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1941 continued

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1941 continued

- 5/30/41 75 Opening of permanent boathouse facilities of John Jay Pool announced
- 5/30/41 76 Announcement of four independent series of outdoor concerts by the Goldman Band, Naumberg Orchestra, Amateur City Symphony Orchestra, and the New York City WPA Federal Music Project. Schedule attached.
- 5/30/41 77 Erection of statue of Peter Stuyvesant in Stuyvesant Square Park announced. Discussion of history of statue.
- 6/2/41 78 Annual "Learn to Swim" campaign begins
~~6/2/41~~ 79 ~~Outdoor Social Season opens June 2, 8:30pm.~~
 6/3/41 80 Anniversary of official opening of 12 playgrounds will be celebrated
 6/4/41 81 Ceremonies will take place in connection with statue of Peter Stuyvesant presentation.
- 6/4/41 81A (2nd release - note to disregard first one) ceremonies will take place in connection with presentation of statue of Peter Stuyvesant by Netherland-America foundation.
- 6/5/41 82 Installation of 3 small marginal~~y~~ playgrounds begun with W.P.A. in Washington Square Park
- 6/5/41 83 Recreation building and comfort station Seward Park
- 6/5/41 84 New playground in Brooklyn
- 6/5/41 85 Reconstruction of playground at St. Catherine's Park completed
- 6/6/41 86 Finals of the handball tournament in North Meadow
- 6/6/41 87 Second concert of the Childrens Orchestra
- 6/6/41 87A Boys and Girls citywide athletic meet at Triborough Stadium
- 6/8/41 88 Opening of the first section of the bicycle path
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- 6/13/41 91 Schedule of special events for summer season
- 6/14/41 92 Reconstruction of Inwood Hill Park playground completed
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- 6/25/41 1002 New playground on Bronx River Parkway opened
- 6/26/41 1003 Barbershop quartet singing championship
- 6/27/41 104 - Announcing article on Jones Beach to appear in Sat. Evening Post
- 6/27/41 105 - ~~Competition~~ letion of reconstruction of Park in Brooklyn
- 6/28/41 106 - Roller skating rink closed for season
- 6/28/41 107 - Largest tennis tournament to date started June 23
- 6/29/41 108 - The care of newly planted street trees
- ? 6/30/41 109 First of nine concerts by City Amateur Symphony Orchestra starts July 1

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

FOR RELEASE Monday
June 30, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the first of a series of nine concerts by the City Amateur Symphony Orchestra, with Hon. Leopold Prince as conductor, will be given on the Mall, Central Park, Tuesday, July 1, at 8:30 P. M.

The program for this opening concert will include well known selections, by Beethoven, Shubert, Gounod, and Tchaikowsky.

Four more concerts of this series will also be given on the Mall, Central Park, on consecutive Saturday evenings - July 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 8:30 P. M.

The remaining concerts will be presented on successive Sunday evenings at the Music Grove, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, beginning July 6 and continuing through July 27.

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(Handwritten signature)

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
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107
FOR RELEASE Sunday,
June 29, 1941

SUMMER CARE OF NEWLY PLANTED
STREET TREES

The Department of Parks announces that the need of water and cultivation of newly planted street trees during the dry periods of the summer months is most important.

Many young trees are found to be suffering from lack of water and cultivation. In some cases, because of the presence of curbs, sidewalks and paved streets, such trees receive the benefit of only a small portion of the natural rainfall.

A newly planted tree should be watered at least three times a week, especially on hot summer days. Two pails of water applied each time at sunset is sufficient for the average young tree.

To assure deep penetration of the water, the surface soil of the tree pit should be loosened with a hoe or rake to make a good earth mulch. This should be done every week during the summer to prevent hard packing of the soil over the roots. Where the tree is provided with a grating, the latter should be lifted out and the soil loosened at frequent periods.

Every effort by the property owner should be put forth to insure the good health and life of the newly planted tree.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
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Mr. Heasley
 For Release Saturday
 June 28, 1941

107

The largest tennis tournament ever held in the metropolitan area got under way on Monday, June 23rd, when the Juniors started play for the Borough Championships. The men's singles and doubles will start Saturday, June 28th and the women's singles and doubles on July 4th. Nearly twenty-four hundred men, women and juniors entered the preliminary round held on all of the park courts. Park champions were crowned in the Junior singles, men's singles and doubles and the women's singles and doubles. The eight quarter-finalists in each park tournament qualified for the borough championships. City-wide public parks borough tennis championships are conducted annually by the Department of Parks as a part of the Annual Sports Tournament.

The eight quarter-finalists in each borough will qualify for the city-wide finals to be held at Randall's Island, beginning July 19th.

In the Bronx, the men will play at Mullaly Park, while the women and juniors play at St. James Park. Brooklyn will see the men at McKinley Park and the women and juniors will use Fort Green Park. Manhattanites can see their favorites on the Central Park courts. Queens, the scene of so many matches of national and international flavor at Forest Hills, has only to travel to Forest Park to watch the men and Alley Pond Park for the women and juniors. Staten Island has held their elimination rounds at Walker Park and are awaiting the city finals.

Manhattan with seven hundred and twenty-two entrants has the largest group of all five boroughs. Queens is next with five hundred and forty-two, while the Bronx and Brooklyn follow with four hundred and ninety-five and four hundred and sixty-one respectively. Richmond, the smallest of all boroughs, contributed its share of one hundred and sixty-eight.

Never in the history of Public Parks Tournaments have so many stars entered; included in the list are players of national prominence - such as Helen Germaine, National Public Parks Champion, Municipal Public Parks Champion for the past eight years, finalist in the N. Y. State Championship last week and finalist in the New Jersey State Championship, now being conducted at Hackensack, New Jersey. Miss Betty Grimes, finalist in girl's junior metropolitan tennis championship, now being held at Jackson Heights; Natacha Irwin, holder of the Bronx and metropolitan singles championships and the most outstanding feminine performer in the Bronx.

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In the men's division some of the outstanding players are Vincent Paul of Queens, who has been playing in tournaments all through the winter and spring. In the eastern Florida championships, held during the winter months, he took a set from Bobby Riggs. Bill Lurie, finalist with Hartman last year and three times the winner of the Metropolitan Public Parks Championship; Al Doyle, seeded in the National Public Parks Tournament; Jerry Norman, seeded star in the American Lawn Tennis Association and former doubles champion in this division; Ernie Koslon, former N.Y.U. Captain, New York State Intercollegiate Champion, a conqueror of Jean Boratra and Frank Bowden in indoor play, former nationally ranked junior players; Koslon plays a smart game, the result of experience in so many championship matches and is expected to extend anyone who tries to defeat him. Saul Slepser, winner in the Junior Division last year, number two man of the City College Tennis Squad and quarter finalist in the men's singles last year, is in tournament form and should go far. This spring, he was recommended by the Junior Davis Cup Committee of the Eastern Lawn Tennis Association, for further coaching by George Agutta, at the West Side Tennis Club.

The junior division looks like the Interscholastic Championships replayed. Harold Levine will be fighting to retain his Bronx Junior Crown, Paul Rockwalski, Boys High School star and undefeated in P.S.A.L. competition is slated to retain his in Brooklyn. Out in Queens, Leonard Ericksson of Flushing is expected to find stiff competition in retaining his Queens crown from Tom Burke, number one netter from the Queens P.S.A.L. Championship Newtown team. In Central Park, Mel Kahn, present title holder, is expected to move through to a repeat performance without much opposition.

Trophies have been donated by the Park Association of New York City and will be presented to the winners.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
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106
FOR RELEASE Saturday,
June 28, 1941

The Park Department announces that after the evening session at the City Building, Flushing Meadow Park on Sunday night, June 29, the roller skating rink will be closed for the summer season.

Since the combined ice and roller skating rinks were opened on January 12, 1941, 174,943 people have availed themselves of these facilities. During the free periods held each Saturday morning, 20,747 children attended the sessions.

The roller rink will reopen early in September and the ice rink in October.

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

Mr. Massey

Friday
June 27, 1941

For Release

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The Department of Parks announces the completion of work in connection with the reconstruction of a playground on Prospect Avenue between Fort Hamilton Parkway and Greenwood Avenue in the Borough of Brooklyn.

This rectangular plot, slightly more than 1 acre in area, extends 374 feet along Prospect Avenue and is 130 feet deep. The property which was transferred from the Board of Transportation to the Department of Parks in 1934 to be opened as a playground on a permit basis was provided with court games, a wading pool, kindergarten and playground apparatus, drainage, paving, floodlighting, fencing and planting. It was partially completed and opened to the public on December 19, 1935. The Board of Transportation reserved a 50 foot wide underground easement, for subway purposes, which runs diagonally through the property.

The original plan of development has now been completed. A standard brick comfort station has been added to the wading pool and kindergarten area at the north end of the development. It is also convenient to the single entrance from Prospect Avenue and to the large open play area at the south end. This formerly earth surfaced, fence enclosed compartment which is subdivided by a string of typical playground apparatus along the west boundary and four handball courts at the extreme south end has been completely repaved with smooth bituminous macadam. A new drain inlet and a 136 foot vitrified tile sewer line have been added for more efficient drainage of the new play surface.

The west half of the 25 foot wide sidewalk area between the Prospect Avenue curb and the east property line fence has been paved with bituminous macadam except for a 20 foot strip on each side of the playground entrance which has been surfaced with precast concrete blocks. A row of thirteen Norway Maple trees, 2-1/2"-3" in diameter have been planted in this panel immediately adjacent to the existing concrete sidewalk which reaches to the curb. The spotting of these supplementary trees alternates centrally between the existing street trees and the playground border trees which are opposite each other. A row of eleven 4-unit wood and concrete benches have been centered between the new trees against the property line fence.

Repairs to the existing chain link fence, resetting entrance gates, removal and resetting of existing concrete block paving and replacement of a maidenhair fern tree adjacent to the wading pool were included in the work.

All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs; 56 of these have been reconstructed. At the present time there are 428 in the Park System.

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

June 27, 1941

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

An article on Jones Beach State Park entitled: "New Swimmin' Hole", has been scheduled to appear in the July 5 issue of the Saturday Evening Post. The article which is accompanied by a two-page spread of full color photographs will be of particular interest to Long Island residents.

E N D

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
CITY OF NEW YORK

TO: MR. SPARGO

FROM: COMMISSIONER MOSES:

June 25, 1941

SUBJECT:

Haslett

Proposed Release- Crotona

This release is all right, but how about trying one or two airplane pictures which show the whole Park or the greater part of it?

We ought to get out first rate pictures of as big an improvement as this.

RM:HT
Attachs.

RM
COMMISSIONER

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

DRAFT

537-11
537-11
For Release

The Department of Parks announces the completion and opening of seven new marginal playgrounds, three reconstructed playgrounds, a children's farm garden and two comfort stations in Crotona Park, The Bronx. These playgrounds represent part of a larger program of park reconstruction which will be completed this fall.

Crotona Park is one of the most heavily used parks in the City. Prior to the start of rehabilitation work the pressure of a congested neighborhood had overflowed play areas onto the park lawns, injuring the vegetation, causing erosion and miniature dust storms thus destroying the usefulness of the area.

The first major effort to provide much needed recreation facilities and restore the scenic values of the park was the construction of a swimming pool in 1936 together with the rehabilitation of the adjoining unit of park land lying between Fulton and Crotona Avenues. In the following years two new playgrounds were laid out along Crotona Park East and various other minor improvements were made.

Plans for the present project, embracing the complete reconstruction of the remaining sections of the park were prepared early in 1940 by the Department of Parks and the work was started shortly thereafter by the Work Projects Administration. The main features of this work include the following items:

- Ten additional marginal playgrounds
- Reconstruction of the children's farm garden
- Four baseball diamonds with concrete bleachers
- One softball diamond with concrete bleacher
- Construction of a wall around the lake
- A boat house and concession building on the lakeside
- Thirteen double handball courts
- Reconstruction of athletic field on Crotona Park North

Demolition of many outworn paths and roadways and construction of a complete new path system with curbs, asphaltic pavement, steps, ramps, benches, lights, fencing, etc.

General reconstruction of the park storm drainage system
Landscaping of the entire park including new topsoil and planting of 2800 new trees, 18,000 shrubs and lawns.

Realignment of the south end of Crotona Avenue within the park, for better traffic circulation.

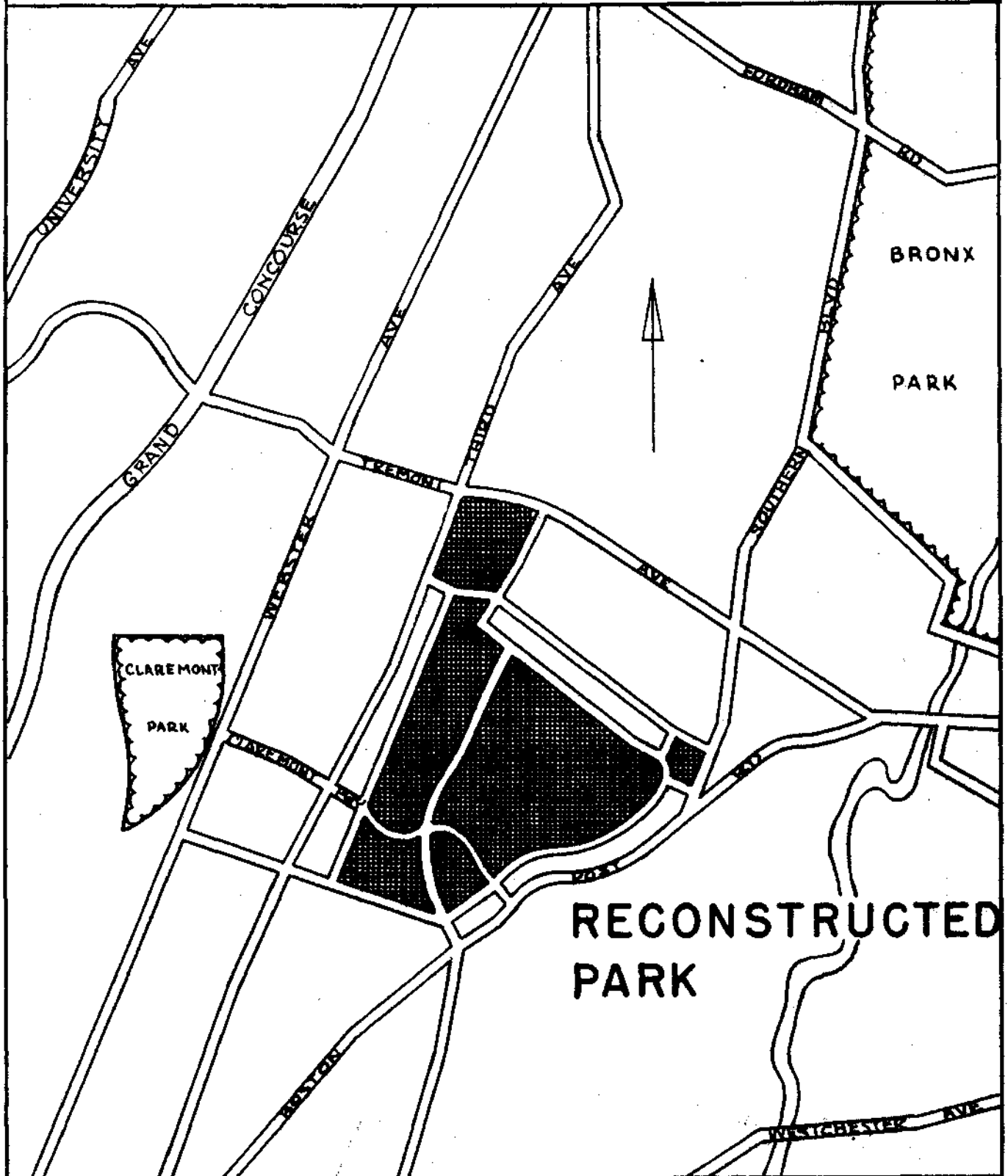
The only section of the park which remains untouched by the current operations is the area along Third Avenue to the north of East 175 Street. This section contains the old Borough Hall which should be demolished. Repeated requests to the Board of Estimate for assignment of this to the Park Department have been refused.

The reconstruction of Crotona Park represents a major effort in the park improvement field and when completed its results will be increasingly appreciated as the new plant growth becomes established and the various recreational facilities attain their full use.

All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs; 58 of these have been reconstructed. At present there are 435 playgrounds in the Park system.

0 MILES

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX



CROTONA PARK
RG 7/28/41

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

DRAFT

For Release Friday
June 12th

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All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs; _____ of these have been reconstructed. At present there are _____ playgrounds in the Park system.

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

FOR RELEASE Thursday,
June 26, 1941

The 7th Annual city-wide championship in Barber Shop Quartet Singing will take place on the Mall, Central Park, 71st Street and Center Drive, Thursday, June 26th, at 8:30 P. M. In the event of rain the contest will be held in the auditorium of the Museum of Natural History, 79th Street and Central Park West, New York City.

All of the old gang will be there. Brothers Mark Hawley, Ben Grauer, Harry Von Zell and George Hicks, radio announcers, will be on hand to give some well-known renditions. They will appear under the title "Hawley's Tonsorial Twitterbugs". "The Southernaires", famous radio quartet, also members of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, will be on hand to greet the thousands who have followed this contest around the city.

The judges are composed of genuine experts in the field of song and others who have qualified through past service. Fred Waring, the best known orchestra leader in the country, famous for his glee club and orchestra, has been invited to participate as a judge. Some of his co-workers in the judges' box are Mayor LaGuardia, Governor Al Smith, Park Commissioner Moses, Harry Barnhart, the vocal instructor, Jack Norworth and Geoffrey O'Hara, song composers, George E. Rea, president of the New York Curb Exchange, Frank W. Smith, president of the Consolidated Edison Company, Paul Winslow of the Taconic State Park Commission, and James F. Evans, secretary of the State Council of Parks.

During the past two weeks, the preliminaries were held in each of the five boroughs. After listening to a rendition of such popular barber shop ballads as: "Dear Old Girl"; "Let Me Call You Sweetheart"; "Mandy Lee"; "Sweet Adeline", and many other songs made famous by the harmonizers of the old tonsorial parlors in the early part of the present century, the judges of the respective borough

contests decided that 18 quartets qualified for the city-wide finals on June 26th. This selection was predicated on a comprehensive variety of factors including rhythm, intonation, tone quality, diction, precision, dynamics, voice blending, harmonic originality, phrasing, costume and stage presence.

These 18 groups of balladeers are composed of men drawn from every walk of life embracing commercial, industrial, social and civic organizations.

We will have the old faithful winners in previous contests such as the "St. Mary's Horseshoers" and the Police Department Quartet. In addition to these, we will have real harmony presented by quartets who have taken such names as the "Brass Rail Four", "Four Tune Hunters", "Three Sharps and a Flat", "The Harmonizers", "Grand Central Red Caps", and "The City of Light Four".

Each quartet will be permitted to sing two numbers which they must choose from the approved list of appropriate barber shop ballads. The time of both songs shall not exceed eight minutes duration.

Handsome prizes of substantial value will be awarded to each member of the quartets which attain first, second and third place. In addition, the winning quartet will represent New York City at the Nationals, scheduled for St. Louis, on July 3, 4 and 5.

Community singing will precede the contest from 8:00 to 8:30 P.M. under the leadership of Harry Barnhart. Music for the evening's entertainment will be furnished by the Park Department Band. The public address system will be supplied by the Municipal Broadcasting Station WNYC. Various portions of the program will be broadcast according to the following time schedule: WNYC - 8:30 to 9:15 P. M.; WMCA - 9:00 to 9:15 P. M.; WJVD - 10:00 to 10:30 P. M.

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

FOR RELEASE Wednesday
June 25, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion of a small children's playground on the right of way of the Bronx River Parkway opposite East 227th Street. This new facility will be opened to the public on Wednesday, June 25th.

The new development covers an area of about two acres in the sloping lawn between the Parkway and the Bronx River. The playground itself is semi-circular in shape, contains various items of play apparatus including swings, slides, see-saws, jungle gym, a sand pit and a shower basin, and is paved with bituminous material. It is fenced with chain link fabric for purposes of control and a number of trees have been planted inside the area to provide shade. Numerous benches have been provided adjacent to the boundary fence for parents and guardians watching the play activities. The nearest street entrance is at East 226th Street where traffic lights enable pedestrians to cross Bronx Boulevard in safety. With the construction in the near future of the Bronx River Parkway to the west of this playground much of this traffic will be taken off Bronx Boulevard. A small brick structure in the park slope near the entrance to the playground will be used for storage of tools by the Park Maintenance forces.

All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks. This new facility brings the total number of playgrounds in the Park system to 428. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK**

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release TUESDAY
June 24, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion of work in the south section of Betsy Head Park, Brooklyn. The project was undertaken to rehabilitate a worn-out area and to improve and greatly increase the recreation facilities. Included in the eight and a quarter acre plot bounded by Livonia and Dumont Avenues, Strauss Street and Hopkinson Avenue, is a swimming pool, a familiar object in the neighborhood for many years, but which was completely rebuilt and provided with a new bathhouse four years ago. Certain incompleted items remaining in the pool enclosure were scheduled for correction in the current work project and the Betsy Head Pool with its various facilities and mechanical equipment, is now completely up-to-date.

The remainder of the plot, to the west of the pool has been entirely reconstructed to meet the needs of a district well supplied with children and young people and underpriveleged in the matter of play areas. The new plan, designed by the Department of Parks, called for the reconstruction of the baseball diamond, football field and running track, which have been provided with a set of concrete bleachers to seat 1500 spectators. A softball diamond has also been added to this field, and surrounding the cinder running track a ten foot wide roller skating track with bituminous asphalt pavement has been installed. Handball facilities have been doubled by the addition of four new courts. A new comfort station has been built at the corner of Strauss Street and Livonia Avenue. A basketball and volley ball court and two horseshoe pitches are also features of the new plan.

The various areas are segregated by chain link fencing, trees have been planted around the borders, numerous benches have been added and the surrounding street sidewalks have been rebuilt. The Betsy Head playground will serve chiefly the needs of adolescents and young adults and has been designed to withstand wear and tear, to make possible effective control and supervision by the park recreation staff and facilitate routine maintenance.

Construction was carried out by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs 55 of which have been redesigned or reconstructed. At the present time there are 427 playgrounds in the Park system.

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

For Release Monday,
June 23, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion and opening of a new playground at Steinway Street and 35 Avenue, Borough of Queens. This property, formerly under the jurisdiction of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, was transferred by the Board of Estimate to the Department of Parks on June 27, 1940.

Approximately 1/4 acre in extent, this 100 foot square plot provides recreational facilities for a densely populated neighborhood formerly lacking a playground, the nearest play area, 1/2 acre in extent, being at 30 Road and 45 Street, 3/4 of a mile to the north.

Paved with bituminous material the area is completely enclosed by an 8 foot chain link fence with one double gate entrance provided on the west side from Steinway Street. Along the north property line at 35 Avenue the fence is set back around an 8' x 50' rectangular bay which has been retained by the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity in connection with the operation of an existing valve chamber. New concrete street curbs have been installed along 35 Avenue and Steinway Street and the existing concrete sidewalks have been widened to 18 feet.

A 5 foot wide granite block panel extends along the inside of the fence with benches spaced between the new 3 inch caliper pin oaks. A battery of kindergarden swings for pre-school children and large swings for the adolescent group, each segregated by a 4 foot chain link fence, parallels the east property line. The south side of the plot contains the slides, see-saws and pipe frame exercise unit. A 6' x 10' brick tool house lies adjacent to the entrance. The remainder of the plot may be used for free play space or basketball practice with a single standard located at the center of the north property line.

All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks. This is the 427th playground in the Park system. In 1934 there were 119 in the five boroughs, 55 of which have been reconstructed or redesigned.

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

Sikking 99
 Sunday,
 June 22, 1941
 For Release

The Department of Parks announces completion of work in the northern section of Bronx Park. The area of operations is bounded on the south approximately by a line drawn between Allerton Avenue and Bronx Park East and the Mosholu Parkway Railroad bridge. The triangular area lying north of this line, with its apex at Magenta Street and Bronx Park East was formerly largely under the jurisdiction of the Botanical Gardens and was returned to the Department of Parks under a recent agreement in anticipation of major highway developments in the area. The current project represents the initial step in the conversion of the area to recreational uses. Complete rehabilitation must await contemplated changes in the alignment of Bronx River Parkway.

Certain features of the complete development plan prepared by the Department of Parks have been embodied in the present work performed by the Work Projects Administration. These include construction of sections of the future path system, two softball diamonds, two comfort stations and two marginal playgrounds. One of these playgrounds is located in the north-east section of the area, adjacent to Bronx Park East at Rosewood Street. Each playground covers about a quarter of an acre, is paved with a smooth bituminous asphalt surface and is enclosed by an eight-foot chain link fence. The equipment includes play apparatus such as slides, swings, seesaws, a sand pit and a shower basin. Benches are provided for adults in charge of the children. Drinking fountain and flagpole are standard features. A brick comfort station is provided in the easterly playground. A similar structure is located near the westerly end of the two playgrounds, opposite East 203rd Street. The immediate surroundings of both playgrounds have been attractively landscaped. Drainage has been provided where necessary and a number of drinking fountains have been placed at convenient points on the newly constructed path system.

All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs; 55 of these have been reconstructed. At the present time there are 426 in the Park system. ✓

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

FOR RELEASE Saturday,
June 21, 1941

Due to the sudden heat wave, the Department of Parks' sixteen outdoor swimming pools located in the five boroughs will remain open until 10 P. M. on Saturday, June 21, and Sunday, June 22. They will also remain open until 10 P. M. for the remainder of the heat wave.

During the months of June it has been the policy of the Department to open the pools from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M.

Beginning June 28, and continuing until September 8 the pools will be open at 10 A. M. to 12 Noon Monday through Saturday, free for children under 14 years of age. During this period instructions in swimming, diving and life saving will be carried on. Adults and children may use the pool from 1 P. M. to 10 P. M., Monday through Saturday, and from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M. on Sunday. The charge for children 14 years and under is ten cents and for adults twenty cents.

