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General Features of a Park System For Chattanooga, Tennessee

REPORT

TO

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

BY

JOHN NOLEN

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.



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PRESENTED BY



MOCCASIN BEND
ONE OF CHATTANOOGA'S WORLD-FAMOUS POINTS, WHICH SHOULD NOT REMAIN IN PRIVATE HANDS

GENERAL FEATURES
OF A
PARK SYSTEM FOR CHATTANOOGA

BY
JOHN NOLEN

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
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Letter of Transmittal

TO THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS,
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Gentlemen,—I beg to hand you herewith the Report and General Plan for a Park System for Chattanooga. The opportunity that confronts your city to create a comprehensive system of parks is seldom equalled; but Chattanooga is growing rapidly, and the value of land is rising even more rapidly. Therefore, if large and satisfactory results are to be secured, action must be prompt and business-like. It is doubtful if the preparation of the park plans could have been undertaken at a more opportune time.

Yours very truly,

JOHN NOLEN,

Landscape Architect.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., 10 March, 1911.



Members of the
Board of Park Commissioners
Chattanooga

R. S. FAXON, *President*

DR. S. B. COOK

DR. J. B. LEE

JOHN NOLEN, *Landscape Architect*

“The life history of humanity has proved nothing more clearly than that crowded populations, if they would live in health and happiness, must have space for air, for light, for exercise, for rest, and for the enjoyment of that peaceful beauty of nature which, because it is the opposite of the noisy ugliness of towns, is so wonderfully refreshing to the tired souls of townspeople.”—CHARLES ELIOT, Landscape Architect.

“I have spoken of the utilization of public reservations as if they were to be expected to yield only health and enjoyment and improved powers of perception; but I should deal with the subject very imperfectly if I did not point out that the right utilization of public reservations is a strong agency for promoting public morality and a high standard of family life. . . . The appropriate pleasures of forest reservations or country parks are all cheering, refining, and cleansing; they are soothing and uplifting; they separate city men and women from the squalor, tumult, and transitoriness of the human ant-hill, and bring them face to face with things calm, lovely, grand, and enduring.”—CHARLES W. ELIOT, President Emeritus Harvard University.



BOYNTON PARK



EAST LAKE PARK

I. Selection of Park Lands

The establishment of a system of parks and pleasure grounds for a rapidly growing city is one of the most difficult and responsible duties that ever falls to a city government, involving as it does the expenditure of large sums of money and the construction of many permanent public works. The principles which should control the selection of park lands may be briefly summarized as follows: (1) Accessibility for all classes of citizens by walking, driving, riding, or by means of cars. (2) Adaptability, or the selection of land possessing in the greatest degree the natural physical characteristics necessary for the particular park purposes to be served, and thus requiring the least expenditure for subsequent development. In this connection the boundaries of the property should have special consideration. (3) Economy, or the selection, so far as practicable, of inexpensive lands and lands which would least disturb the natural growth of the city. (4) Early action, or the selection of property for parks in advance of the settlement of a neighborhood.

While there is a wide-spread appreciation in American cities of the necessity for a large increase in the number of parks and playgrounds, few even of the more enlightened communities seem yet to understand that these open spaces are of great variety, that they are or ought to be selected and designed to serve radically different purposes, and that the failure to understand this principle and to keep it constantly in mind leads to gross waste and inefficiency in our public grounds. In few other phases of public or private life is there so general

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a lack of clear thinking. This is an important matter, because failure to select sites discriminatingly, to design them for specific purposes, and to confine their use to those purposes is to lose to a considerable degree the benefits that might otherwise accrue to the people. Of course, it is true in this, as in most other matters, that there is some overlapping. The purposes are not absolutely distinct, and most public grounds are serviceable in a number of different ways. It is equally true, however, that the greatest efficiency here, as elsewhere, depends upon careful planning, upon a clear and intelligent differentiation, upon a recognition that the ends to be served are different, and that, therefore, different means must usually be employed to meet them.

A park system for such a city as Chattanooga should be planned comprehensively, and the recreational purposes of each property selected should be clearly understood. The units of a park system are: (1) city squares or small open spaces; (2) playgrounds; (3) small or neighborhood parks; (4) large outlying parks or scenic reservations; (5) a chain of connecting drives or parkways. Few American cities have yet what can properly be called a comprehensive, well-balanced, and well-developed system of parks and pleasure grounds, but it should certainly be the aim of park commissioners in securing park lands to select them with regard to the ultimate establishment of such a system. The recommendations for Chattanooga embodied in this Report provide fairly adequately for every feature except city squares and the large outlying scenic reservations. The former it is probably now too late to obtain: the latter are unusually well provided in Chickamauga Park and the other parks in or near Chattanooga belonging to the National Government.

II. List of Park Properties

The following is a list of existing and proposed park properties for Chattanooga, all of which are shown on the accompanying map.

