

### BERGEN COUNTY PARK COMMISSION, 1966 HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY

Bernard H. Johnson, President

Peter J. Russo, Vice President William Staubach, Secretary Otto C. Pehle, Assistant Secretary Harold J. Hollenbeck Rudolph A. Travers\* Dr. George L. Kingslow George M. Gillette, Jr. Frederick E. Wendel Edward H. Ihnen\*\*

James A. McFaul, Executive Director

Herbert H. Handelmann, Staff Director

Donald R. Sorkow, Assistant County Counsel

\* Term expired January 22, 1966 \*\* Appointed February 2, 1966

#### **BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS, 1966**

D. Bennett Mazur, Director Chairman of the County Parks Committee

Harold Martin Eugene E. Walsh Mrs. Doris Mahaliek James F. McGuire Eugene Francis Mrs. Bernice Alexander Cassius H. Daly, Jr. Alfred S. Walden

William R. Smith, Executive Administrator\*
Ronald Zweig, Executive Administrator\*\*

Nelson G. Gross, County Counsel† Frank J. Cuccio, County Counsel‡

Richard L. Nelson, Assistant Executive Administrator

\* Retired November 1, 1966

\*\* Appointed November 2, 1966

† Resigned October 5, 1966

‡ Appointed October 5, 1966



BLOOMS COVERING the island in the zoo pond at Van Saun County Park are among 8,400 tulips planted at the park each year. The view is from the covered bridge.

COVER PICTURE: Waterfowl will be watched from the observation building at the Bergen County Wildlife Center in Wyckoff. In 1966 the wildlife pond was excavated, the building was erected, and nature-trail routes were established. The Center is scheduled to open in Spring 1967.





PICNICKING is popular with all ages. The County park network has 2,000 picnic tables at 15 park areas. Many of the areas are equipped with raised grills.

TWO LAKES at Darlington County Park are equipped for swimming and diving. The third lake is used for fishing and rental boating. Swimming-season fees grossed \$139,986 in 1966.

A fine golf course and a beautiful wildlife center took shape in 1966, the golf course on a former marsh in Teaneck and the wildlife center on the low wet corner of a former pig farm in Wyckoff. The Bergen County Park Commission is understandably proud of the transformation.

Silt from the bed of an 8-acre lake excavated on the golf course site was used as fill on the north seven fairways. Fill for the wildlife center came from the bed of a 2½-acre waterfowl pond excavated at the site.

Lakes had previously been excavated on four other County park sites, and in each case the excavated material was used as part of the fill on surrounding areas. Countless tons of additional fill have been dumped and spread throughout the County park system.

The County has begun dredging a 200-acre lake on the soggy meadowland of the Overpeck County Park site. Plans have been made for filling operations on South Bergen meadowland to be reclaimed for future park use.

Long-range plans call for excavation of large lakes on the low Wood Dale and Pascack Brook County Park sites in the Pascack Valley.

Park Commission reclamation work is transforming swamps into scenic attractions as well as much needed outdoor recreation areas.

> Bernard H. Johnson President

## Voters Back Expansion

Voter approval of a \$2 million increase in the Park Commission's debt limit was an important milestone for the Bergen County park system, which had a record attendance of approximately 3.2 million visits in 1966.

On November 8 the debt limit was raised from \$3 million to \$5 million. The increase will enable the Commission to obtain new sites and hasten park development. Overcrowding of the parks on Sundays pointed up the need for expansion.

The Commission formed a speakers' bureau and issued a series of news releases to inform the public of development plans and the need for expansion.

#### TWO BIG PROJECTS

The 18-hole Overpeck Bergen County Golf Course in Teaneck and the Bergen County Wildlife Center in Wyckoff, both scheduled to open in 1967, were the Park Commission's major areas of construction in 1966.

Work during the year on the Overpeck Course included excavation of on 8-acre lake, finished grading of the entire course, installation of gas and electric lines and some 7,000 feet of 6-foot-high fencing, construction of the 18 holes and tees, instal-

lation of an irrigation system having about 6 miles of pipe, seeding of the fairways, and planting of trees and shrubs.

At the Wildlife Center site the Park Commission in 1966 excavated a 2½-acre wildlife pond, erected a 5,000-square-foot observation building overlooking the pond, paved the mile-long park drive and parking area, placed fill dirt and 1,300 cubic yards of topsoil, graded and seeded open areas, cleared brush from picnic areas, installed utilities, put in a well, landscaped the building, installed bench shelters, and laid out nature trails.

