

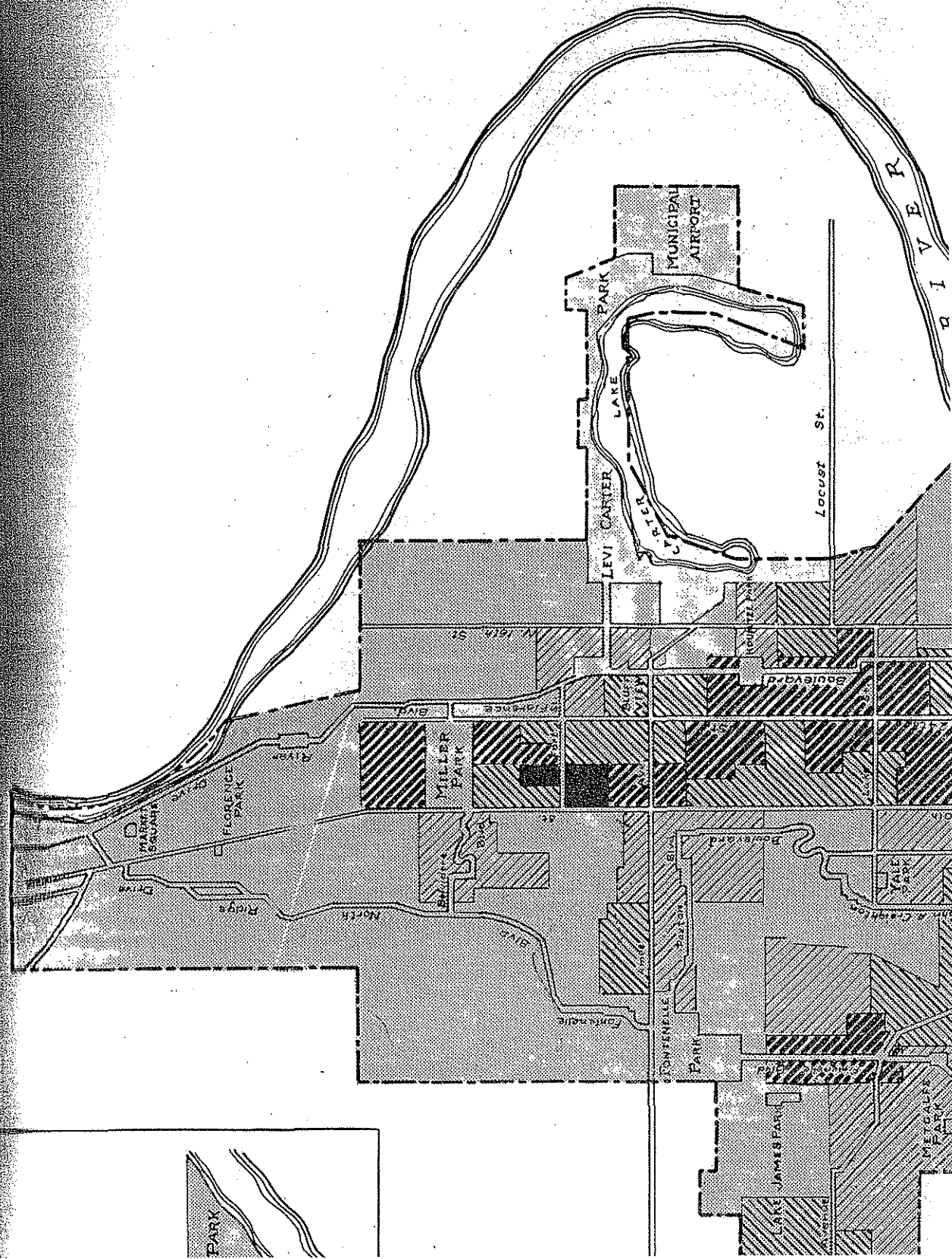
PARKS AND RECREATION
IN
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

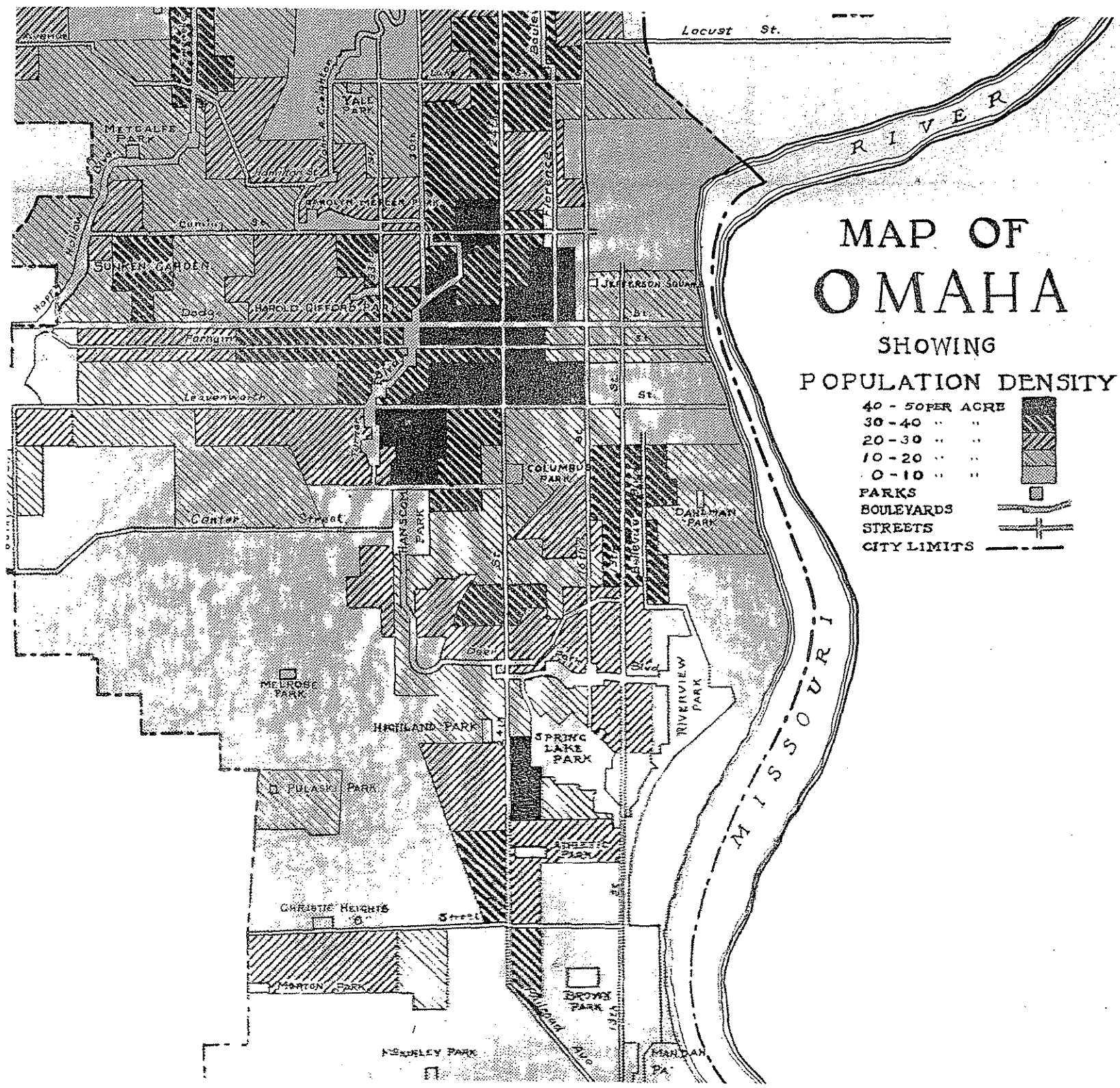
A STUDY
OF
RESOURCES AND NEEDS

By

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NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Under Auspices
of the
CIVIC IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL
OMAHA





MAP OF OMAHA

SHOWING
POPULATION DENSITY

- 40 - 50 PER ACRE
- 30 - 40 " "
- 20 - 30 " "
- 10 - 20 " "
- 0 - 10 " "



- PARKS
- BOULEVARDS
- STREETS
- CITY LIMITS



PART IIIPUBLIC AGENCIES PROVIDING RECREATIONSection 1. Public Parks

Chief consideration should be given to the park system because it has provided most of the public recreation service for Omaha in the past.

1. Properties and Facilities

The total public park acreage owned by the City of Omaha and its distribution by wards is as follows:

TABLE I

PARK	LOCATION	ACREAGE
WARD I		
Bluff View	Fowler & Florence Blvd.	.56
Drahn Tract	16th & Ames Avenue	33.14
Hodge Park	North of Florence	145.7
Florence Playground	29th & Fillmore Street	1.44
Hummel	North of Florence	374.6
Kuntz	19th & Pratt Street	9.9
Miller	24th & Kansas Avenue	78.0
Wynn Tract (Bird Preserve)	North of Florence	34.0
North River Drive	Florence Blvd. & Road, Up River	347.6
May Carter	13th & Boyd Street	442. 1466.94
WARD II		
Burdette Tract	20th & Burdette Streets	4.00 4.00
WARD III		
Burt Tract	29th & Burt Streets	3.5
Jefferson Park	16th & Cass Streets	1.72 5.22
WARD IV		
WARD V		
Columbus Park	24th & Poppleton Avenue	4.25
Dahlman Park	6th & Pine Streets	3.00
Riverview Park	3rd & Frederick Streets	36.1 43.35
WARD VI		
Athletic Park	22nd & L Streets	7.2
Brown Park	15th & U Streets	11.6
	15th & Deer Park Blvd.	17.8

Carleton Heights Highland Park McKinley Park Norton Park Palmer Park	WARD VII 36th & Q Streets 25th & B Streets 20th & Harrison Sts. 41st & W Streets 41st Ave. & H Streets	5.7 5.87 4.2 3.8 1.94 21.51
Sherman Park Wilson Park	WARD VIII Park & Woolworth Aves. 39th & Grover Sts.	57.7 6.0 63.7
Dewey Avenue Diamond Park Leavenworth & Turner Blvd. Leavenworth & 34th St. Turner Park	WARD IX 32nd & Dewey Ave. 60th & Leavenworth Sts. Turner Blvd. & Leavenworth 34th & Leavenworth Sts. <i>Skunk Pk.</i> 31st & Dodge Streets	12.0 207.2 3.00 3.6 4.5 250.30
Clark Park Harold Clifford Park Carolyn Morcor Park Jackson Gardens	WARD X 33rd & Cuming Streets 33rd & Cass Streets 38th & Cuming Streets Happy Hollow & Underwood Ave.	4.46 5.64 5.6 3.72 19.42
Lincoln Park Lincoln Playground Lincoln Park John James Park Lincoln Park 41st & 43rd Sts. Park Park	WARD XI 67th & Military Avenue 65th & Bedford Avenue 47th & Decatur Streets 49th & Bedford Avenue 51st & Decatur Streets 43rd & Ohio Streets 34th Avenue & Lake Streets	114.5 2.14 1.1 2.9 3.13 0.82 1.3 125.89
Lincoln Park Lincoln Park	WARD XII 30th & State Streets 44th & Ames Ave.	1.7 107.55 109.25
40 Municipally Owned Park Areas, June 15, 1936. Total		2386.41

The above table does not include other areas commonly referred to as parks and recreation centers such as: The Airport, Forest Reserve, and miscellaneous small tracts throughout the city which are not under the jurisdiction of the municipality.

Geographical Distribution of Properties Listed Above.

The following table indicates the geographical distribution of Omaha Parks and Municipal Playground areas by wards and the population of the wards. The population of the wards was computed from the U. S. census records as of 1930. Since 1930 the population has shifted slightly.

This table also indicates the population per park acre, the number of spaces use for playground purposes and the number of individual park units.

TABLE II

Ward	1930 Population	1935 Acres of Park Area	Population Per Park Acre	No. of Spaces Used For Play- Grounds	No. Of Parks
1	21,999	1466.94	14.9	3	10
2	16,759	4.	4189.75	1	1
3	15,510	5.22	29.71	1	2
4	8,442			0	0
5	20,499	43.35	472.87	3	3*
6	13,610	390.70	348.35	6	8
7	18,988	21.51	882.75	5	5
8	19,797	63.7	310.76	2	2
9	23,933	230.3	103.92	3	5
10	19,179	19.42	987.59	2	4
11	21,057	125.89	167.26	5	7
12	14,402	109.25	131.83	2	2
Omaha	214,175	2386.41	89.71	33	49

* Riverview is situated in two wards, 5 and 6

(5 O.C.L.)

Accessibility.

It is generally recognized that the approximate center of population density and also the north and south center of the most serious juvenile delinquency areas is located near 23rd and Dodge Streets.

The distance from this point to the following major parks is as indicated below:

TABLE III

Miller Park - - - - - 3.4 miles	Benson Park - - - - - 5.6 miles
Hummel Park - - - - - 6.25 miles	Spring Lake Park - - - - 2. miles
Pontenelle Park - - - - - 3.35 miles	Athletic Park - - - - - 5. miles

In the discussion of Recreation and the Home is the statement that of all families interviewed, 45% do not have automobiles and 43% report no parks or playgrounds within walking distance of their homes.

Development and Use of Park Properties

The extent of the development and present uses of the individual park properties are shown park by park in the Appendix of this report.

Recreation Facilities in the Parks

The following Table IV, page 12, indicates certain facts regarding acreage by wards, the number of spaces used for children's playgrounds, playfields, recreation buildings, shelters or pavilions, areas where equipment is placed, areas suitable for mass games, band stands, ball fields, drinking fountains, wading pools, swimming pools, bath houses, hard baseball diamonds, soft ball diamonds, tennis courts, horse shoe pits, golf holes, picnic facilities, and other types of facilities in the parks.

This table lists

- (a) 17 centers which are suitable for and actually being used for municipal playground purposes during the 1936 playground season.
- (b) 10 other major parks which are used for picnics and other forms of outdoor recreation but which are unsuitable for children's playgrounds.

