

Unemployment Relief

Sidewalks:
82.3 miles newly built, 158.2 miles improved.

Curbs:
242.7 miles newly laid, 69.4 miles relaid and improved.

Athletic fields:
9 built, 6 reconditioned, working on 18.

Playgrounds:
35 built, 13 improved, working on 42.

Swimming-wading pools:
25 built, working on 13.

Tennis courts:
95 built, 44 under construction.

Water mains:
116.9 miles laid, working on 67.3 miles.

Sewers:
50.8 miles newly laid, 53.5 reconditioned; working on 24.6 miles.

Manholes:
3,512 new ones built, 6,987 altered, working on 4,433.

Mosquito control:
399.9 miles drainage ditch dug, 148 miles improved; under way, 88 miles.

Police-fire signals:
84.1 miles of line laid, working on 65.2 miles.

Planting:
319,089 plants or trees set out.

Here is the record of the WPA in the city of New York in 1939:

Public buildings:
210 newly constructed, 518 reconditioned, work under way on 188.

Fire:
2 new houses erected, 44 renovated, work in progress on 3.

Highways:
222.67 miles of new construction, 112.51 improved.

Sidewalks:
165.56 miles newly built, 93.99 miles improved.

Curbs:
296.14 miles newly laid, 114.98 miles relaid and improved.

Athletic fields:
12 built, 4 reconditioned, working on 2.

Playgrounds:
66 built, 19 improved, working on 25.

Water mains:
151.74 miles laid.

Sewers:
66 miles newly laid, 27.66 reconditioned.

Police-fire signals:
48.4 miles of line laid.

Parks, squares and triangles:
14 built—380.90 acres; 43 improved—3,644.11 acres, working on 23—1,097.92 acres.

Docks and piers:
17 improved, 4 in progress.

Bulkheads:
537 linear feet built, 5,490 linear feet improved.

Retaining walls:
27 built, totalling 10,260 feet; 10 improved, totalling 3,662 feet.

Landscaping around buildings and along highways:
147.79 acres new; 351.77 acres improved and [Mr. Pouliot.]

The LaGuardia airport, one of the world's largest, and the biggest single job undertaken anywhere in the country by the Works Progress Administration.

Among the health services for adults were 84,429 X-rays, 145,589 dental clinic visits and 52,954 social hygiene diagnoses.

Many thousands of children daily benefit by WPA health services.

1939 WPA produced 346,709 toys for Christmas distribution and everyday use in nurseries, orphanages, hospitals, and settlements.

WPA serving shops manufactured 3,440,112 garments, 2,370,305 items for New York's needy families certified by relief agencies in 1939.

Thousands of idle hands were taught new crafts by WPA instructions during the year.

A total of 1,586,773 contacts with children and adults were made during the year by physical recreation leaders.

An average of 3,000 children and adults took part daily in cultural activities under trained leadership.

More than 50,000 adults sought added learning in WPA classes during 1939.

Upward of 400,000 children attended the varied educational activities offered by the 1939 program.

Project kitchens prepared 23,174,163 lunches in 1939 for undernourished school children. Up to 120,000 hot lunches were delivered to schools in one day.

Symphonic and concert music by WPA continued during the year to be appreciated by music lovers.

The art program during the year contributed murals to public buildings . . . at the same time taught art techniques to thousands of eager students.

The size, variety, importance and usefulness of all the WPA projects cannot be fully summarized in the short time that I have at my disposal.

Mayor LaGuardia and the WPA Administrator in New York city, Lt.-Col. Brehon Somervell, had every reason to be proud of their accomplishments when they addressed the following message to the city:
From the Mayor . . .

In my opinion the maintenance of the morale and self-respect of the worker, the preservation of his skills and work habits, and the benefits of the community in the way of improved public property and extension of personal services, more than offset the alleged deleterious effects of work relief, most of which are indefinite and unrealistic.

I know that the city has benefited by the works program, that it has maintained services that are indispensable in a modern growing city.

I do not know what would have happened had all the thousands of men and women employed under the works program been forced into complete idleness and sustained by a dole, but I have a feeling that the butcher and the baker and the candlestick maker whose business has been kept going could tell you, and that another answer could be got from thousands of homes where normal living has been made possible by the work relief program.

F. LaGuardia.