1. CITY SQUARES AND SMALL OPEN PLACES

Houston Park

This is an existing square of an acre or more, and is a type that should be duplicated in other sections of Chattanooga. In a Southern city such open spaces are even more needed than in the North.

Erlanger Park

It is desirable for Chattanooga to secure before it is too late some small parks, like Houston Park, but adjoining public or semi-public institutions. A good example of such a property is to be found in the ten or twelve acre tract extending from the Erlanger Hospital grounds to East End Avenue and from Harrison Avenue to Blackford Street. It is a beautiful grove of native trees, and would make a valuable and permanent addition to Chattanooga's proposed park system.

Railroad Approaches

More openness for use and appearance is exceedingly desirable in front of both of the railroad approaches to Chattanooga. It may be impossible now to secure additional space near the new terminal of the Southern

CHATTANOOGA PARK SYSTEM

Railway, but it ought to be possible in the rearrangement that appears inevitable at the Union Station to provide for a Plaza in front of the station, and perhaps a widening of Ninth Street from Broad Street to Market, so as to secure an open place in the very heart of the city where it is imperatively needed. At the same time Ninth Street ought to be widened all the way to Georgia Avenue.

A Plaza in St. Elmo at the Foot of the Incline Railway

At the present time this is a congested and ugly spot, and yet it is one of the natural focal points of Chattanooga. There should be a more liberal opening for the traffic which centres here and a more orderly-looking approach to Lookout Mountain.

A Public Garden

With the climate that Chattanooga enjoys, a centrally located public garden, such as that of Boston or Halifax, would afford quiet outdoor pleasure during many days of the year. It appears difficult now to secure land for this purpose unless some of the property in the rear and at the side of the new Municipal Building can be had.

2. PLAYGROUNDS

Public School Yards

In many cases, especially in outlying sections, the school yards are liberal in extent, but, before they can be made valuable for play and recreation, they must be developed under carefully prepared plans. In other cases the grounds around the school buildings are inadequate, but, as few sections are yet built up



MISSIONARY RIDGE



ANDREW JACKSON PARK

LIST OF PARK PROPERTIES

closely, these grounds could be enlarged without great cost. School yards of suitable size and construction are indispensable for recess play and for the play after school hours for small children.

Highland Playground

Here is an opportunity to get three full blocks extending from Hawthorne to Hickory Streets and from Anderson to Henderson Streets. It is relatively level land, well located and admirably adapted for playground purposes.

Locust Street Park

In Bushtown there is a low-lying tract, extending for 2,500 feet or more along Citico Street, which would make a useful recreation park and playground for the people residing in that section. It is property which is not adapted for building purposes. Under private ownership it is more than likely to become a nuisance.

Playground Sites in and along the River and Creek Parkways

If the proposed reservations are made on the Tennessee River and on Chattanooga and South Chickamauga Creeks, it would be possible to set aside small, suitable, and convenient open spaces for play purposes that would be available for different neighborhoods throughout the city.

Olympia Playfield

This 70-acre tract, formerly an "amusement park," is ideal in location and well adapted topographically for a central playfield, the culminating feature in the grounds devoted to physical education and recreation. The plans which have recently been made for similar

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grounds in some of the larger cities, including a stadium, could be adapted to the needs of Chattanooga, and a complete development gradually secured.

3. SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Boynton Park

Cameron Hill, or Boynton Park, as it is now called, is a well-selected site for a small or neighborhood park. Its value, however, would be greatly increased if the land between the hill and the river could be acquired and added to the present park. Most of this land is steep and rough hillsides and not at all suited for building purposes.

Jackson Park

Andrew Jackson Park is a centrally located tract of fertile land, comprising about thirty-five acres, surrounding the National Cemetery. It is covered with a fine growth of native timber. Two years ago the development of this property for park purposes was begun and substantial progress has been made in road-building and the construction of entrance gates and shelters. I recommend that the present plans for its improvement, which seem to me wise, be continued.

Orchard Knob

The Federal Government owns and maintains this small park, which was the site of Grant's Headquarters.

East Lake Park

East Lake is the best illustration in Chattanooga of what a neighborhood park may be. It is small

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(about 15 acres), and somewhat distant from the city, and yet it furnishes the nucleus of a beautiful small park. I strongly recommend that the additional property shown on the map be acquired, extending the present park to the Crest Road on one side and to the Mission Ridge Circuit Drive on the other. The city would then have a park of nearly 40 acres, well located and well bounded, and, if a general plan were prepared for its development, it would prove, I am confident, a very satisfactory park.

Woodland Park

The 50 or 60 acre tract of well-grown woodland, bordering on the Rossville Road near East End Avenue, is one of the few remaining opportunities of Chattanooga to secure a grove of large trees near the built-up sections of the city. I recommend its acquisition.