ACREAGE	WARD	CHILDREN PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND	ATHLETIC FIELD	RECREATION BUILDING	GUN BUILDING	PAVILION	AMUSEMENT	SUITABLE FOR MARCH	BARBERSHOP	TOTAL	DR. EQUIPMENT	WADING POOL	SWIMMING POOL	BATH HOUSE	HAND BALL FIELD	SOFT BALL FIELD	THUNDER BOLT	HONOR ROLL	GOLF COURSE	PICNIC FACILITIES	GEORGE BUILDING	WALKWAY
2.14	11	X				Pav.	Yes	No		2	1	1					1	1					
11.6	6	X#	X	Yes			Yes	Yes		2	1	1	1			1	1						
(4.0)	2		X					Yes								1	1						
4.25	5	X#	X				Yes	Yes				1	1				2						
12.0	9	X#	X				Yes	No									1	12	12				
207.2	9	X#	X			Pavs.	Yes	Yes		4	10						4		12	18	X	4	
1.44	1	X					Sm.	No									1						
1.7	12	X#						No	1														
107.55	12	X	X	Yes			Yes	Yes		2	2					1	1			9	X	1	
5.64	10	X#					Sm.	No									1						
57.7	8	X		Yes			Sm.	No	1	2	2							2	1		X		
9.9	1	X#	X#				Sm.	Yes		1								2					
78.0	1	X	X	Yes			Sm.	Yes		2	6						1	2	6	9	X	1	
3.8	7	X		Yes			Sm.	No		2	2		1	1			1				X		1
1.94	7	X#					Sm.	No		1	1		1	1					2				
72.2	6	X#	X#			Pav.	Sm.	Yes		2	4		1	1	1			2	10		X	1	1
95.36	6	X#		Yes			Sm.	No		2	2		1	1			1			9			
676.42		16	9	6	4		15	8+ 9-	2	22	32	3	5	4	4	16	21	43	45	6	12	7	
NOT USED AS SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS FOR CHILDREN										--- 1936													
7.2	6	X#	X				Sm.	Yes								1	1						
4.46	10						Sm.	No			1							2	5		X		2
114.5	11		X					Yes		2	4					1	1		1	9	X		
5.7	7	X#	X				Sm.	Yes			2						1						
5.87	7	X#					Sm.	No										2	1				
17.8	6	X#	X#			SS.	Sm.	Yes		1	2					1	1				X		2
374.6	1					2SS.				4											X	3	12
2.9	11	X#	X#				Sm.	Yes									1	2					
4.2	7		X#				Sm.	Yes					1				1		1				
41.04	6	X#				Pav.		No		1	1							1			X	1	10
1,254.69		22	15	6	7		22	14+ 12	2	20	42	3	6	4	5	22	22						

1,254.69 22 15 6 7 22 14+ 12- 2 30 42 3 6 4 7 22 28 57 54 11 16 33
space. No set playground space. Equipment scattered.

FACILITIES TABLE

13

1. Needed to meet acceptable standards for Parks.
2. What Omaha Parks now have.
3. Planned for under W.P.A. Projects.
4. Shortage after W.P.A. (If and When) is through.

	Necessary in Omaha Parks	Present Facilities	Planned in WPA Projects	Still Short
Base Ball diamonds	35	8	3	24
Soft Ball Diamonds	70	15	11	44
Tennis Courts	107	25	33	49
Golf Holes	71	54	0	17
Base Ball Courts	100	48	17	58
Swimming Pools	33	3	17	13
Shower Houses	37	12	27	0
Pavilions	12	10	2	0
Children's Playground	40	22	0	27
Base Fields	14	7	2	5
Amateur Fields	2	0	0	2
Swimming Pools #	3	6	0	0
Shower Houses #	3	3	0	0
Swimming Ovens *	0	16	3	0
Shower Ovens *	0	33	139	0
Pavilions	76	6	22	44
Swimming Fountains	65	42	35	16

Special note on.

* Well supplied or planned for.

Information as of May 1, 1936

The estimate of costs are given. Costs depend on standards of equipment used, labor and other essentials which offer variables. The facts needing early attention are:

1. Omaha Parks now have 30% necessary facilities.
2. W.P.A. Projects now under construction (if and when finished) will add 25%.
3. When W.P.A. is through there will still be a shortage of 45% necessary to meet standard requirements.

All funds devoted to the operation and maintenance of parks and recreation in the city are derived from direct appropriations by the City Council from general tax revenues. There is no special tax levy for park and recreation purposes.

The following expenditures of the Park Department for the period 1889 - 1935 inclusive were supplied by the Bookkeeping Division of the Park Department in March 1936.

* PARK DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES

MONEY EXPENDED	YEAR	MONEY EXPENDED	YEAR	MONEY EXPENDED
10,180.37	1905	30,563.26	1921	144,963.32
10,000.27	1906	27,990.30	1922	160,739.00
10,044.54	1907	25,380.21	1923	155,645.00
10,525.43	1908	47,777.68	1924	143,672.00
10,942.78	1909	49,474.75	1925	158,064.87
11,890.17	1910	50,000.00	1926	161,624.36
10,656.11	1911	50,000.00	1927	155,729.26
12,572.48	1912	54,205.34	1928	149,169.50
12,247.84	1913	54,000.00	1929	149,169.50
12,981.45	1914	62,718.00	1930	158,543.63
17,453.70	1915	87,923.00	1931	157,752.00
12,981.45	1916	111,537.00	1932	140,696.16
17,644.58	1917	104,206.00	1933	83,657.50
10,688.89	1918	118,914.05	1934	64,400.00
16,937.65	1919	108,500.00	1935	63,800.00
10,357.44	1920	109,688.00		(Approp.)

These figures have been taken from the annual report of the Board of Park Commissioners of 1911 and from the books of the Park Superintendent which approximates expenditures, for the periods thereafter. Likewise the following data regarding bond issues for park purposes have been taken. This includes funds only for capital outlays.

TABLE XI

PARK BOND ISSUES	
1892	\$ 400,000
1908	50,000
1910	48,000
1912	25,000
1913	50,000
1915	50,000
1916	60,000
1917	100,000
1918	100,000
1921	100,000
1922	100,000
1923	100,000

PARK RECEIPTS -- FIVE YEAR PERIOD - 1931-1935

31

<u>City Council</u> <u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Refunds from</u> <u>Fees & Charges</u>	<u>Bond</u> <u>Issues</u>	<u>Misc.</u> <u>Receipts</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Income</u>
\$ 100,140.00	\$ 30,080.00	\$ 100,000		\$ 286,220.00
100,098.20	22,600.35			161,598.55
78,600.00	25,092.90			102,771.90
104,400.00	XXX		\$ 3,814.40	88,214.40
110,000.00	XXX		946.28	114,546.28
\$ 570,027.20	\$ 77,763.25	\$ 100,000	\$ 4,760.68	\$ 752,351.13

XXX General Funds

PARK EXPENDITURES -- FIVE YEAR PERIOD - 1931-1935

<u>Department &</u> <u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Materials &</u> <u>Supplies</u>	<u>Deduct</u> <u>Bonds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Expenditures</u>
\$ 178,400.65	\$ 93,539.73		\$ 267,000.38
110,005.56	89,015.57		199,221.13#
90,590.84	35,467.50		133,858.34#
61,416.91	32,109.86		93,526.77#
70,119.62	44,037.54	\$ 5,610.88	120,157.16#
\$ 519,593.58	\$ 294,170.20	\$ 5,610.88	\$ 813,763.78

Balance from bond funds.

INCOME FROM

<u>Swimming</u>	<u>Tennis</u>	<u>Golf</u>	<u>Base ball</u>	<u>Concessions</u>
	\$	\$ 28,555.00		\$ 1,525.00
		20,761.55		1,550.00
555.50	896.80	19,281.40	\$ 476.42	1,767.00
1,502.75	1,283.50	9,117.55		4,838.83
	1,764.90	15,077.55		1,631.43
\$ 1,148.25	\$ 3,945.20	\$ 92,793.05	\$ 476.42	\$ 11,312.26

EXPENDITURES FOR

<u>Swimming</u>	<u>Tennis</u>	<u>Golf</u>	<u>Base ball</u>	<u>Concessions</u>
	\$	\$ 21,699.33	\$	\$
		15,296.58		
8,287.65	783.06	31,825.30	1,268.95@	
8,282.01	1,096.07	17,277.35	190.50	549.36
1,169.03	2,580.45	21,584.71	99.00	751.18
\$ 1,738.69	\$ 4,459.58	\$ 107,683.27	\$ 1,558.45	\$ 1,300.54

@ Of this - \$1,117.00 was labor.

Note: Prior to 1933, there was no classification of expenditures for swimming, tennis, and base ball.

The present record of account keeping of the Park Department provides only two classifications of expenditures:

- (1) Salaries and wages and
- (2) Materials and supplies

There has been no record of any definite budgeting other than for general maintenance purposes. Consequently, a thorough-going analysis of the total park expenditures is impossible.

Fees and Charges.

The financial data included in Table XII given above show the income from various charges incidental to the use of various park facilities for the period, 1931 - 1935 inclusive.

The extent to which the facilities from which the above revenue is derived are self-maintaining, is shown by the same financial table.

Fees for the Different Activities Are.

- Tennis - - 10¢ per hour per person
- Swimming - 10¢ per hour per person
- Golf - - - 25¢ for 18 holes - 15¢ for 9 holes

Concessions.

The income from concession fees is derived entirely from payments by individuals for the privilege of operating refreshment stands in parks.

Weaknesses of Present Financial Procedure.

The weaknesses in Omaha's financial procedure seem to be

- (a) No policy in the past to state financial requirements based on essential needs of a modern park system.
- (b) No detailed budget.
- (c) No definite plan of uses of parks and other services.
- (d) No cost accounting.

As a result of the above stated weaknesses no annual allotment has been made for recreation or human use purposes.

The plan of locating, improving, developing, and equipping types of areas required by modern standards has been in effect.

Progress or Otherwise?

As the population increases in Omaha by

ATHLETIC PARK
Acreage 7.2

151

Location: L to M Streets and 23 Street to alley east of 21 Street.

Facilities:

Athletic Park has 1 hard ball diamond and 1 soft ball diamond.

Playground apparatus: 6 swings and 4 teeters.

There is sufficient space for additional apparatus on the playground.

Recommendations:

With the widening of Missouri Avenue, it would be practical to fence the playground on L Street and Twenty-third Street.

The park should be filled and raised about ten or twelve feet. This would improve air conditions during the hot summer months.

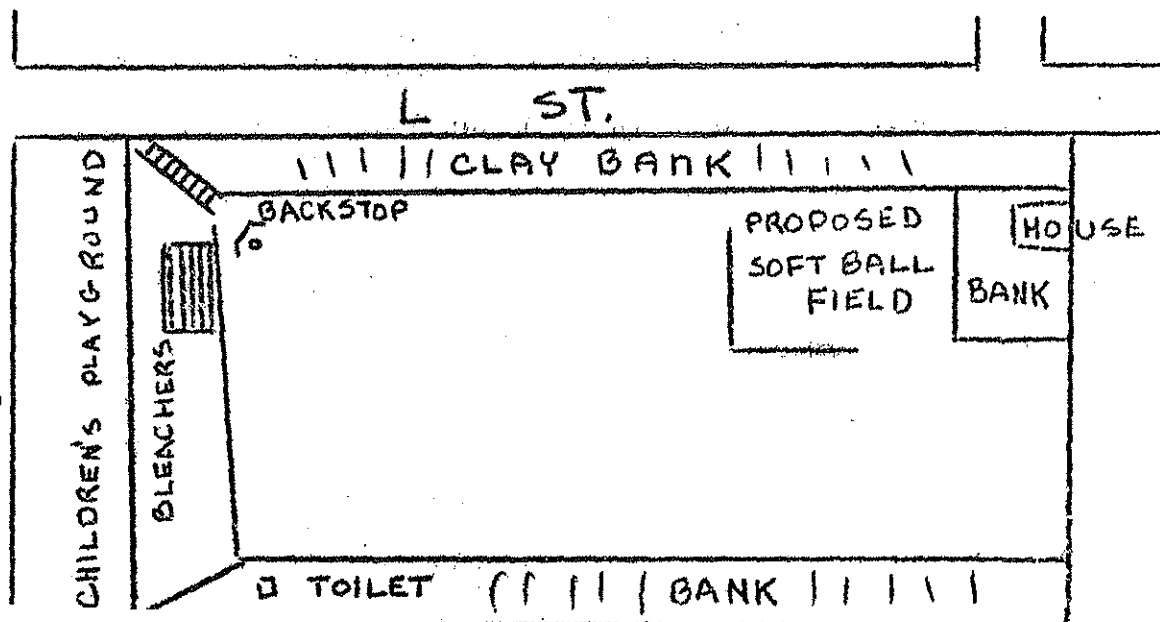
The area would serve as an athletic field for South High and the South Side generally.

It is suggested that 6 horse shoe courts be laid out in this park, together with the installation of a shelter house, drinking fountain and new toilets.

Since the erection of the new South Omaha Bridge, traffic on Missouri Avenue, 23rd Street and L Street, is much heavier. In addition, this park is located in a heavily congested neighborhood. Therefore, complete and adequate recreation supervision is recommended during the playground season.

Projects include:

1 soft ball diamond with backstop, 1 hard ball backstop, 1 wading pool, 500 ft. of playground fence, cement steps, 10,000 plantings, grading, drainage, erosion control.



BEMIS PARK
Acreage 4.46

Location: Cuming Street to Lincoln Boulevard - 33rd Street to Glenwood Avenue.

Plant Facilities:

Bemis Park, sloping down from Cuming Street on the South, contains shrubbery, flower gardens, and trees.

Limited picnic facilities are available. There is no playground equipment. The park has 2 clay tennis courts and 5 horse shoe courts.

Recommendations:

11 weiner stoves and 6 rustic picnic tables.

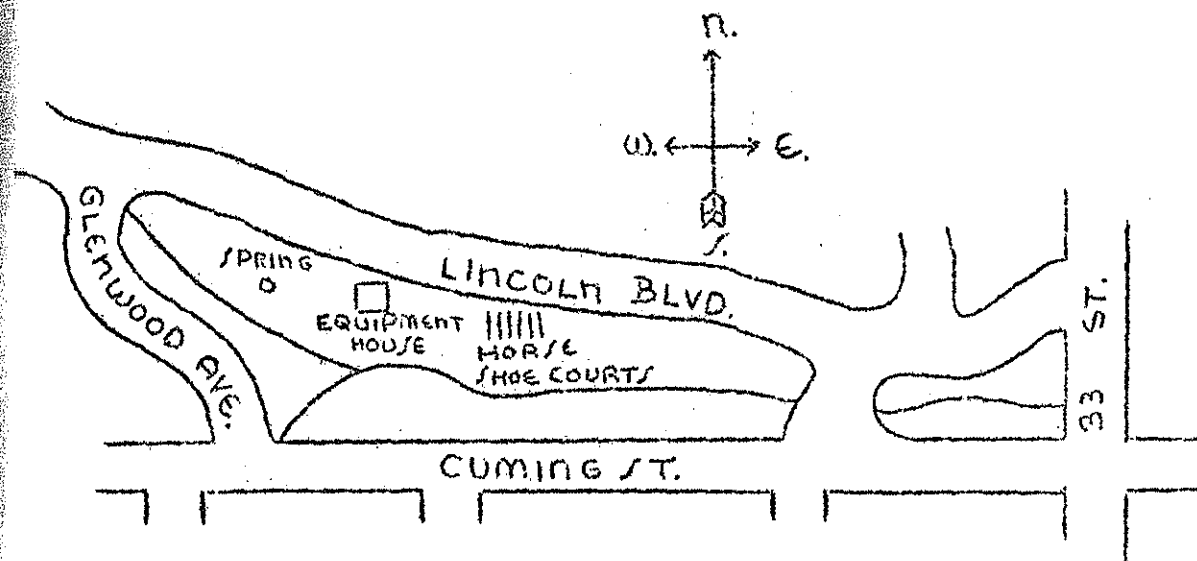
1 caretaker in charge in summer only.

