of a series of Belt Parkway contracts which were opened this week, making a total of twenty to be let since the project was approved on October 13, 1938.

The work under the contract is to be completed on or before November 30, 1939.

The three low bids were:

The Immick Co., Inc. 50 Church Street, N. Y. C.	\$269,360.50
Garofano Construction Co., Inc. 420 Lexington Avenue, N. Y. C.	279,874.50
J. Leopold and Co. 60 East 42 Street, N. Y. C.	280,579.95

MARCH 31, 1939

862

For Release FRIDAY,
MARCH 31, 1939

861

The Department of Parks announces that exercises in connection with the opening of two playgrounds in Manhattan, one at 150 Street and Seventh Avenue (Harlem Housing) and the other at 139 Street and Lenox Avenue will be held on Saturday, April 1.

A. Newbold Morris, President of the City Council, Borough President Stanley M. Isaacs, Colonel Brehon B. Somervell, Works Progress Administrator and Bill Robinson, Stage and Screen Star, will take part as speakers at both locations, with Commissioner Moses acting as Chairman. In addition to these speakers Hon. John H. Delaney, Chairman of the Board of Transportation will participate at 150 Street.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies at the Harlem Housing site, all the participants including a detachment of troops from the 369 Infantry N. Y. N. G., the Monarch Elks Band and Park Department Band and approximately 1000 neighborhood children will parade led by a mounted police escort to the playground at Lenox Avenue and 139 Street.

The 150 Street and Seventh Avenue area obtained by the Department of Parks from the Board of Transportation for an indefinite period has been developed to include 8 tennis courts, 9 handball courts, a volley ball court as well as a sitting area for mothers and guardians of small children. The sitting area is surrounded by continuous rows of benches under shade trees with two separate sand pits for youngsters to play in. This area is adjacent to the play area opened at the Harlem Housing site on

861

November 26, 1937.


The area located on the west side of Lenox Avenue between 139 and 140 Streets is adjacent to Public School 139, Manhattan and was the first parcel of ground purchased jointly by the Park Department and the Board of Education and developed in collaboration to the advantage of both departments. Besides being completely equipped with play apparatus the area also provides facilities for handball, basketball, paddle tennis, roller skating hockey and ice skating in the winter when sub-freezing temperatures permit.

At both locations brick comfort stations have been provided.

These two areas make a total of 275 playgrounds which have been added to the Park system since January 1934. The total number available today is 383.

The work in connection with the construction of both these areas was performed by the Works Progress Administration, but planned and inspected by the Department of Parks.

MARCH 30, 1939





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

M. Henslip

For Release ~~IMMEDIATELY~~

860

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal in Central Park for the construction of another section of Cross Island Parkway from Stewart Avenue to 104th Avenue, including the construction of a grade separation structure at Hempstead Avenue.

This structure, a double span stone faced concrete bridge, will carry traffic on Hempstead Avenue over the Parkway.

To date, nineteen contracts have been let for the construction of the Belt Parkway, which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration. The total cost of these contracts is \$9,500,000 or 38% of the entire project.

The work under the contract is to be completed on or before October 1, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

National Excavation Corporation 10 East 40th Street, N. Y. C.	\$313,260.50
J. Leopold & Company 60 East 42nd Street, N. Y. C.	314,060.50
Andrew Weston, Inc. Woodmere, L. I.	314,382.00

MARCH 29, 1939

✓ 860

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

WEDNESDAY
March 29,
1939
For Release

859

The Department of Parks announces that in conjunction with the Borough President of Manhattan, the Police Department and the Board of Transportation, plans are being prepared for the complete rehabilitation of Greeley and Herald Squares at 32 and 35 Streets and Sixth Avenue. The removal of the Sixth Avenue "El" between those streets, and the approaching completion of the Sixth Avenue Subway present an opportunity not only for the solution of difficult traffic problems but also an especially worthwhile civic improvement.

Nowhere along the route of the "El" will the demolition of the structure do more to improve the appearance of a neighborhood than at Greeley and Herald Squares. The improvement will include the enlargement of Herald Square and reconstruction of both of the two triangles together with the installation of a narrow center mall as a traffic separator between 33 and 34 Streets; new paving, wrought iron fences, landscaping and the relocation of the Horace Greeley Monument in the development of Greeley Square.

It is also planned to bring back the old Bell Ringers and Clock group which James Gordon Bennett had on top of the old Herald Building. This interesting group, a relic of old New York, will be restored on a monumental base at the north end of the enlarged plot. The construction will proceed with Relief forces as soon as the removal of the "El" structure and subway construction permit.

IGNORE PREVIOUS RELEASE. NOTE
CHANGE IN LAST PARAGRAPH.

859

The Bennett clock and its appurtenances, part of the James Arthur collection of time pieces owned by New York University, has been permanently loaned to the City with the Department of Parks as custodian, with the sole provision that, if Herald Square should, in the future, be used for other than park purposes, the group will be returned to the University.

Business organizations and property owners in the vicinity of Herald Square, aware that an imaginative service near their places of business or property is a sound investment, are helping toward this improvement by contributing funds which will be used for items of work such as the repair and installation of the Bell Ringers, which the Works Progress Administration cannot do.

MARCH 27, 1939

858

Motorists in Brooklyn and Queens traveling along existing highways adjacent to the Belt Parkway will be apprised of its location by means of signs to be erected along its route at the intersection of the Parkway with all important traffic arteries.

Bids on a contract for the erection of these signs were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal in Central Park.

The low bidder was:

M. Barash
2132 Ocean Avenue
Brooklyn, New York \$3,300.00

MARCH 28, 1939

858

857
Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal in Central Park for the grading of Cross Island Parkway, from 41st Avenue through Alley Pond Park to Grand Central Parkway and for paving the Parkway between 46th Avenue and the same terminus.

Included in this contract is work necessary to construct an embankment for the temporary detour of the Long Island Railroad tracks north of Northern Boulevard and also an embankment to provide a detour road at Northern Boulevard. These detours will remain in place during the construction of bridges at these points under another contract.

The contract on which bids were opened today is one of four contracts to be let this week for the construction of the Belt Parkway. Sixteen contracts have been previously awarded on this project, which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration.

Work under this contract is to be completed on or before December 30, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

Andrew Weston, Inc. Woodmere, Long Island	\$354,655.00
Tuckahoe Construction Company Tuckahoe, New York	368,020.00
Johnson, Drake and Piper Freeport, Long Island	374,395.00

March 27, 1939
857

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

856
J. M. Henry For Release

856

The Department of Parks announces that today there is coming up on the Board of Estimate Calendar the approval for changing the map or plan of the City of New York by laying out as a public park the property adjacent to the public bath building on Rivington Street West of Mangin Street, Borough of Manhattan; also requesting the Board to authorize the acquisition by condemnation of privately owned property within the area shown on the map as a public park, and to authorize the acceptance from Mr. Bernard Baruch of three parcels of property purchased by him at the cost of \$63,500 and a cash gift of \$21,500 as the condemnation fund for the acquisition by the City of three parcels of land which Mr. Baruch could not purchase at private sale.

The old public bath building erected some years ago was named after Dr. Simon Baruch who pioneered in establishing health and bath facilities in the City. This structure is hemmed in on both sides by tenements and it was impossible in the rehabilitation program already under way with the cooperation of the Works Progress Administration, to provide adequate light and air for the structure or to provide any open space adjacent to it. Mr. Bernard Baruch, a son of Dr. Baruch, generously offered to acquire the adjacent property, so as to greatly improve the convenience of the building and provide a proper setting for it which he has already done except for three parcels necessary to round out the plot.

Plans for the proper reconstruction of the old bath building have been modified so as to provide additional windows, ventilation, light, etc. and, generally speaking, the expanded area will provide a small neighborhood landscaped park for women and children; quiet game tables for adults; a sand pit and shower basin for children, and adequate benches under shade trees.

The City Council will be requested to change the name of Goerick Street, which is six blocks long, to Baruch Street.

856

MARCH 23, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Mr. Heaslip
For Release

IMMEDIATELY

855
Three more bridges on the Belt Parkway were placed on the "under construction" schedule when bids were opened today at the Arsenal in Central Park for the construction of grade separations on Cross Island Parkway at the main line of the Long Island Railroad, at the Belmont Spur of the Long Island Railroad and at Superior Road, together with the paving of the parkway, between Jamaica Avenue and Hempstead Avenue.

To date, sixteen contracts have been let for the construction of the Belt Parkway, which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration.

The work now under contract on this project, which was approved on October 13, 1938 provides for the grading of eighteen miles of the thirty-two mile parkway, six miles of completed paving and the construction of twenty-one of the required sixty-two bridges.

Included in today's letting were two steel bridges with stone faced approaches to provide grade separations at both the main line and the Belmont Spur of the Long Island Railroad where they intersect the Cross Island Parkway, and a stone faced concrete structure to carry traffic on Superior Road over the parkway.

Detours will be constructed at the railroad bridges in order to provide for continuous railroad operation at all times.

The work under this contract is to be completed on or before April 1, 1940.

The three low bidders were:

National Excavation Corporation 10 East 40th Street, New York City	\$718,250.
Wilson & English 50 Church Street, New York City	720,075.
P. J. Carlin 405 Lexington Avenue, New York City	725,691.

March 22, 1939

854

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal in Central Park for the construction of three bridges located at 160th Street, Utopia Parkway and Cross Island Boulevard on the Cross Island section of the Belt Parkway System.

The 160th Street Bridge, a two-span steel super-structure with stone faced approaches will carry the 160th Street traffic over the Parkway. At Utopia Parkway traffic will be carried over the Parkway by means of a two-span stone faced concrete structure, and at Cross Island Boulevard, a three-span stone faced bridge will carry traffic over both the Parkway and the South Service Road.

With the letting of this contract 18 of the 62 bridges to be built on the Belt Parkway, which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration, will be under construction.

The work under this contract will be completed on or before September 16, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

Elmhurst Contracting Co. 53-04 97th Place, Corona, L. I.	\$329,010.25
National Excavation Corp. 10 East 42nd Street, N. Y. C.	339,858.00
Johnson, Drake and Piper Freeport, L. I., N. Y.	343,772.00

March 21, 1939



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
GEORGE E. SPARGO
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
JAMES A. DAWSON
SENIOR PARK DIRECTOR
JAMES A. SHERRY
CHIEF CLERK

853

March 18, 1939

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY PAPERS
MARCH 21, 1939

MEMORANDUM TO COMMISSIONER MOSES

SUBJECT: BATTERY-BROOKLYN BRIDGE: BATTERY PARK

In regard to the attached development plan for Battery Park which shows its proposed improvement in connection with the Battery-Brooklyn Bridge, we believe that the new layout is so superior to the existing conditions that it is unnecessary to go into any detail along those lines, and we therefore limit this memorandum to a discussion of the new plan.

As to the bridge structure itself, we are certain that instead of being a detriment, it will, on the other hand, provide a strong architectural background to the park in the form of a monumental colonnade. The fact that the structure is carried considerably above the ground on graceful stone-faced piers insures that there will be no appreciable loss of sunlight and air. There is absolutely no foundation in fact to the opinion that the bridge and anchorage will interfere with the skyline of lower Manhattan.

The skyline will continue to dominate and the bridge and anchorage will be incidental to the lower stories of the lower buildings flanking State and Whitehall Streets. Unfortunately, the buildings surrounding the park, including the Customs House, are so heterogeneous in character that had we to study the park from the beginning, and solely from the standpoint of a proper approach to New York City, we would

85.3

Memorandum to Commissioner Moses
March 18, 1939

-2-

surround it with a colonnade, which the approach serves to a large extent.

As to the connection between the West Side Highway and South Street, two divided roadways, each 24 feet in width providing for two lanes of traffic in each direction, are located, for the most part, directly beneath the bridge approach, diverging from this alignment only as they near Whitehall Street over which they will be carried by a permanent structure so as not to interfere with the local ferry traffic. You will also note that these roadways are carried underneath Battery Place and are depressed through the park as much as the existing subway structures allow. The profile of this connection provides a fortunate solution to the pedestrian problem, as it permits access to the east end of the park underneath the elevated portion, while the pedestrians from the intersection of Broadway, Battery Place and State Street, the most popular entrance to the park today, will be led directly to the Aquarium, to the water-front, or to South Ferry by a path system converging on a spacious pedestrian crossing over the East Side-West Side connection.

We feel that this connection between the East Side and West Side is the best of any that have been proposed. In connection with the tunnel scheme, the Borough President of Manhattan had suggested an elevated highway, on reverse-curve alignment, between Battery Place and Whitehall Street while the Consulting Engineer to the West Side Association of Commerce proposed that this elevated highway be carried around an extended water-front. The New York City Tunnel Authority made no pro-

Memorandum to Commissioner Moses
March 18, 1939

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vision for uninterrupted traffic from the East Side to the West Side in its proposed plan.

This most striking feature of the plan is the addition of 122,000 square feet or 2-4/5 acres that will be added to the park by the two acre extension seaward of the present water-front promenade, in addition to four-fifths of an acre provided by the elimination of excess pavement in Battery Place now used only for parking. In connection with the approach ramps between Washington and Greenwich Streets, north of Battery Place, three times as many cars may be parked as are now able to use Battery Place. The park area given over to the East Side-West Side connection, the anchorage and the approach totals less than 2-2/5 acres, leaving a net gain in park land of approximately a half acre. It is interesting to note, in this regard, that the Battery has had four successive increases in area since the days of the earliest settlers. We attach a map which shows the old-shore-line of Manhattan Island in 1680 which indicates that the whole of the present Battery Park is land made by subsequent filling operations. The Battery itself was begun in 1690 and stood until 1790 and the sea wall and promenade, which extended the tip of the Island about 125 feet, was started in 1790 and formed the limits of the park until 1848. It was not until 1872 that the Battery was extended out to fill in the gap to the Aquarium, which up to that time had been reached by a foot-bridge 140 feet long, and to provide the present upland between the Aquarium and the Barge Office and between the Aquarium and Whitehall Building. The present esplanade and

Memorandum to Commissioner Moses
March 18, 1939

-4-

and excursion boat landing was not built until 1931. The new two-level promenade will provide the finest vantage point in New York City to the crowds who are attracted to the Battery because of its view of the harbor, being more extensive than the present promenade and offering superior accommodations to excursion steamers and their passengers as well as to the sight-seers. The existing layout of the quay is inadequate for those who desire a glimpse of the harbor and its ships, for their view is too often cut off by the throngs waiting to board the excursion boats. By the creation of the upper level the spectator will look over the heads of those on the lower landing stage.

The upper level, 30 feet wide, is reached by series of steps and extends from the Aquarium to the Barge Office Slip. It will be backed up by a grove of trees in whose shade minor paths, bench-lined, will afford a much greater area for the relaxation of the noon-day crowds than exists today. At about the center of the water-front promenade, a wide plaza is introduced. Dominated by the relocated flag pole which has long been a Battery land-mark, this plaza will afford a fitting site for ceremonial receptions to distinguished guests, while on either side of the area will be flanking park buildings to serve the visitors. One, the Consolidated Ticket Office for excursion steamers, is left in its present location. On the other side will be relocated the restaurant concession now standing in the middle of the park.

On the landward side of the grove of trees will be a great oval-shaped lawn, five acres in extent, around the edges of which groups of trees will develop as specimens. The northern boundary of this lawn will

Memorandum to Commissioner Moses
March 18, 1939

-5-

be formed by a pathway which will connect Battery Place with South Ferry. The Aquarium itself will be given a dignified approach more in keeping with its remodeled facade. A tree-lined mall, leading from the Aquarium to the pedestrian bridge over the East Side-West Side connection, will provide this setting. At the north end of the mall will be relocated the fine statue of Verrazzano.

Other monuments in the park, of which there are many, haphazardly located at present, will be appropriately relocated throughout the park. Other changes will be the rebuilding of the present unsatisfactory Battery Place comfort station; a new fire-boat station at the westerly end of the water-front promenade to replace the present ramshackle building, and a new service building at the easterly end of the same promenade.

It is interesting to note that the new scheme, which will provide not only a more attractive park but which will afford greater use to the park public, has 10,000 square yards less concrete and asphalt path area than exists in the park today and instead of the present meager number of trees, the new plan provides a total of 775 trees, or two and one half times the number existing. There will also be thirteen acres of lawn area as compared with the eleven acres existing today.

In conclusion, we submit that the plan for the construction of this bridge approach along the northern edge of the park and the park reconstruction made necessary by this structure will very definitely improve the appearance of lower Manhattan as seen from the great water

Memorandum to Commissioner Moses
March 18, 1939

-6-

approach of the upper bay, and will likewise, by the effect of the open colonnade, enhance the appearance of the park from the point of view of its visitors.

/s/ Allyn R. Jennings
General Superintendent

/s/ Aymar Embury II
Consulting Architect

/s/ Gilmore D. Clarke
Consulting Landscape Architect

85
SATURDAY
MARCH 18, 1939

J.W. Henslip, Jr. For Release

852
The Department of Parks announces the completion and opening of two new playgrounds in Brooklyn on Saturday, March 18, 1939.

#162 New Utrecht
One, located at 10th Avenue between 42nd and 43rd Streets, is equipped with swings, see-saws, slides, jungle gym, wading pool with removable basket ball backboards and an open play area for group games.

#188
The other at 18th Avenue between 82nd and 83rd Streets is equipped with swings, see-saws, jungle gym, slides and a shower basin which can also be used as a roller skating rink. This playground is directly adjacent to and will serve as an adjunct to Milestone Park which is a sitting area.

Both are provided with brick comfort stations with facilities for boys and girls and the areas are paved with bituminous asphalt. Permanent concrete benches and shade trees are included in the landscape treatment.

These two playgrounds make a total of 273 which have been added to the Park Department's recreational system since January 1934. The total number available today is 381.

The work in connection with the construction was performed by the Works Progress Administration but planned and inspected by the Department of Parks.

#

852
MARCH 17, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

M. J. Neaslip
~~For Release IMMEDIATELY~~

831

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks, at the Arsenal, in Central Park for the grading of the Southern Parkway section of the Belt Parkway and the Paving of the North Service Road between Baisley Boulevard and the Rockaway Branch of the Long Island Railroad, a distance of two and a half miles.

With the letting of this contract the work under construction amounts to \$7,777,000 or 31% of the total estimated cost of the Belt Parkway Project which is being financed jointly by the Federal Public Works Administration and the City of New York.

The contract on which bids were taken today is the 14th of a total of 52 to be let for the entire project and provides for the grading of the entire right of way of Southern Parkway, between the limits mentioned above and also includes the work required to adequately protect the conduits and structures of the Department of Water Supply which run through this right of way.

In order to maintain traffic while the grading work is in operation, the contractor will be required to grade and permanently pave the North Service Road before traffic is interrupted on the present Sunrise Highway. The north service road will then be used as a detour while work is in progress on the remainder of the project.

The work under this contract is to be completed on or before October 1, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

Tomosetti Construction Co., Inc. 1066 60th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.	\$ 993,030.00
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Poirier & McLane 33 West 42nd Street, N.Y., N.Y.	999,847.00
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Johnson, Drake & Piper Freeport, L. I., N.Y.	1,017,720.00
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March 13, 1939.

851

850

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal, in Central Park for the construction of another portion of Cross Island Parkway from Hempstead Turnpike to Linden Boulevard in the Borough of Queens, approximately one and half miles in length.

This contract is the thirteenth to be let for the construction of the new Belt Parkway in Brooklyn and Queens, which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration.

The work consists of the construction of two grade separation structures, one at 115th Avenue and one at Linden Boulevard and the paving of the Parkway and west service road between Hempstead Turnpike and Linden Boulevard.

Parkway traffic will be carried over 115th Avenue by means of a single span steel structure with stone facing, and Linden Boulevard traffic will be carried over the Parkway by means of a double span, stone faced reinforced concrete structure.

The work is to be completed on or before December 1, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

Good Roads Engineering and Contracting Co. Wantagh, L. I.	\$597,794.45
The Immick Company, Inc. 50 Church Street, N. Y. C.	608,279.00
Johnson, Drake and Piper Freeport, N. Y.	609,784.50

March 10, 1939.

850

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

Sunday Papers
Mar 5 - 1939
For Release

849
The Department has announced that a permit for the planting of eight large elm trees 50' high and 18" in diameter along the West Side of Fifth Avenue from 49 to 51 Streets, Manhattan, has been issued to Rockefeller Center, Inc. It is expected that the actual planting will start on Wednesday, March 8.

This year the Department has again prepared for extensive planting within parks and along parkways. However, while jurisdiction over street trees is also one of its functions, the department has only funds with which to rehabilitate park and parkway areas, and street tree planting will depend entirely upon the initiative and willingness of civic-minded property owners or civic organizations to beautify their respective neighborhoods. The planting on Fifth Avenue by Rockefeller Center, Inc. is the most outstanding contribution of this kind yet made by a private property owner. But its magnitude should not discourage the average home owner from taking a similar though necessarily more modest step toward improving his own property and street. Thousands of street trees, destroyed by the hurricane of last fall, cannot be replaced unless property owners are sufficiently interested to plant at their own expense.

The best planting season is right at hand; the safest season for tree planting is from the time the frost leaves the ground early in March until about May 15th. It is none too soon to plan for this work now, as the earlier a tree is planted the more likely it is to endure the heat of summer.

849
The Park Department especially fosters the planting of street trees a block or more at a time, resulting in much more uniform and beautiful plantings than could be obtained by individual property owners working alone. Upon request a departmental landscape architect consults with and advises property owners and civic groups who wish to sponsor co-operative planting; the department obtains all necessary permits; suggests suitable tree varieties; gives full instructions for, and supervises planting; and aids in all possible ways other than furnishing materials or labor.

. . . .

For this special service requests should be addressed to the Park Department general headquarters at The Arsenal, 64 Street and Fifth Avenue, New York City. Tree planting permits, planting advice, and supervision are also obtainable from the borough offices, located as follows:

Manhattan	-	The Arsenal, 64 St. & Fifth Avenue
Brooklyn	-	Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park
Bronx	-	Bronx Park East at Birchall Avenue
Queens	-	The Overlook, Forest Park
Richmond	-	Clove Lakes Field House, West New Brighton

The hurricane taught a valuable lesson. Over 70% of the street trees destroyed by the wind were of unsatisfactory varieties prohibited in Park Department regulations. The Department does not approve of many varieties of trees now growing on city streets, such as poplar, silver maple, box elder, black locust, horse chestnut, Chinese elm, mountain ash, beech, birch, catalpa, willow, sugar maple, dogwood and hornbeam. When any of these trees die or are removed for any cause, they may be replaced only with trees on the approved list, which includes: - pin oak, red oak, scarlet oak, American elm, European elm, sweet gum, European ash, linden, Norway maple, honey locust, Oriental plane, tulip and ginkgo.

The approved trees for city planting are those which are adapted for the peculiar conditions of the city for tree growth and those most economically maintained. Most of the undesirable trees found on city streets are fast-growing ones planted privately to obtain a comparatively quick effect when the Park Department did not exercise the control it now does over street tree planting.

The tree planting permits required by the Park Department are issued free of charge, and application at any Borough office will bring all necessary forms and information.

Last year 667 street trees were planted by property owners using a standard form of contract and specifications drawn up by the Park Department, and their more frequent use by the general public is encouraged. Results in every case were gratifying to all concerned.

However, this scarcely scratched the surface, particularly in residential sections where poplars and silver maples were abundant before the storm, and it is hoped that with spring and the tree planting season just around the corner, citizens will call for the help so willingly offered, thus doing their bit to beautify their neighborhoods before the opening of the World's Fair.

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MARCH 4, 1939

For Release

Joe Hearn

848

The Bronx Playgrounds Operetta and Orchestral Clubs, sponsored by the Department of Parks, will present Gilbert and Sullivan's popular operetta, "The Mikado", at Mullaly Recreation Building, E. 165th Street and Jerome Avenue, Friday and Saturday, March 10th and 11th, at 8:15 P.M.

There are sixty-five members in the Operetta Club and thirty in the Orchestral Club. The entire ensemble average approximately sixteen years of age. The entire production is being trained, staged and costumed by the Bronx Recreation Division, Department of Parks. Another broadcast is to be given over station WNYC, Sunday, March 5th, 3 P.M.

Those taking the principal characters are:

The Mikado of Japan*.....Robert Kennedy

Nanki Pooch*.....Jonas Rimson

Ko-Ko.....Charles Fremed

Pooch-Bah.....Morris Gershenwitz

Pish-Tush.....Lawrence Rosenthal

Yum-Yum*.....Lena Rogoff

Pitti-Sing*.....Beverly Auerbach

Peep-Bo*.....Edythe Schrager

Katisha*.....Sara Post

* March 11th, these parts are being played by Andrew Durie, Daniel Eisen, Beverly Auerbach, Constance Boys, Sara Post, Edythe Schrager.

Not to be outdone by their older brothers and sisters a Junior Operetta and Orchestral Club has been organized. There are eighty-four members in the Operetta Club and sixteen in the Orchestral Club. The average age of this group is approximately 11-12 years. At present, they are rehearsing a musical version of Mark Twain's story, "Tom Sawyer". This combined group of one hundred youngsters will give two performances during May. They are anxious to perform and working very hard to make their initial offering performance.

March 3, 1939

848

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

IMMEDIATELY

For Release

Joe Hendlip

847

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks, at the Arsenal in Central Park for the paving of Cross Island Parkway at the intersection with the Bronx-Whitestone Parkway, Queens.

This contract for the construction of a portion of the new Belt Parkway, which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration, provides for a permanent concrete pavement to take the southbound traffic from the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge and a temporary pavement to carry the northbound traffic to the Bridge. The temporary pavement will serve until the three-level grade separation and its approaches at this point are completed on December 15, 1939.

The work under this contract must be completed by April 25, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

Harlem Contracting Co. 44 Exchange Place New York City	\$46,542.50
J. J. Mattrello 1036 - 65th Street Brooklyn, N. Y.	\$47,427.00
Andrew Weston, Inc. Woodmere, L. I.	\$48,955.00

March 3, 1939.

847

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

J. W. Sealey
For Release SUNDAY PAPERS
FEBRUARY 26,
1939

846
The Department of Parks announces that applications for permits to play golf and tennis on the courses and courts under its supervision will be received at the following offices starting March 1st:

THE BRONX - Bronx Park East and Birchall Avenue
BROOKLYN - Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park
MANHATTAN - The Arsenal, Fifth Avenue and 64 Street, Central Park
QUEENS - The Overlook, Forest Park, Kew Gardens, Long Island, N.Y.
RICHMOND - Clove Lakes Park, Victory Boulevard and Clove Road, S. I.

GOLF:

Season Permit - \$5.00 - Good for play Monday to Friday, inclusive. Permit holders must pay a surcharge of 50¢ per round on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.
Daily Fee - \$.75 - Monday to Friday, inclusive, excepting holidays.
\$1.00 - Saturdays, Sundays and holidays
Season Locker - \$5.00
Daily Locker - \$.25

Courses on which the golf permits may be used are:

THE BRONX - Van Cortlandt; Moshulu; Pelham; Split Rock
BROOKLYN - Dyker Beach
QUEENS - Clearview; Kissena; Forest Park
RICHMOND - Silver Lake; LaTourette.

Applicants are required to submit with application, a photograph, size 1-1/2" x 1-1/2".

Courses will be opened for play early in April, weather and ground conditions permitting.

✓
846

TENNIS:

Season Permit	-	\$3.00
Season Locker Permit	-	\$2.00
Daily Locker Permit	-	.25 (for one day only)

There are no daily permits for tennis. Play is limited to one hour per day where patrons are waiting for a court.

Applicants are required to submit with application, a photograph, size 1-1/2"x 1-1/2".

Hard-surface courts will be open for play on March 15. Clay courts will be open for play, weather permitting, April 15.

Tennis courts under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks are:

MANHATTAN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Number of Clay Courts</u>	<u>Number of Hard Surface Courts</u>
Central	93 Street & West Drive	13	17
	63 Street & York Avenue	4	

BROOKLYN

Fort Greene	DeKalb Ave. & Washington Park		6
Gravesond	56 Street & 18 Avenue		9
Kelly Memorial	Avenue S & East 14 Street	7	
Leiv Eiriksson	66 Street & 7 Avenue		10
McCarren	Lorimer Street & Driggs Avenue		21
Lincoln Terr.	Eastern Parkway & Buffalo Avenue	8	3
McKinley	75 Street & 7 Avenue	5	4
Prospect Pk.	Prospect Pk. W. & 9 Street	25	
Sunset	Fifth Ave. & 41 Street		3
Dreamland	Sea Breeze Avenue & W. 5 Street		8

BRONX

Bronx Park	Brady Avenue & Bronx Park East		6
Crotona Park	East 173 St. & Crotona Avenue	20	
Mullaly Park	East 164 St. & Jerome Avenue	15	
St. James "	East 193 St. & Jerome Avenue	8	4
St. Mary's "	East 146 St. & Trinity Avenue	3	3
Van Cort. " E.	233 Street & Jerome Avenue	8	
Williamsbridge Oval	Bainbridge Avenue & 208 Street		8

QUEENS

Alley Pond	Grand Central Parkway, No. Blvd.	10	6
Anawanda	Grandview Ave. and Stanhope St.	3	
Brookville	Brookville Blvd. & South Conduit Highway, Rosedale		6
Crocheron	E. of 215 Pl., S. of 33 Ave., Bayside		10
Cunningham	Union Turnpike, No. of 193 St.		15
Flushing Memorial	150 St. & Bayside Ave., Flushing	8	

QUEENS (cont'd)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Number of Clay Courts</u>	<u>Number of Hard Surface Courts</u>
Forost Park	Park Lane So. & 89 Ave., Woodhaven	7	7
Highland	Jamaica Ave. & Cleveland St.	13	13
Howard Beach	Nolan & Flynn Aves., Howard Beach	3	
Kisssona	Rose St. & Oak Ave., Flushing	12	
Triborough Bridge Approach	Hoyt Ave., So. & 21st St.		14
Wayanda	Hollis Ave., Springfield Blvd. Queens Village	2	
Playground	48 St. & 30 Ave., Astoria	2	
	89 Ave. & 90 St., Woodhaven	8	

RICHMOND

Walker Park	Bard Avenue, Delafield Pl., & Davis Avenue	6	3
Silver Lake	Hart Blvd., Silver Lake Park	4	
	Total	194	176
			194
	Grand Total		370

Additional courts are under construction in Manhattan, Queens and The Bronx, and will be opened for the use of the public as soon as completed. These courts are located:

MANHATTAN.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Number of Clay Courts</u>	<u>Number of Hard Surface Courts</u>
Harlem Housing Playgd.	150 St. & 7 Avenue		9
East River Park	Delancy St. & East Riv. Dr.		12
West Side	Ft. Washington Park		10
Randall's Island	South of Triborough Stadium	22	
		2 Grass Cts.	
Inwood Park	207 St. & Seaman Ave.		17

BRONX

Polham Bay Park	Rice Stadium		20
Van Cortlandt Park	Broadway & 241 Street		16

QUEENS

Tudor Field	No. Conduit Ave. & 80 St.		6
Liberty Park	172 St. & Liberty Ave.		10
	Total	24	99
			24
	Grand Total		123

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

J.W. Nease
For Release IMMEDIATELY

845
The rigid requirements of the schedule which calls for the construction of the thirty-two mile Belt Parkway around Brooklyn and Queens, before July 1, 1940, were met today "on time" when bids were opened by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal, in Central Park for the construction of another section of Cross Island Parkway from Hillside Avenue to 91st Avenue in the Borough of Queens.

The contract will be the eleventh to be awarded since October 13, 1938, the date of approval of this project which is being jointly financed by the City of New York and the Federal Public Works Administration, and brings the total of the work under contract to \$6,100,000, or 26% of the total estimated cost of the project.

The work under this contract consists of the grading and paving of a portion of Cross Island Parkway, between the limits mentioned above, together with service roads along its borders to serve abutting private property. Included in the work is a grade separation structure, over the Creedmoor Branch of the Long Island Railroad and an underpass at 88th Road to give pedestrian safe access from one side of the parkway to the other.

The work under the contract is to be completed on November 1, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

National Excavation Corp. 10 East 40 St., N. Y. C.	\$399,584.50
Andrew Weston Construction Co. Woodmere, Long Island	411,331.00
Garafano Construction Co. 120 Lexington Avenue, N.Y.C.	416,016.00

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845
FEBRUARY 24, 1939

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

844
For Release FRIDAY, FEB. 17
EVENING PAPERS
AND SATURDAY,
FEB. 18 MORNING
PAPERS

TO THE CITY EDITOR:

Attached for release is a copy of a memorandum on the Department of Parks 1939-1940 Budget request, a hearing on which will take place in the office of the Budget Director, Friday morning, February 17 at 10:30 A. M.

Attach.

FEBRUARY 16, 1939

844

MEMORANDUM ON 1939-1940 BUDGET REQUEST

FOR THE

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

FEBRUARY 9, 1939

The 1939-1940 budget request of the Department of Parks totals \$12,650,313.20 as compared with the 1938 budget, as modified, of \$9,626,508.55.

On the basis of present construction schedules added to new work completed during the past year, the 1939-1940 budget will have to provide for an increase of 35% in usable park and playground developments. Active recreation areas have increased from 870 acres to 1172 acres, and general park areas developed and put into public use have increased from 9,700 acres to 13,100 acres.

