

A LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL FOR BOOMER
LAKE RECREATION PARK

By

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

"Recreation is a significant and wholesome part of the life of every citizen and community.": according to J. Lee Brown (9).

We as a people have learned that the recreation of our citizens must be planned as thoroughly and scientifically as education, health, and all the other elements of public welfare (9).

In other areas our planning and work have brought us to the space age. One by-product of our productivity has been leisure time, another is a shrinking environment.

Space in the universe is infinitely expanding with new dimensions, although space for the average individual is contracting and shall continue both actually and realistically to contract far beyond his normal needs if the present parks and recreation areas are not preserved and the remaining open spaces conserved. Open spaces are disappearing due to the tremendous population increases and the suburbanization of America. Our population is increasing at the present rate of 3,000,000 people per year. It is estimated that by 1975, 225,000,000 people will be living in the United States alone (42).

Stillwater, Oklahoma, a city of 36,600 people and the home of Oklahoma State University, is looking forward to the achievement of an adequate recreation program for all of its citizens from tiny tots to teens through senior citizens. The cooperative efforts of the park and recreation department, other agencies and interested individuals have

been directed toward this goal (30) (36).

Oklahoma State University, through its auspices, has made Lake Carl Blackwell available to the public for recreational uses such as boating, water skiing, swimming, fishing, camping, dining, picnicing, and related activities.

Another important phase of this program is the planning and development of Boomer Lake Park area as a recreation park within the expanding limits of Stillwater itself (30) (36).

A recreation park may be described as an area of 100 acres or more set aside for the physical activity and passive enjoyment of the citizens of the community. It should have the advantages of attractive natural scenery as well as open space (9).

Boomer Lake Park certainly possesses all the necessary requirements of a recreation park with 862 acres of rolling hills and tree covered valleys surrounding 300 acre Boomer Lake. Furthermore, it is easily accessible to the entire town by way of State Highway 177 and Husband Street. It has dense, virtually unaltered, natural vegetation in the upper north end of the lake area with winding stream-like fingers of the lake reaching back into the trees.

This beautiful area is being surrounded by a nice residential sector. Myers (36), the city planner, stated that there is an obvious shift in population toward this area. To this time Boomer Lake Park has grown "like topsy" with only spur of the moment development as the needs of the population demanded something (36).

The purpose of this study is to develop an effective proposal for Stillwater's Boomer Lake Park. The park should be aesthetic as well as easy and economical to maintain once it is actually developed. The park

proposal will designate space to be developed where people of all ages can participate in any socially acceptable type of activity through which they are recreated.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

General Aspects of Recreation, Environment, and Need for Parks

Our cities of the past provided varied recreational programs. The Greeks developed outdoor theaters and stadia. The Romans were empire builders who emphasized physical activities. Rome provided space for such athletic events as lacrosse and boxing; however, her aim was the production of a superior warrior. From Egypt came such passive games as checkers and senet. The medieval cities were characterized by attitudes of achievement of craftsmanship and tournaments for the nobility. Colonial culture emphasized group participation and fellowship in supplying necessities of daily living. Mobility and leisure time for everyone has come to characterize our modern way of life, bringing tremendous demands for more highways and more and better recreational facilities where one's recreational needs can be met (49).

The nineteenth century witnessed the beginning breakdown of the traditional prejudice against play and amusement. Man had to have diversion.

Almost simultaneously with the industrial revolution rapid development of recreation facilities took place. Man was seeking to reunite himself through recreation with that very force, nature, which he had fought. From nature he had won an area enclosed within his home and city which was safe (49).

With the increased introduction of labor-saving devices, visionary citizens began to urge and emphasize physical training and outdoor activities. The YMCA was founded in 1869. Los Angeles, California, was the first American city to develop a separate recreation commission. The Rotary club was initiated in 1905; the National Recreation Association in 1906. In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America were organized, having been adopted from England. The Lions were organized in 1914; the Kiwanis in 1915.

Rigidity and tightness on one side and dissipation, incoherence, a lack of self-collectedness, and aimless indulgence on the other side seem to sum up the modern era. The automobile, good highways, and time savers have made the U. S. a nation of mobile nomads (49).

The average working American has 3,000 waking hours off the job. This is equal to 14 two-week vacations during a year. During these 3,000 hours he is spending 30 billion dollars on entertainment, sports, clothing, food, furniture, instruments, and other manufactured items of modern leisure time activity (49).

The time that has been gained by labor-saving devices can make us lazy and sedentary people, or it can free us to replace irksome physical labor with enjoyable physical recreation. (39).

One of the favorite leisure time positions of the American people is sitting. This is evidenced by television figures. Ninety percent of the American population own a T.V. set. They spend a minimum of 11 hours per week viewing programs and nine out of ten persons watch 4 hours per day every week (4). Sitting in an easy chair watching television is not a way to prolong life for the man over 40 years old. The man who formerly "walked-it-off" when irritated now "drives-it-off" much to the

mortal hazard of himself and countless others. The chairman of the medical division of the former Hoover Commission, states that the average citizen is far less rugged than his father who ran, walked, chopped wood, shoveled snow, pitched hay, and did the physical chores which are so abhorrent today(15).

Former presidents Eisenhower (25) and Kennedy (48), as well as J. Edgar Hoover, (28), agreed that we as a nation are underexercised. They also concurred that there should be programs designed for broad participation in physical exercise by all young men and women.

The strength of the United States depends upon the health of its young people. We, as a people, must strive by determined and coordinated efforts to improve the fitness of youth. It is essential that the young citizen recognize his obligation to himself, to his family, and to his nation endeavoring to keep himself mentally, emotionally, spiritually, socially, and physically fit (1).

Recreation can be a basis for sound physical health, daily tasks, and human progress. Reasonable activity is absolutely necessary in order to keep an individual physically fit. In addition to keeping one physically fit, recreation also teaches him how to live with others (21). Dr. James E. Montgomery (35) has stressed that democracy is furthered by recreation due to its ability to stimulate cooperative and collaborative group experiences which result in a leveling of some social problems. The fullest of freedoms is exercised in recreation while regimentation, intolerance, obligation, coercion, and rejection are words unfamiliar to the world of recreation (35).

The proper type of recreation can help the child to mature by providing the medium through which he learns his strengths, limitations,

and responsibility to others. The young adult can be renewed through activity with social, physical, and mental connotations giving him an all-pervading zest for life. The older adult's physical needs remain the same, but his social and economic status changes and recreation can help him find new usefulness and purpose in life (3) (35).

One needs rest, relaxation, and recreation in the same way that he needs to satisfy his body biologically, his brain intellectually, and his brain and body emotionally (3).

Recreation has been defined as that activity voluntarily engaged in during leisure; primarily motivated by the pleasure or satisfaction derived from it (34). Recreation is activity, not idleness; it is action though it may be passive in nature. Recreation is more a matter of emotion than of motion. What play is for one person may be work to another.

Joseph D. Prendergast (42) states:

A little girl skipping a rope. A white haired Sunday painter capturing a memorable view on canvas. A group of teenagers planning a party. A father and son building a short-wave radio in the basement. A family on a camping trip. Recreation is all of these things and many more-- because they find happiness in doing them.

If a person is motivated by the desire to enjoy and/or the realization that the result of such participation will be personally satisfying to him, the action is likely to be "recreation" (49).

Recreation is an art of living acquired in childhood. It implies freedom from psychic strains, from physical troubles, from devitalizing fatigue. (49).

Daniels. (18) states:

Actually recreation in all of its forms is one of our major resources in developing the ability to live with some degree of serenity in our pressure laden and strife-torn world.

Marion Clawson (14), in the Dynamics of Park Demand, states:

Leisure and recreation are not synonymous, though they are closely related. Some leisure may take the form of mere idleness, of simply doing nothing, or some may take anti-social forms of various kinds, such as juvenile delinquency. Recreation, in any socially acceptable sense, involves constructive activities for the individual and the community.

Recreation is a world with many meanings. A large common element seems to be a degree of self-expression. In satisfying recreation, the individual and the group find activities and satisfactions which give expression of his or their talents and interests.

All human behavior is stimulated by desires to serve; to gain; or to give expression and to create. Recreation appears to be a satisfactory outlet for all of these desires. Is not life, itself, an active experience? The psychological and physiological structure of man is such that it leads to constant expression in many forms. The form of such expression is conditioned by cultural environment, by physical and intellectual capability, by habit, attitude, and also by social influence and interaction. Recreation offers an opportunity for free expression providing the best chance for creative living which is its own reward (34).

The various definitions of recreation emphasize action: It may be passive or active, but most often it is thought of as physical participation in some activity which demands space. Regardless of the activity whether passive or active, space must be available for satisfying recreation ((9). As Joseph Brown states ((9): "We need room in which to be wrong or we have no room in which to be right."

Joseph Prendergast (42) has said:

What good, I ask you, is 1,800,000 times 6 million, million miles or more of space if a boy can't find enough

space in which to throw a ball, or a girl to skip a rope, or old people to gossip in the sun.

Chapin (13), Williams (3), and Plant (41) believe overcrowding of people is one of the major evils of our metropolitan societies. Inherent in the slums, they see overcrowding leading to frustration, irritation, and resentment. Individuality in the child is stifled. He is not permitted the normal childhood illusions about sex, consequently he becomes sexually maladjusted. A lack of privacy and space for the individual results in mental strain, negativism, and irritation which necessitate the constant vigilance of a protective barrier or "shell". In the most dire of these cases schizophrenia is produced. The unfortunate slum dweller is denied even the solitude of a backyard in which to find some rest and relaxation from the problems of the day.

Festinger (26) states where one lives, relation-wise, will influence the groups he will seek. Obviously, then persons living in crowded conditions in the slum will seek associates from that area and the frustrations and irritations with life will be multiplied and, often is the case, they will manifest their feelings in anti-social activities.

Man is a social being as well as a social product. Behavior is learned. Children assume the dominant habits, desirable or non-desirable, of the people with whom they are associated. People learn the lives they lead. If children are to be grown according to a pattern, circumstances for living that coincide with that pattern must be provided. A society which desires to rear good children must provide a wholesome environment. Juvenile delinquency confesses that poor conditions are maintained for the development of children (50).

Plant (41) says a lack of security is exhibited by a high percent-

age of urban dwellers. Sixty-four and two-tenths percent of the American population live in cities. (47).

The common man's habitat abounds in smallness: small houses; small rooms; crowded neighborhoods; small trees, if any; crowded work and recreation spaces. For the thirty percent of the population who can afford the "American Standard of Living" there are big houses, big rooms, spacious neighborhoods abounding in big trees, comfortable work, and recreation space (23).

Eckbo (23) states:

No easy rationalization about big trees for big people and little trees for little people can destroy this contradiction; the daily experience of the spacial richness of the spreading oak, the spacial aspiration of the giant pine, should be available to everyone.

According to Eckbo (23):

People live on the earth, on the land, but in the three dimensional air-space, the atmospheric volume, immediately above this land surface. Plans and land-use maps may be measured diagrammatically and abstractly in square footage and acreage, but space for living is measured in cubage, in volumes of air space enclosed or organized with tangible physical elements. The term space may be used scientifically by astronomers, demagogically by reactionary politicians and abstrusely by artistic intellectuals, but to ordinary people it has an ordinary practical meaning---room to live in, to work in, to play in, to relax in.

Wherever one goes he is subjected to spacial sensation, indoors and out, from birth to death. The spacial sensations which people experience are common and as vital as food, clothing, sleep or sex. Children have definite spaces which to them are pleasant or unpleasant: backyards; playgrounds; alleys; attics; railroad yards; etc. Most people can remember a favorite space from their childhood, but spacial awareness seems dulled in adulthood. This could result from the fact that the majority of the population's spacial experiences are acutely

poverty-stricken (23).

Speculation in land and its chain of shoddy and miserly land use and space conceptions have produced the poverty of space for most American people, and the poverty of people for most American space, which is the basic contradiction of our environment.

So states Garrett Eckbo (23).

This is evidenced in terms of housing, slums, juvenile delinquency, and fire risk, as well as in general worry and neurosis, hostility, jangled nerves and the constant desire to get away from whatever place one happens to be (23) (49).

Geoffrey A. Jellicoe (31) states:

Modern civilization is, in fact, tending to produce an environment that is contrary to the natural condition of man and therefore against his ultimate happiness and welfare.

According to Herbert Hoover (29), this century has brought marvelous discoveries and inventions easing and improving mankind's lot. At the same time we should fear the slump in national morals and stir from our apathy lessening certain evils, especially the crime among youth.

Hoover (29) states:

We are told that the remedy is the job of the parents, the schools, the press, a cessation of corruption through our mass communications and that it is the job of the religious denominations. But we cannot ignore the fact that, with the growth of slums and congested areas in our cities, a new problem has arisen which cannot be reached by these remedies. These kids outside their school and working hours are forced to the street for air and play. It is here where teen-age gangs and crimes are born.

The remedy is by prevention....not by a policeman and; prevention can only come from alternatives to life on the streets.

Recreation has a basic intrinsic function for a community which is its own reward. However, for a number of years, recreation has been a bulwark against juvenile delinquency. A recreation program need not

be defended in terms of its ability to prevent juvenile delinquency (5).

The same technical advances which have provided more time for outdoor activities have spawned tremendous increases in metropolitan populations which are crowding the open space out of the city (47).

Some of the most urgent needs for land are: land for leisure use; for the enjoyment of the out-of-doors; for relaxation; and for spiritual refreshment (2).

Cities at large have awakened to the need; however, it is too late in many cases, for their land is gone (47).

There is a great exodus of the middle-class American from the central city; he is seeking space and the happiness which he correlates with space (47).

Conformity and decent realization of leisure is quite prominent in the suburbs. People visualize such conditions in the suburbs, for clearly the norm of American aspiration is suburbia (21).

Levittown, Pennsylvania, was designed as a suburban city where housing and recreation space were planned to be adequate (21).

From May, 1947, to November, 1951, 17,447 homes were built and sold. Most of the residents commute to New York City. The key to their moving to Levittown was "lebensraum".

School sites were placed at strategic points. Many parks and playgrounds were incorporated with one community swimming pool for every 200 homes. Levitt donated a community center.

The community was sought for its surroundings. There were 16 basic house designs with many varying facade treatments. Each property was completely landscaped including shrubs, shade, and fruit trees (21).

Instant suburbia is a new way of life which Americans like, as

evidenced by their mad rush to it. The illusionary bubble seems at the point of bursting due in part to suburban sprawl, but also from a lack of public open space and recreation areas plus the need for protection of natural and scenic assets (47).

Unless drastic changes are made the decline of the urban is not going to be offset by a more attractive suburbia. The result is going to be a vast suburban sprawl which is neither city nor country (24).

Richard Neutra, (37), in Survival Through Design, states that the design of cities has too long been either utilitarian or non-utilitarian. This has created an inexcusable drabness. Technological advances are forcing a world-wide changing way of life. If our technology and living are to be intergrated, conscientious design is needed everywhere. Designers in all fields can play a part in solving the complex delimma of urban and continental alienation.

The effect of design can no longer be viewed in simple economic terms, but must be weighed in terms of environmental and social costs (20).

The permanency of our democratic form of government rests upon the ability of social development to keep pace with industrial and technical progress. A more abundant life for all necessitates a healthier and happier environment with more beautiful and pleasant surroundings. The cities must be well planned and orderly, serving not only the industrial and commercial needs of the population, but satisfying as well, cultural, esthetic, and recreational desires (14).

J. Lee Brown (9) believes recreation to be a significant and wholesome segment of the life of every citizen and community. He further states that recreation is as much a public responsibility as is education

and health (9).. Recreation has an intrinsic and legitimate function of its own in the general welfare of the community (5).

Increasing family incomes, greater national wealth, and more leisure time all spell greater opportunities for recreation, yet both urban and suburban communities lack space and facilities for local, weekend, or vacation recreation (24).

Laurance S. Rockefeller (47), writing as chairman of the National Outdoor Recreation Review Commission, states:

In creating the commission, Congress and the President recognize that conservation for the physical, cultural, and spiritual benefit of the American people is in a critical period of transition as a result of new demands.

Marion Clawson (14) projected in 1960 in Dynamics of Park Design that the demand for all forms of recreation will increase at an unprecedented pace during the next 25 years in the whole United States (13).

There will be a substantial rise in each of the factors which most affect the demand for recreation; population, per capita income, leisure time, and ease of travel. Growth in any one of these separate factors would be significant; when their gains are combined the impact on the need for parks and other open space becomes a major challenge of our time.

In 1790, the United States had 4 million people. The population had gradually increased to 150 million by 1950, and to 165 million by 1955. In 1960, the figure was close to 180 million people. The most reasonable estimates establish that the total population will be 285 million by 1985. These figures assume no major devastation or global war (14)..

The United States census for 1960 has shown that the Western, South-central States of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana have increased in population by 15 percent or 2,200,000 from 1950 to 1960 (51). The United States as a whole has increased in population by 19 percent.

In 1960 the United States had a population of nearly 180 million which is twice the number of 1910 (14).