#### **NEW TENNIS COURTS**

Tennis facilities were added at Wood Dale County Park in the Pascack Valley and at the North Area of Riverside County Park in Lyndhurst. Each park area has two fenced regulation-size courts paved with green asphalt. No charge is made for use of the courts. Play is limited to a half hour when there is a waiting line,

The Commission planted 125 shade trees on the banks of the Saddle River, inaugurating an extensive tree-planting program for the streamside. The planting, which will continue for the next few years.

is part of the development of a linear park flanking the stream for  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

A good many trees were left standing when the Hackensack Water Company relocated and rechanneled some 1,800 feet of the river at the request of the County.

Site work for the Saddle River County Park drive was completed from the south end to Sprout Brook, Rochelle Park, a distance of some 1,800 feet. The work involved considerable filling to bring the road bed up to grade.

#### A PLAYGROUND IS ADDED

Other 1966 Saddle River County Park projects included installation of a children's playground in the Rochelle Park Area.

Play equipment was added throughout the County park network. New equipment, with a total cost of \$17,908.50, included swings, seesaws, horizontal ladders and bars, turning bars, animal forms on springs, basketball backstops, tennis nets, and a slide.

Field equipment expenditures in 1966 totaled \$55,031. The Commission spent \$21,381 for new tractors, \$9,205 for mowers, \$5,396 for Dempster Dumpster containers, \$1,512 for six bleachers, and \$764 for saws of various kinds. Other items included tools, hoses, row boats, gardening equipment, trucks, generators, a flag pole, and a prefabricated shanty.

#### MUSIC, ART, AND TENNIS

A series of free band concerts, a big outdoor art show, and free ten-

TENNIS COURTS were constructed at the North Area of Riverside County Park in Lyndhurst and at Wood Dale County Park in the Pascack Valley. Use of the courts is free.

WITH THE PLANTING of 125 shade trees, the Park Commission inaugurated an extensive tree-planting program for banks of the Saddle River in Saddle River County Park.





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### Plans

AN EAGER GOLFER looks forward to the opening of the Overpeck Bergen County Golf Course, which took shape in 1966. The course is expected to open late in 1967. This view is from the 18th hole.

nis instruction for boys and girls under 18 years of age were sponsored by the Park Commission. Rides were free on the children's railroad Holiday Express December 27-30.

Park-use permits were issued for a variety of activities, including a day camp for children with cerebral palsy, a lawn clinic, owl counting, a kite derby, a dog-training show, a civil defense drill, a model yacht regatta, a fire-fighting drill, and a County-wide senior citizens' outing.

A record 2,310 permits were issued, chiefly for group picnics.

Fee facilities in the park network set a new record in 1966, with gross receipts of \$466,221. The Rockleigh Bergen County Golf Course took in \$278,019 for a 10 per cent increase over the 1965 total. Darlington County Park's second swimming season grossed \$139,986, which represented a 42 per cent increase over the first season.

#### \$36,172 IN TRAIN FARES

Fares collected for the children's railroad in Van Saun County Park totaled \$36,172 in 1966. Other gross-receipt totals were as follows: the tennis center in Van Saun Park, \$6,635; permits for campsites and



large group picnics, \$5,164; and the boat ramp at Riverside County Park South in North Arlington, \$335.

The Rockleigh Bergen County Golf Course lake was enlarged in 1966, and the course's irrigation and pump system was completed.

The Commission paved a 40-car parking area at Riverside Park South and a 30-car area in Van Saun Park and 2,000 feet of path on the west side of the Van Saun Park lake. Some 35,000 feet of park drive and parking areas were seal-coated. Asphalt and concrete work at Darlington was also undertaken in 1966.

#### SKI FACILITIES DESIGNED

Construction was begun on the Wallington County Park comfort station and on three bridges in Overpeck County Park. Contracts were awarded for construction of two other bridges, in Van Saun County Park and in Saddle River County Park's Glen Rock Area.

A master plan was designed for

projected skiing facilities and a year-round visitors' center in Mahwah, and basic engineering work was done.

Grass seed was planted on approximately 30 acres of the Wyckoff site of the Wildlife Center and projected garden center. Some 80 acres of the Overpeck Bergen County Golf Course were seeded, and crews laid 60,000 square feet of sod at the Rockleigh Course.

