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Proposed 

# PARK SYSTEM

FOR THE

Borough of Richmond,

New York City.





REPORT  
ON A PROPOSED  
PARK SYSTEM  
FOR  
THE BOROUGH OF RICHMOND  
New York City  
PREPARED and SUBMITTED BY  
THE COMMITTEE ON PARKS  
OF  
The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce

With Map of the Borough of Richmond.

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DECEMBER, 1902.

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## REPORT.

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Staten Island, Borough of Richmond,  
New York, Dec. 19, 1902.

Mr. GUGY Æ. IRVING,

President Staten Island Chamber of Commerce:

DEAR SIR: The Committee on Parks of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce respectfully reports to you as follows, and in order to make a complete history of the movement in favor of the establishment of a Park System in the Borough of Richmond, includes in its report the following call for a meeting to consider the matter:

Staten Island, N. Y., October 10th, 1902.

DEAR SIR:

The Commissioner of Parks for the Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond, Mr. William R. Willcox, after having made a careful examination of the Borough of Richmond, in company with the Hon. George Cromwell, President of the Borough; Mr. L. L. Tribus, Commissioner of Public Works; and Mr. Guky Æ. Irving, President of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, has expressed himself strongly as being in favor of an extension of the Park System on Staten Island. The Commissioner having asked for an expression of the views of the people of Staten Island on the subject of Parks, the Directors of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce requested the President of the Chamber to appoint a committee to submit a plan of procedure.

Mr. Irving, accordingly, appointed Col. Charles H. Blair, Chairman, of Northfield; Mr. Geo. S. Humphrey of West New Brighton, and Mr. Benjamin Brown of Stapleton, a committee.

These gentlemen will be prepared to submit a report at a meeting to be held at the First National Bank Building, St. George, at 8 p. m., Thursday, October 23d.

(4)

The Committee extends to you an invitation to be present at this meeting and to give an expression of your views, either in a short verbal address or in an article addressed to the undersigned Secretary.

Park Commissioner Willcox will be present at the meeting.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Your obedient servant,

CORNELIUS G. KOLFF,

Secretary.

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At a meeting held Oct. 23, 1902, in answer to the above call, the following report of the Committee was submitted and read :

Staten Island, October 23, 1902.

To the Members of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce,  
and the People of Staten Island :

The Committee appointed by President Irving respectfully reports as follows :

The interest taken by Park Commissioner William R. Willcox in the establishment of Parks, Parkways, and Public Play Grounds in the Borough of Richmond, is a source of pleasure and encouragement to all residents of Staten Island interested in the welfare of the community. Commissioner Willcox's jurisdiction extends over the Borough of Manhattan, as well as over the Borough of Richmond, and it is recognized by those who have given the subject attention that the time for the consideration of this important subject is well chosen.

Staten Island has become a part of the great city of New York, and with the help of municipal authorities interested in the development and adornment of all the Boroughs of the Metropolis, the Borough of Richmond promises to keep step in the march of progress which is destined to make New York City one of the most beautiful as well as one of the most enterprising and progressive cities in the civilized world.

The Department of Parks receives its appropriations from the general fund or budget contributed annually by all the Boroughs of New York City, and thus Richmond has been contributing since its annexation to the costs of the parks in Manhattan and the Bronx, as well as in Brooklyn and Queens. It is apparent, therefore, that the Borough of Richmond has some rights in the premises.

The fact that a choice can now be had of some of the finest sites available for Park purposes, and at a minimum cost as compared with future prices, is an added reason why the establish-

ment of Parks can profitably be taken in hand at a time when the rapid increase in population and general development threatens to deprive us of some of the best sites available for such purposes.

The subject of Parks, viewed on the broadest grounds of public policy and for the benefit of the future generations to come, naturally divides itself into two sub-divisions.

First—What number of acres are to be devoted to Parks?

Second—Where should they be located?

One way to answer the question involved in the first sub-division, is by a comparison with other cities of the world and particularly in the United States.

New York City, including all the Boroughs, exclusive of Richmond, has in its Park System 6,800 acres. The Borough of Richmond at present has about sixty-one acres now set aside for Parks—fifty-seven for Silver Lake and two acres each for Port Richmond and Stapleton.

The City of Boston is next largest in area of its Parks.

Philadelphia has 4,005 acres.

Los Angeles, California, has 3,620 acres, and next in the large areas is our adjacent district of Essex County, New Jersey, with 3,655 acres.

To state the comparison in another way, the records show that New York has 22 acres to every square mile of territory.

That Chicago has 12 acres to every square mile of territory.

Our neighboring County of Essex, New Jersey, has about 30 acres to each square mile of territory. They have one park of 2,500 acres.

Presenting another comparison as respects the number of persons to each acre of park land, among the larger communities, Washington City comes first, with one acre to every 78 persons.

Essex County (Newark) comes second, with one for every 100 persons.

San Francisco, with one acre to each 128 persons.

Minneapolis,	“	140	“
St. Paul,	“	141	“
Indianapolis,	“	157	“
Louisville,	“	163	“
Boston,	“	230	“
Detroit,	“	233	“
St. Louis,	“	272	“
Cleveland,	“	277	“
Philadelphia,	“	350	“
Buffalo,	“	352	“
Baltimore,	“	400	“
New York,	“	500	“
Chicago,	“	818	“

It is thus shown that New York and Chicago have fewer acres in proportion to their population than any other places.