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

97
FOR RELEASE Saturday,
June 21, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion of the reconstruction and the reopening to the public of the John J. Murphy Playground located at Avenue "C", 17th Street and the East River, Manhattan.

This improvement included the demolition and removal of the old wooden pavillion and comfort station and the complete re-design of an outmoded facility, to which a small area has been added because of the alignment of the new East River Drive.

Situated in an intensively developed neighborhood, adjacent to the East River and the East River Drive, the new facilities offer healthful recreation to all age groups. For children there is a completely equipped playground with swings, slides, see-saws, play houses, a sand pit and a shower basin. For adolescents and adults there are hand ball, basketball, volley ball, shuffle board, paddle tennis and horseshoe pitching courts as well as game tables.

A new modern brick comfort station has been provided and also numerous concrete benches and 32 shade trees.

Plans for the improvement were prepared by the Department of Parks and the work was performed by the Work Projects Administration. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs, 55 of which have been redesigned and reconstructed. At present there are 424 playgrounds in the Park system.

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

For Release Friday,
June 20, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that 504 girls, ranging from 8 to 16 years of age and representing various playgrounds throughout the five boroughs, will participate in a Dance Festival on the Sheep Meadow, 66 Street and West Drive, Central Park, on Saturday, June 21, at 2:30 P.M.

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

Each member of the dancing class has also been taught how to make the costumes which she will wear at the performance. These costumes are designed in accordance with the particular type of dance and they play an important part in the decision of the judges, since the appearance of the costume will affect considerably each dancing performance.

Prior to the exhibition, there will be a colorful procession of all the dancers, in costume, through the park to the Sheep Meadow, where the afternoon's performances will take place.

There will be 14 dances in all, with 36 girls in each dance. Such types of dancing as: esthetic, interpretative, character and folk will be included in this exhibition. Some of the numbers will be: "Hungarian Folk Dance" by Lindsay Playground, Brooklyn; "Spirit of Freedom" (Esthetic) by J. Hood Wright Playground, Manhattan; "Fantasie Ballet" (Interpretative) by Laurelton Playground, Queens; "Recruits" (Character) by Michael J. Mahoney Playground, Richmond; "Nosegay Waltz" (Interpretative) by St. Mary's, Lyons Square and 141 Street and Brook Avenue playgrounds, Bronx.

The following have consented to act as judges: Louis H. Chalif, Director of the Chalif School of Dancing; Miss Gabrielle Sorrenson, Dean of Savage School for Physical Education; Miss Agnese M. Roy, of the Albertina Rasch Studios and Miss Frances Holsten, Instructor of Physical Education at Hunter College.

Municipal Broadcasting Station WNYC will provide amplification facilities for the occasion and the Park Department Band will furnish the music.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. REgent 4-1000

95
FOR RELEASE Friday,
June 20, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion and opening of a new playground in Central Park, Manhattan. Located between the West Drive and Central Park West adjacent to 76 Street, this is the twentieth of a chain of marginal playground conveniently located near the park entrances to reduce the destructive practices of children who use the interior landscaped lawns for play purposes.

This new semi-circular playground, approximately 1/2 acre in extent, has been fitted into a meadow-like setting developed on the site of a former arm of the lake which extended about 300 feet north and south of the 77 Street park entrance drive bridge. In order to make the lake bed accessible and usable, land fill was placed to a depth of 14 feet over an area of approximately one acre. The former lake banks and adjacent areas have been regraded to provide gentle slopes which blend the playground surface with the surrounding park area. The area outside of the playground was covered with topsoil, seeded, and a new lawn area is now developing. Eight pin oaks, 3" in diameter, have been planted around the entrance to the playground. Connections to the existing path system have been provided by the addition of 700 feet of bituminous surfaced walks. The general play area, paved with the same material, is completely enclosed by a 7 foot wrought iron fence and gate.

Play facilities provided include a shower basin, irrigated sand pit, drinking fountain, kindergarten swings, slides and see-saws. A row of continuous benches for the comfort of mothers and nurses extends along the inside of the boundary fence.

All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs; 54 of these have been reconstructed. At the present time there are 424 playgrounds in the Park system.

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

FOR RELEASE Wednesday
June 18, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion of two recreation areas in the Borough of Queens, one lying between Southern Parkway and North Conduit Avenue and between 114th and 121st Streets, and the other along Southern Parkway between 143rd and 149th Streets. The Department attempts to provide local play facilities wherever possible along its arterial improvements.

At the 114th to 121st location the construction of five softball diamonds, chain link fence enclosures, grading and seeding is completed. Separating the two ballfields opposite 114th Place and again, the two opposite 116th Street, sets of three-tier concrete bleachers have been constructed in a double or back-to-back arrangement, so that each of the four ballfields is provided with spectator accommodations. The diamonds all have hooded backstops. An irrigation system has been installed and drinking fountains are conveniently located. Pedestrian access to the recreation areas is from North Conduit Avenue by means of bituminous paved walks.

At the 143rd to 149th Streets location, the divergence of Conduit Avenue from the Parkway to this point afforded an opportunity for the construction of an athletic field accommodating three softball diamonds. The entire area is enclosed by a twelve foot chain link fence and the diamonds are provided with hooded backstops. An irrigation system has been installed and the area landscaped with trees.

The areas will be held out of use temporarily to allow the new turf to become established.

Plans for these improvements were drawn by the Department of Parks and the work executed by the Work Projects Administration.

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Mr. R. C. Jenkins

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. REgent 4-1000

FOR RELEASE Monday,
June 16, 1941

Regular softball league games at Jacob Riis Park will start on Monday evening, June 16, with the Highland Yankees of Brooklyn meeting the Rockverne Club of Rockaway in the opening game starting at 7 P. M. The second game scheduled for 9 P. M. will bring out the Ozone Park Regals, last year's champions and the Wingate Club of Brooklyn. Both leagues are made up of uniformed teams representing all sections of Brooklyn and Queens. Double-headers in these leagues are scheduled for Monday through Thursday evening at 7 and 9 P. M.

On June 21 the Industrial League will play their opening game at 2 P. M. The team representing the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company will play the team of the Brand Printing Company. Industrial League games are scheduled for every Saturday and Sunday at 2 P. M.

The softball diamond located along the boardwalk at Jacob Riis Park is in excellent playing condition. Bleacher seats, free for spectators, are available.

M. H. ...

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, Central Park
Tel. REgent 4-7833

FOR RELEASE Saturday,
June 14, 1941

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Pix 20068

20069

1 development plan

1 location map

The Department of Parks announces the completion of work in connection with the reconstruction of a playground adjacent to the existing brick field house and comfort station at the corner of Payson Avenue and Dyckman Street in Inwood Hill Park. The area which is approximately 120' x 160' is divided into units by typical granite block-paved panels with rows of trees and benches. These bituminous surfaced compartments grouped about the central 43' x 63' wading pool have been furnished with repaired equipment salvaged from the old playground. South of the pool, extending along the Dyckman Street property line, is a battery of kindergarten seesaws, slides, swings, and a 12' x 17' irrigated sand pit.

West of the fence enclosed pool is a new flagpole and base. A group of old willows at the east end of this unit, adjacent to Payson Avenue, shades a line of benches and provides a pleasant contrast to the open, sunny pool area.

The 30' x 150' play space north of the pool contains a string of rehabilitated facilities consisting of see-saws, swings, slides and a pipe frame exercise unit.

The entire playground has been enclosed by an 8' chain link fence. The tree planting within the playground, along the outside of the fence and flanking the existing Dyckman Street hexagonal block consists of rows of 4"-6" lindens. The planting around the existing field house and comfort station has been rearranged and supplemented with privets, virburnums, hawthorns, dogwoods, bayberry and ivy.

About 800' north of the playground at the crest of the heavily wooded slope a pedestrian overlook has been constructed at an elevation

V

180' above the Hudson River. Facing directly west vistas of the river and Jersey shore have been opened by the removal of a few trees. The bow shaped terrace, approximately 120' x 30', is retained by a low granite wall with the foundation extending to solid rock. Thirty-eight wood and concrete bench units face outward from this wrought iron fence enclosed overlook which is surfaced with bituminous macadam.

Two entrances are provided at the rear of the terrace connecting with a new 8' wide bituminous walk. This 800' addition to the several miles of trails and walks in Inwood Hill Park was necessary to make the overlook site accessible. Winding up the slopes and around rock outcrops it was necessary to provide a section of stepped ramp and stairway where the grades were excessive.

400' north of the overlook near the intersection of two of the main walks a brick comfort station has been built to serve the needs of the south end of the park.

All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs; 54 of these have been reconstructed. At the present time there are 423 playgrounds in the Park system.

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

For Release Friday
June 13, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the schedule of tournaments, exhibitions, contests and special events including concerts, social dances and puppet and marionette shows, which will be conducted in parks, playgrounds and swimming pools under the jurisdiction of the Park Department during the summer season of the year 1941.

There will be city-wide tournaments in the following activities:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Finals-Approximate Date</u>
Handball	Girls- 16 years & older (singles only)	June 28
Horseshoe Pitching	Boys & Men over 17 years (singles & doubles)	July 12
Punchball	Girls- 16 years & under	August 9
Baseball	Boys- 16 years & under	August 15
Softball	Boys -16 years & under Boys -17 to 21 years Men -21 years & over Girls-17 years & over	August 2 August 9 August 16 August 1
Paddle Tennis	Boys & Girls - 13 to 15 years - 16 to 19 years Men & Women -20 years & over (singles & mixed doubles in each division)	August 16
Chess & Checkers	A. Boys and Girls- 16 years & under B. Persons 17 to 50 years C. Men- 50 years & over There will be a "Youth versus Age" contest between the winners of "A" and "C" Divisions.	August 23 and 24
Jacks	Girls - 14 years & under	August 27
Shuffleboard	Men and women - 18 years & over	September 6

Playground children will be given an opportunity to demonstrate their dancing, singing and musical capabilities by participating in the following city-wide contests:

<u>Contest</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Finals-Approximate Date</u>
Folk Dancing	Girls- 16 years & under (Each borough will present three types of dances for the city-wide exhibition on the Sheep Meadow, Central Park: folk, classical and interpretative)	June 21
Amateur Singing	Boys & Girls-8 -12 years 13-16 years (Four winners, one in each group, will be selected at the borough eliminations to represent the borough at the finals which will be held on the Mall, Central Park.)	August 3

<u>Contest</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Finals- Approximate Date</u>
Musical Instruments	Boys & Girls- 8-12 years 13-16 years (This contest will include all types of musical instruments.)	August 24

Swimming meets will be conducted during the summer months, at the 16 outdoor swimming pools operated by the Department of Parks. These meets will be both intra- and inter- pool in scope and will consist of individual events, fancy diving and relays.

The annual "Learn to Swim" campaign, which commenced on June 2 at all the pools, will continue until June 22.

Special programs will be prepared by each playground director in commemoration of the following holidays: June 14 - Flag Day; July 4- Independence Day; September 1- Labor Day.

The finals of the City's seventh annual Barber Shop Quartet Contest will be held under the supervision of the Park Department at the Mall, Central Park, on Thursday, June 26, at 8:30 P.M.

Puppet and marionette shows, including "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "Hansel and Gretel", will be given from a trailer stage, at various park playgrounds and recreation areas, centrally located in various sections of the city, during the months of June, July and August.

Four independent series of outdoor concerts have been planned for the large parks, throughout the city. These series include concerts by the Goldman Band, Naumberg Orchestra, Amateur City Symphony Orchestra, and the New York City W.P.A. Federal Music Project.

Arrangements have also been made for outdoor social dancing periods at several parks and playgrounds in the five boroughs. Music is provided by orchestras furnished through the cooperation of the New York City W.P.A. Federal Music Project.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
Tel. REgent 4-1000

90
FOR RELEASE Friday,
June 13, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion of work on the redesign of a play area on Reservoir Avenue between Strong Street and West 197th Street, The Bronx. This property was acquired by the Department of Parks in 1935, at which time it was graded and provided with seesaws and swings by relief workers. The current project represents an amplification of the original work. The area has been paved with a smooth bituminous surface to provide all year round usage. A sand pit and benches have been added, and new boundary fencing together with a new entrance on Strong Street have been installed.

All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks.

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

FOR RELEASE Thursday
June 12, 1941

Mr. Healy 89

The Department of Parks announces that the city-wide finals of the Barber Shop Quartet Contest, originally scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 8:30 P.M., at the Mall, Central Park, has been postponed to Thursday, June 26, at the same time and place.

This change will give the qualifying quartets from the various boroughs an extra week's time in which to practice for the city championship. Winning the championship this year will mean more than in any previous year, because the quartet, attaining first place, will represent New York City at the Nationals which will be held in St. Louis on July 3, 4, 5.

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

For Release Sunday,
 June 8, 1941

88

The Department of Parks announces opening of the first section of bicycle path at the south end of Central Park. Built as part of the contract for repaving and realigning the park roadways, it forms, together with the old Central Roadway, a complete loop 10' wide and approximately 1 mile long.

Starting at a point near the access drive from Columbus Circle the path extends eastward about 75' north of the South Driveway.

Where the driveway curves northward the path merges with the roadway from which it has been separated by a 2'-6" raised concrete mall leaving 33' for automobiles. Additional protection is afforded by a 3' high wood guard rail in the center of the mall. Just north of the 65th Street Transverse Road the loop continues northward along the abandoned Central Drive.

At the north end of the central mall it merges with the south side of the 72nd Street Park Drive. Protected by a 2'-6" raised mall and guard rail it continues westward to the east side of the West Drive. Curving southward to complete the circuit at Columbus Circle the generous width of the West Drive has permitted the widening of the separating mall to 6' leaving a 44' roadway. Safe access to the path is provided at traffic light protected crossings.

Approximately 3/4 miles will be added to the system in conjunction with repaving the East Drive and the east half of the 72nd Street Park Drive with entrance spurs at 59th Street and 5th Avenue at 72nd Street. Junction with the completed loop will be made at a temporary dead end spur north of 65th Street Transverse Road. Contract plans for this work are being prepared and construction will be started late, this summer.

Future plans which are in a preliminary stage call for a 4 mile extension which will utilize the west side of the East Drive northward to the receiving reservoir where it will swing westward and north around the lake. From this point it will follow the West Drive around North Meadow where it will turn southward to exits on 5th Avenue at 102nd Street and 97th Street. It is planned to build this addition in sections in connection with repaving and realigning of the remainder of the Park Drives.

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

For Release Friday,
 June 6, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the Annual City-Wide Athletic Meet for boys and girls of Park Department playgrounds will take place at the Triborough Stadium, Manhattan, Saturday, June 7, at 2 P. M. Admission will be free.

During the month of May, each playground held preliminary contests and practice sessions in preparations for the borough-wide meet which was conducted in each of the five boroughs. The five who qualified in the finals of the 19 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 lb. class to the unlimited class, will participate in this meet.

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 these Park playground championships is as follows:

Events for Boys

85 lb. class	- 50 yard dash	100 lb. class	- Broad Jump
	Potato Race		60 yard dash
120 lb. class	- 70 yard dash	Unlimited class	- 100 yard dash
	High Jump		1/2 mile run

Events for Girls

85 lb. class	- 40 yard dash	110 lb. class	- 50 yard dash
	Egg & Spoon Race		Basketball throw
	Potato Race	Unlimited class	- 60 yard dash

Relay Events

100 lb. class	- 200 yards
120 lb. class	- 440 yards
Unlimited class	- 880 yards

Unlimited Mixed Relay

Girl - 55 yards Boy - 110 yards
Girl - 55 yards Boy - 220 yards

Directions to the Triborough Stadium, Randall's Island, follow:

By Automobile

Via the Triborough Bridge from Manhattan, Bronx or Queens. The bridge toll for automobiles is 25¢ for a round trip to Randall's Island. Parking on the Island is free. The Triborough Bridge is reached most conveniently from Manhattan by the East River Drive or 125 Street, from the Bronx by Southern Boulevard or Grand Concourse and from Queens by the Grand Central Parkway.

By Foot

The Stadium may be reached from Manhattan, Bronx or Queens via the Triborough Bridge. It is only a ten minute walk from 125 Street and Second Avenue in Manhattan, or from 134 Street and Southern Boulevard in the Bronx. There is no toll charge for foot passengers on the Triborough Bridge.

By Rapid Transit from Manhattan

Randall's Island Buses leave 125 Street and Lexington Avenue. It is a four minute bus ride to the Stadium. The fare is 5¢ each way. The Lexington Avenue branch of the I. R. T. subway, Second and Third Avenue elevated lines and bus lines on Lexington and Second Avenues and the Third Avenue trolley line, all connect directly with the Randall's Island bus.

By Rapid Transit from the Bronx

The Randall's Island bus leaves from 138 Street and Cypress Avenue. It is a six minute bus ride. The fare is 5¢ each way. The Pelham Bay Line of the I. R. T. subway connects with it at its Cypress Avenue Station. All Bronx trolley lines transfer to the Southern Boulevard trolley which connects with the Randall's Island bus at 134 Street and Cypress Avenue.

By Rapid Transit from Queens

The Randall's Island bus leaves from 31 Street and Hoyt Avenue, Astoria. It is a 15 minute bus ride to Randall's Island Stadium. The fare is 10¢ each way. The Astoria line of the B. M. T. and I. R. T. subways connect with the bus at 25 Avenue(31 Street and Hoyt Avenue) Astoria.

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

For Release Friday,
June 6, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the Children's Orchestra, composed of 30 boys and girls of Park Department Playgrounds will give its second public concert at the Mall, Central Park, Sunday, June 8, at 2:30 P. M.

The members of this orchestra range in age from 10 to 17 years and they are drawn from playground musical units established in the various boroughs under the supervision of trained instructors. Any boy or girl, 17 years of age or under, who plays a musical instrument, is eligible to apply for membership.

The program for next Sunday's concert will consist of various selections including patriotic songs, martial airs and classical numbers as well as a number of instrumental solos. Some of the selections are: Excerpts from Tschaikowsky's Sixth Symphony, Fifth Hungarian Dance, Beethoven's Second Symphony, Ferry Boat Serenade, Scout Master March and Norwegian Dance by Grieg.

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

86
For Release Friday,
June 6, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the city-wide finals of the handball tournament conducted annually for boys and men of Park Department playgrounds will take place at the handball courts located at North Meadow, Central Park, on Saturday, June 7, and Sunday, June 8, according to the following schedule:

Junior Singles and Doubles (Boys 16 years and under)

Saturday, June 7, at 11 A. M.

Intermediate Singles and Doubles (Boys 17 to 21 years)

Saturday, June 7, at 2:30 P. M.

Senior Singles and Doubles (Men 21 years of age and over)

Sunday, June 8, at 11 A. M.

In case of rain, the games will be played the following Saturday and Sunday at the same time and place.

Since the early part of May, the 831 handball courts of the Park Department have received maximum play, when several hundred boys and men participated in the playground and district eliminations to select the best qualified handball players for the inter-borough competitions. Each borough will be permitted to enter only one representative or team in each of the various divisions of the tournament for the finals this week end.

Gold and silver medals will be awarded to the winner and runner-up in each division.

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

For Release Thursday,
June 5, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion of work in connection with the reconstruction of the playground located in St. Catherine's Park, between East 67th and 68th Streets at First Avenue and adjacent to the Julia Richmond High School, in Manhattan, and its opening to the public on Thursday, June 5, 1941.

This 1 1/3 acre recreation area is fenced in with a 6' chain link fence and bordered with rows of benches and shade trees. The easterly half of the area has been set aside for children and besides a large wading pool which can also be used as a volley ball court, it contains a sand pit, see saws, slides, swings, and a small sitting area for guardians of children.

The westerly portion adjacent to the High School has two soft ball diamonds, a double handball court and basketball standards. There is also a large bituminously surfaced open play area which can be used for group games as well as for roller skating and ice skating in season.

Plans for the improvement were prepared by the Department of Parks and the work was performed by the Work Projects Administration. At present there are 422 playgrounds in the Park system. In 1934 there were 119 in the five boroughs, 53 of which have been reconstructed.

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

Pix 20051
Location map
Development plan

New Hooship 85
For Release Thursday,
June 5, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion and opening to the general public on Thursday, June 5, 1941, of a new playground located between East 13 and 14 Streets at Avenue "V" in the Borough of Brooklyn.

This one and one half acre recreational area contains a separate pre-school children's section with a sand pit, see saws, slides, swings and a shower basin.

A large open bituminous surfaced area for adolescents and adults contains a basketball and volley ball court, a soft-ball diamond and a comfort station. This area also provides for roller and ice skating in their respective seasons. Separated from the children's and open play areas is a double hand-ball court.

Drinking fountains and permanent concrete benches have also been provided and forty-eight trees have been fitted into the landscaping.

This new area makes the 423rd playground in the Park system. In 1934 there were 119 in the five boroughs, of which 53 have been redesigned and reconstructed. All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks.

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

For Release Thursday,
June 5, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion of a combined brick recreation building and comfort station in the southwest corner of Seward Park, Manhattan.

This new structure replaces the old outmoded building. Also completed and adjacent to the new building is a farm garden where school children will grow flowers under the supervision of park department employees. These improvements mark the completion of the reconstructed park, one of the oldest in Manhattan. Playground and recreation areas were completed and opened to the public on November 26 last year.

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

*Mr. Heaslip*⁸²
 For Release Thursday,
 June 5, 1941

Plr 20045
 Dev. plan
 Location map

The Department of Parks announced today that with the cooperation of the WPA it has begun the installation of three small marginal playgrounds in Washington Square Park, Borough of Manhattan.

This work is not to be confused with the original plan which called for the complete reconstruction of the Square, but includes only the installation of badly needed play facilities to serve the community. These three playgrounds are located as near as possible to the entrances to the park for the purpose of intercepting children on the way into the area so that the interior of the park can be kept as at present, with the benches, walks, lawns, etc., for the use of older people. The plan will not require the elimination of any of the existing trees within the park but will provide for the planting of 82 additional trees. The largest of the areas is 80 feet by 120 feet and the smallest, 60 feet by 100 feet.

East of Fifth Avenue a small playground will provide the standard kindergarten swings, see saws, slides and a sand pit. The pit will be of the irrigated type developed by the Park Department to insure a sanitary diggery. One of the most important activities for children of pre-school age is digging and where no sand pits are provided they will carry on their excavation projects around trees and shrubbery or in the lawn areas. On the south side of the park, on each side of the Thompson Street entrance, two kindergarten areas of similar character will serve the insistent demands of children from the local residential areas south of the park. These will be screened by shrubbery and small trees including flowering Hawthorns, American Hornbeams, Virburnum, Styrax, and large trees including Planes, Lindens and Oaks.

✓ The original plan proposed by the Park Department last year eliminated all vehicular traffic within the park and routed buses and all other vehicular traffic around the edge of the park. This plan was abandoned and the relief funds

set up for the purpose were used elsewhere. The present work will not touch the road through the park and all traffic will continue to use the extension of Fifth Avenue. Recent attempts to seed the grass areas and maintain them in their present form were unsuccessful. The pressure on the park was so great that it was impossible to keep the children off these lawn areas, which resulted in repeated demands for further reseeding. The only answer is to provide children of the neighborhood with formal play spaces at the entrances to the square. When these are completed, it will be possible to confine active play largely to the new play areas and will enable us to maintain the balance of the area properly.

There is a great need for active recreation in the Washington Square neighborhood. With the exception of two small playgrounds on Sixth Avenue southwest of the park used by the Park Department under permit from the Board of Transportation, there are no play facilities whatever for children of pre-school and elementary school ages. Requests for the use of other odd pieces of Board of Transportation property on Sixth Avenue were denied by that Board, which has even threatened to sell the present permit playgrounds. Lacking these facilities, the children have spent their energy in the park areas to the detriment of lawns, shrubbery, and other park facilities.

There are six elementary schools, three public and three parochial, within seven blocks of the park, with an enrollment of approximately 4500 children. None of these schools have adequate play areas. Within the same area, there are hundreds of children of pre-school age.

Some property owners fronting on the square have opposed this program as they did the original, comprehensive plan because they don't want any play areas near their buildings. It is impossible to satisfy all of the people in the neighborhood and it is believed the present plan is reasonably fair to all of them. In its amended form it has recently been approved by members of the Board of Directors of the Washington Square Association. The only alternative would be to acquire costly additional land in the neighborhood for a large new playground and no funds are available or in sight for this purpose.

Please disregard the first release on this subject.

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

81A

For Release Wednesday,
June 4, 1941

Ceremonies in connection with the presentation of a statue of Peter Stuyvesant to the City of New York by the Netherland-America Foundation will take place in Stuyvesant Square Park, Manhattan, on Thursday, June 5, at 4 P. M.

Commissioner Moses will act as chairman and introduce Newbold Morris, President of City Council; Sinclair J. Wilson, principal of Stuyvesant High School; Mrs. A. Barton Hepburn, chairman of the Stuyvesant Statue Committee; and, Thomas J. Watson, president of the Netherland-America Foundation.

Musical selections will be rendered by Stuyvesant High School Band; Miss Cornelia van Geuns will lead children dressed in authentic Dutch costumes in singing Holland folk songs, and Miss Jeanne van Drooge will lead in singing the Dutch and American National Anthems.

Mr. A. van Horne Stuyvesant, direct descendant of Peter Stuyvesant, will unveil the statue.

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

For Release Wednesday
June 4, 1941

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Commissioner Moses will act as chairman and introduce Mayor La Guardia; Sinclair J. Wilson, principal of Stuyvesant High School; Mrs. A. Barton Hepburn, chairman of the Stuyvesant Statue Committee; and, Thomas J. Watson, president of the Netherland-America Foundation.

Musical selections will be rendered by Stuyvesant High School Band; Miss Cornelia van Geuns will lead children dressed in authentic Dutch costumes in singing Holland folk songs, and Miss Jeanne van Drooge will lead in singing the Dutch and American National Anthems.