In 1960 there were 29,000,000 more people in the United States than were in 1950. The average age of the United States Citizen was $29\frac{1}{2}$ years old. There were 40 percent more children under 15 years old; 10 percent more people from 15-65 years of age, and 30 percent more people over 65 (6). By 1980, it is estimated that one person out of every seven people will be 65 years of age or older (49).

In 1960 there were 44 million students in grade and high schools which was an increase of 16 million. There were 4 million people in colleges or 1,500,000 more than there were in 1950 (6).

Thirty million more of these citizens lived in cities, towns, and suburbs which represents a 30 percent increase over the ten-year period. There were 1,000,000 less people living on farms and in rural areas (6).

Rierner (45) says that by the year 2,000 the urban population of the United States should be 80 percent of the total.

In 1919 it required some 26 million workers of the total 105 million United States population to produce the food, fuel, and other goods we needed (49). In 1960, with a 60 percent increase in population the number of workers remained virtually the same, 26 million, and they were working a shorter week (6).

The jobs for these increased numbers of people came not from the production industries, but from the service industries. In 1919, there were 14 million persons involved in the service industries such as selling, moving, and storing goods including those in nursing, teaching, entertainment, banking, insurance, and government. In 1960 almost 32 million Americans were working in such services. These figures

denote an unfolding era of automation and labor-saving devices which create new national wealth through the production of more goods and services for more people. This will open vistas of greater leisure and fuller living (6).

It is estimated that by 1975, the standard of living per family will then approximate the \$25,000 class of 1957 (49).

Parks and open spaces have become increasingly important as the population has grown and changed and the standard of living has risen.

Presently exploding urban and suburban population is tending to overburden the existing parks and recreational facilities. Continuous effort must be guided toward providing and maintaining adequate park space to serve the increasing population (17).

Billions of dollars will have to be spent to provide facilities for recreation equipment such as boats and cars at beaches, camping apparatus, camps and parks.

The Republican Committee on Program and Progress (47) favors the use of public lands for an expanding program of park and recreation development.

"Mission 66" was a 10-year program of the United States Department of Interior to provide more roads, accommodations, and services in an enlarged National Park System (47).

Parks with an emphasis on horticulture are natural sites for recreation because much of America seeks outdoor activities, however, if there should be a conflict between park and recreation interests, it must be remembered that human needs and interests have priority. Parks are for people (50).

Robinson (45) states:

In zeal for pavements one forgets the trees; in zeal for trees the thoroughfare is forgotten.

Like the whole movement for civil aesthetics, the wish for large parks is a product of mature civilization.

Aristotle (45) defines a city as: "A place where men live a common life for a noble end."

In the capitals of Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries lavish royal pleasure parks were developed. They flourished with ornate sculpture, fountains, and other decorative features. These parks are now the property of the public or else the people are free to use them.

The profession of landscape architecture came into being as it is known today through the design and construction of these great royal parks (32).

Europe was formerly looked to for examples of parks and park systems, but that is no longer necessary.

Patrick Abercrombie (32), well known British planner, has stated:

A properly graded park system, into which is fitted all types of open space from the smallest children's playground to the green belt of surrounding fields and the distant reserve of wild country was first worked out in the U.S.A.

The park movement in America began with the appointment of Fredrick Law Olmsted, Senior, as Architect-in-Chief for Central Park in New York City in 1858. This marked an important change in the relationship between the landscape architect and society. He was employed by the people at large, through duly elected government representatives rather than by private interests. It was the first time a landscape architect had been called on to plan and organize a

large body of public open space (23).

Olmsted, who planned Central Park, wrote (38):

Provisions for the improvement of the ground, however, pointed to something more than mere exemption from urban conditions, namely, the formation of an opposite class of conditions remedial of the influences of urban conditions.

Since the formation and development of New York City's Central Park, in 1958, the public parks of America have sought to offset the apparently unavoidable results of urbanization (23).

Parks have traditionally been spaces set aside to permanently afford man the opportunity to forget the city and its tensions through relaxation. People's needs vary with local situations therefore park design varies with local. Where they should be and how they should be developed necessitates the best reasoning and combined skills of such professional persons as the architect, landscape architect, engineer, biologist, sociologist, and recreation director. The needs of the people must be first in mind. The supreme function of parks is for recreation for people. Formerly most parks provided only semi-passive activities; however, now that more activity is needed, the parks are the place for it; but the dominant idea of peaceful surroundings should never be forgotten in present or future parks (22).

Landscape and Recreation Space Planning Principles for Parks

Industrial concerns seeking new locations frequently evaluate a community's spirit by the quality of its public recreation program and by the interest taken in beautification through the public park system. They retain serious reservations about locating in a community which doesn't provide a wholesome living environment through comprehensive park and recreation programs (46).

Planning, when thought of in its broadest sense of the community recreation system, involves the analysis of the public need, evaluation of existing facilities, and the selection of sites for development to meet specific needs (9).

The recreation director should formulate a set of space requirements for the local situation using the space standards for average conditions as his guide (9).

There are four criteria which space standards must satisfy: 1. They must adequately meet the needs to which they are related; 2. They must be tested by experience; 3. They must be accepted to expert practitioners; 4. They must be reasonably attainable (49).

The most general standard has been established for all cities and towns which is one acre of park space for every one hundred persons living in a given area.

Generally all planners seemingly agree that each city should have playlots for children less than 5 years of age. Where the population density of young children is high, a playlot should be provided in each block or superblock enabling them to reach it without crossing any streets. The size usually varies from 6,000 to 10,000 square feet of space. Each child requires about 75 square feet of play space. This assumes that the area would be supervised at all times.

The neighborhood playground or recreation center is quite frequently combined with the elementary school. The average required is usually two to seven acres with five acres being a desirable minimum. The playground should serve primarily the children from 5 to 14 years of age and their families. Supervision is also necessary in this area,

especially for the elementary groups. Each child on the playground will require about 150 square feet of space. One-third of the neighborhood children may be playing on the field at once. Minimum sized playgrounds can serve a population of 80 persons per acre within one-fourth mile of row-house or apartment house type densities. Where there are no through streets and the population density is less than 10 persons per acre, the radius served could extend five-eighths or three-fourths of a mile.

An intermediate area or playfield provides recreation for persons normally between the ages of 15 to 24 years old. Ten to twenty acres is required. Each person playing on the field requires 600 square feet of space. It is preferable that no one has to travel further than one mile to reach the area; however, depending upon the population density the radius served may extend to two or three miles. Since most people will come to the area by automobile adequate offstreet parking should be provided.

Neighborhood parks usually are located to take advantage of some specific scenic opportunity. There are no standards governing these parks, but they are frequently combined with some of the recreational facilities.

The recreation park or community park should occupy one hundred acres and can be as large as five hundred acres. Every community should have a park of this type; however, in cities of less than 15,000 population it may not be economically feasible to obtain one hundred acres for natural park area only,

The forgoing standards are supported by Brown (9), Daniel (18), Lewis (32), Meyer (34), Opperman (39), and Reimer (44).

The city-wide recreation park should serve all areas, and ages of

the city or urban area. Special areas and facilities may be separate or a part of the recreation park, but normally it provides facilities not found in other parks such as golf, boating, and gardens as well as pleasant natural surroundings affording relaxation from tensions of modern life (34), (49).

In Planning for Recreation Areas and Facilities in Small Towns and Cities, J. Lee Brown (9) elaborates on the recreation space features of the city and recreation parks. Specific space standards exist for various recreational activities and the location of these features varies with the site and need. Several of the principal standards suggested by Brown (9) are presented in Appendix A, pages 78 and 79.

Piece-meal planning, the consideration of each site as a separate, unrelated entity, almost inevitably results in the selection of sites that are too sparse or congested or non-related to school and cultural facilities (49).

Once an area has begun to develop the opportunities to select the best recreation sites are greatly diminished. Sites for large parks should be selected even prior to the street pattern.

Prior selection of recreation spaces permits better cooperation of school and recreation agencies to create better facilities to serve more people. In addition, purchases of non-developed land before the subdivider starts saves the taxpayer considerable amounts of money. No money need be expended on development of these areas until the need arises. Dollars cannot buy what farsighted action can preserve such as scenic beauty which would otherwise be destroyed (29), (49).

The ground which is often unsuited for commercial and residential use due to topography may be well suited for the recreation landscape

park (29). However, the site should be investigated for such consideration as excessive amounts of necessary rock removal; poor sub-surface water conditions; and poor drainage. The increase in land and developmental expense necessitates greater attention to site selection and the proper analysis of surrounding conditions (39).

In the selection of large park sites it is important that they be located centrally. However, convenient transportation is equally important. Most people will travel to these areas by automobile or by public conveyance; therefore, deviations from the principle of central location is justifiable if major traffic arteries and public transit systems serve the park.

Once a park site has been selected it must be examined in regard to its size which more or less fits into a given category of parks. Its development should then be considered using the local recreation standards or survey as a guide. For standards relating to Stillwater see page 80 of Appendix A.

The faults of the city plan are made quite obvious when intelligent park design is not included (11).

The first principle of recreation park design is a cognizance that the areas of the park are to be for people, their use, comfort, convenience, health, and enjoyment (12).

The second principle one should recognize is that the combined efforts of such people as the engineer, architect, landscape architect, recreation director, sociologist, and park director are required to effect a truly functional park plan (17), (22), (43).

The third principle is that of provision of areas for all age groups. There should be no conflicts between the various age groups (40).

According to Hubbard (29) provision for many people should be made in the large park, yet in at least some of its extent it should not be crowded by them. Thus, the open spaces of the park should be large enough to present some feeling of extent. These same spaces should not be intruded upon by the sight of town-made structures.

The fourth principle is that the topography should be studied and utilized to the best advantage in locating facilities (41).

The fifth principle the designer should recognize is that facilities for physical recreation are necessary to the health of the people (43). Also in the recreation park tranquil landscaped areas which achieve an environment of natural beauty should be provided for passive recreation (44), (27).

A sixth and very important principle to be considered is that the basic layout should form a functional skeleton upon which the present day activities can grow in proportion and eventually reach maturity in a well developed park. It should be capable of absorbing the changes in time and activities without forfeiting the fundamental purpose of serving people by providing a rewarding and memorable experience each time the area is visited. The plan should be comprehensive enough for each area to be related and interdependent on the other, thus protecting the whole from encroachment of such non-related uses as public buildings, expressways, private enterprise, and others who might wish to delete a part of the area for special purposes (12).

A seventh principle or consideration is that of year round use of the area which is particularly important in those areas having limited space and developmental funds (40).

The eighth principle is that the designer should so plan as to

minimize the mounting cost of operation, supervision, policing, and maintenance of public areas. High maintenance and supervision costs often consume developmental funds (12).

Trial and error should long ago have vanished from the scene of our technology society. Further, the ugliness and shoddiness produced by a concept of pragmatic utility should cease to be permitted (37).

The recreation area can be a proud feature of the community or it can be undesirable and thus reflect property values. It is shortsighted and poor business to create something which will depreciate property values (14).

A city achieves its character and many of its lasting values and living amenities from the number and arrangement of its open spaces.

No community should develop a recreation park until a plan by a competent designer has been formulated (33). Since anyone can pour concrete, move soil, and plant trees, many are, where funds are low, tempted to do it themselves; but because of the importance of such areas, it is wise economy to hire a designer (14).

Mr. G. Leslie Lynch (33), a professional recreation planner and landscape architect, states that a designer of parks must attack his problem similar to the method a writer or painter evolves his composition: 1. He informs himself of the subject; 2. He outlines his major considerations; 3. He completes the details.

Prior to starting a design the landscape architect must have certain items. They are:

1. A topographic map of the site showing the contours, structures, trees, rock out-croppings, utility and sewer lines, boundary streets and any helpful site information.
2. A site inspection which will acquaint him with the

land features. He must familiarize himself with the community recreation needs. If a comprehensive recreation survey is not available then the situation must be evaluated by personal observation.

3. Major factors which will effect the design are:
 - (A) The site selection;
 - (B) The area size in relation to the population served;
 - (C) The approach direction;
 - (D) The age groups to be served;
 - (E) The general topographic character of the park;;
 - (F) Maintenance, recreation and supervisory funds (33).

Garrett Eckbo (23) stated that in parks the primary elements of landscape design are trees and grass with which water combines most attractively.

The landscape design emphasis of a recreation park should be upon achieving an environment of beauty and preservation of natural points of interest. Provision for natural woodland and water for informal outdoor recreation activities should be made. If the area possesses natural features such as beaches, lakes, streams, hills, and woodland emphasize these, but also develop gardens, picnic areas, boating areas, bathing beaches and other activities as well as field sports and court games which may be readily accessible near the perimeter. Ample parking space and comfort stations must be provided. If the area is to be used during night hours, lights on roads, walks, and in activity areas will be necessitated (9), (27), (32), (34), (41), (44).

When the type of park the area is to be has been defined, the selection of areas within the park should begin (32). Open areas offer the most diversified uses and easiest upkeep. High crowned deciduous trees surrounding these areas provide a place for resting and viewing (29).

The circulation system forms the skeleton of the design by its

beauty of line and reasonable ingress and egress to the various recreation areas.

The main entrance should be the key to the circulation system, It should be at a most accessible point. In addition the design of the main entrance should determine whether the park is predominantly for pedestrians or motorists. It should also characterize the nature of the park.

The circulation route should lead the visitor over the entire route with reasonable directness to the various features of interest arranged in a logical order within the circulation frame. Although through traffic is not desirable, pleasure drives within a park are satisfactory. Certain controls are necessary for scenery, fresh air, and safety. Parks are not speedways (33) (29).

Roads within the park should not encroach on the pedestrians' enjoyment very greatly, but the roads should be pleasant to drive on with easy gradients and ample and safe turns.

As park use grows, walks may become necessary. These should be as congruous as possible in wooded areas. If the foot traffic is not excessive an erosion control surface of tanbark, pine needles, or leaves will be sufficient. Otherwise, it is necessary for walks to be hard surfaced.

If large areas of the park are flat or seen at once, considerable thought must be given to the walk design effect.

Four considerations for the walk design are: 1. The pattern made with turf or nearby shrubs; 2. The beauty of line considered simply from design line flow; 3. The adaptation of the lines to the flow of traffic; 4. The fitting of the walks to the topography.

Walks and drives should circuit the park so as to display the views, not to break them (29).

Areas within the recreation park may be designed for walking, picnicking, folk dancing, swimming, games, coasting, skating, boating, archery, and golf and tennis on grass courts. Areas for amphitheaters and an arboretum have their part in park space. Golf may be quite a dangerous game where numbers of people are doing other things in the general area. It is best located in a separate park area (29).

Archery, too, is somewhat dangerous, but during the day the sport can be easily restricted.

Active sports such as coasting and skiing should be restricted to certain areas.

Again, baseball, cricket, and football are relatively safe for the participants, but somewhat dangerous to nearby people doing other things. Matched teams and spectators should be restricted to a playfield.

By judicious cutting in native woods the desirable trees should be left. Picnic areas need enduring trees. Certain vistas should be opened and others closed. Much of the wooded area may be left unchanged.

Natural ponds or lakes tend to have margins unsuited for foot traffic. If people are to walk along the shore, a sand or gravel beach is almost the only answer.

Comfort stations are very necessary in parks of any size, especially in the large recreation parks. They should be screened from other park areas, but their location should be made obvious by designating signs.

From the users view, there should be a sufficient screen between the city and the park. This screen should be composed of trees and shrubs (29).

Plantings in the park should be concentrated on trees for shade and color. More than any other element, trees are necessary in the landscape. They have visual, auditory, and shade amenities (10). When combined with turf and shrubs, they can reduce sound by 65 percent (8). They discourage unrelated uses of areas and frequently soften the architectural blunder (10).

Shrubs should be used chiefly as dividers between areas such as play and swimming. They may also be used to direct traffic and deter foot traffic on steep slopes. Excessive use of shrubs generally increases maintenance.

Structural shelters to protect from rain and wind may be placed to take advantage of a view or to draw attention to a view. Their design should be in keeping with the park, but this does not justify so much irregularity that the structure loses some of its purpose.

It is also legitimate to place a restaurant shelter where large groups of people congregate such as at an amphitheater or in a boating area. Selection of buildings for a park should depend upon the use for which the park was designed.

The construction of public buildings in a public park, on the basis that the park offers a good background, is unwise utilization. Service buildings and residence buildings for park employees should be screened from the park areas, but they should be accessible (29).

Object design is composed of all the enrichments included in an enclosure (23).

To give landscape rhythm and continuity, buildings should be grouped into large scale units which have a scale relation to the form of the hills. Tree patterns, if similar in continuity, may have a

force comparable to those of buildings and hills which will help unite the parts and elements; then contradictions between development and site can be resolved, producing a better quality design than the mere accumulation of elements (23).

Park land may look wild, but that constitutes no justification for using the area as a wasteland for whatever purpose (29).

The third dimension of space definition includes all design. The fourth dimension is the time of occupancy for the individual (23).

The time has come for the beginning of the rebuilding of our environment from the smallest element. This rebuilding should be done not simply for efficiency and beauty, but for the satisfaction of all of our senses. This is a primary job of the profession of landscape architecture which seeks to create harmony between man and his natural surroundings (31).