The total increase of \$3,023,804.65 is made up as follows:

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION - PERSONAL SERVICE

Supervisory

During the Fall of 1938 a candid, impartial inspection of park areas and operating personnel determined that the City's parks as a whole can be rated at 65% of an acceptable standard. This is 10% lower than the passing grade on a Civil Service examination. The outstanding phase of the work which contributed to this unsatisfactory standard of operation was supervision. The present budgetary provision for supervisory personnel in the department is inadequate in both numbers and titles. There are now provided 137 foremen in the budget to direct 4,200 employees, or 31 subordinates for each foreman. This would be abnormally light even on a construction job where all workers are more or less concentrated. In parks, laboring personnel are widely spread and supervision is correspondingly more difficult. The present request

calls for 172 foremen in various grades to supervise the work of 4,650 employees, which allows about 27 men per foreman, which is still rather light. The total increase in money requested for this item is \$84,000.

Mechanics

The 1938 budget allowed 170 mechanics in the various trades. On January 1, 1938 there were in the five boroughs 2,129 work repair orders left over from 1937. During the year 1938, 12,953 such orders were issued to the mechanical forces and they completed work on 11,123, leaving a balance at the first of this year of 3,959. The majority of these jobs represented emergency work and the present meagre force, which was supplemented by an average of 139 laborers, attendants, etc. working out of title, was entirely inadequate to cope with even all of the emergencies. It is obvious that unless sufficient additional mechanics are provided, the City's recreation plant will gradually deteriorate beyond the possibility of repair. The present request calls for 178 additional mechanics to replace the present unqualified employees working out of title and to provide enough additional mechanics to catch up on back work and to take care of new facilities. The total increase requested for this phase of the work is \$272,402.20.

Auto Enginemen

The department is now operating 439 pieces of automotive equipment and has requested 86 additional pieces in this budget. The 1938 budget provided 191 auto enginemen which means that there are now at least 250 laborers, assistant gardeners, climbers and pruners and others working out of title as auto enginemen. The additional 50 auto enginemen requested will not permit 100% operation of equipment by auto enginemen as we do intend to operate certain of the equipment with other employees, notably the forestry equipment which will be operated by climbers

and pruners as part of their normal work. The additional funds needed for auto enginemen amount to \$85,800.

Forestry and Gardening

We have in the City along streets and in parks about 2,250,000 trees for which the department is responsible. Most of the forestry forces have to be confined to work on street trees because of the thousands of complaints from private citizens of the condition of these trees. At the beginning of 1938 there were 3400 such complaints left over from the preceding year; during the year 1938, 42,794 were received and 34,369 cases were taken care of, leaving a balance at the beginning of this year of 8,425. These complaints very seldom apply to an individual tree and frequently involve the trees in a whole block or even in a section several blocks in area. From these figures it is apparent that the present forces are inadequate to keep up with the work required. There are still thousands of trees on the City's streets which are a danger to the public from rot or from broken branches which may fall at any time on people passing along sidewalks underneath.

The 1,250,000 trees in the City's parks have received even less attention; and unless adequate forces are provided for their proper care, they will deteriorate to such an extent that the parks will have to be reforested with thousands of new trees over a long period of years. In addition to this tree work, last year the department received by transfer from the various Borough Presidents, hundreds of small triangles and squares in street areas which are planted with lawns and shrubs. A small, entirely inadequate provision was made to take care of these areas in the boroughs of Queens and Brooklyn late last year. We have received constant complaints from citizens and from the Borough Presidents and even from the Mayor himself because of the lack of attention given to

those areas. We have requested a total of 94 additional climbers and pruners and gardeners to catch up on this work at a total increase in cost of \$161,634.

Recreation

As stated above, during the period of the new budget the active recreation area in the City's parks will have been increased by 35% over what was developed in 1938. To handle this additional load, we have requested 82 additional playground directors and 4 additional supervisors of recreation at a total increase in money of \$112,920. This represents an increase of 28% in the funds for recreation personnel.

Zoos

The department now has 20 keepers of menagerie in the two zoos. We have requested 14 additional. Under the present setup, because of inadequate forces, 28 laborers, attendants and other personnel are required to work out of title in the zoo areas. Only recently, a laborer doing keepers' work was gored by a goat; and unless these men are replaced by personnel qualified for the work, we can expect additional, more serious accidents. Furthermore, because of lack of adequate qualified personnel in the zoos, we lost 34 animals and birds valued at \$1,300. which were fed by the public everything from stones to rubber balls and died just as certainly as if they had been poisoned. The total increase in funds requested for zoo personnel is \$20,160.

General Maintenance Personnel - (Assistant Gardeners, Attendants, Watchmen, Laborers)

The bulk of the department's maintenance work - picking up, cleaning, mowing lawns, direction of the general public, etc. - is done by laborers, assistant gardeners, attendants and watchmen, of which the department's forces now total 2,855. We have requested an additional 37 watchmen, 78 attendants and 285 assistant gardeners, a total of 400 additional individual

employees. This represents an increase in the working forces of 14% to take care of the 35% increase in facilities. The difference will be compensated for in part by re-assignment to proper duties of employees in those title now working out of title as auto enginemen, keepers of the menagerie and mechanics of various kinds; in part by increased efficiency resulting from an adequate, properly graded supervisory force made up of the new foremen requested, and by promotions within the present force; and in part by additional mechanical equipment requested, which will permit individual employees to perform greater amounts of work. The increase in funds for these 400 employees amounts to \$584,919.

In this connection, I have renewed the request made a year and a half ago that the labor classes in the department be changed from per diem to per annum in accordance with the revised Sharkey Bill now pending in the City Council. The only additional funds required in the period of this budget for this purpose will be \$162,170.50 which represents no increase in number of employees, but is simply to extend the working year of 450 laborers and assistant gardeners to a per annum status based on 286 working days at their present per diem rate.

Summer Work

In 1938 the department received by transfer from the Borough Presidents of Queens, Brooklyn and Richmond a total of 9 miles of bathing beaches for the operation of which inadequate funds were provided. During the past summer it was necessary to make temporary transfers from the general park maintenance forces to the beaches of 118 men in the laboring class. Even with these transfers of men badly needed in the areas for which they were provided, the beaches were not satisfactorily operated. During the coming summer, the new Rockaway Beach development will be placed in operation with increased facilities and consequently greater attraction to the public. This beach during the past summer was under

construction and was maintained by the contractor. The depletion of regular maintenance forces in neighborhood parks resulted in serious deterioration in those areas; we cannot expect to keep them up to a reasonable standard if this practice of robbing them to operate the beaches is continued. For the proper operation of the beaches, the new budget should provide 163 additional attendants, 5 additional chief lifeguards and 3 additional auto enginemen on part time at a total increase in funds of \$86,953.

Salary Increases

Since the beginning of the present administration, there have been practically no salary increases in the Department with the exception of mandatory increases. During this time the total Department payroll has almost doubled and the Department's forces have increased correspondingly, and the amount of work done by the Department has trebled.

The administrative and supervisory forces are required to work long hours overtime and their responsibilities are in most cases far beyond what would normally be expected for the salaries they are receiving. The increase of \$35,353. requested for salary increases is an insignificant part of the total department budget, but it means a great deal to the individuals responsible for carrying out the strenuous duties required of them.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OTHER THAN PERSONAL SERVICE

Motor Vehicles and Equipment

The Department's 439 units of motor vehicle equipment represent an original investment of approximately \$543,000. We are requesting \$95,000 for replacements. At this rate the Department's equipment will be renewed about every five years. The average piece of equipment in the Department is driven about 65,000 miles in five years. I understand that the United States Treasury Department finds it most economical to trade

in government cars after 40,000 miles of running or when the estimated cost of repairs on an individual piece of equipment exceeds one-third of its market value. In many cases our equipment has been driven beyond the stage of economical repair and this request, based on replacement every five years, is well on the conservative side.

The request also includes \$156,000 for new equipment of which \$50,000. is intended for use on the Belt Parkway which will be turned over to the Department for operation and maintenance on July 1, 1940. It is imperative that equipment needed on this parkway be purchased before that date so that it may be available for immediate use. The funds should be set up in this budget and the equipment should be requisitioned April 1, 1940.

Eighteen new half-ton and one-ton pick-up trucks are requested for District Foremen. Of the 35 districts into which the City is divided for park operation, the district foremen in only one-half are provided with transportation. Some of the others provide their own cars for which they receive no added compensation and others have no transportation whatsoever. This lack of transportation is one of the reasons for the present low stage in the efficiency of the supervisory force.

Additional trucks of various sizes are needed to handle the increased maintenance load brought on by a 35% increase in developed operating facilities. In addition, there are numerous incidental items of equipment such as catch basin cleaners, compressors, tree movers, etc. which the Department does not now possess and which are necessary for proper maintenance, particularly on the parkways.

We also require four sprinkler trucks for use on bridle paths, and in the winter, for snow plowing work. In the past we have used eight anti-

quated Department of Sanitation sprinklers which were condemned years ago and which we have been operating without licenses because the State Department of Motor Vehicles refused to register them on account of their dangerous condition. We have been forced to use this equipment in the absence of any other means of keeping down the dust on the bridge paths, and even with this equipment, the complaints from citizens of dust rising from bridge paths are as regular as the sunrise during the summer. Sprinklers are also required on new parkway developments to irrigate newly planted trees and shrubs; loss from lack of this kind of attention in the past has run into thousands of dollars. It is anticipated that the four new sprinklers requested will do more than the amount of work possible with our present eight relics of a bygone era which are no longer in running condition.

The total increase in funds under this item is \$205,600.

Motor Vehicle Supplies

Under this item an increase of \$27,375 to provide additional gas, oil and other motor vehicle supplies is needed to run the new motor vehicle equipment and additional lawn mower and other gasoline driven equipment, for which funds are requested.

Botanical and Agricultural Supplies

The request of \$94,500 represents an increase of \$35,500 to take care of the additional 4,000 acres of general park development and the planting of 302 acres of additional active recreational areas. It will be noted that the proportional increase in these funds is 54% as compared with a 35% increase in additional developed areas. The newly developed areas will require a proportionally greater use of fertilizers and spray

materials to get them promptly established and to prevent undue loss of lawns, shrubs and trees. In addition, the funds for this type of work have always been insufficient to maintain planted areas, and lawns in particular, at a satisfactory standard. We lose hundreds of acres of lawns each year through lack of fertilizers and other materials needed for their proper culture.

Recreation Equipment

An increase of \$17,100 is requested for recreation equipment to take care of the new 302 acres of active recreation areas and to make replacements of equipment already worn out or deteriorated beyond the possibility of economical repair.

General Plant Equipment

The \$262,000 requested for general plant equipment represents an increase of \$195,755. Of this increase \$5,000 is for equipment in the central repair shop, \$18,000 for replacement of lawn mowing equipment, \$88,000 for new lawn mowing equipment, \$23,000 for snow plowing equipment, \$16,500 for mechanical sweepers, \$8,000 for portable mechanical equipment and \$2,000 for garage equipment. The balance of the increase is for additional general maintenance equipment such as brooms, shovels, paint brushes, rakes and other incidentals.

It must be borne in mind that in addition to the 35% increase in developed areas, lawn mowing equipment must be provided for the 32-mile long Belt Parkway, the 2-mile Whitestone Parkway, and the 1-mile Bronx Whitestone Bridge Approach, for which no budgetary provision has ever been made. The equipment for the Belt Parkway although not needed during the period to be covered by this budget must be requisitioned by April 1, 1940 to be available when these parkways are turned over for maintenance on July 1, 1940.

The purchase of mechanical sweepers will permit one man in one day to clean parkway gutters which now require about 40 man days of labor.

Portable mechanical equipment will enable the mechanical forces to keep abreast of breakage of bench slats and other minor structures; work on which they are at present months behind.

Highway Materials

This includes materials for patching and repaving walks and paths. The request for \$20,000 represents an increase of \$13,000 over the amount in the 1938 budget. The condition of park drives during the past few years has been subject to tremendous public criticism. This condition has been largely due to lack of patching materials in addition to lack of funds for complete repaving in sections where the pavements have been worn beyond the possibility of economical repair. There are miles of park paths badly in need of patching and resurfacing. Accidents to pedestrians because of broken and irregular surfaces are frequent and unless this condition is remedied, the City can expect numerous suits for damages.

General Plant Materials

Under this item an increase of \$130,100 is requested bringing the total requested to \$278,000. During the past year we have found that certain items in many of the structures built under the Work Relief Program are rapidly deteriorating, for instance, there are hundreds of wood doors falling to pieces because they were fabricated with uncured lumber. These doors will have to be replaced at a great expense for lumber and mechanic time. Under the general inspection last Fall, repairs rated 55.4% and painting 47.2%. This low percentage is partially attributable to lack of materials for replacements; in thousands of cases, damaged structures have to be temporarily patched without the use of new materials. This temporary work is in no sense satisfactory although it does permit public use

to continue. During the coming year these jobs will have to be done over with the additional mechanics requested and with new materials to be purchased with the funds requested under this item.

Repairs and Replacements

The total request under this item is \$42,000, an increase of \$22,900. over the amount allowed in the 1938 budget. This increase is made up of \$17,000. for repairs to the bridges over the transverse roads in Central Park, work for which no qualified personnel are available in the department. There is also an item of \$5,000. for replacement of the doors in the Central Park Zoo. The present doors are of wood and periodically go out of commission and have to be repaired. They should be replaced with metal doors with new and stronger mechanical checks. If this is not done, the various animal houses will continue to be closed frequently while temporary repairs are made.

Contingencies

Under this item the allowance of \$3,990. has been increased by \$12,610. of which the major item is \$10,600. for uniforms for beach personnel. This personnel totals 304 attendants at \$4.00 a day. It has been the practice in the past to furnish uniforms to the attendants on the revenue producing beaches and to employ laborers on the non-revenue producing beaches at \$5.50 per day. The uniforms to be furnished to the beach attendants are estimated to cost twenty-one cents per day which represents a saving due to the difference in pay between the attendants and laborers of \$1.29 a day per man, or a total saving for the season of some \$30,000.

Transferred Facilities

When the swimming pools, public baths, beaches, triangles, malls, etc. were transferred to the Park Department, budget funds totaling \$38,646.30 were transferred to take care of them. These transfers were made after the year was well advanced; and to extend the transferred funds to cover a complete year of operations, they must be increased by \$112,000.

REVENUE PRODUCING FACILITIES

For the operation of the revenue producing facilities, comprised of 2 beaches, 16 swimming pools, 10 golf courses, 503 tennis courts and stadia, an increase of \$137,564.25 for personal service and \$153,809 for other than personal service is necessary. These increases are due partly to new facilities such as swimming pools, located at Carmine Street, 23 Street, and 60 Street; games areas and beach chair and umbrella rental stations which are being constructed at Rockaway Beach; 131 new tennis courts which are being constructed throughout the city.

This request includes \$56,202.63 for the City Building and Marine Amphitheatre in Flushing Meadow Park, which should be provided on a contingent basis in case the Fair runs only one year as now scheduled.

This increase is also intended to do away with the necessity of drafting borough forces to assist in the maintenance and operation of the facilities. During the season of 1938 a total of \$171,000 in budgetary personal service had to be diverted from parks in the various boroughs to supplement the inadequate personnel available in the revenue producing budget for the operation of revenue producing facilities. All of these facilities without this supplementary help would have been grossly undermanned and would have suffered extreme deterioration from lack of maintenance and from lack of control of the public. This robbing of personnel from the regular parks resulted in unsatisfactory maintenance in these areas; and unless adequate personnel is provided for the revenue producing facilities, we can expect continued unsatisfactory maintenance and increasingly heavy repair and replacement costs in the parks which are undermanned on this account.

The golf courses as staffed during 1938 were undermanned and the equipment, purchased in 1934 through relief funds, is giving out.

Supplies and materials were not sufficient to meet the demands due to the large amount of play. The grass on the courses has exhausted the fertility of the soil used in their reconstruction. We lost hundreds of acres of fairway grass last season and a total of 18 greens because of inadequate personnel and materials to keep them in healthy condition under the excessive play to which they were subjected. The play on the golf courses increased from 445,000 rounds in 1936 to 604,221 rounds in 1938. In 1934 and 1935 sufficient materials, supplies and equipment were purchased through relief funds to operate the courses satisfactorily and to take care of the necessary top dressing, reseeding and fertilizing; but this source of materials is no longer available and the City must provide adequate funds if the courses are to continue to serve the public. Without adequate maintenance the courses will revert back to the condition they were in before this administration. To staff these courses so that they may be satisfactorily maintained and operated, personal services for each course should amount to \$28,000. To replace worn out equipment and to purchase the necessary supplies and materials, it will be necessary to increase the budget for other than personal service from the \$22,000 which was expended in 1938 to \$99,000 for 1939. With the new golf fees which are to be put into effect this year, it is estimated that an additional \$70,000 in revenue will be taken in.

Heretofore no provision has been made in the budget for maintenance personnel on the beaches during the winter months nor for personal service and other than personal service necessary to put the beaches in shape for operation each Spring. This work in the past has been done jointly with relief funds and by diverting personnel and materials from the regular parks for which they were provided in the budget. Relief funds are no longer available for this work, and as has been previously stated, we cannot con-

tinue to divert personnel and materials from regular parks without resulting in their loss through deterioration and lack of maintenance.

During summer months and heaviest usage, it has been necessary to divert hundreds of laborers from the regular parks to handle the large crowds and to gather the tremendous amount of rubbish left on the beaches. Of the \$171,000 regular personnel diverted to Revenue Producing Facilities, it is estimated that \$91,755 went to the two Revenue Producing Beaches at Jacob Riis Park and Orchard Beach. With the World's Fair in session this summer, it is only reasonable to assume that the crowds, at least at these two beaches, will be considerably heavier than in the past, which makes it even more imperative that adequate funds be provided for their maintenance and operation.

The total income from Revenue Producing Facilities in the year 1938 was \$853,089.47. With the new golf rates and with normal increase in use of golf courses, we estimate golf revenue will increase \$70,000 next year. The normal increase in use of the established swimming pools is estimated at \$10,000. The summer of 1939 will see three new outdoor pools in the Revenue Producing group in Manhattan, from which we estimate the revenue will be \$15,000. The new Betsy Head Park bathing house will be completed permitting a return to the standard rates for the use of the swimming pool with an estimated increase of revenue of \$15,000. The normal increase in tennis permits is estimated at \$5,000. and we estimate that the two Revenue Producing beaches will bring in \$30,000. above last year. There will be other incidental revenues from the games areas being constructed at Rockaway and from additional facilities at Coney Island.

All told, the Revenue Producing Facilities should bring in approximately \$161,000. additional revenue during the 1939-1940 season.

ENGINEERING - PERSONAL SERVICE

The twenty-nine new positions with a total payroll of \$81,300 requested are not new positions in the department. This personnel represents the key positions in the Engineering Division and are now being paid by funds charged against Capital Outlay, Street Improvements, etc. A great deal of study must be continuously given to future development of parks and parkways to insure proper coordination with completed developments. This work cannot properly be charged against funds appropriated for present construction and is rightly a budgetary charge. This group is made up of both office and field forces and is in responsible charge of all design and construction in the department.

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The major items of increase briefly described above aggregate \$2,750,924.35 of the total increase of \$3,023,804.65. The balance of \$272,880.30 covers a large number of comparatively small items necessitated by the increased amount of work required by expanded facilities. A few other items such as a Greenskeeper, Radio Operator, and a Foreman of Track and Athletic Field Maintenance are required to bring the Department's organization up to date and to secure maximum efficiency from the present forces, without even considering the increased personnel required.

We have had endless complaints of the condition of golf course greens during the past year. This can be cured by employing a greenskeeper for periodic inspection and for instructing the maintenance forces on the ten courses.

The Department has \$80,000 worth of radio and public address equipment which must be maintained, operated, and periodically modernized if it is to be kept in working order. Much of this equipment will be out of service if not deteriorated beyond repair this Spring because provision was not made in the 1938 budget for its proper maintenance.

We have 13 cinder running tracks throughout the City of which the then 11 completed last year were used by 658,024 athletes. The only track now in passable condition is that at Randall's Island, and this was accomplished only by bootlegging assistance from a W.P.A. employee charged against another job. The other tracks are in disgraceful condition and there is no employee in the Department qualified to supervise their renovation and proper maintenance.

I am just as interested as any other citizen in keeping the City's running expenses as low as possible. This request for a budget increase of 31% is entirely reasonable when due consideration is given to the 35% increase in usable park facilities, and when further consideration is given to the fact that the present budget, even with greatly increased efficiency in organization and methods, has resulted in parks that are only 65% of a standard to which the public is entitled. Paring maintenance provisions to such an extent that improvements cannot be kept in repair is the poorest kind of economy. There would be no excuse for letting history repeat itself by permitting the City's parks to become ramshackled eyesores when so much expense has been incurred in bringing them to their present greatly improved condition.

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Feb. 15, 1939

Library

843

2/15/39

HIKING TRAILS IN CITY PARKS

There are no designated hiking trails in City Parks, however, there are many excellent walks to attract the hiker. These walks and paths are located as follows:

BOROUGH	PARK	TRANSPORTATION FROM MANHATTAN	LOCATION OF WALKS	REMARKS
Bronx	Van Cortlandt	Bway-7 Ave. Subway to 242nd St. East to Park (5¢ fare). Jerome Ave. Subway to Woodlawn Station. West to Park (5¢ fare).	a. <u>Aqueduct Lands:</u> Gun Hill Road to Yonkers City Line and Mosholu Parkway. b. <u>Rockwood Drive:</u> Mosholu Ave. and Broadway to Yonkers City Line.	10 minute walk from subway station. 15 minute walk from subway station.
	Pelham Bay	Pelham Bay-Lexington Ave. Subway to Pelham Bay Station. North to Park via Eastern Boulevard.	a. Pelham Bay I.R.T. Terminal to Pelham City Line via Eastern Blvd. b. Hutchinson River Pkwy (easterly side of Pkwy) to City Line.	10 minute walk from subway station.
Queens	Cunningham	B.M.T. or I.R.T. to Main St. Flushing Queens Village Bus to Union Turnpike. Walk West 3 mile to Park.	Paths parallel to Grand Central Pkwy connecting Alley Pond with Cunningham Park	Subway fare 5¢. Bus fare 5¢. There is a bicycle path at Alley Pond where bicycles may be hired.
	Alley Pond	8th Ave. Subway to Jamaica 179th St. Bellerose Bus to Winchester Blvd. Walk North 1/2 mile to Park.		

843

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	Pelham Bay	Pelham Bay-Lexington Ave. Subway to Pelham Bay Station. North to Park via Eastern Boulevard.	a. Pelham Bay I.R.T. Terminal to Pelham City Line via Eastern Blvd. b. Hutchinson River Pkway (easterly side of Pkway) to City Line.	10 minute walk from subway station.
Queens	Cunningham	B.M.T. or I.R.T. to Main St. Flushing Queens Village Bus to Union Turnpike. Walk West 2 mile to Park.	Paths parallel to Grand Central Pkway connecting Alley Pond with Cunningham Park.	Subway fare 5¢. Bus fare 5¢. There is a bicycle path at Alley Pond where bicycles may be hired.
	Alley Pond	8th Ave. Subway to Jamaica 179th St. Bellerose Bus to Winchester Blvd. Walk North ½ mile to Park.		

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	Alloy Pond	8th Ave. Subway to Jamaica 179th St. Bellerose Bus to Winchester Blvd. Walk North 1/2 mile to Park.		

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Lehman
For Release

WED. EVENING
JAN. 25 AND
THURS. MORN.
JAN. 26, 1939

Negotiations have been completed with John D. Rockefeller, Jr. for the transfer to the Park Department of a one and three-quarter acre tract of land fronting on the east side of Fort Washington Avenue immediately adjacent to the southerly boundary of Fort Tryon Park. This gift of land rounds out the recreational areas donated by Mr. Rockefeller who, in addition to acquiring and developing Fort Tryon Park and erecting therein the Cloisters as a branch of the Metropolitan Museum and turning over the entire area to the City, has leased to the Park Department, at a nominal consideration, the large plot, also adjacent to the southerly boundary of the park, lying between Fort Washington Avenue and Cabrini Boulevard. This area has been developed as a playground and opened to the public in October, 1936. The new area across the street, which is rugged in character, will be developed into a terraced playground for adults with esplanades and overlooks from which park visitors may enjoy excellent views of Fort George and the northerly end of Manhattan Island. It will be necessary to construct high retaining walls faced with fieldstone to match the masonry in Fort Tryon Park. Work will be started by the Works Progress Administration early next year and the park should be opened to the public in the fall. The assessed valuation of this land is \$145,000; its dedication to the City brings the total Rockefeller donations, in land and improvements, to \$11,500,000.

This new playground marks another step in the park development of the Fort Washington Heights - Inwood section of northern Manhattan, which makes it one of the few neighborhoods in the City which is properly planned and developed from a scenic and recreational standpoint. The percentage of recreational land to the whole area from river to river north of 180 Street is 30 percent as against 18 percent of all Manhattan parks to the entire borough area. While the proportion is high, it must be borne in mind that these parks are readily available to all residents of Manhattan by rapid transit. Construction is proceeding rapidly on the formerly undeveloped park areas in this section and, when completed, the northern tip of Manhattan will boast the following diversified recreational facilities:

1 - Inwood Hill Park, 167 acres. The fine native woodland will be made thoroughly accessible by means of a network of footpaths with many benches for strollers. The Henry Hudson Parkway Authority contributed largely to this development, not only by extensively landscaping the margins of the parkway approaches to the double-decked bridge over Spuyten Duyvil, but also by making a sponsors' contribution to the WPA to aid them in turning the former riverside dump, north of Dyckman Street and west of the New York Central Railroad tracks, into an intensively developed area for active recreation. The Authority also provided a foot-bridge over the railroad and parkway underpasses so that visitors in the upper portion of Inwood Hill can expeditiously reach this waterfront area. The Authority provided a further sponsors' contribution to the WPA for toilet facilities, benches, drinking fountains and overlooks along the high point of the park overlooking the river. The National Youth Administration has done creditable work in the development of the park with walks, trails, drainage and general rehabilitation, and the area is being used by thousands of New York City school children for nature study under the guidance of their teachers. The WPA is at present constructing a boat basin in the Harlem Ship Canal which utilizes the old channel bordering Inwood Hill and Isham Parks and no longer used since the cut-off through the old Johnson Iron Works was completed by Army engineers early this year. This basin will house small boats of every description from canoes and outboards to cabin cruisers. It is scheduled to be completed in April 1939 and before that time work will have been started on the reconstruction of 10 acres of existing sandlots immediately adjacent to the south of the basin into play fields and these too will be completed in the summer of 1939, providing baseball diamonds and football fields with adequate provisions for spectators.

- 2 - Isham Park. This 20-acre area east of Inwood will be developed for passive recreation and with rest areas for mothers and children in the neighborhood. It has been thoroughly rehabilitated during the last five years and the new work will modernize the area while keeping the same facilities which it now enjoys.
- 3 - Dyckman House. This historic structure located at 204th Street and Broadway offers residents of the Inwood section a glimpse into the colonial past of the City.
- 4 - Fort Tryon Park. As indicated above this 59-acre area, the former estate of C. K. G. Billings, was acquired by Mr. Rockefeller and developed into a formal City park with extensive plantations and gardens. The City contributed the development of a playground in the northeast corner of the park, at the intersection of Dyckman Street and Broadway, and the installation of utilities and pavements, by an appropriation of \$150,000. The Cloisters Branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, located on a high knoll at the northern end of the park, houses a superb collection of medieval Gothic art and this five million dollar structure was also donated by Mr. Rockefeller and opened to the public in May, 1938. From the broad terraces of the Cloisters visitors have an excellent view across the Hudson to the Palisades whose skyline preservation is assured through Mr. Rockefeller's acquisition and dedication to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission of 700 acres of the plateau in 1935. The two playground areas at the south end of the park mentioned heretofore will provide recreational facilities for the Fort Washington neighborhood, with the existing area relieving the pressure of active youngsters on Fort Tryon Park. Through the generosity of Dr. Joseph Paterno the fine wrought iron fence which fronted his Castle on Cabrini Boulevard, and which was removed to make way for the apartment house development now under construction there, will be re-erected along the Fort Washington Avenue frontage of these two playgrounds, forming an impressive approach to Fort Tryon Park.

- 5 - Bennett Park. This two-acre site of a revolutionary redoubt, thoroughly rehabilitated within the past four years, will be developed as a sitting park for the residents of the many apartment houses in the vicinity and will include a small marginal playground for youngsters of kindergarten age.
- 6 - Gorman Memorial Park, 2 acres. This steep hillside area running up from Broadway to Wadsworth Terrace was developed with the aid of funds left in the will of Gertrude Emily Gorman Webb. It was opened in January, 1937, and residents of the Fort George section enjoy its paved overlook from which an excellent view across the valley to Fort Tryon Park can be obtained.
- 7 - In Fort Washington Park, directly under the George Washington Bridge and adjacent to the revolutionary earthworks, funds of the West Side Improvement are being used to develop an extensive shorefront picnic area with adequate paths, benches, fireplaces and tables. Directly adjacent to this rugged point and running south to 160th Street, the area between the New York Central Railroad and the river is being developed with facilities for active recreation with the same funds. There will be a children's playground, court games, two baseball diamonds and fifteen tennis courts. A toilet building is incorporated in the bridge structure by which this area is reached from the portion of the park east of the railroad.

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JANUARY 24, 1939

JULY, 1939

- #922: Jun 30-Jul 1-Opening of Marconi Memorial Field, Queens;
- #923: Jul 3- Announcement of Independence Day celebrations in playgrounds;
- #924: Jul 6-Bids opened for construction of superstructure of Belt Parkway Bridge over Mill Basin, Brooklyn;
- #925: Jul 6-Bids opened for construction of fender racks at Cross Bay Viaduct, Queens;
- #926: Jul 14-Inauguration of a series of band concerts, sponsored by City, Briedsam Foundation, & Local 802 of AF of M;
- #927: Jul 14-Announcement of celebrations at various playgrounds during July, commemorating their official opening;
- #928: Jul 14-Announcement of reduction in parking fee at World's Fair;
- #929: Jul 14-Finals of Horseshoe Pitching Tournament announced;
- #930: Jul 17-Announcement of ship bulletin board dedication in Battery Park;
- #931: Jul 18-City asks cemeteries to replant trees, particularly in areas bordering streets;
- #932: Jul 19-Dedication of Ship Bulletin Board;
- #933: Jul 25-Opening of construction bids for bridge over Paerdegas Bay adjoining Jamaica Bay;
- #934: Jul 26-Opening of East River park from Brand Street to East 12th;
- #935: Jul 27-Announcement of free public outdoor dancing, Riverside Park;
- #936: Jul 27-Announcement of Chess & Checker Tournament finals-Hecksher Playground;
- #937: Aug 2-Opening of bids for construction of two bridges: Flatbush Ave & Ocean Parkway;
- #938: Aug 3-Swimming pool at 342 E. 54th open twice a week to groups from Build for Jewish Blind;
- #939: Aug 3-Announcement of finals of checker tournament, 16 yr. age group;
- #940: Aug 4-Opening of construction bids for 2 grade separations at Fort Hamilton Pkwy & 69th St (Shore Pkwy section of Belt Pkwy);
- #941: Aug 4-Announcement of celebrations commemorating opening of various parks in the five Boroughs;
- #942: Aug 4-Announcement of completion of Lincoln Terrace Park Playground, Brooklyn, Braddock Ave & 240 St, Queens Village, & bicycle path on Ocean Pkwy;

Aug 39 continue;

- #943: Aug 7-Announcement of 2nd amateur photographic context, Sept 20th;
- #944: Aug 7-Announcement of finals of annual Am. Ballad contest;
- #945: Aug 9-Announcement of opening of playground bounded by Atlantic Ave-95th Ave, 88th & 89th Streets, Queens;
- #946: Aug 9-Announcement of finals of water polo tournament, Aug 10th;
- #947: Aug 11-Announcement of official opening of new police station bldg, 135th St & 12th Ave;
- #948: Aug 11-Construction bids opened for 4 bridges on Shore Pkway & Southern Pkway section of Belt Pkway system;
- #949: Aug 14-Construction of 23 new tennis courts, Randalls, Island, near completion;
- #950: Aug 14-Completion of renovation of Admiral Farragut monument announce
- #951: Aug 16-Somervell, Works Project Administrator, makes public a summary of WPA accomplishments for 1939;
- #952: Aug 18- Opening of bids for reconstruction of Culver Rapid Transit Railroad at Shell Rd., Brooklyn;
- #953: Aug 22-Bids accepted for "planting contract" to complete park development of Federal Post Office Area;
- #954: Aug 22-Announcement of beginning work on elimination of all crossings on the Rockaway Beach Division of the Long Island RR;
- #955: Aug 22-23-Announcement of 2nd annual Lifeguard Championship, Aug 23rd at 95th Street & Rockaway Beach;
- #956: Aug 24-New lab building turned over to Dept of Water Supply, Gas & Electricity (Underhill Ave & Park Place);
- #957: Aug 24-Announcement of 4th Annual Swimming & Diving Championship, Astor Park;
- #958: Aug 25-Bids opened for 2 contracts to provide for landscaping Cross Island Pkway from Whetstone Bridge intersection to FortTotten
- #959: Aug 26-Announcement of 25th millionth car to cross Henry Hudson Bridge
- #960: Aug 26-Announcement of opening of 2nd Ave playground bounded by Bradford, Edison, LaSalle, & Waterbury Aves, The Bronx;
- #961: Aug 26-Announcement of new softball diamond at Jacob Riis Park;
- #962: Aug 29-Announcement that 2millionth car passed over Cross Bay Pkway
- #963: Sept 7-Announcement of participation of approx 3000 playground children in recreational activities demonstration;

Sept continued--

- #964: Sept 11-Announcement of plans to widen & improve Cross Bay Boulevard between Howard Beach & toll booths of Cross Bay Pkwy Bridge;
- #965: Sept 11-Announcement of closing of 15 outdoor swimming pools in various boroughs;
- #966: Sept 14-Announcement of finals of Annual American Ballad competition;
- #967: Sep 18-Announcement of bids for 2 contracts to provide landscaping Cross Island Pkwy Section of Belt Pkwy from Creedmoor State Hospital to Laurelton Parkway & Southern Pkwy from Laurelton Pkwy to Rockaway Boulevard;
- #968: Sep 22-Announcement of opening of new athletic & recreation center in Van Cortlandt Park;
- #969: Sept 22-Announcement of opening of bids on contracts for repairing portion of Moshulu Pkwy & for Park Drive in Van Cortlandt Pk;
- #970: Sep 22-Announcement of opening of new tennis courts at Randalls Island
- #971: Sep 25-Bids received for contracts to construct five gettysburg beach front at Jacob Riis Park
- #972: Sep 25-Announcement of opening of bids for construction of a cellular street bulkhead at Sound View Park in The Bronx;
- #973: Sep 27-Announcement of new 3/4 acre children's playground in Bronx Pk
- #974: Sep 27-Bids opened for construction of 3 bridges on Shore Pkwy section of Belt Parkway;
- #975: Sep 29-Announcement of the cancellation of @give away@ of 5,000 begonia plants;
- #976: Sep 30-Announcement of finals of paddle tennis tournament-North Meadow Playground;
- #977: Sep 30-Announcement of celebrations in various playgrounds to commemorate official opening to public;
- #978: Sep 30-Announcement of regulations governing tree planting;
- #979: Oct 7-Announcement of opening of a new park bounded by DeGraw St, Nevins St, Douglass St., & 3rd Ave in Brooklyn;
- #980: Oct 11-Opening of reconstructed & enlarged Pulaski Park announced.