Harrison Pike Park

This triangular tract is in the same class with "Woodland Park," mentioned above, and would provide a valuable park of about 45 acres in a section that is just beginning to build up rapidly. It is bordered by Harrison Pike, Mc Niel Avenue, and the Southern Railway tracks.

4. LARGE OUTLYING OR SCENIC RESERVATIONS

Tennessee River Park

At the mouth of South Chickamauga Creek, bordering on the Tennessee River, is a high and slightly tract of 150 acres or more, covered with large trees, which is an almost ready-made park. It possesses

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every requirement of an ideal park except transportation facilities, but, as it is only three miles from the centre of the city, there can be no question that car service will soon be provided for this section. Its acquisition should not be delayed.

Moccasin Bend

One of Chattanooga's world-famous points, which should not remain in private hands, is Moccasin Bend. At present it is agricultural land, quite unspoiled and inexpensive. It would pay the city to acquire now several hundred acres or more and set the tract aside for future development.

Lookout Mountain Park

Point Park on Lookout Mountain is already a park reservation of the Federal Government, and from its heights is commanded a scene rich in beauty and historic associations. But Point Park is not enough. The ground owned by the Federal Government is limited in extent and in use. If possible, it should be supplemented by the tract of 30 acres or more at the top of the Incline, as indicated on the map. It is not wise for the people of Chattanooga to confine their enjoyment of the unique opportunities of Lookout Mountain to the little piece of land which the Federal Government has acquired and maintains primarily as a military memorial.

The River Islands

Chattanooga Island, Tow Head Island, and Williams Island should all be acquired for public use. Action now would be relatively easy.



ON WALDEN'S RIDGE



ON MISSIONARY RIDGE

LIST OF PARK PROPERTIES

Stringer's Ridge

It is a question of judgment whether now is the time or later for the city of Chattanooga to secure the land necessary for a wild mountain park on Stringer's Ridge. A comprehensive park system should ultimately include such a reservation.

Chickamauga National Park

The biggest outlying park and scenic reservation is that established by the Federal Government, two and a half miles from Rossville, on the site of the battlefield. It is finely situated, and comprises now 6,473 acres. It is true that the character of development which the Government has adopted for its military parks does not render the reservation ideal for recreation purposes, and yet its roads and trees and outlooks, not to mention the interest of monuments and forts, make it a pleasure ground of no small value.

5. DRIVES, PARKWAYS, AND AVENUES

Riverfront Drive

It is too late to make a satisfactory parkway along the Tennessee River in front of the built-up section of the city, but it ought to be possible to secure a narrow drive directly on the river, beginning at Chattanooga Creek and terminating in the proposed Tennessee River Park at the mouth of South Chickamauga Creek. Such a drive could be so planned and constructed as not to interfere seriously with the industrial and business interests on the Riverfront. In fact, by providing a good, continuous road on easy grades, it would be

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an aid to these interests. I consider this one of the most practical, important, and urgent of my recommendations.

Hill City River Drive

The opportunity which has been lost to do something really good on the Chattanooga side of the river still remains on the Hill City side. Is there foresight enough to take advantage of it? At the present time there would be no serious difficulty in acquiring the land that would make easy later on the construction of a beautiful public parkway along the Hill City side of the Tennessee River.

Rossville Road

The Rossville Road is now, and probably always will be, mainly a traffic road. Nevertheless, because of its directness and width, it is an important pleasure-drive connection from the city to Rossville and beyond to Chickamauga Park. The proposed drive along Chattanooga Creek may ultimately divert much of the pleasure driving from the Rossville Road.

The Hooker Road

The Hooker Road furnishes a somewhat indirect and yet convenient connection from Rossville to the foot of the Lookout Mountain Incline in St. Elmo, a distance of nearly four miles. I believe it does not follow exactly the historic route of General Hooker, which is to be regretted. It is also to be regretted that this road, in common with nearly all the other roads of the Federal Government, is of such inadequate width (only 20 feet clear roadway) and completely lacking

LIST OF PARK PROPERTIES

in planting or any other treatment that would make its environment attractive and appropriate.

Chattanooga Creek Parkway

It would not be expensive to secure a strip with an average width of 1,000 feet, following Chattanooga Creek from the Tennessee River to the Georgia line, as indicated on the map. While some of this land is occasionally flooded, the water is high only for a very limited period. This parkway, some six miles in length, would be of great use and beauty and furnish a location for drives and open spaces that could not be duplicated.

South Chickamauga Creek Parkway

At the other end of the city from the Chattanooga Creek Parkway would be the South Chickamauga Creek Parkway. This has a good beginning in the Tennessee River Park, and from there could be gradually extended until in time it reached, perhaps, the great Chickamauga Park of the Government. The valley in which this creek runs is even more rugged and more lovely than that of Chattanooga Creek, and the opportunity to secure it for a parkway is now so favorable that it would be altogether inexcusable to neglect it.

