

1956

An evaluation of the Providence
Recreation Department with the
National Recreation Association
'Schedule for appraisal of community recreation'

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Lud Gizzo, L.
1956

AN EVALUATION OF THE PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT
WITH THE NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
'SCHEDULE FOR APPRAISAL OF COMMUNITY RECREATION'

Submitted by

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1947

In partial fulfillment of requirements for
the degree of Master of Education

1956

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Any city has a tremendous responsibility to its youth and an adequate recreation program can assist materially in building stronger, happier, and better citizens of the future.

Playgrounds and play fields are important physical facilities whose provisions have a direct bearing on the welfare of our young people and their later roles as citizens of the community. "Recreation facilities are now generally recognized as needed segments in every modern residential neighborhood comparable in importance with the street system, the water supply, the sewer system, and public schools."¹

Purpose of this Study

This study will be conducted in order to gain a more comprehensive picture of municipal recreation in the City of Providence. Its purpose is to show the amount of growth over the last nine years by means of the National Recreation Association "Schedule for Appraisal of Community Recreation", in the following areas:

- I. Land and Water Areas
- II. Buildings and Indoor Facilities
- III. Leadership and Personnel

¹The City Plan Commission of Providence, R. I., Jan. 1963, p.p. iii

- IV. Program Service
- V. Participation and Use
- VI. Current Expenditures
- VII. Administration

Based on these findings recommendations are to be made.

Justification of the Study

The importance of recreation in the United States today is due to a number of factors, chief of which is the great increase in leisure time. Never before in the history of the world has there been a period in which leisure has been so widespread.

It was only a generation ago that recreational activities were little emphasized and frowned upon as a waste of time and energy.

The lack of adequate recreation space in city neighborhoods greatly concerns all who are interested in development of opportunities for better living in American cities. People have come to appreciate the importance of recreation in their daily lives and are demanding more adequate neighborhood recreation facilities and services.....Sound economy and wise social planning demand that adequate recreation opportunities be provided in large-scale housing and neighborhood redevelopment projects.¹

"The survival of a community in the competitive struggle for population, business and industry depends largely on the kinds of recreation it provides."²

¹National Recreation Association, Standards for Neighborhood Recreation Areas and Facilities, New York, 1944, p.p. 2

²Joseph Pendergast, Executive Director, N.R.A., Evening Bulletin, Providence, R. I., November 1, 1955.

"Working time is becoming secondary to leisure time."¹

3

Meyer and Brightbill have brought out that the Community is the focal point of organized recreation. The first paramount responsibility for recreation rests in the local community. It is here that recreation under government, voluntary, industrial, or commercial auspices takes its roots. It is in the town, city, and country that organized recreation is most closely associated with the people. The emphasis is on the community generosity and initiative, community planning, organization and community action.²

The growing importance of recreation as a municipal function has made apparent the need for standards for municipal recreation facilities, activities, and services. - - - - an annual appraisal has been suggested as a desirable project for the recreation department. The chief value in this appraisal form lies in its usefulness to cities as a self-rating device- - - -.³

A Brief History of Recreation in the City of Providence

In 1895 a Joint Committee of the Union for Practical Progress and the Providence Free Kindergarten Association forwarded a petition to the City Council proposing an ordinance granting the use of school property for summer playgrounds. This was the first recorded interest by any group of private citizens in making known the immediate needs of recreation for children.

¹Pendergast, op. cit., p.p. 8

²Meyer-Brightbill, Community Recreation, D.C. Heath and Co., Boston, 1948, p.p. vii

³National Recreation Association, Schedule for the Appraisal of Community Recreation, N.R.A., New York 11, New York, p.p. 2

In the 1900's trips were arranged and sponsored by public spirited citizens to Hunts Mills. This type of recreation meant the basic needs of that period.

The Common Council, in 1906, passed a resolution appropriating the sum of \$3,000 for playground purposes, \$2,500 for salaries and \$500 for supplies. This was the first money appropriated by the city for the express purpose of recreation.

In 1911 the state legislature authorized the City of Providence "to establish public playgrounds and to hire not exceeding the sum of \$150,000 for playground purposes."¹

A commission to provide management of public recreation facilities was established in 1912. This commission later gave way for a Board of Recreation in 1913. The Board of Recreation functioned and administered to the recreational needs of the City of Providence until 1941 when the new City Charter became effective. In this City Charter it stated that "the Board of Park Commissioners shall have and exercise all powers and duties now vested in the Board of Recreation which said is hereby abolished. . . ."²

In 1946 Mayor Dennis J. Roberts sought and received the cooperation, advice and assistance of a group of civic-minded people in forming a group known as the Recreational Advisory Committee. It was this group that laid the ground work for the enactment of Chapter 1856 of Public Laws of 1947 and Chapter 1621 of Ordinances of the City of Providence, 1947. This legislation gave recreation in Providence a departmental status.

¹D. Everett Whelan, Providence City Government Pocket Manual, 1951-1952, City Clerk, p.p. 86

²Whelan, op. cit., p.p. 86

The following is a brief excerpt of Chapter #1856:

SECTION I - There shall be in the City of Providence a department of recreation. The City Council of the City of Providence may, from time to time, appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to operate said department and to establish and maintain comprehensive and adequate recreational programs. The head of the department of recreation shall be a director of recreation who shall be appointed by the Mayor for a term of five years. On the first Monday in January, 1947, or as soon thereafter, the Mayor shall appoint said director for said term.

By the passage of this permissive legislature the Providence Recreation Department came into existence with provisions for a director and service program.

A brief description of the events following the creation of the Advisory Committee and the passage of the above legislature follow in chronological order:

- 1946 - A bond issue of \$1,000,000
 - Contracts were awarded for construction of two large swimming pools.
 - The first year-round municipal recreation center opened.
- 1947 - School facilities were used in twelve sections of the city.
- 1948 - The second year-round center was opened.
- 1949 - Two gymnasium-swimming pool combination buildings were opened.
- 1950 - Bond issue for \$1,000,000 was passed.
- 1951 - A fifth year-round center was acquired.
 - Attendance in all recreational activities passed the 1,000,000 mark. This number does not include spectators.
- 1953 - Golden Age Center dedicated.
- 1955 - Plans for new gymnasium-swimming pool were started.

Scope

This study will evaluate the recreational resources of the City of Providence, including land and water areas, building facilities, leadership personnel, program service, participation and use, current expenditures and several administrative factors involved in the operation of a public recreation system. The aim is to appraise the major categories and compare the results with nationally accepted standards. In this manner it will be possible to determine the weaknesses and deficiencies, if any, that exist.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature in the field of recreation covers many forms, philosophies, administration, skills and programs. In this review many of these views will be pursued.

A definition of recreation set forth by Hutchinson seems to meet all points of view and will serve as a guide throughout this appraisal.

"Recreation is a worthwhile, socially accepted leisure experience that provides immediate and inherent satisfactions to the individual who voluntarily participates in an activity". . . .¹

Meyer and Brightbill point out that,

"Since recreation contributes to the general well-being of the people, it is an inescapable responsibility of government at all levels. . . .Local government. . . .faces the problem of how best to administer public recreation overall objectives for community recreation:

1. to manage and control recreation areas and facilities of all types.
2. to acquire, establish, maintain, and operate such centers within, and sometimes beyond, municipal boundaries.
3. to organize and supervise activities and services.
4. to promote public recreation in the broadest aspects.
5. to administer public funds in the operation of the system."²

¹Hutchinson, John L., Principles of Recreation, A. S. Barnes and Company, New York, 1949, p.p. 79

²Meyer and Brightbill, p.p. 108

"Today, organized recreation on a municipal level exists in most areas throughout the United States because of the liberal concern many community leaders have for the happiness and well-being of citizens."¹

Frankl's statement concerning leisure time is quite interesting . . . "the most complex problem that the machine has hurled at the twentieth century civilization is that of finding an aesthetic solution for our leisure."²

"It is not by accident that chambers of commerce and other industrial groups in their appeals for new businesses and industries stress heavily the recreation resources of their community and region."³

"Recreation has become a governmental function not from the consent, but by the demand, of the governed."⁴

Joseph S. Clark, Jr.
Mayor of Philadelphia

The recreation movement is relatively new. In all the ancient world, throughout the Middle Ages, and even until recent times, no playgrounds--in the modern sense of the term--existed. Provision for play and recreation, in the form of an institution, grew out of social and industrial conditions peculiar to the present day. It is generally agreed that the

¹Hutchinson, John L., Principles of Recreation, A. S. Barnes and Co., New York, 1949, p.p. 7

²Frankle, Paul T., Machine Made Leisure, Harper and Brothers, New York, 1932, p.p. 7

³Pendergast, Joseph, Evening Bulletin, Providence, R. I., November 1, 1955

⁴Clark, Joseph S., Recreation An Essential Part of the City Plan, N.R.A., New York, N. Y.

recreation movement in the United States had its beginning in Boston in 1885. The first state legislative relative to playgrounds was passed by New York in 1888. The law provided for the foundation of societies whose object was the securing and equipping of open places for children's play.¹

¹Rice, Emmette A., A Brief History of Physical Education, A. S. Barnes and Company, N. Y., 1929, p.p. 256, 257.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES

This evaluation will be conducted with the aid of the "Schedule for the Appraisal of Community Recreation" published by the National Recreation Association and literature compiled by the Providence Recreation Advisory Board and the City Plan Commission.

With the use of this material plus information from several authoritative books as a guide, many recreation people will be interviewed.

The Schedule for Appraisal of Community Recreation

The schedule offers a means of measuring the degree to which cities are furnishing their people with well-rounded recreation opportunities. In a real sense, it affords a measuring rod of public recreation service. It enables recreation authorities to check their facilities, personnel, program, and services against a standard, and thereby to determine the weaknesses and deficiencies that call for consideration and action.¹

The "Schedule for Appraisal of Community Recreation" will give a number score as to the weight of each section of the program. Since a point basis is used in the final analysis it was felt that a report dealing with the actual number of parks, playfields, recreation centers, personnel, etc. should be presented.

¹National Recreation Association, Schedule for the Appraisal of Community Recreation, N.R.A., New York, 1951, p.p. 1

Many local agencies include some form of recreation in their programs but this appraisal will include only those services which furnish recreation as a primary objective. It will be limited to governmental units such as park, recreation, or school departments.

There are few, if any, standards in this schedule that are not now achieved in at least a few communities and in some cases they are already met in many cities. On the whole, they represent standards that are possible of achievement by a majority of cities. On the other hand, there is probably no city which has so far attained all of them.¹

The following are the seven major divisions which will be appraised:

- I. Land and Water Areas
- II. Buildings and Indoor Facilities
- III. Leadership Personnel
- IV. Program Service
- V. Participation and Use
- VI. Current Expenditures
- VII. Administration²

¹National Recreation Association, op. ct., p.p. 3

²op. ct., p.p. 4

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

I. Land and Water Areas

A. Total Acreage

The total park and recreation acreage includes all publicly-owned and recreation areas within or immediately adjoining the limits of the municipality. All the area that is available for unrestricted public park or recreational use.

