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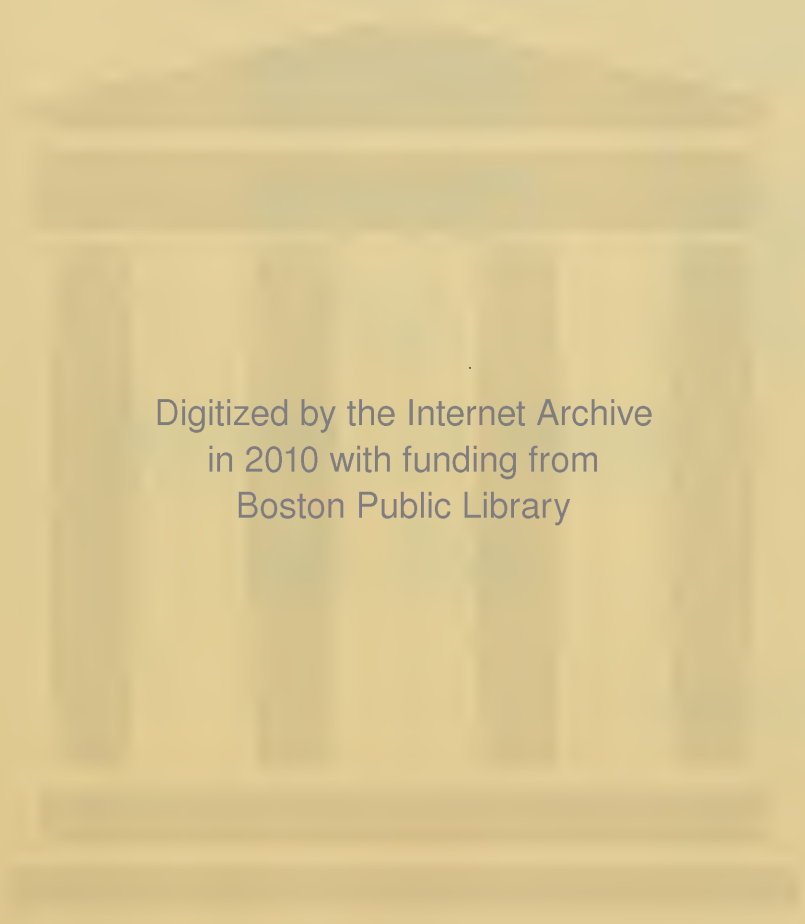
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**BOSTON PARKS  
DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL  
REPORTS  
FOR  
FRANKLIN PARK  
1911-1926**



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**FRANKLIN PARK COALITION  
BULLETIN**

2843

A Publication of The Franklin Park Coalition, Inc.  
319 Forest Hills Street, Boston, MA 02130 · 522-7431  
December, 1983

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Boston Parks Department made its set of Park Reports available to the Coalition for duplication. The Parks Department also provided a copying machine for the Coalition to use. Particular thanks go to John Ruck, Secretary of the Boston Parks Department.

The Frances Loeb Library of the Harvard Graduate School of Design has the most up-to-date set of Boston Parks Department Reports. The Reports from 1918 to 1926 were reproduced from volumes in the Loeb Collection. Thanks to Christopher Hale for his always patient help.

As she has for nearly 5 years, Laurel Sutton typed this issue of the Bulletin for publication.

This issue is the fourth and last volume which reprints the Boston Park Department Reports for Franklin Park between 1879 and 1926, tracing forty-seven years of design, construction and modification of Boston's largest and most famous park.

Richard Heath, editor  
December, 1983.





37<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1911

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Commissioner's Report

...substantial progress has been made on the Zoological Garden and the aquarium. The large open-air aviary and the bear dens are nearly completed and the aquarium building\*is nearly ready for plastering.

Plans have been prepared by Mr. Austin\*\*and bids have been obtained for a bird house near the great open-air cage. This house will contain cages for winter occupation by large and smayl birds. It is surrounded by open-air cages connected with those on the interior. In these will live both summer and winter the smaller birds which cannot be put in the great open-air cage, either because they would escape through the mesh or become the prey of the large inhabitants of the great aviary.

What we had in mind in all this work has been to provide at first for a limited number of exhibits - mainly bears, birds and fishes. The provision for these will be as thorough and as good as we know how to make it. If the public find them attractive they will support us in carrying the work farther. What we are doing will give the project of a Zoological Garden a very thorough trial.

---

\*in South Boston.

\*\* William D. Austin

We have already been given a bear by Mr. Newkirk and between forty and sixty valuable geese and ducks by Mr. J.E. Thayer. The United States Government has also promised us bears and other animals from the Yellowstone Park.

#### Superintendent's Report

To Robert S. Peabody, James M. Prendergast and Daniel H. Coakley, Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN, - I herewith submit a report of work performed in the department under the direction of your Board during the year 1911:

Early in the summer, the plans being ready, work was started on the construction of the Zoological Garden in Franklin Park. A contract was awarded to John A. Rooney for a group of five bear yards and dens. These are located in Long Crouch Woods and are of an imposing character. The walls are completed and the ironwork and flagging of the yards are well under way. Each yard contains a commodious pool. Beeches and oaks have been planted in openings among the old trees to provide shade for the concourse in front. A contract was also made with the New England Structural Company for the construction of an aquatic flying cage, 190 feet long, 60 feet wide and 60 feet high, with a swell at the back 40 feet by 14 feet. This work, too, is well advanced, requiring to complete it only the outside wiring and the wall and pools inside. The water and sewerage for these constructions have been laid in and connected with the city system by the employees of the Park Department. A portion of the Refectory carriage shed has been impressed into service as a temporary home for newly received animals. A group of thirteen cages has been built there by Park Department employees.

The surplus oaks in the plantations in Franklin Park, which were root pruned last year, were in good condition for transplanting during the past winter, having formed a fine growth of fibrous roots. The long-continued frost and snow, too, favored the work of transportation, enabling us to plant two lines of these trees on that part of Commonwealth avenue lying between Warren street and Brighton avenue. The trees were moved with frozen balls of earth, six feet in diameter, a distance of nearly five miles. They are well-grown specimens, 15 to 20 feet in height. Commonwealth avenue has thus gained in time a period of from eight to ten years required for such growth. This is more especially valuable in the oak transplantation, which, under ordinary processes, recovers slowly. From the same plantations we also have procured trees to replace those injured beyond repair along the lines of the parkways. In addition, a group of about sixty of these fine oaks has been planted as an additional protection to the flying cage in the Zoological Garden. In all the number transplanted amounts to over three hundred.