Mission Ridge Circuit Drive

The Mission Ridge Circuit Drive alone, if carried to its logical completion and properly executed, would lend distinction to a community. It should include the present Crest Road of the Government, and a park drive of adequate width and right character skirting the foot of the ridge, and making an unbroken

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circuit of about thirteen miles, as shown on the general plan. The views from the Crest Road of city, valley, and mountain are unmatched, so far as I know, in any American city.

In addition to these parkways and drives there are some city streets that should be considered as main avenues affording agreeable connections from the built-up sections of the city to the outlying parks and reservations. In some cases it will be possible to widen and plant these avenues; in others, while widening may not now be practicable, they may in other ways be regulated and rendered more attractive.* These streets are as follows:—

Market Street (part of)	Broad Street
Eleventh Street	Georgia Avenue
East End Avenue	McCallie Avenue
Missionary Avenue	Harrison Avenue
Main Street	Cowart Street.
Ninth Street (part of)	

Taken together, the small open spaces, playgrounds, parks, parkways, and avenues, outlined above, comprise a fairly complete system for the Chattanooga of to-day,

*The lack of foresight displayed by the Chattanooga City Council in 1849 is illustrated in the adoption of ordinances reducing the width of streets. Cypress, Poplar, Walnut, and High were reduced from 100 feet to 60 feet; Market Street was reduced to 100 feet; Chestnut Street, from 100 feet to 60 feet; Cherry Street, from 60 feet to 40 feet; First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Streets, from 66 feet to 46 feet. The ordinance states "that the ground taken from the street shall be added to the lots respectively to which it adjoins, and shall be taken and held as constituting a part of said lots, according to the plan of the town and shall belong to the owners thereof respectively, as fully and completely as if the same had been attached to the lots according to the original plan of the town."



TENNESSEE RIVER SCENERY, CHATTANOOGA



THE PROPOSED SOUTH CHICKAMAUGA CREEK PARKWAY

LIST OF PARK PROPERTIES

with some far-sighted provision for the larger Chattanooga of the future. All of the areas referred to have been indicated on the plan at the end of this report, entitled "General Features of a Park System for Chattanooga." On account of the lack of any satisfactory map, especially one giving the topography, it is impossible to show exact boundaries for the proposed parks, parkways, and playgrounds. However, I believe that the boundaries are indicated with sufficient definiteness for our present purposes. Now, we need to get consideration and action only on the general features which the plan presents. Later, if public approval is obtained, it will be necessary to take up the planning in more detail.

The actual average provision for parks and public grounds for American cities is one acre for every two hundred of the population. The cost of the land, taking expensive and inexpensive property together, averages about a thousand dollars an acre, and the cost of construction, while it varies a good deal in different communities, averages nearly another thousand dollars an acre. First-class maintenance amounts to about a hundred or a hundred and twenty dollars an acre per annum. If we assume that the real Chattanooga has a population of 100,000 or more, with the prospect of a steady increase in the future, and that the cost of land here is below the average, these figures would justify a city park system of at least five hundred acres and an outlay for land and construction of, at least, \$500,000; and for annual maintenance \$25,000, rising gradually, as the system develops, to \$50,000. Chattanooga should be compared in the matter of parks with other cities of its class in various parts of the country. For example, take such cities as Dayton, Ohio; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Tacoma, Washington; Wilmington, Delaware; Harrisburg, Penn-

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sylvania; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Hartford, Connecticut and Oklahoma City. Dayton has six parks, for the acquisition of which it has issued bonds for more than \$100,000. One of its small parks includes a field house, with gymnasium, baths, and swimming pool, constructed at a cost of \$130,000. Grand Rapids has parks comprising several hundred acres and worth \$400,000. The annual appropriation averages \$50,000. Tacoma, Washington, with the characteristic public spirit of the North-west, has secured already 1,000 acres of parks and levies an annual tax of 1½ mills for their support. Wilmington, Delaware, by persistent and well-directed efforts, has acquired and improved 300 acres of parks at a cost for land and construction of about half a million dollars. A loan of \$250,000 is now being proposed for new parks and playgrounds. Harrisburg has now 749 acres of parks and playgrounds, for the acquisition of which it has issued bonds for \$250,000. The city appropriates annually about \$30,000 for maintenance. Cambridge, Massachusetts, looks to the Boston Metropolitan Park system, in which it is included, for its large parks, but for local use it has many small parks, playgrounds, and open spaces which are now valued at more than \$4,000,000. Its park loans amount to \$1,519,000, and it appropriates about \$40,000 a year for park maintenance. Hartford, Connecticut, one of the most progressive of small American cities, has now 21 parks and open spaces with a total of 1,335 acres. It appropriates in the neighborhood of \$50,000 a year for maintenance and new work. Oklahoma City, with less population than Chattanooga, has officially adopted a plan which provides for 1,966 acres of parks and 70 miles of parkways and boulevards. A bond issue of \$400,000, which is \$8 per capita, has been approved by the people by a vote of two to one.

