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# REPORT

TO THE

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE OF THE  
LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

BY

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF MEATH

*(Chairman of the Committee in 1889)*

ON THE

## PUBLIC PARKS OF AMERICA.

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*Ordered by the Committee at their Meeting on the 21st May, 1890,  
to be printed and circulated among its members.*

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History of Physical Education  
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# London County Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF HYGIENE  
WELLESLEY COLLEGE  
WELLESLEY, - MASSACHUSETTS

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## PUBLIC PARKS IN AMERICA.

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HAVING lately visited the principal Public Parks of the United States, I propose to state briefly for the information of my colleagues on the Parks and Open Spaces Committee of the London County Council the impressions which these visits have left upon my mind. The question of how best to provide breathing spaces for the rapidly increasing populations of the large towns, has of late years occupied a prominent place in the thoughts of the citizens of the United States, and great as has been the advance made by American cities since the period of the Civil War in all matters tending towards the attainment of the highest standard of civilization, in no department of municipal government has greater progress been made than in that appertaining to the care and provision of Parks and Open Spaces. The principal cities of the United States and Canada are now vying with each other which shall possess the most perfect and complete system of Boulevards and Parks. Taxation for these purposes is readily submitted to, and enormous sums of money are now being annually voted on this account. A veritable rage for Park making seems to have seized the American public. I was told by a high official at Chicago that the Park Tax was not only the one against which no word of complaint was ever heard, but that he was continually being asked why larger sums of money were not being spent on the Parks, as it was the one expenditure of public money which the people thoroughly appreciated, enjoyed, and took pride in.

At the end of this paper will be found as accurate a list as I could collect of the cities in America and Canada possessing Parks, and of these cities I personally visited 14. I am indebted for the information I have obtained to the courtesy and unvarying kindness of the Chairmen and Members of the different Park Commissions, as well as to that of the Superintendents, and especially to Mr. Hutchings, Park Commissioner of New York, Mr. G. Browen, President of Brooklyn Park Commission, Professor C. S. Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum, Boston, Mr. Parsons, Superintendent of the Central Park, New York, and to the eminent landscape gardeners, Mr. F. L. Olmsted and his son, to whose genius and taste America is indebted for some of her most beautiful Parks and Open Spaces. I have quoted freely from a pamphlet published by the Park Association of Providence and from the official documents kindly placed at my disposal by the Park Commissions of America.

The following table will enable the Council to compare at a glance the Park acreage of the principal American cities as compared with that of important non-American cities:—

TABLE OF COMPARISONS OF AMERICAN PARK ACREAGE.

Cities.	Population.	Park acreage.	Population to 1 acre.	Acreage per 1,000 inhabitants.
Baltimore .....	332,313	839	383	2.52
Boston .....	369,832	1,209	305	3.28
Bridgeport .....	40,000	240	125	6.00
*Brooklyn.....	566,663	911	622	1.61
Buffalo.....	155,134	661	234	4.26
Charleston .....	50,000	55	909	1.10
†Chicago .....	503,185	2,847	176	5.66
Cincinnati.....	255,139	526	483	2.06
Cleveland .....	250,000	93	2,688	.03
Council Bluffs .....	18,000	794	23	44.11
Detroit .....	116,340	742	158	6.39
Macon .....	13,000	720	18	55.38
Minneapolis ...	200,000	508	393	2.54
Montreal .....	225,000	530	424	2.05
New Orleans ...	216,090	50	4,321	.23
‡New York .....	1,200,000	5,157	232	4.29
Omaha .....	125,000	108	1,061	.86
Philadelphia ...	847,170	2,866	295	3.38
Pittsburg .....	156,839	400	393	2.56
Providence .....	104,857	104	1,008	1.00
Quebec.....	80,000	200	400	2.50
Rochester .....	89,366	400	223	4.38
Sacramento.....	22,000	33	666	1.50
St. Louis.....	350,518	2,168	161	6.19
St. Paul .....	200,000	307	650	1.53
San Francisco .....	233,959	1,040	224	4.45
Toronto .....	80,000	200	400	2.50
Washington ...	147,293	917	160	6.23
Worcester .....	58,291	274	213	4.72
Total of 29 cities .....			17,348	183.31
General average .....			598	6.32

TABLES OF COMPARISONS OF NON-AMERICAN PARK ACREAGE.

Cities.	Population.	Park acreage.	Population to 1 acre.	Acreage per 1,000 inhabitants.
§London .....	3,832,000	22,000	174	5.76
§Paris .....	2,270,000	58,000	37	25.55
Berlin .....	1,122,000	5,000	224	4.45
Vienna .....	1,103,000	8,000	138	7.25
Tokio .....	1,000,000	6,000	166	6.00
Brussels .....	380,000	1,000	380	2.63
Amsterdam .....	350,000	800	437	2.28
Dublin.....	250,000	1,900	131	7.60
Total eight cities .....			1,687	61.52
General average .....			211	7.69
Average of all .....			514	6.61

\* Ocean and Eastern Parkways not included in acreage.

† Not including 11 small parks.

‡ Including late purchases of sites.

§ Including such parks as Fontainebleau and Windsor.



The Parks of the United States of 500 acres and over, arranged according to size, are—

	Acres.
1. Fairmount Park, Philadelphia .....	2,791
2. Pelham Bay Park, New York .....	1,756
3. Forest Hill Park, St. Louis .....	1,372
4. Van Cortlandt Park, New York .....	1,132
5. San Francisco Park .....	1,040
6. Lynn .....	1,000
7. Central Park, New York .....	864
8. Druid Hill Park, Baltimore .....	704
9. Belle Isle Park, Detroit .....	700
10. Bronx Park, New York .....	653
11. Lake Shore Park, Chicago .....	593
12. Jackson Park, Chicago .....	586
13. Prospect Park, Brooklyn .....	526
14. Franklin Park, Boston .....	518
15. Soldiers' Home Park, Washington .....	500

From the following list it will be seen that amongst the 11 largest Parks of the world over 1,000 acres, within easy reach of the inhabitants of populous cities, Fairmount Park ranks second, Pelham Bay seventh, Forest Hill eighth, Cortlandt Park ninth, and San Francisco eleventh in size :—

	Acres.
1. Epping Forest, London .....	5,348
2. Fairmount Park, Philadelphia .....	2,791
3. Prater, Vienna .....	2,300
4. Richmond, London .....	2,255
5. Bois de Boulogne, Paris .....	2,100
6. Phoenix Park, Dublin .....	1,760
7. Pelham Bay Park, New York .....	1,756
8. Forest Hill, St. Louis .....	1,372
9. Van Cortlandt Park, New York .....	1,132
10. Bushey Park, London .....	1,100
11. San Francisco Park .....	1,040

Of the above, Pelham Bay and Van Cortlandt have only recently been purchased, and are not yet laid out, whilst San Francisco Park is still in process of formation.

It is only in comparatively recent years that the question of supplying cities with breathing spaces has forced itself on the attention of the American people. The result is that there are few cities in the United States which possess Parks in close proximity to the habitations of the poorer portions of the working classes. New York, Chicago, and Boston are the towns which appear to have realised the fact that, however cheap and rapid may be the means of locomotion from the city to the suburban Park, it is only on a Sunday, and perhaps in some cases also on a Saturday afternoon, that the working man with his wife and family can avail himself of the means of healthful enjoyment thus offered him. On the other five days in the week the taxes he is called upon to pay for the



maintenance of a suburban Park may be regarded by him as a health insurance premium for himself and family, inasmuch as large open spaces in the vicinity of a town undoubtedly admit healthful breezes and lower the death rate; but as far as direct enjoyment is concerned, neither he nor his family during those five days can hope to obtain direct or immediate value for their money. In addition to large suburban Parks, what the working man, and much more the working woman and her children, need, are numerous small Playgrounds and Open Spaces within easy reach of their homes, where of a summer evening after his work the man may rest and smoke his pipe, and where during the day the woman may snatch half-an-hour's enjoyment of peaceful repose away from the turmoil and care of home amid flowers and leaves and the sound of falling waters. Even if she cannot get away herself to visit the Gardens or Playgrounds, she can at all events send her little ones under the charge of the eldest child, with the feeling that they are in the pure air, beneath the bright sun of heaven, getting health and strength, and under the guardianship of the official caretaker of the Garden or Playground, safe from danger to life or limb, whilst she, relieved from the noise and worry inevitable from the presence of children in a small dwelling, can accomplish her domestic duties in a shorter time and with less fatigue than she otherwise would be able to do.