The plantations generally throughout the system are growing finely, due, no doubt, to our regular practice of annual pruning for form, and thinning out of all crowding and inferior material. The trees are all good examples of their kind and will eventually blend into dignified woodland masses, the foundation for good form and growth having been firmly established in the trees while young.

The old woodlands, too, continue to improve in vigor and beauty. By the regular planting each year of considerable quantities of undergrowth, the floor of the woodlands has become more attractive and affords better protection to birds; pheasants, especially, are becoming very plentiful. The increasing quantity of berried plants also is providing a store of food for the birds in winter, of which many take advantage. Especially is this noticeable in the large numbers of flickers and blue jays to be found feeding among the fruits fo the apple and rose families. Squirrels find abundant food among the wild fruits. This supply we reinforce by adding a little corn or wheat. The result of this care is that the winter beauty of the woodlands and glades in the parks is strongly emphasized by wild animal life.

The Herbaceous Garden in Franklin Park quite fulfilled our expectations last year. The show of late flowering and Darwin tulips in the spring was very good. The narcissi gave sheets of their golden flowers. From then until fall a succession of beautiful blooming plants followed, and closed with a rich display of hybrid asters - hybrids of our own beautiful native ones. Accompanying these were sunflowers, helesiums, salvias, chelones and a host of other good things.

The usual care was given to the shrubberies. Old or worn-out plantations were cleared off and replanted. Plantations of white pine were made on the north slopes of Scarboro Hill and Rock Morton.

38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1912

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Commissioner's Report:

The Zoological Garden has met with very favorable public recognition. Crowds of people have flocked to Marine Park to see the Aquarium. That similar crowds have visited Franklin Park to see the bears and birds has been especially satisfactory because of late years Franklin Park has been neglected by the public. It is now visited by large numbers of people who have been attracted there by the zoological exhibition.

In starting the Zoological Garden we have aimed to confine the collection to such animals as are hardy and do not require elaborate housing. We have, however, built a small heated building in the center of the horseshed court at the Refectory and there we have established a small temporary menagerie. The bird house, now in course of construction, will be the first permanent structure fitted for winter use. As fast as appropriations are given us the commission intends to continue the construction of the Zoological Garden according to the general plan adopted two years ago. They especially desire to start the graded lawn or "Greeting," which was originally designed by Mr. Olmsted. This is to form a beautiful concourse, on each side of which the collections will be clustered. It will always be a stately and parklike feature and will give dignity to grounds that otherwise might become merely a series of exhibit yards.

The Aquarium was finished too late in the season to permit the importation of fish from Bermuda, but with the spring these importations will add brilliant color to the already interesting collection.

Although the Aquarium and Zoological Garden have thus become fairly established, the Park Commission has recognized the need of scientific advice in order to make these institutions of the greatest use to the communities. They have, therefore, obtained the consent of several gentlemen to serve as an advisory council in these matters. Messrs. John E. Thayer, William Brewster, Fred H. Kennard, Augustus Hemenway, Doctor Barbour, Dr. John Phillips and Professor Mark have consented to serve thus; and the commission hopes with their help to frame by degrees some definite and useful course of development.

Superintendent's Report:  
(James B. Shea)

To Robert S. Peabody, Daniel H. Coakley and D. Henry Sullivan,  
Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN, - I herewith submit a report of work performed in the department under the direction of your board during the year ending January 31, 1913:

Three very notable events occurred during the year, marking an epoch in the history of the park department of this city.

The first was the organization of all playground activities under a single head, combining not only the work performed in the children's corners, but the various athletic games in the playgrounds, and other demonstrations in the parks as well. This was made possible by the cooperation of the School Department, through Dr. Thomas F. Harrington, Director of School Hygiene, and his assistant, Nathaniel J. Young, the latter of whom gave his whole time to the direction of this work, and his efforts were crowned with remarkable success. Headquarters were opened on Talbot avenue in rooms rented for the purpose. An athletic instructor was placed in charge of each playground and such assistance was given as each place required. Paraphernalia of all kinds needful for the conduct of ordinary games were supplied. While this organization was but a temporary one, it can no longer be considered an experiment, but the beginning of a movement that will grow in volume and importance from year to year.

The second event was the opening of the aviary and bear dens\*, the two features of the Zoological Garden already completed. The interest which this aroused in the public and the great hold which a "Zoo" has on the popular mind are made clearly evident by the immense crowds which are daily attracted to Franklin Park. It is gratifying, also, to observe that having once made their way to see the animals

\*Abandoned about 1960. Still extant, however.

they tarry to notice the real beauty of the park, so often commented on as wanting in admiration by the public. Unless all signs fail, we may well expect, with the further development of the Zoological Garden, that Franklin Park will again come into its own. In this connection I may add that the contract for the bird house was let to the Carroll Construction Company, and at this writing the building is so far advanced that we may be reasonably confident of its being opened during the coming year, and it shows every evidence of being equally as good as the exhibits already completed. In addition to the open cages built in the temporary quarters, near Blue Hill avenue entrance, last year, there has been added in the center of the inclosure a small building fitted to care for tropical birds and animals, and here we have gathered a very interesting little menagerie.

The third feature alluded to is the opening of the Aquarium. This was so long postponed, owing to delays by contractors, that the patience of all interested was sorely tried, but finally, on Thanksgiving Day, the doors were thrown open, and since then the public interest has never waned.

In an attempt to bring Franklin Park to the notice of the many who seemingly neglected it, three automobile trucks were fitted with passenger-carrying bodies, and were used Saturday afternoons, Sundays and holidays during pleasant weather to take visitors, at a nominal fare, through the park.