LIST OF PARK PROPERTIES

These figures will at first glance appear high as compared with what Chattanooga is now spending, but it should be remembered that the city is at present backward in the matter of parks. Moreover, this expense would be distributed over a period of years. The value of land, if carefully purchased, would always equal, indeed soon exceed, the total cost of acquisition and construction with interest; and the cost for maintenance would be covered by an expense of less than fifty cents a year per capita, which is a low charge, considering the benefits that each citizen would receive. But, to justify Chattanooga in proceeding in this large and business-like way, ample grounds should be selected in various sections, somewhat as proposed, which would provide for many years a comprehensive system for different forms of recreation and for all the people of the city.

III. Park Administration

The recent act of the State Legislature, changing the form of the city government of Chattanooga from the present type to that of the commission form, means a reorganization of all city departments, including the park department. It may, therefore, be timely and of some slight advantage to outline the points that have been found by experience to be of greatest importance in the effective organization and administration of parks.

First with regard to the composition of the park board or commission, the best results have been secured usually from a body composed of not less than three nor more than five members, serving without pay, and with overlapping and rather long terms of service. The president of the board should be a distinctly able administrator, accustomed to large affairs and resourceful. He should have some measure of constructive imagination, high ideals, and sympathy with the people. Moreover, it is of great advantage if he has had some of the fruits of travel, acquainting him at first hand with the parks and public improvements of other cities. The success of the park work of a city, especially in its initial stages, must rest very largely in the selection of the right man to head the park board.

The other members of the board should be men of good taste, men capable of judging accurately what is appropriate in the form of development for this or that park. They should possess a nice discrimination as to the best means to employ to produce consistent effects. It is not yet customary to appoint women on park boards,

PARK ADMINISTRATION

but many of them possess the qualifications that are most desirable. They have often a love of nature, a knowledge of art and familiarity with the purposes of parks, especially the relation of parks and playgrounds to children, which men do not possess to the same degree.

The board of park commissioners should confine itself to questions of general policy. It should not attempt to make plans or designs for park grounds, to administer park laws and regulations, nor to supervise park maintenance. Advice as to the selection of land for parks, plans for their laying out and construction, and occasional suggestions as to their up-keep should be secured from well-qualified landscape architects, experts, who have gathered up the best results of study and experience in this difficult field of art. There is danger of serious mistakes, if dependence is placed upon men who as engineers or gardeners know only a part of the work, for the final and highest justification of parks is their beauty; and, if they lack appropriate, permanent, and ever-increasing beauty, they fail, and the money spent for their construction and maintenance has been largely wasted.

The execution of the plans of the professional landscape architect, the selection of park employees, and the detailed administration of the park work should be intrusted to a trained superintendent. While his qualifications are different from those of the landscape architect, they are of a high order, and the success or failure of the parks as works of landscape art and their right use by the people will depend largely upon the superintendent. Landscape art is different from any other, except the art of city making which includes it, in that it is an art which deals with growing things. It is not fixed like a painting, a statue, or a building. From year

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to year it changes, takes on new forms and proportions. Therefore, if suitable and artistic results are to be secured, this process must be steadily and intelligently controlled and guided. Such work requires a man of taste as well as knowledge, and there is to-day in this field an increasing demand for superintendents of high qualifications to serve in a vocation of unusual delight and usefulness.

If a park board is to proceed economically and confidently in the execution of large plans for park development, it must be independent of financial or other control by the city government. Otherwise, a vacillating policy must be expected, inferior results, and considerable waste of public funds. Independence in the matter of the annual appropriation is especially important. There should be a law giving the park board a fixed percentage, based upon the assessed valuation of the city. This automatic method is sound, because the regular park work increases in proportion to the population and wealth. Unusual needs should be provided for by additional appropriations by the city government, in excess of the regular appropriation. As clear a line as possible should be drawn between maintenance, on the one hand, and acquisition of land and permanent construction, on the other. Maintenance expense should be met from current funds, but the cost of acquisition and permanent construction should usually be provided by long-time loans. The most indestructible and permanently valuable asset of the city is the land it owns, and its acquisition should almost invariably be provided for by loans. One exception to this rule is when the method of payment followed is that of special assessment on abutting or near-by property. Kansas City adopted this method fifteen years ago, and under it successfully developed its entire park system,

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providing for an expenditure of over ten million dollars without the issue of any bonds whatever.

In park administration, then, the points of greatest importance to keep in mind are the composition of the park commission, the adoption of a sound general policy, the liberal use of expert designers, the employment of a highly qualified superintendent, and entire freedom from political control. The park board may then become an effective instrument for serving all the people of the city, contributing in innumerable ways to their health and joy.