Sufficient space is available for playground equipment at the west end of the park and a small amount of apparatus would help. Additional landscaping could be done to advantage in various spaces throughout the park.

Drinking fountain and toilets should be installed.

Projects include:

6 additional horse shoe courts, 1 spring shelter, seeding, grading, planting trees and 5,000 shrubs.



BENSON PARK
Acreage 114.5

153

66 Street to 72 Street, Military to Ames Avenue.

Facilities:

Benson Park offers limited picnic facilities. There is ample room for a children's playground here and a limited amount of apparatus could well be placed here.

A lagoon near the center of the park is available for ice skating in the winter and for casting practice in the summer.

For the golfer, there is a fairly good nine-hole golf course.

A former baseball field is being leveled and improved for both hard and soft baseball.

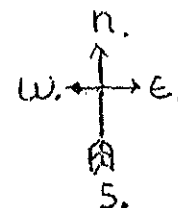
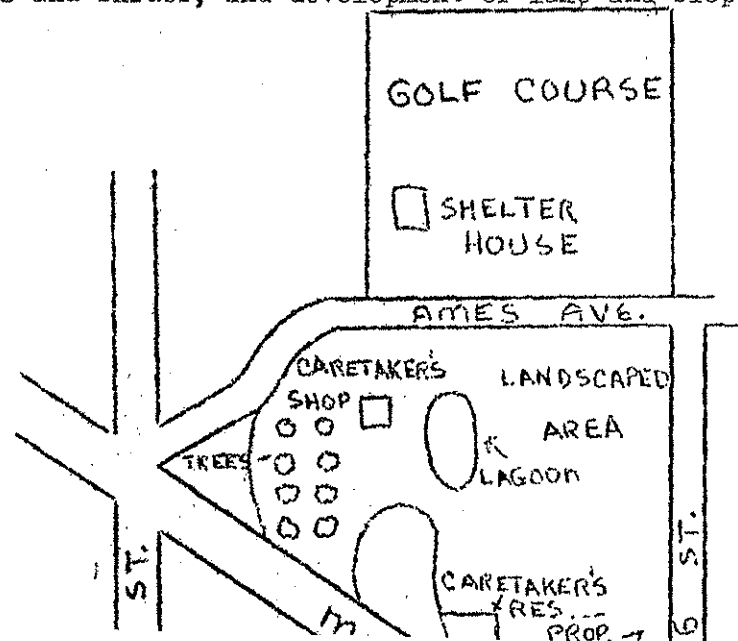
There is a horse shoe court on the west bank of the lagoon and room for several more among the trees.

Installations:

A horse shoe courts, 2 tennis courts, croquet court, 1 shelter, oven, warmer stoves, 6 picnic tables, benches, and the installation of toilets and drinking fountains. Considerable space is available for other activities.

Projects include:

Building shelter, 4 hard surface tennis courts, two 12' baseball back stops, 1 hard baseball diamond, 1 wading pool, 500 car gravel parking area with guard rail, 4 drinking fountains, 2 toilets and a shower room, 1 mile of asphalt walk 5 ft. wide, seeding and grading, transplanting trees, planting of 65,000 trees and shrubs, and development of lake and sloping banks.



BENSON PLAYGROUND
Acreage 2.14

154

Location: Bedford Avenue to Emmett Street - 65 Street to Military Avenue.

Present Facilities:

0 swings, 4 teeters, 1 merry-go-round.

Handcraft and art classes are held at the pavilion which has 1 ping pong table and other limited facilities.

Recommendations:

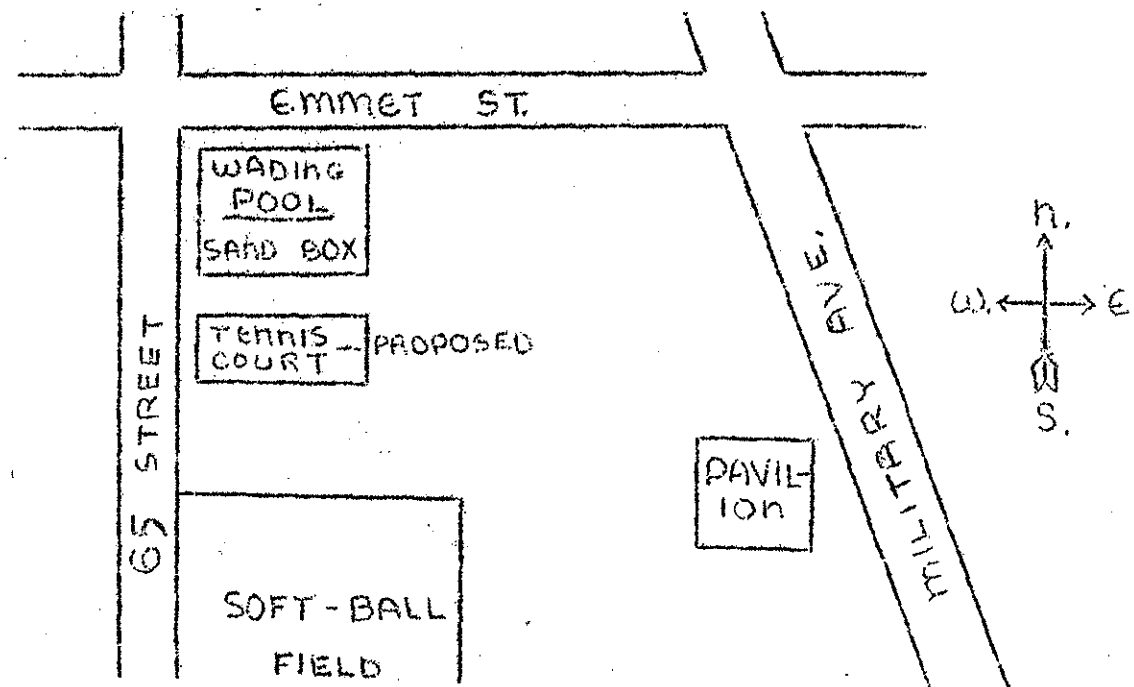
Benson Community Hall should properly come under the management of the Park Department. For political reasons, the Finance Department of the city now has control of this property.

The activities at this center demands the services of a supervisor and competent recreation staff.

This area should have 1 soft ball diamond, 6 horse shoe courts, 2 tennis courts, 2 drinking fountains.

Proposed Projects include:

1 wading pool, 1 soft ball diamond with backstop, 1 tennis court, 1 sun shelter, dirt fill, grading and seeding, planting 1,000 shrubs, 2 drinking fountains.



BROWN PARK
Acreage 11.6

155

Location: Between Fifteenth and Eighteenth Streets, and between U and W.

Facilities:

Brown Park has an excellent hard base ball diamond and bleachers. Soccer games are also played on this field.

Playground Apparatus: 1 slide and 9 small swings.

A large pavilion and an old type swimming pool constitute the main equipment in this park. Bath house is needed badly in connection with the swimming pool.

Recommendations:

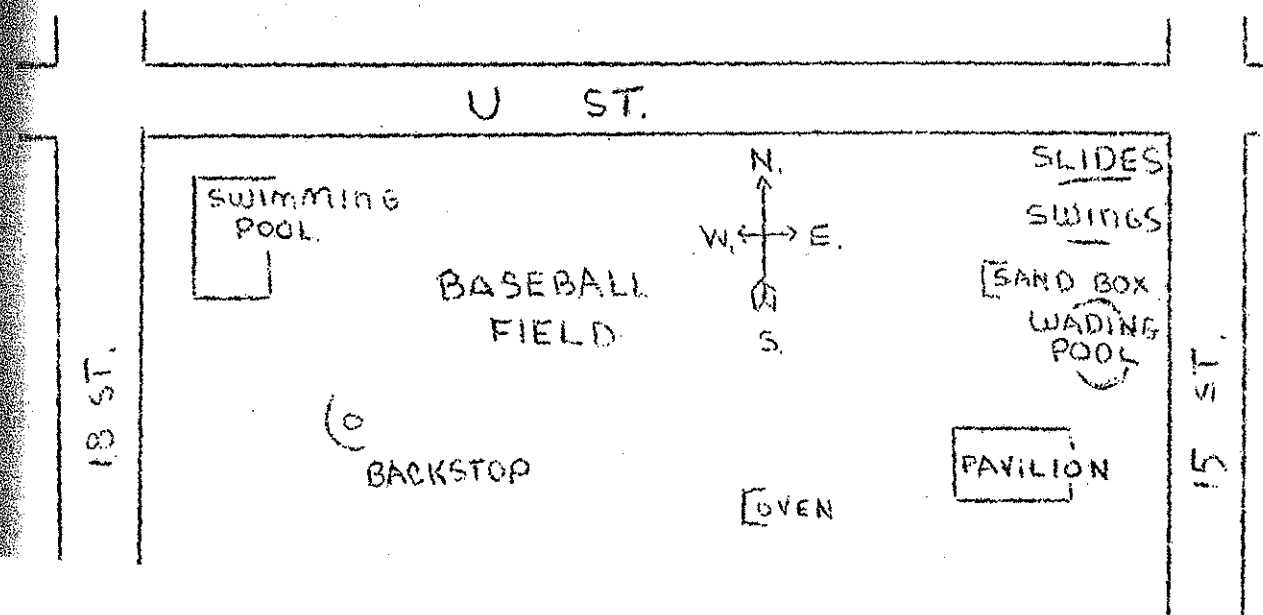
The picnic ground area should be enlarged. Space is available for 6 horse shoe courts along the edge of the ball diamond and these should be built. A wading pool, outside drinking fountain, croquet court and 1 set of baby swings would help.

The city should acquire tax delinquent property lying directly east of Brown Park and join the park with Mount Vernon Gardens.

Suggest sewer system be connected for general hygienic purposes.

Projects include:

1 wading pool, 1 sand box, 1 soft ball backstop and 1 regular hard ball backstop, 1 sun shelter and 1 bath house, 10 camp ovens, erosion control, seeding and grading, planting 15,000 trees and shrubs, stone steps, asphalt and cement walks.



BURDETTE PARK
Acreage 4.

156

Location: Along Twentieth Street from Burdette Street to the alley south of Willis Avenue and Twenty-first Street, (in colored vicinity).

Plant Facilities and Status:

A hard ball diamond is under construction in the southwest corner of this area.

The entire north end of the park is being leveled.

A soft ball diamond has been planned for the northwest corner of the park.

Work in this park has been hindered by old bricks and rubbish which through the years have been dumped here. This is the north side area suggested for a colored recreation playfield.

After the removal of the rubbish, the only treatment necessary to make it an attractive recreation ground is leveling and surfacing.

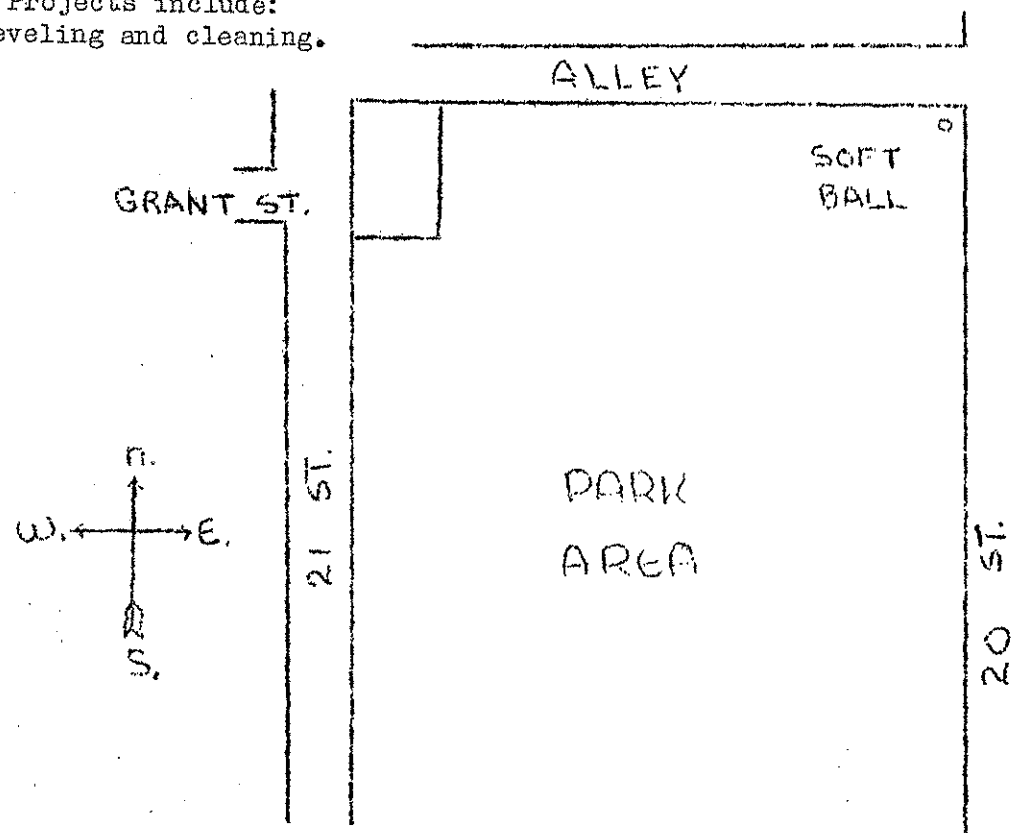
There is sufficient space for children's playground equipment if such is desired by the neighborhood.

Recommendations:

2 tennis courts and supervision after the improvement projects now underway, are completed.

Projects include:

Leveling and cleaning.



CHRISTIE HEIGHTS PARK
Acreage 5.7

157

Location: Between P and Q Streets, and between Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh.

Present Facilities and Stats:

A base ball diamond and bleachers are located here. Soft ball and foot ball games are also played in the park.

