

APPENDIX B:

Olmsted Firm's Plant List, Letters and Reports

Boundaries & Entrances

Brook Area

Circulation System

Fort Walker

Lake Abana Area

New Property to Acquire

Vegetation & Planting

Woods

Zoo, Cyclorama, etc.

**GRANT PARK
J.C. OLMSTED PLANT LIST- APPROPRIATE PLANTS FOR TODAY**

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	NOTES
LARGE TREES		
<i>Crateagus species</i>	Hawthorn	
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American Hornbeam	
<i>Fagus americana</i>	American Beech	
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	American Ash	
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Oak	
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Pond Cypress	J.C. used <i>Cupressus lawsoniana</i>
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood	
<i>Tsuga caroliniana</i>	Carolina Hemlock	
LARGE EVERGREEN TREES		
<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	Loblolly-bay	requires a moist site
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	
<i>Magnolia fraseri</i>	Fraser Magnolia	
<i>Magnolia glauca</i>	Sweetbay	
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern magnolia	
<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>	Great-leaved Magnolia	restricted to the mountains
<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i>	Tea Olive	not native but historical & fragrant
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Cherry Laurel	called 'wild orange'
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern Hemlock	prefers slopes near streams
FLOWERING TREES		
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Devil walking stick	J.C. used <i>A. pentaphylla</i>
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud Tree	
<i>Comus Florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood	
<i>Crateagus crus-galli</i>	Cockspur Thorn	
<i>Crateagus punctata</i>	Dotted Hawthorn	30' largest fruits, dense foliage
<i>Cynila racemiflora</i>	American Cyrilla	25' white racemes, likes peat moss
<i>Malus floribunda</i>	Flowering Crabapple	<i>M. angustifolia</i>
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American Plum	J.C. used <i>P. triloba</i>
FLOWER/FRUIT SHRUBS		
<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottebush Buckeye	12' white flowers, moist open woods
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Wild Hydrangea	J.C. used <i>H. otaska</i>
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oak leaf Hydrangea	
<i>Hypericum frondosum</i>	Golden St. Johnswort	J.C. used <i>H. x moserianum</i> 3'
<i>Lindera Benzoin</i>	Spicebush	5' yellow spicy sweet flowers, floodplains
<i>Philadelphus inodorus</i>	Mockorange	no fragrance
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	not native but historical, early colonial times
<i>Rhododendron vaseyi</i>	Carolina Azalea	pink flowers, fall color-moist border ponds
<i>Rosa palustris</i> or <i>R. carolina</i>	Swamp rose	J.C. used <i>R. lucida</i>
<i>Rubus dumefrenum</i>	Running bramble	ORIGIN?
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Indian Currant	called coralberry-J.C. used <i>S. vulgans</i>
<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Witchrod	native N.E. US 6' showy fruit, massing FS, PS
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood	15' white flowers, blue fruit, fall color vigorous
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Sheep Berry	30'
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Black Haw	20'
EVERGREEN SHRUBS		
<i>Bambusa species</i>		naive species
<i>Ceanothus x delilianus</i>	Glory de Versailles	native species is <i>C. americanus</i> -used for tea
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry	moist site-used for formal hedging & wildlife
<i>Rhodo. calendulaceum</i>	Flame Azalea	
<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	Catawba Rhododen.	purple flowers! Shady moist site
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Rosebay Rhododen.	white-ft. pink/purple flowers, hardy
GROUNDCOVERS		
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i> L.	Maidenhair fern	prefers some lime
<i>Campanula Persicaefolia</i>	Bellflower	
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Marginal Wood fern	
<i>Ins pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag Ins	wetland site required
<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	Doghobble	J.C. used <i>L. catesbaei</i> -called 'agansta'
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern	
<i>Rosa wichuraiana</i>	Memorial Rose	not native but great to cover slopes
<i>Xanthoxhiza simplicissima</i>	Yellow Root	

Note: Documents quoted are in correspondence files 2740 and 2741, Olmsted Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Frame numbers are given for microfilm reel #97 of that collection

Key to abbreviations:

JCO: John C. Olmsted

OB: Olmsted Brothers (The Olmsted Firm)

Ds: double-spaced typescript

Ss: single-spaced typescript

Ms: handwritten manuscript

Key to place on microfilm is given by reel: frame, as 97:234

Boundaries and Entrances

To Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903; 97:9-24

“We believe it will be found necessary to erect a suitable boundary fence about Grant Park in order to prevent short-cutting and to prevent misuse of the shrubbery and other plantations which the proper improvement of the landscape of the park will require. When such a fence exists it will be perfectly appropriate to accent the various entrances in a more or less dignified architectural manner, but it would not be reasonable to erect gate posts and other features appropriate to entrances unless there is a boundary fence. It would be suitable and proper at two or three of the principal entrances to have shelters and gatehouses to supply the necessary toilet conveniences for the accommodation of large crowds. When the time comes, these entrances should be designed by a competent architect. Having a use and justification, they may then be taken advantage of to supply decidedly interesting and decorative features of the park. These necessarily somewhat large and imposing structures should be designed to be seen mainly from the exterior approaches to the park. They should be prevented from being unduly conspicuous in the interior landscape of the park by suitable plantations.”