39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1913

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Report of the Deputy Commissioner.  
(James B. Shea)

To John H. Dillon, Charles Gibson and Thomas F. Galvin,  
Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN, - I herewith submit a report of work performed in the department during the year ending January 31, 1914.

During the first month of the year the consolidation of the Park, Public Grounds, Bath and Music Departments into the Park and Recreation Department became an established fact and all employees of these four departments by virtue of the city ordinance and a vote of the new Board became legal employees of the new department.

The election of the secretary and a deputy commissioner followed immediately. These appointments received the sanction of the Civil Servic Commissioners.

At Franklin Park the improvements to the Zoo consisted fo the addition of three ranges for buffalo, deer and elk, the establishment of a raccoon cage in Long Crouch Woods, under two contracts, one for \$1,736.25 for the cage, and one for sewer and water service amounting to \$1,074.50. The floor of the duck pond was concreted, contract price, \$2,090.

Sanitary accommodations at the bird house were provided for under contract price of \$7,994.

Temporary walks were laid out at Franklin Park to accommodate the great crowds of people visiting the Zoo.

The permanent walks around the bird house, the flying cage and the duck pond were built, and the planting of the island and shores of the duck pond completed during the year.

The bird house was formally opened to the public on Columbus Day, and the ceremony was largely attended.

At Franklin Field the playground for children was regraded and additional swings and tilts erected.

Planting was carried on at Franklin Park where about 600 coniferous trees were set out at Pine Hill, Juniper Hill and the Wilderness; 200 poplars were planted in the vicinity of the bear dens and bird house; 100 oaks through the plantation at Franklin Park; 50 English elms were planted in prepared pits on the site of the proposed Greeting; 300 Cornus Florida were planted in the Wilderness and at Scarboro Hill.



40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1914

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Deputy Commissioner's Report:  
(James B. Shea)

At Franklin Park walks were constructed from the Bird House to and around the Elephant House\*, the latter building having been erected during the year. The Elephant Yard was also laid out and surrounded with a strong iron rail fence and a guard fence. The necessary grading in connection with the above work was also completed.

The widening of Seaver street was commenced during the year but is unfinished\*\*. The work is under the control of the Public Works Department according to designs prepared by the Park and Recreation Department.

The golf links were improved by laying a water service pipe 4,300 feet long to the new greens, sixteen of which were laid out. The greens were trenched over, fertilized, graded and prepared for spring seeding.

This gives room for a nine-hole course with a spare green and a six-hole course for beginners.

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\*Destroyed in August, 1978.

\*\* For streetcar tracks. Franklin Park land taken for streetcar reservation.

General Superintendent's Report:  
(Hugh C. McGrath)

About fifty tennis courts are scattered through Franklin Park, wherever an area of sufficient size and smoothness presents itself, and all are occupied on Saturday afternoons during the summer evenings. The six-hole golf course for beginners and the nine-hole course for the more adept have been the means for permitting this most popular time among all classes. In fact, the necessity becomes more obvious yearly of extending the nine-hole course into an eighteen-hole course, thereby alleviating the congestion at the different tees, and furnishing additional opportunity for new patrons to take up this sport. The three toboggan slides on Schoolmaster's Hill furnish a most enjoyable means of recreation in the winter time for young and old alike on the afternoons and evenings. Quarters have been provided for the storage of toboggans and every means provided for the health and comfort of the devotees of this sport.

An innovation was made in the department curriculum this past year by permitting the New England Inter-collegiate Athletic Association to hold its annual cross country run over a course which was pronounced ideal by the representatives of the various New England colleges who participated.

41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1915

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Report of the Deputy Commissioner:  
(James B. Shea)

The all-important need of the department at the beginning of the past year was to place the surface of the drives in such condition as would stand the ever-increasing traffic, and the consequent damage to the roads which is more noticeable to those frequenting park drives for pleasure than those using public streets in the ordinary course of travel.

To this end two important contracts were made. First, Columbia road was resurfaced with bitulithic pavement, from Franklin Park to Edward Everett square.

This, being one of the main arteries to Boston from the south, is subject to very heavy automobile travel, and as no great amount of repair work had been done on this drive since it was built in the year 1898, the surface was in very poor condition. After one season's wear it would appear as though this type of road construction would be most suitable for drives where the auto traffic is exceptionally great, the cost of this work being \$46,385.97.

Report of the General Superintendent:  
(Hugh C. McGrath)

Our golf courses at Franklin Park have been extended, new putting greens laid out and an irrigation system installed, so that greens can be watered when necessary. The six-hole course for beginners has done much to relieve the excessive congestion on the nine-hole course for the more adept, but even now they are not large enough to cater to the demands made upon them.

The three toboggan slides on Schoolmaster's Hill in Franklin Park on afternoons and evenings when the weather permits are daily thronged with those who like to engage in this exhilarating sport. Over 300 toboggans were checked during the past season in addition to many transient patrons who used the course, indicating the popularity of the sport.

A new feature has been added to our recreation by the laying out on Franklin Park of a cross country course, which has been used by the I.C.A.A.A. and the New England I.C.A.A for their annual cross country championships. The local Amateur Athletic Association also hold their cross country championship run over these fields, and the course both as regards its topography and the manner in which it was laid out, enabling spectators to see the contestants at the same point on several occasions during the course of their run, is admirable. The Press of other cities has also commented favorably upon this course.\*