With a view to provide such Open Spaces in the heart of the city of New York, the State Legislature has recently passed an Act "for the location, construction, and improvement of additional Parks in the City of New York." This Act gives the Board of Street Opening and Improvement power to condemn property, and open as many Parks below One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Street as they may think best. "It is a colossal power," says Professor Adams of Baltimore, "to grant to a municipal board, but the public health requires it." In consequence of this Act the Board has appropriated £2,000,000, to be spread over 10 years, and, as the Act directs, the whole of this money is to be expended in making air-holes in the crowded parts of the city by pulling down rookeries, and letting sunlight into unhealthy localities.

It is to be hoped that our London County Council may take example from this energetic action on the part of New York. It would not be necessary for London to spend anything approaching the sum which New York is willing to find. There would be no necessity to pull down dwellings, and purchase valuable land. Happily for London there are still 193 Disused Burial Grounds closed to the public, and many neglected squares, in addition to a few spaces which are

already laid out as gardens by private associations and individuals who are desirous to extend their operations, and to relieve the public of this heavy primary expense, if only the London County Council will undertake to maintain the grounds thus laid out as Gardens and Playgrounds, and open them to the public.

New York has been forced by the neglect of former generations to appropriate this large sum of £2,000,000 in order to create small air-holes in the heart of the city. No land has actually been purchased with the money, but negotiations are now in progress to acquire a couple of sites in the most crowded parts of the town, to pull down the tenement houses which now cover them, and to turn them into Open Spaces. New York, however, is not content simply with the correction of past errors, but is determined that posterity shall not have to make the same complaint against the present generation that it raises against the past, and with this view she has made magnificent provision for the future by purchasing Pelham Bay Park of 1,756 acres for £504,589; Van Cortlandt Park of 1,132 acres for £432,355; Bronx Park of 653 acres for £380,116; Crotona Park of 141 acres for £228,423; Claremont Park of 38 acres for £72,282, and St. Mary's Park of 23 acres, all more or less connected by fine broad Parkways or Avenues containing an aggregate of 187 acres, these latter, constructed at a cost of £123,595, making a total addition to the former Parks of New York of some 4,000 acres, at an expenditure of over £2,000,000. These Parks are at present some distance from the city, but with the foresight which led their fathers some 30 years ago to purchase the present "Central Park," now entirely surrounded by buildings, but at the time of its purchase outside the city, the citizens of New York have made an investment which will be of priceless value to them a few years hence, when, as from the conformation of the grounds must inevitably be the case, the city has surrounded these new Parks.

New York has nobly asserted her position as the leading city of the United States. She has by one energetic effort wiped out the reproach of being amongst the large cities of the United States the one least supplied with open spaces, and as soon as her annual expenditure of £200,000 in the purchase of small playgrounds in the heart of the city begins to tell, she will probably hold the enviable position of having the largest amount of open spaces readily available to the mass of her population of any city in the United States, unless it be Boston, with her proposed Marine Park of 40 acres, her Charles River Embankment of 10 acres, and her projected new Wood Island Park of 81 acres in East Boston.



Next to New York and Boston, Chicago is the city which to-day shows the greatest anxiety to increase her breathing spaces. Chicago possesses 10 large parks of an aggregate area of 2,847 acres, and 11 small parks, increasing the total park area to over 3,000 acres. Besides these there are 260 acres of boulevards connecting the parks, varying in width from 100 to 250 feet, and lined with trees. Boston is not satisfied with her Common and public Garden, beautiful as they are, or even with her Commonwealth and Massachusetts avenues, but has purchased Riverdale and Back Bay Parks containing 216 acres, and Franklin Park with its 518 acres. Minneapolis has lately expended £100,000 to improve her parks and boulevards, and this city in addition proposes to open shortly several miles of parkways. Detroit is busily converting into a park an island in the lake called Belleisle, some 700 acres in size. This island has been united to the city by a bridge, and is 2 miles 200 feet in length, and averages half a mile in width. Toronto in Canada is making similar use of a low ridge of sand lying opposite to the city. St. Louis has recently acquired by will a well-stocked botanical garden, the gift of the philanthropic citizen who some years ago presented her with the beautiful Tower Grove Park of 267 acres. San Francisco is also at work increasing her public gardens, and Washington, not to be outdone by the other cities, and in order to hold her own as the political capital of the country, is contemplating the purchase of some 3,000 acres of well wooded land in the immediate neighbourhood of the city, and is filling up some low-lying grounds called "The Flats" in close proximity to the poorer portions of the town. In the meantime this city, whilst making up her mind on the subject of the larger purchase, has acquired some 200 acres of beautifully wooded hilly land, intersected by ravines and streams, which she is about to convert into a somewhat original zoological garden, permitting as far as practicable the animals to exist in their natural state.

It will be seen from the sketch I have given that in America the open space movement is in full vigour and activity, and that there is a keen rivalry between the larger and more progressive cities to be foremost in the race for improvement in this particular department of municipal government.

#### NEW WILD FOREST PARKS.

Though no municipal park in America, or indeed in the world, approaches our own Epping Forest in extent, it will be apparent that when her new parks are completed the United



States will lead the world in the number of her open spaces over 1,000 acres in extent, though she lacks small gardens and playgrounds in close proximity to the more densely peopled portions of her cities. These magnificent parks have almost all been acquired within comparatively recent years. Van Cortlandt, Pelham Bay and Bronx Park, New York, have only just been purchased, and are not yet laid out. Belleisle Park, Detroit; Franklin Park, Boston; and Golden Gate, San Francisco; are in process of formation. As Chicago the mighty city of the west with its million of inhabitants was 60 years ago but a wooden stockaded fort garrisoned by United States troops, and has since been three times destroyed by fire, it is unnecessary to say that its beautiful gardens are of quite recent growth, and in some parts are still in course of formation. San Francisco is likewise engaged in the creation and development of its park. St. Louis has only this year become by demise the possessor of Shaw's garden, the former residence of the generous testator who was also the donor in 1867 of the lovely gardenesque park called Tower Grove—a gift equal in money value to about £60,000. Twenty years ago Brooklyn with its teeming population possessed no public park. The first Act establishing the Central Park in the City of New York was passed in 1853, but it was not until 1870 that the Department of Public Parks was appointed. The first acquisition of land by the City of Philadelphia within the bounds of Fairmount Park was made as long ago as 1812, but it was not until 1867 that an Act was passed “appropriating grounds for public purposes,” and establishing a Park Commission of 16, five of whom were to be appointed by the District Court, and five by the Court of Common Pleas for an official term of five years. Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, which in some particulars I consider the finest park amongst those I visited in the United States, was formed within the memory of middle-aged men still living. It will readily be seen, therefore, that time, the great beautifier of European pleasantries, has had but a very limited period in which to exercise on American parks and gardens her artistic and softening influences. Forest Hill Park, St. Louis; Prospect Park, Brooklyn; Druid Hill Park, Baltimore; and Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, are ornamented with splendid timber owing to the fact that large portions if not the whole of these parks were either formerly in the possession of wealthy men who preserved the timber surrounding their residences, or were natural forests which had escaped the axe of the woodman. Druid Hill Park is the only one in which deer are permitted to run wild, and is a lovely specimen of the forest park. Fairmount Park with its 2,791 acres, with

the Schuylkill River equal in size to the Thames running through its midst between well wooded heights, with its extension for eight miles up the deep cut winding ravine of the Wissahickon River is amongst the municipal pleasures of the world only second in size to our Epping Forest, and perhaps in its own particular style of beauty is second to none. The new Bronx Park purchased by the city of New York was the residence of the Lorillard family, and Pelham and Van Cortlandt Parks are natural forests which will require but slight attention at the hands of the landscape gardener. Bronx Park is traversed by a stream running at the bottom of a rocky ravine, which with its splendid timber will form a feature nearly unique in city parks if care be taken to retain its natural beauty and wildness. Its only rivals will probably be the ravine of the Genesee in Rochester City Park, and the valley of the Wissahickon in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, which has been thus forcibly described in *Appleton's Art Journal*.

