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1949

CITY ARCHIVES



**PARKWAY COMMISSION
OF
NEW ORLEANS**

Fortieth Anniversary Report
1909-1949

PARKWAY COMMISSION
OF
NEW ORLEANS



Fortieth Anniversary Report

1909-1949

The Commission Council of New Orleans



deLESSEPS S. MORRISON
Mayor, City of New Orleans



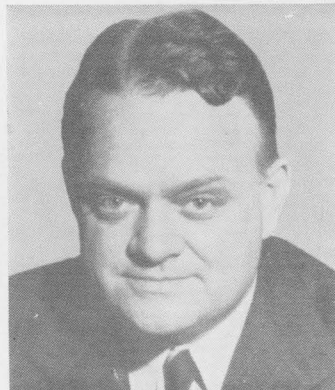
WALTER M. DUFFOURC
Commissioner of Public Utilities



THEO O. HOTARD
Commissioner of Public Property



LIONEL G. OTT
Commissioner of Public Finance



BERNARD J. McCLOSKEY
Commissioner of Public Safety

PARKWAY COMMISSION OF NEW ORLEANS

To the Honorable Mayor
and Commission Council
of New Orleans

Gentlemen:

Most great cities, when they receive distinguished guests, roll out the "Red Carpet". New Orleans rolls out a "Green Carpet" some sixty-odd miles long, spangled in January with Camellias, in February with Azaleas, in March with Spireas, in April with Oleanders, in May with Magnolias, in June with Crepe Myrtles and so through the rest of the year. New Orleans does not put on the show for distinguished guests only, but for every visitor and for the enjoyment of all the people of New Orleans.

From a very modest beginning forty years ago, the Parkway Commission has turned New Orleans into a veritable garden stretching the length and breadth of the City. It has made an important contribution to the wealth of the City through increased assessments and certainly to the enjoyment of life of its citizens.

During the past year, it has furnished employment for 177 citizens; it has kept up 100 miles of neutral grounds and Avenues and seventy-five small parks and playgrounds. It has sprayed and cared for 100,000 shade and ornamental trees; it has donated a site for the Norman Mayer Memorial Library, Gentilly Avenue; it has undertaken the care of the grounds of the Milton Latter Memorial Library; it has set aside an area for a new street in the east side of the Will H. Douglas Gardens; it has redecorated North Rampart Street and Franklin Avenue, after the widening of the roadways.

It has provided a show place at the Will H. Douglas Gardens, open the year round, with its greenhouses, administration building and other facilities comparable with the best of any American city.

The work is directed by nine citizens without pay and supervised by three men who have devoted their lives to the service of their city. The employees have civil service status and have earned the esteem of the public by their efficiency and attention to duty.

Respectfully submitted,

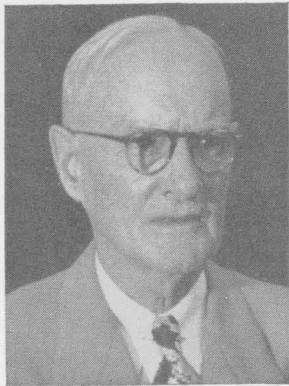
ALLISON OWEN
President

AO:AC



ALLISON OWEN
President

Appointed Commissioner May 5, 1909
Elected President January 12, 1933



WM. M. GARIC
Vice-President

Appointed Commissioner
September 10, 1930
Elected Vice-President
June 8, 1933



E. A. FARLEY
Treasurer

Appointed Commissioner
September 13, 1922
Elected Treasurer
September 10, 1930

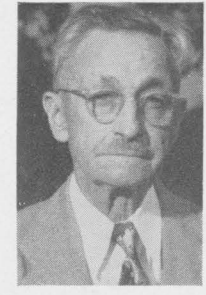
Board of Commissioners



Jos. Steckler
Appointed
November 6, 1918



Max Scheinuk
Appointed
May 3, 1933



Paul Abele
Appointed
February 11, 1933



A. Miles Pratt
Appointed
November 21, 1947



Henry T. Scherer
Appointed
March 22, 1942



Mrs. Edgar B. Stern
Appointed
June 14, 1946



Felix Seeger
Supt. & Sec.
Appointed
September 27, 1934



JACKSON SQUARE, showing St. Louis Cathedral opposite, with Pontalba Buildings on each side of square.

A BRIEF HISTORY

OF CARPET BAGGERS,
VARIED COMMISSIONS
AND A KEY ORDINANCE

THE earliest evidence of interest in public improvement in New Orleans seems to have come with the planting of three rows of Sycamore trees on the St. Peter and St. Ann sides of the Place D'Armes, now Jackson Square.

Whether they were planted for aesthetic reasons, or to afford shade for soldiers resting on a hot summer day in the intervals of drill, is a question.

However, they did serve to screen the dilapidated shops and shanties that lined the two streets at that time, to the detriment of the appearance of the church and the "Principal," or Government house, of that day.

A hundred years later, in the 1820's, Mayor Roffignac had a high iron fence put around the Square for protection. But in 1850, the Baroness Pontalba, the wealthy daughter of Don Alesandro Almonester, headed a volunteer committee of citizens to raise a fund to purchase a replica of the equestrian statue of General Andrew Jackson by Clark Mills.

The success of this effort led to the conversion of the old drill field into a garden, raised several feet above flooded streets, and framed by an iron fence and gates lighted with gas lamps. She induced the government to change the name of the place to Jackson Square and proceeded to build the first apartment houses in America, which we now know as the Pontalba buildings, after the manner of the Place de Voges in Paris.

CARPET BAGGERS AND IRON FENCES

The War Between The States brought poverty to once wealthy citizens, but the "carpet bag" administration of the Reconstruction period learned how to manipulate bond issues and how to profit on contracts for so-called "public improvements."

Iron fences were a favorite form of public improvement. Lafayette Square, Tivoli (later Lee Circle), and Coliseum Square were duly improved with iron fences, which have now disappeared.

In the middle 80's, the Cotton Centennial Exposition was held on the old Foucher Plantation. This led to the development of Audubon Park and citizens generally began to take an interest in public improvements.

Groups of citizens would get together, form an organization and tax themselves to improve a given street, avenue or public place. The next step was to get official recognition by the passage of an

ordinance designating them a commission, plus the appropriation of a small amount of public money to help in tree planting or grass cutting.

This process resulted in the creation of some twenty-two separate commissions, each working in its own street or avenue without knowledge of or contact with the others.

AN ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED

The movement that led to the organization of a Parkway Commission began during the municipal campaign of November, 1899. On November 14, 1899, after the election was over, a letter was written by F. S. Shields, a member of the Audubon Park Commission, to the Times-Democrat, urging the public to cooperate in beautifying the city. It called on the Mayor to demonstrate before assuming official control his earnest solicitude for the welfare and embellishment of the city.

Also a letter was written by Mrs. Arsenath Genella endorsing the movement, to which the Council tendered its unqualified support.

In 1903, a group of professional and business men organized "The Central Commission of Parks and Avenues," one of the objects of which was to "carry on an active propaganda for the care and embellishment of all public places of the city."

This organization continued several years, publishing articles, holding lectures and quarterly meetings. But gradually, for want of a paid Secretary, it faded away.

Then in the Spring of 1909, Francis J. McDonnell, who represented the Architects' Association, called a meeting at the Newman Manual Training School to form a Tree Society. At that meeting it was proposed to create a Tree Commission whose sole purpose was to plant and care for shade trees on streets, avenues and other public places except City Park and Audubon Park.

James J. McLoughlin, City Attorney, drew the Ordinance. Colonel George McC. Derby suggested the name, "Parking Commission of New Orleans," and the Mayor appointed the commissioners.

