

# 30 YEARS OF PROGRESS

1934 — 1964



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS



300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR



# REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE

**ROBERT F. WAGNER, Mayor**  
**ABRAHAM D. BEAME, Comptroller**  
**PAUL R. SCREVANE, President of the Council**  
**EDWARD R. DUDLEY, President, Borough of Manhattan**  
**JOSEPH F. PERICONI, President, Borough of The Bronx**  
**ABE STARK, President, Borough of Brooklyn**  
**MARIO J. CARIELLO, President, Borough of Queens**  
**ALBERT V. MANISCALCO, President, Borough of Richmond**

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

**NEWBOLD MORRIS, Commissioner**  
**JOHN A. MULCAHY, Executive Officer**  
**ALEXANDER WIRIN, Assistant Executive Officer**  
**SAMUEL M. WHITE, Director of Maintenance & Operation**  
**PAUL DOMBROSKI, Chief Engineer**  
**HARRY BENDER, Engineer of Construction**  
**ALEXANDER VICTOR, Chief of Design**  
**LEWIS N. ANDERSON, JR., Liaison Officer**  
**CHARLES H. STARKE, Director of Recreation**  
**THOMAS F. BOYLE, Assistant Director of Maintenance & Operation**  
**JOHN MAZZARELLA, Borough Director, Manhattan**  
**JACK GOODMAN, Borough Director, Brooklyn**  
**ELIAS T. BRAGAW, Borough Director, Bronx**  
**HAROLD P. McMANUS, Borough Director, Queens**  
**HERBERT HARRIS, Borough Director, Richmond**

COVER: Top, Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Playground  
Left, New York 1664  
Bottom, New York World's Fair 1964-1965

# INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
<b>ARTERIALS</b>	
<b>Parkways and Expressways</b> .....	57
<b>BEACHES</b> .....	36
<b>BEAUTIFICATION OF PARKS</b> .....	50
<b>CONCESSIONS</b> .....	51
<b>ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL</b>	
<b>Design and Construction</b> .....	41
<b>GIFTS</b> .....	12
<b>GOLF</b> .....	69
<b>JAMAICA BAY</b>	
<b>Wildlife Refuge</b> .....	8
<b>LAND</b>	
<b>Reclamation and Landfill</b> .....	7
<b>MAINTENANCE and OPERATION</b> .....	77
<b>MARGINAL SEWAGE PROBLEM</b> .....	80
<b>MUSEUMS AND INSTITUTIONS</b> .....	71
<b>MONUMENTS</b> .....	13
<b>PARKS</b> .....	10
<b>RECREATION</b>	
<b>Neighborhood, Recreation Centers, Golden     Age Centers, Tournaments, Children's     Programs, Playgrounds, Special Activi-     ties</b> .....	15
<b>SHEA STADIUM FLUSHING MEADOW</b> .....	67
<b>SWIMMING POOLS</b> .....	40
<b>WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965</b>	
<b>Post-Fair Plans</b> .....	56
<b>ZOOS</b> .....	76



SCALE MODEL OF NEW YORK CITY  
EXHIBITED IN THE CITY'S BUILDING  
AT WORLD'S FAIR.





CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

June 9, 1964

Three decades have passed since the City's park system was reorganized and centralized in 1934. The record of expansion and improvement is an impressive and inspiring one that can be appreciated by every New Yorker, man, woman and child. I am happy to feel that I have had a part as Chairman of the City Planning Commission, Borough President and Mayor, in creating that record and in supporting the splendid work of the Department of Parks.

This report indicates the many achievements of the past, the widespread activities and facilities we now enjoy, and the plans for the future. The officers and employees of the Department of Parks deserve our congratulations and hearty support, and our best efforts to assist them in combatting vandalism, littering and other abuses of our parks, playgrounds and beaches.

My administration will continue to do everything in its power to help the Park Department in its good works, and I ask the citizens of New York to join in that endeavor.

Sincerely,

M A Y O R

# COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

## PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Recorded here are the status and planned future of the City's park system as of June, 1964. The report describes factually thirty years of phenomenal growth of an outstanding urban park development, built and expanded on the basis of practical objectives as approved by the Mayor, Board of Estimate, the City Council and the City Planning Commission. Our purpose is to keep the public and press currently informed of progress on these objectives and periodically to publish a review of what this department and related agencies have accomplished and expect to do.

## STANDARDS

Recreation facilities have increased sevenfold in these thirty years. They have been closely integrated with other features of a growing City. We are keeping abreast with these changes by experimenting with installations of two newly developed safety surface rubber mattings under playground equipment in six playgrounds. Our 1964-1965 Capital Budget request includes \$100,00 for this item alone.

In our endeavor to add more color to our playgrounds, we have been experimenting with colored, vinyl-coated chain link fences and the painting of some equipment with terra cotta, medium blue and yellow colors.

We have been working with "full steam ahead" on the modernization of park structures and equipment. A program for the redesign of standard buildings and play apparatus, to be carried out by private firms has been recommended for approval by the Mayor.

With the cooperation of an interested neighborhood parents' group we have made a trial installation of new playground shapes and equipment in Riverside Park.

## land

### SCOPE OF THE PARK SYSTEM

In 1934, there were 14,827 acres of park lands of which 928 acres represented land under water. Today, there are 35,760 acres, of which 9,670 acres represent land under water reserved for wildlife and used for

boating, bathing and fishing, and another 2,970 acres are devoted to roadways in our parkway system. The total park acreage represents approximately 17.5 per cent of the total area of the City of New York, which is well above the average park area of other cities throughout the country. These new acres of park land came from many sources; by transfer from other departments, by acquisition of tax liens, by purchase, condemnation and donation, as part of joint programs with schools and semi-public, public and private housing agencies, in connection with parkways and expressways, civic centers, and by reclamation and filling of waterfront and other neglected areas. Additional playgrounds were built on new sites acquired by transfer to us of idle and unused lands from other City departments and from the State. Tax lien properties were acquired at low cost. New lands for parks and parkways were taken by purchase and condemnation. A fund collected by the Police Department, idle in the Comptroller's Office for thirteen years, was released by court decree and applied to the acquisition of property for eight memorial playgrounds. Land for parks and playgrounds has been donated by many philanthropic citizens. In some cases funds for construction have accompanied these donations.

Neighborhood recreation facilities are constructed as accepted parts of major improvements. Our parkways are in fact, shoestring parks with foot paths, bicycle paths, waterfront promenades, and bordering active recreation areas. Noteworthy examples are the many concentrated play facilities along the Henry Hudson Parkway, built as an integral part of the arterial development, and the twenty playgrounds, miles of walks, bicycle paths and overlook parking areas in Queens and Brooklyn built as part of the Belt Parkway.

The new federal-state-city expressway system for mixed traffic, planned for or under construction in Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Richmond is patterned after the parkways and will provide additional parks and play spaces as well as landscaping along its borders. Similar incidental park and landscaped areas have been provided in connection with arterial projects constructed by the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority.

Seventy-three neighborhood playgrounds have been constructed as part of public housing projects. Others are under way. All are located so as to provide recreation for the surrounding community as well as for residents of the projects.

It is now standard policy to acquire large playgrounds adjacent to public schools to be jointly operated by the Board of Education and the Department of Parks, by the former during school hours and by the latter for community use after school hours. The kindergarten section is open at all times for mothers and preschool age children under Park supervision.



The State Legislature approved a bond issue in 1960, and amended it in 1962, to provide money for the purchase of lands for recreational purposes not only for the State but also for the City and local communities as well. In the case of the City, under the Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Proposition Act, a total of \$17,000,000 of the State monies became available to the City for land acquisition. The City appropriated \$5,666,000 as its share of the Bond Issue program.

The Federal Government will share in the acquisition cost of the western tip of Breezy Point in the amount of \$1,000,000.

To date, the City has acquired five parcels totaling 694 acres under this program. In addition, acquisition proceedings are under way to acquire an additional site of seventy-six acres. A further site comprising sixty-eight acres has been mapped.

The Park Department has also requested \$21,471,000 in the 1964-65 Capital Budget for acquisitions other than those under the Bond Issue. This money will be used predominately for the acquisition of neighborhood playgrounds to serve those areas where adequate facilities are lacking.

## reclamation and landfill

### **FERRY POINT PARK, BOROUGH OF THE BRONX**

A contract for stockpiles for sanitation cover in the area west of Balcom Avenue was completed in the spring of 1963. This contract provided material to be used by the Department of Sanitation in their landfill operation.

### **PELHAM BAY PARK, BOROUGH OF THE BRONX**

This contract provides for the preparation of the site to receive sanitation fill in the area east of Shore Road in Eastchester Bay, in Pelham Bay Park. The work includes the construction of dykes, placing fill for stockpiles, grading, drainage, water supply, electrical work, construction of maintenance and tractor service buildings, trash screens and electronic weighing system, etc. After completion of the landfill, the area will be developed as a park for recreational purposes.

### **HOFFMAN AND SWINBURNE ISLANDS, LOWER NEW YORK BAY**

A comprehensive program has been proposed for the development of the new park area to provide facilities for many types of recreation, especially for picnicking and for fishing in the surrounding waters. The principal means of access to the island will be by public boat service from South Beach.

Park areas currently being created by landfill with refuse wastes together with the acreage of land so produced are as follows:

Marine Park Island, Brooklyn .....	80 Acres
Spring Creek Park Addition, Brooklyn .....	253 Acres
Ferry Point Park, Bronx .....	176 Acres
Fresh Kills, Richmond .....	807 Acres
Edgemere Park, Queens .....	150 Acres

## **JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE**

For centuries migratory waterfowl following the so-called Atlantic Flyway have stopped in the Jamaica Bay area to rest and feed. As urbanization has advanced, other feeding and rest areas have become obliterated by construction of dwellings and industrial buildings. Jamaica Bay is almost the only remaining haven left in New York City. Due to this urbanization along the entire Atlantic Coast, the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is becoming increasingly important to wildlife. This is indicated by the increasing numbers of species of birds that are observed each year.

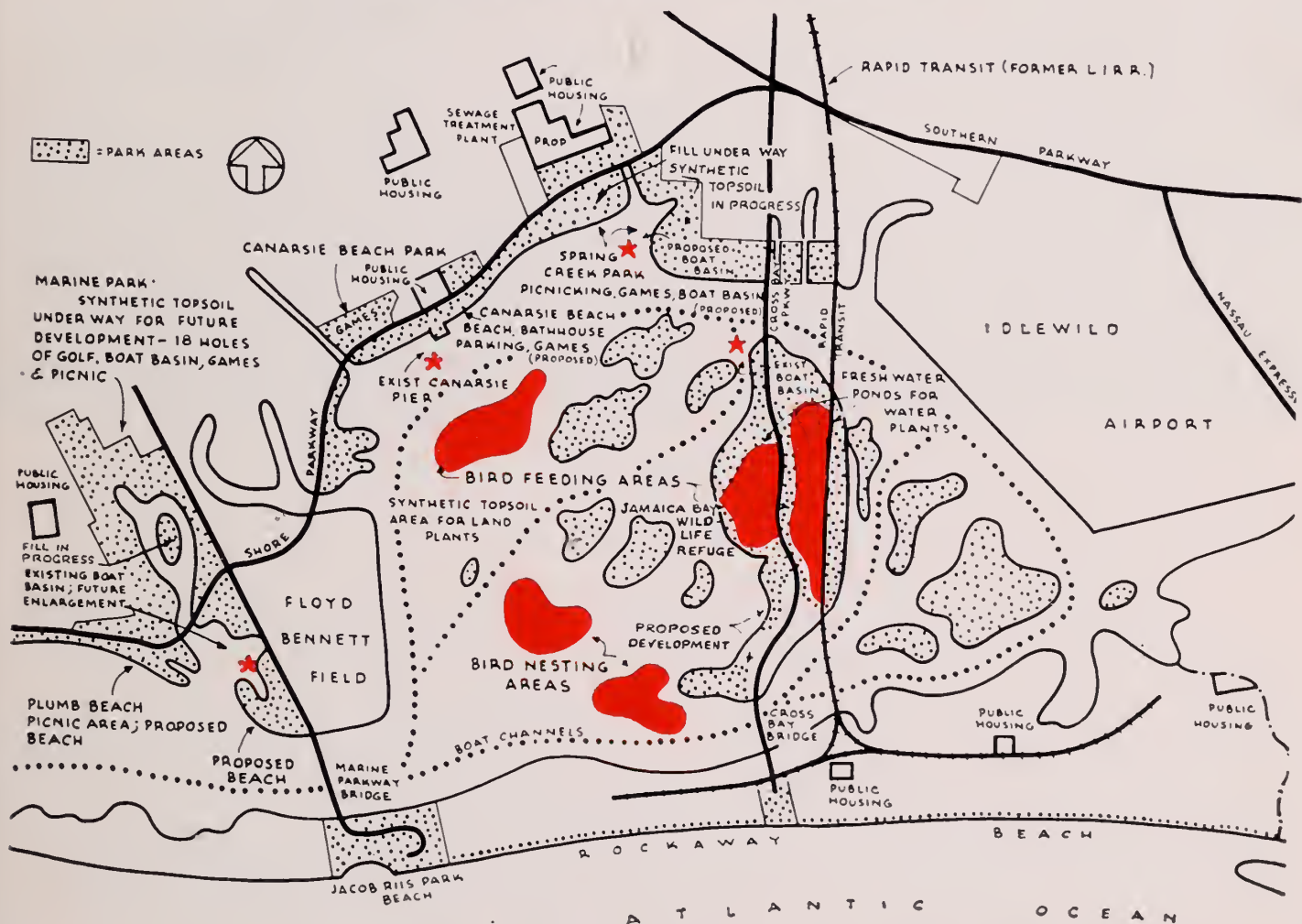
To develop this area as a wildlife refuge was a Park Department vision for many years, and the reconstruction of the old Long Island Railroad across the eastern part of the bay by the New York City Transit Authority enabled it to become a reality. Sand dredged from Jamaica Bay was used to form dikes creating two impoundments, one east and the other west of Cross Bay Boulevard. The newly formed dikes were stabilized with vegetative plantings. With this assistance, impetus was given to establishment of a definite program in 1954.

The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge embraces in general the 12,000 acres of tidal water and marshlands in and on the perimeter of the Bay. Two water impoundments, one of 40 acres and the other of 100 acres, are at the center and are the most popular and attractive areas. The westerly impoundment of 40 acres is encompassed by a walk with occasional benches where bird watchers may rest.

Migratory waterfowl during the late fall and early winter have been estimated to have reached 30,000 to 35,000 at one time, a figure which includes all species of ducks, brant, and geese. Reliable agencies have conducted wildlife censuses at the refuge and 286 species have been recorded. Of this figure, 50 species are regarded as very rare in this environment. There is also a corresponding increase in nesting birds. Glossy Ibis, a southern wading bird first observed in the refuge four years ago, nests each year in increasing numbers. There were ten or more broods in 1963. Egrets and herons continue to carry on their nesting activities in the same manner. Many other migratory birds are now nesting and wintering in the refuge and it has become necessary to provide food during periods of extreme cold weather.

Visits to the refuge are controlled by permit without fee. Permits are issued to individuals, groups, or clubs. Some 3,000 permits were issued during 1963. Visitors have numbered as many as 500 a day, with an annual estimated attendance of about 50,000 persons. In addition to supervising these activities at the refuge, the staff makes visits to public schools and other organized groups for the purpose of showing slides supplemented by descriptive lectures.

## JAMAICA BAY



The Park Department program has been coordinated with other agencies so that at present the illegal shooting of ducks at the refuge is practically nonexistent. These agencies include the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior, the New York State Conservation Department, and others.

In order to reduce the cost of developing the refuge, Park Department personnel are propagating from seed and cuttings an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 plants, including Japanese Black Pine, Eleagnus, Rosa Rugosa, Aronia, Bayberry, and others. Much of the vegetation previously grown has reached a stage where it now provides adequate cover, and has become an important factor in increasing the wildlife population.

Because the last available land surrounding Jamaica Bay is being developed for homesites, birdlife is being forced increasingly to seek

shelter in the Refuge. With the rapid increase in wildlife population, a parallel increase of interest in this area will develop among birdwatchers. With that in mind, we realize that the present parking field is inadequate and we plan to expand it. We also feel that the time is approaching when we must consider the installation of a permanent maintenance structure, including a room with all conveniences for lectures, bird club meetings, and other related activities.

## **parks**

### **WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK**

The proposed reconstruction of Washington Square Park has created such widespread interest among residents of Greenwich Village that before final plans are prepared, they will be submitted to local community groups and New York University for study and review prior to final approval of the reconstruction program.

In order not to deprive the community of the use of the entire park during construction, the contract work will be performed in stages.

### **CENTRAL PARK RIDING STABLE**

A combined Public Riding Stable and Police Department Stable will be built in Central Park, 300 feet south of the 86th Street, Transverse Road, Manhattan. Construction is expected to start the latter part of 1964.

This project, financed jointly by the Police Department and the Park Department at an estimated cost of \$2,000,000, will house separate facilities for the Police Department and for the riding public. An indoor riding ring will serve both agencies. It will accommodate 250 horses.

### **BREEZY POINT**

The development of Breezy Point Park at the westerly end of the Rockaway Peninsula will provide an extensive seaside recreation area improvement. This complex of park and recreation facilities will extend from the existing Jacob Riis Park to Rockaway Point. This new park development will serve the expanding population of New York City.

The facilities at Breezy Point Park will include a marina, bathing facilities, surf casting and picnic areas, athletic fields, a combination swimming pool and ice skating rink, concession and maintenance buildings, parking facilities and attractive landscaping.

Funds will be provided in the 1964/65 Capital Budget for a comprehensive study, after which the development will be progressed in stages.



DREDGING OPERATIONS AT MARINE PARK — BROOKLYN

SAME SITE NOW — 18-HOLE MARINE PARK GOLF COURSE'S CLUBHOUSE, PUTTING GREEN



# gifts

## **STATEN ISLAND WAR MEMORIAL**

The Staten Island War Memorial Committee has donated \$600,000 which will be supplemented by funds to be provided by the City for the following:

1. An artificial ice skating rink in Clove Lake Park approximately 200' x 140' in area with facilities for parking, a concession area, lockers and mechanical equipment.
2. A 5,000 seat Sports Stadium in Great Kills Park with parking area for 1,000 cars and a field house containing dressing rooms, a concession area and public comfort facilities.

## **HARLEM MEER**

### **COMBINED SWIMMING POOL AND SKATING RINK**

Construction of a combined outdoor swimming pool and ice skating rink was recently started. The project is located in the southwesterly corner of the Harlem Meer in Central Park at about 106th Street, and is to be known as Loula D. Lasker Memorial.

This unique structure, the first of its kind to be built anywhere, will service both activities.

The three-foot deep swimming pool that is used for the summer can easily be converted to a skating rink of approximately 25,000 square feet by flooding the floor of the pool.

Included in the project is a one-story building which will contain dressing rooms, showers, lockers, lifeguards' area, public comfort facilities and observation deck, also included will be concrete bleachers for participants.

The estimated cost of this project is in excess of \$2,000,000. The executors of the estate of the late Loula Lasker are contributing \$600,000 toward this cost.

# fountains

A fountain has been constructed in the public plaza at Lincoln Center. It has controlled jets and dancing waters "played" by a pre-recorded tape. Colored lights add beauty to this exciting display, completed in the spring of 1964.

Many pools of various design and a display fountain will remain after the World's Fair as part of Flushing Meadow Park permanent improvements.

Under our fountain rehabilitation program, the contract for the much publicized Washington Square Fountain, located near the arch on lower Fifth Avenue, was completed in the fall of 1963.

We have also completed the rehabilitation and floodlighting of the famous Bailey Fountain in Grand Army Plaza at the entrance to Prospect Park in Brooklyn.

A new fountain basin and jet was put into operation in October, 1963 at the Queens Botanical Garden.

## monuments

In 1934, the newly consolidated Park Department became responsible for the care of some 500 monuments and memorials, ranging from imposing edifices to miniature bronze tablets.