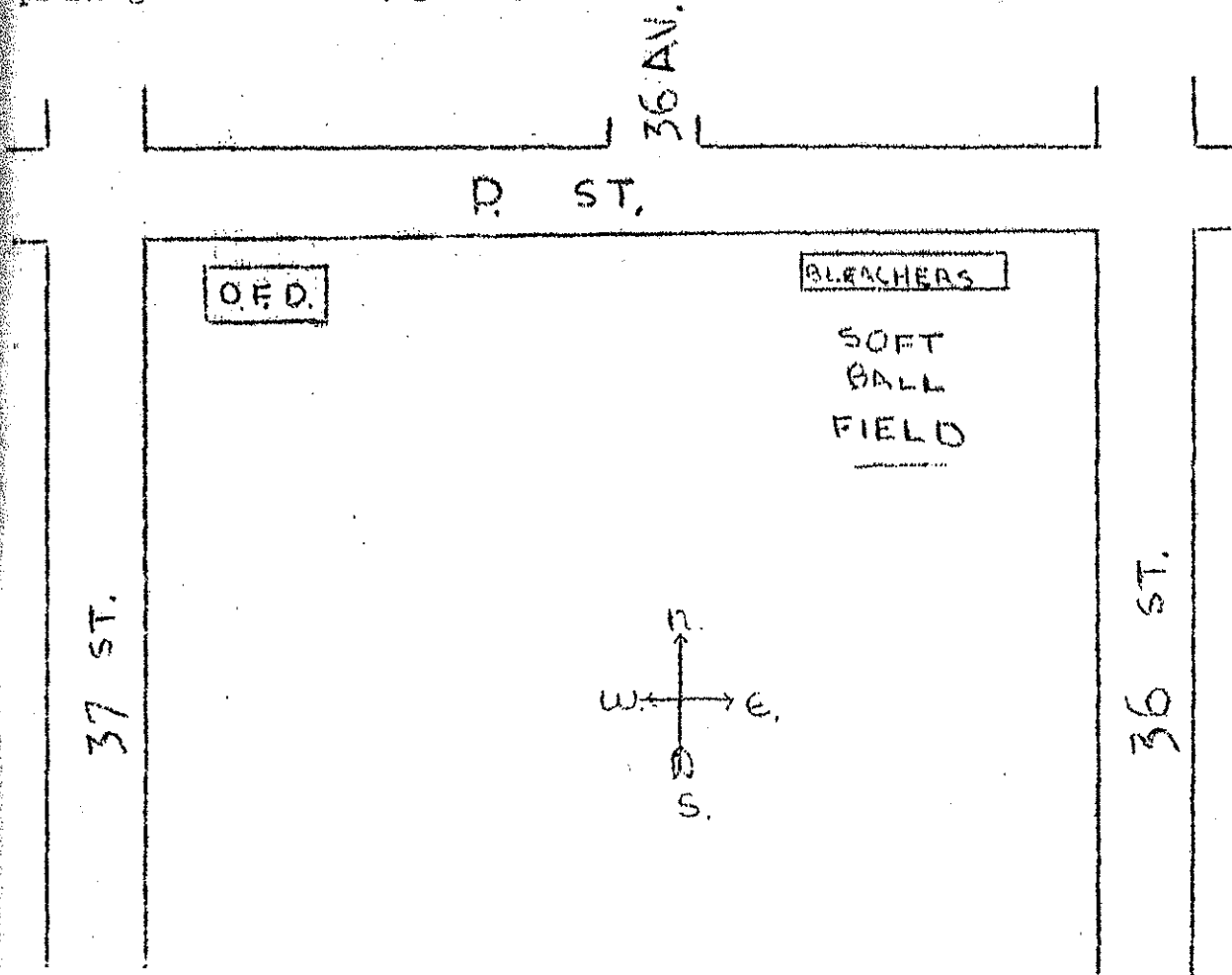
There are a few shade trees here, hence, playground equipment could be placed advantageously.

Recommendations:

2 tennis courts should be laid out here, as there is sufficient space, and no courts are to be found in this section of the city. A sand box would prove an attraction for the small children of the neighborhood. 1 drinking fountain, toilet facilities, and a shelter should be installed.

WPA Projects include:

4 hard surface tennis courts with drains and fences, re-vamping of hard ball diamond and installing of backstop, 1 soft ball diamond, 24 section bleachers, planting of 2000 shrubs, grading and seeding and 2 drinking fountains.



COLUMBUS PARK
Acreage 4.25

Location: It borders 24th Street on the east, just south of a small church on Poppleton Avenue, to 22nd Street and Woolworth Avenue.

Main Facilities-Status:

One of Omaha's newest parks. The landscaping consists of a flower garden as a center of attraction, surrounded by stone benches and clear white stone slab walks that extend out from the center like spokes of a wheel. Many young trees and shrubs have been planted.

On the east side there are 2 soft ball diamonds.

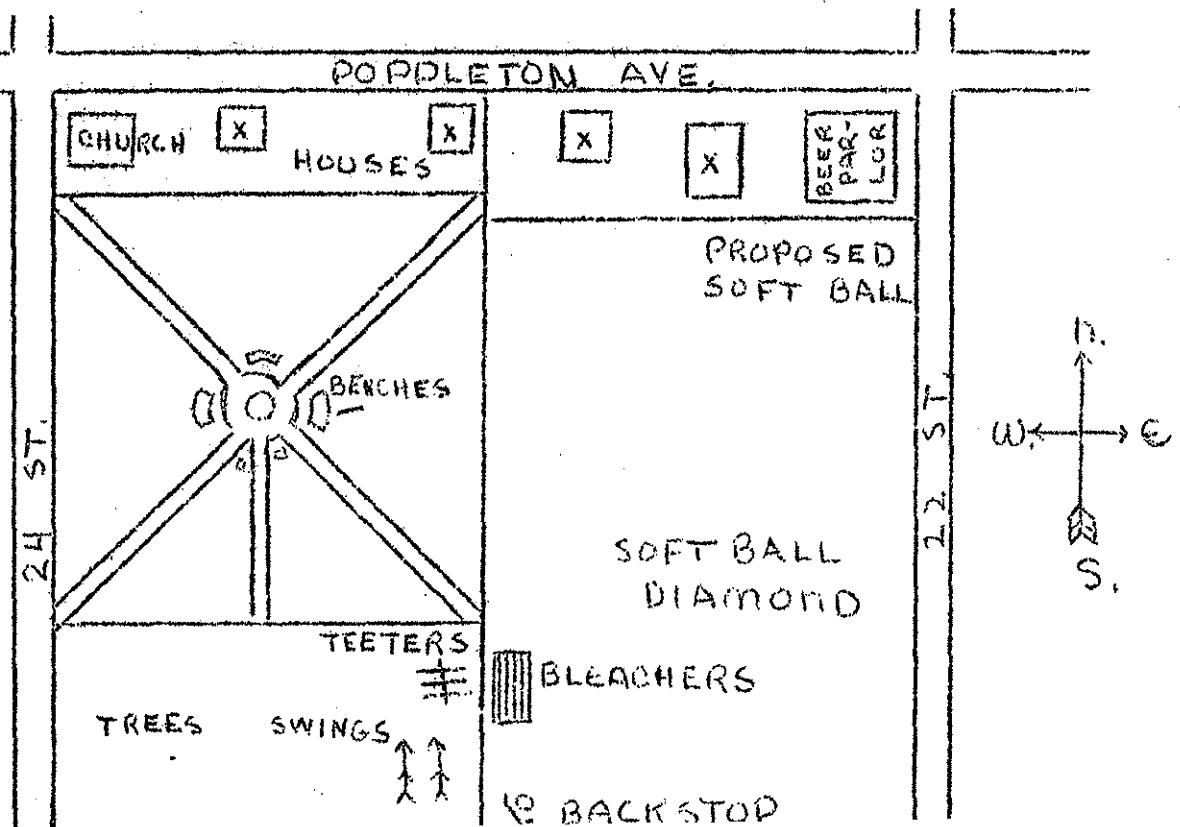
Playground Apparatus: 9 swings and 4 teeters.

Recommendations:

A drinking fountain, 2 toilets, wading pool, and sand box needed here.

Projects include:

Complete supervision, 1 wading pool, 1 sun shelter, seeding, planting 3,000 trees and shrubs, 2 soft ball diamonds and backstops, and 2 drinking fountains.



DAHLMAN PARK
Acreage 3.00

Location: Pine Street to Williams Street - 6th St. to alley east of Parkwild Avenue.

Present Facilities - Status:

This area is just a big clay bank unsuitable for any type of playground use unless it is leveled or fenced.

Recommendations:

Carry the W.P.A. Projects to completion.

W.P.A. Projects include:

Planting 1,000 trees and shrubs, grading area, erosion control, seeding one acre.

DEER PARK
Acreage 17.8

Location: 20 Street and Deer Park Boulevard - east to 13 Street.

Present Facilities - Status:

This boulevard extension property has three divisions suitable for playground use which may be roughly divided by means of the street intersections.

South west Corner Deer Park Boulevard at 17 Street.

A soft base ball diamond with a new backstop has been completed. There is a distance over second base from backstop of 300' to the bank, 175' over third base to any obstruction, and 150' over first base. The diamond faces the north east. There is a shelter to the south east, back of the first base line, on the hillside. There are benches being placed along the first and third base lines. Picnic facilities to the west and south east of the base ball field, are available for public use.

South east Corner Deer Park Boulevard at 17 Street.

There is a flat hollow space in this area partly covered with trees. Size of this area is approximately 195' x 150'. There is no equipment in this space.

Deer Park Boulevard at 15 Street.

On the south west corner of the intersection in another hollow lies a triangular space, 213' x 234'.

Recommendations:

This park needs a recreation supervisor.

Additional picnic facilities needed: 2 weiner stoves, 1 small oven.

Toilets and drinking facilities.

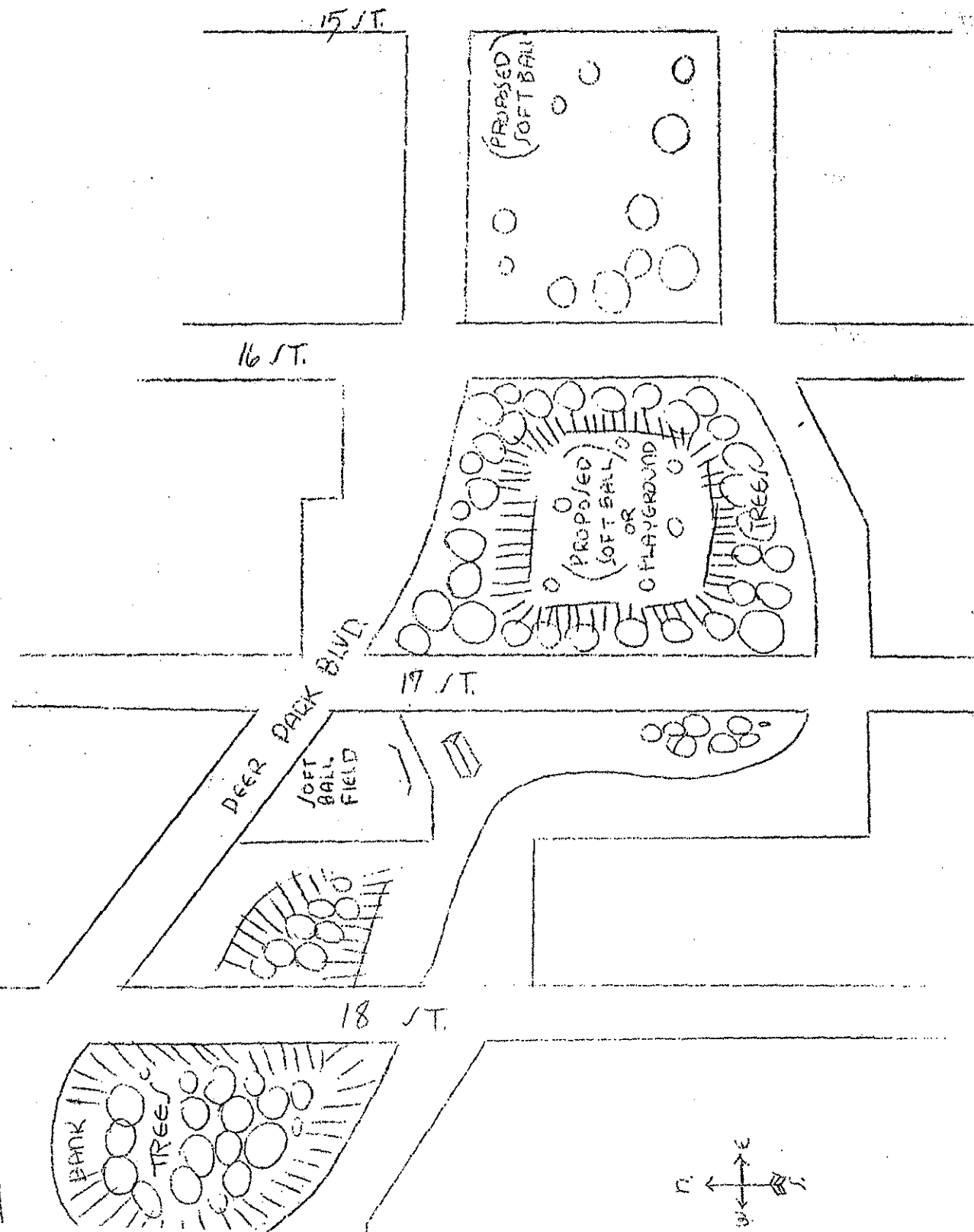
W.P.A. Projects include:

1 soft ball diamond and backstop, shelter, stone steps for cross streets,

DEER PARK

12

160



DEWEY AVENUE
Acreage 12.0

Location: 32nd St. to 33rd St. Dewey Avenue and Harney St. to Jackson Street.

Want Facilities:

Dewey Avenue Park contains twelve tennis courts, twelve horse shoe courts, one soft ball diamond and bleachers.

Recommendations:

That benches be supplied for the horse shoe courts, not only to take care of spectators, but to keep them from crowding players. Complete supervision of childrens' playground during playground hours.

W.P.A. Projects include:

6 additional tennis courts and the drainage for each court, 600' of 12' tennis fence, lights for 6 courts, one wading pool - concrete, tennis club house, 1 sun shelter, parking rail - concrete, signs and markers, grading and seeding, planting 5,000 trees and shrubs for bank cover, erosion control, dirt fill and 1,000 feet asphalt walks 5 feet wide.

