

**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE BOARD OF PARK
COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, 1906**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649273973

Fourteenth Annual report of the Board of Park Commissioners of the city of Cambridge, 1906 by
Various

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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VARIOUS

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City of Cambridge
Massachusetts

PARK DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORTS

. . 1906 . .



PRINTED FOR THE DEPARTMENT

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of Cambridge:—

GENTLEMEN:—The Board of Park Commissioners has the honor to submit herewith its fourteenth annual report for the year ending November 31, 1906, and also the thirteenth annual report of the General Superintendent of Parks, as required by Section 4 of the Ordinance establishing a Park Department.

Cambridge has taken a front rank among the smaller cities of the country in its park development. Our City Governments have been thoughtful of the needs of our people and have been generous in the annual appropriations for park purposes.

Cambridge Field, located in a congested section of the City, has long since proven its value, and Rindge Field, which is receiving attention each year in the matter of construction, will later be as valuable and as attractive to those who will use it, as is Cambridge Field at the present time.

Cambridge needs no further park extensions other than a park development of the Fresh Pond section, which should be made the Central Park of our City. Its large areas of land could be developed for public uses, without any disturbing influence upon the purity of the water in the basin. The cost of a proper development would be covered over a large number of years. It has hills and fields, woods and water, sufficient in size to meet the pleasure requirements of the future growth in population, that our City is destined to have. It seems unwise to longer continue the policy of, failing to take advantage of what nature has placed within our midst.

The serious problem which confronts us is the establishment of proper playgrounds. Indeed outside of Fresh Pond, Cambridge Field, Rindge Field and the East Cambridge Esplanade, there is but little opportunity for further extension within our City limits. The opportunity for a large playground, however, is to be found in the large section across

the river lying between North Harvard Street and Western Avenue, Brighton. This property is controlled by the Metropolitan Park Commission and it is very convenient to, and easy of access for, the children living in the district crossed by River Street, Western Avenue and Boylston Street. Steps should be taken to interest the Metropolitan Park Commission to give earnest consideration to establishing there a Metropolitan playground to be used by Cambridge and the adjoining section of Boston.

The use of school house grounds during the summer vacation, for small children has proven to be a very successful venture and should be encouraged to the fullest extent.

Boating upon the river is increasing yearly and it is the purpose of the Commissioners to lease boat house sites, at a nominal rental and under proper restrictions, to reputable boat clubs. A new lease has been made with the Weld Boat Club, at Boylston Street Bridge, and a magnificent boat house is now being constructed by Dr. Charles G. Weld, as a gift to the Club in memory of the late George W. Weld.

RIVER ROAD.

It is the river driveway from the new Cambridge Bridge to Boylston Street, that should receive the immediate attention of the City Government.

The dam at Craigie Bridge is nearing completion, when the basin will pass into control of the Metropolitan Park Commission, and will be made the great Metropolitan Water Park of Metropolitan Boston. Along the basin and the lower reaches of the Charles will be the beautiful driveway into Cambridge, and it is our duty, as Park Commissioners, to urge its immediate completion, and your duty to see that it is done.

A contract has been entered into to build a bridge over the Grand Junction tracks near Brookline Street. Several sections of the roadway are practically completed and it now needs but the connecting links to make a continuous driveway to Harvard Square. Its completion will furnish a beautiful pleasure drive, will open up large areas of desirable building sites, and bring to the City a large financial return in taxes.

The Commissioners desire once more to draw the attention of the City Government to the fact, that, notwithstanding the river drive is included in the park system, it is but an incident to it, being rather, a utility proposition of vast importance to our City.

Its construction has been neglected too long and poor business economy has been shown in delaying its completion. The Commissioners urge that a sufficient appropriation be made to allow opening the roadway to the public before the close of the year 1907.

SHADE TREES.

The street trees have been badly neglected during the past three years. There are many dead ones which should be removed, a large amount of trimming should be done and replanting is necessary if the streets are to be kept shaded.

POLICE PROTECTION.

The Board takes this opportunity to draw your attention to the inadequate police protection given to the parks, it makes no criticism of the individual officer, it refers to the system.

When the Department employed its own police, order was maintained, but since that time, park property has been constantly destroyed and the parks more or less controlled by hoodlums. The Board asks that proper and constant police protection be given to the parks, that they be kept attractive and be a place for rest and enjoyment for those who appreciate them.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

PARK LOAN.

Amount of unused balance of 1905 appropriations reappropriated December 16, 1905		\$5,956 70
Lands and Construction	\$3,204 64	
East Cambridge Embankment	2,599 00	
Grading, Rindge Field	153 16	
	<u> </u>	\$5,956 70
Amount appropriated April 11, 1906, Shelter at Rindge Field		4,000 00
Amount appropriated August 1, 1906, River Parkway, Section C		25,000 00
Amount appropriated September 20, 1906		2,000 00
		<u> </u>
		\$36,956 70

PARK MAINTENANCE.

