



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Open Space & Park Development

1851–1965

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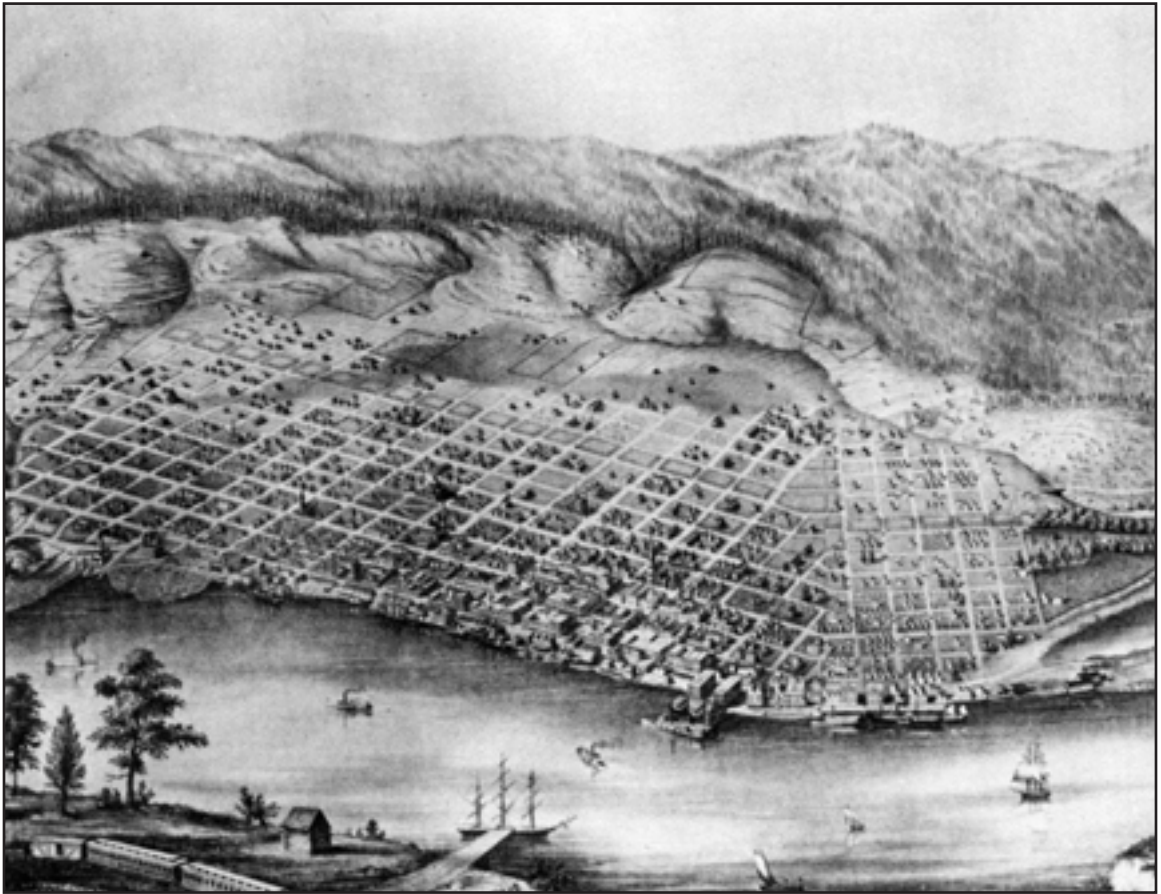
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City of Portland, 1875

Growth & Development during the Expansive Railroad Era

Portland was incorporated on March 16, 1851 when the city charter was executed; over the next 20 years it rapidly grew from a raw frontier settlement on the Willamette River to a prosperous urban center of 8,293 inhabitants, the largest city in the Pacific Northwest. During those early years of expansion, Portland's municipal government struggled to provide basic public services such as streets and sidewalks, police and fire protection, and sanitation. Public parks in the urban core were not high on the city council's agenda. In this fact, Portland differed little from other American cities in the first half of the 19th century. Indeed, while the urban population of the United States began to mount – between 1820 and 1870 cities grew at three times the rate of the national population – little attention focused on the lack of public spaces within the urban core. Until New York City developed Central Park in the late 1850s and early 1860s, few city parks in the United States exceeded 10 acres. When completed, Central Park encompassed 843 acres, and its great popularity led other cities to create park systems after the Civil War.¹ In Oregon, the first known acts to intentionally secure public open space was when Thomas Summers donated a small area known as Sodaville Mineral Springs in rural Linn County for public use as a park in 1871, the same year that Portland bought 40-acre City Park in the west hills from Amos King.

Public infrastructure such as parks developed slowly in the first 50 years of Portland's existence, 1851 to 1901. In fact, complicated speculative land dealings by the Portland town-site proprietors dominated the first ten years of the city's settlement and growth; these property transactions would greatly complicate the development of the city's future parks. The original town-site survey of 1845-52 commissioned by Daniel Lownsdale showed 52 whole and partial blocks in a 200 x 200 foot square configuration with the partial blocks adjacent the Willamette River (Map 1). In 1850 a new map, created by Asa Lovejoy and Francis Pettygrove and executed by Thomas Brown, had designated the west bank of the Willamette River as undivided public land (Map 2), however, the Lownsdale survey showed this area as divided lots for sale. The ultimate disposition of the lands marked for public uses in the 1850 plat map would be the subject of considerable litigation for many years.² By 1852, the basic plan of Portland's expanded urban area to the west and north abutting the Capt. James Couch Addition had taken shape, and within its boundaries, Lownsdale had made limited provisions for future parks and public squares (Map 3). The first "official" map of Portland of 1866 showed a strip of 26 blocks along the middle of the city with set aside as public parks and two blocks near the present city hall as public squares (the so-called Plaza Blocks). It also reserved two blocks for a public market

and for a custom house.

Promoters of urban parks in the late 19th century attempted to create by design bucolic and healthy spaces where urban residents could escape from the dangers associated with chaotic, crowded, and unhealthy city living and working conditions of the times. In particular, urban reformers wanted to supply the working classes with easily accessible out-of-doors places for rest and recreation. A Portland commentator, writing to *The Oregonian* in 1871, captured this notion: “We want the opportunity of securing health, virtuous pleasure and recreation of our families in beautiful parks.” In addition, civic boosters saw attractive urban spaces such as parks as an amenity that would help to enhance the future economic and population growth of a city.³



Peninsula Park

Until 1871, Portland depended upon public donations of land for its first parks. Both early town-site owners Daniel Lownsdale and John Couch designated land for public parks. Urban historian John Reys has argued that Lownsdale’s motivation for establishing a public greenbelt within the city came from his early years in Kentucky, where Louisville had a similar arrangement of public parks. Unfortunately, town-site proprietor Benjamin Stark refused to convey his two blocks as parks, breaking

the connection between the Lownsdale and Couch strips of dedicated park blocks. When the ownership issue first came up in 1852, the city council failed to get deeds for all the proprietors’ property that had been platted for public use.⁴

The actual ownership of the land supposedly dedicated for public purposes by the original and subsequent town-site proprietors remained in question for many years. Couch deeded his five north park blocks, Burnside to NW Glisan between NW 8th & Park, to the city in 1865, shortly after he received his land patent from the federal government. Lownsdale, his heirs, and the other proprietors, however, failed to act on their promises to donate their land in question. Finally, in 1870, William Chapman gave the city title to the two Plaza Blocks, now Lownsdale and Chapman Parks between SW 3rd & 4th and SW Salmon & Madison, and seven park blocks for \$6,250. In the following year, Stephen Coffin conveyed title to seven more park blocks and to a 400-foot public levee on the Willamette River for \$2,500. Coffin’s actions in regard to the park blocks were not entirely straightforward. Before passing his title to the land, he had tried to sell some of it to other parties in 1867. The Oregon Supreme Court, however, declared the private sale invalid on the grounds that the prior public dedication of the land for public use, dating back to the 1840s, was irrevocable by the time of Coffin’s

attempt to sell the land in question. The city council also sought to purchase the six remaining park blocks from the estates of Lownsdale and his wife. Two of the blocks were in development, however, and the Lownsdale heirs wanted \$24,000 for the other four blocks. The city refused this offer and, instead, acquired 40.78 acres in the West Hills, in what is now part of expanded Washington Park, for \$32,624 from Amos King in 1871. This land became the nucleus of City Park, subsequently renamed Washington Park in 1909. At the end of negotiations and deed transfers, eight south park blocks (two owned by Benjamin Stark and the six held by the Lownsdale heirs) remained outside of the city’s emerging park system. The loss of the eight blocks was keenly felt at the time. As *The Oregonian* noted in 1871, the park blocks was an “avenue indispensable for all classes of our population. Planted with trees, ornamented with walks, shades and fountains it would be a pride to the city and a source of gladness and health.”⁵

For many years the city did little to develop the park blocks, which today encompass the South Parks Blocks between SW Salmon & Jackson, and the North Park Blocks between Burnside & NW Glisan. The native timber had been removed and the barren land fenced, but no other improvements were made. City officials occasionally used the South Park Blocks for public celebrations, such as the 4th of July in 1875, but otherwise made no effort to create an attractive or useful public amenity. Finally, in 1877, the city council appropriated money to plant grass and trees in the Park Blocks, as they are still referenced today. There is no record that the city employed a landscape professional in this early attempt at beautifying the Park Blocks. Deciduous trees were simply laid out in rows along each block’s major axis.

As late as 1896, Mayor George P. Frank’s annual message noted that the Park Blocks “look badly, as no improvement of any kind has been made. Something ought to be done, as in their present condition they are neither useful nor ornamental.”⁶

The purchase of land for City Park initially received much criticism by the press and community, both for being too small for an urban park and for costing too much. In general, few park improvements occurred until the mid-1880s, when the Bureau of Water Works (now Portland Water Bureau) which had charge of the city’s parks, hired a park keeper, Charles Myers. Myers initiated minor improvements to the Park Blocks and started a small animal menagerie in a ravine in City Park with a collection of animals donated by Dr. Richard B. Knight in 1887. In City Park, Myers graded roads, laid foot paths, and planted ornamental flower beds. Nevertheless, in 1888, Mayor John Gates’ annual message to the city lamented that City Park “still gives but little idea of what a public park ought to be, and generally is, in a rich and enterprising municipality.” Initially, the animals kept in City Park included a grizzly bear, an Alaskan bear, a seal, and four deer; over time, the list of caged animals and birds in the park expanded greatly. In 1891, Myers arranged for the construction of a cast iron fountain in the

Renaissance style, known as the Chiming Fountain, for City Park.⁷

In the late 19th century, additions to Portland's park system came chiefly by haphazard private donations and remained largely undeveloped. In 1870 the city of East Portland inherited the undeveloped (Ben) Holladay Park (4.34 acres) located at NE Holladay & 11th Avenue. The site was included in the "acquisition" when Portland consolidated with the city of East Portland in 1891. Wealthy druggist Stephen Skidmore and other citizens donated funds that resulted in Skidmore Fountain, dedicated in 1888. Located at SW First & Ankeny Streets, as parts of right-of-way vacated to form a small plaza, the fountain was designed and sculpted by nationally-respected sculptor Olin Warner. Two additions to the city's parks came in 1891: Columbia Park (30 acres), off N. Willamette Boulevard and land in Ladd's Addition (SE Hawthorne & 12th Avenue), a planned neighborhood under initial development by William S. Ladd, a local banker and later Mayor of Portland. The plat was based on a diagonal street system surrounding a central park, and included four diamond-shaped parks located on the points of a compass. Also, in 1891 and 1899, Oregon governor and Portland mayor Sylvester Pennoyer gave six acres located on Robinson's Hill in the southwest Portland Heights neighborhood that would be designated Governor's Park. Finally, in honor of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897, businessman and banker Donald Macleay deeded to the city a 108-acre tract of land at the base of the West Hills on Balch Creek and NW Thurman to provide a public park and an outdoor space for patients at Good Samaritan and St. Vincent's hospitals. The site was later named Macleay Park.