JCO report of visit, March 24—April 2, 1904

97:367-69

“Shelters with toilets should be more often provided at entrances than we have yet planned. The walk near east boundary north of garden should be made especially attractive with nice planting to counteract its bad feature of looking out of the park.”

OB to Dan Carey, March 4, 1912

97: 526-29

"In the border plantations immediately next to the boundary sidewalks, we have as a rule shown rather low-growing shrubs such as Japan barberry, mahonia, etc. Back of these, larger growing shrubs are shown, with, in many cases, some of the low-growing shrubs mixed in with them. In such cases our idea is that these low-growing shrubs are to be extended back, in and out, irregularly among the larger shrubs, disregarding somewhat the exact dividing lines shown on the plan, so as to avoid making the junction of the masses of smaller shrubs with the masses of larger shrubs stiff and conspicuous. Also if small specimens of the large-growing shrubs are planted they will be so widely spaced as to make the planting look thin. If so, small-growing shrubs should be planted among the large-growing shrubs to obtain an immediate effect and to serve as a ground cover. These small growing shrubs should eventually be taken out in great part and may be used elsewhere in new planting."

Brook

to Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903

97:335—47; 26pp ds

"We are firmly convinced, however, some concession on this score must be made by those who are particularly influenced by practical considerations for the sake of securing a greater degree of variety and beauty, which are among the most important objects of the existence of the park. It is very noticeable at some portions of the brook where the undergrowth has not been cleared away or where shrubs have been planted and allowed to grow, and where there are therefore more natural and wild and intricate effects, that the local scenery is far more attractive than in those similar localities where there is nothing but clean turf on both sides of the brook and in all directions from it."

JCO report of visit, March 24—April 2, 1904

97:367-69; 5pp ss

March 28

"It is obvious that the brook needs deepening and as most of it from stone bridge to lake is straight ditch to one side of valley and with a levee along the east side made of the earth thrown out of the ditch, and as this is very ugly, it seems it would be best to relocate the brook in the lowest part of valley, especially as we cut up the lawn with drive and walks."

JCO report of visit, March 24—April 2, 1904

97:367-69; 5pp ss

April 2

"In general the map does not give a true idea of the brook. It is usually from ten to fifteen feet wide and sometimes twenty feet so far as the depression which is occupied during rain storms is concerned. It is cutting the banks in many places and these should be protected by boulders and vines. The brook is a source of supply for sand in many places. As the lands are better improved this will no doubt lessen."

JCO report of visit, Oct. 16-19, 1909

97: 472-75; 7pp ss

October 18: on tour with Carey:

"He has turned the supply needed for lake into this spring, thus making a good running brook. It is city water."

October 19: continues tour of park with Dan Carey.

"I worked along up the valley to upper end of old pond. He said there was no hope of water supply enough for original brook. I consequently revised plan by running valley walk over brook and keeping drive substantially on present drive North of where proposed circuit drive in West of park joins valley drive."

Circulation System

to Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903

97:335—47; 26pp ds

"It seems to us that at the present time there are too many drives in the park and not enough walks. It is entirely unsuitable and distinctly uncivilized to appear to compel people to walk on the drives. Wherever there is need for people to walk in the same direction the drives run, a walk should be provided more or less closely paralleling (but usually not in the formal manner of a sidewalk) the drives, and in most such cases the walk should be on the side of the drive toward which the principal views extend and not on the back of the drive, as they are at present in some instances: this for the reason that the drive is an exceedingly ugly feature to place in the immediate foreground of the views from walks, while the walk, although perhaps equally ugly in its surface, is so much less in breadth than the drive that it is not as offensive to visitors in carriages as the drive is to visitors on foot. The ditches and side-slopes of the drives are almost everywhere ragged and steep and ugly. It will be important to remedy this defect, but it will not be advisable to follow any one rule as to the treatment of such steep banks. Where the necessary formality of the locality justifies it, retaining walls may be introduced to be covered, usually, with English ivy. Where there are trees so close upon the drive and so large and valuable that they cannot be sacrificed, the steep banks may be covered with vines and creepers, and if this has an isolated and patchy effect, sufficient area can be devoted to shrubbery in connection with the vine-clad bank to distinguish the locality from other adjoining where simple turf would be the prevailing ground cover. In some cases, doubtless, it will be best to sacrifice the trees and to extend the side slopes gently so as to join the natural surfaces at a considerable distance from the drive, thus enabling the turf to be brought to the drives on natural grades. If there are fewer drives, as it seems probable there should be, it may prove necessary to widen some of the remaining drives, in order to properly accommodate driving. This in itself would be a disadvantage as regards appearance, but nothing like as great a disadvantage as the multiplication of drives, more or less in sight of each other, or in sight from the walks, and not affording sufficiently fine views in the park to be justified on that account."

JCO report of visit, Feb 5-8, 1904

97:356-58; 4pp ss

February 7, 1904

"The rest of the morning I spent looking over the S.E. part of the park making a few notes on the plan. In general, it seemed to me the local variations in the surface were strong enough to call for more curvature in the drives and walks, and a greater conformity to existing drives is desirable where practicable to save trees."

