

**A HISTORY OF PUBLIC RECREATION
IN PORTLAND, OREGON**

by

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PREFACE

The following is a chronological history of Portland's organized recreation administration, which is under the supervision of the Bureau of Parks, and is listed as the Bureau of Parks and Public Recreation.

The beginning was in 1852 when Portland acquired her first park, which was dedicated by Mr. W.W.Chapman, an original land owner of Portland's townsite.

The history which follows deals mainly with playground programs and active recreation. There is very little mention of municipal auto camps or golf courses, and no mention of the zoo, which has an interesting history.

The citizens of Portland have always shown an interest in the parks and playgrounds and have, in most instances, supported all bills for maintenance and increased purchases of land for these purposes. Since 1917 public recreation has had a steady income from a .4 mill tax which was voted by the electorate. While this does not nearly support all of the activities of public recreation, it is a good indication of the feeling toward a program of this sort.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to Mr. C.P.Keyser, Superintendent of Parks; and Miss Dorothea M. Lensch, Director of Recreation, for making available annual reports not obtainable at the public libraries.

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CHAPTER I

BEGINNING OF THE PARK SYSTEM

The Department of Recreation in Portland, Oregon is a part of the Bureau of Parks, and is listed as "Bureau of Parks and Public Recreation." As such it has an interesting history inasmuch as it has grown from a small organization to a large, smooth-functioning department through public demand, through gifts in the form of land by public-spirited citizens, and through the intelligent and far-sighted planning of park and city planning officials.

Since the summer recreational programs are carried out almost entirely in the parks, it is interesting to note Portland's concern, which dates back to early times.

The citizens of Portland, generally, have always been conscious of the beauty of parks, and the importance of planning ahead for future grounds so that the land is not used for other purposes, which would make the expansion of parks impossible. This was shown as early as 1852, one year after Portland was incorporated. The following history was taken from an annual report of C.P.Keyser, Superintendent of Public Parks.

The city of Portland was incorporated in 1851. In 1852 the first park was dedicated by W.W.Chapman, one of the grant holders of the land which became the townsite. Other parks were established by gift or donation as the town grew, until in 1871, forty acres were acquired by direct purchase for a park.

The price was \$32,624.00 and it was a notable, a really ambitious achievement for a frontier town of 8,293 inhabitants to boast of such a city park.

This early enthusiasm for parks is the more remarkable when you reflect that at that time one had only to step out of the dooryard to be in the wood, on the river, or in the scenic hills and mountains, which the country surrounding our city has been so generously blessed. Out of this influence grew our recreational system as an integral part of our town plan and community life.

The history of our park system, which has been more or less influenced by city charter revision, is recounted in three periods. First, from the beginning to 1901, like Topsy, it "just grewed" without any special parents or godparents. Second, from 1901 to 1913 it flourished as a department administered by a Board of Park Commissioners. Third, from 1913 to date, it has been a bureau constituted within the commission charter. (1)

The first park management dates back to 1899. It was at this time that the Oregon Legislature constituted the "Board of Park Commissioners" which was appointed for each city whose population was three thousand or over. The Board of Park Commissioners had many duties in connection with the parks, some of which are stated in section five of an act of the Oregon State Legislature, the title of which reads, "To provide for Park Commissioners, and the acquisition of lands for parks, and the management thereof." Section five states:

Said Board of Park Commissioners, at any regular meeting thereof shall have the power to assess a tax not exceeding one half mill on the dollar in any one year, upon the taxable property of the city of which they are commissioners, which tax shall be collected like other city taxes, and when so collected shall be exclusively used for park purposes according to their judgment; and said Board of Park Commissioners shall

1. City of Portland, Annual Reports Bureau of Parks 1923, (Portland, Oregon, 1923) pp. 3,4.

have full and exclusive control of all parks within or connected with their respective cities, and shall have the power to lay out, or improve such park or parks, to appoint all necessary engineers, surveyors, and all other employes, including a police force to act in such park or parks, and fix the amount of compensation, and shall disburse all moneys appropriated, given, received or collected for the improvement or use of said park or parks; and generally, shall have the power to do all acts needful or proper for the protection, care, or improvement of said park or parks, and to make all necessary rules and regulations for the use of government of said park or parks, and for breaches of rules or regulations to affix penalties thereto, not exceeding twenty dollars (\$20.00) for any one offense, to be collected as other fines and penalties are collected in the city where such offense is committed. (2)

The Portland Park Board Commission was appointed in 1900, and held their first meeting on October 21, 1900. The main purpose, during this period, was the acquiring of lands for parks, and the beautifying of these lands by planting turf, flowers, shrubs, etc. The Park Commissioners worked diligently and earnestly to beautify Portland. The first Park Commissioners' Report of 1902 gives a brief description of the members, how they were appointed, and their duties.

The Board of Park Commissioners was constituted by the city of Portland under the act of the Legislature of 1899. The provisions of the act required a referendum to the people, which was made in the election of June, 1900. The canvass required for the nomination of five commissioners by judges of the Circuit Court was held soon after;

and the Commissioners then appointed, having signified their acceptance of the trust, held their first meeting on October 21, 1900, at which time the City Auditor, Mr. T.C. Devlin, was chosen Secretary. On November 8, the following standing committees were appointed, the Mayor being considered ex-officio a member of each.

1. Judiciary, Rules and Regulations, and Finances:
Rufus Mallory and C.F.Beebe
2. Engineering, Landscape Gardening, Zoology, Botony and Forestry:
L.L.Hawkins and T.L.Eliot
3. Equipment, Purchasing and Employment:
Henry Fleckenstein and W.B.Chase
Subsequently, Messrs. Hawkins and Beebe were added to this committee.

The regular meeting of the Commission is to be held on the first Friday, each month, at 10:00 1'clock. (3)

In making their first report, the Park Commissioners listed a brief history of Portland prior to October, 1900. At this time Portland included thirteen parks under its jurisdiction. The largest of these parks covered 107.78 acres, and the smallest covered one acre. The total acreage added up to 207.02 acres. There was a playfield located on the Albina Homestead area, however, this field received very little care up to 1909.

Of major importance to the park program was the voting of the Bond Issue of 1907. This was voted to carry out the Olmstead Plan which called for the construction of large park reservations.

3. Ibid. p. 3.

This bond issue kept the park system up to the city's rapid growth which followed immediately after the Lewis and Clark Fair. At this time a system of supervised playgrounds was worked out. Mt. Tabor, Laurelhurst, Sellwood, Peninsula Park, and some minor properties were acquired and developed from this fund. The money from this bond issue was used up until the year 1933.

In the year 1908, a floating bath, which had been operated by a private association, was turned over to the city. The city had considerable repairs done to the float before they continued its operation. The location of this float, however, was quite unsanitary, since a sewer emptied into the river at the foot of virtually every street on the west side. The float was located at the foot of West Jefferson Street. Although the float was moored close to the channel current, the objections were never wholly overcome. These baths, as they were called, were wooden structures which enclosed a space in the river and enabled safer swimming than in the open river. There were diving boards, board walks, and dressing rooms where towels and swimming suits were issued. Later the baths were located across the river at the foot of East Madison Street. This location proved to be much more satisfactory. Up to this time there was a charge made for the use of the baths and the issuance of a towel and swimming suit. However, Mayor Harry Lane, in his annual message to the people in 1909, recommended that

the baths be absolutely free, including towel and suit throughout the day for five days in a week, and that a charge be made during two days for every week. Mayor Harry Lane states in his report of January 12, 1909:

The revenue is comparatively so small in proportion to the outlay for suits, laundry, salaries, and general maintenance it would be unfortunate if the very ones who would profit by and desire to make frequent use of them are deterred by the charge made. Further, that as a sanitary precaution all suits after each use by youths or adults be sent to the laundry for scalding. The public has a right to insist that service in its behalf shall be of the best it can sustain, and any curtailment of that should come from the citizens rather than its servants. (4)

The following report is taken from the city treasurer's books in Portland for 1908 and shows the participation and income from the baths during an average summer season:

Appendix "A"

Baths

Baths opened July 19. Closed September 12.