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

For Release Tuesday,
 June 3, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the anniversary of the official opening of 12 Park Department playgrounds will be celebrated by the children of these recreation areas during the month of June by participating in specially prepared Birthday Party programs.

While the regular schedule of daily recreational activities including volley ball, basketball, handball, softball, paddle tennis, and shuffleboard will not be changed, the day's program will feature events of both a patriotic and festive nature, such as: solo and community singing of the national anthem, and "God Bless America", salute to the flag, recitations, accordion selections, one act plays, military tap and folk dancing, a pageant on safety, and a variety of birthday party games with refreshments and prizes for the winners.

Persons, prominent in the civic and recreational activities of the neighborhood, have been invited to speak to the children on the various benefits to be derived from regular attendance at Park Department playgrounds.

Track and field meets, with events for boys and girls of all age groups, will also be held. These events will include dashes, relays, high-jumping, broad-jumping, sack race, potato race and three-legged race.

The June schedule for playground birthday celebrations is as follows:

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Playground and Location</u>	<u>Opened</u>	<u>Time of Celebration</u>
Manhattan	East River Drive and 125 Street	June 4, 1937	4:00 P. M.
	106 Street and Lexington Avenue	June 12, 1936	3:30 P. M.
	130 Street and Fifth Avenue	June 12, 1937	4:00 P. M.
	Carl Schurz Park Playground, East 84 Street and East End Avenue	June 20, 1935	4:00 P. M.
	97 Street and Riverside Drive	June 24, 1938	3:30 P. M.
	Chelsea Playground, 10 Ave. & West 28 St.	June 26, 1936	4:00 P. M.
Brooklyn	Schermerhorn Street and Third Avenue	June 6, 1935	3:00 P. M.
	City Park Playground, Flushing Avenue and Navy Street	June 7, 1940	2:30 P. M.
	Avenue L and East 18 Street	June 11, 1937	2:30 P. M.
Queens	Dry Harbor Playground, 80 Street and Myrtle Avenue	June 12, 1936	10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.
	Marconi Playground, 108 Ave. & 155 Street	June 30, 1939	3:00 P. M.
Bronx	St. James Park Playground, Jerome Avenue and East 191 Street	June 9, 1935	3:30 P. M.

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

For Release Monday,
June 2, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the outdoor social dancing season will open on Tuesday, June 3, 8:30 P. M., at the Mall, 71 Street and Center Drive, Central Park, Manhattan. This type of activity will continue to take place at the Mall each Tuesday and Thursday evening throughout the summer months, with the exception of June 19, July 1 and July 31.

Arrangements have also been made for outdoor social dancing periods at numerous other parks and playgrounds located in various sections of the City, according to the attached schedule.

Music is provided, for all these dances, by orchestras furnished through the cooperation of the New York City WPA Federal Music Project.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
CITY OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC DANCES - 1941

OUTDOOR DANCES START WEEK OF JUNE 3

DANCING COMMENCES AT 8:30 P. M.

MANHATTAN

- Mondays - Roosevelt Playground, Chrystie and Forsyth Streets
- Tuesdays - Mall, Central Park(except July 1)
Colonial Park Playground, Bradhurst Avenue and West 153 Street
- Wednesdays - Riverside Park at 105 Street
- Thursdays - Mall, Central Park (Except June 19 and July 31)
East River Park, Rivington and Stanton Streets
- Fridays - Roosevelt Playground, Chrystie and Forsyth Streets

BROOKLYN

- Mondays - Prospect Park, 11 Street & Prospect Park West(New Band Shell)
New Lots Playground, Riverdale Avenue and Sackman Street
- Wednesdays - La Guardia Playground, South 5 and Roebling Streets
McCarren Park, Driggs Avenue and Lorimer Street
- Thursdays - Bushwick Playground, Knickerbocker and Putnam Avenues
Ocean Parkway and Avenue P Playground
- Fridays - Red Hook Playground, Dwight, Richard and Pioneer Streets
Kelly Memorial Playground, Avenue S and East 14 Street
Prospect Park, 11 Street and Prospect Park West(New Band Shell)

QUEENS

- Mondays - Jackson Heights Playground, 20 Avenue and 84 Street
- Fridays - Astoria Play Center(Pool), 19 Street and 23 Drive

BRONX

- Wednesdays - Van Cortlandt Park, 240 Street and Broadway

RICHMOND

- Wednesdays - McDonald Playground, West Brighton, Staten Island

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

For Release Monday,
June 2, 1941

The Department of Parks' annual "Learn to Swim" campaign will start on June 2 and continue through June 22 in all the indoor and outdoor pools under its jurisdiction.

This campaign was instituted to develop a wholesome, healthful interest in swimming and water safety and to afford an opportunity to thousands of youngsters to learn to swim. Since the opening of the City Pools in 1937, the American Red Cross reports that there has been a drop of 54% in the total number of annual accidental drownings in the 5 to 14 year old age group, and a 26% drop in all accidental drownings in the City. Without doubt, this has been due, in a large degree, to the work carried on during the department's previous campaigns.

The Board of Education and practically every recreational organization in the City is cooperating with the Park Department to make this program a huge success. During last year's campaign, over twelve thousand boys and girls registered for instruction from seventy different schools, and over fourteen hundred passed the American Red Cross Swimmers' Test.

The public pools will be open every day from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M. until June 28, when the pools will remain open until 10 P. M. for the rest of the season. Children under fourteen will be admitted free of charge each weekday morning from 10 A. M. to 12 noon. While special classes will be carried on during this "Learn to Swim" campaign, regularly conducted classes in swimming, diving and water safety will be held each morning throughout the summer by the Pool Operators at each pool during the free period.

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M. Hearsh 77

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

For Release Friday,
May 30, 1941

2 00 37 } *plus*
2 00 38 } *illegible*

Peter Stuyvesant, last and most famous of the Dutch Directors General of Manhattan, lying in a vault beneath the walls of the old St. Marks Church in the Bowery, is honored by the erection of a statue in nearby Stuyvesant Square Park, Manhattan.

This 7 foot bronze figure of the Governor-in-Chief of Amsterdam in New Netherlands, under whom the colony first attained some measure of autonomy, will be remembered by the thousands of visitors to the Netherland Pavilion at the New York World's Fair.

Although he has been commemorated many times in bronze busts, plaques and bas reliefs, this finely executed work is the first full length, free-standing statue of Stuyvesant to be erected in New York City.

The idea of establishing such a memorial started with the Netherland-America Foundation which believed that such an undertaking would not only serve as a tribute to the donor of Stuyvesant Square but would revive popular interest in an historical section of the City.

This four acre park, bisected by Second Avenue, lies between East 15 and East 17 Streets. With the picturesque church yard of St. Marks, it is the only remaining portion of the original Stuyvesant farm.

Early in 1936, Commissioner of Parks, Robert Moses, agreed to cooperate with a committee of the Foundation in this enterprise. Mrs. Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, the sculptress, was commissioned by the committee to execute the work and Mr. Aymar Embury, Consulting Architect, represented the Department of Parks. Completed just prior to the opening of the World's Fair, it was decided that the statue should first be seen

✓

by visitors to the Netherland Exhibit. At the closing of the Fair it was exhibited in Philadelphia by the Claremont Park Association.

Erected in the northwest corner of Stuyvesant Park, in a setting designed by the Department of Parks, the monument stands on a $4\frac{1}{2}$ foot high stone pedestal of pink granite, the complete cost of which was met by the Netherland-America Foundation. A new 15' x 30' offset with a semicircular bay was built by the Work Projects Administration on the north side of the existing central hexagonal plaza. The bluestone flagging around the pool plaza has been repeated about the base of the monument. Facing southwest the figure is backed up by a privet hedge which delineates the setting and is supplemented by a group of existing shade trees.

Ceremonies in connection with the unveiling of this statue will take place on the afternoon of Thursday, June 5. The program will be announced at a later date.

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

For Release Friday,
May 30, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that four independent series of outdoor concerts have been planned for the large parks, located in various sections of the city, beginning with Decoration Day, Friday, May 30, and continuing through the summer months, until, September 19, according to the attached schedule.

These series include concerts by the Goldman Band, Naumburg Orchestra, Amateur City Symphony Orchestra, and the New York City WPA Federal Music Project.

The Naumburg Orchestra will open its series of four memorial concerts on Decoration Day, at the Mall, Central Park, at 8:15 P.M. with the remaining three scheduled for July 4, July 31, and Labor Day, Monday, September 1, at the same time and place. This series is contributed by Mr. Walter W. Naumburg and Mr. George W. Naumburg in memory of their father, Mr. Elkan Naumburg, who donated the bandshell on the Mall.

The Daniel Guggenheim Memorial Concerts by the Goldman Band, under the direction of Dr. Edwin Franko Goldman, will be given on the Mall, Central Park, on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 P.M. beginning Wednesday, June 18, and ending, Sunday, August 17; on the remaining days of the week at the Music Grove, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, commencing Thursday, June 19, at 8:30 P.M. and terminating Saturday, August 16.

Concerts by the New York City WPA Federal Music Project, and the Amateur City Symphony Orchestra, with Judge Prince directing, will be presented on various afternoons and evenings of the week throughout the summer as indicated in the schedule.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
CITY OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC CONCERTS

MANHATTAN

Mall, Central Park

Goldman Band Concerts	-Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays June 18 to August 17	8:30 P.M.
Naumburg Memorial Concerts	-May 30; July 4, 31; Labor Day, Sept. 1	8:15 P.M.
Amateur City Symphony Concerts (Judge Prince)	-July 1, 5, 12, 19, 26	8:30 P.M.
WPA Federal Music Concerts	-Sundays -Aug. 24 through Sept. 14 Monday -Aug. 18 Wednesdays-Aug. 20 through Sept. 10 Fridays -Aug. 22 through Sept. 12 Saturdays -June 21, 28; Aug. 2 through Sept. 13	8:30 P.M. 8:30 P.M. 8:30 P.M. 8:30 P.M. 8:30 P.M.

BROOKLYN

Prospect Park Music Grove

Goldman Band Concerts	-Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays June 19 to August 16	8:30 P.M.
Amateur City Symphony Concerts (Judge Prince)	-Sundays -July 6, 13, 20, 27	3:00 P.M.
WPA Federal Music Concerts	-Sundays -June 15, 22, 29; Aug. 3 through Sept. 14 Tuesday -August 19 Wednesdays-June 18 through Aug. 13 & 27 Thursdays - Aug. 21 and Sept. 4 Fridays -June 20 through Aug. 15, 29; Sept. 12 Saturdays -Aug. 23 through Sept. 13	3 P.M. 8:30 P.M. 8:30 P.M. 8:30 P.M. 8:30 P.M. 8:30 P.M.

QUEENS

Forest Park Music Grove

WPA Federal Music Concerts	-Sundays, Tuesdays, Fridays June 15 through Sept. 14	8:30 P.M.
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King Park

WPA Federal Music Concerts	- Fridays - June 20 through Sept. 19	8:30 P.M.
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BRONX

Poe Park

WPA Federal Music Concerts	- Mondays - June 16 through Sept. 15	8:30 P.M.
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RICHMOND

South Beach Boardwalk

WPA Federal Music Concerts	-Tuesdays - June 17 through Sept. 16	8:30 P.M.
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Mr. Headlip 75

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

For Release Friday,
May 30, 1941

20030
20031
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20033
20034
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20036

On Friday, May 30, at 10 A. M., the Department of Parks will open without ceremony, the permanent bathhouse facilities of John Jay Pool adjacent to and overlooking the East River at East 78 Street, Manhattan.

This old recreation and comfort station building has been remodeled and now provides space for the accommodation of 1,002 male bathers and 590 female bathers. Adequate dressing room, shower and comfort station facilities are now also provided. In this building, the recreation room and comfort station for those using the general park area have been retained. This pool, opened last season, is 50' x 145', and while not as large as some of the other pools around the City, is as modern in every respect. In addition, it has the advantage of a pleasant setting of large shade trees all of which had been growing at the site before the start of construction and were retained on two sides of the pool.

The water is filtered, purified and recirculated. Under-water lighting for night use is provided and there is a large promenade around the pool. The pool will be operated in the same manner as the other 15 outdoor swimming pools also opening on May 30.

The public bath, located across from the pool at Cherokee Place and East 76 Street, has now been officially transferred from the jurisdiction of the Borough President of Manhattan to the Department of Parks. Plans are completed for the remodeling of this building. When completed it will provide a large recreation room, gymnasium and auditorium. Plans have also been drawn for the complete rehabilitation of the general John Jay Park area including the construction of a diving pool which will become a part of the swimming pool and increase the capacity of this area. Materials are now being purchased. Construction work will start shortly and the diving pool will be ready for use next summer.

On weekdays and Saturdays, from 10 A. M. to 12:30 P. M., there will be a free period for children under fourteen years of age, during which hours no adults will be permitted in the pool area. After 1 P. M. on weekdays, and all day on Sundays and holidays, there will be a 10¢ charge for children under fourteen years of age and a 20¢ charge for older children and adults. Group swimming, diving tournaments, inter-pool contests, water shows, life saving and first-aid classes will be part of the aquatic program.

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

For Release Thursday,
May 29, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the first of a series of four Naumburg Memorial Concerts will be given on the Mall, Central Park, on Decoration Day, Friday, May 30, at 8:15 P. M.

The three remaining concerts will also be given on the Mall on: July 4, July 31 and Labor Day, September 1, at 8:15 P. M.

This concert series is contributed by Mr. Walter W. Naumburg and Mr. George W. Naumburg, in memory of their father, Mr. Elkan Naumburg, who donated the bandstand on the Mall.

The Decoration Day concert will be given by the Naumburg Orchestra, with Ignace Strasfogel as conductor, and Benjamin De Loache as the baritone soloist. The program will include selections by such famous artists as: Tschaikowsky, Mozart, Schubert, Gounod and Mendelssohn.

* * *

Mr. Healy

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

For Release Wednesday,
May 28, 1941

208 26
208 27
202 28
202 29
plus
3 dev. plans
1 local map

The Department of Parks announces the completion and opening to the general public on Wednesday, May 28, of three new play areas in Forest Park, Queens.

The playground located along Park Lane South at 79 Street is equipped with swings, a sand pit, a shower basin, see-saws, slides, a pipe frame exercise unit, a flagpole, benches, drinking fountains, and a modern comfort station, and is enclosed by an 8' chain link fence. The play area at Freedom Drive and Park Lane South contains similar equipment, whereas the triangular-shaped playground at Metropolitan Avenue, also along Park Lane South, includes a sand pit, a bituminous surfaced tricycling area and benches. These latter two areas while just completed were opened in part last fall to satisfy the recreational needs of the children and to take the pressure off the adjacent park areas.

In addition the surface of Benninger Playground at Madison Street, west of Fresh Pond Road has been repaved to provide all year round usage.

All work was performed by the Work Projects Administration according to plans prepared by the Department of Parks. There are now 422 playgrounds in the City. In 1934, there were 119, of which 52 have been redesigned and reconstructed.

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

For Release Monday,
 May 26, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the opening of the sixteen outdoor swimming pools on Memorial Day, May 30, 1941, at 10 A. M. The pools are located as follows:

Manhattan:	Hamilton Fish Pool	East Houston and Pitt Streets
	Colonial Pool	Bradhurst Ave. West 145 to 147 Streets
	Highbridge Pool	Amsterdam Ave. and 173 Street
	Thos. Jefferson Pool	111 to 114 Streets and First Avenue
	23rd Street Pool	23rd Street and East River Drive
	Carmine St. Pool	Clarkson Street and 7 Avenue
	60th Street Pool	60 Street between Amsterdam and 11 Avenues
	John Jay Pool	78th Street and East River Drive
Brooklyn:	Sunset Pool	7th Avenue and 43 Street
	McCarren Pool	Driggs Avenue and Lorimer Street
	Red Hook Pool	Clinton, Bay and Henry Streets
	Betsy Head Pool	Hopkinson, Dumont and Livonia Avenues
Bronx:	Crotona Pool	173 Street and Fulton Avenue
Queens:	Astoria Pool	19 Street and 23 Drive
Richmond:	Faber Pool	Richmond Terrace at Faber Street
	Tompkinsville Pool	Victory Boulevard between Bay Street and Murray Hulbert Avenue

During the fall, winter and spring, twelve of these outdoor pools have been operated as free play centers. Various facilities, such as handball, volley ball, paddle tennis and basketball were provided and used by approximately 1,119,879 children and adults. On April 20 they were closed as play centers and the areas cleaned, painted and put in readiness for the swimming season.

From May 30 to June 27 the pools will open at 10 A. M. and close at 6 P. M. and from June 28 until the end of the season they will open at 10 A. M. and close at 10 P. M. When the heat is oppressive and there is a public demand, the pools will remain open later than 10 P. M. In the event of cold or rainy weather, they will close at an earlier hour, depending upon the patronage.

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

and holidays there is a 10¢ charge for children under fourteen years of age and a 20¢ charge for older children and adults. Group swimming, diving, diving tournaments, inter-pool contests, water shows, life saving and first aid classes will be part of the aquatic program.

Orchard Beach, Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx, Jacob Riis Park Beach and Rockaway Beach in the Rockaway Peninsular, Queens, Coney Island Beach, Brooklyn, and South Beach and Wolfe's Pond Park Beach in Staten Island will also open for bathers on Memorial Day, May 30th. Bath house accommodations are available at Jacob Riis Park and Orchard Beach.

At Orchard Beach there is a total of 7796 lockers for bath house patrons and parking space is provided for 6,000 cars. At Jacob Riis Park, the bath house accommodates 10,000 people and the parking space 14,000 cars. Parking at both beaches will be 25¢ per car, bath house fees 15¢ for children's lockers and 25¢ for adult lockers. Dressing rooms are available at Jacob Riis Park for a fee of 50¢ per person. Recreational areas at Jacob Riis Park and Orchard Beach providing shuffle board, paddle tennis, and handball are available to the public. 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 eighteen hole pitch and putt golf course. A charge of 50¢ is made for each round of golf, which includes clubs and balls. In addition to these games areas, a special schedule of events is planned for Jacob Riis Park. There will be calisthenics on the beach each day at 12 P. M. and at 3 P. M. Each Wednesday, beginning July 1st, will be Children's Day; races, contests and games will be staged in the outfield of the soft ball area. There will be social dancing on the Mall every night except Sunday at 8:30 P.M. All these activities are free and patrons of the beach are invited to join in the fun. Similar activities have been scheduled for Orchard Beach.

Beginning Monday, June 16, at Jacob Riis Park there will be soft ball games every week day night, except Friday, the first game starting at seven o'clock and the second game at 9. On Saturdays and Sundays a single game will be played, starting at 2:30 P.M. Three leagues have been formed and spectators are sure of fast, interesting soft ball. The ball field is flood lighted and bleachers have been provided for 1,000 persons.

Beach chairs and umbrellas may be rented at Orchard Beach and Jacob Riis Park at a nominal charge and beach shops are provided where bathing accessories can be purchased.

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

For Release Friday,
May 23, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the city-wide finals of the annual Marble Tournament for playground boys and girls, 14 years of age and under, will take place at Heckscher Playground, 62 Street and West Drive, Central Park, Manhattan, on Saturday, May 24 at 2:00 P.M.

During the past three weeks, playground and district eliminations were held in each of the boroughs to determine the best qualified contestants for the city finals.

Twenty-five players in all, five from each borough, will compete next Saturday afternoon for the title of "Marble Champion" of New York City's Park Department Playgrounds.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to those who attain first, second and third place respectively, and bronze medals to the borough winners.

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

Library

For Release

70
Friday,
May 23, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the newly organized troupe of Park Department puppeteers will give the first of a series of 110 open air puppet and marionette shows, including "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "Hansel and Gretel", at Columbus Park Playground, Baxter and Worth Streets, Manhattan, on Saturday, May 24, at 11 A. M. and at 3 P. M., from a trailer stage recently constructed in the department's work shop.

"Jack and the Beanstalk" consisting of 3 acts lasting for approximately 50 minutes, has been selected for this opening performance. "Hansel and Gretel", the other play in the present repertoire, consisting of 5 scenes lasts 45 minutes.

These shows will continue to be presented at 68 park playgrounds and recreation areas, centrally located in various sections of the city, until the final production at Riis Park, Queens, on Tuesday, August 19, according to the attached schedule.

Manhattan - May 24 to June 7, Inclusive
Bronx - June 9 to June 17, "
Brooklyn - June 18 to July 10 "
Richmond * July 11 to July 16th "
Queens - July 17 to August 19th "

Last December, the Park Department introduced puppet shows, for the first time, as part of its Christmas program of indoor recreational activities. Twenty-seven performances were given at that time, and every show was so well attended and enthusiastically received by both children and adults, that it was decided to expand this type of dramatic activity by staging similar productions outdoors, during the spring and summer months.

For the past three months, recreation personnel, charged with the responsibility of putting on the shows, have been attending regular rehearsals,

where they practiced the various speaking parts until the proper nuance was acquired for such characters in the dramatis personae of "Jack and the Beanstalk" as Jack, Mother, the Giant, the Giant's Wife, and the Gypsy; and, in the cast of "Hansel and Gretel", such actors as: Hansel, Gretel, Father, Mother, Sandman, Witch, and the Angels.

Hand in hand with voice cultivation, came the task of developing the faculty of timely and skilful manipulation of the suspended figures.

Preliminary to all these dramatic preparations, this group had the added burden of revising the original fairy tale texts, suitable only for reading, so as to make them adaptable to a puppet theatre, as well as acting in the capacity of craftsmen by carving, molding, painting and costuming the various figures to a likeness becoming its particular part in the drama.

The trailer stage, is 11 feet 10 inches high, 8 feet 6 inches wide, and 14 feet 4 inches long. It is equipped with electrical wires, lighting fixtures, amplifiers, colored scenery, storage room and an overhead horizontal platform for the puppeteers. Every contrivance, necessary for a first class puppet and marionette theatre has been provided for.

On the exterior of the stage, characters and objects, familiar to every reader of Grimm's Fairy Tales, are painted in variegated colors. Lengthwise, on the face of one side, and to the right, the design portrays the Ginger Bread House, and Hansel and Gretel in a woodland scene; and to the left, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Humpty-Dumpty; on the reverse side, Snow White, Little Bow Peep, and Little Red Riding Hood. On the front panel, there is depicted a performing seal and clown; while the rear panel contains a representation of the Three Bears and the Grandmother's House of Little Red Riding Hood.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
CITY OF NEW YORK

SCHEDULE FOR TRAILER MARIONETTE THEATRE

Manhattan

May 24, Saturday	Columbus Playground at Baxter and Park Streets 11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk" 3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
May 26, Monday	Hamilton Fish Playground at E. Houston, Stanton, Pitt & Sheriff 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel" Sts.
May 27, Tuesday	Kelly Playground at West 17 Street between 8 & 9 Avenues 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
May 28, Wednesday	Jay Hood Wright Playground at West 173 Street & Ft. Washington 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel" Avenue
May 29, Thursday	Chelsea Playground at 10 Avenue, West 27 to West 28 Streets 4 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
May 30, Friday	74 Street and Riverside Drive Playground 4 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
May 31, Saturday	Heckscher Playground, 62 Street and West Drive, Central Park 11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk" 3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 2, Monday	North Meadow at 100 Street and West Drive, Central Park 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 3, Tuesday	Thomas Jefferson North Playground at East 114 Street and 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel" Pleasant Avenue
June 4, Wednesday	Mt. Morris East Playground at East 120 Street and Madison Ave. 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 5, Thursday	Colonial Playground at Bradhurst Avenue and West 151 Street 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 6, Friday	148 Street and Riverside Playground 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 7, Saturday	Roosevelt Playground, Chrystie, Grand and Delancey Streets 11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk" 3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel" /

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
CITY OF NEW YORK

SCHEDULE FOR TRAILER MARIONETTE THEATRE

Brooklyn

June 18, Wednesday	McLaughlin Park Playground at Bridge and Tillary Streets 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 19, Thursday	McCarren Park Playground at Driggs Avenue and Lorimer Street 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 20, Friday	Cooper Park Playground at Morgan Avenue and Sharon Street 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 21, Saturday	Red Hook Recreation Center at Court and Bay Streets 11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk" 3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 23, Monday	Lindsay Playground at Lorimer Street and Johnson Avenue 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 24, Tuesday	McKibben Park Playground at McKibben and White Streets 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 25, Wednesday	Heckscher Playground at Grove Street between Wilson and Central Avenues 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 26, Thursday	Bushwick Playground at Putnam Avenue between Knickerbocker and Irving Avenues 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 27, Friday	Playground at Howard, Dean and Pacific Streets 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 28, Saturday	New Lots Avenue Playground at Riverdale Avenue and Sackman St. 11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk" 3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 30, Monday	Atlantic Avenue and Linwood Street Playground 4 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
July 1, Tuesday	Elton Street and New Lots Playground 11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk" 3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
July 2, Wednesday	Playground at Avenue L and East 18 Street 11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk" 3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
July 3, Thursday	Sunset Playground at Sixth Avenue and 44 Street 11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk" 3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
CITY OF NEW YORK

Brooklyn (cont.)

