

## SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF RECREATION IN THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

The history of recreation in Lakewood goes back to World War I. On June 21, 1918 the City of Lakewood received a receipt from the Citizens Savings and Trust Company for \$214,500 which covered the purchase price of the Rhodes Estate, currently known as Lakewood Park. Immediately after the property was acquired improvements were made for the purpose of making it desirable for park use. Picnic tables were purchased the first year, fencing was erected soon after, and the following year saw the construction of toilet facilities and the installation of lights.

Ten years prior to the acquisition of the Rhodes property, the City received from Ann Wagar almost two acres of land in the Madison-Hilliard area. This area, known as Wagar Park, was accepted by the city for a public park and/or library site. The terms of the agreement required the city to make certain improvements to the plot, thus making it desirable for park use. The city complied with these demands with the result that today Wagar Park is a well developed facility.

Madison Park was purchased for the sum of \$40,000 during February, 1917. In 1919 \$11,000 was voted by Council to improve the site for park purpose. Equipment similar to the type in Lakewood Park was purchased and installed.

At about this same time Scenic Park was purchased from the Clifton Park Association and the name changed to Lincoln Park. Eventually the operation of the property was turned over to the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board as Lakewood's contribution to the Cleveland Metropolitan Regional Park System. Lakewood still retains title to the area, however, and the ball diamonds are operated by the Lakewood Recreation Department.

The city initiated a recreational program shortly after these large areas were acquired. In 1921 the City Council voted funds for a summer recreation program. That first city appropriation providing for leadership was extended for an additional two weeks when the Council voted a further appropriation of \$100. Even at that early date, incidentally, certain patterns of playground desires and use showed up that have continued until the present time.

Lakewood Park and the Harrison School grounds were the first two areas selected for the summer play program. From the very outset the program at the Harrison School was successful insofar as attracting children was concerned. The picture was not so favorable at Lakewood Park, though, because few children ventured there. The danger of crossing two main streets was one of the main reasons given for this negative attraction. The recreation program was flexible enough so that soon after-

wards it was transferred to Wagar Park, and there immediately showed its worth by reason of the fact that it attracted large crowds of children.

Later that same summer playground apparatus was installed at Madison Park where it had the effect of introducing another large group of children to the advantages of supervised play. The supervisor at Harrison Playground devoted part, and at times all, of each afternoon to the new Playground and in company with the other director spent every evening at Madison Park.

The Y.M.C.A. cooperated with the city program that same year by operating two schoolgrounds, Garfield and Grant-Wilson. The School Board, too, participated in the early recreation effort by opening one of its buildings for the purpose of providing a home for handwork and handicraft programs. This particular activity was also under the supervision of the Women's Civic Club, however.

Though the above described program catered only to children, the city was making progress in the adult recreation movement with the installation of additional improvements in the Parks designed for adult use. Tennis courts and the picnic facilities at Lakewood Park were the initial facilities added. As time went on, other things such as ball diamonds, shelter houses, and the band shell in Lakewood Park were provided.

Bonds were issued for these early capital improvements, a practice that has continued to the present day, but the costs of operation of the program were supplied by funds taken from the Park Department.

At the time of the acquisition of the Rhodes property most of the development of the city was taking place north of Detroit Avenue. However, some of the earliest and most intensive growth of Lakewood took place in the area in the immediate vicinity of the carbon works, in the southeast portion of the city. The first two great surges of population growth in Lakewood occurred in the southeast and north portions of the city in 1914 and 1916. Madison and Lakewood Parks were ideally located in reference to the populations they were designed to serve, with the exception of the difficulty encountered with conducting the childrens' play program at Lakewood Park. Wagar Park was laid out in anticipation of population growth in the southwesterly part of the city. That particular growth occurred in 1922-23 and it was not much later that Lakewood was virtually built up.

Municipal participation in recreation was already an accepted fact in the early 20's, as witnessed by the fact that the City Council appropriated funds for it in 1921, and the following years, but the lack of an agency charged with both the administration and the development of additional play

areas resulted in a lack of the types of play areas so essential to a well-balanced recreation program.