Receipts

July.....	\$47.80
August.....	\$62.20
September....	\$09.00

Attendance

Boys.....	8,881
Girls.....	812
Men.....	345
Women.....	96
Total...	10,134 (5)

4. City of Portland, Annual Reports Park Board 1908-1912, (Portland, Oregon, March, 1913) p. 23.

5. Ibid. p. 18.

Along with its active forms of recreation, during this time, Portland also included a program of passive recreation in the form of band concerts. During the summer season of 1908, thirty-three concerts were held in the various parks. These concerts were always well patronized. The city budget allowed ten thousand dollars annually for concert expenditures, which allowed thirty to thirty-five appearances. The concerts were tremendously popular in the days before the automobile became popular. It was not uncommon to witness over ten thousand people attending a single concert in the larger parks. Holiday Park was the most popular location for the concerts. After the mass production of automobiles, however, people began to leave the city, during their leisure hours, for drives into the country. As a result of this the concert attendances began to drop.

Playgrounds now began to appear as part of the park program as is shown by Mayor Harry Lane's report to the people, dated January 12, 1909.

Playgrounds used distinctly as such are under the control of the People's Institute Club. The sociological and economic benefits of sufficient playgrounds, properly equipped, conducted and regulated, is too generally appreciated to warrant further comment here. In the development of Columbia and Terwilliger Parks, some opportunity for play can be provided this year, though complete equipment at once will not, perhaps, be advisable. Playgrounds follow in natural sequence to the establishment of parks, and in some of the parks excellent playgrounds will be developed. The deductions to be made from the experience gained by municipalities in the past few years are of great

importance, and profit should be taken from it when the establishment of playgrounds is once comprehensively undertaken. It is quite generally agreed that playgrounds are not properly nor judiciously equipped without the services of a trained director to supervise and teach. It will probably be possible to construct a modern playground this year in one of the tracts secured for park purposes, but if so, its use should be contingent upon the attendance of a director in charge. Accordingly, I recommend that if a proper area is available this programme be initiated this season. (6)

The three principle activities of the board during this period were, (1) parkway extensions, (2) construction of parks and parkways, (3) development and extension of playgrounds.

During the year 1910, Portland playgrounds and facilities began to expand. New areas were opened, old areas were graded and equipped, and a new swimming pool was opened. Peninsula, Columbia, Sellwood, North Parkway, and City Park were all graded and equipped with apparatus. New areas included a donation of an acre and one half located in the northeast section. The donation was made by Mrs. Laura Gammans and Dr. T.L.Eliot. At the same time an exchange of small parcels of land was made with the Fulton Park Land Company to secure a more satisfactory boundary to Fulton Park.

In 1911 the playground movement gained additional momentum as is shown in the message of Mayor Joseph Simon,

6. Ibid. p. 19

dated January 4, 1911:

The activity displayed and the progress made in the development of our park system is a matter of congratulations. The principle effort has been directed toward establishing playgrounds for children. Five acres have been graded and equipped with the most approved playground apparatus at the City Park, North Park, Sellwood, Peninsula, and Columbia Parks. During the school vacation period, a supervisor and instructors directed the activities on these grounds. In point of attendance, that at Peninsula Park outranked all others, averaging 3,015 per week. As part of the playground function, a modern, reinforced concrete swimming pool was opened at Sellwood Park, and besides the instructor and attendants to care for the public, a bathing suit and towel were issued free of charge. It was distinctly noticeable that drownings in the river were materially checked as soon as this bathing facility was put in operation....during the ensuing year it is contemplated to constructa playground and a swimming pool in South Portland, and a playground in Brooklyn and in Mt. Tabor and Ladd Parks, and further that which has been started at City Park, Sellwood, Peninsula, and Columbia Parks. (7)

As Portland became more aware of the need for supervised playgrounds during the summer months, and for the need of community center buildings during the winter months, various problems arose in regard to the maintenance, cost, and locations. An illustration of this point comes from a report of E.T.Mitsche, who was superintendent of public parks at this time:

Two features in the establishment of playgrounds call for a special mention.

7. Ibid. p. 30

One is the coordinating of the work of the park board with that of the school board, and the other is providing of community buildings for use during the entire year. You are aware of the school board laying pavements around some of the schools, providing walks and turfs at others, and by various means attempting to supply the demand for exercise in play. It has appropriated \$20,000.00 for this work during the current year.

Were playgrounds established at each schoolhouse, the duplication and consequent economic loss to the community due to park playgrounds being also established for the same community would be obviated; it would provide grounds at points convenient of access to the ones who most need them; it would permit of larger grounds at less cost than the schools and separate playgrounds now represent, and it would obviate the need of constructing specialized and detailed buildings for use to which the present school buildings could be put. One of the means of accomplishing this result would be an agreement between the two boards whereby on condition that the school provide an open tract of land of not less than two and, preferably, five acres for play purposes, contiguous to the school buildings, and enter into an agreement with the park board to grant the latter the use of the specially fitted buildings serving play interests, the construction and maintenance of the grounds and play features will be assumed by the park board.

The other feature portends that if playgrounds are justifiable at all, there is need for them throughout the year. Playgrounds are not established only to provide for children to indulge in agreeable pastimes. They do that, to be sure, but the principle object is to afford recreation in pleasant form under proper supervision, with a view toward guiding and instructing the youths in self-assertion and initiative in single and in team work with due regards to the rights of others.

Excessive vitality and unwarranted diffidence contain the germ of much harm or of much good to the body politic, and upon the success of the municipality's care and intelligence in directing

its growth depends the harm or benefit the community may ultimately expect to reap therefrom. It is idle to expect that this can be accomplished during the short summer vacation interval.

Both to render the proper services suitable to the community and to permit of securing suitable persons to conduct it, there is need of establishing accommodations for conducting year-around centers.

The operations of playgrounds is a comparatively new municipal activity. They supply a real and definite need, and even conservative for a civic corporation to control. Health, recreation and various sociological problems are involved. In the main, the direction playground development has taken in its progress is conceded to be correct, but in consistently planning for a system of them implies the determination of many mooted points.

Statistical data indicate that the major portion of the attendance comes from a radius of one quarter to one half mile, pointing to the conclusion that they should be located between one half mile and one mile apart. To distribute them with sufficient geographic frequency immediately points to the large number of tracts necessary. This has led some cities to make a vacation playground of each school ground and equipping them accordingly.

Some cities are working on the basis of not providing each school with a playground, but instead to have fewer playgrounds, and have these of larger size--- twenty to twenty-five acres in extent, and make of them play parks, more completely equipped, and more completely supervised. In either of these policies the financial and economical considerations are important, and warrant a most careful investigation before adoption.

In any event, the park funds are in such a state, and the charter limitations as to future appropriations are such as to strongly argue against the board undertaking to supply each school section with a playground unless the school board provide the lands and assist in defraying the cost of supervision.