TABLE I

A comparison of the total acreage devoted to recreational purpose in Providence, R. I. in 1947 and 1955 with the Standards established by the National Recreation Association Appraisal Form.

NRA Standard		Actual Units		Points Awarded		Points Under Standard	Point Increase Since
Acres	Points Available	1947	1955	1947	1955	1955	1947
2476	30	1590	1670	16	20	10	4

Despite some progress in recent years the total recreational acreage is about 2/3 of what is needed for the present population of Providence. Moreover, the existing area is not evenly distributed throughout the city. Triggs Golf Course and Triggs Memorial Park have a total acreage of 1,727 acres. The population density in this area is not too heavy, Appendix D, Chart C. It is recommended that some of this land be sold by the Prov. Property Committee and the income received be used to buy land in the more densely populated areas for recreational needs.

B. Playgrounds and Playfields

1. Neighborhood Playgrounds

The neighborhood playground is considered to be an area which offers a diversified play program for children from 6 years to 14 years of age and limited facilities for use of young people and adults.

2. Playfields

The playfield is an area developed for diversified recreation use primarily by young people and adults. It may include a playground for children.

TABLE II

A comparison of the Playgrounds and Playfields in Providence, R. I. in 1947 and 1955 with N.R.A. Standards.

	NRA Standard		Actual Acres		Points Awarded		Points Under Standard	Point Increase
	Acres Recommended	Points Available	1947	1955	1947	1955	1955	Since 1947
Playgrounds	311	15	71	80	3½	5	10	1½
Playfields	311	15	120	150	6	7	8	1
Total	622	30	191	230	9½	12	18	2½

The addition of some 40 acres to the playground and playfield areas, in the past eight years, still leaves the Providence Recreation Department in need of more play areas. The area it now has, which is about 1/3 of the N.R.A. Standard, leaves some parts of the city completely without playground or playfield service. This is particularly true in the older sections such as Federal Hill, South Providence, and West End, Appendix D Chart A, B.

In order to provide an adequate amount of play area it will necessitate acquiring property for new sites. In justification to Providence, whose area is only 18 square miles and heavily congested, land becomes very expensive and is at a premium. The acquisition of these new sites would have to be scaled down to the financial capabilities of the City Budget.

C. Special Recreation Areas and Facilities

TABLE III
PAGE III

A comparison of Special Areas and Facilities

	NRA		Actual		Actual		Point Increase Since 1947
	Units Recommended	Standard Points Available	Units 1947	Units 1955	Points 1947	Points 1955	
Outdoor pools	*7,460			1600			
bathing beach	people at one time	4	0	people	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Baseball diamonds	** 82	3	27	31	1	1 $\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$
Golf courses	82 holes	1	18 holes	18 holes	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	0
Tennis courts	125	2	30	30	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
Game courts	165	5	46	57	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	$\frac{1}{2}$
Other facilities	99	5	30	31	2	2	0
Special areas	24	5	5	8	1	2	1
Totals		25			6 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{2}{3}$	2 $\frac{2}{3}$

* The capacity of pools and beaches is determined by an estimate of 15 square feet of water area per individual. In case of beaches, only wading area is used.

** A baseball diamond is an area laid out as a diamond--not spaces merely used informally for these games.

Swimming facilities should be available to serve 3% of the total population of Providence at any one time. This would mean that Providence with a population of over 247,000 people should offer facilities to 7,460 people at any one time. At present, the two outdoor pools can handle only 1600 people. Plans are in the making for another outdoor pool. Construction will start some time in 1957. Even with this new construction, Providence will be able to accommodate about one per cent of its population.

Since these facilities are inadequate, a better method of admission should be maintained to enable a greater portion of Providence residents to use these outdoor facilities. At the present time, residents of any city may use the pools provided by the tax payers of Providence.

Although there are seventeen wading pools on the playgrounds, these pools are antiquated in construction and therefore make it very difficult for the playground director to maintain the water at proper health standards.

In order to have an adequate outdoor swimming program, Providence should construct 4 new swimming pools.

A city as large as Providence should have at least 4 golf courses, but at the present time it has only one. When the subject of new sites for golf courses is suggested, the big problem of land evaluation and taxes derived from it always comes up. There is not area enough to build new golf courses. The solution to this last problem would be for the City to acquire land in adjoining towns and develop it for a golf course.

The number of tennis courts to be found in Providence are very few, 1/4 of what the City should have for its size. In the past 8 years no new courts have been added. It is suggested that when new tennis courts are constructed, they should be surfaced with asphalt and not with clay. Asphalt will last longer with less maintenance and could be used for a multi-purpose area.

D. Design, Construction and Maintenance

This area includes primarily those properties intended for active recreational use.

TABLE IV

	Points Available	1947 Points Awarded	1955 Points Awarded	Points Under Standard	Point Improvement Since 1947
Design	5	1	2	3	1
Construction	5	1	2	3	1
Maintenance	5	1	3	2	2
Total	15	3	7	8	4

The construction of new facilities is being guided by standards set by the N.R.A. on a personnel survey of recreation centers which were constructed in the past 8 years, there was evidence of a lack of proper maintenance. As a remedy for this problem, more money should be allocated for the maintenance of such expensive buildings.

II. Building and Indoor Facilities

A. Recreation Buildings and Indoor Centers

Included are all general and special recreation buildings, community houses, park fields, school buildings and play ground shelters made available for community recreation use.

1. General Recreation Buildings and Centers

In order to qualify a building should afford --
 a.) auditorium or gymnasium, b.) lounge, c.) room for specialized activity, d.) two rooms for clubs or multiple use.

TABLE V
Buildings and Centers

NRA Standard		Actual Units		Points Awarded		Points Under Standard	Point Improvement Since
Units Recommended	Points Available	1947	1955	1947	1955	1955	1947
12	30	2	12	5	30	0	25

2. Shelter and Field Houses

The essential features of a playground shelter are toilets for boys and girls, director's office, and storage space.

The field house should provide lockers, showers, and toilet facilities for persons using the field, office and storage space.

TABLE VI
Shelter and Field Houses

	NRA Standard		Actual Units		Points Awarded		Point Increase Since 1947
	Units Recommended	Points Available	1947	1955	1947	1955	
Shelter House	82	10	15	25	2	3	5
Field House	16	10	0	2	0	1	1

B. Indoor Recreation Facilities

The following table (VII) includes the various types of rooms and indoor recreation facilities provided for in the buildings recorded in table V. All the facilities are generally and regularly available for community recreation use.

TABLE VII
Indoor Recreation Facilities

	NRA Standard		Actual Units		Points Awarded		Point Increase Since 1947
	Units Recommended	Points Available	1947	1955	1947	1955	
Gymnasiums	25	10	1	12	0	5	5
Auditoriums	16	5	2	10	1/2	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Social Rooms	24	5	2	6	0	1	1
Lounges	24	5	2	6	0	1	1
Game Rooms	24	5	3	2	1	4	3
Multiple Use Room	49	5	3	8	0	1	1
Crafts Workshop	25	5	3	14	1	3	2
Special Room	5	5	2	6	2	5	3
Indoor Pools	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	197	50	18	64	4$\frac{1}{2}$	23	18$\frac{1}{2}$

The close relationship of the Providence School and Recreation Departments has had a decided influence on the increase of the number of recreation centers. There are now 12 centers of which 7 are school buildings. The school buildings have contributed many physical facilities, i.e., gymnasiums, auditoriums, play rooms, shops and art rooms which has saved considerable time and money in the development of the proper recreational center service.

There has been a notable increase in shelter houses in the past 8 years. Each new shelter house was build at a cost of \$12,000. The two field houses are part of two high schools which are located adjacent to the athletic fields. The Providence High School Stadium, which was built at a cost of \$772,550 could not be counted as having a field house because it lacks facilities for showers. This oversight should be taken care of as soon as possible.

III. Leadership Personnel

This section includes all persons employed by the Providence Recreation Department who serve in a leadership capacity, direct or indirect leadership of activities, or the supervision of recreation facilities. Workers employed for maintenance, clerical work, recordkeeping, and other non-leadership services are not included.

TABLE VIII

Leadership Personnel

	NRA Standard		Actual Leaders		Points Awarded		Points Under Standard	Point Improvement Since
	Leaders Recommended	Points Available	1947	1955	1947	1955	1955	1947
*A	45	82	29	72	24	32	50	8
B	--	42	--	--	42	42	0	0
C	--	15	--	--	10	10	0	5

*A - Number of Leaders

B - Training and Qualification

C - Personnel and In-Service Training

A. Number of Leaders

		<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>Points Under Standard 1955</u>
1. Full-time superintendent of recreation	Number - 1 Points - 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	0
2. Other Executive Leadership	Number - $\frac{1}{2}$ Points - 2	$\frac{1}{2}$ 2	1 6	$\frac{1}{2}$ 2	4
3. Assistant Superintendent of Recreation	Number - 1 Points - 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	0
4. Supervisors of Special Activities	Number - 3 Points - 5	3 5	3 6	1 2	4
5. Directors of Centers	Number - 10 Points - 4	10 4	25 10	17 8	2
6. Assistant Directors, Leaders	Number - 13 Points - 2	13 2	41 8	50 8	0
7. Specialists or Special Teachers	Number - 0 Points - 0	0 0	5 1	0 0	1
8. Managers of Special Facilities	Number - 1 Points - 0	1 0	5 2	2 1	1

B. Training and Qualifications

1. Superintendent of Recreation	Points - 8	8	8	8	0
2. Assistant Superintendent	Points - 5	5	5	5	0
3. Supervisor of Special Activities	Points - 5	5	5	5	0
4. Directors of Recreation Centers	Points - 6	6	6	6	0
5. Recreation Center Workers	Points - 6	6	6	6	0
6. Playground Directors	Points - 6	6	6	6	0
7. Recreation Leaders and Assistants	Points - 3	3	3	3	0

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>Points Under Standard 1955</u>
8. Special Teachers	Points - 1	1	1	0
9. Managers of Special Facilities	Points - 2	2	2	0
C. <u>Personnel and In-Service Training Methods</u>				
1. Selecting Workers	Points - 2	2	2	0
a.) selected according to merit system				
b.) residence requirement reviewed	Points - 2	2	2	0
c.) examination	Points - 0	2	0	2
2. Personnel Practices	Points - 2	2	2	0
	Points - 1	1	1	0
	Points - 0	1	0	1
	Points - 1	1	1	0
3. In-Service Training	Points - 1	1	1	0
	Points - 1	1	1	0
	Points - 0	1	0	1
	Points - 0	1	0	1

Providence has done a remarkable job in meeting requirements for leadership and personnel. However, there is a lack of recreation specialists in the area of music, drama, arts and crafts and feature events on a full-time basis. At the present time, the assistant director must assume all of the above duties. This makes it humanly impossible for one man to do justice to all these important phases of recreation.