City Park goats

As was the case in other American cities by the end of the 19th century, Portland's major investment in the city's infrastructure laid the foundation for later park improvements. As part of building a municipal water system, the city constructed two reservoirs on Mt Tabor and two in City Park in 1894. These water features were embellished with ornamental fencing, Romanesque Revival style gatehouses, gas lighting, elaborate plantings, and a promenade. As *The Oregonian* noted in January 1895, the reservoirs presented

a pleasing prospect: "When this work is completed the brilliantly lighted walks surrounding the reservoirs will be the most popular promenades in the city during the evenings of the warmer months of the year. . . . These walks afford a delightful promenade for visitors who are separated from the basin itself by a concrete wall surmounted by a neat iron fence. All the reservoirs have been constructed in the most substantial manner and effect of harmony

it was possible to obtain by a little attention to the adornment of the finished work has not been overlooked by the engineers in charge.”⁸

The Portland Water Bureau reservoirs at Mt Tabor Park, off SE 64th & Division, became surrounded by a park created in 1909. The reservoirs in City Park, however, were encased in an existing park landscape, exhibiting a decidedly Victorian era character.⁹

By 1900, the 40.78-acre City Park was a riot of vivid colors, exotic species, and chaotic displays. Landscape design of the time relied heavily on the use of non-native species grown in greenhouses and nurseries. Victorian gardeners preferred elaborate displays of colorful plantings using “carpet bedding” or “bedding out,” where geometric or circular beds of vibrant flowers extended outward from a raised center. Gardeners randomly created elaborate flowering designs (“painting” with flowers) within sloping lawns, which also contained other objects such as statuary, fountains, and memorials. City Park had come a long way from the forested hillside present at Portland’s founding. Landscape historian Wallace Kay Huntington gives this description of turn-of-the century City Park: “City Park was an object of special civic pride. Surviving photographs from the early 20th century illustrate the elaborate flower parterres and lawns adorned with tubs of semi-hardy greenhouse specimens. The arbitrary forms of the flower beds with their fabric-like patterns are scattered randomly over an informal lawn with complete disregard to any all-encompassing plan. By the end of the century a zoological society had been formed and the animals in the City Park Zoo were displayed in the same spirit as the yuccas on the lawn.”¹⁰

At the end of the 19th century, Portland had less than 200 acres of parkland, much less than rival west coast cities. Since the bulk of the city’s parkland was located in the West Hills, it primarily benefited the wealthiest homeowners. A report appearing in *The Oregonian* in September 1898 commented on the hardship this created for Portland’s working class and poor citizens: “...it’s a long climb from the working quarters.... Only those who have trees, lawns and roses of their own are within easy walking distance.... It is easy to forget the North End and the Eastside in planning a city park.” The report concluded by urging “that there should be a public recreation ground within ten minutes walk of any part of the city.”¹¹

Even as streetcars lines were being extended throughout the city at this time, none ran directly to City Park. Most of the city’s parkland still lay undeveloped in terms of trails, planting, and other public amenities. Funding for acquisition or obtaining donated land was an issue. Funding for improvements tended to be more difficult to obtain and often received after complaints from the citizenry. Mayor Sylvester Pennoyer’s message of 1897 lamented that “in all countries, public parks are the pride of the cities, and afford the greatest health-promoting pleasures to the people, but owing to the limited appropriations... [made] for park purposes, those of our city are

not improved as rapidly and thoroughly as the interests and welfare of the public demand.”¹²

Fortunately, several events converged in the late 1890s to give Portland the opportunity to improve the quantity and quality of its public parks. Portland civic leaders desiring a comprehensively planned public park system formed the Portland Park Association in 1898 and called for a special commission appointed by the mayor to oversee Portland’s park development. In February 1899, the Oregon legislature passed an enabling act that permitted cities with populations over 3,000 to establish by popular vote a board of park commissioners to acquire and manage land for parks.

A municipal park board had the power to levy annual property taxes to carry out park development. Subject to voter approval, the commissioners also could levy special property taxes to purchase parkland. Portlanders voted to establish a Park Commission; it took control of the existing city parks from the Water Board in 1900.¹³

The first meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners for the City of Portland was held on October 20, 1900. Presiding was Mayor H.S. Rowe with the City Auditor Thomas C. Devlin acting as secretary. Also present were City Engineer W.B. Chase and the court-appointed citizen members General Charles F. Beebe, Rev. Thomas L. Eliot, Mr. Henry Fleckenstein, and Colonel Lester L. Hawkins (L.L. Hawkins), and the Honorable Rufus Mallory.

In 1903, Portland adopted a new citizen-drafted, voter-approved charter, which replaced the previous Park Commission with a Park Board appointed by the mayor. The new charter also allowed women to serve for the first time on the board. The new Park Board consisted of Thomas L. Eliot, L.L. Hawkins, Ion Lewis, and J. D. Meyer.

Just a few weeks after the completion of the Peninsula Park Recreation Building, the Park Board was dissolved when the City of Portland changed to a commission form of government in 1913. Regardless of the change in the form of city government and title of the Park Board name, work continued as usual with the change in name to the “Bureau of Parks and Public Recreation.” However, the Park Supervisor, Emanuel T. Mische, now reported to an elected commissioner (initially the Commissioner of Public Works, William L. Brewster) rather than an appointed board. Mische complained in the annual report that the new form of government, slow in taking shape, lacked a general plan and a harmonious body governing that plan, spelling failure for the Parks Bureau. Yet, work progressed, and plans continued to be made.

The creation of the potential for urban parks development occurred at the same time that the late 19th and early 20th century nationwide City Beautiful movement provided a rationale for parks improvements. The City

Beautiful proponents argued that progressive, up-to-date cities needed a planned public park system to provide a natural respite for its citizens from the congestion, noise, and unhealthy living and working conditions present in the commercial and industrial setting of the modern city. The explicit assumptions were that a healthy city would be a more pleasant, prosperous, and growing city. Portland had two prominent civic leaders promoting the public benefits of an expanded park system. Reverend Thomas Lamb Eliot of the Unitarian Church and banker L.L. Hawkins worked tirelessly to advance the cause of acquiring and developing parks. They would serve as key members of the new Park Board in the new century.

Within the first 50-year history of Portland Parks & Recreation, nine properties were acquired and then developed or expanded at various stages of their service as open space.

ID#	Property	Year Acquired	Address	Zip	Status	Facility Type	ParkType	Acres
99	Chapman Square	1869	SW 4th & Main	97205	Developed	Park	Urban	0.92
243	Lownsdale Square	1869	SW 4th & Main	97205	Developed	Park	Urban	0.92
447	North Park Blocks	1869	NW Park from Ankeny to Glisan	97209	Developed	Park	Urban	2.43
674	South Park Blocks	1869	SW Park from Salmon to Jackson	97205	Developed	Park	Urban	8.76
186	Holladay Park	1870	NE 11th & Holladay	97232	Developed	Park	Urban	5.04
841	Washington Park	1871	Head of SW Park Place	97210	Developed	Park	Regional Park	129.51
17	Columbia Park	1891	N. Lombard & Woolsey	97203	Developed	Park	Community Park	35.37
166	Governors Park	1894	SW 13th & Davenport	97201	Natural	Park	Habitat	5.41
246	Macleay Park	1897	NW 29 th & Upshur	97210	Natural	Park	Natural Area	134

Park sites acquired between 1851 and 1900

¹ Jewel Lansing, *Portland: People, Politics, and Power, 1851-2001* (Corvallis, Ore: Oregon State University Press, 2003), 6-13; Howard Beals, *Park Blocks*, Draft National Register of Historic Places Nomination (City of Portland, 1984); E. Kimbark MacColl, *Merchants, Money, and Power* (Portland, Ore.: The Georgian Press, 1988), 17.

² William F. Willingham, *City of Portland Civic Planning, Development, and Public Works Historic Context, 1851-1965* (City of Portland, Bureau of Parks & Recreation, 2005).

³ Quote in Steve Dotterer, "Cities and Towns," in Thomas Vaughan and Virginia Guest Ferriday, *Space, Style and Structure: Building in Northwest America* (Portland, Ore.: Oregon Historical Society, 1974), 62-63.

⁴ MacColl, *Merchants*, 17, 57-58, 169-70; Lansing, *Portland*, 62, 108, 140-41; John W. Reys, *The Forgotten Frontier: Urban Planning in the American West before 1890* (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1981), 42-47; Eugene E. Snyder, *Portland Potpourri: Art, Fountains and Old Friends* (Portland, Ore.: Binford and Mort Publishing, 1991), 123-33.

⁵ Ibid; T. J. Carter and O. P. Mason v. City of Portland, in *Reports of Cases decided in The Supreme Court of the State of Oregon, from Sept. Term, 1870 to Dec. Term, 1873*, C. B. Bellinger, reporter (San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Co., 1906), 339-52.

⁶ MacColl, *Merchants*, 17, 57-58, 169-70; Lansing, *Portland*, 62, 108, 140-41; Snyder, *Portland Potpourri*, 123-33; quote in MacColl, *The Shaping of a City: Business and Politics in Portland, Oregon 1885 to 1915* (Portland, Ore.: The Georgian Press, 1976), 15.

⁷ Lansing, *Portland*, 156-57; Beals, *Park Blocks*; *Portland Mayor's Message and Annual Report*, 1896 (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland), 126.

⁸ Lansing, *Portland*, 191, 238; Robert Butler, *City Park*, Draft National Register of Historic Places Nomination (City of Portland, 2004); *Portland Mayor's Message and Annual Reports*, 1882-1892, passim, quote in *ibid*, 1888, 39.

⁹ Lansing, *Portland*, 193, 226; MacColl, *Shaping*, 14, 211; Christine Curran, *Laurelhurst Park*, National Register of Historic Places Nomination (City of Portland, 1999).

¹⁰ William Willingham, *Historic Context for Mount Tabor Reservoirs* (City of Portland, Water Bureau, 2004), quote on p. 6; Cascade Geller, *Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District*, National Register of Historic Places Nomination (City of Portland, 2003).

¹¹ Butler, *City Park*; Wallace Kay Huntington, "Parks and Gardens of Western Oregon," in Vaughan and Ferriday, eds., *Space, Style, and Structure*, 2: 405-06.

¹² MacColl, *Shaping*, 14-15; *The Oregonian*, Sept. 11, 1898; *Portland Mayor's Message and Annual Report*, 1897, 102.

¹³ Lansing, *Portland*, 240-41; *The Oregonian*, Sept. 25, 1898, Feb. 19, 1899; Cielo Lutino, Blaine Merker, and Robin Green, *The City Beautiful Movement and Civic Planning in Portland, Oregon 1897-1921*, Multiple Property Documentation Form (City of Portland, 2000).

Chapter II: 1900–1920

Impact of Public Planning & Progressive Era Politics on Portland

During the first two decades of the 20th century, Portland began to expand and develop its parks in earnest. The city achieved the means to build a park system in 1900 when the voters approved creation of an independent city park commission that could levy an annual half-mill property tax for purchasing and improving parkland. Subject to voter approval, the commission also could levy a second half mill for special parkland purchases. The commission organized in October 1900, taking control of city park property from the Water Board and approving a property tax levy. The commission also accepted the gift from David P. Thompson of a granite fountain and bronze elk statue installed on Main Street between the Plaza Blocks.¹

During its first year of operation beginning on October 20, 1900, the Park Commission wasted little time in devising improvements; the commission and other park advocates in Portland demonstrated the influence of the nationwide City Beautiful movement's push for civic beautification and urban infrastructure improvements. In their first annual report in 1901, the Park Commissioners urged that park development benefit all citizens because "the beautifying of the city as a whole, the increased healthfulness of the people, the higher values to all property, the opening of beautiful suburbs and the true expansion of the commonwealth itself are involved." The report concluded with a clarion call to action: "A city like Portland, to which nature has been more prodigal in climate, diversity and grandeur of surroundings than any other in the country, should provide itself the name of having been worthy of it heritage. A park system embracing riverside, mountains and plains, and connected by wide boulevards, would go far to make this the most beautiful city in the world."²



Burnside entrance to City Park

Initially, the Park Commission sent one of its members, Reverend Thomas Eliot, to study urban park systems back East. Eliot found that all cities of comparable size to Portland had more than twice as much parkland and spent annually from two to six times as much on their parks. He also was advised by the eastern park experts that the Park Commission should hire a reputable landscape architect to prepare a plan for Portland's park development. While there, Eliot had met with the renowned Olmsted

Brothers landscape architecture firm in Brookline, Massachusetts; based on his recommendation, the Park Commission hired the Olmsted Bros. firm in 1902 to prepare a preliminary park plan for Portland. Since the Olmsted firm's work for the Park Commission would coincide with the planning for the Lewis & Clark Exposition (1905), Eliot convinced the exposition organizers to employ the firm in designing the exposition fairgrounds and to share the firm's fee. John C. Olmsted (nephew and stepson of Frederick Law Olmsted) spent the month of April 1903 in Portland working on both commissions. After finishing his work for the exposition, Olmsted, in the company of Park Commissioner L.L. Hawkins, traveled around the city, examining existing parks and potential land acquisitions that could result in a unified system of parks and boulevards.³



Olmsted Map

By the end of April, Olmsted had completed his careful survey of existing parks and potential acquisition for a more comprehensive system of parks. Before returning to Brookline, Massachusetts to prepare his report, Olmsted wrote prophetically to his wife that “I have enjoyed my park reconnaissance very much as the landscape is fine and possibilities for parks, as far as land is concerned, are excellent, but I fear the money will be deficient.” Olmsted submitted his final report in the fall of 1903.⁴

In 1903, the newly constituted Park Board, which replaced the Park Commission, approved and printed Olmsted's report in its annual report for that year. In brief, Olmsted's proposal sketched out an extensive park system made up of municipal squares; playgrounds; small, neighborhood parks; large, suburban parks; and scenic reserves of native forest land. All of these components were to be connected by boulevards (limited access, formal pleasure drives) or parkways (informal pleasure drives). Olmsted also proposed a series of waterfront parks on wetlands along the Willamette River. His report built upon existing improvements, such as at Mt Tabor, and recommended new parks on both sides of the Willamette River.⁵

In addition to physical improvements, Olmsted also addressed park management, such as employee training, and the need for capital investment in parkland. He stressed the importance of planning for long-term expansion of the park system so that land could be purchased while it was still affordable, even if it required taking on public debt. Olmsted argued that park improvements would increase the value of adjoining land, whose higher taxes would then help to pay for the added parkland. It was axiomatic to Olmsted, moreover, that “in the case of money borrowed for the acquisition of parkland... that the land is an asset that will be worth more in almost every instance, by the time the loan becomes payable, than the amount of the loan.” In his 1903 report, Olmsted recommended the acquisition of 36 parcels of land for future development. To date, about 25 of the original 36 sites have been purchased and developed to one extent

or another (Appendix A). He also reminded the Park Board: “A city having beautiful local scenery adapted for parks and parkways should secure the land least [sic] these natural advantages be destroyed or irreparably injured by the owners. Many of the older cities would now pay very high prices for land covered with the primeval forest which the early inhabitants destroyed and which might once have been obtained for a few dollars an acre.”⁶

Olmsted also pointed out that a municipal park system was more than just good business. In the introduction to his report, he noted: “All agree that parks not only add to the beauty of a city and to the pleasure of living in it, but are exceedingly important factors in developing the healthfulness, morality, intelligence, and business prosperity of its residents. Indeed it is not too much to say that a liberal provision of parks in a city is one of the surest manifestations of the intelligence, degree of civilization and progressiveness of its citizens.”⁷

Finally, Olmsted appealed to Portland’s booster efforts and competitive spirit: “Leading writers and other authorities on modern municipal development agree that no city can be considered properly equipped without an adequate park system.”⁸

With Olmsted’s plan for a comprehensive park system in hand, Portland’s park advocates set about raising the funds necessary to carry it out. The subsequent success of the Lewis & Clark Exposition in 1905, and the economic and population boom that it stimulated, helped produce a favorable civic climate for their efforts.