From the foregoing it will be observed that playground facilities and the municipalities'

obligations thereto are in a formative state, and until the costly experimental stage has further advanced, it would be well to proceed with caution. (8)

Prospects for playground expansion looked brighter in 1911. Considerable work was done in beautifying newly acquired property. Park areas were enlarged by purchasing additional areas. Negotiations were opened for taking over desirable small tracts for children's playgrounds. Two new playgrounds were equipped with playground apparatus. The total number of equipped playgrounds now numbered seven, and all of these were operated during the summer months under the supervision of playground directors. Also this year there was a total of twenty-six playground people employed by the city. The demand for more tennis courts, baseball fields, and even speedways increased. At this time tennis could be played on four park properties, and league baseball could be played on four park fields. There were no provisions for speedways. Although the way was opening for recreation, it was generally agreed that Portland was still lacking in playground facilities. This is indicated in Mayor A.G. Rushlight's message to the people, dated January 3, 1912:

That we are inadequately equipped for these pastimes is not to be gainsaid.

8. Ibid. p. 38.

At Sellwood provisions can be made for 1912, and also, if deemed advisable, at City Park.

In the older cities it is not uncommon to witness several hundred games of tennis being played at the same time. It is reasonable that we should make similar provisions, but the rapid growth of the city, coupled with the initial inadequacy of park facilities, limited funds and unusual contingencies continuing to rise and depleting the treasury, combine to make necessary the slow procedure in conceding to these demands. The hope of providing timely adequate efficient facilities along with the extensions of areas, lies in the electorate endorsing the bond issue to be voted upon at the next election. (9)

At this time the park superintendent was in favor of erecting field houses so that there would be a year around program for the children. He recommended that a field house be constructed at Peninsula Park, and another, if possible, at Sellwood Park.

When the time came to vote upon the park department's bond issue, it was not approved, and a temporary set back was feared.

However, the work of beautifying the parks and children's playgrounds was carried out at a rate conformable to the funds available for these purposes. The construction of the Peninsula Community Center Building was started in the latter part of 1912. This structure was erected at a cost of \$30,000.00. It is interesting to note that in 1912 a training school was set up for playground directors.

9. Ibid. p. 45.

This training school operated under the supervision of the superintendent of parks.

The following figures show a record of attendance at the swimming pools and playgrounds during the school vacation period, 1912:

SWIMMING POOLS

Sellwood-----	June	July	August	Sept.	Total
	4,971	6,903	7,758	314	19,946
Peninsula	(monthly records not available)				16,280
				Total	36,226

PLAYGROUNDS

(June 8 through September 14)

Columbia Park-----	27,372
Peninsula Park-----	106,348
Brooklyn Playground--	27,830
Kenilworth Park-----	10,676
North Parkway-----	22,280
Washington Park-----	24,285
Sellwood Park-----	46,561
Lincoln Park-----	34,863
Total	300,215 (10)

10. Ibid. pp. 63, 64.

CHAPTER II

PERIOD OF ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

The year 1913 marked a change in the administration of the parks. Up until 1913, the park department was administered by a Board of Park Commissioners. In 1913, however, it was made a bureau within the commission charter, and has remained with this status to the present time.

Playground work had increased noticeably by this time. Several new sets of apparatus were installed, and the recreation supervision was under Mr. Robert Krohn. Mr. Krohn later became the physical education supervisor of the Portland schools, and became noted for his mass physical drills and exhibitions staged at the Grant High School Bowl. Many school grounds were used for recreational purposes, but the park board and the school board found it difficult to cooperate effectively. The park board lacked funds, and the school board found difficulty in entering recreation work due to its limited school laws.

In 1913 the playgrounds opened on June 2, and most of them closed on September 15. Seventeen men and fourteen women, including swimming instructors and a supervisor were employed.

On October 1, 1913, a system of three physical instructors conducting play activities at schools was

inaugurated. Each instructor handled two schools and all the pupils in each. Schools so affected were the Failing, Mt. Tabor, Creston, Richmond, Ockley Green, and Peninsula Schools. This system did not work satisfactorily due to the fact that the park bureau and the schools could not yet reach an agreement in regards to maintenance, cost, and division of responsibility.

The Peninsula Park Community Center Building was now completed and was conducting a year round program. Three instructors were required to operate both gymnasiums and the social work during the winter season.

In 1916, all school playgrounds were discontinued because of the impossibility of making arrangements for the children to use school comfort stations and school drinking water. Instead, privately owned land was obtained in the Vernon and the Arleta districts. The attendance records demonstrated that these playgrounds were greatly needed and that the money spent in obtaining them was invested wisely.

By 1915, the present playgrounds showed a great deal of activity, but the need for greater expansion was not well enough brought to the public officials who controlled the park budget and the money which might have been set aside for the recreation department was spent elsewhere.

At this time South Portland, Central East Portland, Alberta, Alameda, Rose City Park, Arleta, Woodstock, Montavilla, and St. Johns were without proper play facilities.

It was at this time that real agitation for a millage tax for park purposes was instituted. The following report shows the increase in playgrounds and their attendance records:

Arleta-----	25,543	
Brooklyn-----	17,574	
Columbia-----	27,556	
Forestry Building-----	9,811	
Kenilworth-----	17,999	
Laurelhurst-----	22,655	
Lents-----	18,346	
Lincoln-----	28,513	
Mt. Tabor-----	8,517	
North Park-----	17,405	
Peninsula-----	69,384	
Sellwood-----	35,165	
Vernon-----	24,867	
Washington-----	11,343	
Terwilliger-----	10,524	
Total-----	345,132	(11)

After two poor financial years in 1915 and 1916, the recreation department finally obtained the financial backing for which they had been asking for years. In 1917 the electorate voted a four-tenths mill tax which money was to be used for the purchase and construction of playgrounds. 1917 was a very eventful year for the Bureau of Parks as is shown by the following report by C. P. Keyser, Superintendent of Parks, Portland, Oregon:

The year just closing has probably been the most important in the history of the development of park and recreational facilities of the city. In this last year the people have come in close touch with the activities of the park bureau and have made more extensive use of the facilities than in any previous year. Parks are, so to speak, the city's front yard. In these times of stress the

11. City of Portland, Annual Report Bureau of Parks 1916, (Portland, Oregon, 1916) p. 6.

expenditure of money must be justified by an obviously essential use, and accordingly we find no sentiment for extension of parks and boulevards, but we do find an ever increasing and insistent demand for systematical play for all ages and classes.

Portland's playground system began in a small way in 1909 on the North Parkway. In 1910 an outdoor swimming pool was built and put in operation in Sellwood Park and completely equipped playgrounds were installed in five of the larger parks. This was the first year in which playground directors were employed. In 1911 there were seven playgrounds fully equipped with outdoor gymnasium apparatus all under the supervision of regular playground directors whose salaries totaled some \$3600.00. In 1912 another playground was added, and a second swimming pool was built and operated in Peninsula Park. Attendance figures for this year were 300,000 in the playgrounds, and 36,000 bathers in the swimming pools.

In 1913 five new playgrounds of similar high grade construction were put in operation, and the system's first community house, that in Peninsula Park, began to function for year around work. Total attendance on the playgrounds in 1913 was 394,144 and 56,615 bathers in the two swimming pools.