Regardless of esthetic or sentimental consideration, most of them have been out-and-out troublemakers. Because they were either poorly constructed, designed with utter disregard for practicality, vulnerable to incessant vandalism, or made of materials unable to withstand our climatic changes, almost all must be restored over and over again.

Whether a monument "speaks" in the booming voice of a brave equestrian, the eloquence of a majestic arch, or the small voice of a tiny tablet—all are the responsibility of the Park Department and must be maintained. Should we let them fall into disrepair, criticisms come quickly; usually from those who have little comprehension of the scope of the problems involved.

The number of monuments increases each year. In 1959 there were 649, today we are responsible for over 700. To insure the City against unnecessary additional maintenance, we have attempted to establish and adhere to new principles and standards. We now work with sculptors, architects, and other designers of monuments and memorials from the drawing board stage to dedication.

Monument maintenance and rehabilitation is highly specialized work requiring many skills difficult to find in today's labor market. A plan is now under way to establish a program "for on the job training" of monument craftsmen.

For the past twenty-nine years, the same small devoted group of artisans has struggled with the problem. Despite the lack of adequate professional personnel and insufficiency of funds, we have completed 643 restorations, relocations, rehabilitations, and reconstructions since 1934. In addition, 165 new monuments and memorials have been dedicated. During the past two years, seventy restorations or rehabilitations have been completed, and thirty-eight new monuments have been acquired.



SAN MARTIN STATUE



THE OBELISK — CENTRAL PARK

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT





The gigantic job of rehabilitating a famous landmark on the upper west side of New York was accomplished by this Department in restoring the beautiful "Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument" fronting on Riverside Drive, opposite West 89th Street in Riverside Park, Manhattan. The finishing touches were completed in August 1962, after two years of reconstruction at a cost of \$1,074,000.

The monument was dedicated to the Soldiers and Sailors of the Union Army in the war between the states by the City of New York in 1902. The original work was completed in 1909 at a cost of \$275,000. The two pylons on the lower terrace are inscribed with the names of the battles of the Civil War and the outstanding men that fought in them. The architects were Charles W. and Arthur A. Stoughton, and the sculptor was Paul E. Duboy.

## **ART COMMISSION**

Before any works of art can be erected in the parks, they must be approved by the Art Commission.

In accordance with Chapter 37 of the New York City Charter, all works of art, which include buildings, landscape developments, statues, arches, carvings, inscriptions, monuments, fountains, etc., erected upon land belonging to the City must be approved by the Art Commission. Our Design Division prepares the necessary applications for preliminary and final approvals of all such works of art to be placed on park property, and the Park Commissioner is an ex-officio member of the Art Commission whenever his submissions are discussed or acted upon.

## **recreation**

Few people today are content to use all their increased hours of leisure for mere pastimes. Rather, they seek recreational activities which are interesting, invigorating, and challenging. Above all, they want to participate in forms of recreation which offset the tension and routine of their daily lives. Opportunities to enrich their lives, to develop new skills, and to gain new experiences are essential to the well-being of all people.

The recreational attitudes of individuals are formulated by their interests and talents and the opportunities available to them to develop and expand these interests and talents. These individual variants must be considered by public recreation services in planning recreational facilities and programs in order that the broadest possible range of interests may be served. New York City has developed the finest park recreation system in the world by providing for the diverse recreational needs of close to eight million people of all ages.

## NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

The 861 park playgrounds are the hub of New York City's recreational system. They are vital to the well-being of residents in urban, overdeveloped, multi-dwelling communities. They offer leisure-time recreation for everyone in the community. They combine safe play space for young children, courts for the active games of older boys and girls, sitting areas where mothers congregate for relaxation and conversation, and game tables and light-exercise courts for the elderly.

Small children's play areas are set apart from the active game space of older children. These areas are equipped with exercise apparatus scaled to the physical capacities of young children, wading pools or saucer showers, sand pits, and benches where guardians may relax while watching their charges. In playgrounds, where trained leadership is available, pre-school play groups are organized. Activities of an informal nature are conducted, generally during the morning hours. These include singing games, rhythm bands, finger painting, clay modeling, paper crafts, playing with toys, storytelling, and imitative play. Through these activities young children learn to make social adjustments and associations and acquire group skills which will serve them later in more formal educational situations.

### ONE OF MANY DELIGHTFUL SUMMER PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES





### BOCCIE COURTS PROVIDE PLEASANT HOURS OF RECREATION

Recreation programs for teenage boys and girls provide a wide choice of recreational activities. Participation in sports and active games helps them to develop the strength, coordination, and endurance so necessary to their physical fitness. Team sports for this age group demand cooperation, observance of rules, good sportsmanship, and self-control, all vital in educating young people for responsible citizenship.

Park playgrounds provide teenagers with after-school, weekend, and summer recreational programs. In addition, park playgrounds near or adjacent to elementary and high schools offer lunch hour recreation for all students.

The recreation programs in neighborhood playgrounds are planned to meet the interests of all age groups of school children. Team games include basketball, volleyball, touch football, and punch ball. Among the more popular dual games are paddle tennis, handball, ping pong, and shuffleboard. Younger children enjoy group and playground games. Dancing, dramatics, hobby clubs, arts and crafts, checkers, chess and other table games offer a change of pace from the more vigorous activities.

Recreation programs for older men, both the employed and the retired, include bocce, horseshoe pitching, shuffleboard, chess and checkers. Through participation in these activities they find fellowship in friendly competition and healthful outdoor exercise.

Park neighborhood playgrounds are open every day of the year and the daily hours of operation are arranged to meet community requirements. More than 150 million visits, principally by children and teen-



BOATING — CENTRAL PARK



TENNIS — CENTRAL PARK

GOLF — DYKER BEACH





BRIDLE PATH — CENTRAL PARK



WOLLMAN MEMORIAL RINK — CENTRAL PARK

KATE WOLLMAN MEMORIAL RINK — PROSPECT PARK



agers, are made annually to park playgrounds. Although these playgrounds provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages, children derive the greatest benefit from their participation in these programs. Like money in the bank, the benefits of safe, supervised, healthful, and worthwhile play accrue interest which in years to come will dwarf the initial outlay of funds which have been appropriated for the development of playgrounds.

## **SPECIAL RECREATION AREAS**

Radiating from the hub of neighborhood playgrounds are numerous facilities for activities that have been developed in larger parks. They include fields for baseball, softball, and little league games; fields for football, soccer, and hockey; paths for bicycle and horseback riding; courses for cross-country running; and areas for track and field events, some within stadia. All these recreational facilities receive heavy usage by individuals, teams from colleges and public and private schools, amateur athletic groups, and public, semi-public, and private agencies.

Larger parks also have slopes for coasting and skiing, with lakes and flooded areas for ice skating. These are supervised by recreation personnel to ensure safe participation in these winter sports.

Special areas are also developed for model airplane flying, lawn bowling, and archery. Model boats, both sail and powered, may be navigated at many park lakes. Fishing is a popular recreational activity throughout the year. Special areas are designated along waterfront parks in the five boroughs and children under 17 years of age may fish at designated sites along the shores of park lakes.

Facilities for roller skating and roller hockey are widely provided in the larger parks.

Picnic areas with fireplaces, benches, and tables attract great numbers of families, social groups, and individuals.

Other recreational interests are met by botanical gardens, children's gardens, museums, nature trails, wildlife refuges, zoos, and bird sanctuaries.

All of these facilities are available to the public without charge. Reasonable fees, however, may legitimately be collected for the use of other special recreational facilities; tennis courts, golf courses, swimming pools, artificial ice skating rinks, use of locker facilities at beaches, and boating on park lakes. Carousels, pony tracks, and the Children's Zoo in Central Park are also in the fee category. However, free periods for children at the outdoor park pools and the artificial ice skating rinks offer younger children ample hours for participation in these recreational activities.



CHILDREN'S ZOO — CENTRAL PARK



JUNIORS FISHING AT THE 72ND STREET LAKE IN CENTRAL PARK

LOEB  
BOAT  
HOUSE



The newest special facility is the banked bicycle track at Kissena Park, Queens, which has been getting intensive use since its opening in the summer of 1963. The Recreation Division conducted a 15-day bicycle safety program to teach boys and girls the fundamentals of bicycle riding, safety precautions, and the care and repair of bicycles. All participants were required to take tests at the conclusion of the program. Numerous competitive events have been conducted at the track for racers from 8 years of age and up. Members of New York City's six cycling associations have competed in weekly events and the National Sub-Junior Championships were conducted at the track. The public was admitted without charge to all competitions.

FRIEDSAM MEMORIAL CAROUSEL — CENTRAL PARK





## RECREATION CENTERS

Playgrounds and special recreation areas are not all-weather, year-round facilities, nor do they serve the recreational interests of all people. Outdoor recreational programs are interrupted by cold or inclement weather, often for long periods of time. Less than one-tenth of the neighborhood playgrounds have indoor playgrounds and these are adequate for only a limited number of children's activities. Larger indoor recreation centers are needed to supplement outdoor facilities, especially in congested sections of the City.

Six of these larger centers are operated by the Department of Parks: St. Mary's Park Center, Bronx, Cromwell Center in Richmond, the Brooklyn War Memorial, St. John's Park Center and Brownsville Center in Brooklyn, and Lost Battalion Hall in Queens.

Their special facilities serve all age groups. They are the core around which community activities are planned. They permit the scheduling of activities, which by their nature, are conducted later in the evening: dances, exhibitions, demonstrations, and competitions. They provide facilities for community group and inter-agency activities and for the Park Department's inter-borough and city-wide recreation programs.

Registered memberships of these centers range from 2,000 to 9,000, depending upon the size of the center. Weekly attendance, again depending upon the capacity of the center, averages from 2,500 to 5,000 participants.

Park recreation centers are open every day of the week and year. Hours of operation are determined by community requirements, usually from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on weekdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturdays, and from 12 Noon to 7:00 p.m. on Sundays and holidays. These hours differ slightly at some centers, according to community requirements.

Recreation programs at these centers, with variations according to community interests, provide extensive activities for all age groups: socials, dances, arts and crafts, sewing, woodwork, TV, movies, music appreciation, club meetings, Mother's Clubs, father-son, mother-daughter, and family group activities. Physical fitness, social and active games, stunts, demonstrations, swimming, diving, water safety, synchronized swimming, calisthenics, and gymnastics.

Twelve years of successful operation of these large recreation centers proves their importance in the public recreation program. Detailed plans have been completed for six additional year-round indoor centers which will be built as soon as funds are made available.



SENIOR CITIZENS IN ONE OF 10 GOLDEN AGE CENTERS

## **GOLDEN AGE CENTERS**

The Department of Parks program for the elderly has been one of the most successful recreational developments in recent years. Not all citizens of advanced years are indigent. What most of them lack is companionship and interesting activity to fill their increased hours of leisure. The Park Department's centers provide a club-like atmosphere where members may meet and participate in enjoyable activities. Many opportunities are opened to them to continue established interests and to find new, meaningful associations and experiences through the guidance of understanding leadership. Programs include arts and crafts, music, dancing, table games, parties, TV, card games, trips, discussions, and outdoor recreation when weather permits.

Membership in these centers has mushroomed beyond expectation, indicating the great need for this type of center. Today, one out of every ten persons is over the age of 65. Some have been too busy during their years of employment to develop recreational interests which could be continued in later life. Membership at a Park Department golden age center gives them opportunities to expand their circle of friendship as well as meaningful recreational activities to fill their leisure hours.

J. Hood Wright Center in Manhattan has 900 members, the Roosevelt Golden Age Center in Manhattan has 298 registered members, Brownsville Golden Age Center in Brooklyn has 1,345, Owen Dolen Golden Age Center in the Bronx has 1,055, the Prospect Park Picnic House Golden Age Center has 270. Golden Age Groups also meet at the

Brooklyn War Memorial (230 members) and at Lost Battalion Hall Recreation Center, Queens (605 members).

Senior citizens have been meeting informally for many years at various locations in our parks. Exceptionally large numbers have been congregating at the Chess and Checker House and North Meadow Playground in Central Park, at Highbridge Playground, Manhattan, at Sunset Park, Brooklyn, at Williamsbridge Oval in the Bronx, and at Windmuller, Cleveland, and Benninger Playgrounds in Queens.

Game tables, shaded sitting areas, and courts for shuffleboard, bocce, and horseshoe pitching are widely provided in the City's parks for older people.

Construction work for a golden age center in connection with the redevelopment of the Sara D. Roosevelt Park started in the Summer of 1964.

The 1964-65 Capital Budget Request includes recreation centers of individual design and special use at the following locations:

1. Riverside Park, Manhattan, will be the site of the new Adele R. Levy Memorial Playground.
2. New recreation center in Chelsea area, Manhattan, to replace the old existing 28th Street gym and pool, Manhattan.
3. New recreation center adjacent to proposed Junior High School 72 located at 134th Avenue and New York Boulevard, Queens.
4. Addition to Owen F. Dolen Recreation Center, the Bronx, for the Golden Age Group.

## **PLAY CENTERS AND GYMNASIA**

The seventeen outdoor swimming pool buildings are converted to play centers during the off season. In good weather, the empty pool areas are used for active recreational programs, association football, volleyball, paddle tennis, and group games. The pool buildings are used for recreational activities that meet the interests of community residents. All have facilities for various table games, boxing classes for boys are conducted by trained instructors at some of these centers, arts and crafts at others.

Ten rehabilitated bathhouses with gymnasias also provide indoor recreation facilities. Nine of these buildings are in congested areas of Manhattan and eight have indoor swimming pools. They are used extensively for basketball practice and tournament games, for swimming where pools are available, for calisthenics, boxing, and weight-lifting, and all have a variety of table games.

A noteworthy arrangement was worked out with Columbia University for the reconstruction of the southern end of Morningside Park at no cost to the City. The University constructed an athletic field and field house at a cost of \$200,000. Under a permit from the Park Department, the university carries on an intramural athletic program for its students during the college year and an organized program of athletic activities for the public on weekends and during college vacations. Under a similar arrangement, ten tennis courts at Riverside Park and 119th Street were opened in 1963 and are open to the public on weekends and when the university is not in session.

The cost of staffing and operating the athletic field and field house throughout the year is borne by the University. This has been a most satisfactory arrangement, one which has benefited both the students and the residents of the adjacent community.

A lease and agreement between the City and Columbia University, authorized by the State Legislature and approved by the Board of Estimate on July 27, 1961, will enhance further the recreational facilities in Morningside Park. Columbia University has agreed to spend \$8,000,000 for the construction of a gymnasium and recreation center building in the park which will include separate facilities to serve both the Columbia students and the community residents. The University will staff and operate the community recreation center and the student gymnasium facilities.

## **TOURNAMENTS AND CONTESTS**

Contributions, for prizes and other expenses involved in conducting contests and tournaments, have been made by many civic-minded individuals, organizations, and the Press. These contributions have made it possible to schedule year-round competitions in the most popular sports activities of boys and girls. Some competitions are conducted locally, others on borough or city-wide levels. All lend zest to the recreation programs conducted at neighborhood playgrounds.

The Park Association was the first to sponsor these youth activities. Since then others have joined in supporting competitions to highlight playground programs. The New York Mirror Welfare Fund sponsored a comprehensive year-round program for 23 years in cooperation with the Park Department, contributing about \$23,000 annually.

Competitions during the past year were sponsored by The Journal-American, Arnold Constable, Abraham and Straus, the New York Lodge No. 1 of the Elks, the Kings County Trust Company, Rappaports' Toy Bazaar, the Duncan Company, and numerous local organizations.



DELACORTE THEATRE — CENTRAL PARK

## SPECIAL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

An equally important contribution to the public recreational program is made by an impressive summer schedule of special events held in the parks of the five boroughs. More than 250 concerts, 100 dance programs, 60 Shakespearean performances, 140 special children's programs, 15 operatic presentations, and 25 firework displays were held during 1963.

These events were made possible by generous contributions of funds, talents, time and effort by many public-spirited individuals and organizations: the Guggenheim Foundation, the Elkan Naumburg Memorial, the Recording Industries Trust Funds, Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians, the Mayor's Committee of Living Music, the Consolidated Edison Company, the Downtown-Manhattan Association, the Public Libraries of New York City, the New York Shakespeare Festival, the F. & M. Schaefer Brewing Company, the Coney Island Chamber of Commerce, Rockaway's Playland, the New York Orchestral Society, the Bank for Savings, the Westside Savings Bank, Municipal Concerts, Inc., the Heights Opera Company, the Harlem Opera Company, the West Side Community Concerts, the Carl Schurz Park Concerts, Inc., the Brewers of Rheingold, the Overture Concerts of New York, the Savings Bank of Ridgewood-Hamburg-Richmond Hill and Jamaica, and numerous anonymous contributors.



HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN STORYTELLING HOUR



ALICE-IN-WONDERLAND MEMORIAL

AWARD-WINNING MARIONETTE THEATRE



## SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The Department of Parks Marionette Theatre performances are one of the most popular entertainment features the City has to offer young children. The Park Puppeteers have attracted nation-wide recognition from parents, educators, and the press. They make two tours annually, playing in public and parochial schools, child care centers, and recreation centers during the winter, and out of doors in parks and playgrounds in the summer, giving more than 200 performances each year. Their special Christmas week performances at Hunter College Playhouse are eagerly awaited by both children and parents. Only one-tenth of the requests for tickets for these performances can be filled, so great is the demand for them.

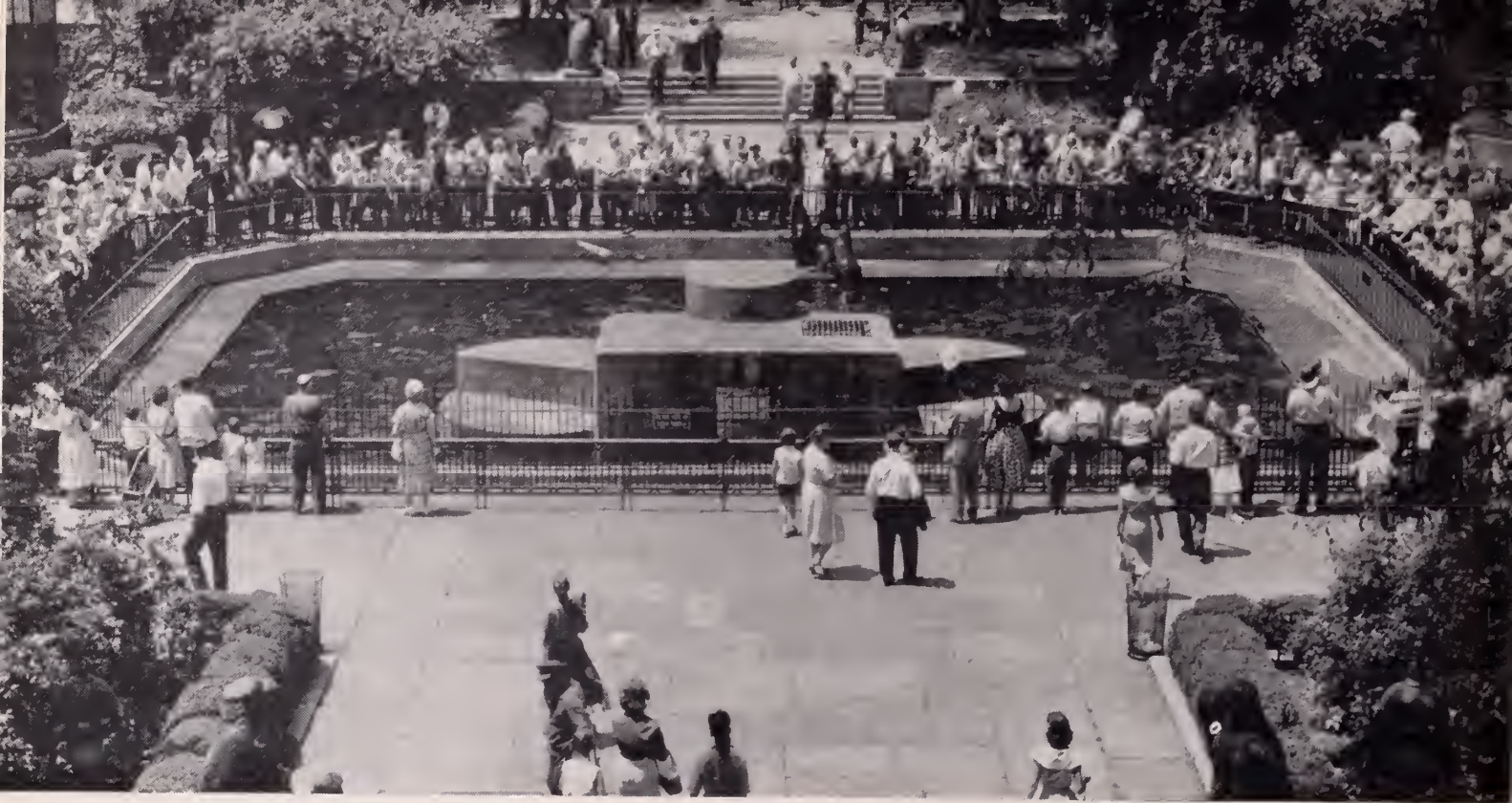
Hundreds of school children also visit the theatre's headquarters in Central Park to get a behind-the-scenes look at how the Park Puppeteers prepare their productions.