On May 5, 1909, at a Commission Council meeting held in City Hall, Ordinance No. 5818, New Council Series, Calendar No. 7866, was introduced and approved:

That a Parking Commission be appointed in a manner thereafter provided, to consist of five members, who shall be citizens of New Orleans and shall serve without compensation; and who shall have power to plant, maintain, protect and care for trees and

shrubs and other plants, in all of the public highways of this City.

The first Commissioners appointed by the Mayor to serve the newly created Parking Commission were: Messrs. J. C. Matthews of Algiers; Gus Oertling, President of the Canal Street Commission; Will H. Douglas, of the St. Roch Avenue Commission; Captain Allison Owen, President of the Lee Circle Commission, and Dr. Joseph Holt, at large.

Officers elected were: Dr. Holt, President; Captain Owen, Vice-President and Mr. Matthews, Secretary.

The initial appropriation was \$5,000, received from the City of New Orleans. Other sources of revenue were from the abolition of various branches of the Central Commission of Parks and Avenues, whose revenues were derived from tax money.

By December 6, 1909, the Parking Commission had secured the free use of three city blocks, a total of eight acres, at South Broad, bounded by Melpomene, Calliope and White Streets.

A professional Superintendent and several laborers were employed in clearing the land of undergrowth and trees, and by February 14, 1910, the field was ready for planting.

In March, 1912, the first planting of shade trees was made, on Orleans Avenue from Claiborne Avenue to Broad Avenue. From 1912 to 1918, the Commission had under its jurisdiction a number of small parks, places and parkways and several thousands of shade, ornamental and flowering trees.

The work of the Commission grew so rapidly with the everlasting demands for shade, flowering and ornamental trees and beautification of public places, that it became necessary to look for a larger nursery site.

On November 12, 1919, Will H. Douglas and the Board of Commissioners were instrumental in the purchase of a 67-acre tract of land on Gentilly Road next to Mount Olivet Cemetery, for \$40,000. This was done with the approval of Mayor Martin Behrman.

As time went on, the many private shade tree and park commissions actively engaged in the planting, caring and protection of street plantings, which were supported by private subscriptions, turned their responsibilities over to the Parking Commission.

By the end of 1930, the Commission had under its jurisdiction the maintenance of all parks, places and parkways and all the street trees and palms. It was also responsible for the general beautification of parkways and the cutting of grass, except the three great parks, Audubon Park, City Park and the area along the shores of Lake Pontchartrain.



LEE CIRCLE, looking down St. Charles Street.

PARKS AND PLACES

Listed on the following pages are the public places which are under the jurisdiction of the Parkway Commission. Most of these places are grass areas with plentiful shade trees, and in many of them are flower gardens which need constant attention.



These public beauty spots are increasing continually as the city expands. During the past few years with the building of many new subdivisions and the extension of recreational programs, additional responsibilities were taken over.

The most recently acquired public property is the beautiful Latter Memorial Library (shown at top of page 16) with a whole city square of gardens to be maintained. Also the grounds of the new Norman Mayer Library on Gentilly Boulevard.

Maintenance of miles of azalea, oleander, crepe myrtle, camellia, and other species of flowering trees and shrubs is a year around job. Palm trees, banana plants and other tropical plants need much pruning and care, and the largest single item in the whole maintenance budget for parks and parkways is tree trimming. More than \$100,000 a year is spent for this job alone.

New Orleans oak trees are justly famous, but a wide variety of tropical, semi-tropical and even cold-climate plants thrive here, and their cultivation and maintenance have made New Orleans streets and parkways among the most picturesque in the country.

PARKS AND PLACES

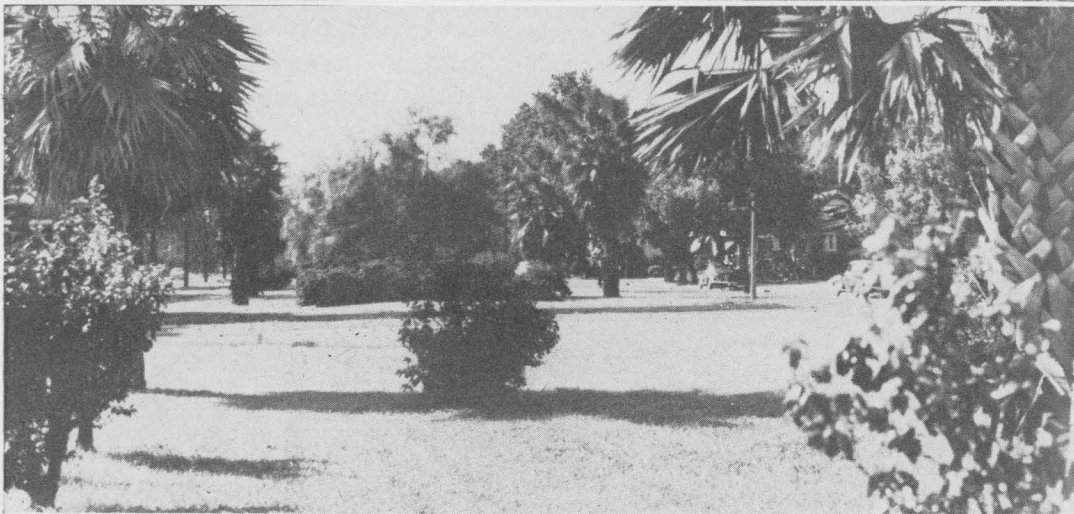
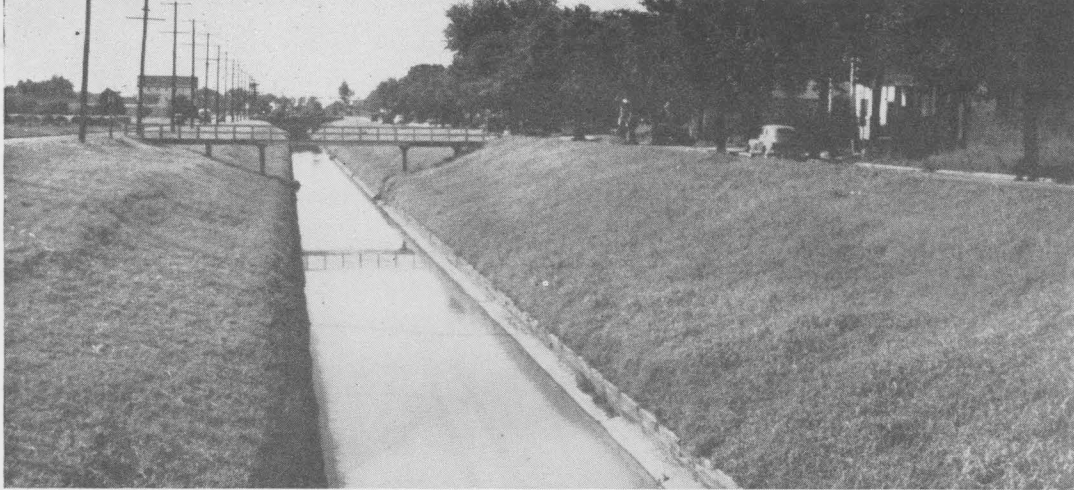
ALCEE FORTIER PARK
ALGIERS COURT HOUSE
AMELIA PARK
ANNUNCIATION PLAYGROUND
AUDUBON PLACE
BEAUREGARD SQUARE
BIENVILLE PLAZA
BISSO PARK
SAM BONART PLAYGROUND
BROAD PLACE
BROADMOOR PARK
BUNNY FRIEND PLAYGROUND
CABRINI PLAYGROUND
CADIZ PARK
CAPDEVILLE PARK
CATINA PARK
CLAIBORNE CIRCLE
CLAY PLAYGROUND
COLISEUM PLAYGROUND
CONGO PLACE
CORTEZ PARK
CRIMINAL COURTS BLDG.
DANNEEL PARK
DE SAIX PARK
DESMARE PLAYGROUND
DE SOTO PARK
DUBLIN PLAYGROUND
ELKS PLACE
FAIRMONT PARK
FIFTH PREC. POLICE STA.
FIRST PREC. POLICE STA.
FRANKLIN AVE. PLAYGROUND
GALVEZ PLACE
GAYARRE PLACE
GEN. TAYOR PARK
GILMORE PARK
HARDING PLAYGROUND
HUMPHREYS PLAYGROUND
JACKSON SQUARE
JEFFERSON DAVIS PLAYGROUND
KELLER PLAYGROUND
KENNEDY PLACE
KRUTTSCHNITT PLACE
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
THOMY LAFON PLAYGROUND
LATTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY
LAWRENCE SQUARE
LEE CIRCLE
LEHMANN PLAYGROUNDS