- 981 Oct. 18 Opening of bids for construction of 2 pedestrian bridges over Cross Island Parkway
- 982 Oct. 19 Announcement of winner of Amateur Photo Contest
- 983 Oct. 21 Draft of letter from Moses to Community Club re baseball diamonds
- 984 Oct. 24 Opening of bids for landscaping Shore Parkway section of Belt Parkway
- 985 Oct. 24 Park announces changes in maintenance and operative staff effective November 1
- 986 Oct. 27 City-wide finals of Horseshoe Pitching Contest
- 987 Oct. 27 Kite flying areas announced
- 988 Oct. 31 Exhibit of native Brazilian birds from part of Worlds Fair
- 989 Oct. 31 Opening of 3 new playgrounds in Queens and Bronx
- 990 Nov. 2 Celebration opening of various playgrounds during month of November
- 991 Nov. 4 Announcement of Annual Fall Chrysanthemum Show in Brooklyn
- 992 Nov. 6 Opening of bids for relocation of the lighting system at the intersection of Southern and Cross Island Parkways in Queens
- 993 Nov. 10 Opening of bids for contracts to provide for landscaping the Shore Parkway section of Belt Parkway from Fort Hamilton to Coney Island
- 994 Nov. 11 List of various chrysanthemums in Conservatory Gardens and with descriptions
- 995 Nov. 15 Bids opened on 2 contracts in connection with construction of Belt Parkway
- 996 Nov. 16 Announcement of Annual Handicraft Exhibition
- 997 Nov. 25 Finals of 6-man football tournament
- 998 Nov. 27 Bids opened for construction of 2 pedestrian over-passes over Shore Parkway section of Belt Parkway
- 999 Nov. 30 Extensive program of winter sport activities
- 1000 Nov. 30 One million tulips gift of Netherlands government to be planted along Henry Hudson Parkway
- 1001 Dec. 1 Bids opened for landscaping Shore Parkway section of Belt Parkway
- 1002 Dec. 3 Special activities planned for 11 playgrounds
- 1003 Dec. 4 Bids opened for placing final fill at Shore Parkway

- 1004 Dec. 4 Seasonal closing of 10 municipal golf courses on Dec. 5
- 1005 Dec. 4 1939 opening of 3 playgrounds in the Bronx announced
- 1006 Dec. 12 Parkway authority announced 29,001,400 used Henry Hudson
Parkway Bridge since Dec. 12, 1936
- 1007 Dec. 19 Ceremonies in connection with 22 Christmas trees in parks
- 1008 Dec. 28 Bids opened on 2 contracts for landscaping the Cross Island
section of Belt Parkway

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release Thursday

Dec. 28, 1939

1008

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks on two contracts for landscaping the Cross Island section of the Belt Parkway from Fort Totten to Grand Central Parkway.

One contract provides for the furnishing and spreading of topsoil where required within the limits mentioned above. The planting of trees, shrubs and vines and seeding will be performed under the other contract.

With the letting today, contracts have been let for 92% of the landscape work required for the entire Belt Parkway, from Owl's Head Park in Brooklyn to the Whitestone Parkway in Queens.

The low bidders were:

For Topsoiling

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Slattery Contracting Company
72-02 51st Avenue, Winfield, L.I. | \$62,060.00 |
| 2. Tully & DiNapoli, Inc.
30-11 12th Street, Long Island City | 72,770.00 |
| 3. Grant Park Construction Co.
65 Prospect Avenue, Hewlett, L.I. | 74,815.00 |

For Planting

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Grant Park Construction Company
65 Prospect Avenue, Hewlett, L.I. | 62,284.82 |
| 2. John Gozo
1625 West 6th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. | 70,361.80 |
| 3. Roman Landscape Contracting Co.
551 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C. | 71,869.84 |

1008

1007

The Park Department announces that ceremonies in connection with the twenty-two Christmas trees, which are being erected and decorated in parks throughout the five boroughs, will take place on Wednesday, December 20, at 5:00 P.M. A special program will be held at the principal trees in each borough, which will be at City Hall Park, Manhattan; Borough Hall Park, Brooklyn, Joyce Kilmer Park, The Bronx; King Park, Queens and Borough Hall, Richmond.

At City Hall Park, the ceremonies will start at 5:00 P.M. and will be broadcast over Station WNYC. Mayor La Guardia will throw the switch that will light the tree at 5:25 P.M., officially starting New York City's observance of the Christmas season. Borough President Stanley N. Isaacs will also participate in the exercises. Selections will be played by the Department of Parks' Band and Christmas Carols will be sung by the Police Department's Glee Club and Boys' Choir of the Sacred Heart Church. Borough Presidents Ingersoll, Lyons and Palma will light the trees in their respective boroughs where exercises will be conducted under the direction of the Borough Park Directors who have arranged appropriate programs.

A special decorative scheme has been designed for the Park Department Headquarters at The Arsenal, Central Park, which will depict the Three Wise proceeding to the Star in the East, centered in a holly wreath ten feet in diameter.

The trees will be lit each evening from 4:30 P.M. to 2:00 A.M. until January 2. Christmas trees will be erected at the following locations:

Manhattan: City Hall Park
Conservatory Garden - 104 to 105 Streets and Fifth Avenue
Thomas Jefferson Park - First Avenue and 111 Street
Roosevelt Park - Forsythe and Canal Streets
Fort Tryon Park - Riverside Drive, Broadway and Dyckman Street
Carl Schurz Park - 85 Street and East End Avenue
Mt. Morris Park - Fifth Avenue and 124 Street

Bronx: Henry Hudson Parkway - Spuyten Duyvil and Riverdale Avenue
Joyce Kilmer Park - 161 Street and Grand Concourse
St. Mary's Park - St. Ann's Avenue and East 144 Street
St. James Park - East 191 Street and Jerome Avenue

Brooklyn: Borough Hall
Grand Army Plaza, Prospect Park
Leiv Eiriksson Park - 67 Street between 4th and 5th Avenues
McCarren Park - Driggs Avenue and Lorimer Street

Queens King Park - Jamaica Avenue and 151 Street
Flushing Park - Northern Boulevard and Main Street
Forest Park - Park Lane South and 108 Street
Highland Park - Jamaica Avenue and Elton Street
Jacob Riis Park - Rockaway, Traffic Circle
Rockaway Beach - 95 Street Mall

Richmond: Borough Hall, Bay Street and Borough Place

1007

Christmas parties will be held in all Park Department playgrounds during the period of December 20 to December 30, and arrangements have been made for Santa Claus to visit 65 recreation centers throughout the City where elaborate programs have been prepared. Santa Claus's schedule of visitations is as follows:

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Playground</u>	<u>Time of Visit</u>
<u>Manhattan</u>	Mt. Morris East - 120 Street and Madison Ave.	Dec. 20 - 11:00 A.M.
	Highbridge - Amsterdam Ave. and West 189 St.	Dec. 20 - 3:30 P.M.
	82nd Street and Riverside Drive	Dec. 21 - 10:30 A.M.
	McCray - 138 Street between 5th and Lenox Aves.	Dec. 21 - 11:00 A.M.
	Carmenville - 152 Street and Amsterdam Ave.	Dec. 21 - 2:00 P.M.
	74 Street and Riverside Drive	Dec. 22 - 10:30 A.M.
	J. Hood Wright - 174 Street and Ft. Washington Avenue	Dec. 22 - 10:30 A.M.
	North Meadow - 97 Street bet. East and West Drive, Central Park	Dec. 22 - 10:30 A.M.
	189 Street and Amsterdam Avenue	Dec. 22 - 10:30 A.M.
	Morningside - West 123 Street and Manhattan Ave.	Dec. 22 - 10:30 A.M.
	Sauer - 12th Street between Avenues A and B	Dec. 22 - 10:30 A.M.
	East River Drive and 12th Street	Dec. 22 - 2:00 P.M.
	Payson Avenue and Dyckman Street	Dec. 22 - 3:00 P.M.
	West 45th Street bet. 9th and 10th Avenues	Dec. 22 - 3:00 P.M.
	Roosevelt - Chrystie and Forsythe Streets	Dec. 22 - 3:00 P.M.
	Harlem Health Roof - 158 East 115 Street	Dec. 22 - 3:30 P.M.
	Lewis and Rivington Streets	Dec. 23 - 11:00 A.M.
	Gulick, Sheriff and Broome Streets	Dec. 23 - 1:00 P.M.
	83 Roosevelt Street - between Cherry & Oak Sts.	Dec. 23 - 2:00 P.M.
	Chelsea Roof - 27 Street and 10th Avenue	Dec. 26 - 2:00 P.M.
	Carl Schurz - East 84 Street and East River	Dec. 26 - 3:00 P.M.
	Mt. Morris East - 120 Street and Madison Ave.	Dec. 27 - 3:00 P.M.
	McCray - 138 Street between 5th and Lenox Ave.	Dec. 27 - 3:00 P.M.
	St. Catherine's - 68 Street and 1st Avenue	Dec. 27 - 3:00 P.M.
	Downing Street and Sixth Avenue	Dec. 28 - 2:00 P.M.
	Harlem Housing - 158 East 115 Street	Dec. 28 - 3:00 P.M.
	Heckscher - 64 Street and Central Park	Dec. 28 - 3:00 P.M.
	Carmine Street Gym - 7th and Carmine Streets	Dec. 29 - 3:00 P.M.
	West 43rd Street off Ninth Avenue	Dec. 29 - 3:00 P.M.
	95 Thompson Street	Dec. 29 - 3:00 P.M.
	130th Street and Fifth Avenue	Dec. 29 - 3:00 P.M.
<u>Queens</u>	O'Connell - 114 Av. & 196 St., St. Albans	Dec. 20 - 10:30 A.M.
	Broadway and 78 Street	Dec. 23 - 11:00 A.M.
	Laurelton Parkway and Merrick Boulevard	Dec. 21 - 10:30 A.M.
	Jackson Pond - Myrtle Avenue and 108 Street	Dec. 22 - 2:00 P.M.
	Highland Park - Bulwer Place and Highland Blvd.	Dec. 22 - 11:00 A.M.
	Dry Harbor - Myrtle Avenue and Dry Harbor Road	Dec. 22 - 1:00 P.M.
	Rainey Park - Vernon Blvd. opp. 34th Avenue	Dec. 22 - 10:30 A.M.
	O'Connor - 33rd Avenue and 210th Street	Dec. 22 - 11:00 A.M.
	Corona Avenue and 102nd Street	Dec. 22 - 4:00 P.M.
	Newtown - 92nd Street and 56th Avenue	Dec. 22 - 11:00 A.M.
	Jackson Heights - 30th Avenue and 84th Street	Dec. 22 - 12:00 Noon
	Crocheron Avenue and 215th Street	Dec. 22 - 11:30 A.M.
	Chisholm - Poppenhausen Avenue and East River	Dec. 22 - 10:15 A.M.
	Von Dohlen - 138 Street and Archer Avenue	Dec. 22 - 10:00 A.M.
	Brookville Boulevard and 143rd Avenue	Dec. 23 - 10:00 A.M.

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Playground</u>	<u>Time of Visit</u>
<u>Bronx</u>	Reservoir Avenue bet. Sedgwick and Webb Aves.	Dec. 21 - 11:00 A.M.
	Aldus Street and Whitlock Avenue	Dec. 21 - 11:00 A.M.
	Olinville Avenue and Britton Street	Dec. 21 - 11:00 A.M.
	Mosholu Parkway, N.E. of Jerome Avenue	Dec. 21 - 11:00 A.M.
	141st Street and Brook Avenue	Dec. 22 - 11:00 A.M.
	East 178 St. bet. Cedar and Sedgwick Avenues	Dec. 22 - 11:00 A.M.
	East 188 Street and Hughes Avenue	Dec. 22 - 11:00 A.M.
	East 208 Street and Bainbridge Avenue	Dec. 22 - 11:00 A.M.
	Jerome Avenue and East 191 Street	Dec. 22 - 11:00 A.M.
	West 188 Street and University Avenue	Dec. 22 - 11:00 A.M.
	Jerome Avenue and West 165 Street	Dec. 22 - 2:00 P.M.
<u>Brooklyn</u>	Borough Hall Park	Dec. 20 - 5:00 P.M.
	Leiv Eiriksson - Eighth Ave. and 65 Street	Dec. 20 - 5:00 P.M.
	McCarren - Driggs Avenue and Lorimer Street	Dec. 20 - 5:00 P.M.
<u>Richmond</u>	Tompkins Avenue and Shaughnessy Lane	Dec. 21 - 10:30 A.M.
	Harbor Road near Richmond Terrace	Dec. 23 - 2:00 P.M.
	Crescent and Beechwood Avenues	Dec. 22 - 2:00 P.M.
	Jewett and Castleton Avenues	Dec. 21 - 10:00 A.M.
	First Avenue near Broadway	Dec. 21 - 10:30 A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

*For Release*_____

Tuesday
December 12, 1939

1006

The New York City Parkway Authority announced today that, in its three years of operation, 29,001,400 cars have used the Henry Hudson Bridge, spanning the Harlem Ship Canal. The bridge was opened to traffic on December 12, 1936 and during the first year 6,243,902 cars used the bridge, which had only one deck at this time.

The second twelve months of operation showed an increase of 3,913,885 cars or better than 63%. Due to the increase in traffic, an upper level was constructed, completed and opened on May 7, 1938. During the third year 12,599,711 cars used the bridge, more than 1,000,000 cars per month.

The Henry Hudson Parkway Bridge was constructed and is operated by the New York City Parkway Authority. In addition to this structure, the Marine Parkway Bridge, spanning Rockaway Inlet between the foot of Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn and Jacob Riis Park in Queens which was opened on July 3, 1937, has had a total traffic of 5,391,900 cars while the Cross Bay Parkway Bridge, opened on June 3rd of this year, has had 2,827,700.

1006

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release

For release Monday
December 4, 1939

1005

The Department of Parks announces the opening in The Bronx of three new playgrounds and a sitting area today at 3 P.M. The three playgrounds are located as follows:

Hine's Park - Fulton Avenue and East 167th Street

Watson, Gleason and Rosedale Avenues

East 177th Street and Noble Avenue

The sitting area is located at 254th Street and Riverdale Avenue.

A ceremony will be held at the large playground located at Watson, Gleason and Rosedale Avenues in which Mayor LaGuardia, Borough President James J. Lyons, Major Edmond H. Leavey, Acting Work Projects Administrator of New York City, and Mr. Roderick Stephens, President of the Bronx Board of Trade, will participate. Park Commissioner Moses will preside.

The 3.3 acre Rosedale Avenue playground contains a separate children's area with a wading pool and basketball court, slides, see-saws, swings, sandpit, jungle gym and playhouses. The balance of the area provides eight shuffleboard courts, three softball diamonds, eight handball courts and a large asphalt roller-skating area. After the exercises the official party will make a tour of the other three areas.

At East 177th Street and Noble Avenue the 3.6 acre area contains a children's playground and a separate regulation baseball diamond with concrete bleachers accommodating 150 spectators. The children's area is divided into two parts separated by a high, natural rock outcrop. One part contains a children's playground with combination wading pool and volley ball court, kindergarten apparatus, a large shaded sandpit, slides, swings, jungle gym and a brick comfort station. The other part is paved and will be used as a combination roller skating and games area.

These two playgrounds were acquired in connection with the southerly extension of the Bronx River Parkway and will provide recreation for those living along the route of this proposed parkway.

Hine's Park at Fulton Avenue and East 167 Street is a triangular-shaped area containing a small children's playground, providing a sandpit, see-saws, slides, kindergarten swings and a jungle gym.

The 254th Street and Riverdale Avenue area adjacent to the Henry Hudson Parkway is a sitting park. It is landscaped with shade trees and has ample benches along its winding paths. The land for this park area is an excess parcel condemned in connection with the Henry Hudson Parkway.

1005

-2-

The opening of these four areas designed by the Park Department and built by the Work Projects Administration makes a total of 306 new or reconstructed playgrounds completed by the Park Department since 1934.

To be released Monday
December 4, 1939

1004

The Department of Parks announces the seasonal closing of the ten municipal golf courses and the pitch and putt golf course at Jacob Riis Park with the end of play on Sunday, December 3rd. To keep them open beyond this date, with the alternate freezing and thawing, would be injurious to the courses and cause bare spots to show up in the greens which could not be rehabilitated for the opening of the courses next spring.

The small demand at this time is another factor which determined the closing date of the courses, as they, as well as other Revenue Producing Facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks, are run on a self sustaining basis which requires the income to be sufficient to pay the cost of maintenance and operation.

During this season there have been 603,259 rounds of golf played over the various courses, as compared with 604,218 during the season of 1938. The following is the number of rounds recorded at each of the ten courses throughout the season:

Bronx:	Van Cortlandt Golf Course.....	57,719
	Moshulu Golf Course.....	68,673
	Pelham Bay Golf Course.....	61,438
	Split Rock Golf Course.....	38,953
Queens:	Clearview Golf Course.....	51,038
	Kissena Golf Course.....	69,992
	Forest Park Golf Course.....	69,145
Brooklyn:	Dyker Beach Golf Course.....	94,491
Richmond:	Silver Lake Golf Course.....	47,799
	LaTourette Golf Course.....	44,011

With the intensive play over the courses it has been difficult to keep them in playing condition, but the change in rates and the resulting increase in income has permitted a larger amount of money to be spent on the up-keep of the courses, with the result that their condition has improved over former years.

During the season of 1938 \$235,473.75 was received from the sale of permits, lockers and golf reservations. \$280,712.75 was received in 1939, an increase of \$45,239.00. Expenditures in 1938 were \$239,892.93, as compared with \$264,028.00 in 1939.

1004

* * * *

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

*For Release*_____

Monday
Dec. 4, 1939

1003

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building, Central Park, for placing of final fill at Shore Parkway between Owl's Head Park and Fort Hamilton:

The work under this contract will consist of filling to grade the park area between Shore Drive and the new Belt Parkway. This work will complete the filling operations in Shore Parkway and 23.4 acres of new park created since the relocation of the old rock bulkhead.

The low bidders were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Slattery Contracting Company
72-02 51st Avenue
Winfield, L.I. | \$116,050.00 |
| 2. Tully & DiNapoli, Inc.
30-11 12th Street
Long Island City, N.Y. | 121,020.00 |
| 3. Welsh Brothers Contracting Company
35 Purvis Street
Long Island City, N.Y. | 134,580.00 |

1003

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Sunday
December 3, 1939

For Release

1002

The Department of Parks announces that special recreational activities are scheduled for eleven Park Department playgrounds during the month of December in commemoration of their official opening to the public.

These anniversary celebrations will include kindergarten demonstrations, puppet shows, singing of patriotic songs, group games, recitations, gymnastic exhibitions and athletic meets.

The December schedule for playground birthday celebrations is as follows:

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Playground</u>	<u>Opened</u>
<u>Manhattan</u>	Highbridge Playground - West 189 Street and Amsterdam Avenue	December 5, 1936
	Highbridge Playground - West 167 Street and Amsterdam Avenue	December 5, 1936
	Riverside Drive and 82 Street	December 4, 1937
<u>Brooklyn</u>	Prospect and Greenwood Avenues	December 19, 1935
	McLaughlin Playground - Bridge and Tillary Sts.	December 11, 1936
	Hopkinson Avenue and Dean Street	December 19, 1936
	Broadway & Kent Avenue	December 31, 1937
	Prospect Place & Underhill Avenue	December 5, 1938
<u>Bronx</u>	Cedar and Sedgwick Avenues	December 19, 1935
<u>Queens</u>	Broadway and 78 Street, Jackson Heights	December 24, 1936
	Equity Playground - 90 Street and 88 Avenue Woodhaven	December 26, 1937

1002

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release

Friday
December 1, 1939

[Handwritten signature]

1001

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building, Central Park, providing for landscaping the Shore Parkway section of the new Belt Parkway from Cross Bay Boulevard to 158th Street, Borough of Queens.

One contract is for furnishing and placing topsoil and humus and the other for planting trees, shrubs and vines, both projects being within the limits mentioned.

Including today's lettings provision will have been made for landscaping 26 miles of a total of approximately 30 miles of the Belt Parkway. Remaining landscape contracts will be advertised for bids in the very near future.

The low bidders were:

For Topsoiling Shore Parkway from Cross Bay Boulevard to 158th Street, Queens

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Tully & DiNapoli, Inc.
30-11 12th Street, L.I.C. | \$ 94,642.00 |
| 2. Slattery Contracting Company
7202-51st Avenue, Winfield, L.I. | 97,859.00 |
| 3. Tufano Contracting Corp.
168-22 91st Avenue, Jamaica, L.I. | 99,986.50 |

For Planting Shore Parkway from Cross Bay Boulevard to 158th Street, Queens

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Madden & Lane, Inc.
42-16 Vernon Boulevard, L.I.C. | 55,651.60 |
| 2. Roman Landscape Contracting Co. Inc.
551 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C. | 64,196.61 |
| 3. Grant Park Construction Company
Hewlett, L.I. | 64,505.15 |

1001

For Release ~~Thursday~~
Nov. 30, 1939

1000

Over one million tulips, a gift from the Government of the Netherlands to the City of New York, will be planted during the next two weeks along the Henry Hudson Parkway. The acceptance of the gift by the Park Department was announced yesterday, but the plans for the planting have been under consideration for some time.

The last shipment of bulbs making up the gift of a million tulips reached the docks at Rotterdam, Holland on November 21st, just in time to catch the "Rotterdam" which was the last boat to leave Dutch shores before the marine mine disasters put a stop to Dutch sailings. The time element was important anyway, as the bulbs must be planted here before freezing weather.

Several million people saw the display of a million tulips at the World's Fair last May, and there was a wave of protest when the announcement was made that these tulips would have to be destroyed. The Dutch Bulb Growers, however, renewed the offer of a similar display for next year's World's Fair, but when it was announced that the Fair would not open until May 25th, too late for the blossoming of tulips, the offer was withdrawn. The Bulb Growers suggested to the Park Commissioner that the Henry Hudson Parkway and Riverside Drive would make an ideal setting for a display of a million tulips. The Park Department accepted the plan.

After the plan was accepted by the Dutch Bulb Growers and the Netherlands Government, there remained the problem of packing and shipping a million bulbs in the quickest possible time, with working staffs depleted by mobilization. Finally, cabled advices were received that three ships were on their way to America with the complete cargo. The first of these ships, the "Burgerdyk", of the Holland-America Line, arrived at Hoboken last Saturday with the initial consignment of 90,000 bulbs. The remainder are coming in on the "Rotterdam" of the Holland-America Line, and the "Black Eagle" of the Black Diamond Line, due tomorrow.

The bulbs will be planted within the next ten days. It is essential to get them safely underground before the top crust freezes over.

The planting plans have been worked out by the park design forces. The tulips will be concentrated in two long stretches of terraced ground extending from 83rd Street to 91st Street, below the Sailors and Soldiers Monument, and from 112th Street to 115th Street. A separate planting of 100,000 hyacinths, also a part of the Netherlands gift, will be massed in the semi-circular area at 105-106th Streets with long plantings extending north and south from this area.

All of the spaces chosen for the planting are accessible to pedestrians, who will have a close view of the flower beds and will be able to study the varieties at leisure. There are also elevated paths and terraces immediately above these plantings which command a perfect view of the entire expanse, making it possible for millions to see this floral display during the month of May.

The complete list of varieties of tulips to be planted has not yet been received but there are over thirty in the first shipment, and the range of display will cover all of the better known varieties and many not usually seen in public plantings. The planting on the Henry Hudson Parkway will run the whole gamut from the marble white of the Carrara Tulip through the vivid scarlets and oranges to the dark purple of the Black Tulip made famous by Dumas.

The choice of the Henry Hudson Parkway on the banks of the Hudson River as the stage setting for this planting is peculiarly appropriate. It was a Dutch ship, manned by Dutch adventurers, setting sail from Amsterdam in 1609, which explored the Hudson River for the first time, and both the River and the Parkway now bear the name of the leader of this expedition.

In addition to the major display along the Hudson River, there will be other smaller displays in other boroughs.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

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For Release ~~Thursday~~
Nov. 30, 1939

get location

~~350,000~~
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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release — ~~Thursday~~
Nov. 30, 1939

WINTER SPORTS - INDOOR AND OUTDOOR

999

The Department of Parks announces an extensive program of winter sports activities including carnivals, skiing, ice-skating and coasting.

In addition to the 21 lakes used for ice-skating in the larger parks, 127 wading pools and 22 other suitable surfaces in various playgrounds will be flooded and 15 tennis courts will be sprayed.

Thirty hills have been set aside in the parks of the five boroughs for coasting and 13 locations have been designated for skiing.

Winter sports carnivals will be held on Sunday, January 7, 1940, at 2 P.M. at each of the following locations:

Manhattan - Conservatory Lake, Central Park near 72 Street and 5th Avenue

Brooklyn - Prospect Park, near Empire Boulevard and Lincoln Road

Bronx - Van Cortlandt Park, near West 242nd Street

Queens - Victory Field, near Woodhaven Boulevard and Myrtle Avenue

Richmond - Clove Lakes, near Victory Boulevard and Clove Road

There will be featured at these carnivals, events for juveniles, juniors and seniors, including dashes and long distance races. Exhibition of figure, pair and novelty skating will form part of the program.

As a fitting climax to the borough carnivals, a monster winter sports carnival will be held on Sunday, January 14th at 2 P.M. at Conservatory Lake, Central Park.

The first three winners in each event of the respective borough carnivals will be eligible to enter the final championships.

In the event of snow, a contest in snow sculpture and snow architecture will be held on Sunday, January 21st, at 2 P.M. Last year, 3000 competed in this novel contest and it is expected that there will be many more entries in 1940.

WINTER SPORTS - INDOOR AND OUTDOOR

Medals will be awarded to all winners of the winter sports carnivals and also to the winners of the contests in snow sculpture and snow architecture.

The attached list designates the respective areas for ice-skating, skiing and coasting.

Furthermore, the Park Department maintains and operates four indoor gymnasias with adequate showers and dressing facilities in which are conducted such activities as basketball, ping pong, volleyball, handball and gymnastics. There are located as follows:

Manhattan - Carmine Gymnasium - Clarkson Street and 7th Avenue

East 54th Street Gymnasium - 342 East 54th Street

West 134th Street Gymnasium - 35 West 134 Street

Brooklyn - President and 4th Avenue Gymnasium

Basketball teams desiring to use these gymnasias are requested to apply for the necessary permit to the Borough Director of Manhattan, Phillip J. Cruise, Arsenal Building, Central Park, New York City or to the Borough Director of Brooklyn, Richard C. Jenkins, Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park West and 5th Street, Brooklyn

Four other gymnasias under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks in the Borough of Manhattan will be open as soon as the necessary repairs and alterations been been completed.

Indoor swimming pools which may be used free of charge are likewise located in each of the above gymnasium buildings in the Borough of Manhattan and will also be included in the recreation facilities of three of the four remaining gymnasium centers under reconstruction.

In addition, there is a Park Department indoor swimming pool at 23rd Street and Avenue A, Manhattan, and at Metropolitan and Bedford Avenues, Brooklyn.

Facilities are also available in all boroughs for such outdoor activities as: soccer, football, field hockey, roller hockey, horseshoe pitching and handball.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release Monday
Nov. 27, 1939

998

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the construction of two pedestrian overpasses over the Shore Parkway section of the Belt Parkway in the Borough of Brooklyn. These bridges will provide pedestrian access over the Parkway to the Shore Point Promenade along Shore Parkway between Owl's Head Park and Fort Hamilton and are located at 92nd Street and at Old Glory Overlook.

These bridges will have a reinforced concrete deck on rolled structural beams, with stone faced concrete approach walls and ramps.

With the letting today, all of the 69 bridges required in the construction of the Belt Parkway will be under contract.

The three low bidders were:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Melwood Construction Co.
507 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C. | \$ 116,157.45 |
| 2. John W. Ryan Company
369 Lexington Avenue, N.Y.C. | 130,547.00 |
| 3. Harlem Contracting Company, Inc.
44 Exchange Place, N.Y.C. | 131,744.00 |

Saturday
Nov. 25, '39

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

For Release

997

The Department of Parks announces that the city finals of the six-man football tournament will take place Saturday, November 25th, at 2 P.M. at Van Cortlandt Park, 241st Street and Broadway between two Park Department playground teams composed of boys ranging from 16 to 19 years. This contest will be preliminary to an exhibition game between two championship teams from St. Peter's High School of Jersey City.

This is the first time that the Department of Parks has conducted a city-wide tournament in six-man football for playground boys. About six weeks ago, the playground directors conducted courses of instruction in the rules of the game followed by practice sessions. The best qualified team in each district of the five boroughs competed in a series of games for the purpose of selecting the most representative teams for the interborough contests. The game on Saturday will determine the champion six-man football team of New York City's Park Department playgrounds.

Due to the fact that this game is comparatively new and contains many radical changes in the rules of the regular eleven-man football, thousands of spectators have been attracted to the borough competitions. A large crowd is expected to be present, therefore, for both the playground championship game and the exhibition game between the students of St. Peter's High School, Jersey City, on Saturday afternoon, November 25th.

Prizes will be awarded to the members of the winning teams of both games.

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

For Release ^{Thursday}
~~Nov. 16, 1939~~

996

The Department of Parks announces that the annual playground children's Handcraft Exhibition will take place in the Education Hall of the American Museum of Natural History, 79th Street and Central Park West, beginning November 18th and running through November 26th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Sundays, the hours will be from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be no admission charge.

The Handcraft Exhibit will be in conjunction with the display of pictures which were submitted for the recent Amateur Photo Contest conducted annually under the auspices of the Park Department. The pictures were reviewed by the board of judges recently and prizes awarded to the winning contestants.

The Handcraft Exhibition will include objects made by children of all age groups in the various Handcraft Classes supervised by the Department of Parks at the numerous playgrounds under its jurisdiction as an integral part of a comprehensive all year-round recreation program.

The heterogeneous collection will reveal skillful leather, soap and chip carving, raffia, reed, bead, weaving and basketry work. Useful and decorative articles for home and school have also been made from such materials as cork, wood, metal, leather, wool, beads, crepe paper cord and felt. Discarded material of all sorts has been salvaged from the waste heap by the young craftsmen and converted into instruments of practical value, viz: rugs made of rags, lamps made of bottles, and flower vases made from cardboard milk containers.

Other contributions to the handcraft display consist of wearing apparel such as sweaters, scarfs and hats with singular designs and beautiful color schemes.

Demonstrations in the technique of handcraft will be given during the exhibition by children from each of the boroughs in the following: Leather and chip carving, basketry, bead-work, metal work, loom weaving and hook rug construction.

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

Wednesday
November 15, 1939
For Release

995

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal on two contracts in connection with the construction of the Belt Parkway.

One contract is for the removal of the South Brooklyn Railway Company's tracks from its private right of way between Avenue X and Neptune Avenue and the relocation of same in Shell Road between Avenue X and West 6th Street and in West 6th Street from Shell Road to Neptune Avenue, together with its sidings and other appurtenances.

The other contract is for planting with beach grass that section of Shore Parkway between Emmons Avenue and Cross Bay Boulevard and adds another $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles of planting along the Belt Parkway.

The three low bidders were:

For the Reconstruction of Street Surface Railway Tracks in Shell Road:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Nicholas Di Menna & Sons, Inc.
1525 Blondell Avenue, The Bronx, N.Y. | \$ 194,638.15 |
| 2. Melwood Construction Corp.
507 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C. | 196,391.60 |
| 3. Centau Construction Co.
11 West 42nd Street, N.Y.C. | 198,530.60 |

For Planting Beach Grass from Emmons Avenue to Cross Bay Boulevard:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Roman Landscape Contracting Co.
551 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C. | 72,000.00 |
| 2. John Gozo
1625 West 6th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. | 72,900.00 |
| 3. The Waltham Corp.
1860 Broadway, N.Y.C. | 73,665.00 |

994

The Department of Parks announces that the many varieties of chrysanthemums, now growing at the South Memorial Garden in the Conservatory Gardens in Central Park at Fifth Avenue and 105 Street, are in full bloom and make a very attractive display.