JCO report of visit, March 24—April 2, 1904

97:367-69; 5pp ss

March 29: "Walked to L.P. Grant Park. Spent a long morning studying drives and walks in main valley above and below Constitution Spring and out to Glenn Street. Took six photos 3 1/4 x 4 1/4. Also studied drives and walks in cross valley west of Berne Street entrance. As it seemed a pity to have the drive cross the valley, I studied a route east of the spring, but found this would be held up so high by the 7% grade of the entrance drive from Berne Street that it would seem necessary to revert to the short drive across the ridge. It would make a sort of dam eight feet or so high across the valley at southwest corner of garden, and this seemed objectionable, although it would have the advantage of bringing the garden into full view from the main circuit drive."

March 30: "Studied walks at Constitution Spring and east of it. Studied drives and walks in cross valley west of Berne Street. It seemed necessary to have a walk follow this cross valley drive as otherwise people would walk on the drive. Tried to utilize the walk existing north side of brook, but concluded it cut up the effect too much. Studied walks about spring. The shape of the garden is a puzzling matter. The regular steep wooded slope west of it seems to make a rectangular garden rather a misfit yet the triangular form does not lend itself well to the observation terrace at south end nor to the conservatory at north end. Besides cutting into bank at northwest corner, it may be well to raise a bank near southwest corner parallel with axis, but tapering down to retain effect of valley going out at southwest corner. Also it seems very awkward to have another cross road north of and not far from the cross valley drive, especially as it does not continue across west of brook. Concluded it might be left out."

April 1: "Looked over lines of drive and walk proposed and noted trees and shortcuts in southeast quarter of park from zoo easterly and from cross road southerly . . . I revised the drives, but slightly, and mainly to save good trees, but the walk system I changed considerably, mainly to secure better grades or to better serve for shortcutting. In the case of the walk up the south cross valley it seemed best to keep it on the south side of valley, so one would have the views across valley looking toward interior of park instead of out of it. . . . As a rule the steep shortcut walks up to Fort Walker and the like may be reduced to 8 feet or even to 6 feet in cases where they are used mainly by workmen and outsiders. The walk following the breastworks from Fort Walker down is an exception, as it is much used by visitors and should be 10 feet wide. The east and south sides of park have scarcely any population now, but will fill up eventually and many shortcut walks will be needed, more especially to the Augusta Ave. or Georgia Ave. entrances and to the springs."

April 2: "I studied drives, walks, trees and shortcuts in the main valley from Grant Spring down to stone bridge, as it seemed to me there ought to be more accommodation in the way of surface of walks as this is a very crowded part of the park judging by the way the surface of the ground is worn.

The valley drive, owing to easy grade and the local attractions, is most used and it would be very desirable to widen it, but this would be very destructive of trees. Hence every effort should be made to improve the grades of the proposed drive west of brook and to make it attractive with interesting planting."

to Joel Hurt, Feb 10, 1905

97:379; 3pp ds

"Our experience has been that men in actual charge of park work when they macadamize a drive do not give enough consideration to the importance of providing a wide and conveniently located walk adjoining or near the drive. If such a walk is not provided or is narrow and crooked and inconvenient, visitors on foot are almost certain to walk on the drive, which practice is a very inconvenient one for the drives, interfering greatly with their pleasure in driving, and is also subversive of the relaxation of the minds of pedestrians which is almost essential to their complete enjoyment of the local scenery. They almost inevitably, especially women and children, use the drives with more or less sense of danger and nervous tension, which more or less completely spoils their enjoyment of their outing in the park."

JCO to JF Dawson, Jan 7, 1910

97: 479-84: 10pp ms

"I think all possible should be done to get the construction of new drives & walks & slopes done according to the plan and as fast as possible to grade over & grass the superceded drives. The plan is to get a complete circuit drive & to avoid being so close to boundary as some drives are. I think I should rather he made that the principal feature of his policy than anything else."

Fort Walker

to Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903

97:335—47; 26pp ds

"One of the most enjoyable spots in the park is the battery on top of the hill. A little cutting of the trees will open from this point a remarkably fine view of the city, including the State House dome and some of the tall office buildings. The trees in the valley, which would otherwise in time obscure this view, should be kept cut back or what would be better, replaced by lower-growing kinds to such an extent as may be necessary.

There is also a very interesting view out into the country across the Southern Boulevard, which forms the boundary of the park adjoining the battery, but of course this view cannot be regarded as permanent, because houses to be eventually erected on the other side of the Boulevard, together with the trees which will presumably grow in their yards, will entirely hide this view. It is a question whether it would not be worth while for the Park Commission to buy a piece of land at this point, fifty or one hundred yards wide, extending easterly down the hill as far as may be necessary, in order to preserve this delightful outlook from the park, the rest of which is so thickly wooded that there are no extensive views.

It is perhaps superfluous in a park already so well provided with a miscellaneous lot of buildings to suggest one more, but one cannot help thinking when one is on the hilltop that it would be interesting to climb a tower of sufficient height to get an extended view over the treetops. Occurring, as it would, in the midst of trees and being surrounded as it might be by additional evergreen trees, it would not be an unduly obtrusive object in the park scenery, while it would undoubtedly provide a decidedly popular and interesting additional feature of the park."