In 1914 the number of playgrounds was increased to sixteen, and there has been no further increase in the last three years. An attendance of 440,000 on the playgrounds and 63,000 bathers is recorded for 1914. The expense of maintenance and supervision totaled \$35,000.00, or seven cents per head. 1915 and 1916 were not essentially different from 1914, but three outstanding features make 1917 a signally important year in the history of Portland's Public Recreation. Of paramount importance is the voting by the electorate of a .4 mill tax which is to recur annually for the purchase and construction of playgrounds. The city is committed to a program which will adequately meet the playground needs of all the people and in due course of time complete a system which is today widely known as one of the best in the country.

Of hardly less importance is the start which in this last year was made in Municipal Golf. Some forty American cities have established public golf courses.

Portland has delayed starting municipal golf principally because until the ground at Eastmoreland was offered, no suitable location was available. However, an eighteen hole course is now in progress of construction, which will be a credit to the game, and a crowning feature in Portland's field of sports. Plans for a high class club house have been prepared, and play will be inaugurated early in 1918. The course is laid out on the most picturesque part of Eastmoreland, and adjoins the Reed College Campus. The tract contains one hundred and fifty-one acres, is a natural park, and is well favored with natural hazards.

Play of the second nine will be around beautiful Crystal Springs Lake. The course has an excellent variety of holes, aggregating 6,133 yards, and was laid out by Chandler Egan, one of Oregon's international golf figures. From its inception the construction of the course has been consistently planned and carried out, and when opened for play will be more highly perfected than the great majority of five year old courses.

The third advance recreational feature is the extension of the community house work to include night work in the gymnasiums of the various school houses. In 1917 the Sellwood branch of the YMCA was converted into a community center under the authority of the Bureau of Parks. This and the Peninsula Park Center, together with the night work carried out in some fifteen school houses, which is carried on in the nature of extensions, is realizing to the people the benefits and advantages to be obtained from the city's supervised recreation and social service.

Indicative of the progress that has been made since 1909, when the play instinct in boys and young men found its expressions principally in hoodlumism and gang formations, on Halloween of that year it was necessary to place several special guards in all of the parks to prevent vandalism, while on last Halloween no special watching was done except in one small park, and in that it appeared unnecessary. Handball, which has been instituted generally, in the playgrounds, perhaps more than any other one thing, has become the outlet for this renegade tendency. The boys

have learned to value the playgrounds, having this and other forms of organized play. War is showing its effect on such field sports as baseball and football, but it is clearly evident now more than ever before that the recreation of the people, especially of the boys and girls, must be kept clear of vicious tendencies. (12)

Included in the construction work of 1917 was a double concrete paved tennis court at Peninsula Park.

The success of the Eastmoreland Golf Course is shown in a 1921 report from Mr. Keyser.

In 1921 49,000 cards for an eighteen hole game were issued, which at a green fee of twenty-five cents has offset operating expenses. Also, this year an \$18,000.00 clubhouse has been erected, containing a refractory, which has been more successful than one had even hoped, and containing also four hundred red single steel lockers for men and fifty for women, with space to double this equipment. (13)

The record of the playground division was an indication of the most successful season yet. Eighteen playgrounds were in operation, and a total of twenty-four had been acquired. Supervised play had proved itself to be definitely a part of Portland. The aim now was to provide each neighborhood with a supervised playground.

Mr. Keyser, in his annual report of 1917, stated that his plan, in the near future, was to have each playground

12. City of Portland, Annual Reports Bureau of Parks 1917, (Portland, Oregon, 1917) p. 3.

13. Ibid. p. 4.

hold a terminal festival at the end of the summer season. (14) These annual exhibitions were carried out, and proved to be very successful. They are still being held, and in addition to these, there are two major festivals in the summer and two in the winter. A girls' pageant is held in the summer at Laurelhurst Park, while the playground circus, staged near the end of the summer season, is held at Peninsula Park. The girls' pageant and the playground circus are both held in the public auditorium in the winter. The pageant and the circus always bring capacity crowds, and are usually held on two successive nights.

The playground circus, which had its beginning in 1920, is now billed as "The Barr Brothers Circus".

As organized play activities increased, the idea of staging larger play days, sports days, and finally, a children's circus was developed. The first playground circus in Portland was initiated in 1920 at Peninsula Park in the boys' gymnasium. It proved to be such a huge success that the following year it was again staged at Peninsula Park, but both the boys' and the girls' gymnasiums were used this time. All of the acts were taken from the boys and girls who participated in the playground programs of one of the various parks.

The following year, the circus was held out-of-doors,

14. Ibid. p. 5.

with each successive year it grew larger. There were more acts and more spectators, until the circus developed into its present size, that is, a three ring circus staged two successive nights to a crowd of about seven thousand people each night. The acts include dancing, tight rope walking, tumbling, clowning, hand balancing, apparatus work, spring board work, revolving ladders, high aerial artists, and many other performances. Mr. Raymond Dennison, Director of Special Events with the Bureau of Parks and Public Recreation, has been directing the playground circus since 1937, and it is due to his ability and efforts that the circus offers such a great variety of acts in the present day show.

The girls' pageant, first held in 1924 at Peninsula, Laurelhurst, and Washington Parks, was originally given only in the summertime. The pageants are given in the forms of plays such as "Cinderella", "The Golden Goose", "The Enchanted Princess", all of which require colorful costumes and are well portrayed by children. In recent years, the grounds at Laurelhurst have been filled in and landscaped to make them even more beautiful. The winter pageant, held at the auditorium, is still young. It was held for the first time in 1944, and is now staged on two successive nights to a crowd of about five thousand people each night. Mrs Edna Kennedy is now the director of the girls' pageant, which has been acclaimed by the public

and has received favorable comment in the editorial pages of the local papers.

The purpose of the pageant is to allow the group of children's classes to work toward an objective, and to display the talent which they have acquired during a season of practice. The talent comes from the various dance and drama classes held in the recreation department's community center buildings. The winter participants number about three hundred, while the summer participants, like the playground circus, number over five hundred.

The year 1921 marked the loss of the band concerts to Portland. These concerts were colorful and beautiful in that they were held during the summer months in the parks. They were always attended by huge crowds. However, the officials controlling the budget expenditures apparently deemed the concerts too costly, and ceased to support them. That they were a real loss, at the time, to the recreation department is described by Mr. Keyser in his annual report dated 1921.

We are improving conditions in the matter of adult recreation, but we have only made a beginning. Much may be done through neighborhood community sings, band concerts, twilight leagues, etc. To further this program we need more ball diamonds and tennis courts. Our greatest single loss of the season was the elimination of the band concerts. Portland's most pleasurable feature is her summer nights. It seems too bad to lose this one thing which appealed alike to all ages and conditions of people, and gave more wholesome pleasure to larger numbers of

people at a time than any other one feature of our program. (15)

In 1922 the equipped playgrounds under the supervision of playground directors had increased to nineteen. The following report shows the total attendance of boys and girls from May until the middle of September. This attendance includes only outside activities.

Brooklyn-----	10,262	
Columbia-----	27,624	
Duniway-----	5,219	
Irving-----	27,601	
Johnson Creek--	5,059	
Kenilworth-----	22,042	
Lents-----	6,920	
Mt. Scott-----	8,265	
Mt. Tabor-----	12,923	
North Park-----	15,490	
Peninsula-----	99,096	
Sellwood-----	38,294	
Terwilliger----	6,079	
Vernon-----	22,197	
Washington-----	7,955	
Wallace-----	11,138	
Rock Island----	3,099	
Woodstock-----	2,292	
Laurelhurst----	16,766	
Total	348,321	(16)

In June 1925 four new municipal golf courses were opened to the public. A short time later a privately operated golf course opened in competition with the city operated courses. This seemed to cut down attendance

15. City of Portland, Annual Reports Bureau of Parks 1921, (Portland, Oregon, 1921) p. 5.

16. City of Portland, Annual Reports Bureau of Parks 1923, (Portland, Oregon, 1923) p. 29.

for the city courses at first, but the yearly record showed an increasing participation on the city's links.