The names and varieties of the chrysanthemums and colors are as follows:

<u>Name of Variety</u>	<u>Description</u>
Vera Victoria	Tall Yellow
Greshen Pipper	Tall Yellow
October Girl	Lavender
Normandie	White
Normandie	Yellow
Day Break	Peach
Romaney	Bronze to Red
Francis Whittersley	Rose - Pom Pon
Captain Cook	Rose to Pink - Small
Barbara Cummings	Yellow shading to Orange
Ruth Hatten	White - Pom Pon
Lillian Doty	Pinkish White - Small
Anna Kuhn	Rust - Pom Pon
Early Bronze	Yellow to Rust - Pom Pon
Ruth Cummings	Terra Cotta to Bronze
White Doty	White
X-White	White - Pom Pon
Apollo - Korean	Red - Single - Yellow Center
Mars - Korean	Red - Single - Yellow Center
Spoon - Korean	Various shades

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

For Release Friday
Nov. 10

993

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal on two contracts to provide for landscaping the Shore Parkway section of the Belt Parkway from Fort Hamilton to Coney Island Avenue.

One contract provides for furnishing and spreading topsoil and humus between the limits mentioned above with the planting of trees, shrubs and vines to be performed under another contract.

With the letting today, contracts have been let for landscaping 15 miles of the Belt Parkway with the remaining landscape contracts to follow shortly.

The low bidders were:

For Topsoiling Shore Parkway from Fort Hamilton to Coney Island Avenue:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Granta Construction Corp.
501 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C. | \$ 105,860.00 |
| 2. Welsh Bros. Contracting Co.
35 Purvis Street, L.I.C. | 106,871.50 |
| 3. Slattery Contracting Co.
7202-51st Avenue, Winfield, L.I. | 106,905.00 |

For Planting Shore Parkway from Fort Hamilton to Coney Island Avenue

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Robt. W. Cleveland & Co.
19 N. Harrison St., East Orange, N.J. | \$ 38,355.20 |
| 2. Grand View Nurseries
6 Grand View Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y. | 44,044.11 |
| 3. Roman Landscape & Cont. Co.
551 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C. | 52,123.70 |

November 10, 1939

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

Monday
Nov. 6, 1939

*For Release*_____

992

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the relocation of the lighting system at the intersection of Southern and Cross Island Parkways from 118 Avenue to 130 Avenue in the Borough of Queens.

This work is being done in connection with the construction of the Belt Parkway at this point and will replace the existing lighting which it was necessary to move to allow for the changed alignment of the Parkway at this intersection.

The three low bidders were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. T. Frederick Jackson, Inc.
25 West 43 Street, N.Y.C. | \$ 15,126.00 |
| 2. Martin Epstein Company
955 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. | 15,450.00 |
| 3. Simpson Electric Corp.
71 East 116 Street, N. Y. C. | 15,568.00 |

The Park Department announces that the Annual Fall Chrysanthemum Show in the Prospect Park, Brooklyn, Greenhouse, will open on Sunday, November 5th at 10 A.M.

The Greenhouse is located at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street, Brooklyn, and may be reached by way of the I.R.T. subway, Grand Army Plaza stop, the Independent subway, 7th Avenue stop, and by the Vanderbilt and Smith Street car lines, Ninth Street stop, or by automobile direct to the Greenhouse by way of the east drive in Prospect Park.

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 which will be open for three weeks.

More than four thousand pots of chrysanthemums will be 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 Pockets, 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 numerous varieties in smaller size Chrysanthemums in 75 varieties such as the Pompons and the Anemone.

In the class of varieties in all shades of bronze, red, yellow and white, some of the outstanding Chrysanthemums 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.

990

The Department of Parks announces that celebrations will take place in various playgrounds during the month of November in commemoration of their official opening to the public.

These playground birthday parties will feature recitations, one-act plays and dance exhibitions comprising popular children's dances; also tournaments in such games as checkers, chess, jacks and ping pong.

Where the facilities permit, roller skating races will be included in the playground schedule of anniversary festivities.

Prominent local citizens have been invited to address the children on the advantages, both physical and mental, afforded them by playgrounds; and also the necessity of exercising care in the use of the equipment to prevent any unnecessary destruction of park property, which is maintained primarily for their enjoyment at great cost to the city.

The November schedule for playground anniversary celebrations is as follows:

	<u>Playground</u>	<u>Opened</u>
<u>Manhattan:</u>	Roof of Chelsea Health Center - 9th Avenue between 27th and 28th Streets	November 2, 1937
	Harlem Housing Playground - 151 to 153 Street and the Harlem River	November 2, 1937
<u>Brooklyn:</u>	Playground - Neptune Avenue and W. 25 Street	November 7, 1936
	Dreier-Offerman Playground, Cropsey Avenue and Bay 46th Street	November 9, 1934
	Playground - South 3rd Street and Berry Street	November 12, 1937
	Playground - Sackman and Powell Streets	November 12, 1937
	Cooper Playground - Morgan Avenue and Sharon St.	November 16, 1934
	Playground - Bushwick Avenue and Aberdeen St.	November 20, 1935
	Playground - Douglas and 3rd Streets	November 20, 1935
<u>Queens:</u>	Flushing Memorial Playground - 150 Street and Bayside Avenue, Flushing	November 9, 1934
	Corona 102nd Playground - Corona Avenue, 102nd Street, Corona	November 12, 1934
<u>Bronx:</u>	Playground - 183 Street and Ryer Avenue	November 11, 1936
	Playground - Crotona Park East and Charlotte St.	November 11, 1936
	Playground - Devoe Playground - Fordham Road and University Avenue	November 22, 1935

Heaslip

For Release Tuesday
October 31 1939
9891

The Department of Parks announces that it will officially open to the public at 3 P.M. on Tuesday, October 31, 1939, three new playgrounds located at Atlantic Avenue and 125th Street, Queens, 30th Road and 45th Street, Queens and Bronx Park East and Reiss Place, Bronx.

A ceremony will be held at the Atlantic Avenue and 125th Street area in which Mayor La Guardia, Borough President George U. Harvey, Lieut. Colonel Brehon Somervell, Work Projects Administrator of New York City, will participate. Park Commissioner Robert Moses will preside.

At Atlantic Avenue and 125th Street, the new 4.3 acre playground contains a separate children's area with wading pool, slides, see-saws and jungle gym, as well as kindergarten apparatus and sand pit for children of pre-school age. The balance of the area provides six shuffleboard, one basketball and six handball courts, two baseball diamonds, a football field, a soccer field with turfed surface and a roller skating track which, when sub-freezing temperature permits, may be flooded for ice skating. There is also a brick comfort station.

This is the last recreational area to be opened of the three which were originally proposed to be built in connection with the Atlantic Avenue Improvement. The land was acquired at the time the Board of Estimate approved the modified plan for the Atlantic Avenue Improvement.

At the 30th Road and 45th Street playground, the new 2.3 acre area supplements and includes the small recreational area opened in 1937, and rounds out the entire block, the southerly end of which was acquired by the Board of Education for school purposes. Here the recreational facilities will not only

provide healthful benefits for the surrounding neighborhood, but also an adequate play area for the school children during school hours.

At this location there is a completely equipped children's playground with kindergarten apparatus for children of pre-school age, two softball diamonds and a large permanently surfaced area which may be flooded for ice skating when sub-freezing temperature permits. There are also two basketball, two volley ball, six handball and three tennis courts.

17 In The Bronx, the new 1.36 acre playground in Bronx Park adjacent to Bronx Park East opposite Reiss Place, contains one shuffleboard, four horseshoe pitching, five paddle tennis, two volleyball and two basketball courts, completely encircled by a roller skating track. This facility has been built on a former swamp area, a portion of property turned over to the Park Department in connection with property transferred from the New York Botanical Garden for the construction of the extension of Bronx River Parkway.

These three playgrounds, making a total of 303 new or reconstructed playgrounds which have been opened by the Park Department since January 1934, were designed by the Department of Parks and built for the Park Department by the Work Projects Administration.

The Department of Parks announces that the exhibit of native Brazilian birds which have formed a part of the Brazilian Exhibit at the World's Fair has been turned over to the Park Department for safe keeping during the winter months.

Upon the conclusion of the Fair in 1940, the birds will be donated to the Park Department for a permanent display.

The present locations and distribution of the birds are as follows:

Central Park Zoo - Manhattan

- 6 Red Ibis - silvery white - head and neck black
- 4 Egrets - white head and body, long black legs, beak 6 inches
- 2 Night Herons , grey - head light grey - length 3 feet
- 2 Shoe bill Ducks - grey body - dark grey bill
- 3 Orinoco Geese (in various colors, pinkish red - beak, wings red - length 2 feet
- 2 Brown Ibis- head and neck brown; beak brown; legs and toes green - length 2 feet

Barrett Zoo - Richmond

- 5 Spoon bill Ducks - broad spoon-like beak
- 8 Tree ducks - brown body, black tail, tipped with grey
- 6 Red Ibis -- silvery white - head and neck black
- 6 Egrets - white head and body, long black legs, beak 6 inches

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release Friday,
October 27, 1939

KITE FLYING AREAS

987

The Department of Parks announces that the following areas have been designated for kite flying:

Manhattan - Randall's Island, play lawn, north of Triborough Bridge

Brooklyn - Marine Park, Avenue U and Gerritsen Avenue

Prospect Park, Long Meadow, east of Picnic House (nearest entrance at 3rd Street and Prospect Park West)

Canarsie Park, Seaview Avenue and East 93 Street

Red Hook Recreation Center, Bay and Court Streets

Owls Head Park, Shore Road and 68th Street

Queens - Alley Pond Park, picnic area, east of parking field - Winchester Boulevard and Grand Central Parkway, Queens Village

Forest Park, Overlook lawn area - Park Lane and Union Turnpike, Kew Gardens

Kissena Park, between the baseball diamond and upper parking field, Rose and Oak Avenues, Flushing

Cunningham Park, at athletic field - 185th Street and Union Turnpike, Hollis

Juniper Valley Park, on high bank near the athletic field - Dry Harbor Road and 62nd Avenue, Middle Village

Bronx - Williamsbridge Oval East, 208th Street and Bainbridge Avenue

Van Cortlandt Park, area north of Henry Hudson Parkway, adjacent to Broadway and 254th Street

St. Mary's Park - 145th Street and St. Mary's Street

Richmond - Willowbrook Park, Richmond and Rockland Avenues

10/27/39

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

Library
Friday,
For Release ~~October 27, 1938~~

986

The Department of Parks announces that the city-wide finals of the Horseshoe Pitching Tournament for boys over 18 years of age will take place at Heckscher Playground, 62nd Street and West Drive, Central Park, Saturday, October 28th, at 1 P.M.

For the past two weeks eliminations have been held in the various Park Department playgrounds of the five boroughs.

The winner and runner up in each of the borough finals will compete at Heckscher Playground, on Saturday for the city-wide championship.

Prizes will be awarded to the borough winners and to those who place 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the city finals.

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

LibRARY

For Release _____

155

Copy for Library, File, Mr. Healy

Telephoned City News at 11:55 A.M.; Brooklyn Daily Eagle at 12:10 and L. I. Daily Press at 12:05 Noon.

The Department of Parks announces the following changes
in its maintenance and operating staff, effective, November 1st:

1. Kenneth Franklin, relieved as borough director of
Manhattan, has been placed in charge of the Inspection
of Construction now going on in the Park Department
for all five boroughs.
2. Philip J. Cruise, relieved as borough director of Queens,
has been transferred to Manhattan as director of that borough.
3. James J. Mallen, relieved as borough director of Richmond,
has been transferred to Queens as Director of that borough.
4. A.M. Anderson, formerly assigned to the Division of Design,
has been transferred to the borough of Richmond as director
of that borough.

Tuesday
October 24, 1939

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

Mr. Hearlip
Tuesday
For Release October 24,
1939
984

Bids were opened on October 23, 1939 by the Department of Parks on two contracts for landscaping the Shore Parkway section of the Belt Parkway from Owl's Head Park to Fort Hamilton.

These contracts provide for topsoiling and planting of trees, shrubs and vines between the limits mentioned above.

Under previous contracts, this area has been greatly enlarged by extensive bulkheading and filling operations to allow for proper alignment of the Parkway which skirts the shore front along the Marrows, and to provide 23 acres of additional land east of the Parkway for park and playground purposes.

With the exception of the Bridges at 69th Street and at Fort Hamilton Parkway, which are now under construction, paving and grading in the area is now completed.

The three low bidders were:

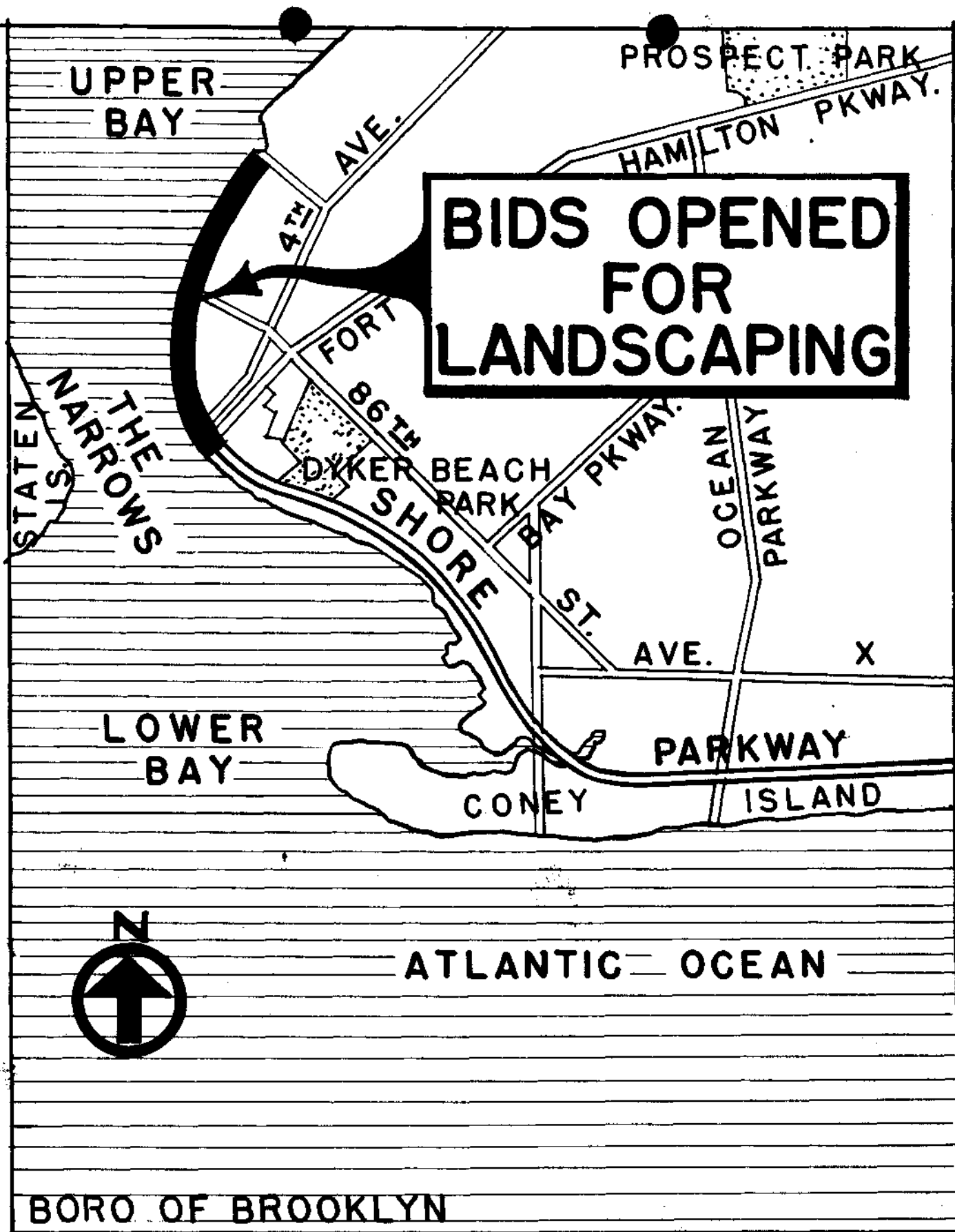
Topsoiling - Shore Parkway between Owl's Head Park and Fort Hamilton

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Walter C. Reediger, Inc.
2592 45th Street, L. I. C. | \$ 30,880.00 |
| 2. Tully & DiNapoli, Inc.
3011 12th Street, L. I. C. | 33,051.50 |
| 3. Granta Const. Corp.
501 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C. | 33,437.50 |

Planting - Shore Parkway between Owl's Head Park and Fort Hamilton

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Roman Landscape Co.
551 Fifth Ave., N. Y. C. | \$ 31,689.00 |
| 2. Robert W. Cleveland & Co.
19 N. Harrison St., East Orange, N.J. | 32,743.60 |
| 3. Madden & Lane, Inc.
4216 Vernon Blvd., L. I. C. | 34,253.29 |

October 23, 1939



**BIDS OPENED
FOR
LANDSCAPING**



ATLANTIC OCEAN

BORO OF BROOKLYN

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
CITY OF NEW YORK

October 21, 1939

TO: A. R. Jennings ✓
W. H. Latham

FROM: G. E. Spargo

I'm not sure that I'm
right about this. Will you give me
your comments on the attached draft?

Spargo
George E. Spargo

GES:McK
Attachment

(Draft)

983

October 21, 1939

Mrs. Gwendolyn Henry, Secretary
Mt. Morris Community Club
127th Street and Madison Avenue
New York City

Dear Madam:

I have your letter proposing that the southwest corner of Mt. Morris Park be used for baseball.

I am sorry that we cannot do this because of the size of the area and the number of people who must be served by the park. Unfortunately, because of the cost of land it is impossible for us to provide as many baseball diamonds in the heart of the city as we would like to. However, we have been able to build a number of them in Central Park, Thomas Jefferson Park and Riverside Park. There are several others just across the Triborough Bridge on Randall's Island.

It is true that it is necessary for the older boys to walk a considerable distance to reach these diamonds, but it is impossible for us to provide them any closer to the neighborhood. We feel that because of the lack of space, it is necessary for us to use the area in Mt. Morris Park for the smaller children who cannot travel any great distance to the recreation facilities.

Thank you for your letter and I am sorry that I cannot help you.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner

(Copy)

Mt. Morris Community Club
Mt. Morris Park
127 and Madison Avenue
New York, Oct. 16, '39.

Mr. Robert E. Moses,
Commissioner of Parks,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The members of this club are asking you if you will consider making the southwest corner of this park a ball field. The children of the neighborhood have no place to play ball except in the street.

Many schools and community centers use this area. Both boys and girls like to play soft ball. Just now the space referred to has been planted for a lawn.

We thank you for some consideration of the matter.

Very respectfully yours,

THE MT. MORRIS COM. CLUB.

(Signed) MRS. GWENDOLYN HENRY,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Thursday PM
For Release October 19

982

The Department of Parks announces that the 473 photographs submitted for the Amateur Photo Contest conducted by the Park Department were reviewed by the board of judges at the Arsenal Building, Central Park.

The entrants were divided into three age groups as follows:

- A. Children up to 14 years of age
- B. Children between 15 and 18 years of age
- C. Those over 18 years of age

Each competitor was permitted to submit as many pictures as he desired provided all the photographs were taken during 1939 and depicted "Youth or Age" in the parks, pools, beaches or playgrounds under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks.

The following contestants were adjudged the winners:

A Group

1st Place - Alexander Weingarten - 318 East 8th Street, New York City, 14 years old - "Fountain of Youth"

2nd Place - George Kafir - 1660 Crotona Park East, Bronx, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old - "Bears at Play"

3rd Place - George Kafir - 1660 Crotona Park East, Bronx, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old - "Snow Scene"

B Group

1st Place - Herbert Hamburger - 322 East 8th Street, New York City, 17 years old - "Wading Thru"

2nd Place - Walter Gottlieb - 477 St. Ann's Avenue, Bronx, 18 years old - "Pensive Moment"

3rd Place - Martha Berger - 234 East 70th Street, New York City, 18 years old - "An' the Doggie, Too"

Honorable Mention - Herbert Hamburger, 322 East 8th Street, New York City, 17 years old - "Swing High"

C Group

1st Place - Nathaniel Field, 625 Caton Avenue, Brooklyn - "Time Out for Repairs"

2nd Place - Nathaniel Becker, 135 West 74th Street, N.Y.C. - "Friends"

3rd Place - Charles S. Wagner, Tottenville, S.I., N.Y. - "Where Cares Cease"

1st Honorable Mention - John P. Connolly, 341 E. 19th Street, N.Y.C. - "Macombs Dam Running Track"

2nd Honorable Mention - Frederick Steiner, 1280 Commonwealth Avenue, Bronx - "Clubhouse - Mosholu Golf Course"

3rd Honorable Mention - John P. Connolly, 341 E. 19th Street, N. Y. C. -

"Macombs Dam Running Track"

4th Honorable Mention - John P. Connolly, 341 E. 19th Street, N. Y. C. -

"175th Street Park Pool"

5th Honorable Mention - Mrs. John Tehan, 34 Hillside Avenue, N. Y. C. -

"Highbridge Pool"

6th Honorable Mention - Bernard Saltsberg, 1870 Pitkin Ave, Brooklyn - "Winter Fun"

7th Honorable Mention - John Wohlrath, 253 E. 49 Street, N.Y.C. - "White Bear"

8th Honorable Mention - Bernard Saltsberg, 1870 Pitkin Ave, Brooklyn "Patrol #3"

The prizes consist of the following:

One Kodak Anastigmat Special f.4.5 lens with a Compur Rapid shutter and case, donated by R. H. Macy & Company.

One Argus Speed Camera Model C2 donated by Willoughby's, Inc.

One Falcon Flex Camera donated by Abe Cohen's Exchange.

Two Irwin Candor Camera donated by Abe Cohen's Exchange.

Certificate entitling holder to \$25.00 in photographic supplies, donated by the Park Association of New York City, Inc.

Nine Gallery Braquettes donated by Braquette, Inc.

Certificates of merit will be awarded to the contestants receiving honorable mention.

Presentation of prizes to the winning competitors will be made by Mrs. Arthur Hays Sulzberger, President of the Park Association of New York City, Inc. on Thursday, October 19th at 4 P.M. at the Arsenal Building, Central Park.

The judges of the contests were: Paul J. Woolf, John Gass and Paul Schum.

All the pictures submitted for the Amateur Photo Contest will be on display at the Education Hall of the American Museum of Natural History, 79th Street and Central Park West, in conjunction with the department's annual handcraft exhibition which will take place on or about November 16th.

October 18, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Mr. Heaslip

Wednesday
For Release October 18, 1938

981

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the construction of two pedestrian bridges over Cross Island Parkway at 28th Avenue and at Crocheron Park.

The superstructure of the pedestrian bridge at the foot of 28th Avenue consists of rolled steel beams with a wooden deck supported by timber piles.

The bridge at Crocheron Park is of similar construction except that the south end is supported by a stone-faced concrete abutment.

These bridges will provide pedestrian access over the Parkway to the shore front along Little Neck Bay. The pedestrian bridge at 28th Avenue is so constructed as to provide access to the new boat facilities which will eventually be provided along this waterfront and take the place of the existing private boat club.

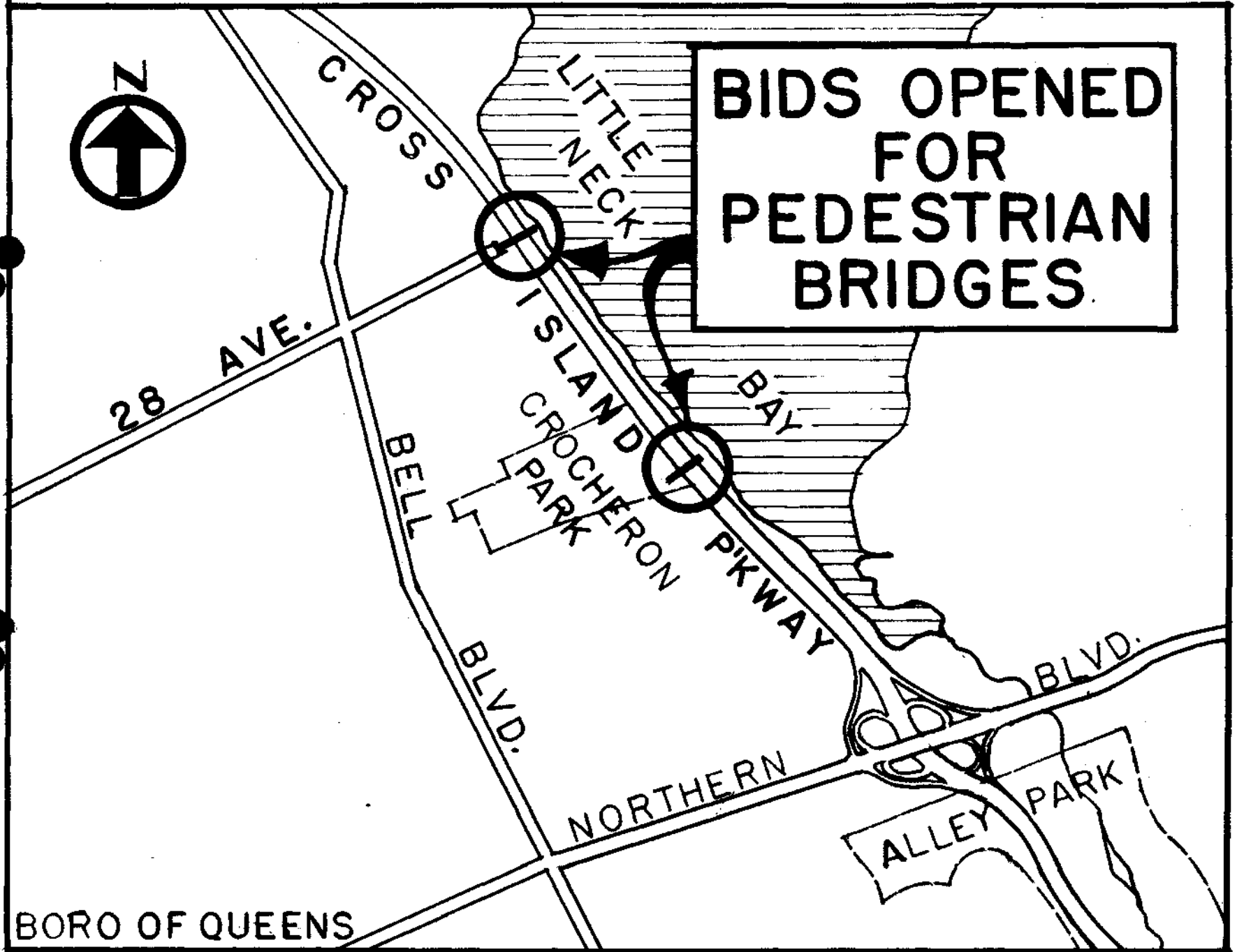
With the letting today 53 contracts have been let for the construction of the Belt Parkway since this project was approved on October 13, 1938 for a total of \$24,141,000 or 96% of the total cost.

These bridges are to be completed on or before May 1, 1940.

The three low bidders were:

Dowd-Wortman Construction Corporation 109 East 29th Street, N.Y.C.	\$69,616.00
John G. English, Inc. 12 East 41st Street, N.Y.C.	72,550.00
Kenney & Finnerty, Inc. Vernon Boulevard & 50th Avenue Queens, N. Y.	76,273.95

**BIDS OPENED
FOR
PEDESTRIAN
BRIDGES.**



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Mr. Headip
For Release

Tuesday P.M.
October 10, 1939
Wednesday A.M.
October 11, 1939

980

The Department of Parks will officially open to the public at 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 11, 1939, a reconstructed and enlarged Pulaski Park at 133rd Street and Willis Avenue, Bronx. This is the 300th new or reconstructed playground which has been opened by the Park Department since the consolidation of the five borough offices in January, 1934. At that time there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs and at the present time there are 390.

Speakers at the ceremonies will be Mayor LaGuardia, Park Commissioner Moses, Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx, Lt. Colonel Brehon B. Somervell, Work Projects Administrator for New York City, Michael Kwapiszewski, Deputy Commissioner General for Poland at the World's Fair, and the Reverend Francis Szubinski, Pastor of St. Adalbert's R. C. Church.

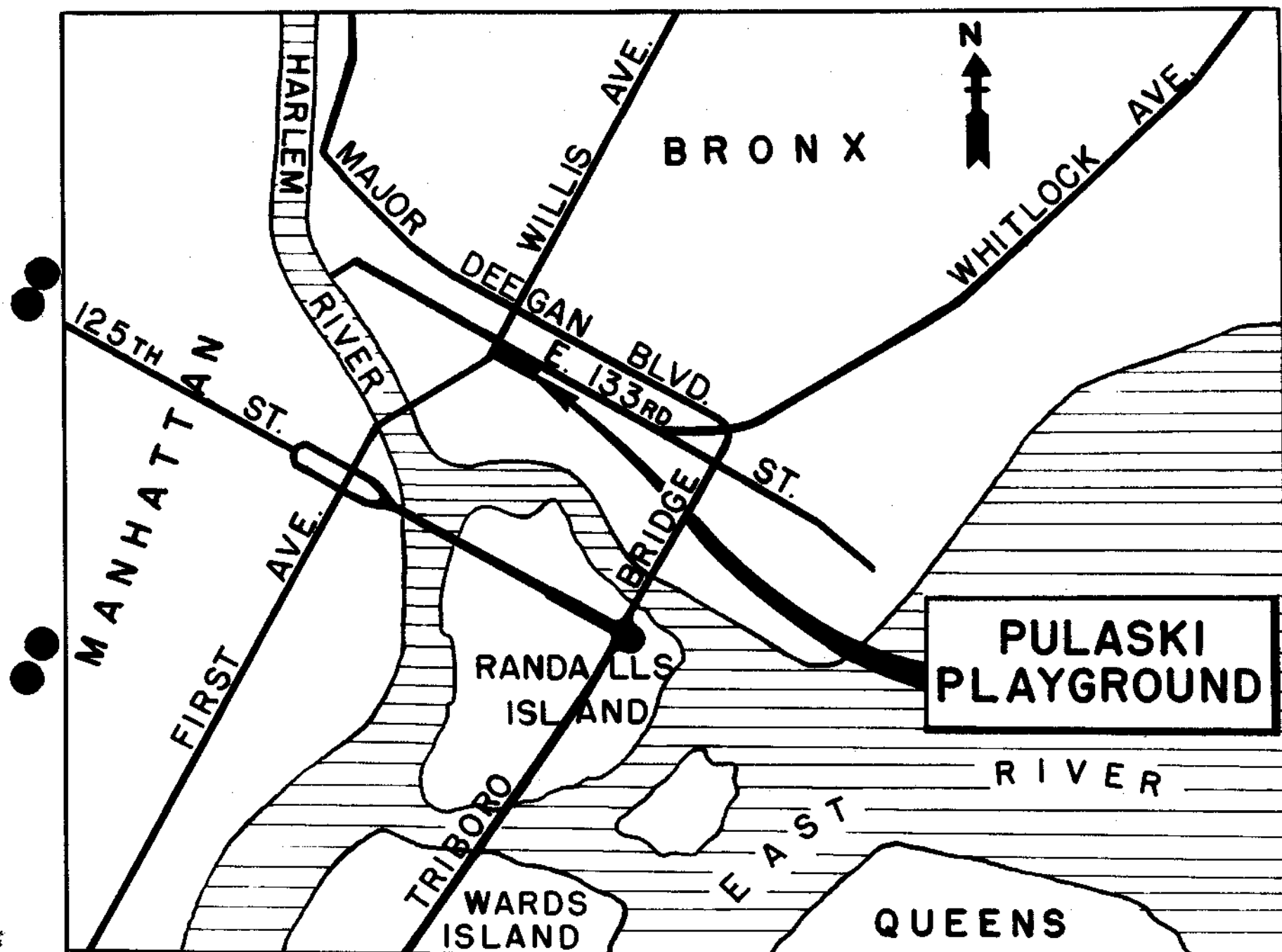
October 11th, known as Pulaski Day, is the 160th anniversary of the death of Count Casimir Pulaski, a Polish patriot and volunteer in the American army during the Revolution. He died of wounds received during the siege of Savannah, Georgia, on October 11, 1779.

The park was named in honor of Pulaski ten years ago. The reconstruction was done by WPA forces under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks.

Included in the development is a small children's playground, equipped with apparatus and shower basin, a sitting area for mothers and children, and a large paved recreation area containing softball diamonds. There are also four handball courts, four horseshoe pitching courts, four shuffleboard courts, a volleyball and basketball court included in the park.

