
REPORTS OF THE PARK BOARD

(Extract from Treasurer's Report for 1910.)

PARK FUND

Balance per report December 31, 1909.....	\$37,160.92
Received taxes, J. M. Lewis, County Treasurer.....	95,453.09
Received refund on warrant	2.50
Received guinea pigs sold	1.50
Received fines	9.50
Received S. H. Burnett, concession Holladay Park and City Park	750.00
Received donation Portland Railway, Light & Power Co.....	18.00
Received horse sold	46.00
Warrants paid and returned.....	\$117,060.97
Balance	16,380.54

\$133,441.51 \$133,441.51

Tax levy for 1910, .42 mills on assessed valuation of \$231,161,600.00.

PARK AND BOULEVARD FUND

Balance as per report December 31, 1909.....	\$105,918.78
Received B. M. Lombard	5,000.00
Received refund Hayhurst	8,400.00
Warrants paid and returned.....	\$119,206.36
Warrants paid and returned.....	112.42

\$119,318.78 \$119,318.78



Report for 1911

(Extract from Message of Mayor A. G. Rushlight, dated January 3, 1912.)

PARK DEPARTMENT

In the development of the City's park system much progress has been made in the last year. Considerable preliminary work in the improvement and beautifying of newly acquired properties has been accomplished, the park area has been enlarged by the purchase of additional land, and negotiations have been opened for the taking over by the City of desirable small tracts for children's playgrounds.

Permanent plantations have been installed in the new park sites and two additional playgrounds have been equipped in the thickly settled residence centers. It was found necessary to construct another swimming tank in the Peninsula Park, one of the best patronized resorts owned by the people. Modern sanitary drainage systems have been installed in several of the parks and attractive features added here and there. Work is now under way in the grading and laying out

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of Terwilliger Parkway in South Portland, and the boulevard system in that section is being rapidly promoted.

Portland, Oregon, January 30, 1912.

To Honorable Park Board.

Gentlemen: I have the honor to transmit herewith the annual report for the year 1911.

MAINTENANCE

For detailed statement of the use made of the playgrounds, a report of the Playground Supervisor is transmitted herewith.

Playgrounds equipped now number seven and all are used to a gratifying extent. I think it a matter for congratulation that no grounds were opened without supervision. The dangers and menace of unsupervised grounds experienced by older municipalities have been entirely avoided.

A more general distribution of play areas and especially year-round work in each is of most importance in the progress thus far executed.

The necessary repairs of buildings, drives, walks, plantations and structural objects have been made as required, floral display of tender exotics were made at Ladd Circle, Peninsula Park and City Park.

Mr. Lewis is preparing a design for an ornamental concrete electric light post. For its appearance of stability, its appositeness and because underground conduits are conveniently used with them, early opportunity should be taken to install them quite generally in the properties in the central sections of the city.

Musical concerts were given from July 9th to September 3rd, inclusive, by Brown's band, composed of thirty-two instruments. They were held at City, Holladay, Mt. Tabor, Ladd Parks and Chapman Square. The band also led in the play festival programme scheduled for Peninsula Park in September. Rochester and Denver are conspicuous in the use made of music in their public parks. Evidently our citizens are keenly appreciative and intelligently discriminating in this feature of park service and would appreciate a more generous offering.

Along with development work each property becomes the object of greater service to the public. This year twenty-six playground people are provided for, each of whom has executive responsibility directly to the public; likewise has each local foreman. To know the powers of the Board, as defined by the charter, to act within the laws as embodied in ordinances and to be familiar with the rules and regulations of the Board requires a more ready means of information than personal direction—indeed, they must frequently act wisely, or otherwise, according to their own judgment and later investigate whether it has been well done. Authority and responsibility are being delegated more with the increase of development work throughout the

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system, and to facilitate its being done in keeping with the best and most efficient service to the public, warrants that a manual of park laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and routine instructions be printed and supplied to the persons concerned. That this be done I recommend.

The charter particularly provides that the Board make an annual report of its affairs. That this be done directly to the public, explaining the general policies being pursued, accomplishments, detailed accountings of disbursements and promulgating any new programs under consideration or adopted, can be well conveyed by this means. Moreover, plans and the motives controlling each have been adopted for most of the properties and that the public should be familiar therewith is of importance. The problems confronting the Board and means and methods applied in meeting them are always of interest to an intelligent citizen. A candid official statement, accompanied with sufficient detail to permit of critical analysis, is one of the best means of public education in park affairs. Since 1908 no special park report has been published, hence I recommend that one be issued the current year covering the past three.