Lake Abana Area

to Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903

97:335—47; 26pp ds

"The artificially created lake in the park supplies a feature which is one of the most valuable and important of the park. Unfortunately the execution of this idea has involved such a conspicuous quality of stiffness that the beauty of the water itself is almost neutralized by the ugliness and unsuitableness of the shores. The treatment of the banks is in fact almost exactly what would be appropriate and suitable in the case of a circular, square, rectangular or triangular pond, or in other words, it is suitable for a geometric design, but it is not in the slightest degree appropriate to a lake having irregular curving outlines, and where the purpose has obviously been to make it as nearly natural as possible in effect. It will not be an easy matter to remedy this defect, although it need not involve any unreasonable expense. The lake is so small that it seems almost childish to use it for boating purposes, and we therefore think it would be well worth considering whether the supply of water is not sufficient, or if it is not, whether it would not pay to supplement it by means of the city water supply, so as to warrant the extension of the lake to within a short distance of the south boundary of the park. No doubt there is a considerable number of valuable trees which will be lost by this extension, yet this sacrifice would be amply justified by the object to be accomplished. The lake would certainly not look at all well unless a reasonable margin is filled along the boundary street at its lower end to provide for moderate slopes, for a walk and for screening plantations. The present arrangement by which the storm water (which, of course, is more or less charged with mud and silt) is carried past the lake without connection with it, is extremely ugly. Some form of covered channel certainly ought to be provided."

New property to acquire

to Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903

97:335—47; 26pp ds

“There is also a very interesting view out into the country across the Southern Boulevard, which forms the boundary of the park adjoining the battery, but of course this view cannot be regarded as permanent, because houses to be eventually erected on the other side of the Boulevard, together with the trees which will presumably grow in their yards, will entirely hide this view. It is a question whether it would not be worth while for the Park Commission to buy a piece of land at this point, fifty or one hundred yards wide, extending easterly down the hill as far as may be necessary, in order to preserve this delightful outlook from the park, the rest of which is so thickly wooded that there are no extensive views. It is to be hoped that the land could be obtained at a reasonable price at the present time. It would be an easy matter to make uses of it which would fully justify its purchase. The upper section nearest the Boulevard can be treated as an open grass plot for lawn games; further down it could be utilized for a park nursery, and still further down the slope a greenhouse could be erected, of course, to be screened by trees of sufficient height to hide it from view without obstructing the distant view over it, and the land beyond the greenhouse could be used for nursery and other administrative purposes.

Beyond the park to the south there is a considerable area of low land, which appears to be wet and comparatively valueless to its owners. It is worth considering whether the Park Commission might not desirably buy a fairly large area of this cheap land and underdrain it and improve it for base ball and other sports requiring considerable areas of flat land. As this land is evidently valueless for any residential purposes except the very meanest and poorest, it is obvious that its removal from the market would be a great benefit to the surrounding upland, which is valuable for residential purposes, but which is menaced by the almost certainly bad future of this low ground, unless it is taken for some public purpose.”

Vegetation/planting

to Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903

97:335—47; 26pp ds

“We shall undoubtedly be influenced by this feeling ourselves when we come to design further improvements on this park, that is to say, we shall probably tend to do such additional planting as the various purposes to be accomplished may demand with evergreen shrubs and trees, and in the main with other trees than the common oaks and pines where trees are called for. Yet there is no reason why such additional planting should not be naturalistic in general effect, even if not obviously native to the locality. We should certainly endeavor to avoid undue formality in a general design for the park, because its present natural conditions are anything but formal or adapted to formal treatment. The topography is unusually broken and varied and cannot be brought into harmony with formal improvements, except by destroying its present beauty and except at unwarrantable expense. There may be limited areas in connection with entrances or with such buildings as are required in a park which can be properly designed in a more or less

formal manner, but the effect of the park as a whole should bear as close a resemblance to the more or less smooth, civilized natural style as other necessary requirements of the design permit."

to Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903

97:335—47; 26pp ds

"The ditches and side-slopes of the drives are almost everywhere ragged and steep and ugly. It will be important to remedy this defect, but it will not be advisable to follow any one rule as to the treatment of such steep banks. Where the necessary formality of the locality justifies it, retaining walls may be introduced to be covered, usually, with English ivy. Where there are trees so close upon the drive and so large and valuable that they cannot be sacrificed, the steep banks may be covered with vines and creepers, and if this has an isolated and patchy effect, sufficient area can be devoted to shrubbery in connection with the vine-clad bank to distinguish the locality from other adjoining where simple turf would be the prevailing ground cover. In some cases, doubtless, it will be best to sacrifice the trees and to extend the side slopes gently so as to join the natural surfaces at a considerable distance from the drive, thus enabling the turf to be brought to the drives on natural grades."