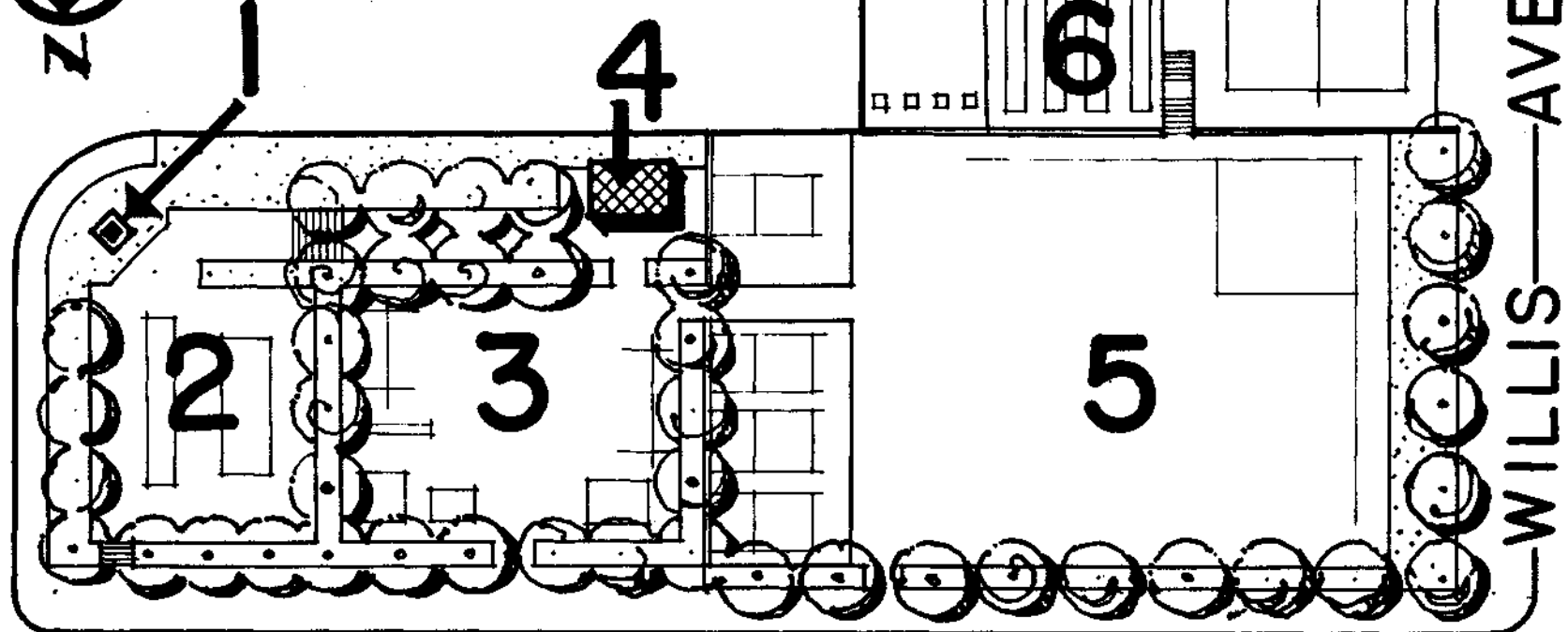
Numerous representatives of various Polish fraternal organizations will attend the ceremonies.

* * *





RAMP TO WILLIS AVE BRIDGE



KEY

- 1 MEMORIAL FLAGPOLE
- 2 SITTING AREA
- 3 APPARATUS
- 4 COMFORT STATION
- 5 SOFTBALL-ICE & ROLLER SKATING
- 6 VOLLEY BALL - HORSE SHOE COURTS



WILLIS AVE

E. 133 ST.

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

For Release Saturday P.M.
~~October 7~~
Sunday A.M.
October 8

979

The Department of Parks announces that a new two and one half acre children's playground occupying the entire block bounded by Douglass Street, DeGraw Street, Nevins Street and Third Avenue in Brooklyn, will be opened to the public on Monday, October 9th.

This area, which is the 299th new or reconstructed playground opened by the Park Department since 1934, was purchased by the City of New York in April, 1938, from the Brooklyn Union Gas Company.

This playground, planned to accommodate all age groups, provides the younger children with a wading pool and apparatus including swings, slides, see-saws, and a jungle gym. A portion of the area is set aside for roller skating and is so designed that it can be flooded in cold weather and used for ice skating. Accommodations for older children include a soft ball diamond, two basketball courts and eight concrete handball courts. A comfort station is also provided. Bordering the entire area is a new sidewalk with a double row of trees in addition to those along the fence lines within the playground area, amounting to about 125 in all.

October 6, 1939

DEP

978

PARK DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS FOR STREET TREE PLANTING

During the Fall season, it is well to inform the public of the regulations governing planting of trees in the City streets by private property owners.

Although the Department of Parks is charged with the care and maintenance of all trees in street areas, funds are not available to plant new trees, nor to replace trees which have died from one cause or another.

The Department offers every form of cooperation within its power to those who wish to plant trees in front of their property at their own expense. First, a permit is required. The permit is issued, without charge, by the office of the Park Department in the borough in which the tree is to be planted. The permit specifies the kind of tree, size of sidewalk, opening, size of excavation, the amount of topsoil and fertilizer required. The Department will inspect the planting operation to see that the owner gets what he is paying for and will inform the property owner when the tree has been satisfactorily planted.

These regulations are promulgated so that the city streets may be lined with healthy trees so planted and located, that they will thrive, and be an asset to the city and to the property owner. Trees planted by irresponsible contractors at abnormally low prices are seldom healthy; they are planted with insufficient soil and plant food and rarely live. Therefore, any tree planted without a permit may be removed by the Park Department without notice to the property owner, unless it satisfies all conditions which would govern the issuance of a permit for its location.

Applications for planting trees may be obtained at the borough offices of the Department of Parks located at:

Manhattan:	Arsenal 64th Street and Fifth Avenue New York City
Brooklyn:	Litchfield Mansion Prospect Park Brooklyn, N.Y.
Bronx:	Bronx Park East and Birchall Avenue Bronx, New York
Queens:	The Overlook Forest Park Kew Gardens, New York
Richmond:	Field House, Clove Lakes Park Victory Boulevard and Clove Road West Brighton, Staten Island

977

The Department of Parks announces that celebrations will take place in various playgrounds during the month of October in commemoration of their official opening to the public.

These playground parties will feature athletic meets for boys and girls which will include dashes, high jumping and novelty events such as potato races, three-legged races and wheelbarrow races; also recitations, one-act plays and dance exhibitions comprising popular children's dances.

Where the facilities permit, roller skating races will be included in the playground schedule of anniversary festivities.

Prominent local citizens have been invited to address the children on the advantages, both physical and mental, afforded them by playgrounds; and also the necessity of exercising care in the use of the equipment to prevent any unnecessary destruction of park property, which is maintained primarily for their enjoyment at great cost to the City.

The October schedule for playground anniversary celebrations is as follows:

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Playground</u>	<u>Opened</u>
Manhattan -	Essex, Norfolk and E. Houston Sts.	October 5, 1934
	Columbus - Baxter and Park Sts.	October 12, 1934
	Cherry, Monroe and Gouverneur Sts.	October 19, 1934
	Downing - Downing and Carmine Sts. W. of Sixth Avenue	October 19, 1934
	Heckscher - Central Park	October 4, 1936
	Colonial - 153 Street & Bradhurst Ave.	October 16, 1936
Brooklyn -	Carroll - President & Carroll Sts.	October 2, 1936
	Marine - Avenue U and E. 33 Street	October 2, 1936
	Red Hook - Henry St. on Gowanus Bay	October 5, 1937
	West End of Leiv Eriksson - 8 Av & 66 St.	October 12, 1934
	Fulton and Classon Avenues	October 28, 1934
	Bedford Ave. and Ave. X	October 14, 1935
	Ocean Parkway and Avenue P	October 14, 1935
	Park Avenue and Taaffe Place	October 28, 1934
	Williamsburg Housing - Scholes St, Graham Av.	October 29, 1937
	37th and 38th Sts, and Dahill Rd.	October 29, 1937
	Avenue U - 58th-60th Streets	October 30, 1936
Bronx -	Fort #4-Reservoir Ave., Sedgwick & Webb Aves.	October 14, 1934
	Teasdale Place - 164 St, E. of Boston Rd.	October 14, 1935
	Spofford Avenue and Faile St.	October 14, 1935
	Macombs Dam South - Sedgwick Ave., Jerome Ave. & Exterior St.	October 14, 1935
Queens -	Thompson Hill - 47 Ave. & 43 St., L.I.C.	October 25, 1937

September 30, 1939

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

Mr. Heaslip
Friday, P.M.
For Release Sept. 29, 1939
Saturday A.M., Sept. 30

976

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the paddle tennis tournament for boys and girls of Park Department playgrounds will take place on Saturday, September 30th at the North Meadow Playground, 96th Street and Central Park, according to the following schedule:

10:30 A.M. - Junior and Senior Singles - Girls

11:30 A.M. - Junior and Senior Doubles - Girls

2:00 P.M. - Junior and Senior Singles - Boys

3:00 P.M. - Junior and Senior Doubles - Boys

Finals of the shuffleboard tournament for men and women over 18 years of age, will likewise be held at the North Meadow Playground, Saturday, September 30th at 2:30 P.M.

There will be one man and one woman representative from each borough in this tourney.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to first, second and third place winners respectively in each contest.

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

Friday
For Release Sept. 29

Heaslip

975

It was announced earlier in the week that 5,000 begonia plants would be given away at Orchard Beach on Sunday, October 1st, at 8:30 A.M.

It has been found necessary to rescind this because of the demand for the plants from hospitals, schools and other public institutions.

September 28, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Mr. Haslip
For Release Wednesday, P.M.
Sept. 27, 1939

974

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks for the construction of three bridges on the Shore Parkway section of the Belt Parkway system.

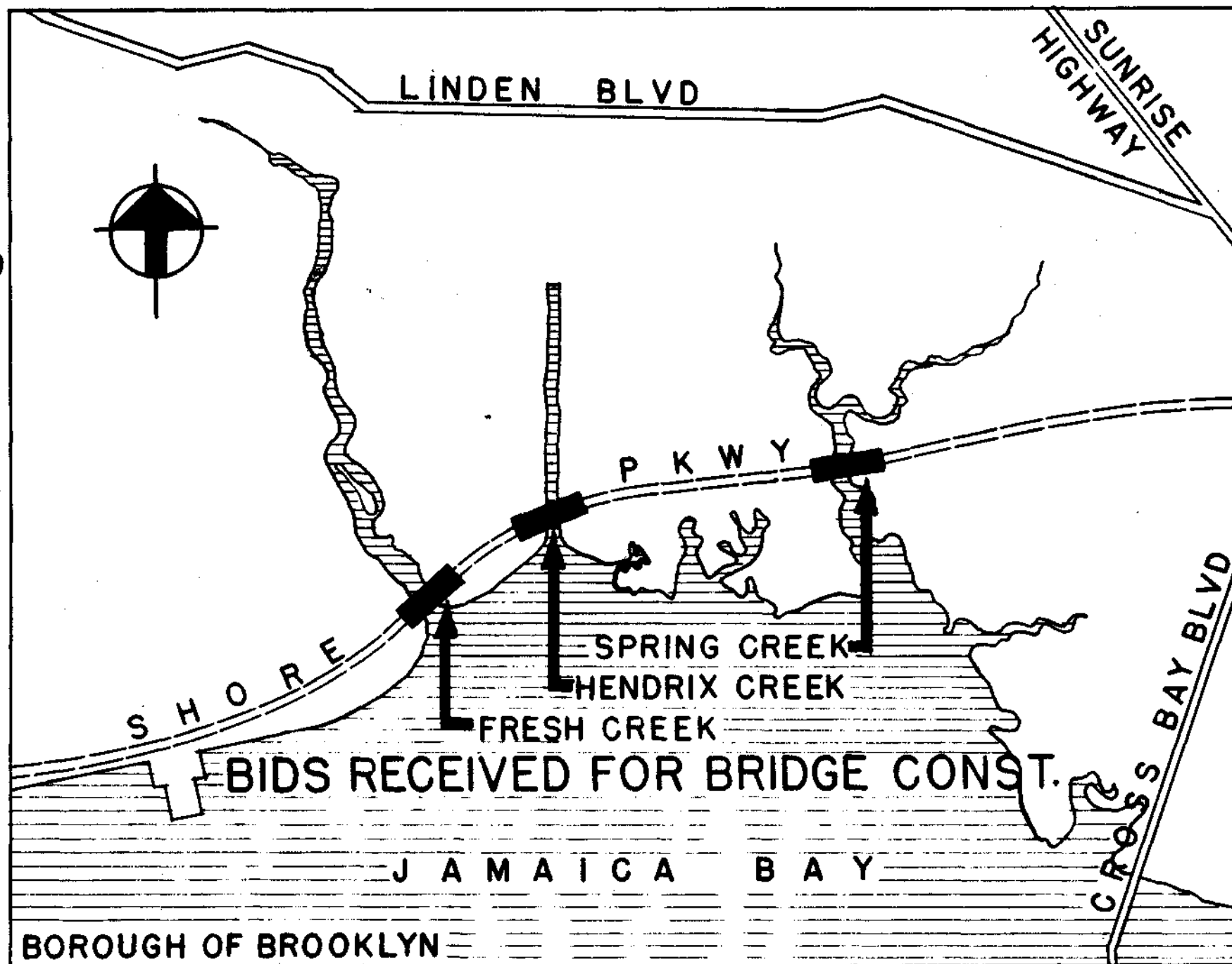
These bridges will carry the parkway traffic over Fresh Creek, Hendrix Creek and Spring Creek respectively, on two roadways separated by a center mall. In each case the superstructure consists of rolled structural steel beams with a reinforced concrete deck. Minimum clearances of 20 feet 4 inches above mean high water will be provided at the Hendrix Creek and Spring Creek Bridges while the Fresh Creek Bridge will allow a clearance of 21 feet above mean high water.

With today's letting all of the sixty vehicular bridges required for the construction of the Belt Parkway will be under contract.

To date fifty-two Belt Parkway contracts have been let since this project was approved on October 13, 1938 for a total of \$24,118,926 or 96% of the total cost.

The three low bidders were:

Johnson, Drake & Piper Freeport, Long Island, N.Y.	\$707,633.75
P. J. Carlin Construction Co. 405 Lexington Avenue, N.Y.	761,190.00
Elmhurst Contracting Co. 5304 97th Place, Corona, L. I.	768,770.50



DATE 9.26.39

DWG* M-5-39-14

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

Mr. Heaslip
For Release Wednesday, P.M.
Sept. 27, 1939
Thursday, A.M.; Sept. 28, 1939

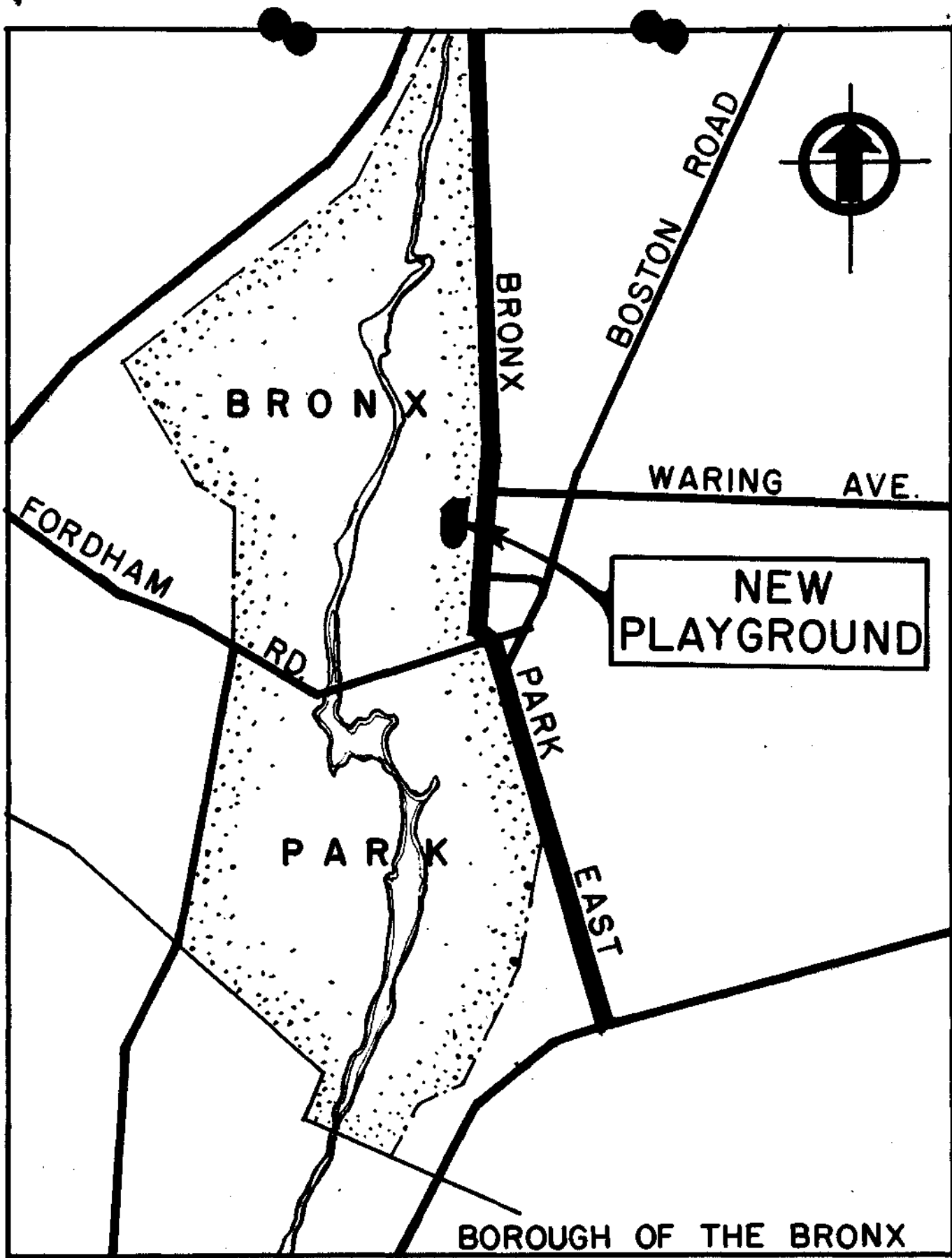
973

The Department of Parks announces that a new three-quarter acre children's playground in Bronx Park at Bronx Park East between Waring Avenue and Thwaite Place will be opened for use on Thursday, September 28th.

This playground is part of the development of property transferred in 1937 by the New York Botanical Garden to the Department of Parks; and is a unit in a chain of children's recreation areas already built or now under construction along the easterly boundaries of Bronx Park. Another play area to the south is well advanced and several others further north are planned for the future.

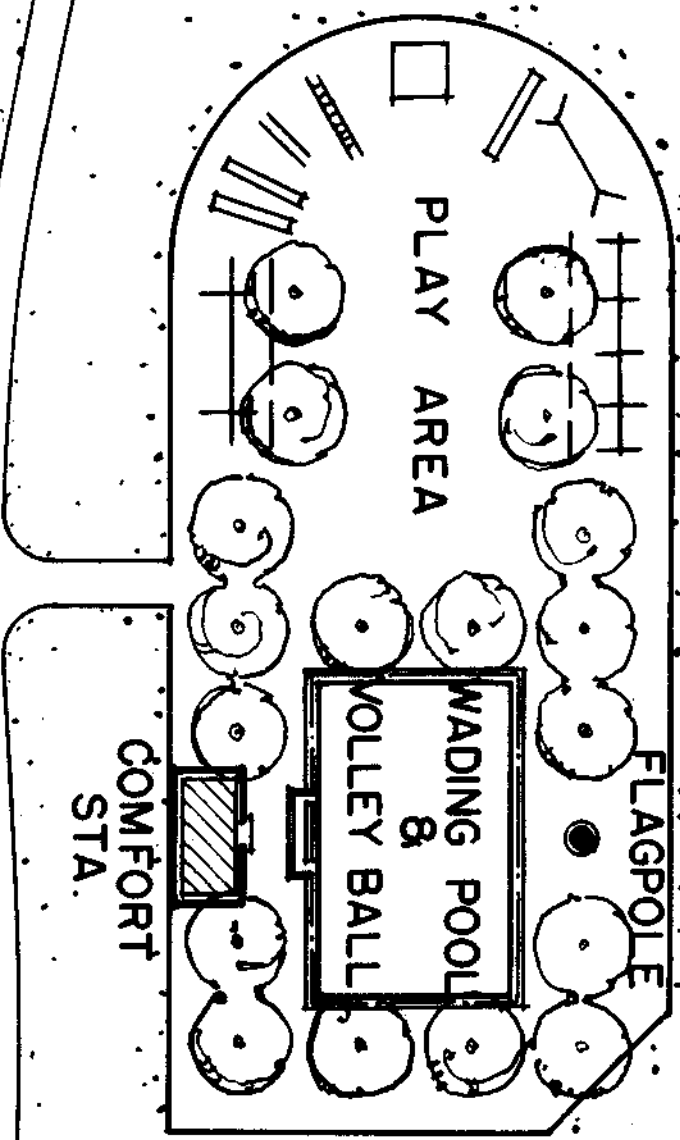
This new recreation area provides a completely equipped children's playground with a wading pool and a comfort station. In addition to two sand pits for small children, there is a variety of apparatus including kindergarten and playground swings, a jungle gym, slides, horizontal ladder, and parallel bars. Permanent concrete benches and shade trees are provided in ample numbers.

This is the 298th new or reconstructed playground completed by the Park Department since 1934.



B R O N X

P A R K



B R O N X P A R K E A S T

Heaslip

Monday
For Release September 25

972

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks for the construction of a cellular steel sheet bulkhead, 566 feet in length, at Sound View Park in the Bronx.

This bulkhead will carry an unloading platform with a concrete deck to support the machinery of the Department of Sanitation. The contract also provides for the construction of a mooring platform 16 feet wide and 191 feet long for barges and for dredging a channel to permit these barges to reach the bulkhead.

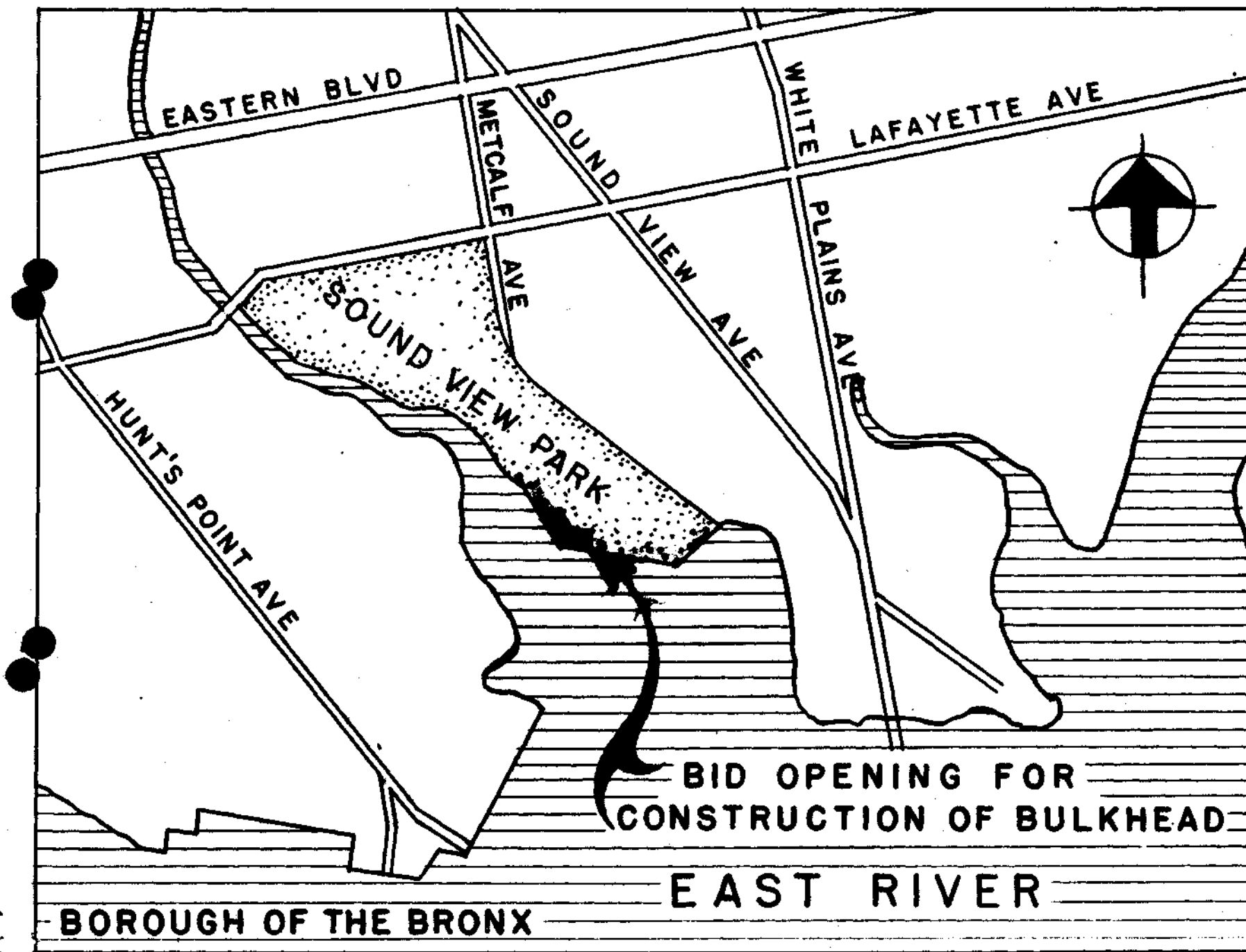
This is the first step in the construction of Sound View Park and will permit the Department of Sanitation to proceed to fill this area and abandon filling operations at Riker's Island. It will take eighteen months for them to complete the fill and, in the meantime, detailed plans and specifications are being prepared by the Park Department for the park development so that when the Department of Sanitation's work has progressed sufficiently, construction of the park can be started.

With filling operations abandoned on Riker's Island, work will start on the use of this filled land as a prison farm and a large nursery for the Department of Parks.

The three lowest bidders were:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Stock Construction Corp.
1735 Grand Central Terminal, N.Y.C. | \$227,500.00 |
| 2. Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.
17 Battery Place, N. Y. C. | 231,181.00 |
| 3. Senior & Palmer
50 Church Street, N.Y.C. | 244,000.00 |

September 25, 1939



BID OPENING FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF BULKHEAD

EAST RIVER

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Monday
For Release September 25

971

Bids were received today by the Department of Parks which will permit the construction of five jetties along the beach front at Jacob Riis Park, Borough of Queens.

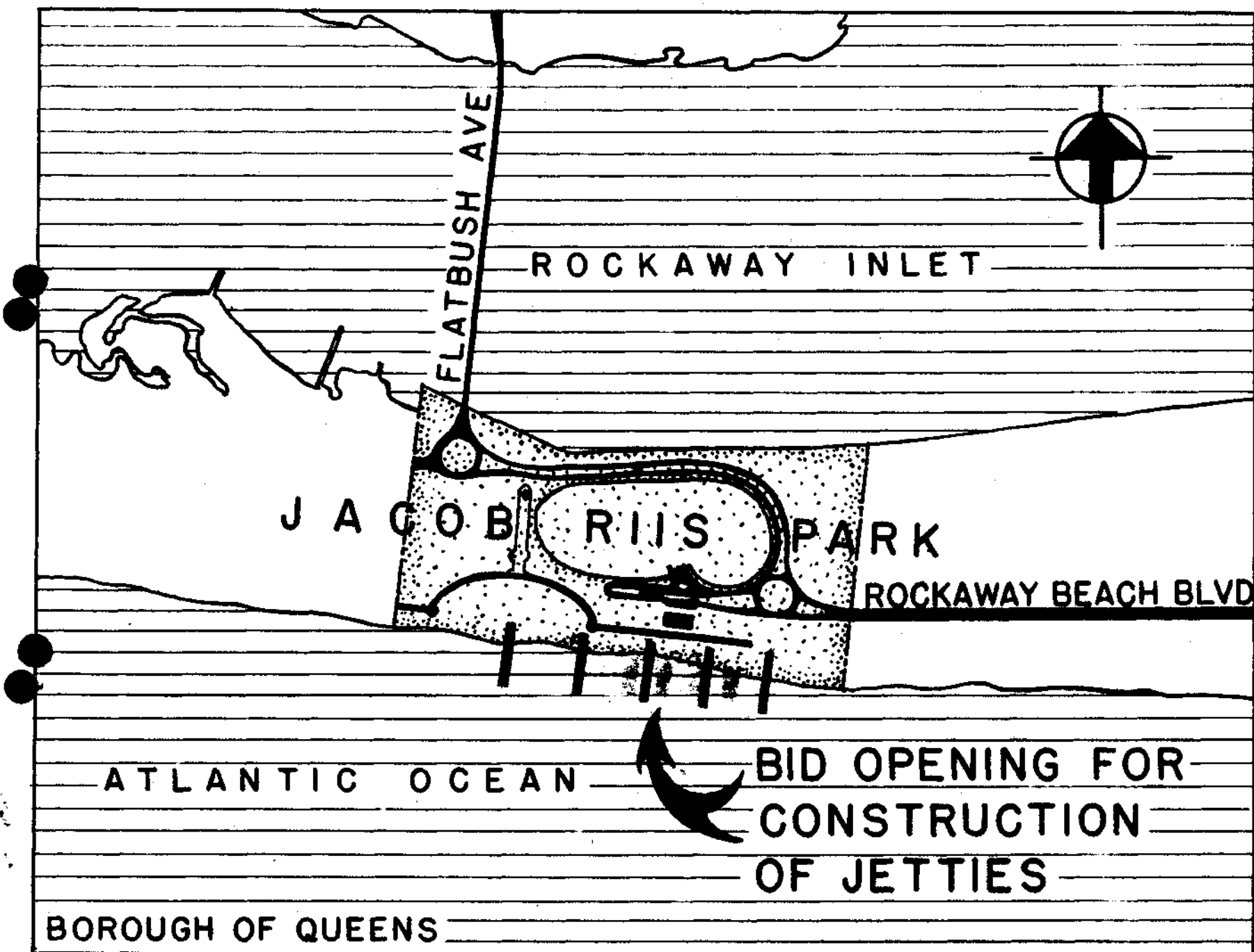
The bath house, built some years ago, is located so close to the water that at high tide there is no beach in front of this building for the bathers to use. A hydraulic fill contract, now in progress, is placing approximately 400,000 cubic yards of sand for the extension of the beach in front of the Park and Neponsit Hospital. This additional sand will increase the usable beach at Jacob Riis Park by twenty-five acres.

The jetties, approximately 500 feet long, will be constructed of steel sheet piles with a concrete coping and of timber permeable groins, and will act as protection for the sand beach which is being constructed.

The three lowest bidders are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Bethlehem Construction & Utilities Co.
59 Bank Street, N. Y. C. | \$64,515.00 |
| 2. Stock Construction Corp.
1735 Grand Central Terminal, N.Y.C. | 68,700.00 |
| 3. Madden & Lane
4216 Vernon Blvd., L. I. C. | 69,365.00 |

September 25, 1939



FLATBUSH AVE

ROCKAWAY INLET

JACOB RIIS PARK

ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD

ATLANTIC OCEAN

BID OPENING FOR
CONSTRUCTION
OF JETTIES

BOROUGH OF QUEENS

970

The Department of Parks announces the opening of nine new tennis courts upon Randall's Island on Saturday, September 23rd. These courts are available for play by any holder of a regular Park Department tennis permit on the same conditions as the other tennis courts in the Park system. These courts are part of a battery of twenty-three under construction. The balance of these courts will be opened as construction work is completed.

All the courts in this location are clay surfaced and have been constructed according to the latest approved methods to insure quick drainage and excellent playing conditions. Some of these courts were used for the National Public Parks Tennis Championship, which was completed on schedule in spite of two rainy days, due to the quick drying qualities of the courts.

There are no locker or dressing room facilities on the site of the courts, but players can be accommodated for the balance of the season, free of charge at the adjacent Triborough Stadium, on days on which there are no events at the Stadium.

Plans have been prepared for the erection of a concrete bleacher seating approximately 2000 persons and housing dressing facilities, but at the moment no funds are available to go ahead with this work. Construction of this unit will proceed just as soon as sufficient money is available.

It is expected that the new courts will be opened as construction work is completed.

All the courts in this location are clay surfaced and have been constructed according to the latest approved methods to insure quick drainage and excellent playing conditions. Some of these courts were used for the National Public Parks Tennis Championship, which was completed on schedule in spite of two rainy days, due to the quick drying qualities of the courts.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK**

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Friday, P.M.
For Release September 22, 1939

9689

In connection with the resurfacing program for existing park roads, the Department of Parks opened bids today at the Arsenal Building, 64th Street and Fifth Avenue on contracts for repaving a portion of Mosholu Parkway from Navy Avenue to Gun Hill Road, and for the Park Drive in Van Cortlandt Park from Bailey Avenue at Van Cortlandt Park south in a northerly direction, a distance of approximately 900 linear feet. Both projects are located in the Borough of the Bronx.

The work will consist of resurfacing the existing roadways with asphaltic concrete, including the reconstruction of curb and sidewalk, rebuilding and additions to the drainage system, topsoiling and reconstruction of the lighting systems where necessary.

Reconstruction of the Mosholu Parkway project and the sections completed last spring will provide an entire new roadway in Mosholu Parkway from Gun Hill Road to Van Cortlandt Avenue East.

