



1959

**THIRTEENTH
ANNUAL
REPORT**

**BERGEN
COUNTY
PARK
COMMISSION**

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY

Board of Chosen Freeholders
Administrative Building
Hackensack, New Jersey

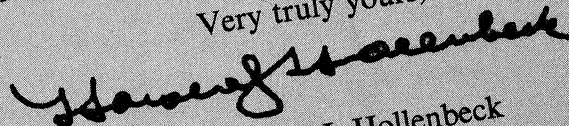
Gentlemen:

The Bergen County Park Commission realizes the importance of keeping abreast with the ever increasing demands made upon it by the populace of the County and that it must not overlook any potential or possibility of improving and expanding the present park system.

Additional lands for park purposes must be acquired in the immediate future if we are to attain our purpose of providing greater recreational facilities for our population.

The Commission expresses its thanks to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for their support during the past year and will continue its efforts to meet the recreational demands of the public.

Very truly yours,



Harold J. Hollenbeck
President

BERGEN COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

1959

HAROLD J. HOLLENBECK
President

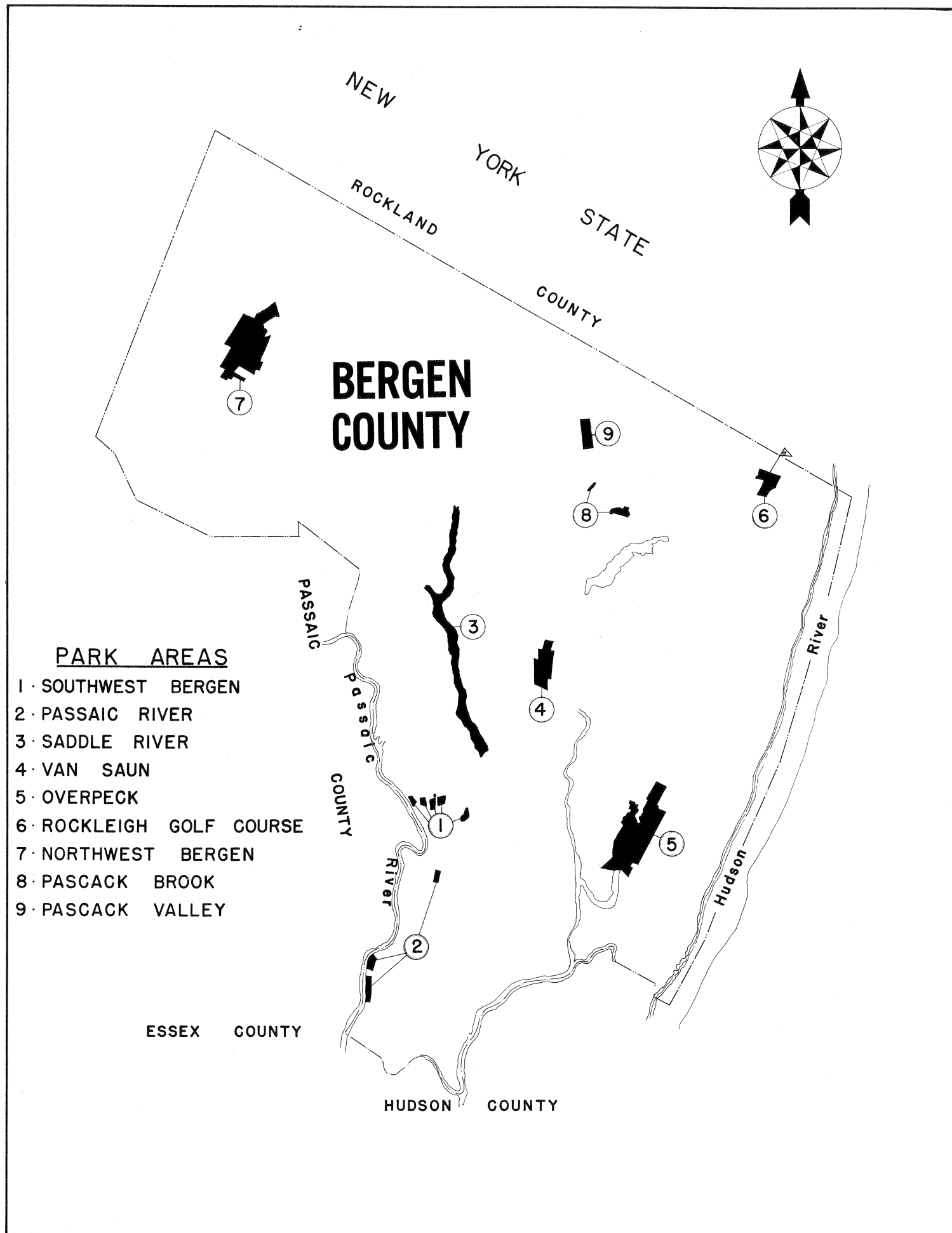
Aithur Seward <i>Vice President</i>	William Staubach <i>Secretary</i>
Alvin G. Yhlen <i>Assistant Secretary</i>	Harold M. Davison
Dr. George L. Kingslow	Mrs. Stewart F. Alexander
ALFRED S. WALDEN	
Herbert H. Handelmann <i>Staff Director</i>	George A. Duffy <i>Counsel</i>

BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

1959

E. MERRILL SEABERG
Director

Fred W. Meuter	Mrs. Wilma Marggraff
Edmund E. Field, Jr.	Anthony Pepe
John K. Pollitt	Arthur W. Vervaet
Peter W. Passaro	Albert Moskin
William R. Smith <i>Clerk of the Board</i>	Milton T. Lasher <i>County Counsel</i>



THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE

Over half a million visitors showed clear and appreciable interest in our Bergen County park system during the year.

Added facilities and further development of acreages now held are being harnessed in a wide variety of recreational purposes. They serve in a measure of health and opportunity for our ever increasing population.

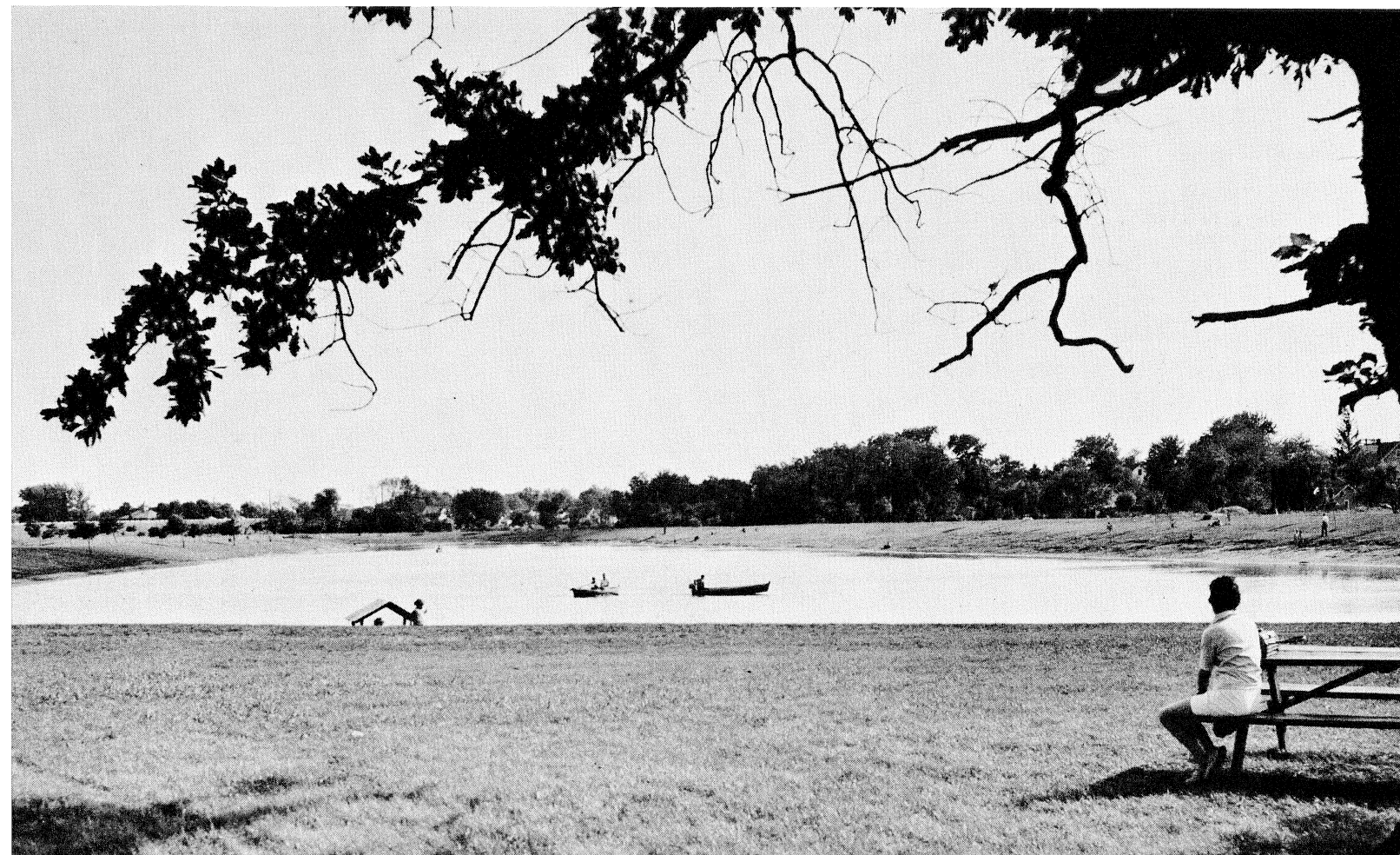
Public recreation is now recognized the world over and has stimulated State and Federal action in supplying the need for developed lands for recreational benefits so vital to the welfare of many individuals and groups.

The Bergen County Park Commission was instituted in 1946. At the outset its primary purpose was to acquire land either by purchase or by interesting municipalities in donating unimproved and undesirable lands within their limits. More than 1,300 acres have been donated to date.