The area of the Borough of Richmond is 57.19 square miles, or reduced to acres it is 36,601.6 acres. Your Committee believes 10 per cent. of this area, or 3,600 acres, should be devoted to Parks, Parkways, Parkway Approaches and Play Grounds, including the beaches for public bathing purposes, in the proportion of say, 5 per cent. for Parks proper, and the other 5 per cent. for the approaches for Parkways and for Play Grounds.

In considering the second sub-division : Where should Parks be located? We believe the following facts should be considered :

- (a). Sites offering play-grounds in the more densely settled portions of the community.
- (b). Sites offering the advantage of a beach resort, including bathing facilities.
- (c). Sites comprising some of the many attractive lakes.
- (d). Sites commanding some of the grand water and inland views for which Staten Island is far-famed.
- (e). Sites for Parkways adapted for driving and riding purposes.
- (f). Sites to protect the public water-sheds.

In submitting these general outlines an effort has been made to meet the requirements of the different elements constituting the community, both as regards health, pleasure, and general utility.

As regards the location of Parks, your Committee does not interpret the Chamber of Commerce resolution asking for its appointment as directing the Committee to make any recommendations as regards particular sites. These selections should only be made after a careful investigation into the views and requirements of the residents in the sections to be especially benefited. For the purpose of accomplishing this, your Committee respectfully submits for your consideration the following resolutions :

WHEREAS, The people of the Borough of Richmond, New York City, recognize the importance of the establishment of a system of public Play Grounds, Parks, and Parkways on Staten Island, and

WHEREAS, It is believed that the proper time has arrived to ask for the establishment of public Play Grounds, Parks, and Parkways, and

WHEREAS, The requirements of the different sections of the Borough of Richmond, to be benefited by the establishment of Parks, etc., should be ascertained by competent men, and submitted by the proper methods to our municipal authorities ;



*Now, therefore, be it Resolved,* That the President of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce appoint a committee of twenty-five residents or property owners in the Borough of Richmond—five members to be selected from each of the five Wards, to select suitable sites for public Play Grounds, Parks, and Parkways in the Borough of Richmond;

*Be it further Resolved,* That the selections so made by the Committee be approved by a majority vote at a public meeting to be held in each of said Wards; and

*Be it further Resolved,* That said committee then present a list of the sites so selected to the municipal authorities, and on their approval to take necessary measures to acquire the property at the earliest date possible; and

*Be it Resolved,* That the Commissioner of Parks of the Borough of Richmond, Hon. William R. Willcox, the President of the Borough of Richmond, the Commissioner of Public Works for Richmond, the President of the Richmond County Park Commission, and the President and Secretary of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce be added to the Committee as ex-officio members; and

*Be it further Resolved,* That the Committee be known as the "Committee on Parks" of the Chamber of Commerce, and that the Committee report as speedily as possible the result of its work to the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) CHARLES H. BLAIR,

(Signed) GEO. S. HUMPHREY,

(Signed) BENJAMIN BROWN.

After the reading of the above report, an address was made by the Hon. W. R. Willcox, Park Commissioner, expressing his approval of the movement for the establishment of parks in the Borough of Richmond, and promising his support.

Interesting remarks were also made by Dr. Arthur Hollick, President of the Richmond County Park Commission (known as the Silver Lake Park Commission) and others, and after a full discussion the report was accepted and approved, and the resolutions recommended in the report adopted.

In accordance with the above resolution, you named the following members of the Committee on Parks:

*Ex-officio Members.*

Hon. WILLIAM R. WILLCOX, Commissioner of Parks for Manhattan and Richmond.

Hon. GEORGE CROMWELL, President of the Borough of Richmond.

Hon. GUGY Æ. IRVING, President Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. ARTHUR HOLLICK, President of the Richmond County Park Commission.

LOUIS L. TRIBUS, Commissioner of Public Works of Richmond Borough.

CORNELIUS G. KOLFF, Secretary Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.

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CHARLES H. BLAIR, Chairman.

*First Ward.*

Mrs. George William Curtis, Livingston.

William T. Davis, St. George.

John M. Carrere, New Brighton.

E. J. Wheeler, Westerleigh.

J. Crawford, Jr., West New Brighton.

*Second Ward.*

Hon. Ferdinand C. Townsend, Clifton.

Reon Barnes, Castleton Corners.

David J. Tysen, Ocean Terrace.

Harry M. Dunn, Dongan Hills.

Benjamin Brown, Stapleton.

*Third Ward.*

Charles H. Blair, New Springville.

Abram Steers, Willow Brook.

D. B. VanName, Mariners Harbor.

William J. Burlee, Port Richmond.

William S. VanClief, Port Richmond.

*Fourth Ward.*

Charles L. Spier, 26 Broadway, N. Y.

R. McLeod Cameron, Arrochar.

Talbot Root, Clifton.

R. W. Nelson, Giffords.

J. W. Hughes, New Dorp.

*Fifth Ward.*

Hon. George Metcalfe, Great Kills.

