

7-4-1947

## City Club of Portland Bulletin vol. 28, no. 09 (1947-7-4)

City Club of Portland (Portland, Or.)

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### Recommended Citation

City Club of Portland (Portland, Or.), "City Club of Portland Bulletin vol. 28, no. 09 (1947-7-4)" (1947). *City Club of Portland*. 125.

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**PORTLAND**  
*City Club*  
**BULLETIN**

**NO MEETING THIS WEEK**

PORTLAND, OREGON — Vol. 28, No. 9 — JULY 4, 1947

**NO MEETING OF THE CITY CLUB TODAY**

IN THIS ISSUE:

**PROGRESS REPORT:**

***Status of the Forest-Park Proposal***

*The committee:* JOHN D. CARTER, DR. DAVID B. CHARLTON, ALLAN A. SMITH, SINCLAIR A. WILSON and GARNETT E. CANNON, *Chairman.*

The Forest-Park committee was originally authorized in November 1944, under the Section on Education and Recreation. The committee's report was approved by Eugene Caldwell, Section Chairman, August 20, 1945 and was received on the same day by the Board of Governors and ordered printed and submitted to the membership. The membership unanimously approved the report and the committee's recommendations on September 7, 1945. Subsequent interest in the Forest-Park proposal was largely inspired by the City Club's original study. It has served as the text book for the Committee of Fifty which, since last November, has been seeking to further action toward the creation of the proposed park.

Since the City Club's initial concern with the problem stimulated the movement to establish a municipal forest-park, the Board of Governors felt that the interests of the membership and the public would be served were a report made at this time on the status of the proposal. Hence, May 5, 1947, the Board reactivated the original committee and authorized it to make such a progress report.

The Commissioner under whose department the city's parks are operated will report on the proposal at a public hearing to be held July 9, 1947, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall.

**ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP**

LESLIE M. FINCH, *President*, Packer-Scott Co.  
Proposed by Ralph Thom.

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*"To inform its members and the community in public matters and to arouse in them a realization of the obligations of citizenship."*

## PROGRESS REPORT: STATUS OF THE FOREST-PARK PROPOSAL

TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OF THE CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND:

Your Forest-Park committee was by authorization from you reactivated in full May 5, 1947, because of the fact that the forest-park proposal is again before civic clubs and the public—outgrowth of the City Club's original report, published August 31, 1945, and adopted unanimously by the membership, September 7, 1945. Among the recommendations of the 1945 report is the following: "That the City Club cooperate with other interested groups in furthering public appreciation of the project."

In November 1944 you appointed a committee to report upon the proposal that there be created a municipal forest-park on the hills north of Portland. The committee made a thorough study of this proposal and its report described fully the area in question, its present and prospective uses and the steps that might be taken to establish the forest-park. Reprints of the report are now available.

The proposed forest-park lies on the rough wooded hills between St. Helens Road and Skyline Boulevard from Macleay Park north for about 8 miles. It is bisected by the now officially closed Leif Erickson Drive. Of the gross area over half was either in City or County ownership at the time of the 1945 report, as a result chiefly of bonded lien and tax foreclosure, and a still larger amount is now in public ownership from this cause.

This communication is a brief progress report covering the period September 9, 1945 to date.

Oil leases on city and county lands within the area under consideration were granted early in 1945 and terminated with the abandonment of oil drilling late in 1946. These leases had been a major obstacle to the creation of the Forest-Park.

On November 12, 1946, a group of publicly interested citizens met to organize a committee to further action toward the creation of the proposed Municipal Forest-Park. As a result the Forest-Park Committee of Fifty came into existence. This committee has been active since its creation. It is composed of representatives of 39 civic agencies together with a few members-at-large. The officers are: Thornton T. Munger, Chairman; Garnett E. Cannon, Vice-Chairman; Walter G. Thompson, Secretary; Dale Cowen, Treasurer. All the members of your original Forest-

Park committee are also members of the new Committee of Fifty.

