

Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

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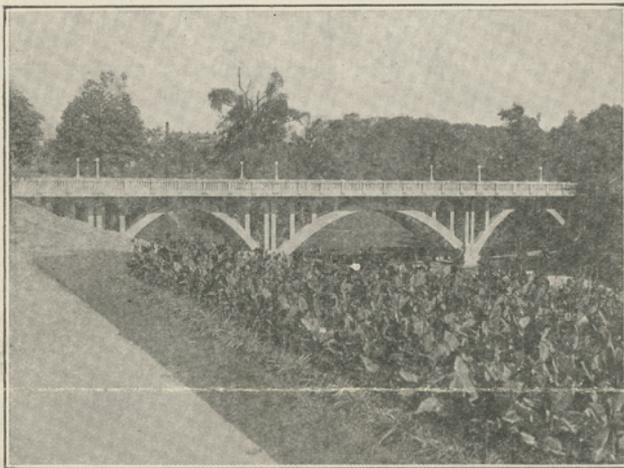
ISSUED BY THE
BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

813-820 Bank of Hamilton Building, Toronto
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White Paper No. 30

August 12, 1919

The Parks Department



Bellwoods Park Bridge.

The proper development of open air spaces in which recreation facilities are provided and in which the wonders and beauties of nature are brought to the attention of the citizens is a prime necessity in any large modern community.

Teach Us How to Play

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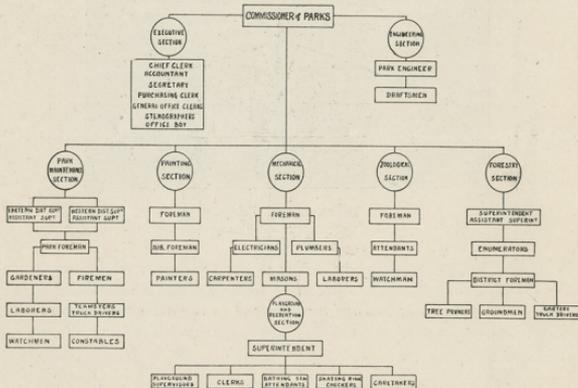
The Parks Department

ORGANIZATION

The **Commissioner of Parks** is the chief executive of the Department. He is appointed by the City Council and holds office at their pleasure. The present Commissioner is Charles E. Chambers, appointed 1912.

The **Parks Committee**—composed of nine members, one alderman from each ward and one controller—is appointed yearly by the City Council. This Committee meets every alternate Tuesday at 4 P.M. It confers with the Commissioner, deals with Parks management and affairs generally, and reports to the Board of Control.

The general organization of the Department is shown below, in graphic form. The average number of employees in the Department is about 300.



This chart supplied through courtesy of the Parks Dept.

GENERAL

The system of parks in Toronto, comprising 47 park areas and 19 playgrounds, is designed to fill the diversified needs of the city at large and the particular needs, as far as possible, of each local section. The present area of public parks is 1,869.21 acres, 407.34 of which is water area. High Park is the largest, being 335 acres in extent. There are about 335* persons to each park acre.

In 1919 the estimated expenditure by the Department for General Maintenance is \$281,622. This is 58c per capita, or an annual maintenance cost per park acre of \$151.00.

The present value of parks and playground land is estimated at \$13,942,857. The expenditure to date for the acquisition of park lands amounts to \$2,395,122.

ACTIVITIES

Recreation

To give the growing citizens opportunities for healthful exercise is one of the first aims of the Department. To this end, 110 acres of the park area have been devoted to athletic grounds. Thirty-one baseball diamonds, 25 football and 3 lacrosse fields, 7 cricket creases, 106 tennis courts, and 8 bowling greens, as well as 32 skating rinks, 27 hockey rinks, 4 toboggan and 8 miniature slides are maintained thereon. In addition, there are 11 equipped and supervised playgrounds, with an area of 12.75 acres, also 7 supervised playgrounds in public school areas, and 1 which is the property of the Y.M.C.A., all maintained by the Department. These necessitate the employment of 102 supervisors, and an expenditure this year of \$55,352. The bathing places at Kew Beach, Centre Island and Hanlan's Point also come under the Parks Department, and their maintenance will cost the Department \$7,500 this year.