In 1906, a group of park advocates and business supporters formed Initiative One Hundred to push passage of a \$1 million bond issue for park development. In June 1907, voters narrowly passed the bond. Because of legal problems, the Park Board was unable to spend any of the funds for several years and had to content itself with interim measures focused on maintenance of the existing parks. Between receipt of the Olmsted report in December 1903 and the June 1907 passage of the \$1 million park bond issue, the Park Board continued general improvements to existing parks, accepted several small donations of land, and acted favorably on several gifts for memorials to be placed in public parks. Lewis & Clark Exposition officials donated a monument representing four Northwest states to be placed in City Park; President Theodore Roosevelt laid the cornerstone for it on May 21, 1903. In 1904, a monument to soldiers of the Second Oregon U. S. Volunteer Infantry (Spanish-American War veterans) was placed in the center of the North Plaza Block (Lownsdale Square) on SW 4th Avenue. The heirs of David Thompson donated a bronze monument of two Native Americans facing eastward, entitled “The Coming of the White Man,” which was placed in City Park, also in 1904. The monument



“Coming of the White Man” dedication

supposedly represented a time prior to the arrival of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The Lewis & Clark Exposition donated a 34-foot bronze of Sacajawea, first unveiled at the fair, for placement in City Park in 1906.

In 1906, the Park Board responded to popular demand and added the first playgrounds in the parks. The initial installations included play equipment in the North Park Blocks between NW Couch & Davis and in the South Park Blocks near SW Jackson, and a ballfield at Columbia Park in NE Portland.⁹

While the existing parks received little major improvement through 1907, the Park Board was laying the foundation for future expansion, based on the Olmsted report. Banking on voter approval of the park bond measure in June, the Board convinced the city council to appropriate \$5,000 to develop a plan for park acquisition and construction of boulevards. Once again the Park Board hired John C. Olmsted to prepare the desired surveys, research land values, and lay out an acquisition strategy. As expected, the increase in land values since Olmsted's original park report severely reduced what the bond issue would purchase. To make the most of the available funds and strike an equity between the west and east sides of the city, Olmsted recommended constructing three miles of parkway along Marquam Hill on the west side, and purchasing affordable land on the east side for developing neighborhood parks. He also prepared a general grading plan for the proposed parkway and connecting streets.¹⁰

During 1907, the Park Board also carried out several administrative reforms. It prepared, and the city council passed, an ordinance prescribing 17 rules and regulations for public use of the parks and plazas of the city. The regulations covered such matters as personal behavior, use of the automobile, animal restrictions, loitering, use of firearms, and vandalism to public property. The rules also imposed fines of not less than five dollars or more than twenty dollars for each offense.¹¹

Other influences outside of the Park Board or Park Commission also shaped Portland's view of parks and open space use. In 1888 Georgiana Burton Pittock, wife of pioneer publisher Henry Pittock invited her friends and neighbors to exhibit their roses in a tent set up in her garden; thus the Portland Rose Society was established. In 1889 Portland's first annual Rose Show was held and from 1904 through 1906 the Portland Rose Society sponsored a fiesta along with its annual rose show. By 1905, Portland had 200 miles of rose-bordered streets – a strategy to draw attention to the Lewis & Clark Centennial celebration – and had been dubbed the 'City of Roses.' In an address at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, Mayor Harry Lane suggested that Portland needed a "festival of roses." Two years later, in 1907, the first Rose Festival was held.

In 1908, the Park Board replaced its current park superintendent, Charles Myer, with Emanuel Tillman Mische, a former employee of the Olmsted Bros. firm. A horticulturalist by early training, Mische had developed his drawing and design skills while employed by the Olmsted Bros. firm and came highly recommended by John Olmsted. As the new park superintendent, Mische took an active part in every aspect of park administration and planning. Deeply immersed in the Olmsted philosophy of urban park design, he translated the Olmsted elements of landscape design to Portland's setting. This meant emphasizing scenic views connected by parkways, use of indigenous trees and plants, and the preservation of the remaining forested areas of the city. As funds became available and Mische implemented the Olmsted plan, he continued to consult with John Olmsted, who returned to Portland in 1908 and 1909 for both public and private commissions. The Park Board and Mische focused initially on planning and construction of the southwest's Hillside – or as it was later named, Terwilliger – Parkway and on purchasing land for east side park development.¹²

Upon arriving in Portland to assume his new responsibilities as park superintendent, Mische took stock of the existing conditions of the parks under his charge and immediately set about making changes. In City Park, he focused his efforts on reducing the “gardenesque treatment” of plantings, which had emphasized “high-colored exotics, distributed in ribbons, circles and the like” and replacing these displays with “more harmonious, natural and appropriate” native plantings.

In the Park Blocks, Mische carried out a major redesign. Each block was reseeded to turf and alternate blocks planted to roses or colorful exotics. In spite of some public criticism, he felt justified in this planting treatment in the Park Blocks “by reason of this being the only area, by the formality of its design, and the sophisticated surroundings lends itself to that style of adornment.” Mische also noted the “the park blocks in their present state, though not exactly nondescript, fail to fulfill their highest office as an ornamental accent in the street system of the city or as a purely local park ornament.” Besides his planning and administrative duties, Mische had to struggle with operating the unsanitary public baths on the Willamette River at the foot of Jefferson Street near a sewer outfall. For the future, he also urged the development of properly equipped and monitored playgrounds in neighborhood parks as funds permitted.¹³



South Park Blocks

During 1909, Mische and the Park Board concentrated on completing the purchases of the east side parks at Sellwood, Kenilworth, Peninsula, Laurelhurst, and Mt Tabor, amounting to about 200 acres in all. This activity expended half of the bond funds. Before attempting to buy more land, the Board decided to focus on the development of the current parks.

The major effort went into surveys and preparation for constructing Terwilliger Parkway in southwest Portland around Marquam Hill's west flank, and extending existing playgrounds at established parks. These undertakings remained the central focus during 1910. Mische constructed new playgrounds at Washington, Sellwood, Peninsula, and Columbia Parks and those in the North Park Blocks were updated. Sellwood Park had a new concrete swimming pool added and plans were in preparation to add a recreation building to the park in 1912, designed by architect Ellis F. Lawrence.

An improvement to Macleay Park consisted of widening and extending a stream-side trail and planning for its ultimate extension to NW Cornell Road. The slow progress of the park system during these years (Appendix X) stemmed partly from the high cost of land and the frugality of Mayor Joseph Simon, 1909-1911. At the beginning of his term, Mayor Simon announced, "I am going to stop all extravagance. I believe the people want economy. I do not believe in buying up property for parks all over the city. Portland is a natural park now, and it is, in my judgment, unnecessary to expend such large sums in beautifying the city." The mayor's sentiments sharply contrasted with Mische's comment in *The Oregonian* that "Portland will have parks in spite of any individual or set of them who would dare attempt to halt her onward march on whatever pretext."¹⁴

Given the limited funding for operation of the park system, Mische cautioned the Park Board that it needed to develop a policy regarding the expansion of popular playgrounds. He noted that "the operation of playgrounds is a comparatively new municipal activity; they supply a real and definite need." The problem, however, was that the demand for neighborhood playgrounds quickly outstripped the park system's ability to provide them.

Nationally, the playground idea spread to other cities through the public media and communications between settlement house workers. In 1887 the New York State Legislature authorized the purchase of property in lower New York City (immigrant ghetto areas) for small parks. In 1888 Philadelphia formed the Small Parks Association to develop playgrounds, and in 1892 the Boston Park Commission made plans for playgrounds in the midst of dense populations citywide. Jane Addams, of Chicago's Hull House, designed a model playground in 1894 to advance a higher social morality among the participants in her settlement house activities. In 1900 fourteen U.S. cities were sponsoring playgrounds. By 1906, the year the Playground

Association of America (PAA) was formed in Washington, D.C., a movement was evident, with twenty-five cities having playground operations. By 1910 there were fifty-five cities with playground programs. Also by 1910, 113 colleges and universities were offering classes in “The Normal Course in Play,” a recreation leadership curriculum developed by the PAA in 1909. These classes identified the personnel and types of programs needed to operate playgrounds effectively.

Mische urged the Park Board to seek assistance from the School Board to “provide the lands and assist in defraying the cost of supervision” in developing future playgrounds. The Park Board followed Mische’s advice and by the summer of 1911 it had started negotiations with the School Board for the development of playgrounds at school property. In 1913, the first municipal park playground opened on school grounds.¹⁵ (Portland did not hire a recreation director until 1937).

By 1912, the Park Board and Mische had expended the \$1 million park bond issue and had accomplished much with the funds. Of course, more needed to be done, for inflation had reduced the purchasing power of the bonds. Portland still lagged behind other West Coast cities in parks. For example, Portland had 653 acres of parks, while Tacoma and Seattle had 1,700 and 1,500 acres, respectively. In addition, the recently completed Bennett Plan for improving Portland’s infrastructure and appearance recommended that Portland’s park system contain 7,730 acres within an eight-mile radius of its center to meet expected population growth. To build on the solid foundation of the existing park system and move in the direction of the Bennett Plan proposal for parks, the Park Board sent a \$2 million bond issue out to the voters. The electorate was not receptive in either the 1912 or 1913 elections. While approving the Bennett Plan in concept in 1912, voters refused to fund its call – and the admonitions of park supporters – for park improvements and expansion. A downturn in the economy and lack of support within city government led to the failure of the bond issue and the ultimate inability to implement the Bennett Plan in any meaningful way.¹⁶

After the initial defeat of the park bond issue in the summer of 1912, Mische and the Park Board intensified their efforts to get the bonds approved by the voters in 1913. They released a report to the public that compared Portland’s park system unfavorably to that of other cities and pointed out the benefits to the city’s youth of healthy, safe recreation opportunities in the public parks. The report also pointed out that delaying park expansion would only make it more expensive when finally carried out at a later date. In all, the Park Board proposed to acquire 631 acres for \$1.6 million and spend the remainder of the bond issue on development. Mische wrote articles for the press and gave talks to civic groups in support of the bond measure. He emphasized the importance of acquiring as much land as possible, even at the expense of immediate development. As Mische put it, “in no public projects of a park nature the matter of excessive land area

acquisitions has yet been successfully proven in any community in this country, but the grievous mistakes of short-sighted policies in acquiring insufficient areas are abundantly recognized throughout the land.” He also noted that in planning for land acquisitions, the Park Board had made sure that individual park properties would be large enough to accommodate a range of activities. This was important because “park properties, if too small at the outset, cannot usually be extended without inflicting severe damage upon arborous [sic] growth which has developed to proportions of extreme value, beauty and reasonable maturity.” Unfortunately, the arguments of Mische and other park supporters failed to persuade the voters.¹⁷



Peninsula Pool

In spite of voter rejection of new park funding, the Park Board and Mische focused on new construction at Peninsula Park in northeast Portland (the city’s first swimming pool and a formal garden planted with 14,000 roses), Laurelhurst Park (a water feature and pathways), Mt Tabor Park (clearing and grading the 8,000-foot drive), and Columbia Park (fencing and comfort stations), and on extending Terwilliger Parkway. Landscapers also planted rose gardens in Ladd’s Circle and Squares. Holladay

Park received a new, enlarged bandstand, and the Park Board assumed responsibility for the twenty bronze street fountains donated by lumberman Simon Benson. The Water Board had charge of the plumbing and repair of the fountains, while the Park Board had responsibility for cleaning them. According to attendance records for 1912, 36,226 persons used the pools at Sellwood and Peninsula Parks, while playground usage reached 300,215. The Board and Mische recommended establishing an arboretum because “in addition to their direct and potent value to our citizens their scientific value has a decidedly important effect in establishing the community’s reputation in an enviable way among the people of the world.” Mische had also been busy working up preliminary development plans for all the major parks in the system; these were attached to the annual report. Following Olmstedian landscape principles and taking into account the natural setting, Mische designed individual plans to maximize the site potential and public purpose each park was to achieve within the evolving park system.¹⁸

Following John Olmsted’s advice, Mische believed that Holladay Park should be landscaped in a formal, symmetrical manner as a city square. Its highly urban location in northeast Portland, small size (5 acres), and level topography dictated such a treatment. Both men recommended replacing the fir trees with ornamental trees and installing a formal flower garden in the center as a focal point. He suggested that the garden be flanked by two

lawn areas, one for recreation and the other to contain a bandstand. Mische also recommended walks on all boundary streets and the installation of lights within the park.¹⁹ Over time, some of the improvements were made and others not. Today a number of the tall firs remain as do the large lawn areas.