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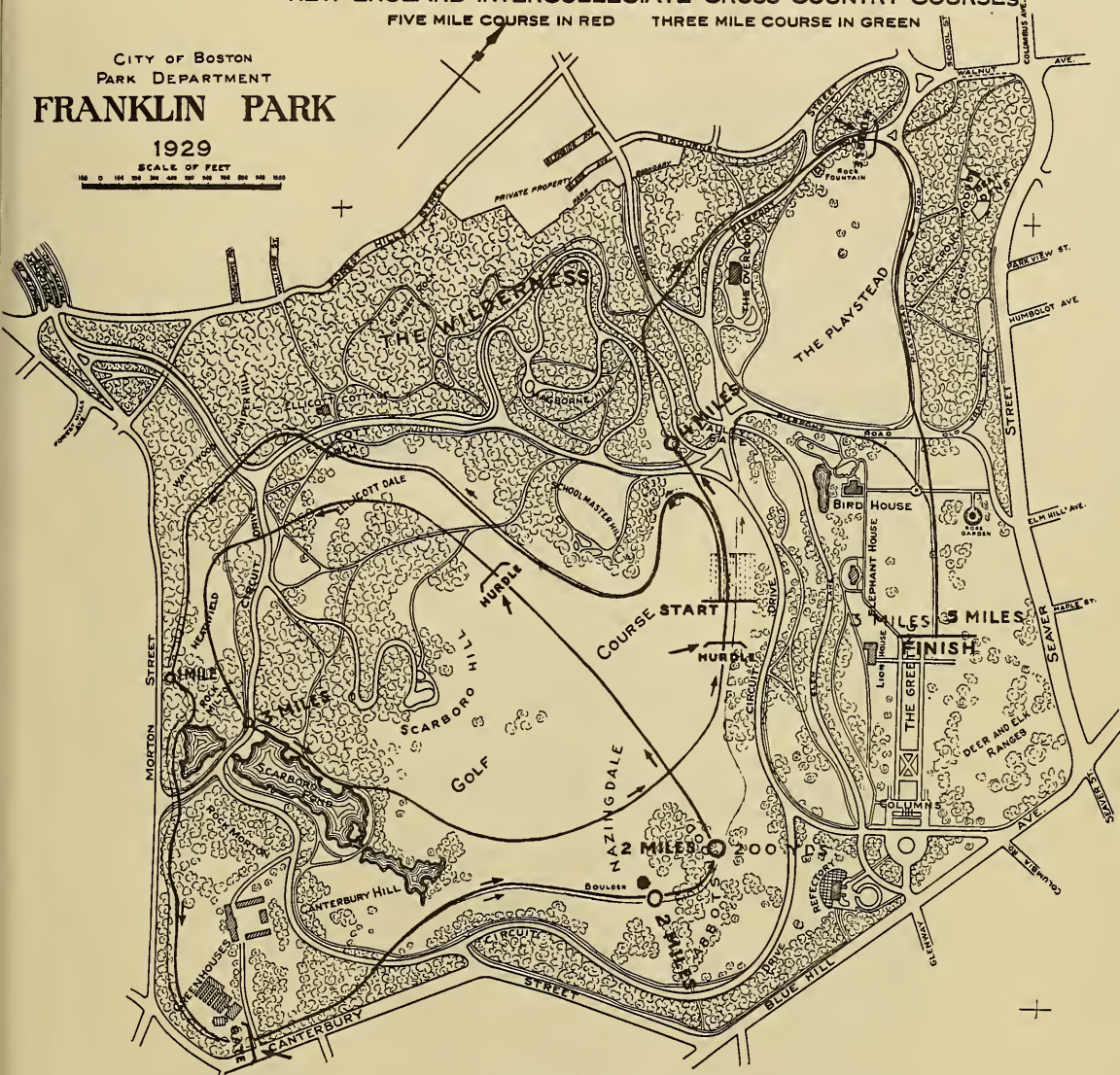
\*Still in use by the AAU each fall.

**NEW ENGLAND INTERCOLLEGIATE CROSS COUNTRY COURSES**  
 FIVE MILE COURSE IN RED      THREE MILE COURSE IN GREEN

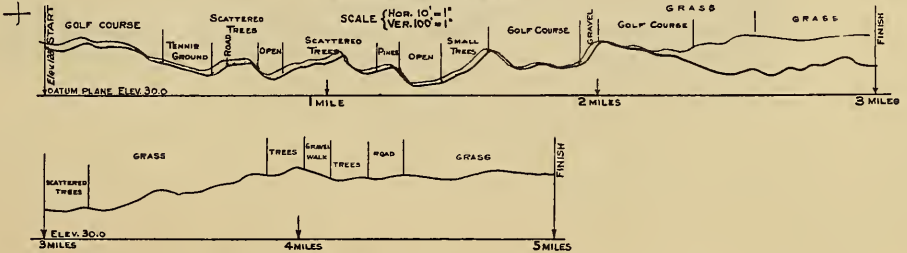
CITY OF BOSTON  
 PARK DEPARTMENT  
**FRANKLIN PARK**

1929

SCALE OF FEET



**PROFILE OF COURSE**



42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1916

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Report of the Deputy Commissioner:

The new golf greens at Franklin Park, laid out and seeded during the previous year, were placed in condition for use in the middle of the summer and the remodeled course is quite satisfactory to golfers.

There has been some mortality among the older trees in Long Crouch Woods and from thirty to forty oaks from 12 to 15 inches in diameter had to be removed. The same is true of the trees at Pine Bank, Olmsted Park, where many old ash trees were taken out, as they were completely ruined by borers. The destruction caused by insect pests has been particularly noted among the American elms all over the city.

In the plantations the crowding of young, vigorous trees is so great that there is great danger of losing much of the good results from the very excellent planting of the past twenty years. Many of the trees have now reached the dignity of forest growth and must have room to expand further. At Franklin Park a number of these, approximately three or four hundred, have been marked and removed but there remains a great area yet untouched.

REPORT OF THE CURATOR OF THE ZOOLOGICAL  
GARDEN AND AQUARIUM.

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To John H. Dillon, Thomas F. Galvin and Robert S. Peabody,  
Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN, - I herewith submit the following report for the  
Zoological Garden for the year ending February 1, 1917.

The past year has been a busy one, and many changes were made  
in different parts of the garde, which will be of much benefit to  
the birds and animals.

ELK RANGE.

A new house was erected for the elk, floors laid in all the other  
houses and loam spread so that now the range is in fairly good  
condition.

TEMPORARY QUARTERS.

This house has been given a general overhauling, new cages have  
been built, all the cages raised from the floor, telephone and electric  
lights installed and new signs placed over cages.

POND AND FLYING CAGE.

Here many changes have been made which add to the beauty of the  
place; sprays have been installed, which are running all the time,  
keeping the water fresh and clean; during the winter evergreen trees  
were placed in the flying cage for the protection of the birds.

This winter the Overlook Building was used as in former years  
for housing the warm climate birds.

BIRD HOUSE.