The tennis court construction had not yet caught up with the public demand. At times the courts were so congested that the city contemplated charging a small fee during the heavy hours.

The effects of the depression did not leave the Bureau of Parks untouched. At the end of the fiscal year of 1933 for the first time since the million dollar bond issue, the Bureau was entirely without capital account money. Tax delinquency became large in 1930, and the Bureau of Parks was forced to curtail disbursements so greatly that in 1933 they stood at sixty per cent of the 1930 amount.

The 1933 playground attendance dropped sixteen per cent below that of 1932. This was thought to be caused by the necessity of curtailing supervised playground funds and shortening the period of supervision over a lengthened school vacation. It was noted that juvenile delinquency increased more than would be anticipated normally. Recreation supervision was maintained in the community center buildings in 1933 and the attendance records showed a fourteen per cent increase over 1932.

A national public links golf championship was played during the first week of August in 1933 at the Eastmoreland

Golf Course. This was the first time this type of event had been held west of the Mississippi and gained nationwide publicity for Portland.

Golf attendance in 1933 for all three courses dropped twenty-five per cent below that of 1932. This was attributed largely to the fact that many people could not afford to play golf during the depression. Portland had also undergone one of her severest winters which left the golf greens damaged in the spring.

CHAPTER III

PERIOD OF EXPANSION AS A BUREAU

Prior to 1934, the Park Bureau maintained a director during the summer months, whose duties were to act as sports director. He arranged all of the tournament schedules for the various activities and arranged the dates and times for all games to be played. After 1934 this position had expanded to the extent that a full time director was needed to carry out the scheduling of city-wide tournaments. The work not only included the administration of the community center building and summer park teams, but also the hundreds of city commercial teams in all types of sports. The activities of the office of sports director has now increased to the extent that there has been added to the staff an assistant sports director.

The largest expansion of the recreation program occurred when the Lanham Act Funds were granted for recreational facilities in Portland on December, 1943. This increased the opportunity to branch out and also brought before the public the possibilities of a well organized recreational program during the war years.

During this period, the participation increased weekly, and as more people became aware of the facilities available to them, more people used them. The Portland Recreation Department took over the organization of a recreation program not only for the city but also for the entire

Multnomah County through the use of the Lanham Act funds.

The following participation report is taken from a progress report by Miss Dorothea Lensch, Director of Recreation, Portland, Oregon: "Total participation for the months of December, January, and up to the 25th of March in Multnomah County was 681,679: in organized sports the total was 116,551: making a grand total of 789,230." (16)

As part of the expanded Multnomah County recreation program the building which formerly housed the Portland Social Turnverein was leased by the city. It was redecorated, painted, and equipped as a recreation center and was called the Portland Civic Recreation Center. On January 9, 1944, it was opened for a full program for children and adults. This building was staffed by one recreation center director, two assistant directors, one clerk, one part time recreation leader, and one full time recreation leader.

Varied programs were, and still are, being carried out in the community center buildings of the housing units. Through mutual agreement, the federal housing authorities furnish the buildings, maintenance, and janitorial staff, while the city furnishes the recreation staff and most of the play articles.

The city also furnished weekly movies at each of the

16. Dorothea Lensch, Municipal Recreation Progress Report, 1944, unpublished, (Portland, Oregon, 1944) p. 2.

community center buildings in the housing centers. The movie audiences are usually large, due to the fact that the housing centers, in most cases, are far removed from commercial theaters.

The programs differ in each community center according to the desires of the participants. The housing unit centers are located in the following places:

1. Guild's Lake----- five centers
2. St. John's Woods----- one center
3. Parkside Homes----- one center
4. Columbia Villa----- one center
5. University Homes----- one center
6. Fairview Homes----- one center
7. Vanport City----- seven centers

The expanded city program included night programs in the following schools and community centers:

1. Albina Community Center
2. Centenary-Wilbur Center
3. Lents Community Center
4. Joseph Lane School
5. Manley Community Center
6. Friendly House
7. Beaumont School
8. Eliot School
9. Peninsula School
10. Gregory Heights
11. Roosevelt High School
12. Jefferson High School
13. Franklin High School
14. Rigler School
15. Vernon School
16. Kenton School
17. Fulton School
18. Montavilla Community Center
19. Meadowlark Trailer Camp
20. Peninsula Community Center
21. Sellwood Community Center
22. Neighborhood House
23. Special Features
 - A. One drama director
 - B. One craft director
24. Sports Scheduling Program

A compilation of specific recreation activities is taken from a progress report of Miss Dorothea Lensch, Director of Recreation:

DANCE

Tap
Ballet
Folk
Ballroom: Instruction
Practice periods
Children's Rhythms

CRAFTS

Adult crafts
Children's crafts
Airplane modeling
Plaster work
Fine arts
Shop work

MUSIC

Piano group instructions
Chorus work
Singing
Listening hours--records
Radio listening groups
Operatic groups
Orchestras

DRAMA

Adult theaters
Children's theaters
Story Hours
Improvisation hours
Talent groups
Radio workshops
Play reading groups

CLUB GROUPS

Teen-age clubs
Hobby groups (all types)
Journalism club
Youth groups
Discussion groups
Women's clubs
Men's clubs

KINDERGARTEN

Children's rhythms
Crafts
Story Hour

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Parties
Tournaments
Shows
Dinners--Luncheons
Lectures
Organization meetings
Industry--Special nights

SPORTS

Physical Activities
League scheduling
Women's gym

(17)

The Portland Recreation Department has increased its year around staff from nine in 1936 to twenty-three full time and thirty part time, in 1944. The temporary staff during the summer months for this same period increased from sixty to one hundred three.

The Lanham Act provided federal funds for child care during the war emergency and for expanding recreational programs throughout the country to take care of the leisure hours of war workers. These funds were discontinued in 1945, however, when the government began to curtail its war activities; but the need for a larger program than before the war was recognized. The permanent staff now is approximately three times larger than it was in 1936.

Portland's Recreation Department rates as one of the top organizations of its kind in the nation, both in function and in the caliber of its staff.

17. Ibid., p. 15.

The ultimate plan is to have playgrounds and parks situated throughout the city so that no city resident will be farther than one-half to three-quarters of a mile from a playground, playfield, or park. This plan was voted upon and carried by the electorate in 1938, and it is being carried out now by public officials in the gradual buying up of land for this purpose.

CHAPTER IV
PERIOD OF GREATER EXPANSION
1939-1943

Since 1909, when the first supervised playground was inaugurated, Portland's public recreation has taken on the form of big business, and has, within its department, several classifications of workers. The following financial expenditures report was taken from an annual report by Dorothea M. Lensch, Director of Recreation:

City Playground Budget-----	\$121,522.50	
Park Budget-----	\$656,352.50	
Recreational Revolving Funds		
from dances, movies, etc.---	\$ 21,146.67	
Lanham Act funds-----	\$ 80,495.66	
Recreation Contributions-----	\$224,147.69	
Grand Total-----	\$1,103,665.02	(18)

The following is a list, taken from an annual report dated 1944, which shows the different classifications of recreational workers in Portland:

Director of Recreation
 To be responsible for the over-all program

Assistant Director of Recreation
 (Vanport Coordinator) To advise with the director of recreation, and be responsible for the entire program and its organization and operation at Vanport and East Vanport.