Olmsted and Mische also treated the Plaza Blocks, later renamed Chapman and Lowndale Squares, surrounded by public and commercial buildings, as classic public squares. Mische recommended widening the walks, adding benches, installing an underground comfort station, removal of a bandstand, and replacement of the existing poplars and locust trees with longer-lived varieties. The Ladd Circle (central park) and Squares (rose gardens) also received a formal treatment. Mische planted the circle and squares with roses in a simple design, proposing that they be periodically replaced with new varieties over time. He further recommended a concrete walk “to bring Ladd Circle to a state of completion” and the squares be “devoted to educational and display purposes and it is hoped that the general public will avail itself of the opportunity to study roses in a fashion to warrant the name of the city being justified by more than the quantitative plantings and the floral excellence of the rose.”²⁰

Mische focused most of his planning efforts on the neighborhood parks, and sought to have them accommodate both active and passive recreation. He followed the Olmsted principal of facilitating diverse activities within a park in his designs. John Olmsted wrote in 1903 that neighborhood parks should include public pleasure grounds in various sizes and styles and that “to make them as attractive and useful as possible it is often best to abandon the attempt to secure simple broad landscape effects and to design them with as many interesting features and useful subdivisions as practicable some what as a recreation building is subdivided.” Mische achieved this goal to a remarkable degree in his plans for Portland’s neighborhood parks.²¹

At Columbia Park, in northeast Portland, Mische’s defining feature was a promenade, but he also accommodated active play areas. Mische trimmed the existing Douglas firs around the park perimeter and developed a system of curving paths, circling the central lawn area that contained baseball fields. Mische noted that “except for the formal promenade feature, the park is designed as a rural or informal type, with grace in verdure arrangement, curving walks, and withal, convenience of use.” He was particularly adamant that while some of the interior firs could be trimmed of their lower branches to permit better views, “those [firs] forming the promontories extending out upon this interior lawn should be encouraged to grow with their branches sweeping the grass.”



Columbia Park entrance

In addition to the promenade, Mische's design also included a bandstand (1912) and two fountains terminating at either end of the axis in the eastern portion of the park. The northeastern corner of the park contained a comfort station (1912).²² Both of these structures were designed by renowned architect Ellis F. Lawrence.

The chief feature of Sellwood (City View) Park was the riverview scenery from the high bluffs of southeast Portland. To take advantage of the view, Mische designed a park drive and walk that left SE 6th and passed through dense woods, which gradually opened up as the drive approached on overlook. The drive with an open view continued northerly to SE 7th. Mische wanted the park developed as a meadow with a large central lawn, which would serve as a play field. He placed a fringe of permanent, hardy vegetation along SE 7th to act as a buffer with the neighborhood. He devoted the south end of the park to play features, such as a gymnasium, wading and swimming pools, and children's play equipment. In 1910 Ellis Lawrence designed the gymnasium and swimming pool. Sellwood Park also reflected a key element of his park design philosophy: economical maintenance. As Mische put it: "No methods of administration can completely correct the faults of a poorly designed plan, no more than can a well designed plan completely overcome the faults of an incompetent or vacillating administration. Park development is still so recent here there has not yet been cause to evolve means of lessening maintenance costs, but so surely as the City grows and the parks are placed on an equal footing with the other public works of the municipality, will the maintenance cost become a very prominent matter of consideration."

Mische confidently asserted that his design for Sellwood Park "carefully regards and satisfactorily solves this feature – of maintenance, by the provisions of the general scheme and by the detailed requirement of its individual features."²³

Since Mische expected Kenilworth Park in southeast Portland would only slowly gain use, he proposed a phased development of the grounds. His plan called for three distinct areas within the park. In the northerly section he eliminated a swampy spot and in its place graded a gently rolling lawn. He reserved the southern portion as a concert venue, with a pavilion "so located as to permit of the musicians being seen from a natural amphitheatre and by the audience looking in a direction undisturbed by the sun's rays." At the eastern edge, he provided a children's play area with a wading pool, sand courts, and play equipment. The western boundary contained a ballfield and tennis courts. The walk meandered in an elongated figure eight, with a view area ("pinnacle point") where the loops connected. Finally, Mische proposed "in vegetation a general note of autumnal coloring of foliage and high color in berry bearing sorts, especially such as are indigenous to Southern sections of the temperate zone."²⁴

At Peninsula Park, Mische emphasized “play and garden features... compactly arranged in harmony with a broad interior open greensward, thus supplying a rather fulsome variety of park attributes on so small an area.” In the southern section he proposed a “French parterre enclosed by tree shaded terraces, pergola and exedras.” He wanted the garden sunk six feet below grade with a central spray pool surrounded by low coping. Flowering pot plants were to be arranged on the coping.

The parterre itself was a rose garden with the beds bordered by a low hedge of boxwood. Large, shaped evergreens positioned throughout the parterre furnished visual interest. Mische wanted the main walks constructed of brick and the secondary ones, of turf. A screen of hardy trees and shrubs were massed along the north border of the parterre. Above all, he desired the “garden scheme . . . to be simple in general plan and in detail. Its appeal is to spring from its relation to the remainder of the park, its general lines

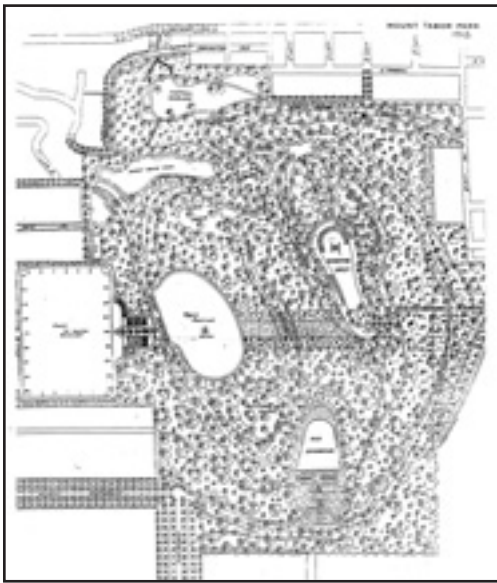


Peninsula Park Rose Garden

and the thoroughness and trim in cultivation.” The central portion of the park consisted of a large open lawn and two ballfields. The north section contained the swimming pool and separate gymnasiums for boys and girls. The plans also called for a community building and a bandstand, which were designed by Ellis Lawrence. The bandstand was positioned on an elevated platform between the parterre and the great lawn. Concrete walks curved around the central lawn and contained “low concrete seats of harmonious design” at convenient points. Mische wanted Peninsula Park to be “a distinguished and excellent unit of the park system.”²⁵

Originally called Ladd Park after William M. Ladd, Laurelhurst Park, in the upscale Laurelhurst subdivision on the east side centered around SE 39th & Stark, contained a pond water feature as its focal point. Mische wanted the existing pond enlarged and deepened and planned for a cascading rivulet, formed by a series of dams, to meander through the shaded west end of the park. Because of the pond’s small size, Mische did not contemplate boating on the lake. He wished to preserve the large firs (“the crowning glory of the park”) and to accent them with plantings of broad-leaved evergreens, such as rhododendrons, hollies, laurel, and azaleas. According to Mische, “every effort must be made to preserve the undulating topography on which the firs depended for their survival.” All buildings and play areas were secondary to the landscape, so Mische proposed only a wading pool and sand courts, while reserving the limited open lawn spaces for croquet, bowling greens, and tennis. Mische admitted that all parks will change over time to meet the altered desires of the public, “but except in Macleay Park, change is nowhere

to be regarded with the probability of harm being so surely involved therein as in this one.” For Mische, Laurelhurst Park was “distinctively an interior park with views wholly within the tract, and its development recognizes and uses this so as to establish a highly ornate property, self contained and without outward dependence other than for water supply.”²⁶



Mische Plan for Mt Tabor

Mische’s proposed plan for Mt Tabor Park in 1911 focused on “an informal development as a whole with minor formal features.” To Mische, the native evergreen woods on the slopes of Mt Tabor represented “an excellent opportunity of displaying the exceptional beauty of our native flora. It requires merely the elimination of some sorts, the addition of others or as a whole controlling nature to the extent of determining how her materials shall be massed and arranged.” Accordingly, he proposed reforesting the open west slope and not removing indiscriminately the undergrowth elsewhere, except to open view points. He developed a 32-foot-wide roadway to the summit, where he recommended removing the existing residence that had been built by the previous landowner and constructing a combination shelter, refectory, and comfort station with a detached bandstand. The structures were to be “modest and subdued in style, materials and color.” In flat areas at lower elevations, Mische planned places for picnicking, “amid surroundings of native rural wildness.”

Other than the small buildings at the top, a formal entry at the southwest corner of the park, and a proposed cascading water feature connecting the upper and lower reservoirs of the city’s water system, Mische wanted no formal features or structures in the park. The water feature connecting the reservoirs was never constructed.²⁷

In 1913, Portland adopted a new city charter, establishing a commission form of government. The same year the name of the organization was changed to Bureau of Parks and Public Recreation. A mayor and four elected commissioners now administered city government, and all previous citizen boards, including the Park Board, were abolished. Under the new arrangement, the park superintendent reported to a city commissioner.

The failure of the park bond issue and his clash with the new head of the park system, Park Commissioner William Brewster, led Mische to resign from his position in the Parks Bureau in September 1914. He was then hired on a one-year contract as a consulting landscape architect to the bureau. After that appointment expired, Mische severed his relationship with the city and established a private landscape architect practice in Portland. In his last report as park superintendent, he detailed the work completed in 1913 and provided advice on the future direction of Portland’s park system. The highlights of projects completed in the parks included work at Mt

Tabor and Peninsula Parks and on the Terwilliger Parkway. At Mt Tabor workers remodeled the summit house for public use, completed 11,000 lineal feet of road work, and planted shrubbery. Completion of the recreation building and concert pavilion, extensive lighting, and the planting of large quantities of roses represented the efforts at Peninsula Park. Road builders completed paving 6,000 lineal feet and grading of another 8,000 feet of roadway at Terwilliger Parkway. Finally, Mische made a special plea for completing the proposed parkway system, as it would “give pleasant and convenient access to the landscape offerings of the region.”²⁸



Terwilliger Parkway

As part of his last official submittal, Mische could not resist making a special plea for the city government to create a planning body to develop data, create enforceable plans, and coordinate citywide development. As he put it, “current [city] projects which are live issues seem to warrant that some better, more secure, continuing, and approved form of control be put into existence, to the end that public confidence and approval shall develop to such an extent as to require new public officers to follow well understood and approved policies that were advisedly settled upon.” He felt certain that without an established city planning process and a body to carry it out, park affairs would be negatively affected over time. Over time the City Planning Commission would address these concerns. At the very least, the drift in city government had led to the recent failure of the park bond issue. The mayor in his annual message took note of Mische’s suggestions and gave him credit for “whatever there is of substantial accomplishment along well considered lines” in the park system.²⁹

Indeed, much had been accomplished under Mische’s planning and direction. He had laid a strong foundation and drafted solid plans for the future development of Portland’s park system. Unfortunately, the defeat of the park bond issue delayed for over a decade any further efforts that required major public funding. Until Charles P. Keyser took over as superintendent of the Parks Bureau in 1917, only minor work was carried out in the parks. In 1914, Simon Benson donated to the city park system 400 acres in the Columbia River Gorge that featured two waterfalls and almost a mile of river beach. The city, however, lacked the funds for developing the property. The Ladd Estate donated land in an Eastmoreland subdivision in 1916 for creating a golf course in the area of SE Bybee and McLoughlin Boulevard.