LIBERTY PLACE
LINCOLN PLAYGROUND
LIVE OAK PLACE
EARL K. LONG PLAYGROUND
MC ARTHUR PLAYGROUND
MC CARTHY PLACE
MC DONOGH PARK
MC DONOGH PLACE
MAGAZINE PARK
MARGARET PLACE
MIRABEAU PARK
MUSIC ST. PARK
NERON PLACE
NEWMAN PLACE
N. O. FIRE DEPT. MAINT. SHOP
N. O. POLICE DEPT. TRAIN. DIV.
NURSERY PARK
OCTAVIA PARK
PALMER PARK
PARAGON PARK
PARKERSON PLACE
PARKVIEW PLACE
PHILIP ST. PLAYGROUND
PIETY ST. PLAYGROUND
ST. JOHN'S COURT
ST. MICHAEL PLAYGROUND
ST. ROCH PARK
ST. PATRICK'S PARK
ST. ROCH PLAYGROUND
SAM BONART PLAYGROUND
SAMUEL SQUARE
SEVENTH WARD PLAYGROUND
SHAKESPEARE PARK
SONIAT ST. PLAYGROUND
SORAPARU PLAYGROUND
STATE & WILLOW TRIANGLE
STALLINGS PLAYGROUND
TAYLOR PARK
TULANE PARK
TULANE TRIANGLE
VALENCE PARK
VENDOME PLACE
VIRGINIA PLACE
WASHINGTON PLAYGROUND
WEST END PARK
WISNER PLAYGROUND
WOODLAWN PLACE
ZACHARY PLACE

PARKWAYS

ALMONASTER AVENUE
ANNUNCIATION STREET
AUDUBON BOULEVARD
BANKS STREET
BIENVILLE STREET
BROAD AVENUE
BROADWAY
CALLIOPE STREET
CAMERON BOULEVARD
CAMP STREET
CANAL BOULEVARD
CANAL STREET
CARROLLTON AVENUE
CHURCHILL DRIVE
CITY PARK AVENUE
CLAIBORNE AVENUE
COLISEUM STREET
DE SAIX BOULEVARD
DOWNMAN ROAD
DRYADES STREET
ELYSIAN FIELDS AVENUE
ESPLANADE AVENUE
FILLMORE AVENUE
FLORIDA AVENUE
FONTAINEBLEAU DRIVE
FRANKLIN AVENUE
GALVEZ STREET
GENERAL MEYERS AVENUE
GENTILLY BOULEVARD
HARRISON AVENUE
HOWARD AVENUE
JACKSON AVENUE
JEFFERSON AVENUE
JEFFERSON DAVIS PARKWAY

LA SALLE STREET
LOUISIANA AVENUE
MAGAZINE STREET
MELPOMENE STREET
METAIRIE ROAD
MIRABEAU AVENUE
MOSS STREET
MOUND AVENUE
NAPOLEON AVENUE
NASHVILLE AVENUE
ORLEANS AVENUE
OPELOUSAS AVENUE
PARIS AVENUE
PASTEUR BOULEVARD
POLAND STREET
POLK AVENUE
PONTCHARTRAIN BOULEVARD
POYDRAS STREET
PRENTISS AVENUE
RAMPART STREET
ROBERT E. LEE BOULEVARD
ST. BERNARD AVENUE
ST. CHARLES AVENUE
ST. CLAUDE AVENUE
ST. ROCH AVENUE
SOUTHLINE DRIVE
TCHOUPITOUHAS STREET
TOLEDANO STREET
TULANE AVENUE
URSULINE AVENUE
VERMILLION BOULEVARD
WASHINGTON AVENUE
WEST END BOULEVARD



NEUTRAL GROUND BEAUTIFICATION

Neutral grounds, as they are known in New Orleans, were once open canals needed to drain the city after heavy rainfalls.

For more efficient drainage, the Sewerage and Water Board inaugurated a program of providing completely enclosed underground drainage canals of the "concrete box" type. This is eliminating open canals one by one, and providing a great opportunity for boulevard beautification.

When a covered drainage canal is completed, there exists a dirt separating strip between the roadways on either side.

It is here that the Parkway Commission steps in and provides on the separating strips vast expanses of green lawns, flowers, shrubs and trees that delight the eye the year round.

WEST END PARK

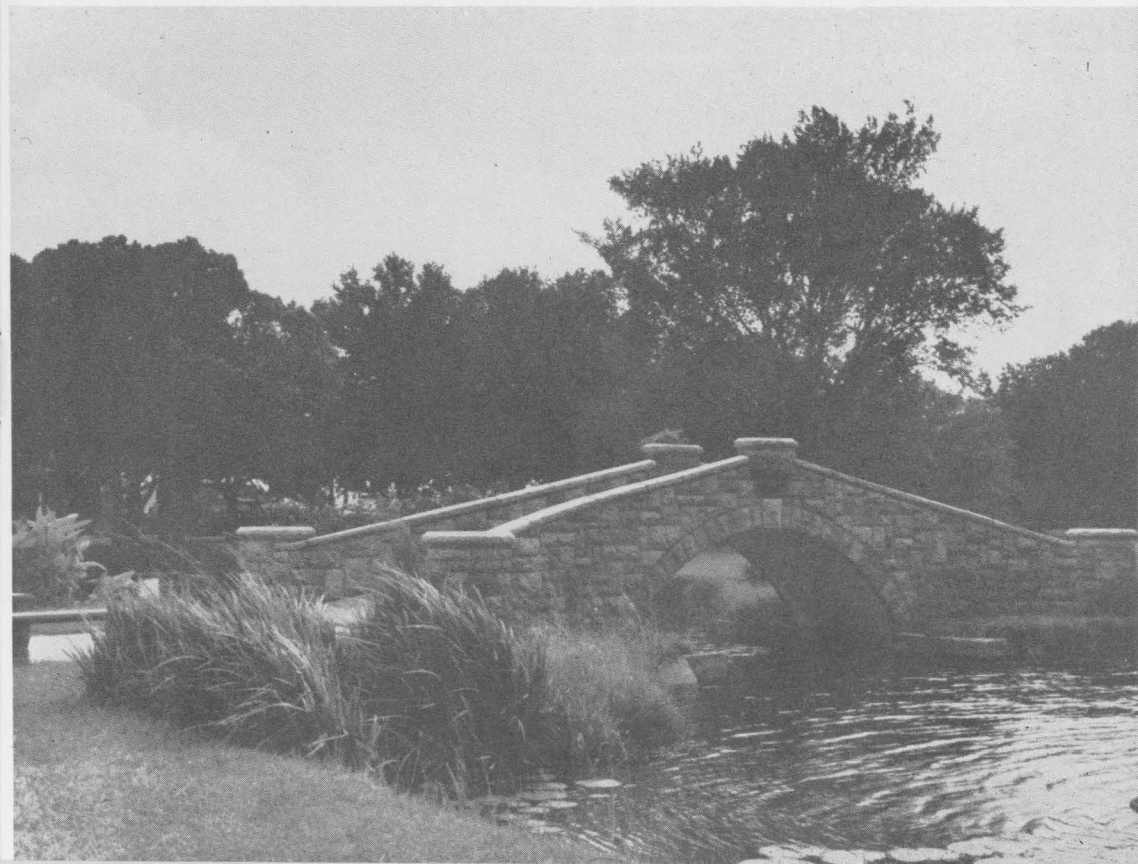
West End Park is the largest under care of the Parkway Commission. Facing on Lake Pontchartrain behind the new Municipal Yacht Harbor, it covers 27 acres. Besides flowering and ornamental shrubbery and gracious Live Oaks, it contained at one time a rose garden with 6000 rose bushes in 16 varieties.

