

State Parks Increasing Rapidly

General Science

Based on material furnished by Beatrice M. Ward, executive secretary of the National Conference on State Parks, Washington, D. C.

The rise in the purchasing power of the average citizen, together with his increasing appreciation of the beauties of nature and the fascination of historic spots, mechanically mobilized by the development of the automobile, have created a demand for outdoor areas for recreation and nature study on a scale wholly unimaginable in the days of our immediate ancestors. The crowds now awheel pour through our national parks like a flood; they would swamp them utterly if there were not other places available to take care of the overflow.

Conceived at about the same time as the national parks idea, the state park movement is rapidly outstripping its companion system. There are now over 500 state parks, distributed through 43 of the 48 states. In the West, where example has been set by national parks and monuments, the states are emulating the national government; in the East, where there are fewer areas that measure up to the exacting national park standard in scenic grandeur or scientific value, there are abundant smaller beauty-spots, and these the

states are insuring to the use of their people for all time.

Where the desirable area lies across state boundaries, or where the people of one state will receive unusual benefits from a park to be established in a neighboring state, we hear of voluntary interstate cooperation, instead of the demand that might have arisen a few years ago for the intervention of the federal government and the establishment of a national park. Cases in point may be seen in the Palisades Interstate Park in the New York City area, in the Dunes Park of northern Indiana, in the area around McGregor, Iowa, and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Action between states may take longer to consummate than would action by single state governments or by the federal government, and an interstate park may be held in the offing for several years. But where the situation calls for such an establishment, it is preferable to exercise the necessary patience until it can be taken.

It is desirable, if possible, to plan a journey through several state parks in the same natural series. One will thus be enabled to develop an idea of the geological events that led

up to their development, and to trace the history of the migration of plants and animals by lingerers in the depths of ravines and the corners of canyons of species whose main armies may now be scores or hundreds of miles away.

One magnificent series of state parks and of sites that will some day be state parks was provided for the people of today by the massive glaciers that oppressed the northeastern segment of this continent ages ago. When this ice came, it pushed ponderous fingers down many already existing rocky valleys, scouring them deeper, and piling up the detritus into natural dams at their lower ends, so that when it melted it left beautiful little lakes behind. Farther west, the rapid melting of the ice gave birth to many rushing, rock-tumbling torrents. These chiseled deep canyons whose cliffs still survive, surprising one with bits of mountain scenery sunk, intaglio-fashion, into the quieter and more placid beauty of the prairies. As random examples of this megalithic sculpturing of the early post-Pleistocene, mention may be made of the Sugar Grove region in (*Turn to next page*)

Zoological Gardens of America

Zoology

Information from Dr. W. M. Mann, director of the National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.

In the following cities of the United States and Canada there are zoological gardens that may be visited by the scientific traveler:

ANACONDA, MONTANA: Washoe Park; municipal.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA: Grant Park.

AUBURNDALE, MASS.: Norumbega Park; 1898.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND: Druid Hill Park; municipal.

BOSTON, MASS.: Franklin Park; 1912; municipal.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.: Prospect Park; municipal.

BUFFALO, N. Y.: The Park; 1895; municipal.

BUTTE, MONTANA: The Gardens; commercial.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA: City Park; 1908.

CINCINNATI, OHIO: 1875; commercial.

CHICAGO, ILL.: Lincoln Park; municipal.

CLEVELAND, OHIO: Wade Park; 1893. Brookside Park; 1908.

COLUMBUS, OHIO: Olantangy Park; commercial.

DAVENPORT, IOWA: Fizerary Park; 1910; municipal.

DENVER, COLO.: City Park; municipal.

DES MOINES, IOWA: Grandview Park; municipal.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN: Belle Isle Park; municipal.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI: Swope Park; 1908; municipal.

LAFAYETTE, IND.: 1911; municipal.

LEXINGTON, MASS.: Lexington Park; 1903.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.: Eastlake Park; municipal; Wild Animal Farm; commercial.

MEMPHIS, TENN.: Overton Park; 1908; municipal.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN: Washington Park; 1905.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA: Longfellow Gardens; commercial.