CHAPTER III

AN EVALUATION OF THE RECREATION FACILITIES AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES OF BOOMER LAKE RECREATION PARK

The following on site evaluation of existing landscape plantings and recreation facilities was conducted during June and July of 1970 to support a landscape land use proposal for Boomer Lake Park, City of Stillwater, Oklahoma.

The evaluation was made beginning at the municipal power plant near the primary entrance. Refer to Area 1, Figure 1, page 68.

There are 862 acres contained in Boomer Lake Park representing various topography and facilities in various stages of development.

One cannot traverse the entire park area with ease either as a pedestrian or as a motorist due to the fact that residential areas and city streets divide the park as defined by the heavy black border seen in Figures 1 and 2, pages 68 and 69. As a whole, one can traverse that portion of the park shown in Figure 1, page 68, as a pedestrian or motorist. That area north of Airport Road depicted in Figure 2, page 69, can best be completely traversed on foot.

There are 5.8 miles of well identified roads in and around the park including sections of Airport Road, Knoblock Street, and that portion of Husband Street which forms the eastern boundary. Roads within the park are represented as broken or dashed lines in Figures 1 and 2.

One can negotiate all 5.8 miles of the roads with little difficulty,

though the oiled sections of the road on the western side of the park are in almost constant need of repair.

Iron posts embedded in concrete along the west side park roadway in Areas 1-8, Figure 1, prevent motorists' encroaching on park space with automobiles.

The area near the power plant is very neatly maintained and properly mowed at all times. There is a mobile home development across the street south from the primary entrance and west from the plant. This area is somewhat less than attractive and well-maintained from the park side. In the immediate area of the power plant, it is particularly noisy. Refer to Area 2, Figure 1.

From the municipal power plant to Area 6, Figure 1, a diminishing, but offensive noise can be heard. The degree of noise varies with wind velocity.

There is no identification sign, per se, near any entrance to Boomer Lake Park. However, the park rules are displayed on a sign at the primary entrance, and again at the secondary entrance on Washington Street. See Area 7, Figure 1. The rules and hours are stated. They are: There shall be no fishing or boating without a permit; There shall be no firearms; No parking in areas so designated; and, No parking after 9:00 p.m.

Definite parking areas are limited throughout the park. There is a small parking area, only for those who are fishing, just south of the lake inlet in Area 1, Figure 1. There is another area for parking, while fishing or boating only, immediately south of the caretaker's home in Area 2.

Area 1 has little to offer the park visitor. Washington Street,

which is also U. S. Highway 177, is a major traffic route for ingress and egress into the City of Stillwater. This Street forms one of the western boundaries of the park. Traffic noise from Washington Street is quite audible in Areas 1, 2, 5, 6, & 7, Figure 1.

Beginning near the primary entrance, Area 1 along Washington Street, there is a row of Pin Oaks, Quercus palustris, planted approximately every 50 feet from Lakeview Drive north to Harned Place. The majority of the trees are in good condition. This planting stops 200 feet both north and south from the secondary entrance, Area 7, Figure 1.

From the power plant northward there is a very loose scattering of arborvitaes, Thuja orientalis, Ponderosa Pines, Pinus ponderosa, and Siberian Elms, Ulmus pumila. These are primarily located east of the park road until one reaches the point where the lake inlet comes closest to the road in Area 2. The terrain at this point is quite steep, forming the drainage channel to Boomer Lake from the hills. It is here where several large Cottonwood trees, Populus deltoides, and Eastern Red Cedars, Juniperus virginiana, form a partial privacy screen and sound barrier from the traffic on Washington Street. Refer to Areas 1 and 2, Figure 1.

As one proceeds along the roadway north of Area 2 and across Areas 5 and 6 between the caretaker's home and the army reserve installation, there is a loose scattering of arborvitaes, Ponderosa Pines, Sycamores, Platanus occidentalis, and Siberian Elms. These plantings are not grouped in any way whatsoever. They stand as single specimen. Some are quite picturesque while others only occupy space. This planting pattern characterizes the poor arrangement of plantings throughout the developed area on the west side of Boomer Lake. Unfortunately, the vast

majority of these plantings neither screen for privacy, define areas for use, nor cast usable shade. Such a poorly arranged planting, typified here, deters the cohesive relationship of areas in a large park such as Boomer Lake Park.

Area 2, Figure 1, has the only suitable terrain for an amphitheater in Boomer Lake Park. The grade is very steep from the roadway south to the lake. Immediately north of the sharp curve in the road, the land is eroded, but is being filled. When the filling is completed, the grade will be level enough for parking. A small electrical service building, city water tower, and the Army Reserve installation are located along Washington Street north of Area 2. These structures, extremely utilitarian in appearance, are poorly screened from sight in Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6, Figure 1.

The caretaker's home, floating fishing dock, the concrete recreation pier, and small swimming pier comprise the facilities in Area 3, Figure 1. There is a sign in the parking area south of the caretaker's home stating that all boats must have permits. Permits are available from the caretaker. The caretaker's home is reasonably screened by plantings from the concrete pier and Areas 4 and 5. There is no screening, however, for the west exposure of the caretaker's home as one might approach from Area 2. The concrete recreation pier is completely barren. The wood attached to the swimming pier is rotten,

There is a planting of Bald Cypress, Taxodium distichum, on 75 foot intervals in the lake beginning immediately north of the recreation pier, Area 3, and continuing to the Harned Place exit near Area 8, Figure 1. The placement of these trees varies from five to fifteen feet from the shoreline.

Area 4 is a sunny, grass-covered section between the shoreline and the park roadway. The grade at the shoreline varies from the waterline to eighteen to twenty inches above the water. The lake margin is primarily weedy.

There is off-street parking provided at the Kiwanis Kiddie Park section in Area 5, Figure 1.

The entire Kiwanis Kiddie Park is outlined by a chain and post barrier painted alternately blue and yellow. This barrier constitutes a mowing hazard as well as a safety hazard to any person who might be running in the area. In a large park such as Boomer Lake Park, it is completely unnecessary to so delineate an area as this one has been done. The Kiwanis Club developed the park with the following play equipment: two swing units, one large, one small, with three swings each; two slides, one standing free and the other attached to the smaller swing set; one climbing device; two concrete tables with attached seats; there is also an 18 x 14 foot concrete sandbox with concrete corner seats containing very little sand and a profusion of weeds, indicating that it is seldom used. At one time, it apparently had a shelter, but none exists at present. There is one shelter with two wood and steel tables with attached seats. Water, a charcoal grill and trash disposal are provided at the shelter. There are children's restrooms immediately behind the shelter; however, as is the case in many public parks, these are defunct and would be used only in case of emergency. There is one bench near the road as one approaches from the parking area.

In this play area, especially for small children shade is inadequate. In the summer it is a rather hot area non-conducive to play. The trees here, too, have been scattered with little thought as

to pattern of use, play, or shade. Young Sycamores and Pin Oaks, Siberian Elms, Scotch Pines, Pinus sylvestris, and old arborvitaes, constitute the landscape planting.

The sound of the power plant can be very strong in the Kiddie's Play Park and may help to explain why there is much less use made of this area than of the children's play space in Area 8, Figure 1.

To the northeast of the Kiwanis Kiddie Park and between the roadway and the shoreline, there are three wood and steel picnic tables with seats attached. Each picnic table sits on a concrete pad and one has a roof. A charcoal grill is provided at each picnic site along the shoreline. The picnic sites are about 200 feet apart. In this area there are numerous native American Elms, Ulmus americana, and Black Willows, Salix nigra, which follow the shoreline around the lake inlet between Areas 6 and 7, Figure 1.

Area 6 is a relatively open, gently sloping section. In addition to the Pin Oaks along Washington Street previously discussed, there are four very picturesque Ponderosa Pines and six arborvitaes near the Army Reserve installation. A rather large drainage ditch from Washington Street to the lake divides this area. Other than these the area is free of any encumbrance to the secondary entrance.

The roadway surfacing is oiled from the primary entrance until it intersects the asphalt paving from the secondary entrance on Washington Street. Beginning at the southeast corner of this intersection, between Areas 6 and 7, Figure 1, there is a small arboretum planting designated "Garden for the Blind". This apparently supplements the arboretum-flower garden at the top of the hill in Area 7. There is a low, poorly constructed rock wall which encircles most of the plant-

ings. There is a circle of concrete around each individual plant. A series of elevated rock planters has been constructed with poor quality asphalt walkways between the planters. That the area is not visited is made obvious by the fact that one can hardly negotiate the walks due to the prodigious growth of weeds. There is a single line of elevated irrigation sprinklers arranged through the center of this arboretum planting. There is a small parking lot immediately east of the garden, but a drainage ditch makes entering from the lot somewhat difficult. Immediately south of the encircling wall, there is a band of open space about six feet wide. From there the grade is rather steep to the lake though not so steep that one could not walk to the water's edge. Considerable undergrowth exists on the slope. The plants along the water's edge are predominately American Elm, Black Willow, Cottonwood, and Mulberry, Morus rubra. Within the garden there is an utter disregard for family and genus grouping of plantings. For a complete listing of the species and number of plants in this planting refer to Appendix B, page 86.

Across the road from shelter no. 1, near the shore, there is a concrete picnic table with one bench. The area between the roadway and the lake margin to the Harned Place exit is relatively open, although, the shoreline planting of Bald Cypress is interspersed with Weeping Willows, Salix babylonica. The grass is adequately maintained to permit use of the area. In occasional spots one can easily walk to the water's edge. Though the entire area is gently sloping from the roadway to the lake, sudden grade changes of eighteen to twenty-four inches are common along the lake margin. This rough grade prevents mowing along the water's edge which discourages wading in the shallow

waters along the shoreline. This grassy beach-like area abruptly terminates in a clump of trees and undergrowth located in line with the north boundary. Refer to Areas 7 and 8, Figure 1.

The asphaltic road divides to form a loop near the north boundary as one approaches the Harned Place exit. The eastern leg of the loop is oiled until it exits on Harned Place. The oiled roadway section is in extreme need of repair.

Area 7 begins at the secondary entrance on Washington Street. The park roadway is the dividing line between Areas 6 and 7. This area comprises some 18 acres of relatively unencumbered space. It is the largest such space in Boomer Lake Park. Area 7 contains the Girl Scout section, shelters 1 and 2, and the arboretum-flower garden.

From the secondary entrance between Areas 6 and 7, there is a planting of Evergreen Euonymus, Euonymus japonicus, immediately behind a chain and post barrier bordering each side of the entry road for some 200 feet. This barrier effectively prevents any parking at this point, therefore this section of the park is rarely used.

The Girl Scout area designated from park space is 600 feet long and 200 feet wide, the long side being parallel with the north boundary near Harned Place. Refer to Appendix A, page 83. Other than a dense windbreak-like planting there is no development in the Girl Scout area. The planting predominates in Siberian Elm and Black Locust, Robinia pseudoacacia.

There are three well designed shelters facing Boomer Lake north of the roadway in Areas 7 and 8. At each of the shelters water, charcoal grills, and trash disposal provision are provided. In addition there are fireplaces in each of the shelters. Each has a concrete floor and

serving tables with seats.

Though the shelters are not lighted, there are street lights near them.

One enters the shelters by means of steps from the parking lots which are some eight feet lower than the shelter grade level. A parking space for ten to twenty automobiles exists directly in front of each shelter. However, at peak periods of use, parking space is inadequate.

Park shelter No. 1 is 22 x 47 feet. It could accommodate about 100 people. It is the shelter seen upon entering the park from the secondary entrance on Washington Street. There are no plantings of any consequence immediately around shelter No. 1.

Shelter No. 2 is 25 x 70 feet. It could accommodate groups of approximately 120 people. There is a clipped hedge of Evergreen Euonymus on the shelter grade level bordering the parking area. A large Arizona Cypress, Cupressus arizonica, terminates the hedge crowding the stairs at the west entrance to the shelter.

Between play Area 8, Figure 1, and shelter No. 2 an unusually large amount of broken glass exists.

Shelter No. 3 in Area 8 is 15 x 33 feet and could accommodate groups of 15 to 25 persons. The parking here is bordered with Winter Jasmine, Jasminum nudiflorum. The top of the stairs from the parking lot is considerably crowded by a planting of Crapemyrtle, Lagerstroemia indica, and East Palatka Holly, Ilex opaca, 'East Palatka'.

Beginning immediately east of shelter No. 1 there is a row of Pin Oaks on 50 foot centers. They are planted parallel to the roadway, 25 feet from the center line.

Beginning a short distance west of shelter No. 1 there is the beginning of a scattered planting of young trees. This planting becomes densely populated between shelters 1 and 2 to the north boundary. In this area one could have difficulty playing any type of active game without running into a tree trunk. The arboretum area on top of the hill is a part of this planting.

Though Area 6, on the landscape land use map, is designated as the arboretum the existing arboretum area is located near the north boundary between shelters 1 and 2. It, too, is planted with complete abandon of family and genus grouping. A poorly constructed rock retainer wall forms the north and east boundary. Concrete curbing outlines the beds. There are no signs anywhere in the park signifying that such a planting exists. It is not easily seen from any vantage point near the shelters nor the roadway. In fact, one's attention is drawn toward the lake upon entering the park. Thus, few persons visit the arboretum. Refer to Area 7, Figure 1. For a complete listing of species of trees and shrubs of four inches and less caliper see Appendix B, page 86.

Between the existing arboretum and the well-designed play space of Area 8, there are absolutely no trees. In the late afternoon many groups and individual families with children come to the park to eat and to play in this area. Until sundown, there is absolutely no shade in the children's play area and little for the shelters. The broiling late afternoon sun is difficult to look into and poses a deterrent to play since the parent as well as the child must avoid looking into the sun's direct rays.

A play structure, located approximately midway between shelters 2 and 3, is well designed having many angular sides. The structure

occupies an area approximately 75 feet long and 50 feet wide. The structure is built into the side of the hill some 50 feet from the roadway. There are six play levels varying from two feet below the grade to seven feet above the grade. The bottom of the structure is covered with sand. This intriguing structure provides an opportunity for imaginative play for elementary children. Many children and adults are drawn to this structure. Refer to Area 8, Figure 1.

There is an area of play equipment defined by concrete curbing immediately west of the play structure. The play equipment consists of two units of six swings each; one slide; three teeter-totters; and four metal horses mounted on old auto coil springs.

The upper portion of Area 8 can be quite noisy when the wind carries the sounds of children's voices from their play area.

Shelter No. 3 has previously been discussed; however, the only restrooms in Areas 7 and 8 are immediately west of shelter No. 3. These restrooms, though functional, are continually dirty; so much so that one will leave the park rather than use these facilities.

North of shelter No. 3 near the road, there are three Pissard Plums, Prunus cerasifera. Two young Eastern Red Cedars, in the same area, pose a potential hazard to a view of the lake.

From Washington Street to Husband Street, Airport Road, running east and west, divides Boomer Lake Park almost equally. A small sign along Airport identifies Stillwater's Nature Center and "prohibits any alteration" of the area. Refer to Area 9, Figure 1.

The nature center is bounded on the west by Washington Street; on the south by Lake Shore Drive; on the north by Airport Road; and on the east by Boomer Lake. The predominate black border on the west boundary

of Area 11, Figure 2, page 69, is Knoblock Street. From Washington Street to Knoblock Street along Airport Road for a varying width of some 200 feet there are few trees. From this area southward to the lake, is an area virtually unaltered with native trees and natural vegetation. Predominant is Black Locust, Green Ash, Fraxinus pennsylvanica lanceolata, Black Willow, and American Elm. Hackberry, Celtis occidentalis, Small Flowered Dogwood, Cornus drummondii, and Wild Grape, Vitis aestivalis, also exist in this area. A drainage ditch passes under Airport Road and flows through this area and into the lake. There is an extremely unique quality to this small area, in that once through the undergrowth on the outer edge of the trees, one can easily become completely divorced from any cognizance of civilization. The wind and vegetation obliterate all but the immediate sounds of nature. The soil is covered with a layer of decaying leaves and limbs lessening the sounds of footsteps.

About 150 feet west from Knoblock Street one encounters an obscure road entering the nature center terminating on a barren rough graded area of some three acres. Refer to Area 10, Figure 1. Soil removal was apparently done to provide fill for the road bed to the bridge that now carries traffic across the lake on Airport Road. There is an upper area of some two acres virtually level with Airport Road and the graded area some 12 feet lower which joins the lake. The lake in this area is apparently shallow enough for play for a distance of 200 or more feet from the shore. The wind is strong, giving the area a pleasant beach-like aura. From a line extended from Knoblock Street southward the graded area continues for 670 feet eastward where it terminates in the roadway embankment. At this point about 150 feet of the area is covered

with a growth of Cottonwood, Black Willow, Button-Bush, Cephalanthus occidentalis, and assorted grasses and weeds.

Along Knoblock Street from Airport Road to Ute Avenue, there is a gently sloping area almost treeless for a width of two to three hundred feet. Refer to Area 11, Figure 2.