A. K. Johnston, Prince's Bay.

Hubbard R. Yetman, Tottenville.

Huguenot Association, Huguenot.

J. B. Kaiser, Richmond Valley.

Subsequently you appointed as a member of the Fourth Ward Mr. George Metcalfe, in place of Mr. Talbot Root, who was unable to serve. You also appointed as a member of the Fifth Ward Mr. Henry Seguire of Rossville, to take the place of Mr. George Metcalfe, assigned to the Committee of the Fourth Ward, on account of his change of residence from the Fifth Ward to the Fourth Ward, and you also appointed the Rev. David Junor to represent the Huguenot Association on the Committee from the Fifth Ward.

Pursuant to a call, the Committee met at the First National Bank Building, St. George, Staten Island, on the 20th day of November; Mr. Chas. H. Blair in the chair. Cornelius G. Kolff was elected Secretary of the Committee.

After a full discussion of the work to be performed by the Committee, it was agreed that the committees representing the different wards would meet for the purpose of formulating a plan for the establishment of parks in their respective wards; and after a number of meetings of the different Ward Committees were held, a conference of all the Ward Committees was held, at which the plans submitted by the different Ward Committees were examined, discussed, and in some instances were changed to meet the requirements of harmony in the plan for the establishment of parks, embracing the whole Borough.

On the 11th day of December a meeting of the whole committee was held, and at this meeting each Ward Committee presented its report, accompanied by maps showing the sites selected for parks, parkways, and public play-grounds; and after a full discussion the reports were adopted and the Secretary of the Committee was requested to embrace all of the reports, made in a report to be made by the Committee of the Whole. This report was submitted to your Committee at a meeting held in the First National Bank Building on the 19th day of December, 1902, and is now submitted to you, together with the resolutions passed at this meeting, and accompanied by the separate reports made by each committee from the five wards, to which are annexed maps showing more fully the location and dimensions of the different sites.

The report and resolutions adopted at the meeting of the 19th of December, 1902, and which we now have the honor of submitting to you, are as follows :

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PARKS  
OF THE  
STATEN ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Adopted at a meeting held in First National Bank Building,  
St. George, S. I., December 19, 1902.

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**INTRODUCTION.**

The establishment of a Park System in the Borough of Richmond, New York City, should be considered a public measure; the benefits of which will be felt not only in the Borough in which these Parks are situated, but to a large degree in the Borough of Manhattan. When it is furthermore taken into consideration that the proposed Park System would embrace the highest point of land on the Atlantic Coast between Maine and Florida, and is the only point in the State of New York from which a grand ocean view can be obtained from so high an elevation, the establishment of a Park on Staten Island not unlike the establishment of a State Park at Niagara Falls, becomes a matter of interest to the State at large.

As a matter of general interest it should also be borne in mind that Staten Island embraces the most Southern point in the State of New York and contains many places of historic interest.

Prompted by a feeling of pride in the great City of New York, of which the Borough of Richmond is an important part, an earnest effort has been made to formulate a plan for the establishment of Parks which will reflect credit on the City of New York, as well as the Borough of Richmond.

The experience of the past has shown that for many years the natural advantages of the Borough of Richmond have attracted large numbers of citizens from Manhattan to the view-commanding hills, the beautiful woods, the picturesque lakes, and the attractive seashore of Staten Island, a fact which leads us to believe that the establishment of Parks embracing the many beautiful points mentioned, if made easily accessible from Manhattan, would prove attractive to a very large number of residents of Lower and Central Manhattan, to whom the Richmond Borough Park System would be of easier access than for instance the Parks in the Bronx.

Another feature of Staten Island which entitles it to consideration for Park purposes is the interesting fact that its native plant life includes about 1,200 species, some of them not found elsewhere in New York State. This is a larger number of

species than is to be found in any other section of equal area in this State or any of the adjoining States, and some of the rarer or more interesting of the species could be preserved by including their stations within the Park System.

This unusual richness in vegetation is due not only to topographic diversity but also to the fact that two well-defined geologic formations are represented on the Island, each differing from the other in the characters of its soil, and each supporting its own peculiar flora.

The area to be embraced in the proposed System of Parks has been a subject which has received the most careful attention. Comparisons have been made with other cities of the United States and in Europe and with other sections of the City of New York, both as regards the amount of land to be contained in the Park System and the expense of acquiring and maintaining them, as well as the advantages to be derived from the point of view of the public health and the general development and progress of an increasing population both of New York City and the Borough of Richmond.

It is considered to be a fact beyond the question of argument that no more opportune time exists than the present one for the purchase of suitable sites, both as regards cost and choice of sites.

The total area of the Borough of Richmond is 36,601 acres, and of this total it would appear that 3,500 acres, approximately, would be a proper area to be devoted to Parks, Parkways, and Public Play Grounds.

## GENERAL OUTLINE.

In selecting sites it has been the purpose of the Committee to secure :

*First.*—Sites suitable for public Play Grounds in the more densely populated parts of the Borough, and in close proximity to the public schools.

*Second.*—Park sites that will serve the purpose of beach resorts, including bathing facilities, somewhat on the plan of Revere Beach near Boston.

*Third.*—Park sites that will protect the water-sheds.