Representatives of the Committee of Fifty worked on remedial legislation; appeared before many civic groups in behalf of the proposal; prepared and exhibited new public ownership and aerial maps of the park area; conferred with representatives of the City Planning Commission, City Council and the Board of County Commissioners; reprinted and distributed the City Club report of 1945; conducted show-me trips; broadcasted on the radio; contributed articles to the local papers; and on June 9, 1947, petitioned the City Council to take the necessary steps to create the Forest-Park. A copy of the petition follows:

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF  
PORTLAND:

We have seen the letter of the Portland City Planning Commission of May 13, with its accompanying report, which recommends to you the creation of a park on the hillside between St. Helens Road and Skyline Boulevard. We have made a careful study of this project over the past several months and considered it with a large number of groups over the city. We thoroughly endorse the recommendations of the Planning Commission and hereby formally petition your body:

- (1) To dedicate by ordinance for park purposes all the city owned lands within the boundary shown on the map accompanying the letter of the Planning Commission, not already dedicated as city park land.
- (2) To request the Commissioners of Multnomah County to convey to the City of Portland without financial obligation for park purposes under the authority specifically granted by statute, the lands now in County ownership and chiefly valuable for park purposes, within the boundaries indicated on the aforementioned map.
- (3) To adopt a policy of acquiring privately owned lands, chiefly valuable for park purposes, within the designated boundaries, by gift or purchase whenever it becomes economically possible to do so.

FOREST-PARK COMMITTEE OF FIFTY."

The city and the county have for the past few months withheld from sale properties

within the proposed Forest-Park area in anticipation of creation of the park.

At the instigation of the Committee of Fifty the 1947 Legislature amended Sec. 1, Chap. 38, O. L. 1941 (Sec. 86-117, O. C. L. A.) to enable a county to transfer county-owned park property created from lands acquired through foreclosure for unpaid taxes to city ownership and without cost to the city.

On May 7, 1947 the Parks Committee of the Portland City Planning Commission reviewed the proposal for creation of the Forest-Park, examined the area, revised the original boundaries to include a gross area of about 5,635 acres and recommended that the Planning Commission address the City and the County Commissioners recommending that they immediately dedicate all city and county property within the area for a municipal Forest-Park, that the city adopt a long-time plan of acquiring all property within the boundaries as additions to the park, and that the city take every precaution possible to discourage residential development within the boundaries that would require expenditures for public facilities.

The City Planning Commission adopted the report of its Parks Committee and addressed the City and County Commissioners accordingly on May 13.

On May 29, 1947 the City Planning Commission in furtherance of its recommendations sent the following letter to the City Council:

"CITY COUNCIL,  
PORTLAND, OREGON.

In regard to proposed Municipal Forest-Park on the West Hills.

Gentlemen:

At a meeting of the Portland City Planning Commission held in the anteroom of the Mayor's office at 2:00 o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, May 27, 1947, the following motion was adopted: That in accordance with Senate Bill No. 220, the Planning Commission recommends to the City Council the adoption of a resolution asking the Board of County Commissioners to set aside for park purposes all real property heretofore or hereafter acquired by Multnomah County for delinquent taxes or otherwise within the boundaries of the proposed West Hills Forest Park, as shown on the maps previously submitted with the Commission's report on said park.

The Commission further recommends that the City Council shall by ordinance or resolution, as is further required by Senate Bill No. 220, assure the County Commissioners

of the city's intention to use the above designated land as a Municipal Forest Park.

In alluding to the proposed boundaries on the above map, the Commission considers those boundaries as subject to change whenever in the opinion of administrative bodies it is to the best interests of the public to exclude from the park so designated any marginal areas which could more beneficially be used under private ownership.

Respectfully submitted,

Theron R. Howser, *Secretary,*

THH:gr City Planning Commission."  
Enc.

A number of commercial, civic, educational and recreational agencies have likewise petitioned the City and County officials to take action to put this tract of unused land into Forest-Park status.

Accordingly the City Council requested the Commissioner concerned to report on the project at once. A public hearing on the City Commissioner's report will be held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall on Wednesday, July 9, at 9:30 a.m.