Last November, the City of Detroit invited the Park Puppeteers to give four performances at the Detroit Institute of Arts. All expenses were defrayed by the City of Detroit. Their presentations were so enthusiastically received that they have been invited to return.

Storytelling sessions at the Hans Christian Andersen Memorial in Central Park and at many other locations in the city were an attraction for hundreds of young children. The Baroness Alma Dahlerup of the Danish-American Women's Association arranged for guest storytellers during the season and a recreation leader from the Park Department regularly entertained the children who gathered at the Andersen Memorial on Saturday mornings. The various New York Public Libraries also arranged storytelling sessions at various locations in the five boroughs throughout the summer. An educational program related to nature study and zoology was also scheduled at the Children's Zoo in Central Park from September through June. The morning sessions are given for visiting groups from public and parochial schools and the afternoon sessions and Saturday morning sessions are open to all children.

In addition to club activities conducted at neighborhood playgrounds, the Department of Parks has organized three special clubs for boys and girls. F.A.M.E., the Future American Magical Entertainers, a group of teenagers interested in learning magic, meet at a park auditorium under the direction of a recreation leader. They present a program annually at the Mall in Central Park and from time to time visit hospitals to perform for shut-ins.

Young speed and figure skating aspirants are members of special clubs, organized under the direction of recreation leaders, and meet for practice and training sessions held on Saturday mornings at the outdoor artificial ice skating rinks—Wollman Memorial in Central Park and the Kate Wollman Rink in Prospect Park.



SEAL POOL — CENTRAL PARK ZOO



MODEL SAILBOATS ARE LAUNCHED ON CONSERVATORY LAKE — CENTRAL PARK



A series of tennis clinics for boys and girls 9 through 17 years of age is conducted Monday through Friday for five weeks in Spring at a centrally located tennis area in each of the five boroughs. These clinics are made possible by the Eastern Tennis Patrons, Inc. who arrange for professional instructors to teach the fundamentals of tennis and to help boys and girls improve their tennis skills. Hundreds of children have taken advantage of these opportunities during the past four years.

## **LEADERSHIP FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS**

The four pillars of an adequate recreation service are playgrounds, parks, programs, and personnel. Without this quadrilateral foundation, recreation services cannot function. New York City's 861 park playgrounds and 35,761 acres of park lands approximate the theoretical standards based on total population and total land area. The City's park recreation programs are varied and available to all, but most of the special events are dependent mainly on the generosity of public-spirited individuals and organizations. The weakest pillar in New York City's recreation service is personnel. If the increasing public demand for creative, imaginative, educational, and cultural programs and healthful physical activities are to be met, the gap between the number of recreational facilities and the number of recreation leaders must be closed.

Park playgrounds are open from 9:00 A.M. to dark, seven days a week, and every day of the year. This full-time operation demands an adequate staff to provide leadership at least during periods of greatest usage. The Department of Parks does not have an adequate recreation personnel. Only one-half of the park playgrounds have year-round leadership. In playgrounds where only one recreation leader is assigned, the recreation program is curtailed for two days a week when the recreation leader is not on duty. Programs are also curtailed when recreation leaders must be transferred from their playgrounds to conduct special recreational activities elsewhere. Curtailing programs and shifting personnel constantly is not a sound recreation practice. Children need trained leadership if their leisure time activities are to be worthwhile. The self-directed play of children is usually restricted to a few activities and tends to become monotonous, if not actually hazardous or destructive. Only leadership can ensure the fullest use of public recreational facilities and justify the heavy expenditure of public funds on the construction of those facilities.

It is a disservice to our young people not to provide trained leadership for a wide range of leisure time activities which not only provide immediate recreational satisfactions, but which also teach skills and foster carryover values for later life.

# PARK AREA

14,000 acres

1934

1964

# PLAYGROUNDS

1934

119

including 70 housing &  
186 school playgrounds

1964

861

# POOLS

1934

2 pools

1934

200,000 bathers

1964

17 pools

1964

1,812,180 bathers

# BEACHES

1934

1 MILE

1934

5,000,000 bathers

1964

17.96 MILES

1964

55,658,600 bathers

# GOLF

1934

6 courses

1934

300,000 games

1964

12 courses

1964

847,436 games

# TENNIS

240 courts

1934

14,000 permits

1934

459 courts


1964

27,022 permits


## CONCESSIONS

- 7 MARINAS
- 42 NEWS STANDS
- 121 RESTAURANTS & FOOD BARS
- 285 CARRETINAS
- 5 BOOTBLACK STANDS
- 2 RIDING STABLES
- 17 GAS STATIONS
- 148 MISCELLANEOUS

## CONCESSIONS & REVENUE PRODUCING FACILITIES - INCOME

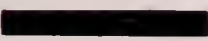
1934 

\$ 200,000

1964 

\$ 4,185,330

## AVERAGE INCREASE IN FACILITIES

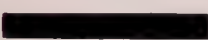
1934 


7 TIMES

1964 

## BUDGET

\$ 6,000,000

1934 

1964 

\$ 42,071,498

In communities where neighborhood park playgrounds are inadequately staffed, parents are becoming increasingly persistent in their efforts to secure and retain well-trained recreation leadership for their children's playground programs.

The problem of securing adequate and qualified leadership must be resolved in the near future. Personnel costs would be offset by the savings in reduced vandalism. Children do not destroy what they enjoy.

## **PLAYGROUNDS**

Playgrounds are in reality the backyards of communities, providing sunlight, landscaped space, and facilities for active recreation and quiet relaxation. New York City playgrounds fall into five general classifications: Neighborhood, Marginal, School, Housing, and Arterial. Though each is related to a distinct program, all have the common purpose of providing an abundant variety of facilities and programs to meet individual and group interests in the wholesome and pleasurable use of leisure time.

The basic design of neighborhood playgrounds provides a separate area for little children and their guardians, protected and controlled, with wading pools, sand pits, small apparatus, and plenty of benches under trees; another area is set aside for the use of older people, whom we have with us today in increasing numbers, where they may relax and converse on sunny or shaded benches or participate in table games; and the third and largest area is laid out for a variety of popular active games for older children, teenagers, and young adults.

The marginal playgrounds are constructed on the perimeters of our larger parks. They are intended to meet the fundamental needs of small children for play space and exercise equipment. Inviting and easily accessible, these playgrounds have reduced the distance young children and their escorts have to travel and have lessened the damage to landscaped park areas caused by the children's active play.

Today's modern school site, ranging from 2.5 to 3 acres, with the school occupying two-thirds of it and a playground the other one-third, is in striking contrast to the small and inadequately developed sites of the past. The Board of Education and the Park Department some twenty-one years ago agreed on a joint program of providing community recreational facilities on a year-round basis. In effect, the Board of Education operates the playground during school hours, except for the area set aside for mothers and pre-school age children, and the Park Department operates the entire area at all other times, including holidays, weekends, and in summer when the schools are closed. The Park Department is responsible for the maintenance of these facilities.

The New York City Housing Authority has many great housing complexes completed, under construction, or planned for future development. In most of these projects, except those immediately adjacent to large park areas, Park Department playgrounds have been provided, ranging in size from one to three acres. These housing playgrounds are vital assets of the entire community, as well as of the housing development.

One of the important sources of new playgrounds, and in fact of new parks, has been found in the arterial construction program. The parkways and expressways are not merely landscaped roads. Their rights of way include many areas large enough for the development of neighborhood playgrounds and small parks with lawns and landscaping for use by local residents.

Playground construction has had high priority in the thirty-year expansion program of the park system. In 1934 there were 119 playgrounds, many poorly designed and maintained. More than half of these were completely rehabilitated by installing adequate equipment and by resurfacing with permanent materials to permit maximum year-round usage.

For fifteen years the Park Department has been experimenting with various types of resilient safety surfacing for use under playground exercise equipment. Our search for a practicable and economical surfacing material has interested manufacturers in the development of a product that will stand up under heavy usage, maintain resiliency in cold weather, be fairly resistant to vandalism, and require a minimum of upkeep.

Sand and tanbark are not suitable. They require a long drying-out period and a great deal of maintenance to keep them free of harmful debris. They become a health hazard when neighborhood pets become aware of the presence of these materials. Sand is carried onto the free play areas where it is hazardous to children playing active games. Tanbark floats away in heavy rains. At present we have three different types of safety surfacing installed for testing in playground areas.

Similarly, we are experimenting with various types of flexible and/or resilient swing seats. None to date has proved satisfactory. Belt type seats rip at grommet points, where the swing is attached to the hangers. When a break occurs during use, this weakness can cause more serious injuries to children than those resulting from children running into moving wood or metal swing seats. All belt type seats are prime targets for vandals who cut them with ease, even those reinforced with wire.

Like most homeowners who want to improve the appearance of their home grounds, community residents would like to have their neighborhood park playgrounds refurbished. The Park Department is working in close cooperation with community groups, leaders, and agencies who are consulted on the facilities and equipment to be included in new or rehabilitated recreational areas.

# beaches

## **ROCKAWAY BEACH IMPROVEMENT**

In our program to expand our beach facilities, five construction contracts are nearing completion for Stage I of the Rockaway Beach Promenade and park addition along the shore front of Seagirt Boulevard, from Beach 9th Street to Beach 21st Street, for the site work and a combination comfort station and concession building including the mechanical work.

## **SOUTH BEACH IMPROVEMENT**

The landscaping construction work from Xenia Street to Dartmouth Avenue was completed early in 1963.

The design contracts by the Consulting Engineers for the section from Iona Street to Fort Wadsworth are now in the final stages of completion for the general beach construction, landscaping and the maintenance building.

## **BEACH FRONT PROTECTION**

The New York State program for the protection and control of erosion along the shore front and beaches in the City is shared equally in cost by the State and City. In 1963 under this program three stone groins and bulkheading from Beach 62nd Street to Beach 81st, Rockaway Beach were constructed at a cost of \$840,000.

Another contract for the rehabilitation of stone groins between Beach 36th Street and Beach 71st Street, Rockaway Beach was also completed in 1963.

A beach nourishment contract for the Orchard Beach area of Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, has been awarded and work will start in 1964.

A request for constructing groins at 60th, 83rd, and 86th Streets in Rockaway Beach is being made under the 1964-65 Capital Budget as the next stage of the program.

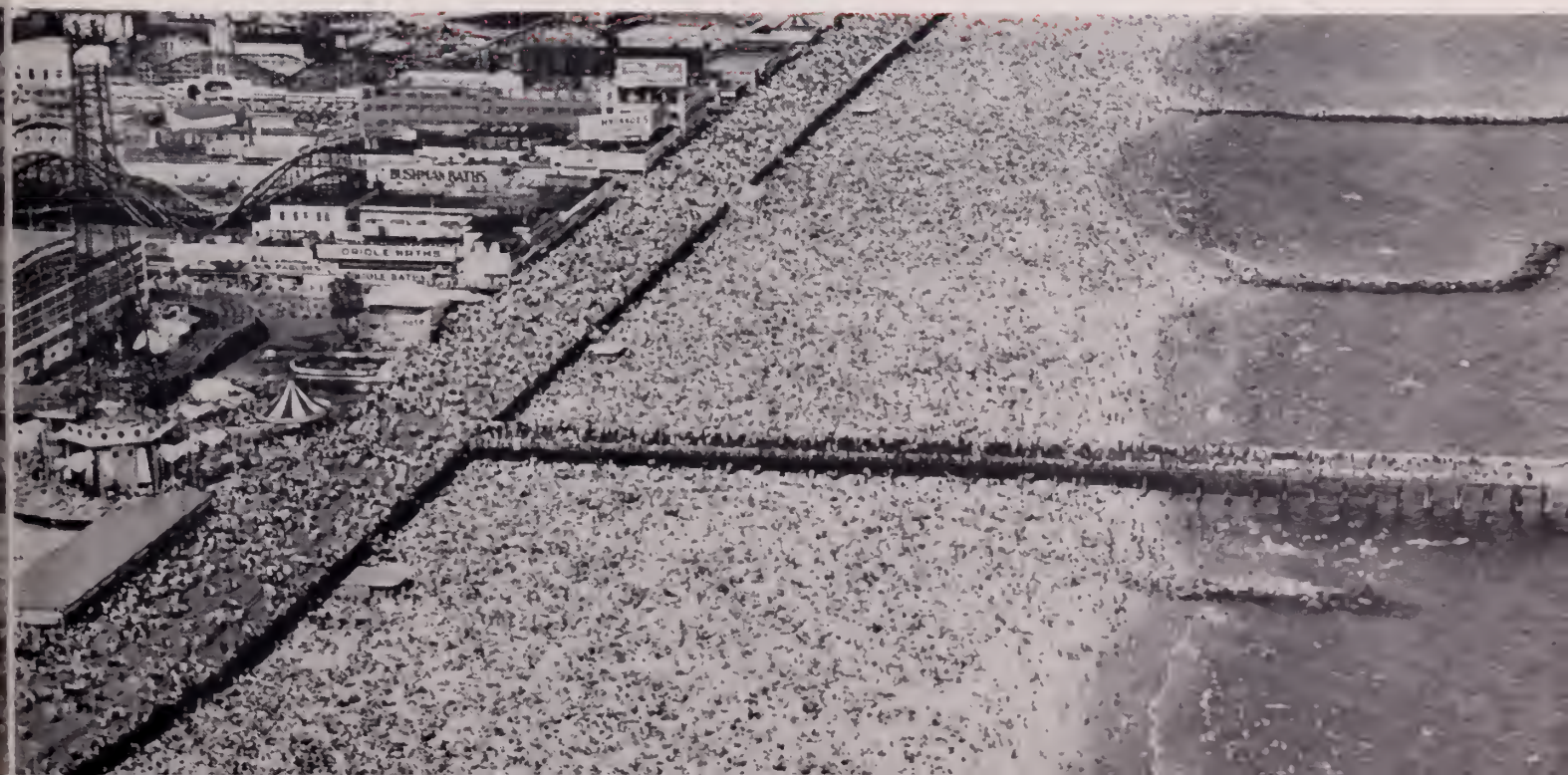
## **STORM DAMAGE**

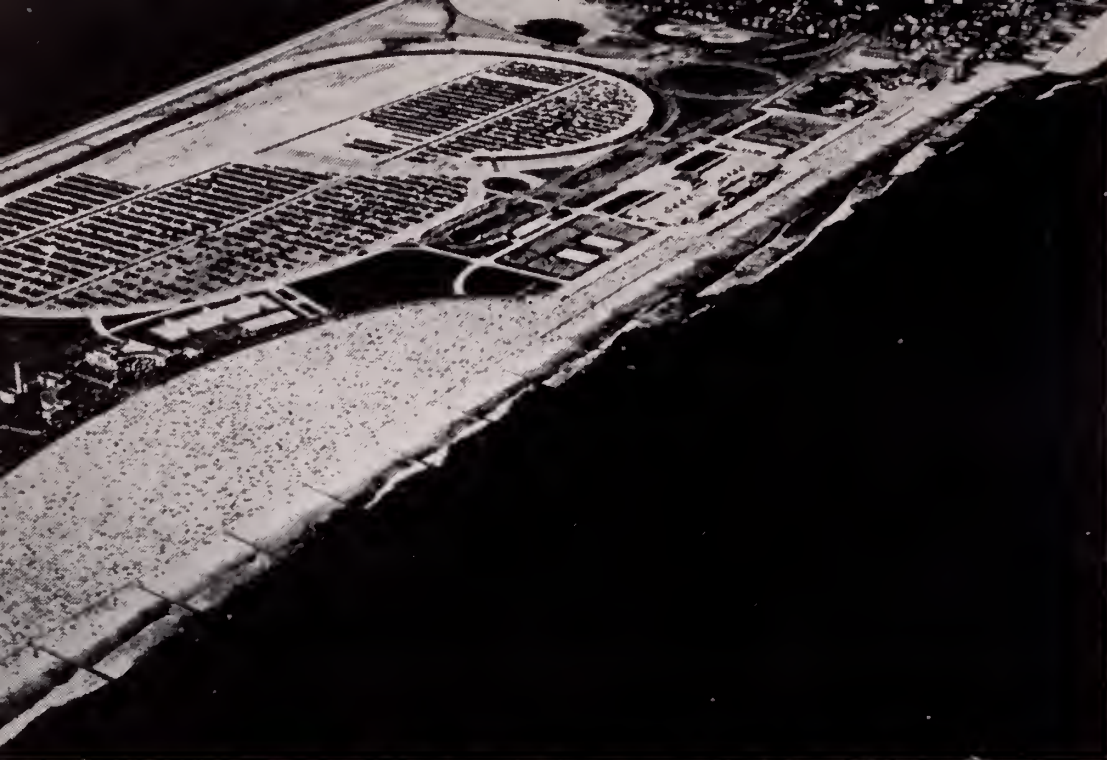
The shorefront facilities of the Park Department suffered severe damage during the storm of March 6 to 9, 1962. The estimated cost of reconstruction would be \$4,300,000 and the schedule calls for completion in 1964.



GREAT KILLS AND SOUTH BEACH — RICHMOND

CONEY ISLAND — BROOKLYN





JACOB RIIS BEACH  
QUEENS



ORCHARD BEACH  
BRONX



ROCKAWAY BEACH  
QUEENS





**MANHATTAN BEACH — BROOKLYN**

Rehabilitation work to restore for public use the shorefront facilities in order to have the beaches ready for the 1962 bathing season necessitated awarding four emergency contracts at the most badly damaged beaches and comfort stations at Rockaway Beach and Jacob Riis Park in the amount of \$473,250.

In addition to the above, we let four rehabilitation contracts for storm damaged areas:

A. Areas between Marine Parkway Bridge and Beach 149th Street abutting Jamaica Bay in Jacob Riis Park .....	\$ 800,000
B. Areas between Beach 55th Street and Beach 114th Street in Rockaway Beach Park .....	\$1,250,000
C. Railings on boardwalks, ramps, and stairs and portions of parking fields between Beach 19th Street and Beach 85th Street and redecking various ramps between Beach 110th and Beach 119th Street .....	\$ 106,435
D. The Storm Damage at Inwood Hill Park includes reconstruction of rip rap bulkhead and adjacent park areas along the Hudson and Harlem Rivers ..	\$ 100,000
Total:	\$2,256,435

# swimming pools

For those who dwell in the heavily congested areas of our city, well removed from ocean beaches, there are seventeen large modern outdoor swimming pools which are intensely used during the high temperature periods of the summer season. Thousands of children and adults have participated in Learn-to-Swim classes and in life-saving techniques and water safety.



CROTONA POOL — BRONX

Astoria Pool, site of the 1936 American Olympic finals in swimming, diving and water polo prior to the games in Berlin, Germany, again played host in 1964 to the top swimmers, divers and water poloists from the United States.

In the late fall, winter and spring, twelve indoor swimming pools serve the needs of schools, clubs and neighborhood participants who enjoy swimming throughout the year.