The grading of an 8000-foot extension northward of Terwilliger Parkway is a contract obligation now under process of execution, hence requires no special comment.

When the combined existing and proposed stretch shall have been graded there will be a total length of 14,000 feet, sufficient to require that rules be adopted to control the orderly use thereof. A draft of such rules will later be submitted.

PROPOSALS

Comfort Stations

Comfort stations of the older pattern are greatly overtaxed. The more recently constructed stations are ample for the parks, but they should be increased in number until each park is provided. In Lownsdale or Chapman Squares a modern subterranean station would be best and its urgency is noticeable by the lines of persons frequently awaiting an opportunity to use those existing. Whenever it is built, provision should be made for a service concession in connection, enabling the attendants to maintain the station as part payment for the concession. I recommend that an early determination be made to provide these conveniences.

Street Trees

The condition of street trees in the City is deplorable. Tree butchery practiced upon street trees throughout the City is as disgraceful as is the resultant ruination to the health of the trees and the serious injury to their appearance. Unless action is taken to

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extend the emplacement of trees in the street planting strips, there will be an unfortunate dreariness of aspect for many years hence.

Under the ruling of the City Attorney, the Board's authority is limited to those trees planted by the city, and there having been none so planted, there is no actual control possible, yet a clause of the charter clearly and wisely intended that there should be. Successful methods of operation in other cities are: (1) to plant the trees and assess the cost on the abutting property; (2) to provide for the planting in the plans for the improvement of the street by grading or paving; (3) to plant them at the expense of a general appropriation made therefor or set aside from the park funds.

It would effect a considerable saving if grading plants provided for the planting strips between curbs and sidewalks to be of topsoil to a depth of twelve inches below finished grade.

The amenity of trees to public health arises from the restfulness of their green surface colors, the impediment they offer to dust-laden currents of air being wafted along the streets, the cooling influences they exert in offering shade to pedestrians and the pleasure they afford by ornamenting the streets.

I recommend that a tree-planting programme be inaugurated and start made in some such section as Piedmont, where the wide planting strips are best fitted for the purpose.

Many of the older communities in the country deem this work of sufficient importance to create a special public board of commissioners, whose duty it is to extend and control street tree planting. Here the charter specifically places it under the control of the Board, and I believe it well to have it so administered, but it should not be allowed to lapse because of the volume or importance of park or playground work.

Lighting

As an aid to policing and to extend the service of the parks, and especially the playgrounds, during the evening, when many have the only opportunity of the day, I recommend that ornamental lights be installed in the more liberally used parks.

Zoo

Particular attention is directed to the needs of the zoological collection. Many of the buildings are small and old and improvements effected on boundary streets has required the construction of temporary bulkheads to retain the slopes. It seems an extravagance to construct retaining walls for these buildings if the site of the zoo is to be removed to a less central location and sorely needed room provided for corral extensions. Due to the restricted quarters, two male elk engaged in battle the past summer and one was so severely gored that he had to be shot. Four years ago an appropriation of \$20,000

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was allowed in the budget to begin the construction of suitable quarters for the animals. Aside from the erection of two iron cages imperatively required, no further progress has been made pending the determination of a site.

Store House

Need sorely exists for an adequate central administration yard. Insufficient shed room necessitates having vehicles and machinery unprotected from the elements, prevents storage of repair materials and the keeping of a reasonable supply of such maintenance material as is more or less always in demand.

By reason of the lack of storage facilities, many small requisitions are occasioned at retail prices and the expense of time involved in procuring and delivering it becoming an item that should be lessened.

To install the required facilities, I recommend that an administration yard, along with stable, sheds, carpenter shop, smith shop and laundry, be provided at City Park.

Laundry

During 1911 the cost of laundering amounted to \$946.27. In 1912 the Peninsula Park Pool will be in operation, possibly South Portland will have one and the central East Side will require one in the near future. Even with the two pools in operation, it is estimated that a material saving may be effected by doing our own laundering. Accordingly, I recommend that facilities therefor be installed.

Tennis Courts and Baseball Fields

Continued and persistent demand is made to enlarge facilities for playing tennis and baseball more especially, although including request by many for a speedway. Tennis may be played upon four park properties, league baseball upon four, but for speeding no provision exists.