Chattanooga has great natural advantages. Its noble river, its bold ridges, its unique Lookout Mountain, its fertile land, are all real resources. Its climate averages 43° in winter, 77° in summer, 60° in spring and autumn. In historic associations it is equalled by few American cities, and, as a result, we have the great parks and their approaches created by the Federal Government,* and the graceful shafts, memorials to war heroes, erected by the several States. Chattanooga is growing by leaps and bounds, steadily advancing in wealth, in industry, in population. In a decade its banking capital has increased 92 per cent.; its deposits, 181 per cent.; the number of industries, 77 per cent.; the value of its products, 220 per cent. Chattanooga's increase in population has kept pace with its increase in wealth and industry, jumping from 49,706 to 94,000 in a decade,—a population, too, that is noted for its energy and progressiveness and drawn from almost every State in the Union.

What does Chattanooga lack? Not only the members

*In the neighborhood of Chattanooga the Federal Government has acquired as parks or park approaches 6,875 acres at a total cost of \$314,990, and appropriates for their maintenance an average of \$75,000 or \$80,000 a year.

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of the Park Commission, but the business men generally, have been open-minded enough to recognize that the city lacks a modern city park system, a comprehensive plan for the prompt acquisition and orderly development of parks and other pleasure grounds. Its park possessions at present are small indeed. Including the 65 acres in Jackson Park given by the Federal Government, the city owns less than 100 acres in parks. It has no playgrounds and, what is even more surprising, no parkways or pleasure drives connecting the city with the National Parks in the neighborhood. The statement that Chattanooga has depended too much and too long upon "God and the Government" appears to have some justification.

The importance of a comprehensive park system to the business success as well as the health and pleasure of a city is now widely recognized and often commented upon. Morris Knowles, a distinguished sanitary engineer, in writing recently on "The Development of Municipal Utilities in the South," said: "We hear a great deal about attracting industrial and manufacturing concerns to a community by all sorts of inducements, free water and free power for a time; free sites, low or no taxation, and for a while even cash bonuses. But there is a higher, better, and more certain standard determining the desirability of location. The careful, conservative business man or manufacturer will look further than the short-time effect of the above-named conditions. He will ask not only what are your natural facilities, and what are the inducements you will offer for a period of time, as above, but more important still, what are your provisions for public utilities, what of the methods and efficiency and honesty of your governmental forces as they affect the life of your community, and are they actuated by



CHATTANOOGA CREEK, ONE OF THE PROPOSED PARKWAYS

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honest, right living, efficient effort? Are you planning for commodious, sanitary, and safe housing facilities and a proper building code? Are you planning for the health of the community by a clear and pure water supply and sanitary disposal of sewage, household refuse, and waste? Are you planning for proper transit and traffic facilities that the people can get about to and from work and to the shopping districts comfortably and easily? *Are you planning for good, well-administered schools, playgrounds, small open-air spaces, and larger parks, with plenty of opportunities for the children to grow up in a normal, open-air, healthful existence?* We are fast coming to the time, if it is not already here, when the manufacturer, for his own advantage and his own pocket-book, because his help will thus stay with him as well as because of his broad humanitarian view-point, will ask these last questions largely, rather than how much power, water, or land can I get free or how many years' freedom from taxation."

The first and last need of a city, the one that outweighs all others, is civic spirit and the expression of that spirit in great and enduring public works, erected for the common welfare. Chief among these, according to modern standards and modern necessities, is a system of parks, playgrounds, and open spaces, adequate in extent, artistic in design, scientific in construction, and liberal in maintenance. In Chattanooga the first step, but only the first step, has been taken toward the formation of such a system. It now rests with the community to express its civic spirit, to manifest its faith in the future of Chattanooga by rallying to the support of the Park Commission and the great work which it has inaugurated.

MEMORABILIA ON PARK MAKING SELECTED
FROM THE WRITINGS OF FREDERICK
LAW OLNSTED, SR.

“In scarcely anything to be determined by local public opinion acting influentially upon local legislation and administration, is a city as likely to be so much made or marred for all its future as in proceedings in prosecution of a park project.”

“It must be kept in mind that the public grounds of most cities have come to be what they are and where they are by various detached and desultory proceedings, of which the result, as a whole, illustrates penny-wise pound-foolish wisdom.”

“A man’s eyes cannot be as much occupied as they are in large cities by artificial things, or by natural things seen under obviously artificial conditions, without a harmful effect, first on his mental and nervous system and ultimately on his entire constitutional organization. . . . Relief from this evil is to be obtained through the enjoyment of pleasing rural scenery.”

“The value of no rural park to the people who habitually use it would be seriously impaired if every scrap of ornament to be found upon it should fall to decay or be effaced.”