County-City Supervisor
 To advise with the director of recreation, and be responsible for the entire program (county) and in charge of its organization and operation.

Director of Special Activities
 To advise with the director of recreation

18. Ibid., p. 25.

and be responsible for the entire program in crafts, drama, music, etc. organization and operation.

Community Center Director

The director in charge of a building is responsible for the total program and all activities of the building. The director is responsible for the personnel, must evaluate the program, and see that the building operates efficiently.

Assistant Recreation Center Director

Assist the recreation center director and be responsible for duties assigned by the director.

Play Leaders

Individual in charge of special skills programs or limited programs with little administration.

Swim Directors

In charge of operation of pools and programs. (19)

Along with the above mentioned paid recreational workers, should be acknowledged the volunteer workers. These are the people who take part in the community house and playground activities and who volunteer part of their time in assisting recreation leaders in carrying out the program.

The great expansion of the recreation program in Portland is shown in the following list of areas where full and part time programs were carried out during the year of 1943:

19. Ibid., p. 5.

I. Indoor

A. City of Portland Community Centers, gyms, social rooms, and club rooms

1. Montavilla
2. Columbia
3. Sellwood
4. Peninsula
5. Centenary-Wilbur Church
6. Lents
7. Albina
8. Laurelhurst
9. Public Auditorium
10. Portland Civic Recreation Center
11. Manley Center
12. Friendly House
13. Neighborhood House

B. Housing Authority

1. University Homes
2. Columbia Villa
3. Guild's Lake (five centers)
4. St. John's Woods
5. Parkside Homes
6. Fessenden Courts
7. Fairview Homes
8. Vanport
 - a. Three centers
 - b. Three social halls
 - c. Two day care buildings

C. School Buildings

Gyms, auditoriums and special rooms

1. Fifty-nine grammar schools
2. Ten high schools
3. Three swimming pools
 - a. Couch
 - b. Buckman
 - c. Shattuck

D. Churches

Recreational facilities (gym and game rooms) of thirty-two miscellaneous denominations.

E. County

School Buildings

1. Fairview
2. Multnomah

3. Joseph Lane
4. Gresham
5. Lynch

F. Private

1. Thirty-four clubs equipped with recreation facilities
2. Industrial equipped centers
 - a. Columbia Aircraft Company
 - b. Oregon Shipyards
 - c. Swan Island Shipyards

G. Commercial

1. Thirteen bowling alleys
2. Forty-six pool halls
3. Forty-one movie theaters
4. Sixty-five dance halls

H. U S O Centers

Thirteen service clubs, one of which is exclusively for colored soldiers.

II. Outdoor

A. City of Portland

1. Fifty-six playgrounds and park areas
2. Sixty-nine school playground areas
3. Thirty-two supervised playgrounds
4. Eight swimming pools

B. Housing Authority

1. Vanport
 - a. Eleven small children's areas
 - b. Eight play areas
 - c. Thirteen playgrounds
2. Housing units
sixteen play areas

C. Public Libraries

1. Multnomah County Library
2. Public library (16 branches) (20)

The following year around program was administered by the Bureau of Parks and Public Recreation during the year of 1943. This was taken from the annual report of 1943, and shows how complete was the expansion from peace time to war time.

YEAR AROUND RECREATION PROGRAM

A. National Defense

1. Recreation Volunteer Corps
2. Physical Fitness Corps
3. Junior Volunteer Corps
4. Mayor's Recreation Cantonment Committee
5. Portland's Airbase Summer Concerts
6. Recreation Summer Caravan
7. Red Cross (craft guild)
8. Red Cross Sewing Unit Groups
9. Red Cross Knitting Groups
10. Red Cross Nutrition Classes
11. Red Cross First Aid Classes
12. War Stamp Tennis Tournament
13. Tennis Court Dances
14. Veteran's Guard and Patrol
15. Victory Garden Classes
16. Youth Platoons for Harvesting Fields
17. Junior Craft Units----Construction of
Play equipment
18. Pre-induction Fitness Classes
19. Pre-induction Swimming Classes
20. Physical Fitness Classes for Youths
21. Day Camps
22. Check-in System Children of Working Parents

B. Club Programs

1. Lavendar Clubs (for women past 60 years
of age)
2. Checker Clubs
3. Card Clubs
4. Table Tennis
5. Private Groups
6. Bridge
7. All types of hobby groups
8. Teen age clubs
9. Seventh and Eighth Grade social clubs
10. Adult dance clubs

C. Community Agency Cooperation

1. Well baby clinics
2. Immunization clinics
3. Venereal disease control clinic
4. Health education lectures
5. Boy Scout groups
6. Girl Scout groups
7. Fraternal organizations
8. Community clubs
9. Camp Fire Girls
10. Four H Clubs
11. Health Department: nursing service

D. Sports Program

1. Basketball League play
 - a. Men's division
 - b. Women's division
 - c. Junior division
2. Softball League play
 - a. Men's division
 - b. Women's division
 - c. Junior division
 - d. Playground division
3. Table Tennis League
 - a. Industrial Teams division
 - b. Fall city tournament
 - c. Fall novice tournament
 - d. Spring city tournament
 - e. Junior city tournament
 - f. Playground division
4. Badminton
 - a. Instruction and free play
 - b. Tournaments
 - (1) Junior
 - (2) Novice
 - (3) City
 - (4) Consolation
 - c. Inter-club play or invitational play
5. Archery
 - a. Instruction
 - b. City tournament
 - c. Northwest tournament
6. Volleyball
 - a. Mixed play
7. Horseshoes
 - a. General play
 - b. Meets
 - c. Interpark competition
 - d. Tournaments

8. Art Forms
 - a. Drama
 - (1) Junior theater groups
 - (2) High school groups
 - (3) Adult dramatic groups
 - b. Dance
 - (1) Social parties
 - (2) Social dance instruction
 - (3) Tap
 - (4) Folk
 - (5) Kindergarten
 - c. Crafts
 - (1) Leather tooling
 - (2) Weaving
 - (3) Woodwork
 - (4) Pottery
 - (5) Carving
 - d. Special
 - (1) Circus
 - (2) Caravans
 - (3) Weekly radio broadcasts
 - (4) Physical fitness show
 - (5) Sunday band concerts
 - (6) Community nights
 - (7) Tennis court dances
 - (8) Day camp
 - (9) All day care of children
 - (10) Croquet
 - (11) Singing
 - (12) Pageant
 - (13) Circus parade
 - (14) Swimathon
 - (15) Swim demonstration
 - (16) Hospital entertainment
 - e. Social Activities
 - (1) High School nights
 - (2) Adult socials
 - (3) Hobby socials
 - (4) Sport socials
 - f. Physical Activities
 - (1) Apparatus
 - (2) Gym
 - (3) Conditioning
 - (4) Tumbling
 - (5) Boxing
 - (6) Wrestling
 - g. Miscellaneous
 - (1) Industrial recreation
 - (2) Army sports
 - (3) Zoo trips (21)

Although war time emergency classes have been discontinued, Portland still maintains an expanding program. The standards for recreation workers are high and the staff is large. The climatic conditions are suitable for maintaining beautiful parks where the summer playground programs are carried out. Portland's plan to have a playground, park, or playfield within one-half to three-quarters of a mile from any house within the city limits will make it one of the ideal park systems in the country.