The following bids were received for the Mosholu Avenue project:

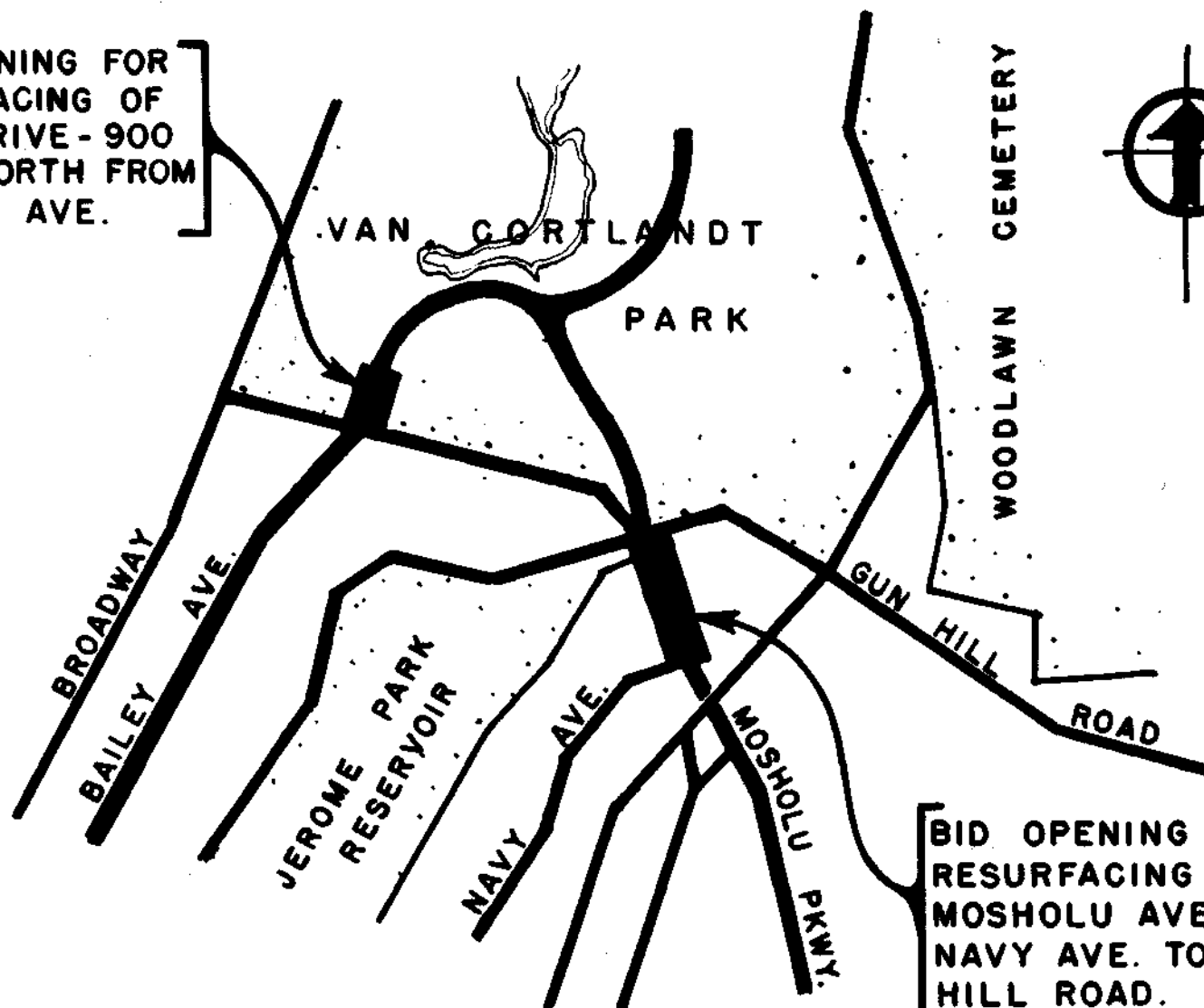
Del Balso Construction Corporation 220 East 42 Street, N. Y. C.	\$24,848.75
Charles D. Beckwith, Inc. Seneca Ave. & Bronx River, Bronx, N.Y.	25,122.00
Amiesite Construction Corporation Mt. Vernon, New York	25,482.00

Bids for Park Drive in Van Cortlandt Park were:

Charles D. Beckwith, Inc. Seneca Ave. & Bronx River, Bronx, N.Y.	\$ 9,935.00
Amiesite Construction Corporation Mt. Vernon, New York	10,455.50
Del Balso Construction Corporation 220 East 42 Street, N. Y. C.	11,051.50

Each of the projects is to be completed within 60 days.

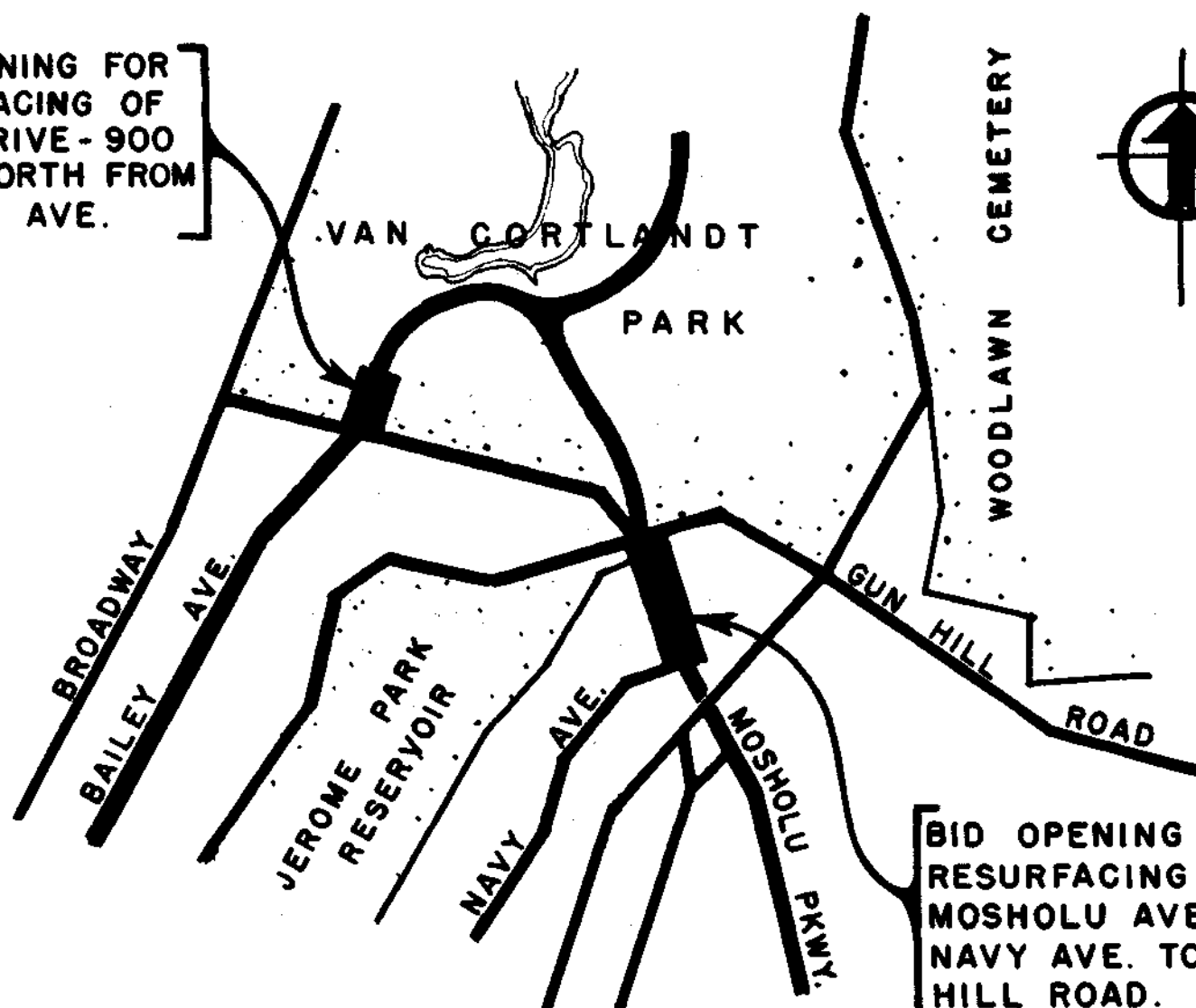
BID OPENING FOR
RESURFACING OF
PARK DRIVE - 900
FEET NORTH FROM
BAILEY AVE.



BID OPENING FOR
RESURFACING OF
MOSHOLU AVE. -
NAVY AVE. TO GUN
HILL ROAD.

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

BID OPENING FOR
RESURFACING OF
PARK DRIVE - 900
FEET NORTH FROM
BAILEY AVE.



BID OPENING FOR
RESURFACING OF
MOSHOLU AVE. -
NAVY AVE. TO GUN
HILL ROAD.

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

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

Thursday P.M. 9/21
For Release Friday A.M., 9/22/39

968

The Department of Parks will officially open to the public at 2:30 P.M. on Friday, September 22nd, the new athletic and recreation centre in Van Cortlandt Park. The area is located between 240th and 242nd Streets on Broadway. Speakers at the ceremony will be Mayor La Guardia, Park Commissioner Moses, Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx, and Lt. Colonel Brehon B. Somervell, Work Projects Administrator for New York City.

As part of the ceremonies, there will be a football exhibition by the Varsity squads of Manhattan College and Fordham University, also, several track events including an invitation 1000-yard medley relay in which teams of the Grand Street Boys, St. Anselm's A.C., Lenox Hill A.C., and New York Pioneer Club will compete. The Park Department Band will render selections throughout the opening ceremonies. There will also be tennis, handball and horseshoe pitching matches, basketball and softball games by the respective championship teams of the borough playgrounds.

This 21.5 acre area was formerly a swamp, being the course of Tibbitt's Brook. It was filled by the Department of Sanitation during 1933. The present construction was started during 1937. The facility comprises a concrete stadium with a seating capacity of 3,000. There is a quarter-mile running track, three baseball diamonds, three football fields, six handball courts, sixteen hard surfaced tennis courts, four horseshoe pitching courts, children's playground with wading pool, two large paved recreation areas containing basketball courts and softball diamond.

The perimeter of the area is completely landscaped and equipped with paths. Flood lighting will permit evening use of these facilities. Band concerts and dancing will be added to activities during the summer months.

967

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks on two contracts to provide for landscaping Cross Island Parkway section of the Belt Parkway from Creedmoor State Hospital to Laurelton Parkway and Southern Parkway from Laurelton Parkway to Rockaway Boulevard.

One contract provides for furnishing and spreading topsoil and humus between the limits mentioned above with the planting of trees, shrubs, vines and seeding to be performed under the other contract.

Construction work in this area is sufficiently advanced to allow for landscaping work to proceed immediately after the award of the contracts.

With the letting today, fifty-one contracts have been let for the construction of the Belt Parkway since this project was approved on October 13, 1938 for a total of \$23,364,000 or 94% of the total cost.

Included in the above are contracts providing for landscaping 8½ miles of the Belt Parkway and other contracts for landscaping are being made ready for letting as soon as construction operations permit.

The low bidders were:

For Topsoiling - Cross Island Parkway from Creedmoor State Hospital to Laurelton Parkway and Southern Parkway from Laurelton Parkway to 158th Street:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Tully & DiNapoli
30-11 12th Street, Long Island City | \$58,751.00 |
| 2. Grand View Nurseries
Mt. Vernon, N.Y. | 64,240.00 |
| 3. Slattery Construction Corp.
72-02 51st Avenue, Winfield, L.I. | 69,900.00 |

For Landscaping - Cross Island Parkway from Creedmoor State Hospital to Laurelton Parkway and Southern Parkway from Laurelton Parkway to 158th Street:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Grand View Nurseries, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. | \$96,385.39 |
| 2. Roman Landscaping Co., 551 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C. | 100,330.59 |
| 3. Walthaw Corporation, 1860 Broadway, N.Y.C. | 109,281.65 |

September 18, 1939

215

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Wed. P.M.
Sept. 13
Thurs. A.M.
Sept. 14

For Release

966

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the Annual American Ballad competition, popularly known as the Barber Shop Quartet Contest, as well as the finals of the city-wide Gibson Girl Trios, will take place on the Mall in Central Park on Thursday, September 14, at 8:30 P.M.

This annual event features the rendition of songs that were popular with the tenors of the early 1900's and each quartet and trio will be costumed in the dress of that period. The finals are composed of two leading quartets chosen in elimination contests in each of the five boroughs with the addition of a quartet group from Bloomfield, New Jersey, who are the undisputed champions of Essex County. The Girls' Trios comprise two from the Bronx, two from Brooklyn and one from Manhattan. Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in each competition who will be selected by the judges on the basis of tone, harmony, musical interpretation and costume.

The judges are headed by Mayor La Guardia and include Governor Alfred E. Smith, Doctor Sigmund Spaeth, the celebrated tune detective and author of Barber Shop Ballads, and Jack Norworth of the team of Norworth and Bayes, famed in musical comedy three decades ago.

An added fillip is given to this year's contest by its sponsorship by the International Group recently formed under the corporate name of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. Mayor La Guardia was recently made the Chairman of the New York City Chapter of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. and Governor Smith is a Vice-Chairman. Doctor Spaeth is on the Advisory Board. The winning quartet will be automatically enrolled as members of this new chapter. It is also hoped that the best quartet of the State of Michigan will fly east to participate as a last minute entry.

The Park Department Band of sixty pieces will play before, during and after the singing and will furnish the music of old favorites which will be sung by the audience under the leadership of Doctor Spaeth.

Because of the great interest the Borough Eliminations aroused, it is expected that the 1200 seats on the Mall will be filled to capacity for the Finals and the Park Department suggests that the public arrive at 8 o'clock.

September 12, 1939

Mon. Sept 11
A. M.

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

For Release 965

The Department of Parks announces that the 15 outdoor swimming pools located in the various boroughs and also the bath houses located at Jacob Riis Park, Orchard Beach and Coney Island closed Sunday evening, September 10th. However, the game areas at these three beaches and at Rockaway Parkway will remain open free of charge to patrons who will bring their own equipment. Parking will also be free at Orchard Beach after September 10th and at Jacob Riis Park after September 17th.

During the past season 2,442,439 people have used the swimming pools, of which 860,216 were children admitted free of charge, 907,396 were children who paid 10¢ admission and 674,827 adults who paid 20¢ admission. This year, for the first time, Saturday morning was included in the free periods for children, giving them six mornings a week instead of the five free mornings they had last year.

Orchard Beach was visited by 2,219,935 patrons. Jacob Riis Park was visited by 1,622,215 patrons. The revenue derived from Orchard Beach this year was \$114,049.70 and from Jacob Riis Park \$89,913.60.

At both Jacob Riis Park and Orchard Beach the food concessions will remain open for late season visitors. The pitch-putt course at Jacob Riis Park will be open daily for the balance of the golfing season and the present charge of 50¢ for each round played will prevail.

The staffs at the large outdoor pools will begin immediately to put them in readiness for recreation activities which will be carried on until the swimming season commences next year. They will be open as play centers free to the public from 2 P.M. until 10 P.M. on weekdays and from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, beginning Saturday morning, September 16th.

Facilities for basketball, volley ball, paddle tennis, shuffleboard and handball will be available in the outside pool area and during inclement weather such games as ping pong, checkers, quoits and various group games will be held indoors.

Although the outdoor swimming pools will be closed, this does not mean the end of the swimming season as the Park Department operates six indoor swimming pools in Manhattan and one in Brooklyn, free of charge to the public. These pools, all of which have been remodeled by Work Relief forces since their transfer from the Borough Presidents to the Park Department, are located as follows:

Manhattan: Carmine Street and Sixth Avenue
23rd Street and Avenue "A"
409 West 28th Street
232 West 60th Street
35 West 134th Street
324 East 54th Street

Brooklyn: Metropolitan and Bedford Avenues

In addition, reconstructed indoor pools at 5 Rutgers Place, Cherry and Oliver Streets, and 384 Rivington Street will be opened before the end of the year.

September 9, 1939

964

The New York City Parkway Authority announced today that their engineers are proceeding with the preparation of detailed plans to carry out the widening and improvement of Cross Bay Boulevard between Howard Beach and the toll booths of the Cross Bay Parkway Bridge at the south end of Big Egg Marsh.

Big Egg Marsh has been a problem ever since the State assigned the marshlands of Jamaica Bay to the City for navigation and other commercial purposes in 1909 and 1912, and the City leased property to a private company in 1915. This company pumped in some fill and sublet the property so that today there are approximately 1,000 families living in this community in houses which they built themselves and which they own, but upon land which is leased from the City. The present lease expires in 1945.

For years some of the people living in the community have recommended that the City take over the operation of the community and arrange to sell the property to the present tenants or others so that the community might be permanently established. Nothing satisfactory came of these suggestions and each renewal of the lease brought new complications. In 1935, the Broad Channel Corporation's lease was renewed for a ten year period.

In 1938, when the approaches to the new Cross Bay Parkway Bridge were planned, it was obvious that something would have to be done to improve the northerly approach to the bridge. This led to the study of the complicated problem of ownership on Big Egg Marsh and resulted in the recommendation early in 1939 by the Park Commissioner that an act be introduced in the State Legislature which would clear up the question of title to the property and make it

possible for the City to sell or lease the land, thereby recognizing this settlement as a permanent community. It also provided that the revenue derived from the leases and sale of property be put in a special fund which is to be used by the New York City Parkway Authority for the design and construction of the Cross Bay Boulevard. There was opposition from a minority in Broad Channel to the passage of this act, but the City Council finally recommended approval to the Legislature and the act became Chapter 788 of the Laws of 1939.

A study of the lease by the Parkway Authority and by the Corporation Counsel showed that it was questionable whether the lessee had complied with certain terms and conditions of the lease as amended in 1935. As a result of this, action was started in the courts to evict the tenant, but after months of negotiation this case was settled and an agreement has been signed by both the City and the Broad Channel Corporation by which the City assumes the responsibility of the landlord on October 1st of this year.

The attached letter is being sent by the Park Commissioner to the Board of Estimate asking for an appropriation of \$40,000 for the use of the New York City Parkway Authority in the preparation of contract plans for this construction and \$10,000 for use of the Director of Real Estate in operating the area. While it was originally intended to construct a two hundred foot parkway through the island, further survey showed that this was not feasible. Under the present plan, approximately 5 feet will be taken back of the building line on both sides of the street so as to give the right-of-way a total width of 110 feet. There will be a ten foot sidewalk on each side of the street and the north and south traffic will be separated by a 6 foot mall. Both north and

southbound pavements will be 42 feet wide and will provide for three moving lanes of traffic in each direction and one parking lane for the use of the local people. Under the new plan it is only necessary to move 60 structures from their present lots and this is made essential because of the bad curves in the road at the north end of the existing community. In addition to the widenings through the portion of the island which is built up, plans call for the repaving of the northerly portion of the highway and the resurfacing of the bridge over Grassy Bay.

The Borough President of Queens is working on the reconstruction of Woodhaven Boulevard from Forest Park to Liberty Avenue. It is expected that this portion of the work will be completed by the Borough President and opened to traffic early next summer. The portion of the work to be done by the New York City Parkway Authority will also be completed at that time. This will mark the completion of a job which was started 15 years ago when construction began on the Cross Bay Boulevard, and will provide a through artery from Queens Boulevard to the Rockaway shore, a distance of 11 miles.

September 9, 1939



ROBERT MOSES
COMMISSIONER

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

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

September 8, 1939



ALLYN R. JENNINGS
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
WILLIAM H. LATHAM
PARK ENGINEER
GEORGE E. SPARGO
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
JAMES A. DAWSON
SENIOR PARK DIRECTOR
JAMES A. SHERRY
CHIEF CLERK

Board of Estimate
Municipal Building
New York City

Gentlemen:

Chapter 788 of the Laws of 1939 amended the New York City Parkway Authority law to permit the Authority to reconstruct Cross Bay Boulevard from the north end of the Cross Bay Boulevard Bridge to the Belt Parkway.

The Park Department has studied the matter in an attempt to determine the most economical and satisfactory method of handling this highway reconstruction and I believe that it will be possible for us to provide an adequate approach to the Rockaways across these islands without adversely affecting the community. Preliminary plans indicate that only 59 houses will have to be moved. However, it is necessary that detailed plans be prepared showing the location of buildings, property lines, etc., before any decision is made and the map submitted to the Board of Estimate and the Planning Commission showing the final lines of this highway.

On June 29, 1939 (Calendar No. 159) your Board approved an agreement between the City of New York and the Broad Channel Corporation which provided, among other things, for the division of funds collected from the tenants during the present season. The State Law provides that the monies obtained shall be paid into the city treasury to reimburse the city for expenses made in connection with the design and reconstruction of this highway.

There is approximately \$80,000 in the joint account set up in accordance with the agreement and approximately \$30,000 of this amount can be withdrawn and made available for the use of the city at the present time. It is estimated that it will cost the New York City Parkway Authority \$40,000 to prepare plans and specifications for the reconstruction of this roadway.

Starting October 1st, the maintenance and operation of this city property will be the responsibility of the Director of Real Estate of the Board of Estimate and he estimates that the required amount of money for personal service to do this work from October 1, 1939 to July 1, 1940 will be \$10,000.

I ask that your Board appropriate \$40,000 to be made available to the New York City Parkway Authority for the preparation of plans, specifications and estimates of cost for the reconstruction of this highway and that the sum of \$10,000 be appropriated for the use of the Director of Real Estate of the Board of Estimate for personal service required by him to operate this development.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release IMMEDIATELY 963

Sept 7

The Department of Parks announces that on September 8th, 9th and 10th at Central Park approximately 3000 playground boys and girls will participate in a demonstration of recreational activities embracing in part, team and group games, folk dancing, singing, dramatics, children's circus, handcraft and magic.

One of the feature attractions of this comprehensive program will be the children's circus in which several hundred children from various playgrounds in the Borough of Queens will take part on Friday, September 8th, at 2:00 P. M. at the Sheep Meadow, Central Park. The circus opens with a spectacular parade of freaks, wild animals, acrobats, clowns and bare-back riders followed by the acts which will take place in and around a regulation saw-dust circus ring.

The outstanding event on the program for Saturday, September 9th at 2:30 P. M. at the Sheep Meadow, Central Park will be the folk dance festival in which 600 girls, ranging from 8 to 16 years, from playgrounds in Manhattan and Brooklyn will participate. The dance costumes were made by the young performers and are patterned on the style of dress of the country whose dance is being demonstrated.

The finals of the musical instrument contest is also scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 9th, at 8:00 P. M. on the Mall, Central Park. Each of the contestants has successfully competed in the borough eliminations. The following persons have been invited to act as judges: Frederique Petrides, conductor of the Orchestrette Classique, Rudolph Wurlitzer, of the Wurlitzer Company, and Herman Katims, pianist and composer of "Knickerbocker on Parade" and "No Longer".

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners respectively.

Sunday's program will feature the finals of the playground children's magic contest arranged for 2:30 P. M. on the Mall, Central Park. The following prominent members of the magic fraternity have consented to act as judges: Charles Hoffman, who is appearing in "Streets of Paris", William Kreiger, magic entertainer, and Charles Larson, who owns the largest collection of magic in the world.

Medals will be presented to those who place 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each division.

The Park Department Band will play selections for the children's circus, folk dance festival and magic contest.

Attached is a copy of the complete program of activities which will take place during the three day demonstration.
September 7, 1939

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*** FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 1939 ***

<u>Baseball Game</u>	- North Meadow, Central Park City-wide finals of the baseball tournament conducted by the Department of Parks for boys up to 16 years of age.	2:00 P.M.
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Demonstration of Team and Group Games - Heckscher Playground 2:00 P.M.
Paddle Tennis Tournament, Singles and Doubles
for boys and girls.
Volleyball and Dodgeball Games.
Ping Pong Tournament for boys and girls 10 to 14 years.
Jacks Tournament for the Championship of Central Park
"Honor Day" - Presentation of Awards and prizes to 2:30 P.M.
Winners of Park Playground Contests, Borough of Manhattan

Girls Softball Game - Heckscher Playground, Diamond #4 6:00 P.M.
Final game in the city-wide tournament for girls over 16 yrs.

Goldman Band Concert - Mall, Central Park 8:30 P.M.
The Daniel Guggenheim Memorial Concerts are
the gift of the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation.

Handcraft Exhibition - Heckscher Playground All Day

*** SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 1939 ***

Softball Game for Men and Boys - Heckscher Playground, Diamond #6 1 P. M.
Final game in the tournament for men and boys
over 19 years of age.

Children's Folk Dance Festival - Sheep Meadow, Central Park 2:30 P.M.
Presented by the Park Playgrounds of Manhattan
and Brooklyn.
Music will be provided by Park Department Band.

Swimming Meet (Indoor Pool) - 342 East 54th Street 2:30 P.M.

Musical Instrument Contest - Mall, Central Park 8:00 P.M.
City-wide finals of the contest conducted by the
Department of Parks for the children of the Park Playgrounds.

Handcraft Exhibition - Heckscher Playground All Day

*** SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th, 1939 ***

Model Yacht and Sailboat Regatta - Conservatory Lake, Central Park 2:00 P.M.
This contest is opened to any one interested in
sailing model yachts or sailboats.

Magic Contest for Children - Mall, Central Park 2:30 P.M.
The city-wide finals of this contest will be held
at this time.

Music will be provided by Park Department Band.
One-Act Play for Children - Mall, Central Park 4:30 P.M.
A play entitled "The Beggar Maid" presented by the
Children of Zimmerman Playground, Bronx

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

August 29 P.M.
August 30 A.M.

*For Release*_____

962

The New York City Parkway Authority announces that at 8:55 A.M. today, the two millionth car passed over the new Cross Bay Parkway Bridge, which links the Rockaways with the main traffic arteries and parkway system in Queens.

The car was driven by Bernhard B. Christ, Jr. of 522 Beach 140th Street, Belle Harbor, Rockaway.

This new and improved traffic facility was opened on Saturday, June 3, 1939. The widened viaduct roadways, the parkway plaza approach and shore front park and drive in the Rockaways, all part of the Rockaway Improvement undertaken by the New York City Parkway Authority, are drawing a record volume of summer visitors to the Rockaways.

August 29, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Regent 4-1000

961

FOR RELEASE: SATURDAY,
August 26, 1939

The Department of Parks announces that the
new softball diamond at Jacob Riis Park will open on
Saturday afternoon, August 26th, with a game between
the Highland Park Yankees and the Idlewild Team of
Van Wyck Playground.

This new softball diamond is located just
east of the bath house, adjacent to the boardwalk.
Bleachers have been provided and there will be no
admission charge.

* * *

215
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Saturday,
For Release August 26, 1939

960

The Department of Parks announces that the two acre playground bounded by Bradford, Edison, LaSalle and Waterbury Avenues, in the Borough of The Bronx, will be opened to the general public without ceremony on Saturday, August 26th.

This area was acquired by the city in April, 1938, in connection with the acquisition of the right of way required for the extension of the Hutchinson River Parkway from its present terminus in Pelham Bay Park to the Bronx Whitestone Bridge. Other areas, similarly located adjacent to this and other parkway rights of way, were acquired at the same time. It has been the policy of the Department to provide these local areas wherever possible in connection with these major arterial improvements so that the local people can benefit by the improvement which would otherwise be mainly for the passing motorist.

This playground was planned by the Department of Parks and the work performed by the Work Projects Administration. Besides a completely equipped children's playground with wading pool, it includes eight handball courts, a softball diamond and a large asphalt surfaced play area which can be used for roller skating, and when subfreezing temperatures permit during winter months, may be used for ice skating. There is also a comfort station and recreation building.

Bordering the entire area and separating the small children's playground and the handball courts from the baseball area, are landscaped areas planted with shade trees. Permanent concrete benches have been included in the development to provide a resting place for those waiting for their turn to play, as well as for mothers and guardians of the small children.

This is the 296th new and reconstructed playground added to the park system since 1934.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, Central Park
Tel. REgent 4-1000

FOR RELEASE: Friday, P.M., August 25, 1939
Saturday, A.M., August 26, 1939

The 25,000,000th car passed over the Henry Hudson Bridge which spans the Harlem River Ship Canal at Spuyten Duyvil on Friday, August 25, at 12:20 P.M. The car which was northbound was driven by Charles E. Mapes, 6117 Tyndall Avenue, Riverdale, The Bronx, a wire chief for the New York Telephone Company. He was presented by the New York City Parkway Authority not only with the usual free book of fifty tickets but also received a souvenir cake topped by a replica of the Henry Hudson Bridge and by twenty-five candles.

The Henry Hudson Parkway Bridge was constructed and is operated by the New York City Parkway Authority. In addition to this structure the Marine Parkway Bridge, spanning Rockaway Inlet between the foot of Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn and Jacob Riis Park in Queens, which was opened on July 3, 1937, has had a total traffic of 4,701,757 cars while the Cross Bay Parkway Bridge, opened on June 3rd of this year, has had 1,905,972.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. REgent 4-1000

FOR RELEASE: August 25, 1939

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks on two contracts to provide for landscaping Cross Island Parkway from the Whitestone Bridge Intersection to Fort Totten.

One contract provides for furnishing and spreading top-soil and humus between the limits mentioned above, with the planting of trees, shrubs, vines and seeding to be performed under the other contract.

These contracts are the first of a series to be let for landscaping the Belt Parkway.

Construction work in this area, including grading, paving and the erection of bridges has advanced to such a stage that landscaping work can proceed immediately after the award of these contracts.

With the letting of today's contracts, forty-nine contracts have been let for the construction of the Belt Parkway since the project was approved on October 13, 1938 for a total of \$23,209,000 or 93% of the total cost.

The low bidders were:

For Topsoiling, Cross Island Parkway from Whitestone Parkway to Fort Totten

Grant Park Construction Corporation 65 Prospect Avenue, Hewlett, L. I.	\$76,255.00
Tully & DiNapoli 30-11 12th Street, L. I. C.	76,530.00
Grand View Nurseries Mt. Vernon, New York	82,510.00

For Planting Cross Island Parkway from Whitestone Parkway to Fort Totten

Grant Park Construction Corporation 65 Prospect Avenue, Hewlett, L. I.	\$48,416.70
Grand View Nurseries Mt. Vernon, New York	49,165.19
Walthaw Corporation 1860 Broadway, N. Y. C.	49,563.80

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957

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. Regent 4-1000

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY,
August 24, 1939

The Department of Parks announces that the Fourth Annual Swimming and Diving Championships will be held at 1 P. M. on Friday, August 25th at Astoria Pool, Barclay Street and 24th Drive, Astoria.

Teams from Astoria, Crotona, McCarren, Sunset, Red Hook, Betsy Head, Highbridge, Thomas Jefferson, Hamilton Fish, Colonial, East 23rd, the 96th Street Floating Pool, Tompkinsville and Faber Pools will compete for the championship, which has been won in the past three years by the team representing Astoria Pool.

Eliminations have been carried on daily at the various pools to determine the make-up of various teams.

The Department of Parks Band will be on hand to entertain the spectators between the events.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. REgent 4-1000

FOR RELEASE: Thursday,
August 24, 1939

The Park Department announced today that they turned over to the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity the new laboratory building at Underhill Avenue and Park Place in Brooklyn. This building replaces the old laboratory located on Flatbush Avenue just south of the new library.

The old laboratory was formerly a gate house for the reservoir, which was built in 1861 and reconstructed as a laboratory in 1897. The work done in this small outmoded laboratory was probably more important to the health of the people of the City of New York than any other single operation in the city. All of the city's water has been tested in this building for the last forty-two years. A few years ago the reservoir was abandoned and the city approved the plan to use the land for park purposes. To complete the clean-up of this section adjacent to the new library it was necessary to find a new site for the laboratory.

The new building was constructed by the Park Department on the site of an old pumping station at Park Place and Underhill Avenue and is one of the most modern laboratories in the world for the analysis of water. The work of this laboratory has served as an example to various municipalities throughout the world for years. The new building is a model which can well be copied by the representatives of these municipalities who visit New York City for the purpose of studying the analysis of our water supply.

955

The Department of Parks announces that the Second Annual Lifeguard Championship will be held Wednesday afternoon, 2 P.M. on August 23rd, at Beach 95th Street, Rockaway Beach. Teams from Orchard Beach, Jacob Riis Park, Coney Island, South Beach and the Rockaways will compete for the Mayor's trophy, emblematic of the lifeguard championship. Besides the team championships, there will be events to determine the individual championship of the lifeguards at the beaches under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks.

Events for the teams will be individual surf rescue race, rescue race with equipment, two man boat rescue race, and a one mile boat race. For the individual championship, the events will be individual surf rescue, individual boat race, and an individual boat rescue race.

The Mayor's Trophy was won last year by the team representing the east end of Rockaway Beach, with a score of 31 points. The team from Coney Island finished second with 30 points. The lifeguards have been practicing daily for this meet and competition is expected to be very keen.

The Coast Guard station at Rockaway Point will give a rescue boat turn-over drill at 1:30 P.M. The Department of Parks Band will be on hand to entertain the spectators between events.

215
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Tues. August 22 P.M.
Wed. August 23 A.M.
For Release

954

After years of agitation, in April, 1931 the Transit Commission ordered the removal of all crossings on the Rockaway Beach Division of the Long Island Railroad through the section of the Borough of Queens known as Aqueduct and along the Rockaway Peninsula. Other crossings of varying degrees of importance were removed from time to time, but the process was cumbersome and the progress slow. The New York State Constitutional Convention held last summer proposed an amendment to the Constitution (which was approved by the voters in November) providing the means for speedy elimination of the various crossings throughout the State. The problem varies in various sections of the State and, as far as New York City is concerned, the amendment was drawn to fit existing conditions. Although \$300,000,000. was made available for grade crossing eliminations in 1925, a balance of approximately \$170,000,000. remained for this purpose when the new amendment was approved by the voters last fall. With the approval of this amendment, \$50,000,000. was set aside for the elimination of grade crossings within the City of New York.