#### 1,180 TREES PLANTED

During the year the landscaping department planted 653 shade trees, 527 evergreen trees, 236 flowering trees, 929 shrubs, approximately 10,000 bulbs, and 200 flats of assorted flowers.

Among 340 objects constructed by carpenters at the Commission workshop were 150 picnic tables with benches, three bench shelters, 75 stanchions, 30 barricades, and an assortment of bird houses and feeders. Repair work throughout the park system is the carpenters' main function

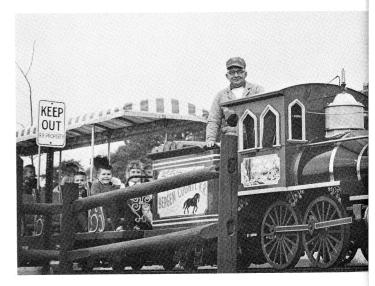
Workshop projects included the hand-lettering of 362 signs for the parks.



A FIRE ENGINE, retired from duty in Wyckoff, has been placed in Wallington County Park's new playground.

YOUNGSTERS give play equipment a good workout.

# Our Parks You







More often than park is planned children.

Children are our feeders, picnickers viewers, model bos ers, sledders, ice campers, and hike

Happy talk fills children's playgro park system.

While passenger ups become fewe tween, the child Van Saun County ing business.

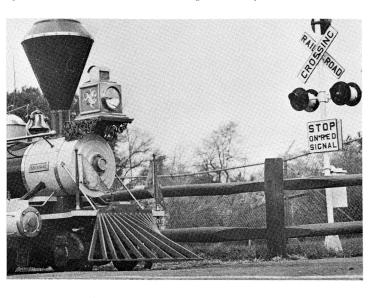
Parks and chil fully compatible. the child, and t brightens the par

SKATERS turn out en masse when the red ball is up. The County Park network has 11 ice skating areas, all with lights.

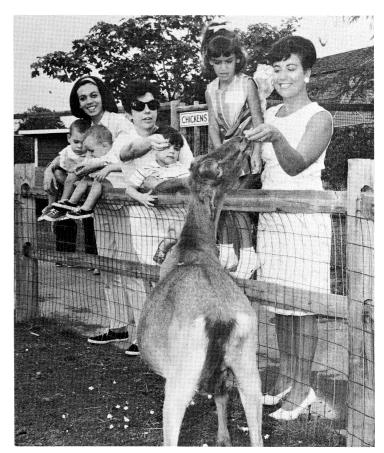
SLEDDING slopes are at Wallington and Van Saun County Parks. Plans for County skiing facilities were drawn in 1966.

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# Are g and Gay



A RIDE on the train is the big thrill at Van Saun County Park.



THE ZOO barnyard enchants Van Saun Park's young visitors.

THE RECORD PHOTO

treat for the

st ardent duck sher folk, zoo ilors, ballplayters, splashers,

air at the 14 in the County

ins for grownid farther bes railroad at c does a thriv-

are wonderpark delights child's delight

SWIMMING lessons are part of the Darlington County Park day camp program open to boys and sirls aged 7 to 14.

FENNIS classes for Bergen residents aged 7 to 18 are conducted without harge all summer at Van Baun County Park.





# Bergen County Park System

#### **Belmont Hill County Park**

Garfield

Rose garden, scenic lookout, children's play equipment, picnic tables, parking.

#### Bergen County Wildlife Center

Wyckoff

Wildlife pond, nature trails, and headquarters building overlooking pond. Building includes wildlife exhibit hall, browsing library, meeting rooms. Parking, small picnic area on site.

DEDICATION SET FOR JUNE 3, 1967.

#### **Campgaw Mt. County Reservation**

Mahwah, Franklin Lakes, Oakland

Nature trails, wildlife sanctuary, overnight camping sites, tent platforms and adirondack shelters, picnic tables and fireplaces, picnic shelter to be built in 1967, children's play equipment, ranger service, comfort station, parking.

Construction of 6-trail skiing facility and year-round visitors' center scheduled to get under way in 1967.

#### Dahnert's Lake County Park

Garfield

Pond, ice skating, duck feeding, fishing, model-boat sailing, picnic tables and fireplaces, children's play equipment, comfort station. Parking area to be added in 1967.