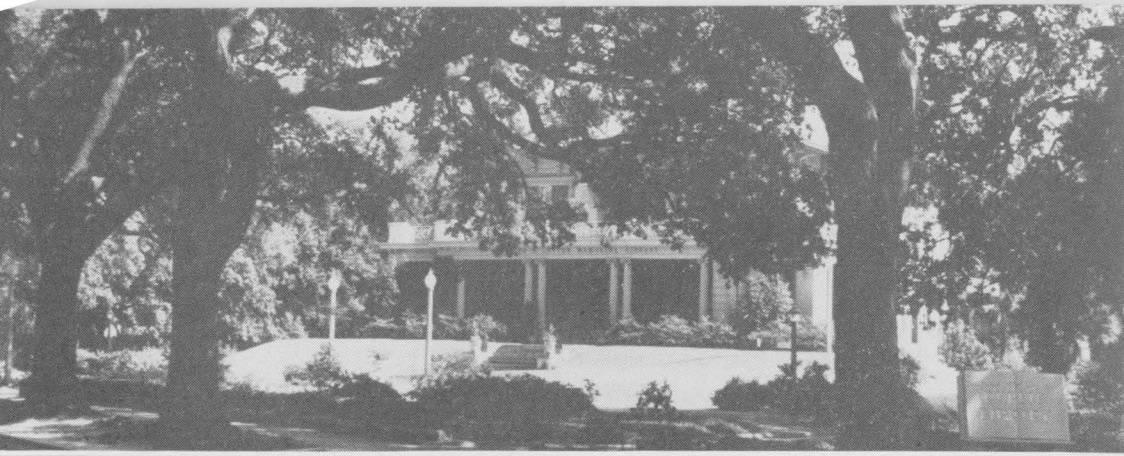
Unable to employ the labor necessary to carry on this work, the Commission just prior to World War II decided to set this project aside until labor becomes more plentiful.

The Park also contains playground equipment for children, paved walks, benches, shelter houses and comfort stations. A stone bridge built over the artificial lagoon was made of paving blocks removed from Tchoupitoulas Street when it was repaved with concrete.

A center row of *Magnolia grandiflora* trees was planted and dedicated to Joyce Kilmer, the American poet who wrote "Trees." These native magnolias were purchased from an old plantation, long since abandoned, on the West side of the Mississippi River. They cost but \$1.50 each.

The trees, then 30 years old, were dug from their original site and transplanted in West End Park as a living memorial to Mr. Kilmer.





MILLIONS OF TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES PROVIDE COOL GREEN SHADE IN NEW ORLEANS STREETS AND PARKWAYS. A BEAUTY SPOT IS THE LATTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY ON ST. CHARLES AVENUE (UPPER) WITH A GLIMPSE OF FLOWER BRIGHT LAFAYETTE SQUARE (CENTER) AND A SHADED STRETCH ALONG NORTH BROAD (BELOW).



(ABOVE) IS A VIEW OF NAPOLEON AVENUE TAKEN FROM TOP OF BAPTIST HOSPITAL, AND (BELOW) IS A TREE PLANTED SECTION OF THE NEUTRAL GROUND ON THE NEW ELYSIAN FIELDS AVENUE.

THE FLORAL TRAIL

THE 60-odd mile Floral Trail of New Orleans was the result of a hardworking Grounds Committee of the Parkway Commission, which in 1935 took advantage of federal grants designed to create employment during depression years.

Neutral ground plantings at that time consisted of but a few broadleaf and conifer groups and annual and perennial flower gardens on a few of the major avenues.

Lafayette Square, West End Park and Elks Place were considered about all the showplaces under the Commission's care. The remaining points were grass areas kept neatly lawned throughout the year.

General Allison Owen, President of the Commission, was approached on the subject of beautifying the city with flowers and shrubbery, thereby creating employment.

When he brought the matter up at a regular Board meeting, it was met with enthusiasm and referred to the Grounds Committee with full authority to draw up a beautification project and submit it to the Board for final approval.

The committee worked hard, meeting at night for many weeks at their respective homes, planning and sketching a beautification project that was to become nationally known.

BEAUTIFICATION INTEREST GROWS

The first phase was the beautification of 25.7 miles of neutral grounds or parkways by planting palms, flowering trees and shrubs; the removal of dead and dangerous trees, and the transplanting of large oak trees from the shoulders of Gentilly Road to its sidewalks in conjunction with the rebuilding of this part of U. S. Highway 90. Total cost of this project, which the Commission sponsored and supervised, was \$233,755.93.

This work met with such success that people became more interested in park and parkway development, and demands were made for additional beautification. This resulted in another beautification project to extend 30 miles of parkways with azaleas, camellias, and other flowering and ornamental shrubs and plants.

It was estimated to cost a little over \$1,000,000. It could not be completed, but all of the major avenues were planted and many small parks and places landscaped.

Today this work continues, although on a smaller scale because of the rising cost of materials and labor.

The Young Men's Business Club has contributed materially in publicizing this project. A New Orleans Floral Trail Association was formed, and each year, ceremonies are held for the opening of the trail.

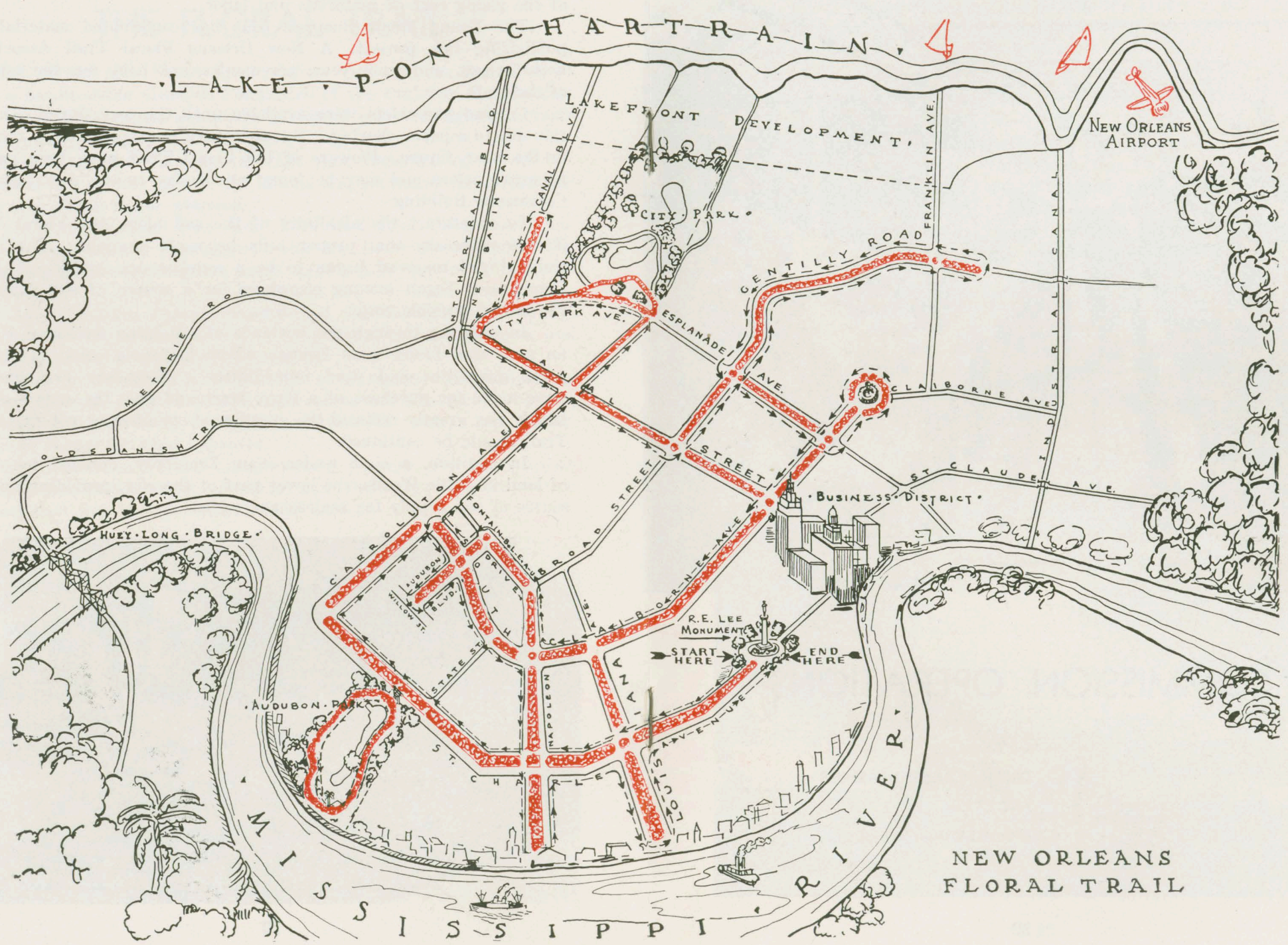
Colored pamphlets were available until the war forced cancellation due to a paper shortage. But this work is expected to be resumed in the near future. Flowers of the Floral Trail have been painted in water colors and may be found on display in the Association of Commerce Building.