Even before the legislation was enacted to carry out the proposed Constitutional Amendment, the City of New York appropriated \$200,000. for the use of the Long Island Railroad for the preparation of plans to eliminate the crossings on Atlantic Avenue and on the Rockaway Beach Division of the railroad. These plans, prepared by the Railroad Company, anticipate the acquisition by the City of this transit facility as a part of the City's rapid transit system.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution was approved by the Convention on July 19, 1938; it was approved by the voters in November, 1938; the City appropriated funds for design on November 17, 1938; the Wicks Bill, which furnished the legislation to carry out this amendment, became Chapter 289 of the Laws of 1939 on April 14, 1939; the contract for the elimination of crossings in the Aqueduct section of the Borough of Queens was awarded to the Wilson and English Construction Company on August 15, 1939 by the Transit Commission; and the work on the elimination started today. This is more action than has ever before been seen on grade crossing matters any place in the State in so short a period of time.

This all started when the Board of Estimate decided to struggle again with the grade crossing problem on Atlantic Avenue, and Mayor La Guardia appointed a committee composed of the Borough President of Brooklyn, the Borough President of Queens, and the Comptroller to report on this matter, and further appointed the Park Commissioner to represent him on the grade crossing problem. Subsequently, as a delegate to the Convention, the Park Commissioner became the

Chairman of the Committee on Highways, Parkways, and Grade Crossings, and has since been the Mayor's representative on these grade crossing matters, most of which are closely allied with the City's park, parkway and arterial highway program.

The Aqueduct elimination includes five bridges which upon completion will adequately take care of the east-west traffic in this section of the island. They are located at Linden Boulevard, Pitkin Avenue, Southern Parkway, the north service road of the parkway and the south service road of the parkway. The total cost of this section of the work is estimated at \$1,450,000. The electrical work including signals, etc., is being done by the Long Island Railroad and is estimated to cost \$500,000, and the contract for the construction of the bridges, grading, etc. was let to the Wilson and English Construction Company, who bid \$950,000. for this portion of the work. In addition to the crossing elimination, this contract will take care of the station facilities at Aqueduct for the community and for the Aqueduct race track, and involves track changes between Rockaway Boulevard and the Howard Beach station, a distance of one and one-quarter miles. During construction, temporary detours will be built so that the temporary bridge which exists at the present time carrying the Sunrise Highway over the railroad, can be removed and the tracks elevated at this point. Three of the bridges will take care of the traffic on the Belt Parkway and the two parkway service roads, and the work has been scheduled in such a way as to permit the use of these structures by July 1, 1940, the date of completion of the twenty-eight million dollar Belt Parkway project.

The major portion of the problem of eliminating the crossing on the Rockaway Beach Division of the railroad is on the Rockaway peninsula itself, where it is necessary to elevate the tracks for a distance of five and one-half miles, and where grade crossings exist at the present time at frequent intervals between Beach 108th Street and Mott Avenue. The estimated cost of construction of this portion of the work is \$11,600,000. The New York City Parkway Authority has just completed the Rockaway Improvement, which included the extensive beach development between Beach 73rd and Beach 109th Streets, the reconstruction of the Cross Bay Parkway Bridge, and convenient highway approaches to this portion of the beach. All of this work has been coordinated with and anticipates the grade crossing improvement which is now progressing.

In addition to the elimination of the crossings at grade, this project will furnish as an incidental improvement (permitted under the new grade crossing act) a four lane highway for its entire length.

At the present time, the Rockaway peninsula has but one through east-west artery known as Beach Channel Drive and the various extensions of that Drive known by other names, which provide a scant four lanes of traffic, two in each direction. There are other east-west roads but none furnish a satisfactory through route from one end of the peninsula to the other.

The new artery will connect at the westerly extremity with Beach Channel Drive and Beach 116th Street. At the easterly end near the Nassau County line, this new highway connects with Regina Boulevard. Those who are familiar with the traffic conditions in the Rockaways know that north and south traffic across the peninsula will present no problem after removal of the grade crossings, but that the east-west traffic is a distinct problem which will be greatly relieved with the construction of this new highway. Contract plans and specifications for the work on the peninsula are ready to be advertised by the Transit Commission and it is expected that the first contract will be let in about one month. Work will proceed as rapidly as possible and it will be completed in a period of two years.

August 21, 1939

City Hall Park
953

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
Arsenal, Central Park
Tel. REgent 4-1000

FOR RELEASE Tuesday,
August 22, 1939

The Department of Parks announces today that bids have been taken for a planting contract in City Hall Park. The work under this contract will complete the park development now under way in the old Federal Post Office area.

In the Capital Outlay Budget for 1940 the Park Department has requested \$340,000. for the restoration of the balance of the City Hall Park area with the exception of that area now occupied by the County Court House.

The three low bidders were:

1. Specimen Nurseries, Inc.
2 Bushy Avenue, Yonkers, N.Y. \$4,493.62
2. General Landscape Corp.
Chrysler Building, New York City 4,528.31
3. Madden & Lane
42-16 Vernon Boulevard
Long Island City, N.Y. 4,623.93

August 21, 1939

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

Aug 18/39
 For Release ~~IMMEDIATELY~~
 952

Bids were opened by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the reconstruction of Culver Rapid Transit Railroad at Shell Road in Brooklyn to permit sufficient head room for traffic on the Belt Parkway.

Bids were opened also for the grading at Baisley Pond Park on the Southern Parkway section of the Belt Parkway in Queens.

The contract for the reconstruction of the Culver Elevated Line at the three level grade crossing at Shell Road provides for the raising of 890 feet of the railroad, a maximum of six feet, so that Shell Road may be passed under the Parkway and the Parkway itself will run at grade with a maximum clearance of fourteen feet. The work will be progressed so as not to interfere with the operation of the railroad. The plans and specifications for this joint contract were prepared by the Board of Transportation in collaboration with the Department of Parks.

The contract for the grading at Baisley Pond Park provides the necessary drainage for the adjacent section of Southern Parkway, and the filling of the swampy park area between Rockaway Boulevard and Southern Parkway, the first step in the final development of this section of the park.

With the letting of today's contracts, forty-seven contracts have been let since the project was approved on October 13, 1938 for a total of \$23,084,484 or 92 1/2 per cent of the total cost.

The grading at Baisley Pond Park on the Southern Parkway section of the Belt Parkway in Queens is to be completed on or before November 4, 1939.

The three low bidders were:

Slattery Contracting Company 7202 - 51st Avenue, Winfield, N. Y.	\$29,725.
Wm. P. McDonald Construction Co. 33-15 Lawrence Street, Flushing, L. I.	30,720.
Welsh Brothers Contracting Co. 35 Purvis Street, Long Island City	32,277.50

The contract for the reconstruction of Culver Rapid Transit Railroad at Shell Road in Brooklyn is to be completed on or before March 15, 1940.

The three low bidders were:

Centaur Construction Co., Inc. 11 West 42nd Street, New York City	\$98,652.50
Lieb Construction Company, Inc. 415 Lexington Avenue, N. Y. C.	122,380.00
Groves-Quinn Corp. Grand Central Terminal, N. Y. C.	127,730.00

August 18, 1939

FROM: Public Information Section
Work Projects Administration
70 Columbus Avenue, New York City
Circle 6-4000, Ext. 786

August 16, 1939

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lieut. Col. Brehon Somervell, Work Projects Administrator for New York City, made public yesterday a tabulated summary of the physical accomplishments of the WPA Division of Operations in the five boroughs during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939. The Division of Operations is the organization's construction and engineering division.

Various types of public buildings head the list, with 308 new structures erected and 633 buildings repaired and modernized during the year, including 30 additions. Work in progress on June 30, not included in these totals, comprised 76 new buildings, and repairs and improvements to 230 buildings, including 13 additions. New buildings in progress included two public schools, four fire houses, three police stations, seven aircraft hangars, three warehouses and five garages. Repairs were in progress on 18 schools, 27 hospital buildings, 11 administrative buildings and 17 recreational buildings. In the slum clearance program, 2,072 buildings were demolished during the year.

A total of 190.2 miles of new highways were constructed, of which 151 miles were paved, and 211.6 miles of existing highways, including 107.4 miles of paved road, were repaired. New road construction in progress at the end of the period totalled 45.5 miles of which 36 miles were paved. One of seven new bridges built was a steel structure 2,000 feet long. At the end of the period, repairs were in progress on 11 steel bridges, totalling 14,065 feet

M O R E

in length. Related highway work completed during the year included 218.4 miles of new curbs laid, with 42.5 miles of curb still in progress, 20 miles of guardrails and guardwalls, and 21,047 feet of roadside drainage ditch dug. New sidewalks totalled 150.9 miles, of which 123.7 miles were paved, and an additional 28.4 miles of paved sidewalks and eight miles of unpaved paths were in progress at the end of the year.

Recreational facilities built during the year, exclusive of buildings, include 10 new athletic fields and the remodelling of eight others; and fourteen new parks, squares and triangles, adding 210.3 acres to the city's park system, with renovation work on 25 existing park areas totalling 16,868 acres. Fifteen new school playgrounds were constructed during the year and repairs were made to twelve others. New playgrounds constructed for the Department of Parks totalled 43, with repairs to nine others. Fourteen new wading pools were built. On June 30, work was still in progress on seven more new athletic fields, one new park area of 9.7 acres and the repair of areas totalling 1,541.9 acres, three new school playgrounds and 24 Department of Parks playgrounds, twenty new wading pools, 82 tennis courts, 152 handball courts and eight skating rinks.

Completed additions to the city's water supply system included 106.3 miles of water mains, with 11.1 miles more in progress. The modernization and extension of the city's sewer system comprised the construction of 54.3 miles of new sanitary and storm sewers and the repair and rebuilding of 34 miles of existing sewers, with 5.6 miles of new sewers still uncompleted at the end of the period. Marsh drainage and mosquito control work included

M O R E

the digging of 308.3 miles of new drainage ditch, the newly drained area amounting to 6,076.5 acres, and repairs to 45.6 miles of existing ditch. Drainage pipe laid in addition to that laid for roadside drainage totalled 15.6 miles.

In waterfront improvements, repairs were completed to 18 piers with an area of 1,087,829 square feet and two abandoned piers were demolished. Two new piers with an area of 54,750 square feet are now being built for the city.

Two breakwaters were built, an existing breakwater was repaired, a total of 3,327 linear feet of bulkheads was built and repairs were made to 12,198 feet of existing bulkheads. Retaining walls and revetments to a total length of 19,461 feet were built and additional walls aggregating 4,690 feet in length are in progress.

Two power houses with a total capacity of 2,000 kilowatts are in course of construction. Thirty-three miles of electric transmission and power distribution lines, and 6.7 miles of telephone and telegraph lines were laid. In the expansion of the police traffic signal and fire alarm telegraph systems a total of 141.4 miles of cable was laid in underground conduits, the work entailing the digging of the ditch, the laying of the conduit and pulling the cable through. Work is in progress on an additional 7.4 miles of these lines. Five miles of steam distribution lines were laid.

Exclusive of park work, the WPA carried on landscaping operations on 672.4 acres, with work on 411 acres still in progress.

M O R E

The tabulated summary of completed work in Greater New York for the fiscal year from July 1, 1938 to June 30, 1939 follows:

	<u>NEW CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS</u>
PUBLIC BUILDINGS	308	633
Schools		85
Libraries		20
Recreational Buildings	7	9
Hospitals		65
Baby Health stations and other institutional buildings	19	5
Courthouses and other administra- tive buildings	8	101
Dormitories	6	23
Fire houses	4	63
Police stations		15
Garages	17	25
Aircraft hangars		4
Warehouses	9	51
Armories		12
Other buildings	238	155
DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS		2,072
HIGHWAYS		
Highways - paved	151 miles	104.4 miles
Highways - unpaved	40.8 miles	92.3 miles
Bridges	7	54
Culverts	10	22
Sidewalks - paved	123.7 miles	80.8 miles
Sidewalks and paths - unpaved	27.2 miles	6.7 miles
Curbs	218.4 miles	110.2 miles
Gutters	15.7 miles	15. miles
Guard rails and guard walls	20.1 miles	0.6 miles
Lights for roads and streets	326	149
Roadside drainage - ditch	21,047 feet	1,520 feet
Roadside drainage - pipe	6,571 feet	12 feet
Roadside landscaping	23.5 miles	18.1 miles
Street signs made	27,800	
Removal of car tracks		13.1 miles
AIRPORTS		
Runways	3,032 feet	
Air beacons	1	
Air markers	377	

(MORE)

	<u>NEW CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS</u>
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES		
Athletic fields	10	8
Parks, squares and triangles	14	25
Playgrounds - school	15	12
Playgrounds - other	43	9
Wading pools	14	20
Tennis courts	61	
Handball courts	191	
Horseshoe courts	79	
Skating rinks	6	
Bridle paths	1.6 miles	
WATER SUPPLY		
Water mains	106.3 miles	5.3 miles
Consumer connections	5,955	
Storage tanks	5	
Gate houses		1
Water treatment plants		4
Pumping stations	1	4
SEWERS AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS		
Storm and sanitary sewers	54.3 miles	34 miles
Service Connections	2,492	4,948
Manholes and catch basins	4,878	1,696
Septic tanks	13	
Sewage treatment plants		10
Mosquito control - ditch	308.3 miles	46.5 miles
Mosquito control - area drained	6,076.5 acres	106.2 acres
Mosquito control - spray used	56,464 gallons	
Drainage pipe laid (other than roadside)	15.6 miles	
PIERS, BREAKWATERS, RIVERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS		
Piers repaired		18
Piers demolished		2
Breakwaters	2	1
Bulkheads	3,327 linear ft.	12,198 linear feet
River bank improvements	2.4 miles	
Stream bed improvements	6.5 miles	
Riprap	5,504 square yards	
Retaining walls and revetments	19,461 linear ft.	6,110 linear feet

(MORE)

NEW
CONSTRUCTION

REPAIRS AND
IMPROVEMENTS

ELECTRIC LINES

Transmission lines	20.9 miles
Power distribution lines	12.2 miles
Consumer connections	141
Telephone and telegraph lines	6.7 miles
Police traffic and fire alarm signals	141.4 miles

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping (exclusive of parks)	358.3 acres	211 acres
Lighting airports, parking lots, athletic fields, etc.	879 acres	68 acres
Fountains and ornamental pools	36	
Fencing	40.7 miles	8.3 miles

MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION

Paving (other than roads, walks and runways)	809,791 sq. yds.	44,313 sq. yds.
Tunnels	1,300 feet	6,276 feet
Monuments and historic markers		12,760
Gas lines	8,975 feet	6,321 feet
Excavation or fill	10,981,472 cu. yds.	
Clearing and grubbing	1,619.9 acres	
Grading	740 acres	529.7 acres
Setting benches	5,399	

PRODUCTION OF ARTICLES

Concrete articles	100,475
Cement blocks	1,250,379
Wooden articles	12,403

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Planting beach grass	75.5 acres
Trees and plants planted	7,507
Trees trimmed	11,890
Noxious plant eradication	52.5 acres
Spray treatments (except mosquito control)	185.5 acres
Surveys conducted	58

MISCELLANEOUS

Articles of furniture repaired	9,178
Public buildings cleaned	30
Lots cleared	9,461.6 acres

#####

Today, on the sixty-ninth anniversary of the death of Admiral Farragut, the Department of Parks announces the completion of the renovation of the monument by Augustus Saint Gaudens dedicated to his memory.

This refurbished bronze statue of David Glasgow Farragut, hero of Mobile Bay and the first American to bear the title of Admiral, was originally unveiled in the north end of Madison Square Park on May 25th, 1881

In 1934, when the five separate Park Departments were consolidated into the present City-wide Department, a survey of the monument showed that the bluestone pedestal, designed by Stanford White, was eroding and disintegrating so rapidly that immediate provisions would have to be made to prevent further deterioration. Through the efforts of various art societies and the Art Commission, in cooperation with the Department of Parks, a WPA Sculptors' Project was expanded to include its renovation. Coopersburg, Pennsylvania black granite was selected as the material best suited to resist the ravages of time and to match in color and texture the Hudson River bluestone which formed the original pedestal. The most skilled artisans available, under the direction of Walter Beretta, were employed to reproduce faithfully the original. All carving and cutting was done on the site, most of it in a wooden enclosure which was built around the monument to protect it from further deterioration. The resulting replica is without doubt a technical achievement.

The monument base takes the shape of a classic elliptic exedra. Atop the pedestal proper, on which is carved a design of waves crossed by a sword, stands the full size bronze figure of Farragut. The right wing of the exedra bears in bas-relief a seated female figure representing "Loyalty" and the left wing a seated female figure representing "Courage". The spaces beyond the figures are completely filled with long inscriptions, the lettering of which

is so modeled as to play an important part in the general decorative effect.

The inscriptions are:

Right wing:

BORN NEAR KNOXVILLE TENNESSEE JULY V MDCCCI
MIDSHIPMAN MDCCCX
BATTLE OF ESSEX AND PHOEBE MARCH XXVIII MDCCXIV
LIEUTENANT MDCCXXV
COMMANDER MDCCXXLI
CAPTAIN MDCCCLV
BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS APRIL XXV MDCCCLXII
REAR ADMIRAL MDCCCLXII
BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY AUGUST V MDCCCLXIV
VICE ADMIRAL DECEMBER XXIII MDCCCLXIV
FIRST ADMIRAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA JULY XXVI MDCCCLXVI
DIED AT PORTSMOUTH NEW HAMPSHIRE AUGUST XIV MDCCCLXX

Left wing:

THAT THE MEMORY OF A DARING AND SAGACIOUS COMMANDER AND
GENTLE GREAT SOULED MAN
WHOSE LIFE FROM CHILDHOOD WAS GIVEN TO HIS COUNTRY
BUT WHO SERVED HER SUPREME IN THE WAR FOR THE UNION
MDCCCLXI - MDCCCLXV,
MAY BE PRESERVED AND HONORED AND
THAT THEY WHO COME AFTER HIM AND
WHO WILL OWE HIM SO MUCH MAY SEE HIM
AS HE WAS SEEN BY FRIEND AND FOE
HIS COUNTRYMEN HAVE SET UP THIS MONUMENT
A.D. MDCCCLXXI.

Each of the arms of the seat is formed by the curved back of a sculptored fish.

The monument sets on a terrace in the center of which is imbedded a bronze crab. The terrace is approached by three semi-circular steps.

Reproducing the monument offered an opportunity of correcting construction faults which existed in the original. The bluestone monument was composed of 52 pieces. This type of construction could not resist the vibrations caused by traffic and the expansion of water freezing in the jointing. The renovated monument is composed of only 18 pieces, each wing of the exedra being a solid block weighing 16 tons when quarried and reduced to 9 tons finished.

The new foundation is of a cradle type developed for use where permanency is paramount.

The missing sword and trappings which were removed by vandals from the bronze statue were modeled, cast and replaced. The bronze was cleaned and a mellow brown patina applied.

A lead box, found in the original foundation was placed in a vault under the terrace of the replica.

Officials of The Augustus Saint Gaudens Memorial Museum at Cornish, New Hampshire are negotiating to borrow the original pedestal to preserve and exhibit it in a safe and suitable place.

* * *

949

RANDALL'S ISLAND TENNIS
COURTS

In line with the Department of Parks' policy of developing Randall's Island as an active recreational center for the general public, construction of a battery of 23 new tennis courts is now nearing completion by the Works Progress Administration. These courts are all clay surfaced, of the most modern construction, and should become the most popular tennis center in the City. Locker rooms and shower facilities are now available on a daily basis at the adjacent Triborough Stadium. Parking is free.

These courts lend themselves admirably to exhibition and tournament play. The two center courts are surrounded by an eight foot asphalt walk, back of which there is ample space for bleachers to seat approximately 2000 people, for the accommodation of exhibition and outstanding tournament matches. At the present time, temporary bleachers are being used. It is hoped that when funds are available, a concrete bleacher, containing comfort stations and locker rooms, will be built along the west side of these central exhibition courts.

Six of the courts were completed several weeks ago and have been in use for the Metropolitan Public Parks Championship Tournament, which was completed yesterday. Today the National Public Parks and Playgrounds Tennis Association Tournament will get under way, after a reception and flag raising at the Court of Sports at the World's Fair at 10 o'clock this morning. Admission will be free from Monday at 1 P.M. through Thursday. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday a charge of 25¢ for admission will be made. With the exception of Monday, when play begins at 1 P.M., matches will begin at 10 A.M. each day. Seventeen courts are ready for use in this tournament.

After the tournament, the courts will be closed down for a short time to complete construction work on all twenty-three courts, and then opened for play by Park Department permit holders.

Shore Parkway
Aug. 11, 1939
For Release IMMEDIATELY

948

Bids were opened by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the construction of four bridges on Shore Parkway and Southern Parkway sections of the Belt Parkway system.

The Cohancy Street Bridge is a stone faced double span, reinforced concrete bridge carrying pedestrian traffic on two side walks and two-way vehicular traffic over Southern Parkway.

The Southern Parkway Intersection Bridge east of Cross Bay Boulevard is a two span bridge, the superstructure of which consists of rolled structural steel beams with a reinforced concrete deck and will carry pedestrian traffic on one sidewalk and eastbound Southern Parkway vehicular traffic over Shore Parkway.

The Cross Bay Boulevard Bridge has four spans whose rolled structural steel superstructure is supported at intermediate points by stone faced reinforced concrete piers. The entire structure is supported by closed end steel pipe piles. This bridge will carry pedestrian traffic on two sidewalks and two-way Cross Bay Boulevard vehicular traffic over Shore Parkway.

The Fairfield Avenue Bridge has two spans, the superstructure of which consists also of rolled structural steel beams with a reinforced concrete deck. The entire structure is supported by closed end steel pipe piles. This bridge carries two way Shore Parkway traffic over Fairfield Avenue.

With the letting of today's contract, fifty-nine of the sixty-six bridges required for the construction of the Belt Parkway, will be under contract.

To date forty-five contracts have been let since the project was approved on October 13, 1938 for a total of \$22,956,107. or 92% of the total cost.

The work under this contract is to be completed on or before May 15, 1940.

The three low bidders were:	
Tomasetti Construction Co.	\$1,024,577.75
1066 - 60th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.	
Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc.	1,045,996.50
Freeport, Long Island, N.Y.	
Elmhurst Contracting Co., Inc.	1,059,931.00
5304 - 97th Place	
Corona, Long Island, N.Y.	

August 11, 1939

FRIDAY P.M.
August 11, 1939

947

The Police Department and the Department of Parks announce that on Friday, August 11, 1939 at 4 P.M. a new police station building at 135th Street and 12th Avenue will be officially opened with ceremonies, at which Mayor LaGuardia, Police Commissioner Valentine and other City officials will participate.

This new police precinct will be officially known as the 26th Precinct and will include the area between the curb line of the east sidewalk of Riverside Drive and the Hudson River, from 72nd Street to Harlem River, including the Henry Hudson Parkway and all park property within this area.

Formerly, this territory was included in the tail end of four separate police precincts and the establishment of this new precinct has been made necessary by the heavy usage of the Henry Hudson Parkway and the completed West Side Improvement, on which nearly \$25,000,000 has been spent to provide a wide variety of both passive and active recreational facilities for all age groups.

These new improvements, which include promenades, children's playgrounds, soft ball diamonds, baseball and football fields, roller skating areas, bicycle paths, basketball, handball, horseshoe, shuffle board, paddle tennis and tennis courts, an area set aside for outdoor dancing, parking fields, and boat basin for pleasure craft, all fitted into a comprehensive landscape scheme, have increased tremendously the number of people using the park area. It was therefore extremely important that a new precinct be set up in the Police Department which would have supervision over this territory so that the same men would remain constantly assigned to the park areas and become thoroughly acquainted with park supervision and protection. This precinct will also have complete control over traffic on the Henry Hudson Parkway from 72nd Street to the Henry Hudson Bridge, which will secure a better patrol of the parkway than would otherwise be had.

Acting Captain Albert Douglas has been assigned to command this new precinct. He will be assisted by three Lieutenants, six Sergeants and fifty-nine patrolmen, permanently assigned to this command. There will be three radio motor patrol sectors in addition to a large number of motorcycle and foot traffic patrolmen, as well as one Sergeant in command of six detectives.

Aug 9/39
946

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. Regent 4-1000

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

The Department of Parks announces that the finals for the water polo tournament which has been under way for the past few weeks at the Municipal Swimming Pools, will be held on Thursday evening, August 10th, 7 P.M., at the Thomas Jefferson Swimming Pool, located at 112th Street and First Avenue.

Ten teams competed in the tournament with Hamilton Fish Swimming Pool beating Tompkinsville and Red Hook and Astoria Swimming Pool beating McCarren, Thomas Jefferson and 96th Street Floating Baths. These two teams will be the finalists for the championship.

Teams from Red Hook, Betsy Head, Hamilton Fish, Tompkinsville, 96th Street, Carmine Street, Astoria, McCarren, Thomas Jefferson and 23rd Street Swimming Pools competed in the tournament.

* * *

August 9, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. Regent 4-1000

Aug. 9, 1939
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

945

The Department of Parks announces that the 1.83 acre playground, bounded by Atlantic Avenue, 95th Avenue, 88th and 89th Streets, Queens, will be opened to the general public without ceremony on Thursday, August 10. This is the second recreation area to be opened of the three which were originally proposed to be built in connection with the Atlantic Avenue Improvement. The playground at Linwood and Elton Streets was opened some months ago. The land was acquired at the time the Board of Estimate approved the modified plan for the Atlantic Avenue Improvement, the playground was designed by the Department of Parks, and built for the Park Department by the Works Progress Administration.

The small children's area in the southerly part of the playground contains various types of play equipment, a wading pool, and a sand pit. The balance of the area is taken up with basketball, volleyball, and handball courts, a softball diamond and a roller skating track which, when sub-freezing temperatures permit, may be flooded for iceskating. There is a comfort station in the area.

Bordering the playground and separating the handball courts and the children's section from the softball diamond and roller skating track, is an area landscaped with shrubbery and shade trees.

This is the 294th new and reconstructed playground added to the park system since 1934.

* * *

August 9, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. Regent 4-1000

Northrup
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

Aug 7/39

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the annual American Ballad Contest, popularly known as the "Barber Shop Quartet Contest" will take place on the Mall, Central Park, Thursday, September 14th at 8:30 P.M. 944

This annual event will include the rendition of songs that were popular with the tenors of the early part of the present century. Each quartet will be costumed in attire befitting this era.

The program on that evening shall also include girls' trios composed of vocalists over 16 years of age. Each member of the trio is required to wear costumes reminiscent of the same decade and their repertoire shall likewise embrace songs renowned in that period.

Appropriate prizes will be awarded to the winners in each competition.

According to the rules of both contests, each male quartet and girl trio must participate in the borough eliminations before they can qualify as finalists. Two quartets and one girls' trio will be selected to represent each borough on the evening of September 14th.

The respective borough preliminaries will be held during the last two weeks in August at the following locations:

Manhattan - Washington Square Park

Bronx - Poe Park, East 192nd Street and Grand Concourse

Brooklyn - Prospect Park, Music Grove, Empire Boulevard Entrance

Queens - Forest Park, Music Grove, Main Drive off Woodhaven Blvd.

Richmond - McDonald Playground, Forest and Myrtle Avenues

Long Island and Metropolitan Districts - Quartets outside of

city limits, but within the Metropolitan area, may compete in a special division.

It is suggested that any male quartet or girls' trio interested in these contests should communicate with the Park Directors in charge of the borough in which they reside for further information regarding the rules of the contests and the specific dates of the eliminations.

The names and addresses of the various Directors are as follows:

Manhattan - Kenneth S. Franklin

Arsenal Building

Central Park

New York City

Brooklyn - Richard C. Jenkins

Litchfield Mansion

Prospect Park West and 5th Street

Prospect Park

Brooklyn, New York

Queens - Philip J. Cruise

The Overlook

Forest Park, Kew Gardens, L.I.

Bronx - George L. Quigley

Bronx Park East and Birchall Avenue

Bronx Park, Bronx, New York

Richmond - James J. Mallen

Cloves Lakes Park

Clove Road, West of Victory Boulevard

Staten Island, New York

August 7, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Mr. Slattery
IMMEDIATELY
For Release August 7/39
943

The Department of Parks announces that the second amateur photographic contest depicting "Youth and Age in Our City Parks and Playgrounds" will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 1939.

All pictures submitted by the contestants must represent scenes in parks, parkways, pools beaches and playgrounds under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks during the year 1939.

The initial amateur photography contest conducted by the Park Department last year indicated such widespread interest on the part of both children and adults that it was decided to classify the entrants according to the following age groups:

Class A - Children up to 14 years

Class B - Children between 15 and 18 years of age

Class C - Persons over 18 years of age

Rules governing the contest are:

1. All pictures must be 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 prints and mounted on stiff paper or cardboard.
2. The name, address and age group of the contestant should be clearly written on the reverse side of each picture submitted.
3. The Department of Parks shall have the right to reproduce and use any picture submitted for park purposes.
4. Negatives must be available upon request.
5. Contestant may submit no more than five pictures.
6. Pictures may show Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter Activities.
7. The decision of the judges shall be final in all cases.

Appropriate prizes will be awarded to the three contestants in each age group who submit the best pictures. No competitor is eligible to win more than one prize.

Every one desirous of entering the contest is requested to submit his photographs at any time up to September 10th inclusive to the Borough Director of the borough in which he resides. The addresses of the various borough directors are:

Manhattan - - - Kenneth Franklin, Arsenal Building, Central Park
64th Street & 5 Avenue, N. Y. C.

Brooklyn - - - Richard Jenkins, Litchfield Mansion, 5th Street and
Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Bronx - - - George Quigley, Administration Building, East Bronx and
Birchall Avenue, Bronx, N.Y.

Queens - - - Philip Cruise, Overlook, Forest Park, Kew Gardens, Queens, N.Y.

Richmond - - - James Mallen, Clove Lakes, New Brighton, Richmond, N.Y.
(8/7/39)

215
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

Aug. 4/39
For Release IMMEDIATELY

942

The Department of Parks announces the completion of a large playground in Brooklyn, a somewhat smaller playground in Queens, and a bicycle path running along Ocean Parkway between Prospect Park and Coney Island. The two new recreation areas which will be opened to the public on Saturday morning, August 5, bring the total of new and reconstructed playgrounds built since January, 1934 to 293.

The Brooklyn playground, in Lincoln Terrace Park, is one of the most intensively developed recreational areas that has been constructed by the Park Department. It is thirteen acres in size and contains a large open play area for group games for older children, a small children's playground completely equipped with apparatus and wading pool, and a kindergarten area furnished with sand pit, play houses and miniature equipment. It also has nine double handball courts, two softball diamonds, and a roller skating area which will be used for ice skating during the winter. There is also a full-sized baseball diamond with permanent concrete bleachers accommodating one thousand spectators, besides basketball courts, paddle tennis, shuffleboard, and horseshoe pitching courts. These facilities are sorely needed in this section of Brooklyn, especially since the large temporary playgrounds developed on the property of the Brooklyn Ash Removal Company, fronting on Remsen Avenue, have had to be relinquished to the owners.

The playground area is on two levels, the upper one, between President and Carroll Streets, having been formerly used as a playground, while the lower triangular-shaped level, between Carroll Street and East New York Avenue, was not developed until the present improvement was undertaken with WPA labor. The entire recreational development is surrounded by landscaped areas planted with trees and hardy shrubs, and hundred of benches advantageously placed will serve the guardians of children as well as participants in the various activities and spectators.

With the completion of this large playground, the Works Progress Administration has shunted their construction forces into the upper portion of Lincoln Terrace Park, a dilapidated area which will be completely redesigned to meet present day conditions, and to serve those seeking passive recreation and relaxation. An area across Buffalo Avenue from the other two areas, is developed with eleven tennis courts which were opened to the public in 1934. When the park work proper is completed, the entire area,

consisting of twenty and two-third acres, will become one of the most model recreational plants in the five boroughs, catering to the needs of every age group and every interest.

In Queens, the new playground is located at Braddock Avenue and 240 Street, in the Queens Village section, where a three and one half acre plot, on which there is a fine stand of mature shade trees, was acquired as an adjacent playground site in connection with the Belt Parkway, from which it is three blocks distant. A feature of this playground is a large oval lawn surrounded by a roller skating rink. A comfort station for boys and girls lies between this lawn and a large modern wading pool. All age groups seeking active recreation will be satisfied from the small children who have a kindergarten area with sand pit and small apparatus, the older children with larger apparatus and ample space for group games, and the adolescents for whom six handball courts, five shuffleboard courts, three horseshoe pitching courts, a basketball court and two soft ball diamonds have been installed. In the winter, the southern third of the playground, where the softball and basketball facilities are located, can be flooded to provide an acre of ice surface.

The bicycle path on Ocean Parkway is five and one half miles long and was formed by the conversion of the west mall, between Prospect Park and Coney Island, into a parallel bicycle-pedestrian promenade. It is complete except for a few blocks either side of Guider Avenue at which point Belt Parkway construction now under way will delay completion until next summer.

The need for taking children off public streets where they are constantly threatened with bodily injury and off sidewalks where they are a problem to pedestrians, as well as providing healthful exercise for many adults, made it imperative that each section be opened informally as rapidly as completion of the work permitted usage with reasonable safety.

The bicycling activity already evidenced on parts completed indicates that the enthusiasm and interest on the part of the general public in bicycling has in no way diminished.

While the concrete surfaced bike path is segregated from the bench lined pedestrian promenade by a fence, it is hoped that bicyclists will observe traffic rules and particularly traffic lights at the intersecting streets, thereby decreasing the number of pedestrians injured by reckless bike riders.

Uniformed park personnel on bicycles are patrolling the path.

* * *

August 4, 1939

The Department of Parks announces that celebrations will take place in various playgrounds during the month of August in commemoration of their official opening to the public.