That we are inadequately equipped for these pastimes is not to be gainsaid. At Sellwood provision can be made for 1912, and also if deemed advisable, at City Park.

In the older cities it is not uncommon to witness several hundred games of tennis being played at the same time. It is but reasonable that we should make similar provision, but the rapid growth of the City, coupled with the initial inadequacy of park facilities, limited funds and unusual contingencies continuing to arise and depleting the treasury, combine to make necessary the slow procedure in conceding to these demands. The hope of providing timely, adequate and efficient facilities along with the extension of areas, lies in the electorate endorsing the bond issue to be voted upon at the next election.

Field Houses

Playgrounds are now treated as vacational affairs, open during a season slightly longer than the school summer vacation. Not only

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is it desirable to extend the playgrounds, but many should be open and fully equipped the entire year, and field houses made available for periods during bad weather. Properly conducted social centers permit the municipality to exert powerful control over the moral well-being of its citizens. Merely as a means of lessening delinquency are these centers worth their cost. Manifestly, it is but poorly serving a need to keep open these grounds but a few months during the year. Increasing efficiency demands that buildings be erected to which parents and entire families may be invited and ultimately will use, by their own initiative, the buildings for extreme neighborliness. Concerts, lectures, class work, educational opportunities and various means of profitably spending his time is offered to the boy who will otherwise perforce find his amusement in other channels at a greater cost to the community.

I would urge the immediate establishment of a field house at Peninsula Park, and if possible another at Sellwood Park.

Other work not specifically mentioned elsewhere herein, but contemplated during the 1912 is as follows:

Grading a drive and walk and laying down a meadow in Sellwood Park; planting the south and west borders of Kenilworth Park; grading a drive and planting the slopes thereof in Mt. Tabor Park; initiating work at Ladd Park by grading some walks and lawns; partial planting and installing irrigation facilities; grading and equipping Lincoln Park as a playground; planting the rose garden; installing a wading pool; constructing concrete walks and erecting an assembly building at Peninsula Park; erecting a shelter and comfort, and extending the fencing at Columbia Park; grading Gammans Park; planting trees at Firland; continuing the grading at Terwilliger Parkway; grading an 8000-foot extension of Terwilliger Parkway and grading and equipping a playground in Marquam Gulch.

Respectfully submitted,

E. T. MISCHÉ, Park Superintendent.

PARK FUND

Balance as per report, December 31, 1910.....	\$ 16,380.54
Received taxes J. M. Lewis, County Treasurer.....	118,604.80
Received guinea pigs sold.....	7.50
Received fines	1.50
Received sale block 13	2,000.00
Received S. H. Burnett, concession.....	750.00
Received donation	1,500.00
Refund water main.....	3,142.40

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Transferred from general fund.....	28,000.00	
Transferred from Park and Boulevard Fund.....	90,588.75	
Transferred to General Fund.....	\$ 28,000.00	
Warrants paid and returned.....	179,531.69	
Balance	53,443.80	

\$260,975.49 \$260,975.49

Tax levy for 1911, .45 mills on assessed valuation of \$274,394,720.

PARK AND BOULEVARD FUND

Balance per report December 31, 1910.....	\$ 112.42	
Received sale of bonds.....	234,172.50	
Transferred to Park Fund.....	\$ 90,588.75	
Warrants paid and returned.....	8,879.71	
Balance	134,816.46	

\$234,284.92 \$234,284.92



Report for 1912

(Extract from message of Mayor A. G. Rushlight, January 4, 1913.)

Despite the temporary set-back received by the Park Department by the rejection of its bond issue, the work of beautifying the parks and children's playgrounds has been carried on without interruption. Extensive plans have been made for future operations, and development work has progressed at a rate conformable with the funds available for those purposes.

Improvements in the form of comfort stations, band stands, tree-planting, grading, lighting, etc., have been made, and the equipment of play places for the children, and the planning of new ones have been well advanced by the Superintendent of Parks.

Construction of the community recreation building at Peninsula Park is now under way. The contract calls for the completion of this building early the coming Summer. With its completion there will be initiated in this city an all-the-year-round playtime for the young folks. This structure is being erected at a cost of \$30,000, which I believe to be money well spent.

Difficulty was encountered in the early part of the year in acquiring the necessary property for rights of way for extension of the Terwilliger Parkway. At the present time, however, work is progressing rapidly in developing what is destined to be one of the most beautiful scenic driveways in the country.