- July 4, Friday Kelly Memorial Playground at Avenue S and East 14 Street
11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk"
3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
- July 7, Monday Bill Brown Memorial Playground at Bedford Avenue & Avenue X
11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk"
3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
- July 8, Tuesday Marine Park at Fillmore Avenue and Marine Parkway
11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk"
3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
- July 9, Wednesday Neptune Avenue and West 28 Street Playground
11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk"
3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
- July 10, Thursday Playground at 18 Avenue and 83 Street
11 A. M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk"
3 P. M. - "Hansel and Gretel"

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

SCHEDULE FOR THE TRAILER MARIONETTE THEATRE

BRONX

June 9, Monday	Bronx Park East and Boston Road Playground 4 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 10, Tuesday	Playground at Watson, Gleason and Noble Avenues 4 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 11, Wednesday	Playground at Bradford, Edison, Waterbury and LaSalle Avenues 4 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 12, Thursday	Van Cortlandt Stadium at 240 Street and Broadway 4 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 13, Friday	Claremont Park, North Playground, Teller and Mt. Eden Avenue 4 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 14, Saturday	Poe Park (Concert Area) at Grand Concourse and E. 192 Street 11 A.M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk" 3 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 16, Monday	St. Mary's East Playground, E. 146 Street and Trinity Avenue 4 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"
June 17, Tuesday	Pulaski Playground, E. 133 Street and Willis Avenue 4 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
CITY OF NEW YORK

SCHEDULE FOR THE TRAILER MARIONETTE THEATRE

QUEENS

At each of the following locations there will
be two performances daily at

11 A.M. - "Jack and the Beanstalk"
3 P.M. - "Hansel and Gretel"

July 17, Thursday	Astoria Park, Ditmars Boulevard and 19 Street
July 18, Friday	Maurice Playground, Maurice, Borden and 54 Avenue, Maspeth
July 21, Monday	Broadway and 78 Street Playground, Jackson Heights
July 22, Tuesday	Chisholm Playground, College Pt. Shore, Poppenhausen Ave., E. Riv
July 23, Wednesday	Francis Lewis Playground, East River, 3 Ave., 147 Street
July 24, Thursday	Flushing Memorial Playground, Bayside Ave. & 25 Ave., at 149 St.
July 25, Friday	Kissena Park Playground, Oak Ave. to Hempstead Turnpike, Kissena Boulevard
July 28, Monday	Bowne Park Playground, 29 Ave. to 32 Ave., 158 Street
July 29, Tuesday	Crocheron Park Playground, 33 - 35 Avenues on Little Neck Bay
July 30 Wednesday	Cunningham Park Playground, Horace Harding Blvd., Grand Central Parkway
July 31, Thursday	Alley Pond Park, Grand Central Parkway and Union Turnpike
August 1, Friday	Springfield Pond at Springfield Blvd., Sheffield Ave., South of South Conduit
August 4, Monday	Highland Upper Playground, Highland Blvd. and Heath Place
August 5, Tuesday	Dry Harbor Playground at 80 Street and Myrtle Avenue
August 6, Wednesday	Forest Park Music Grove, Main Drive near Woodhaven Boulevard
August 7, Thursday	95 Avenue and 125 Street, Richmond Hill
August 8, Friday	Van Wyck Playground at 111 Avenue & 134 Street, Ozone Park
August 11, Monday	Marconi Playground at 155 Street, 108 Avenue, Jamaica
August 12, Tuesday	Liberty Park Playground at Liberty Avenue at 173 Street, Jamaica

QUEENS - (continued)

August 13, Wednesday St. Albans Memorial Playground, 111 Ave., 174 Place
August 14, Thursday Baisley Pond Park, 116 Ave. & 155 Street, Sunrise Highway
August 15, Friday Brookville Playground, Brookville Boulevard & 143 Ave., Rosedal
August 18, Monday Braddock Playground, Braddock Ave. & 240 Street, Queens Village
August 19, Tuesday Jacob Riis Park Field at Neponsit, Rockaway

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

Friday,
 For Release ~~May 23, 1941~~

On Saturday, May 24, 1941, at 1:30 P.M. the Department of Parks will conduct Model Sail and Motor Boat races at Conservatory Lake, 72 Street and 5 Avenue, Central Park, Manhattan.

Similar races will be held at 2:00 P. M. on the same day at Linden Lake, 104 Street and 41 Avenue, Corona, Queens and at Martling's Pond, Clove Lakes, Victory Boulevard and Clove Road, West Brighton, Richmond.

Any boy or girl 16 years of age or younger may participate in these races by entering a sail or motor boat in any of the following classes, provided he owns the boat and sails it himself.

Sailboats: 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

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 predetermined course and instructions will be given to contestants on the day of the races. Contestants must apply at the judge's 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.

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ROBERT MOSES
COMMISSIONER

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

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

68
GEORGE E. SPARGO
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WILLIAM H. LATHAM
PARK ENGINEER

JAMES A. DAWSON
SENIOR PARK DIRECTOR

JAMES A. SHERRY
CHIEF CLERK

May 22nd, 1941

STUYVESANT PARK

Dear Petitioner:

The Mayor has referred to me a petition circulated by the Stuyvesant Park Mothers Club, to which your signature, among many others, is attached, requesting certain changes in Stuyvesant Park.

These changes include:

1. A section reserved for children and their guardians.
2. A recreational director.
3. Sand piles, and
4. Partial closing of one of the main gates, and complete closing of another of these gates at certain hours, so that a section will be closed to all but children and their guardians.

The Stuyvesant Park Mothers Club should have informed you that the use of parts of Stuyvesant Park for playground purposes was challenged in the courts, that suit was brought against the Park Commissioner and The City by various hospital and other local interests who insisted that no playgrounds should be provided, and that no areas should be fenced off for this purpose, that this suit was brought on behalf of these interests by former Senator Thomas I. Sheridan, that Justice William T. Collins of the Supreme Court decided the case against the Park Department and The City, and that this decision was affirmed by the higher courts.

The decision of Justice Collins rested on the assumption that Stuyvesant Park was an ornamental public square, and not a park in the ordinary sense, and that it would revert to the heirs of the original donor if playgrounds and similar facilities were provided. I don't believe that the courts gave sufficient weight to the public questions involved, but their decision is the law unless and until it is modified by them.

The Appellate Division said that this area was established as a "park-like enclosure beautified by lawns, shrubbery, trees, winding walks and fountains" and added, "In that condition substantially the City is obligated to maintain it in perpetuity." The Appellate Division further said "The argument that the city has a right to place playgrounds in Stuyvesant Park because of the fact that in recent years it has been overrun by children does not aid the appellants' contention."

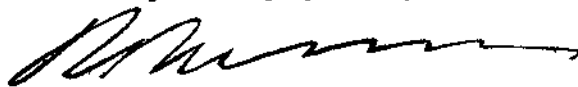
Similarly the Court of Appeals said "The Trial Court found that the intention of Peter G. Stuyvesant in dedicating Stuyvesant Square for use as a public square, was to have the square embellished with taste and beauty and to enhance the value of his adjacent lots and that Peter G. Stuyvesant dedicated Stuyvesant Square for use as an ornamental public square. Both these findings have been unanimously affirmed by the Appellate Division and there is evidence to support both."

Under the circumstances it must be obvious to every one that we can't partially or wholly close gates to this park so that all or part of it will be open only to small children and their guardians. The most that we can possibly do is to put up signs, and enforce a local park regulation that a certain unfenced area in the southwest corner of the park is reserved for women and children. This we have already done. I am personally of the belief that providing small sand piles in this area will not run afoul of the decision above referred to, and we shall therefore install such sand piles. I don't believe that we have the right to provide a playground director in a place where there is no formal playground. There will, however, be park attendants to keep order.

At the time Senator Sheridan brought his suit we tried in every possible way to explain to local residents the effects of an adverse decision. We warned the people of the neighborhood of precisely what has happened. Had there been a larger response from the neighborhood at the time, and had the importance of the decision to your group and others been made manifest in the courts, I believe the decision would have been different. As it was, the Courts were evidently impressed by the arguments presented on behalf of the neighboring hospitals that play facilities in Stuyvesant Park would be detrimental to them. It is too late, however, to argue this matter now.

The Park Department is doing everything it possibly can to meet this serious local problem consistently with the decision of the courts.

Very truly yours,



Commissioner.

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

For Release Tuesday,
May 20, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the seasonal reopening of the Tavern-On-The-Green on Thursday, May 22.

The Tavern is located on the site of the old Central Park Sheepfold opposite 67 Street.

Savarins Management, Inc., operators of restaurants in the Waldorf-Astoria, will again operate the Tavern.

Luncheon will be from 85¢, dinner from \$1.35, or a la carte, and afternoon tea for as little as 35¢. After 9 P. M. a minimum charge of \$1.00, which will include food and beverages, will be charged.

There will be dining and dancing on the terrace nightly from 7 P. M. to closing, featuring the music of Hughie Barrett and his orchestra. This will be the fourth season this orchestra has played at the Tavern-On-The-Green.

Special facilities are available for private parties.

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

66
For Release Tuesday,
May 20, 1941

On Saturday, May 24, the Department of Parks in cooperation with the United States Lawn Tennis Association, will present a tennis clinic at the Central Park Courts, 93 Street and West Drive, from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. Such outstanding stars as the internationally famous Czechoslovakian Davis Cup Star, Ladislau Hecht; Francis X. Shields, a nationally ranked star since 1928, member of Davis Cup team, runner-up in the National Championships and member of National Doubles champion team in 1933; Sarah Palfrey Cooke, National ranking star consistently since 1929, member of Wightman cup team since 1930, former National Women's Indoor, Doubles Outdoor, and Mixed Doubles championship; Elwood Cooke, national ranking star, present titleholder National Indoor Doubles, runner-up Wimbledon championship and former Wimbledon Doubles Champion; and Sidney Wood, member Davis Cup team, runner-up National Singles and Doubles championship, will demonstrate "How Not to Play Tennis". Instructions will be given in stroke technique, footwork, position and tournament play. All are invited to attend and take part in this three hours of expert tennis instruction. Arrangements have been made to handle a large crowd by setting up bleachers and a public address system. It is hoped that this exhibition will aid those who have entered the championships for men, women and junior boys conducted by this department as a part of the Park Department's Second Annual Sports Tournament.

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

For Release Monday,
May 19, 1941

A city-wide tree planting program carried out during most unusual and difficult planting conditions this spring nears completion. Progressing under 200 separate projects, it will have added to the rapidly increasing flora of the city approximately 20,000 major trees averaging 2"-3" in diameter, and 10,000 minor trees as well as 500,000 shrubs and vines.

Under the heading of major trees are included Oaks, Maples, Lindens, Elms, Beeches, Sweet Gums, Sour Gums, Birches, Willows, Tulips, Planes, Honey Locusts and Ginkgos. Minor trees are Flowering Dogwoods, Hawthornes, Crabapples, Shadbush, Styrax, Silverbells, Magnolias, Eleagnus, Hornbeam and Cercidiphyllum. The more common shrubs used include the Virburnums, Forsythias, Bayberry, Honeysuckles, Privets, Sumacs, Aronias, Roses and Hollies. Ground covers material include the Ivies, Myrtles, Honeysuckles, Spurge and special lawn seed mixtures.

On the basis of the park and parkway site and the public usage, there are two broad classifications of tree planting to consider, namely; shade tree planting and ornamental tree planting.

Shade trees serve the dual purpose of improving the landscape picture by screening ugly groups of buildings, enhancing the setting of good architecture and affording physical comfort to pedestrians, motorists, bench warmers and those engaged in active play. Depending on the type of area, they are planted informally in groups or formally in rows. The second group is important for pictorial and esthetic reasons and forms the backbone of landscape composition in all types of park and parkway areas.

The Department of Parks and the various Borough President offices, with Federal assistance through relief funds, have broken during the past few years the crust of thousands of acres of arid pavements, rehabilitated public sites and undeveloped areas with ornamental and shade trees. The scope of the projects includes

planting in connection with parkways, drives, promenades, malls, triangles, sidewalks, and various types of parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, beach developments, boat basin areas and public building sites.

Planting designs for work done by the above agencies were prepared by or reviewed and approved by the Department of Parks.

The size of specific jobs ranges from single trees located on small intersection triangles to long continuous stretches of tree planted parkways and highways. Mile upon mile of broadly landscaped parkways with clusters and groves of trees similar to the recently completed 35 mile Belt system are now being taken for granted. A notable example of highway planting which is receiving considerable public attention is the 15 mile multiple road boulevard which extends from Queens Plaza to the Rockaways via Queens, Woodhaven and Cross Bay Boulevards. Motorists bound for Rockaway Beach may observe precise squadrons of Pin Oaks and American Elm totaling 850 trees in the malls and sidewalk planted strips forming a junction with similarly landscaped completed sections.

As an example of large park projects, the 150-acre Crotona Park in the Bronx has been extensively reconstructed. The area which includes several new playgrounds, a boat house, three new comfort stations, baseball fields and bleachers, has been planted with 1,300 major trees, 1,400 minor trees and 18,000 shrubs and vines.

Small scale planting may be seen at the recently opened $2\frac{1}{2}$ acre bandshell and playground area in Prospect Park where the fine old adjacent trees have been supplemented with Pin Oaks and a variety of shrubs.

The most dramatic example of street planting was undertaken in the spring of 1939 along Fifth Avenue at Rockefeller Center and the St. Patrick's Cathedral where twelve full grown English Elms were planted. For two years

as would be expected the growth has lagged but this year the leafage is approaching normal.

The final stage in the evolution of the Flushing Meadows from swamp to Fair to Park proceeds at a pace considerably slower than originally planned because of lack of funds. However, much of the planting in the malls and in several of the especially fine gardens, will remain intact. A considerable quantity of shrubs and trees falling within the areas which must be altered or rebuilt to conform with the park development have been transplanted this spring.

Statistics on a few noteworthy street tree planting projects follow:

1. Ramona Boulevard - Staten Island
335 Oaks
2. Emmons Avenue - Brooklyn
380 new trees
3. Ditmars Boulevard - Queens
400 new trees
100 transplanted
4. 23rd Avenue - Queens
120 new trees
5. Cross Bay Boulevard - Queens
1500 new trees
6. Eastern Boulevard - Bronx
335 new trees
7. Various replacement on the streets of Manhattan -
600 new trees
8. Street trees planted by private owners -
680 new trees

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GA

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

For Release Friday,
May 9, 1941

The Park Department announces that the afternoon weekday sessions of the Roller Rink at the New York City Building, Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, will be discontinued after today, Friday, May 9.

Hereafter, afternoon sessions starting at 2:30 o'clock will be held only on Saturdays and Sundays, with evening sessions every night at 7:30 o'clock. The free period for children on Saturday mornings, from 9:30 A. M. to 12 noon, will continue as usual.

It is expected that because of the air conditioned building, the roller skating sessions now planned, will continue popular throughout the warm weather.

Since the skating rinks in the City Building were opened to the public on January 12, 1941, they have been patronized by 163,955 skaters. Permanent parking fields, large enough to accommodate normal crowds at the Building, are now under construction and will be completed by fall. At present, the court in front of the building is available as a parking field for patrons.

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

For Release Friday,
May 9, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the opening of the pitch and putt golf course at Jacob Riis Park for this season on Saturday, May 10th.

With the exceptionally fine weather this Spring, the course is in excellent condition and golfers using this facility will enjoy ideal playing conditions.

A charge of 50¢ a round is made to play on this course. There will be no charge made for parking at Jacob Riis Park until May 30th.

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

62
Wednesday,
For Release ~~May 7, 1941~~

The Department of Parks announces that the Night Superintendent of the Central Park Zoo, former Governor Alfred E. Smith, has arranged to have five elk donated by the New York State Conservation Department. They will arrive at the Central Park Zoo at 6:00 P. M. on Wednesday, May 7.

One of these five is a 17 year old cow given to Alfred E. Smith by the Boy Scouts when he was Governor of New York State. The scouts while on a hiking trip in 1924 found the very young animal which was apparently lost and presented it to the Governor who kept it for some time in the tennis court adjacent to the Executive Mansion. Untamed and wild at first, the yearling finally became friendly and playful under the Governor's care.

When the Governor left Albany, the animal was turned loose with other elk in the wild life sanctuary of John Boyd Thacher Park, 15 miles southwest of Albany.

Governor Smith, in his capacity as Honorary Night Superintendent of the Zoo, will be on hand to welcome and unload his old pet and see that she and the others are properly housed and cared for in their new home. Photographs of the animals may be taken immediately.

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

For Release Sunday,
May 4, 1941

Construction by the Triborough Bridge Authority of the Gowanus Parkway Extension of the Belt Parkway is progressing satisfactorily towards its scheduled completion in October, 1941.

The old Third Avenue elevated structure is being remodeled and will be utilized. From 18th Street to 39th Street along Third Avenue and also along Hamilton Avenue, new construction will link the Belt Parkway at Owl's Head Park to the Brooklyn entrance of the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel. The new elevated parkway structure on Third Avenue is 22 feet above street level with two 24 foot strips of paving designed for two way traffic and separated by a four foot center wall. A two foot clearance marks the division between the outside curbing and the edge of the steel structure. The 180 foot right-of-way, and the limited height of the elevated structure, gives the new parkway a streamlined as well as pedestal appearance. Cantilever in design, it is planned to minimize interference with the lower structure, and it is so far removed from adjoining property that there is little marked difference from a parkway on the surface.

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

For Release Friday
May 2, 1941

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building, Central Park, Manhattan, on contracts for the electrical work and for heating facilities required in connection with the alteration of the former New Jersey Building located in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, into a City Police Precinct. Contracts for the general alterations and for plumbing work were let on April 28, 1941.

The heating work consists of the installation of a gas fired steam boiler and all necessary supply lines and radiators. Under the electrical contract, portions of the old lighting system will be removed and new lighting facilities added to meet requirements under the revised floor plans to provide a complete lighting and control system for the future police building.

The three lowest bidders for each of the contracts are the following:

ELECTRICAL

1. Berry Electrical Company
890 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. \$3,431.00
2. Naumer Electric Company
60 Cliff Street, New York City 3,717.00
3. Public Improvements, Inc.
409 East 17 Street, New York City 3,719.00

HEATING

1. Edward Kiss, Inc.
207 East 43 Street, New York City 3,500.00
2. Clermont Heating Company
480 Clermont Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 3,535.00
3. Pipe & Engineering Company
537 Coster Street, New York City 3,670.00

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

Mr. Healy 151
 For Release Thursday,
 May 1, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the children of 20 Park Department playgrounds will celebrate the anniversary of the official opening of these recreation areas by engaging in Birthday Parties specially arranged for the occasion.

In addition to games in softball, baseball, volleyball, basketball, ping pong, horseshoe pitching and shuffleboard, there will be athletic meets, for both boys and girls, including dashes, relays, high jumping, broad-jumping, tug-of-war, and such novelty events as the three legged race, obstacle race, egg and spoon race, and potato race.

While the program will also feature activities associated with the usual birthday party such as: group games, amateur singing and dancing contests, musical instrument contests and treasure hunts, with prizes and refreshments for the participants, there will be events of a patriotic nature embracing solo and community singing of the national anthem, salute to the flag, and appropriate recitations and dramatic productions.

The May schedule for playground birthday celebrations is as follows:

<u>Manhattan</u>	Mt. Morris Playground, E. 120 St. & Madison Ave.	- May 2, 1936 - 8 P.M.
	Mary Harriman Rumsey Playground, 71 St. & East Drive	- May 17, 1937 - 3 P.M.
	West 45 Street Playground, between 9th & 10th Avenues	- May 17, 1937 - 2 P.M.
	Downing to Carmine Streets, West of 6th Avenue	- May 24, 1935 - 2 P.M.
	McCaffrey Playground, West 43 St. bet. 8 & 9 Avenues	- May 26, 1938 - 4 P.M.
<u>Brooklyn</u>	23 Street & 5th Avenue Playground	- May 1, 1936 - 2 P.M.
	Union & Van Brunt Streets Playground	- May 1, 1935 - 3 P.M.
	Tompkins Park Playground, Tompkins & Lafayette Aves.	- May 3, 1936 - 2 P.M.
	Kelly Memorial Playground, Avenue S & East 14 St.	- May 4, 1940 - 4 P.M.
	New Utrecht Avenue & 70 Street Playground	- May 24, 1935 - 4 P.M.
	Blake & Euclid Avenues Playground	- May 25, 1940 - 12 M
	Marine Park Playground, Fillmore Ave. & Stuart St.	- May 27, 1938 - 3 P.M.
	Mount Prospect Playground, Eastern Pkwy & Flatbush Avenue	- May 27, 1939 - 4 P.M.
<u>Queens</u>	Corona Playground, 46 Avenue & 111 Street	- May 4, 1936 - 4 P.M.
	Triboro Bridge Approach Playground, 21-23 Sts.	- May 7, 1937 - 3 P.M.
	Astoria Health Center, 14 Street & 31 Avenue	- May 29, 1938 - 4 P.M.
<u>Bronx</u>	Goble Place & Macombs Road Playground	- May 7, 1938 - 3 P.M.
	East 167 Street & Stebbins Avenue Playground	- May 14, 1938 - 3 P.M.
	East 166 Street & Morris Avenue Playground	- May 29, 1937 - 3 P.M.
<u>Richmond</u>	Lincoln Avenue Playground, Midland Beach	- May 15, 1938 - 4 P.M.

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

Mr. Headlip 58
 For Release Thursday
 May 1, 1941

B-73: 19897) plus develop plan & location map
 19898)
 19899)
 19900)

In Prospect Park the recreation area bounded by Prospect Park West and the West Drive between 9th and 11th Streets has been completed with the exception of a few minor items of work and is available for public usage. The area is easily accessible from the 15th Street station on the Church Avenue line of the Independent Subway or by trolley car. Constructed by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks, this development covers about 2-1/2 acres and provides modern facilities for concerts and drama, and out-of-door social dancing in addition to a fully equipped children's playground. It can be entered from Prospect Park West at either 9th or 11th Streets and from the pedestrian paths which encircle it inside the park.

In the playground portion of the improvement the many benches are shaded by some of the large old trees and by forty-five newly planted pin oaks. It contains a wide variety of equipment so that children of different age groups may find the kind they most enjoy. There are see-saws, slides, swings, a large sand pit and a wading pool measuring about fifty by seventy feet, a size that permits its use as a volley ball court during the cold weather months.

Separated from the playground by a combined Band Shell, comfort station and maintenance building, is the semi-circular area for community singing, concerts and dancing. It is enclosed by wood and concrete benches placed alternately with twenty pin oaks and is designed for double duty as a play and game area when its smooth bituminous pavement is not being otherwise used. Chairs and movable benches will be put in place for special events as needed.

The Band Shell building is an attractive brick and concrete structure with simple but interesting wrought iron gates and window grilles. The Shell itself is a concrete arch with a glass brick wall illuminated at night from

behind, at the rear of the platform. The building contains comfort station facilities for men and women, two well-equipped dressing rooms, each with its lavatory, and in addition a locker room and very ample storage space. Carrettinias and their supplies of candy, ice cream and soft drinks, together with the necessary refrigerators, take up a large part of this storage space, but there is also room for park maintenance equipment and materials. Under the platform of the Band Shell is storage space for the chairs used at concerts. Metal doors and panels in the front of the platform can be opened to allow the hand trucks carrying the stacked chairs to be rolled in and out as necessary.

This Band Shell and concert area is not intended to replace the old Band Stand and the Prospect Park Concert Grove which can accommodate much larger groups. It will be used only by small dance orchestras consisting of fifteen to twenty-five persons, for song festivals, the popular Barber Shop Quartet contests, and for dramatic productions.

This new recreation area makes the 419th playground in the park system. In 1934 there were 119 in the five boroughs, 52 of which have been redesigned and reconstructed.

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

For Release

Thursday,
May 1, 1941

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 11 a.m. Saturday, May 3.

Luncheon will be \$1.00, dinner \$1.50 and up, special supper \$1.00.

There will be dancing inside and outside on the terrace. Music will be furnished by Joe Ricardel and his orchestra.

* * * *

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

For Release Wednesday
 April 30, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that work in connection with the erection of two steel flagpoles and plaques on the Fifth Avenue side of the New York Public Library, as a memorial to John Purroy Mitchel, former Mayor of New York City, has been completed.

Contract plans for the replacement of the missing wooden staff, which fell in a windstorm, as well as its mate at the southeast corner of the Library, were prepared in 1937 by the Department. At that time the necessary funds could not be procured for the project.

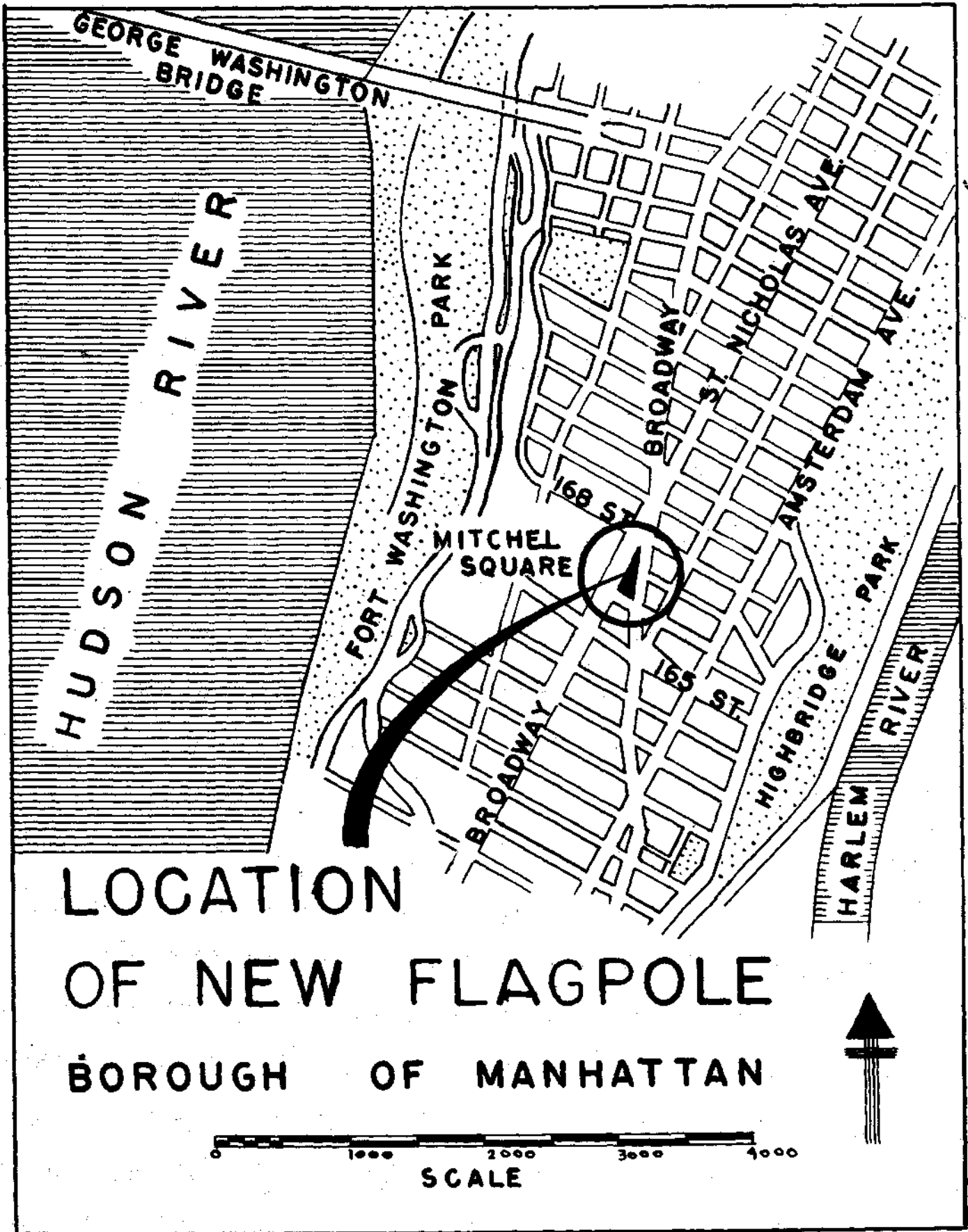
A memorial fund was raised in 1917 for the erection of a monument at Fifth Avenue and 90th Street in Central Park commemorating the distinguished civic and military services of former Mayor Mitchel. In accordance with a recent court order, the Department of Parks, acting for the City of New York was empowered to prepare and award a contract for the new memorial with the approval of the Fulton Trust Company, the present administrators of the residue of the original fund.