"The prospect changes when we come to the Wissahickon—a river which is, perhaps, the most remarkable of all known waters, as a type of the purely romantic in scenery. This stream, which still retains its Indian name, lies between ranges of precipitous hills that preserve for it its primeval character—a character, let us hope that it will always preserve. Along its banks, through its whole extent, trees and vines hang down to the water's edge, and frequent springs drip from the rocks. Except at times, in the spring and autumn, when swollen with heavy rains, its waters have, in many places, scarcely a perceptible motion; it seems to be the bosom of a lake. Its unbroken quiet, its dense woodland, its pine-crowned hills, its sunless recesses and sense of separation from the outer world, contrast strongly with the broad lawns, the open flowing river and the bright sunshine, which characterize the banks of the Schuylkill. It is a chosen spot for youth and old age, for all those whom simple love of nature contents; and it has been the home of romance, the theme of song, the source of illusions and legend, from the earliest times to our own days. One spot in particular, the "Devil's Pool," is associated with the superstitions of the early days of the province, and now, for more than a half a century, has been a favourite haunt for all lovers of nature. It is certainly a wild place: rocks are thrown together in great masses, and the long trunks of hemlocks and pines jut up from the darkness around the pool into the sunshine above.

"On the opposite side of the stream looms grandly up "Indian Rock," and here the stream enters a deep gorge. The hills tower almost perpendicularly, and the place has the



solemn stillness of the shores of some far-off waters in the yet unbroken wilderness. A few huge rocks lie in the bed of the creek, but make no eddies in the water. The woods, clothing the enclosing steep, bury their shadows in its dark surface. The rock, wild and lofty, crowns the summit of the eastern range of hills. It is shaped like a pulpit-square, and with a deep cavity in its front. On its top stands the rude figure of an Indian, set there in remembrance of the last chief of the aborigines (the Leni-Lenape tribe), on these grounds. Fairmount Park is literally full of such Elysian haunts, pleasant alike in the glowing summer or in the gorgeous hued autumn, when the foliage, myriad tinted, is bathed in the subduing haze of the Indian summer. There are spots which are, indeed, the happiest of resting places; where one may dream of past dreams, hear songs of spring again, which dead voices have sung, and linger in a melancholy more sweet than joy."

### ARTIFICIAL PARKS.

The contrast between the extreme artificiality of Central Park in New York and these new wild forest parks lately acquired may perhaps encourage the New Yorkers to give a little more latitude and freedom to the citizens in the use of their Central Park. Nature seems in this latter park to be placed under such continual supervision and surveillance of man, so cribbed and cabined by police regulations that artificiality takes the place of natural beauty, and a man has a sense almost of relief on leaving the gardens feeling thankful that at length he may walk on the highway or pick up a dead leaf without fear of arrest. But notwithstanding this excessive artificiality Central Park remains one of the most beautiful of gardenesque parks. I know nothing prettier of its kind than the view I saw on an October day standing on the "Terrace" at the end of the "Mall" in Central Park looking across the artificial lake to the opposite shore blazing in the glorious colors of American autumn foliage. The finest natural parks, as opposed to artificially made grounds in the United States, are perhaps those of Druid Hill, Baltimore, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, and Forest Hill, St. Louis; whilst amongst the artificial parks Central Park, New York, and Lincoln and South Parks, Chicago, may be said to rank highest. These two cities have both had to manufacture recreation grounds out of most unpromising materials. They have had to transport for long distances the actual soil of which their parks are composed, and have had to plant every single tree, shrub and flower within their limits, and make every rise and depression in the ground. These gardens are



consequently entirely different in style from those magnificent parks which owe their beauty and picturesqueness to nature, and they must be viewed with a different eye and be judged by a different standard. As my object in visiting the Public Parks of America was not to criticise and find fault, but if possible to learn, with a view to the improvement of the London Parks, at that time under my charge, I shall confine my remarks to the points which particularly struck me as worthy of imitation in the Parks of America.

### POINTS WORTHY OF IMITATION.

Tropical  
water-  
lilies.

Lofty palm  
houses.

Public ball-  
room.

Games.

In Lincoln Park, Chicago, warm water is introduced into basins and the spectators' eyes are delighted and dazzled by the sight of the most gorgeously coloured tropical lilies growing in the water, such as "*Nymphaea Zanzibarensis*," "*Nymphaea Zanzibarensis Azurea*," "*Nymphaea Devoniensis*" and "*Nymphaea rubra*," whilst on the surface recline the enormous pan-like leaves of the "*Victoria Regia*." These leaves with their upturned edges floating on the water seem only to need the presence of little fairies resting on them to turn the whole scene into our childhood's dreamland. In South Park, Chicago, and in smaller degrees in Druid Park, Baltimore, are to be found broad, lofty glass palaces within which towering palms and exotics grow, such as in England are only to be found either at Kew or in the private gardens of rich men. In these conservatories the visitor can walk in comfort, and even sit down and study at his ease the splendid botanical specimens all legibly labelled, which are furnished for his enjoyment and instruction. In America the Park Commissioners appear to have been impressed with the conviction that it was their duty to make the Parks places of innocent amusement and recreation for as large a number of people as possible, and with this view they have endeavoured to cater for all legitimate tastes. In Jackson Park, Chicago, the Commissioners have not been afraid to erect a permanent structure of stone and brick with slate roof, sufficiently large to shelter 2,500 people, with a floor of polished maple and with a gallery for music, in which dancing is permitted under certain regulations. I was told that no evils or improprieties had resulted from this liberal course of action, but that the privilege was innocently enjoyed and thoroughly appreciated by the citizens. If this can be done in Chicago, a city containing a million of souls composed of all nationalities, why should it not be possible in London? In American Parks, even in those where the most stringent police regulations are in force, great facilities are given to the people to enjoy themselves. In Central Park, New York,

and in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, there are separate lawn-tennis, croquet, base-ball and archery grounds. In the latter Park one hundred and thirty lawn-tennis courts are in daily use, and three men are kept constantly at work marking them out with whiting. In all the larger parks suitable spots under shady trees and near refreshment chalets are reserved for picnic parties. They are provided with tables, benches and water gratis, and a party of workmen is daily detailed to remove all paper and rubbish left by the picnic makers, so that next day there is no sign of the previous day's party.

Picnics.

In some of the parks the Commissioners own the pleasure-boats, and also well appointed, comfortable, open, two and four horse drags, in which visitors are driven for a fixed price to the principal points of interest. No inconsiderable revenue is derived from these sources, in addition to which the Commissioners are able to regulate the accommodation with which the public is provided and thus increase its comfort.

Boats and  
carriages.

In Central Park, New York, the children are provided with self-acting swings, in which a child when seated can swing itself without assistance, a novelty to me. Happy children may also be seen tilting at the ring to the sound of music on wooden revolving horses or sitting in suspended cars, regardless of the weather under the cover of a permanent shelter.

Swings.

In Prospect Park the little tots drive their goat carriages like their French brothers and sisters in the Champs Elysees.

Goat  
carriages.

Why do we not have goat carriages and merry-go-rounds in our London Parks? On many of the artificial lakes a very graceful boat is to be seen gliding on the waters without any apparent means of motion. It is composed of two narrow canoes fastened together by a transverse deck, on which are placed three or four rows of seats. The two prows rising high into the air are of polished copper, brass, or silvered metal, whilst behind is a large white metal swan within which are concealed the legs of a boy, whose business it is to turn with his feet, paddles, hidden away in the white wings of the bird. Music is provided free in almost all the principal parks of America; and in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, the natural formation of the ground has been utilized to erect an open air musical amphitheatre, with seats rising in a semi-circle one above the other, and ending in a covered corridor capable of sheltering in case of rain a large portion of the audience.

Swan boats.

Music.