An innovation in swimming pool design is the combination swimming pool and ice skating rink which is being constructed in the Harlem Meer section of Central Park. This dual operation will feature cascading

display fountains, a large spectator deck in a picturesque setting among rocky crags and beautiful landscaping set against the tall buildings at the perimeter of the park.

In order to provide adequate water safety personnel to oversee the large expanse of beaches and the many swimming pools, the department recruits and trains yearly more than 1,000 high school and college students. The water safety courses cover the entire field of resuscitation with manual and mechanical devices; the handling of all types of submersion cases, small boat handling, and the modern methods of making rescues at beaches and pools.

When graduation day rolls around in late spring, sufficient lifeguards have been trained to fill the staff of 658 required properly to protect the public at our beaches and pools.

## engineering & architectural

### DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

New parks, neighborhood playgrounds, beachfront, and certain other recreational public facilities, such as swimming pools and outdoor skating rinks throughout the city, are constructed under contracts awarded by the Department of Parks through open competitive bidding.

Major rehabilitation projects, reconstruction and modernization of existing facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks are similarly handled.

The construction contracts are prepared by the Design Division and the actual construction and field work is supervised by the Construction Division. Together, these divisions constitute the engineering and architectural forces of the Department of Parks.

Due to the extensive and ever-increasing volume of new work and major rehabilitations handled by the engineering and architectural forces of this Department, private firms of engineering and architectural consultants are engaged for the preparation of plans and for the supervision of construction on certain large projects. Final jurisdiction over design, construction and acceptance of the completed contracts, however, remains with the engineering personnel of the Department of Parks.

Rehabilitation and modernization of cultural institution buildings, such as, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, the New York City Museum, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Coney Island Aquarium, the New York Central Library, and the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences is also performed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks engineering and architectural forces.

Preservation of historic monuments and sites by contracts prepared by the Department's engineers and architects is an additional responsibility of the Department of Parks.

Special public facilities in park areas constructed by contract and paid for by private funds or by combination of private and City funds also require the technical services of the engineering and architectural forces of the Department of Parks.

Examples of these are the recently completed Kate Wollman Skating Rink in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, and the Delacorte Memorial Theater in Central Park, Manhattan. Proposed projects in this category, now under active consideration by the Department of Parks, include the Hartford Pavilion in Central Park and the Adele Levy Playground in Riverside Park, Manhattan.

The William A. Shea Municipal Stadium is now completed and was available to the Metropolitan Baseball Club (Mets) as their home field for the opening of their 1964 season.

Other work performed by the Department of Parks at Flushing Meadow Park and in conjunction with the World's Fair includes the rehabilitation of the exterior of the New York City Building and installation of major spectacular and educational exhibits within the City Building. The Queens Botanical Garden grounds, together with an Administration Building for the Queens Botanical Garden Society were dedicated in late 1963, in Kissena Corridor Park within the World's Fair leased area.

Work performed by other City, State and Federal agencies, as well as others in park areas, receives the attention of the Park Department engineering personnel through the design, construction and restoration phases to assure compliance with Park Department standards.

During the period covered by this report, 1962-1964, the Department of Parks issued approximately 425 construction contracts. The majority of these projects has been completed during this period. The balance of the contracts is scheduled to be completed progressively during the time immediately following the period of this report. Many of the prominent projects are noted under their appropriate headings of this report.

Among the contracts, those of greater importance include the construction of 46 new playgrounds; the major rehabilitation of approximately 164 parks, playground areas and park buildings; 39 major tree-planting and diseased tree removal contracts throughout the City; 20 roadway and parkway repaving projects; 20 major rehabilitation contracts on public golf course clubhouses; 24 major boardwalk and waterfront rehabilitation contracts which included major storm damage repairs; 5 contracts for demolition of structures preparatory to development of areas for park purposes; 8 flagpole replacement and rehabilitation contracts; 7 projects of site preparation for landfill operation; 16

contracts for rehabilitation of existing swimming pools; 25 seasonal flower "Salute to the Seasons" planting contracts; 78 contracts for rehabilitation and modernization work at the New York Botanical Gardens and at various City museums and libraries, etc., including the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the American Museum of Natural History; the Museum of the City of New York; also, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the New York Public Library.

### **RESURFACING OF PARKS, ETC.**

The various roads on Randalls Island are now being resurfaced with asphaltic concrete under a contract with the cooperation of the Department of Highways.

### **CITY-WIDE TENNIS COURT REHABILITATION**

We are now in the process of preparing four contracts for rehabilitation of tennis courts in the following twelve locations:

1. Ft. Washington Park, Manhattan	13 courts
2. Inwood Park, Manhattan	9 courts
3. Williamsbridge Playground, Bronx	8 courts
4. Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx	4 courts
5. Pelham Bay Park, Bronx	10 courts
6. Dyker Beach Park, Brooklyn	9 courts
7. Gravesend Park, Brooklyn	9 courts
8. Juniper Valley, Queens	4 courts
9. Baisley Park, Queens	4 courts
10. Walker Park, Richmond	1 court
11. East River Park, Manhattan	12 courts
12. Harlem River Houses, Manhattan	8 courts

### **CITY-WIDE RESURFACING OF PLAYGROUNDS**

A resurfacing contract for the following playgrounds is now being prepared:

1. P.S. 40, Queens
2. East 183rd Street and Ryer Avenue Playground, Bronx
3. Benninger Playground, Queens

# floodlighting park facilities

## **JOHN DOWNING MEMORIAL STADIUM**

The Downing Stadium has been equipped with floodlights which have made the stadium suitable for night games.

There are 40 incandescent floodlight projectors of 1,500 watts, each mounted on eight 100 foot steel poles affording satisfactory illumination for athletic play. Approximately 350 floodlight projectors were obtained from Ebbets Field.

## **RED HOOK PARK**

A soccer field area has been selected in Red Hook Park, Brooklyn, and the design for floodlighting the field is underway by our engineers.

## **VAN CORTLANDT PARK**

The City of New York now may boast of a ski-slope which opened late last winter in 1963 and is now in full operation. It is located on the last four holes of the Van Cortlandt Golf Course between the Major Deegan Expressway, Mosholu Parkway and Van Cortlandt Park South, Borough of the Bronx.

The slope has attracted both young and old skiers of various degrees of ability. Features include floodlights for night skiing, rentals, lessons, and snow making machines for "continuous skiing."

## **PARADE GROUNDS, BROOKLYN**

In the summer of 1963, work started on Stage I reconstruction of the Parade Ground in Prospect Park. This included the construction of a new combined Police Precinct and Park Recreation Building to replace an existing deteriorated building. The cost of the building is prorated between the Police and Park Departments.

# safety on parkways

## **PARKWAYS—BEAM TYPE GUIDE RAIL**

Aluminum beam type guide rails in portions of Shore Parkway access roads between 25th Avenue and Barbey Street in Brooklyn are being installed.



**VAN CORTLANDT SKI SLOPES AND SKI TOWS — BRONX**

On a second contract covering portions of Whitestone, Cross Island, Laurelton, Southern, Shore Parkway, and access roads between Bronx-Whitestone Bridge and Spring Creek, beam type guide rails installation work started early in January 1964.

### **CENTRAL PARK WALKS AND EAST DRIVE RESURFACING**

In Central Park the first stage of resurfacing the deteriorated walks from 59th Street to 72nd Streets has just been completed.

Resurfacing the East Drive from 59th Street to 104th Street in Central Park has also been completed.

In the fall of 1963, the Department of Highways let a contract for the reconstruction of the east and west entrances of the Transverse Road No. 2 through Central Park (E. 79th to W. 81st Streets). The new roadway necessitated the construction of a new forestry building and parking field, etc. Our Department cooperated on many of the items in the contract.

# 1964 U. S. OLYMPIC TRIALS



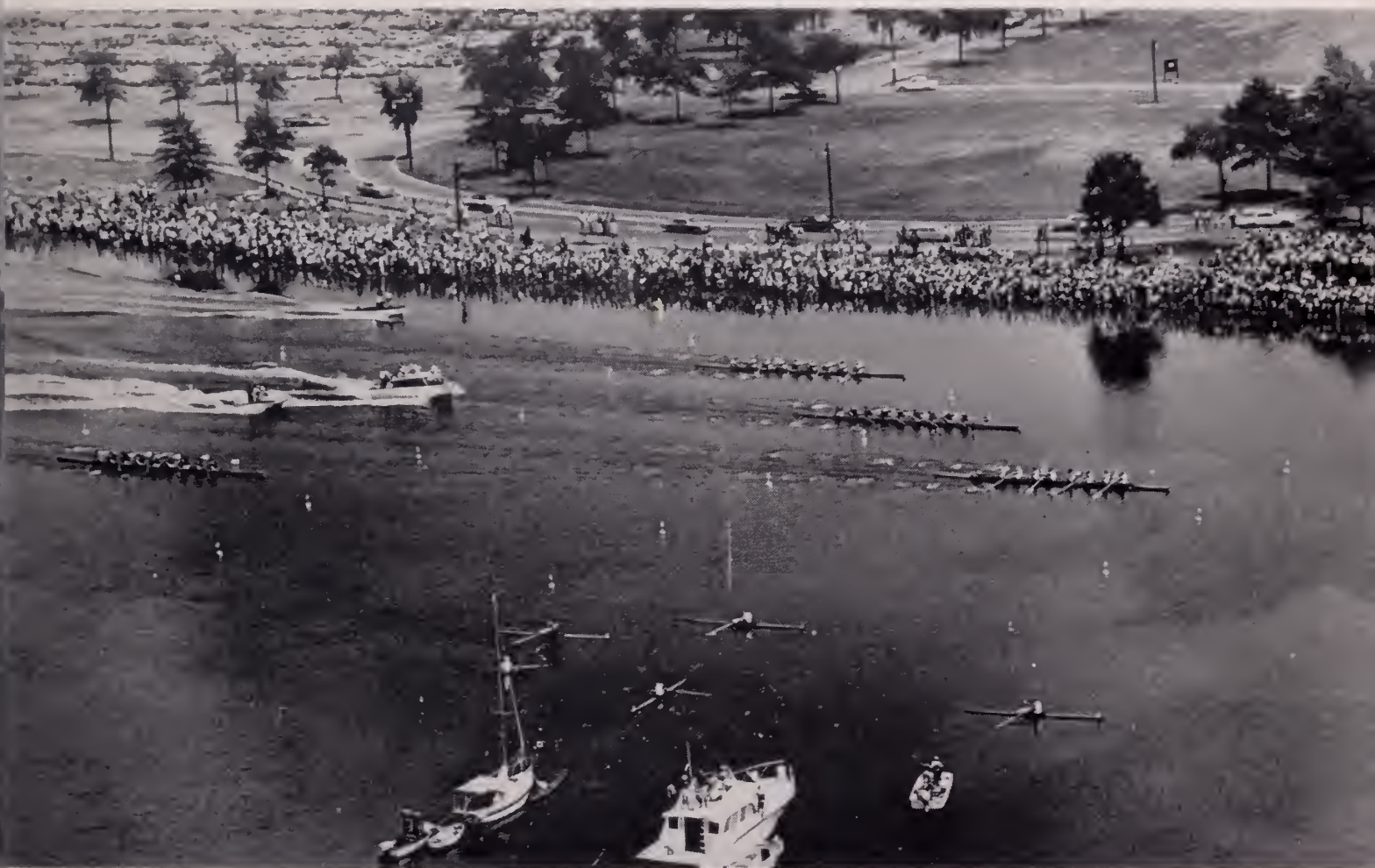
CYCLING RACES ON NEW BANKED BICYCLE OVAL IN KISSENA PARK — QUEENS

TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS IN DOWNING STADIUM, RANDALLS ISLAND





# IN PARK FACILITIES



ROWING EVENTS AT ORCHARD BEACH — BRONX  
SWIMMING EVENTS IN ASTORIA POOL — QUEENS



# olympic trials

The City of New York's contributions to the 1964 United States Olympic Team efforts are five-fold. We expended one million dollars for three construction contracts on various permanent park improvements for the usage and enjoyment of people in the City of New York. These three improved facilities also were the sites for the 1964 U. S. Olympic Trials.

## 1. *Randalls Island Stadium Track and Field Events*

This contract was for the general rehabilitation of John J. Downing Stadium and exterior facilities.

The work included painting toilet and locker rooms, glazing, new prefabricated ticket booths, windows, shower and concession rooms on the different levels, broadcast rooms on the different levels, broadcast rooms and press box, etc. Estimate: \$210,000

## 2. *Astoria Pool—Swimming and Diving Events*

The various portions of the pools, diving towers, and buildings of Astoria Park, Queens, were rehabilitated to provide first class facilities for the swimming and diving events for the tryouts.

Estimate: \$160,000

## 3. *Orchard Beach Lagoon—Rowing Events*

Contract provides for the construction of a Regatta Rowing Course for Olympic Tryouts in the Orchard Beach Lagoon in Pelham Bay Park of the Bronx and the Village of Pelham Manor. Estimate: \$630,000

In addition we have:

## 4. *Basketball*

An agreement was reached with St. John's University for the use of their gymnasium for the Basketball Trials.

## 5. *Volley-ball*

Queens College will make available its gymnasium for the volley-ball competition.

# dates and locations for 1964 united states olympic team trials

<i>Sport Classification and Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
** Athletics—men (track & field) Downing Stadium, Randalls Island	July 3-4
** Athletics—women (track & field) Downing Stadium, Randalls Island	August 7-8-9
* Basketball—men St. John's U. Fieldhouse, Jamaica	April 2-3-4
* Boxing—men World's Fair Arena, Flushing	May 18-19-20
** Canoeing—men and women Orchard Beach Lagoon, Bronx	September 12-13
** Cycling—men (track events) Kissena Park Velodrome, Flushing	September 10-11
(road events) Central Park, New York City	September 12-13
* Fencing—men and women World's Fair Pavilion, Flushing	July 12-13-14
* Gymnastics—men and women Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point	August 26-29 inc.
* Judo—men World's Fair Arena, Flushing	June 12-13
** Rowing—men (singles & eights) Orchard Beach Lagoon, Bronx	July 8-11 inc.
(small boats) Orchard Beach Lagoon, Bronx	August 26-29
Shooting—men (rifle-pistol-trap) Fort Benning, Georgia	To be set
** Swimming & Diving—men and women Astoria Pool, Astoria, L.I.	August 29-September 4 inc.
(diving events) Astoria Pool, Astoria, L.I.	September 4-7 inc.
** Volleyball—men Queens College, Flushing	September 3-4-5
** Water Polo—men Astoria Pool, Astoria, L.I.	August 26-29 inc.
* Weightlifting World's Fair Pavilion, Flushing	August 21-22
* Wrestling—men World's Fair Arena, Flushing	August 24-28 inc.

\*Held in conjunction with New York World's Fair.

\*\*Held on a Park Department facility.

# beautification of parks

## **STREETS AND MAIN THOROUGHFARES**

As part of Mayor Wagner's program of beautifying the city, 476 acres of lawn in Central Park have been revitalized by sodding, reseeding, fertilization, liming, etc., and an additional 125 acres will be done in 1964. Over 1,335 undesirable trees and 9,182 shrubs have been removed. However, more than 431 trees and 22,651 shrubs have been planted in areas where they will be less subject to vandalism. More than 2,340 trees and 15,000 shrubs have been pruned and present plans call for this work to continue.

In Prospect Park, Brooklyn, over 1,200 trees and 11,000 shrubs have been planted since the start of this rehabilitation project. This year 90 acres of lawn were fed and renovated and another 40 acres will be started next year.

In addition, many other major park areas have been spruced up by tree and shrub planting as well as the addition of showy, colorful bedding plants and carpeted with ground cover, in 1963. Briefly summed up, our greenhouses propagated 159,312 bedding plants such as Pansies, Begonias, Geranium, Petunias, Chrysanthemums, Zinnias, etc. A total of 313,450 ground cover plants consisting of English Ivy, Pachysandra, Honeysuckle and Myrtle, also were grown. All of these plants were set out to advantage in various park areas throughout the city, bringing color and green relief from concrete and blacktop to urban dwellers.

In 1962 and 1963, our landscape beautification program progressed throughout the five boroughs in the various categories as follows: 9,046 trees and 39,163 shrubs were planted; 2,391 acres of lawn areas were seeded, sodded and aerified and 4,764 acres of lawns were fertilized.

During this same period a total of 60,226 trees were pruned, 275,688 were sprayed and 12,725 were removed by Department of Parks forestry forces.

Furthermore, contractors under supervision of Department of Parks personnel, removed 4,161 diseased Elm trees in parks and streets. 10,749 dead, dying and undesirable street trees were also removed. In Brooklyn and Queens, the boroughs having the greatest number of trees, approximately 13,760 street trees were pruned by contractors.

The replacement of removed street trees and the planting of street trees in new locations by homeowners, private individuals or organizations are constantly encouraged by this department in order to give added impetus to the beautification program.

On Riker's Island this department runs a nursery which is operated by a Park Department crew of experienced gardeners supplemented by work gangs of trusties from the nearby Riker's Island Penitentiary. Approximately 5,000 trees and 5,000 shrubs are propagated annually and are utilized by all boroughs. This nursery cannot produce all the various species and sizes of plants required for our extensive beautification program. During the years of 1962 and 1963, we purchased 1,630 trees and over 50,000 shrubs which were planted and are growing in parks, along parkways and in playgrounds throughout the five boroughs

As a further extension of this program, two major projects are being sponsored by the City of New York for improving the appearance of city streets and main thoroughfares, through seasonal plantings and the planting of trees.

The first project is a Salute to Seasons program for four seasonal plantings along major business streets and in key locations in some of our parks.

This is supplemented by the planting of trees donated by private individuals, trust funds, and neighboring groups. Approximately 2,000 street trees are planted yearly through this means.

The second project is the planting of 5,200 street trees by the City, along the main thoroughfares leading to the 1964-1965 New York World's Fair to make them more attractive to the city's visitors.

In conjunction with the Mayor's Cooperative Education and Work Program for high school students, the Department of Parks employs 40 trainees who are assigned to Prospect Park and Central Park. These students alternately work one week for the Department and continue their high school education in the other week.

Their duties, under the direct supervision of Park Foremen, include cribbing of banks to prevent erosion, the cultivating of shrub beds, sodding and seeding lawns, the planting, pruning and cultivating of trees and shrubs, bridle path rehabilitation, and other maintenance work.

The skills and other benefits the youths derive from this worthwhile program is that they are trained for employment opportunities, earn an income and at the same time are encouraged to complete their high school education.

## **concessions**

Park Concessions are many and varied, ranging from small refreshment stands and carrettinas to parkway gasoline service stations and the traditional food and amusement concessions usually found in major parks.

Among recent concession innovations are included a golf driving range located in Pelham Bay Park and the establishment of a skiing facility in an Cortlandt Park, The Bronx, consisting of 5 rope tows on 3 slopes, together with snow making machinery. These are the first ski slopes to be located within the City limits and are readily accessible to New Yorkers who wish to practice their skills. The installation of additional lighting equipment has made night skiing possible and the recent addition of a ski building affords greater comfort and convenience of patrons of this sport.

Another new undertaking for the Park Department is the operation of an underground parking garage at Damrosch Park, which will accommodate 750 cars, to serve the patrons who will be attending the various functions at the Lincoln Center of the Performing Arts. This garage was opened in the spring of 1964.

The golfing public was gladdened by the opening in 1963 of the Marine Park Golf Course in Brooklyn and the acquisition and rehabilitation of the old North Hills Golf Course which is now known as the Douglaston Park Golf Course. This last facility serves a dual purpose since gourmets may obtain excellent steaks at the clubhouse restaurant which is operated on an all-year round basis.

Most of the concessions, such as the large restaurants or other refreshment facilities, operate under license agreements which usually provide for a four-year term. Others are operated under annual permits. In all cases, renewals are automatically issued if the operations are satisfactory. The license agreements provide that the City is to receive a percentage of the gross business from the concession as a rental fee for the privilege granted. Annual permits are generally on a flat rental basis.

The gross business at all concessions in 1963 was approximately \$9,917,000. The revenue to the City was approximately \$1,200,000.