DODGE PARK
Acreage 145.7

Location: North of the Wyman Tract and directly east of Hummel Park.

A public park property leased to a private individual for farming. There is ample space on level and open ground to accommodate several recreation facilities such as base ball, soft ball, soccer, foot ball, and other games requiring large play spaces.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that level grounds be cleared and devoted to base ball, soft ball, soccer, foot ball and other games that require large space. Two drinking fountains and two toilets.

DIETZ TRACT
Acreage 33.14

Location: South east of 16th and Ames to 13th Street and F.E. & M.V. RR.

Dietz Tract is a very large area, unimproved and unused at present. It offers several possibilities for recreation use. North of Cornish Blvd. This is part of Levi Carter Park, and is now under National Park Service. South of Cornish Blvd., this is Park Dept. property.

Recommendations:

There is ample space for a complete assortment of childrens' playground equipment and also for tennis courts, horse shoe and quoit courts. This tract should be developed as a general athletic field and be furnished with 2 hard base ball diamonds with back stops and bleachers, 4 soft ball diamonds, foot ball grid-iron, which could also be used for soccer and hockey. A shelter with showers, drinking fountains and toilets should be built. Landscaping would improve this park.

ELMWOOD PARK
Acreage 207.2

16

Location: Happy Hollow Blvd. to Sixty-seventh St., Pacific to Dodge Sts.

Facilities and Status:

This is the most ideal park in the city from the standpoint of recreation and picnic facilities. The location is convenient and landscaping satisfactory.

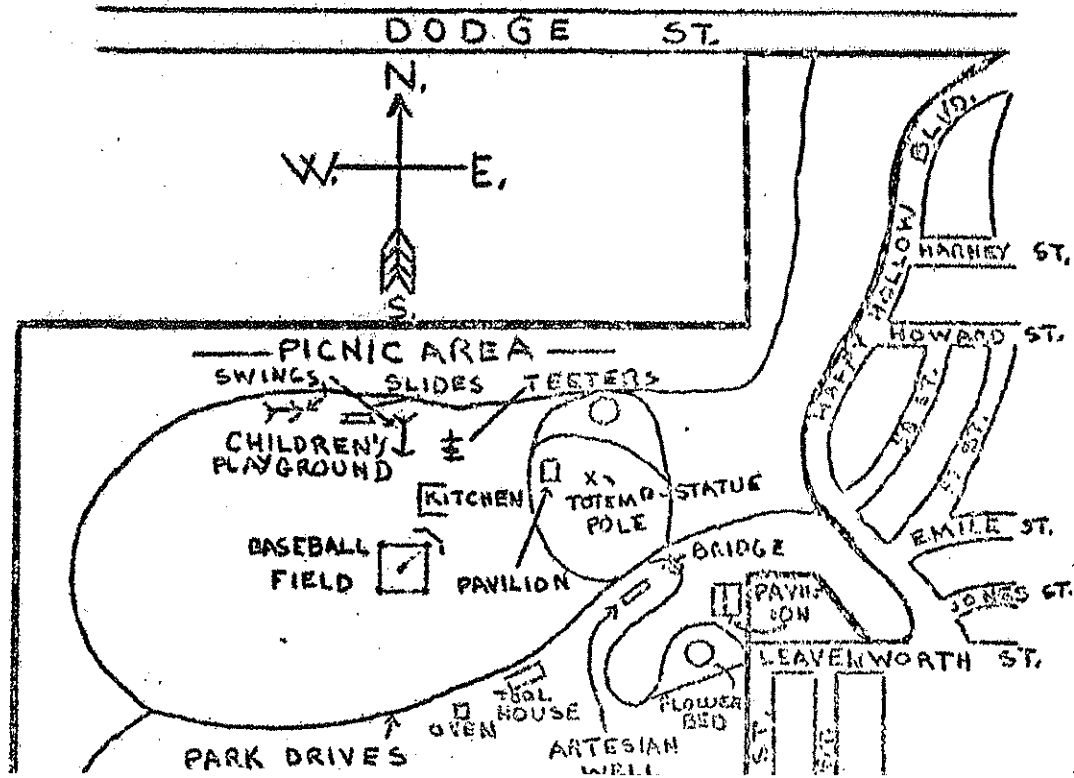
The park has the following: 18 hole golf course, 2 base ball diamonds with backstops, 2 soft ball fields, 12 horse shoe courts, 1 archery range, 1 volley ball court, 1 out door basket ball court, 1 bicycle concession, 12 swings, 4 teeters, 1 double slide, 1 merry-go-round, 1 closed pavilion, 1 open pavilion, 1 enclosed kitchen, ovens and stoves, tables and benches.

Recommendations:

Complete Supervision with adequate staff including an advisory personnel for the care and direction of picnics.

Project includes:

Hard surface tennis courts with fence, lighting for 2 tennis courts, 1 lighted soft ball diamond and backstop, 6 horseshoe courts, wading pool, 1 service building, (Offices, etc.), renovating old building and structures, 3 entrance gates, drinking fountains, 3 toilets, spring development (rock work and bridge), 600' of playground fence six feet high, 1 big oven, 1,000' of low parking rail, gravel for parking areas, 7,000' of asphalt walks-five feet wide, grading and seeding, planting 25,000 trees and shrubs, erosion control.



FLORENCE PARK
Acreage 1.7

163

Location: West of 30th to 31st Street between Mormon and State Streets.

Present Status and Facilities:

A band stand, walks, and trees.

Recommendations:

A limited amount of playground apparatus could be installed here. There is room for 2 tennis courts. This part of town is lacking in public tennis courts. A croquet court might be interesting. Florence Park needs grading, seeding and tree surgery.

Policy: Policy of this park controlled by neighborhood influences.

FLORENCE PLAYGROUND
Acreage 1.44

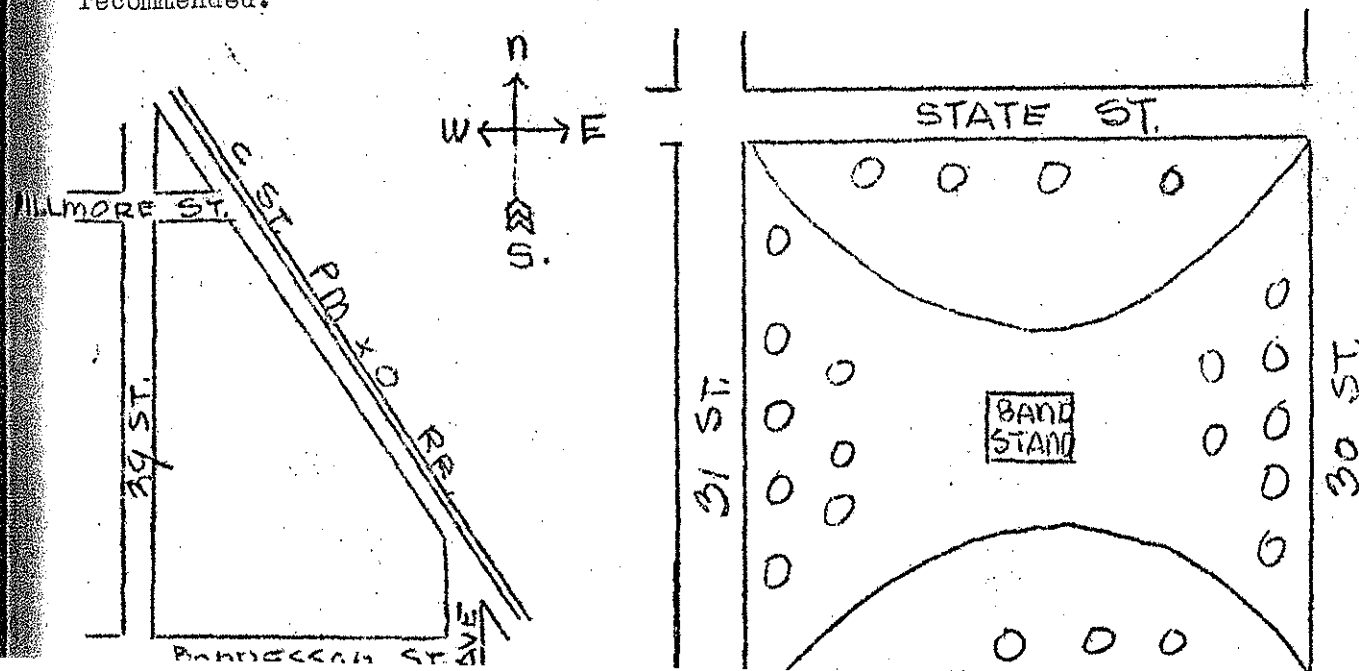
Location: 29th and Fillmore to 28th Avenue and Bondesson Street and C. St.
P. M. and O. R.R.

Present Status:

This is a triangular space originally used for gardening, but now used for a children's playground.

Recommendations:

2 tennis courts, a soft ball diamond, and a limited amount of apparatus such as, swings, a slide, teeters, a sand box. Flower beds and landscaping recommended.



FONTENELLE PARK
Acreage 107.55

Location: Between Forty-second and Forty-eighth from Ames to Pratt Street.

Present Facilities and Status:

This park has the largest public park pavilion in the city. It contains an assembly hall, piano, chairs, and class rooms. Various neighborhood meetings and recreation classes are held here during a large part of the year. It has an excellent base ball diamond with ample bleachers. Skating festivals are held during the winter on the lagoon. It has horticultural gardens and landscaped areas. The picnic facilities include a large oven. Playground apparatus: 4 teeters, 1 merry-go-round, 3 turning poles, 15 swings 1 giant stride, and 1 double slide. The park's 9 hole golf course is a major attraction.

Recommendations:

That horse shoe courts be built under the trees on Ames Avenue. That sand-boxes and playhouses for children be installed. A croquet court also. Full time supervision is definitely recommended.

P.A. Projects include:

1 backstop for hard base ball diamond, 1 wading pool, 2 tennis courts--hard surface with lights, 1 large oven, 5,000' of asphalt walks 5' wide, 2 toilets, showers in pavilion, 8" drain tile, tree surgery and repair, grading and seeding, planting 25,000 trees and shrubs.

HAROLD GIFFORD PARK
Acreage 5.64

Location: On 33rd Street to 35th Street. Cass Street to Davenport Street.

This park was donated to the city as a girls' playground and originally designated as a Girl Scout meeting place.

Present Facilities and Status:

This park has one soft ball diamond with backstop.

Recommendations:

On the west side of the Park is space enough for another soft ball field. Space is available for additional apparatus for a playground, tennis courts, and horse shoe courts. The Park could be beautified by landscaping and the addition of flower gardens. 1 sand box with a sun shelter. 2 croquet courts.

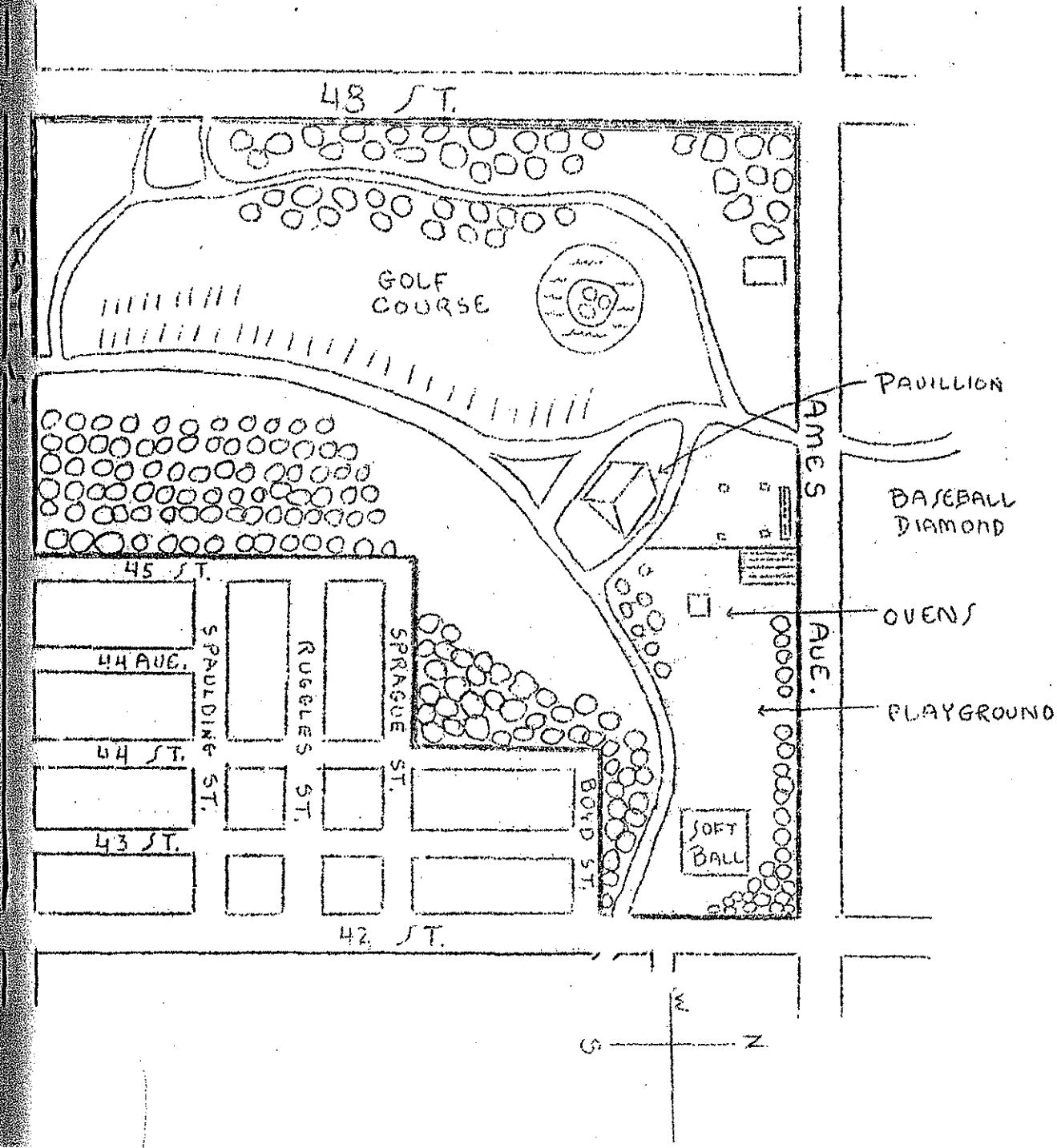
Present Plans:

Call for a complete staff for playground supervision.