*Fourth.*—Park sites which will embrace the many attractive grand ocean and inland views, which are a distinctive feature of this Borough.

*Fifth.*—Park sites embracing the many pretty lakes.

*Sixth.*—Parkways and driveways connecting the different parks and creating an harmonious general plan or system of parks, while at the same time serving the purpose of those fond of driving or riding.

Taking into consideration the geographical and topographical features of the Borough and the distribution of population in the Borough and the close proximity of the large population in Lower Manhattan, a plan has been conceived for the establishment of what we beg to term five different sections, forming and completing an harmonious general system of parks.

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## FIRST.

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### THE SOUTH SHORE SYSTEM.

This system should commence at Clifton, with access to it by means of an extension of the present South Side Boulevard, from its Northern terminus at Parkinson avenue by way of the below-described Grassmere Park to a point at or near Pennsylvania avenue, and embracing "Grassmere Lake Park" of 55 acres; "South Beach Park" of 420 acres, extending from the fortifications at Fort Wadsworth to Midland Beach; "New Dorp Beach Park" of 125 acres, extending from the St. John's Guild property South to the beginning of Crook's Point; the "Great Kills Park" of about 80 acres, facing on Great Kills; the "Giffords Park" of 22 acres, embracing a part of the so-called Wiman property, and extending by a parkway from near the station at Giffords to the Park site, extending from the Boulevard to the East Shore; the "Woods of Arden Park" of 90 acres; the "Prince's Bay Park" (embracing the State Quarantine property) 35 acres, and the "Tottenville or Christopher Billop Park" of 30 acres (including the historic Billop House and the Bay Cliff Park property), at the Southern terminus of the Amboy road. All of the above mentioned parks, constituting the South Shore Park System, and to be connected with each other by means of the South Side Boulevard, which terminates near the Woods of Arden at the present time, but an extension of which through the Fifth Ward from the Woods of Arden to Tottenville, is hereby recommended.

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## SECOND.

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### HIGHLAND OR OCEAN VIEW SYSTEM.

This system is to follow in a general line the chain of hills commencing with Pavilion Hill at Tompkinsville, near the

Northern end of the Island, and terminating with the Bay Cliff or Christopher Billop Park, overlooking the Staten Island Sound from the Bluffs at Tottenville, near the Southern end of the Island—including the Pavilion Hill Park of 16 acres at Tompkinsville; the Grymes' Hill Park of 16 acres, extending from Howard avenue to the Richmond road; the Horse-Shoe Bend Park of 30 acres on the Ocean Terrace; the Great Central or Ocean Hill Park of 1,500 acres (including the highest point of the Island, known as Ocean Hill, and including Meisner Hill and Latourette or Richmond Hill). This park to extend in its length approximately from the intersection of the Ocean Terrace and the Todt Hill road to Richmond on one side, and in its width from the hills back of the Moravian Cemetery to and across the summit of Ocean Hill to the Northern slope of the Manor road.

The next park of this system extends in a Southerly direction to the Green Ridge or Woodrow Park 300 acres, including the Rossville Park of 10 acres, and the Pleasant Plains Park of 350 acres (intended to protect the principal water-shed of the Fifth Ward), terminating with the Tottenville or Christopher Billop Park, mentioned before under the heading of the South Shore Park System.

In considering a suitable parkway for the purpose of connecting these different parks embraced in this system, it is suggested to use: Ward avenue, Occident avenue, Louis street and Howard avenue to connect Pavilion Hill Park with Grymes Hill Park, and to continue thence Southerly along the Serpentine road, crossing the Clove valley, through the Clove Park to Ellingwood avenue, and thence via the Ocean Terrace to the Horse-Shoe Bend Park, or by constructing a driveway from a point on the Serpentine road at the entrance to the Cunard or Bellevue property, through the latter to the edge of the bluff, overlooking the Clove pass; thence by means of a viaduct across the Clove pass to the property known as the Unger or Bernheimer property on the South side of the Clove pass, and thence by proper course to the Ocean Terrace.

Beyond the Horse-Shoe Bend Park the Ocean Terrace is to be used as a driveway until the intersection of the Todt Hill road and the Ocean Terrace, where a new driveway would have to be constructed, following the summit of Ocean Hill, until by means of its Southern slope the intersection of Rockland avenue and Egbert avenue would be reached, whence Meisner Hill road could be utilized partly, in following the crest of what is known as Meisner Hill or Richmond Hill and terminating at Latourette Hill above Richmond.

In addition to the above driveway, this Central Park, or Ocean View Park System, is traversed by other main thoroughfares, such as Egbert avenue, the Manor road, Rockland avenue, and other roads, all of which make this large park easily accessible from all parts of the Island. It should also be borne in

mind that the greater part of this park will be accessible by means of the Midland trolley as it now exists, and would be served by a trolley almost through its centre, were the Midland trolley now terminating near Eckstein's Brewery on the Manor road, extended via the Manor road, Egbert avenue and Rockland avenue to Egbertville.

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### THIRD.

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#### PORT RICHMOND OR WILLOW BROOK PARK SYSTEM.