Aside from the actual capital improvement program of the Park System the recreational appropriations were increased from year to year. The program was so developed by 1925 that it took more money to keep it going than could be spared from the operating budget of the Park Department. As a result, a tax levy proposal providing for a 1/10 mill for recreational purposes was submitted to the public. The electorate approved the issue, which incidentally, was for a five year period, and this meant that the recreation program finally had its own source of income. The initial sum amounted to about \$14,000 in 1925, and rose each year as the tax duplicate of the city increased. In 1930 the same issue, again for 1/10 mill was submitted to the citizens and again was approved for a five year period.

The overall administration of the recreation program had become quite complex by 1925. This was primarily due to the many organizations interested in participating in the recreation program. The City Council sought to clarify the matter by relinquishing its control of the program and giving it over to the Board of Education. The Board agreed to this proposal and has been in charge of recreation ever since. It was agreed that the city would maintain city owned play areas, such as Wagar and Madison Parks, but the Board would assume the responsibility of providing the program and supervision on the areas, in addition, of course, to supervising the play on school owned property. Lakewood Park was exempted from this because it was developed for a different type of operation. The agreement has worked out satisfactorily, but it would seem to place an undue burden on the Board of Education should the city acquire more properties than the Board could possibly supervise.

When the Board first took over the recreation program funds were available only for the director and secretary, and the program was no more extensive than the type formerly carried out by the city. Gradually, though, the program expanded as more and more school grounds were put in use and the scope broadened, until today almost all of the school grounds, plus the city owned facilities, are in use. Coincident with the increase in properties put to recreational use is the increase in staff, today numbering almost 85 full time and part time helpers for the summer program. Many innovations in program have been adopted since then, so that at the present time it is almost 85 full time and part time helpers for the summer program. Many innovations in program have been adopted since then, so that at the present time it is almost unrecognizable from what it was twenty-five years ago. Furthermore, the school buildings and their special facilities, such as the swimming pool at the High School, and almost all the school gyms are used, something which was not done when the program was first undertaken.

In 1935 the special recreation levy was again submitted to the voters, this time for 1/15 mill. It came within 400 tallies of getting the required 65% of the vote, so as a result, even though the levy was actually voted down, the Board of Education felt encouraged to continue the program because such a clear majority of those citizens voting indicated they were in favor of having recreation. Accordingly, part of the Board's 1935 2 mill operating levy was used for recreational purposes.

Later the Recreation Department operated on a \$39,000 budget, \$30,000 of which is granted by the Board of Education and \$9,000 received from fees. Most of this money was expended on program. Very little going for capital outlay with the exception of the money spent for supplies, game equipment, and other comparatively small purchases. As described earlier, the city maintained all of its areas, even though the recreation department operated them. The city, through its Park and Forestry Department, also maintained the ball diamonds in Lincoln Park, which were in turn operated by the Recreation Board Association, as a gesture of cooperation. The city also maintained the diamonds in Clague Park, the use of which was also governed by the Board of Education.

In 1942 the City Council, seeing that areas of a size sufficiently large enough for park purposes were rapidly becoming scarce, requested the city planning commission and the city engineer to prepare a study showing land available and suitable for park purposes. A map showing existing large tracts and their relationship to existing parks and school-grounds was prepared, and as a result of this study the Hall property, Andrews Field, and the Ellenberger-Allen properties were acquired for Park purposes. The latter parcels have since been re-named "Memorial Park", and were later used as the site of a Veteran Housing Project. These properties too, it is interesting to note, were acquired during a war period, the years of acquisition being 1943 and 1944. These buildings were raised to make room for the new Lakewood City Hall.