[Planting of Undergrowth]

to Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903

97:335—47; 26pp ds

"We shall aim to secure a greater sense of variety and diversity in the woods, not only by the introduction of additional trees at certain points and by the removal of trees to create little open glades at other points, but also by the means of the introduction of stretches of undergrowth at places where they will serve to screen one drive from another or the bounding street from the interior views, or one walk from another, or to form a background to a little glade or to deepen and intensify the secluded effect appropriate to a little valley. It is necessary to exercise considerable caution in regard to the introduction of such areas of undergrowth, as they will necessarily increase the difficulty of properly policing the park. We are firmly convinced, however, some concession on this score must be made by those who are particularly influenced by practical considerations for the sake of securing a greater degree of variety and beauty, which are among the most important objects of the existence of the park. It is very noticeable at some portions of the brook where the undergrowth has not been cleared away or where shrubs have been planted and allowed to grow, and where there are therefore more natural and wild and intricate effects, that the local scenery is far more attractive than in those similar localities where there is nothing but clean turf on both sides of the brook and in all directions from it."

[Nursery]

"It appears to us that when we have completed the general plan for the further improvement of the park in accordance with our agreement, it would be a wise policy on the part of the Park Commission to have executed, while we are still connected with the work, as much of the planting (which is essential to securing the greatest beauty of the landscape) as could be carried out without large expenditure for grading and other preparatory operations. Without having gone into the matter at all thoroughly, we have no doubt that a large proportion of all the planting we

should propose could be done with merely the ordinary preparation of the soil or with comparatively little expense for preliminary grading. The class of plants which it is proposed to use would undoubtedly include many choice evergreens, as well as other shrubs and trees which are usually sold by nurseries in comparatively limited numbers and which will therefore either be unavailable in the requisite quantities, or obtainable only at an excessive cost for the plants, or which are necessarily costly because they are so difficult to propagate. Under these circumstances it would undoubtedly be wise for the Commission to begin the propagation of a large stock of the kinds of plants most likely to be required in planting within the next two or three years. We should therefore strongly advise that this work be undertaken at once by the gardeners already employed, and that in order to enable them to devote themselves to this work, the extent of flower and tender foliage plant bedding should be greatly reduced this season, and perhaps for one or two additional seasons. This may create some popular disappointment, but considering the limited funds of the Commission, and the far more permanent and in a sense far more valuable object to be accomplished, the public would better be temporarily disappointed than to fail to benefit to the greatest extent practicable from our employment. If the Commission is disposed to act favorably upon this suggestion, we will immediately forward lists of trees and shrubs which we should advise to be propagated at once, and will assist your superintendent in obtaining the necessary material from which to propagate.”

JCO report of visit, March 24—April 2, 1904

97:367-69; 5pp ss

“southeast quarter of park from zoo easterly and from cross road southerly— It was noticeable that the best grass in this section was in almost purely pine woods. It may be the roots take less moisture out of the surface of the soil or there may be just shade enough without excess or the habit of burning oak leaves may discourage the grass or the litter of heavy oak leaves may smother the grass.

This [south cross] valley though steep is fairly good soil and not so exceedingly dry as the ridges. It is going to be extremely hard to grow any but deep-rooted trees on the ridges and hills, the soil is so poor and dry and at the same time shaded and filled with big tree roots.

In general masses of shrubbery should be used very sparingly owing to difficulty of policing, but preference should be given to very dwarf bushes and vines and to scattered tall bushes and little trees. The azaleas now in bloom are pretty and thinly used so as to be comparatively unobjectionable. Ivy on trees is an attractive feature. The wild cane is low and attractive. Honeysuckle is abundant in places, but should not be used near bushes. The park is little used at this season, so spring flowers are almost useless.

The valley drive, owing to easy grade and the local attractions, is most used and it would be very desirable to widen it, but this would be very destructive of trees. Hence every effort should be made to improve the grades of the proposed drive west of brook and to make it attractive with interesting planting.

The walk near east boundary north of garden should be made especially attractive with nice planting to counteract its bad feature of looking out of the park.”

JCO report of visit, Oct. 16-19, 1909

97: 472-75; 7pp ss

October 19

"I told him as I walked about that the trees needed thinning in irregular areas where people can be allowed to stroll at large and so as to let in the light so grass can be grown, but that many places needed extra deep plowing and fertilizing before grass can be made successful and that in many places topsoil should be added from 1" to 3" deep to cover tree roots. I gave him some suggestions about design of masonry for springs, especially artificial ones. I showed him where trees should be cut and where vines are needed on steep banks . . ."

[Overall planating policy]

JCO to JF Dawson, Jan 7, 1910

97: 479-84: 10pp ms

"For one thing there is a strong prejudice against dense planting in the South generally on account of the immorality of the negro. My idea in general is to plant largely in the borders individuals plants that will not alarm the neighbors too much with the idea that their views into the park are to be completely blocked, but of such sorts that they will be pleased with them as ornaments & yet which will grow in 10' to 20' apart so extensively that while they will not coalesce into a solid mass yet the view in & out of park will be so obscured that houses will not be baldly in sight as at present, & so that there will be some mystery and seclusion in the park so one will not see it all at once through the tall stemmed trees as at present. This can be accomplished by scattering shade enduring large shrubs & small trees through the woods especially on steepish slopes and by planting the valleys so the tops of the small & medium trees will be level with the eyes of people passing on drives & walks. I think one of the best things will be European hornbeam, but dogwoods, magnolias, yellow, black & white birches, beeches, Norway maples, white oaks &c that will stand some shade can be also used. Then cover steep slopes largely with Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy & various very low growers, particularly evergreen & other ferns, so subsequent administrations will not be so apt to clean them out as lurking places for negroes. In some places light must be let in for sorts that require sun & for flowering effects.