P.A. Projects include:

1 wading pool, 1 soft ball diamond and backstop, 10 sections of bleachers,

— FONTENELLE PARK —



HANSCOM PARK
Acreage 57.7

166

Location: This park located at Park Ave. & Woolworth to 32 Avenue and Ed. Creighton Blvd. is one of the oldest parks in Omaha.

Present Facilities - Status:

The Park Department Greenhouses are located here. In the summer the outdoor flower beds are attractive and interesting.

A band stand where municipal concerts can be staged.

At present the lake, which is fed constantly and kept fresh by city water, is used for skating in winter. The lake is seven feet deep at the east end.

The caretaker lives at the pavilion the year around.

Playground Apparatus: 4 swings (large), 1 set of 3 swings (small), 2 turning poles, 1 giant stride, 1 teeter, 1 merry-go-round, and 2 cement surface tennis courts, properly fenced.

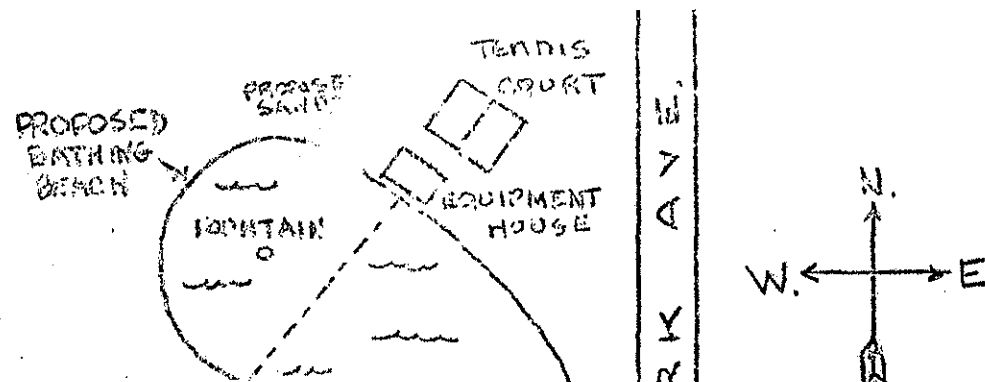
The pavilion equipment at present includes: Chairs, tables, and a piano. In the basement there is a room that has been used as a classroom. A kitchen and dining room have been installed in the basement.

Suggestions for Improvement:

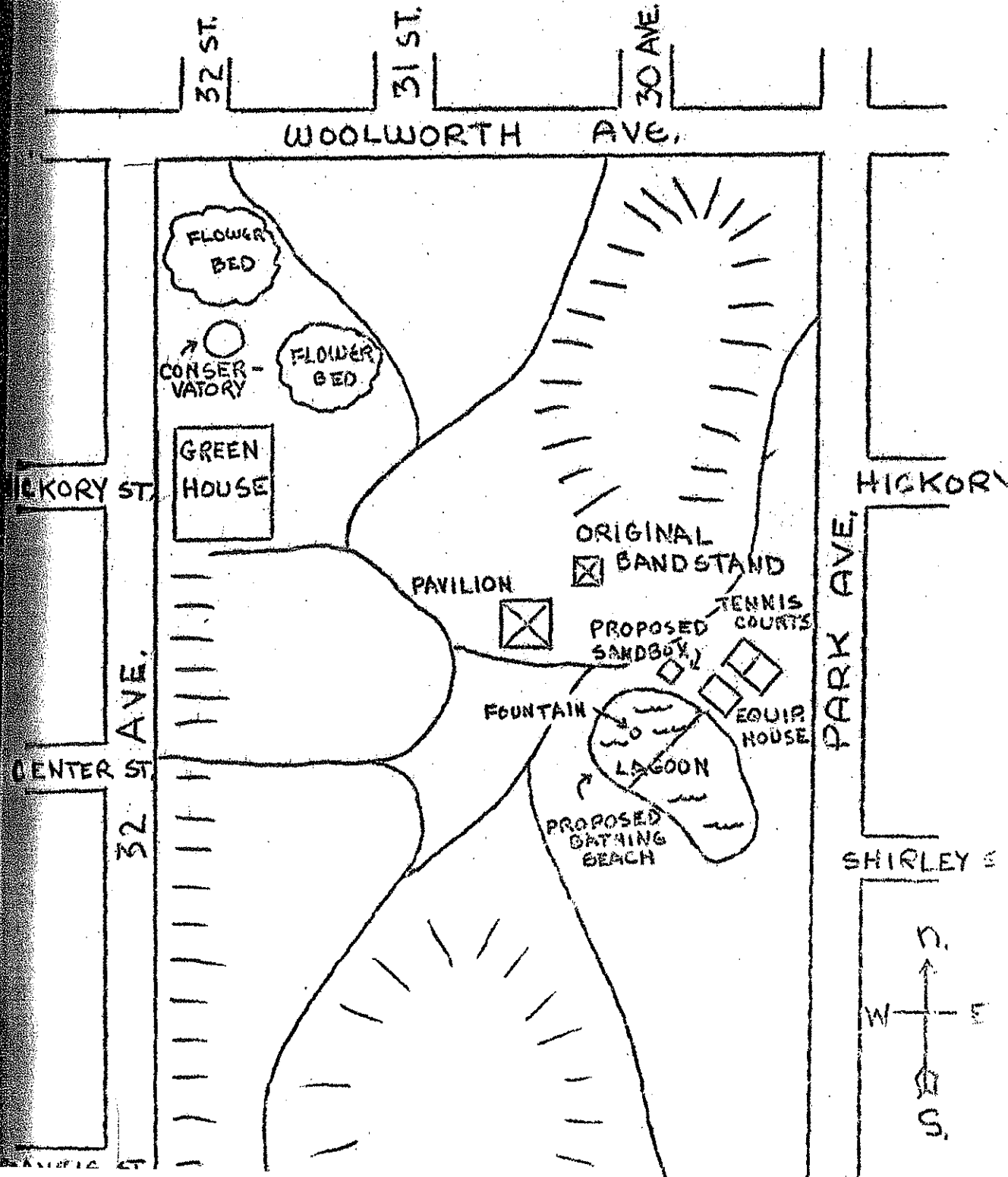
The west end of the lagoon, if properly cleaned and roped off, could be used for wading purposes.

The old lily pond which has been drained recently should be developed as a playground for small children. The childrens' playground apparatus now in the valley should be moved out and placed where the breeze can reach the children during play time.

It is suggested that this park be kept as a family picnic ground and a childrens' center, and that all roads in the park, except a service driveway, be closed to traffic. Hanscom Park, with its rolling and wooded grounds is a natural beauty spot, rather than a park equipped for general recreation activities.



HANSCOM PARK



HIGHLAND PARK
Acreage 5.87

168

Location: Between B and D Streets, and Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Streets.

Present Facilities:

The only recreation facilities at present are two hard surface tennis courts.

Recommendations:

Landscaping and flower beds.

Sand boxes and playhouses for children.

H.P.A. Project includes:

2 tennis court lights, 6 horse shoe pitching courts, 1 wading pool, 1 toilet and tool house, 800' asphalt walks 5' wide, planting 5,000 trees and shrubs, playground grading and seeding.

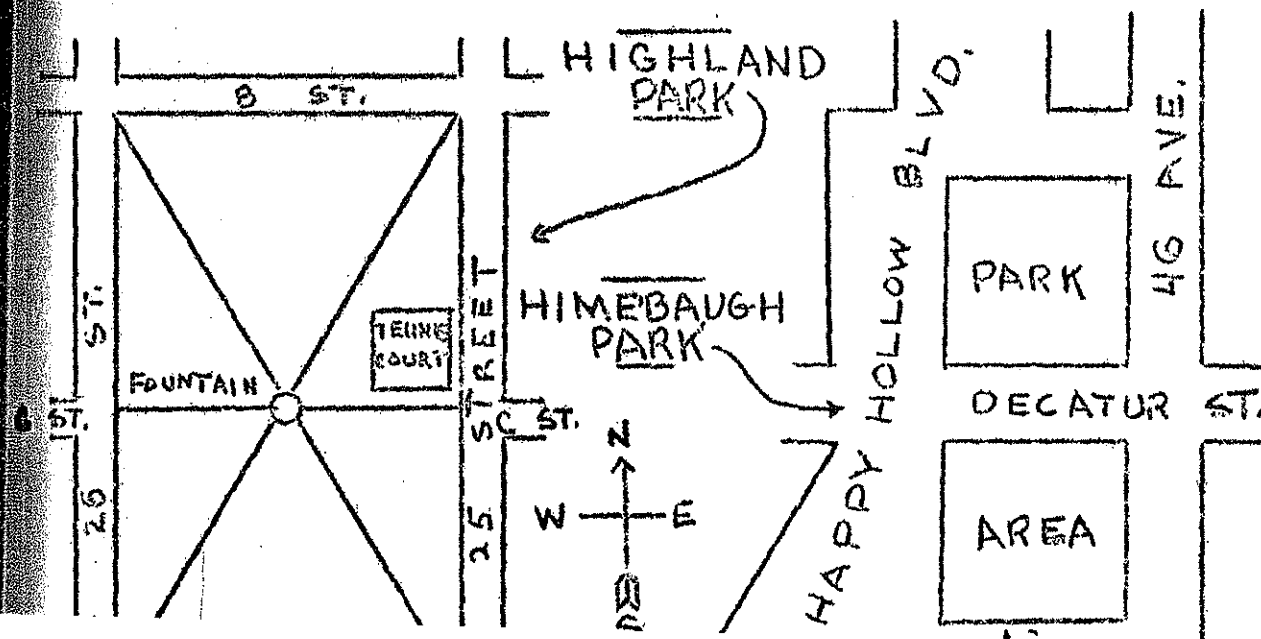
HIMEBAUGH PARK
Acreage 1.1

Location: Himebaugh Park is a decorative park, divided into two sections, at the intersection of Happy Hollow Boulevard and Decatur Street. It is landscaped some and serves solely as a beauty spot.

Recommendations:

Additional landscaping would improve its present attractiveness, but it cannot be used for recreational purposes.

This is a beautiful park for passive recreation only.



JEFFERSON PARK
Acreage 1.72

Location: From 16th Street to 15th Street and Chicago to Cass Streets.

Present Facilities:

Jefferson Park is a square shaped park in the center of which is a shelter house.

The area surrounding the shelter contains a number of trees and some shrubbery.

Recommendations:

By placing a three foot fence around the square, a day nursery or small childrens' playground could be operated. Mothers could leave their children here while working or shopping in the downtown area. The children could be supervised by a playground attendant or trained nurse employed by the Park Department.

Present Plans include:

Remodeling of shelter to serve as a check stand and office room for supervisor and nurse.

Placing of three foot ornamental fence around area.

Equipping with small childrens' play facilities, such as a sand box with canopy, teeters, slides, etc. Several small childrens' play houses should be placed here, also.

KOUNTZE PARK
Acreage 9.9

Location: Nineteenth to Twenty-first Streets, Pinkney to Pratt Streets. It is divided into two sections, east and west, by Florence Boulevard.

Present Facilities - Status:

On the west side are 2 hard surface tennis courts and sufficient space for a soft ball diamond. On the east is the childrens' playground and a lagoon. In winter the lagoon is used for skating. Near the lagoon is an equipment house.

Playground Apparatus: 15 swings, 1 merry-go-round, 1 giant stride, 4 teeters, and 3 turning poles.

Recommendations:

This is a very popular park for children and a wading pool with sun shelter is suggested.

Full time recreation and playground staff is a prime necessity.

Stop signs should be placed at ends of park on Florence Boulevard.

Part of park is used by Municipal University coeds for their outdoor physical education work, and also as a hockey field and soft ball diamond.

LAKE JAMES
Acreage 2.9

171

Location: 48th Avenue to 49th Street, Bedford Avenue to Wirt Street.

Present Facilities and Status:

Lake James has a soft ball diamond with backstop.

The present playground apparatus consists of 6 swings, 4 teeters, and 1 merry-go-round.

Recommendations:

2 toilets and 2 drinking fountains are needed.

2 tennis courts, 6 horse shoe courts, and 1 croquet court should be built.

The addition of flower beds, decorative trees, hedges and shrubbery would make this a beautiful spot as well as a recreation ground.

Adequate supervision is needed.

P.P.A. Projects include:

1 soft ball diamond with backstop, 2 tennis courts, 6 horse shoe courts, 1 wading pool, 1 sun shelter, 700' of playground fence, 600' of tennis fence, grading and seeding and planting 5,000 trees and shrubs.

LEAVENWORTH GARDENS
Acreage 3.6

Location: Leavenworth and Mason, and Turner Boulevard and 35th Street.

Present Facilities:

A large circular flower garden in the center prohibits the use of this space as an active recreation area. However, between the flower bed and Leavenworth Street there is sufficient space for some childrens' playground apparatus such as swings, slides, teeters, and a sand box.

Landscaping would improve the appearance of this park, especially the areas paralleling the streets.

A few benches are needed.

LEAVENWORTH PLAYGROUND
Acreage 3.00

Location: Turner Blvd. and Leavenworth Street.

Present Status:

The square block around Turner Blvd. and Leavenworth is an undeveloped and unused area, really a depression in the Boulevard. Part of it is adaptable for recreation purposes. A childrens' playground could be developed.

MCKINLEY PARK

Acreage 4.2

Location: 28th to 29th Sts., Drexel to Harrison Sts.

Present Facilities and Status:

This is a large rectangular shaped and fairly level space, with a swimming pool, but without a bath house.

The level portion on the south end of this space is too small for a base ball diamond but sufficiently large for a good soft ball diamond.

The apparatus at present on the property includes: 6 swings and 4 teeters.

Recommendations:

In the center of the park, between the pool on the north and the proposed diamond on the south, there is sufficient space for some playground apparatus, or a small playground for children. 2 toilets and 1 drinking fountain are necessary here. Six horse shoe courts might be laid out along the borders of this space.

Present Plans include:

Filling up swimming pool and making base ball field.

Note: Swimming pool was the cause of racial troubles.

MANDAN PARK

Acreage 41.04

Location: On the south end of the South River Drive overlooking the Missouri River.

Present Facilities and Status:

This is a natural beauty spot and picnic ground. The hilly, wooded grounds and abundant natural scenery attract many picnickers.

At this park is a small frame pavilion.

The only recreation diversion is tennis on the one small court.

The playground is small and apparatus is limited to 6 swings and 4 teeters.

Recommendations:

A wading pool and sand box should be installed, also a sun shelter, 1 drinking fountain and toilets.

Landscaping at various spots would add to the attractiveness of this park.

W.P.A. Projects include:

2 picnic shelters, 50 small camp ovens, 1 big fire oven, 2 tennis courts, tennis fence 12' high--tennis court drains, 3 toilets, 3 drinking fountains, tree surgery, 8,000' of gravel trails 5' wide, erosion control, and development of 2 entrances.