Modernization of some park facilities having concessions is a continuing process. Among the improvements was the installation of a flood-lighting system at John J. Downing Memorial Stadium, Randall's Island, at a cost of \$225,000. International soccer games will especially benefit from this installation since it will permit night games, in addition to the Sunday afternoon games.

The marina on the Hudson River at 79th Street installed a de-icing system which permits winter storage of boats and is now installing another innovation in the form of a pneumatic breakwater. This new installation will serve the same purpose as a solid breakwater and by a system of forced air will create a turbulence to counteract any swells caused by river traffic, thus permitting the establishment of additional moorings in this protected area.

The Battery Park Seawall, which is the point of departure for charter sailings, sightseeing cruises and a ferry service to the Statue of Liberty.



**79th STREET BOAT BASIN**

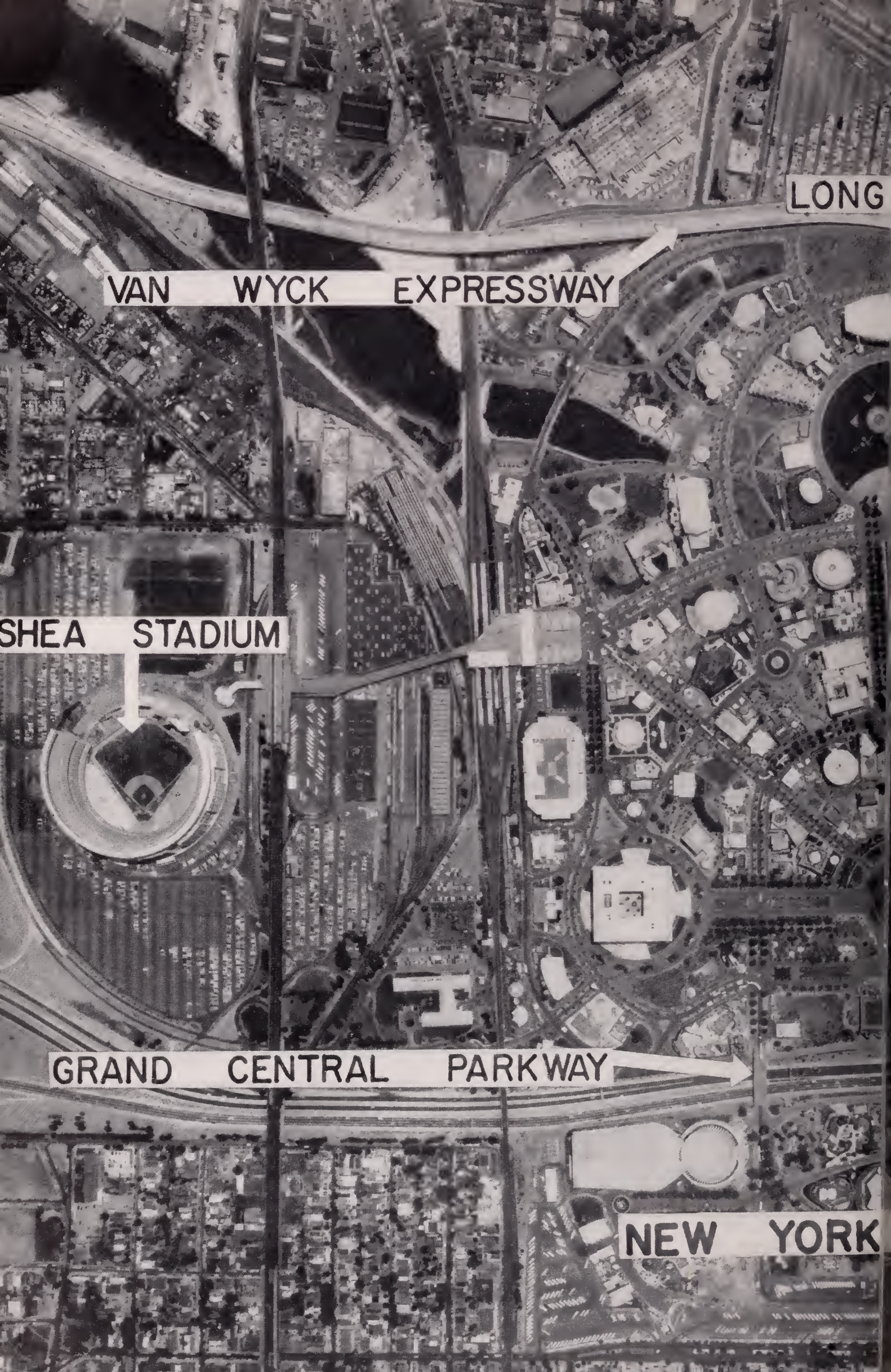
Supplementary refreshment facilities were provided at Rockaway Beach, Riis Park and Pelham Split-Rock Golf Course.

A much needed expansion to the picnic area in the Central Park Zoo Cafeteria was completed. Provision has also been made for a modernized food concession at the Field House now under construction at the Parade Grounds in Brooklyn. Similar refreshment facilities are included in the renovations planned for Hamilton Fish Park and Pool in Manhattan. Orchard Beach will also have a new refreshment building in the promenade area.

Among the projects planned is a new stable in Central Park which will include an indoor riding rink. Adequate refreshment facilities are also planned for the Harlem Meer combined outdoor swimming pool and skating rink which are being constructed in the upper reaches of Central Park.

**BETHESDA FOUNTAIN, CENTRAL PARK**





LONG

VAN WYCK EXPRESSWAY

SHEA STADIUM

GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY

NEW YORK



ISLAND EXPRESSWAY

WORLD'S FAIR

MEADOW LAK



*We are fortunate to have been able to persuade Robert Moses, the President of the New York World's Fair Corporation, to provide for inclusion in this report a statement on the Post-Fair Plan for Flushing Meadow Park and Beyond; also a statement on his program as arterial coordinator for the City. Mr. Moses' authoritative and enlightening statements are printed herewith.*

COMMISSIONER MORRIS

# the world's fair and post-fair plans

by Robert Moses, President

New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corporation

The New York World's Fair of 1964-1965 means a great deal to the City of New York. It is the first BILLION DOLLAR EXPOSITION. It is stimulating, educational and entertaining. It is an Olympics of Progress in which all nations compete on an equal basis.

It is, moreover, an important source of revenue to the City of New York. It has been conservatively estimated that the City will realize \$100,000,000 in sales and other taxes each year of the two years of the Fair and will in that time make it unnecessary to levy new taxes. The Fair will return to the City treasury \$24,000,000 advanced for permanent improvements.

These are a few of the immediate benefits the City will receive from the Fair. The future promises a beautiful, modern park in the very geographical and population center of the City.

A magnificent Post-Fair park, or rather chain of parks, has been a dream of mine since the acquisition of Flushing Meadow for park purposes before the 1939-1940 Fair. It was to have come into being at the close of that Fair, but funds were lacking. Those of us who will be responsible are determined that it will become an actuality at the close of the 1964-1965 New York World's Fair.

Preliminary plans already have been worked out. FLUSHING MEADOW AND BEYOND, a preliminary report on the proposed Post-Fair program, was published last January. It contemplates a series of parks, from Flushing Meadow, the World's Fair site, to the Nassau County line, taking in Kissena Corridor, Kissena, Cunningham, and Alley Parks and the Douglaston Park Golf Course.

In that report, I wrote: "Converting a pageant into a park is not like composing bars of music, one following another. The stanzas of demolition, salvage, dirt moving, restoration and construction overlap. The procedure is most complicated. We must begin building in one place as we continue to demolish in another, and thus create currently usable

marginal recreation areas as we move along. In this way the entire new park system can be finished by summer of 1967, that is within approximately twenty-two months after the close of the Fair, in October 1965."

Of the "years to come," I said: "The aftermath of a World's Fair is at least as significant as the Fair itself. Visitors to such an exposition carry away indelible impressions, lively lessons, enduring satisfactions and pleasant memories, but what finally remains on the ground when the pageant has faded, the brickbats have been removed by the wreckers and scavengers, and the park planners have gone to work, is of more concern to the next generation than any spectacle, however gorgeous."

To this end we must now address ourselves so that our ultimate objective may be determined and all our energies directed toward its realization.

I trust that it will not appear absurd if I say that what is left of the Fair grounds and environs is at least as important to us as the success and imprint of the Fair itself.

The inheritance of future generations from the Fair will include, among other things, a Hall of Science, a Queens Zoo and Botanical Garden, a Marina on Flushing Bay that may well rival all other Marinas and the William Shea Stadium. The complex of parkways, highways and expressways that exist today would not have been built in this generation, if there had been no Fair.

Flushing Meadow Park will be accessible. It will be served by the Long Island Rail Road, the city subway, by car, by water and by air.

The Post-Fair park development will cost the City of New York and its citizens nothing. If, as we expect, the Fair is a financial as well as cultural success, there will be a sufficient balance to pay all debts and obligations and to make a permanent contribution to our children's children.

## arterial

### **PARKWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS**

More than \$1,670,000,000 has been spent on the construction of arterial highways in New York City since the end of World War II. The program now under way consists largely of projects being built by the New York State Department of Public Works as part of the Interstate and Urban Highway Systems with Federal and State highway aid, and of the \$325,000,000 Verrazano-Narrows Bridge by the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority. Construction is nearing completion on 25.9 miles of new highways and reconstruction of 11.0 miles at a cost of \$330,000,000. The City of New York contributes one-half of the cost of right of way acquisition for urban highways and is also advancing a small part of

arterial construction with its own funds. Construction of major river crossings within the City are the responsibility of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority. Work on river crossings between New York and New Jersey is under the jurisdiction of The Port of New York Authority.

In October, 1962, the 2.4 mill Bruckner Expressway elevated structure from the Triborough Bridge to Sheridan Expressway at Bronx River was opened to traffic. The remaining 3.5 mile section from the Bronx River to the previously completed section north of Throgs Neck Expressway is being designed and construction is scheduled to start late in 1964 or early 1965.

Upon completion of the Alexander Hamilton Bridge over the Harlem River in January, 1963, the Cross-Bronx Expressway, after 15 years of construction, was opened for its entire five mile length between the approaches to the Throgs Neck Bridge and the George Washington Bridge. Construction of the comprehensive interchange with Deegan Expressway on the east bank of the Harlem River is under way with completion scheduled for the Fall of 1964.

The lower level of the George Washington Bridge was opened to traffic in August, 1962, increasing the number of vehicle lanes of this important Hudson River crossing from 8 to 14. The following Winter, in January, 1963, the Bus Terminal over the bridge approach in Manhattan was placed in service.

The first section of Sheridan Expressway, over one mile long from Bruckner Expressway to Cross-Bronx Expressway, was opened to traffic in February, 1963. Design of the next section, from Cross-Bronx Expressway to Bronx River Parkway, will start in 1964 and construction could get under way later in 1965. Construction of the remaining section from the Bronx River Parkway to the New England Thruway is programmed to start in 1967.

With the opening of the Harlem River Drive to traffic from 132nd Street to 143rd Street in 1962, the three-mile waterfront highway now provides a direct connection for passenger vehicles from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive and Triborough Bridge with George Washington Bridge. The section from 155th Street to 168th Street is scheduled for reconstruction and widening to modern standards in 1964.

The remaining section of Prospect Expressway from Greenwood Avenue to Ocean Parkway at Church Avenue was opened to traffic in 1962 completing the two-mile highway connecting Gowanus Expressway at 3rd Avenue with Ocean Parkway. The Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority paid for land acquisition, tenant relocation and demolition and for construction of the section from 3rd Avenue to 6th Avenue. The remaining construction costs were derived from Federal-State funds.

Construction of the extensive highway system in north-central Queens advanced rapidly during 1962 and 1963, and at the end of December, 1963, the following roadways were opened to traffic: the widen-



THROGS NECK BRIDGE

NORTHERN BOULEVARD LOOKING EAST AT GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY INTERCHANGE





ELEVATED SECTION OF BRUCKNER BOULEVARD LOOKING NORTH — BRONX

GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY — AT WORLD'S FAIR SITE — LOOKING NORTH AT  
LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY INTERCHANGE



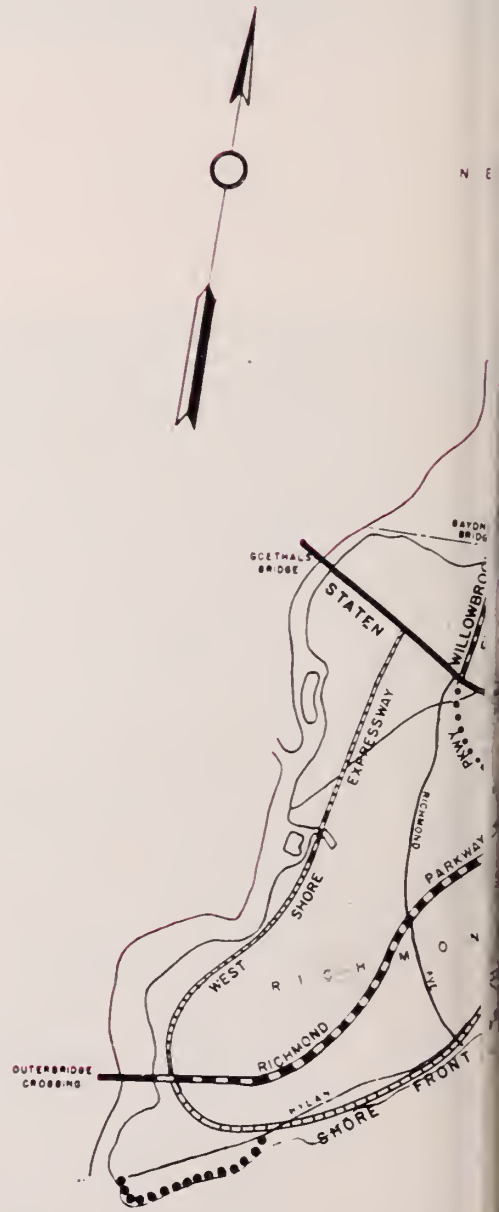
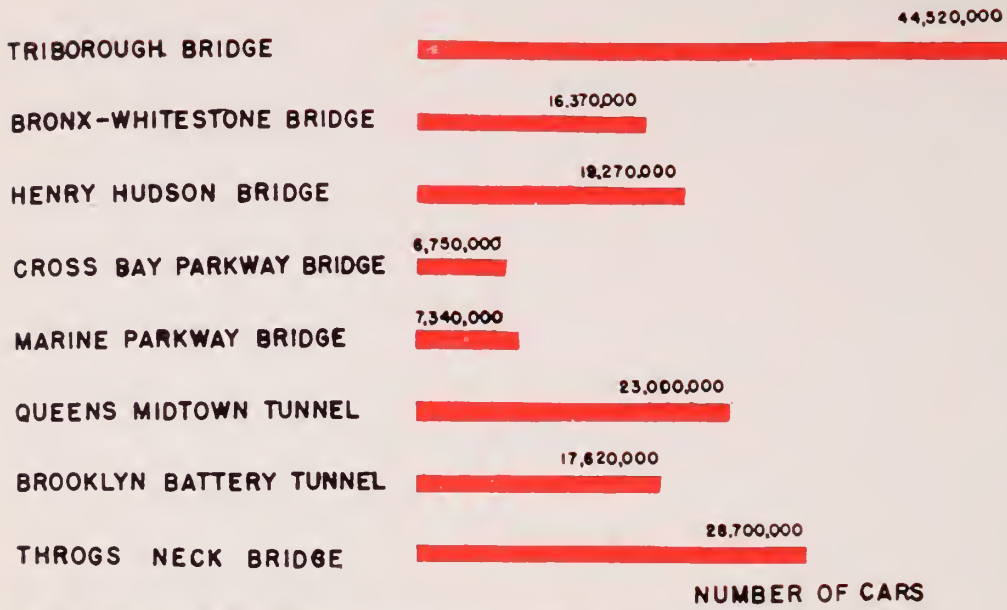


GOWANUS EXPRESSWAY LOOKING NORTHWARD — BROOKLYN

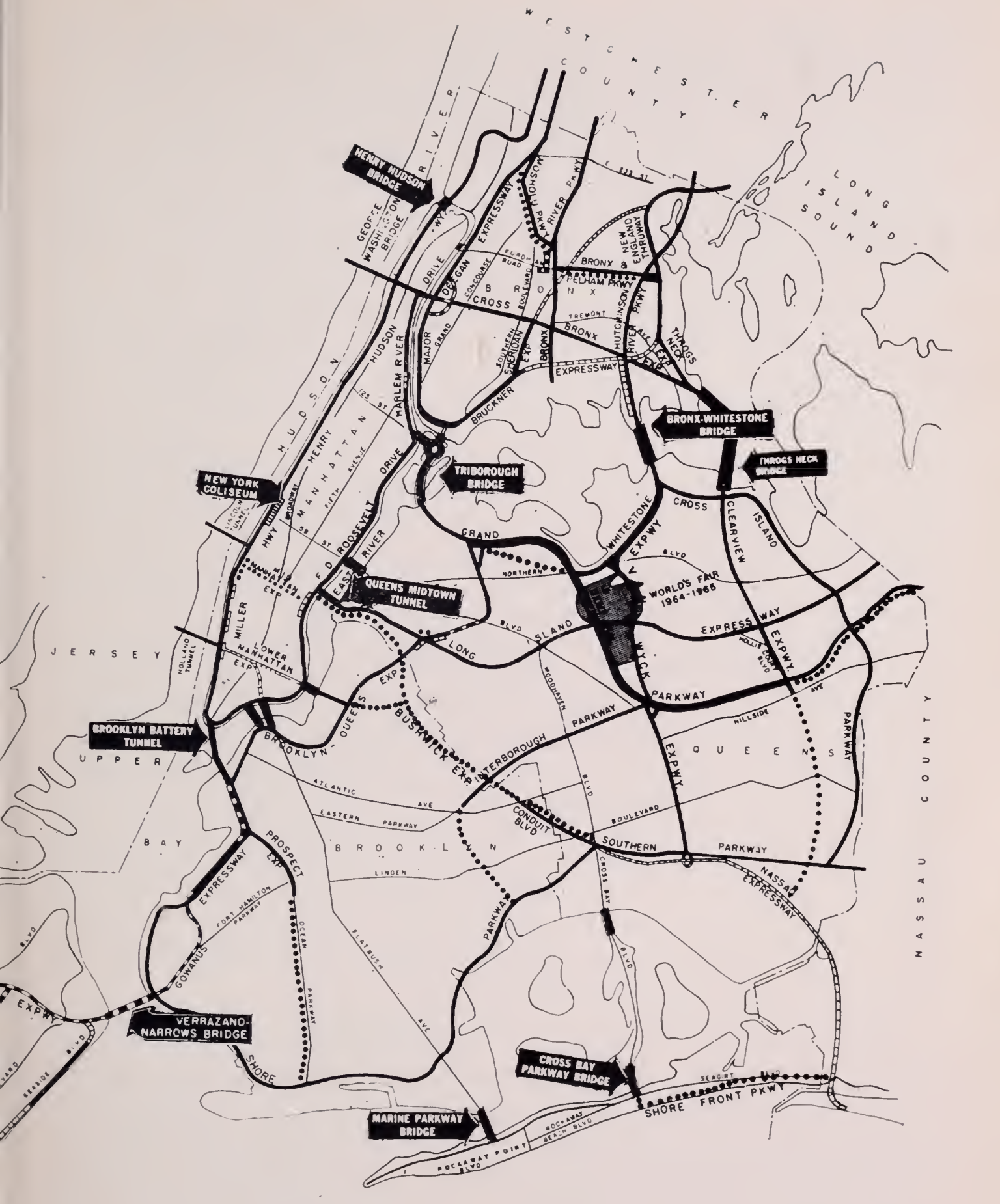
WHITESTONE EXPRESSWAY LOOKING NORTHWARD — BRONX WHITESTONE BRIDGE IN BACKGROUND



# TRIBOROUGH BRIDGE AND TUNNEL AUTHORITY

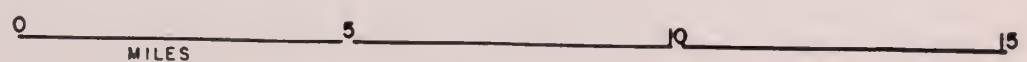






**LEGEND**

- COMPLETED
- - - - - UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- ..... IN PLANNING
- ..... FUTURE



**THE ARTERIAL SYSTEM**

ing of Grand Central Parkway between Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and Van Wyck Expressway from six lanes to eight lanes; the widening of Whitestone Parkway from four lanes to eight lanes and its conversion to an expressway for mixed traffic; the northerly extension of Van Wyck Expressway as a six-lane artery from its previous northerly terminus at Grand Central Parkway to the Whitestone Expressway at Northern Boulevard and Flushing River; the reconstruction and widening of Northern Boulevard into a major 12-lane interchange facility between Grand Central Parkway on the west and Whitestone-Van Wyck Expressways on the east; and the southerly extension of Clearview Expressway from 73rd Avenue to Hillside Avenue. The Grand Central Parkway, widened from four to six lanes between Van Wyck Expressway and Clearview Expressway, was opened to traffic in February, 1964. The Jewel Avenue-69th Road crossing of Flushing Meadow Park was completed in the Spring of 1964. These projects, totaling \$133 million, provide Queens with about 20 miles of new and reconstructed highways and go far toward relieving traffic congestion in this important section of the metropolitan region. With the opening of the 1964-1965 World's Fair and the new Shea Stadium in April, 1964, these highways afford increased vehicular capacity at a time when it is most needed.