#### Recreation as a Government Function

Many agencies, public, quasi-public and private offer recreational services. The most common example of private (or commercial) recreation are the moving picture theatres and bowling alleys. Churches, Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. and scout groups are types of quasi-public agencies conducting recreational programs. The different levels of government, however, federal, state and county, and now the regional authorities are looked to by the public to provide recreational opportunities and facilities. Federal and state parks and forests such as the Smoky Mountain National Park, and Ohio's Kendall State Park are prototypes of the facilities offered by the first two named agencies, and counties too, usually provide large open areas, similar in nature to state parks, although

the county park is generally closer to a center of population than the facilities provided by the state and federal governments. The Cook County Forest Reservation that rings Chicago is an example of a county park. The regional authority is a fairly new concept in the administration and operation of public recreational facilities, and is usually located on the periphery of a large city. Our own local Metropolitan Park is a splendid example of the type of facility provided by such an organization.

Most public play areas, other than those operated by the cities within their own borders, are located some distance away from the city and, accordingly, the distance factor makes it impossible to provide for the day to day needs of all members of the community. For instance, no parent would think of sending a young child to a playground four or five miles away from home unless he is accompanied by an adult. The logical result of this condition is that outlying parks usually do not provide the means for intensive play opportunities, except as incidental to the gathering of large crowds, as are found at picnics.

As a result of these conditions it has fallen to the municipality to provide the area for active play within the city's limits, and also to provide the personnel necessary to supervise and lead the play on the areas. This concept of the city's duties has grown within the last thirty or forty years, and now is an accepted fact in almost every community in the country. Most states, Ohio included, show their recognition of this by having passed legislation permitting cities to levy taxes for recreational purposes.

The reasons for Municipal management of recreation are:

1. Municipal recreation affords a large percentage of the people their only opportunity for forms of wholesome recreation.
2. It is only through government that adequate lands can be acquired.
3. Municipal recreation is democratic and inclusive (it is for all people, rich or poor, young or old).
4. Municipal recreation is comparatively inexpensive.
5. The municipal government gives permanency to recreation.
6. The complete job is too large for any private agency.

When talking about recreational area it becomes necessary to define terms. Recreation is usually divided into classes, active and passive, and each class has its own special requirements as

far as areas are concerned. The term "active recreation" defines itself, meaning that the participants are engaged in brisk play such as baseball, tennis and golf. "Passive recreation" takes the form of the quiet enjoyment of the area or facilities, without requiring much exertion on the part of the participant. Picnickers are generally thought of as being the example of persons partaking in passive recreation, but spectators at athletic events enjoy passive recreation, as do parents who sit at playgrounds and watch their children engage in play activity.

These forms of recreation are carried out in the following types of areas:

Play lot - A small area for children preschool age. Generally it is of very small size, under a half acre. Such a facility is not usually provided by the city because its small size makes it uneconomical to operate. There are circumstances, though, that sometimes make it necessary for the city to operate this type of facility.

Playground - Primarily for children of grade school age, with a small area set aside for the use of preschool age children, and another area reserved for adults. The National Recreation Association's standard for the size of a playfield is 4-7 acres, based on the factor of one acre of land per 800 people. There should be a playground within one fourth to one half mile of every house, depending on population density. Besides the special area set aside for the exclusive use of preschool age children, space should be allocated for the special type of playground apparatus required for older children. Bordering the apparatus area should be a tract providing for the free play activities of the older age group. An athletic field is a must on the playground, for it can be used to play a great variety of sports other than the softball that is so popular in Lakewood. The suggested minimum size of the athletic field is almost three acres.

As the average age of population of the country continues to advance, increasingly more attention must be given towards providing the older age group greater opportunities for enjoying their leisure hours. Therefore a quiet portion of the playground with facilities for such activities as shuffle board and horse shoes should be set aside for the exclusive use of this age group. Benches and tables, too, increase the usefulness of this particular type area.

The inclusion of a shelter house rounds out the requisites necessary for the successful operation of a neighborhood playground.

Playfield - An area of from 12 to 20 acres located within a mile of every home, more or less, depending upon the density of the population. The playfield provides the same recreational

facilities as the neighborhood playground, plus such special features as band shells, recreation buildings and swimming pools.