Most of this house was painted, frames on some of the cages  
made stronger, and changes made in the heating and lighting system.

ELEPHANT HOUSE.

The elephants are in fine condition, and judging from the  
attendance at the performances held on Wednesday and Saturday of  
each week they are just as popular.

Anthony W. McNealy,  
Curator

44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1918

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Commissioner's Report:

A new paint shop was erected at the Franklin Park service yard and the stable (partly burned the year previously) was repaired and changed into a garage for the accommodation of the motor apparatus of the department. This, with other building improvements at Franklin Park, cost the department \$27,987.08.

The arrangement about the columns\*, including the artificial stonework and the ornamental fence, was completed at an expense of \$5,551.83.

The golf links and the children's playground on the Playstead at Franklin Park have been used during the past year for war gardens, and the war now being over it is not expected they will be used for this purpose, but must be leveled and seeded for recreational purposes.

Conditions at the Zoo and Aquarium have been far from satisfactory, but as a new curator has now been secured it is confidently expected that this department will be brought up to the proper standard.

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\*This refers to the monumental gate erected in 1917 at the entrance to the Zoo. The columns are from the interior of the Custom House.



46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
PARK DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR 1920\*

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Report of the Director of Recreation:

The Refectory Building was renovated and improvements made for golfers at a total expense of about \$15,000.

The golf links were reseeded, being used for the first time this year since the ground was broken up for war gardens. It was impossible to permit of golfing until the turf on the greens became firm enough for play. In the Children's Playstead, used for the same purpose, the ground has been regraded and seeded.

A contract for the lion house was let at an expense of \$60,000 and the animals were removed and the building opened to the public on the 1st of January.\*\*

Other improvements have been made in the Zoo, including the extension of deer ranges and the continuation of the walks through the Greeting.

A new water and sewer system to the lion house was installed at an expense of about \$8,000.

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\*Nothing on Franklin Park in the Report for 1919 except maintenance expenditures.

\*\* Destroyed in August, 1978.

REPORT OF THE CURATOR OF THE ZOOLOGICAL  
GARDEN AND AQUARIUM.

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Boston, January 31, 1921

To William P. Long,  
Deputy Commissioner:

DEAR SIR, - I herewith submit the following report of the  
Zoological Garden and Aquarium for the year ending January 31, 1921.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

The year of 1920 in the Zoological Garden has been a very  
successful one, due to the confidence you have placed in me, and your  
ever ready help is greatly responsible for the successful maintenance  
and progress accomplished during the year.

Attendance.

It is safe to estimate that fully two million people visited  
the Zoological Garden during the past year.

On fair Sundays and holidays, through the spring, summer and fall,  
the capacities of our buildings were taxed to the utmost, and we  
were often hard put to keep the crowds moving in order that none  
should be denied the opportunity of viewing the exhibits.

Exhibits.

Although but approximately \$1,300 was spent for exhibits during  
1920, yet it is with considerable satisfaction that I am able to  
report that there has been a substantial increase in the number of  
species and specimens of both mammals and birds. This is accounted  
for largely by the record-breaking number of donations and by the  
capture of thirty-five birds comprising fifteen different species,  
by myself, in the park.

The most important acquisitions were a beautiful pair of leopards,  
one male wallaroo, one Diana monkey, one pair of Bower birds, one  
pair of scarlet ibis and a couviers toucon.

The birth of three deer has added to the number of hoofed  
exhibits.

Our losses have been comparatively small, the most felt ones being  
the camed which died last spring of acute gastro enteritis, the cub lion  
one and one half years old, which had to be killed on account of its  
being in the last stages of tuberculosis, and one eagle as the result

of an ulcer on the head. Three raccoons and one deer were killed at night time by vandals and dogs. This sort of thing we will always have to put up with until a man and dogproof fence entirely surrounds our grounds.

#### New Lion House.

The most important development during the year was the building of a new lion house which was erected beside the Greeting, to the eastward of the elephant house.

This building has seven large, light and well ventilated cages, the fronts of which are made of heavy wire mesh instead of the customary bars, thus eliminating the prison effect. The sanitation is of the best and many innovations made to facilitate the handling and care of the animals.

It was great satisfaction to get the animals from their old, dark and poorly ventilated quarters at the round house to this modern building.

Work has been started on the building of outside cages, where on good days the animals will be able to get plenty of fresh air and exercise.

The present house only cares for the members of the cat family which we had in hand, but is it hoped that some time soon an addition of five more cages will be made, in order that we may exhibit tigers, jaguars and other members of this interesting family.

#### Protection.

I cannot impress too deeply the great need of a dog and man proof fence in order to give us proper protection.

Until the "Police Strike" there were two Zoo employees and one policeman to patrol and guard the vast area of our Garden at night.

Franklin Park is a favorite gathering ground in the evening, for "gangs" of youths on mischief bent. Often their pranks take the form of cruelty and vandalism.

Although prohibited by city ordinance, dogs of all kinds continually make the park their hunting ground.

During the past year one deer, two raccoons one kangaroo and several birds have been beaten to death with sticks and stones, or

stolen by vandals. Two deer, one raccoon and several birds have been killed and many exhibits severely injured by dogs.

In naming some of the chief requirements in the establishment of a zoological garden, that noted authority, Dr. William T. Hornaday of New York, mentions "a dog and man proof fence."\*

#### Future Needs.

It is obvious that in an institution of this kind, which may justly be termed to be in its infancy, the needs to make it complete are manifold, and under the present conditions cannot be accomplished in one or even several years. Still, by gradually adding the most necessary installations each year as we can afford them, we may reach that greater state of perfection with perhaps a firmer grip, in the way of more successful management induced by our being able to grow gradually with the Garden.

The most necessary installations for the coming year are a pheasant aviary and cages of hawks, vultures and eagles. If properly housed the pheasants make a beautiful and comparatively inexpensive exhibit. At present they are in entirely inadequate quarters in the flying cage.

The need of proper cages for raptores is very great, if we are to exhibit them at all. The mortality among those we have has been very large and due to their improper quarters.

One of the first questions asked by a stranger in a zoological garden is, "Where is the reptile house?" Without question such a building would be a very valuable acquisition.