#### *Conclusion and Recommendations:*

Your committee after reviewing its report of August, 1945, and after re-examining the tract and the records thereon, finds nothing to alter its recommendations made in 1945. Rather it concludes even more positively than before that the setting up of a forest-park on these rugged hills is very much in the public interest. It believes that it can be accomplished at very little cost to the taxpayer and that the property may be operated as a wild natural forest, serving all the purposes for which it is eminently fitted, at a small annual cost for protection, reforestation and administration.

We therefore reaffirm the recommendations made in our initial report and specifically recommend that the City Club:

1. Urge immediate creation of a municipal forest-park within the boundaries defined by the City Planning Commission, which involves:
  - (a) Transferring to park status the lands now in city ownership within these boundaries;
  - (b) Dedicating by Multnomah County for park purposes of lands in its ownership and conveyance of same to the City; and
  - (c) Gradually acquiring of the private lands whenever this becomes economically possible.

2. Favor protection, rehabilitation and administration of the area as a forest property to provide nearby wilderness recreation for the people of Portland, attract tourists, beautify the environs of Portland, provide a sanctuary for wild life and furnish a site on which youth and other groups may carry on educational and character-building projects.

Respectfully submitted,  
 JOHN D. CARTER,  
 DR. DAVID B. CHARLTON,  
 ALLAN A. SMITH,  
 SINCLAIR A. WILSON,  
 GARNETT E. CANNON, *Chairman.*

Approved for transmittal to the Board of Governors by John W. McHale, Section Chairman, Education and Recreation, June 30, 1947.

Received by the Board of Governors June 30, 1947, and ordered printed and submitted to the membership for consideration and action.

**ALCOHOLICS' CLINIC SAVES TAX FUNDS**

Using personal counseling methods, New York City's Bureau of Alcoholic Therapy last year cured 200 alcoholics for what it costs the city annually to handle 12 chronic drunks in municipal courts, hospitals, and jails.

The bureau's 1946 budget was just \$23,000 yet 200 out of 251 alcoholics treated were rehabilitated successfully according to information cited by the American Public Welfare Association. The bureau is reportedly the only municipally-operated clinic of its kind, though similar units are being formed in other cities.

Percentage of cures increased last year from 52 to 79, the rise attributed to improved counseling methods. Cases counted as cures are those who have remained "dry" at least a year and show good signs of staying that way.

**PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

If no objections are received by the Executive Secretary prior to July 18, 1947, the following applicant will be elected:

RICHARD C. CROW, *Assistant Editor,*  
 Pacific Coast Lumber Digest.  
 Proposed by Arthur D. Platt.

**UNIONS ORGANIZE MORE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

Employee organizations of public servants now operate in 667 cities according to a survey just completed for the 1947 Municipal Yearbook by the International City Managers' Association.

This marks an increase of 50 per cent since 1941 when such groups operated in just 446 of the 1,072 U. S. cities over 10,000 population. The three national unions involved claim memberships totaling more than 250,000, about 170,000 of whom are municipal employees. The rest are employed by the states, the federal government, and other governmental units.

**CITIES BOOST SUBURBAN SERVICE CHARGES**

Suburbs of a growing number of cities are being charged increased sewer and water rates to make them either bear their share of service expenses or furnish their own facilities according to the International City Managers' Association.

Information gathered for the 1947 Municipal Yearbook discloses that of 459 cities over 10,000 reporting, 257 now charge higher rates outside than inside the city. Of 172 cities providing sewerage service to suburbs, 132 charge higher rates for users outside the city limits.

**PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN**

*Published each Friday by the*

**CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND**

MARGARET CLARKE, *Executive Secretary*

Offices: THE BENSON HOTEL • BR 3054

PORTLAND 5, OREGON

*Entered as second class matter at the Portland, Oregon, post office October 29, 1920, under act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rate one dollar per year included in annual dues.*

**CITY CLUB DUES:** Senior, age 28 and over, \$15.00 per year; Junior, age 27 and under, \$6.00 per year; Non-Residents, \$5.00 per year; Sustaining members, \$25.00 per year. The regular **FRIDAY LUNCHEON MEETINGS** are held in the Crystal Room of the Benson Hotel.

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