There are still other types of recreation areas, such as large parks and reservations, but Lakewood already has the good fortune to abut one of the better reservations in the country. The Metropolitan Park provides facilities for golf, baseball, softball, horseback riding, hiking, nature paths and picnicking, and park drives that present a panorama of ever changing vistas.

According to the standards promulgated by the National Recreation Association and the other agencies interested in recreation, Lakewood has only one park, and it is too small to provide all of the activities and areas expected from a park. Madison Park must be considered as a playfield, and the other city owned areas actually are neighborhood playgrounds. Proof of the validity of the classifications is found in the observation that Madison Park is limited in the type of recreational facilities offered, it being physically impossible to conduct there the variety of activities that should be accommodated in a park. The success that Madison Park has had with the Lakewood public speaks well for the people that operate and use it.

The Metropolitan Park offers an opportunity for some of Lakewood's youngsters to partake in day camp activities. A camp lodge was constructed in the reservation by the Lakewood Kiwanis Club in 1925 and its operation delegated to the Y.M.C.A. Both the Y.M.C.A. and the Kiwanis Club sponsor day camp programs at the lodge by providing the transportation to the park and play leaders for groups of youngsters, but the camp offers opportunities for many other organizations to sponsor such trips. A facility that provides so much enjoyment should get better use.

The boy scouts have a reservation in the park set aside for them, and use it fairly intensively. Another special facility provided by the Metropolitan Park Board is a golf course. Some arrangement should be made to make it possible to use the course as part of the city's recreation program, so that golfing instruction could be given to Lakewood residents. This was tried a few years ago, but the costs were prohibitive so the program was dropped.

The stands at the baseball field in Madison Park make it possible to use the field as a stadium, but the park is not centrally located in relation to the population of Lakewood, and besides because of the interest in baseball it is important that the field be used for that sport almost exclusively.

Other than two skating rinks, no provision has been made for winter sports, despite the fact that it is a booming activity in other northern cities. Enough snow can be expected in a normal winter to make it feasible to plan some kind of a winter program.

The possibility of developing special recreational areas and facilities such as swimming pools, public beaches and golf courses should be investigated. There is much to be said in favor of these and a great many cities of Lakewood's size have one or more such properties. There is currently much interest expressed on the subject of a municipal swimming pool for the city. Many factors must be considered, because such an operation is quite complex. However, the proposition is feasible and is definitely worthy of study.

The successful community center programs conducted by the recreation department in the school buildings seem to indicate that perhaps a city recreation building is unnecessary. As in the case of the subject of a swimming pool, more study than is the province of this particular report will be necessary to determine the fact.

#### Analysis of existing recreational areas

The public school grounds are very important to the recreational scheme of Lakewood. They are, in general, well located with reference to the pupil distribution but unfortunately, many of the school grounds are too small to cater to the present reduced child population of their surrounding areas, and would be entirely inadequate should there be another change in the population composition of Lakewood, with young children being in greater proportion of the population than they are now. Most of the undersized school grounds can be enlarged, but only at an almost prohibitive cost. Serious consideration might have to be given in the near future towards enlarging some of these playgrounds, however, if the need continues to remain critical.

Many authorities have done research on the problem of the amount of land required for a playground. The "Places for Playing in Cleveland" study, published in 1945, recommends 3-7 acres as the desirable size of a playground, or one acre per 1000 people. Thirteen other agencies listed in the report give figures of 2½ acres (only one under 3 acres) to 8 acres for a facility of this type. Various figures are offered for the amount of square feet of playground space that must be allowed per child, ranging from 100 sq. ft. to 500 sq. ft. per child participating in the activity. The standard used in this particular study, using the schoolyard as a substitute for the playground, is 200 sq. ft. of play space per pupil enrolled in the grade school. This is a basic minimum, because not included are the parochial school children residing in the district served by the particular school yard. These children use the play areas and therefore space must be provided for them. This factor makes the standard used rather conservative.