To-day your Park system has acquired 3,300 acres of which 483 acres are now fully developed and are in public use.

These developed areas are designed to accommodate the essentials of recreation and

Relaxing contemplation at Saddle Brook Park. This park was further developed and boating facilities were made available to the public.



Ice skating is always a popular winter sport at Dahnert's Lake, Garfield.



Parking and picnic area at Leonia.

as funds are made available further additions and improvements will be made.

The County of Bergen is considered a major recreational section of four states due to its geographical characteristics and predominate features.

These features include its population of close to 750,000 residents, its heavily industrialized areas and its unusually high per capita income.

With our present population our holdings in acreage average close to 300 people per acre, after allowing for rivers, creeks, brooks, lakes, etc.

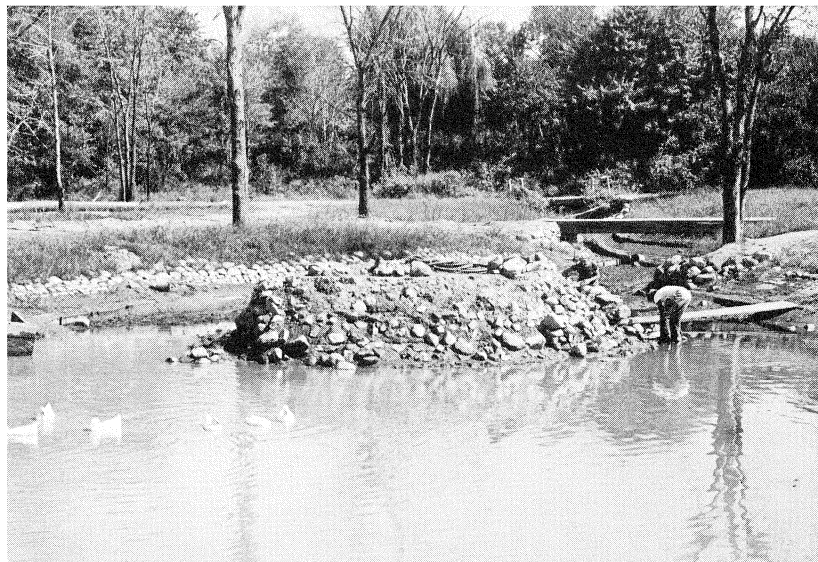
Much of the demand for recreational facilities has been and will continue to come from school systems, organized civic, religious and charitable groups.