Tree box is well adapted to the climate. Biota orientalis seems to do particularly well. I think also Abies (or is it Picea) orientalis would suit the climate & Coronado spruce—not necessarily or largely the blue one—and dry region trees. The red cedar does very well in sunny places. These are only slight hints. I think Mische used too many doubtfully hardy sorts but you can study his planting at Druid Hills to advantage."

JCO to JF Dawson, Jan 7, 1910

97: 479-84; 10pp ms

"There is much need of a thin layer of topsoil over tree roots & of plowing up & enrichment for decent turf elsewhere. Unfortunately the only practical grass is the Bermuda grass & that will not stand any shade. Therefore the trees ought to be considerably thinned out but that must be done very gradually & as unobtrusively as possible in the worst winter weather so as not to raise a storm of public indignation. In shade bluegrass will do if more rich soil is added & lime & fertilizer and where watering can be afforded. But the public are used to lack of grass & it is so expensive that I should only do a little in that way in most conspicuous places each year.

... no doubt he [Carey] can accomplish more improvement of the landscape by the kind of planting I have described for the small available expenditure, but it will take several years to work up a stock. Therefore the nursery is perhaps the most important one thing."

OB to Dan Carey, Nov 23, 1910

97:457-58; 3 pp ds

"Our plan also shows certain trees to be cut in the vicinity of the areas to be planted. Eventually many more trees elsewhere should be cut. These would be shown on future plans.

We have estimated the cost of the plants, in medium sizes, needed to carry out the plan, at prices given in wholesale catalogues, at approximately \$5000.00. However, some reduction could probably be obtained on these prices by submitting the list to nurserymen for bids.

[Preparation of areas to be planted]

All the areas to be planted should be thoroughly prepared before planting. In the case of areas to be planted with rhododendrons, azaleas and other ericaceous plants, well decomposed leaf mold or black muck should be added. In case the latter is used it must be in a thoroughly sweetened condition, that is if it comes out of too swampy land it must have been exposed to the air on dry land in layers not exceeding a foot in depth and turned over occasionally for a year or more. Swamp muck that has had its acidity corrected by lime is not suitable for this purpose. The leaf mold or black muck, whichever it may be, should be thoroughly mixed with a friable sandy topsoil in the proportion of one third of the former to two thirds of the latter, to a depth of two feet. If the soil already existing on the areas to be prepared for the rhododendrons, etc., is friable and sandy it can be used, but if it is heavy and clayey it should be excavated two feet and replaced with soil of the proper sort. No manure should be used on these beds although the beds can be mulched lightly with it. It should not be forked under in spring but should be allowed to remain on the surface of the ground.

Areas for other plants should be spaded up at least eighteen inches first and then there should be spread upon them well decayed manure at the rate of about twenty cords to the acre. This manure should then be spaded under. After the manure has been spaded under, ground bone should be spread on the ground, at the rate of about one thousand pounds to the acre, and raked in.

The plants should be mulched over winter with about three inches of straw manure. In the spring the straw can be picked out and the manure forked under.

In the case of the rhododendrons the manure should be at least fairly well decayed and it should not, as already stated above, be forked under but should be allowed to stay in place undisturbed.”

OB to Dan Carey, March 4, 1912

97: 526-29: 7pp ds

[Re Planting Plan no. 33]

“In the case of a great deal of this planting the quantities estimated as being needed may be not very approximate since much of the planting is shown only suggestively, because it is quite likely that when the planting is to be done changes may have to be made to meet conditions which were not evident on the topographical map upon which the planting plan is based and also because full grown shrubs may then be moved in from older plantations.

OB to Dan Carey, March 4, 1912

97: 526-29: 7pp ds

“In the border plantations immediately next to the boundary sidewalks, we have as a rule shown rather low-growing shrubs such as Japan barberry, mahonia, etc. Back of these, larger growing shrubs are shown, with, in many cases, some of the low-growing shrubs mixed in with them. In such cases our idea is that these low-growing shrubs are to be extended back, in and out, irregularly among the larger shrubs, disregarding somewhat the exact dividing lines shown on the plan, so as to avoid making the junction of the masses of smaller shrubs with the masses of larger shrubs stiff and conspicuous. Also if small specimens of the large-growing shrubs are planted they will be so widely spaced as to make the planting look thin. If so, small-growing shrubs should be planted among the large-growing shrubs to obtain an immediate effect and to serve as a ground cover. These small growing shrubs should eventually be taken out in great part and may be used elsewhere in new planting.

Where the note occurs “scattered and in groups eventually to stand --- feet apart” if it is thought desirable for the sake of immediate effect, the plants in the groups may be planted as closely as the spacing given in the list, to be thinned out at some later time. It is very important that such thinning out, especially in the case of trees wherever a screening effect is intended, be attended to in time to prevent “legginess.”