Area 12 comprises the remainder of the park north of Airport Road. There are approximately 160 acres densely covered with trees and undergrowth. This wild area is used for various recreational activities such as camping, canoeing, and fishing. There is a crude network of 1.7 miles of negotiable roads in Area 12. There is an abundance of plant species. The following species predominate: American Elm, Black Willow, Green Ash, Black Locust, Mulberry, Small Flowered Dogwood, Eastern Redbud, Cercis canadensis; sumac, both Rhus glabra and Rhus copallina; Virginia Creeper, Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Poison Ivy, Rhus toxicodendron, and various grasses and wild flowers. Some effort has been made to mark and identify certain species along a poorly defined nature trail on the west side of the lake.

There is some scum on the water in the upper reaches of the lake which appears to be a slight amount of contamination. Considering the number of persons who use this area for fishing, there is a surprising lack of noticeable debris. Refer to Area 12, Figure 2.

From the secondary entrance at Airport Road and Husband Street the east side terrain very gently slopes toward the lake. From this entrance to the dam, Areas 13-16, Figure 1, the park space is completely non-developed. There are two poorly developed roads, one in Area 14 and another in Area 15. The margins of the lake are overgrown. The total area is in almost constant need of mowing.

There is a bare graded area next to and parallel with Airport Road in Area 13. Several dead trees lie in the lake near Area 13 inviting dumping refuse.

Aside from a few fishermen the east side, lake Areas 13-16, are rarely used by anyone.

The area immediately east of the park is primarily zoned for commercial or industrial development. One large business firm, Moore Business Forms, is presently located across the road from the park. Refer to Areas 13-14, Figure 1.

Husband Street is paved from the secondary entrance at Lakeview Drive (near Area 17, Figure 1) for .6 miles at which point it becomes asphaltic surfacing to within 200 feet of Airport Road. Airport Road is surfaced with limestone chat.

At the intersection of Husband Street and Lakeview Drive there are two well developed baseball fields in Area 18 and the park greenhouse and growing area in Area 17.

The park greenhouse lies north of the ball fields and immediately south of the lake dam. The area is entered by a rough extension of Husband Street between the two fields and exits around the second ball field to Lakeview Drive. The greenhouse covers 2700 square feet. The roof is composed of rigid plastic while the walls are made of glass window sashes and concrete blocks. The header house and a multi-storage structure is attached to the north side of the greenhouse.

There is a 16 x 24 foot concrete storage building near the greenhouse.

There is approximately 1.5 acres of nursery growing area east of the greenhouse. Though cultivated, the area contains few plants. In

Area 17 plants are produced for various areas throughout the Stillwater Park System.

The two baseball fields in Area 18 are supported by the Stillwater Lions Club. These fields are well developed for the game and safety of the spectators. There are movable stands with a seating capacity of approximately 150 persons at each field. The fields are adequately lighted for night use. There is a concession building with clean, functional restrooms located immediately south of the field nearest the intersection.

There is a non-defined area for off-street parking between the ball fields and Lakeview Drive. During night baseball games the traffic congestion on Lakeview Drive is extremely serious due to poor parking arrangements. Refer to Area 18, Figure 1.

As Lakeview Drive crosses Boomer Lake Dam, it becomes quite narrow making it difficult for cars to pass. Lakeview Drive is an oiled street until it reaches the power plant where the surfacing becomes concrete. The poor condition of the oiled section on the dam makes it even more hazardous for two cars crossing the dam at the same time.

Below the dam there is a small section of park land. It is here that the Boy Scout Troop 98, sponsored by the Stillwater Lions Club, has a small lodge house. Refer to Area 19, Figure 1.

Except as noted in Areas 10 and 13, Boomer Lake Park has an adequate ground cover of native grasses and Common Bermudagrass, Cynodon dactylon, sufficient to control erosion and to support most recreational activities.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION OF THE LANDSCAPE LAND USE PROPOSAL FOR BOOMER LAKE RECREATION PARK

Based on the preceding site evaluation and the Stillwater Park and Recreation Department facility survey (refer to Appendix A, page 80.) the following proposal is made:

There are nineteen distinct areas in the 862 acres of Boomer Lake Park. Referring to the map in Figures 1 and 2, pages 68, 69. They will be discussed in order beginning with Area 1, Figure 1.

Near the primary entrance a sign should be located identifying the park, and the basic purpose and governing rules for those using the park. An identifying sign should also be located at each of the secondary entrances to help relate the various areas of the park. The rules should be simply stated, spelling out what can be used in the park, when and where. There should be no doubt that motorized boats are prohibited on Boomer Lake Park. Motorized recreation vehicles have proven to be serious problems in many parks.

An identification sign should be located in each designated area of the park. Refer to Areas 1-19, Figures 1 and 2.

Since the primary entrance is within easy visual periphery of a major traffic thoroughfare, Washington Street, it is proposed that the existing floral garden display be moved from Area 7, (see page 39) to Area 1 at the intersection of Washington Street and Lakeview Drive.

Thus both the passing motorists and park visitor could enjoy the flowers. This would present a most pleasing facade to persons entering or leaving the City of Stillwater via U. S. Highway 177.

The floral garden in the arboretum section of Area 7, north of and between shelters 1 and 2, is well maintained. The same sort of installation should be made here with concrete bed retainers and a sprinkler system for irrigation. In addition, for shade, some flowering trees, such as Bradford Ornamental Pear, Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford', Empress Tree, Paulownia tomentosa, and Goldraintree, Koelreuteria paniculata, should be planted. Benches for seating should also be included. This would be the beginning of a transforming of Area 1 from a noisy non-used area to one of more usable and beautiful space.

Before any plantings are installed an accurate soil analysis should be made in each planting area. The soil should then be prepared accordingly prior to planting.

All Pin Oaks, Quercus palustris, should be fertilized as per a soil analysis to stimulate growth.

Where permitted, a screen planting of Amur River Privet, Ligustrum amurense, should be made south of Lakeview Drive around the mobile home development. This planting should not obscure the motorists' view of the sharp curve in Lakeview Drive, nor should it continue beyond the mobile home entrance toward Washington Street. This planting should help reduce the power plant noise in the mobile home area and provide more privacy for the residents as well as for park visitors. This informal hedge should not be allowed to block the mobile home dwellers' view of the lake.

Due to the fact that the planting patterns in Boomer Lake Park

destroy the cohesive relationship between park areas, a planting of shade trees on regular intervals should be made parallel to the west side of the roadway in Areas 1 through 8. At least three different tree species should be used to lessen the chance of pest devastation. The trees should have a similarity of shape and habit. Three such species are: hackberry, Celtis occidentalis; Green Ash, Fraxinus pennsylvanica lanceolata; and Sawtooth Oak, Quercus acutissima. The hackberry and Green Ash are similar in shape to each other and to elms. The Sawtooth Oak is similar in shape and color to a Pin Oak. These species should not be alternated, but should be varied to relate to existing species and topography variation.

Due to the noise produced by the power plant a dense planting of trees should be made as close to the source of the noise as is practical for operational safety and efficiency. It should be composed of such trees species as hackberry, Celtis occidentalis, Sycamore, Platanus occidentalis, Chesnut Oak, Quercus muehlenbergii, Eastern Red Cedar, Juniperus virginiana, and Ponderosa Pine, Pinus ponderosa. To further avoid insect and disease devastation, landscape screen plantings should be composed of several different species adapted to the site. Exotic plant species, except in arboretums, should be avoided in park design. The foregoing species are well adapted to the site and are not overly susceptible to pest problems. Those trees near the power plant should be allowed to branch from the ground, but when the planting becomes parallel with the entrance all tree canopies should be raised to facilitate a view of the lake from the park roadway in Area 1. The planting should continue on the east side of the park roadway to the parking area south of the lake inlet. At this point the screen planting

should cross the road directly in front of the parking lot and blend with the existing Cottonwoods, Populus deltoides, and Eastern Red Cedars, Juniperus virginiana. It should continue northward to screen the electrical service building, water tower, and Army Reserve installation. The trees in the screen west of the park roadway should be allowed to branch from the ground to provide maximum sound barrier and privacy screen. Both visual periphery and noise emanating from Washington Street would otherwise pose a problem for Area 2.

At present no amphitheater for outdoor performing arts exists in Stillwater. Few sites are so well suited to amphitheater development as is the unique topography in Area 2, Figure 1. No other area in Boomer Lake Park is so suited without extensive grade preparation. The stage should be located near the shoreline. An almost natural roadbed leads eastward from the roadway to what should be the stage. With proper grading a small parking lot for performers could be developed at the stage road terminus. Ample parking space for the audience should be provided north of the roadway when the filling is completed. Additional parking would be provided by the expanded boat and fishing dock parking area. Walkways should connect this parking lot with the amphitheater.

Wherever people gather in groups on the west side of the lake, parking space is inadequate. This situation could be eased by developing a third lane for parallel parking at strategic points along the course of the park roadway. The post barriers along the roadway and around the parking areas should be retained, otherwise motorists would park in the recreation space. Almost all park visitors arrive in or on some type of motorized vehicle.

The development of Areas 3 and 4 would necessitate enlarged parking areas near them.

To allow the concrete recreation pier of Area 3 to stand barren is a waste of a valuable asset. A structure should be erected on the pier to house a restaurant, recreation room or rooms, and certain administrative offices. This structure might provide an area for swimmers to change since the wood on the swimming pier should be replaced. This could also serve the proposed sandy beach in Area 4.

The floating fishing dock, a valuable recreation asset, should be maintained where it is since the lake water is warmed to some degree in the winter by the effluence from the power plant. The warm water enters the lake slightly southwest and across the lake inlet from the floating fishing dock. Due to the nature and time of use of the fishing dock of Area 3, there should be little, if any, conflict between these facilities.

Due to the convenience of both the park system and the boating-fishing public, the caretaker's home should be maintained where it presently exists, although an adequate screen for sight and sound privacy should be planted immediately west of the house. The present planting north and east of the house should be completed. Adequate plants for this screening are available for transplanting from Area 7. Refer to Appendix B, page 87.

As the Bald Cypress, Taxodium distichum, grow along the shoreline, it may be necessary to remove certain ones to maintain a view of the lake from the upper sections of Areas 2, 5, and 6. Refer to Figure 1.

Anticipating the development of Area 3, the sandy beach in Area 4 should be developed. Regrading of the uneven lake margin will be required which most probably will necessitate a lowering of the lake

level for the grading. There is approximately 100,000 square feet of area well adapted to a beach between the roadway and the shore. A layer of sand four to six inches deep would be necessitated. Approximately 1800 cubic yards of sand would be required to accomplish this. Few inland cities, of any size, have an opportunity within the city to provide a sandy beach for the recreation of their citizens.

A beach of this nature would require expanding the off-street parking of Area 5 and connecting it behind the caretaker's house with the parking space above Area 2. Rigid speed control would be necessitated in Areas 3, 4 and 5. Where extreme caution should be exercised, shallow dips in the road surface could be installed.

Area 5 comprises approximately two and one-half acres of space. A double row of trees should be planted on the south and north boundaries, and to the west of the Kiwanis Kiddie Park. These should unite with the screen planting previously discussed around the Army Reserve installation. These trees would not only define the area but would help to muffle noise created in this and other areas. The trees should have raised canopies to provide visual periphery and direct shade for spectators. These trees should be placed on an interval representative of their species, but be confined to an approximate spread of 75 feet. In addition to species discussed for the screens such species as Caddo Sugar Maple, Acer saccharum 'Caddo', and Western Soapberry, Sapindus drummondii, should be included.

From the Kiwanis Kiddie Park westward and inside the tree boundary, plants which cannot be included as a part of the screen or boundary should be removed. This should leave an open area of turf for various recreational games. This area, then, would serve teenagers and young

adults who might accompany younger children to the Kiddie Park. Lights should be provided for night activities.

The Kiwanians are to be commended for their interest in providing a play space for young children. The plantings to the west of the play area should provide needed shade during afternoon. This would also act as a barrier to older youngsters running through the area. Thus the existing chain and post barrier described on page 34 should be removed. The play equipment is reasonably well located and should be maintained. The shade over the concrete sandbox should be reconstructed and the box filled with sand. A small fast growing tree such as Empress Tree, Paulownia tomentosa, is also needed near the sandbox. The existing trees should be moved unless they begin to crowd in later years. Five additional benches strategically located are needed for seating.

Recognizing the problem of vandalism in public park restrooms, if the children's restrooms in the Kiwanis Kiddie Park cannot be better maintained they should be removed even though they are vitally needed.

Other than a need for more definite parking areas to prevent erosion the picnic sites along the shoreline, north of Areas 5 and 6, should be maintained as they are. The sites are sufficiently separated to provide privacy, although additional tables could be added without destroying that privacy.

Some of the American Elms, Ulmus americana, along the shoreline near the picnic sites are apparently infected with Dutch Elm Disease. Samples should be taken from these elms and if the analysis is positive, they should promptly be removed. Due to Dutch Elm Disease susceptibility, the Ulmus species should be avoided when making replacement plantings. Green Ash, Fraxinus pennsylvanica lanceolata, should make

a suitable replacement near the shore.

Area 6, Figure 1, comprises approximately five and one-half acres of space. The terrain gently rolls from the Army Reserve installation to the lake. The area is divided by a drainage ditch about 150 feet south of the secondary entrance on Washington Street. This area, although comparatively open, is rarely used by anyone. This may be due in part to the terrain.

It is proposed that the arboretum plantings now existant in Area 7 be moved to Area 6. Since few people see the present arboretum, it could be moved to this unused vantage point where it would be most conspicuous. This planting would also form an important sound and sight barrier from Washington Street. The residential areas west of Washington Street are clearly visible from part of Area 5 and all of Area 6. For a complete list of those plant species which could be moved from Area 7 to Area 6 refer to Appendix B, page 87.

This re-establishment of the arboretum should be predicated on a thoroughly planned arrangement of all plant family, genus, and species groupings for the most effective display. The arboretum should include both native and exotic species which are or can be adapted to this section of Oklahoma. Proper labeling should be a part of the facility. Maintenance drives should be planned to effectively circuit the area. These drives could double as walks and unite with the proposed parking area at the junction of the park roadway from the south and west. Ingress and egress to the parking area should be carefully planned to avoid traffic hazards. Before this can be accomplished, the drainage ditch which divides the area must be channeled through concrete drainage tubes. Then, the area should be graded to form the parking area.

Prior to any planting, an adequate irrigation system based on the arboretum plan, should be installed. An irrigation system is absolutely necessary to minimum maintenance of a park planting such as this.

At the junction of the south and west park roadways, Areas 6 and 7, there is an existing arboretum planting designated as "Garden for the Blind" in Figure 1. Since the arboretum will exist in the adjacent Area 6 and there is a parking area existant immediately east of this area, it is a logical choice for such a garden.

The rock retainer wall discussed on page 35 should be retained, as it prevents a person's accidentally walking into the lake. However, the sharp stone corners should be removed. The rock planter beds should be raised to a height of 30 inches to prevent a blind person's having to bend to touch or smell a plant. Additional rock planters should be built following the curvature of the retaining wall.

The asphaltic walkway surfacing should be removed and replaced with bloom-finished concrete. A network of such concrete walkways should circuit the garden area. It should then be possible to remove the concrete curbing around individual trees and shrubs.

The existing trees should be retained, but many of the shrubs should be removed. For instance, the planter beds are heavily planted with spiny Chinese Holly, Ilex cornuta, which have overgrown their space and pose a hazard along the walks. For a complete list of the plant species growing here refer to Appendix B, page 86.

Those plants which are undesirable could be moved to the arboretum Area 6.

Additional plant species should be introduced into the "Garden for the Blind" for their specific textural qualities, aroma, sound produc-

ing ability, and possible taste. Some such species are: mulleins, Verbascum species; White Pine, Pinus strobus; mints, Monarda species; Tuberose, Polianthes tuberosa; Empress Tree, Paulownia tomentosa; and Rattlebox, Crotalaria retusa. Cottonwood, Populus deltoides, known for its sound, grows on the margin of the lake inlet to the south.

If necessary, to grow a particular species, shade shelters could be erected over certain planter beds.

To the south of the rock retainer wall, the lilacs, Syringa vulgaris, and Syringa persica, should be retained, but much of the remaining undergrowth should be removed. This would facilitate one's walking to the water. It would also provide an area for shade loving ground covers such as Vinca minor.

From the "Garden for the Blind" eastward between the shore and the park roadway, the area is described on page 36. The margin of the lake should be regraded to permit easy mowing and access for wading in the shallow lake waters. This grading could be done at the same time as that in Area 4. Except for the grading, the grassy beach area should be maintained as it is.

Between the shore and the roadway bordering Areas 7 and 8, trees should be very carefully located to prevent obscuring the lake view from park visitors on higher terrain.

The Weeping Willows, Salix babylonica, growing a short distance from the shore should be removed to leave the lake view open from Areas 7 and 8.

The asphaltic loop at the terminus of the grassy beach area described on page 36 should be converted into a satisfactory turn-around for those who may not wish to exit on Harned Place. All of the surfac-

ing from the turn-around to Harned Place should be of equal quality to that of the roadway passing through Areas 7 and 8.