The public use of our improved park facilities is evident at Wild Duck Pond Park, Ridgewood, where an estimated 100,000 people enjoyed picnicking, barbecuing, ice skating, day camps, fishing, etc. and where sporting contests are held annually.

Since the last world conflict, the need for public recreation has been one of the Federal, State, County and local governments' major problems.

Growth of population, higher levels of income and increased leisure time all contribute to the need for properly anticipating future needs.

Dredging operation in 1959 increased depth of Wild Duck Pond by four feet.



(Above) Preliminary construction work began last year for future lake and island in children's zoo area in Van Saun Park.

(Below) Future Isaac Walton's at Wild Duck Pond, Ridgewood.





Uncle Remus and his woodland friends.

CHRISTMAS AT



The Christmas Carolers.

An angel hovered over
the familiar Nativity scene.



VAN SAUN PARK

Cinderella and her prince.





Lounge room at Rockleigh Golf Course Clubhouse.



Water hole at Rockleigh.

It is estimated that we will double our population in the next thirty (30) years.

It is also estimated that in 1975 the average work week will be twenty-eight hours.

Numerous other estimates can be cited to underscore the fact that we have entered a new era in recreation.

Unless there is a radical change in our way of life, we must assume that the demands made upon us to-day will continue year by year as population numbers increase.

This demand is a challenge to your Park Commission which must be met by increased investments in all fields of recreation.

Van Saun Park is one phase of that challenge and the Commission realizes its potentials as a recreational center, centrally located in our County.

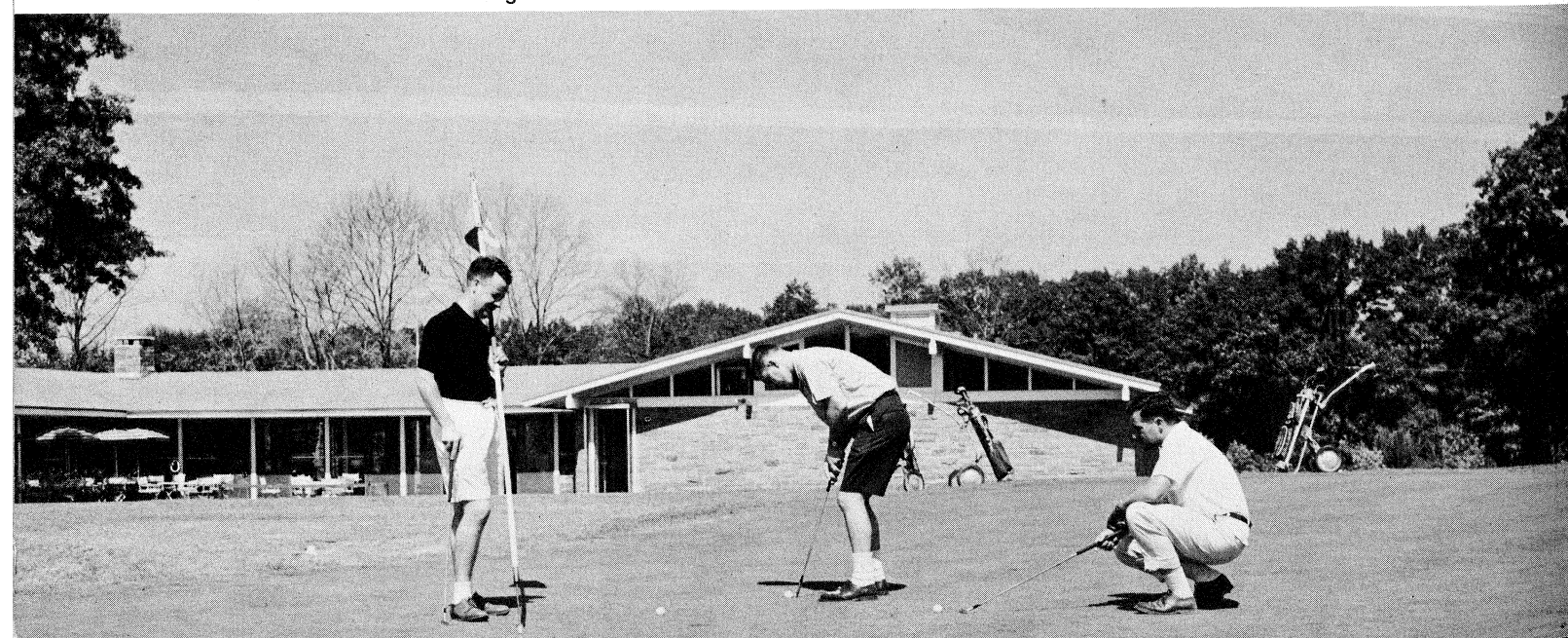
The combined outlay of monies representing four (4) state park systems rose from approximately \$5,000,000 in 1946 to \$18,000,000 in 1956.