Zoological Collection

At Riverdale Park, High Park and the Island, a large collection of animals, birds, water-fowl, fish and reptiles are on exhibition, making it possible for the citizens, young and old, to view the animal life not alone of our immense continent, but also of many distant lands. To feed and keep healthy this collection and to add to its extent comes within the activities of the Department. The estimated expenditure for zoological gardens is \$20,858 for 1919.

Horticulture

The Parks Department is responsible for the floral decoration of all parks, police stations and fire-halls within the city, and, in the course of the spring bedding out, 213,194 plants, propagated in the departmental green-houses, were used in this work. Shrubs and evergreens to the number of approximately 20,000 were also planted in the various parks and squares. It is the policy of the Department to work towards the reasonable replacement of the annual plants generally used for bedding with hardy and semi-hardy plants of more permanent character, the choicer varieties of conifers

*Population 489,621, Assessors' figures, 1918.

and shrubbery. There are in the parks about 800 flower beds of various designs. At present there are 42 gardeners employed.

Forestry (Street Trees)

The thousands of shade trees on the boulevards and streets are under the care of the Department, and many thousands of new ones are set out each year. These have to be pruned and sprayed annually, and require a great deal of care. In 1918, 137,657 trees were given attention, and the cost of this in 1919 is estimated at \$38,302. The Department has been very active in its fight with the tussock moth, and has met with considerable success.

It is interesting to note that lately legislation has been secured giving the city absolute control of the trees upon its streets. It will thus be possible to carry out a complete plan of street tree improvement. The early acquisition of a city nursery farm for the propagation of street trees is intended.

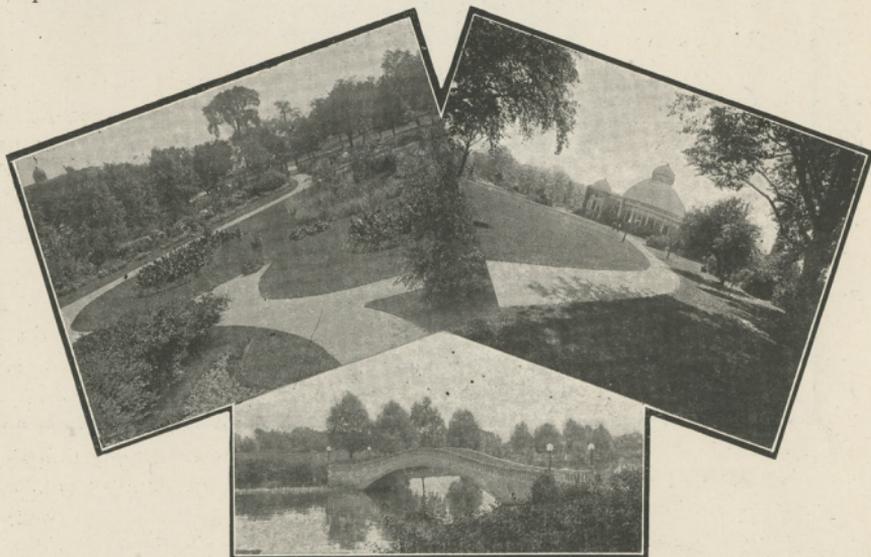
Music

A series of 56 Band Concerts has been arranged to take place in the various parks this summer. The benefit and pleasure to be derived from this form of community entertainment would be hard to estimate.