Mr. Frank Polk was Chairman of the committee which raised the Mitchel Fund, and other surviving members are:

George McAney
 Herbert Bayard Swope
 Henry Morgenthau, Sr.
 John J. Freschi
 George H. Bell
 Charles L. Bernheimer
 Henry Braere
 Stanley Howe
 Frederic R. Coudert, Sr.
 Lamar Hardy
 Richard W. Lawrence
 William Fellowes Morgan, Sr.
 Nathaniel Phillips
 Theodore Rousseau
 Alfred E. Smith

The old wooden pole, about 85' high, has been moved to Mitchel Square at St. Nicholas Avenue and Broadway, New York City. It has been erected on a simple granite base incised to commemorate the military service of Major Mitchel in the first World War.

The highly decorative existing bronze and marble bases at the library site have been reset on reinforced concrete foundations to support the new 95' tapered steel poles. A bronze plaque has been set in the granite flagstone pavement at the base of each pole. The south pole will fly the national colors and the plaque in raised letters memorializes the military service of Mr. Mitchel. The pole to the north will fly the City flag in honor of his services as Mayor and the bronze plaque at the base is worded accordingly.



MITCHEL SQ. FLAGPOLE
9-19-41 - PATT

M-4-54-500

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

Library
 For Release Tuesday,
April 29, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the letting of a contract for lighting a part of Flushing Meadow Park, Borough of Queens, in the area bounded by 111 Street, Grand Central Parkway, the Long Island Railroad and Corona Avenue, and in the section adjoining the New York State Building and swimming pool. Also included are installation of complete service supply to the New York City Building, the New York State Building, the future Health Museum near the City Building, Police Building, the Boat House on Meadow Lake, the former World's Fair Sewage Pumping Station and an existing Comfort Station near Corona Avenue.

The work consists of the installation of complete park lighting systems in the areas referred to, comprising subsurface conduit, splice boxes, cable and lighting standards. Also the installation of necessary primary services, transformer vaults, duct systems, service and metering equipment and switch-board connections to the various permanent buildings. Also the replacement of existing equipment in the old World's Fair Sewage Pumping Station, including structural changes and modifications to the pipe line system. Also the removal of equipment from a substation located near the Long Island Railroad east of Grand Central Parkway and all other incidental work necessary to provide a complete lighting system and service connection.

The following are the three low bidders:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Rao Electrical Equipment Company, Inc.
150 East 41 Street, New York City | \$87,700.00 |
| 2. T. Frederick Jackson, Inc.
25 West 43 Street, New York City | 98,000.00 |
| 3. Arc Electrical Construction Company
739 Second Avenue, New York City | 103,000.00 |

* * *

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

Library
For Release Monday,
April 28, 1941

Bids were opened today at the U. S. Engineers Office, 17 Battery Place, before Colonel L. S. Dillon, District Engineer, for the work of dredging 1,300,000 yards of material from Great Kills Harbor, Marine Park, Staten Island. This is part of a joint plan between the City of New York and the federal government for providing an 8 foot deep boat harbor at Great Kills, and placing the fill along the south and east shore of the Bay, for the development of Marine Park. The P. Sanford Ross Company was low bidder with a bid of \$113,761.68.

Under the contract let today, work will actively get under way on the completion of one of the great future shore front recreation areas of the City. In 1934 a long bulkhead was constructed attaching Crookes Point to the mainland and some fill was placed. In 1936 the City acquired the adjacent meadow land to round out the park area so that today title to all the land and land under water required for the entire program is vested in the City. The new contract let today will complete the deepening of the harbor and the placing of additional fill on the new beach and on the inside meadow land. The work is to be completed late this summer. The cost of the dredging contract is to be split equally between the City and the federal government, the City paying for the work and being reimbursed by the federal government.

Marine Park will be connected with the future parkway and arterial road system on Staten Island.

The plan for this park area was suggested a number of years ago and was strongly endorsed by the Metropolitan Conference on Parks in 1928 and 1930, and submitted by the Department of Parks to the Mayor on May 20, 1940.

The plan calls for filling the entire park area including the portion in the center of the park now occupied by the abandoned incinerator. The City already has a substantial investment in this program.

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

For Release Monday,
April 28, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion of work in connection with development of the lake area in Crocheron Park west of the Cross Island section of the Belt Parkway and south of 35 Avenue, Queens.

The improvement consisted of cleaning the floor of the lake, adjusting the shore line and also the existing drainage system, walks and curbs.

The adjacent slopes were graded, topsoiled, sodded and embellished with various shrubs and trees.

The foot of 35 Avenue, formerly a dead end, has been provided with a turn-around and parking area, providing a view of Little Neck Bay and access to the cool summer breezes.

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

Library 52
 For Release Sunday
 April 27, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that work in connection with the erection of two steel flagpoles and plaques on the Fifth Avenue side of the New York Public Library, as a memorial to John Purroy Mitchel, former Mayor of New York City, has been completed.

Contract plans for the replacement of the missing wooden staff, which fell in a windstorm, as well as its mate at the southeast corner of the Library, were prepared in 1937 by the Department. At that time the necessary funds could not be procured for the project.

A memorial fund was raised in 1917 for the erection of a monument at Fifth Avenue and 90th Street in Central Park commemorating the distinguished civic and military services of former Mayor Mitchel. In accordance with a recent court order, the Department of Parks, acting for the City of New York was empowered to prepare and award a contract for the new memorial with the approval of the Fulton Trust Company, the present administrators of the residue of the original fund.

Mr. Frank Polk was Chairman of the committee which raised the Mitchel Fund, and other surviving members are:

George McAneny
 Herbert Bayard Swope
 Henry Morgenthau, Sr.
 John J. Freschi
 George H. Bell
 Charles L. Bernheimer
 Henry Bruere
 Stanley Howe
 Frederic R. Coudert, Sr.
 Lamar Hardy
 Richard W. Lawrence
 William Fellowes Morgan, Sr.
 Nathaniel Phillips
 Theodore Rousseau
 Alfred E. Smith

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The highly decorative existing bronze and marble bases at the library site have been reset on reinforced concrete foundations to support the new 95' tapered steel poles. A bronze plaque has been set in the granite flagstone pavement at the base of each pole. The south pole will fly the national colors and the plaque in raised letters memorializes the military service of Mr. Mitchel. The pole to the north will fly the City flag in honor of his services as Mayor and the bronze plaque at the base is worded accordingly.

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

Handwritten signature
 For Release Friday,
 April 25, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the opening of bids on two contracts in connection with the alterations to the existing New Jersey Building on the former World's Fair site at Flushing Meadow Park in the vicinity of Rodman Street and approximately on the prolongation of 58th Road, Borough of Queens. The contracts provide for changes and modifications to the building and installation of plumbing facilities, required to convert the former exhibit building into a modern structure with facilities for operation as a completely equipped police precinct. Bids on contracts for heating and lighting will be received May 2, 1941.

The work under the general construction contract provides for the removal of exhibit cases, partition walls and construction of new partitions to provide police locker rooms, detective and officers rooms and main muster room including raised platform and desk facilities. The plumbing contractor will remove existing plumbing and install new soil and water lines, toilet and wash-room facilities and gas lines for heating purposes.

The three lowest bidders under each of the contracts are as follows:

GENERAL

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Great Eastern Construction Company, Inc.
110 West 40 Street, New York City | \$10,587.00 |
| 2. Berman Construction Company, Inc.
134-34 Northern Blvd., Flushing, N.Y. | 10,900.00 |
| 3. Rolin Construction Company
11 West 42 Street, New York City | 11,815.00 |

PLUMBING

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Public Plumbing Corporation
64-29 79 Street, Elmhurst, L. I. | \$2,425.00 |
| 2. William C. Crowe, Inc.
335 East 82 Street, New York City | 2,779.00 |
| 3. Rittenhouse Plumbing Corporation
210 East 40 Street, New York City | 3,100.00 |

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

Library 50
 For Release Wednesday,
 April 23, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the 7th annual city-wide championship in Barber Shop Quartet singing will take place on the Mall, Central Park, 71 Street and Center Drive, Thursday, June 19th, at 8:30 P. M.

Quartet singing of such popular barber shop ballads as: "Let Me Call You Sweetheart"; "Dear Old Girl"; "Mandy Lee"; "Sweet Adeline", and many other songs made famous by the habitués of the old tonsorial parlors in the early part of the present century, was revived in 1935, when the Park Department included a contest for Barber Shop Quartets in its program of recreational activities. Twenty quartets entered the competition that year and prizes of substantial value were awarded to the winners. The interest in this type of vocal activity has increased to such an extent with each of the five succeeding contests that, in 1940, 75 quartets participated in the Park Department eliminations.

1940 also marked the first National Championship, which was held at the New York World's Fair, under the auspices of a nation wide organization, known as "The Society For The Preservation And Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America".

This society already has plans under way for the staging of the second National Championship in Barber Shop harmony at St. Louis on July 3, 4 and 5, 1941. The winning quartet in the Park Department city-wide finals scheduled for Thursday, June 19, will be eligible for the Nationals.

In order for a quartet to qualify for the city finals of the Park Department contest, it must enter one of the borough eliminations, by filing application with the Park Director of the borough in which the quartet desires to participate, at any time between now and May 24, the closing date for entries.

Any four male singers of amateur standing may enter this Barber Shop Quartet contest provided they reside in New York City. Other rules, together with the list of songs permitted in the competition, may be obtained at the time of application for the borough eliminations.

Following are the names and addresses of the Park Directors:

Manhattan:	Philip J. Cruise Arsenal Building, 5th Avenue & 64 Street
Brooklyn:	Richard C. Jenkins Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park West & 5th Street
Queens:	James J. Mallen The Overlook, Union Turnpike & Park Lane South, Kew Gardens
Bronx:	George L. Quigley Bronx Park East and Birchall Avenue
Richmond:	A. M. Anderson Clove Lakes Park, 1150 Clove Road, West New Brighton

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

Whitney 49
For Release Wednesday,
April 23, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion and opening to the public on Wednesday, April 23, of a new playground and athletic field adjacent to the Abraham Lincoln High School at West Avenue, West 5 Street, Ocean and Belt Parkways. Approximately two acres, this recreational area was acquired by condemnation as a public park in Belt Parkway proceedings, to be added to the former school athletic field for joint use by the Park Department and the Board of Education.

The playground is at the westerly end of the development and the athletic field which was formerly under the sole jurisdiction of the Board of Education, is adjacent to the school.

The development consists of four paved tennis courts and two softball diamonds which in the future will be paved with bituminous material to provide all year round usage, including roller skating and ice skating, also a bituminously paved area in which are three shuffleboard courts, two paddle tennis courts, three basketball standards and a basketball court with removable standards.

The athletic field consists of a football field encircled by a running track, a field house with comfort station facilities, locker and shower accommodations and concrete bleachers seating approximately 1100 spectators.

The improvement was designed by the Department of Parks, approved by the Board of Education and constructed by the Work Projects Administration.

During school hours the area will be under the control and supervision of the Board of Education and at all other times it will be operated by the Department of Parks.

The park system now contains 418 playgrounds. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs, 52 of which have been redesigned and reconstructed.

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

McKinney
For Release Tuesday,
April 22, 1941

The General Worth memorial obelisk has recently emerged from the coat of dust, soot and other city grime which it has acquired during its 84 years of existence on the west side of Madison Square Park. This scrubbing was prompted by the new black marble service building recently erected north of its base by the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity and serving not only as a setting for the monument but also housing the main valves of the Catskill Aqueduct Supply.

Located near the center of the small triangle at the intersection of Broadway, 5th Avenue and 25th Street, the memorial stands in a 35' square grass plot bounded on three sides by a low granite curb which is surmounted by panels of ornate wrought iron fence held between granite piers.

The 50' granite memorial shaft supported by a 15' square plinth was designed by James Goodwin Batterson, Architect, (1823-1901). Constructed of solid blocks of Barre Vermont granite, it was financed by the Corporation of the City of New York in 1857 and dedicated to the memory of Major General William Jenkins Worth, U. S. A., who was born in Hudson, New York, March 1, 1794 and died in San Antonio, Texas, May 7, 1849. After his death the General's remains were transported to New York City and interred beneath the monument.

Because the green patina of the bronze portions is a natural oxidation, which in sculpture is considered highly desirable, great care was exercised during cleaning in order not to disturb its beauty and uniformity.

The theme of the sculptural decorations is: "DUCIT AMOR PATRIAE" (Love of Country Leads Me).

Preliminary plans for the black marble building were made by the Department of Parks. Working drawings were made and funds were appropriated by the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, and the rest of its cost was defrayed by the Work Projects Administration, which performed the work.

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

Library A7
For Release Saturday,
April 19, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the annual One Act Play Contest for boys and girls of Park Department playgrounds will take place Sunday, April 20th at 2:00 P. M. at Mullaly Park Recreation building, 165 Street and Jerome Avenue, Bronx.

1040 children ranging in age from 6 to 16 years took part in 102 plays during the eliminations held in each of the five boroughs. The following plays, one from each borough, were selected for the finals:

"Birthday of The Infanta" - Gulick Playground, Manhattan

"Seeing The Elephant" - McLaughlin Park Playground,
Brooklyn

"The Three Wishes" - O'Connell Playground, Queens

"Wild Cat Willy" - Lyons Square Playground, Bronx

"Hansel and Gretel" - Abraham Levy Playground,
Richmond

The persons who have consented to act as judges at the finals on April 20 are: Miss Helen Craig, leading lady in the current Broadway production "Johnny Belinda"; Mr. Carl Glick, author, Drama League of New York; Hon. Paul Moss, Commissioner of Licenses; Mme. Annett Wolter, Director of Wolter School of Speech and Drama. Mr. John Beal, of stage and screen fame, will be an honored guest.

Plaques will be awarded to the playgrounds presenting the three best plays.

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

Library 46
For Release Saturday,
April 19, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that at City Park at Flushing Avenue and Navy Street, Brooklyn, the erection of a chain link fence adjacent to the two baseball diamonds and the installation of the portable bleachers for 1500 spectators has been completed.

The 16 foot chain link fence with hooded backstop is for the protection of the spectators in the bleachers and extends along the base line from home to first base and from home to third base on each diamond.

The portable bleachers are of steel sectional frames with wooden seats.

City Park was originally acquired in 1836 with an area of 7.4 acres. It was enlarged to 10.3 acres in 1940 when it was reconstructed and reopened to the public with recreational facilities for all, by the addition of the block to the east of the park. This additional land was acquired in connection with the acquisition of property for the proposed Ft. Green houses, and considerable contract work in general construction, lighting and planting is now being done there. This work is expected to be finished this summer.

The work was done by the Work Projects Administration from plans prepared by the Department of Parks.

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

Library
For Release Friday,
~~April 18, 1941~~

The Park Department announces that after the evening session at the City Building, Flushing Meadow Park, on Sunday, April 20, 1941, ice skating will be discontinued and only the roller skating rink will be in operation.

Patronage of the ice skating rink has decreased rapidly during the past three weeks, and with the recent warm weather, interest in this sport has become so low that the attendance no longer justifies its continued operation. The ice skating rink will be re-opened early in the fall.

No date has been set for termination of operation of the roller skating rink at the City Building, and it is expected that, because of the air-conditioning available in the building, the rink will continue to be popular throughout the warm weather.

Since the two rinks in the building were opened to the public on January 12, 1941, they have been patronized by 160,000 skaters.

This week the court in front of the building has been opened as a temporary parking field so that patrons can park immediately in front of the building.

Permanent parking fields, large enough to accommodate normal crowds at the building, are now under construction and will be completed by fall, thus eliminating the long walk from Roosevelt Avenue which was so discouraging to many skaters during the past season.

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

L. Sherry

AA

For Release Monday
 April 14, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the opening of bids at the Arsenal Building on a contract for slope protection work on the Cross Island section of the Belt Parkway between the Whitestone intersection and Winchester Boulevard, Borough of Queens.

The work under the contract consists of grading, construction of new drainage facilities, reconstruction of existing drainage, additional planting of shrubs and vines on slopes to provide a more extensive plant root system to prevent slope erosion particularly following heavy rains.

The three lowest bidders for the work were the following:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Roman Landscape Contracting Co., Inc.
551 Fifth Avenue, New York City | \$27,928.95 |
| 2. Harris Grand
888 Montgomery St., Brooklyn, N.Y. | 28,323.75 |
| 3. Grand View Nurseries
6 Grandview Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. | 28,624.80. |

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

[Handwritten signature] 43
For Release Saturday,
April 12, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion and opening to the general public of a new playground at Avenue H and Kings Highway, Brooklyn.

This triangular area bounded by East 49 Street, Avenue H and Kings Highway, has been completely equipped with play apparatus as a small children's playground. It contains a sand pit, kindergarten swings, kindergarten slides and see-saws. The entire area is enclosed by a chain link fence and shade trees, under which benches have been provided for the guardians of children.

The improvement was planned and designed by the Department of Parks and the work was performed by the Work Projects Administration. The park system now contains 417 operating playgrounds.

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

Hearings AZ
 For Release Saturday
 April 12, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the schedule of tournaments, exhibitions, contests, athletic meets, and special events including concerts and social dances, which will be conducted in parks, playgrounds, and swimming pools under the jurisdiction of the Park Department during the spring season of the year 1941.

There will be city-wide tournaments in the following activities:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Finals-Approximate Date</u>
Roller hockey	Boys-16 to 21 years	April 12
Horseshoe pitching	Boys and young men over 17 years-singles & doubles	May, June, July
Twilight baseball League	Boys & young men, 16 years and over	May, June, July
Field Hockey	Girls - 16 years & under	May, June
Basketball	Boys - 16 years & under	May 24
Marble Shooting	Boys and girls-12 years and under	May 24
Handball	Boys - 16 years & under)Singles Boys - 17 to 21 years) & Men - 21 years & over)Doubles	June 7
Handball	Girls-16 years and over singles only	June 28

Athletic meets, during the month of May and June, will be held in the various borough playgrounds for boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 19 years; city-wide track and field championships will take place at the Triboro Stadium, Randall's Island, Manhattan, on Saturday, June 14, at 2:00 P.M.

The annual Park Department "Learn to Swim" campaign, in cooperation with various civic, health, educational and recreational agencies, will be inaugurated in all outdoor swimming pools under the jurisdiction of this department on or about June 1st.

Some of the wading pools will be used during the spring of the year for sailing of model boats.

Dramatic and dancing capabilities of playground children are encouraged and developed in the following special contests which terminate in finals for the city championship.

<u>Contest</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Finals-Approximate Date</u>
One Act Play	Boys & girls-10-16 years	April 19
Children's Folk Dance	Girls - 8-16 years	June 21

An amateur photography contest depicting "Youth and Age" in our city parks and playgrounds will be conducted for both children and adults, beginning April 15 and running through September 20, 1941. All pictures submitted by the contestants must represent scenes in parks, parkways, pools, beaches or playgrounds under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks during the year 1941.

Entrants in this contest will be divided into two age groups; up to 16 years and over 16 years. All pictures must be submitted, during the contest period, to the Park Department Borough Director of the Borough in which the contestant resides. The names and addresses of the borough directors are as follows:

Manhattan - Philip J. Cruise, Arsenal Building, 64 Street and 5 Avenue, N.Y.C.
Brooklyn - Richard C. Jenkins, Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park West and 5 Street, Prospect Park
Queens - James J. Mallen, The Overlook, Union Turnpike and Park Lane South, Forest Park, Kew Gardens
Bronx - George L. Quigley, Bronx Park East and Birchall Avenue, Bronx Park
Richmond - A. M. Anderson, Clove Lakes Park, Clove Road, west of Victory Boulevard

Kite flying contests will be held in all boroughs, for children 16 years and younger, on or about April 16.

The Model Sailboat Regatta will be conducted for boys and girls, 16 years of age and under, on Saturday, May 24, at the following lakes:

Manhattan - Conservatory Lake, 72 Street and 5 Avenue, Central Park
Brooklyn - Prospect Park Lake, Empire Boulevard and Flatbush Avenue
Queens - Linden Park Lake, 104 Street and 45 Avenue
Bronx - Twin Lakes, Bronx Park, Mosholu Parkway and Webster Avenue
Richmond - Martling's Pond, Clove Lakes, Victory Boulevard and Clove Road

Children pet shows will take place at designated playgrounds in the five boroughs on Saturday, April 26.

Special programs will be prepared by each playground director in commemoration of Memorial Day, May 30, and Flag Day, June 14.

Various rules and regulations regarding Park Department tournaments and contests are:

Only competitors who are amateurs shall be eligible to compete in any of the recreational activities, tournaments and contests conducted by the Department of Parks.

The winning of a city championship in any contest or tournament will be determined only after intra-playground, inter-playground, inter-district and inter-borough eliminations.

Prizes will consist of a gold medal, Park insignia and sweatshirt

for the winners of the city championships. Those winning second place will be awarded silver medals and the borough winners will be awarded bronze medals.

Certificates of award will be presented to winners of intra-play-ground contests and tournaments.

While latitude has been given to all age groups in this recreation program from the standpoint of active participation in sports and contests, the Department of Parks, realizing that there are thousands of citizens, young and old, who desire periods of passive recreation, has made arrangements for a series of concerts which will commence on Sunday, June 15, and continue throughout the summer.

The outdoor social dancing season of the Park Department will start on Tuesday, June 3, and the New York City W.P.A. Music Project will provide the music.

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

L. Library 41
 For Release Thursday,
April 10, 1941

Bids were received today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building, Manhattan, on a contract for paving, grading and drainage of a portion of the South Service Road of the Grand Central Parkway Extension from 86th Street to Ditmars Boulevard and in Ditmars Boulevard from 91st to 93rd Streets, Borough of Queens.

The work includes regulating, grading, construction of drainage facilities, concrete curbing and paving with sheet asphalt on stone foundation course; installation of wood guide railing along slopes and chain link fence to prevent pedestrian access to the parkway. Also included is the construction of additions to an existing three pipe culvert supported on wood piling and carrying local storm water drainage into Jackson's Creek.

The three lowest bidders for the work were the following:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. William P. McDonald Construction Co.
33-15 Lawrence Street
Flushing, New York | \$27,550.50 |
| 2. John Meehan & Sons
90 West Street
New York City | 28,656.00 |
| 3. Andrew Weston & Company
Woodmere
Long Island, N. Y. | 30,333.50 |

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

For Release Thursday,
 April 10, 1941

Bids were received today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building, Borough of Manhattan, on a contract for construction of grade eliminations and approaches to the Connecting Highway at the points of intersection with the Grand Central Parkway Extension, in the Borough of Queens. The contract is divided into two units, one designated as the West Branch, terminating at the Triborough Plaza, comprising two bridges and their approach connections, the other known as the East Branch comprising five bridges and necessary approaches.

Upon completion of the work the interchange of traffic at both locations providing connections to and from Grand Central Parkway Extension, the parkway service roads, the Connecting Highway and Astoria Boulevard will be made without crossings at grade.

The work consists of the construction of stone faced reinforced concrete bridges on concrete footings; installation of new drainage, lighting facilities, police telephone services, removal of existing water supply lines and installation of new water services including valves and hydrants; demolition of existing structures within the construction area; paving with reinforced concrete, sheet asphalt on concrete and bituminous macadam on stone base; installation of metal bridge railing, wood guide railing along slopes, chain link fence, illuminated traffic directional signs and other incidental work.

The main portion of the Connecting Highway from Queens Boulevard to the points where it will join the work under this contract will be constructed under the supervision of the Queens Bureau of Highways. Design of this project is already under way and the first section from Patterson Avenue to where it will meet the present work will probably be started about August 1st of this year and should be completed at about the same time as the grade elimination work. The remaining section from Patterson Avenue to Queens Boulevard will probably be started sometime in 1942.

The three lowest bidders for the work were the following:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. J. Leopold & Company, Inc.
60 East 42 Street
New York City | \$1,219,793.75 |
| 2. Carmine Petracca, Inc.
172-62 Highland Avenue
Jamaica, L. I., N. Y. | 1,312,929.95 |
| 3. Tully & DiNapoli, Inc.
30-11 12 Street
Long Island City, N. Y. | 1,330,697.35 |

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

Whitney 39
For Release Tuesday,
April 8, 1941

The Park Department announces the opening to the general public of the Annual Easter Flower Exhibit at the Greenhouses, Prospect Park West and 7th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. , on Good Friday, April 11 at 10 A. M.