#### **Darlington County Park**

Mahwah and Ramsey

Three lakes, two for swimming and one for fishing and boating. Clubhouse with snack bar and open terraces. Locker rooms, pavilion, comfort stations, children's playground, picnic tables and firenlaces. Daycamp. Facilities for tennis, handball, volleyball, softball, shuffleboard, basketball, table tennis, horseshoe pitching, parking.

Entrance fee during swimming season, May 27 (1967)-Labor Day. Park open without charge rest of May and September and all of April, October, and November.

#### **Overpeck County Park**

Overpeck Bergen County Golf Course

18 holes. SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN FALL OF 1967.

Leonia Play Area

Baseball, picnic tables and fireplaces, ice skating, basketball sets at rink, parking.



FISHING and duck feeding are popular pastimes at many County parks.

#### Pascack Brook County Park

Westwood and River Vale

Baseball, softball, football, bleachers and benches, parking.

#### **Riverside County Park**

North Area, Lyndhurst

Picnic tables and fireplaces, shelter, baseball and softball, ice skating, basketball sets and portable volleyball net at rink, shuffleboard and horseshoe courts, tennis courts, children's playground, comfort station, parking.

South Area, North Arlington and Lyndhurst

Ice skating, portable tennis nets at rink, baseball, softball, football, picnic tables and fireplaces, children's playground, horseshoe courts, small-boat launching installation, model railroad tracks, comfort station, parking.

### Rockleigh Bergen County Golf Course

Rockleigh, Northvale, Norwood 27 holes. Fieldhouse with snack bar, pro shop, terrace. Shelters on course. Parking,

#### Saddle River County Park

Dunkerhook Area, Paramus

Picnic tables and fireplaces, two picnic shelters, duck feeding, children's playground, horseshoe courts, comfort station, parking.

Glen Rock Area

Lake, duck feeding, fishing, model-boat sailing, picnic tables and fireplaces, two shelters, children's play equipment, ice skating, parking. Comfort station to be built in 1967.

Rochelle Park Area

Ice skating, basketball sets at rink, children's playground, picnic tables and fireplaces, parking.

Saddle Brook Area

Lake, duck feeding, fishing, model-boat sailing, baseball, football, children's playground, ice skating, picnic tables and fireplaces, shelter, horseshoe courts, comfort station, parking. Bicycle path to be added in 1967.

#### Wild Duck Pond Area, Ridgewood

Pond, ice skating, duck feeding, modelboat sailing, fishing, picnic tables and fireplaces, shelter, shuffleboard and horseshoe courts, children's playground, patio for skaters, recreation room, comfort station, parking.

Tower Restoration, Arcola, Paramus

Restoration of estate landmark on Red Mill site scheduled for 1967.

#### Van Saun County Park

Children's zoo and playground, children's railroad, recreated 1860s farm scene, 12 tennis courts, picnic tables and fireplaces, three picnic shelters, shaded garden around historic Washington Spring, pony rides, bridle trails, exhibition horseshow paddock, riding lessons available, duck feeding, shuffleboard, horseshoe courts, lake, modelboat sailing, fishing, ice skating, sledding slopes, ball fields, open play area, refreshment center, comfort stations, parking.

#### Wallington County Park

Wallington

Pond, ice skating, fishing, model-boat sailing, sledding slopes, baseball, football, picnic tables and fireplaces, children's playground. Comfort station to be built in 1967.

#### **Wood Dale County Park**

Woodcliff Lake, Hillsdale, Park Ridge

Lake, duck feeding station, fishing, model-boat sailing, ice skating, picnic tables and fireplaces, picnic shelter, tennis courts, children's playground, comfort station, parking.



BALL FIELDS, in great demand, are found at nine County park areas.

#### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROPERTIES COMMITTED OR ACQUIRED FOR PARK PURPOSES **Combined Bond and Budget Accounts**