The figures showing the January 1949 enrollment in the city elementary schools, and the amount of play space needed in each schoolyard, computed on the above mentioned basis and the



difference between the existing play area and the required minimum play area are:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>CENSUS</u>	<u>SUGGESTED MINIMUM PLAY YARD</u>	<u>DEFICIENCY OR SURPLUS</u>
Franklin	305	1.4 acres	-0.7 acres
Garfield	349	1.6 acres	0.9 acres
Grant	218	1.0 acres	-0.7 acres
Harrison	215	1.0 acres	-0.5 acres
Hayes	481	2.2 acres	0.1 acres
Lincoln	538	2.4 acres	-1.9 acres
Madison	539	2.4 acres	Madison school ground is operated with Harding Jr. High
McKinley	436	2.0 acres	0.7 acres
Roosevelt	470	2.1 acres	-0.6 acres
Taft	330	1.5 acres	-0.3 acres

According to the standards used there are only three school yards that have a surplus of play space and the extra area at the Hayes School is barely negligible. Some of the figures indicate a serious deficiency in play space at certain schools and in the case of the Harrison and Roosevelt schools, conditions are actually much worse than are shown if a thorough study of the neighborhood pupil distribution is made. The Harrison School district in particular has a very large elementary school age population, but the greatest majority of the children in the area attend the parochial schools. The same is true to a lesser degree in the Roosevelt school area.

Statistically, the picture is somewhat improved on the Jr. High School grounds, if the factor of 200 sq. ft. of play space per student enrolled in the school is used. The space credited to the Madison School grounds is included in the Harding Jr. High figures:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>CENSUS</u>	<u>SUGGESTED MINIMUM PLAY YARD</u>	<u>DEFICIENCY OR SURPLUS</u>
Emerson	427	2.0 acres	+0.6 acres
Harding	618	5.2 acres (2.8 Harding) (2.4 Madison)	-0.8 acres
Horace Mann	385	1.7 acres	+0.3 acres

Although the factor of 200 sq. ft. of play space per student was used, more area should be provided, because older children require more space for play. Many more children play softball and other field sports, thus requiring more space than is provided by one ball diamond. Also to be considered is the fact that children in this age group can hit the ball longer distances than younger children can, therefore requiring larger areas for the ball fields. Girls in this age group should have their own play areas. All of these conditions

combine to make it imperative to provide for ample play space on Jr. High School grounds.

<u>PARKS</u>	
Lakewood Park	31.6 acres
Lincoln Park (Metropolitan)	20.0 acres
	<u>51.6</u>

<u>NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUNDS</u>	
Andrews Field	6.6 acres
Hall Field	3.0 acres
Wagar Park	1.5 acres
	<u>11.1</u>

<u>FUTURE PLAYGROUND</u>	
Land bought but in other use at present	
Memorial Park	7.5 acres

<u>PLAYFIELD</u>	
Madison Park	15.3 acres

Lakewood Park is the largest play area in the city. Its 31 acres contain tennis courts, a picnic shelter and other picnic facilities, band stands, bowling green and play area for children. The park is used to good advantage by the public during the summer months, being a favorite picnic ground for many large groups. There are indications that even more groups would use it for picnics provided additional shelter space could be made available. The number of permits for picnics fell off somewhat last year, although the demand was about as great as in previous years. A reason for the decline in use is the availability of picnic grounds in the Metropolitan Park and other areas making it possible for groups to use the out of town picnic facilities whenever they deem it inconvenient to share the picnic shelter in Lakewood Park with another group.

The City Park Department operates all of the facilities in Lakewood Park and issues the various types of permits, such as tennis courts, picnic shelter, bandstand and softball diamond.

So far the administration has been successful in preserving the character of the operation of the park, keeping the greatest part of it for use in passive recreation. This policy is justified by the large crowds of people that use the park for picnics and other types of quiet relaxation. A further attraction of Lakewood Park is that it represents the only location in the city for many residents to obtain a close view of the lake.