This investment unfortunately has not approached the rate of interest in recreational facilities. Your County Park System is effected proportionately.

When examining the response to the new public interest in recreation at governmental level it must be ascertained what facilities are most in demand.

A survey made by your Park Commission indicates picnic facilities comprised of

Putting out in the 18th hole.



tables, benches, fireplaces and running water to be first in demand.

This your Commission has provided in all developed park areas and are constantly adding equipment as the demand increases.

The approach to better community understanding of the role of your Park Commission is through the public press which so ably informed you of our activities during the year.

To supplement this Public Relations service, educational exhibits were placed in public auditoriums, armories and exhibition halls where, without fee, the public could view from descriptive maps, photographs and plans our efforts to create added recreational facilities in the County.

The Commission's illuminated Christmas display consisting of over 300 individual characters and a 40 foot fir tree lighted with 1000 colored light bulbs drew 30,000 visitors at Van Saun Park in Paramus and River Edge.

Similar trees were exhibited in Riverside Park, Lyndhurst; Saddle Brook Park, Saddle Brook; Wild Duck Pond Park, Ridgewood and in the North Arlington park area.

An inventory of our existing recreational areas and open space resources has

been made by your Commission. As a means of expediting its labors on constructing additional facilities, the Commission's staff has planned, constructed and landscaped a Children's Zoo at Van Saun Park, which is scheduled to open in 1960.

Further surveys indicated a need for Tennis Courts. A special Citizens' Committee was selected from successful Tennis Clubs throughout the County and plans were immediately drawn for 12 courts to be centrally located at Van Saun Park, Paramus. A tennis clinic and tournaments will be featured.

Your Commission recognizes the additional needs for baseball fields and has planned to construct two regulation fields in this area.