This park system is to begin at the Richmond Terrace, near where Palmer's Run enters into the Kill van Kull, and is to embrace the land between the Richmond Terrace, Jewett avenue, and Columbia street and Post avenue, to be connected by parkway [as hereinafter described] running from North to South entirely through the Island, with a park of about 50 acres, to be established on both sides of the Willow Brook, North and East of Willow Brook road.

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### FOURTH.

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#### THE CHAIN OF LAKES OR CLOVE VALLEY SYSTEM.

This system is intended primarily to protect the watersheds of the First and Second Wards, and is to embrace the Silver Lake Park enlarged, the Clove Valley from the intersection of the Clove and the Little Clove, including Crystal Lake, Clove Lake, Brook's Pond and Bodine's Pond.

This Park System is easily accessible by the different branches of the electric roads on the Turnpike, Castleton avenue, the Clove road, the Manor road and Jewett avenue, as well as the Shore Road trolley.

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### FIFTH.

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#### THE NEW YORK BAY AND KILL VAN KULL SYSTEM.

This system embraces a number of scattered parks fronting New York Bay and the Kill van Kull, and intended primarily to



reserve for park purposes certain points along the shore of the Bay and the Kill van Kull, which command attractive views of the Harbor and the Kills.

The parks in this system are to embrace the Clifton Park in front of the Marine Hospital, and extending from Bay street to the tracks below ; also the New Brighton Park, extending from the intersection of Stuyvesant Place and the Richmond Terrace to Westervelt avenue from Richmond Terrace to the railroad tracks below ; also the Snug Harbor Park, embracing the meadow and dyke formed by the bend of the Richmond Terrace, between the Snug Harbor boat-house and the Livingston station ; this park being particularly available for a public recreation pier and landing for boats and pleasure craft, and possibly for bathing ; and finally the Arlington Park of 23 acres, embracing a beach front particularly well adapted for bathing, and for a recreation pier, pleasure boat landing, etc.

This completes the system of parks.

#### PARKWAYS.

Now as regards Parkways, your Committee is of the opinion that they should be fashioned wherever possible after Commonwealth avenue in Boston, being 150 feet in width and having a space devoted to trolleys in the centre of 40 feet, with a row of trees on each side of this, roadways on each end of these each 40 feet wide, with a row of trees between them and the sidewalk, which is to be 15 feet wide.

These Parkways in a general way are to connect the different park sites, with a view of forming an harmonious system.

One of the principal ones should be a parkway running from North to South through the centre of the Island, from the Kill van Kull to the Lower Bay, fashioned, as just stated, after Commonwealth avenue in Boston, and more particularly described as follows :

Beginning at Richmond Terrace, near where Palmer's Run enters into the Kill van Kull, and comprising all the land between Jewett avenue and the land of Alfred DeGroot, and thence running Southerly along Palmer's Run at an equal width from Jewett avenue to Post avenue ; thence Southerly across Palmer's Run to the line of the German Church, from thence along the line of Palmer's Run, at a width of 150 feet to Barrett avenue ; thence in a Southwesterly direction across Barrett avenue to Cherry Lane, near Marianne street ; thence still in the width of 150 feet across Palmer's Run to Watchogue road ; thence southerly still in the same width to Richmond Turnpike ; thence still southerly to the road called the New Road going to Noble's Corner ; thence along said New Road to Rockland avenue, at

its juncture with Forest Hill road, near where it will connect with the Central Park; thence Southerly to Richmond Court House by the best route that can be selected by the Commissioner of Public Works; thence southerly to tide water.

#### PUBLIC PLAY GROUNDS.

As regards these, an effort has been made to locate them as near as possible in close proximity to the public schools, where they might serve the purposes of a play-ground for the children during the day-time, and the purposes of a place of recreation for adults during the remainder of the day and evening. In selecting these sites the Committee has been guided entirely by the wishes of the different Ward Committees; each sub-committee deciding where the sites should be located, as in accordance with their own knowledge of the localities which they represent. The public play-grounds selected are as follows:

##### FIRST WARD.

First—Public play-ground near Public School No. 16 on Madison avenue; the site selected comprising a block 200x400 feet, between Fourth, Madison and Monroe avenues, forming part of the Alexander D. Shaw property, and 300 feet distant from the above-mentioned public school. The ground is now laid out as a garden, and has growing on it a number of trees, shrubs, etc., and could be converted into a park at comparatively little expense.

Second—Site near Public School No. 17. This site immediately adjoins this school, has a frontage of 900 feet on the Southerly side of Prospect avenue, a depth of approximately 1,350 to 1,400 feet on the Westerly side, and 1,150 feet on the Easterly side, and a frontage on Brighton avenue; besides this, there is access to the property by way of Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth streets, Sunset Place, Alden Place and Cedar Place. This property embraces the Jones' and Havens' parcels—26 acres.

Third—Site near the West Brighton Public School No. 18. This site comprises a large part of the area formerly known as Factory Pond, and fronts on Henderson, Chappelle, Union and Ann streets; the portion nearest to the school being about 200 feet distant from the public school site. This site is in the midst of a very densely-settled portion of West New Brighton—6 acres.

Fourth—Site near the so-called Curtis School No. 19 on Greenleaf avenue, near Post avenue, and embracing a part of the Parkway connecting the Port Richmond Park with the proposed Clove Valley Park System.

