



A Decorated Square, Exhibition Park, Toronto

Drives and pathways will be necessary to lead from point to point. These should be so arranged as to disclose along the way the most striking of a park's scenery and lead to points of greatest vantage. It is particularly essential that the roadways be good, if the popularity of the park is to be developed. Let at least the foundation for this be laid in their proper location, while the work of improving them is undertaken as resources will allow.

STORM SHELTERS

Where planting is necessary, it should be the aim to have this in accord with the surroundings, and it should be made with a view to its future effect on the landscape. Use largely native trees and shrubs, and do not make formal beds of flowers in natural parks—there is plenty of room for these in the town park or square. Water courses should be preserved, and where feasible, may be supplemented by artificially created lakes or ponds, stocked with water fowl. This may be made a most attractive feature in the park.

Certain buildings will be necessary in the park: shelters in case of storm, and booths where refreshments may be obtained. These, while being located in the most useful situations, should not be unduly obtruded upon the landscape, but placed where they will best harmonize with their surroundings. They should be simple in design and quiet in tone, for if we gain in the outstanding appearance of the building, we almost surely lose in the appearance of the park.

Gateways of proper character may be made a pleasing feature of the park plan, and serve to indicate the separation of the life of the town from the quiet restfulness to be found within the park.

A parks system is lacking in one of its essential features where the park areas are not linked together by suitable parkways or connecting links. It is a usual practice to omit parkways from the town plan until the thoroughfares which might have been used for that purpose are rendered more or less unsuitable by the laying of ill-placed pavements, sidewalks and boulevards; while, on the other hand, with a properly conceived plan, a street of even usual width might have a boulevard reservation sufficient to allow of a planting of shade trees and shrubbery which would serve to carry the park through from point to point in a pleasing and appropriate manner.

BOULEVARDS OR DRIVEWAYS

The boulevards or driveway, as differing from the parkway, will aim to give access to all points of special interest within driving distance of the town, and reaches of mountain, woodland, lake or river front will preferably be chosen for it. Land not being held for building purposes in the country traversed, it will be mostly available at low cost, making reservation for the boulevard feasible, from the financial standpoint, before the upbuilding of the country has interfered with its possibilities. Adjoining municipalities might well enter into a concerted plan for the acquisition and construction of the country boulevard, and thus secure to each the advantage of the linking up of their respective external driveways.

It is imperative that provision be made in every town for its adornment with open spaces or squares. Reservation should be made for these at important street intersections, in front of the railway station and public buildings, and in the residential district. These may

be furnished with fountains, monuments or ornamental lamps, or suitably planted, and lend much to the embellishment and attractiveness of the town, besides maintaining breathing spots where, as congestion increases, one may rest for a moment from the everyday stress and turmoil.

PLAYGROUNDS AND RECREATION AREAS

The supervised playground and the recreation area are among the most vital considerations in the life of a growing community, and it is the positive duty of every municipality to see well to it that every reasonable opportunity is taken to provide for the development of these features. The supervised playground, under the care of competent supervisors, and equipped with gymnasium apparatus, a swimming or wading pool, and a building in which are shower and other baths, and rooms which may be used during the winter for the instruction, enjoyment, and entertainment of the young folks, is an indispensable factor in their training for good citizenship, promoting, as it should, the development of the best qualities of body and mind. Locate the playground amid pleasant surroundings if possible. A relatively small part of a park will furnish the necessary accommodation, and the children will receive a lasting good impression through its elevating influence. If only a barren lot is available, plant the corners with shrubbery and flowers, and so bring to it something of beauty and refinement.

RECREATION AREAS

The recreation area is likewise indispensable, and here should be found facilities for the various summer games and winter sports, including baseball, cricket, football, tennis, skating and hockey rinks, etc., tending to the encouragement of a healthy outdoor life, and offering enjoyment, near at hand, to the toilers released for a time from the workshop, factory, or office.

The responsibility for the operation of the playground and recreation area should rest with a single organization, and should not be divided, as is commonly the case, between the school authorities, the town authorities or other bodies.

The carrying out of the phases of park development outlined will involve serious consideration on the part of the smaller town of the financial ways and means to that end, but with the needs of the situation fully recognized by its people, and with a plan of development determined upon, the raising and setting apart of a sum sufficient in each year to forward at least some part of its features should not be a task beyond those earnestly striving towards the ideals of a progressive municipality.