To counteract the alkalinity of the soil along the Floral Trail, it was necessary that proper soils be made available. The rising costs of soil material began to be a number one problem and the Commission began looking elsewhere for a source of soil supply at the lowest possible cost.

In scouting through the lowlands of adjoining Jefferson Parish, an area was found near Kenner where leaf-mold could be dug in great quantities and used immediately. Necessary arrangements were made for purchase of a large tract and now the source of soil supply has greatly reduced the question of whether or not the Floral Trail should be continued.

In addition, a civic leader, Sam Zemurray, donated ten acres of land in Little Woods, the lower part of the city, providing another source of soil supply for azaleas and camellias.





NEW ORLEANS
FLORALS TRAIL



COMMISSION OPERATIONS

GREEN HOUSES, NURSERIES
AND
PROPAGATING HOUSES . . .

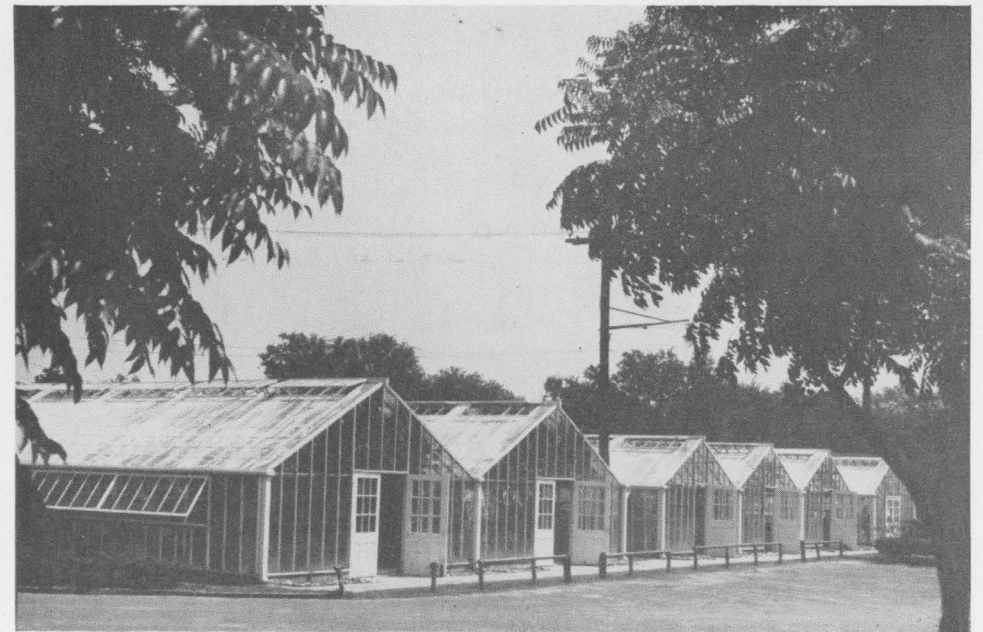
THE City of New Orleans has greenhouses of the finest type in the South. The large potting sheds, the boiler system and the concrete benches are the results of painstaking efforts and economies of the Commission in the past.

In the infancy of the Commission, most plants were grown in hot beds or cold frames, because funds were not available to purchase materials to construct green houses.

From a small greenhouse built in 1928, this Commission now has five large greenhouses and a separate house for propagating only. Here trees are grown from seed and shrubs from cuttings.

In beautifying the many public places with flowers for different seasons of the year, annuals and perennials are grown in variety, such as petunias, phlox, snapdragons, sweet alyssum, zinnias, marigolds, calendulas and godetia.

In addition to this planting tropical plants set out in the Spring include several varieties of Acalypha, the Jadtropha, Pedilanthus, Croton, Sanseveria, and the Panax. This is a year round activity, and when plants are in storage for the winter months, there is an open invitation to the general public to visit the greenhouses each day from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.





PARKWAY COMMISSION NURSERY

The 67-acre Nursery, of which 50 acres abound in varieties of shade and flowering trees and shrubs, is on Gentilly Road adjoining Dillard University.

The Wil H. Douglas Gardens, fronting the Nursery, with their duck ponds and fountains, are a source of pleasure to the many residents of the area who use the park.

Here in the Nursery is the starting point, the birthplace, of thousands of shade and flowering trees that line the city streets. Many varieties of trees and palms can be found in row after row, from one year old plants to Live Oaks that are now 18 years old.

Plants grown by the propagator in the greenhouses are readied and transferred to the field. The work of caring continues until they have attained the proper growth for street planting. An overhead irrigating system supplies water, and two-mule teams keep the furrows open to assure proper drainage.

All of this work is carefully supervised by a Nursery Foreman, whose duty it is to see that loss of nursery stock is kept to a minimum. Fertilization, pruning, watering and replanting is a year-round operation. The final cost of matured trees or shrubs is low enough to permit tree planting on city streets at no cost to the property holder. The Floral Trail is kept supplied also with azaleas and camellias propagated and grown in the Nursery.

Besides the greenhouses and other facilities mentioned, there are also located at the Nursery: stables, warehouses, workshops, garage and machine shops for the maintenance of a fleet of trucks, fairway tractors and power lawn mowers, and a two-story Administration building.

One section of the greenhouses is reserved for the sole purpose of growing and housing the many tropical and subtropical plants used regularly at public functions where the City is host. These range from two feet to seven feet in height, and are planted in wooden and metal containers. They are transported to points of use by Parkway Commission equipment.

The Commission also plays a prominent part in decorative activities for the Carnival season, Spring Fiesta, Pops Concerts, the Annual Flower Show, Christmas decorations and other special activities.

Building artificial palms around street lamp standards for Carnival; creating tropical scenes with native materials, and showing Floral Trail films in technicolor as part of a broad educational program toward beautifying public and private gardens—these are but a few examples of the activities Commission personnel are called on to perform.





ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF PARKWAY COMMISSION.



PALM TRANSPLANTING IS A DELICATE OPERATION . . .

TREE PLANTING

Tree planting is normally carried out during the first three months of the year, when trees are in a dormant stage. Shade trees, both evergreen and their opposites, the deciduous type, as well as flowering trees, are set out on the sidewalk areas at this time on request of property holders, and on neutral grounds of newly improved streets.

All trees thus set out are selected by the Commission and spaced at distances so as not to interfere with each other when fully developed. In some instances an alternate is planted and later removed, when the tree selected for permanent planting has attained necessary growth.

The first shade tree planting of the Commission took place on Orleans Avenue in 1914, where 170 Elm trees were set out. Most of these were destroyed by windstorms, and the remaining leaning trees were removed when Orleans Avenue was repaved. The original Elms have been replaced by Camphor trees.





SIDEWALKS IN NEW ORLEANS ARE TREE-SHADED THE YEAR ROUND.

For forty years the shade tree population grew, until today approximately 3500 trees are set out during each planting season. People today have become more "tree conscious," and demands for tree planting are always greater than the Commission can handle.

In addition to regular plantings by the Commission, many property holders purchase their own trees and bear the expense of planting them. In this case, permits are issued by the Commission and recommendations are made as to the best type of tree for the area.

The Live Oak (*Quercus Virginiana*) dominates shade tree planting on streets and in parks. This beautiful, stately Oak is evergreen, and provides shelter from the blazing sun during summer months.

There are also: Camphor, Ash, Sweet Gum, Sycamore, Hackberry, Elm, native Magnolia, Sterculia, Tulip, Weeping Willow, Ligustrum, Golden Rain and Crepe Myrtle.

These and many others constitute a catalogue of city trees, exclusive of the palms, which provide a tropical effect. Occasionally, we also come across an odd type, such as the Maiden Hair tree known as the Ginkgo.

Washingtonia palms, Phoenix, Sabals, Chamerops, Cocos Australia, and Sago can be found in great numbers along the parkways, especially along Elysian Fields Avenue. Uniform planting of palms is also found on Canal Boulevard and Carrollton and St. Bernard Avenues.

TREE CARE

In 1924, several employees were assigned to the care of shade trees. With the passing of years, demands for shade and flowering trees have increased the city's tree population to approximately 100,000. To care for these trees and palms in the proper manner, the Commission now assigns to this department forty employees who have full knowledge of the care and preservation of trees.

These men are actively engaged in this work daily throughout the year, removing low-hanging branches that interfere with pedestrian and vehicular traffic, street lights or roof tops.

In addition they remove dead and dangerous trees and palms and trim trees to promote better and more shapely growth.

A number of men are also assigned to cutting trees that grow above and among electric, telephone and fire alarm wires. This cutting is not done in a wanton spirit, but solely for the preservation of the wires, which may be broken by heavy limbs, during storms, or by constant chafing. Such chafing may cause wires to come in contact with each other, or short circuit, with disastrous effect to life and property.

During the year, at the request of property holders, approximately 33,000 shade and ornamental flowering trees and palms were trimmed, including the topping of Crepe Myrtle trees.

THE CULTURE OF AZALEAS AND CAMELLIAS IN NEW ORLEANS SOILS

by WILLIAM M. GARIC

Published by the Parkway Commission of the City of New Orleans

PH SCALE		PH SCALE			
Increasing Acidity. {	12.2	Lime	Increasing Acidity. }		
	12.0				
	11.5				
	11.0				
	10.5				
	10.0	Bone meal and ashes		7.4	Natural New Orleans clay soil
	9.5	New Orleans purified City Water		7.2	
	9.3			7.0	Rain water—Neutral Point, approximately
	9.2			6.5	
	9.0			6.3	
	8.8			6.0	Roses do best in soil of this value
	8.6	Mississippi River sand		5.4	Bagasse
	8.4	Most animal manures—under New Orleans conditions due to liming as required by health regulations		5.2	Freshly fallen oak leaves
	8.4	Untreated Mississippi River water		5.0	Lake Shore and Lake View District soils
	8.4	Charcoal Dust		4.8	
8.4	Soil conditions in most New Orleans gradens. caused by continued use of Alkaline materials	5.0	Best soil condition for azaleas and camellias		
8.2		4.8			
8.0		4.5	Coffee and tea grounds		
7.8	Oakleaf mould	4.0	Peat moss and cottonseed meal		
7.6		3.2	Aluminum sulphate		
		2.5	Superphosphate—Manganese		
		1.2	Sulphur (It takes sulphur six months to become completely available)		

Anyone desiring a copy of "THE CULTURE OF AZALEAS AND CAMELLIAS" can obtain same by applying to Parkway Commission, 2829 Gentilly Avenue, Franklin 4165.



TREE REMOVAL

To cut labor cost and to provide more efficient service, three power chain saws have been added. These have proved highly satisfactory and have become permanent fixtures, especially when in use to clear roads of fallen trees after windstorms.

Approximately 3500 dead and dangerous trees were removed from sidewalk planting areas in the past year. All tree work was performed at no cost to the property holder.

THE SPRAYING PROGRAM

The spraying program of the Commission is one of its major operations, due to prevailing climatic conditions and the extensive planting program.

It is necessary to spray intensively to combat various plant and tree diseases and insects. Modern spray equipment—one 500 gallon capacity Friend and five 600 gallon Bean power sprayers—is in action nine months of the year.

Spring and Summer bring the white fly of Ligustrums, turtle back scale of Magnolias, Camphor Thrip, Crepe Myrtle mildew, red spider of Arborvitae, mealy bugs, Camellia scale, lace fly of Azaleas—and these are but a few.

A number of insects and diseases are present throughout the



year, adding to those of Autumn, Fall and Winter. One of these latter is Azalea Blight, a disease recently noticed, which if widespread could attack and wipe out blooms for the entire season in a few days. This was illustrated in 1944, when the disease first appeared.

Another problem that put the spraying operation on a seven day week is the Tent and Tussock Moth Caterpillar, which attacks Live Oak and Hackberry trees in the latter part of March, when the young and tender foliage appears.

These insects carry on their life cycle on and around the trees, and when Spring comes, the caterpillars are there to start stripping the new growth.

GRASS CUTTING OPERATIONS

These are but a few of the more harmful insects and diseases that the Parkway Commission staff must combat in its attempt to make the city more beautiful.

New Orleans soils and the subtropical climate never fail to provide this Southern part of the country with abundant grass for its lawns, both in private yards and in public parks and parkways.

One of the major tasks of the Commission is to keep vast public grass areas in condition, another year-round activity. Crews of workmen are always on the move to keep down growth on the approximately 100 miles of parkways, ranging in width from three feet to 175 feet.

Grass cutting crews operate daily, covering their respective routes within a 10-day cycle, until the cool period around December and January when grass growth slows.

Frosts are often experienced at this time, and when this is evident, domestic rye grass seed is sown. Within 15 days the lawns are green again, and will continue to be green until Spring, when the native grass carries on. Bermuda grass thrives with very little effort, is a vigorous grower, and is considered the best for Southern lawns.

In addition to the power lawn mowers and "whirlwinds," there are fairway tractors with tractor-drawn units of three to five "gang" mowers and pneumatic power lifts with side cutting units.

These tractors are used in areas where speed is essential to cover the numerous parks, parkways and places under the Commission. Canal Boulevard, Elysian Fields Avenue, Jefferson Davis Parkway, West End Boulevard, Robert E. Lee Boulevard and West End Lakeshore Park are mowed by these large mechanized units.



GRASS CUTTING IS A YEAR ROUND JOB.



PARKWAY PLANTING

Planting of the small petunia, zinnia and calendula is the work of the parkway planting division, which is charged with keeping the city alive with color twelve months a year.