In 1919 play began at Eastmoreland Golf Links. Representatives from the Multnomah Athletic Club, Waverly Country Club, Portland Golf Club, and Tualatin Golf Club established the course and ran it in trust until the city

1900–1920

could gain title to the property. In 1917, voters approved an annual tax of 0.4 mill for the purchase and construction of playground parks. As a result of this new funding, the Parks Bureau bought the Sellwood YMCA, whose finances were in trouble, and converted it into the Sellwood Community Center. The purchase allowed the center to continue operations and recreational service to the southeast community. The year 1917 also marked the beginning of the Washington Park Rose Test Garden for the outdoor scientific testing of new roses. The Bureau also constructed tennis courts in Peninsula and Washington Parks and laid out an 18-hole municipal golf course in Eastmoreland on 151 acres. In 1919, the passage of a bond issue for land acquisition and park improvements allowed the city to begin efforts to acquire eight sites.³⁰

Property	Year Acquired	Address	Zip	Status	Facility Type	ParkType	Acres
George Himes Park	1903	SW Terwilliger & Slavin	97201	Natural	Park	Habitat	35.00
Kenilworth Park	1909	SE 34th & Holgate	97202	Developed	Park	Neighborhood Park	8.60
Laurelhurst Park	1909	SE 39th & Stark	97214	Developed	Park	Community Park	34.66
Mt Tabor Park	1909	SE Salmon east of 60th	97215	Developed	Park	Regional Park	195.66
Peninsula Park	1909	700 N. Portland Blvd	97217	Developed	Park	Community Park	16.27
Sellwood Park	1909	SE 7th & Miller	97202	Developed	Park	Community Park	16.37
Gammans Park	1910	N. Buffalo & Burrage	97217	Developed	Park	Neighborhood Park	1.65
Lents Park - Walker Stadium	1912	SE 92nd & Holgate		Developed	Stadium	Stadium	-
SW Terwilliger Blvd Parkway	1912	SW 6th - Sheridan to Slavin	97201	Developed	CLS	Regional Park	102.90
Peninsula Park CC & Pool	1913	700 N. Portland Blvd		Developed	Building	Community Center	-
Lents Park	1914	SE 92nd & Holgate	97266	Developed	Park	Community Park	38.13
Eastmoreland Golf Course	1916	2425 SE Bybee	97202	Developed	Golf	Golf Course	149.85
Eastmoreland Playground	1916	SE 30th & Crystal Springs	97202	Developed	Park	Neighborhood Park	-
International Rose Test Garden	1917	400 SW Kingston		Developed	Garden	Botanical Garden	-
Duniway Park	1918	SW 6th & Sheridan	97201	Developed	Park	Community Park	13.33
Buckman Field	1920	NE 12th & Everett	97232	Developed	Park	Community Park	11.93
Creston Park	1920	SE 44th & Powell	97206	Developed	Park	Community Park	14.41
Irving Park	1920	NE 7th & Fremont	97212	Developed	Park	Community Park	16.26
Johnson Creek Park	1920	SE 21st & Clatsop	97202	Natural	Park	Habitat	3.49
Rose City Golf Course	1920	2200 NE 71st	97213	Developed	Golf	Golf Course	150.72
Rose City Park	1920	NE 62nd & Tillamook	97213	Developed	Park	Neighborhood Park	-
Sellwood Community Center	1920	1436 SE Spokane	97202	Developed	CC	Community Center	0.23
Wallace Park	1920	NW 25th & Raleigh	97210	Developed	Park	Neighborhood Park	5.39

Park sites acquired between 1900 and 1920

- ¹ Lansing, *Portland*, 240-41; Park Commission Report, 1901 (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland, 1902), 15-20.
- ² Park Commission Report, 1901, 11-12.
- ³ MacColl, *Shaping*, 261-69; Kenneth Guzowski, “Portland’s Olmsted Vision (1897-1915): A Study of the Public Landscapes Designed by Emeneul T. Mische in Portland, Oregon” (MS Thesis, University of Oregon, 1990), 17-20, 25-29, 40-44; Carl Abbott, *The Great Extravaganza: Portland and the Lewis and Clark Exposition* (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 2004), 20-22.
- ⁴ Guzowski, “Portland’s Olmsted Vision,” 48.
- ⁵ Lansing, *Portland*, 250-51; Report of the Park Board, Portland, Oregon, 1903 (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland, 1903); Cielo Lutino, et. al., *The City Beautiful Movement*, 13-15.
- ⁶ Report of the Park Board, 1903, quotes on 13-14, 20, 21.
- ⁷ Lansing, *Portland*, 269; Cielo Lutino, et. al., *The City Beautiful Movement*, 16; Guzowski, “Portland’s Olmsted Vision,” 61-64.
- ⁸ Report of the Park Board, 1904, 23-24; Report of the Park Board, 23-24, 34; “Park Board Sets Aside Two North Park Blocks for Children’s Play Grounds,” *The Oregonian*, July 29, 1906.
- ⁹ Guzowski, “Portland’s Olmsted Vision,” 64-69; *Annual Report of the Park Board*, 1907 (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland, 1908), 1-23.
- ¹⁰ *Annual Report of the Park Board*, 1907, 8-13.
- ¹¹ Guzowski, “Portland’s Olmsted Vision,” 73-90.
- ¹² *Annual Reports of the Park Board*, 1908 (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland, 1912), 9, 14, 15, 19.
- ¹³ *Annual Reports of the Park Board*, 1909 (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland, 1912), 25-29; *ibid.*, 1910, 30-41; *The Oregonian*, Jan. 1, 1910; Simon quote in Guzowski, “Portland’s Olmsted Vision,” 106; Mische quote in *The Oregonian*, Jan. 1, 1909.
- ¹⁴ *Annual Reports of the Park Board*, 1910, 39; *ibid.*, 1911, 42; Mayor’s Message and Municipal Reports, 1913 (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland, 1914), 84; Guzowski, “Portland’s Olmsted Vision,” 108.
- ¹⁵ MacColl, *Shaping*, 424-25, 448-50; Carl Abbott, *Portland, Planning, Politics, and Growth in a Twentieth-Century City* (Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 1983), 60-68; Edward Bennett, *The Great Portland Plan* (Portland, Ore., 1912), 20-25.
- ¹⁶ *Annual Reports of the Park Board*, 1912, 77-97; E. T. Mische, “Why \$2,000,000 Bond Issue for Parks and Playgrounds,” *Greater Portland* (March, 1913): 7-8.
- ¹⁷ Abbott, *Portland Planning*, 69; MacColl, *Merchants*, 445-48.
- ¹⁸ *Annual Reports of the Park Board*, 1912, 47-97, 104-07, 122-23, quote on 65.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 59; *Report of the Park Board*, 1903, 14, 67.
- ²⁰ *Annual Reports of the Park Board*, 1912, 51, 58.
- ²¹ *Report of the Park Board*, 1903, 15.
- ²² *Annual Reports of the Park Board*, 1912, 72-73.
- ²³ *Ibid.*, 71-72.
- ²⁴ *Ibid.*, 75.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*, 70-71.

²⁶ Ibid., 68-70.

²⁷ Ibid., 66-68.

²⁸ *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1913, 78-88; MacColl, *Shaping*, 449-50; Paul C. Keyser, *History of Portland Park Department*, unpublished manuscript (Portland Parks & Recreation, no date).

²⁹ *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1913, 80-82.

³⁰ *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1914 (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland, 1915), 141-46; *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1915, (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland, 1916), 136-41; *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1916, (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland, 1917), 163-65; *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1917, (Portland, Ore.: City of Portland, 1918), 37-39; Eileen Fitzsimons, *Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A.*, National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Sellwood Moreland Improvement League, 2006); Keyser, *Portland Park Department*.

Chapter III: 1920–1940

Portland Post-World War I & during the Depression

During the boom years of the 1920s and the Depression years of the 1930s, the Portland park system did not attempt large-scale growth. Under Superintendent Charles Paul Keyser, who served as supervisor from 1917 to 1950, the Portland Parks Bureau added only a modest amount of acreage within the city and, instead, concentrated on maintaining the existing system built from earlier bond issues and developing recreational programs in neighborhood parks. In 1917, the voters had approved a small annual levy for purchasing new parks and developing playgrounds that included amenities such as tennis courts and swimming facilities. The voters again approved two bond issues (totaling \$1 million) in 1919 to purchase small tracts of land for neighborhood parks and to improve and equip them. While the support for large public parks devoted to passive activities waned, public enthusiasm for neighborhood parks and recreational playgrounds grew. The need for such play spaces became readily apparent as increasing numbers of automobiles took over the city streets and children could no longer safely play in them. The growth in automobiles was reflected in the fact that by 1930 Multnomah County had one car for every four residents and street car usage was in decline. Neighborhood parks also had the added advantage of enhancing the quality of urban life and stabilizing inner-city property values as suburbanization grew in popularity.¹

By embracing active recreation in their parks, Portlanders were following a national trend. Urban residential neighborhoods increasingly desired convenient parks with active recreational facilities. In 1924, the federal government sponsored the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation in Washington, D.C. to assist in the creation of a national policy to further outdoor recreation and resource conservation at all levels of government. Two years later, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to sell, lease or exchange unreserved public lands to states or local governments for recreational purposes.²

As early as 1919, the voters of Portland signaled their desire for active recreation facilities by approving another bond issue for parks and playground expansion. The era of public recreation activities such as swimming, baseball, and tennis had arrived – and Portland’s park planning adapted to the new recreational realities. In 1921, the Parks Bureau began its Community House Program. This initiative broadened the scope of recreation activities to include educational and social endeavors, offering gym, dance, and handicraft work classes, as well as Boy Scout and Campfire Girl programs. The youth programs sought to improve young persons’ physical and mental development and moral growth. At the same time, the Parks Bureau developed recreational opportunities for senior citizens. To



Charles P. Keyser

meet the growing demand for public swimming facilities, the city built three municipal pools during the 1920s: Creston on SE 44th & Powell Boulevard in 1925, Grant at NE 33rd & US Grant in 1926, and Columbia on N. Lombard & Wooley in 1928.³



Eastmoreland Golf Course

Perhaps the biggest expansion of recreation opportunities in the Portland park system came in the development of public golf links. Superintendent Keyser built a municipal golf course in the Eastmoreland neighborhood in 1917-9, and during the 1920s added two more. Although play on the first nine holes began in 1918, eighteen holes of golf at Eastmoreland did not begin until 1920. The Bureau built a clubhouse at Eastmoreland in 1921. Golf proved so popular that in 1924 the city council

created a municipal utility for the administration of the Eastmoreland links. With nominal greens fees, golf supporters built and equipped a clubhouse at a cost of \$27,000 in 1922. Chandler Egan, an orchardist from Medford, Oregon designed the eighteen-hole course. Egan was a highly-ranked amateur golfer with an interest in golf course design. In addition to Eastmoreland, Egan designed other golf course in the Pacific Northwest, including Oswego, Tualatin, Eugene, and West Seattle. He co-designed the Pebble Beach course in California.⁴

The popularity of the Eastmoreland Golf Course led the Parks Bureau to acquire the defunct Rose City Race Track in 1923 for the development of another municipal golf course. Even before the Bureau could lay out the golf course, neighbors mowed the lawn of the old race course and set up a nine-hole golf course with tees boxes made of apple boxes and tin-can holes. The Rose City Golf Course proved so popular that an additional nine holes were added in 1926, using surplus funds from the Eastmoreland Golf Course. As with Eastmoreland, the greens fees largely covered the maintenance and improvements undertaken at the Rose City Golf Course until 1930. In 1924, the city began development of another municipal golf course on the grounds of the old County Poor Farm adjacent to Washington Park. Eventually named the West Hills Golf Course, the course expanded to eighteen holes in 1925. With the onset of the Depression in 1930, patronage of the municipal golf courses fell off and greens fees failed to cover their annual expenses for most of the next decade. The Parks Bureau had to cover maintenance costs out of its own budget.⁵

The rapid growth of automobiles had an effect on parks planning in the 1920s. Between 1916 and 1929, the number of automobiles registered in Multnomah County increased from fewer than 10,000 to over 90,000. In an

effort to keep newly mobile citizens from using their automobiles to leave the city in search of open space and forests, Parks Superintendent Keyser attempted to expand greenspace in Macleay Park and stimulate interest in developing what is now Forest Park – part of the area proposed by Olmsted in his 1903 report. By pursuing the purchase of land to establish Forest Park, Keyser argued that “Portland could easily attain one of the largest and I daresay, one of the most notable parks in the country containing . . . a forest primeval, trails, viewpoints and glens, not miles away but within our urban borders.”⁶

On balance, though, when Keyser looked back in 1923 on the first ten years of the park system under the new commission form of government, he expressed his satisfaction with the results. According to Keyser, it seemed to make no difference whether the park system was under an independent board or a city commission, for “the people have always demanded and sustained park and recreational facilities that they may be proud of. A fine place to live seems to be a jealously guarded tradition of Portland.” He did lament that three large tracts of land recommended by the Olmsted plan still had not been purchased and only three miles of boulevards had been completed. He also stated in his review that the increasing use of the automobile had lessened public demand for large parks and boulevards within the city: “With automobiles multiplying and carrying the people out of the City for outings in ever increasing numbers, there developed a sentiment for many small neighborhood parks and playgrounds to serve the people more conveniently than the large reservations proposed by the Olmsted brothers.” Keyser noted that the 1919 bond issue was focused on the development of neighborhood parks in response to shifting public attitudes about recreation.⁷