Fifth—A site comprising the so-called picnic grounds at Westerleigh or Prohibition Park, embracing approximately 7 acres of ground, covered with a very fine growth of trees. This site the National Prohibition Park Company has generously offered to dedicate to the city for the uses of a park, and it will answer the purposes of a park as well as the purposes of a play-ground for the new school to be established at Westerleigh.

#### SECOND WARD.

First—Public play-ground near Public School No. 15, on the corner of St. Paul's avenue and Grant street, Stapleton. The play-ground in question to embrace the so-called Louis DeJonge property facing on Grant street and Van Duzer street, and embracing approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Second—Public play-ground near the Stapleton Public School No. 2; said play-ground to be situated on the West side of Centre street, and embracing a plot out of the Marine Society property of about 8 acres.

#### THIRD WARD.

First—An extension of the Park at Port Richmond as much as one block, including therein the property marked in Robinson's Atlas of the Borough of Richmond, page 5, as property belonging to Mrs. John Decker and Mrs. I. F. Brown. Embracing approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

Second—A play-ground at Port Richmond, opposite the Union Free School, and marked on said map as land belonging to Mrs. John Decker and Sharratt. Embracing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Third—A park and play-ground at Mariners' Harbor, adjacent to the school and known as Norwood Park, consisting of about 8 acres.

Fourth—A play-ground at Graniteville, surrounding the school-house. Embracing about 5 acres.

Fifth—A play-ground and park at Bull's Head, being the Northeast corner, between Richmond avenue and Richmond Turnpike. Embracing approximately 10 acres.

Sixth—A park and play-ground at Linoleumville, as follows: Land belonging to Mr. Sanderson at the entrance of the village of Linoleumville, and running from Richmond Turnpike South to the Fresh Kill Creek, and containing together about 12 acres of upland and about 3 acres of salt meadow. Embracing in all about 15 acres.

Seventh—A play-ground at New Springville, surrounding the school. Embracing approximately 5 acres.

Eighth—That part of Erastina Park, commencing at lot No. 100 on the East side of Maple avenue, running South to lot No.

68 ; also lots 34 and 67, inclusive ; also that property marked as of Jacob I. Houseman, Garret P. Wright, and Mrs. Aaron Decker. Embracing approximately 18 acres.

#### FOURTH WARD.

First—Public play-ground near the Rosebank School.

Second—Public play-ground near Public School at the corner of Sherman avenue and the Fingerboard road, Fort Wadsworth.

Third—Public play-ground near Public School at Concord.

Fourth—Public play-ground near Public School at Dongan Hills.

Fifth—Public play-ground near Public School at New Dorp.

Sixth—Public play-ground near Public School at Egbertville.

Seventh—Public play-ground near Public School at Giffords.

#### FIFTH WARD.

First—At Tottenville. As this school-house is not distant from one of the large parks proposed, it is not suggested that a plot be provided adjoining the school-house. It is, however, suggested that in a somewhat distant portion of Tottenville—that is, the Northeast portion—a tract of 8 acres be selected for the people on the J. W. Wilbur property, between Broadway and Oak street, West of Hart Heights. Say about 8 acres.

Second—At Richmond Valley. We suggest a plot of 10 acres adjacent to the school.

Third—Prince's Bay. We judge that here a park not adjoining the school grounds, and yet not distant, will better suit the community, and would suggest about ten acres from what is known in the neighborhood as Excelsior Park.

Fourth—Kreischerville. Embracing about 10 acres.

Fifth—Huguenot. Would suggest here a park of about 10 acres on the Eddy property, opposite the school grounds.

Sixth—Rossville. About 10 acres.

Seventh—Fresh Kills. About 10 acres.

An eighth school is projected, to be called No. 31, and to be located at Bogardus Corners. The site recommended by the school authorities for this new school will contain five acres, which will afford sufficient play-ground for the neighborhood.

At Seguin Point, Prince's Bay, we would suggest a plot of say 6 acres to the West and South of the Prince's Bay road, on the property known as the old Seguin Homestead, and in front of the said homestead.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION.

### FIRST WARD.

#### *Silver Lake and Crystal Lake Park.*

An enlargement of the present Silver Lake Park to embrace the property between the Lake, Griswold Parkway, Greenwood avenue, Laurel avenue, and Lakewood avenue, extending the park in a westerly direction by means of a parkway approximately 200 to 300 feet wide, situated on both sides of the brook or creek which forms the outlet for Silver Lake, until the property owned by the Crystal Water Company and surrounding Crystal Lake is reached; the last described property including Crystal Lake, and extending as far as the Clove road to be embraced in the park. Embracing approximately 70 acres.