IV. Recreation Programs

TABLE IX

	NRA	Points		Points below	Point increase
	Standard	Awarded		Standard	since
	Point Value	1947	1955	1955	1947
Program Criteria	18	0	10	8	10
Program Under Leadership	43	10	14	29	4
Recreation Activities	31	8½	17	14	8½
TOTAL	92	18½	41	51	22½

A. Program Criteria

1. Afford equal opportunity in the way of facilities and activities to all parts of the city (no neighborhood should be neglected).

Point Value	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
	0	1	0

2. Afford activities well distributed throughout the entire year (program should not be restricted largely to summer months or to a brief winter season).

Point Value	$\frac{1947}{0}$	<u>NRA Standard</u> 1	$\frac{1955}{1}$
-------------	------------------	--------------------------	------------------

3. Serve all age groups including the old folks.

Point Value	$\frac{1947}{0}$	<u>NRA Standard</u> 1	$\frac{1955}{1}$
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4. Provide a reasonable balance between indoor and outdoor activities.

Point Value	$\frac{1947}{0}$	<u>NRA Standard</u> 1	$\frac{1955}{1}$
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5. Provide equal opportunities for both sexes.

Point Value	$\frac{1947}{0}$	<u>NRA Standard</u> 1	$\frac{1955}{0}$
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6. Provide for varying levels of skill and ability.

Point Value	$\frac{1947}{0}$	<u>NRA Standard</u> 1	$\frac{1955}{1}$
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7. Have a definite relationship to the school program of teaching leisure-time skills and of developing recreation interests.

Point Value	$\frac{1947}{0}$	<u>NRA Standard</u> 1	$\frac{1955}{0}$
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8. Definitely encourage individuals and groups to initiate and carry on their own activities.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	0	1	1

9. Give participants a share in the planning and conduct of activities.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	0	1	1

10. Afford opportunities for cooperative activity as well as competition.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	0	1	1

11. Be sensitive to changing conditions, interests, and needs of the people as evidenced by program changes from year to year.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	0	1	1

12. Encourage informal individual activity as well as highly organized group activities.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	0	1	1

13. Sponsor home play and activities which individuals can carry on at home.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	0	1	1

14. Include community-wide features as well as activities conducted at individual play grounds and centers.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	0	1	1

15. Provide special service to racial groups, industrial and commercial organizations, churches and other institutions.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	0	1	0

16. Afford recreation workers a definite opportunity to submit each year or season specific suggestions regarding the program.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	0	1	0

17. Provide definite means for people to indicate their recreation desires and preferences and to submit suggestions regarding the program.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	0	1	0

18. Afford opportunity for cooperative activity as well as competitive.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Point Value	1	1	1

B. Program Under Leadership

A session is defined as a morning, afternoon, or evening period during which a diversified program is provided under leadership at the area or building.

1. Playground Program

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Sessions	4200	20,723	4,800
Point Value	3	14	4

2. Neighborhood Playfield Program

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Sessions	2700	6,216	3,000
Point Value	4	10	5

3. General Recreation Buildings and Indoor Centers

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Sessions	1872	8,289	4,368
Point Value	4	19	11

C. Recreation Activities

A period is a definite portion of time during which an activity under direct or indirect leadership is scheduled and carried on. Several "periods" of activity may be recorded during a single playground, playfield, or building "sessions".

1. Active Games and Sports

A period is each time a diamond, field, or gymnasium is reserved or used for a game or for practice each time group games or athletic activities are conducted under leadership. Morning, afternoon, or evening in which a golf course is

under supervision will be counted as a period.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Periods	6,100	24,867	17,100
Point Value	2	10	7

2. Arts and Crafts, Drama and Music

A period is when a group takes part in one of these activities under leadership.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Periods	6,000	8,289	10,100
Point Value	6	8	8

3. Nature, Gardening, Camp and Outing Activities

A period is when a group engages in some form of nature activity, including gardening under leadership; also hikes and trips to points of interest.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Periods	0	2,486	280
Point Value	0	8	1

4. Social Recreation and Dancing

A period is when time is devoted primarily to social recreation activities.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>NRA Standard</u>	<u>1955</u>
Periods	220	6,219	880
Point Value	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	1

Providence, in 1955, offered twice as many opportunities for supervised public recreation than in 1947. If the Recreation Department keeps its present pace of growth in recreation programs, it will reach the N.R.A. standard in 14 or more years. This growth is very commendable when we

consider the conditions inherited from the previous administration.

The scope of the program is widely varied. It has year-round programs in five centers, including centers for golden agers, and a winter program in eight others. During the summer there are some 40 playgrounds under supervision, two outdoor swimming pools, and city-wide events are held periodically. (Appendix C)

The fact that facilities are not evenly distributed (no neighborhood should go without) throughout the city is very understanding in a place as old as Providence. This city, like many others, grew very rapidly without the benefits of city-wide planning. At the present time, there is a very urgent need to equalize facilities and activities in all parts of the city. The Master Plan for Playgrounds and Playfields, published in 1953 by the City Plan Commission, was designed to answer this great need.

In 1955 Providence opened its first Golden Age Day Center where elderly people find an opportunity for companionship, recreation, and self-expression. The Recreation Department picks up the old people with the department bus, entertains them at the center and also gives them a light lunch at noon. This is fine, but the policy of picking up old people outside the City of Providence, bringing them into the Providence Golden Age Center and giving them the same privileges as City taxpayers is questionable. On May 1, 1955 Mr. Cronin made the following statement:

While present facilities limit the amount of activity, Mr. Cronin feels confident that these beginnings will generate enthusiasm among private agencies interested in problems of the aging.

¹The Providence Report, City Hall, Prov., R. I., PROVIDENCE SUNDAY JOURNAL, May 1, 1955.

Whenever facilities and budget are limited, the city has an obligation primarily to its own people.

V. Current Expenditures

This section includes all expenditures for operation and maintenance of recreation areas, facilities and services offered by the Providence Recreation Department. The expenditures for new areas and other capitol items are not included.

A. Leadership

Included in Table X is the amount spent for leadership personnel. It does not include clerical, maintenance, and other types of workers.

TABLE X
Leadership

NRA Standard		Actual Amount		Points Awarded		Points Below Standard	Point Increase
Amount Recommended	Point Value	1947*	1955	1947	1955	1955	Since 1947
\$373,011.00	30	\$112,424.00		9	18	12	9
		\$204,618.00					

* City of Providence, Annual Financial Report, Ended September 30, 1948.
P. 35

B. Facilities and Programs Under Leadership

Total amount that is spent for organized recreation programs, for the operation and maintenance of areas and facilities used for community recreation. Included is salaries paid to recreation leaders, supplies and materials, the total amount spent for operation and maintenance of golf courses, picnic areas, and

recreation areas, for the maintenance of playgrounds, indoor centers, and clerical service in connection with the recreation program.

TABLE X a.

Facilities and Programs Under Leadership

NRA Standard		Actual Amount		Points Awarded		Points Below Standard	Points Increase Since
Amount Recommended	Point Value	*1947	1955	1947	1955	1955	1947
\$ 746,022	30	\$ 192,392	\$ 246,955	10	13	17	3

* City of Providence Annual Financial Report, Year Ended September 30, 1948, p.p. 35.

C. Total Recreation Expenditures

Total amount is that which is spent for organized recreation, expenditures of park departments and special events such as community celebrations.

TABLE X b.

Total Recreation Expenditures

NRA Standard		Actual Amount		Points Awarded		Points Below Standard	Points Increase Since
Amount Recommended	Point Value	*1947	1955	1947	1955	1955	1947
\$ 1,492,044	40	\$ 476,989	\$ 680,884	12	27	13	15

* City of Providence Annual Financial Report, Year Ended September 30, 1948 p.p. 35, 21

The Providence Recreation Department is financed through the City's General Fund. Its budget has increased from \$3,000 in 1903 to \$ 192,392 in 1947 and \$ 246,955 in 1955. The increase in the annual budget is not as impressive as the amount spent for capital outlay. In 1955 Providence had a \$1.14 per capita recreation expenditure which was \$1.86 below the \$3.00 per capita recommended by the National Recreation Association. (Appendix C, Table A). The total recreation expenditures increased by some \$200,000 from 1947 to 1955, but its per capita expenditure of \$2.39 is still far below N.R.A. Standard of \$6.00 per capita.

The salary scale* for Providence is average for a city of its size, and there has been 3 wage increases since 1947. Providence Recreation Department has very high personnel standards and will find it more difficult to keep the recreation workers it now has unless salaries are raised to meet the professional requirements for positions in this department.

Providence, with its expanding budget, widely varied facilities, and high personnel standards have won it high recognition throughout New England.**

* Salary scale, Appendix C, Table B

** Providence Bulletin, D. Pratt, May 24, 1956, p.p. 10

VI. Administration

The ratings in this section represent an average of the administrative procedures of the Providence Recreation Department.