The exhibit will be open daily thereafter for three weeks - from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

This year's exhibit is one of the finest of these annual shows held in years. More than 300 varieties of flowers are represented by 5,000 potted plants, set out in different formations and colors. The main feature of the show is a huge cross, 27 feet long and 14 feet wide. The head of the cross is elevated 15 feet from the floor. The cross is made up of 3,000 white Bermuda lilies, edged with blue hydrangea and banked with genesters. The shower of gold plant and pink rhododendrons are at the base of the cross. Leading to the steps of the cross are paths of grass, with a sunken garden of azaleas and cinerarias in variety. As a background for the central motive, the walls of the Greenhouse are banked with a colorful display of flowers in great variety and numbers. The entrance is laid out with huge-headed hydrangea in all colors.

Arrangements to care for school children in groups or classes during Easter week may be made by communicating with the Brooklyn office of the Park Department at Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park, Telephone Number, South 8-2300.

Press photographs may be taken after 3 P.M., Thursday, April 10.

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

For Release Tuesday
April 8, 1941

Bids were received today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building on a contract for transplanting approximately sixty (60) trees situated along part of the proposed right of way in Battery Park to be constructed in connection with the Manhattan approach to the new Manhattan-Brooklyn Tunnel. Some of the trees will be relocated in Battery Park and others will be planted in various parks in lower Manhattan.

The work consists of digging, balling and removing trees from present locations to new sites indicated on the plans. Approximately 19 trees varying in caliper from seven inches to fifteen inches will be transplanted to Battery Park. Forty-one trees will be removed and planted in City Hall Park, Foley Square, Columbus Park and Union Square Park. In addition the contractor will be required to strip and store sod and stockpile topsoil removed from the future construction area in Battery Park.

Funds for this work will be provided by the New York City Tunnel Authority and the work will be supervised by the Park Department.

The three lowest bidders for the work were the following:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Henry J. Tanke
475 Fifth Avenue, New York City | \$11,419.00 |
| 2. Syosset Nurseries
Syosset, New York | 11,496.14 |
| 3. Grand View Nurseries
6 Grandview Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. | 12,307.00 |

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

For Release Wednesday,
April 2, 1941

Bids were received by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building on a contract for slope protection in connection with the widening and paving of Cross Bay Boulevard between the North and South Channel Bridges in the Borough of Queens.

The work consists of planting beach grass in the sandy slopes in order to prevent erosion by wind and placing topsoil, seeding and planting trees, shrubs to screen the roadways from the adjoining low marsh areas fronting on Jamaica Bay.

The three lowest bidders for the work were:

1. Grant Park Construction Co., Inc. \$22,432.50
65 Prospect Ave.
Hewlett, N. Y.
2. Slattery Contracting Co., Inc. 22,973.00
72-02 51st Avenue
Winfield, L. I.
3. John Gozo 23,444.50
1625 West 6th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK**

TEL. REGENT 4-1000

For Release Wednesday,
April 2, 1941

With the approach of the Spring season, it is well to inform the public of the regulations governing planting of trees in City streets by private property owners.

Although the Park Department is charged with the care and maintenance of all trees in street areas, it is not obliged to plant new trees, nor to replace those which have died.

The Park Department offers every form of cooperation 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, depth of excavation, and the amount of topsoil and fertilizer required. The department will supervise the planting operation.

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, trees planted illegally without a permit from the Park Department and which do not conform to Park Department requirements, will be removed.

Permits to plant trees may be obtained by applying to the borough offices at:

- MANHATTAN - Arsenal, Central Park
64th Street and Fifth Avenue
New York City
- BROOKLYN - Litchfield Mansion
Prospect Park
Brooklyn, N. Y.
- BRONX - Administration Building
Birchall Avenue & Bronx Park East
Bronx, N. Y.
- QUEENS - The Overlook
Forest Park
Kew Gardens, N. Y.
- RICHMOND - Field House
Clove Lakes Park
West Brighton, Staten Island

For civic-minded property owners interested in banding together with their neighbors to get the benefit of quantity work under contract, the Park Department will prepare contract and specifications, assist in taking bids from reputable landscape firms and supervise the operations of the entire job.

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

Library (35)
 For Release Tuesday,
 April 1, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the anniversary of the official opening of 12 Park Department playgrounds will be celebrated by the children of these recreation areas during the month of April by participating in specially prepared Birthday Party programs.

While the regular schedule of daily recreational activities including volley ball, basketball, handball, paddle tennis, and shuffleboard will not be changed, the day's program will feature events of both a patriotic and festive nature such as: solo and community singing of the national anthem, salute to the flag, recitations, one act plays, military tap dancing and a variety of birthday party games with refreshments and prizes for the winners.

Track and field meets, with events for boys and girls of all age groups, will also be held. These events will include dashes, relays, high-jumping, broad-jumping, sack race, potato race and three-legged race.

The April schedule for playground birthday celebrations is as follows:

Borough	Playground and Location	Opened	Time of Celebration
Manhattan	140 Street and Lenox Avenue	April 1, 1940	4 P.M.
	Yorkville Playground, East 101 Street between 2nd & 3rd Avenues	April 2, 1940	4:30 P.M.
	J. Hood Wright Playground, West 173 Street & Ft. Washington Avenue	April 14, 1935	Every day April 14-18, 4 P.M.
	102 Street and Riverside Drive	April 17, 1940	4:30 P.M.
Brooklyn	18 Avenue and 83 Street	April 1, 1939	3:30 P.M.
	10 Avenue and 43 Street	April 1, 1939	3:30 P.M.
	Lynch Street and Lee Avenue	April 1, 1938	2:00 P.M.
	Cherry Street and Vandervoort Avenue	April 1, 1935	2:00 P.M.
	Greenpoint Playground, Commercial & Franklin Streets	April 4, 1940	4:00 P.M.
	Lafayette and Marcy Avenues	April 15, 1938	3:00 P.M.
Queens	Van Wyck Playground, 11 Avenue, 134 - 135 Streets	April 16, 1937	3-6 P.M.
Richmond	Schmul Playground, Wilde Avenue, Travis	April 20, 1939	April 19, 2:30 P.M.

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

For Release Thursday
March 27, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that the two steel flagpoles to be erected on the 5th Avenue side of the New York Public Library as a memorial to the Honorable James Furoy Mitchel, former Mayor of New York City, will be installed at 1 A. M., Friday, March 28, 1941.

Thomas Rome, Inc., 88-60 76 Avenue, Glendale, Long Island is the contractor.

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DELIVERED TO CITY NEWS & THE DAILY MIRROR
4 P.M. 3/27/41

1 cc to General File

1 J. W. Heaslip

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

For Release Tuesday
March 25, 1941.

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building, Manhattan, on two contracts for the further improvement of Flushing Meadow Park, Borough of Queens. The area under these contracts lies within the bounds of Grand Central Parkway Extension and 111th Street and between the Long Island Railroad and Corona Avenue.

The work under these contracts consists of regulating and grading, construction of curb and walks, drainage and water supply, erection of chain link fence, construction of soft ball and baseball diamonds, supplying and placing various types of playground facilities for children, repairs to an existing comfort station and other incidental work. Also, included is top-soiling and seeding of lawn areas, planting and transplanting of trees and shrubs, in the area under construction.

The three lowest bidders for each of the projects were the following:

General Park Development

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Melwood Construction Corp.
507 Fifth Avenue, New York City | \$44,864.75 |
| 2. Slattery Contracting Company, Inc.
72-02 51st Avenue, Winfield, N.Y. | 47,725.15 |
| 3. Frank Mascali & Sons, Inc.
4634 Third Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. | 48,602.50 |

Transplanting

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Grant Park Construction Co., Inc.
65 Prospect Avenue, Hewlett, N.Y. | \$9,677.76 |
| 2. Grand View Nurseries
6 Grandview Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. | 53,317.35 |
| 3. Roman Landscape Contracting Co., Inc.
551 Fifth Avenue, New York | 54,396.00 |

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

For Release Friday,
 March 21, 1941

Bids were received today by the Park Department at the Arsenal Building, New York City, on three contracts comprising the construction of a bridge over Grand Central Parkway Extension and leading into LaGuardia Field from the intersection of Ditmars Boulevard and 23rd Avenue, Queens; paving Ditmars Boulevard from 95th Street to 24th Avenue, providing access facilities to the bridge, and planting in the areas abutting Ditmars Boulevard and the bridge within the lines of the work.

The bridge will be an all steel structure bearing on stone faced reinforced concrete piers which will be supported on concrete filled steel piles. It will be approximately 725 feet in length including abutments, with provision for a 44-foot roadway. A pedestrian walk is also included and is protected from auto traffic by a concrete separation wall. Under the paving contract, Ditmars Boulevard will be paved with sheet asphalt on a concrete base. The pavement will have two 32-foot roadways divided by a five foot central mall. When completed, this roadway will be completely paved and will serve as a through access to the bridge and the LaGuardia Airport. Included in the paving project is grading, drainage, curb, walk, water lines and other incidental work. The landscaping contract provides for placing topsoil, seeding and planting of trees, vines and shrubs in the lawns of the construction area to complement the existing planting in the adjoining Grand Central Parkway Extension.

It is expected that the work will be completed by December 15, 1941.

The three lowest bidders were as follows:

DITMARS BOULEVARD BRIDGE:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Laurence J. Rice
372 Burns St., Forest Hills, N. Y. | \$424,986.00 |
| 2. Tully & DiNapoli, Inc.
30-11 12th Street, Long Island City | 437,510.00 |
| 3. Mill Basin Asphalt Corporation
5410 Avenue U, Brooklyn, N. Y. | 440,303.50 |

PAVING:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. John Meehan & Sons
90 West Street, New York City | \$131,780.40 |
| 2. William P. McDonald Construction Co.
37-08 Lawrence St., Flushing, N. Y. | 135,905.50 |
| 3. Harris Grand
888 Montgomery St., Brooklyn, N.Y. | 139,043.25 |

PLANTING:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Grant Park Construction Co., Inc.
65 Prospect Ave., Hewlett, N. Y. | \$33,130.82 |
| 2. Slattery Contracting Company
72-02 51st Ave., Winfield, L. I. | 33,405.43 |
| 3. Grand View Nurseries
6 Grandview Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. | 35,672.65 |

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

For Release Tuesday,
March 18, 1941

Bids were opened today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building on a contract for providing test boring data required for the preparation of plans for the construction of a bulkhead wall and foundations for a bridge at Marine Park fronting on the Lower Bay in the Borough of Richmond.

The work consists of drilling at particular points along predetermined lines representing the lines of the proposed bulkhead and bridge and taking of dry sample and rock borings at various elevations in order to indicate the type of subsurface materials to be encountered.

The three lowest bidders for the work were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Reliable Drilling Company | \$1267.20 |
| 43 Westbury Avenue | |
| Staten Island | |
| 2. Riley Engineering & Drilling Co. | 1689.60 |
| 1733 East 31 Street | |
| Brooklyn, N. Y. | |
| 3. Sprague & Henwood, Inc. | 1728.00 |
| 11 West 42 Street | |
| New York City | |

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

For Release Monday,
 March 17, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that special programs of recreational activities have been prepared for the children of three Park Department playgrounds during the month of March in commemoration of their official opening to the public.

Included among the activities will be such events as: Track meets, obstacle races, volley ball, basketball, shuffleboard and handball games; also solo and community singing of the national anthem, "God Bless America", and salute to the flag.

The March schedule for playground birthday celebrations is as follows:

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Playground & Location</u>	<u>Opened</u>	<u>Time of Celebration</u>
Manhattan	106 St. & 5 Ave. Playground	March 28, 1936	4 P.M.
Brocklyn	Smith and Nelson Sts. Plgd.	March 20, 1936	3:30 P. M.
Queens	Benninger Playground, Madison Street near Fresh Pond Road	March 18, 1935	4 P. M.

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

For Release Friday,
 March 14, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that seasonal permits for golf and tennis facilities will go on sale, Saturday, March 15th. The price of these permits will be the same as last year. A season golf permit is \$5. and is good on week days, but on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays there is an additional charge of 50¢ to permit holders. The daily permit fee for play from Monday to Friday costs 75¢ and \$1. for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. A season tennis permit is \$3. Applicants for permits must furnish a photograph, 1½ inch by 1½ inch with each filled out application. A golf locker permit costs \$5. and a tennis locker season permit may be had for \$2. All permits may be procured by application in person or by mail by applying to the various Borough offices located as follows:

Manhattan:

Arsenal Building
 64 Street and 5th Avenue

Brooklyn:

Litchfield Mansion
 Prospect Park West and 5th Street
 Prospect Park

Queens:

The Overlook
 Union Turnpike and Park Lane
 Forest Park, Kew Gardens, L. I.

Bronx:

Bronx Park East and Birchall Avenue
 Bronx Park

Richmond:

Clove Lakes Park
 Clove Road, West of Victory Boulevard

Due to the uncertainty of spring weather, definite dates for the opening of the golf courses and clay tennis courts cannot be set at this time. If weather conditions are favorable it is expected that the clay

tennis courts will open on Saturday, April 12th, and the golf courses on the same day. All hard surface tennis courts in the city will be opened for play on Saturday, March 22nd. From March 22nd to March 31st no permits will be necessary to play on the hard surface tennis courts, but after April 1st, permits will be required at all the courts. Tennis courts are located as follows:

<u>Park</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type & No. of Courts</u>	
		<u>Hard</u>	<u>Clay</u>
<u>Manhattan:</u>			
Central Park	93 Street and West Drive	16	14
Ft. Washington Park	W. 172 Street and Riverside Drive	13	
Harlem Housing Plgd.	W. 150 Street and 7 Avenue	8	
East River Park	Stanton Street, Rivington Street and East River Drive	12	
Randall's Island (Permit Area)	East of Triborough Stadium 63 Street and York Avenue		24 4
Inwood Park	207 Street and Seaman Avenue	12	
<u>Brooklyn:</u>			
Fort Greene Park	DeKalb Avenue and Washington Park	6	
Gravesend Plgd.	56 Street and 18 Avenue	9	
Kelly Memorial Park	Avenue S and E. 14 Street	9	
Liev Eiriksson Plgd.	66 Street and 7 Avenue	10	
Lincoln Terrace	Eastern Parkway and Buffalo Avenue	3	8
McCarren Park	Lorimer Street and Driggs Avenue	14	
McKinley Park	75 Street and 7 Avenue	4	5
Sunset Park	5 Avenue and 41 Street	3	
Coney Island Plgd.	Neptune Avenue and W. 25 Street	12	
Marine Park	Fillmore Avenue and Marine Parkway	18	
<u>Bronx:</u>			
Bronx Park	Brady Avenue and Bronx Park East	6	
Crotona Park	E. 173 Street and Crotona Avenue	5	20
Pelham Bay Park	Rice Stadium	10	
St. James Park	E. 193 Street and Jerome Avenue	4	8
St. Mary's Park	E. 146 Street and Trinity Avenue	5	
Van Cortlandt Park	E.-233 Street and Jerome Avenue		8
Van Cortlandt Park	242 Street and Broadway	16	
Williamsbridge Oval	Bainbridge Avenue and E. 208 Street	8	
Mullaly Park	E. 164 Street and Jerome Avenue		15
<u>Queens:</u>			
Alley Pond Park	Grand Central Parkway, Winchester Blvd., Creedmoor	6	10
Brookville Park	Brookville Blvd. & S. Conduit Highway, Rosedale	6	
Crocheron Park	E. of 215 Place, S. of 33 Avenue, Bayside	10	

<u>Park</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type & No. of Courts</u>	
		<u>Hard</u>	<u>Clay</u>
<u>Queens:</u>			
Cunningham Park	Union Turnpike, North of 193 Street	15	
Flushing Memorial Park	150 Street & Bayside Ave., Flushing		8
Forest Park	Park Lane S. & 89 Street, Woodhaven	7	7
Highland Park	Jamaica Avenue and Cleveland Street	13	13
Howard Beach	Nolan and Thedford Avenues		3
Kissena Park	Rose Street and Oak Avenue, Flushing		12
Liberty Park	172 Street and Liberty Avenue	10	
Astoria Park	25 Avenue & 21 Street, Astoria	14	
Wayanda Park (Permit Plgd.)	Hollis Avenue, Springfield Boulevard 89 Avenue and 90 Street		2 4
<u>Richmond:</u>			
Walker Park	Bard Avenue, Delafield Place, Davis Avenue	3	6
Silver Lake Park	Hart Boulevard, Silver Lake Park		4

The golf courses are located as follows:

Brooklyn:

Dyker Beach Golf Course 86th Street and 7th Avenue

Bronx:

Van Cortlandt Golf Course 242 Street and Broadway, Van Cortlandt Park
Mosholu Golf Course Jerome Avenue and Holley Lane at Woodlawn
Pelham-Split Rock Golf Course Shore Road, North of Hutchinson River Park-
way, Pelham Bay Park

Queens:

Clearview Golf Course 23 Avenue and Willets Point Boulevard, Bayside
Kissena Golf Course North Hempstead Turnpike and Fresh Meadow Road,
Flushing
Forest Park Golf Course Park Lane South and Forest Parkway, Forest Park

Richmond:

Silver Lake Golf Course Silver Lake Park on Victory Boulevard and
Park Road
LaTourette Golf Course Forest Hill Road and London Road

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

For Release Sunday,
March 16, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion and opening to the general public on March 16 of a new playground just east of the new Fort Hamilton High School. Bounded by Colonial Road, 83rd Street and 85th Street, this three-quarter acre rectangular recreational area is approximately 150 feet by 290 feet. Grading operations for the purpose of developing level surfaces for court games necessitated the construction of concrete retaining walls of variable height along a large portion of the perimeter. The difference in grades occurs along 85th Street, where a stairway entrance has been provided, and chiefly along the west boundary, which required a 5 foot stairway to connect with the future athletic field.

The entire area is enclosed by an 8 foot chain link fence and is divided into four sections by panels of concrete blocks, rows of trees and continuous benches. The central unit contains a small comfort station and a wading pool, 63 feet by 90 feet. The wading pool when drained may also be used for basketball and volley ball. The section at the south end provides four handball courts and a combination volley ball and basketball court. The north end is divided into two smaller areas, one of which serves small children with swings, slides and exercise unit and a sand pit. The other section contains a combination volley ball and basketball court, slides, swings and see saws for older children. The playground is floodlighted for night use.

A new concrete sidewalk bounds the park on three sides and has a row of trees on each side.

The athletic field to the west, designed by the Park Department, approved by the Board of Education and under construction with relief forces, is scheduled for completion in early summer. It will provide a one-quarter mile running track, football and baseball fields and four tennis courts.

The playground will be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and operated for the use of the children of the neighborhood. However, the athletic field will be under the control and supervision of the Board of Education during the school hours and at other times it will be operated by the Department of Parks.

The park system now contains 417 playgrounds, 297 of which are new acquisitions completed since 1934. At that time there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs, 52 of which have been redesigned and reconstructed.

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

For Release Friday,
March 14, 1941

The Department of Parks announces, with the exception of the top soiling and seeding of lawn areas which will be done later in the spring, the completion of reconstruction at Owen F. Dolen Park, which is composed of two street intersection triangles bounded by Westchester Avenue, East Tremont Avenue and Lane Avenue in the Bronx.

The two half-acre plots, separated by Benson Street, serve chiefly as pedestrian connections and sitting areas with open central grass areas bounded by four foot wrought iron fences and trees. Continuous benches line the interior walks and boundary sidewalks, providing adequate seating accommodations for this densely populated section. The existing walks of cinders, bluestone and macadam have been widened and rebuilt of concrete. Street trees have been planted along all curbs except adjacent to the Westchester Avenue elevated structure.

The smaller of the two triangles to the south contains the building which houses the stairway approach to the transit station. The north triangle retains the existing two story brick library and comfort station at the east end of the park. At the northern tip of this triangle a small wrought iron fence enclosed grass plot has been built which retains undisturbed a World War memorial which was relocated from an adjacent position.

Plans for this improvement were prepared by the Department of Parks and the work performed by the Work Projects Administration.

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

Heas *Richard* 26n
For Release Monday
March 10, 1941

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT WITH REFERENCE TO
CASTLE GARDEN AS AN IMMIGRATION STATION

In 1847 a Board of Emigration Commissioners was established to govern the landing of immigrants at the port of New York. This board consisted of a fluctuating number of full commissioners (generally there were six), and three ex-officio members: the heads of the German and Irish societies, and the Mayor of New York. In its early days the Mayor of Brooklyn was also a member.

This board was completely political in its makeup. The members served without salaries, the expenses of operating the landing station and the hospitals on Ward's Island coming from the head tax paid the state by the immigrants. The politicians used it as a source of patronage and of graft in connection with the concessions for selling services to the immigrants.

For largely political reasons investigations were frequently made of the Emigration Board by various agencies. Such investigations were made in 1859, 1876, 1882, 1887, 1888, and 1890. In the latter year several were conducted. The majority of these investigations were not inspired by humanitarian motives, but chiefly by politics. For the most part they resulted in whitewashes of the authorities.

In 1876 the Supreme Court declared the state head tax on immigrants unconstitutional. A committee of the State Assembly investigated the Emigration Commissioners, but suggested not a change. 970 pages of testimony give the political affiliations of every employee at Castle Garden and Ward's Island, and details about lobbying by the steamship companies, with only a passing reference to the licensed boardinghouse keepers snaring young girls for bordellos, and to the stealing of the immigrants' belongings.

The State Senate Finance Committee investigating in 1882 described the practices of steamship and railroad companies in defrauding immigrants. The steamship lines did not fulfill their contractual obligations to support the immigrants for two days, but dumped them into the streets to fend for ~~themselves~~. A railroad pool allotted immigrants to the various lines without regard to their wishes, occasionally breaking up families. Tickets had to be purchased in Castle Garden, and were sold at a higher rate than outside. Immigrants were not permitted to carry their own baggage. The entire personnel of the Emigration Board profited. Governor Cleveland revised the board, this leading to his celebrated break with Tammany.

As a result of a campaign by Pulitzer's World in 1887, the Federal Department of the Treasury sent a man down to hold hearings. He found similar evidence of jobbery in connection with the baggage, ticket and restaurant concessions. J. C. Savery, president of the American Emigrant Company, testified before him as follows:

(The immigrants) are imprisoned and deprived of all free will and free action which is enjoyed by travellers who arrive at any other port in the civilized world. The railroad people charge now as high a rate for transporting with not near as good accommodation and not as good time, as twenty-four years ago. There has been no improvement, and it all comes from the management of these railroad officials. I have made this thing a study for a quarter of a century and know what I'm talking about. . . Their treatment is a farce and a shameful disgrace on the American people, who claim as one of the first bases of good government fair play.

In 1890 another Treasury report, dealing with the transfer of the landing station to Ellis Island said:

Some sixty odd boarding-house keepers are also licensed by the Board (of Emigration Commissioners) to solicit patronage within Castle Garden. I inspected a few of these boarding-houses. I found them in various conditions of worth, from the very clean to the very filthy, but each one provided with all the appliances of a saloon apparently in active business. (In the religious mission houses) a watchful care is extended to the immigrant, and he is saved from the extortion, rapacity and evil influences of many of these houses. . . .

The inconveniences to which immigrants are subjected in Castle Garden when compelled to remain overnight there in large numbers are very great. They often suffer for want of room, and are compelled to sleep on hard wooden benches, or upon the floor, in the great majority of cases without covering.

The report noted that those awaiting examination as to their fitness for entry, for financial as well as physical reasons, were sent to the Ward's Island insane asylum for as long as a month.

In the same year a U. S. Senate Committee heard the following testimony:

These unfortunate persons (the immigrants) . . . were put on unclean floors. . . . The unclean floors are those that receive the mud and the dust of New York streets that is brought in . . . by the feet of those who come in there. The floors also receive . . . the excretions of the mucous glands of the throat and nostrils of hundreds of persons during the day.

The floors also receive . . . the excretions of scores of young children. . . They have nothing between themselves and this filthy floor but the clothes they wear when they come off the vessel. . . . It is inhuman and indecent.

As a result of these last investigations, control of immigrants was taken over by the Federal Government and Castle Garden abandoned.

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

For Release Monday
March 10, 1941

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT WITH REFERENCE TO
CASTLE GARDEN AS AN IMMIGRATION STATION

In 1847 a Board of Emigration Commissioners was established to govern the landing of immigrants at the port of New York. This board consisted of a fluctuating number of full commissioners (generally there were six), and three ex-officio members: the heads of the German and Irish societies, and the Mayor of New York. In its early days the Mayor of Brooklyn was also a member.

This board was completely political in its makeup. The members served without salaries, the expenses of operating the landing station and the hospitals on Ward's Island coming from the head tax paid the state by the immigrants. The politicians used it as a source of patronage and of graft in connection with the concessions for selling services to the immigrants.

For largely political reasons investigations were frequently made of the Emigration Board by various agencies. Such investigations were made in 1859, 1876, 1882, 1887, 1888, and 1890. In the latter year several were conducted. The majority of these investigations were not inspired by humanitarian motives, but chiefly by politics. For the most part they resulted in whitewashes of the authorities.

In 1876 the Supreme Court declared the state head tax on immigrants unconstitutional. A committee of the State Assembly investigated the Emigration Commissioners, but suggested not a change. 970 pages of testimony give the political affiliations of every employee at Castle Garden and Ward's Island, and details about lobbying by the steamship companies, with only a passing reference to the licensed boardinghouse keepers snaring young girls for bordellos, and to the stealing of the immigrants' belongings.