The Evergreen Euonymus, Euonymus japonicus, located at the secondary entrance on Washington Street described on page 37, should be removed. It is highly susceptible to the insect, Euonymus Scale, and it requires clipping to keep it below the driver's line of sight. The entrance does need a planting. Winter Jasmine, Jasminum nudiflorum, would make a very satisfactory replacement. In addition the shrubs, 50 feet from the center line of the road and parallel to it on both sides a planting of Sawtooth Oaks, Quercus acutissima, should be made on 50 foot centers. This planting should follow the curvature of the entry road and line up with the Pin Oaks, Quercus palustris, bordering Washington Street. The planting on the south side should terminate at the south roadway junction. The planting on the north should continue to form a continuous line with the Pin Oaks between shelters 1 and 2.

To soften the noise from traffic on Washington Street another row of Pin Oaks should be planted east of the existing Pin Oaks from Harned Place to the secondary entrance. They should alternate between the existing Pin Oaks on a parallel line 35 feet east. The planting interval should be 50 feet.

Those wishing to use the free play space west of shelter 1 should park in the area so designated south of the entrance in Area 6.

The need for additional parking space in the park is made evident by the fact that there is enough potential free space for approximately 1300 individuals 15 to 24 years old to participate at the same time in Area 7. Each person requires 600 square feet of space, and there are approximately 18 acres of relatively unencumbered space (refer to

pages 19 and 37). This is the largest such space in Boomer Lake Park. However, if the present trees and shrubs growing in this area are permitted to grow to maturity, the playfield capacity will be reduced by two-thirds. The tree and shrub planting and arboretum described on page 39 will cause this.

The arboretum occupies the most level area of the proposed play field. To create this playfield, the arboretum should be moved to Area 6 as previously discussed. Since the arboretum is only slightly visible from the park roadway and seldom visited by park users, there is little justification for maintaining it in this excellent playfield area. The younger trees and shrubs from the arboretum and adjoining tree planting to the west can help satisfy the need for plants for shade and screening in other park areas. For a complete list of the movable trees and shrubs refer to Appendix B, page 87.

The sprinkler system and north rock retainer wall boundary of the arboretum should be maintained, although it will be necessary to lower the sprinkler heads to grade level. All shrubs and flowers are to be moved to Areas 1 and 6, respectively. All concrete bed curbing is to be removed. Trees not suitable for transplanting, near the retainer wall, should not be destroyed.

Through selective removal by transplanting, the playfield can be divided into three areas defined by loose bands of trees between them. No tree that is left should be destroyed without first trying to alter the pattern to include it. Those trees left will cast a welcome shade to spectators and resting playfield participants.

With the development of the playfield, additional restrooms will be needed near shelter No. 1.

Since more people use shelters 1, 2, and 3 than any other facilities in the park, including the baseball fields of Area 18, it is imperative that they be well maintained. That these shelters are in almost constant use makes the need for additional shelters obvious. Additional shelters, however, should not be built in Areas 7 or 8, but should be built on the east side of Boomer Lake in Areas 14-15. Refer to Areas 13-18, Figure 1.

Shelters 1, 2, and 3 are described on pages 37 and 38. Shelter No. 1, being the most barren and most obvious from the Washington Street entrance, should have a landscape planting of trees and shrubs. Its parking lot should be bordered with Winter Jasmine as is shelter No. 3's. A broadleaved evergreen shrub such as Burford Holly, Ilex cornuta 'Burford', should be planted at the northeast and northwest corners of the structure. Also one or more shade trees such as Sycamore, Platanus occidentalis, should be planted west of shelter No. 1.

The young trees between shelters 1 and 2 should be selectively removed by transplanting. These trees are also listed in Appendix B, page 87.

The clipped Evergreen Euonymus hedge and Arizona Cypress, Cupressus arizonica, should be removed at shelter No. 2. By replacing the Evergreen Euonymus with Winter Jasmine, continuity in the landscaping can be produced at all three shelters.

The labor saved in clipping the hedge can be used to pick up the broken glass between shelter No. 2 and the children's play area to the north. A broadleaved shrub such as Glossy Abelia, Abelia grandiflora, should be planted at the northeast and northwest corners of the

structure. The Glossy Abelia would not injure a child should he run into it.

The Crapeyrtle, Lagerstroemia indica, and East Palatka Holly, Ilex opaca "East Palatka", should be removed at the top of the steps in front of shelter No. 3. These plants could be used in the screening around the caretaker's house in Area 3. They should be replaced with Winter Jasmine thus making the parking lot border complete. A Glossy Abelia should also be planted at the northwest and north corners of the structure.

One lane of parallel parking could be provided by widening the road approximately five feet on each side between shelters 1, 2, and 3 and to the north boundary.

Few children's play areas, in any city, are better developed than that one in Area 8 described on page 39. The unique play structure offers intrigue with safety to elementary children. The only thing needed here is shade from the western sun discussed on page 39. The larger trees which can be transplanted from the arboretum should offer some initial shade to remedy this situation. These trees should be arranged in a circular row around the western side of the play area from shelter No. 2 to shelter No. 3. This planting should also continue from shelter No. 3 to the north boundary in anticipation of expanding the children's play area. These trees, in time, would help to soften the sound of voices also described on page 39.

For initial expansion of the play facilities those dead trees (see page 43.) in the lake near Area 13, if structurally sound, should be moved to the area north of shelter No. 3. Once in place, the grass should be killed under the trees with an herbicide and the ground

covered with a layer of sand four inches deep.

If the restrooms in the concession building at the baseball fields in Area 18 can be kept functional and clean, surely a policy can be adopted by the Park and Recreation Department of Stillwater to keep the restrooms north of shelter No. 3 functional and clean. These restrooms are so dirty as to prove a disgrace to the park. As previously stated on page 40, one will leave the park rather than use these facilities. This is a particular problem of young children.

One must leave Area 8 and return to Washington Street or Lake Shore Drive to reach Stillwater's Nature Center in Area 9, Figure 1. The area is described on page 40. Undoubtedly, more people would visit this unique spot if an identifying sign were located near Washington Street and Airport Road. The present sign is too small and is poorly located. Except for the introduction of additional plant species to interest both man and animal this area should be unaltered. Some plants for consideration should be Indian Currant Coralberry, Symphoricarpos orbiculatus, Button-bush, Cephalanthus occidentalis, Shadblow Serviceberry, Amelanchier canadensis, and Black Cherry, Prunus serotina. Black Cherry is especially attractive to birds.

Area 9 and Area 10 have a common boundary at Knoblock Street. Area 10 is described on pages 40 and 42. The area is so beach-like it would seem wasteful to treat it otherwise. The sharp grade change between the upper and lower areas should be stabilized to prevent further erosion. Common Bermudagrass, Cynodon dactylon, should accomplish erosion control. The upper level of approximately two acres should be made into a parking area. Ingress and egress should be from Airport Road with one-way traffic through the parking area. When the area is put into use the

parking area should be surfaced with limestone chat or a better surfacing. It would require approximately 265 cubic yards of chat for a layer two inches deep in the parking area.

The beach area should be graded to eliminate the undergrowth on the eastern terminus. The Cottonwoods, Populus deltoides, and Black Willows, Salix nigra, should be left if at all possible. When the grading is finished the beach should be covered with a layer of sand four to six inches deep which would require some 2400 cubic yards.

With little more than regular mowing, Area 11 could provide an excellent free play space for many children and parents who live in the residential area west of Knoblock Street. Refer to Area 11, Figure 2, page 69. The area is briefly described on page 42. A roadway extending from Arapaho Avenue carries park users into Area 12 on the west side of Boomer Lake.

A planting of hackberry, Celtis occidentalis, should border Knoblock Street on park property. They should be planted 50 feet on center on a line parallel to Knoblock 50 feet from the center of the roadway.

A small grove of trees divides Area 11 about midway between Airport Road and Ute Avenue. On either side of this grove two picnic tables and benches should be located.

A definite nature trail for hiking should connect Area 11 and the golf course north of the Perkins Road boundary. Refer to Figure 2.

Area 12 offers excellent hiking, ecological study, fishing, and camping opportunities with no changes whatever. This wild area described on page 42 should be left basically unaltered. Definite nature trails should be established for ecological study. This area

can provide excellent opportunities for short field trips for students from either the Stillwater Public Schools or the Oklahoma State University. Efforts should be intensified to continue the proper identification of plants along these nature trails. Small boat docks should be built at strategic locations. Adequate conditions exist in Area 12 for either day or over-night camping by either boy or girl scout troops.

From Area 12 one comes to the secondary entrance, on the east side of the lake, at Airport Road and Husband Street. Refer to Figure 1, page 68. Many Stillwater citizens are unaware that the eastern shore area of Boomer Lake is a part of the park. There is nothing to signify that it is. Therefore, it is imperative that signs of identification be located near Airport Road and Lakeview Drive near Husband Street as suggested on page 45.

With the advent of the junction of Perkins Road bypass and Airport Road plus the residential development on the east side of the city, this east side of Boomer Lake Recreation Park should become no less important than the west side. With the increasing use of Perkins Road, it may be possible for more people to reach the east side of the park area than the west side where it is more heavily developed. The eastern terrain of the lake lends itself well to various free play group activities such as ballgames, model plane flying, picnicing, etc. However, before any of these activities are possible, this area will have to be maintained in a better manner than it currently is. Also, shelters and restrooms and shade trees will have to be provided. There are almost no trees on the east from Boomer Lake Dam to Airport Road. Without development it is not conceivable that people will choose to use this side of the lake in preference to the west side which would relieve

part of the congestion near the shelters in Areas 7 and 8.

As a beginning, the entire eastern side of the park should be mowed regularly enough to allow people to use it simply as a non-developed free play space. Something must be done before citizen interest will justify development. In the meantime, it lies open for exploitation by such inventions as motorized recreation vehicles like motor bikes which have troubled many park systems.

The potential development of industrial and residential sites east of Boomer Lake Recreation Park may portend the same traffic problems from Husband Street as from Washington Street. The speed limit is 45 miles per hour on both streets. Therefore, the plantings necessary for traffic noise control should be delayed no longer than absolutely necessary.

A double row of hackberry, Celtis occidentalis, should be established on the west side of Husband Street from Airport Road to the first baseball field in Area 18. They should be planted on two parallel lines, the first being 50 feet from the center line of Husband Street and the second 85 feet from the center line. The trees should be spaced at 50 foot intervals in parallel lines.

Ultimately, off-street parking will be necessitated in Areas 13 through 16.

Secondary roadways will be necessitated in Areas 14, 15, and 16 to reach the proposed facilities with ease. Refer to Areas 13-16, Figure 1.

Area 13 should be maintained as a relatively open area for such recreational pursuits as model plane flying and other activities which might require an almost treeless area. Area 13, the most northern, was chosen for this because such things as model planes are very noisy and

the prevailing southern wind will carry most of the sound away from the park area. A small grove of trees should be retained near Airport Road.

Area 14 is to be designated primarily for fishing and picnicing. Three shelters should be built facing the lake. They should be designed and equipped approximately as are shelters 1, 2, and 3 of Areas 7 and 8. The shelters should be placed equi-distantly around and facing the shore. Parking for 15 cars should be provided near each shelter.

Restrooms should be provided and maintained in each Area 13-16.

Secondary roads emanating from Husband Street should follow a basic semi-circular path to serve the shelters in each Area 14-16. A parallel planting of trees should be made on the outside of these roads where possible leaving the center areas open for such recreational activities as lawn tennis.

In Area 14, the tree planting should consist primarily of Chesnut Oaks along the secondary road and an Empress Tree near each shelter. A broadleaved evergreen shrub such as Glossy Abelia should be planted on the back corners of each shelter.

Area 15 is composed of approximately 8 acres. It is primarily designated for fishing, free play, and picnicing; in addition there is a long area, of some 100,000 square feet, well suited to developing a sandy beach. The lake margin could be regarded at the same time the shoreline is graded in Areas 4, 7 and 8. It would require approximately 1800 cubic yards of sand to cover this area four to six inches deep.

Six shelters similar in design and equipment to shelters 1, 2 and 3 of Areas 7 and 8 should be located in Area 15. Two shelters should face the north shoreline and four should be located at the edge of the sandy beach facing the west. White Poplar, Populus alba, should

parallel the secondary road past the north shelters to the beach. One White Poplar should be planted in front of each of the four shelters facing west. This species will tolerate the heat and compaction of a beach area. The road should pass behind the shelters and back to Husband Street. This portion of the road should be bordered with Sycamores in its inner radius. The bark of both White Poplar and Sycamore peel to reveal a white under-bark making the trees very lovely against a blue winter sky.

A flowering tree such as Goldraintree should be planted near each shelter. A broadleaved evergreen shrub such as Burford Holly should be planted on the back corners of the shelters along the beach and Glossy Abelia at the back corners of the shelters facing north.

Area 16 is composed of approximately 2.5 acres of space. It is proposed that it be developed primarily for senior citizens. This area was chosen for senior citizens because it is seemingly a quieter area. The dam and growth of Black Willows south of the area provides an effective windbreak. Yet, the wind should carry most sounds created in Area 15 to the north. The lake water behind the dam is almost always calm.

Two shelters should be built in this area. One should face north and the other south. The shelter facing south should be designed and equipped similarly to shelter No. 2 of Area 7. The shelter facing north should be designed and equipped similarly to shelter No. 3 of Area 8.

The secondary road should form a loop from Husband Street to serve the shelters and pass back to Husband Street near the dam.

Since fishing is a major recreational activity of senior citizens,

special provisions should be made for facilities such as benches situated near the water for fishing or sunning.

Shuffle boards or croquet courts should be developed adjacent to the shelters and a six foot concrete walk generally following the shoreline should join the shelters.

Lawn tennis, badminton, etc. could be played between the shelters.

The outside of the road should be paralleled with Red Oaks, Quercus borealis maxima, on approximate 50 foot centers. Bradford Ornamental Pears and Empress Tree should be planted near the shelters. Some Thorny Elaeagnus, Elaeagnus pungens, should be located in the area for autumn aroma. A broadleaved evergreen such as Burford Holly should be located on the back corners of each shelter.

Some of the initial trees for planting in Areas 14-16 may be selected from the arboretum area. Refer to Appendix B, page 87. Evergreen trees such as Austrian Pine, Pinus nigra, and Eastern Red Cedar, should be located at special accent points throughout Areas 14-16.

Area 17 consists of the Stillwater Park and Recreation Department Greenhouse and nursery growing area as described on pages 43 and 44. With the development of the eastern side of the Boomer Lake Park, there will be an obvious need for a road exiting on Husband Street from the growing area. An irrigation system for the growing area will be needed just in the production of plants for Boomer Lake Park. Regular soil analyses should be made to keep both greenhouse and nursery crops growing in optimum condition. The greenhouse will need to be in full production to provide annual and perennial flowers for the "Garden for the Blind", floral display in Area 1 and various other parks in the Stillwater system.

The baseball fields comprise Area 18 described on page 46. These Stillwater Lions Club supported fields are in excellent condition, however, the traffic congestion during games should be eliminated. This could be accomplished, in part, by regrading the area outside the fence along Lakeview Drive and Husband Street to form a definite parking area. It may be necessary to widen Lakeview Drive to completely remedy the situation.

It is proposed that Lakeview Drive be paved with concrete as it crosses Boomer Lake Dam to lessen the chance of an accident when cars pass each other, which is quite frequent during night ballgames.

Area 19 is a small part of Boomer Lake Park below the dam. This area is described on page 44. If the East Boomer Creek Conservation area is obtained as proposed by the 1965 Stillwater Comprehensive Plan, Boy Scout Troop 98's lodge house should become an important terminus with restrooms for the hikers and bikers. With the acquisition of the conservation area, Boomer Lake Park would become a vital link in the green-belt created from the municipal golf course to the Donart Senior High School and beyond.

If the conservation area is not acquired, then Troop 98's lodge house would be more accessible and more logically located in Area 12, Figure 2.

This list of proposals for the 19 areas of Boomer Lake Park is designed to meet certain passive and active recreational needs of the citizens of Stillwater, hopefully, for 20 years in the future.

From size alone, Boomer Lake Park is defined as a recreation park (9).

If the 19 areas discussed were developed as proposed, Boomer Lake

Park would in reality become Boomer Lake Recreation Park. Thus, part of the recreation needs of the citizens of Stillwater could be satisfied for numerous succeeding generations.