Madison Park, despite its title, is a large playfield type of facility. It is used intensively for active recreational

purposes and will receive even more such use after the two new softball diamonds are completed. The use of the park is undergoing a change, seemingly towards a greater use emphasis on spectator sports activities. The hardball diamond was lighted for night play and stands were installed.

The park serves one of the most intensely populated sections in the city, one that has a large concentration of children. Accordingly, the young children's play apparatus and other facilities are in almost constant use. There is also a wading pool operated for the youngsters. From the children's viewpoint it is very lucky the park is located where it is, in view of the fact that the Harrison School grounds are inadequate to satisfy the demands put upon it.

Permits for the use of the baseball diamond are issued by the city, which also maintains the diamond along with the rest of the park, but the Board of Education's Department of Recreation actually operates the field. A caretaker in the city's employ issues permits for the tennis courts and collects the fees that are charged for the use of the lights for evening tennis play.

A football field is marked out and made available for play during the fall season. A portion of the park is flooded and used for ice skating during the winter months.

Wagar Park is the smallest of the city owned play areas. It has four tennis courts, unlighted, a children's play area and a wading pool. The wading pool has not been in operation in recent years because of misuse on the public's part. Wagar Park shows the results of trying to provide for the needs of too many age groups on a small piece of property; no age group is adequately provided for. Consideration should be given to the matter of removing the children's play facilities from the park and installing them at the Madison-Harding Junior High School ground. Shuffle board and horseshoe courts could then be set out in the park for the convenience of the adults in the neighborhood that are not too interested in tennis. Regardless of the use ultimately made of the area, a shelter house should be constructed on the site.

Andrews Field will go into operation this summer, providing the public with a hardball and softball diamond, basketball court, playground apparatus and an area for young children's free play, tennis courts and eventually, some shuffle board and horseshoe pitching courts. The park is almost seven acres in size and is located very favorably with reference towards serving a large segment of Lakewood's population.

The Hall property, too, will be available for summer play in 1949. Some equipment was installed last summer and the contemplated future improvements include the construction of a spray pool, basketball court and horseshoe pitching court. The small size of the property precludes the installation of a

regulation softball diamond and as a result only informal play will be allowed on the grounds.

A very comprehensive plan was worked out for the development of Memorial Park for recreation use. The work can only be affected when the housing project is removed. Care was taken to install the water and drainage lines used for the project in such manner as to be useful for the future development of the park.

More than two acres of land immediately north of the Nickel Plate tracks and north of the project is being made available for play purposes on a temporary basis. Playground apparatus will be installed for the younger children and the older groups will have a softball diamond. These facilities will serve the residents of the housing project and the immediate neighborhood until Memorial Park is built.

Leadership for the activities on playgrounds and most of the city owned parks has been provided by the Board of Education's Recreation Department ever since 1925. At the height of this year's play season it is expected that about 85 people will be employed in the various divisions of the program, but this number tapers down during the winter months. The activities that are provided for during the year are the morning play school program; after school play yard; the summer playground program, community center, both Jr. and Sr., swimming, tennis, basketball, hardball and softball.

The Athletic Commission, appointed by the Board of Education, is composed of a Hardball Commission and a Softball Commission and together they prepare the amateur athletic programs. Each commission works out a program for its group. The hardball commission's program includes the Jr. hardball activity and the girls' softball is under the supervision of the Softball Commission. Most of the foregoing activities are well known to the average Lakewood citizen and need no further explanation.

The Community Center program has reached its greatest success with the adult population during the late fall, winter and early spring months. Groups meet at the various schools and learn and participate in folk dancing, photography and various other arts, games and crafts. It is a program that is the envy of many other communities and one of which all Lakewood should be justifiably proud. Besides the adult program, there is also one for juniors. It is not so well advanced as the adult program, but will undoubtedly continue to improve with the passing of years.