“Scenery is more than an object or a series of objects; more than a spectacle, more than a scene or a series of scenes, more than a landscape, and other than a series of landscapes. . . . But there is no beautiful scenery that does not give the mind an emotional impulse different from that resulting from whatever beauty may be found in a room, courtyard, or garden.”

“No city possessed of a rural park regrets its purchase.”

“It cannot be questioned that a rural park is rapidly coming to be ranked among the necessities of satisfactory city life.”

MEMORABILIA ON PARK MAKING

"No matter what may be ultimately expended for a park, its value cannot fail to be largely determined by the expectations and usage of it into which the public is led in the early years of their resort to it."

"The only justification of a large park near a growing city is the necessity of spaciousness to the production of rural scenery."

"The question of the economy of what is proposed in the plan for a park is less a question of what the work of construction will cost than of what ever afterwards will be required for reconstruction, repairs and for pursuing a system of maintenance adapted to secure its intended qualities of beauty, and keep it in suitable order for its intended uses."

"That those in charge of a park work may proceed economically and with profit they must be able to proceed with confidence, method and system, steadily, step after step, to carry to completion a well-matured design."

"For every thousand dollars judiciously invested in a park the dividends to the second generation of the citizens possessing it will be much larger than to the first; the dividends to the third generation much larger than to the second."

"It is an important test of the value of a park that it should be found of such a character, so finished and provided with such service, that a housekeeping woman would always find a visit to it economical, restful, tranquillizing and refreshing, for herself and her household."

"A highly important part of the business of a park is that of arresting the progress of disease, hastening recovery, and conservating the strength of the weak and the infirm of a city."

"The chief end of a large park is an effect on the human organism by an action of what it presents to view, which action, like that of music, is of a kind that goes back of thought, and cannot be fully given the form of words."