Satisfactory progress is being made by the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority on the construction of the \$325 million Verrazano-Narrows Bridge between Brooklyn and Staten Island. The towers and anchorages were completed in 1962, and spinning of the four 3-foot diameter cables was started in March, 1963, and completed in August, 1963. Erection of the suspended roadway was started in October, 1963. This new bridge, the world's longest suspension span, is scheduled to be opened on November 21, 1964. Construction by the State Department of Public Works of the highways leading to the bridge—the six-mile Gowanus Expressway in Brooklyn and the seven-mile Clove Lakes Expressway in Staten Island—is proceeding on schedule and will be ready for traffic at the opening of the bridge.

Other arterial projects are currently under way by the City of New York. These include construction of the remaining  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile section of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway between Woodside Avenue and 64th Street; construction of ramps connecting the South Street Viaduct of Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive with the approach to the Brooklyn Bridge; reconstruction of the Brooklyn approach to the upper roadways of the Manhattan Bridge; and the widening of Fordham Road between Hughes Avenue and Pelham Parkway including grade separations at Crotona Avenue and Southern Boulevard.

On June 10, 1963, the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority issued a comprehensive report, "Future Arterial Program," in which was presented a program embracing over 70 miles of new highway construction and 20 miles of reconstruction of existing arterials. Important ele-

ments of this program include the Lower Manhattan Expressway and Mid Manhattan Expressway; a third tube for the Queens Midtown Tunnel together with Bushwick Expressway extending from the eastern approaches of the Williamsburg Bridge and the Queens Midtown Tunnel to the westerly terminus of Nassau Expressway at Southern Parkway and Cross Bay Boulevard; Nassau Expressway from Bushwick Expressway to the City Line along the northerly boundary of Kennedy International Airport and through Nassau Country to the Atlantic Beach Bridge.

Other major projects included in the future program are: the southerly extension of Clearview Expressway from Hillside Avenue to Nassau Expressway; the extension of Brooklyn-Queens Expressway easterly to Northern Boulevard at Grand Central Parkway; the widening of Grand Central Parkway from Clearview Expressway to the City Line; the reconstruction of Brooklyn-Queens Expressway from 64th Street in Queens to Morgan Avenue in Brooklyn including the Long Island Expressway Interchange; the reconstruction of Miller Highway to eliminate the reverse curves at Gansevoort Street, 23rd Street and 57th Street; the construction of an overpass at 34th Street and Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive; the reconstruction of Bronx and Pelham Parkway and Mosholu Parkway; the extension of Interborough Parkway from Jamaica Avenue to Shore Parkway; the construction of Shore Front Drive from Seaside Boulevard to Outerbridge Crossing in Staten Island; the construction of Richmond Parkway and West Shore Expressway from Clove Lakes Expressway to Outerbridge Crossing; and Willowbrook Parkway from Clove Lakes Expressway to Shore Front Drive.

The total cost of the future program is estimated at over \$1,100,000,000 comprising Federal, State and Authority funds, and only \$7,500,000 of City funds as its share of the cost of right of way acquisition. It is scheduled for completion by 1976.

## PARKWAYS

<i>Existing or Under Construction</i>	<i>Length in Miles</i>
Grand Central Parkway (10.5 miles recently widened, remainder prop.)	14.5
Interborough Parkway	4.7
Belt Parkway System	34.5
Henry Hudson Parkway	10.7
Hutchinson River Parkway	5.3
Bronx & Pelham Parkway (Proposed Reconstruction 2.0 miles)	2.3
Mosholu Parkway (Proposed Reconstruction 2.0 miles)	2.9
Bronx River Parkway	5.6

*Proposed:*

Interborough Parkway Extension .....	3.4
Richmond Parkway .....	9.3
Willowbrook Parkway .....	5.0

**EXPRESSWAYS AND OTHER ARTERIALS**

*Existing or Under Construction*

Major Deegan Expressway (0.1 miles under construction) ..	8.3
Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (0.7 miles under construction, 1.8 miles prop. impr.) .....	10.5
Van Wyck Expressway .....	7.1
Cross-Bronx Expressway (0.8 miles under construction) .....	6.6
Long Island Expressway .....	13.0
Bruckner Expressway .....	3.8
Clearview Expressway .....	4.9
Whitestone Expressway .....	2.5
Northern Boulevard .....	1.0
Sheridan Expressway .....	1.1
Willowbrook Expressway (under construction) .....	1.5
Clove Lakes Expressway (under construction) .....	6.8
Gowanus Expressway (under construction) .....	5.8
Prospect Expressway (under construction) .....	1.9
New England Thruway .....	3.2
Throgs Neck Expressway .....	1.0
Harlem River Drive (Proposed Reconstruction 0.8 miles) ..	2.7
Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive (Proposed 34th Street overpass 0.8 miles) .....	9.1
Miller Highway (Proposed reconstruction 2.0 miles) .....	5.8
Trans Manhattan Expressway .....	0.6
Woodhaven Boulevard .....	10.0
Queens Boulevard .....	7.0
Ocean Parkway (Proposed Reconstruction 4.2 miles) .....	4.2

*Proposed:*

Brooklyn-Queens Expressway Extension .....	2.0
Bruckner Expressway (middle section) .....	3.4
Clearview Expressway Extension .....	5.0
Nassau Expressway .....	6.0
Sheridan Expressway Extension .....	3.9
Bushwick Expressway .....	10.9
Lower Manhattan Expressway .....	2.4
Mid Manhattan Expressway .....	2.6
West Shore Expressway .....	8.3
Shore Front Drive .....	13.5
Hutchinson Expressway .....	0.8



SHEA STADIUM — FLUSHING MEADOW PARK

## shea municipal stadium flushing meadow park

In 1957 Mayor Wagner appointed a committee consisting of Bernard F. Gimbel, James A. Farley, Clinton W. Blume and William A. Shea to negotiate for establishing a new major league baseball team in New York City.

Recognizing the persistent efforts of William A. Shea in the assigned task, the Board of Estimate and the Mayor approved a bill introduced and passed in the City Council naming the stadium in his honor.

Located adjacent to the New York World's Fair Grounds in Flushing Meadow Park, construction was completed in 1964. This new facility contains seats for 55,000 spectators for baseball and 60,000 for football and is so designed that it can be expanded by 25,000 seats in the future without disturbance to the initial construction. This would result in capacities of 80,000 for baseball, 85,000 for football and even more for other events when the field could be utilized for seating. For baseball,

96% of all the seats are between home plate and the two foul poles. Two sections of over 10,000 seats in the first tier of the stadium may be electrically rotated in minutes to provide more field side line seats for football.

Twenty-one runs of escalators in seven banks with a carrying capacity of 56,000 persons an hour make quick and easy access to all upper seats and twenty-four wide and gradual ramps augment the escalators in facilitating the movement of pedestrian traffic in the stadium. Ample rest rooms, concession stands, telephone booths, and eating facilities are located around aisles at each level to eliminate any vertical travel.

The control of ticket sales is achieved through a central station to which each ticket booth is connected by pneumatic tubes. A ticket for any seat in the stadium may be dispatched instantly to any booth. The color scheme of the seats on each level is varied, and the colors of the admission tickets will correspond to the color scheme of the area in which the seat is located.

A special section with the most modern communications facilities available is located on the press level and at the field level there are television and radio interviewing rooms. At ground level there are separate permanent quarters for both the home baseball and football teams, and spacious comfortable quarters with their own showers and dressing rooms may be used by visiting participants for all events.

For night events, lights are run in a continuous strip on the cantilevered roof, eliminating all towers except for two banks beyond right and left field.

There is a parking field for 5,500 cars and an additional 1,500 car parking field will be utilized after the 1964-1965 World's Fair, making a total parking capacity of 7,000 cars in the future.

A modern electronic scoreboard, standing 86 feet above ground level and measuring 175 feet long, with a 24-foot rear projection screen to permit the display of either still or color motion pictures, and surrounded in the back by a white cycloramic shell, will indicate progress of the game on the field and the status of every game being played in both major leagues, plus coming events, news, or special announcements. It is pre-planned for instant conversion for football games.

In addition to the main scoreboard, two synchronized auxiliary scoreboards will be placed on opposite sides of the field to assure game-in-progress information to the entire stadium.

Provision has been made in the design of the stadium for future installation of an all-weather retractor cover.

A thirty-year lease has been signed for use of the stadium by the Metropolitan Baseball Club, Inc., the Mets, and a five-year lease has been signed by the Gotham Football Club, Inc., owners of a professional football club, the "Jets." The stadium will be used for other events such as boxing, wrestling, conventions, stage shows, college football and other popular attractions.

# golf

With the ever-increasing need to relieve the crowded conditions existing on our present golf courses, much has been accomplished during the past two years to overcome or at least keep pace with the demand. The completion of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge will enable Brooklynites to travel easily to Richmond's less congested golf facilities. Long-range plans have been made to provide an 18-hole golf course on Rockaway Boulevard in Idlewild Park and another is contemplated in Edgemere Park in Rockaway.

In 1963, the Park Department added two new golf courses to the existing ten municipal golf courses.

In Marine Park, Brooklyn, the two new nine-hole golf courses, complete with a Golf Clubhouse and a Maintenance Building, were ready for play in August. These courses, comprising 210 acres, were built on low salt marshlands, which were filled with sanitation refuse and covered with manufactured topsoil under our land reclamation program.

The second new course is the newly acquired Douglaston Park Course in Queens. This was formerly a private course known as North Hills Golf Club. A portion was purchased by the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, and the remainder was altered to make this new 18-hole course. Some reconstruction work was performed to open it this year. Two consulting engineers were engaged in redesigning the course and the clubhouse.

We are requesting funds in the 1964-65 Capital Budget Request for a new golf house and parking field for the Forest Park Course in Queens.

Despite the heaviest usage in the world, the vagaries of the weather and other factors outside our control, the maintenance of park golf courses is comparable to that of private courses. This has been achieved by standardizing methods of maintenance, particularly with regard to green fertilization and disease control. In the past, compost was mixed by Park Department personnel. Purchase of prepared composted top-dressing for our greens has resulted in a more efficient maintenance operation.

All courses were equipped with the finest type of golf ball washers.

A comfort station and concession building near the first tee of the Split Rock Course in the Bronx has been constructed. As funds are made available, similar improvements are planned at other courses.

Golf driving ranges have become popular. Desirable sites for such facilities are now being reviewed and construction of one driving range in Pelham Bay Park, The Bronx, was completed and opened in 1962. This was paid for entirely with private funds.

The facility is operated by a concessionaire in accordance with an agreement with the Department of Parks. The City derives revenue from this facility in the form of a percentage based upon the gross receipts.

## historic houses

### **BARTOW-PELL MANSION**

Located on Shore Road east of Hutchinson River in Pelham Bay Park is an outstanding example of a Greek Revival Home built in 1836-42 by Robert Bartow, a direct descendant of Sir John Pell, 2nd Lord Mayor of the Manor of Pelham. In 1914 the mansion was restored and the magnificent sunken garden built by the International Garden Club.

We recently completed extensive alterations to the building for the expected influx of people during the World's Fair. Visitors will find a hospitable atmosphere there with gardens maintained with utmost care and beauty.

### **KING MANSION**

In King Park at 153rd Street and Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica is the King Mansion which was built in 1750 by Rufus King, member of the Continental Congress, Senator from New York and Minister to England. The King Manor Association operates the building as a Museum. In 1962 the roof and building were reconstructed. Partially destroyed by fire in 1964, King Mansion is now undergoing further restoration.

### **DYCKMAN HOUSE**

In Dyckman House Park, Broadway at 204th Street, this building is the only remaining 18th century farmhouse in Manhattan. The grounds and house have been refurbished, a new sidewalk constructed, and a new oil-fired heating plant installed.

### **MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION**

This beautiful and historic house, dating from 1765, is located in Roger Morris Park, 160th Street and Edgecomb Avenue, Manhattan. The rehabilitation of the exterior will be undertaken in 1964 and a new tool-house of 18th century design will be constructed as a garden feature.



# museums and institutions

The Commissioner of Parks serves as an ex-officio member of the governing boards of fourteen of the City's cultural institutions. Most of these institutions carry on their activities on park property and all occupy City-owned buildings.

In each instance, and also in the case of the New York Public Library's central building in Bryant Park, the Park Department is responsible for use of City funds and for carrying the construction contracts for such projects through to completion. Similarly the Department of Parks processes the City's contributions to maintenance and operation costs under the annual expense budget, and handles many other matters involving liaison between the institutions and other city agencies. The libraries, works of art, and other material of like nature are owned, used, and maintained by the institutions themselves.

Over the years the relative value of endowments has decreased and large gifts for unrestricted purposes have become increasingly rare. Large parts of the endowment funds of even the wealthiest institutions are restricted to research, enlarging certain types of collections or to other special uses and are not available for operating expenses which have greatly increased. The City, recognizing the valuable contributions to recreation, education and scientific knowledge made by the institutions, has steadily enlarged its contributions toward the improvement of physical plants and the expense of maintenance and operation. Much has been accomplished in recent years and the program will continue until modern facilities and services more nearly meet the increasing public interest and demand.

Several of the institutions—the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Public Library, the New York Zoological Society and the New York Botanical Garden—have been able, through private contributions, to share the expense of many major capital improvements with the City, usually to the extent of 50% of the cost. Others with more limited resources depend entirely, or to a large extent, on the City for the expense of necessary construction and modernization projects. They all provide valuable services to the community, city, and nation. Financially able citizens of New York should give them increasingly liberal support.

Following is a brief resume of some of the principal construction projects for which the City is financially responsible, either in whole or in part, at the several institutions:

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is the largest and most comprehensive art museum in the western hemisphere. As part of a long-range program of rehabilitation and modernization, a new central service building has been constructed, electrical service has been improved, large

areas of roof have been reconstructed, the second floors of Wings E and H have been reconstructed, and a new art reference library wing is nearing completion. Other important projects which will be carried out in 1964 and 1965 are the installation of temperature and humidity control in the principal painting galleries, additional work in Wing H, and the start of construction of the Costume Institute.

A similar program for the rehabilitation and modernization of the Brooklyn Museum will continue in 1964 and 1965. Stage III of the reconstruction program is now under way and will include the reconstruction of one of the largest painting galleries and modernization of the special exhibition gallery. Other projects scheduled for 1964 are the construction of a parking field and the replacement of flooring in several exhibit galleries.

The American Museum of Natural History is the world's largest institution in its field. Its buildings, equipment and exhibits are being steadily modernized and improved. The extensive electrical service system has been converted from direct to alternating current, roofs are being rehabilitated, a new laboratory of animal behavior is under construction and many improvements to galleries and corridors have been carried out. Scheduled for 1964 and 1965 are the construction of a new centralized cafeteria, a pedestrian bridge to connect the Museum with its parking field, and interior reconstruction to provide important new exhibit halls.

**EXHIBITION OF THE MONA LISA — METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART**





AKELEY HALL IN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY — MANHATTAN

The Museum of the City of New York preserves and exhibits important material relating to the history and life of the City. In 1963 the obsolete heating plant was converted to fully automatic oil operation. Scheduled for 1964 are the caulking and weather-stripping of windows, the installation of improved lighting in various galleries and the start of a program of rearrangement of the exhibit material by cultural and historic periods.

The Staten Island Museum, operated by Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences is an outstanding community institution. Its building has been substantially modernized during recent years and further improvements continue to be made pending the selection of a more cen-

trally located site and the raising of funds for the construction of a new building.

The Brooklyn Children's Museum, the prototype and still a leader in its field despite the age of the two buildings it occupies in Brower Park, is constantly expanding and improving its services. The question of a site for a long-anticipated new building is currently under discussion and study by the Park Department and other City agencies and by the trustees of the Museum.

The New York Zoological Society operates the New York Zoological Park, or "Bronx Zoo," in Bronx Park, and also the New York Aquarium at Coney Island. The improvement of both facilities is progressing steadily. Scheduled for 1964-65 at the Aquarium is the construction of a marine research laboratory to be privately financed. A "Shark Hall" for the display of sharks and other large fishes is programmed for construction in 1965-66. At the Zoo, the spectacular new Aquatic Bird House will open to the public in the early fall of 1964 as the first step in an extensive long-range program for the creation of new exhibition buildings and enclosures to be completed in the next few years.

The Brooklyn Academy of Music provides a unique and extensive program of lectures, recitals, opera, ballet and symphony concerts. Stage I of a program for the building is now under way and includes modernization of the heating, plumbing and electrical systems. Stage II, scheduled for 1965, involves new seating, carpeting and lighting in the opera house and lecture hall, and other improvements.

The New York Botanical Garden in Bronx Park is another world-renowned institution combining facilities for public recreation with those for botanical and horticultural education and research. Recent improvements have included reconstruction and extension of the irrigation and water main system and the construction of two new fireproof stairways at either end of the Museum Building. Construction is now under way for the Harriet Barnes Pratt Library Wing which will house the Garden's outstanding collections of books and pamphlets on botanical subjects.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden also carries on a distinguished program of recreation, research and educational activity. The rehabilitation of the tall greenhouse chimney, the installation of an ash hoist and new doors on the west side of the Laboratory Building were completed in 1962 and 1963. The installation of modern seating and floor covering in the auditorium is an important improvement scheduled in 1964.

The fine Staten Island Zoo in Barrett Park is operated by the Staten Island Zoological Society and includes one of the most comprehensive reptile collections in this country. In 1962 and 1963 half the outdoor cages were reconstructed, an acoustic ceiling was installed in the auditorium, and a solarium with hospital cages for ailing birds, mammals and reptiles was completed on the roof. Scheduled for 1964 and 1965



NORTH ROOM OF SCHENCK HOUSE (1675) IN BROOKLYN MUSEUM  
GARDEN OF FRAGRANCE FOR THE BLIND — BROOKLYN BOTANICAL GARDEN



are the reconstruction of the remainder of the outdoor cages and the development of a children's zoo adjacent to the existing buildings.

The New York Public Library's main building in Bryant Park is continuing a comprehensive modernization program which includes the reconstruction of roof skylights, new passenger elevators, electrical improvements, the construction of mezzanine floor in the south section of the building to provide additional office space, the installation of a sprinkler system in the basement and bookstacks and the reactivating of the fountains on the Fifth Avenue facade.