In the heart of Boston is an open-air garden and gymnasium, 10 acres in extent, called the Charles River Embankment. The peculiarity of this public gymnasium over those established in Great Britain lies in the fact that it is intended not so much for the use of children as for that of grown men. A girl's and children's playground is to be

Open-air  
gymna-  
sium.



found at the opposite end of the embankment. The men's open-air gymnasium is surrounded by a high railing to exclude idlers, and can only be reached over a bridge after passing through a building and a turnstile under the eye of an officer who delivers a badge to every man who enters. The ground is furnished with chest weights with the usual gymnastic apparatus, and with a running and bicycle ciuder track. Free lockers, washing apparatus, clean towels, and other conveniences are provided gratis for the use of the public by the Park Commissioners. No one is allowed to loaf within the enclosed space. If a man enters the enclosure he must work at the apparatus or he will be turned out, and boys are only permitted to enter at stated times, and must leave during school hours. An efficient teacher of gymnastics is always on the spot, and at certain hours classes are trained systematically in gymnastics. I am not aware of the existence in Great Britain of any similarly well furnished gymnasium maintained by a municipal authority for the benefit of the grown-up male portion of the population. It seems an excellent idea, and well worthy of adoption, especially as the experiment in Boston has proved thoroughly successful, and the authorities of that city have had no difficulty in the maintenance of order amongst the men who have availed themselves of the privileges offered them. I was informed that it was the intention of the Park Commission to light up the ground with electricity, and to throw it open to the public on summer evenings, so that a larger number of young working men might be able to use it. This I believe to be the only thoroughly organised open-air public gymnasium in America, but I feel confident that there will be many more within a few years' time, and Boston has already determined to erect a second one. In Franklin Park, Boston, the game-playing public who visit the shelter overlooking the base-ball grounds are treated by the Park Commission with similar open-handed generosity. I was informed that the public loss on towels, &c., was comparatively trifling. Similar liberality would I feel confident be equally appreciated at home, and public property be as well respected. The experience I have gained as Chairman of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association has shown me that the English working man can always be trusted to protect public property if properly appealed to.

Electric  
lighting  
of parks

Most of the small open spaces in American cities are lighted by gas or electricity on summer nights, and at such times are crowded with respectable men and women enjoying the refreshing breezes of the evening after the sultry heat of an American midsummer day. I hope that, though our



climate is of a somewhat fickle nature, the day is not far distant when the Embankment Gardens, and other similar small open spaces in London will, during the finest portion of the year, be lit of an evening by electric light. It should have been done long ago.

Animal life is introduced into many of the American parks. In Druid Park there is a zoological garden, and I saw several camels grazing in the open meadow under the care of a keeper. In the new zoological garden in Washington, it is proposed to create the conditions under which beavers become architects and engineers, and to encourage them to build their houses, and make their dams and lakes under the eyes of the public. Central Park, New York, Lincoln Park, Chicago, and Druid Park, Baltimore, count zoological gardens as part of the attractions they offer free to the public. In London there is no zoological garden freely open to the people. Animal life  
in parks.

In almost all the American cities I visited I found marked activity in the formation of boulevards on a truly magnificent scale. With wise foresight these boulevards are being made with a view to the future development of the cities, and in the confident belief that the present outlay within a few years will be a source of municipal wealth by the increase in value of rateable areas. New York possesses over 20 miles of shaded boulevards, some of them 150 feet in width. Brooklyn justly prides itself on its splendid avenue formed of four rows of trees, consisting of a roadway, a riding and a walking path of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles long and 270 feet wide, containing 180 acres of ground called "Ocean Parkway"; its "Coney Island Concourse," facing the ocean, 2,750 feet long by 1,000 feet wide; and its "Eastern Parkway,"  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long by 270 feet wide, on the opposite side of the city, containing 82 acres of land. St. Louis, desirous of not lagging behind other cities in this matter, has just laid out a fine boulevard of about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles in length and 60 feet in width, leading from the city to Forest Hill Park. Cincinnati is engaged in a similar manner. Buffalo possesses four parkways, each 200 feet in width and aggregating 3 miles in length, and three avenues, 100 feet wide and 4 miles in length. One of the finest city boulevards I know in the world is Commonwealth-avenue, Boston, with its two roadways, central promenade, and quadruple rows of trees, lined on either side by stately buildings of stone, many of them bearing the impress of the genius of Richardson, America's greatest architect. But not content with this princely road, Boston has for some years been at work on a continuous system of parkways connecting her Common, Public Gardens, and Parks, so that when it is completed it will be possible to drive continuously for some 15 or 16 miles Boulevards  
and park-  
ways.

through constantly varying scenery, enhanced in beauty by the artistic skill of the eminent landscape gardeners, Messrs. F. L. & J. C. Olmsted. Already some six miles of this system has been completed. But, perhaps, the town which has taken the most advanced step in the creation of boulevards is Chicago. This city has boldly surrounded itself with a system of boulevards some 22 miles in length, long portions of which run through the open country. These boulevards have, of course, been made with a view to the future, and the cost of construction, to the amount of £1 4s. a foot frontage, has been laid on the owners of the land through which the boulevards run. It was considered that such action was consistent with equity, inasmuch as the presence of this splendid range of grass, trees, flowers, and roadways was a guarantee to the neighbouring landowners that for all time their building property would be sought after by the most desirable class of tenants or purchasers. London might do worse than take the example of Chicago to heart and unite some of her suburban Parks and Open Spaces by broad sylvan avenues and approaches. These boulevards of Chicago are not uniform in character; sometimes they take the form of grand avenues, 200 feet wide, shaded by eight rows of trees, sometimes the roadways occupy a smaller portion of the space, and run along the side of narrow paths or through unenclosed belts of neatly mown turf or beds of flowers. These boulevards are made in the confident belief that the present outlay will within a few years bring in a rich harvest to the cities by the increase in value of their rateable areas.

Washington has not participated in the recent rivalry between cities for the possession of the widest and most magnificent boulevards, inasmuch as from the day of its formation its streets were wide avenues lined with trees, though unpaved, dusty in summer, and almost impassable in winter. It was well styled the "city of magnificent distances." For many years these dusty distances were thinly lined (several gaps intervening) by low wooden shanties surrounding a few magnificent public buildings. To-day Washington is one of the finest residential cities of the world. Its streets beautifully asphalted and with fine broad pavements, a contrast to the wretched cobble stones and badly laid sidewalks of several important American cities, including New York. Washington owes its beauty to the genius of a French engineer who laid it out on a rectangular plan with this peculiarity, that at certain distances long broad avenues intersect the blocks of buildings diagonally, thus creating numerous small triangular spaces which form delightful little oases of green often adorned with a central statue of some



national hero. The District of Columbia, in which Washington is situated, is governed by a Commission of Three, appointed by the President; and being entirely independent of popular suffrage, and being liberally supported with funds by Congress, the Commissioners have been enabled to make Washington one of the most beautiful, healthy, and well-regulated of cities. The Commission own about 10 feet of grass between the houses and the pavement, and compel each household to keep this grass border neatly mown and unenclosed. To encourage the formation of bay windows, and irregularity of buildings, a householder is permitted to encroach on the public land gratis to the extent of five feet, in the formation of bay windows and other projections from the line of the main dwelling. These avenues vary in width from 120 to 160 feet, and have an aggregate length of 270 miles.

The principal parks of America are not under the control of boards, like the London County Council, directly elected by the people, but are managed by Commissioners appointed either for life or for a term of years by the Mayor of the City in which the park is situated, by the Governor of the State, or by the judges. These commissions vary in the number of their members from 3 to about 20. Annual appropriations for the support of the parks are made by the local municipalities on the recommendation of the Commissioners. Their recommendations need not be complied with, but the money once voted, the Commissioners can expend it on the parks in the manner which they may consider best calculated to serve the interests of the public. They are completely masters in their own house. If they require any extraordinary sums of money for the purchase of new parks, or for permanent improvements, and if there is hesitation on the part of the municipal authority to furnish them with the necessary funds, they can go to the State Legislature, and, if their demands are legitimate, compel the municipal authority to raise the required sum. One of the Park Commissions in Chicago has even the power of raising its own taxation independently of the municipal government. As no salary is attached to the position of a Park Commissioner, the office does not possess attraction for the professional politician, and as the officials upon whose shoulders rest the appointment of the Commissioners are held responsible for the acts of their nominees, it is to the interest of these official nominators to choose for the post the very best men to be found in the locality. It will be readily seen that a small, independent, and comparatively permanent committee, chosen for its ability and knowledge in the management of parks, possesses an immense advantage in the proper discharge of its duties over an elected body of 30, like the

Park commissions.