The State Senate Finance Committee investigating in 1882 described the practices of steamship and railroad companies in defrauding immigrants. The steamship lines did not fulfill their contractual obligations to support the immigrants for two days, but dumped them into the streets to fend for ~~themselves~~. A railroad pool allotted immigrants to the various lines without regard to their wishes, occasionally breaking up families. Tickets had to be purchased in Castle Garden, and were sold at a higher rate than outside. Immigrants were not permitted to carry their own baggage. The entire personnel of the Emigration Board profited. Governor Cleveland revised the board, this leading to his celebrated break with Tammany.

As a result of a campaign by Pulitzer's World in 1887, the Federal Department of the Treasury sent a man down to hold hearings. He found similar evidence of jobbery in connection with the baggage, ticket and restaurant concessions. J. C. Savery, president of the American Emigrant Company, testified before him as follows:

(The immigrants) are imprisoned and deprived of all free will and free action which is enjoyed by travellers who arrive at any other port in the civilized world. The railroad people charge now as high a rate for transporting with not near as good accommodation and not as good time, as twenty-four years ago. There has been no improvement, and it all comes from the management of these railroad officials. I have made this thing a study for a quarter of a century and know what I'm talking about. . . Their treatment is a farce and a shameful disgrace on the American people, who claim as one of the first bases of good government fair play.

In 1890 another Treasury report, dealing with the transfer of the landing station to Ellis Island said:

Some sixty odd boarding-house keepers are also licensed by the Board (of Emigration Commissioners) to solicit patronage within Castle Garden. I inspected a few of these boarding-houses. I found them in various conditions of worth, from the very clean to the very filthy, but each one provided with all the appliances of a saloon apparently in active business. (In the religious mission houses) a watchful care is extended to the immigrant, and he is saved from the extortion, rapacity and evil influences of many of these houses. . . .

The inconveniences to which immigrants are subjected in Castle Garden when compelled to remain overnight there in large numbers are very great. They often suffer for want of room, and are compelled to sleep on hard wooden benches, or upon the floor, in the great majority of cases without covering.

The report noted that those awaiting examination as to their fitness for entry, for financial as well as physical reasons, were sent to the Ward's Island insane asylum for as long as a month.

In the same year a U. S. Senate Committee heard the following testimony:

These unfortunate persons (the immigrants) . . . were put on unclean floors. . . . The unclean floors are those that receive the mud and the dust of New York streets that is brought in . . . by the feet of those who come in there. The floors also receive . . . the excretions of the mucous glands of the throat and nostrils of hundreds of persons during the day.

The floors also receive . . . the excretions of scores of young children. . . They have nothing between themselves and this filthy floor but the clothes they wear when they come off the vessel. . . . It is inhuman and indecent.

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

Library
For Release Saturday,
March 8, 1941

24

The Department of Parks announces that the Tri-State Indoor Speed Ice Skating Championships, under the auspices of the Park Department, will be held, for the first time in the metropolitan area, on Sunday, March 9, 1941, 5:30 P. M., at the New York City Building, Flushing Meadow Park, Flushing, Queens.

Three hundred and seventy-five amateur skaters, from the states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, have registered for these championships, which have been held annually for the past 12 years and sanctioned by the Middle Atlantic Skating Association, Inc., Northern New York Skating Association, Western New York Skating Association and New England Skating Association of the Amateur Skating Union of the United States.

Fourteen speed skating events, ranging from the quarter mile to the two mile race, are included in the program for Senior Men and Women, Intermediate Boys (under 18 years), Junior Boys (under 16 years), Juvenile Boys (under 14 years), Midget Boys (under 12 years), and Intermediate Girls (under 18 years); also three events, the half mile, one mile and two mile, closed to skaters who are registered members of the Middle Atlantic Skating Association.

Roy Erickson of New York City, and John Simmons of Norwalk, Connecticut, co-holders of the Senior National Indoor Speed Skating Championship, which title was acquired at the National Championships, conducted on February 22 and 23, 1941, at Washington D. C., under the auspices of the Amateur Skating Union of the United States, have entered this Tri-State meet. Mike Heidt, the 2 mile national indoor champion, will also compete.

In the Senior Women's Division, 19 year old, New York University student, Virginia Jahn, of Creskill, New Jersey, holder of the National Indoor Women's Speed Skating Championship, which comprises 7 distinct titles in various speed skating events; Alice Burnham, one mile national champion; Margi Cummings, Metropolitan 1/2 mile champion, have all registered for the Tri-State Championships.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded by the Park Department to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner of each event, in addition to the 5 point trophies which will be presented to the highest point scorer in the Senior men and women, the closed events for members of the Middle Atlantic Skating Association, Intermediate Boys and Junior Boys.

The city-wide finals of the Park Department ice skating carnivals, held on the large lakes in each of the 5 boroughs during the month of January, will also form part of the program next Sunday evening. Thirteen events, from the 60 yard to the 1 mile race, for boys and girls of all age groups, and men and women, will be included in these activities.

The winner of each event, in the respective age classifications, of the various borough meets, which had a total of 800 participants, will be eligible to participate in this inter-borough competition for the city championship in Park Department ice skating carnivals, conducted by the department each year as part of its winter-sports program.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will also be awarded by the Park Department to those who attain 1st, 2nd and 3rd place respectively in each of these events.

Members of the Manhattan Figure Skating Club will give exhibitions during the course of the program. Yvonne Sherman, 11 years old, who has appeared in national competitions, will also give a demonstration in figure skating. Music for these exhibitions will be supplied by the Park Department Band.

While spectators of the skating championships on Sunday, March 9, will be admitted to the balcony of the New York City Building free of charge, those wishing to view the meet from the main floor, will have to pay an admission fee of 35 cents. The roller skating rink will be open to the public from 7:30 P. M. to 11 P. M. on the same evening upon payment of the usual charge of 35 cents. Roller skates will be furnished without any additional cost.

The New York City Building, Flushing Meadow Park, Flushing, Queens, may be reached by:

1. I.R.T., B.M.T. and 2nd Avenue Lines to 111 St. Station.
2. Flushing Ridgewood Trolley to 52nd Avenue, walk one block northeast to park.
3. Triborough Bus Q - 23 to 54th Avenue.
4. Independent Subway - Train marked "E", "F" or "GC" to 71 Avenue, Forest Hills Station; then take Bus Q - 23 to 54th Avenue.

The park may be entered at the following gates: 111th Street and 54th Avenue, Horace Harding Boulevard, 800 feet east of the Grand Central Parkway, Roosevelt Avenue, east of Grand Central Parkway.

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

23
Library
For Release Friday
March 7, 1941.

The Department of Parks announces that a bronze plaque has just been placed on the west face of the base of the Obelisk in Central Park upon which the following has been inscribed:

"CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE

This obelisk was erected first at Heliopolis, Egypt, in 1600 B. C. It was removed to Alexandria in 12 B. C. by the Romans. Presented by the Khedive of Egypt to the City of New York, it was erected here on February 22, 1881 through the generosity of William H. Vanderbilt."

The Obelisk is located opposite East 81 Street, west of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Many visitors to the City, as well as residents, have shown so much interest in this connecting link between ancient and modern times, that it was decided that something should be done to enlighten them briefly concerning its historical significance.

The small dignified bronze plaque was designed by the Park Department and furnished and installed by the New York Historical Society.

Of the thousands who daily pass the Obelisk in Central Park, few realize that this monument was a familiar sight years ago which was seen by Joseph and Mary when they fled to Egypt with the Infant Jesus.

The message of the hieroglyphs was in imminent danger of being lost by complete erosion within a short period after its removal to this climate. The process which saved these hieroglyphs for future generations is being increasingly used on memorial structures as well as modern commercial, public and residential buildings to prevent penetration of dampness and surface erosion.

Cleopatra's Needle is one of New York's oldest treasures. It is a connecting link between ancient tyranny and modern democracy. Thotmes III, who had this monolith cut from the quarries of Syene in upper Egypt, was vain as well as tyrannical. To perpetuate his glory and to proclaim his descent from the Sun he had this memorial and a similar monument, now standing in London, placed in front of the Temple of On (the Sun) at Heliopolis. An inscription was placed on the center column of each face.

Two hundred years later Rameses the Second, carved on each side of the center columns hieroglyphics setting forth his glory in much the same style. About four hundred years later another Pharaoh, Osarkon I., covered the remaining small areas at the edges extending up twenty feet from the base, inscribing his own name and proclaiming that he also was descended from the Sun.

In 500 B.C. Cambyses, the Persian, invaded Egypt, toppled over the Obelisks and plundered the temples. The New York "Needle" lay for nearly 500 years partly covered with sand. The position is clearly indicated by the erosion of the surface. The point was completely buried leaving a great portion of the western face exposed to the elements. The destruction of the hieroglyphs on the exposed surfaces was caused by the evaporation of moisture from the soil which formed crystals of salt within the pores of the stone and gradually forced off particles year by year. In addition to this the sand storms cut away the rock. In 12 B.C. the Romans brought the two Obelisks to the Harbor of Alexandria celebrating their conquest of Egypt. This completed the Roman conquest of the known world and ushered in the Reign of Peace. Then, while the world was undisturbed by wars, the "Prince of Peace" was born.

In 1869 Khedive Ishmail of Egypt offered one of the two Obelisks to the American Consul. He felt perfectly safe in making this gesture. It is reported to have been a great surprise to him when, the American Consul

having in turn passed on his gift to the City of New York, steps were undertaken for its removal. When Lieut. Gorrings arrived at the Harbor of Alexandria with the old steamer "Dessoug" prepared to take it away, he found himself confronted with every possible obstacle and much was done to stop him. He succeeded, however, in placing it on board, having cut a hole in the bow below the water line while the vessel was in dry dock. He drew the shaft through the opening, straightened it around parallel with the keel and replaced the bow plates. The plinth and steps were carried in the hold.

After the Obelisk had been standing in its new site for about two years, pieces of rock began to fall. The fears of its scientific friends were thus confirmed. By 1885, four years after its erection, Dr. R. Ogden Doremus, appointed by the Commissioner of Parks to investigate the condition, recommended that the stone be preserved from the weather using the process invented by Robert M. Caffall, which consisted in impregnating the surface with paraffin wax.

In 1885 the scaffolding was erected for the purpose of applying a protective coating using a process now owned and applied exclusively by the Obelisk Waterproofing Company. It was found that there were a great many shells or flakes of large size, besides a multitude of small ones. All of those that could be saved were left in place. One of them measured twelve by eighteen inches with a thickness of four inches at the base. To have removed these flakes would have damaged the hieroglyphics to a serious degree. By the exercise of great care these flakes were preserved. The work was completed in a few months.

In 1893 these areas were treated by pressure to insure that a solid body of paraffin wax would fill all voids and prevent any accidental movement. These flakes are mapped and numbered for the purpose of ascertaining at any time whether they have increased in area, or whether new ones

have developed. A thorough examination made in 1913 showed that no movement had taken place in any of the old flakes, nor were there any new ones, but as a precautionary measure a liquid veneer was applied as a coating by the authorities. Owing to the previous paraffin impregnation, this veneer did not penetrate the pores and it was soon washed away by the weather. Traces of this liquid were found on the limestone steps, having been washed off the shaft by rain. In 1930, forty-five years after the application of the preservative to the Obelisk, no indication could be found of any need for renewing the treatment. The preservative had absolutely stopped and prevented what would have been the rapid disintegration of the oldest monument in America.

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Deary 22

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

For Release Wednesday
March 5, 1941

Bids were received today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building on a contract for the improvement of Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, in the area adjoining the New York State Exhibition Building which will house the new modern swimming pool and locker facilities now under construction.

The work under this contract comprises regulating, grading, drainage and water supply and includes paving of walks and paths, topsoiling and seeding of lawns and planting trees and shrubs.

A portion of an existing parking field will be retained for use in connection with the operation of the Amphitheatre and swimming pool.

The three lowest bidders for the work were:

- 1. Slattery Contracting Co., Inc.
72-02 51st Avenue
Winfield, L.I., N. Y. \$42,308.45
- 2. Grand View Nurseries
6 Grandview Avenue
Mt. Vernon, N. Y. 43,503.85
- 3. Frank Mascali & Sons, Inc.
4634 Third Avenue
Bronx, New York 45,996.38

* * * * *

The Department of Parks announces that the finals of the first National Indoor Singles Paddle Tennis Championships will take place on Washington's Birthday, Saturday, February 22, 1941.

This tournament is being conducted by the Park Department in cooperation with the United States Paddle Tennis Association. Since January 15, approximately 850 participated in the preliminary matches which have been held in various Park playgrounds and recreation areas throughout the five boroughs.

Charles O'Hearn, the present champion of the American Paddle Tennis Association and the erstwhile quarterback at Yale, who received the All-American Award for two consecutive years during his football career at that famous university, has reached the quarter-finals.

The championship games for each of the six divisions will take place on Saturday, February 22, according to the following schedule:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
A - Boys (under 15 years of age)	Crotona Play Center, E. 173 St. and Fulton Ave., Bronx	3:30 P.M.
B - Girls (under 15 years of age)	Crotona Play Center, E. 173 St. and Fulton Ave., Bronx	2:30 P. M.
C - Boys (under 18 years of age)	Madison Square Boys' Club, 312 East 30 St., N.Y.C.	12-4 P.M.
D - Girls (under 18 years of age)	Madison Square Boys' Club, 312 East 30 Street, N. Y. C.	12-4 P.M.
E - Men	Betsy Head Play Center, Hopkinson and Dumont Aves., Bkn.	2:15 P.M.
F - Women	Betsy Head Play Center, Hopkinson and Dumont Aves., Bkn.	12:15 P.M.

Trophies, donated by the United States Paddle Tennis Association through Frank Peer Beal and C. Dewar Simons III, executive officers of the association, will be presented to the winner of each division. Gold medals will be awarded by the Park Department to the runner-up in all divisions of the Nationals, and bronze medals to the winners of the district eliminations conducted at Park Department Play Centers.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
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For Release Thursday
 February 20, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the completion of its annual city-wide contest in snow sculpture and snow architecture. Five hundred and forty photographs, depicting a variety of objects moulded out of snow by the children and adults in Park Department playgrounds and recreational areas, were submitted to the board of judges.

Some of the objects include: bird baths, seals, military fortifications, battleships, gondolas, human beings and domestic animals in various stages of activity.

All contestants were divided into two age groups: over 16 and under 16 years of age. The judges' decision resulted in the following awards:

<u>Age Group - Under 16 years</u>					<u>Location</u>	<u>Title of</u>
	<u>Names</u>	<u>Addresses</u>	<u>Ages</u>	<u>of Plgd.</u>	<u>Sculptured Piece</u>	
1st Place	Marilyn Quinn	226 W. 238 St. Bronx	7	Van Cortlandt Park Plgd., Bronx	"Bird Bath"	
	Shirley Pearce	3214 Kings Ave. Bronx	11	" "	" "	
	Margaret Brennan	226 W. 238 St. Bronx	8	" "	" "	
	Helen Kelly	Naples Terrace & 234 St., Bronx	14	" "	" "	
2nd Place	Mary Gebhardt	475 Woodward Ave. Queens	14	Grover Cleve- land Plgd., Queens	"Seal"	
	Josephine Gebhardt	475 Woodward Ave. Queens	14	" "	" "	
3rd Place	Daniel Hennessy	238 St. & Review Place, Bronx	12	Van Cortlandt Park Plgd., Bronx	"Military Fort"	
	Gloria Odell	3801 Review Place Bronx	12	" "	" "	
	Catherine Barrett	3801 Review Place, Bronx	12	" "	" "	
<u>Age Group - Over 16 Years</u>						
1st Place	Arnold Friedman	1006 Gerard Ave. Bronx	22	Mullaly Plgd., Bronx	"Bas-relief- Children at Play"	
	Bob Schrer	1180 Anderson Ave., Bronx	17	" "	" "	
	Helen Kahana	865 Elsmere Place Bronx	18	" "	" "	
	Mildred Dreskin	1555 Minford Place Bronx	17	" "	" "	
2nd Place	Vincent Canada	1230 - 75 St. Brooklyn	21	Dyker Park Plgd., Bklyn.	"Sleeping Mexican"	
3rd Place	Charles Donati	446 Jackson Ave. Bronx	17	St. Mary's Park East, Bronx	"An Alaskan Scene"	
	Isadore Eisenberg	332 Beekman Ave., Bronx	17	" "	" "	

Gold medals will be presented to the first place winners in each division, silver to the second and bronze to the third.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
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Library
For Release Monday, 2/17/41

MEMORANDUM ON PARK DEPARTMENT BUDGET
REQUEST FOR 1941-42

- - -

The Park Department's budget request of \$12,995,413.17 represents an increase of \$2,331,553.25 over the \$10,663,859.92 received for the fiscal year 1940-41. This increase may be divided, generally, into three categories:

1. \$761,350.76 - Mandatory salary increments, salary adjustments, increased time for temporary help, changing from per diem to per annum status of various classifications and other miscellaneous changes.
2. \$917,616.49 - New personnel.
3. \$652,586.00 - Additional other than personal service - that is, for equipment, material and supplies.

In several lines the increases requested have already been accomplished by modification and, to a great extent, were compensated for by elimination of unfilled vacancies.

Although the Department has materially increased the efficiency of its working forces during the past year, there are still two major conditions which must be corrected if the City's parks are to render continued satisfactory service. The first of these is the lack of personnel in many of the older developments, caused by drawing personnel from these developments to staff new areas for which no provision had been made in previous budgets. Many of these old areas are retrogressing and some, notably the northerly and westerly sections of Central Park, Morningside and St. Nicholas Parks, and sections of Prospect Park, have reached the stage where major reconstruction will be necessary if they are not adequately staffed without further delay.

An example of this condition carried to its ultimate conclusion is best illustrated by Crotona Park in the Bronx which during the past year had to be completely reconstructed because it had deteriorated to such a point that proper maintenance was impossible. Unless this reconstructed area is adequately staffed immediately it will again deteriorate within a few years. Proper maintenance not only gives better service to the public, but in the long run it is cheaper than periodic reconstruction.

The second of these conditions is the lack of adequate qualified supervision. This has been corrected to some extent during the past year by budget modifications, permitting the creation of several new General Park Foremen by promotion. Further modification, to provide the balance of the General Foremen required for proper operation, has been requested. Also, permission has been requested to permit the establishment of a "straw boss" system by which Laborers, Assistant Gardeners and others in the lower brackets can be paid small additional compensation for taking on responsibility which would put them in the class of an Assistant Foreman. In previous budget requests, the full title of Park Foreman has been requested for these secondary jobs. The "straw boss" system will effect the same result at a considerable saving in money.

We have also requested additional supervisory help for the garages. The present budget provides no Foreman Auto Machinist, and the city-wide repair shop, which is responsible for repairs on over one thousand units of motorized equipment, is being operated with an Auto Machinist, being paid the same as the other mechanics in the shop, working as an Acting Foreman.

A large proportion of the force is made up of Laborers and other not fully qualified personnel, working out of title. The borough garages, likewise, are being supervised by men placed in acting charge, without having either the title or the salary appropriate to the job.

Because of inadequate mechanical help and practically non-existent qualified supervision, the efficiency of the Department's equipment is far below what would be required in any paying commercial organization; many units are out of commission for extended periods; and other units have to be put on the road to perform needed work in condition so dangerous as to be illegal if permitted by private concerns.

In general, the new developments constructed during the past seven years are in need of various types of repairs. The Department has done the best it can with the men it has available by using Laborers, Assistant Gardeners, Attendants and men in other titles, to perform repair work ordinarily done by skilled mechanics. There are not sufficient qualified men available to do all of the required work, and the deterioration of these new structures is accelerating because the small repairs which should have been done in the past years could not be made. Unless adequate qualified help and material are provided, the repair cost on many of these structures will reach exorbitant figures, and some of them in a few years will have gone beyond the possibility of repair. To catch up on these delayed repairs and to handle new repairs as they are required, the Department requires 95 additional skilled mechanics in various titles.

There are also requested a Foreman Painter and 1200 days' time for Bridge Painters. During the past seven years the Department has put into operation bridges, viaducts and other steel structures, with a total paint surface of 2,816,000 square feet. The older of these structures now need painting. We do not have personnel qualified to do this work properly, nor do we have personnel available who can be assigned to it without leaving other equally important jobs undone. This type of structure should normally be painted every fifth year, and we have gauged this request for Painters so that if they are employed each year they can keep all of these structures satisfactorily preserved.

The Department has under its jurisdiction about 2,300,000 trees. We have on the rolls 215 Climbers and Pruners who are able to do climbing and pruning work. To keep trees in good condition they should be pruned once every four years. Last year we pruned 66,000 trees and removed 9,400. Each year at least 30,000 trees die and should be removed. It is obvious from these figures that the present force cannot keep up with the rate of growth and death of the trees under the Department's jurisdiction. Even the 29 additional Climbers and Pruners requested will provide far from an adequate force, but they will enable us to catch up with 11,000 cases where the condition of street trees has been the subject of complaints received from the public.

In the revenue producing section of the budget the Department is asking for an increase of \$252,000. The total income of the Department is over a million dollars per year. The skating rinks in the City Building are showing an average daily income of about \$600. and during the non-skating season it is expected that this income will be maintained by rentals

for exhibitions and conventions. This year's revenue producing budget has already been tapped for the operation of the City Building and will have to be replenished before the end of the fiscal period, to maintain operation of the swimming pools and golf courses this spring. The State Amphitheatre in Flushing Meadow Park will also require a new staff when it is placed in operation this summer.

All of the revenue producing facilities have been operating on borrowed capital. The mechanic forces provided in the past budgets for their maintenance are totally inadequate and unless additional mechanic labor and materials are made available promptly many of these facilities will be subject to frequent, prolonged breakdowns because of depreciation and mechanical failures. These breakdowns will be reflected directly in loss of revenue, not only during the breakdown period, but from interruptions in continuity of service.

During the past year the Department opened for public use the 35-mile Belt Parkway, which to date is less than half staffed, and will rapidly become a double ribbon of concrete through eroded, weed covered banks, unless adequate personnel and equipment are provided this year.

Among 33 playgrounds opened during the past year were such areas as Lincoln Terrace Park Extension, with a large playground and baseball diamond; Jasper Oval, with 4.4 acres of concentrated recreation facilities for all-age groups; 13 acres of additional recreation facilities in Red Hook, adjacent to the new housing development; Maurice Playground in Maspeth, Queens, with 8.9 acres of athletic fields and playgrounds.

None of these areas is adequately staffed and most of the present personnel assigned to them had to be taken from other areas already under-staffed which now, because of depleted personnel, are degenerating rapidly from inroads of the elements, vandals, and annually increasing usage.

In addition to taking up the slack in these new operating areas and in other locations now operating with depleted forces, the new budget will have to provide for 38 additional playgrounds, with a total area of 75 acres, 6 park areas totalling 304 acres, and 8.3 miles of parkway totalling 249 acres.

Among these new developments are such facilities as the new waterfront development between Old Shore Road and Shore Parkway, Brooklyn, with its 3 large athletic field and playground units, with surrounding general park facilities; the 15 playgrounds along the Belt Parkway, the 31 miles of bicycle path along the Belt Parkway; the refurbished recreation and fishing pier at Canarsie; 3 new playgrounds along the East River Drive in Manhattan; an entirely new section of 14 acres of park and recreation development in Inwood Hill Park; 2 new playgrounds along the Hutchinson River Parkway Extension in the Bronx; Sound View Park in the Bronx, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of playgrounds, half a dozen new ball diamonds and appurtenant park facilities; 142 acres of playgrounds and park development in Flushing Meadow Park, which includes the City Building with its ice and roller skating rinks now operating, and the State Amphitheatre with its new swimming pool and parking fields now under construction and to be placed in operation this summer.

At Coney Island the new half mile extension at the east end of the beach, for which no previous budgetary provision has been made, will be developed with an extension of the boardwalk, a comfort station, new white sand, and reconstruction of the waterfront so it can be used for bathing.

During the coming summer the two missing links in the Belt Parkway will be placed in operation, the 2-1/3 miles at Sheepshead Bay between Ocean Parkway and Marine Park, and 4 miles of the elevated Gowanus Parkway from Owl's Head to the toll plaza of the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel; and the Hutchinson River Parkway Extension from Eastern Boulevard to Pelham Bay Park will be opened to fill the gap between the Whitestone Bridge and the Hutchinson River and Merritt Parkways.

In addition to the lack of adequate operating and maintenance personnel in the parks the policing problem is becoming more acute each year and it should be pointed out that some of the increases requested in the Police Department's budget are vitally needed to provide the additional police required for protection of park property and patrons.

A year ago the Department requested an increase in its budget of \$2,637,173 to provide for maintenance and operation of the new facilities opened during the year. Of this increase only \$448,800 was provided. This amount was grossly inadequate to cover all of the new facilities, and it was necessary to draw men from other areas already insufficiently staffed, to provide even inadequate personnel for these new areas. As a result, not only are the new areas not being properly maintained, but the old areas are suffering increasingly from lack of proper maintenance. The present budget request is designed to take up this slack and to provide adequate coverage for the new areas which will be opened this year.

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

Friday
 February 7, 1941
 For Release

The Department of Parks announces that demonstrations of the recreational activities conducted at its various gymnasium centers and indoor pools will take place during the period of Friday, February 7, to Wednesday, February 19, according to the following schedule:

<u>MANHATTAN</u>	<u>EXHIBITION DATE</u>
West 28 Street Gymnasium & Pool, 407 West 28 St.	Fri. Feb. 7 - 8 P. M.
East 54 Street Gymnasium & Pool, 342 East 54 St.	Fri. Feb. 14 - 8 P. M.
Carmine Street Gymnasium & Pool, Clarkson Street and 7 Avenue South	Tues. Feb. 18 - 8 P. M.
West 134 Street Gymnasium & Pool, 35 West 134 St.	Wed. Feb. 19 - 8 P. M.
<u>BROOKLYN</u>	
President Street Gymnasium, President Street & Fourth Avenue	Wed. Feb. 19 - 8 P. M.
Pool - Metropolitan and Bedford Avenues	Wed. Feb. 19 - 8 P. M.
<u>RICHMOND</u>	
Cronwell Center, Victory Boulevard & Murray Hulbert Ave., Tompkinsville	Mon. Feb. 17 - 7 P. M.
Faber Park Recreation Building, Richmond Terrace at Faber Street, Pt. Richmond	Tues. Feb. 18 - 7 P. M.