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CHATTANOOGA PARK SYSTEM

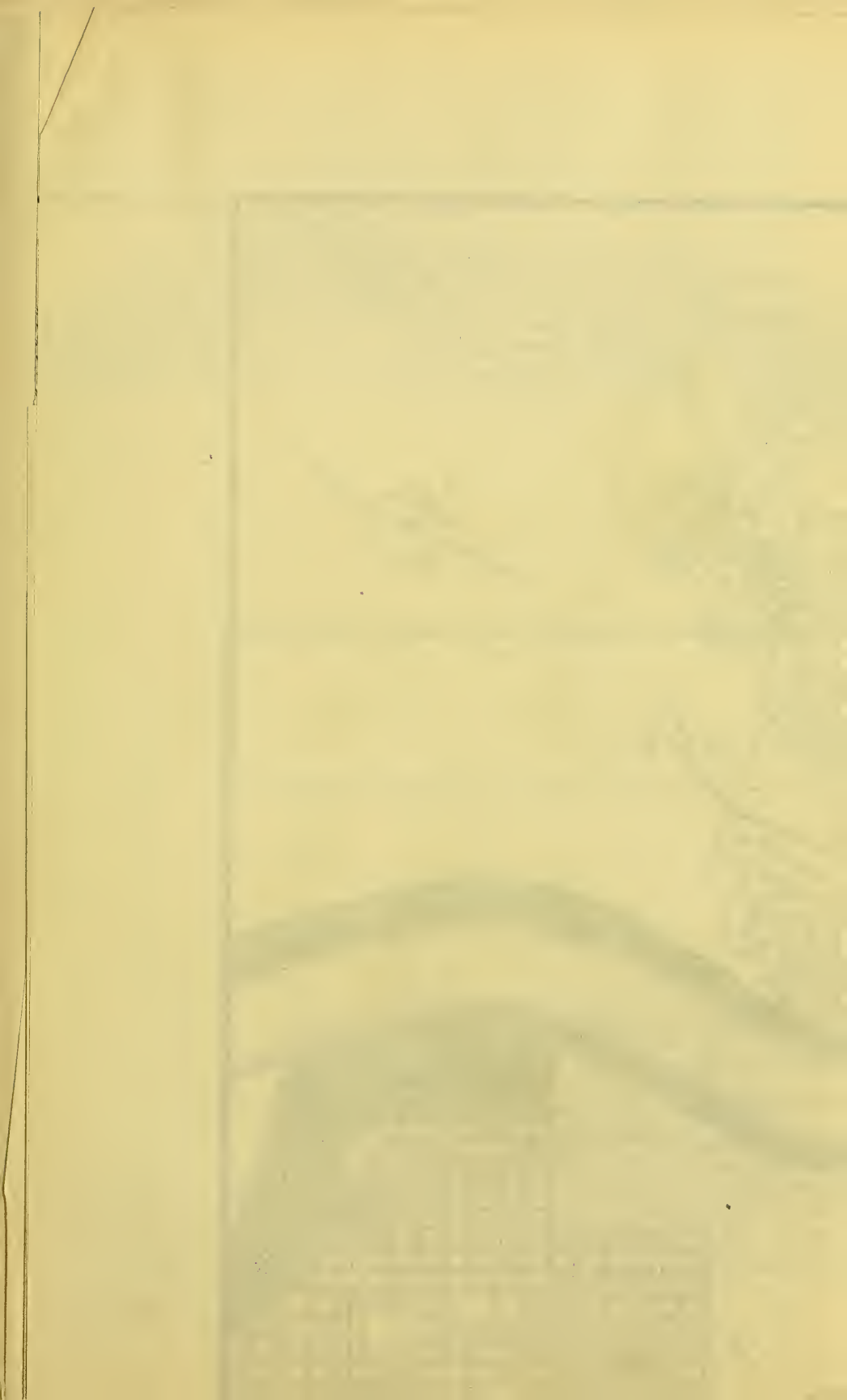
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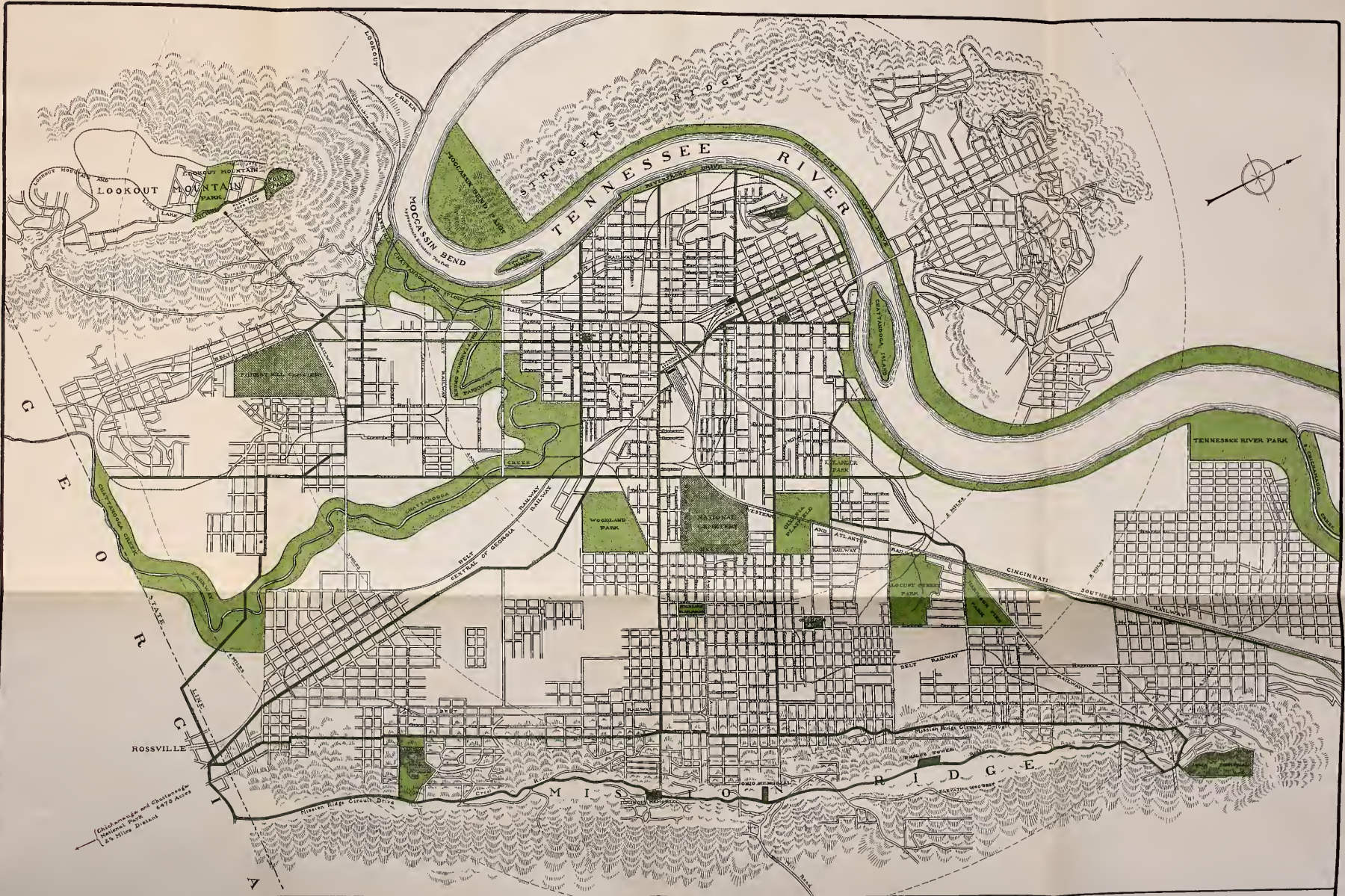
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PARK COMMISSION
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