Parks Committee of the London County Council, which cannot undertake any expenditure exceeding the sum of £50, without a vote and discussion in full council of 137 members.

Separation  
of the de-  
partment  
of the  
landscape  
gardener  
and the  
architect.

Another advantage possessed by the American Park Commissioners over the London Park Committee is in my opinion to be found in the complete separation of the departments of the architect and of the landscape gardener. In all the more important cities of America the duties of the architects attached to the park commissions are confined to matters strictly appertaining to their profession, whilst the commissioners have spared neither pains nor money to place at the head of their departments gentlemen who have devoted their lives to the study of landscape gardening in all its branches, and who have adopted that calling as their profession. The salaries these gentlemen receive are large, though not too large, considering the important duties they have to discharge. In Chicago I was informed that the gentleman who acted as landscape gardener to the South Park Commission was in the receipt of £1,000 a year, and I believe that other cities pay equally high, if not higher salaries. It is quite right that it should be so. The management and laying out of a park requires special knowledge which is not to be acquired without the consecration of a man's life to the study of the art of the landscape gardener. It is very creditable to the eminent gentleman who so ably fills the position of architect to the London County Council that he should have been able to lay out the parks and gardens belonging to the Council with so much taste, and have maintained them in such excellent order, but the strictly professional work which the Council requires at his hands is more than enough to occupy the attention of any man, however talented or however energetic, and it is hardly fair upon this gentleman to expect him to act in the double capacity of architect and professional landscape gardener. I trust it will not be long before the London County Council will recognize that they are demanding too much at the hands of their architect, and will place their parks and gardens under the charge of a gentleman who has made the art of landscape gardening his life's study.

Park com-  
missioners  
control  
neigh-  
bouring  
thorough-  
fares.

Another advantage possessed by American park commissions over their London brethren is the powers the former possess over thoroughfares, and in some instances over building land, in the neighbourhood of the parks. For instance, in New York large districts adjoining the new parks to the north of the Haarlem River have been placed under the management of the Park Commission, and it has been charged with the duty of laying out the building lots, avenues, streets, and sewers. Thus it has in its power to prevent the erection of



unsightly or insanitary buildings and the prosecution in the neighbourhood of the parks of unwholesome or undesirable manufactures or trades, and it is able to make the approaches to the park harmonize with its general arrangement and character.

*Opinion of Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted on the value of.*

"A little consideration," said Mr. F. L. Olmsted in a paper read before the American Social Science Association in 1880, "will satisfy the Association that a large proportion of the objects which are more or less provided for in our parks might, at less cost and greater value, be provided for in a series of *smaller* grounds placed as nearly as practicable at regular distances through or around the town.

Small gardens and play-grounds.

The argument is briefly this: That such *scattered, smaller grounds* would be more accessible; would less embarrass other interests of the town; would less interfere with its natural development; would involve less contention with local jealousies and consequent wasteful compromises; and would on the whole be less costly." London should see to this.

Dr. Newell (M.D.), in a pamphlet published by the Public Park Association of Providence has collected some very valuable evidence (as applicable in England as in America) with regard to the financial advantages of parks; he says, "The establishment and improvement of interior parks in cities are almost always profitable, especially where the enviroing territory is sufficiently central to be needed for business purposes or residences. Even where old buildings have been demolished in large cities to make room for fresh air and vegetation, the outlay has almost always been remunerative, to say nothing about the money value of the improved health which the work occasions.

Financial advantages of parks.

"Large profits have come from the establishment and improvement of parks in this country. Municipal taxes, in parts of cities not immediately affected by park improvements, are *lessened* rather than increased. Central Park more than paid for itself, and left the title in the city free of cost."

In 1881, the Park Commissioners of New York state that "*the park is not a tax upon the city at large, but that the increased taxes from the surrounding property pay its cost.*"

In 1884, they tell us that:

"The city makes \$17,000,000 and acquires land worth \$200,000,000." They were not only able "to meet excessive expenditures on the construction and maintenance account," but "to put millions into the City Treasury towards defraying other expenses; and this, too, notwithstanding the park cost \$1,000,000 more than it ought, with a thoroughly digested plan in the beginning."

In 1859, six years after the passage of the act creating the park, a law passed authorizing the purchase of 62 acres to be added to the previous area of the park. For this tract the city had to pay "about five times the cost of the land at the upper extremity of the park when the first purchase was made, six years before." Had the whole territory been bought at the same time, immediately after the Act in 1853, at least *"eight hundred thousand dollars would have been saved to the public treasury."*

The recent purchase of land for six additional parks in New York has been urged "upon the undisputed ground, as far as known, that the *city's outlay for parks hitherto has had the effect of reducing rather than increasing taxation.*"

The New York Commissioners add further: "Standing second in its importance and consequences only to the introduction of Croton water in its effects upon the public health, it has far surpassed that great work in its financial results." Still further, "while the property in 19 wards increased only two fold from 1856 to 1881, the taxable value of the three wards in which Central Park was located advanced from about *twenty-six and a half millions to over three hundred and twelve millions on the same property, an increase of 1,200 per cent., contributing one-third of the expenses of the whole city.*"

The financial results of Back Bay improvement at Boston are similar.

The assessors' valuation for eight years previous to 1885 show that over fifteen millions of square feet of Back Bay lands were favourably affected by the improvement, and an increase in valuation of almost twelve millions, or an average of 77 cents per square foot. The valuation of land in the rest of the city during the same period *was reduced \$9,014,425.* Increase of taxes on increased valuation of the lands assessed for betterments, and increase of taxes on new buildings erected on said land and betterments during same period amounted to nearly one million eight hundred thousand dollars.

It appears, then, that Back Bay improvement *lessened the taxes on property not favourably affected by the improvement.*

The Fairmount Park Commissioners tell us that "we shall soon have a value added to our real estate and taxable resources *more than commensurate with the purchase-money for all the park, and that value will increase indefinitely.*"

We are informed by the superintendent of Brooklyn Park, that "it may be confidently asserted that the establishment of Prospect and the smaller parks has been generally beneficial as a financial venture on the part of the municipality, and that as a matter of fact, the parks *impose no burden upon*



the taxpayers, but have been and are an important factor in contributing to the city an increased revenue, "which would go a long way towards *paying off the indebtedness incurred by the issue of bonds for the original purchase of the lands and their improvement.*"

Buffalo affords significant testimony upon this point. "It is believed that through the increased attractiveness of the city as a place of residence, the rise in the value of property adjacent to the park and its approaches, and the additional taxable capital invested in land and buildings in the vicinity of these improvements, the outlay of the park has *lightened the burden of the taxpayers.* The city has recently obtained an Act of the legislature authorizing a portion of the land originally thrown out to be purchased and added to the park. Its market value is now estimated to be four or five times as much as when thrown out." "Its value is largely increasing every year. The city is now proud of it, and grateful for it."

The above is from a statement signed by twenty-six of the most prominent citizens of Buffalo. We copy the following from a document signed by the Mayor and Park Commissioners, written subsequently to the above:—

"The cost of the parks has been in a large measure compensated by taxes receivable from increased valuation of adjacent property, to say nothing of the health-giving recreation and pleasure the parks afford to thousands who visit them during the summer months. With the rapid increase of our city in wealth and in density of population have grown up both the need for such recreation, *and the taste to enjoy it.*"

Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, established in 1860, is located three-eighths of a mile beyond the city limits. The road leading to it, formerly without a dwelling, is now lined with rows of handsome residences. The park lands cost less than 1,000 dollars an acre. "The surrounding property is now held at rates *vastly higher.*" "For an individual interest" that, before the park was opened, cost the Commissioners \$500 an acre, "they have since had to pay \$3,000." "Rough hillside lots, which would scarcely have found a purchaser, are now sold for \$3,000 (a)."