MUNCIE, IND.: 1911; municipal.

(*Turn to next page*)

American Museums

General Science

Nearly every American city of any size has a science museum of some sort, connected with an educational institution or the result of local initiative. Out of the many the following have been selected as being those most likely to interest the traveler. For a complete list, see "Museums of the United States," issued by the American Association of Museums, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C. (50c).

HOLBROOK, ARIZ.—Petrified Forest National Monument Museum.

ALDER CREEK, CALIF.—Sequoia National Park Museum.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.—Los Angeles Museum; Southwest Museum.

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.—San Diego Society of Natural History, Museum of Natural History; San Diego Museum.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.—California Academy of Sciences Museum; Steinhart Aquarium.

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.—Santa Barbara Mu- (*Turn to next page*)

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State Parks—Continued

Ohio, Turkey Run in Indiana, Starved Rock in Illinois, The Dells in Wisconsin and Steamboat Rock and the Boone Ledges in Iowa. Indeed, one may even ambitiously claim the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone as a part of this series, for its carving was begun at the same time and in much the same way. There are many other beads on this chaplet of natural jewels which the glaciers carved for us, some of which are in all likelihood only waiting exploration by a real nature enthusiast to be lifted out of the slough of local indifference to the pride of the State Park sisterhood.

The exploration suggested in the foregoing paragraph is only one of the many that might be made, either in state parks already established or in areas worthy of designation as units in the series. There is no state in the Union so thickly settled or so little favored by nature that will not afford the thrill of discovery and the surprise of beauty suddenly revealed to the seeker.

Science News-Letter, April 14, 1928

A new kind of glass that resists sudden changes in temperature is being used for bobbins in silk mills.

Museums—Continued

seum of Natural History.

YOSEMITE, CALIF.—Yosemite National Park Museum.

DENVER, COLO.—Colorado Museum of Natural History.

NEW HAVEN, CONN.—Yale University Peabody Museum of Natural History.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—National Academy of Sciences; U. S. National Museum.

CHICAGO, ILL.—Field Museum of Natural History.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Illinois State Museum.

DAVENPORT, IOWA—Davenport Public Museum.

BOSTON, MASS.—Boston Society of Natural History.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.—Museum of Comparative Zoology; Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

ANN ARBOR, MICH.—University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.—Kent Scientific Museum.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—University of Minnesota Zoological Museum.

ST. LOUIS, MO.—Educational Museum of St. Louis Public Schools.

NEWARK, N. J.—The Newark Museum. (Turn to page 236)

Zoological Gardens—Continued

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY: Commercial.

NEW YORK: Central Park; 1865; municipal.

NEW YORK: Zoological Park (Bronx Park); 1898; society.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA: Wheeler Park; 1908.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA: Riverview Park; municipal.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNA: Fairmount Park; 1859; society.

PITTSBURGH, PENNA.: Highland Park; municipal.

PORTLAND, OREGON: City Park; 1899; municipal.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND: Roger Williams Park; municipal.

PUEBLO, COLORADO: City Park; municipal.

READING, PENNA.: 1911; municipal.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.: Seneca Park; municipal.

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI: Krug Park; municipal.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI: Forest Park; municipal.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA: Como Park; municipal.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH: Liberty Park; municipal.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: San Pedro Park; 1871; commercial.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.: Golden Gate Park; municipal.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: Woodland Park; municipal.

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON: Manito Park; municipal.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.: Forest Park; municipal.

TACOMA, WASHINGTON: Fort Defiance Park; municipal.

TOLEDO, OHIO: Otway Park; 1900; municipal.

TROY, N. Y.: Zoological Park; municipal.

WASHINGTON, D. C.: National Zoological Park; 1890. Smithsonian.

WICHITA, KANSAS: Riverside Park; municipal.

TORONTO: High Park; municipal.

TORONTO: Riverdale Park; about 1900; municipal.

VANCOUVER: Stanley Park; municipal.

Science News-Letter, April 14, 1928