MELROSE PARK
Acreage 6.0

173

Location: 39 to 40 Sts., Valley to Grover Sts.

Present Facilities - Status:

Melrose Park is merely an open field between two farmyards, at present being used as a pasture.

There is no equipment here.

The topography of the area is such as not to warrant recommendations for extensive grading and improving for active recreation purposes.

CAROLYN MERCER PARK
Acreage 5.6

Location: Mercer Boulevard to 38 Street-Cuning Street to Hawthorne Avenue.

Present Facilities - Status:

Mercer Park is a small area just south of the Walnut Hill Pumping Station, on Thirty-eighth Street. It is uneven ground with trees growing thickly, and so has few possibilities for recreational use.

Recommendations:

Landscaping on Nicholas Street on the north, on Thirty-eighth Street on the east, and on Lincoln Blvd., running diagonally on the south east, would add greatly to the appearance of this park.

One large rustic picnic table and benches placed here would help.

MILLER PARK
Acreage 78.0

Location: 24th to 30th Streets, and Kansas to Redick Avenues.

Present Facilities - Status:

There are picnic facilities including tables, benches, and a cooking oven.

The modern pavilion contains a dining room and a kitchen, and serves as a club house for golfers.

A nine hole course here.

A lagoon in the center of the park is used for skating in the winter.

Playground Apparatus: 15 swings, 3 turning poles, 4 teeters, 1 merry-go-round.

Recommendations:

A wading pool and sun shelter should be placed in the park for the small children of the community.

A sand box should be placed here.

2 toilets and 2 drinking fountains badly needed.

MORTON PARK
Acreage 3.8

174

Location: 41st to 42nd., V St. to W Sts.

Present Facilities and Status:

This park has an old type swimming pool with a bath house. Also a soft ball diamond with a backstop. The little playground contains 9 swings and 4 teeters. The small frame pavilion where classes in dramatics, music, hand-craft, games and physical education are held, also accomodates community club meetings and dancing parties.

Recommendations:

A hard surface tennis court should be built.
The main floor of the pavilion should be divided into class rooms by partition.
Extend the picnic facilities.
1 outside drinking fountain should be installed.
A sand box with sun shelter is suggested.

W.P.A. Projects include:

The building of 2 hard surface tennis courts, tennis court fence 12' high, bath house repairs, swimming pool repairs, 2 drinking fountains, dirt fill in low area, grading and seeding of two acres and planting 3,000 trees and shrubs.

OHIO PARK
Acreage 0.82

Location: 43rd St., Ohio to Miami Streets.

Present Facilities and Status:

This is a very small park having only an outdoor basket ball practice court and a turning pole.
It has been used for soft ball practice but the area is too small for a regulation sized diamond.
The center of the park is somewhat below the street level and should be filled.

Recommendations:

Toilets and drinking fountain are needed.
A tennis court should be built, as well as horse shoe courts.
The park is badly in need of landscaping.

W.P.A. Projects include:

Landscaping, grading and seeding.

PULASKI PARK
Acreage 1.94

17

Location: 41st to 40th Avenues. G to H Streets.

Present Facilities and Status:

Pulaski Park has a swimming pool of antiquated type and a poor bath house.
Playground Apparatus: 6 swings and 4 teeters.

Recommendations:

1 sun shelter, 2 toilets, 1 drinking fountain and 1 horse shoe court.

P.P.A. Projects include:

1 community building, 1 wading pool with sun shelter, 800' of asphalt walks, 5' wide, grading and seeding, planting 1,000 trees and shrubs, 500' playground fence 6' high.

NORTH RIVER DRIVE
Acreage 347.6

Location: Begins at Florence Boulevard and Read Street and extends out to Hummel Park.

Present Facilities and Status:

The River Drive, overlooking the Missouri River at most points, is popular with motorists and hikers. This Drive appeals to motorists because of its scenic beauty and pleasant driving conditions, and because it is the shortest route to Hummel, Dodge, and Wyman Parks.

Recommendations:

There is ample space for a soft ball diamond at the intersection of River Drive and Craig Avenue.
Additional landscaping would improve the Drive.

P.P.A. Projects include:

2 shelters (type 1), 2,000' of trails, graveling parking areas, 2,000' of guard rail, 1,000' of parking rail, stone steps, planting 25,000 trees and shrubs, grading and seeding, erosion control.

SOUTH RIVER DRIVE
Acreage 139.5

Location: The South River Drive extends from Riverview Park, through Mount Vernon Gardens and Mandan Park to the city limits.

Present Facilities and Status:

This Drive, overlooking the Missouri River at most points, is popular with motorists and hikers.
This drive is landscaped and winds along the hills and valleys skirting the river. It is adaptable only for passive recreation purposes. Its scenic beauty is responsible for its popularity with Sunday motorists.

RIVERVIEW PARK
Acreage 108.3

Location: Bancroft St. to Homer St. - 3rd St. to 10th Street.

Present Facilities - Status:

The Zoo is located here.

The lagoon, used for skating in the winter, is being deepened for boating in the summer.

The park has one large swimming pool with a bath house and showers.

There are 10 horse shoe courts, 2 clay surface tennis courts, and a pavilion.

For childrens' play there are 4 teeters, 3 turning poles and 12 swings.

There is a hard base ball diamond with backstop and bleachers located in this park.

Recommendations:

That a bicycle renting concession be located here.

An archery range is recommended for this park.

2 drinking fountains, 2 toilets needed.

A new bridge over the lagoon is a prime necessity.

P.A. Projects include:

1 large animal shelter, 8 animal cages, dirt fill in zoo, 6 tennis courts hard surface with drains, 1 bath house, pool repairs, cleaning lake, removing old fence, 2,000' cyclone fence 8' high, 1 cyclone fence 12' high for base ball backstop, 800' playground fence, 600' tennis fence, 24 sections bleachers, 1 large pavilion, 1 shelter and toilet, 1 camp oven, 1 big oven, 50 picnic tables, 6 drinking fountains, 3 toilets, running water, 800' retaining walls, 3,000' asphalt walks, gravel parking, tree surgery and tree survey, erosion control, seeding and grading, and planting shrubs and trees.

SPRING LAKE PARK
Acreage 95.36

Location: 16th to 22nd Streets, from A to F Street.

Present Facilities - Status:

The most recent additions to the park are the nine hole golf course and the new modern pavilion which contains a large assembly room with piano, chairs and basement class rooms.

The childrens' playground is equipped with 9 swings, 4 teeters, and a very small/soft ball diamond.

The picnic facilities are limited. This park has a natural spring.

Recommendations - Suggestions:

The swimming pool located here is badly in need of repairs. A modern bath house is also needed. 2 toilets, 2 drinking fountains are needed at once.

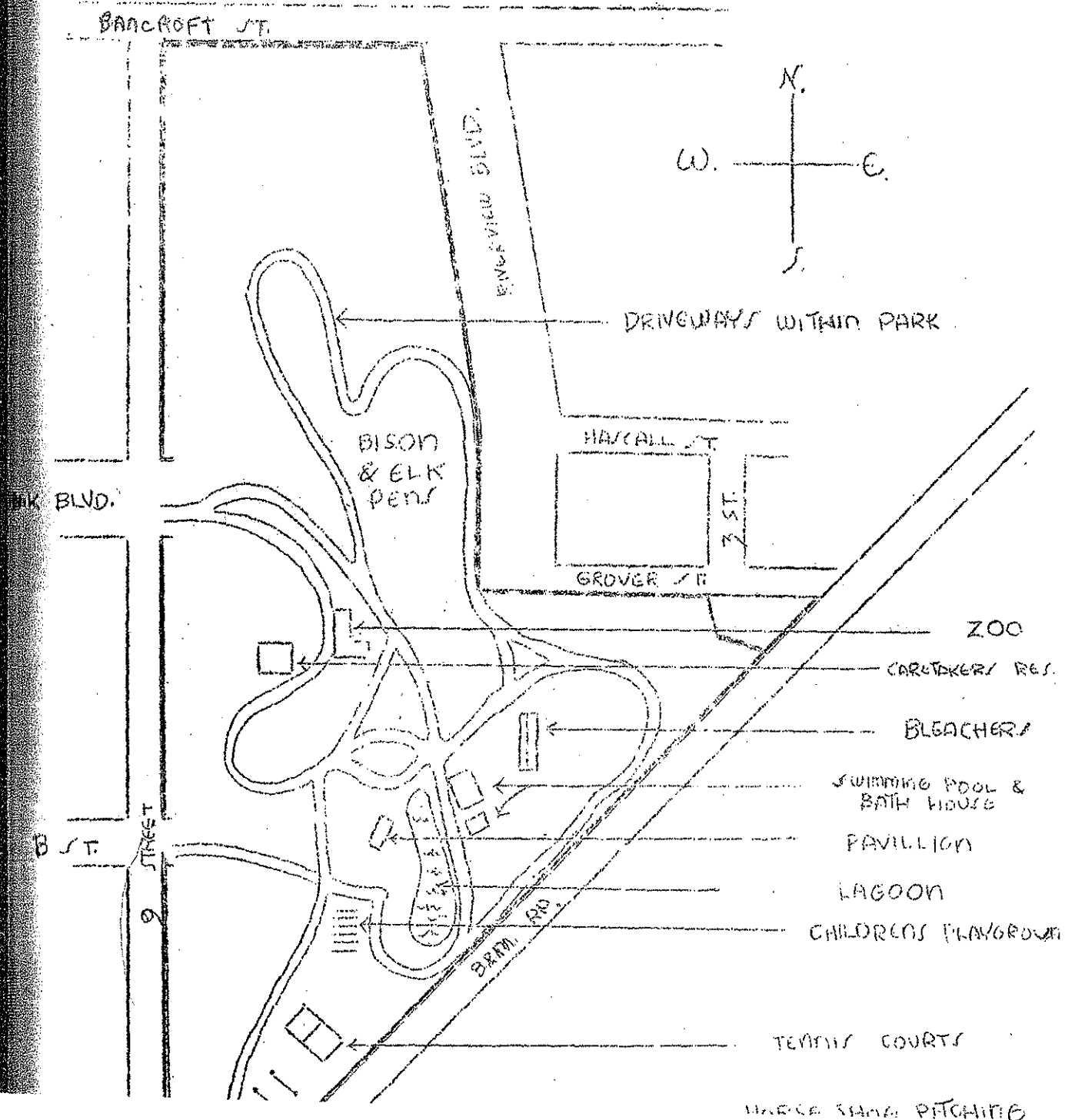
A sand box with sun shelter should be provided.

P.A. Projects include:

1 wading pool, 1 service building, 1 log shelter (type 1), 2 trail shelters, showers and lockers. 1 camp oven. 50 picnic tables.

RIVERVIEW PARK

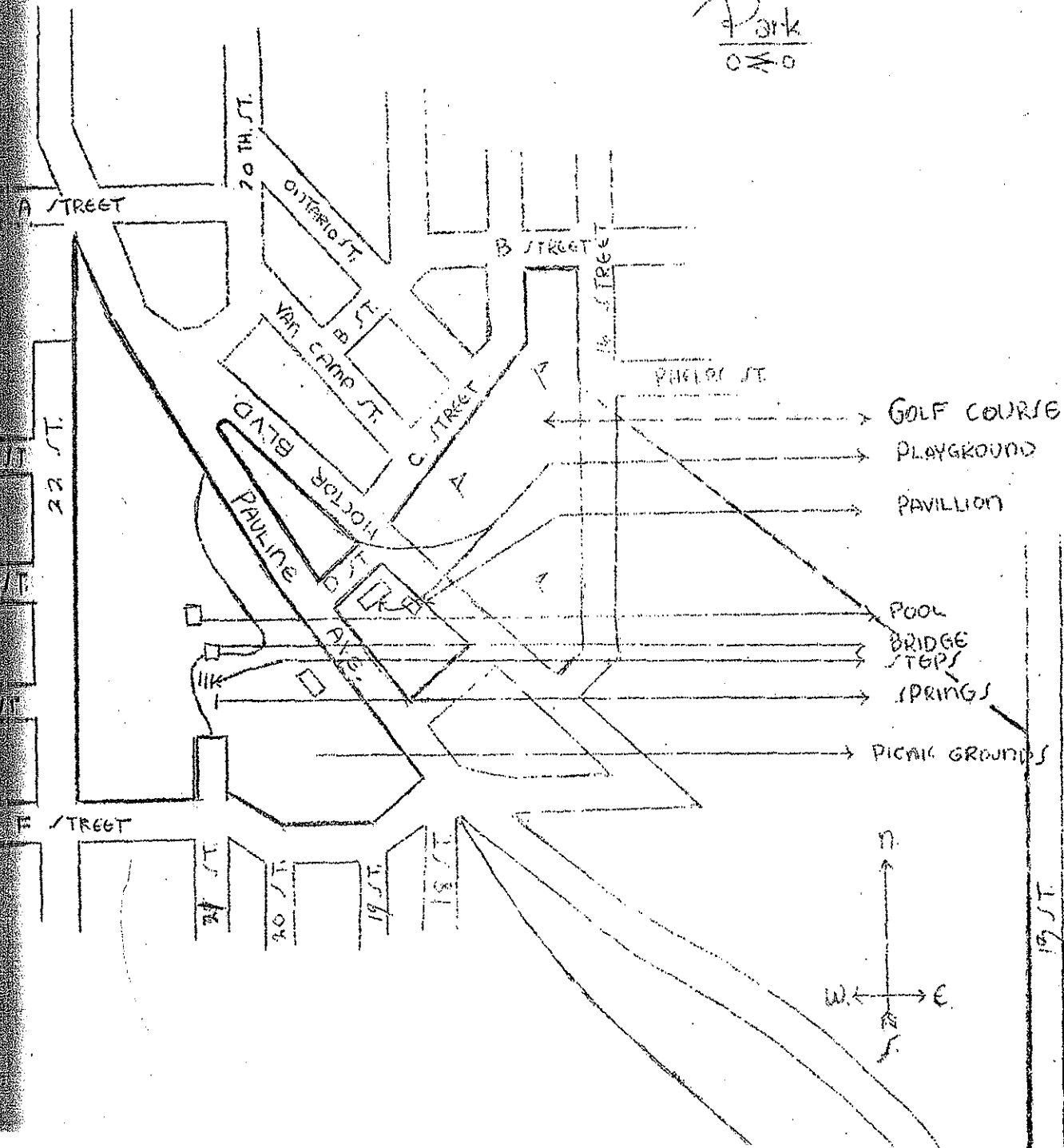
(44)



HORSE SHOW PITCHING

46
178

Spring Lake
Park
ONO



TRIANGLE PARK

Acreage 3.5

1

Location: This is a small area less than one block square, lying just east of Thirtieth Street, and north of Burt Street.