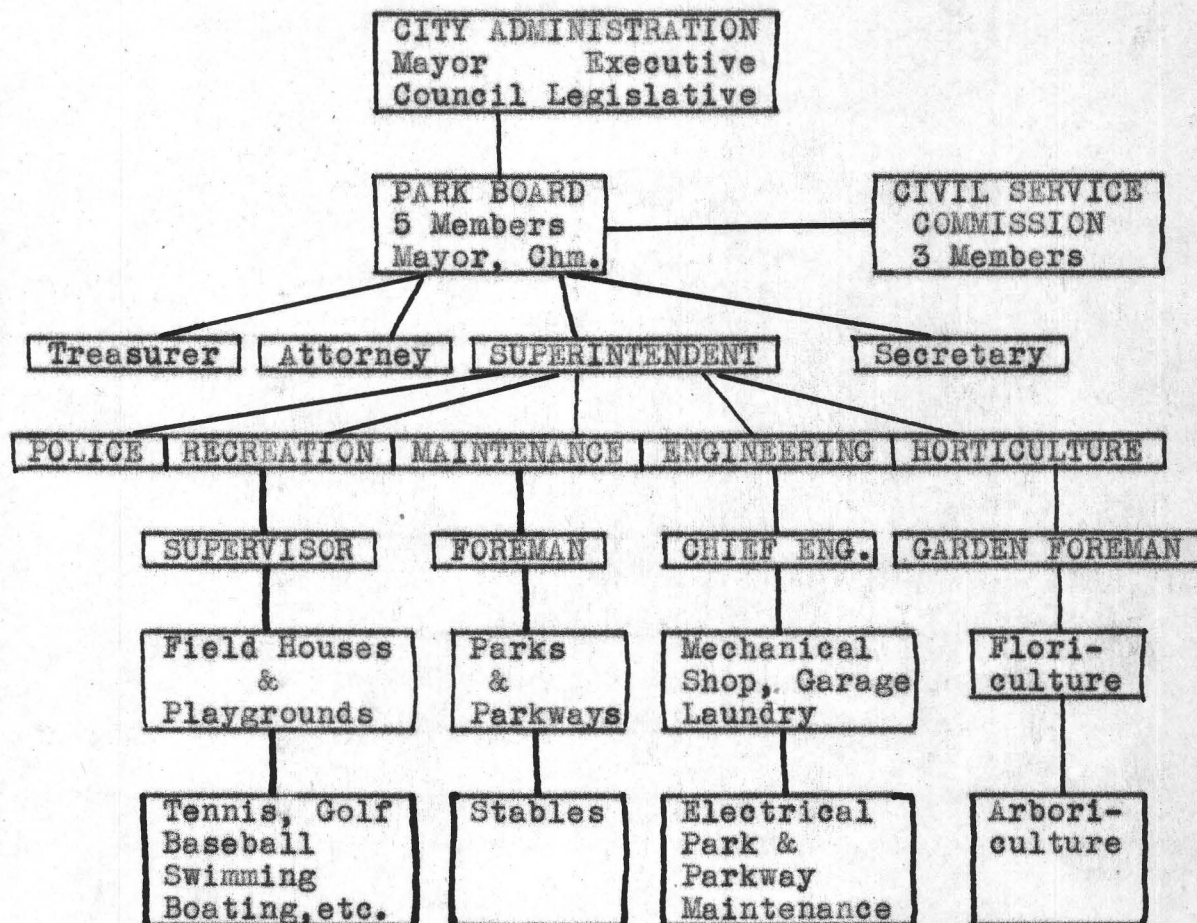
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APPENDIX

APPENDICES

- A. Administrative Organization Plan
of Portland Park Affairs, 1913
- B. Portland's Expanded Recreation
Administrative Organization, 1943
- C. Portland Playground Attendance Report
June to September, 1916
- D. Portland Playground Attendance Report
June to September, 1923
- E. Portland Playground Attendance Report
June to September, 1944
- F. Swimming Pool Attendance Report, 1916
- G. Swimming Pool Attendance Report, 1944
- H. Summary of Significant Dates

APPENDIX A

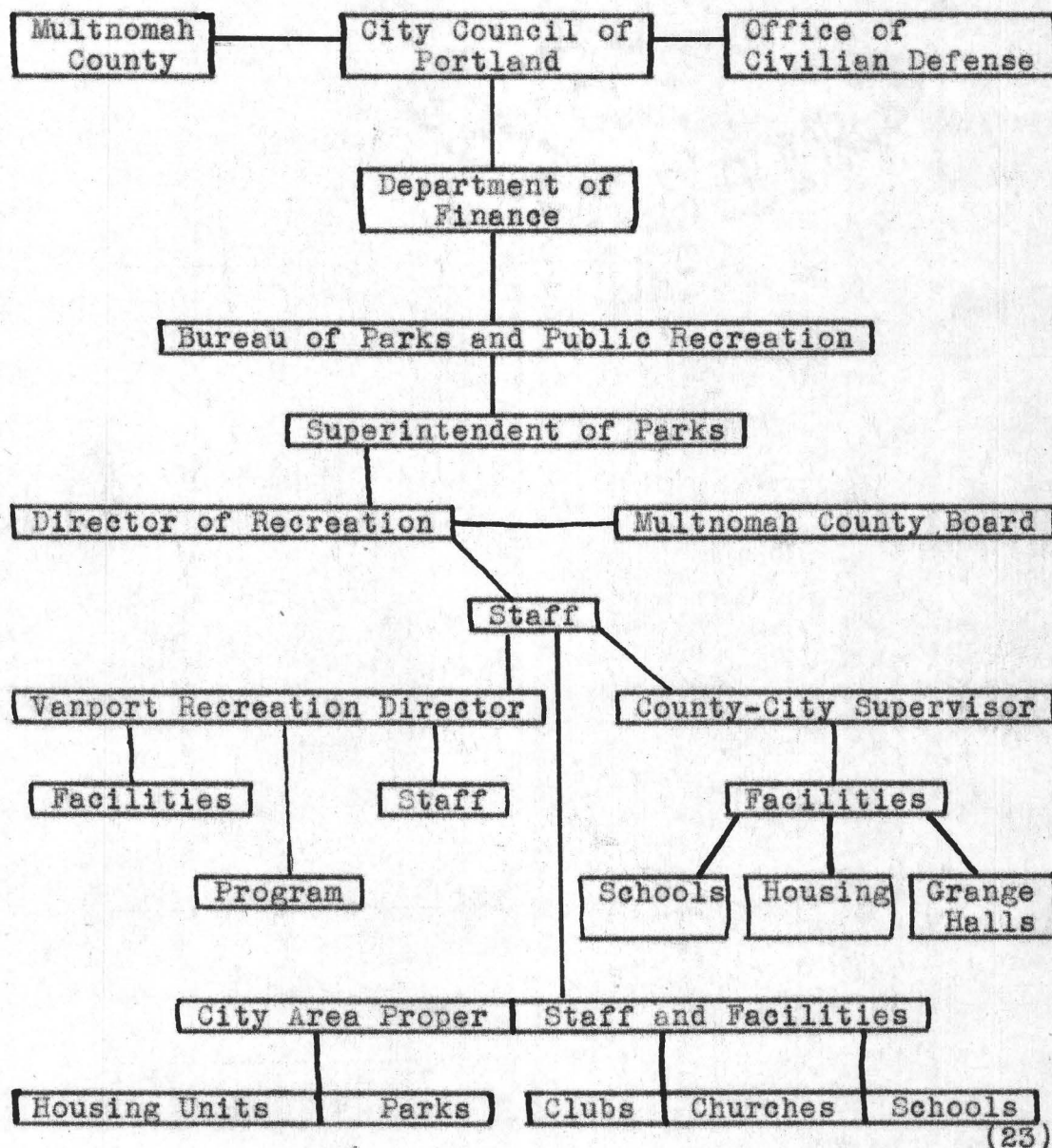
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION PLAN OF
PORTLAND PARK AFFAIRS, 1913

(22)

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22. City of Portland, Annual Reports Bureau of Parks, 1913,
(Portland, Oregon, 1913), p. 4.