TABLE XI

	NRA Standard Point Value	Points Awarded		Points Under Standard 1955	Point Increase Since 1947
		1947	1955		
Form of Organization	20	20	20	0	0
Procedures Policies	20	12	14	6	2
Publicity	18	6	11	7	5
Records Reports	28	20	22	6	2
Community Relationship	14	11	11	3	0

	NRA Point Value	1947	1955	Point Increase Since 1947
<u>A. Form of Organization</u>				
(1) Separate recreation department with full authority	20	20	20	0
<u>B. Procedures and Policies</u>				
(1) Board is formally organized	2	2	2	0
(2) Department organ. into divisions	2	2	2	0
(3) Organized so as to facilitate planning and supervision	2	2	2	0

	NRA Point Value	1947	1955	Point Increase Since 1947
(4) Written instructions as to duties and policies				
(5) Rules assuring maximum use of facilities				
(6) Long range plans have been adopted. (areas & facilities)	2	2	2	0
(7) Long range plans have been adopted. (exten- sion of programs & services)	2	2	2	0
(8) Provisions for research projects	2	0	0	0
TOTAL	20	12	14	2
<u>C. Interpretation and Publicity</u>				
(1) Definite plan of educa- tion	4	0	2	2
(2) Directory of rec. areas	2	0	0	0
(3) Cooperation between newspaper & rec. dept.	2	2	2	0
(4) Program of speakers before community organizations	2	0	2	2
(5) Organized insp, tours of areas, facilities & centers	1	0	1	1
(6) Exhibits before the public	1	1	1	0
(7) Discussions for consideration of problems are held	1	1	1	0
(8) Annual report issued and circulated widely	1	0	1	1
(9) Visual-aids are shown before local groups	1	0	1	1
(10) Regular radio broad- casts are carried on	1	0	1	1

	NRA Point Value	1947	1955	Point Increase Since 1947
(11) Effective use of posters in industry, stores and buildings throughout the city	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	6	11	5

D. Records and Reports

(1) Business & Financial Records

(a) Effective budget system	5	5	5	0
(b) Cost records of major departments	2	2	2	0
(c) Careful system of bookkeeping	5	5	5	0
(d) Cost records per unit of work	2	0	0	0
(e) Detailed records of board meeting	2	2	2	0
(f) Complete records of facilities, equipment & inventories	1	1	1	0
(g) Complete service records	1	1	1	0
TOTAL	18	16	16	0

(2) Service Records

(a) Regular monthly reports submitted by directors of playgrounds, centers, etc., of services rendered	2	1	1	0
(b) General monthly reports submitted by sup. for all special activities	2	0	2	2

	NRA Point Value	1947	1955	Point Increase Since 1947
(c) Regular monthly reports submitted by director to board & annual report	2	2	2	0
(d) Complete lists are kept of teams, organ., clubs, groups and classes	2	1	1	0
(e) Lists of volunteers serving department with qualifications and service rendered	2	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	4	6	2

E. Community Relationship

(a) City wide recreation council exists	2	2	2	0
(b) Director belongs to other social agencies	2	2	2	0
(c) Neighborhood committees are formed at playgrounds	2	2	2	0
(d) Neighborhood committees are formed at rec. centers	2	1	1	0
(e) Playground & centers worker has time for neighborhood visitations	2	0	0	0
(f) Definite cooperation among rec. dept., schools, parks, police, city planning, etc.	2	2	2	0
(g) Definite cooperation among rec. dept., semi-public and private agencies	2	2	2	0
TOTAL	14	11	11	0

Unlike the preceding sections of this appraisal form, the evaluation and study of the ratings given to the administrative procedures of the Providence Recreation Department are most noteworthy and clearly reveals that a great deal of foresight was expended in its early planning.

The department was created with the appointment of a director who was charged with the administration of the Department and with the selection of other personnel. An advisory committee was appointed for the planning and for the evaluation of their program. Providence with its separate recreation department and advisory board, has the highest rating according to standards established by the NRA for the form of organization.

In the appraisal of the policies of administration, it was noted that the Recreation Department offers the following worthwhile services:

1. Grants private or semi-private organizations the use of its facilities and equipment to conduct their programs without losing their identity.
2. Providence acts as an advisory and as a consultant center for the various agencies, organizations, towns and cities in relation to youth and recreation services, activities and functions.
3. The assistant director acts as a recreation liaison officer between the school system and the recreation department.

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

Director of Recreation

Clerical

Ass't Dir.

Ass't Dir.

Supervisor
Dist. 1
and
Specialist in
Women's and Girls'
Activities
and
Arts and Crafts

Supervisor
Dist. 2
and
Specialist in
Music and
Drama
Pageants
etc.

Supervisor
Dist. 3
and
Specialist in
Citizenship
Gardening
Neighborhood and
holiday celebrations

Supervisor
Dist. 4
and
Specialist in
Athletics
Swimming
etc.

Supervisor
of buildings,
areas, etc.-
Maintenance
and
Construction

Foreman

Playground
Leaders

Playground
Leaders

Playground
Leaders

Playground
Leaders

Mechanics
Caretakers
Gardeners
Workmen

Note:

Each District Supervisor is expected to act in a dual capacity:

- (1) as responsible for all recreational activities within his District.
- (2) as a specialist advising and helping all 4 Districts along his lines of interest and training.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Although the recreation program has grown considerably during the past eight years, an evaluation and study of the data clearly indicates that some progress has been made but also reveals several shortcomings which has stymied its development in attaining N. R. A. Standards.

In the light of the evidence presented in the foregoing chapters; the following conclusions seem well founded:

- 1) The total recreation acreage is about 1/6 of what is needed for the present population.
- 2) As mentioned in Chapter IV, in order to provide an adequate amount of playgrounds and playfields, new sites must be acquired through additional financial support from the City Budget.
- 3) In order to have an adequate outdoor swimming program, four or five new swimming pools should be constructed.
- 4) The antiquated wading pools should be reconstructed for the spary pool type which is highly recommended by health authorities.
- 5) Since there is a shortage of outdoor swimming facilities, admission should be limited only to residents of Providence.
- 6) Land adjoining Providence should be acquired for the construction of additional golf courses.

- 7) Tennis courts should be built of asphalt so they can be used as multi-purpose areas.
- 8) There is evidence that lack of proper maintenance exists on playgrounds and in recreation buildings.
- 9) The Recreation and School Departments have been collaborating effectively in making their facilities available for both departments' programs.
- 10) There is a distinctive need for field houses which would provide lockers, showers and toilet facilities for those using the adjoining field.
- 11) There are no full-time specialists in the area of music, drama, arts and crafts, and feature events.
- 12) The assistant director of recreation should be relieved of the duties that are ordinarily carried on by specialists.
- 13) The personnel qualifications established by the N. R. A. are the prerequisites for appointments in the recreation department.
- 14) Experience, merit and professional growth are the basis for promotion.
- 15) There is no escaping the fact that a very large portion of the City still lacks the basic physical facilities for recreation.
- 16) Providence had a \$1.14 per capita recreation expenditure in 1955 which was \$1.86 below the \$3.00 per capita standard recommended by the N. R. A.

- 17) Prov. Rec. Dept. with an expanding budget, widely varied facilities and high personnel standards has won high recognition throughout New England.
- 18) The Golden Age Day Center, opened in 1955, shows that the authorities do recognize the necessity of constructive recreation for the aged.
- 19) In order to maintain the high personnel standards, the salary schedule should include an annual increment increase.
- 20) In determining the general percentage for a city based upon the entire schedule, Providence, in 1947, had a percentage rating of 39 while in 1955 the percentage rating increased to 58.

CHAPTER VI

RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDY

This study has attempted to gain an insight into the Providence Recreation Department. The idea is to show the progress, if any, it has made in attaining a good all-round recreational program. A great deal more information could be gained if individual studies were made of all the units that go to make up a well-organized program of recreation. The following are a few suggestions of studies that were brought out by this thesis:

- (1) The school and its role in recreation
- (2) Public Relations in recreation
- (3) In-service programs

APPENDIX A

Attendance Report - 1947-50-55

(Summer Playground - Swimming Pools, Special Events,
Extra Promotional Activities and Centers)

I. <u>Playgrounds</u>			
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1955</u>
	no record	240,000	729,722
II. <u>Swimming Pool</u>			
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1955</u>
	no swimming pools in use	45,540	156,110
III. <u>Special Events and Promotional Activities</u>			
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1955</u>
	no record	no record	18,170
IV. <u>Recreation Centers</u>			
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1955</u>
	no record	296,063	229,633
V. <u>Total</u> (Summer Playgrounds - Swimming Pools - Special Events - Recreation Centers)			
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1955</u>
	--	614,031	1,133,635

APPENDIX B

Names and Acres of Existing Playgrounds
and
Playfields Covered by Recreation Personnel

<u>Names</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Bucklin Park	7.09
Burgas Street	1
Columbia Park	1.59
Crary Street	2 *
Eddy Street	2 *
Harriet Street	1
Richardson Park	3.19
Sackett Park	2.15
Warren Street	2 *
Williard Avenue	6.60
Bates Street	2
Benefit Street	1
Camp and Cypress	1.85
Fox Point Park	4 *
Gano Street	4.07
Livingston Park	1.52
Paterson Street	1 *
Quaid Street	2
Sessions Park	2.85

* ESTIMATE

<u>Names</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Summit Avenue	1
Clarence Street	1 *
Daniel Avenue	1.50
Garibaldi Park	1.13
Joslin Park	1
Laurel Hill Park	2.52
Merino Park	17.40
Mt. Pleasant Park	3.60
Neutaconkancut Park	12.00
Nickerson House5
Ridge Street	1
Valley Street	4.84
Ascham Park	1.72
Candance Park5
Hopkins Park	14.51
O'Brien	2.20
Smith Hill	2.58
Veazie Street	4.49
Reservoir Avenue	1.50

* ESTIMATE

<u>Names</u>	<u>Acres</u>
* Recreation Areas not covered by Recreation Personnel	
Mashapaug Reservation	4.60
Perry Jr. High Field	2.07
Davis Park	7.55
Metcalf Field	8.50
Joseph Williams Field	5.30
Colleyer Field	7.42
Ryan Field	2.19
West River Reservation	8.03
Hope High School Field	12.32
Tim O'Neil Park	10.00
Obediah Brown Field	9.43
Mt. Pleasant High School Field	12.03
Dexter Training Grounds	10.00
Roger Williams Park	452.00
Triggs Golf Course and Triggs Field . . .	1,727.00

Special Recreation Areas and Facilities

Swimming Pools

*Federal Hill Swimming Pool

*South Providence Swimming Pool

Wading and Spray Pools

Bates Street

Bucklin Park

Clarence Street

Garibaldi Park

Hopkins Park

Joslin Park

Laurel Hill Park

Livingston Park

Mt. Pleasant Park

Quaid Street

Richardson Park

Ridge Street

Smith Street

Valley Park

Veazie Street

**Fox Point Park

**Sackett Park

*Outdoor pool

**Spray pool

Baseball and Softball Diamonds

<u>Names</u>	<u>Number of Diamonds</u>
Bucklin Park	2
Richardson Park	2
Gano Street	1
Sessions Street	1
Joslin Park	1
Laurel Hill	1
Merino Park	2
Mt. Pleasant Park	2
Neutaconkancut Park	2
Valley Street	2
Mashapaug Reservation	1
Hopkins Park	2
Smith Hill	1
Veazie Street	1
Davis Park	2
Metcalf Field	1
Collyer Street	2
West River Reservation	1
Hope High School Field	1
Tim O'Niel Field	1
Obediah Brown Field	1
Mt. Pleasant Field	1

Golf Courses

Triggs Golf Course	18 holes
--------------------	----------

Tennis Courts

	<u>Number of Courts</u>
Roger Williams Park	10
Mt. Pleasant High School	2
Hope High School	8
Nathanael Greene Jr. High	2

Other Game Courts and Fields

	<u>Number</u>
Football Fields	10
Skating Rinks	4
Cricket Fields	1
Archery Lanes	2
Handball Courts	14
Boccia Courts	10
Bowling Greens	2
Soccer Fields	4
Hard Surface Areas	10

Other Facilities

Bridle Trails	3
Boating Facilities	1
Ice Skating Areas	4

Other Facilities (Cont'd)

	<u>Number</u>
Picnic Areas	1
Ski Jump	1
Toboggan Slide	1
Track and Field	3
Wading Pools	17

Special Features

Band Shell	1
Camp Summer	1
Nature Trail	1
Zoo	1
Stadiums	3
Museums	1

Recreation CentersFull Time

Benefit Street Center
 Federal Hill Center
 Plain Street Center
 South Providence Center
 Fox Point Center
 Golden Age Center

Part Time

Roger Williams Jr. High

Broad Street Center

Nathanael Greene Jr. High

George J. West Jr. High

O. H. Perry Jr. High

Gilbert Stuart Jr. High

APPENDIX C

Table A

Recreation Funds and Per Capita Rate for the towns and cities of Rhode Island based on 1955 municipal appropriations and grants from other sources. Towns starred receive money from United Fund or a private endowment.