I think there is no question but that the round house\*\* is not a proper place to keep animals for exhibition and that when a house is provided for the primates it may very well be closed.

G.F. Morse,  
Curator

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\*Erected in 1958.

\*\*A stable that was adjacent to The Refectory. This magnificent round building for horses and carriages was designed in wood by Hartwell and Richardson. It burned in 1960 and the site is now a circular parking lot.

47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
PARK DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR 1921

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Hon. Andrew J. Peters,  
Mayor of Boston:

DEAR SIR, - The Park and Recreation Commission herewith submit the annual report for the year ending January 31, 1922.

The real problem confronting the department today is the condition of the road surfaces on the main parkways, Commonwealth avenue and the parkway leading to Forest Hills. These parkways are used so much by automobiles coming from neighboring towns to the city that they are very much worn and only the best method of surfacing should be used.

The pavement laid some years ago on Columbia road and a similar surface laid on Commonwealth avenue, between Arlington street and Beacon street, near the junction of Brookline avenue, have proved very satisfactory, and it is to be hoped that sufficient funds can be obtained the next two years to carry out this line of pavement.

There is an urgent demand for the extension of the golf links at Franklin Park, and sufficient funds should be arranged for this purpose.

The development of existing playgrounds should be arranged for and the Board feels that money for this purpose would be better expended than in the purchase of new playground areas.

Very respectfully yours,

James B. Shea, Chairman.  
Charles A. Coolidge,  
James E. McConnell,  
Commissioners.

#### FRANKLIN PARK.

A large amount of work was started and completed in Franklin Park during the past year. The Greeting was extended and completed as far as the Elephant House. A contract was let to the amount of \$3,850. In the Zoological Garden it was necessary to place permanent walks, sewer and water pipe; contract was given for same, amounting to \$7,668.75. The new Lion House, started during the year 1920, was completed on January 11, 1921, at a cost of \$61,335. At the Refectory Building the large retaining wall was in a dangerous condition. Contract was given for the rebuilding of same and work was completed in December, 1920, at a cost of \$2,526. This building, which has been sadly in need of repair for a number of years, was entirely renovated during the year 1921. Contract was given early in July and work was completed on November 1, at a cost of \$12,860. The work of restoring Ellicott Cottage, which was destroyed by fire, was finished May 1.\* The amount of the contract was \$10,450. The rear entrance to the Refectory Building was changed to permit the golfers to go directly into the club house. This contract amounted to \$3,470.

#### BAND CONCERTS.

Over one hundred band concerts were held during the summer months at the following places: Boston Common, Marine Park, Franklin Park and Jamaica Pond. The noon concerts were continued at the Parkman Bandstand and were very well patronized.

#### ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN AND AQUARIUM.

Zoo. - Another building was added in the ranges for the protection of the sacred cows, kangaroos, llamas and deer, which makes a very welcome change, both to the looks of the place and the benefit of

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\*Ellicott Cottage was finally razed between 1940 and 1945.

the animals. A large number of new exhibits were added to the Zoo, particularly in the Bird House. One of the most important acquisitions to the Zoo during the year 1920 was a pair of beautiful leopards. The acquisitions have been large, owing to the great many donations and the losses have been very small. The completion of the Lion House was a great addition to the Zoo and its sanitation is as near perfect as it is possible to get same. Work has been started on the building of outside cages, which we expect will be completed during the ensuing year.

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Report of the Deputy Commissioner:

FRANKLIN PARK.

A large amount of construction work and also improvements relating to existing buildings was carried on during the year in Franklin Park. One undertaking was the completion of the 18-hole golf course which was ready for use in the early spring. This course is considered by experts to be one of the best courses in the vicinity of Boston.

A contract was given for the water supply and grading of the golf links for \$11,206. This work was completed September 20, 1922.

Another very important work was the reconstruction of the Blue Hill avenue entrance at Glen Lane.

On account of the large amount of motor traffic and the parking required in the vicinity of the Monkey House, it was necessary to widen Glen Lane and improve the entrances. Contract was given for this amounting to \$14,351.90; work was completed July 22, 1922.

The new greenhouses built in Franklin Park were enlarged by the building of a brick storage shed for bulbs, etc.; contract was given amounting to \$2,348. It was also necessary to build a concrete house for the storage of bay trees. This was laid out in the lea of the hill in the rear of the paint shop and proved to be an admirable



site for the purpose as it is protected on all sides and does not require heat. A contract was given for this house for the sum of \$8,454.47.

The department had two refreshment booths constructed, one in the vicinity of the Elephant House and the other near the Bear Dens, together with the concession at the Refectory Building. These two houses were very artistically built and blend with the landscape. A contract was given for these refreshment booths for the sum of \$2,222 and work was completed December 12, 1922.

A new roof was also added to the Round House adjacent to the Refectory Building; contract was given for the sum of \$1,716. Work was completed July 12, 1922.

The Zoo at Franklin Park has been improved by the building of permanent walks in the vicinity of the Deer and Elk Ranges and the addition of corrals for animals, and one new permanent building.

Several new attractions have been added, the most notable being the baby hippopotamus.

It was necessary to construct two concrete tanks, one inside the Elephant House and one in the year. Contract was given to the amount of \$4,530.93 for the building of same; work was completed June 23, 1922.

Special attention was given during the year 1922 to the permanent road surface on the Parkway, and in continuing the plan adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners to provide permanent roads throughout the park system. A bituminous pavement was laid on Perkins street, Olmsted park and Columbia road, and a contract was let for \$47,887.55. Work was completed November 23, 1922.

#### ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN AND AQUARIUM.

A very important addition to the Zoo this year was the hippopotamus presented by the Boston POST. This animal has been housed in the Elephant House, for which special tanks were built, both inside and out.

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PERMANENT ROAD RESURFACING.

The policy adopted in the year 1922 for the permanent resurfacing of boulevard roads was continued in 1923, and the following work was completed:

On Commonwealth avenue, between Warren street and Sutherland road, 16,000 square yards of reinforced concrete were laid at a cost of \$4.67 square yard, \$74,784.48.

This is looked upon by experts as the best piece of concrete pavement laid in this state.