The Board of Education property and the equipment on the property is taken care of by the Maintenance Department of the Board, whereas the Park Department provides the maintenance of Board operated diamonds and playgrounds on city owned property.

## City Expenditures for Recreation

The city has pursued a policy of spending an increasing amount of money on recreation ever since 1939. The following table shows the total park budget, with the amount set aside for labor and the money for capital improvement by years since 1939:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>LABOR</u>	<u>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</u>
1939	\$ 11,560	\$ 5,154	
1940	18,891	7,849	
1941	18,057	7,678	
1942	19,830	10,724	
1943	17,653		\$20,000 (Hall Property)
1944	24,165	16,303	32,150 (Memorial Park) 11,000 (Andrews Field)
1945	28,780	21,785	
1946	45,636	30,145	
1947	75,395	30,536	
1948	69,900	37,390	
1949	112,550	65,000	(includes \$19,503 for lighting of Madison Park ball diamond).

The unusually large expenses of the past few years are due mainly to the cost incurred improving the three new parks. Once the new tennis courts, parking lots, shuffle board courts and other contemplated features are constructed, the park budget should go down.

There are a few areas in Lakewood that are not well provided with open space suitable for play properties. The south central and south western parts of Lakewood are the two areas where pressure for additional space will probably build up in the future. Both of these areas are comparatively young as Lakewood goes and will provide the good housing so desirable for young couples for many more years to come. This in turn provides a favorable environment for even more children in the area than there is now. Although it is financially impossible to accomplish anything at present, it would do well to think in terms of a neighborhood playground located in the south central-western portion of the city, plus the consideration of enlarging the Roosevelt School grounds.

The other area that could use more play space is the Lincoln School district. The opening and further development of the Hall property and Andrews Field should relieve some of the pressure in this particular district, but there are a large number of children who would find it more convenient to use the school ground provided it would be larger than it is presently. These children live too far away from Detroit Avenue to reasonably expect them to walk to the Hall Property.

The possibility of having one organization responsible for recreation should be investigated. At the present time both the city and the Board of Education are responsible for different phases of recreation and there is some duplication of service and functions. It is possible, study would indicate that the present sponsorship of recreation is very satisfactory and that no change is needed. However, it is also possible that the study might show means to accomplish a more economical administration and operation of the program.

A second study worthy of consideration is the possibility of permitting the recreation department to obtain its own source of income. From 1925 to 1935 it operated on a 2/10 mill budget but, as previously mentioned, the tax levy proposal was defeated in 1935. The legislature amended Section 5625-15 of the general code in May, 1947 so that a five-tenths of a mill may be levied for recreational purposes. Based on the current value of the tax duplicate, this would amount to more than \$50,000 a year, as contrasted to the \$30,000 presently allocated to recreation by the Board of Education. The extra funds could be used to increase the staff. \$50,000 a year for recreation would mean an expenditure of \$ .70 per person, as contrasted to the recommended standard of \$1.00 per person. The National Recreation Association recommends an expenditure of \$ .75 per person for leadership and \$ .25 for supplies and incidental expenses. I also suggest a sum of 50¢ per person be as necessary to maintain areas, buildings and facilities used in connection with the recreation program. The city administration has been appropriating more than a dollar per person for its share of recreation during the past three years.

#### SUMMARY

Lakewood has fairly well located outdoor recreational facilities, but some such as school grounds should be enlarged and the south central west part of the city should have a neighborhood park of 4-7 acres. While recognizing the fact that it is financially impossible to obtain such an area today and it is likewise impossible to enlarge any school ground, Lakewood must realize that such improvements are essential to the future well being of the city.

The possibility of obtaining a number of other special facilities should be investigated. Three that are top most in the minds of a number of Lakewood's citizens are a swimming pool, golf course and community center. If the need for any of them can be demonstrated, action should be initiated to prepare definite programs for accomplishment.

Lakewood has every reason to be proud of its recreation program, both its program leadership and its physical properties. However, there are many more improvements it can and should have if every citizen is willing to work for them.