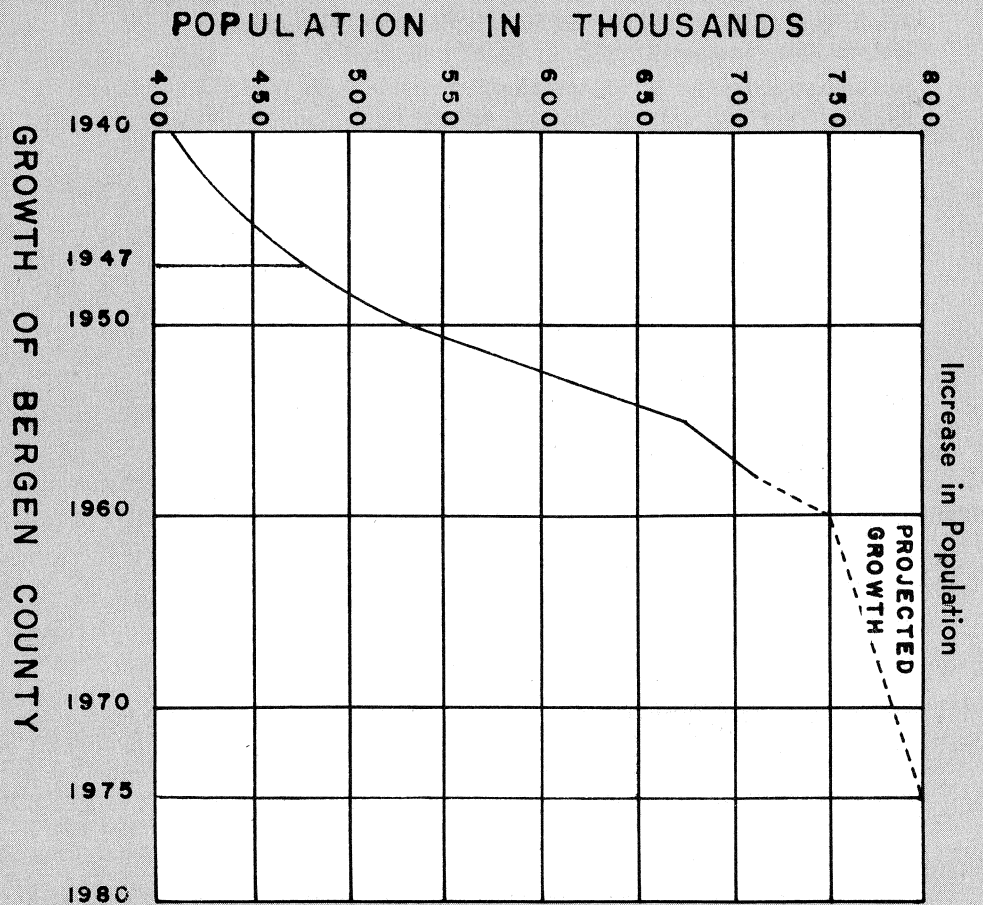
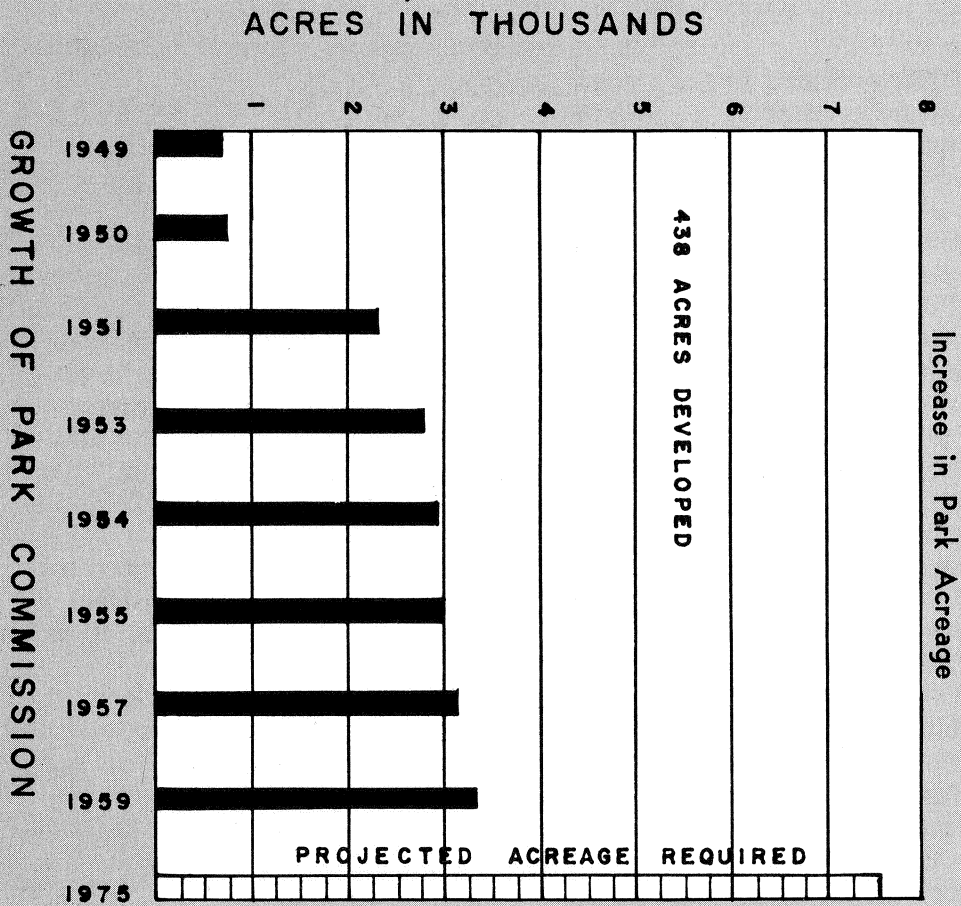
The Commission, realizing the need for sanitary facilities, contracted to construct a Comfort Station at Van Saun Park, River Edge.

