

REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF
PARK COMMISSIONERS,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1892.



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To the Honorable Board of Park Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN: I beg leave to lay before you this report of the work done in the several Parks under my supervision.

HANSCOM, being the principal park, more has been expended on it in proportion to its size than any of the other Parks.

The improvements this last season have been the extension of guttering, catchbasins and sewer pipe.

The making of more walks and considerable sodding was done.

The erection of two well constructed brick waterclosets which were much needed, also two greenhouses and a boiler house was put up at a cost of about Three Thousand Dollars, (3,000.00); these greenhouses are well constructed and of ample size to supply plenty of plants for decorative purposes for some years to come. Native shrubs have been planted extensively, also some ornamental nursery grown shrubs and trees. A belt of pine trees was planted on the northwest side of Park which, when grown will have a charming effect. This northwest portion of the Park since being decorated with flowers is becoming much more attractive.

The driveways have been surfaced with gravel which will make more permanent roadbeds.

Some trees have been removed, giving more lawn space and a more parklike effect, which will be found a great improvement; others also had to come out that were encroaching on better shade trees to their detriment, also many which were dead or dying.

We extended the wooden sidewalks to Creighton Avenue on the southeast side.

We have been much troubled with the caving of several fills around the Park—this is owing largely to the overflow from the streets not curbed or guttered, but it is also caused by fills being made over heaps of manure, which are rotting and continually settling. In the meantime it is quite an expense to keep them in proper shape.

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Your Honorable Board, seeing the urgent necessity for a greater supply of water for the Cascade, and also the keeping of the lakes full, in winter for skating purposes, decided on putting down an Artesian Well, which from the number of natural springs in the southwest portion of the park, seemed an assured success. I am sorry to say that although the well has been sunk to the depths of One Thousand and Seventy (1,070) feet, we have failed to get a flowing well so far.

This season we have tried to keep ice on the lower pond, in good skating condition. The attendance of skaters has been very large, and seems fully to justify the increased expense attending it, from the pleasure which it affords.

JEFFERSON SQUARE, (Park) has been kept in fair trim. Many of the shrubs and trees in this square will have to be replaced and only those planted which can withstand the noxious gases from the smelting works, which to some varieties is singularly fatal, denuding them altogether of foliage when the wind comes from the south-east.

CAPITOL AVENUE. We have tried to make as attractive as possible. It would be much more so if the residents along that street did not make it a play ground for their dogs. It is impossible to keep these Parterres as they ought to be, without the aid of those citizens most directly interested.

BEXIS PARK. This park has had much grading and filling done this fall and with some more work in the spring will begin to show the design of Mr. Cleveland, yet much will have to be done before the necessary results will be attained, as it is a difficult piece of land to treat satisfactorily. Quite a lot of sewerage disproportionate to the era, will have to be put in, owing to the lay of the ground. We shall also have to put in water extension pipes for irrigation purposes.

ELMWOOD PARK. In the matter of improvements, we have not done much this season which makes a showing. We completed a dam below the spring, which locks the water up along the creek bed a considerable distance, with pleasing effect. Have done considerable grading and filling, and have broken a lot of land preparatory to planting trees and seeding. We also put in a large quantity of young trees in nursery rows, which have done remarkably well, most of these will be planted in permanent plantations this coming spring. Elmwood Park ought in the near future relieve some of the pressure of visitors from Hanscom Park, as there are many pleasant nooks for picnickers. Splendid drinking water, and extensive views of surrounding country, the great discenterum for Elmwood is a large body of water for boating purposes which would be a great attraction and at once make it a very popular resort.

NORTH BOULEVARD. On this we have done much preparatory work along nearly the entire distance, such as grubbing of trees and stumps, levelling, etc., grading and the filling of a ravine which will take seventeen to eighteen thousand cubic yards to complete—two thirds of which is probably put in. Under this fill is a large sewer to carry storm water.

DISTRICT. On this newly acquired tract, no improvements have been made so far. The route for the southwest Boulevard has been surveyed between Hanscom Park and Elmwood and now awaits but legislative action before commencing active operation.

I remain, Gentleman,

Yours respectfully,

WM. R. ADAMS.