Close of December 31, 1966

	SUB-TOTAL		TOTAL	
AREAS	Acreage	Cost	Acreage	Cost
OVERPECK CREEK Private Properties Purchased	98.35	\$ 183,874.00		
Municipal Properties Donated	740.05	0		
State Tidal Lands Purchased	0	400,000.00	838 40	\$ 583,874.00
PASSAIC RIVER			000.10	ψ 300,011.00
Private Properties Purchased Private Properties Donated	49.86 0.07	121,320.00 1.00		
Municipal Properties Donated	78.71	-0-		
Municipal Properties Committed	2.35	-0-	130.99	121,321.00
SADDLE RIVER			130.99	121,321.00
Private Properties PurchasedPrivate Properties Water Rights	497.37 —0—	599,955.00		
Private Properties Water Kights	10.01	$2,000.00 \\ 1.00$		
Municipal Properties Donated	63.75	3 ,000.00		
SOUTHWEST BERGEN			571.13	604,956.00
Private Properties Purchased	( <b>Z</b> ) —0—	2,200.00		
Municipal Properties Donated	18.53	2.00	10 50	2 202 00
VAN SAUN			18.53	2,202.00
Private Properties Purchased or Committed	138.09	194,561.73		
Private Properties Donated	1.25	0	139.34	194,561.73
NORTHWEST BERGEN			107.01	171,001.10
Private Properties Purchased	1,460.59 8.07	2,185,313.71 —0—		
Municipal Properties Donated	0.01		1,468.66	2,185,313.71
NORTHEAST BERGEN			-,	_,,
Private Properties Purchased	438.00 14.11	1,097,806.75		
Municipal Properties Donated	0.32	0		
PASCACK BROOK			452.43	1,097,806.75
Private Properties Purchased	24.67	53,321.88		
Municipal Properties Donated	110.00	-0-		
PASCACK VALLEY			134.67	53,321.88
Private Properties Purchased	109.98	232,869.00		
Private Properties Donated	0.88 6.69	_0_ _0_		
k	3.07		117.55	232,869.00
HACKENSACK RIVER Private Properties Purchased			0.40	70.00
riivate riopetues ruichaseu			$\frac{0.08}{3,871.78}$	\$5,076,236.07
			0,011.10	\$0,010,400.01

#### NOTES:

A total of 188.33 acres of park lands in the Overpeck Area have been taken by the State of New Jersey for the Bergen-

Passaic Expressway (Route #95).

(Z) The 0.12 acre originally purchased for \$2,200.00 was sold at Public Sale for \$3,100.00 and proceeds credited to Capital Funds Surplus Account.

#### **SUMMARY** SCURCE OF APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

Close of December 31, 1966

D		Expenditures	Receipts
Receipts			ACTIVITY OF THE CONTRACT OF T
Park Commission Bond Funds (As Adjusted)			\$3,124.873.96
Park Commission Budget Funds			86,377.11
State of New Jersey Green Acres Assistance			
Program (Joint Account)			1,105,000.00
Capital Funds Surplus, Re: Green Acres			
Assistance Program			170,932.00
Capital Funds Surplus, Re: Federal Open Space Land Program			100 060 00
Trust Account - County Parks, Re: State of			189,068.00
New Jersey, Rt. #95, Overpeck, Above 2.93 El			199,985.00
Trust Account - County Parks, Re: Green			177,700.00
Acres Assistance Program - Tidal Lands			200,000.00
Disbursements			
Bureau of Navigation, for purchase of 399.29			
acres of Tidal Lands, Overpeck Area		\$ 400,000.00	
Private Properties Committed or Acquired	2,845.03	4,673,234.07	
Municipal Properties Committed or Acquired	1,026.75	3,002.00	
	3,871.78	\$5,076,236.07	\$5,076,236.07

## Bergen County Park Commission LAND ACQUISITION PROPERTIES COMMITTED OR ACQUIRED Bond & Budget Accounts

Close of December 31, 1966

	SUB-TOTAL		TOTALS	
Description	Acres	Cost	Acres	Cost
Private Properties Committed or Acquired				
Reported close of December 31, 1965	$\begin{array}{r} 2,867.69 \\ - 5.77 \\ \hline 2.861.92 \end{array}$	\$4,670,234.07 0—		
Taken by State of New Jersey for Rt, #95 Below 2.93 Elevation	<u> 19.18</u>	. 0	2,842.74	\$4,670,234.07
Private Properties Committed or Acquired In Year 1966  Three (3) small parcels of land were acquired or committed in two (2) areas			2.29	3,000.00
Municipal Properties Committed or Acquired				
Reported close of December 31, 1965	$\frac{1,165.53}{+2.77}$ $\frac{1,168.30}{1,168.30}$	3,002.00		
Taken by State of New Jersey for Rt. #95 Above & Below 2.93 Elevation	-149.32	()	1.018.98	3,002.00
Municipal Properties Committed or Acquired In Year 1966				
Three (3) small parcels of land were committed or acquired in three (3) areas			7.77	0
Navigation Bureau in 1966			3,871.78	400,000.00 \$5,076,236.07