Three (3) modern comfort stations are now available to the public in the park system and contracts are being prepared for two (2) additional comfort stations, which will be located in the Saddle Brook Park, Saddle Brook and at Wild Duck Pond Park, Ridgewood.

Annual horse show is held at Van Saun Park under the auspices of the Bergen County Cerebral Palsy League.



GROWTH OF BERGEN COUNTY



BERGEN COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROPERTIES
COMMITTED OR ACQUIRED FOR PARK PURPOSES
BOND AND BUDGET ACCOUNTS

Close December 31, 1959

AREAS	SUB-TOTALS		ACRES	TOTALS
	ACRES	COSTS		COSTS
OVERPECK CREEK				
Purchased or Committed	125.79	\$180,874.00		
Municipal Properties donated	957.06	—0—		
Riparian Rights Committed	—0—	45,311.19		
			1,082.85	\$226,185.19
PASSAIC RIVER				
Purchased or Committed	50.46	\$121,321.00		
Municipal Properties donated or Committed	82.51	—0—		
			132.97	\$121,321.00
SADDLE RIVER				
Purchased or Committed	486.05	\$532,830.00		
Municipal Properties donated or Committed	46.31	—0—		
Private Properties donated	6.12	1.00		
			538.48	\$532,831.00
SOUTHWEST BERGEN				
Purchased or Committed	0.12	\$ 2,200.00		
Municipal Properties donated	90.00	2.00		
			90.12	\$ 2,202.00
VAN SAUN				
Purchased or Committed	138.09	\$194,561.73		
Private Properties donated	1.25	—0—		
			139.34	\$194,561.73
NORTHWEST BERGEN				
Purchased or Committed	927.75	\$183,094.21		
Municipal Properties donated	2.33	—0—		
			930.08	\$183,094.21
NORTHEAST BERGEN				
Purchased or Committed	160.65	\$127,806.75		
Municipal Properties donated	0.32	—0—		
Private Properties donated	13.08	—0—		
			174.05	\$127,806.75
PASCACK BROOK				
Purchased or Committed	10.50	\$ 37,696.38		
Municipal Properties donated	110.00	—0—		
			120.50	\$ 37,696.38
PASCACK VALLEY				
Purchased or Committed			81.20	\$171,986.00
HACKENSACK RIVER				
Purchased or Committed			0.08	\$ 10.00
			<u>3,289.67</u>	<u>\$1,597,694.26</u>

SUMMARY OF LAND ACQUISITION

Private properties purchased or committed	* 1,980.69	\$1,552,380.07
Private properties donated	20.45	1.00
Municipal properties donated or committed	1,288.53	2.00
Riparian Rights Committed—45,311.19 linear feet		45,311.19
	<u>3,289.67</u>	<u>\$1,597,694.26</u>

* The above total of private properties purchased or committed comprising 1,980.69 Acres at a cost of \$1,552,380.07 averages \$783.76 per acre.