<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Per Capita Rate</u>
Jamestown	2,068	\$ 9,860	\$ 4.77
South Kingstown* . . .	10,148	51,059	3.05
Newport	37,564	65,986	1.76
Scituate*	3,905	6,157	1.58
Smithfield*	6,690	10,282	1.54
Providence	248,000	282,181	1.14
Cranston	55,060	53,000	.96
Warren*	8,513	8,146	.96
Narragansett	2,288	2,000	.87
Coventry	9,869	7,200	.73
North Providence	13,927	10,000	.72
Bristol	12,320	7,800	.63
East Providence	35,871	21,330	.59
Central Falls	23,550	13,550	.57
Pawtucket	81,436	46,520	.57
Westerly	12,380	6,900	.56
Barrington*	8,246	4,085	.50
Warwick	43,028	19,000	.44
East Greenwich*	4,923	2,100	.43
West Warwick	19,096	8,000	.42
Middletown	7,382	2,500	.34
North Kingstown*	14,810	4,587	.31
North Smithfield	5,726	1,500	.26
Johnston*	12,725	2,956	.23
Woonsocket	50,211	9,140	.18
Burrillville*	8,774	1,500	.17

(Thirteen towns had no recreation appropriations.)

Table B

Providence Recreation Department Salary Scale for 1955

Director	\$ 8,060.00 annual
Ass. Director	4,810.00 "
Center Director (year round)	3,978.00 "
Maintenance Director	4,836.00 "
Playground Director (summer)	48.00 per week
Recreation Leader (summer)	36.00 " "
District Supervisor (summer)	52.00 " "
School Rec. Center Director	4.00 per hour
School Rec. Center Specialist	3.00 " "
School Rec. Leader	1.30 " "

There are many pay categories for maintenance laborers.

ACTIVITIES

Basketball (Intra-Center)	Dramatics
Basketball Jr.-Sr.	Arts and Crafts
Basketball (Intra-Center)	Machine Shop
Basketball (Girls)	Talent Show
Baseball	Block Dancing
Softball	Square and Social Dancing
Tennis	Social Hour
Handball	Badminton
Ping Pong	Sewing
Shuffleboard	Sunday at Your Recreation Center
Volleyball	Movies
Checkers	Television
Chess	Gymnastics
Horseshoes	Woodworking
Tetherball	Children's Theater
Skating	Exhibits
Skiing	Archery
Marbles	Golfing
Top Spinning	L. O. Games
Bicycle Safety	H. O. Games
Roller Skate Safety	Couple Sports
Swimming	Rhythmical Activities
Life Guarding	Combative Sports
Water Pageants	Conditioning
Pageants	Apparatus
Movies	Art Metal
Glee Club	Instrumental Instruction
Bicycle Club	Ping Pong
Playground Band	Radio Story Telling
Band Concert	Scouting
Newspaper	Modeling
Radio--Program	Modeling Craft

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

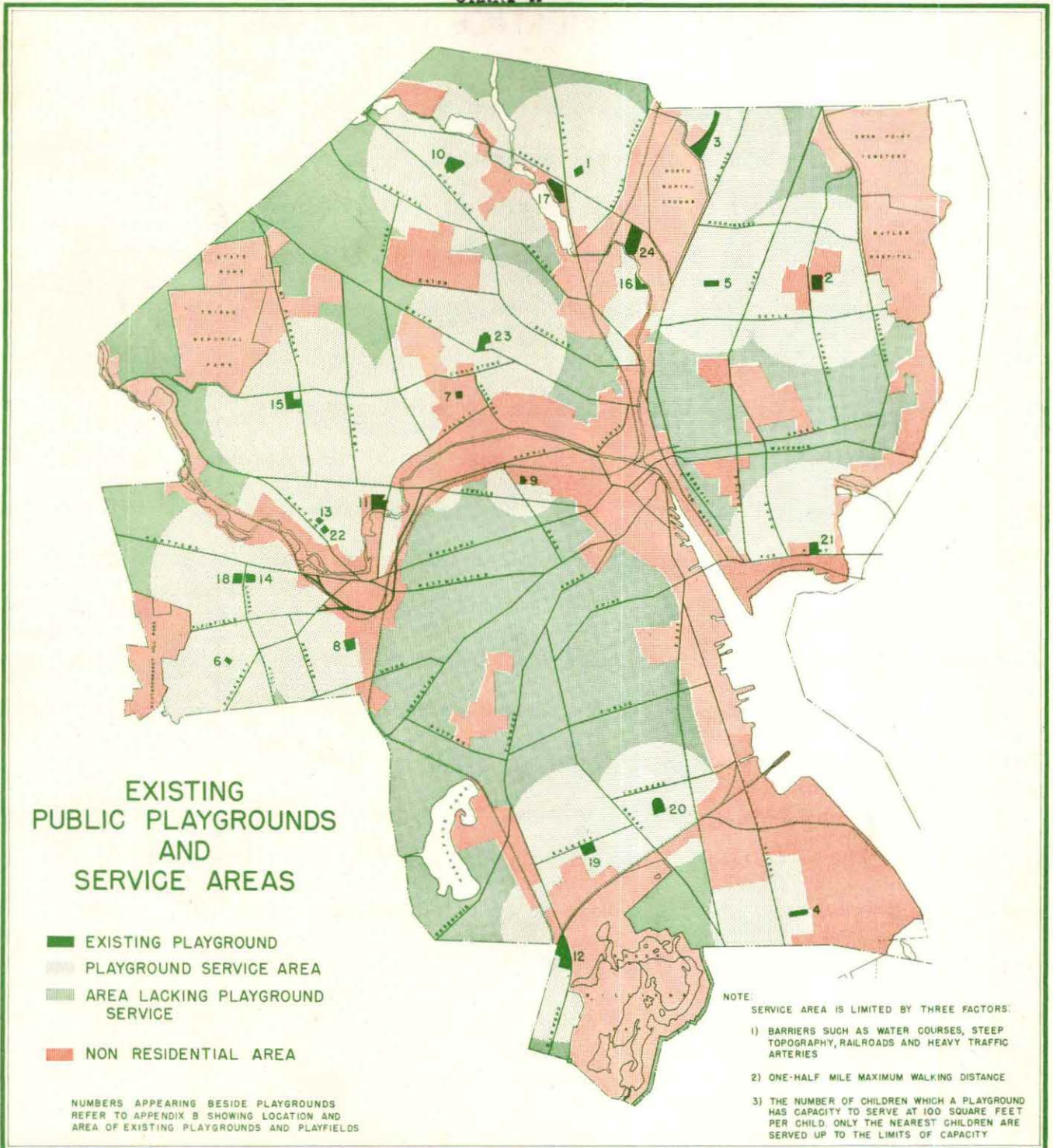
Pet Show	Easter Sunday Bunny Rabbit and Egg Hunt
Field Day	
Track and Field Meet	Boxmobile Derby
Bicycle and Roller Skate Safety Meet	Baseball Skills Meet
Bicycle Safety Testing Meet	Football Skills Meet
Bicycle Meet	Basketball Skills Meet
Fishing Pool Rodeo	Kite Flying and Baloon Tournaments
Winter Carnival	Community Basketball League (Boys and Girls)
Ice Skating and Skiing Derby	Boys' Baseball League -- Schoolboy Age
Boys' Basketball Foul Shooting	Touch Football League -- Schoolboy Age
R. I. Sportsmen's and Boat Show	Veterans' Basketball League
Sunday in the Park	Novelty Field Meet
Bicycling and Camp Club Trips	R. I. Basketball Invitation Tournament
Schoolboy Road Race	Hallowe'en Parties and Dances
New England Dirt Track Bicycle Championship Meet	Marble and Top Spinning Tournament
Thanksgiving Treasure Hunt	Fire Prevention Poster and Essay Contest
Fun for a Sane and Safe Fourth	Boomerang Meet
Family Get Together at the Park	Model Auto--Jet Racing Meet
Sunday at Your Recreation Centers	

(SPECIAL ACTIVITIES (Cont'd))

Ping Pong Tournament	Christmas Parties
Checker Tournament	Prize and Fun Day
Shuffleboard Tournament	Safety Poster Contest
Gymnastics Meet	Arts and Crafts Exhibition
Santa Claus Welcome and Treasure Hunt	Hobby Meet
Block Dancing	Movies and Entertainment
Noon Hour Band Concert	Community Radio Program
Swimming and Diving Meet	Playground Festival
Archery Meet	Tennis Clinic
Intra-Center Basketball Leagues	Golf School

APPENDIX D

CHART A



CITY PLAN COMMISSION
PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND



WHAT PROVIDENCE NOW HAS

At the present time Providence has the following active play facilities:

24 playgrounds having an area of 75.14 acres

9 playfields having an area of 89.45 acres

Total active play area 164.59 acres

The play areas are classified as playgrounds or playfields according to which age group they accommodate and the facilities they provide. Appendix B presents a complete list of the playgrounds and playfields with their locations and areas.