APPENDIX B

PORTLAND'S EXPANDED RECREATION
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION, 1943



(23)

23. Dorothea M. Lensch, Recreation Highlights of Portland Oregon's Expanded Program 1944, (Portland, Oregon, 1944) p. 4.

APPENDIX C

PORTLAND PLAYGROUND ATTENDANCE REPORT
JUNE TO SEPTEMBER, 1916

Playgrounds	June	July	August	Sept.	Total
Arleta		12,425	12,545	573	25,543
Brooklyn	4,177	6,197	6,630	570	17,574
Columbia	3,550	16,754	6,867	285	27,556
Forestry Bldg.	1,086	4,147	4,178	400	9,811
Kenilworth	3,727	7,147	6,635	490	17,999
Laurelhurst	2,041	9,148	10,661	945	22,655
Lents	3,920	7,465	6,546	415	18,346
Lincoln	4,993	8,157	11,835	3,528	28,513
Mt. Tabor	1,440	3,353	3,582	102	8,517
North Park	3,714	6,802	6,322	658	17,405
Peninsula	10,840	27,690	27,205	2,649	69,384
Sellwood	4,438	14,787	15,452	478	35,165
Vernon	1,286	13,088	9,887	606	24,867
Washington	1,616	4,819	4,488	420	11,343
Terwilliger		<u>2,474</u>	<u>7,792</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>10,524</u>
Total	46,878	144,413	141,424	12,477	345,132

(24)

24. City of Portland, Annual Report Bureau of Parks, 1916,
(Portland, Oregon, 1916), p. 8.

APPENDIX D

PORTLAND PLAYGROUND ATTENDANCE REPORT
JUNE TO SEPTEMBER, 1923

Brooklyn.....	10,262	
Columbia.....	27,624	
Duniway.....	5,219	
Irving.....	27,601	
Johnson Creek..	5,219	
Kenilworth.....	22,042	
Lents.....	6,920	
Mt. Scott.....	12,923	
Mt. Tabor.....	8,265	
North Park.....	15,490	
Peninsula.....	99,096	
Sellwood.....	38,294	
Terwilliger....	6,079	
Vernon.....	22,197	
Washington.....	7,955	
Wallace.....	11,138	
Rock Island....	3,099	
Woodstock.....	2,292	
Laurelhurst....	16,766	
Total	348,321	(25)

25. City of Portland, Annual Reports Bureau of Parks, 1923.
(Portland, Oregon, 1923), p. 29.

APPENDIX E

PORTLAND PLAYGROUND ATTENDANCE REPORT
JUNE TO SEPTEMBER, 1944

Playground	June	July	August	Total
Alberta	8,808	16,850	7,718	33,376
Buckman	1,554	785	-----	2,339
Linnnton	3,012	-----	-----	3,012
Washington	236	-----	-----	236
Creston	9,561	24,001	13,266	46,828
Mt. Scott	11,047	18,001	14,675	43,723
Lair Hill	13,063	21,160	15,558	49,781
Westmoreland	7,351	9,723	4,898	21,972
Irving	8,161	22,963	11,632	42,756
Lents	7,702	7,990	5,106	20,798
Belmont	9,365	12,099	5,548	26,812
Mt. Tabor	926	2,097	1,286	4,309
Powell	10,284	16,607	12,444	39,335
Rose City	13,141	29,815	16,565	59,521
Columbia	52,636	46,072	38,258	136,966
Laurelhurst	5,705	27,816	21,035	54,556
Overlook	6,946	11,858	6,498	25,302
Peninsula	60,637	107,285	60,485	228,407
Grant	13,158	34,276	20,223	67,657
Montavilla	7,259	10,362	9,099	26,720
Kenilworth	6,462	6,354	3,300	16,116
Wallace	5,660	11,818	6,370	23,848
Sellwood	9,268	17,187	1,799	28,254
Joseph Lane	2,050	1,764	1,634	5,448
Pier	41,972	59,126	17,092	118,190
Dawson	11,439	8,651	5,096	25,186
Woodstock	5,243	7,137	2,807	15,187
North Park	2,919	3,112	2,878	8,909

Grand Total 1,175,544 (26)

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26. Dorothea M. Lensch, Recreation Highlights of Portland Oregon's Expanded Program, July 1, 1943, July 1, 1944, (Portland, Oregon, 1944), p. 34.

APPENDIX F

SWIMMING POOL ATTENDANCE REPORT
1916

Peninsula	Boys	Girls	Total
June 17 through Sept. 4	10,601	9,697	20,298
Sellwood	Boys	Girls	Total
June 17 through Sept. 4	10,475	13,537	24,012 (27)
			44,210

27. City of Portland, Annual Reports Bureau of Parks, 1916,
(Portland, Oregon, 1916), p. 8.

APPENDIX G

Swimming Pool Attendance Report
1944 (28)

Pool	July	August	Total
Montevilla	38,671	18,144	56,815
Grant	27,567	10,108	37,675
Shattuck	6,610	2,750	9,360
Peninsula	14,331	9,473	23,804
Sellwood	17,581	7,131	24,712
Buckman	12,100	9,310	21,410
Pier	39,171	26,931	66,102
Columbia	21,812	14,788	36,600
Creston	34,685	13,119	47,804
Mt. Scott	24,572	9,730	34,302
Couch	5,577	2,348	7,925
		Total	366,509

28. Dorothea M. Lensch, Recreation Highlights of Portland's Expanded Program, 1944, (Portland, Oregon, 1944), p. 35.

APPENDIX H

Summary of Significant Dates

- 1852 Dedication of Portland's first park by Mr. W.W.Chapman, one of the grant holders of the land which later became the townsite.
- 1871 Portland's first paid park. The City of Portland purchased forty acres at a price of \$38,624.00 for a city park.
- 1900 Board of Park Commissioners appointed.
- 1907 A bond issue of \$1,000,000 was voted to carry out the Olmstead Plan of 1903.
- 1913 The park system became a bureau constituted within the charter commission.
- 1917 A charter amendment authorizing an annual levy of .4 of a mill for the acquisition and development of playgrounds was adopted by the electorate, and a definite program to develop twenty-four playgrounds was started.
- 1919 The .4 mill tax was supplemented by a bond issue of \$500,000 for the purchase of land, and at the same election \$527,000 park improvements bonds were voted.
- 1918 Portland's first municipal golf course (Eastmoreland) was opened.
- Since 1923, four additional swimming pools have been built, making a total of six.

Forty new hard surface tennis courts have been constructed, making a total of fifty-five. The development of a major sports field with a well appointed field house is well under way. These were the outstanding items, which have been made possible from the .4 mill tax.

- 1925 The West Hills and Rose City Municipal Golf Courses were opened.
- 1920 First playground circus.
- 1924 First girls' pageant.
- 1934 Inauguration of the position of sports director.
- 1940 Period of expansion.
- 1943 Period of greater expansion.

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