These playground birthday parties will feature athletic meets for boys and girls which will include dashes, high jumping and novelty events such as egg and spoon races, potato races, three-legged races and wheelbarrow races; also recitations, one-act plays and dance exhibitions comprising popular children's dances.

Wading pools in these recreation areas will likewise be the scene of joyous splashes in the form of well known water sports and tournaments for kindergarten children.

Where the facilities permit, softball games will be included in the playground schedule of anniversary festivities.

Prominent local citizens have been invited to address the children on the advantages, both physical and mental, afforded them by playgrounds; and also the necessity of exercising care in the use of the equipment to prevent any unnecessary destruction of park property, which is maintained primarily for their enjoyment at great cost to the city.

The August schedule for playground anniversary celebrations is as follows:

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Playground</u>	<u>Opened</u>
Manhattan	- Lewis and Rivington Street	August 11, 1934
	83 Roosevelt	August 11, 1934
	Corlears Hook Extension	August 11, 1934
	Kelly	August 11, 1934
	95 Thompson	August 11, 1934
	West 59th Street, 11th Avenue	August 21, 1936
Brooklyn	- 3rd and 4th Streets, 4th and 5th Aves.	August 11, 1934
	Atlantic, Fountain-Sunrise	August 11, 1934
	E. 95th Street, Avenues K - L	August 11, 1934
	Betsy Head	August 15, 1936
	Red Hook (Large children's playground)	August 20, 1937
Bronx	- 141st Street and Brook Avenue	August 18, 1934
	St. Mary's West	August 15, 1938
Queens	- Liberty Park	August 5, 1937
Richmond	- Model Playground, Jewett and Castleton Avenues	August 11, 1934

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. Regent 4-1000

Aug/4/39
IMMEDIATELY

940

Bids were opened by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the construction of two grade separations at Fort Hamilton Parkway and at 69th Street on the Shore Parkway section of the Belt Parkway System.

The bridge at Fort Hamilton Parkway is a double span stone faced reinforced concrete structure and carries access drives which connect Shore Parkway with 4th Avenue. The bridge at 69th Street is a single span of structural steel and will carry the parkway traffic over 69th Street, thus providing access to the ferry which runs from this point to Staten Island.

With the letting of today's contract, fifty-five of the sixty-six bridges required for the construction of the Belt Parkway will be under contract and 29 of the 30 miles of pavement will be under construction.

To date forty-four contracts have been let since the project was approved on October 13, 1938 for a total of \$21,931,530 or 88% of the total cost.

The work under this contract is to be completed on or before April 20, 1940.

The three low bidders were:

Federal Construction Corporation 101 Park Avenue, N. Y. C.	\$418,530.50
Mill Basin Asphalt Corporation 5410 Avenue "U", Brooklyn, N. Y.	436,500.10
Boyer Construction Co., Inc. 25 West 43 Street, N. Y. C.	437,000.00

August 4, 1939

Aug 3/39
939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. Regent 4-1000

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the city wide checker tournament for the competitors in the 16 year age group division will be replayed on Saturday, August 5th, at 2:00 P.M. at Heckscher Playground, Central Park.

This second playoff for the five borough Playground Checker Championship is necessary because Milton Loew, who won the first playoff, was officially declared an ineligible entrant. The rules governing Park Department tournaments require that all participants possess an amateur status.

Murray Klein of 580 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, who represents Tompkins Square Playground, and who was runner-up in the first tournament, will play the winner of the Bronx for the championship.

The Bronx representative will be determined at 2:00 P.M. tomorrow afternoon, Friday, August 4th, in an elimination to be conducted at Mullaly Playground, 162nd Street and Jerome Avenue, Bronx, between the following boys: Murray Ginsberg - Zimmerman Playground, Robert Siegel - Crotona Park East Playground, Otto Echt - St. Mary's West Playground, and Joseph Davidson - 183rd Street Playground, all of whom, as well as Klein, have been investigated and certified as simon-pure amateurs.

August 3, 1939

Aug 3/39
938

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. Regent 4-1000

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

The Park Department announces that organized groups of the Guild for Jewish Blind will be permitted the use of the remodelled swimming pool at 342 East 54th Street twice weekly, commencing Thursday, August 3, at 5 P.M. The hours assigned to this group are 10 A.M.-12 noon on Tuesdays and 5-7 P.M. on Thursdays.

Arrangements have been perfected with Leonard Wallstein, who is sponsoring this new recreational movement for the sightless, whereby the group will be accompanied by their own swimming instructors.

Fifty-six have already registered for the use of this Park Department facility.

E N D

August 3, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. Regent 4-1000

Aug 2/39
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

937

Bids were opened by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the construction of two bridges, at Flatbush Avenue and at Ocean Parkway on the Shore Parkway section of the Belt Parkway system.

Each bridge has two spans, the superstructure of which consists of rolled structural steel beams, with a reinforced concrete deck. The approach fills are retained by stone faced concrete walls with the entire structures supported on concrete filled steel pipe piles.

To date forty-three contracts have been let for the construction of the Belt Parkway system, since the project was approved on October 13, 1938 for a total of \$21,513,000 or 85% of the total cost.

The work under this contract is to be completed on or before April 20, 1940.

The three low bidders were:

Elmhurst Contracting Company 53-04 97th Place Corona, Long Island	\$455,033.50
Federal Construction Corporation 101 Park Avenue, N. Y. C.	460,136.15
Melwood Construction Corporation 507 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C.	469,845.35

August 2, 1939

936

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the Chess and Checker Tournament will be held at Heckscher Playground, Central Park, on Saturday, July 29th, at 11 A.M.

There will be four age groups in the Checker Contest:

Children up to 16 years

Persons 16 - 25 years

Persons 25 - 50 years

Persons 50 years and over

There will be two divisions in the Chess Tournament:

Persons 14 - 25 years

Persons over 25 years

Borough eliminations have been held in each of the five boroughs during the month of July. The winners will represent the boroughs at the finals on Saturday.

In the Checker Tournament children in the first age group (up to 16 years) are to report at 11 A.M. All other contestants, both Chess and Checkers, report at 1 P.M.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners respectively.

July 27, 1939

935

The Department of Parks announces that free public outdoor social dancing, which at the present time is being conducted in eleven areas throughout the park system, will be inaugurated in Riverside Park at 105 Street, Manhattan, at 8:30 P.M. starting on July 28 and continuing every Friday evening thereafter.

The dance floor is on one of the special areas, overlooking the Henry Hudson Parkway and the Hudson River, constructed in connection with the development of the West Side Improvement to provide increased recreational facilities for the people of the West Side. Aside from dancing, here, one may sit and enjoy the cool breezes sweeping in from the River and also view the famed escarpment of the Palisades.

Entrances to the dancing area are at West 103 Street and West 108 Street and Riverside Drive.

Music will be provided by the WPA Federal Music Project.

All persons over 18 years of age are invited to attend.

July 27, 1939

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

Mr. Heaslip
For Release IMMEDIATELY

934

The Department of Parks announces that the portion of East River Park from Grand Street to East 12 Street, Manhattan, will be officially opened on Thursday, July 27, at 12 o'clock noon.

Mayor La Guardia will be the principal speaker. Besides the Mayor, Samuel Levy, former President of the Borough of Manhattan, Stanley M. Isaacs, present President of the Borough of Manhattan, and Joseph D. McGoldrick, Comptroller of the City of New York, will speak. Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks, will preside.

As part of the general scheme of the East River Drive Improvement which is a vital section of New York's Belt Parkway system, the Manhattan Borough President's office and the Park Department have jointly worked out plans for this new waterfront park similar to the West Side development with the work being performed under the direction of the Borough President's office.

The Borough President of Manhattan has recently taken bids for the demolition of buildings which must be removed in the southerly extension of this park. The construction of this section of the park will progress as rapidly as contracts can be let. As soon as the bulkhead construction and rough grading can be completed by the Borough President, the Park Department will let contracts for the completion of the southerly portion of this park, which will tie the existing Corlears Hook Park to the East River Park which is being opened today. This new park development when complete will be adjacent to the new low cost housing development now being built on the Lower East Side and will provide the recreation required by the people in this development.

East River Park, extending from Montgomery Street and swinging around Corlears Hook northward to East 12 Street, transforms a congested slum area and bedraggled waterfront into a modern recreational center. By extending out the bulkhead lines and reclaiming land, 49.6 acres of waterfront park have been provided, 36 acres of which are in the unit to be opened on Thursday.

In the new area, most of which has been set aside for active recreation, are batteries of tennis courts; wading pools; football, baseball, field hockey, softball and soccer fields; volley ball, bocci, basketball; handball, shuffleboard, hand tennis, paddle tennis and horseshoe pitching courts. There is a dancing and roller skating area, which, when sub-freezing temperatures permit during winter months, will become an area for ice-skating. There is also a running track and a smaller children's completely equipped play area. The improvement includes a bandstand and four recreation buildings with comfort stations to care for the needs of the users of the park. All these recreational facilities fit into a general landscape scheme with wide promenades, rows of trees and benches.

July 26, 1939

P R O G R A M

OPENING OF EAST RIVER PARK

East River Drive, Grand to 12 Streets

July 27, 1939

12 Noon

—

Band Selections

Honorable Robert Moses, Commissioner, Department of Parks
- Chairman

Honorable Samuel Levy, former President, Borough Of Manhattan

Honorable Stanley M. Isaacs, President, Borough Of Manhattan

Honorable Joseph D. McGoldrick, Comptroller of the City of
New York

Honorable Fiorello H. La Guardia,
- Mayor of the City of New York

National Anthem

Recreational Activities

Band Selections

J

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the construction of the bridge over Paerdegat Basin, adjoining Jamaica Bay.

The bridge, a part of the Belt Parkway system, is a thirteen span structure, 664 feet in length. The steel superstructure will be supported on reinforced concrete pile bents.

The structure will provide for a clear channel width of 66 feet at Paerdegat Basin, and a vertical clearance of 28 feet above mean high water.

To date 42 contracts for the construction of the Belt Parkway have been let since the project was approved on October 13, 1938, for a total of \$21,058,909, or 84% of the estimated total cost of which the Federal Emergency Public Works Administration supplied a grant of \$12,000,000, the balance being appropriated by the City.

The three low bidders were:

P. J. Carlin Construction Co. 405 Lexington Avenue, N. Y. C.	\$397,611.00
O'Day Construction Co., Inc. 15 East 47th Street, N. Y. C.	399,704.00
George F. Driscoll Co. 550 Union Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.	403,609.75

July 25, 1939

Wednesday P.M.
July 19, 1939
Thursday A. M.
July 20, 1939

The Department of Parks announces that a ship bulletin board, which gives the schedule of the arrival and departure of passenger vessels in New York harbor so that citizens and visitors will know what marine activity is taking place, was dedicated and unveiled on Wednesday, July 19, at 12:15 P.M. in Battery Park, Manhattan.

Mayor La Guardia was the principal speaker. Eugene Moran, Sr., Chairman of the River and Harbor Committee, Marine Association, Inc., acted as Chairman, Joseph Mayper, Chairman of Trans-Atlantic Passenger Conference, Inc., Frank J. Taylor, President of American Merchant Marine Institute, Hon. John McKenzie, Commissioner of Docks, John D. Reilly, President of Todd Shipyards, Inc., and Allyn R. Jennings, General Superintendent of the Department of Parks, also participated in the speaking part of the program.

Mary Agnes Reilly, daughter of John D. Reilly, unveiled the Board.

The Board, made of Redwood, is 19 feet wide and 14 feet high. It is specially constructed to allow for ten large slides (2'9" long and 9 1/2" high) bearing the names, distinguishing colors and marks of passenger vessels. The name plates are set five in each of two panels, divided by a map showing the location of the piers and the Upper and Lower Bays.

The steamship lines which have provided the Park Department with slides are:

American Export Lines
Anchor Line
Clyde-Mallory Lines
Cunard White Star Limited
Eastern Steamship Lines, Inc.
French Line
Furness Group
Gdynia-American Line
The Grace Line, Inc.
Hamburg-American Line
Holland-American Line
Italian Line

Moore-McCormack Lines, Inc.
New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Co.
New York and Porto Rico Steamship Co.
North German Lloyd
Norwegian-American Line
Panama Pacific Line
Panama Railroad Company
Swedish American Line
Trans-Atlantic Passenger Conference, Inc.
United Fruit Company
United States Line

A similar board has been erected on the Narrows in Fort Hamilton Park, Brooklyn.

July 19, 1939

Remarks by John D. Reilly, President, Todd
Shipyards, Inc., at Dedication Exercises of
Ship Bulletin Board, Battery Park, July 19, 1939

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Moran, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Far from thanking me for this small gift to the city of which I am proud to be a part, I want to thank you for the privilege of being allowed to assist you in putting before our fellow citizens another reason for appreciating the wonders of our great city.

Primarily, New York City is a friendly city, and friendship is based on knowing all about each other. Naturally, my main interest lies in shipping and things maritime. Equally, naturally, I want to make friends for this gigantic industry.

Many times I have strolled the Battery sea wall and listened to hundreds of both visitors and residents puzzling over what this or that vessel happened to be that was passing by.

I felt that if these persons so interested could be brought in close contact with our never ceasing harbor doings there might develop a greater bond based on knowledge of just how important to their daily existence these doings are.

There is hardly one of us not affected by the arrival and departure of a vessel from New York harbor - be it a coastal steamer or a round-the-world-cruise ship.

Every port of the world is linked with New York harbor. Each port represents people - and if my gift can help to further friendship between these peoples and our own vast shipping industry then I shall be happy.

In this sense these Bulletin Boards are much more than wood and enamel slides - they act as a bridge between the thoughts of us here and our friends in foreign lands.

As you are aware, Mr. Mayor, I am not alone in the furnishing of these boards. There are those from whom the idea was evolved, sponsored and brought to fruition. To each of them I tender my thanks for all their efforts to enable me to do something to foster your program of making New Yorkers and visitors alike "Proud of our great City."

Thank you.

Remarks by Joseph Mayper, Chairman, Trans-Atlantic
Passenger Conference, Inc., at Dedication Exercises
of Ship Bulletin Board, Battery Park, July 19, 1939

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Moran, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The trans-Atlantic passenger steamship Lines are happy to cooperate with the City's Park Department in the new service to the public now made available through the medium of this beautiful Ship Bulletin Board.

Blessed by one of the finest of harbors, the Port of New York is probably the largest, most frequently used and best known port in the world. In a single year, if all forms of steamship transportation are included, the traffic out of this port consists of over 6,000 sailings in the foreign trade to the four corners of the world and over 7,500 sailings in the intercoastal and coastwise trades. The economic life of the City of New York, and for that matter of the country as a whole, would be stifled, if not strangled, if this water traffic were suddenly cut off.

For that reason, as well as because of the romantic appeal the sea and everything connected with it has always had for the normal human being, it was a happy thought to erect this Bulletin Board for the information not only of New Yorkers, but also of the thousands of visitors from the interior of the country.

It is a far cry from the first all steam-propelled ship that crossed the Atlantic a century ago to the modern liner. The little wooden paddle-wheeler "Sirius" which arrived here from Cork in April, 1838, was 178 feet long, of 703 gross tons and of 320 horsepower. Compare it with a ship that will steam by this Board within the next hour -- a ship nearly 6 times as long, 112 times its gross tonnage and 600 times its horsepower!

It took Columbus 70 days to cross from Spain to the West Indies--now you can cross the Atlantic on any one of a number of comfortable ships in from 5 to 8 days!

Safety, comfort and speed are the watchwords in ocean transportation. A modern passenger ship is probably the most complicated work that man has achieved. It operates with clocklike regularity. It may be as tall as the Empire State Building, but must be as mobile as an automobile; it must have the power of many thousands of horses, but be free from even the suggestion of a squeak or a rattle; it must have every automatic safety device that human ingenuity can create, but be eternally watched and checked by the human mind, eye, ear and hand; and it must have every facility and luxury of a great hotel and provide for nearly every aspect of community life.

In the belief that the public is interested in knowing which of these marvels of modern mechanical development are sailing by this point from day to day and from hour to hour, the trans-Atlantic passenger Lines deem it a privilege to cooperate with the City of New York and other shipping interests in making this information available.

P R O G R A M
DEDICATION OF SHIP BULLETIN BOARD

at Battery Park

Wednesday, July 19, 1939

12:15 P.M.

Band Selections

Eugene Moran, Sr., Chairman, River and Harbor Committee,
Maritime Association, Inc.

- Chairman

Joseph Mayper, Chairman, Trans-Atlantic Passenger Conference, Inc.

Frank J. Taylor, President, American Merchant Marine Institute

Honorable John McKenzie, Commissioner of Docks

John D. Reilly, Todd Shipyards, Inc., Donor of Board

Allyn R. Jennings, General Superintendent, Department of Parks

Honorable Fiorello H. La Guardia,

- Mayor of the City of New York

Unveiling of Board by Mary Agnes Reilly

National Anthem

Fireboat Display

Band Selections

Lead
July 19, 1939
Dedication of Ships Bulletin Board

In commending the inspiration of the thought relative to the erection of the Ships' Bulletin Board which will indicate the flag and company under which the large liners enter the Port of New York from all over the world, Frank J. Taylor, president of the American Merchant Marine Institute, Inc., at the dedication of the Ships' Bulletin Board at Battery Park here today, stated that acclamation and congratulations are due our Commissioner Moses for his interest and his carrying out of the plans for this Bulletin Board, and to John D. Reilly, president of the Todd Shipyards Corporation, for his patriotic and serviceable donation of this Ships' Bulletin Board.

Mr. Taylor called attention to the progress by governmental officials and the maritime industry of America in building up an adequate and efficient merchant marine. Pointing out the low status of American-flag ships in world trade at the time of the World War, when only about 16 large vessels were in world trade and carrying less than 10 per cent of our commerce, he said, "that situation taught us the lesson that we must never again be similarly unprepared for such an emergency and Congress, on three occasions, has undertaken to provide the means whereby an adequate American merchant marine might be created, and absolute success is attending this huge venture, by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936. The United States Maritime Commission and the shipping industry are cooperating 100 per cent."

First Add
Dedication Ships Bulletin Board
July 19, 1939

He further pointed out that the international situation of today and the amazing development of ocean transportation in the past 20 years have had the effect of making us realize as never before that the United States must be regarded as a major marine nation.

"Sixty good size cities are located on 7000 miles of coast-line in the United States and an adequate merchant marine as an auxiliary to the national defense will, of necessity, mean much to a nation thus exposed," Mr. Taylor concluded.

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

931
Tuesday P.M.
July 18, 1939
For Release Wednesday A.M.
July 19, 1939

The Department of Parks, in an effort to interest individuals and groups to plant trees and thereby improve the appearance of their locality, requested various cemeteries within the city limits to cooperate in replanting their areas, particularly those portions bordering on city streets.

The necessity for these improvements were brought to light by the appearance of the various cemeteries in the five boroughs because of the development of the City's arterial system of through-streets, boulevards and parkways during the past few years, some of which necessitated the taking of cemetery land, and others of which parallel cemeteries.

The initial suggestion met with a prompt response and cooperation on the part of metropolitan cemetery authorities, to such an extent that a letter from Commissioner Moses to Mr. Roland Schultheis, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association of Cemetery Officials of the Metropolitan District of New York City and President of the New York State Association of Cemeteries, Inc., was read at the opening meeting of the state wide convention, now in session at the Hotel Roosevelt.

The letter is as follows:

July 14, 1939

Mr. Roland Schultheis, President
New York State Association of Cemeteries, Inc.
Flushing Cemetery
Flushing, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Schultheis:

Mr. Jennings told me of the conference he has had with you and your organization. It is most unusual and gratifying to meet with such unanimous approval and spirit of cooperation from an organization of your scope on a somewhat gratuitous suggestion, which may result in unexpected expense to some of your members and in which the City is restricted by law to a comparatively limited contribution in any form.

During the past five years the Park Department has done considerable to improve the appearance of the City in development, improvement, and better maintenance of parks, both new and old, and in the planting and improved care of trees on some of the City's major thoroughfares. We have also promoted

Mr. Roland Schultheis
New York State Association of
Cemeteries, Inc.

-2-

planting of trees on residential streets by adjacent property owners where no City funds were available. This has been worked out not only with individual property owners, but in some cases with large groups covering many blocks. This new work is just beginning to make a noticeable showing and as time goes on and the young trees approach maturity the appearance of the City will be vastly improved.

Some of the City's cemeteries are already improved in accordance with recognized landscape standards and are a credit to the community from the standpoint of appearance. With the vast acreages of cemeteries, particularly in Queens, Brooklyn and The Bronx, it is important to the City as a whole that they be made as attractive as possible. My suggestion to your organization was made with this end in view. The City is prepared to do everything within its financial and legal limits to help in the embellishment of the streets bordering cemeteries where the owners make a reasonable attempt to improve the appearance of the interior of the cemetery as viewed from the outside. The spirit of cooperation already evinced by your association indicates that this end will be reached in the not too distant future.

I take this opportunity of thanking you for your cooperation and effort and of renewing the City's offer to reciprocate in every way possible.

Cordially,

/s/ Robert Moses

Commissioner

930

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

For Release **MONDAY**
July 17, 1939

On Wednesday, July 19, at 12:15 P.M. in Battery Park, the Department of Parks in cooperation with shipping interests will dedicate a bulletin board which will give the schedule of the arrival and departure of passenger vessels in New York harbor so that citizens and visitors will know what marine activity is taking place.

Besides Mayor La Guardia who will be the principal speaker, other city officials and representatives of maritime interests will also participate. Most of the steamship lines have already indicated that representatives will attend the ceremonies.

A detachment of sailors from the Brooklyn Navy Yard will participate and fireboats standing off-shore will put on a water display at the time of the actual unveiling.

A similar board will be placed in use in Fort Hamilton Park on the Narrows at the same time.

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

929

IMMEDIATELY

For Release

July 14

The Park Department announces that the city-wide finals of the Horseshoe Pitching Tournament will be held at Heckscher Playground, Central Park, on Saturday, July 15, at 2:00 P.M.

Eliminations were held in each of the five boroughs for men and boys over 16 years of age during the past month. The winner and runner up in both the singles and doubles division will compete on Saturday for the City Championship.

In addition to the gold, silver and bronze medals to be awarded the winners of the finals, an athletic shirt and emblem will be awarded to the first place winner in each division.

July 14, 1939

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

928
For Release IMMEDIATELY

July 14

The Department of Parks announced today that in order to attract an additional number of motorists to the World's Fair and to increase the patronage at the New York City Parking Field, beginning Saturday, July 15th, the parking fee at the City Parking Field will be reduced from fifty cents to twenty-five cents.

This field was built and is operated by the City and will accommodate 11,000 cars at one time. It has a direct connection to the main exhibit area of the Fair by means of the pedestrian bridge over Roosevelt Avenue and the Long Island Railroad.

July 14, 1939

The Department of Parks announces that celebrations will take place in various playgrounds during the month of July in commemoration of their official opening to the public.

These playground birthday parties will feature athletic meets for boys and girls which will include dashes, high jumping and novelty events such as egg and spoon races, potato races, three-legged races and wheelbarrow races; also recitations, one-act plays and dance exhibitions comprising popular children's dances.

Wading pools in these recreation areas will likewise be the scene of joyous splashes in the form of well known water sports and tournaments for kindergarten children.

Where the facilities permit, softball games will be included in the playground schedule of anniversary festivities.

Prominent local citizens have been invited to address the children on the advantages, both physical and mental, afforded them by playgrounds; and also the necessity of exercising care in the use of the equipment to prevent any unnecessary destruction of park property, which is maintained primarily for their enjoyment at great cost to the city.

The July schedule for playground anniversary celebrations is as follows:

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Playground</u>	<u>Date Opened</u>
Manhattan	Sauer Playground, East 12th Street and Avenue A	July 15, 1934
	McCray Playground, W. 158 Street and Lenox Ave.	July 15, 1934
	148 Street and Riverside Drive Playground	July 24, 1938
	St. Gabriel's Playground, 35 Street and 1st Ave.	July 31, 1936
Bronx	Zimmerman Playground, Barker Ave. to Olinville Ave.	July 15, 1934
	Ciccarone Playground, E. 188 St. and Hughes Ave.	July 15, 1934
Queens	O'Connell Playground, 196 St. and 113 Ave., St. Albans	July 15, '34
	Von Dohlen Playground, 138 St. and Archer Ave., Jam.	July 15, '34
	Jackson Heights Playground, 84 St. and 25 Ave.	July 15, '34
	Windmuller Playground, 52 Street and Woodside Ave.	July 30, '37
Richmond	McDonald Playground, Forest and Myrtle Avenues	July 15, 1934
	De Matti Playground, Tompkins Ave., Chestnut and Shaughnessy Lane	July 15, 1934
	Crescent Avenue Playground, Crescent Ave. and Cleveland Street	July 25, 1937
Brooklyn	Sheridan Playground, Grand St. nr. Wythe Ave.	July 15, 1934
	Lafayette and Reid Avenue Playground	July 25, 1937
	Pitkin and New Jersey Avenues	July 30, 1937
	Howard and Pacific Street	July 30, 1937
	McKibbin Playground, McKibbin and White Streets	July 31, 1936

Through the joint cooperation of Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, John S. Burke, of the Friedsam Foundation, and Local 802, A. F. of M., a series of fifteen band concerts will be inaugurated on Tuesday evening, July 18th, 8:30 P.M. at the Sarah Delano Roosevelt Playground, Canal to Houston, Chrystie to Forsyth Streets, New York City. This playground can be reached on the Eighth Avenue subway to Second Avenue station.

This series, to be given during the summer of 1939, will be held at the various municipal pools and recreational centers of New York. A similar series of concerts was given last summer. These concerts proved a tremendous success. Many thousands of underprivileged citizens of New York City were afforded an opportunity to enjoy them.

Don Vorhees, famous NBC radio conductor will conduct the first concert. He is at present conducting the Sunday Ford Symphony Hour which lists amongst its famous directors such names as John Barbirolli, Jose Iturbi, Fritz Reiner and Erno Rapee.

Marjorie Livingston, dramatic soprano, will render a number of solos. She is a young artist and has appeared in concerts on the radio and with the Chicago City Opera.

The remainder of the schedule follows:

<u>Location of Concerts</u>	<u>Date of Concerts</u>
Red Hook Recreation Center Clinton, Bay & Henry Streets, Brooklyn	Thursday evening 8:30 P.M., July 20th
Van Cortlandt Park Recreation Center West 242 Street & Broadway, Bronx	Tuesday evening 8:30 P.M., July 25th
Astoria Play Center Barclay Street & 24th Drive, Queens	Thursday evening 8:30 P.M., July 27th
Highbridge Play Center Amsterdam Avenue & 173rd St., Manhattan	Tuesday evening 8:30 P.M., August 1st
McCarren Play Center Nassau Avenue & Lorimer Street, Brooklyn	Thursday evening 8:30 P.M., August 3rd
Crotona Play Center 173rd Street & Fulton Avenue, Bronx	Tuesday evening 8:30 P.M., August 8th
Jacob Riis Park Jamaica Bay, Atlantic Ocean, Beach 149th to 169th Street, Neponsit, Queens	Thursday evening 8:30 P.M., August 10th
Franklin Delano Boardwalk Fort Wadsworth to Liberty Avenue South Beach, Richmond	Sunday afternoon 3:30 P.M., August 13th
Colonial Park Bredhurst Ave., W. 145th to 147th Streets, Manhattan	Wednesday evening 8:30, August 16th
Sunset Play Center 7th Ave. & 43 Street, Brooklyn	Thursday evening 8:30, August 17th

Location of Concerts

Macombs Dam Park
164th Street & Jerome Avenue, Bronx

Rockaway Beach
Beach 95th Street, Rockaway, N. Y.

Henry Hudson Parkway
West 101 Street, Manhattan

Anawanda Park
Grandview Avenue & Stanhope Street, Queens

Date of Concerts

Tuesday evening 8:30 P.M., August 22nd

Thursday evening 8:30 P.M., August 24th

Tuesday evening 8:30 P.M., August 29th

Thursday evening 8:30 P.M., August 31st

JULY 14, 1939

925
July 6, 1939

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The New York City Parkway Authority, of which Commissioner Robert Moses is the sole member, today announced the opening of bids on Contract No. 21, which calls for the construction of fender racks at the Cross Bay Parkway viaduct in the Borough of Queens.

The fender racks are being installed for the protection of marine traffic and the piers at the bascule bridge, which is a part of the viaduct structure.

The three low bidders were:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Frederick Snare Corporation | \$ 78,527.00 |
| 2. Charles F. Vachris | 106,275.00 |
| 3. J. Rich Steers | 117,980.00 |

July 6, 1939

60

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

924

IMMEDIATELY
For Release

July 6/39

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the construction of the superstructure of the bascule bridge to carry the Belt Parkway over Mill Basin, Brooklyn.

This bridge is 864 feet 6 inches long between abutments and consists of a bascule span, two flanking spans and seven approach spans.

The bascule span provides a clear channel width of 131 feet at Mill Basin with an underclearance of thirty-five feet above mean high water, with the span down.

The bridge carries two 34-foot roadways separated by a center mall four feet in width and two six-foot sidewalks. The roadways and sidewalks are of concrete, except on the bascule span where the roadways are of open grating and the walkways of timber.

Work for the foundations and substructure of the bridge has been let under a previous contract and is now under construction.

IMMEDIATELY

The three low bidders were:

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal for the construction of the superstructure of the bascule bridge to carry the

1. Reiss & Weinsier
105 Court Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. \$ 668,399.00

Belt Parkway over Mill Basin, Brooklyn.

2. George E. Driscoll
550 Union Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 675,799.00

3. Arthur Gallow
260 E. 161 Street, New York City 676,316.00

The bascule span provides a clear channel width of 131 feet at Mill Basin with an underclearance of thirty-five feet above mean high water, with the span down.

July 6, 1939

The bridge carries two 34-foot roadways separated by a center mall four feet in width and two six-foot sidewalks. The roadways and sidewalks are of concrete, except on the bascule span where the roadways are of open grating and the walkways of timber.

Work for the foundations and substructure of the bridge has been let under a previous contract and is now under construction.

IMMEDIATELY

The Department of Parks announces that well-rounded programs have been prepared for the boys and girls of Park Department playgrounds in commemoration of Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4th, at 2:00 P.M.

Patriotism will be stressed in the form of flag raising ceremonies, singing of national anthem, and discourses by leading local citizens on the significance of this day in the calendar of American Holidays.

Many of the programs will feature athletic meets which will include dashes, high jumping, broad jumping and novelty events such as egg and spoon race, potato race, three legged race and wheelbarrow race; also recitations and dance festivals comprising popular children's dances, viz., Virginia Reel, Carousel, Hansel and Gretel, and Children's Polka.

Where the facilities permit, softball games will be included in the playground schedule of activities on July 4th.

Some of the recreational areas at which the celebrations will take place are as follows:

Manhattan Heckscher Children's Playground, Seward Park, Tompkins Square Park, Colonial Playground, Gulick Playground, Mt. Morris Playground and Ft. Tryon Playground.

Brooklyn Red Hook Playground, City Park, Betsy Head Playground, Neptune Avenue and West 28th Street Playground and Leiv Eiriksson and McKinley Playgrounds and McCarren Park.

Queens Jackson Pond, Rainey Park, Von Dohlen Playground, Highland Upper Playground, Liberty Park Playground and Corona 111th Playground and Cunningham Park.

Bronx Williamsbridge, Mullaly and Crotona East Playgrounds.

Richmond Crescent Avenue Playground, Schmul Park Playground, Lincoln Avenue Playground, De Matti Playground, Kaltenmeier Playground and Mariner's Harbor Playground.

On Friday, June 30, the Department of Parks officially opened to the public, the Marconi Memorial Field at 155 Street and 108 Avenue, South Jamaica, Queens. Mayor La Guardia was the principal speaker at the ceremonies which took place at 3:30 P.M. Park Commissioner Moses presided. Besides, the Mayor, Councilman James A. Burke and Borough President George U. Harvey participated. After the speaking exercises, there was a program of recreational activities.

This playground is located in one of the older, intensively developed sections of South Jamaica with a large negro population, frame buildings and narrow streets where there has been an insistent demand over a period of years for recreational facilities, and it provides to some extent, much needed recreational facilities for all age groups in a part of the City that has long been neglected. A few blocks to the east is situated the Samuel H. Huntington Junior High School with practically no school yard and this new play area will temporarily care for the lack of play facilities at that location.

The area runs from 108 to 109 Avenues and from 155 to 157 Streets. 156 Street from 108 to 109 Avenues has been closed so that the playground adjoins Public School No. 48 on the east and south sides, and provides play space for the school children not only after school hours, but also during school recreation periods.

South of the school, the one block square area developed to care for older children and adults has been provided with floodlights to afford recreation after dark for those who have to work during daylight hours. Besides 12 shuffleboard, 12 paddle tennis, 6 horseshoe pitching and 8 handball courts, it also contains a large bituminous surfaced play area which can be used not only for softball and other group games, but also can be flooded for ice skating when sub-freezing temperatures permit.

The entire area is enclosed by fencing and a planted area with shade trees. Numerous permanent benches have been placed throughout to provide rest for guardians of children and those seeking rest.

The Department of Parks also announces that an agreement has been reached granting the Park Department permission to occupy the Jamaica Water Supply Company's property between 108 and 109 Avenues and 164 Place and 167 Street, Jamaica, Queens.

Under the agreement the Park Department is permitted to develop the property for recreational purposes for a period of ten years providing it fences around all tanks and company structures within the area.

Plans for development of the area are already under way and the work will be done by relief labor.