In an attempt to take advantage of the new rage for automobile travel, the city developed in 1921-22 a popular auto park on 24 acres of leased land near Albina and Portland Boulevard, across from Peninsula Park. This auto park followed an earlier parks department auto camp near the old Forestry building, which operated from 1918 to 1920. While over 11,000 automobiles and their owners stayed at the campground across from Peninsula Park in 1922, the city council shortly voted to prohibit auto camps within the city and closed the park-operated camp in 1927. Of more lasting impact, private benefactors donated a number of heroic bronze statues to the city for placement in the parks as part of a growing national trend to place commemorative objects in public parks. Between 1922 and 1927, prominent physician Dr. Henry Waldo Coe presented statues of Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, which were put in the South Park Blocks, and George Washington and Joan of Arc, which were located in plazas or circles on Sandy Boulevard and NE Glisan Street, respectively. Joseph Shemanski also donated a bronze and sandstone fountain, entitled “Rebecca at the Well,” which was placed in the South Park Blocks at SW Salmon in 1926. Through

public donations, the city installed in 1928 the Campbell Memorial Fountain at SW 19th & Burnside. This sculpture honored firefighters who had fallen in the line of duty.⁸



Washington Park Rose Test Garden

In his efforts to enrich Portland's park system, Keyser embraced the establishment of the National Rose Test Garden on five acres in Washington Park. He was following the December 1913 proposal by the Reverend George Schooner who had begun writing letters to city officials in an attempt to create a botanical rose garden in Portland. He first asked for 200 acres, but quickly acknowledged that 10 acres would do to start. In Reverend Schooner's reformist opinion, not only was the rose important for perfumes, landscaping, art, and decor, it also offered remarkable, heretofore

unrecognized, benefits. "Learn children to love flowers, they will learn to know God in His secrets and mysteries of nature. We will have less socialists, less anarchists, less hobos, less criminals. We will have loving people with a working spirit. This is the mission of the rose for the social uplift for all that is good and beautiful." Finally created in 1917, the original purpose of the rose garden was to evaluate roses on a scientific basis. According to Keyser, the actual site of the garden was chosen "because of superior soil, the natural drainage, and the splendid view of the country." Jesse A. Currey, the first curator of the Rose Test Garden, developed the design pattern for the plot, which consisted of three descending terraces on the eastward slope of the park. The second terrace contained the test area, while the upper terrace held the Royal Rosarian Garden, a general display area of roses, and a national outdoor amphitheater.

The Royal Rosarian Garden was developed in 1922, based on a formal design with circular and rectangular rose beds. Bronze plaques along a brick walk honor all Prime Ministers of the organization. In the 1930s, the Parks Bureau expanded the rose garden to the lower terrace and landscaped portions of the banks. Keyser also promoted the idea of an arboretum in Washington Park consisting of needle-bearing trees and other gymnosperms which finally came to fruition in 1928. Multnomah County aided the arboretum plan by donating 145 acres for that purpose, and the Parks Bureau developed 60 acres initially. During National Forestry Week in 1928, the Forestry Committee of the Chamber of Commerce convinced the city council to establish an arboretum in Washington Park to preserve evergreens for educational and recreational purposes. It was named Hoyt Arboretum in honor of Ralph Warren Hoyt, the county commissioner who championed

the formation of the arboretum.

Most of the collection is arranged in family groups: all of the oaks are in one area and all of the redwoods are in another. Grouping by scientific classification, or taxonomic arrangement, was in vogue when the Arboretum was first laid out. In the 1930s, planners decided to use Fairview Boulevard to divide the conifers from the deciduous trees: conifers were planted on the west side and deciduous trees on the east.



Hoyt Arboretum

Although Hoyt Arboretum is relatively young, it possesses the largest group of distinct species of any arboretum in the U.S. Its plant collection contains 10,000 individual trees and shrubs, representing nearly 1,000 different species from around the world. Parks Bureau curators planted the first trees in 1931. At about the same time that an arboretum came under consideration, the Audubon Society pushed to establish a bird sanctuary on 40 acres west of Macleay Park across Cornell Road that had remained unused for 40 years. Eventually, the Bureau leased the land to the Audubon Society. Keyser continued to call for expanding parkland in the West Hills (which ultimately culminated in Forest Park), noting that “Portland could easily attain one of the largest and I daresay one of the most notable parks in the country containing a world famous rose garden, a well-situated zoo, a bird sanctuary, a distinctive Arboretum, a wildflower preserve, a forest primeval, trails, viewpoints and glens, not miles away but within our urban borders.”⁹

The failure in 1926 of a \$600,000 bond measure for acquisition of parks and playground development was a severe blow to the Parks Bureau. The result of the bond defeat meant that little new expansion or improvements would take place in the near future, as current park funds were sufficient only to maintain the system in place. As Superintendent Keyser put it, “the defeat in 1926 of the two Charter amendments proposed to provide for material expansion of the system, which reversal, translated as a mandate from the people, has limited the activities of the Bureau to little more than maintenance.” He argued that, “Continuation of such a policy in a city of Portland’s characteristics and apparent future means not only decadence but also the neglect of an opportunity to make and keep our city prominent.” With apparent exasperation, Keyser went on to state, “It is easy enough to build bridges and widen streets. . . . Trade and industry will cause pressure sufficient to give articulation. But it seems that but a small proportion of the electorate fully appreciates the values that recreational facilities may reflect, and also are prone to neglect the vital point, that is, open spaces and playgrounds must be reserved to public use before the same pressure which

builds bridges and widens streets effects a limiting condition against parks.”

Still, during the late 1920s, the Bureau did manage to make some improvements. Tennis courts were added at Sellwood Park in the southeast and Lair Hill Park at SW 2nd & Woods. Both Rose City and Eastmoreland Golf Courses also received improvements, and Eastmoreland expanded its land base with the addition of the former Wilson Dairy. The major improvement at Rose City consisted of a clubhouse. In 1929, the Bureau built a brick natatorium at Sellwood Park, an outdoor theater at Laurelhurst Park able to accommodate 20,000 people, and a Shakespeare Garden in Eastmoreland Park in what is now part of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, established in 1950. The Shakespeare Garden was eventually moved to Washington Park next to the International Rose Test Garden and dedicated in April 23, 1946 on the 382nd anniversary of Shakespeare’s birth.¹⁰

An objective measure of Portland’s provision of basic public services, including parks, appeared in a 1929 issue of the trade magazine *The American City*. Based on data from 1926-27, the magazine compiled a comparative rating of municipal services for cities across the country. Portland ranked 22nd among 159 cities having populations greater than 30,000. Portland scored 84 out of a possible 100 points, with the national average at 78. Portland’s highest ratings came from its schools, libraries, and low death rate. It stood above average in parks, street paving, and garbage collection but below average in sewer services and fire protection.¹¹

At the beginning of the 1930s, the Portland Parks Bureau managed 50 properties, including 39 parks, three golf courses, Hoyt Arboretum, two community buildings, Multnomah Falls, six swimming pools, a zoo, four miles of parkway, and undeveloped land holdings. In all, the park system contained 2,251 acres of which 851 were outside the city in the Columbia Gorge as part of a number of donations from private citizens. Unfortunately the onset of the Depression had a debilitating effect on park development for over a decade. On the one hand, unemployed workers and their families placed unprecedented demand on the free activities sponsored by the Parks Bureau, while at the same time it lacked the resources to meet the increased demand. The golf program, in particular, suffered from the economic ravages of the times.

By 1932, golf receipts had dropped in half over the 1930 returns. The Parks Bureau survived by making good use of the funds available through the various federal emergency relief work programs. For example, workers hired through the Civil Works Administration, the Works Progress Administration, and the Civilian Conservation Corps allowed park improvements such as street paving in Washington Park and Mt Tabor Park, trail building in Hoyt Arboretum and Benson Park on the Columbia River west of Multnomah Falls, and new landscaping at the municipal golf courses.

Recreation activities and staff were also bolstered by Depression-era funding. Superintendent Keyser, however, had to be careful about how he used the relief funds because they could be expended only for parks improvements or expansions, not maintenance of existing facilities.¹²

Besides making deft use of relief funds, Keyser found other ways to keep his programs afloat during the Depression. For example, to raise money for debt service, he sold 100 life subscriptions for golf at \$100 a head. He also urged the city to retain for possible future park use over 10,000 parcels of tax delinquent property. He experimented with decreasing the greens fees from 30 to 25 cents in hopes of increasing golf play. Unfortunately, the ploy resulted only in a decrease in revenues rather than an increase in attendance.

During the decade, private donations to the city's parks helped as well. For instance, in 1933, the Scott family donated a statue of Harvey W. Scott, former long-time editor of *The Oregonian*, for placement at the summit of Mt Tabor Park. The donation also included \$1,000 for a trust fund to finance future repairs and maintenance of the statute. In 1936, the daughter of Governor Pennoyer donated 1.5 acres as an addition to Governor's Park in southwest Portland. Probably the low point for Keyser came in 1933 when he had to report that for the first time since 1907, the Bureau had exhausted all of its bond funds and had no other financial resources outside of annual city council appropriations.¹³

In 1935, the city council ordered the Planning Commission to prepare a report on open spaces, particularly for recreational use. The report recommended that every section of the city should have a 40-acre park within walking distance that included such amenities as athletic fields and appropriate landscaping. In addition to neighborhood parks, the schools should have playgrounds and buildings adaptable for common social and recreational use of all ages. The report stated that there should be at least one acre of park for every 100 people or, in the alternative, that 10 per cent of the city's area should be devoted to parks. At the time of the report, Portland had one acre of parks per 200 people. In 1936, the Planning Commission submitted a follow-up report focused on expanding public recreation opportunities. Under the plan, park acreage would increase from 2,784 to 7,485, with financing to come from a combination of bonding and special tax levies.¹⁴

The 1936 Planning Commission public recreation plan represented the fourth general plan for the city's park system, the previous ones coming in 1903 (Olmsted), 1912 (Bennett), and 1921 (Cheney). The chief difference between the earlier plans and the 1936 proposal was "in the locations for the smaller parks and playgrounds and in the emphasis upon the neighborhood as a planning unit." The plan also noted that the park system had been built with only \$3 million from bonds authorized in 1907 and 1919 and a special 0.4 mill levy in 1917. The plan further demonstrated that Portland's parks

had not been an excessive burden on the public. In 1935, for example, 36.9 cents of a Portlander's tax dollar went to the city and of that sum, only 1.5 cents was spent on public parks. The plan stated, moreover, that while cities with a population 300,000 had annual per capita public recreation costs of \$1.90, Portland's per capita costs only came to 77 cents. The Planning Commission's survey and plan report concluded with a plea that the public should realize "parks are an investment in economic security of the entire city and for the stability of the neighborhoods." Initially, the voters were unmoved by the call for increased public support of the park system, rejecting parks levy measures in both 1936 and 1937.¹⁵

In 1937, the city acquired 22 acres of vacant land on Council Crest in the southwest hills, the site of a long abandoned amusement park. Using Works Progress Administration forces, the Parks Bureau cleared and graded parkland and rebuilt the road leading from Fairmount Boulevard to the new park. During that same year, work crews rebuilt the first nine holes at Rose City Golf Course and made improvements to the other two municipal golf courses. Especially noteworthy that year was the hiring of Dorothea Lensch to handle the Bureau's recreation programs. Lensch thus began a long, notable career (37 years) with the Parks Bureau by initiating a coalition between the Bureau and Portland Public Schools to better utilize each organization's facilities to provide neighborhood recreation. Three schools – Buckman, Vernon, and Chapman – served as demonstrations of the concept of using schools as community centers for offering instruction in social, cultural, and athletics activities. The schools made available their gyms and four or five classrooms for the public one night a week, and the Parks Bureau provided the instructional personnel. In addition to the schools initiative, Lensch further developed the Parks Bureau's recreation offerings at its community recreation centers. Lensch's personal philosophy was that recreation should impart discipline, enthusiasm, and satisfaction to those involved in either adult or juvenile learning or enjoyment activities. Since the Depression created added leisure time for the unemployed but left them without the money to enjoy it, the Bureau's recreation programs were well received.¹⁶

At last, heeding the Planning Commission's 1936 report on urban recreation needs – and possibly buoyed by the public's positive view of the Parks Bureau's renewed emphasis on neighborhood recreation opportunities through its school and park initiatives – the voters approved in 1938 a 0.4-mill tax levy for a ten-year parks program focused on inner city recreation needs. This successful outcome represented a major victory for the park program, since it came on the heels of the park levy failures in 1936 and 1937. Much of the credit for passage of the measure was due to Superintendent Keyser, who organized a number of citizen advisory committees to canvass the neighborhoods in support of the measure.¹⁷