Where no such note occurs on the plan, or where there is nothing on the grounds, such as surface roots of existing trees, that suggests a different treatment, the areas shown to be planted can be planted solidly with the kinds of plants indicated and at about the spacing given in the list.

Where the slopes are gentle and the soil good an effort is to be made in many cases to cover the ground with grass, so that visitors may stroll there with comfort and pleasure. With moderate shade and plenty of water and fertilizer, bluegrass can be grown in such places, but it is an expensive luxury and can only be used in the near future on limited areas. The determination of such areas should affect the tree thinning. For economy, some grass areas can have only the drought-enduring Bermuda grass, but that will not endure shade, so in such areas tree thinning must be more severe and a different assortment of trees such as will cast only light shade should be aimed at and even these should be trimmed with taller bare trunks than elsewhere.

By way of breaking the monotony of the woods some gentle slopes should be cleared entirely or almost entirely for an acre or more, thus affording the effect of contrast with the woods and enabling the easily and cheaply maintained Bermuda grass to be used."

Woods

97:332—March 17 visit to Grant Park

"Nearly the whole of Grant Park is covered with woods composed as are most of the neighboring second or third growth woods of oaks, with occasional groves of pines and scattering of pines. The pines are not long lived and cannot be relied upon for permanent effect, yet they are good at present for variety, especially when leaves are off the deciduous trees. The oaks are excellent. They have been thinned almost everywhere to a sufficient extent to allow a full development of their tops, their trunks, however, have been trimmed clean as high as men could conveniently reach, say, an average of 15 to 20 feet up. The view is therefore unobstructed both within the park and outside of it, and a general impression of monotony prevails, though the topography is varied and interesting."

to Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903

97:335—47; 26pp ds

"Coming now to the largest park of the city, Grant Park, we have nothing but praise for its natural beauty and adaptability for the purposes of a park of its size. We regret, however, to have to say we cannot but feel objections to much that has been done heretofore toward its improvement and fitting for use by the public. The park is mostly covered with a fine, healthy growth of oak trees and not a few pines. The latter, we believe, cannot be regarded as permanent, as they appear to succumb to the unfavorable conditions of soil, climate and insects before attaining to a much greater age and size than they have reached. No doubt many visitors have been consciously or unconsciously aware of a certain sense of monotony and of commonplaceness in the general character of the woods which cover the park. The woods are in fact identical in composition with those which cover nearly all the land about Atlanta, except in so far as they have of late years been thinned and trimmed and have had the surface below them cleared of wild undergrowth and kept comparatively clear of leaves, rubbish, etc., and undoubtedly many citizens feel a slight sense of disappointment in going to Grant Park that it is so much like what they see upon comparatively cheap and neglected land in all directions beyond the built-up portions of the city. In a city no larger than Atlanta it is perfectly reasonable for the designer of such a park to, in a measure, discard the motives which should influence the designers of a park in a larger city, the

surroundings of which for miles are [?], denuded of forest trees and formalized and made more or less ugly by streets and other works, and where consequently the more natural the landscape of such a park can be made the more refreshing and charming it is by contrast with its surroundings. On the other hand, it is perfectly reasonable that the designer of Grant Park should make a distinct effort to add to and even gradually in spots to replace the comparatively natural and wild forest with a growth of the more or less strange and interesting, but of course beautiful trees and shrubs.”

JCO report of visit, March 24—April 2, 1904

97:367-69; 5pp ss

In and near the main valley are some very large trees, especially tulips, but these are often not as permanently valuable as white oaks and scarlet maples.”

OB to Dan Carey, March 4, 1912

97: 526-29; 7pp ds

“You will notice that on some parts of the planting plan existing trees are marked with signs which mean that they are to be cut or are to be saved, as the case may be.

The existing woods are not natural but are the result of natural processes and conditions which have been continually interfered with and modified by man.

The result is that the woods now exhibit to a deplorable degree an effect of monotony and a good deal of positive ugliness owing to the large proportion of bare or nearly bare ugly earth surface.

To obviate these conditions demands much study by a landscape designer and subsequently considerable expense for thinning, enriching the soil and planting. What is needed cannot be done all at once but what can be done each year should be done according to a fully devised scheme and we hope that we may be given a chance to devise such a scheme.

Some ideas which we should keep in view are as follows:

The purely arboricultural idea of thinning the woods so as to obtain the most healthy, vigorous growth of the remaining trees almost necessarily results in increasing the marked monotony which had previously resulted from private ownership of the property. Under an arboriculturist or park foreman, the assortment of trees becomes reduced to a few species. Appropriateness of location as regards soil, exposure, moisture and mutual protection is apt to be ignored. For instance, some trees to appear appropriate should have the ground among them densely covered with shade-enduring wild shrubs, ferns and herbs. Many trees thrive best under such conditions, but if a large, vigorous looking tree of such a sort happens to be on an area where public convenience demands that the ground be covered with grass it might be the arboriculturist or foreman would leave such a tree and in thinning cut a smaller and for the time being a less thrifty tree of another sort which would be better adapted to stand in clipped lawn.