On Commonwealth avenue, between Chestnut Hill avenue and the Newton line, 16,000 square yards of bitulithic pavement were laid at a cost of \$2.64 square yard, \$42,253.12.

In the Fens, 20,000 square yards of bitulithic pavement were laid at a cost of \$2.14 square yard, \$42,799.95.

In The Parkway, from a point near Lochstead avenue to South street, Forest Hills, 21,000 square yards of bitulithic pavement were laid at a cost of \$2.66 square yard, \$108,908.21.

### ROSE GARDEN.\*

The establishing of a Rose Garden at Franklin Park is a notable one in the history of the Park Department. It has attracted a great deal of attention, not only in the city, but through the country, as constant inquiries are being made regarding it. It is an accomplishment that Boston may well be proud of. The construction work was completed so late in the year that it was impossible to plant the entire area, but the results proved very satisfactory, and a continuous bloom of roses appeared from early in June until the middle of October.

In the neighborhood of the Rose Garden bordering on the Greeting, a large number of shade trees were planted, and this work will be continued further in the spring.

### GOLF LINKS.

The golf links laid down last year were opened for the first time this spring under a new arrangement, by which each player paid the nominal fee of \$10 for the use of the links. The privilege of using the links is necessarily confined to citizens of Boston, as otherwise it would be impossible to accommodate the large number outside who desire to play. The fee for those who are not regular players has been established at \$1 per day. It is gratifying to say that the receipts have far exceeded our expenditures and amount to \$21,000.

The accommodations have been improved by the establishment of a booth at the first tee and seats and fountains at the various tees and other points where they are necessary.

The accommodations at the Refectory Building for lockers, showers, etc., are being extended in order to provide for the future increase in attendance.

### ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

The Zoological Garden has been improved by the addition of three new buildings in the ranges for deer, elk, antelope, camels, etc. New attractions have been added by the purchase of a tiger, a couple of lions, pair of zebras, two camels, sable antelopes and a number of birds of different species, so that at the present time the city may be proud of a very attractive zoological exhibit.

### Recommendations.

I respectfully recommend the following improvements in the present Zoological Garden: The extension of the lion house by the addition of four cages; the erection of a monkey house at an approximate cost of

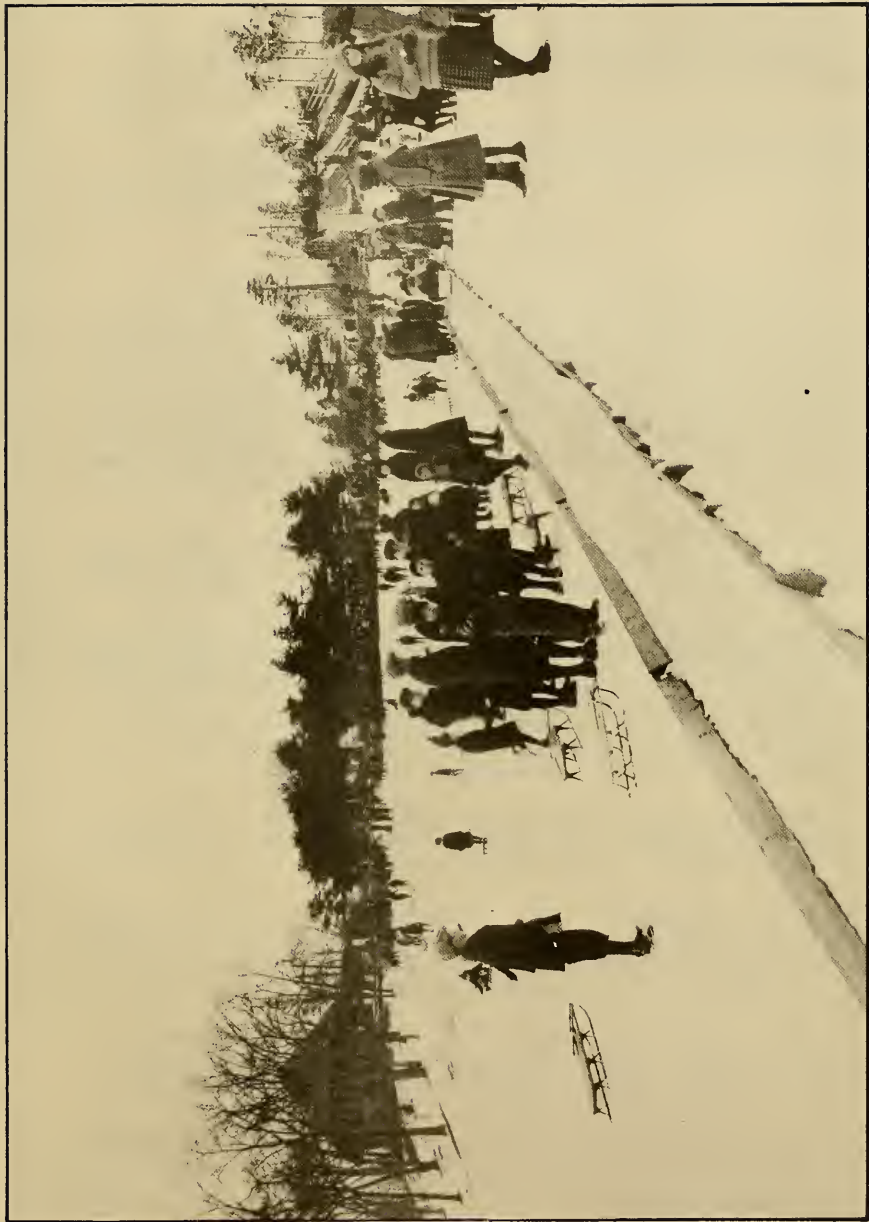
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\*Landscaped by Arthur Shurcliff.

\$70,000. The addition to the lion house would probably cost not more than \$30,000, as it is merely an addition to the present structure which was left with a temporary wooden end, anticipating at some time another addition. It will require no heating apparatus with the exception of the extension of the pipes necessary to heat the proposed addition.

The department advocates the extension of granolithic walks along the Parkway, as experience proves that the public will not use the macadam or gravel walks now established in many parts of the Park System.