Testimony from Chicago is, that the *immediate* effect was to double and quadruple property values (b)."

The Mayor of Savannah says with reference to the small interior parks of that city, that their establishment "had the effect of doubling the value of adjacent property."

We are informed by the very best authority, a man "familiar with every detail in relation to valuations of real estate in Albany," that "in 1872 the increased valuation of

property adjacent to the park, and caused by reason of the location of said park, would, at that time (three years after its establishment) produce a revenue more than sufficient to pay the interest on the bonds issued for park purposes, including the costs of maintenance. Since that date the increase in valuation of property in the vicinity of the park, as compared with other portions of the city, has been as three to one (c)."

Similar testimony might be quoted from other cities.

It is well stated, that, "when the principal outlay has been made, the result may, and, under good management, must, for many years afterwards, be increasing in value at a constantly advancing rate of increase, and never cease to increase as long as the city endures." "For every thousand dollars judiciously invested in a park, the dividends to the second generation of citizens possessing it will be much larger than to the first, the dividends to the third generation much larger than to the second (d)."

(a) Secretary Park Commissioners, Baltimore, 1882.

(b) H. W. Harmon, Secretary of the Chicago Department.

(c) Wm. J. Weaver.

(d) Boston Park Commissioners, 1886.

## ALPHABETICAL DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES IN AMERICA.

### ALBANY.

	Acres.
1. Washington Park .....	90

In addition to Washington Park the city owns and cares for seven smaller Parks with an area of 10 acres. Albany has two broad avenues. Western Avenue is 8,000 feet long and 100 feet wide. The Northern Boulevard is 5,000 feet long and 150 feet wide. The cost to the town of all the open spaces from 1869 to 1886 (not including maintenance money) was £232,350.

### BALTIMORE.

Population .....		332,313
	Acres.	Cost.
1. Druid Hill .....	700	£140,000
2. Patterson Park .....	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
3. Riverside Park .....	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	—
4. Federal Hill Park .....	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	—

Other small spaces and avenues.



Druid Hill Park is to my mind the most attractive in America. The ground is beautifully thrown about by nature, the trees are fine and the Park well maintained. The Parks of Baltimore have not cost the citizens a farthing. The City Authorities in granting concessions to the Tramway Company to lay their lines throughout the city, were wise enough to exact such a consideration in the shape of an interest on the profits, as has since paid the cost of the Parks, and has provided for their annual maintenance.

## BOSTON.

Population.....	369,832		
	Acreage.	Cost.	
1. Franklin Park (in course of construction)	518	—	
2. Riverdale and Back Park (incomplete), made land, formerly sea and marsh ...	216	—	
3. Arboretum.....	167	—	
4. Wood Island Park (in course of construction), to be partly reclaimed from the sea .....	81	£10,000	
5. Common and Public Garden.....	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	
6. Massachusetts Avenue .....	47	—	
7. Marine Park, South Boston (incomplete), to be reclaimed partly from the sea ...	40	—	
8. Broadway Park (Somerville) .....	16	—	
9. Public Park .....	13	—	
10. Commonwealth Avenue .....	10	—	
11. Charles River Embankment .....	10	—	
12. Commons (Cambridge) .....	10	—	
13. Washington Park.....	9	—	

Numerous small squares and broad avenues.

It is proposed to add to the above a new Park, to be called "Jamaica Park," of 122 acres, including a lake of 70 acres, and to unite most of the open spaces by a continuous series of Parkways.

## BRIDGEPORT.

	Acres.
1. Beardsley Park .....	125
2. Seaside Park .....	100

Beardsley Park is on elevated ground of a pastoral, sylvan character. It commands a distant view of the sea, and there are considerable bodies of well-grown wood upon it.

Seaside Park is on the shore of Long Island Sound.

Bridgeport has in addition three small Parks containing a total area of 15 acres, and, as its population is only 40,000, it has, on account of the large proportion of open space to population to which it enjoys, been called the "Park City."

## BROOKLYN.

Population.....			566,663
	Acres.	Cost of purchase.	Cost of annual maintenance.
1. Prospect Park.....	526	—	£27,660
2. Ocean Parkway, $5\frac{1}{3}$ miles long and 210 ft. wide .....	180	£150,000	£3,000
3. Eastern Parkway, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and 210 ft. wide; 8 rows of trees.....	82	—	—
4. Coney Island Concourse, 2,750 ft. long by 1,000 ft. wide .....	70	—	—
5. Washington Park .....	30	£1,300	—

Four other small Parks and enclosures containing an area of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  acres. The lake area in Prospect Park is about 110 acres.

Prospect Park is one of the finest natural Parks in America. A portion of it was originally a private Park belonging to the Litchfield family, consequently the trees have been well preserved. Nearly one-third of the area of Prospect Park has never been laid out or improved. Picnicing in a public park is peculiarly a Brooklyn institution. The Park Department furnishes a permit for such purpose to all orderly persons who may apply, which, without cost, gives them public protection, good water, swings, tables, seats, and shelter.

A Meteorological Department has been established in this Park with a complete set of instruments.

The Ocean Parkway, with a triple drive, connects Prospect Park with Coney Island Concourse and the sea. It cost £50,000 to lay out. A portion of this expense was borne by the adjacent property holders.

Coney Island Concourse, has a sea frontage of 2,750 feet and a uniform depth of 1,000 feet.

Brooklyn, New York, Boston, San Francisco, and Bridgeport appear to be the cities in America that have sea Parks.

## BUFFALO.

Population.....			155,134
	Acres.	Average cost of purchase per acre.	
1. The Park (including Agassiz Place)..	355	£250	
2. State Asylum Grounds .....	200	—	
3. "The Parade" .....	56	—	
4. "The Front," including "The Bank" ..	33	—	
5. Fort Porter .....	17	—	

Besides the above there are nine smaller public squares and several broad avenues. There are four Parkways 200 feet



wide, 3 miles in length, and 4 miles of avenues 100 feet wide. An Act was passed by the State Legislature in 1885, authorizing the Park Commission in making improvements to Park approaches, to levy upon property adjacent to such approaches half the sum required for making the improvements.

The cost of maintenance of the above in 1888 was £20,000.

The Park is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of the city, and consequently not easily accessible to the poorer portion of the population. "The more notable features are a grand sweep of undulating turf, 150 acres in extent, and containing a goodly number of well-grown trees, a body of water of 46 acres, an open grove suited to picnics, and closed woods offering wilder and more secluded rambles."

#### CHICAGO.

Population..... 503,185  
(Municipal boundaries lately extended so as to include 1,000,000 inhabitants.)

	Acres.	Annual maintenance.
1. Lake Shore Park .....	593	—
2. Jackson Park .....	586	—
3. South Park .....	372	—
4. Washington Park .....	371	—
5. Lincoln Park .....	250	—
6. Humboldt Park .....	200	£5,300
7. Garfield Park .....	185	£6,250
8. Douglas Park .....	180	£4,370
9. Midway Plaisance .....	90	—
10. Gage Park .....	20	—

There are in addition eleven small Parks, the whole more or less connected by a series of magnificent boulevards varying in width from 100 to 250 feet, and lined with trees.

Lincoln and Lake Shore Parks are situated on the shore of Lake Michigan. Humboldt, Garfield, Douglas, and Jackson have all extensive water areas. Midway Plaisance is a Boulevard or Parkway nearly a mile long, and between 700 and 800 feet wide, surrounding a series of ornamental basins from 20 to 100 feet in width. Water for cascades and fountains is obtained by means of artesian wells. Lincoln and Lake Shore Parks are in process of enlargement by encroachment on the Lake.

The following are the dimensions of that portion of the famous Chicago Boulevards which is under the direction of the South Park Commissioners:—

	LENGTH. Feet.	BREADTH. Feet.
1. Pine Street.....	3,920	200
2. North Avenue .....	1,382	66
3. N. Park Avenue .....	2,357	66
4. Lake View Avenue .....	2,621	80
5. Dweisey Boulevard .....	1,680	66

These Boulevards cost the property owners £14,910.