With the tax levy funds assured, the Planning Commission produced in 1939 an updated, ten-year park program that called for spending \$1 million over the life of the plan to add 50 playgrounds, seven play fields, and 14 neighborhood parks. Twelve of the proposed 50 playgrounds consisted of expanded school play facilities. The Planning Commission anticipated that most of the funds for the ten-year program would be spent on land acquisition. This program occurred just as Portland was set to experience a rapid increase in population and demand for services as a result of wartime-induced industrial expansion. While Portland's population barely grew during the 1930s (increasing from 301,815 to 305,394), in three years during World War II it added an estimated 80,000 inhabitants. The rapid influx of shipyard and other war-related workers would severely stress the Parks Bureau recreation offerings.¹⁸

The last park expansion before the onset of World War II involved the completion of Westmoreland Park at SE McLoughlin & Bybee. Started in the late 1930s, completion of the park had been stalled by budget cuts, and citizens in the Moreland area complained loudly about its unfinished state, claiming it resembled a “buffalo wallow.” Finally, with assistance from the Works Progress Administration, the Bureau finished the project in November 1939. After completion, Westmoreland Park contained a casting pool and model yacht basin featuring a concrete bottom and two sub-drained playfields. Additional funding from the city allowed the construction of comfort stations, lighting, and playground equipment. During the 1930s, two city parks also received name changes. The city council renamed Fulton Park in southwest Portland, adjacent to Terwillinger Parkway, whose 34 acres had been acquired by gift in 1903, for Oregon pioneer George H. Himes in 1935. Himes, a printer by trade, was instrumental in founding the Oregon Historical Society and had served as an officer and curator of the society for many years until his death. The city council also renamed 4.4-acre Belmont Park at SE 20th & Belmont, originally purchased in 1922, for Colonel Owen Summers, a Civil War veteran. A U.S. Customs official at the Port of Portland, Summers had gained his greatest fame as one of the founders of the Oregon National Guard in 1889 and as commander of Oregon National Guard troops in the Philippines during the Spanish American War.¹⁹

Throughout the interwar years, Superintendent Keyser continually expressed great concern, if not outright exasperation, for the condition of the zoo in his charge. He felt he never had sufficient funds to operate the facility properly. Typically, in his 1923 annual report, Keyser wrote that “our zoo has been in a deplorable condition ever since a former Mayor attempted to abolish it by limiting and curtailing appropriations. Our City can and should support a creditable exhibit of animal specimens for its educational and pleasure-affording value to children, if for no better reason. At present we have not a suitable site for a zoo.” Presciently, he concluded that “we should acquire the sector between Washington Park, the West Hills Golf Course and the

Canyon road and develop a park which might adequately provide a layout for the zoo.” In 1925, the Parks Bureau constructed new zoo facilities in what is now the Japanese Gardens in Washington Park, west of the International Test Rose Garden. While Keyser thought that “the completion of a new menagerie building should awaken a supporting interest in our zoo,” he warned against “establishing a scientific institution rather than a living museum of such fauna as the circuses, for instance, have educated the people to expect in a zoo.” He argued that “experience of other cities indicates that a zoo rarely amounts to much unless supported by an auxiliary zoological society, or some form of subsidy.”²⁰



Washington Park Zoo

As late as 1937, Keyser noted that “not so much can be said for our zoo. We continue to carry on much in the situation of a poor man with too many dogs he loves, but cannot properly keep.” He went on to state that “our public seems to be satisfied to have nothing more pretentious than a menagerie. All we want is a policy consistent with the operation and support of a modest collection of animals to give its citizens, especially the rising generation, an intimate appreciation of the characters of creatures caught and held from the scenes of their wild habitat.” He concluded that the zoo, “with a sensible policy of selection and care, consistently followed, ... can be operated and maintained with reasonable cost and trouble to all concerned including the animals.” Finally,

he again suggested in 1937 that the West Hills Golf Course be converted to a modern zoo; twenty years later his advice was taken.²¹ These early perspectives from the longest tenured park superintendent indicates that then, like now park development and maintenance and policy is always a public debate with a need for advocacy against other public priorities in the development of infrastructure.

By 1939, Portland had a municipal park system comprised of approximately 1,804 acres (in the city) distributed among 54 parks and three golf courses. It also held title to 913 acres at Multnomah Falls in the Columbia River Gorge that was later transitioned to other public agencies. As a part of the park system, the Parks Bureau operated an extensive, year-around playground and recreational program. The Bureau also cooperated with the physical education, health, and sports program of the public school system. The fact that in 1938, 2,001,728 persons availed themselves of the Parks Bureau’s organized activities demonstrated their popularity. Examples of widely used park facilities in that year included seven municipal swimming pools that had 600,000 swimmers, and 46 softball and seven baseball diamonds that held 2,167 games.²²

Throughout the economic boom of the 1920s and bust of the 1930s, the Parks Bureau, under the steady leadership of Superintendent Keyser, pursued a conservative, but still forward-looking course. Small amounts of park acreage were added to support expanded neighborhood playground programs. The Bureau continually expanded recreational opportunities in the parks. Canny use of work relief programs allowed the Parks Bureau to improve its facilities, even while annual budgets declined or remained stagnant at best. Popular golf programs were initiated and maintained. With the development of a parks expansion plan in 1936 and the passage of a new levy measure for parks in 1938, the Bureau once again began a period of careful growth as the city faced an uncertain world situation in the late 1930s.



Rose City Golf Course Clubhouse

¹ Abbott, *Portland Planning*, 93-103; E. Kimbark MacColl, *The Growth of a City* (Portland, Ore.: The Georgian Press, 1979), 293-94.

² Lutino, *The City Beautiful Movement*, 20-21.

³ *Mayor's Message and Municipal Report*, 1921, 390-91, *ibid.*, 1928, 251.

⁴ MacColl, *Growth*, 72-74; Paul Keyser, *Founding of Eastmoreland Golf Club*, Portland Parks & Recreation, Eastmoreland Golf Course Files, Portland Archives and Records Center (PARC); *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1921, 389-90, *ibid.*, 1926, 407; Keyser, *Portland Park Department*.

⁵ MacColl, *Growth*, 94; Correspondence and misc. reports, Portland Parks & Recreation, Rose City Golf Course Files, PARC; *Oregon Journal*, Dec. 19, 1926; *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1921, 390, *ibid.*, 1923, 44; *ibid.*, 1925, 413, *ibid.*, 1926, 407, *ibid.*, 1928, 252, *ibid.*, 1929, 43; Paul Keyser, *Annual Parks Report*, 1932, PARC; Keyser, *Portland Park Department*.

⁶ *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1928, 250; Abbott, *Portland Planning*, 93.

⁷ *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1923, 43-44.

⁸ MacColl, *Growth*, 274, 324; *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1921, 390, *ibid.*, 1923, 44; *ibid.*, 1925, 414; Snyder, *Portland Potpourri*, 37-44, 93-105.

⁹ *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1928, 249-50; Ernest Fischer, *Hoyt Arboretum*, Portland Parks & Recreation, Hoyt Arboretum Files, PARC; Keyser, *Portland Park Department*.

¹⁰ *Mayor's Message and Municipal Reports*, 1927, 373; *ibid.*, 1928, 251, *ibid.*, 1929, 43; Paul Keyser, *Annual Reports*, 1932, PARC; *Woodstock Independent News*, Mar. 1987; *The Sunday Oregonian* (Portland), June 5, 1955; Chuck Buffett, "More Than Rhododendrons," *The Digger* (May 1991), 31-32.

¹¹ MacColl, *Growth*, 284.

¹² Paul Keyser, *Annual Parks Reports*, 1932-37, PARC.

¹³ Paul Keyser, *Annual Parks Reports*, 1935-37, PARC; Snyder, *Portland Potpourri*, 73-79.

¹⁴ Portland Planning Commission, *Public Recreational Areas: A Survey and Plan* (Portland, Ore., 1936); Portland Planning Commission, *Summary of the Report on Public Recreational Areas: A Survey and Plan* (Portland, Ore., 1936); MacColl, *Shaping*, 348-50.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Paul Keyser, *Annual Parks Report*, 1937, PARC.

¹⁷ MacColl, *Shaping*, 348; Abbott, *Portland Planning*, 114.

¹⁸ Portland Planning Commission, *Recommended Ten-Year Park Program* (Portland, Ore., 1939). This report contains detailed charts and maps for the proposed park additions.

¹⁹ Howard McKinley Corning, *Dictionary of Oregon History* (Portland, Ore.: Binford and Mort, 1956), 114, 237; Portland Parks & Recreation, George Himes Park Files, PARC; *ibid.*, Colonel Owen Summers Park Files, PARC.

1920–1940

²⁰ *Mayor's Message and Annual Report*, 1921, 390, *ibid.*, 1923, 44, *ibid.*, 1925, 413.

²¹ Paul Keyser, *Annual Reports*, 1937, PARC.

²² *Civic Review of Portland, Oregon*, 1938-39 (Portland, Ore., 1939), 14-17.

Chapter IV: 1940-1965



World War II & Urban Renewal Era in Portland

Between 1941 and 1965, the Portland Parks Bureau responded to a wide range of challenges. During World War II, Portland's parks provided a variety of much-needed recreational opportunities for the large number of wartime defense industry workers and their families that descended on Portland. After the war, the park system added over 2,000 acres of native forest land to create Forest Park in the northwest hills above the city. The Parks Bureau also renovated existing parks and added historical properties to its inventory, such as the Pioneer Church in the southeast at Sellwood Park and the Pittock Mansion in the northwest, off of West Burnside. In addition, it replaced its antiquated city zoo with an expanded, modern facility at a new location within Washington Park. Finally, its long-serving superintendent retired and new leadership under Harry Buckley began in 1949. Buckley had previously worked for the National Park Service and Oregon State Parks at Silver Falls State Park in Marion County.¹

The large influx of war-related workers during World War II placed a heavy burden on the Portland park system. Approximately 137,000 laborers had moved to Portland for work in various wartime industries, such as shipbuilding, aluminum, and foundry work. Jammed by the thousands into cramped, temporary public housing units in north Portland and the Guilds Lake area in the northwest, the laborers badly needed leisure-time recreation opportunities. The Parks Bureau under Superintendent Keyser rose to the challenge. In the early years of the war, the Parks Bureau increased recreation programs and remodeled or added new facilities. Athletics such as basketball and softball were especially popular sports activities conducted by park staff. Playground usage, picnicking in Peninsula Park, and summer swimming programs all were popular activities supplied by the park system. The Parks Bureau Recreation Director, Dorothea Lensch, provided leadership in developing recreation programs directed at the military as well as civilian defense workers living in Portland.²

The dislocation caused by the war also forced the Parks Bureau to alter normal operations and maintenance. In immediate response to the onset of war, the Bureau temporarily closed both Washington and Mt Tabor Parks to protect the city's open air water reservoirs from potential sabotage. After fencing the reservoirs with barbed wire, the parks were reopened. The Parks Bureau also had to assist in providing recreation opportunities for the Japanese Americans temporarily housed at the North Portland Assembly Center before being sent to inland internment camps for the duration of the war.³

The war had a profoundly disrupting influence on all aspects of homefront life. Superintendent Keyser found managing the park system during

the early 1940s very challenging; demands for services were high, while budgets remained tight and necessary materials in short supply. These conditions came on top of neglected or deferred maintenance and upkeep during the previous ten years. As Keyser noted in his annual report in 1944, all construction or expansion, except for some minor improvements to playgrounds, had to be deferred for the duration of the conflict. In particular, park workers, supplies, and materials were unavailable because war demands on such items had priority over civilian needs. In addition, juvenile delinquency became a problem in the parks. With mothers increasingly entering the workforce and fathers away at war, children and adolescents lacked proper supervision, so the Parks Bureau attempted to provide structured recreational opportunities to fill the gap in oversight. The park system offered recreation programs at community centers and public schools, as well as in housing projects and church basements. Athletic programs, with the exception of baseball, were expanded, although blackouts put a stop to night games.⁴

Lensch took the lead in working with the federal War Housing Authority to plan and create recreation facilities for the great influx of civilian defensive workers from all parts of the country. Portland, in particular, found it difficult to assimilate the large numbers of African Americans arriving to work in the shipyards. As Keyser noted, “until the war influx no negro [sic] problem has developed locally to bring out the color line. With more ‘birds of a feather’ in the offing, undoubtedly the color factor will come in for recognition.” In keeping with Portland’s narrow racial attitudes at the time, the Parks Bureau provided a community center for African Americans in their neighborhoods in and near the Albina district. Recreation personnel also operated community centers at the wartime housing projects of Vanport in north Portland and Guilds Lake.⁵