Present Facilities and Status:

In the past this space has been used by the youth of the neighborhood for base ball games and foot ball scrimmage practice.

Recommendations:

Owing to the fact that Cuming St., 30 St., Burt St., and Oregon Trail are all heavy traffic streets, the use of this area for children's playground purposes is not recommended.

TURNER PARK

Acreage 4.5

Location: Turner Park is located at Turner Blvd. and Farnam Street to 31st Avenue and Dodge Street.

Present Facilities and Status:

This area which has only been used for the annual Maypole Dance, has Recreation possibilities.

At the present time, the only equipment is a small three swing unit.

Recommendations:

The following equipment might be well placed here: sand box and shelter, wading pool, slide, teeters, drinking fountain, 2 toilets.

In recommending additional equipment for this area it is recalled that Dodge Street and Farnam Street are heavy east and west traffic thoroughfares.

Turner Blvd. also carries a heavy north and south load of traffic.

Present Plans:

Picnic equipment for small families. 4 tables and benches.

YALE PARK

Acreage 1.3

Location: 34 Ave. to 33 Ave. Lake Street to Erskine Street.

Present Facilities and Status:

The north east corner of this park is used for soft ball games.

Playground Apparatus: 6 swings, 4 teeters, and 1 double slide.

Recommendations:

1 soft ball backstop, 6 horse shoe courts, 2 toilets, and 1 drinking fountain.

BLUFF VIEW PARK
Acreage 0.56

Location: Fowler Avenue and Florence Boulevard.

Present Facilities - Status:

This small triangular area is partially landscaped.

Recommendations:

That this area be retained solely as a beauty spot.

CEDAR ST. AT 6TH ST.
Acreage 1.48

Location: Sixth Street and Cedar Street - S. E. Corner.

Present Facilities - Status:

This is block 68 of Credit Foncier Addition to Omaha.

The north half of this block is fairly level except for a deep ravine which comes in from the east across two lots.

The south half of this block consists of a high clay bluff.

Size of lots 1,2,3,4,--66' X 132'. Lot 5,6,7,8,--39 $\frac{3}{4}$ ' X 66'.

Recommendations:

Since lots 1 and 2 are owned by the National Bank of Commerce; and the east half of lot 3 is owned by Nick Olm and the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot 3 by John O. Potterfield; and lot 4,5,6,7, are owned by the National Bank of Commerce; lot 8 held by Abraham Reed of the Byron Reed Company; lot 3 is tax delinquent since 1904; lots 5,6,7,8 are tax delinquent since 1910 and lots 1,2,4, are tax delinquent since 1920. It is recommended that the city purchase the above section of block 68 of Credit Foncier Addition to Omaha.

Present Plans for this area:

None, pending change of ownership.

This would give the city a much needed recreation area.

20TH & HOWARD
Acreage .5

Location: North east corner of 20th & Howard Sts.

Present Status:

This almost level landscaped area is the property of the Nebraska Power Company. It would make an excellent playground in this heavily congested neighborhood.

Recommendations:

It is suggested that the City lease this property from the Nebraska Power Company, and property be developed as a neighborhood playground.

MORMON PARK
Acreage 10

181

Location: On the North Ridge Drive, Reynolds to Howell Streets.

Present Status:

This is an observation point with a fine view of the Missouri River Valley.
It has a flagpole and parking space.
It is the property of the Mormon Church.

Recommendations:

That it should be kept as a historic park.

SOUTH SIDE PLAYFIELD
Acreage 12

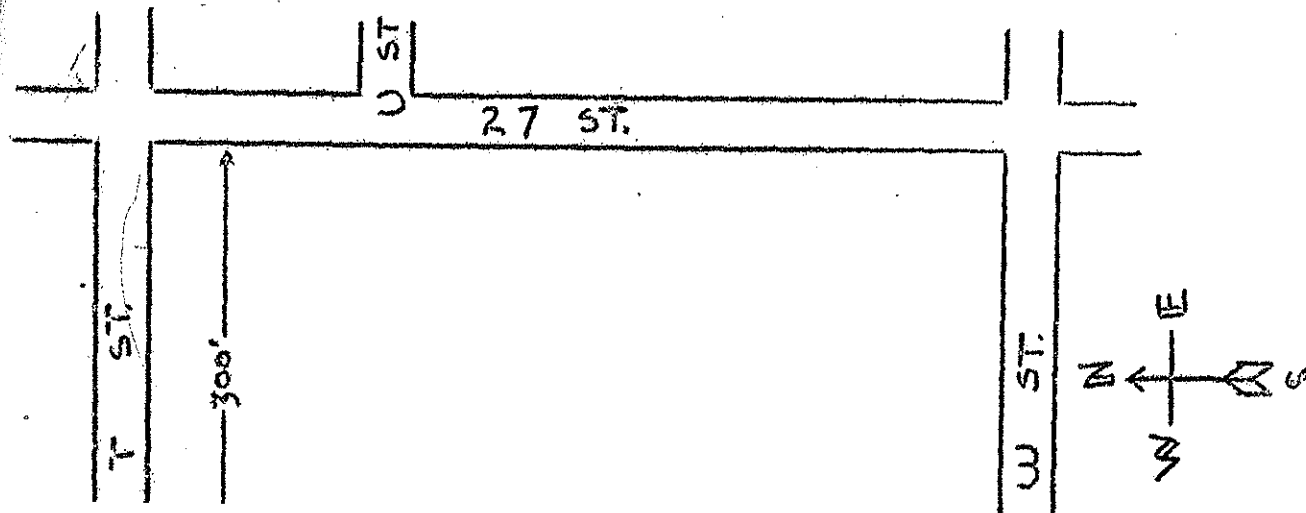
Location: This rectangle located between 27th and 28th Sts., and extending from T to W Streets, is owned by the Union Stock Yards Company.

Present Facilities - Status:

This packing house district is thickly populated by colored people, who are much in need of a recreation center of their own. This area, 300 ft. by 550 ft. would adequately serve their recreation needs.
It is being used by the Woodson Center and the Social Settlement under an agreement with the owners.

Recommendations:

If the Park Department can secure this property by purchase or lease, it would then be possible to secure a W.P.A. project and workmen to grade and place equipment, including 2 drinking fountains, bleachers, 1 hard base ball diamond, 1 soft ball field, 2 tennis courts, 1 croquet court, 6 horse shoe courts, toilet facilities, 1 shelter and the things necessary for a play field. Therefore, the Omaha Park and Recreation Department should investigate this situation, and take whatever action may be necessary to establish a playground for this vicinity.



METCALF PARK
Acreage 3.13

Location: This park is a triangular area bounded by Happy Hollow Boulevard on the south, Fifty-first Street on the west, and Country Club Avenue diagonally on the north east. The north tip of the park just touches Decatur Street.

Present Facilities - Status:

This park should be maintained as a beauty spot.
A decorative fountain in the center would add to its attractiveness.
Natural Beauty Spot.

MT. VERNON GARDENS
Acreage 6

Location: U St. to Y St. on River Drive just east of 13th Street.

Present Facilities - Status:

This beauty spot is on the River Drive overlooking the Missouri River Valley and is located on a high promontory.
It is a beautiful replica in flowers and bushes of the National Shrine of the same name.
This park offers an ideal place for parking with an excellent vista of long distances up and down the river valley.

Recommendations:

Should be maintained as a beauty spot.
Picnic facilities, tables and benches could well be provided.
A parking area should be provided.

SUNKEN GARDENS
Acreage 3.72

Location: On the west side of Happy Hollow Boulevard between Underwood Avenue and Curing Street.

Present Facilities - Status:

This is a beautifully landscaped scenic spot. It has been suggested that an artistic fountain and lily pond be added here to make this colorful spot still more beautiful.

LEVI CARTER PARK
Acreage-Land 242-Water 200-Total 442

185

Location: This park is located at 13th Street and Union Pacific Ry., from Locust Street north to Fort Street and east to and including Municipal Aviation Field. The southern boundary is Carter Lake.

Present Facilities-Status:

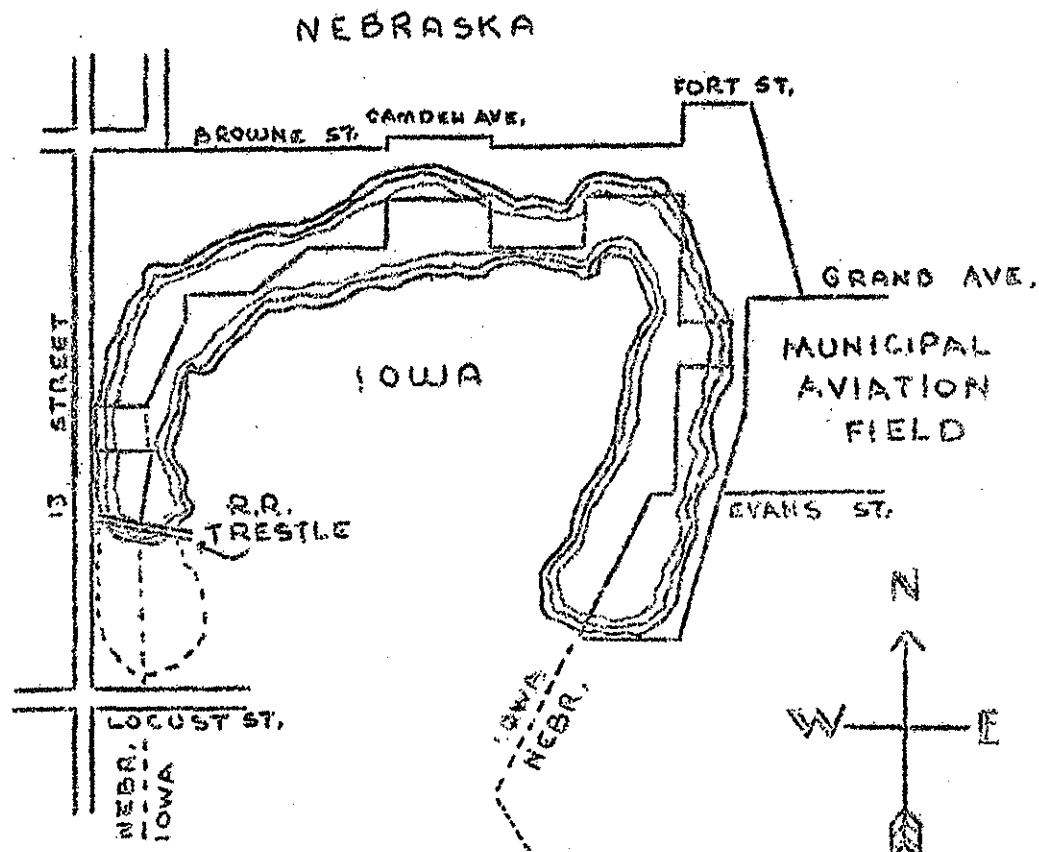
Partial or limited facilities for picnics.
Boating, fishing and swimming are the main attractions.
Hard base ball field with backstop.

Recommendations:

More recreation facilities of all kinds should be installed.
Almost unlimited space is available for recreation activities of all kinds.

Present Plans:

None, because it is under lease to the U. S. Government, and is operated at present under the National Park Service.
West of the track and south of Cornish Blvd.: 1 base ball backstop, 1 soft ball backstop. Parking space for 400 cars. Bleachers from Ak-Sar-Ben.
North of Cornish Blvd.: 2 soft ball diamonds with backstops, and 24 sections of bleachers.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BRANCH OF PLANNING AND STATE COOPERATION
REGION II OFFICE
300 Keeline Building
Omaha, Nebraska
May 27, 1936

Mr. Maurice Willows,
c/o Chamber of Commerce,
WOW Building,
Omaha, Nebraska

Subject: Nebraska, SP-7 and TP-1,
Levi Carter Park, Omaha.

Dear Mr. Willows:

For your information relative to the National Park Service activities in improving the above named park near Omaha, I wish to advise as follows:

The inception of Levi Carter park was brought on principally as a result of the formation of Carter Lake in 1871 when the Missouri River changed its course, cutting off and leaving a 300 acre body of water, later to be named Carter Lake. This lake being on the old State boundary line, now lies about one-half in each of the States of Nebraska and Iowa.

The area surrounding the north part of the lake in Nebraska was made a part of the Omaha Park System many years ago.

Mr. George Burnap, Landscape Architect of Washington, D. C. developed a master plan for the city in order to outline the future development of the area.

No particular development of the area was undertaken until the summer of 1935, at which time the National Park Service moved a CCC camp into the area for work procedure.

The services of the National Park Service and the CCC were brought about by the efforts of the Carter Lake Development Society and the Omaha Park Department. Mr. Leonard Trester is President of the Development Society. All National Park Service work on the area is being undertaken in cooperation with the Park Department of the City of Omaha.

Since work was commenced last August the Carter Lake Development Society has acquired and donated to the Park approximately 250 acres for future development. Most of this land is in the State of Iowa and all

Mr. Maurice Willows

May 27, 1936

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In addition to the CCC camp, the National Park Service also has a WPA Work (Transient) Camp working on the area. It is aimed to develop the Park for recreational purposes entirely. Naturalness is being stressed instead of formality in the work.

A large bathing beach is under construction that will accommodate 10,000 people. Two bath houses (one for each sex) and one large concession building are being built at the beach site. These buildings will be served by modern water and sewage facilities, now under construction. Stone masonry construction is being used on the buildings for permanency.

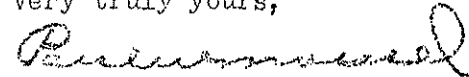
Much planting of trees and shrubs has been done, and considerable more is contemplated. Large areas have been cultivated and seeded to bluegrass, and it is proposed to develop a series of bluegrass meadows among the trees for picnickers. Many picnicking facilities are under construction, such as camp stoves, tables, concealed garbage cans, incinerators, and drinking fountains. Many parking areas are being built with guard rails to control the parking of autos and thus eliminate the damaging effects of autos parking at random in the most beautiful spots of the park.

The banks of Carter Lake are being sloped to a pleasing grade and are being covered with bluegrass sod.

The City of Omaha has done considerable dredging to deepen the Lake and build up adjacent low areas.

Carter Lake is used extensively for boating, fishing and swimming and should prove to be a very popular recreational area when the park work is completed.

Very truly yours,



Paul W. Mousel, Acting Inspector,
National Park Service