Soon after the closing of the 1939-40 New York World's Fair, the Queens Botanical Garden Society occupied a twenty-acre section of Flushing Meadow Park under a permit from the Park Department which provided maintenance personnel for its upkeep. In October 1963, the Society occupied a new seven-acre Queens Botanical Garden that was developed west of Main Street in Kissena Corridor Park as an important element in the basic park improvements being carried out in connection with the 1964-65 World's Fair. Subsequently, the Society took over the maintenance and operation of a seventeen-acre arboretum area lying between the Garden proper and Lawrence Street to the west. With a modern and attractive administration building included in the development, the Society is expanding its activities, library and plant collections to a notable degree. An extensive range of cold frames has been installed and a service building erected since the opening of the Garden to the public. In 1964 and 1965 greenhouses will be constructed in the arboretum area. The Queens Botanical Garden Society operates and maintain its new facilities under an agreement with the City which places it on a new footing as one of the quasi-public institutions entitled to financial support in the City's budgets.

The Richmondtown Restoration on Staten Island involves the partnership of the City and the Staten Island Historical Society in a project to restore the homes, church, mills, store, public buildings and activities of the 300-year-old village of Richmondtown. The entire site is under the jurisdiction of the Park Department and the Society is carrying on an active program of museum exhibitions and restoration of existing structures of historic value. The City intends to share with private donors the cost of construction estimated at \$4,000,000 for the completed project which will be operated by the Historical Society. The moving of three City-owned historic structures to their future sites in Richmondtown is scheduled for 1964.

## ZOOS

The zoos in Central Park, including the unique Children's Zoo with its array of barnyard animals amid a superb storybook setting, continue to be among the most popular places for the year-round enjoyment of adults and children. The colorful Children's Zoo—the generous gift of

Governor and Mrs. Herbert H. Lehman—became a reality in 1961. It has added immeasurably to the recreational and educational value and facilities in Central Park.

The Prospect Park Zoo in Brooklyn also has splendid exhibits of live animals and birds which attract a great deal of public interest. Recent improvements in the Central Park Zoo will likewise be accomplished in the Prospect Park Zoo according to existing plans which include new lights, drainage, cages in the bird and monkey houses and other work to enhance the zoo's appealing aspects.

There are also two other zoos on Park property, the Staten Island Zoo in Barrett Park, operated by the Staten Island Zoological Society, and the large New York Zoological Park in Bronx Park, operated by the New York Zoological Society. Further mention of these zoos will be found in previous pages of this report under the heading "Museums and Institutions."

## **maintenance and operation**

To enumerate the duties encompassed or performed by this division would make a most impressive listing, far too lengthy for this report. Some reference should be made, however, to the fact that in addition to maintenance and operation, we actually manufacture much of the equipment used in our 861 playgrounds and other recreational facilities. During 1963, 4,952 pieces of equipment were fabricated at our 5-Boro Shops at Randalls Island and include benches, slides, swings and picnic tables.

Very few realize that facilities such as beaches, swimming pools, golf courses, zoos and skating rinks are under the immediate direction of a competent supervisor assisted by a nucleus of key personnel skilled in a particular field of endeavor. The maintenance and operation of these facilities alone involve the services of skilled mechanics, water experts, golf course specialists, refrigeration experts, cashiers and other responsible operating employees.

The Maintenance and Operation forces consist of 5,271 employees on a permanent basis, supplemented by 3,427 seasonal employees. An increasing number of facilities has been constructed for our citizens but the increase in personnel has not kept pace with the increase in facilities.

Efficiency in the Maintenance and Operation Division has been accelerated by the acquisition of modern types of tools and equipment. For example, our parkways are cleaned with mechanical sweepers, and much of our tree-pruning work is now performed by aerial lifts. In addition, most of our grass cutting is now done by powered units. New fertilizers, herbicides, cleaning materials, paints and lubricants are just a few more instances of our accelerated pace towards the improvement of our overall maintenance program.



VICTORIAN PUMP ENGINE IN MUSEUM OF CITY OF NEW YORK

Although the rehabilitation of parks is restoring them to places of beauty, the increased attendance of the public has created its own problems because maintenance personnel has not increased proportionately. The increase in attendance in all our parks and beaches has resulted in a more heavily littered condition caused by a careless minority of the public. The removal of litter has become a very serious problem because the personnel assigned to parks, beaches, and playgrounds must be diverted from the care of lawns, shrubs, and general maintenance.

An equally serious problem is vandalism which is also increasing. For the last few years the cost of damage to parks and playgrounds has been over \$425,000 annually. This is a totally unnecessary drain on the funds of an already inadequate budget and overloads our mechanics who should be correcting the normal wear and tear to our park facilities. The new park and playground lighting program instituted by Mayor Wagner has been a great step forward in helping to curb the acts of vandalism.

These two problems of litter and vandalism are the greatest hindrances faced by our maintenance forces in providing proper operation of parks, playgrounds and beaches in our city today.

## CONCLUSION

We have reached a memorable milestone—three decades of continuing achievement and progress—fittingly highlighted by the New



York World's Fair and the opening of Shea Stadium, the sparkling new home of baseball's New York Mets. I am certain you will be in agreement that these timely highlights, in this year 1964, have captured the imagination of virtually everyone.

This remarkable record of steady progress over the past thirty years, I am proud to say, was made possible by the dedication and forward-thinking of our people in the Department of Parks as well as the cooperative endeavors of those in other agencies. We hereby acknowledge the generous cooperation and enthusiastic support of all who have interested themselves in the expansion of the park and parkway system of the city.

The interest of the Mayor, members of the Board of Estimate, those in the Planning Commission and City Council, the many department heads and their assistants, and the cooperation of several Federal agencies are gratefully acknowledged.

Also cherished are our happy associations with the Long Island State Park Commission, the State Council of Parks, the State Department of Public Works, and the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority.

We have also applauded former Commissioner of Parks, Robert Moses, and those who carried on unstintingly under his direction, many of whom, I am pleased to say, are still with the department.

Moreover, I am aware of the loyalty and splendid work of our city parkmen of all ranks and titles who, by their many efforts, have beamed a ray of beauty and recreational outlet into numerous neighborhoods. I have always considered a park system as the outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace of the people of the city.

The press, radio, and television continue to be staunch supporters of an ever expanding and improved park system, and I am indeed grateful for their public-spirited interest. Without editorial support stressing public opinion, we would be seriously handicapped in presenting our case to the people and their elected representatives.

Without the confidence and support of all these elected officials, assistants, employees, and of many private citizens, nothing of consequence would have been accomplished.

For thirty years these dedicated experts have expanded and built to reach practical objectives. Over the years an important factor in this expansion has been the Department of Sanitation's landfill program and the Department of Public Works' sewage disposal program, both vital in reclaiming the waterfront. The latest evidence of this fine work is the new Marine Park golf course in Brooklyn.

Now we look to the future with more beneficial goals in mind. As the years unfold our highly industrialized urban life must be contrasted by a vigorous, progressive park program which can contribute much toward the happiness of the city dweller.

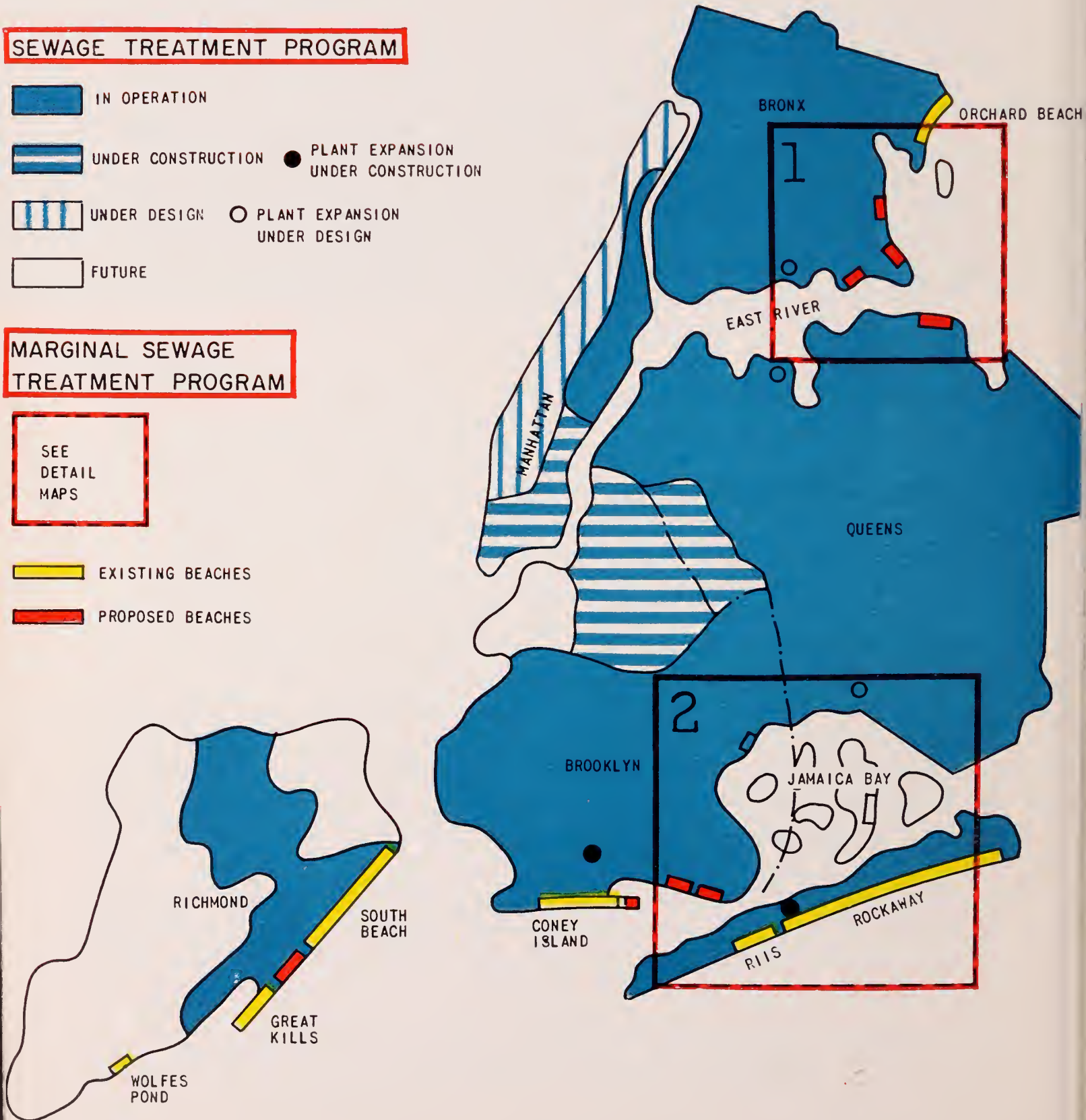
*17c w b s i a 177 a n i s*

COMMISSIONER

# MARGINAL SEWAGE PROBLEM

## A STATEMENT

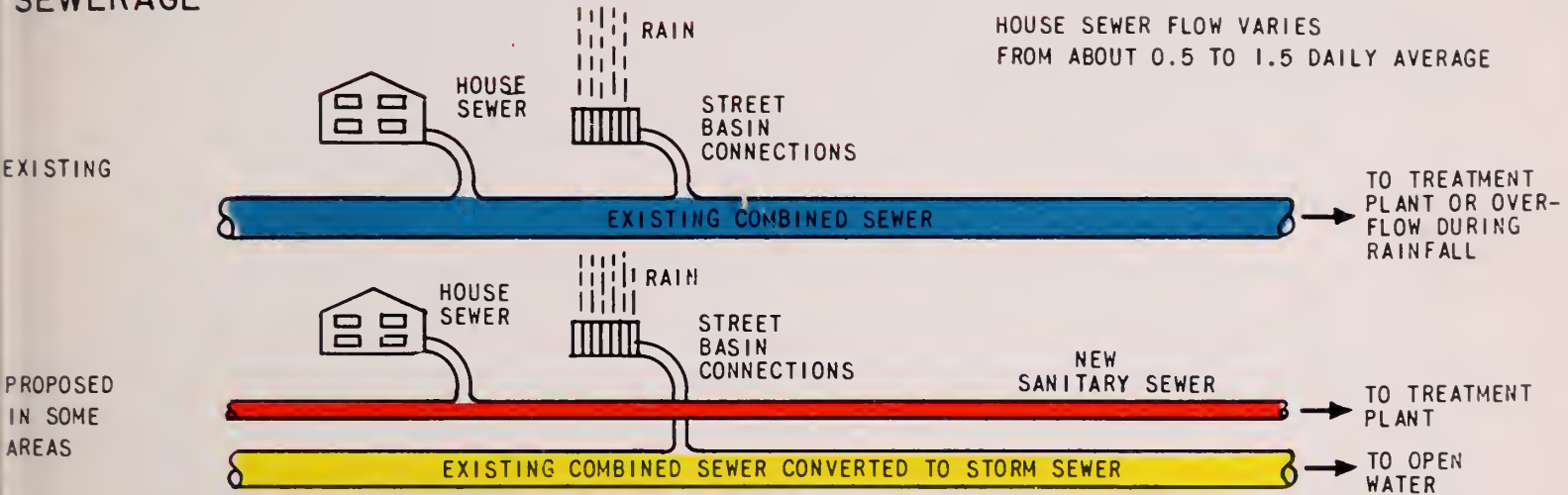
The major part of the sewerage system of New York City consists of combined sewers carrying both rain water and sewage in the same pipe. Under dry weather conditions this flow is handled by sewers connected to sewage-treatment plants. More than light rainfall combined with sewage will exceed the capacity of the existing sewers and sewage-



treatment plants, resulting in overflow into open water. Records show that this condition may be expected twice a week in the summer bathing season. Up to 90 per cent of the sanitary flow may escape, precluding bathing in Jamaica Bay and the upper East River.

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

### SEWERAGE



### TREATMENT

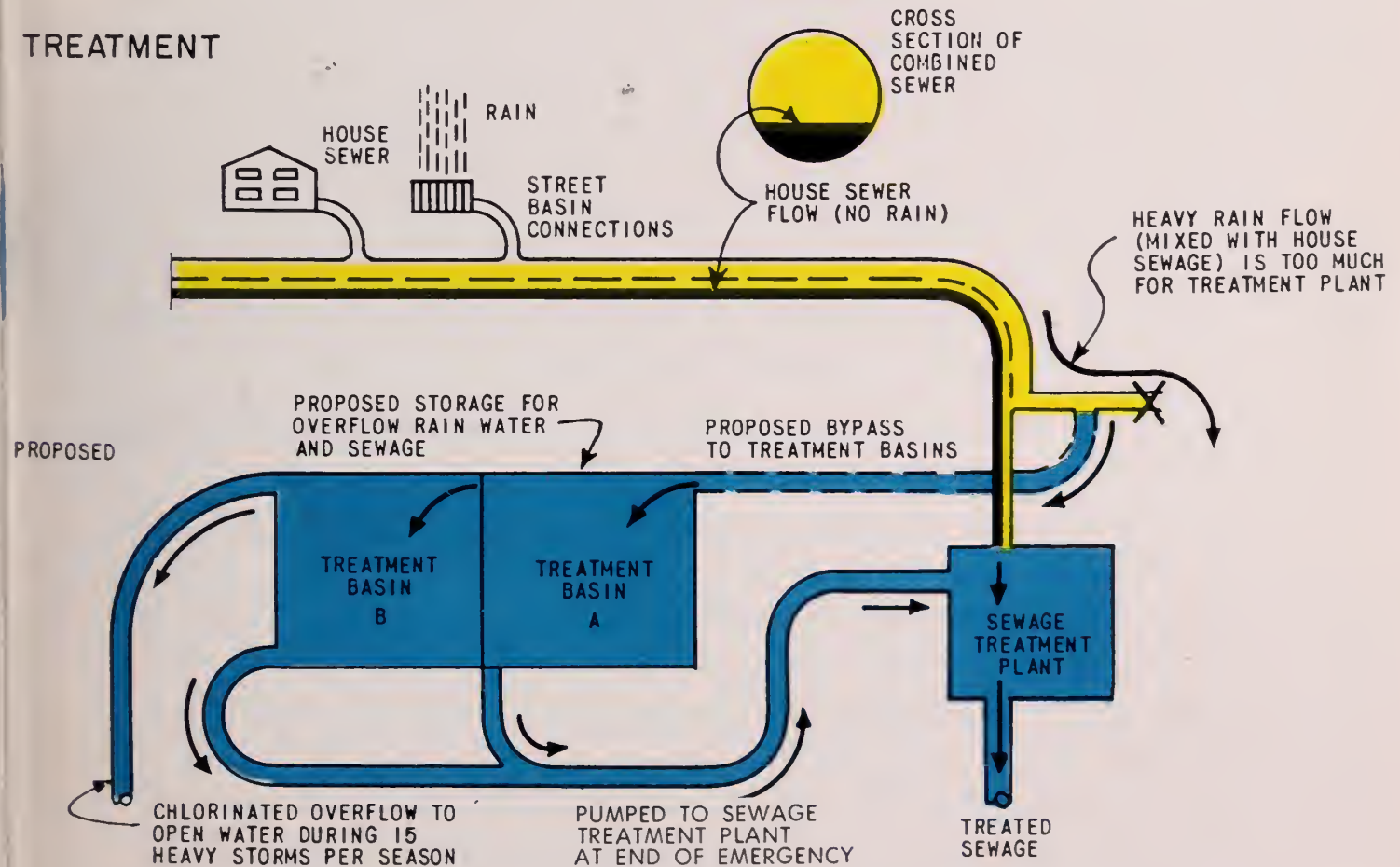


Diagram showing (at top) the difference between a combined sewer; and separate sewers for house sewage and rainfall; and the proposed remedy in certain areas. The marginal problem is the overloading of the system when heavy rain falls. At bottom is diagram of proposed treatment basins where overflow is stored and settled for treatment after emergency. If load is too heavy overflow is chlorinated.

To cope with this marginal pollution problem, the Mayor's Committee on the Elimination of Sources of Marginal Pollution was formed consisting of the five Borough Presidents, the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Parks, with the Commissioner of Public Works as Chairman. Private consulting engineers were retained to study the problem in cooperation with City engineers. Reports have been submitted proposing the construction of storm-water treatment plants and supplementary conduits to safeguard the existing beaches and to permit the operation of new beaches in Jamaica Bay, at Marine Park and Plumb Beach in Brooklyn; at Clearview Beach, Queens; at Ferry Point Park and along Eastchester Bay in the Bronx.

The estimated cost of substantial elimination of marginal pollution from the City's recreational waters is about \$150,000,000 over a ten-year period based on 1960 construction costs. This should permit the development of nine miles of additional urgently needed beaches. It should also eliminate the now serious threat of pollution to existing bathing beaches such as Orchard Beach in the Bronx and Coney Island in Brooklyn.

If such a program is not established, bathing in some of our boundary waters will have to be stopped entirely and enormously expensive substitute facilities in the nature of swimming pools and enclosed lakes will have to be provided. The cost of such facilities in Jamaica Bay area alone would certainly be in the neighborhood of half a billion dollars.

The Board of Estimate has made available the sum of \$5,180,000 in the 1960 Capital Budget for part of this program of which about \$1,500,000 is for design for the first stages of the corrective work required to protect the Bronx Shore from Throgs Neck to Pelham Bay Park and to clean up Jamaica Bay in Brooklyn and Queens.

There appear to be only four possible methods of providing the sum of \$150,000,000 required:

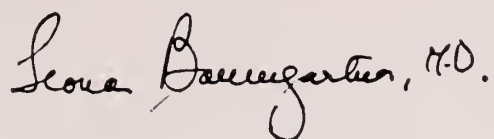
1. Constitutional amendment increasing City's debt limit for sewage disposal purposes. Such an amendment was defeated recently and it is futile to expect that another would be passed by the Legislature which would receive popular approval.

2. Additional annual capital allotments in the regular Capital Budget. This is also practically impossible under present financial conditions and in the light of the many other public demands.

3. City-wide assessment. This is a possibility but involves many difficulties including providing debt service in the annual Expense Budget.

4. Increasing the sewer rent equal to 100 per cent of the water bill. This would provide adequate financing for both the basic and marginal

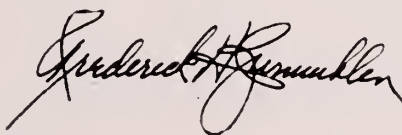
pollution control programs and would remove from the Capital and Expense Budgets the sums required to carry out these programs. For the average owner of one and two-family houses, this increase would amount to a trifle more than 8 dollars per year per family.