# BERGEN COUNTY PARK COMMISSION REPORT OF GREEN ACRES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPATING FUNDS OF 50% OF COST RECEIVED TO DATE

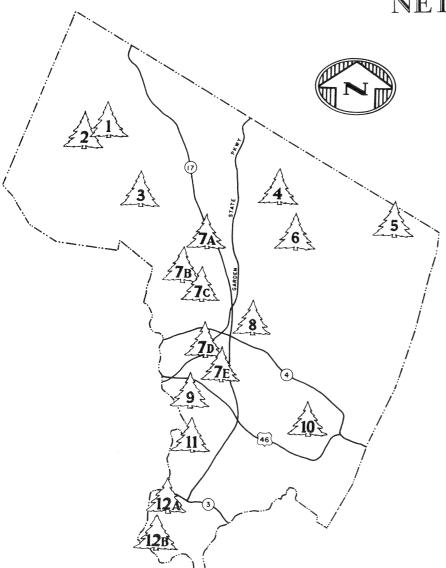
December 31, 1966

Date Received	Former Owner	Town	Area	Total Acreage	Total Cost	50% of cost Received
1/13/62	E. Carman, Etal	Norwood	N. E. Bergen	86.80	\$ 260,000.00	\$ 130,000.00
3/18/63	Baier & K	Alpine	22 22	93.10	400,600.00	200,000.00
4/26/63	Henkel, Etal	Wyckoff & Waldwick	N. W. Bergen)	81.35	400,900.00	200,000.00
1/15/64	Various Parcels	Alpine	N. E. Bergen	97.45	310,000.00	155,000.00
2/ 9/65	Various Small Parcels	Paramus	Saddle River	3.63	50,250.00	25,125.00
3/17/65	lst Nat'l Bank Passaic Trustee	Mahwah & Ramsey	N. W. Bergen)	178.26	*1,150,000.00	575,000.00
			Total Acreage Acquired	540.59	2,570,250.00	1,285.125.00
1/11/66	County of Bergen	Teaneck Leonia Ridg. Pk. Englewood	Overpeck )	Tidal Lands 399.29	400,000.00	200,000.00
		Palis. Pk.	)		*	
					\$2,970,250.00	\$1,485,125.00

NOTE: In addition to the above, we also have pending with the Green Acres Assistance Program a commitment for 50% of the cost of acquisition of the Weleck property as submitted.

<sup>\*</sup> The total cost of \$1,150,000.00 includes all improvements on property at date of purchase.

### NETWORK OF PARKS



- 1. Darlington County Park (Entrance fee May 27-Labor Day) Park is on Darlington Avenue, Mahwah
- 2. Campgaw Mountain County Reservation Entrance on Campgaw Road, Mahwah 3. Bergen County Wildlife Center
- (To be dedicated June 3, 1967) Entrance on Crescent Avenue, Wyckoff
- 4. Wood Dale County Park Entrance on Prospect Avenue, Woodcliff Lake
- 5. Rockleigh Bergen County Golf Course Entrance on Paris Avenue, Rockleigh 6. Pascack Brook County Park
- Entrance on Emerson Road, Westwood
- 7. Saddle River County Park A. Wild Duck Pond Area
  - East Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood
  - B. Glen Rock Area Alan Avenue, just east of Prospect Street
  - C. Dunkerhook Area Dunkerhook Road, Paramus

  - D. Saddle Brook Area Saddle River Road, Saddle Brook E. Rochelle Park Area
  - Howard Avenue, Rochelle Park
- 8. Van Saun County Park Entrances on Forest and Continental Avenues, Paramus, and Howland Avenue, River Edge
- 9. County parks in Garfield Dahnert's Lake Entrance on Midland Avenue Belmont Hill Entrance on Botany Street
- 10. Overpeck County Park Overpeck Bergen County Golf Course (Scheduled to open in Fall 1967) Entrance on Cedar Lane, Teaneck
- Leonia play area Fort Lee Road 11. Wallington County Park Entrance on Maple Avenue, Wallington
- 12. Riverside County Park North Area Riverside Avenue, Lyndhurst South Area River Road, North Arlington



PAINTINGS by 157 artists were hung on the tennis center fence and supplementary fencing for the Park Commission's second annual art show in Van Saun County Park.



A CONCERT by the West Point band attracted thousands of listeners in Van Saun Park. Crowds also attended a series of professional band concerts in County parks.



Bergen County Park Commission Annual Report, 1966