Superintendent Keyser valiantly struggled, with varying degrees of success, to keep the various elements of the existing park system functioning during the wartime emergency. For example, early in the war, some urged closure of the zoo. Keyser, however, found no great difficulty in securing food for the animals, and the zoo even experienced increased attendance. Keyser urged that postwar planning consider upgrading the zoo facilities and adding more exhibits focused on Northwest wildlife. The golf program continued to thrive and most of the debt created to develop the city’s golf courses had been retired by July 1943. In response to great demand, the Bureau built an outdoor bowling green at Westmoreland Park. Development of the Hoyt Arboretum continued and consisted of 4,301 trees by 1943. The city council also completed acquisition of Council Crest Park (38 acres), and the Stearns Memorial Fountain was placed at the Burnside entrance to Washington Park in 1943. As part of its effort to develop newly-acquired tracts for parks and playgrounds under the 0.4 mill levy of 1938, the city hired landscape architect George H. Otten in 1943 to survey and draw up plans for the new

parks and playgrounds. During the war years, park acreage amounted to 2,185 acres.⁶

As part of the city's effort to plan for postwar economic development, Robert Moses, the New York City planner, prepared a study recommending a variety of public works to ease the transition from wartime to a peacetime economy. While most of the approximately 137,000 workers who came to the Portland area to labor in war industries were expected to return to their previous homes, some could be expected to remain. To provide new, temporary jobs, Moses proposed a \$60 million, two-year construction program to employ 20,000 laborers on various public works projects. Most of Moses' plan focused on creating a more efficient sewage disposal system, widening streets, and constructing limited access highways, but he also included parks and playground improvements. Moses also recommended moving and expanding the zoo within Washington Park and purchasing more parkland throughout the city. In particular, Moses had this to say about acquiring more natural areas: "The City has not taken full advantage of its great natural assets such as the wooded hills and river front. Wooded hills and valleys in and around Portland have in a large measure been overlooked, probably because good scenery and forests are so plentiful in the Northwest. We believe that steep wooded hillsides located on the westerly border of the City should be in public ownership.... The wooded hillsides west of the City are as important to Portland as the Palisades of the Hudson are to the city of New York." With the exception of the highway and sewer improvements, voters declined to fund the Moses Plan.⁷

For 50 years, urban planners from John Olmsted to Robert Moses had urged Portland to create an extended urban forest on the city's northwestern edge. Initially, this land had been taken up by early settlers under the Donation Land Claim Act and was subsequently logged. Later attempts in the early 20th century to develop it into subdivisions were not successful. Eventually, much of the land reverted to public ownership for nonpayment of taxes. Based on a city council report of 1945, a citizen's committee (the "Forest Park Committee of 50") led by Thornton Munger, retired chief of research for the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station, formed to lobby for public acquisition and development of the area of forest land on the western edge of the Linnton neighborhood. Finally, in 1947, the city council voted to establish Forest Park, combining 4,200 acres of city and Multnomah County land that they had gained through property tax foreclosure and gifts. City officials formally dedicated Forest Park on September 25, 1948. Over the ensuing years, the Parks Bureau would add a 50-mile network of trails to the new urban forest. In the year following this major addition to Portland's park system, Superintendent Keyser retired, having served 32 years as head of the city's parks system. Harry Beckley succeeded Keyser as superintendent.⁸

In May of 1948, the Columbia River flooded its banks in north Portland and destroyed the temporary, wartime housing project known as Vanport. The resulting devastation killed 15 persons, displaced another 18,000, and demolished all of the housing and other facilities. In 1950, the city council negotiated a purchase of the vacant East Vanport land (100 acres) from the federal government for \$40,000. The city sought to develop the East Vanport tract as parkland, using funds from a new 0.4 mill levy passed by the voters in May 1950. In 1959, the city council bought another 625-acre parcel, also formerly part of Vanport, from the federal government.

After purchasing an additional 635 acres in 1960 in West Vanport, the Parks Bureau eventually developed the acreage as West Delta Park and Heron Lakes Golf Course. Finally, in 1963, the city completed acquiring land in the Vanport area, purchasing 700 acres for a speedway, now Portland International Raceway, in West Delta Park.⁹

The city of Portland also created a major park in its southwestern section during the 1950s. After annexing the Vermont Hills neighborhood, the city purchased an 87-acre tract for a park. Originally known as Gabriel Acres, the land contained two small streams and wooded areas and became Gabriel Park. In time, the park came to encompass softball, soccer, and baseball fields; tennis courts; and the Southwest Community Center. Other properties acquired through the 1950 levy eventually became Hancock, Wellington, and Kenton Parks in north and northeast Portland. Other additions came to the park system by donation and trades. An example of the former was Overlook House in north Portland, and 100 acres in Oaks Bottom in the Sellwood area came through the latter process.¹⁰



Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center

Throughout the 1950s, the Parks Bureau relied on the new park levy, which provided \$250,000 a year, to make small additions and improvements to the park system. The upgrades included new lawns, playground equipment, and wading pools. Some parks or recreation centers received more substantial improvements. For example, Mt Scott Community Center in the outer southeast at 5530 SE 72nd received a gym, and Montavilla Community Center at 8219 NE Glisan got a combination dressing and social room. New construction included a headquarters for Hoyt Arboretum, a concession building at

Normandale Park at NE 57th & Halsey, and new locker rooms and showers at Peninsula Park Community Center. The Bureau also purchased the University Homes Commissary Building and a contiguous 13 acres from the Portland Housing Authority. In 1954, the Parks Bureau bought 165 acres near Progress for a golf course to replace the Washington Park course that became the site of the new zoo. Originally named Progress Downs, the golf course later became known as Red Tail. Unfortunately, tight park budgets

in the late 1950s curtailed programs and additional construction projects. Still, by 1960 the Portland park system had expanded its landholdings to over 6,000 acres and had greatly enlarged recreation participation.¹¹

In the early 1960s, the Parks Bureau acquired two important historic properties, Pioneer Church and the Pittock Mansion. In 1961, park crews moved Pioneer Church, built in 1851 as the St John's Episcopal Church, from Milwaukie to Sellwood Park. It is considered the oldest surviving Protestant church in Oregon and is an excellent example of a pioneer Gothic Revival church. Between 1909 and 1914, Henry Pittock, long-time publisher of *The Oregonian*, built a magnificent home atop Imperial Heights in Portland's West Hills. Designed in the French Renaissance Revival and Chateausque styles, it was a remarkable example of fine design and craftsmanship. When the house became endangered in the early 1960s, public outcry led the city to purchase the house and the surrounding 46 acres of property in 1964. The Parks Bureau rehabilitated the mansion and opened it as a public museum in June 1965.¹²



Pittock Mansion



Pioneer Church

Periodically during the 1950s and early 1960s, natural disasters, such as fires and windstorms, caused extensive damage to Forest Park. In 1951, for example, a late summer fire swept through 600 acres of parkland and 600 acres of adjoining private land, requiring extensive reforestation of the park. Volunteers did much of the replanting, which amounted to 30,000 trees over several years. The damage and debris from the 1951 fire also delayed the opening of Leif Erickson Drive in Forest Park until 1955. In 1962, the Columbus Day windstorm swept through Portland and did tremendous damage to the city's park system, especially in Forest Park. The high winds leveled 75 per cent of Upper Macleay Park and left two million board feet of fallen timber blocking roads and trails throughout Forest Park. Once again, volunteers helped to remove downed trees and replant affected areas.¹³

The redevelopment of the zoo marked one of the major and very popular improvements to the park system during the 1950s. When a four-year-old Asian elephant named Rosy arrived at the Portland Zoo in 1953, she sparked a renewed interest in the aging facility. Capitalizing on the notoriety, the Parks Bureau convinced the voters to approve in 1954 a five-year, \$1.2 million levy for replacing the existing outmoded zoo at the current location of the Japanese Garden with a modern facility in Washington Park above Sunset Highway. An architect and the zoo director visited 16 municipal zoos around the country to gather information for planning the new Portland

Zoo (now Oregon Zoo). Construction began in 1955, but various delays prevented completion until 1959.¹⁴

During the early part of the 1960s, the Parks Bureau focused on expanding its recreational and arts programs, especially in conjunction with Portland Public Schools. The Children's Zoo opened in June 1962 and received improvements throughout the remainder of the decade. In 1965, the Bureau turned the Montgomery Street Fire Station, near I-405 in the inner southwest, into a new performing arts center, which soon housed such arts groups as the Contemporary Dance Theatre, the Portland Opera Association, and the Portland Actors Company. In 1967, the Montgomery Street center became known as the Firehouse Theatre. Also in 1967, the Bureau opened a new art center in an old Carnegie library at SW 2nd & Hooker. After race riots shook the Albina neighborhood in the summer of 1967, Parks Commissioner Francis Ivancie met with Albina residents to discuss improving parks programs in the African American neighborhood area. Using federal funds, the Parks Bureau improved recreation facilities in Alberta Park in the northeast and opened a new park at 510 N Shaver in the Albina area of north Portland to honor physician and civic leader DeNorval Unthank.

The Parks Bureau continued to make physical improvements and purchase small amounts of land throughout the 1960s. Besides the purchase and rehabilitation of the Pioneer Church in Sellwood and the Pittock Mansion in northwest Portland, the Bureau undertook upgrades to the Portland Civic Stadium after the city purchased the structure in 1966. Construction began on the Japanese Gardens in Washington Park in 1964. Also in 1964, the Bureau erected a fountain in Holladay Park designed by Jack Stuhl. A swimming pool was added to the Knott Street Community Center and work began on both an eighteen-hole golf course and a quarter-mile drag racing strip at Delta Park in 1968. At the end of the decade, the Bureau purchased seven acres of waterfront on the west side and a 50-acre parcel of riverfront on the east side, Sellwood Riverfront Park, to form part of the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge.

In the late 1960s, Governor Tom McCall and others renewed the call to replace Harbor Drive with a park along the west side of the Willamette River, now Governor Tom McCall Waterfront Park. McCall created a task force to establish "an inviting human space containing features to attract people, giving them pleasure and enjoyment and capitalizing on the natural asset we have in the Willamette River." After three years of study and much public input, the city and state agreed in 1971 to remove the highway and create a waterfront park, which eventually was named in honor of McCall. This effort coincided with the development of an extensive Downtown Plan to enhance public transportation and make other land use changes to keep Portland's core vital.¹⁵

In the late 1960s, Portland's park design would enter a new, creative era. Urban Renewal in the South Auditorium district would produce such significant additions as the Lovejoy Fountain, the Auditorium Forecourt Fountain, and Pettygrove Park. Until this new period of park creation arrived, the Parks Bureau concentrated on updating and completing the original Olmsted/Mische park vision and in accommodating ever-increasing neighborhood recreation demands. The heavy public participation in neighborhood parks recreation programs demonstrated the wisdom of that approach. The environmental movement of the 1960s, however, focused new attention on open or greenspace dedicated to public uses



Lovejoy Fountain

and on park design that enhanced those values. The urban renewal work of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM) in the South Auditorium district has been noted for the high quality of its design that responded to the new direction in park planning. As urban historian Carl Abbott has noted, “most cities used downtown renewal to build elevated platforms for civic temples that stand in a glare of white concrete. The SOM plan for South Portland, however, followed the sloping topography with pocket parks, gardens, and walkways that preserved the 200-foot grid within the project’s superblocks.” The crowning achievement of the renewal district was the Forecourt Fountain in front of the civic auditorium. Designed by Angela Danadjieva of Lawrence Halprin’s San Francisco landscape architecture firm, the fountain created an artificial waterfall built into a city block. Thus, the 1970s began with a new inspiration to use parks and open space to improve the quality of urban life.¹⁶



Forecourt Fountain

¹ In addition to the sources cited below, this chapter made general use of Charles Keyser, *Portland Park Department*; and Portland Parks & Recreation, *A Chronological History* (Portland: Portland Parks & Recreation, 1959).

² Keyser, *Annual Reports*, Feb. 1, 1944.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.; Commissioner of Finance to Committee on Acquisition of Park Property and attachments, Apr. 5, 1943, Portland Parks & Recreation, Survey-plans File, PARC.

⁷ Quote in Marcy Cottrell Houle, *On City's Wilderness* (Portland: Oregon Historical Society Press, 1988), 11; Lansing, *Portland*, 343-45; MacColl, *Growth*, 587-91; Abbott, *Portland Planning*, 138-41, 144.

⁸ Lansing, *Portland*, 347-48; Houle, *One City's Wilderness*, 11-13; MacColl, *Growth*, 30, 115.

⁹ Lansing, *Portland*, 350-52, 386; Abbott, *Portland Planning*, 157; MacColl, *Growth*, 577-78, 582, 600-01.

¹⁰ Portland Parks & Recreation, *A Chronological History*.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Lansing, *Portland*, 385-86; James Norman, *Oregon's Architectural Heritage* (Salem, Ore.: The Solo Press, 1986), 17, 93; Bart King, *An Architectural Guidebook to Portland* (Layton, Ut.: Gibbs Smith, 2001), 203-04, 294; William J. Hawkins and William F. Willingham, *Classic Houses of Portland, Oregon, 1850-1950* (Portland: Timber Press, 1999), 317-21.

¹³ Lansing, *Portland*, 386.

¹⁴ Ibid. 366; *Oregon Journal* (Portland), Nov. 6, 1962.

¹⁵ Quote in Abbott, *Portland Planning*, 216, 215-22; Lansing, *Portland*, 383-84.

¹⁶ Ibid. Quote in Abbott, *Portland Planning*, 213-14; Lansing, *Portland*, 376-78.