LAND ACQUISITION—PROPERTIES COMMITTED OR ACQUIRED

BOND AND BUDGET ACCOUNTS

Close December 31, 1959

DESCRIPTION	SUB-TOTALS		TOTALS	
	ACRES	COST	ACRES	COST
PRIVATE PROPERTIES COMMITTED OR ACQUIRED				
Reported close of Dec. 31, 1958	1,967.16	\$1,469,611.07		
Cost Adjustments 1959		— 550.00		
Acreage Adjustments 1959	<u>-0-</u>			
			1,967.16	\$1,469,061.07
PRIVATE PROPERTIES COMMITTED OR ACQUIRED 1959				
18 Additional parcels of land with appurtenances were committed or acquired in three (3) areas			33.98	\$ 83,320.00
MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES COMMITTED OR ACQUIRED				
Reported close of Dec. 31, 1958	1,285.59	2.00		
Adjustments made 1959	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>		
	1,285.59	2.00		
MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES COMMITTED OR ACQUIRED 1959				
Borough of Northvale	0.32	-0-		
Borough of Oakland	2.33	-0-		
Township of Saddle Brook	<u>.29</u>	<u>-0-</u>		
			1,288.53	2.00
RIPARIAN RIGHTS COMMITTED				
Reported close of Dec. 31, 1958			-0-	45,311.19
45,311.19 Linear feet				
			<u>3,289.67</u>	<u>\$1,597,694.26</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Bergen County Park Commission
Administrative Building
Hackensack, New Jersey

April 11, 1960

Gentlemen:

I have examined the financial records of the Commission for the year ending December 31, 1959 and, as a result of this examination, I submit the following:

BUDGET FUNDS

SURPLUS, JANUARY 1, 1959	\$ 13,557.96
PLUS: CANCELLATION OF 1958 COMMITMENTS	3,163.08
ADJUSTED SURPLUS, JANUARY 1, 1959	\$ 16,721.04
BUDGET APPROPRIATION — 1959	576,100.00
	<u>\$592,821.04</u>
EXPENDITURES:	
Salaries and Wages	\$435,205.35
Office Operating Expenses	22,638.72
Engineering and Drafting	1,176.70
Land Acquisition Expenses	2,203.28
Legal Expenses	6,979.50
Field Operating Expenses	32,585.56
New Field Equipment	1,033.91
Park Maintenance Materials	85,387.09
	<u>587,210.11</u>
	\$ 5,610.93
PLUS:	
Capital Authorizations Cancelled	\$ 5,399.28
Prior Year's Commitments Cancelled	29,868.41
	<u>35,267.69</u>
	\$ 40,878.62
LESS: INCREASE OF PETTY CASH RESERVE	100.00
SURPLUS, DECEMBER 31, 1959	<u>\$ 40,778.62</u>

BOND ISSUES

BALANCE AVAILABLE, JANUARY 1, 1959	\$494,755.53
COUNTY PARK BONDS ISSUED — 1959	136,000.00
	<u>\$630,755.53</u>
LESS:	
Disbursed for Land Acquisition and Improvements	\$108,171.33
Committed for Land Acquisition and Improvements	129,024.00
	<u>237,195.33</u>
BALANCE AVAILABLE, DECEMBER 31, 1959	<u>\$393,560.20</u>

All vouchers were examined and found to be properly approved. Checks issued in payment of these vouchers were compared with both the voucher and the entry in the financial records. These were found to be correct.

Cash in banks was reconciled with the book figures.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Edward Schierloh
Certified Public Accountant
(N. J. & N. Y.)