#### *Clove Valley or Chain of Lakes Park.*

This park is to include the property constituting and surrounding Clove Lake, Richmond Lake, Brook's Pond, and Bodine's Pond; being approximately described as embracing the property to the East of Clove Lake as far as the Clove road, and extending from the Turnpike to St. Peter's Cemetery, and embracing all of the property to the West of Clove and Richmond Lakes; extending to the ridge of the hills, embracing a part of the properties of Cornelius DuBois, the Lowndes estate, Henry Segelke, and James G. Timolat. On the East side of Richmond Lake the St. Peter's Cemetery and the Actors' Home would suggest the advisability of constructing a driveway about 100 feet wide along the Eastern side of the Lake as far as Martling Lane, to the North of which the park is to extend in a Northerly direction embracing Brook's Pond, including plot No. 5 of the Van Clief property, the Richmond Ice Company's property to the North of Martling Lane, as well as a strip 200 feet wide on the Easterly side of Brook's Pond out of the Whaley, Schnaar and Brooks property. Continuing along the brook forming the outlet from Brooks' Pond, it is suggested to take a strip of land approximately 200 feet wide on each side of the brook, until the turn in the brook, where the property of L. Griffith, Adam Scott, A. A. Michell, C. C. King and the Manor Park Land Company, as far as Cherry Lane, should be included in the park. Total 160 acres.

To the North of the Manor road a parkway at least 100 feet wide on each side of the brook should be continued as far as Post avenue; South of which the parkway is still to be continued along the brook until its confluence with Palmer's Run, and near the point where Bodine's Pond commences; this latter

pond to be included in the park system ; extending as far North as the Richmond Terrace, and including and embracing the property of Alfred DeGroot and others. Embracing approximately 10 acres.

*Fort Hill Park.*

This Park should embrace the historic Fort Hill property including a part of the Herpich and Low properties bounded by Fort Hill Place, Westervelt and Sherman avenues.

**SECOND WARD.**

*Pavilion Hill Park.*

Pavilion Hill, which, as indicated by its name, is a hill, bounded by the Richmond Turnpike, St. Paul's avenue, and Fiedler avenue, reaching an altitude of approximately 200 feet, and commanding an unobstructed view of upper New York Harbor and the surrounding New Jersey cities, New York City and the ocean ; this plot embraces approximately 16 acres.

*Grymes Hill Park.*

From Pavilion Hill it is proposed to construct a driveway along Ward avenue, Occident avenue, Orient avenue, Louis street and Howard avenue to the intersection of Eddy street, where it is proposed to establish the Grymes Hill Park, which is situated between Howard avenue and Richmond road, and embracing the properties of George T. Bonner and the Ward Estate ; making a total of approximately 16 acres.

*Clove Park.*

The parkway is then to continue along Howard avenue and the Serpentine road to the Clove road ; there intersecting the Clove park, which is to consist of the properties of A. L. Barber, Mrs. J. Aymar and Norah Cahill, forming the triangle bounded by the Little Clove road, the Clove road and the Richmond Turnpike, and embracing, excepting the Crystal Water Company pumping station, approximately 83 acres.

*Horse Shoe Bend Park.*

Continuing the driveway from the Little Clove road along the Ocean Terrace until the summit of Todt Hill is reached, at or about the property marked as belonging to John Burger Estate on Robinson's Atlas, where the Horse Shoe Bend Park embracing approximately 30 acres is to be established, including the pro-

perty of the John Burger Estate ; the property formerly of N. Burger, and a part of the property owned by H. McRoberts. Embracing approximately 30 acres.

*Grand Central or Ocean Hill Park.*

Continuing along the Ocean Terrace to the intersection of the Todt Hill road, the driveway at the latter point would intersect the Grand Central or Ocean Hill Park. This park is to embrace territory of approximately 1500 acres ; extending, as shown on the accompanying map, from the Todt Hill road in a Southerly direction and on a line with the rear of the Vanderbilt Mausoleum plot to Rockland avenue ; while on the North and West it is to take in a strip of land to the North of the Todt Hill road as far as the Manor road ; and thence a strip of land varying in width along the Northerly and Westerly line of the Manor road as far as Rockland avenue, embracing the high bank on both sides of the Manor road ; thence crossing Rockland avenue, and continuing about parallel with the Forest Hill road as far as the road leading from Richmond to New Springville ; this Park to extend to the West of Richmond along the Northerly side of the Fresh Kill to Simonson's mill ; including and embracing the site of the old Fort, which during revolutionary times commanded the approach to Richmond by way of the Fresh Kills ; excepting, however, the property owned by St. Andrew's Church and occupied in part as a rectory by the rector of St. Andrew's. 1500 acres.

**THIRD WARD.**

*Bodine's Park and Willow Brook Park.*

Bodine's Pond Park is to embrace Bodine's Mill Pond and the property between it and Jewett avenue, extending thence by means of a driveway following Palmer's Run as far as the intersection of Cherry lane, and thence by a straight line and in a Southerly direction crossing the Watchogue road and the Turnpike to where the Willow Brook Park is to be established ; this Park to be bounded by the proposed driveway on the East, the Turnpike on the North, and the Willow Brook road on the West and South ; this Park to embrace approximately 50 acres.

Continuing in a Southerly direction, the driveway is to follow the line of the new road and the Forest Hill road as far South as the intersection of the road leading from Richmond to New Springville, where the driveway will intersect the Grand Central or Ocean View Park.

*Arlington Park.*

A water-front Park at the foot of Arlington avenue, consisting of 329 feet of water-front together with the lots lying between the

Richmond Terrace and Franklin and Arlington avenues, and the lots situated on the Easterly side of Arlington avenue numbering 1 to 199 inclusive, up to the Rapid Transit Railroad, otherwise known as Arlington Manor. Embracing approximately 25 acres.