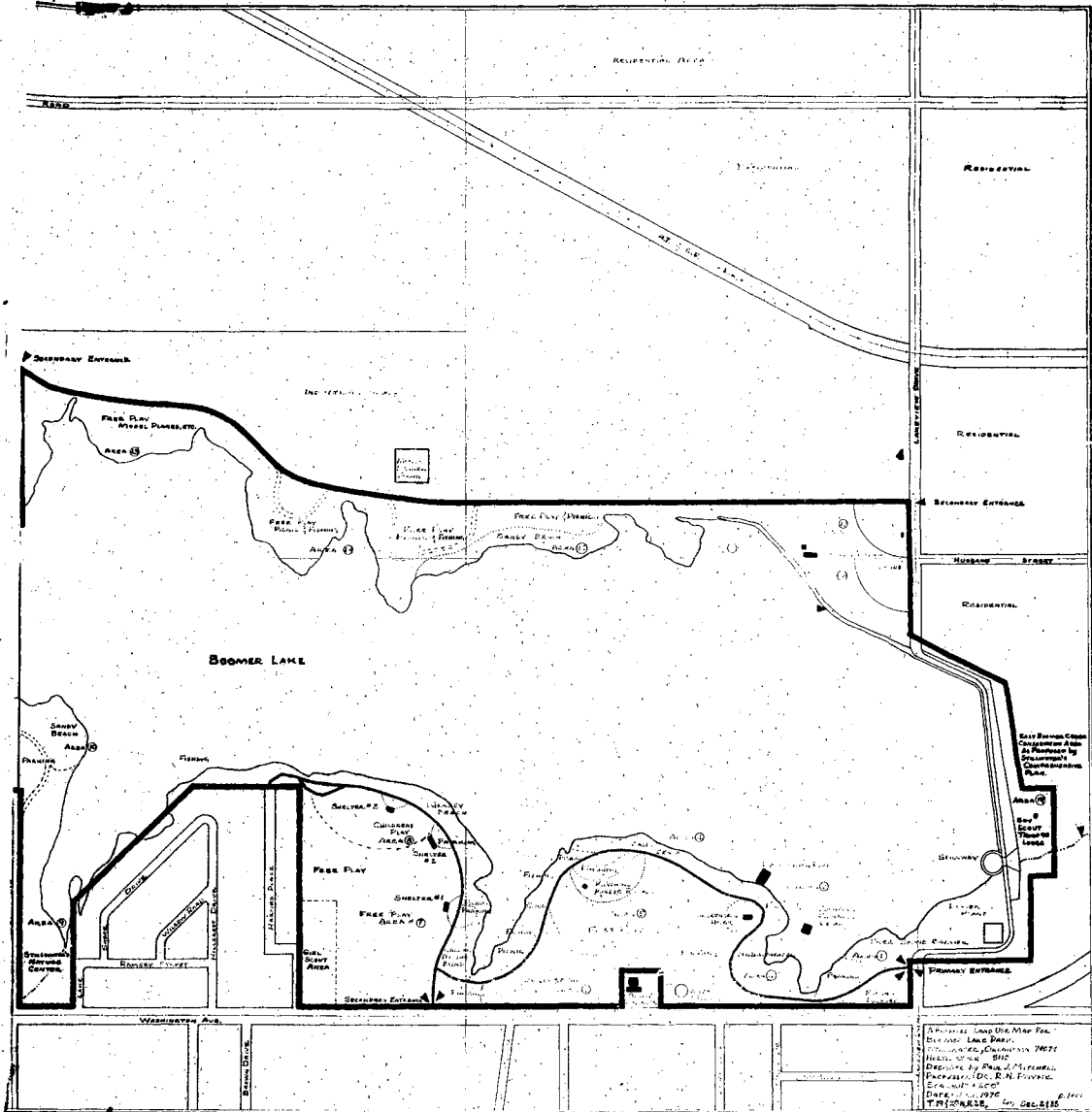


Figure 1.
Boomer Lake Park Proposed Land Map, Park I

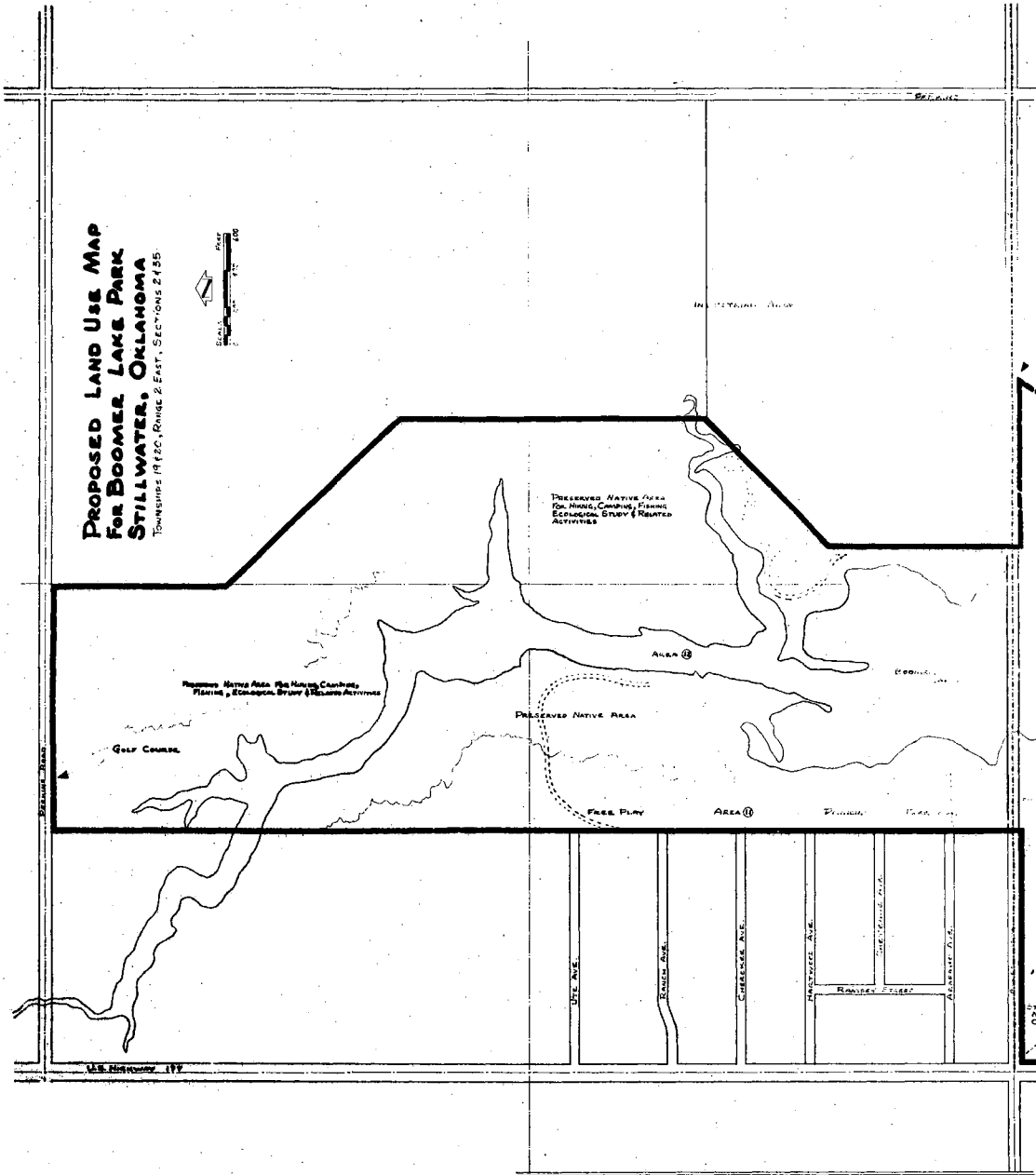


Figure 2.
Boomer Lake Park Proposed Land Use Map, Part II

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Few cities have the luxury of a park the size of Boomer Lake Park, 862 acres, much less near the center of town. To date, Boomer Lake Recreation Park exists as a "step child" with little development other than that on the west side of the lake. There are no signs in the park which identify it as a part of the public park system of Stillwater. The various facilities within Boomer Lake Park have been placed there with little prior planning. This is not to say that the existing facilities were not planned. The well planned shelters on the west side of the lake, though congested by the numbers of people, and the baseball fields developed by the Stillwater Lions Club simply illustrate the fact that park facilities, when properly planned, will be used by the people. Stillwater's tremendous population gains during the last decade indicate a continuing need for developing park spaces. The development of park spaces without a park plan can only occur through spur of the moment pressures as Boomer Lake Park has been developed to this time. Through the years various forces have demanded their share of park space as is evidenced by the location of the electric service building, water tower, and Army Reserve installation along Washington Street and the 20 acres which Moore Business Forms now owns east of Boomer Lake. At one time, it was proposed that an elementary school be built at the corner of Knoblock Street and Airport Road. Without a definite plan for the

development of these spaces, similar forces will arise again to demand some specific development that may be completely unrelated to park use. If park space is to be used for other than park use it should be traded, acre for acre, for land that is suitable for the park department. Definite plans for an area offer the greatest buffer to ill-advised use of park land.

With proper planning and development, Boomer Lake Recreation Park can become one of Stillwater's most valued assets.

In conclusion, no one man has the capabilities to effect the most workable plan to meet the recreation needs of the citizens of Stillwater for 20 years in the future. It has recently been asked: Can we preserve and utilize our park spaces at the same time? Can the dilemma between the utilization and preservation, or passive versus active recreation, be resolved? Can a harmonious balance be achieved through progressive techniques (19)?

The most effective plan for Boomer Lake Recreation Park will require the most capable efforts of a recreation expert, a civil engineer, architect, landscape architect, and sociologist. Due to the fact that these proficiencies exist at Oklahoma State University, it may be possible that part of the cost of such planning could be donated. There will, however, be the necessity of expenditures for planning in the area of detailed topographic maps and aerial maps for feature location, etc.

This plan should be an integral part of a fully designed park system in Stillwater. This planning for Boomer Lake Park and related parks should not be dependent on the change in office of any one person. Plans of this nature should be adopted by the city commission to offer the greatest opportunity for complete development.

The landscape land use proposal herein presented offers the initial basis upon which such a plan for Boomer Lake Park can be formulated.

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APPENDIX A

RECREATION STANDARDS

There should be one hole of publicly owned golf course for every 3,000 of population; therefore, a city of 27,000 people should have a nine hole golf course which requires forty to fifty acres of space. An eighteen hole golf course requires at least one hundred acres of land.

The swimming facilities of a town should be able to accommodate three percent of the population at one time. Approximately twelve square feet of water is required for each swimmer. Where extensive surf bathing exists there should be an area of quiet water for swimming and water competitive sports. Sites for swimming pools should provide adequate off-street parking space plus related activities for swimmers while they are out of the pool as well as for non-participants. It is preferable that the pool be in a large accessible park. As for bathing beaches, it is more important to provide parking, traffic flow and for activities such as the public has come to expect in connection with the beach.

Every community needs a number of intimate neighborhood outdoor theaters on the playfield or playground. These may vary from facilities seating several hundred to a campfire circle with a stage area on one side. There should exist opportunities for outdoor plays, concerts, pageants, and dramatizations, either in the neighborhood or in special outdoor theaters in the recreation park.

The athletic field and stadium often are related to school facilities; however, they are usually located on a separate tract of land. As little as five acres can suffice for a limited type of athletic field, but a stadium may require as much as twenty acres including parking and seating.

In relation to field sports adjustments may be made depending on the interest in the city. There should be one baseball diamond for every six thousand people and one softball diamond for every three thousand people. There should also be one public tennis court for every two thousand people. Ball diamonds and tennis courts are normally a part of the playfield. A schedule should proceed gradually as the demand expands.

A multi-use clubroom should be provided for every four thousand people or an indoor swimming pool for every five thousand.

For every ten thousand of the population, a social room should be provided. Also for every ten thousand people an informal reading and quiet game room should exist. A gymnasium should be available for every ten thousand people.

An auditorium as well as a recreation building for every 20,000 people or depending upon population density and the degree of traffic congestion one should be located within one-half to one mile of every home. School facilities may double for this purpose, but one must remain cognizant that the school is primarily an educational structure and cannot be used as a full-time recreation building.

The variations in climate, topography, income, attitudes of the population, and the condition of the neighborhood will not only affect the design but also the site selection. Each neighborhood will possess its own unique needs and problems (13),

DIRECTORY OF PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

	Arrington Park 3rd and Arrington	Arrowhead Park Arrowhead Dr. & Kings Hwy.	Berry Park Berry & Maple	Boomer Lake Park U. S. 177, N. of City	Couch Park 12th St., East of Perkins Road	Lakeside Memorial Golf Course, U. S. 177, N. of City	Health Center Park 7th and Pine	Ingham Park W. 4th & Ridge Drive
Total Acreage	9	3	3	862	68	160	1	2
Developed Acreage	9	3	3	300	68	160	1	2
Ball Fields	1		1	3	4			1
Beauty Spot				X	X			
Comfort Station				X	X			
Fishing with heated Fishing Dock				X				
Garden (flower)				X	X			
Golf Course						X		
Lake				X				
Picnic Area				X	X			
Play Equipment	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Recreation Building*								
Picnic Shelters				X	X			
Tennis Courts								
Nature Center				X				

STADIUMS

Hamilton Field Football Stadium — Couch Park

GYMNASIUMS

Washington Gym** — 619 West 12th Avenue

Recreation Gym — Recreation Park

Stillwater High School Gym — C. E. Donart High School

Stillwater Junior High Gym — Stillwater Junior High School

** Supervised "Free Play" programs 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday nights and Sunday afternoons (broken into times for various age groups. Call 372-3509 for schedule).

	Sanborn Lake Park W. Airport Road	Little Boomer Park Scott & Duncan	Morningside Park 3rd & Perkins Road	Myers Park 9th & Willis	Recreation Park North Main	Sunset Park 8th & Washington	Tower Park Walnut & University	Washington Carver Park 15th & Duck	Whittenburg Park U. S. 177, N. of City	Zuck Park (County) South of City	TOTALS
	120	1	9	3	12	1	1	1	53	12	1321
	5	1	0	3	12	1	1	1	0	0	570
	1			1	2						14
					X						3
					X						3
											1
					X						3
											1
	X									X	3
		X		X	X			X			6
		X		X	X	X	X	X			13
					X						1
											2
					X		X				2
											1

* Volleyball, Horseshoe pitching, and Shuffleboard equipment may be checked out at the Recreation Building by Responsible Person.

BALL FIELDS

Airport Softball Field — Sanborn Lake Park

Lion's Field — Boomer Lake Park (East side at Husband and Lakeview)

Jaycee's Field — Recreation Park

Big Couch Park — Couch Park

Little Couch Field — Couch Park

Friendway Field — Couch Park

Stillwater's Park and Recreation System

Stillwater owns 1,321 acres of designated park land situated in 18 separate sites. Of these 18 sites, Couch Park in southeast Stillwater, the Municipal Golf Course north of Stillwater, and Boomer Park in north Stillwater are the largest and most accommodating for entire family projects. Recreation Park on North Main Street, in spite of its small size, is heavily used due to its being the location of the Park and Recreation Director's Office, a gymnasium, tennis courts, and a well-developed baseball diamond. The remaining sites are either designated ball parks or are neighborhood parks maintained for family picnicking and for children's informal and spontaneous recreation.

THE RECREATION PROGRAM this past year was utilized extensively. Little League Baseball drew 1,185 participants. Tennis, relatively new to the recreation program, enrolled 110 participants. The Arts and Crafts program enrolled 274 youngsters, and was conducted under Teaching Supervisors and Assistants at the various grade schools about the City. This program, always popular, runs from June 3 through July 31 and meets from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Arts and Crafts participants also go on field trips, sometimes to the Oklahoma City Zoo and always on a nature-study trip. Adult programs were also signed up to capacity — and more requested. Be sure to study the Program schedule in this brochure so that you can be sure of getting to participate in those programs that most interest you.

CITIZEN SUPPORT of their park system is vital to the existence of free, maintained open-air recreation space. We know what Stillwater's choice will be.

JOHN FLOYD, Director

Dept. of Parks and Recreation

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

RAYMOND KAYS, Chairman

PAULINE WINTER

LEE WARD

DON WORTHINGTON

RANDALL PERDUE

JOHN WEILMUENSTER

Meets on Fourth Thursday of each month

Accomplishments the Past Year . . .

- An enclosed playground area with play equipment for children of participating parents at the softball location on Airport Road.
- A fenced riding arena at Couch Park to accommodate horseback riding and equipped for use of cutting horses, roping, western competition, and a jump course for the growing number of English riding fans.
- \$3,000 worth of playground equipment distributed throughout the park system and including such things as flying horse swings, Jack and Jill slides, individual animal objects to climb and play on, and outdoor cookers.
- Beautification projects were completed on the islands at Sixth and Lowry and Sixth and Washington, making our entrance-ways into the City a good deal more attractive.
- Establishment of a Tennis Clinic. Taught by a professional and highly successful. This clinic was established basically for the purpose of increasing tennis interest and ability in Stillwater.

WHAT FUTURE PROJECTS?