LEONA BAUMGARTNER, M.D.  
*Commissioner, Department of Health*



ROBERT MOSES  
*Commissioner, Department of Parks*



FREDERICK H. ZURMUHLEN  
*Commissioner, Department of Public Works*

December 30, 1959

## **marginal sewage problem supplement**

### **A. RISE IN ESTIMATE OF COST**

The estimated cost of substantial elimination of marginal pollution from the City's recreational waters is now estimated to be about \$158,130,000, over a ten year period, based on current construction costs. The rise in the estimated total cost over the previous estimate is due to increasing prices.

### **B. ESTABLISHMENT OF MAYOR'S INTERDEPARTMENTAL SEWAGE COUNCIL**

On November 21, 1963, the Mayor established a task force under the Interdepartmental sewerage council to investigate and prepare a

prospective schedule of overall needs, and present a construction program and financial plan for priority items and for future needs in newly developed areas.

This council is under the jurisdiction of the City Administrator's Office and meetings are attended by representatives of the following City agencies involved: Department of Public Works, Parks, Health, Highways, the Five Borough President's Offices, the Budget Director, and the Corporation Counsel.

Under the new City Charter that became effective January 1, 1963, the Maintenance and Operation of sewers formerly under the Borough Presidents were placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works.

### C. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

A constitutional amendment increasing the City's debt limit for sewage disposal purposes was voted on and passed by the people at the 1963 General Election. This amends the Local Finance Law Section 124.10 by permitting the exclusion of certain indebtedness for sewage facilities and pollution control for all sewers except storm sewers.

### D. CAPITAL BUDGET ALLOTMENT

Additional annual capital allotments have been included in the regular Capital Budget. \$11,000,000 was provided in the 1963/64 Capital Budget. \$15,800,000 is in the 1964/65 Capital Budget Request.

### E. SCHEDULING

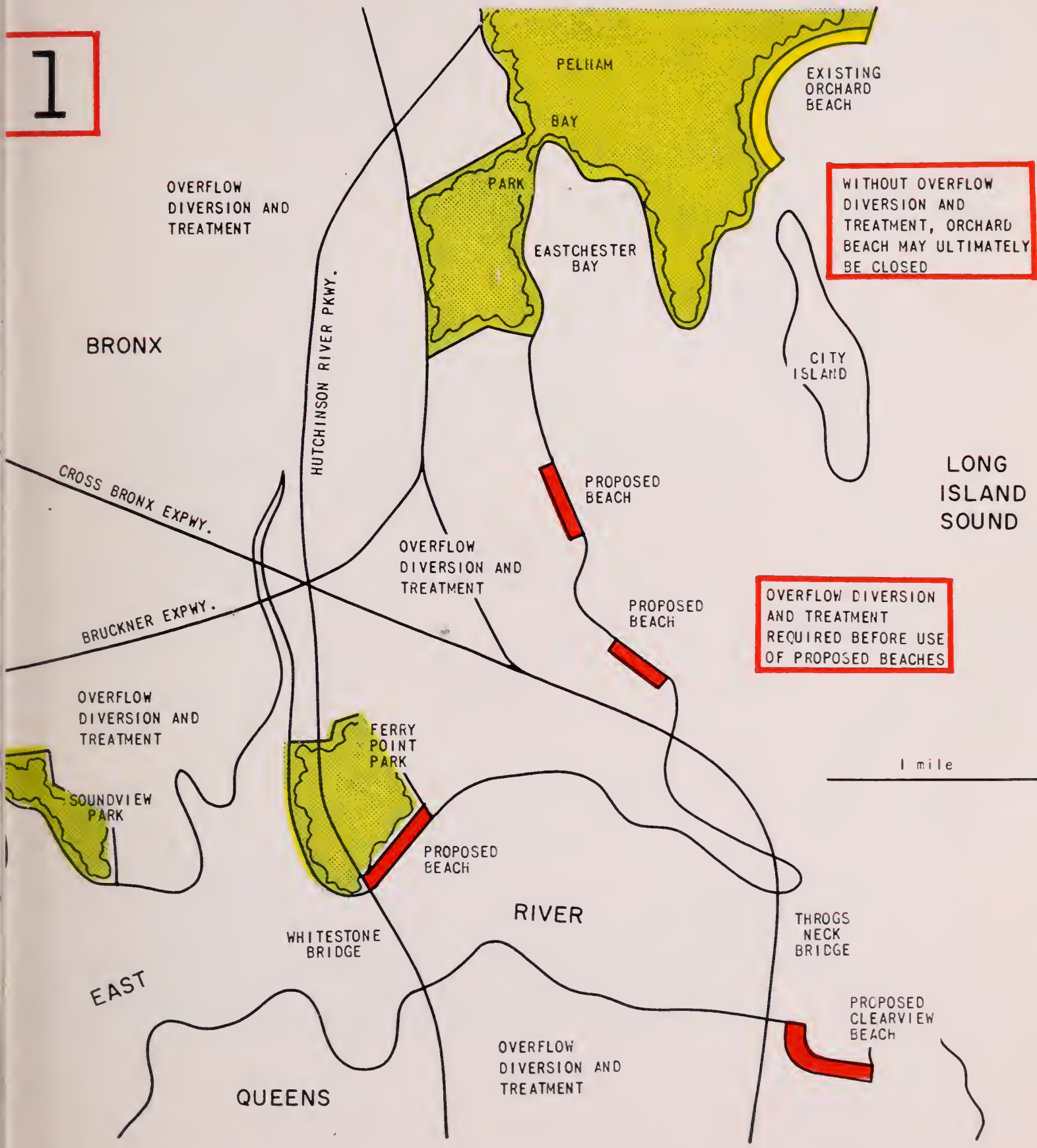
The Ten-Year Marginal Pollution Control Program may be broken down into three main categories:

I. Jamaica Bay*	\$60,500,000
II. Eastchester Bay	\$35,000,000
III. Upper East River	\$58,130,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST	\$153,630,000

\* The completion of the entire Jamaica Bay Marginal Control Program should aid in ultimately cleaning up the bathing waters at Plumb, Barren Island, and Gerritsen Beaches in Marine Park.

# WHERE?

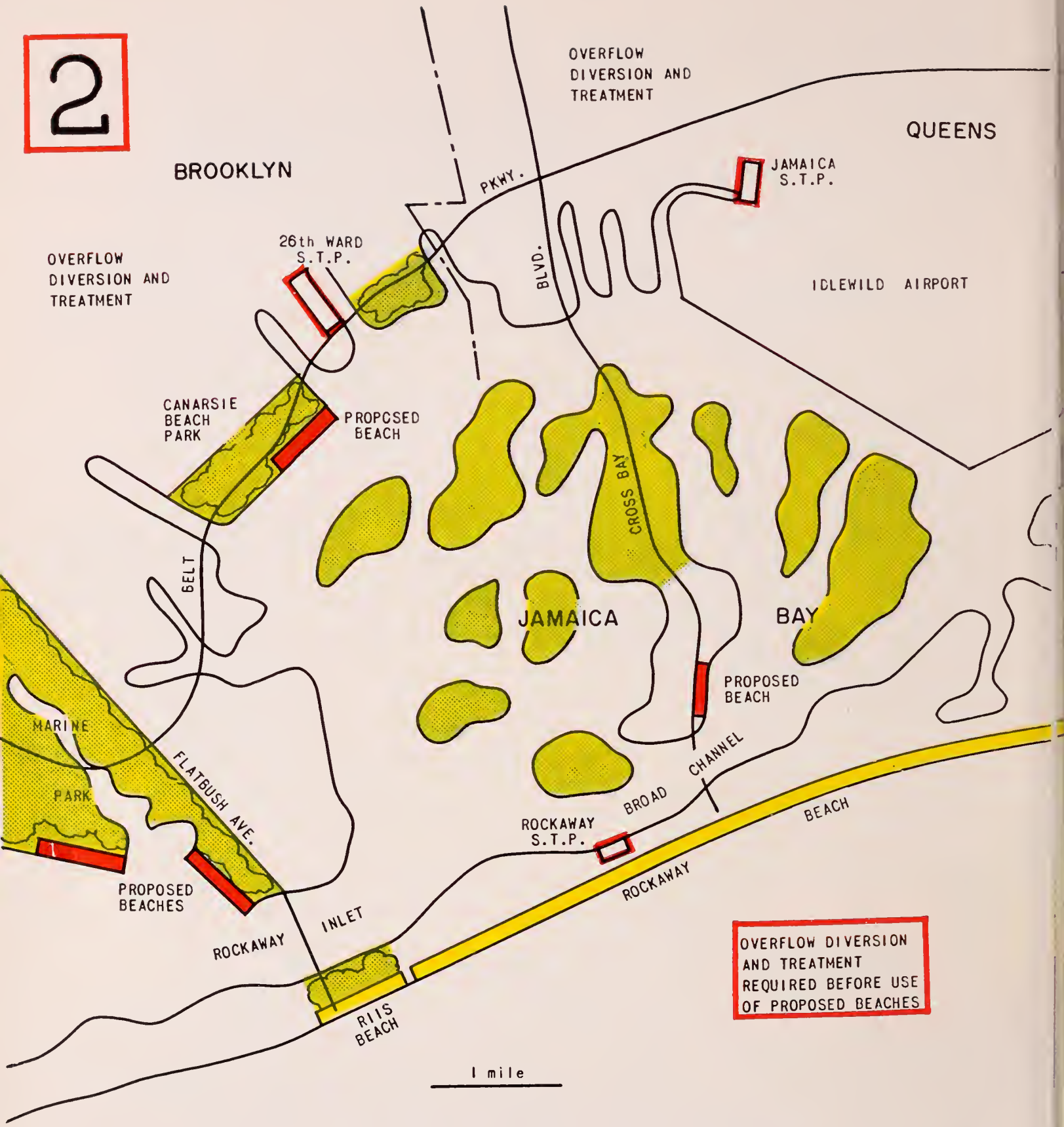
1



WITHOUT OVERFLOW DIVERSION AND TREATMENT, ORCHARD BEACH MAY ULTIMATELY BE CLOSED

OVERFLOW DIVERSION AND TREATMENT REQUIRED BEFORE USE OF PROPOSED BEACHES

1 mile

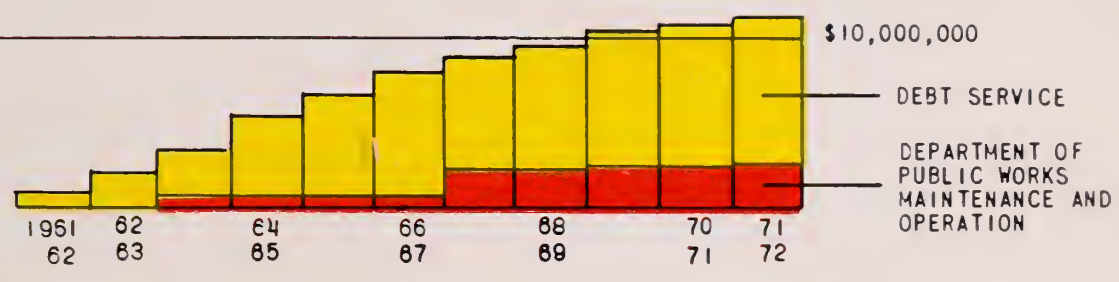


OVERFLOW DIVERSION AND TREATMENT REQUIRED BEFORE USE OF PROPOSED BEACHES

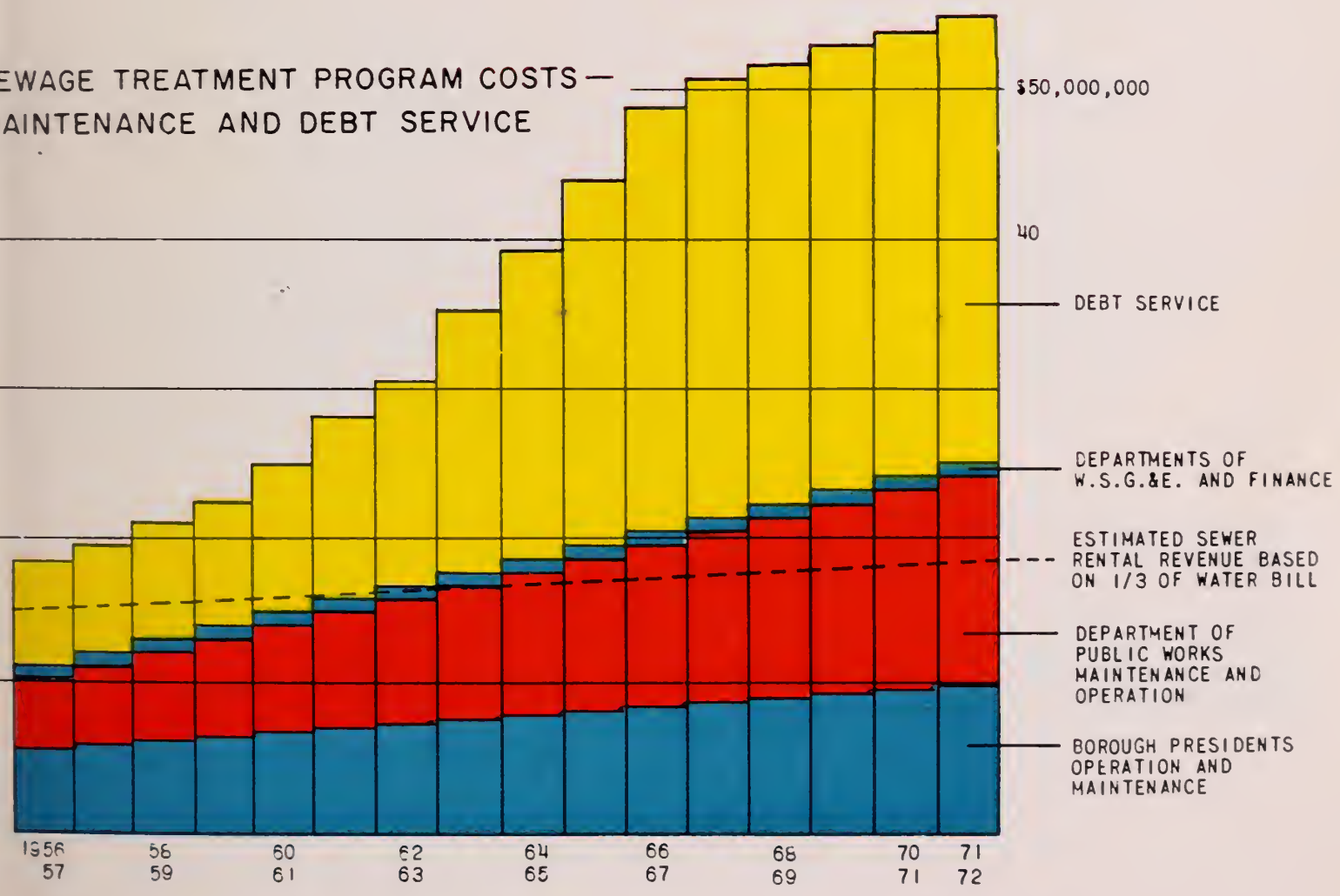
Maps of upper East River and Jamaica Bay where marginal sewage must be controlled before new beaches can be built. Orchard Beach may ultimately be closed if the marginal sewage is not controlled.



**MARGINAL SEWAGE  
TREATMENT PROGRAM COSTS —  
MAINTENANCE AND DEBT SERVICE**

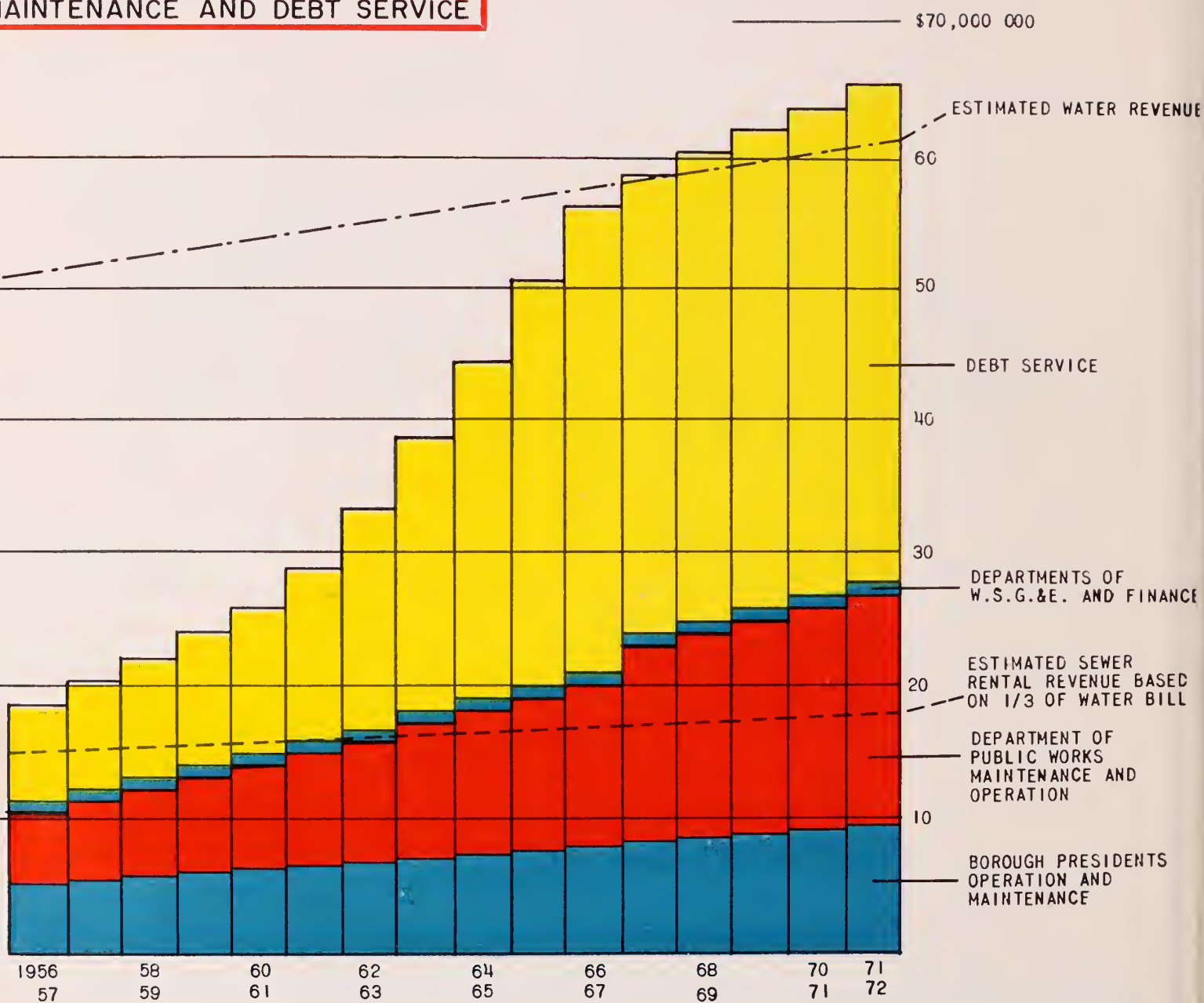


**SEWAGE TREATMENT PROGRAM COSTS —  
MAINTENANCE AND DEBT SERVICE**



AVEHY  
LINSICS

COMBINED  
SEWAGE TREATMENT AND  
MARGINAL SEWAGE TREATMENT  
MAINTENANCE AND DEBT SERVICE



*Charts showing costs of maintenance and debt service for sewage disposal and marginal sewage disposal, to the left separate and to right combined. The present sewer rental revenue does not and will not cover the costs.*

# Ex Libris

SEYMOUR DURST

*t' Fort nieuw Amsterdam op de Manhatans*



FORT NEW AMSTERDAM



(NEW YORK), 1651.

*When you leave, please leave this book  
Because it has been said  
"Ever'thing comes t' him who waits  
Except a loaned book."*

AVERY ARCHITECTURAL AND FINE ARTS LIBRARY

GIFT OF SEYMOUR B. DURST OLD YORK LIBRARY