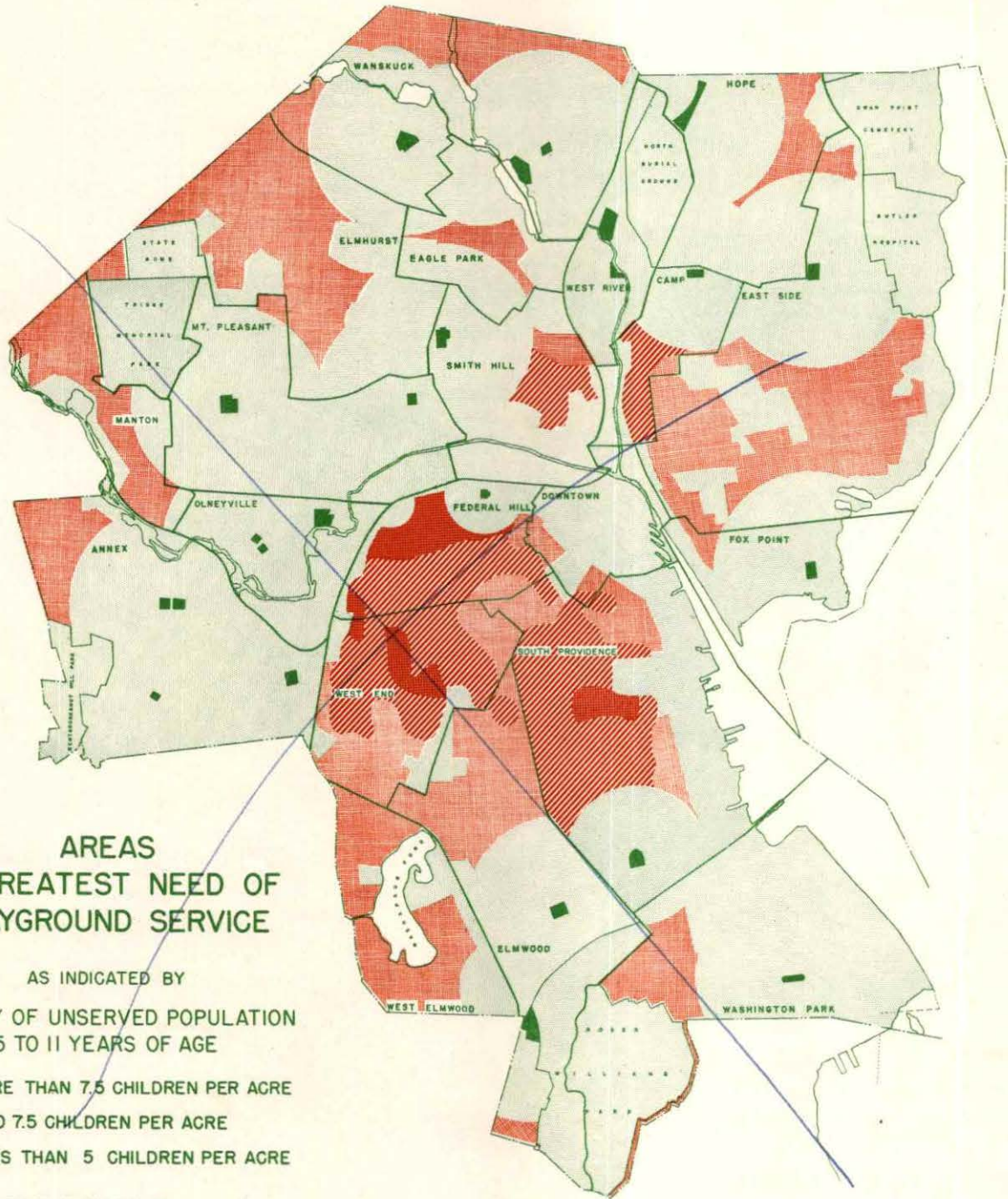
According to the 1950 census there were 70,663 persons in the playground and playfield age groups in Providence. Using the minimum standard of 100 square feet per person, this population would require a total of 162 acres of usable play area. It is apparent, therefore, that the total area of existing playgrounds and playfields as shown above theoretically would just barely meet the minimum requirements of the present population for active play area provided the area were well distributed and all of it were usable. Unfortunately, neither of these conditions is met.

Despite commendable progress in recent years playground and playfield services in Providence are not evenly distributed throughout the city. Moreover, many of the existing playgrounds and playfields are so poorly located, so awkwardly shaped, or so steeply inclined that their usefulness is very limited.

PLAYGROUNDS

Nearly half the five to eleven year olds have no playground service.* Large areas of the City are completely without playground service, particularly in the older sections such as Federal Hill, South Providence, and the West End. The last neighborhood

* Statistics relating to population and service by neighborhoods are presented in Appendix C.



**AREAS
IN GREATEST NEED OF
PLAYGROUND SERVICE**

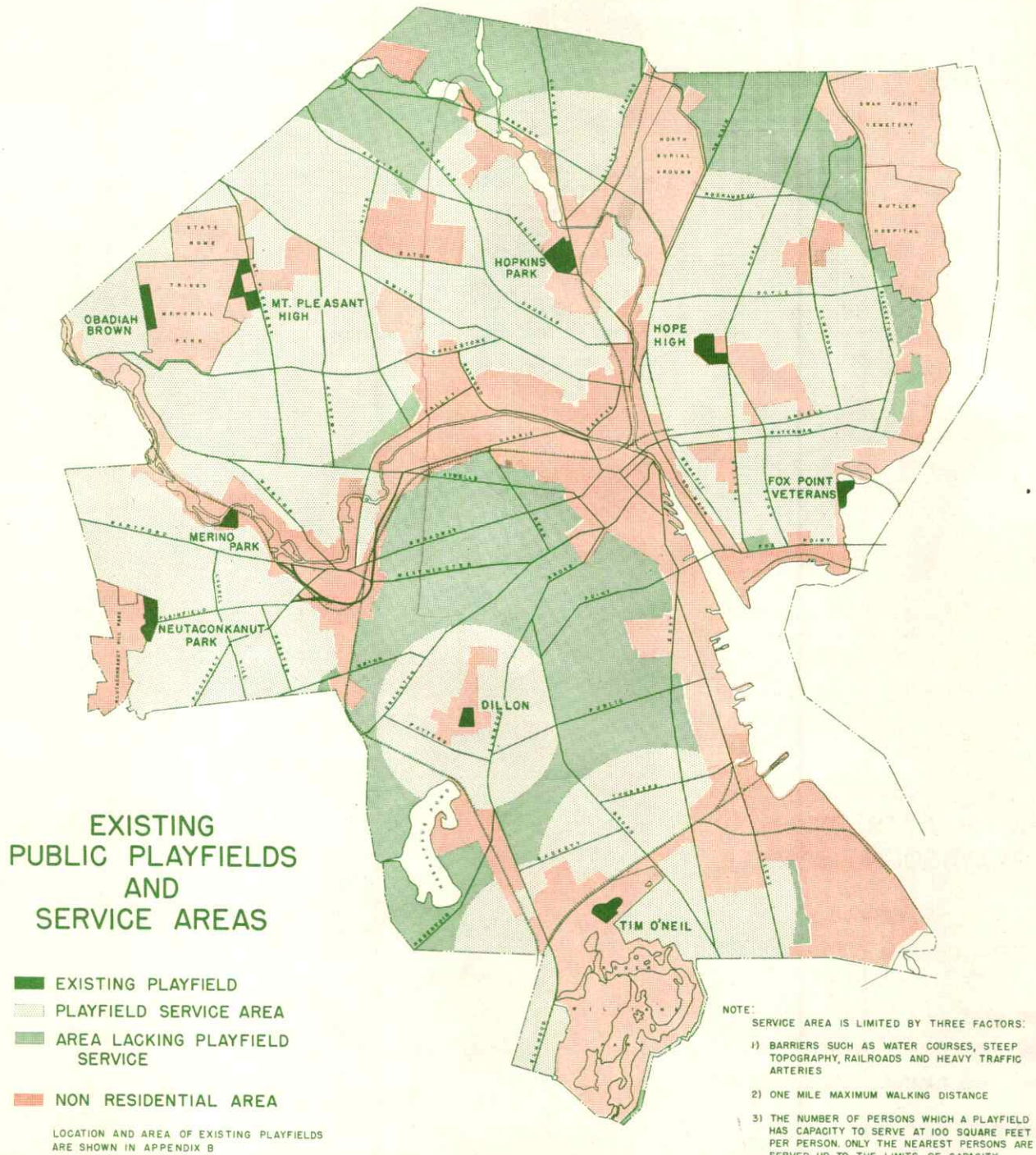
AS INDICATED BY
DENSITY OF UNSERVED POPULATION
5 TO 11 YEARS OF AGE

- MORE THAN 7.5 CHILDREN PER ACRE
- 5 TO 7.5 CHILDREN PER ACRE
- LESS THAN 5 CHILDREN PER ACRE
- EXISTING PLAYGROUND

CITY PLAN COMMISSION
PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND



CHART B



CITY PLAN COMMISSION
 PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND



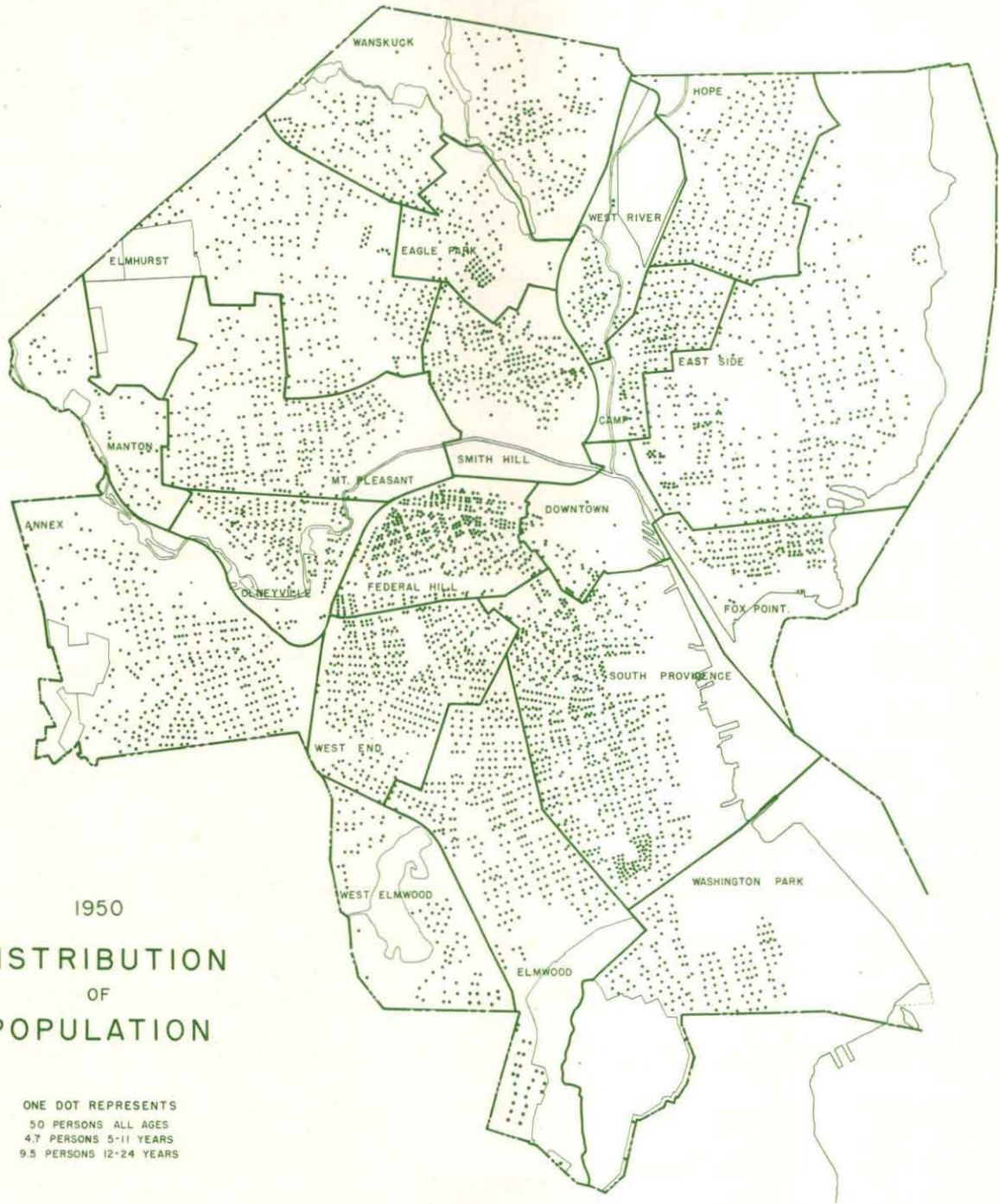
CHART C

1950
DISTRIBUTION
OF
POPULATION

ONE DOT REPRESENTS
50 PERSONS ALL AGES
4.7 PERSONS 5-11 YEARS
9.5 PERSONS 12-24 YEARS

SOURCE:
U.S. CENSUS OF POPULATION 1950
U.S. CENSUS OF HOUSING 1950

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THE FUTURE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