Every one knows that a weeping willow is more appropriate near water, or at least in low, moist land, than on a steep dry hillside, but few realize that similar question of appropriateness of location and surroundings apply to almost every tree in the park or which could be desirably planted in it.

Where the slopes are gentle and the soil good an effort is to be made in many cases to cover the ground with grass, so that visitors may stroll there with comfort and pleasure. With moderate shade and plenty of water and fertilizer, bluegrass can be grown in such places, but it is an expensive luxury and can only be used in the near future on limited areas. The determination of such areas should affect the tree thinning. For economy, some grass areas can have only the drought-enduring Bermuda grass, but that will not endure shade, so in such areas tree thinning must be more severe and a different assortment of trees such as will cast only light shade should be aimed at and even these should be trimmed with taller bare trunks than elsewhere.

By way of breaking the monotony of the woods some gentle slopes should be cleared entirely or almost entirely for an acre or more, thus affording the effect of contrast with the woods and enabling the easily and cheaply maintained Bermuda grass to be used.

Another way of lessening the monotony of the woods is to thin more in some spots than in others, leaving comparatively crowded groups of trees to catch the eye.

In other places, for the sake of variety of effect, good existing trees might well be cut out and beeches and hop hornbeams or hollies and evergreen magnolias planted instead, even though it would take a generation to develop the desired effect. A grove of a few score beech trees 50 or 100 years old would produce a most pleasing effect and one well worth working for in this park, which is predominately and monotonously covered with oaks as are most of the wooded lands of the region."

Zoo, Cyclorama, & Nonpark Uses

to Joel Hurt, March 24, 1903

97:335—47; 26pp ds

"In our opinion the occupation of the most beautiful part of the park - namely, that having an intimate landscape relation with the lake - by buildings is a great mistake. It may not be practicable for many years to come to remove the large animal house, but all other buildings, including the greenhouse, ought to be removed to some less valuable and conspicuous site. The greenhouse, we think, ought to be placed near the administration barn, on the plateau between Cherokee Avenue and the steep bank above the lake, where it would be very easy to screen it out of the landscape of the park. The necessary whitening of the glass to neutralize the excessive sunlight makes this greenhouse by far the most conspicuous and ugly building of the lot, and its removal to the site suggested, or what would be still better, to an outside plot of ground to be procured for the purpose, is one of the most immediate and important improvements that could possibly be made. The Cyclorama building is, of course, a thing that ought never to have been placed in the park. It will be too much of an undertaking to remove it for some years to come no doubt, but a

suitable lot should be secured for it within a few years before land in the neighborhood is all occupied, and the Cyclorama removed to the site thus provided. The boat-house, while convenient and enjoyable, is much too large, and especially too high, to be in scale with the lake, and when it gets so much out of repair as to justify it, it should be removed entirely, and some more modest and suitable structure provided for boating.

“It is rather noticeable that the northern addition to the park seems to be comparatively little used by the mass of people. There is a portion of this addition to the park from the tennis court southward which is comparatively tame and unimportant to the landscapes of the park, and it seems to us it would be worth considering whether this area would not best be utilized for the collection of animals which now have spoiled or are spoiling all naturalness and beauty in the landscape of the beautiful valley, part of which is occupied by the lake and the rest of which will be soon occupied, if our suggestion for the extension of the lake proves to be practicable. The occupation of this hilltop by modest little buildings for the animals and by the necessary fences for the enclosure will in no sense beautify it, but it will enable a more important part of the park to be beautified. It can be partially, if not wholly, screened from view from the residences facing the park and from the interior landscapes of the park by suitable evergreen plantations. One advantage of placing the collection of animals at this point would be that it would tend to draw off from the head of the lake a portion of the large crowd which now congregates there to such an extent as to be very inconvenient and uncomfortable. We know the neighbors will object to the arrangement, and we should do everything within reason to minimize the objection. We should certainly advise against the keeping of animals there which make such loud noises as to be disagreeable to the neighborhood. Such animals ought not to be kept in the park anyway, unless the whole park is to be frankly given up to the purposes of a menagerie, which would be entirely unsuitable in the case of Atlanta, as it has no other park of adequate size.”

JCO report of visit, Feb 5-8, 1904

97:356-58; 4pp ss COPY

February 5, 1904; meeting with Joel Hurt

“He was disappointed that we retained the Zoo as he had desired to relegate it to some more secluded spot. I told him we had considered it as a fixed thing that public opinion would be against moving it although we should never have located it where it is if we had the planning of the park from the beginning.”

JCO to JF Dawson, Jan 7, 1910

97: 479-84; 10pp ms

“Two improvements of some magnitude he contemplates taking up soon—the reconstruction of the Cyclorama & the baseball field. As to former I did not like his idea of placing it plunk in front of entrance as I thought it would be too big & too conspicuous in park scenery. He will not move it out of park so I urged that it be sunk much lower in ground where it is so as to be less conspicuous. Hollow concrete walls will enable this to be done.”

JCO to Dan Carey, April 7, 1910

97:424, 3pp ds

"Says that he always wanted to keep Cyclorama where it is, but lower it one story into ground. Should not go to new site, is inappropriate in a landscape park, should really be moved to some other part of the city."