All age groups will participate in these demonstrations and the programs will include games in volley ball, ping pong, table tennis, badminton, horseshoe pitching, basketball, handball, group games, paddle tennis, folk dancing and music by Drum and Bugle Corps.

The gymnastic exhibitions will embrace a variety of stunts on heavy apparatus as well as demonstrations and drills with light apparatus. Tumbling and weight-lifting are also scheduled.

Pool shows will include short and long distance races in various styles, relays, and exhibitions in diving, life saving and first aid.

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

For Release Tuesday
 February 4, 1941

Bids were received today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building, Central Park, on a contract for lighting a part of Flushing Meadow Park, Borough of Queens, in the area between the Long Island Railroad and Horace Harding Boulevard and immediately east of the Grand Central Parkway Extension.

The work consists of the installation of underground conduit, cable, splice boxes, light posts, and other incidental items to put in service a portion of the electrical distribution system installed by the World's Fair Corporation for permanent park use. Also included are alterations to the lighting system at the IRT-~~BMT~~ Pedestrian Overpass, installation of new lighting facilities for the new proposed extension to the overpass and lighting of the connecting pedestrian path leading to the New York City Building which houses the roller and ice skating rinks.

The three lowest bidders for the work were:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Elco Installation, Inc.
345 East 23 Street, New York City | \$22,845.00 |
| 2. Welsbach Street Lighting Co.
42-30 24th Street, L.I. City | 23,364.00 |
| 3. Edward Zwicker Corporation
415 Lexington Avenue, N.Y.C. | 24,677.00 |

* * * *

Bids were received today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building, on two contracts in connection with the improvement of Flushing Meadow Park, Borough of Queens, in the area east of Grand Central Parkway Extension between the Long Island Railroad and Horace Harding Boulevard.

The work, under the general contract, consists of regulating and grading, construction of curb, walks and bicycle paths, placing of drainage and water lines, processing existing topsoil, seeding of lawn areas, and transplanting of trees. A connecting walk to the pedestrian overpass is also included. The other contract provides for alterations and additions to the existing overpass connecting the I.R.T. - B.M.T. with the main park area. The work includes the construction of a wood decked steel structure on timber piles and a ramp at the southerly end of the overpass and placing of new decking on the existing structure and other incidental work.

When completed this overpass will provide a direct connection from the Willets Point elevated station to the ice and roller skating rinks in the New York City Building.

The three low bidders for each of the projects are:

A - For General Construction:

1. Frank Mascali & Sons, Inc.
4635 - 3rd Avenue
Bronx, N. Y. \$52,211.25
2. Slattery Contracting Co., Inc.
72-02 51st Avenue
Winfield, L.I. 53,768.25
3. The Walthaw Corp.
1860 Broadway
New York City 56,283.50

B - Alterations & additions to Overpass:

1. W. E. Anderson
1015 E. 35th St.
Brooklyn, N. Y. \$ 15,896.50
2. Nolan & McSweeney, Inc.
155 Avenue D
New York City 17,792.50
3. Thomas Rome, Inc.
8860 - 76th Avenue
Glendale, L.I. 21,517.50

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

For Release Friday
 January 31, 1941

Bids were received today by the Triborough Bridge Authority at the Administration Building, Randall's Island on Contract CP 28 for miscellaneous improvements at Jacob Riis Park and various locations at Rockaway Beach Park, Borough of Queens.

The work at Jacob Riis Park consists of alterations to the toilet rooms including plumbing and electrical work at the bathing pavilion; construction of new stairs leading from the boardwalk to the beach area; alterations and additions to the lighting system for the dance area adjoining the boardwalk and construction of a new roadway leading to the incinerator.

The work at Rockaway Beach Park consists of the construction of a new timber ramp on piles at the foot of Beach 32nd Street and removal and replacement of existing exhaust fans including necessary incidental work in the comfort stations at the Boardwalk and Beach 34th, 44th, 54th and 64th Streets.

The three lowest bidders for the work were:

1. Great Eastern Construction Co.
 110 West 40 Street, New York City \$9,034.00
2. W. E. Anderson & Sons, Inc.
 1015 East 35 Street, Brooklyn 10,421.00
3. Robert Cook
 250 East 43 Street, New York City 10,763.00

* * *

MEMORIAL FLAGPOLES
CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY & MITCHEL SQUARE

The Department of Parks announces that funds have been made available to the City for the erection of two flagpoles on the 5th Avenue side of the New York Public Library as a memorial to the Honorable James Purroy Mitchel, former Mayor of New York City.

Contract plans for the replacement of the missing wooden staff, which fell in a windstorm, as well as its mate at the southeast corner of the Library, were prepared in 1937 by the Department. At that time the necessary funds could not be procured for the project.

However, arrangements have now been completed for financing the installation of these flagpoles. A memorial fund was raised in 1917 for the erection of the monument at Fifth Avenue and 90th Street in Central Park commemorating the distinguished services of former Mayor Mitchel. In accordance with a recent court order, the Department of Parks, acting for the City of New York is empowered to prepare and award a contract for the new memorial with the approval of the Fulton Trust Company, the present administrators of the residue of the original fund.

The existing wooden pole, about 85' high, now standing on the library terrace near the corner of 40th Street and Fifth Avenue, will be moved to Mitchel Square at St. Nicholas Avenue and Broadway, New York City. Here it will be erected on a simple granite base incised to commemorate the military service of Major Mitchel in the first World War.

The highly decorative existing bronze and marble bases at the library site will be reset on reinforced concrete foundations which will support the new 95' tapered steel poles. A bronze plaque will be set in the granite flagstone pavement at the base of each pole. The south pole will fly the national colors and the plaque will memorialize in raised letters the military service of Mr. Mitchel. The pole to the north will fly the City flag in honor of his services as Mayor and the bronze plaque at the base will be worded accordingly.

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

For Release Monday
January 27, 1941

DODGE STATUE - BRYANT PARK

After standing in the environment of Herald Square for sixty-five years the bronze figure of William Earle Dodge which remained undisturbed by the growing pains of a great metropolis has at last found repose in the restful and dignified surroundings of the Fifth Avenue Library in Bryant Park.

Standing on a new gracefully tapered square pylon of granite at the northwest corner of the Library this finely executed memorial sculpture completes the symmetry of the triad consisting of the well known figure of William Cullen Bryant located on the center line of the building and the bronze bust of Goethe at the opposite corner. "William Earle Dodge" has been incised on one face of the granite base and the following statement appears on the opposite side:

Erected by
Voluntary Subscription
Under the Auspices of the
Chamber of Commerce
of the
State of New York
1885

Erected two years after the death of Mr. Dodge, by the group which he served as president from 1865-1875, in commemoration of his outstanding services to the community the memorial is of special significance in that it was the first to be erected in the United States as a tribute to eminent philanthropy.

Relocated by the Work Projects Administration in accordance with plans prepared by the Department of Parks the old gentleman resting in the pleasant serenity of the tree-shaded library terrace must chuckle and wonder at the wisdom of Minerva and her toiling Bell Ringers who banished him from turmoil to permanent peace.

* * *

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

For Release Saturday
January 25, 1941

PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS
148th STREET AND WEST SIDE IMPROVEMENT

The recently completed pedestrian bridge at 148 Street and Riverside Drive, designed to facilitate access to the recreational areas along the waterfront in Riverside Park, was opened to the public this morning.

This new and direct approach from Riverside Drive eliminates the old circuitous access by way of the narrow footbridge a few hundred feet to the north.

A portion of the existing semi-circular stairway flanking the old stone-faced overlook was rehabilitated as an approach to the new structure, which consists of a granite stairway leading to a steel supported bluestone deck. Spanning the New York Central Railroad tracks, the overpass is supported on the west abutment by a simple granite faced pylon. From this landing platform double stairways carry the pedestrian through the existing passageway under the Henry Hudson Parkway to the long battery of play areas and waterfront promenade.

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

Thursday
For Release January 25, 1940

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(?)

The Department of Parks announces that, as a result of recent mention in the press regarding the "loss" of one of the two pelicans which have roamed the 59th Street pond in Central Park for nearly 50 years, three new young pelicans have been acquired.

Those citizens who mourned the passing of the old-timer will be delighted to learn that she never was lost, but had been penned in heated winter quarters since the Christmas holidays while her erstwhile hardier mate continued to roam the icy shores of the pond.

One of the new arrivals, a South American white male, was donated by the New York Zoological Society and comes from the collection in Bronx Park. It has been named "Ozzie", in honor of the Secretary of the Society, Mr. Fairfield Osborn. The other two are young brown pelicans of the Florida specie and were donated by Mr. Rushton Peabody of Fort Pierce, Florida. These birds, one a male named "Rushty" and the other a coy young female called "Peaby" were shipped north by train and arrived safely and in good condition on Monday, January 22, despite the recent cold spell that covered the Eastern States.

All the pelicans are now penned up in warm winter quarters at the 59th Street Lake, including old Bill, to whose recent solitude can be attributed the influx of new specimens. In the Spring, when warm weather arrives, all five will be released from their pen to sun themselves in their secluded spots and explore the lake with their enormous and grotesquely-shaped bills.

Not checked

Bids were received today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building on three contracts for plumbing, ventilating and electrical installations in connection with the construction of a permanent swimming and diving pool and dressing accommodations in the New York State Building, Flushing Meadow Park, Queens.

The work consists of the installation of a pressure type filtration plant for the swimming pool, chemical water treatment facilities, drainage, water supply and heating equipment. The locker and shower rooms will be provided with a complete mechanically operated exhaust system to assure a constant supply of fresh air.

Electrical installations will be made in the locker and shower rooms for lighting purposes and for power control units. The stage lighting system will be revised and the pool will be lighted by a specially designed underwater floodlighting system. The lighting for the stage and pool will be centrally controlled and floodlights will be operated from the diving towers located on both ends of the pool. Also included is the redesign and addition to the public address system, part of which will also be operated from units installed in the diving towers.

The three lowest bidders on each of the contracts submitted were as follows:

PLUMBING:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Pipe & Engineering Co., Inc.
537 Coster Street, Bronx, N.Y. | \$47,900. |
| 2. George J. Kay
2395 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. | 48,950. |
| 3. Louis Bigolet
1145 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, N. Y. | 49,600. |

VENTILATING:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Edward Kiss, Inc.
207 East 43 Street, New York City | 4,900. |
| 2. Carroll Sheet Metal Works, Inc.
4610 70th Street, Winfield, L.I. | 5,096. |
| 3. Dierks Heating Company, Inc.
43-32 33rd Street, Long Island City | 5,306. |

ELECTRICAL:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Simpson Electric Corporation
71 East 116 Street, New York City | \$31,780. |
| 2. Rao Electrical Equipment Co., Inc.
150 East 41 Street, New York City | 34,100. |
| 3. Hittner Electric Company, Inc.
415 Lexington Avenue, New York City | 39,000. |

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

For Release Wednesday
January 22, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that 16,537 people made use of the combined roller and ice skating rink in the New York City Building in Flushing Meadow Park, during the first week of operation. Of these, 1400 were children admitted free on Saturday morning. There are two skating periods daily from 2:00 to 5:30 in the afternoon and from 7:30 to 11:00 in the evening. Admission charges are twenty cents in the afternoon and thirty-five cents in the evening. The free period for children under fourteen years every Saturday morning has been lengthened to three hours, from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. During this period no adults are permitted on the lower floor. Spectators are admitted free to the balcony at all times. The admission price includes the use of roller skates. A charge of fifty cents is made for the rental of ice skates. There is no charge made for the checking of wearing apparel.

On the skating floor level there is a cafeteria where food and refreshments are sold to skaters at reasonable prices. A repair shop is also provided where skates are sharpened and necessary equipment purchased.

Special programs for both the ice and roller skating sessions are now being planned by the department and will soon be put into effect. On Thursday night, January 23rd, at 7:00 P.M. the Senior Novice Events of the Silver Skates Tournament will be held on the ice skating rink. These events will take place between 7:00 P.M. and 8:15 P.M. After these events are held, the rink will again be thrown

open to skaters for the evening period.

The City Building can be reached conveniently from any point in the city. The following transportation lines are available:

1. IRT, BMT and 2nd Avenue Lines to 111th Street Station.
2. Flushing-Ridgewood Trolley to 52nd Avenue, walk one block north to park.
3. Triborough Bus Q- 23 to 51st Avenue.
4. Independent Subway - Queens Line to Woodhaven Boulevard and transfer to Bus Q - 23 to 51st Avenue.
5. North Shore Bus Q-44 from West Farms Road and Boston Road, Bronx, to Main Street, Flushing. La Guardia Field Bus from Main Street Flushing, to Administration Gate.

The World's Fair grounds can be entered at the following gates:

111th Street and 54th Avenue

Roosevelt Avenue, east of Grand Central Parkway.

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

Library
 For Release Saturday
 January 18, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that it will conduct the finals of the first National Indoor Singles Paddle Tennis Championships in cooperation with the United States Paddle Tennis Association on Saturday, February 22, 1941. Some of these finals will probably be held at the City Building, Flushing Meadow Park, Queens.

The divisions of this tournament are as follows:

- A - BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIPS (for boys who have not reached their 15th birthday)
- B - GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS (for girls who have not reached their 15th birthday)
- C - BOYS' INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (for boys who have not reached their 18th birthday)
- D - GIRLS' INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (for girls who have not reached their 18th birthday)
- E - MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS (open to all men)
- F - WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS (open to all women)

Preliminary matches for entrants from Park Department playgrounds are taking place at the present time and will continue through February 15 at the following Park Department play centers:

Highbridge Play Center, Amsterdam Avenue and West 189 Street,
 Manhattan

Colonial Play Center, Bradhurst Avenue and West 146 Street,
 Manhattan

Sunset Play Center, 6 Avenue and 44 Street, Brooklyn

Red Hook Play Center, Henry Street on Gowanus Canal, Brooklyn

Betsy Head Play Center, Hopkinson and Dumont Avenues, Brooklyn

McCarren Play Center, Driggs Avenue and Lorimer Street, Brooklyn

Crotona Play Center, East 173 Street and Fulton Avenue, Bronx

Cromwell Center, Murray Hulbert Avenue, Tompkinsville, Richmond

Of course, all other participants, whether they enter the tournament as individuals or as representatives of organizations may qualify by taking part in the eliminations contests conducted by their organizations or local district clubs.

Besides the finals on February 22, all the quarter finals and semi-finals will be held on Park Department courts during the week of February 16.

While no entry fee will be charged, entry blanks may be obtained by applying either to the Director of Recreation, Department of Parks, The Arsenal, Central Park, New York City, or to the United States Paddle Tennis Association, 312 East 30 Street, New York City.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each division.

The four semi-finalists in the men's division and the two women finalists of the National Outdoor Singles Paddle Tennis Championships, 1940, will give an exhibition of the game at the Park Department Play Center, located at the Betsy Head Pool Building, Hopkinson and Dumont Avenue, Brooklyn, on Saturday, January 18, at 2 P.M. Admission is free and everyone interested in paddle tennis, particularly in view of the coming indoor tournament, is invited to this demonstration by last year's outdoor champions.

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

Librarian
For Release Friday
January 17, 1941

7

NEW JERSEY STATE BUILDING
FLUSHING MEADOW PARK

Ceremonies in connection with the formal conveyance of the New Jersey Building to the City of New York by the State of New Jersey will take place at Flushing Meadow Park on Friday, January 17th as announced today by officials of the Department of Parks.

At 12:30 o'clock Mr. George de Benneville Keim, Chairman of the New Jersey World's Fair Commission will unveil a bronze plaque which in addition to recording the historical significance of the original structure, will stand permanently as an expression of good will between these neighboring states. Governor A. Harry Moore of the State of New Jersey will present the deed of conveyance to Newbold Morris, who will accept the gift for the City of New York.

In addition to the active participants the following officials will also be present: Members of the New Jersey World's Fair Commission; Colonel Hugh Kelly, Architect of Building; Representatives from various New Jersey Industries; Representatives from WOR, including Uncle Don who broadcast from building during Fair; Commissioner Moses; Commissioner Valentine; Grover Whalen, and others.

The new plaque which is similar to the descriptive marker used at the Fair has been mounted on the south wall of the north wing and is inscribed as follows:

7

1939 1940
NEW JERSEY EXHIBIT

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR

REPLICA-OLD BARRACKS
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

BUILT IN 1758 FOR BRITISH TROOPS SENT TO FIGHT IN THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR. OCCUPIED DURING THE REVOLUTION AT DIFFERENT TIMES BY BOTH BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL TROOPS. DONATED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK AS A PERMANENT EXPRESSION OF GOOD WILL.

The existing building, a fine replica of the pre-Revolutionary War Barracks located in Trenton, New Jersey, was built by the New Jersey World's Fair Commission, of permanent materials. Of north Jersey Colonial Architecture, the Barracks is a two-story, gable-roofed structure about 70 feet by 150 feet with two short wings forming a broad, shallow entrance court.

The harmonious colors of the 8 inch stone walls were attained by using the red and brown shale which is characteristic of the Trenton site. A flagstone paved portico with wooden floor balcony lines the three walls of the court and is supported by 14 thin wooden square columns reaching to the eaves line. Typical colonial detail is found in the wide double entrance doors, the several double hung multipaned windows, the narrow slate roofed dormers and the six massive chimneys.

The building which will be used to house a permanent police precinct for the 1216 acre Flushing Meadow Park now under construction will be located near the east boundary at the intersection of Lawrence Street and Horace Harding Boulevard.

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Henry

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

For Release Tuesday,
January 14, 1941

The Department of Parks announces a change in the policy of operation of Highbridge play center located at 173 Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

Up to the present, this has been operated as a recreation center for young folks. Starting January 13, the program was expanded to include activities for the adult population of the neighborhood in accordance with the following schedule.

Facilities will be open weekdays from 10 A. M. to 12 noon as a play area for children over four years of age; from 2 P. M. to 6 P. M. as a play center for children under 17 years of age; and from 7 P. M. to 10 P. M. for adults. Men will have the use of the gymnasium on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the auxiliary rooms on Mondays and Wednesdays. Women will have the gymnasium on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the auxiliary rooms on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Friday evenings will be open to all for special features, such as basketball games and dances, educational moving pictures, lectures and amateur shows.

On Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, the center will be open from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M. as a general recreational area.

The Park Department extends a cordial invitation to adults to visit and inspect this facility and to take part in the activities arranged for them. There will be no charge connected with any function at the above center.

6

The Department of Parks announces in connection with the ice and roller skating rinks at the New York City Building in Flushing Meadow Park on Sunday, January 12, at 3:30 P.M. the following program:

Introduction - George E. Spargo, Executive Officer, Department of Parks

National Anthem

Sung by Miss Lucy Monroe

Unfurling of Flag

SPEAKERS

Hon. Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks, Chairman
Hon. George U. Harvey, President, Borough of Queens
Hon. Joseph McGoldrick, Comptroller
Hon. Newbold Morris, President of the City Council
Hon. Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Mayor

- ***** -

Solo Skating Exhibition by
Miss Dorothy Goos
Pair Skating Exhibition by
Miss Dorothy Goos & Edward Le Maire
Solo Skating Exhibition by
Edward LeMaire
Solo Skating Exhibition by
Miss Charlotte Walther
Pair Skating Exhibition by
Miss Sandy MacDonald & Harold Hartshorn
National Dance Champions
Group Skating Exhibition by
New York Skating Club
Roller Hockey
Rinks Open to Public

The ice skating exhibitions were arranged by Hon. Newbold Morris.

Lucy Monroe, the "Star-Spangled Soprano", and star of the World's Fair "American Jubilee" will sing the national anthem. Miss Monroe, a concert and operatic star of note, returns from a concert engagement in Washington, D. C., expressly to sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the opening ceremonies in Flushing Meadows. It is a sentimental occasion for this lovely singer for she sang the national anthem four times a day in the stirring finale of the "Jubilee" during the six and a half months the 1940 Fair was in progress.

All of those participating in the skating exhibition are members of the New York Skating Club and most of them are participating in the Eastern States Figure Skating Championships now being held at Rye, New York. Some of the top ranking figures in this competition will be seen at the Flushing Meadow rink through the courtesy of the New York Skating Club.

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

For Release Saturday,
January 11, 1941

Bids were received today by the Department of Parks at the Arsenal Building on three contracts for general construction, lighting and planting the addition to City Park at Flushing Avenue and Elliot Place, Borough of Brooklyn. The work will be done in connection with the proposed Fort Greene Housing Development to be located in the vicinity of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The property has been acquired by the New York City Housing Authority for park use. The present St. Edwards Street between Park and Flushing Avenues will be permanently closed and will be included in the park area. Construction costs will be paid for out of Housing Authority funds. This is the first time that recreation facilities for the neighborhood have been provided as part of the housing development in connection with the constitutional amendment approved at the last Constitutional Convention.

The work comprising the development of the new park addition consists of regulating, grading, construction of curb and walk, erection of fencing and benches, water and drainage lines, planting trees, top-soiling and seeding of lawn areas and the installation of all facilities for providing a complete lighting system.

The three lowest bidders on each of the contracts were as follows:

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Harlem Contracting Company, Inc.
44 Exchange Place, New York City | \$43,481.25 |
| 2. Melwood Construction Corporation
507 Fifth Avenue, New York City | 46,944.50 |
| 3. Frank Mascali & Sons, Inc.
4634 Third Avenue, New York City | 48,608.50 |

PLANTING

- | | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 1. | Henry J. Tamke
475 Fifth Avenue
New York City | \$5,697.65 |
| 2. | Grand View Nurseries
6 Grandview Avenue
Mt. Vernon, N. Y. | 5,768.70 |
| 3. | Roman Landscape Contracting Co.
551 Fifth Avenue
New York City | 6,218.60 |

LIGHTING

- | | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 1. | Edward Zwicker Corporation
415 Lexington Avenue
New York City | \$2,056.00 |
| 2. | Jandous Electric Equipment Co., Inc.
210 East 40 Street
New York City | 2,095.00 |
| 3. | Supreme Electric Equipment Co., Inc.
27-35 Jackson Avenue
Long Island City | 2,100.00 |

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

For Release Thursday,
January 9, 1941

Bids were received today by the Department of Parks on a contract for lighting the first section now under contract in the development of Flushing Meadow Park, between 72nd Road and the subway yard in the area abutting the Grand Central Parkway Extension.

The work under this contract consists of the installation of all underground splice boxes, conduit, cable and lighting fixtures necessary to provide a complete park lighting system for the area.

The three lowest bidders for the project were:

- 1. Elco Installation, Inc. \$5,321.00
345 East 23 Street, New York City
- 2. T. Frederick Jackson, Inc. 5,370.00
25 West 43 Street, New York City
- 3. Supreme Electric Equipment Co., Inc. 5,500.00
27-35 Jackson Avenue
Long Island City

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

For Release Wednesday,
January 8, 1941

The Department of Parks announces the opening with ceremonies of ice and roller skating rinks in the New York City Building at Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, on Sunday, January 12 at 3:30 P. M.

This is the first unit of that part of Flushing Meadow Park occupied by the Fair to be opened to the public. Immediately after the closing of the Fair on October 27, 1940, the various city departments began the removal of their exhibits. A contract was let to remove temporary construction and to build the roller skating rink 150 feet long and 116 feet wide. The ice skating rink 178 feet long by 116 feet wide was built as part of the building when it was constructed in 1938. The rinks are separated by a 12 foot walk.

There will be daily afternoon and evening skating sessions. On Saturday mornings children under 14 years will be admitted free of charge.

Charges for the other sessions will be 20 cents for the afternoon period at 2:30 P.M. and 35 cents for the evening period at 7 P.M. Admission price will include the use of roller skates. A charge of fifty cents will be made for the rental of ice skates. Patrons may bring their own ice and roller skates but rollers must be suitable for wooden floors. No charges will be made for the checking of wearing apparel.

There will be a cafeteria where food may be bought at reasonable prices and a skate shop will be provided where skates may be sharpened and necessary equipment purchased.

For the opening Newbold Morris, President of the City Council, has arranged an ice skating exhibition by the members of the New York Skating Club including Charles G. Meyer. Besides Mayor La Guardia, Newbold Morris

and Borough President George U. Harvey will participate as speakers. Park Commissioner Robert Moses will preside as chairman. After the opening ceremony both rinks will be open to the public for skating for the remainder of the afternoon session.

The City Building in Flushing Meadow Park may be reached by

1. I.R.T., B.M.T. and 2nd Ave. Lines to Willets Point Station or 111th Street Station.
2. Flushing Ridgewood Trolley to 52nd Avenue, walk one block north to park.
3. Triborough Bus Q - 23 to 51st Avenues.
4. Independent Subway - Queens Line to Woodhaven Boulevard and transfer to Bus Q - 23 to 51st Avenues.

The park may be entered at the following gates:

111th Street and 54th Avenue.

Horace Harding Boulevard, 800 feet east of the Grand Central Parkway.

Roosevelt Avenue, east of Grand Central Parkway.

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

For Release Friday,
 Jan. 3, 1941

The Department of Parks announces that special recreational activities are scheduled for three Park Department playgrounds during the month of January, 1941, in commemoration of their official opening to the public.

The program of these anniversary celebrations will include demonstrations of recreational activities, group games, team games, exhibitions of handcraft. Weather permitting, novelty ice skating events will be scheduled in the wading pools, which are used for ice skating during the winter months.

The January schedule for playground birthday parties is as follows:

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Playground and Location</u>	<u>Opened</u>	<u>Time of Celebration</u>
Brooklyn	Leiv Eiriksson, 8 Avenue & 66 Street	1/15/35	2:00 P.M.
Queens	Junction Boulevard, 39 Avenue and 96 Street	1/3/38	2:00 P.M.
Bronx	East 136 Street & Alexander Avenue	1/16/40	3:30 P.M.

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