It is not uncommon for this division to set out 50,000 to 60,000 annuals each year, and 9,000 to 10,000 tropical plants, in addition to pompom chrysanthemums, used in sunken gardens on Canal Boulevard for a number of years.

Groups of broadleaf and conifers are also found on the many avenues with Crepe Myrtle in bush form and Oleander, the city flower, in variety. The pampas grass, with its stately plumes, cape jasmine, magnolia soulangeana, vitex and many other varieties of flowering shrubbery are also seen.

Azaleas of course, dominate the planting along streets and in parks. Camellias also abound, and their colorful showing in the early Spring months attracts tourists and brings out native Orleanians for opening ceremonies of the Floral Trail.

The many triangles, circles and left-overs from the informal plan of street divisions, when large enough, are planted with at least one flower garden of annuals or perennials.

COMMISSION FINANCES

Adequate sources of revenues have always been a problem for the Commission. The source of revenue for the old Central Commission of Parks and Avenues was private subscriptions, and when these decreased the organization came to an end.

Without funds, the newly appointed Parking Commission of 1909 approached the Council and were duly appropriated \$5,000 for the first year. As time went on, the Commission was requested to take over various park commissions which became short of funds to carry on their work. Until 1919, the city appropriation amounted to \$33,000.

In 1928, the city appropriated \$83,000, and with revenues derived from trimming trees for utility companies and growing and caring for nursery stock for the Lake Ponchartrain Park planting, income for that year was \$110,416.26.

From then on, the Commission continued to absorb various smaller commissions faster than anticipated. Demands for beautification and tree planting continued at such a pace that still more funds were required, making it necessary again to call on the Council for financial increases.

GROWTH AND FUNCTIONS OF REVENUES

In 1939, yearly income was \$173,000; in 1942, it had increased to \$238,601.80; and in 1945, it was \$287,000. Finally in 1948, when every commission, parkway, small park, place and square was placed under the jurisdiction of the Parkway Commission, and all shade trees, planting and maintenance became its responsibility, the budget increased to \$362,000. With additional revenues from tree trimming for utility companies, total operating funds were slightly over \$400,000.

Today, New Orleans continues to expand. Demands for beautification and shade tree planting will continue, and financing will always be a problem for this Commission.

For closer study of how 1948 funds were spent and how the Commission's income was derived, see the breakdown that follows:

INCOME YEAR 1948

Appropriation—City of New Orleans	Details	Amounts	Totals
General		\$362,000.00	
Special Appropriation		7,000.00	
Income from Grass Cutting and Tree Trim			
New Orleans Public Service Inc.....		37,053.39	
Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Co.		8,370.00	
New Court House Commission.....		300.00	
Louisiana Power and Light Co.....		327.00	
General Outdoor Advertising Co.....		96.00	
Industrial Outdoor Displays		54.00	\$415,200.39
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME			<u>134.24</u>
TOTAL INCOME			<u>\$415,334.65</u>

EXPENSE

Departmental			
Labor		\$328,473.09	
Material Used		34,753.98	
Truck and Tractor Expense.....		24,403.20	\$387,630.27
General Administrative			
Salaries and Wages	\$16,260.00		
Administrative Office	7,432.08		
General Overhead	5,223.92	\$ 28,916.00	
Administrative Expense			
Auto Expense—Executive	\$ 1,747.72		
Postage, Etc.	131.40		
Conventional Expense	253.47		
Stationery and Supplies	624.18		
Miscellaneous Office Expense.....	354.42		
Telephone and Telegraph	346.57		
Dues and Subscriptions	30.00	\$ 3,487.76	
General Expense			
Equipment Account	\$ 6,985.81		
Administration Building Expense	294.00		
Heat and Light	944.69		
Employees Compensation Expense	2,000.00		
Insurance	106.83		
Sales Taxes	1,274.15		
Publicity	307.07	\$ 11,912.55	\$ 44,316.31
			<u>\$431,946.58</u>

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSE YEAR 1948

	Labor	Material	Auto & Truck Expense	Total
Algiers	\$ 11,074.56	\$ 92.99	\$ 460.55	\$ 11,628.10
Beauregard Playground	1,178.98		10.19	1,189.17
Beds and Parks	53,537.53	1,961.54	3,179.88	58,678.95
Decoration	1,595.01	51.14	91.23	1,737.38
Elks Place	1,424.94		13.23	1,438.17
Floral Trail Spraying	812.30	1,342.77	413.14	2,568.21
Grading	1,110.85		57.87	1,168.72
Greenhouse	12,208.03	1,479.73		13,687.76
Jackson Square	3,158.20		40.67	3,198.87
Lafayette Square	3,855.18	12.13	155.69	4,023.00
Latter Memorial Library	1,164.45		3.74	1,168.19
Lawns	84,437.85	14,313.34	9,774.40	108,525.59
Machine Shop	214.67	1,229.91	722.53	2,167.11
Nursery	18,910.08	3,114.22	632.29	22,656.59
Nursery Park	2,870.42		51.04	2,921.48
Paper Collection	4,539.10		329.24	4,868.34
Permanent Improvements	2,164.41	2,223.89		4,388.30
Tree Care	1,056.57		127.37	1,183.94
Tree Planting	5,141.90	187.33	102.30	5,431.53
Tree Spraying	3,630.26	4,514.84	671.84	8,816.94
Tree Trimming	107,181.28	4,034.40	7,476.24	118,691.92
West End Park	7,206.52	195.75	89.76	7,492.03
TOTAL DEPARTMENTS.....	<u>\$328,473.09</u>	<u>\$34,753.98</u>	<u>\$24,403.20</u>	<u>\$387,630.27</u>
General Administrative				
Executive and Office	\$ 23,692.08	\$ 1,740.04	\$ 1,747.72	\$ 27,179.84
General Overhead	5,223.92	11,912.55		17,136.47
TOTAL GEN. and ADM.....	<u>28,916.00</u>	<u>13,652.59</u>	<u>1,747.72</u>	<u>44,316.31</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$357,389.09</u>	<u>\$48,406.57</u>	<u>\$26,150.92</u>	<u>\$431,946.58</u>

A true copy:

W. J. ERICKSON,
Secretary to the Mayor.

PARKWAY COMMISSION OF NEW ORLEANS

Mayoralty of New Orleans,
City Hall, Oct. 28, 1949.
Calendar No. 18,509.

No. 17,703 COMMISSION COUNCIL SERIES

BY MAYOR MORRISON:

AN ORDINANCE creating a New Orleans Parkway Commission consisting of nine members, and who shall have power to plant, maintain, protect and care for trees, shrubs and other plants, in all public highways, public squares and public places in the City of New Orleans; providing a fine for violation of its provisions, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith.

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the Commission Council of the City of New Orleans, That a Parkway Commission be appointed in a manner hereinafter provided to consist of nine members who shall be citizens of New Orleans, and who shall serve without compensation and which Commission shall have authority to plant, maintain, protect and care for trees, shrubs and other plants, in all of the public highways, public squares and public places of the City; the cost thereof to be borne in the manner hereinafter specified.

SECTION 2. Be it further ordained, etc., That the present members be continued as the commissioners of the Parkway Commission, herein created, both as to personnel and date of expiration of terms of office, to-wit:

Mr. William M. Garic, Mr. Joseph Steckler, Mrs. Edgar B. Stern. Term expires June 30, 1951.

Mr. E. A. Farley, Gen. Allison Owen, Mr. A. Miles Pratt. Term expires June 30, 1952.

Mr. Paul Abele, Mr. Max Scheinuk, Mr. Henry F. Scherer. Term expires June 30, 1953.

On the expiration of any term a new appointment shall be made for five years, and any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term only. The commissioners shall be appointed by the Mayor in accordance with City Charter.