The cost of maintenance of Jackson, Washington, and Gage Parks, and Midway Plaisance from December, 1887, to December, 1888, exclusive of the Boulevards, amounted to £9,000. The receipts from hay sold in the same year amounted to £231. £1,003 were the receipts from public phaetons during the same period. It is proposed to expend £6,000 in the erection of a winter garden building in Douglas Park, 178 feet long by 62 feet wide, in which may be cultivated the largest tropical plants. In the East wing, at the intersection of the transepts, is to be placed a tank 24 feet in diameter, in which it is proposed to grow "Victoria Regia," the "Lotus," and the "Papyrus." The West Chicago Park Commissioners are engaged in the formation of a series of Boulevards which when completed will be 250 feet in width and 18 miles in length, with stone sidewalks, and will be shaded by six rows of trees.

#### CINCINNATI.

Population.....	255,139
	Acres.
1. Eden Park .....	200
2. Burnet Woods .....	163
3. Markley Farm .....	148
4. Lincoln Park .....	10
5. Washington Park .....	5½

Eden Park is beautifully situated on a hill overlooking the city.

Burnet Wood is composed of hill and dale, very pretty, is nicely wooded, and well kept.

#### DETROIT.

Population.....		116,340
	Acres.	Cost of purchase.
1. Belle Isle Park (in course of formation) .....	700	£40,000
2. Linden Park .....	26	—

Detroit has 12 other small open spaces aggregating 16 acres in extent. Belle Isle is an island in the Detroit River, midway between the American and Canadian shores, opposite to and connected with Detroit by a bridge nearly three-quarters of a mile in length. It was purchased in 1879. It is 2 miles 200 feet in length, and averages over half a mile in width. Artificial lakes have been formed, and electric light plant established, and a large casino built for rest and refreshment.



The park contains over 15 miles of driveways. From the casino can be obtained an extensive view of neatly kept lawns, dotted with flower beds, stretching away to the river beach, and beyond that the grand panorama which the river commands, dotted at all times during the summer season with innumerable sail and row-boats skimming hither and thither in the shoal water, and a still further sight may be enjoyed of the distant inland strait through which is continually passing the commerce of the great lakes.

#### HARTFORD.

Bushnell Park.

"Hartford in the State of Connecticut," says Dr. Donald G. Mitchell of New Haven, "has made the most of its opportunities by converting into a charming public garden a weary waste of ground that lay between its railway station and the heart of the city."

"Few cities of this country," says Dr. Newell, "have so valuable an interior recreation ground as Hartford. Not rich in floral decorations, cascades, fountains, or natural grandeur, but comparatively rich in art, in foliage, in meadow, in lawns and in promenades."

#### LYNN.

A new Park of about 1,000 acres is in course of construction.

#### MINNEAPOLIS.

Population .....	200,000
	Acres.
1. Minnehaha Falls .....	—
2. Lake Harriet Park .....	400
3. Lake of the Isles .....	300
4. Central Park .....	30
5. Prospect Park .....	25
6. Riverside Park .....	25
7. First Ward Park .....	10

There are four other small parks with an area of 18 acres. The city has many miles of park-ways.

Riverside and Minnehaha parks lie on both sides of the Mississippi River, the banks of which are high, precipitous, wooded and picturesque. Minneapolis has expended £100,000 on the improvement of her parks and boulevards, and great credit is due to her for the energy she has shown in extending her park system.

#### MONTREAL, CANADA.

1. Mount Royal .....	Acres.
	530

This lofty, rugged mountain, towering 750 feet above the city, is said to command views "surpassing in expanse, beauty

and variety those of any of the common resorts of tourists on the American continent" and "compare favourably as a means of health for the people who are invited to use it with the public recreation grounds of any city in the world."

#### NEWBERRY-ON-HUDSON.

A new park of about 18 acres is being constructed here under the direction of Mr. F. L. Olmsted.

#### NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

	Acres.	Cost of purchase.
East Rock.....	353	£3,600

"The park is a crescent shaped body of land, two miles north by east from the city. Its prominent feature being an uplift of basaltic cliff, which in its highest part reaches an elevation of 360 feet, and shows a precipitous face from 70 to 100 feet in height by some 1,800 feet in length. This great line of precipice is convex in shape, and fronts the city. East of the southernmost end of the main cliff, and separated from it by a wooded gorge rises a lesser basaltic hill, known as Indian Head, which repeats in miniature the features of its larger neighbour, and has only some 60 feet less of elevation. A fair forest growth covers at least four-fifths of the area." In addition, New Haven has fifteen small open spaces containing fifteen acres.

#### NEW ORLEANS.

Population.....	216,090
Anderton Park .....	Acres. 50

Owing to the natural position of the city Open Spaces are not very necessary. New Orleans, with a population of 260,000, has a river frontage of thirteen miles. The streets are generally wide and open, excepting in the older part of the town, and many of them are bordered with trees.

Audubon Park is situated at the extreme end of the city. As it is some four miles from the centre, it is of but little general use to the public. There are also five Open Spaces in the city, each about two acres in extent, kept carefully and much used as recreation grounds.

There is little overcrowding in any part of the city, the labouring population usually owning their own homes, and often some land as well at the back.



## NEW YORK.

Population .....	1,206,999	
	Area.	Original cost.
1. Pelham Bay Park (unfinished, one-third of acreage sea water) .....	1,756	£504,500
2. Van Cortlandt Park (ditto).....	1,132	£432,300
3. Central Park .....	864	—
4. Bronx Park (unfinished) .....	661	£380,000
5. Crotona Park (ditto).....	141	£228,400
6. Riverside Park .....	89	£56,300
7. Mosholn Parkway, 600 feet wide .....	80	—
8. Bronx and Pelham Parkway .....	95	£21,100
9. Claremont Park (new) .....	38	£72,300
10. Morningside Park .....	31 $\frac{1}{4}$	—
11. St. Mary's Park (new) .....	28	—
12. High Bridge Park.....	23	—
13. Battery Park .....	21	—
14. Mount Morris Park .....	20	—
15. Crotona Parkway (new) .....	12	19,250
16. Thompson's Park.....	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
17. City Hall Park .....	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	—

And other small open spaces.

Pelham Bay Park is a natural forest. It has a water front on Island Sound, and an aggregate shore line of eight miles. It is at present owing to its situation much infested by mosquitoes in summer. "Van Cortlandt Park is situated within half an hour's rail from the Grand Central Depot. It possesses a varied topography, ample spaces, charming views, and natural conditions peculiarly adapted for park purposes. It presents a remarkable combination of forest, hill, and valley, rock and glen, meadow, lake, and stream; a natural park requiring but little outlay to fit it for immediate use, beyond the laying out and the construction of roads, walks, and the maintenance of neatness and order. It contains a lake of pure fresh water of sixty acres in extent, supplied by a beautiful brook which may be easily made an interesting feature in the park."

"Bronx Park is located on both sides of the Bronx, extending to a distance of from half to three-quarters of a mile on each side of the river. This stream varies in width from fifty to four hundred or five hundred feet, from which the bank rises to the height of fifty, eighty, and in some places to ninety feet, while gigantic trees, centuries old, crown the summits, and great rocks, mossy and ivy covered, project here and there at different heights above the surface of the river."

Central Park is said by Mr. F. L. Olmsted in 1882 to have cost the City of New York since the date of its formation £3,000,000 in 24 years. It is a beautiful park entirely created by the skill of man on a most unpromising natural site, and has been laid out and planted with great taste.

"Crotona Park commands extensive views of the surrounding country. It has a luxuriant growth of forest, and is beautifully diversified with hill and dale, glade and glen."

Claremont Park is another small park placed on elevated ground affording extended views and containing well wooded tracts, level spaces, quiet dells and shady nooks.

#### PHILADELPHIA.

Population.....		847,170
	Acres	Original
1. Fairmount Park .....	2,791	£1,200,000
2. Hunting Park .....	40	—
3. Franklin Square.....	8	—
4. Logan Square .....	8	—
5. Washington Square ...	7	—
6. Rittenhouse Square ...	7	—
7. Independence Square...	5	—

Besides a few smaller squares.