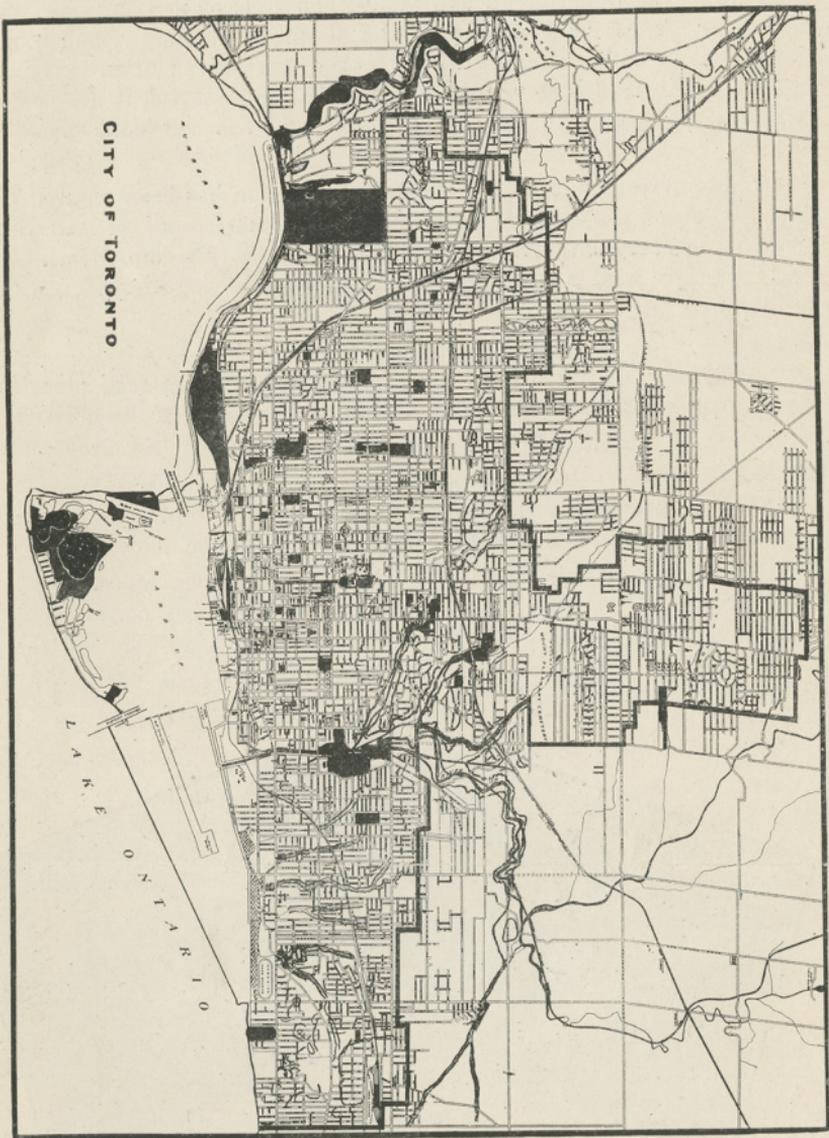
Park Extension

The general park development scheme of Toronto contemplates a requirement of approximately 500 acres of additional park lands.

In addition, a boulevard encircling the city and having a total length of 33.67 miles is planned. A portion of the right-of-way of this boulevard has already been promised, free of cost to the city, and during the year considerable progress will be made toward the carrying out of the whole improvement.



Our Parks abound in many such delightful scenes. Are you familiar with them?



Map of the City of Toronto showing location of the various parks.

Parks - ■

Estimated Expenditures for Parks and Exhibition, 1919

Expenditures to be Paid Out of General Funds	AMOUNTS	Personal Services (Salaries and Wages)	Other Expenditures*	Debt Charges
Maintenance of Parks.....	\$615,729.30	\$316,212.00	\$103,542.00	\$195,975.30
Permanent Improvements	35,418.00	12,791.00	22,627.00
Special Exhibition Acct....	141,872.44	17,617.00	35,266.73	88,988.71
Total.....	\$793,019.74	\$346,620.00	\$161,435.73	\$284,964.01

* "Other Expenditures" are made up as follows:

Services Other Than Personal, \$24,993; Heat, Light and Power, \$15,346; Supplies Other Than Heat, Light and Power, \$75,717; Upkeep and Depreciation of Structures and Equipment, \$43,655; Unclassified, \$1,724.73.

In addition, the following amounts are being spent by the Department of Property:

Lighting Parks and Island.....	\$15,050.00	
Conducting Bathing Stations.....	32,661.00	\$47,711.00

The following is the Estimated Revenue other than Taxation for the Parks Department for 1919:

Rental of Park Property	\$ 880.00	
Checking Rentals	7,500.00	
Canadian National Exhibition—Excess of Receipts over direct operating expenses	35,000.00	\$43,380.00

To develop an appreciation of the beautiful;
 To keep, with dwellers in crowded communities, the knowledge that nature is wonderful and bountiful;
 To fill a natural craving not satisfied with the narrow limits of bricks and mortar;
 To aid in health, through proper recreation;
 In fact, to attempt to keep even the development of man's many-sided nature—
 These are some of the functions of the Parks Department.