SECTION 3. Be it further ordained, etc., That they shall elect from among their number the following named officers, whose term shall be one year — a President, a Vice President, and a Treasurer. The Superintendent provided for in Section Five of this ordinance will act as Secretary of the Commission.

SECTION 4. Be it further ordained, etc., That whenever the Parkway Commission shall determine to plant on any highway, public square, or public place, it shall call upon the commission or agency in charge of said highway, public square, or

public place, if such commission or agency exists, to designate the variety of trees, shrubs or plants which said commission or agency may prefer. This designation shall be subject to the approval of the Parkway Commission. If such designation is not made within sixty days, the Parkway Commission may designate the type of tree, shrub or plant for such highway, public square or public place.

SECTION 5. Be it further ordained, etc., That the Parkway Commission shall be empowered to establish and maintain a nursery for raising trees, shrubs and other plants, to be used for embellishing the streets and public places; and to procure and cultivate trees, shrubs and other plants for such purpose, and to employ the necessary gardeners and laborers. It shall also be empowered to employ a professional superintendent, who shall be skilled in planting and caring for trees, shrubs and other plants, and qualified to treat trees and to protect them against insects and diseases. The Parkway Commission shall direct the work of such superintendent.

SECTION 6. Be it further ordained, etc., That no shade or ornamental tree or shrub shall be planted in any of the public highways of the City by any individual partnership, corporation or commission without the written permission of the Parkway Commission; and any tree, plant or shrub planted by any individual, partnership or corporation of commission shall become the property of the City of New Orleans, or the Parkway Commission may order such tree, shrub or other plant to be removed from the public highway, sidewalk or neutral ground, such removal to be at the expense of the person, firm or corporation which planted such tree or shrub.

SECTION 7. Be it further ordained, etc., That no person or corporation shall cut, prune, break, climb, injure or remove any living tree in a public highway, neutral ground, parks, places, triangles and sidewalks; or cut or disturb or interfere in any way with the roots of any tree on the public highways, neutral grounds, parks, places, triangles and sidewalks; or spray with any chemicals, insecticides or other oils or whitewash any tree in the public highways, neutral grounds, parks, places, triangles and sidewalks; or place any wire, rope, sign, poster, barricade, or other fixture on a tree or tree guard in the public highways, neutral grounds, parks, places, triangles, and sidewalks; or injure, misuse or remove any device placed to protect such tree on the public highways, neutral grounds, parks, places, triangles, and sidewalks; or place any sign stationary or mobile, streamer, poster, bill, or other advertisement anywhere on the public highways, neutral grounds, parks, places, triangles and sidewalks. Whenever a person, firm or corporation owning real property in the City of New Orleans shall present a request in writing to the Parkway Commission for the cutting, pruning or removal of a tree on public property adjoining, adjacent to or abutting the real property owned by said person, firm or corporation, it shall be the duty of the Parkway Commission to investigate such request. If it is found as a fact by the Parkway Commission that such tree substantially interferes with the lawful use of private property so as to cause loss, damage, or deprivation of the lawful use of said property to the owner or tenant thereof, then it shall be the duty of said Parkway Commission to cut, prune or remove said tree. Any applicant who is aggrieved by the refusal of the Parkway Commission to cut, prune or remove such tree may appeal within

thirty days from such decision to the Commission Council. The Commission Council shall review the decision of the Parkway Commission and either approve, disapprove or modify same.

For the purpose of this ordinance, the term "sidewalk" shall include that area extending from the property line to the gutter curbing. Signs designating public works, buildings, highway markers, street names, traffic signals and markers, school signs, and other signs of a public and civic nature may be placed by and with the authority of the Federal, State or City Government.

SECTION 8. Be it further ordained, etc., That no person shall cut down, dig up or destroy any ornamental shrub, bush or plant, which is in any pleasure ground, flower garden, park or private property, without the consent of the owner, and no itinerant peddler shall peddle or hawk azaleas, or camellias, or any flower, flowering or ornamental plant, or shrub, within the corporate limits of the City of New Orleans, without first obtaining a permit from the Permit Department of the City of New Orleans; and no permit shall be issued until the applicant can show a certificate from the Parkway Commission showing that these plants and flowers were grown by the vendor or obtained in a legitimate way, and are being moved and sold according to law.

SECTION 9. Be it further ordained, etc., That no person shall ride horseback or drive cattle on neutral grounds or fasten any animal to a tree in a public highway, neutral ground, parks, public places, triangles, or sidewalks in the City, nor cause any animal to stand so that said animal can injure such a tree, or drive vehicles across neutral grounds, parks, or public places; or park cars, trucks or other equipment on neutral grounds, parks, or public places, or store equipment on neutral grounds, parks or public places; or park car or other vehicles on the sidewalks, including the strip between the property line and the street curbing, without written permission of the Parkway Commission; or play games on neutral grounds unless designated as playgrounds by the Parkway Commission.

SECTION 10. Be it further ordained, etc., That no person shall pave a sidewalk within less than twenty-four inches of any tree, so as to impede the free passage of water and air to any tree, shrub or plant.

SECTION 11. Be it further ordained, etc., That in the erection or repair of any building or structure, the builder, contractor or owner thereof shall place such guards around all the nearby trees belonging to the City as shall effectually prevent injury to them, and shall not place building materials or trash upon neutral grounds without the permission of the Parkway Commission; that contractors and others doing work, calling for excavations on neutral grounds shall give bond for six months to the Parkway Commission to guarantee the payment of all costs in repairing whatever settlement may take place in said excavations, and that no person shall use the neutral grounds, parks, sidewalks, or public places, to dump grass clippings, tree trimmings, rocks or refuse of any nature.

SECTION 12. Be it further ordained, etc., That no person, firm or corporation shall attach any electric wire insulator or any device for the holding of any electric wire to any tree

growing upon any public highway of the City, and that every person, firm or corporation having any wire charged with electricity running through a public highway shall securely fasten such wire, so that it shall not come in contact with any tree therein; and that every person, firm or corporation having any wire charged with electricity, running through a public highway, neutral ground, park, public place, triangle or sidewalk, shall temporarily remove any such wire or the electricity therefrom when it shall be necessary in order to take down or prune any tree growing in a public highway, neutral ground, parks, places, triangles or sidewalks, within twenty-four hours after the service upon the owner of said wire, or his agent, of a written notice to remove said wire or the electricity therefrom upon the order of such Commission; and no person shall decorate a tree or shrub on any public highway, neutral ground, park, place, triangle or sidewalk, either with or without lights, unless permitted by the Parkway Commission, and then only upon the assumption by said person of all responsibility for any and all damages to the tree or shrub.

SECTION 13. Be it further ordained, etc., That a copy of police report of damage to trees, flowers, shrubbery and other property under the care of the Parkway Commission shall be sent promptly to the office of the said Commission.

SECTION 14. Be it further ordained, etc., That no person, firm or corporation shall prevent, delay or interfere with the Commission or its employes in the planting, pruning, spraying or removal of a tree, shrub or plant in a public highway, neutral ground, park, place, triangle or sidewalk, or in the removal of stone, cement, or other substance about the trunk of a tree.

SECTION 15. Be it further ordained, etc., That any person, firm or corporation, violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than Twenty Five (\$25.00) Dollars, nor more than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars, or be imprisoned not more than thirty (30) days.

SECTION 16. Be it further ordained, etc., That every separate violation by the same person, firm or corporation of any provision of this ordinance shall constitute an additional violation of such provision.

SECTION 17. Be it further ordained, etc., That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed, particularly Ordinance No. 14,098, C. C. S.

Adopted by the Commission Council of the City of New Orleans, Nov. 4, 1949.

G. S. WEAVER,
Clerk of Commission Council.
Approved Nov. 4, 1949,
de LESSEPS S. MORRISON,
Mayor.