Fairmount Park is the second largest Park in the world in close proximity to a city. I know of no other Park which is traversed for 4 miles and 300 yards by a river varying from 400 to 900 feet wide, and which in addition runs for 6 miles on either side of a tributary stream 100 feet in width. This Park must take rank as one of the finest in the world. Philadelphia is, however, badly supplied with interior squares close to the homes of the people.

#### PITTSBURG.

Population.....	156,839
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Three hundred acres of land have just (December, 1889) been presented for Park purposes to this large manufacturing city by Mrs. Schenley, a lady who owns extensive property in the town. She has also given the city the option of purchasing an additional 100 acres at a price considerably below the market value of the land ; an offer which was at once accepted.

#### PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

Population.....	104,857
1. Roger Williams's Park .....	Acres. 104

It is proposed to make a new Park, called the Cove Park, around the Cove Basin.

#### ROCHESTER.

Population.....	89,366
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This city is engaged in the formation of a Park of about 400 acres, under the direction of Mr. F. L. Olmsted. It will



be traversed by the deep ravine of the Genesee River, which Mr. Olmsted informs me is of the wildest and most picturesque character.

## ST. LOUIS.

Population.....		350,518	
	Acres.	Cost.	Maintenance.
1. Forest Park .....	1,372	£169,800	—
2. Tower Grove—a gift ...	267	£60,000	£5,000
3. Carondelet Park .....	180	£28,000	—
4. O'Fallon Park .....	158	£51,800	—
5 The Fair Grounds .....	83	—	—
6. Missouri Botanical Gardens .....	50	£19,100	—
7. Benton Park .....	14	—	—
8. Exchange Square.....	12	—	—
9. Hyde Park .....	12	£7,250	—
10. Lyon Park.....	10	—	—
11. St. Louis Place.....	10	—	—
12. Shaw's Garden, lately presented to the city.			
And other smaller places.			

Forest Hill Park is a magnificent natural Park, beautifully "diversified with land and water, forest and meadow, hill and dale, rock and glen, and brook and river," but somewhat neglected in condition. Tower Grove is laid out in the gardenesque style, and is adorned with works of art. Shaw's Garden is a botanical garden richly supplied with specimens, and fitted with extensive hothouses.

## SAN FRANCISCO.

Population.....	233,959
	Acres.
1. Golden Gate.....	1,040
Avenues, &c.	

A beautiful Park of large extent, which ultimately may be extended to some 1,400 acres. It has been formed out of dunes and rolling hillocks, covered by sand blown from the extensive beach stretching south from Cliff House, at the entrance to the Golden Gate. In many places a subsoil is found on removing the sand. The City Authorities sowed the site with lupins, the roots of which bind the sand. They also planted all the rearward side with bent grass, which has succeeded well in checking any further drifting of sand inwards. The Park is laid out with marked taste, and the roads, turf, and flowers are kept in beautiful order. Although outside the city, it is easily reached by the citizens, as almost all the cable tramways have their termini close to the Park gates on the side next to the city, and the fare for any distance does not exceed 5 cents (2½d.).

The City Authorities in selling sites for building, and in their building plans and grading operations, have reserved at intervals open spaces for ornamental squares and gardens.

### SAVANNAH.

	Acres.
Park.....	60

### TORONTO, CANADA.

A portion of a low island of sand facing the city, about half a mile distant, is being made into a Public Park. Toronto also possesses a small Park and a few small open spaces.

### VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A large portion of virgin forest has been acquired as a Park, and a beautiful drive made round a peninsula running out into the sea.

### WASHINGTON.

Population.....	147,293
	Acres.
1. Soldiers' Home .....	500
2. New United States Zoological Park (in course of formation) .....	165
3. White House Grounds.....	81
4. Capitol Grounds .....	51
5. Smithsonian Grounds .....	50
6. Washington Monument Park.....	40
7. Zoological Garden.....	20
8. Botanical Garden .....	10

Numerous small open spaces and broad avenues.

Washington is reclaiming from the river a large area called the "Flats," which is to be converted into a Park, and is contemplating the purchase of some 3,000 or 4,000 acres of neighbouring forest land on the banks of the Potomac, rising 150 feet from the water's edge. The city is admirably supplied with numerous small open spaces and broad avenues varying in width from 120 to 160 feet, and with an aggregate length of 279 miles.

### WILMINGTON.

A new Park of about 150 acres is being constructed in this city.



## WORCESTER.

Population .....		58,291
	Acres.	Cost of purchase.
1. Lake Park, 3 miles distant.....	100	—
2. Newton Hill .....	60	—
3. North Park .....	40	—
4. Elm Park .....	28	—
5. Institute.....	18	—
6. Crompton Park.....	12	£8,800
7. University Park .....	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
8. Common .....	8	£23,000

“Lake Park consists of both upland and lowland, interspersed with rocks and trees, and supporting in their present rugged outlines vast possibilities in the way of its future development.”

For purposes of comparison between the open spaces in American cities and London, the following list of the Parks and Commons over 10 acres in extent within easy reach of the citizens of the Metropolis may be of interest :—

## LIST OF OPEN SPACES IN LONDON OVER 10 ACRES.

	Acres.
1. Epping-forest ... ..	5,348
2. Richmond-park ... ..	2,469
3. Wimbledon and Putney-commons ... ..	1,412
4. Bushey-park ... ..	994
5. Hampton-court-park ... ..	752
6. Hampstead-heath ... ..	505
7. Regent's-park ... ..	473
8. Burnham-beeches ... ..	375
9. Hyde-park... ..	361
10. Hackney-marshes ... ..	345
11. Kensington-gardens ... ..	275
12. Blackheath ... ..	267
13. Kew-gardens ... ..	249
14. Victoria-park ... ..	244
15. Clapham-common ... ..	220
16. Wormwood-scrubs and Little-scrubs ... ..	215
17. Tooting-commons ... ..	207
18. Battersea-park ... ..	198
19. Greenwich-park ... ..	185
20. Wandsworth-common ... ..	183
21. Wanstead-park ... ..	182
22. Hackney-commons ... ..	159
23. Finsbury-park ... ..	115
24. Plumstead-common... ..	100
25. Barnes-common ... ..	100
26. St. James'-park ... ..	93

Carried forward ... .. 16,026

## LIST OF OPEN SPACES IN LONDON OVER 10 ACRES—

*Continued.*

					Acres.
	Brought forward	...	...	...	16,026
27.	West Ham-park	...	...	...	80
28.	Brockwell-park	...	...	...	78
29.	Riddlesdown	...	...	...	77
30.	Coulsden-common	...	...	...	76
31.	Dulwich-park	...	...	...	72
32.	Peckham-rye-common	...	...	...	71
33.	Highgate-wood	...	...	...	70
34.	Kenley-common	...	...	...	70
35.	Streatham-common	...	...	...	66
36.	Southwark-park	...	...	...	63
37.	Bostall-heath	...	...	...	55
38.	Green-park	...	...	...	54
39.	Clissold-park	...	...	...	53
40.	Ealing-commons	...	...	...	50
41.	Ladywell Recreation-ground	...	...	...	47
42.	Ravenscourt-park	...	...	...	32
43.	Waterlow-park	...	...	...	30
44.	Kilburn-park	...	...	...	30
45.	London-fields	...	...	...	26
46.	Acton Recreation-ground	...	...	...	25
47.	Highbury-fields	...	...	...	25
48.	Ealing Lammas Land	...	...	...	24
49.	Farthing-down	...	...	...	21
50.	Kennington-park	...	...	...	19
51.	Sydenham Recreation-ground	...	...	...	17
52.	Eel Brook-common and Parson's-green	...	...	...	15
53.	Victoria, Albert and Chelsea-embankments, and Leicester-square-gardens	...	...	...	15
54.	Myatt's-fields	...	...	...	14
55.	Kew-green...	...	...	...	11
56.	North Woolwich-gardens	...	...	...	10
	Total	...	...	...	<u>17,322</u>

MEATH.





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