In order that the playground and playfield system in the future may be properly balanced in the geographical distribution of facilities, it is important that the plan should be designed to meet future population requirements. The year 1980 has been selected as the year for which the long-range plan will be designed. This plan will avoid the pitfalls of overdesign or underdesign which would result from exclusive attention to short-term needs.

Depopulation of the older central neighborhoods will continue. The movement of population from central areas to outskirts has gathered speed during the past decade, and it is expected that the trend will continue until densities are greatly reduced in the older neighborhoods. The estimated 1980 distribution of population is based on the proposed MASTER PLAN FOR LAND USE AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION which recognizes the natural trends currently underway and accepts them as healthy up to a certain point.

As the older sections of the city deteriorate and lose population many of them will become ripe for redevelopment. When redevelopment is carried out, these areas will be replanned as modern neighborhoods. Population densities should be held at a moderate level, and among other needed public facilities, parks, playgrounds, and playfields should be provided to meet all modern neighborhood living requirements. Without adequate playgrounds and playfields the neighborhood will be obsolete as soon as it is rebuilt. Natural forces will then take over, and depopulation will continue beyond a point which the City's economy can support.

The City's child population will change only slightly. The future population within each of the age groups to be served by playgrounds and playfields has been estimated on the basis of national projections by the Census Bureau. It is assumed that the percentage of the total population in each age group for the year 1980 will be the same for Providence as that for the country as a whole. Although the trend toward an older

where service is now completely lacking. It will be noted that projects are proposed at Mount Pleasant and Hope High Schools. The playfields at these schools have great potentialities which have not been realized. Neither playfield is opened for community use during the summer months, although the need for playfield service and for summer programs in Mount Pleasant and the East Side is becoming serious. By a comparatively small expenditure in each case, adjustments could be made in the facilities and the physical layouts of these playfields so as to accommodate comprehensive summer programs of the Recreation Department.

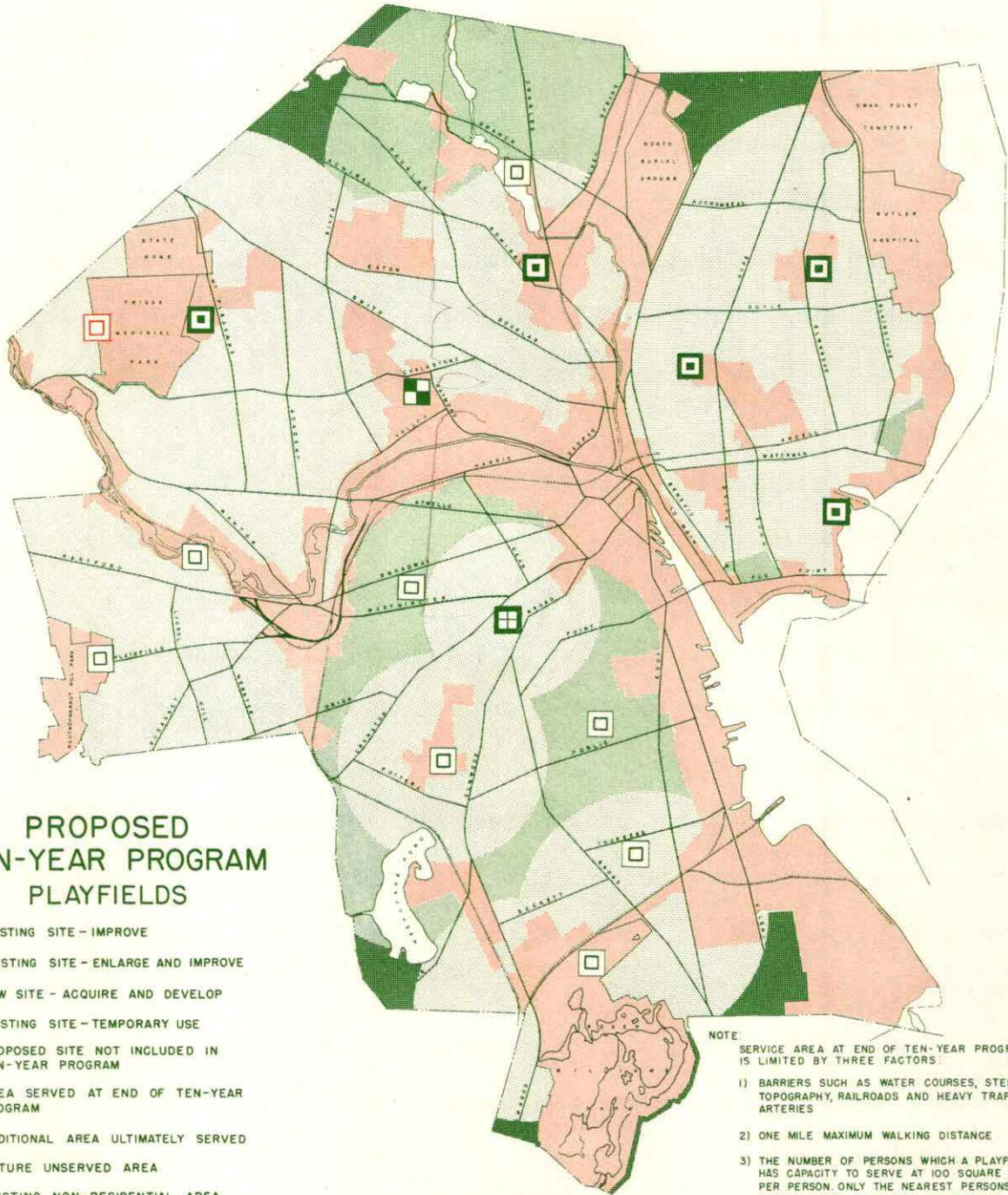
The playfield proposed at Central and Classical High Schools will provide a new service which has been badly needed for many years both by the schools and the residents of the Federal Hill and West End neighborhoods.

The development of the playfield proposed in Davis Park will depend upon a satisfactory agreement with the Federal Government which now holds title to the Park. If a suitable agreement can be reached, this playfield will provide service supplementing that of Hopkins Park. From preliminary plans for the location of the Louisquisset Expressway it now appears that part or all of Hopkins Park will be destroyed by this improvement. The size of the playfield required in Davis Park will depend upon the extent of the damage done at Hopkins Park.

Four of the proposed playground projects in the ten-year program involve the acquisition of sites which are now vacant. Early acquisition of these sites is most important in order to avoid paying for expensive improvements which may be erected on them in the future. The Upper South Providence Playground is one of the projects whose cost might be reduced as a result of Federal aid in a redevelopment area. There is also a need for the same type of assistance, for the playfield at Central and Classical High Schools, which is presently included in the Redevelopment Agency's program.

A substantial part of the proposed ten-year program could be financed by bonds which have already been authorized. Of the \$1,500,000 in bonds authorized in 1948 for

CHART D



**PROPOSED
TEN-YEAR PROGRAM
PLAYFIELDS**

- EXISTING SITE - IMPROVE
- EXISTING SITE - ENLARGE AND IMPROVE
- NEW SITE - ACQUIRE AND DEVELOP
- EXISTING SITE - TEMPORARY USE
- PROPOSED SITE NOT INCLUDED IN TEN-YEAR PROGRAM
- AREA SERVED AT END OF TEN-YEAR PROGRAM
- ADDITIONAL AREA ULTIMATELY SERVED
- FUTURE UNSERVED AREA
- EXISTING NON-RESIDENTIAL AREA

LETTERS REFER TO DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PLAYFIELDS STARTING ON PAGE 47

NOTE:

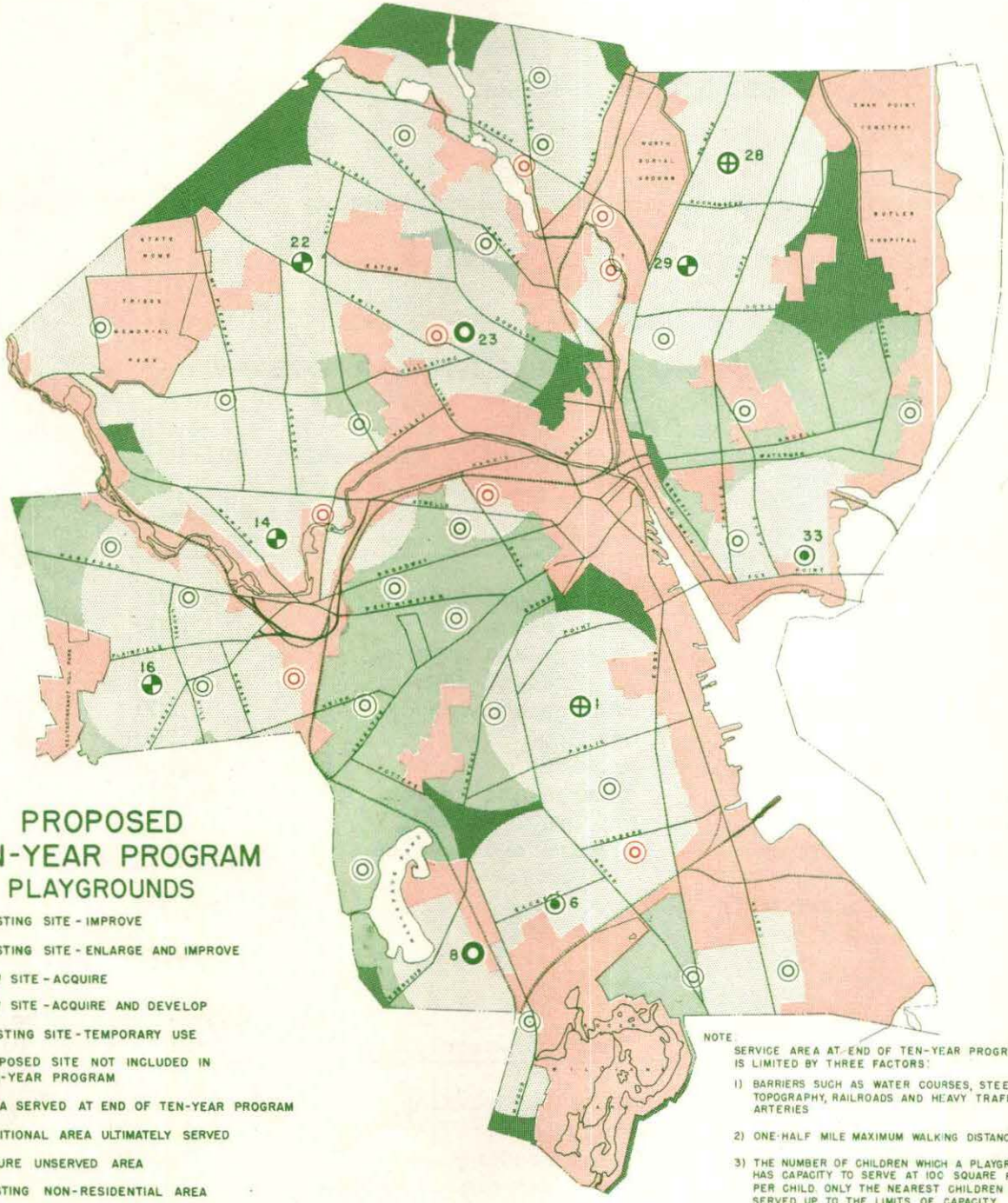
SERVICE AREA AT END OF TEN-YEAR PROGRAM IS LIMITED BY THREE FACTORS:

- 1) BARRIERS SUCH AS WATER COURSES, STEEP TOPOGRAPHY, RAILROADS AND HEAVY TRAFFIC ARTERIES
- 2) ONE MILE MAXIMUM WALKING DISTANCE
- 3) THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHICH A PLAYFIELD HAS CAPACITY TO SERVE AT 100 SQUARE FEET PER PERSON. ONLY THE NEAREST PERSONS ARE SERVED UP TO THE LIMITS OF CAPACITY (DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS BASED ON 1950 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION)

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CHART E



**PROPOSED
TEN-YEAR PROGRAM
PLAYGROUNDS**

- ⊙ EXISTING SITE - IMPROVE
- ⊕ EXISTING SITE - ENLARGE AND IMPROVE
- NEW SITE - ACQUIRE
- ⊕ NEW SITE - ACQUIRE AND DEVELOP
- ⊙ EXISTING SITE - TEMPORARY USE
- PROPOSED SITE NOT INCLUDED IN TEN-YEAR PROGRAM
- ▨ AREA SERVED AT END OF TEN-YEAR PROGRAM
- ▨ ADDITIONAL AREA ULTIMATELY SERVED
- FUTURE UNSERVED AREA
- EXISTING NON-RESIDENTIAL AREA

NUMBERS REFER TO DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PLAYGROUNDS STARTING ON PAGE 36

NOTE
SERVICE AREA AT-END OF TEN-YEAR PROGRAM IS LIMITED BY THREE FACTORS:

- 1) BARRIERS SUCH AS WATER COURSES, STEEP TOPOGRAPHY, RAILROADS AND HEAVY TRAFFIC ARTERIES
- 2) ONE-HALF MILE MAXIMUM WALKING DISTANCE
- 3) THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHICH A PLAYGROUND HAS CAPACITY TO SERVE AT 100 SQUARE FEET PER CHILD. ONLY THE NEAREST CHILDREN ARE SERVED UP TO THE LIMITS OF CAPACITY (DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN BASED ON 1950 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION)

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2. Urgency of need.
3. Number of families displaced.
4. Economics

A detailed explanation of the numerous factors affecting the selection of projects for the ten-year program will be found in Appendix D.

PROPOSED INITIAL TEN-YEAR PROGRAM

(projects are listed in alphabetical order)

<u>Playgrounds</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>No. of Fam. Displaced</u>
Cypress Street	enlarge and improve	\$ 27,000	
Danforth Street	acquire	90,000	24
Daniel Avenue	enlarge and improve	27,000	2
Highland Avenue	acquire and develop	67,000	
Patrick Cunningham	enlarge and improve	65,000	
Sackett Street	develop	37,000	
Site near Reservoir Ave.	acquire	12,000	
Thomas L. Ryan	enlarge and improve	86,000	21
Tockwotton	improve	21,000	
Upper South Providence	acquire and develop	<u>327,000</u>	<u>74</u>
Subtotals - playgrounds		\$ 759,000	121

<u>Playfields</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>No. of Fam. Displaced</u>
Central-Classical	acquire and develop	\$ 1,043,000	183
Davis Park	develop	134,000	
Fox Point Vets. Mem.	partial grading	2,000	
Hope High	improve for community use	38,000	
Hopkins Park	improve remnant	18,000	
Mt. Pleasant High	improve for community use	34,000	
Sessions Street	improvement underway	<u>5,000</u>	
Subtotals - playfields		\$ 1,274,000	183
Grand total ten-year program		\$ 2,033,000	304
Grand total long-range plan		\$ 6,261,000	907

The program outlined above has attempted to strike a balance between the need for making the best use of existing facilities and the need for introducing new service

Abandonment in favor of some more appropriate use is proposed in the case of nine playgrounds. Two of these would be retained by the City as public school sites. Four other playgrounds are proposed to be converted to playfield use, and one existing playfield to be converted to playground and school use.

A statistical comparison by neighborhoods of the future services offered by the proposed plan with services now provided by existing facilities is presented in Appendix C.

HOW THE PROPOSED PLAYGROUND SYSTEM WILL SERVE PROVIDENCE

The proposed playground system has been planned around the proposed system of elementary schools. In general, a site which can provide playground service for a public school as well as for children of the neighborhood at large gives the community the greatest return on its tax dollar.

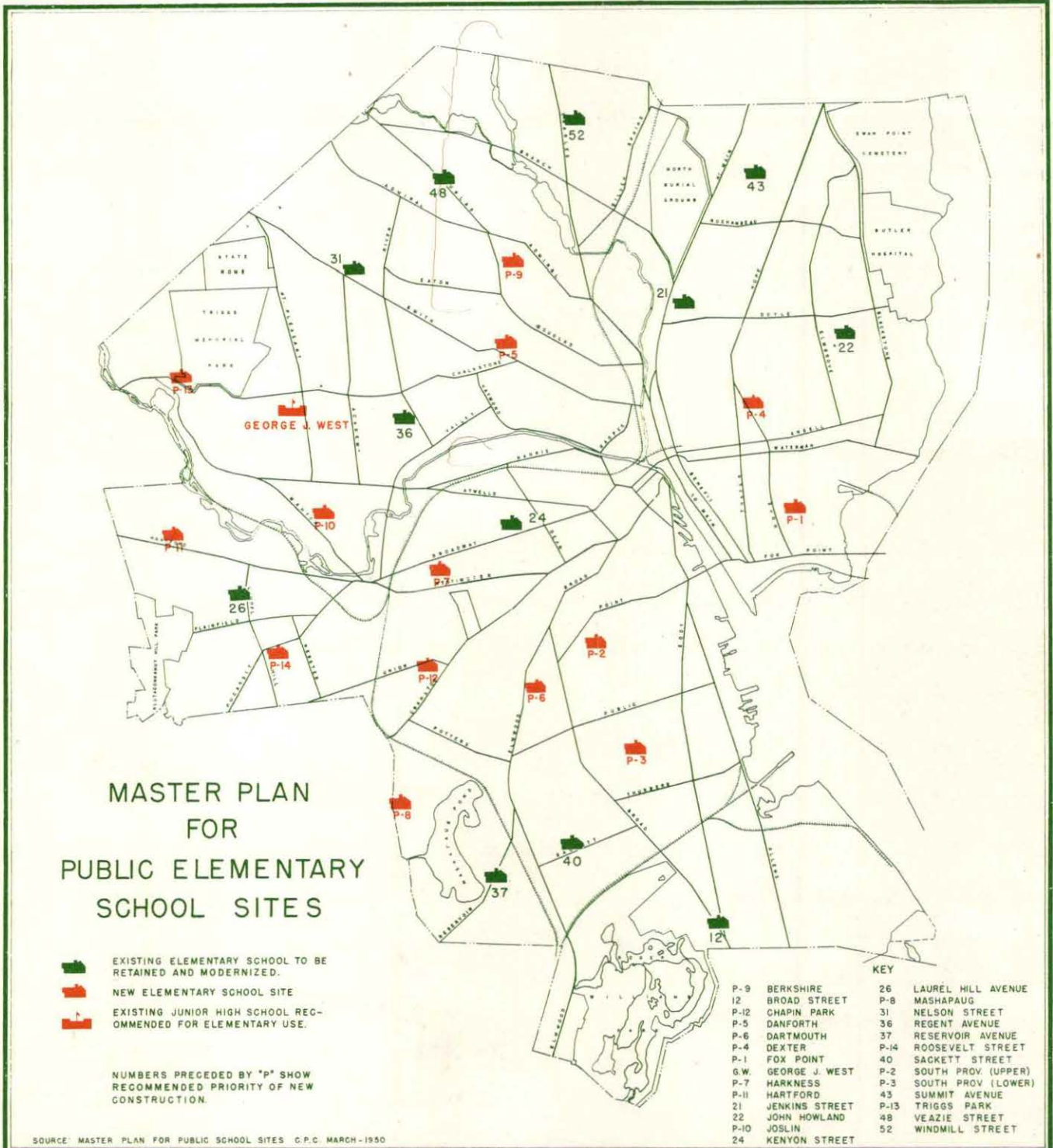
The MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES proposes a system of 27 elementary schools including 14 new schools. Playgrounds would be provided at 20 of these schools. Six others would be served by playgrounds within one or two blocks of the school sites. One school, John Howland, would be served only by its present limited play facilities, **KENYON STREET SCHOOL**. A playground should be provided here to serve this large school and the densely populated Federal Hill neighborhood.

which are below playground standards.

The beneficial services of a recreation program depend largely upon the proximity and convenience of the playground to the child population it serves. Where the proposed schools are somewhat widely separated and the population densities fairly high, there is good economic justification for providing additional playgrounds in intermediate locations. Besides the 26 playgrounds near the



CHART F



SOURCE: MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES C.P.C. MARCH-1950

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