- More playground equipment. \$1,500 has been approved for new equipment for the upcoming year and this is one installment of a five-year planned replacement program for park equipment.
- Beautification of the north and south entrances of the City.
- Swimming pool and recreation-social facility. Bond monies were approved by the people of Stillwater in 1969 for this much-needed facility. The project will be done with the assistance of either Federal or State funds, and will require a great deal of decision-making prior to actual construction, including a choice of location. We invite you to offer your recommendations and preferences as to where and how you feel this facility should be established.
- The Tennis Clinic established in Summer 1969 will be an annual event. Next summer's plans call for a very extensive tennis program which would be proportionate to the other sports activities.
- East Boomer Lake Development. This improvement is scheduled for the Fall of 1969.
- In the planning stage — an amphitheatre. Your opinions are welcome.
- Increased lighting facilities at Big Couch Park.
- Lighting for No. 2 Softball Field.
- Increased lighting at Hamilton Football Field.
- Resurfacing of the four tennis courts in Recreation Park (Flexo-Pave)

CITY OF DALLAS
TEXAS

PARK BOARD
Ray E. Hubbard, President
Julius Schepps, Vice-President
J. Willard Grogg
Floyd V. Gish
Field Scovell
L. B. Houston, Director
E. Beulah Cauley, Secretary

November 4, 1960

Mr. Paul J. Mitchell
310 East 12th Street
Ada, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

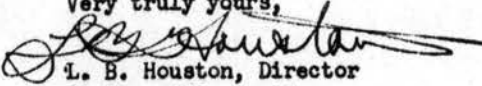
In your letter of October 29, 1960 you outlined a design problem where you have a large park containing considerable amounts of natural vegetation and a 300 acre lake. In addition, you asked, from our experience, to suggest some problems to be avoided or some specific things not normally found in recreation parks which would be considered essential to their maintenance, use or aesthetics.

The design of any park can not be undertaken wisely without a thorough analysis of the surrounding area, character, the nature of the people residing in the community and their desires. Design of any specific area should not be undertaken without first determining the availability of other park facilities within the general environment. This is essential, of course, to avoid duplication or supersaturation of facilities of a particular type to serve the surrounding area. As a beginning, we would therefore suggest that you ascertain the foregoing information. Likewise, no design can be undertaken wisely without first having a knowledge of the amount of money which will be available for initial construction, operation and maintenance. These factors will influence, perhaps greater than any others, the concept of design.

After these factors are determined, then the number one point of concern is accessibility. Yours will be the unusual exception if accessibility is not through private automobile. Without benefit of some of the foregoing information, we are somewhat reluctant to offer specific suggestions for consideration in your own case. We are, however, sending you, under separate cover, a recently completed report on "Parks and Open Spaces" for the City of Dallas. You will no doubt find considerable information of value in this report. Your attention is directed particularly to the section beginning on page 16 and continuing through page 61.

Certain other publications may be helpful including the two volumes of "Parks-A Manual of Municipal and County Parks" by L. H. Weir published in 1928 by A. S. Barnes and Company and the three volumes of "Park and Recreation Structures" published by the Department of the Interior about 1938. This last item is a well illustrated treatise dealing primarily with National Park structures but it gives basic design on factors to be considered in the layout of facilities included in National Park development. In addition, we would suggest that you peruse the bound copies in your library of the "Parks and Recreation" magazine extending back to about 1950. There may be other specific books helpful in your problem with which we are not fully acquainted. May we suggest that you write Mr. Alfred LaGasse, Executive Secretary of the American Institute of Park Executives, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia, and he might make available to you material from the Institute's library.

Very truly yours,


L. B. Houston, Director
Parks and Recreation

LBH/j.
cc: Mr. Alfred LaGasse

RALPH H. OCHSHER
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, City of Stillwater - Payne County, Oklahoma

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

January 3, 1961

Mr. Paul J. Mitchell
310 E. Twelfth Street
Ada, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Please accept my apologies for taking so long in answering your letter. I hope the information enclosed will reach you in time to be of some assistance.

It is true that a tract of land 200 x 600 feet adjacent to the south property line of the Harned Addition has been leased to the Girl Scouts for a period of 99 years. Also of interest to you, would be the fact that the Town and Gown organization plans to erect a Theatre-in-the-Round on a tract of land just east of the Girl Scouts property. The exact size and location of this structure is not yet known.

In regard to traffic circulation within the park, it is my opinion that there should be definite entrances established to the park in order that control points might be established at these locations. Random entrances into the park as is now practiced is quite undesirable. The circulation pattern, I feel, should be designed both to make use of the best visual qualities of the area and to tie together the various functional sub-areas of the park. I seriously doubt if Highway 40 will be rerouted away from the park area for several years.

The 1960 Census population for the City of Stillwater is 23,965, and 43,790 for Payne County. We are using for Planning purposes a estimated 1970 population of 30,500.

All indications point to the fact that the undeveloped area adjacent to Boomer Lake park will develop as residential areas.

Your information is apparently correct that plans have been made to locate a water storage tank at the Northeast corner of the intersection of Highway 40 and Lakeview Drive.

I am suggesting in my Planning program that park belts two to three hundred feet wide be acquired in order to connect Boomer Lake area with the new High-school and the Municipal Golf course. I believe you will be interested in this idea since it would make possible a continuous school, park, and recreation area approximately three miles long.

Your thesis sounds most interesting and challenging. I would be most interested in seeing the results of your work. If you desire additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ralph H. Ochsner

RHO/do

APPENDIX B

TABLE I

TREES AND/OR SHRUBS SPECIES EXISTING IN AREA PROPOSED FOR
"GARDEN FOR THE BLIND"*

QUANTITY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
2	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	Glossy Abelia
1	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
2	<i>Acer platanoides schwedleri</i>	Schwedlers Norway Maple
2	<i>Berberis thunbergi atropurpurea</i>	Red Leafed Barberry
1	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Rock Cotoneaster
1	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	Arizona Cypress
1	<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	Thorny Elaeagnus
2	<i>Euonymus japonica</i>	Japanese Euonymus
3	<i>Euonymus japonica</i> cv. Goldspot	Goldspot Euonymus
1	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo
2	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Shrubalthea
20	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	Chinese Holly
5	<i>Ilex cornuta</i> cv. Burford	Burford Holly
2	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Deciduous Holly
1	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly
2	<i>Ilex opaca</i> cv. East Palatka	East Palatka Holly
6	<i>Juniperus conferti</i>	Shore Juniper
8	<i>Juniperus horizontalis plumosa</i>	Andorra Creeping Juniper
8	<i>Juniperus procumbens</i>	Japanese Garden Juniper
2	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> cv. Blue Haven	Blue Haven Juniper
15	<i>Lavendula occinalis</i>	English Lavender
1	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Waxleaf Privet
2	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	California Privet
2	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> cv. Golden Vicary	Golden Vicary Privet
1	<i>Lonicera purpurea</i>	Purpurea Honeysuckle
1	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern Magnolia
1	<i>Photinia serrulata</i>	Chinese Photinia
3	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Ponderosa Pine
1	<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar
1	<i>Prunus</i>	Purple Leafed Plum
2	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry laurel
2	<i>Quercus acutissima</i>	Sawtooth Oak
1	<i>Quercus borealis</i>	Northern Red Oak
4	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	Water Oak
1	<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussywillow
1	<i>Salix matsudana tortuosa</i>	Corkscrew Willow
1	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European Mountain Ash
8	<i>Syringa persica</i>	Persian Lilac
6	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Common Lilac
2	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian Elm
1	<i>Weigela florida</i>	Weigela

*Refer to Area 7, Figure 1, Page 36.

TABLE II
EXISTING TREES AND/OR SHRUBS OF FOUR INCH CALIPER OR LESS*

QUANTITY	BOTANICAL	COMMON NAME
1	<i>Acer platanoides schwedleri</i>	Schwedler Norway Maple
8	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Western Hackberry
2	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud
2	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	Arizona Cypress
1	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo
1	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	Chinese Holly
50 (Seedling)	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	Chinese Holly
2	<i>Ilex cornuta</i> cv. Burford	Burford Holly
3	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly
2	<i>Ilex opaca</i> cv. East Palatka	East Palatka Holly
4	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	California Privet
3	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum
4	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern Magnolia
3	<i>Magnolia soulangeana</i>	Saucer Magnolia
6	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore
3	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Oak
10	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Southern Live Oak

*Refer to Areas 7 and 8, Figure 1, Page 39.

TABLE III

PLANTS RECOMMENDED FROM THE OKLAHOMA CITY PARKS FOR BOOMER LAKE PARK,
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA, BY HENRY WALTER,
OKLAHOMA CITY PARK HORTICULTURIST

<u>VARIETY</u>	<u>VARIETY</u>
Abelia grandiflora	Lagerstroemia indica cv. PURPLE,
Aesculus arguta	WATERMELON PINK, WATERMELON
Albizzia julibrissin	RED, WHITE, WILLIAM TOOBEY
Aralia spinosa	Lavandula officinalis
Berberis mentorensis	Libocedrus decurrens
Bumelia lanuginosa	Ligustrum sinense
Callicarpa americana	Lonicera fragrantissima
Catalpa ovata	Lonicera japonica chinensis
Celtis laevigata	Lonicera japonica halliana
Celtis occidentalis	Lonicera maacki
Celtis reticulata	Magnolia grandiflora
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Malus atrosanguinea
Cercis canadensis	Malus floribunda
Chaenomeles lagenaria	Malus hopa
Chilopsis linearis	Malus purpurea
Crataegus phaenopyrum	Malus purpurea cv. ALDENHAM
Crataegus apathulata	Malus scheideckari
Crataegus species	Malus soulardi
Cupressus arizonica cv. GAREE	Nandina domestica
Cupressus arizonica cv. GREENWOOD	Phellodendron amurense
Euonymus kiautschovicus	Philadelphus coronarius cv.
Forsythia cv. SPRING GLORY	MINNESOTA SNOWFLAKE
Fraxinus americana	Photina serrulata
Fraxinus excelsior	Pinus nigra
Gleditsia triacanthos inermis	Pinus ponderosa
Gleditsia triacanthos inermis cv.	Pinus thunbergi
MORAINÉ, SHADEMASTER, IMPERIAL	Platanus acerifolia
MAJESTIC, SKYLINE, ETC.	Platanus occidentalis
Gymnocladus dioicus	Platanus orientalis
Hibiscus syriacus cv. AMEMONE, ARDENS,	Poncirus trifoliata
BOULE DE FEU, DOUBLE WHITE,	Populus alba
PINK EYE, JEANNE D'ARC, WOODBRIDGE	Populus deltoides cv. STERILE
Hibiscus syriacus rubra	Prunus sp. cv. ALLRED
Ilex cornuta	Prunus americana
Ilex cornuta cv. BURFORD	Prunus blireiana cv. NEWPORT
Ilex decidua	Prunus cerasifera cv. PISSARD
Ilex decidua female	Prunus cistena
Ilex vomitoria female	Prunus laurocerasus
Ilex vomitoria male	Prunus persica alboplana
Jasminum floridum	Prunus persica cv. DOUBLERED
MOST JUNIPERS ARE WELL ADAPTED TO	Prunus aerotina
THIS AREA	Pyracantha coccinea
Koelreuteria paniculata	Pyracantha coccinea lalandi
Lagerstroemia indica cv. DALLAS RED	Pyracantha graberi
LYLAC RED, MUSKOGEE PINK	Quercus borealis
	Quercus macrocarpa

VARIETY

Quercus phellos
Quercus virginiana
Rhamnus cathartica
Rhus copallina
Rhus glabra
Rhus typhina
Sapindus drummondi
Sophora japonica
Spiraea arguta
Spiraea billardi
Spiraea cantoniensis
Spiraea prunifolia

VARIETY

Spiraea thunbergi
Spiraea trichocarpa
Spiraea vanhouttei
Tamarix hispida
Tamarix hispida rubra
Tamarix odessius
Tamarix parvifolia
Ulmus parvifolia
Vitex agnus cactus
Xanthoceras sorbifolium
Yucca filamentosa
Zelkova serrata

APPENDIX C

Paul J. Mitchell
310 East 12th Street
Ada, Oklahoma
December 13, 1960

Mr. Henry Walter
Oklahoma City Park Department
3500 N.W. 36th Street
Oklahoma City 12, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Walter:

I am a graduate student of landscape architecture at OSU in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

I am in the process of writing my Master's thesis on recreation park design. As a special problem I have been assigned Boomer Lake Park to design. The topography is a little more than gently rolling with the lake located in the center of the area. Looking across the area it does seem to be fairly well covered with native grass; however, upon closer examination there are numerous sparse areas. The lake water literally turns red after a rain. There are very few trees in the park, but there are some young Pin Oaks, 15 to 18' tall; a few mature Ponderosa Pines, 20 to 25' tall; a few Siberian Elms, 25' tall; and some native Elms plus a few groves of Black Locusts.

Mr. Alfred B. Lagrasse, Executive Secretary of the American Institute of Park Executives, suggested that I write to you for some suggestions about the selection and the use of plant material as related to parks in the Stillwater area.

I would surely appreciate any suggestions you might have time to make in relation to trees, shrubs, and grasses which you have found particularly adapted to park situations.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Mitchell

Paul J. Mitchell
310 East 12th Street
Ada, Oklahoma

Mr. O. A. Zeigler
City of Tulsa Park Department
408 South Denver
Tulsa 3, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Zeigler:

I am a graduate student of landscape architecture at OSU in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

I am in the process of writing my Master's thesis on recreation park design. As a special problem I have been assigned Boomer Lake Park to design. The topography is a little more than gently rolling with the lake located in the center of the area. There are 400 acres in the park of which about 250 - 300 acres consists of the lake. There is a fairly good cover of native grasses, but very few trees.

I am planning to include areas from the tiny tot to the senior citizen. It is to serve as a large recreation park for all the people of Stillwater. Due to the University there is a constant high level of young adults and small children. The park is located within about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the most dense population. It will include both passive and active play areas. A new high school is located within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the park.

The area is somewhat of a "catch-all" for the local government from a greenhouse and power plant to some debris dumps. It is not now in good shape, but can become a beautiful recreation spot if some planning is done soon.

I have some population density figures and the recreation department's annual report.

Mr. Alfred B. Lagrasse, Executive Secretary of the American Institute of Park Executives, suggested that I write to you in regard to the design of this park.

Mr. O. A. Zeigler
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Page 2

I would surely appreciate any comments you could make which might help me to design this park to best fulfill its purpose. I hope this brief information will give you some idea of the park's nature.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Mitchell

July 20, 1959

Office of the District Engineer
U. S. District Corps of Army Engineers
616 South Boston
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I am a graduate student of landscape architecture at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

My Master's thesis concerns recreation parks. As a special problem, I have been assigned a park about one mile long and one half mile wide containing "Boomer Lake" which is approximately 300-400 acres. Generally, the topography is gently rolling.

The area will be designed to serve many of the recreation needs of the citizenry from the tiny tot to the senior citizen. The city is growing around the park; therefore, I anticipate heavy use of the area.

I will certainly appreciate it if you can provide some information which will help me to design this area to better serve the people of Stillwater,

Sincerely,

Paul J. Mitchell
Graduate Student
Horticulture Department
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma

July 22, 1959

Mr. Kelly DeBusk
Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board
Oklahoma State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I am a graduate student of landscape architecture at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. My Master's thesis concerns recreation parks.

As a special problem I have been assigned "Boomer Lake Park". The lake is approximately 300 - 400 acres and surrounding land is one mile long and one half mile wide with gently rolling topography.

I hope to fit this park to many of the recreation needs of the people of Stillwater from the tiny tot to the senior citizen.

I thought from your position you might be able to provide some very useful information on parks and recreation in Oklahoma, particularly as sources of revenue and tourist attraction.

I would certainly appreciate any information which you could supply.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Mitchell
Horticulture Department
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma

July 22, 1959

Golden-Age-Center
Wichita
Kansas

Dear Sir:

I am doing graduate study in the field of landscape architecture at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. My Master's thesis consists of the study, design, and layout of recreation parks.

As a special problem I have been assigned a large park in Stillwater which I hope to fit to some of the recreation needs for the residents from the tiny tot to the elder citizen.

I thought from your work with senior citizens you might be able to suggest some items which I might consider in designing outside recreation areas for elderly people.

I will assuredly appreciate any information which you could supply.

Sincerely,

Paul Mitchell
Horticulture Department
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma

October 29, 1960

Mr. L. B. Houston
Director of Parks & Recreation
Municipal Building
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sir:

I am involved in writing a Master's thesis at Oklahoma State University on the development and design of recreation parks. As a special problem I have been assigned a park which is to be designed as a recreation park. It is a large area with considerable amounts of unaltered natural vegetation and a large lake of about 300 square acres.

I would like for you from your experience to suggest some problems to be avoided or some specific things not normally found in recreation parks which you consider essential to their maintenance, use, or aesthetics.

I realize you are a very busy person, and if you could find time to make some suggestions, I would certainly be appreciative.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Mitchell
310 East 12th Street
Ada, Oklahoma

July 8, 1959

Mr. John Considine
Detroit Park and Recreation Supt.
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Considine:

I am a graduate student of landscape architecture at Oklahoma State University at Stillwater, Oklahoma.

I am writing my Master's thesis on recreation parks. As a specific problem, I have been assigned a large park approximately one mile long and one half mile wide containing a lake of about 300 surface acres located centrally on the grounds. It is relatively nondeveloped. The topography is gently rolling. It will be planned as a recreation park to serve Stillwater and the University citizens from tiny tots to senior citizens.

Stillwater is a town of 20,000 people in which Oklahoma State University is located. The University enrollment is now 10,000 and is expected to be 15,000 in 2 or 3 years. The city is growing around the park which is located strategically close to the University. It can certainly be a great service to a large segment of the population.