William P. Long,  
Deputy Commissioner.



FRANKLIN PARK TOBOGGAN SLIDE, SCHOOLMASTER HILL  
February 22, 1923  
(photo - Boston Public Library Print Department)

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The sum of \$20,000 was expended for improvements and repairs made at the Refectory for the benefit of golfers and visitors, including a large shower room, additional toilet facilities and additional lockers. Granolithic paving was laid on the walks in front of the building and the plaza in the rear. Separate accommodations have been made for women golfers. The building, in its present condition, makes one of the best golf houses in the vicinity.

The tree plantation at the Greeting was finished according to plans made some years ago. The grading of the loam space was continued and will be finished during the ensuing year.

The golf links have been much improved by the enlarging of a number of the greens, the relocation of the tees and the additional drainage in the lower areas near Abbottswood and Scarboro Pond. The revenue from the golf privileges is considerably in excess of \$25,000.

The motor road through Franklin Park was begun under contract and the work completed from Columbia road to the Valley Gates, half the distance to Forest Hills, at a cost of \$65,000. The remaining work will be completed early in 1925.

In the service yard a large shed was built to protect the lumber and rolling stock.

The Rose Garden at Franklin Park was a unique attraction, and with the addition of the pergola, it becomes the floral beauty spot of the park system.\*

The Herbaceous Garden was extended and the plans for a rockery to be built between the Rose Garden and the Herbaceous Garden are now being made.

#### ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

Extensive repairs were made at the Zoo in Franklin Park, at the flying cage, the deer and elk ranges and the elephant house. The exhibits at the Zoo have been materially increased by the addition of lions, dromedaries, sable antelope, zebras and other animals; also by the purchase of a large number of birds. Eight new concrete watering troughs were built at the deer range and the elk corral was considerably enlarged; additional ventilation and lighting systems were provided for in the round house and a new heating system installed, connecting with the Refectory building.

Several animals were born in the Zoological Garden, viz., two brown European bear cubs, which are doing exceedingly well, a Sika deer, red deer, fallow deer, llama, kangaroo, Toulouse geese, etc.

The attendance at the Zoological Garden during the past year shows that the public interest in this unique animal reservation is steadily increasing.

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\*Razed in August, 1978.

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One of the most important changes was the opening of Franklin Park to autos, which required the widening and resurfacing of the road in Franklin Park, between Blue Hill avenue and Forest Hills street. Work was started on December 15, 1924, and completed in August, 1925, at an estimated cost of \$117,300.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

The death rate at the Zoological Garden was again exceptionally low, in fact one of the lowest in the country.

A number of important acquisitions which were purchased during the year were as follows:

A large private collection of birds from W.R. Sampson, which comprises 190 specimens; a large collection of ducks and geese of various species; pair of musk oxen, one Ceram cassowary, two crowned cranes, two marabou storks, two griffon vultures, two Ruppel's vultures, three Egyptian white vultures, four Egyptian black vultures, four African sand grouse, four chukar partridges, four scarlet ibis, and two patas monkeys.

A large number of animals were born during the year, the most important being that of a yak calf, the first ever born in Boston. Other births were buffalo calf, llama, two red deer fawns, two sika deer fawns and kangaroo.



Among the gifts to the Zoological Garden were six reindeer presented by the Boston AMERICAN, and a lion cub presented by Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Creighton.

The attendance during the past year showed that public interest in the institution is steadily increasing. The police estimate that 50,000 men, women, and children visited the Zoological Garden the first Sunday of daylight saving.

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The new motor road through Franklin Park, opened for travel late in 1925, has drawn many additional people to the park to enjoy its scenery and to indulge in the various sports conducted there. This park, with its 527 acres, is the picnic ground of Boston and is an incentive for all people to get away in the summer from the hot city surroundings.

The Golf Course was more heavily patronized than ever, - in fact it was the record year for attendance, there being over 55,000 golfers tramping over the course. The amount of revenue derived from same was \$30,240. The cost of maintenance was approximately \$15,900. The yearly golf fee of \$10 has not eliminated the congestion on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The congestion on these days has been so serious that it may become necessary to raise the daily golf fee in order to make the course playable on these days. Another golf course should be provided in or near the city to accommodate the ever increasing demand for more golf facilities. A bill is scheduled to be drafted in the State Legislature for the State Metropolitan District Commission to buy, develop and maintain another golf course within the Metropolitan District of Boston.

The subpolice station in the Overlook Building has been renovated and remodelled, under contract, at a cost of approximately \$10,000. The police now have a building with modern conveniences, which is a great improvement over the old antiquated conditions at this building.

A number of improvements were made in the city greenhouses, - the wooden plant benches being removed and permanent concrete ones installed at a cost of \$2,700. This work was done during the summer months.

The toboggan chutes on Schoolmaster Hill were heavily patronized during February and December, which were the only months when sufficient snow was on the ground to provide tobogganning.

The Rose Garden and Herbaceous Garden drew tremendous crowds to view these stellar attractions.

#### ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

The Zoo still proves to be the main attraction in Franklin Park. The enormous crowds of visitors show ever-increasing public interest in the institution.

A number of purchases were made during the past year which have been exhibited in our collection for the first time. Among them were: One pair nilgai; one pair Stanley cranes; one brindled gnu; one ceram cassowary; one emu; one rhea; one pair vulturine guinea fowl; one adult llama; one young male Chapman zebra; one tiger.

The death rate among the animals was exceptionally low last year. The department lost, by violence, four raccoons which were stoned to death after dark by vandals, and a male ostrich which was killed by a man under the influence of liquor. The death of animals after dark by vandals is serious enough to warrant the enclosing of the entire Zoo with a permanent fence. An ornamental iron fence to extend all around the Zoo would cost a considerable sum, but would eliminate all vandalism and allow the department to control the entire Zoological Garden both day and night. The death and injury to animals, the possible escape of animals and the danger of an incendiary fire at some of the houses and sheds are a constant menace to the community and also to some of the fine specimens of animals we have in our Zoo.

A very fine planting of evergreens was made around the Bear Dens, consisting principally of hemlocks, spruces and taxus cuspidata.

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