<i>Brown Tail Moth Extermination.</i>		
Amount appropriated April 11, 1906	\$11,000 00	
Amount appropriated May 6, 1906	3,000 00	
	<u> </u>	\$14,000 00
<i>Shade Trees.</i>		
Amount appropriated April 11, 1906	5,000 00	
Amount appropriated June 28, 1906	1,500 00	
	<u> </u>	6,500 00
<i>Commons, Squares and Public Grounds.</i>		
Amount appropriated April 11, 1906	5,000 00	
Amount appropriated June 1, 1906	1,000 00	
Amount transferred from Sections A, B, D, F and Rindge Field, October 17, 1906	250 00	
	<u> </u>	6,250 00

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

<i>Cambridge Field and Shelter.</i>		
Amount appropriated April 11, 1906	\$6,000 00	
Amount transferred from Maintenance, Shelter at Rindge Field, November 23, 1906	190 00	
	<hr/>	\$6,190 00
<i>Sections A, B, D, F and Rindge Field.</i>		
Amount appropriated April 11, 1906	2,000 00	
Amount appropriated June 28, 1906	2,000 00	
	<hr/>	5,000 00
Amount transferred to Commons, Squares and Public Grounds, October 17, 1906	250 00	
	<hr/>	4,750 00
<i>Sections G and H.</i>		
Amount appropriated April 11, 1906		2,500 00
<i>Bank House.</i>		
Amount appropriated April 11, 1906		2,300 00
<i>General Account.</i>		
Amount appropriated April 11, 1906	\$600 00	
Amount appropriated June 28, 1906	1,500 00	
	<hr/>	2,100 00
<i>Gymnasium at Rindge Field.</i>		
Amount appropriated April 11, 1906		500 00
<i>Shelter at Rindge Field.</i>		
Amount appropriated September 20, 1906	\$300 00	
Amount transferred to the Shelter, Cambridge Field, November 23, 1906	190 00	
	<hr/>	110 00
<i>School House Grounds.</i>		
Amount appropriated April 12, 1906		200 00

During the year bills payable from Park Loans have been approved by the Board and certified to the Auditor to the total amount of \$14,721.78, as follows:—

PARK LANDS AND CONSTRUCTION.

<i>River Parkway, Section A.</i>	
Construction account	\$994 40
<i>River Parkway, Section B.</i>	
Construction account	188 50
<i>River Parkway, Section C.</i>	
Construction account	3,848 61
<i>River Parkway, Section D.</i>	
Construction account	1,249 01
<i>River Parkway, Section F.</i>	
Construction account	78 00
<i>Amount carried forward</i>	<hr/> \$5,858 52

PARK DEPARTMENT.

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<i>Amount brought forward</i>	\$5,858 52	
<i>Nursery.</i>		
Construction account	287 80	
<i>General Account.</i>		
Construction account	228 00	
<i>Office Expenses.</i>		
Construction account	64 99	
<i>Rindge Field.</i>		
Construction account	3,152 82	
<i>East Cambridge Embankment.</i>		
Construction account	2,286 80	
<i>Shelter at Rindge Field.</i>		
Construction account	3,943 05	
Amount expended		\$14,721 78
Amount unexpended		<u>22 284 92</u>

During the year bills payable from Park Maintenance have been approved by the Board and certified to the Auditor, as follows:—

	Amount Expended.	Balance Unexpended.
Brown Tail Moth Extermination	\$13,994 63	\$5 37
Shade Trees	6,499 55	45
Commons, Squares and Public Grounds	6,250 00	..
Cambridge Field and Shelter	6,189 95	05
Sections A, B, D, F and Rindge Field	4,747 05	2 95
Sections G and H	2,499 68	84
Bath House	2,299 90	10
General Account	2,099 96	04
Gymnasium at Rindge Field	500 00	..
Shelter at Rindge Field	109 66	34
School House Grounds	199 93	07

A detailed classification of the expenditures will be found in the report of the General Superintendent.

Since the beginning of the work in 1893 there has been expended to date, of money raised under Park and Esplanade Loans, the sum of \$1,500,209.51.

The division is as follows:—

<i>River Parkway, Section A.</i>		
Construction account	\$162,325 72	
Land account	9,416 88	
		\$171,742 55
<i>River Parkway, Section B.</i>		
Construction account		97,081 37

<i>River Parkway, Section C.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	\$80,690 61	
Land account	. . . . .	31,701 08	\$112,391 69
<i>River Parkway, Section D.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	\$111,598 64	
Land account	. . . . .	95,047 25	\$207,045 89
<i>River Parkway, Section E.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	\$935 72	
Land account	. . . . .	60,110 00	61,045 72
<i>River Parkway, Section F.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	\$62,431 58	
Land account	. . . . .	67,491 62	129,923 20
<i>River Parkway, Section G.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	\$120,669 41	
Land account	. . . . .	86,824 82	207,494 23
<i>River Parkway, Section H.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	13,135 30	13,135 30
<i>Cambridge Field.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	\$127,315 28	
Land account	. . . . .	78,884 85	206,200 13
<i>East Cambridge Embankment.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	\$102,535 68	
Land account	. . . . .	45,281 40	147,768 08
<i>General Account.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	52,713 80	52,713 80
<i>Rindge Field.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	\$14,146 04	
Land account	. . . . .	31,461 85	45,607 89
<i>Office Expenses.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	15,915 29	15,915 29
<i>Broadway Park.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	11,635 27	11,635 27
<i>Nursery.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	8,747 54	8,747 54
<i>Improvements at Rindge Field.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	7,788 98	7,788 98
<i>Hastings Square.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	2,683 07	2,683 07
<i>Baths and Lockers.</i>			
Construction account	. . . . .	2,500 00	2,500 00