If you could offer some suggestive material from your experience which I could consider in relation to planning for the needs of these people, I would be most appreciative.

Thanking you in advance,

Paul J. Mitchell
Horticulture Department
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma

July 8, 1959

Mr. David R. Richards
The National Committee on the Ageing
345 East 46th Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Richards:

I am a graduate student of landscape architecture at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. I am writing my Master's thesis on recreation parks.

As a master's problem I have been assigned a large park containing a lake of about 300 surface acres. The entire park is approximately one mile long and one half mile wide. I plan to incorporate areas for the tiny tots use through the senior citizens recreation space.

I would appreciate your making any suggestions which I might view in consideration of the elder citizen's needs in a recreation area.

I have not found a great deal of information in regard to planning areas for senior members of society; therefore, I shall certainly appreciate any material which you could supply from your experience in this field.

Thanking you in advance,

Paul J. Mitchell, Graduate Student
Horticulture Department
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma

ALLEN STREET
MAYOR

COUNCILMEN

A. M. DWYLT
ROBERT M. CONSTANT
LEONARD W. SAGE
CHAS. A. SCHRECKCHAS. E. BURBA
MARVIN D. BYRNOLDS
JACK ADAMS
L. J. WALKERSHELDON L. STIRLING
CITY MANAGER**THE CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY****OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.**

December 17, 1960

Mr. Paul J. Mitchell
310 East 12 Street
Ada, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

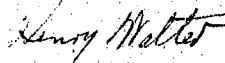
I am enclosing a copy of our 1959 nursery inventory and I have checked in red a number of plants that you might find useful. They all do well in our area and if proper sites are selected I see no reason why they shouldn't do well in the area you mention. I am familiar with the area you mention in your letter.

Dont let our list of Junipers get you down. We are making a collection of them in our arboretum and as we have started our plants from grafts, we have a few of a lot of varieties.

As to grasses, in areas around buildings, picnic areas add the like I believe bermuda is by far the best. If you want a real fine lawn in selected areas I would suggest Sunturf, U#3 Bermuda, 328 Bermuda (Tif-Green) as doing well. You should be able to get more material on grasses from the college than I can give you.

If you ever come to Oklahoma City, look me up. I would like to meet you and maybe I can help you with an idea or two. At least I can show you Will Rogers Park, 160 acres, and you might get some ideas from it. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely



Henry Walter, Horticulturist
3500 N. W. 36 St.

REGTOR 3-4550
4551

RECREATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.

258 BROADWAY

NEW YORK 7, NEW YORK

DR. MORTON THOMPSON
RESEARCH DIRECTOR

HENRY S. DREZNER
COUNSEL

RESEARCH
DEVELOPMENT
CONSULTATION

GAMES FOR:
SCHOOLS
CAMPS
CENTERS
OLD AGE HOMES
NURSING HOMES
HOSPITALS
INSTITUTIONS

ACTIVE GAMES FOR THE AGED, ILL & HANDICAPPED

The Recreational Research Institute, 258 Broadway, N.Y.C. an Organization dedicated to research has been experimenting with games for the aged, ill and handicapped in hospitals and nursing homes in the States of New York and New Jersey. The games approved by the Institute are types which relate to some activities which were and still are familiar to the elderly person. This research has the endorsement of the Ill and Handicapped Division of the National Recreation Association.

These games are simple, of durable construction, inexpensive and can be adapted to meet the needs of the aged whether ill in an institution, at home, senior citizens hotels and golden-age clubs. Older people become senile, depressed, self-centered, and lonely. Recreation and games help overcome these conditions and provide a stimulus for more pleasant physical, emotional and social experience for the patients. Recreation will, in the future, become an important part of the regular program of all nursing and old-age homes. These games are extremely adaptable so that they can meet the needs of all age groups including ill, handicapped, wheel-chair and bed-ridden patients.

The Research Institute can provide these games at discount prices to Institutions and offers consultation services in all phases of recreation for the aged, ill and handicapped. The Institute will continue to search for, experiment with and devise new games for the many categories of institutionalized individuals.

The Director of the Recreational Research Institute has fifteen years of Hospital Recreation experience as an Administrator, researcher and writer. He has supervised Veterans Administration Hospital programs, assisted the N.Y.C. hospital system in organizing programs and has taught Hospital recreation and Aged, Ill and handicapped courses at Columbia, N.Y.U. and Hunter College.

Among his writings are a Manual of Recreation for N.Y.C. Hospitals and a pamphlet on Starting a Recreation Program in Institutions for the Aged, Ill and Handicapped.

He holds a Doctorate in Hospital Recreation from N.Y.U.

Attached is a resume of the games including list prices. Institutions ordering minimum of six games, will receive a 20% discount. Shipping charges not included.

(prices are subject to change without notice)

	<u>List Price</u>
1. <u>Indoor Shuffleboard</u> - light-weight cues and discs with portable linoleum playing court - 12 feet by 24 inches. This can be placed anywhere indoors or out, and can be rolled up for easy storage.	\$12.00
2. <u>Rubber Quoits</u> - two red and two black rubber rings, rubber base and aluminum pins - durable, light-weight, adjustable for distance needs and is good for beginners.	\$ 4.40
3. <u>5-Peg Quoits</u> - a rubber quoit game with a 5-peg target. This target increases the chance for success. It can be used by all patients at varying distances.	\$5.50
4. <u>Rubber Horseshoes</u> - light-weight and can be used indoors and outdoors, and distances can be adjusted to need. This is the real game and is for the more experienced player as well as beginner.	\$ 4.50
5. <u>Croquet</u> - light-weight set - for outdoors game that can be used for all on small grass area.	\$ 7.20
6. <u>Bocce - jr.</u> set made of rubber for use inside and outside, light-weight rubber construction.	\$12.00
7. <u>Golf Putting Set</u> - Unit of five holes and flags. Can be set up indoors and outdoors. Uses light-weight clubs. It is good for instruction, practice and contests.	\$ 7.20
8. <u>Suction Dart Game</u> - large target with colored suction darts. A safe game with easily adjusted distances for any patient. It can be used for tournaments.	\$ 4.40
9. <u>Combination Dart and Ring-Toss Game</u> - a two sided target with one side ring-toss with light rubber rings and the second side a dart target game.	\$ 8.00
10. <u>Bean Bag Game</u> - the target is a clown's face. Three holes are on the target, and three bean bags are provided for throwing. This is a simple game which can be adjusted for distance to provide success for the elderly patient.	\$ 9.60
11. <u>Sport-a-Ball</u> - A cloth target with six target pockets. Four balls are used to throw into the pockets. You can adjust distance of throws for different types of patients.	\$ 7.20
12. <u>Tally-Pin Set</u> - a portable bowling game which is light-weight and has two wooden balls which are used to strike the pins and turn them over for scores. The game can be used indoors, outdoors, on the floor or on a table.	\$ 8.40
13. <u>Suction Arrow Archery Set</u> - the game includes a light-weight bow and three suction arrows. The dart board target can be used. The game is fun, safe and requires little effort.	\$ 2.00
14. <u>Bowling Set</u> - set of 10 maple 10 inch pins - white with red neck band, two maple balls, 10 X 2' linoleum mat and wire backstop. Display box and rules.	\$15.00
15. <u>Duck Shoot Game</u> - 3 ducks spin on a collapsible tripod, complete with a double-barreled gun which shoots a harmless suction dart. Set includes six rubber-tipped projectiles.	
16. <u>Putt-A-Game</u> - an electric putting game for practice and fun. Scoring lights register your score when holes are played in sequence 1 toy. Comes completely assembled. Excellent indoor game for patients.	\$18.00
17. <u>Skibble</u> - an action packed game for 2 to 6 players. Screened 26" X 28" board is divided into numbered squares. Shooting skill is quickly developed with shooting	

MUrray IIIQ7-8300

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE AGING

of the National Social Welfare Assembly
345 East 46th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

G. Warfield Hobbs, 3rd, *Chairman*
Ollie A. Randall, *Vice Chairman*
Geneva Mathiasen, *Executive Secretary*

July 22, 1959

Mr. Paul J. Mitchell, Graduate Student
Horticulture Department
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Your letter of July 8th to Mr. David Richards has been brought to my attention.

The problem of landscape architecture for park space for older persons has not had extensive investigation to my knowledge. However, Mr. George D. Butler, of the National Recreation Association, 8 West 8th Street, New York 11, New York, has developed a 3-page statement suggesting standards for outdoor recreation space around centers for the aging, designed to serve memberships of different sizes. Mr. Butler has also produced "Recreation Areas, Their Design and Equipment", the Ronald Press Company in New York, 2nd edition, 1958. This book has some excellent suggestions on your problem. It also contains an excellent bibliography which you would find useful. I think you would find also certain publications on the aging important since they define the kind of controls in any kind of space planning for older people. One of these is "Independent Living for Older People", Philadelphia Housing Association, Health and Welfare Council, Division on Aging, January 1958. "Housing the Aging", by Wilma Donahue, University of Michigan Press, 1954. "Housing for Older People" - Geneva Mathiasen in "Enriching the Years" New York State Legislative Committee on Problems of the Aging - 1953. The Architectural Forum has carried articles by Whitney Smith when he discusses some of the needs of older people that must be taken into consideration in planning facilities for older people.

I hope these leads will be helpful and would be happy to have the opportunity to see the parts of the master's thesis which have to do with your plans for park areas for older people.

Glendale, California might very well be a place you wish to write for information on their layout of park space since they have located in the center of town an outdoor recreation area, used primarily by older people. I suggest

National Social Welfare Assembly, Inc.

Hugh R. Jackson, *President* • Mrs. DeLeslie Allen, *Chairman Administrative Committee* • Robert E. Bondy, *Director*

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Mr. Paul J. Mitchell

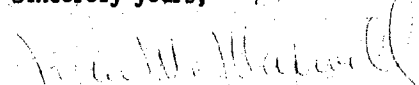
- 2 -

July 22, 1959

you write the Park & Recreation Departments of Glendale, California, asking for the layout of the Glendale Adult Recreation Center - 201 East Colorado.

I hope these leads will be valuable. I would be happy to hear from you if there is anything more we can do for you.

Sincerely yours,


Jean M. Maxwell, Director
Study on Standards, Centers and
Club Programs for Older People

JMM:hh

Enclosure



AMERICAN
INSTITUTE
of PARK EXECUTIVES Inc.

Telephone Chapel 2-2160

Executive Offices: OGLEBAY PARK, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, U. S. A.

December 8, 1960

Mr. Paul J. Mitchell
310 East 12th Street
Ada, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

In reply to your letter dated November 10 in which you requested information on planning that might be of help to you in writing a Master's thesis on the development of a recreation park, we have enclosed three bulletins entitled, "Suggested Goals in Park and Recreation Planning," "Planning Better Vacation Accommodations" and "Planning of Park Areas for Recreational Use." This material is being furnished to you through the facilities of the American Institute of Park Executives' Will O. Doolittle Lending Library. We must ask you to return this material just as soon as you have obtained your information.

I suggest you contact the men listed below as they are experienced in the park field in design, maintenance, plant material, and administration. It would seem that if you are to write a comprehensive thesis you would have to contact men such as these listed and get personal opinions and first expert advise.

Mr. R. R. "Pat" Murphy, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, 404 Municipal Building, Oklahoma City 2, Oklahoma, is considered to be a good administrator in the park field.

Mr. O. A. Zeigler, General Superintendent and Secretary, City of Tulsa Park Department, 408 South Denver, Tulsa 3, Oklahoma, very able park director.

Mr. Sigma H. Cowan, Superintendent, Maintenance and Operations, Tulsa Park and Recreation Department, 408 South Denver, Tulsa 3, Oklahoma, excellent on park and operations.

Mr. Henry Walter, Horticulturist, Oklahoma City Park Department, 3500 N. W. 36th Street, Oklahoma City 12, Oklahoma, very well-known in the Southwest area because of his knowledge of plant material.

Robert R. Rucker, Campus Landscape Architect, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, Mr. Rucker was Assistant Professor of Horticulture and Park Management for five years prior to going to Oklahoma University. He should be and I know would be happy to help you on design and in selecting plant material for your layouts.

Paul, it is impossible to give you very much information on the design of this problem. Many things have to be considered. First, your topography, then the location of the lake, do you want active and passive sections of your park, what facilities and complete do you wish this area. By contacting the men listed above and reviewing

Official Publication — PARKS & RECREATION Magazine

DANIEL W. WARREN, JR., President
Superintendent of Parks and Forestry
Park and Forestry Department
Town Hall
Brookline 48, Massachusetts

RALPH J. ANDREWS
Director, North Carolina Recreation Commission
Mansion Park Building
Raleigh, North Carolina

THOMAS R. HODGSON
General Superintendent and Secretary
Board of Parks and Recreation
160 Princess Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

ELO J. URBANOVSKY, Vice President
Head, Dept. Horticulture & Park Management
Texas Technological College
Lubbock, Texas

GEORGE SPEIDEL
Director, Washington Park Zoo
4500 West Villet Street
Milwaukee 8, Wisconsin

HARVEY S. CRASS, Past President
Manager, Parks & Recreation
Muskingum Watershed Convy. Dist.
New Philadelphia, Ohio

DIRECTORS
CONRAD L. WIRTH
Director, National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

NORMAN S. JOHNSON
Director, Los Angeles County Department
of Parks and Recreation
Meds O'Day Building
155 West Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles 15, California

ALFRED B. LoGASSE
Executive Secretary
Oglebay Park
Wheeling, West Virginia

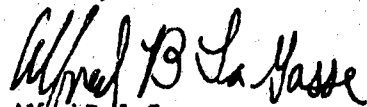
DAVID M. ABBOTT
Director of Parks
Room 385, Municipal Building
Denver 2, Colorado

FRANK VAYDIK
Superintendent, Forestry and Landscaping
Parks and Recreation Department
735 Randolph Street
Detroit 28, Michigan

December 8, 1960
Mr. Paul Mitchell
Page 2

their park design you should be able to formulate in your own mind just what you wish to provide for the people of Stillwater.

Cordially,



Alfred B. LaGasse
Executive Secretary

bjk



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A98-DM

December 8, 1960

Mr. Paul J. Mitchell
310 East 12th Street
Ada, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

We are sending you, under separate cover, the following materials for reference use in preparing your Master's thesis on recreation parks:

The National Park System--a booklet with good basic information that preceded the MISSION 66 study.

Facts About MISSION 66--condensed information in a question and answer form.

MISSION 66 In Action--a progress report on three years of MISSION 66 accomplishments.

A Dittoed Supplement to the MISSION 66 In Action booklet indicating major progress on a four-year basis.

Our Vanishing Shoreline--a report on recreational area opportunities along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

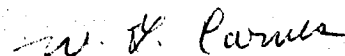
The National Park Wilderness--sets forth the protection and preservation responsibilities of the Service, reviews the record of the past, and points out how these responsibilities will be met under the MISSION 66 program.

That The Past Shall Live--a booklet dealing with the problems, policies, and progress of historical units of the National Park System.

Your MISSION 66 And The National Parks--a recent release of a major oil company with good data on the MISSION 66 program and the National Parks.

We appreciate your interest in the National Park Service and the MISSION 66 program and hope these materials will be helpful to you in completing your thesis. When they have served their usefulness to you, you may wish to add them to your school's library.

Sincerely yours,



W. G. Carnes, Chief
MISSION 66 Staff

VITA 2

Paul J. Mitchell

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: A LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL FOR BOOMER LAKE RECREATION PARK

Major Field: Horticulture

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in city of Ada, Pontotoc County, November 22, 1935, the son of Lorane (Robins) Mitchell and Frank F. Mitchell; married Nancy Gayle Pattillo July 28, 1962. Children: Leisa Lorane born July 21, 1964; Gregory Alan born September 28, 1966.

Education: Attended Ada Elementary and Junior High School, graduated from Ada High School May, 1954; undergraduate study at East Central State College, Ada, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University with Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture from Oklahoma State University, May, 1958. Graduate study Oklahoma State University, 1959-70.

Professional Experience: Landscape maintenance and design supervisor, East Central College, Ada, Oklahoma 1959-62; Extension Agent, Ornamental Horticulturist, Oklahoma State University Extension Service, Tulsa, 1962-69; Landscape Architect, Ada, Oklahoma, 1959-62; Landscape Horticulturist Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa, 1962-69; presently employed as Extension Ornamental Horticulturist, Oklahoma State University Extension Service, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Landscape Architectural Designs include: Ada Arboretum, 1960-61; East Central State College Campus, 1962; Tulsa Garden Center Arboretum, 1963-67; Collinsville City Memorial Hospital grounds, 1963-64; Woolaroc Museum Entrance, 1968. Produced weekly horticulture column, "Planning and Planting", Tulsa Tribune, 1962 to 1969.

Professional Organizations: Chairman, Horticulture Advisory Committee, Tulsa County Vocational-Technical High School, 1967-69; Vice-chairman, Programs Committee, Oklahoma Chapter National County Agents Association, 1967-69; Horticulture Chairman, Oklahoma Federated Garden Clubs; Oklahoma Horticultural Society; Phi Sigma; Alpha Zeta; Red Red Rose; Church of Christ.