*Port Richmond Water-Front Park.*

This Park should embrace that part of the Johnson or Housman property, near the foot of Nicholas avenue, extending from the water front, with a frontage of about 500 feet, to the Rapid Transit Railroad tracks.

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**FOURTH WARD.**

*The South Beach Park.*

A Park extending from the fortifications of Fort Wadsworth to the Northerly boundary of Midland Beach; this area embracing approximately 420 acres and having a width of approximately 1800 feet; this Park to be known as the "South Beach Park." Embracing approximately 420 acres.

*New Dorp Beach Park.*

A seaside Park extending from the Southerly line of St. John's Guild property at New Dorp to the Northerly line of the Perrine property at Oakwood, embracing approximately 125 acres, with a width of 1800 feet. Embracing approximately 125 acres.

*Great Kills Park.*

A tract of 80 acres, embracing a part of the property of Cornelius Cole, Richard Cole, John J. Crooke and Edward Keegan, and facing on the Great Kills and surrounding Seaside Boulevard; intended primarily as an outlet to the Great Kills, to meet the requirements of the population between Oakwood and Giffords. Embracing about 80 acres.

*Giffords Park.*

A Park at Giffords extending from the South Side Boulevard to the Raritan Bay and embracing approximately 22 acres, known as part of the Wiman property, with 600 feet of water-front; also parkway to Great Kills depot through Lindenwood avenue. Embracing approximately 22 acres.

*Woods of Arden.*

A Park at Eltingville, known as the Woods of Arden, from the Amboy Road to the Raritan Bay, consisting of about 90 acres.



*Grasmere Park.*

Property known as the Grasmere Lake property at Grasmere, consisting of about 55 acres of land, including the Grasmere Lake. Embracing approximately 55 acres.

**FIFTH WARD.***Christopher Billop Park.*

At Tottenville, a very beautiful location on a cliff on the shore of Staten Island Sound, meets the approval of the Committee and of all with whom they have conversed in Tottenville. It would embrace: Bay Cliff Park, 8 acres; property of C. S. Biddle, 2 acres; property of W. K. Felch,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres; Ice house property (with fresh-water pond), 25 acres; other property adjoining on the south as far as Cartere avenue, and to Sixth street on the east—this includes the historic Billop House; the property of David Forshay heirs; Catherine S. Leland,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres; Henry Winant, 2 acres; in all, approximately, 80 acres.

*Rossville Park.*

At Rossville, from the Henry L. Mason property, or adjoining property on the shore, say 10 acres. This is intended to supply a small park with water facilities and privileges on the Arthur Kill to the people of Rossville and Kreischerville. About 10 acres.

*Pleasant Plains Park.*

The Pleasant Plains proposed Park—Here is an area for the collection of water with a catchment basin of we suppose about 350 acres. It would be wise to park this for the safety of future water supply. It is to the west of the Manee blacksmith shop, which stands on land described on the map as belonging to Israel Bedell. Embracing approximately 350 acres.

*Prince's Bay Park.*

At Prince's Bay, the State Quarantine Cemetery on the Wolfe property belongs to the State of New York. All the bodies have been removed, and it seems probable that the Commissioners of the Land Office, who have attempted to sell this property without success, may be induced to donate it to Richmond Borough for park purposes. Besides an excellent frontage on the lower bay, it adjoins a fresh-water lake of say about 10 acres. Embracing 35 acres.

*Green Ridge Park.*

At Woodrow Heights, near the Methodist Church.—This property is on high ground, midway between the villages of

Rossville on the north, and Pleasant Plains, Prince's Bay and Huguenot on the south. Would select property near the Powell Mansion, and running along the Green Ridge Road. It is a beautiful site for a park, having an extended view. Would suggest the selection in this locality of say approximately 300 acres.

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### RECAPITULATION.

PLAY-GROUNDS.		PARKS.	
First Ward.....	41 acres.	248	acres.
Second Ward.....	10½ “	1,645½	“
Third Ward.....	63¼ “	75	“
Fourth Ward.....	21 “	792	“
Fifth Ward.....	74 “	775	“
Total . . . .	209¾ acres.	Total . . . .	3,535½ acres.

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### CONCLUSION.

For fuller description of the different parcels enumerated above, see map attached to this report, as well as the maps attached to the reports made by the different Ward Committees, which are in charge of the Secretary of this Committee.

Suggestions were made that some of the parks should be named after former prominent residents of Staten Island, and in that connection the following names were mentioned:

Daniel D. Tompkins, who was Vice-President of the United States for eight years, and Governor of New York for four years; Major Theodore Winthrop, the novelist and soldier, who was killed while leading a charge in the first battle of the Civil War, the battle of Big Bethel; George William Curtis, the distinguished scholar and writer; and Erastus Brooks, the editor and patriot. And while your Committee feel that such names would be most appropriate, they think that it may be premature at this time to go into the matter of names, and therefore do not in this report seek to give names to any parks, or parkways; merely to fix their locality.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES H. BLAIR, Chairman.

CORNELIUS G. KOLFF, Sec'y.

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