

1918 report from Fred C. Steinhauer, superintendent of Parks to J.A. Burnett, Manager of Improvements & Parks, undated

Mr. J. A. Burnett,
Manager [of] Improvements & Parks,
B U I L D I N G

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to submit to you a brief review of the work done in the Mountain Parks during the year 1918. This statement is accompanied by a financial report showing the receipts and expenditures for the year of the Mountain Park funds.

The continuation of the road to Squaw Pass from Bergen Park was greatly delayed on account of the scarcity of labor, and in July it was finally decided to meet this scarcity of labor by increasing the wages of laborers from \$3.00 to \$3.75 per day and to advance team work from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per day. On account of the lateness in getting started, this road was not completed to Squaw Pass during the year as had been expected, but if the work is begun early in 1919, the City should be able to get to the Pike National Forest Boundary in time for the government to get a road construction crew on a continuation of this road during the coming summer. This road will eventually reach the summit of Mt. Evans, the elevation of which is 14,250 feet, being 110 feet higher than Pikes Peak and seven feet higher than Longs Peak at Estes Park. From Squaw Pass to the summit of Mt. Evans the road will be about 24 miles. As planned this road will nowhere be less than 20 feet in width, nor have grades in excess of 6%.

Mr. C. A. Forsberg, who donated the right-of-way through his land, also gave the city 2 acres on a rocky cliff along the road which is ideal for picnic parties, and from which a magnificent view of the country can be had.

Lookout Mountain Park: Practically nothing new has been done on this property during 1918. A piece of land containing 2.65 acres adjoining the road was condemned and added to this park. This was deemed necessary in order to protect the view from this lofty point along the road, as it was being shut off by the erection of cheap refreshment stands and also automobiles stopping at these various stands were constantly blocking the traffic.

The proposed Buffalo Bill Memorial at the site of Colonel Cody's grave on the top of Lookout Mountain was abandoned for the time being on account of the war, and an iron fence was built around grave. A simple, rustic tombstone with a bronze plate was erected inside the fence on the grave.

Genessee Park: This park, although already containing 1736 acres was increased 240 acres by purchase of Angel Tract, which is a well wooded and very desirable piece of ground.

With the completion of Chief Hosa Lodge in 1917, the city built 20 house tents just below the lodge and scattered through the pines. These house tents rental for the nominal sum of \$2.50 per week, to residents of Denver. In this way, a great many people were given an opportunity to have an outing in the mountains, who otherwise would not have been able to enjoy this privilege.

The question of lights for Chief Hosa Lodge and the camp was gone over very thoroughly, and at first it was thought that a local lighting plant would be sufficient, but after going into the matter of cooking in the Lodge by electricity, and the possible future needs of more light, it was deemed advisable to carry the light line of the Jefferson Light & Power Company from the top of Lookout Mountain to Genesee Park, a distance of five miles. This line was completed early in the summer, an electric range was purchased for the Lodge and the lodge, the grounds and the house tents were electrically lighted. No expense was spared to carry this line in the best possible condition to Genesee, and at any future time it can be extended to Fillius and Bergen Parks. According to an agreement with the Jefferson Light and Power Company, residents along the line can connect with the line by paying the Park Department \$150.00 for this privilege, which will, no doubt, in time pay for the cost of installation. The line is leased to the Jefferson Light & Power Company, and is to be maintained by them.

The animal inclosure of 365 acres was increased during the year by the inclosing of 100 acres north of the main road, a cattle run being built under the road to join with the old enclosures. The additional enclosure was made necessary by the increase in Mountain Sheep, Elk and Buffalo. It was also found desirable to kill for the market fourteen of the bull elk in the Mountain enclosure. Approximately 200 sacks of potatoes were raised in Genesee Park for the County Hospital.

Fillius Park: An additional 54 acres was purchased, enlarging Fillius Park to 70 acres. The new purchase lies north and west of the main highway, and was much needed as this park is becoming very popular. The well on this property was sunk ten feet deeper than formerly as it gave indications of not being capable of supplying the demand.

Bergen Park: The well at this park gave out when large crowds assembled and the park and it was, therefore, necessary to sink the well ten feet further to insure a permanent water supply. This park, although always one of the most popular in the mountains, never had lunch tables, but this year, round, solidly constructed tables and seats were built throughout the park.

Corwina Park: No improvement work in 1918. The Little Tract which was acquired in 1917 and a well dug upon the property, was, during the year 1918, improved by erection of a suspension bridge across Bear Creek and the addition of many picnic tables and comfort stations.

Starbuck Park: The nursery ponds at Starbuck Park were stocked with 100,000 Eastern Brook Trout and 2500 Rainbow Trout during the spring and summer were scattered throughout Bear Creek, from Morrison to Evergreen.

The Park Department together with the State Highway Commission let a contract for the erection of 10 reinforced concrete bridges across Bear Creek in 1917. Eight of these bridges were practically finished in 1917 and the remaining two were completed in 1918.

The Park Department, in conjunction with Jefferson County let a contract for erection of two bridges between Morrison and Evergreen on State Highway Number 27 across draws running into Bear Creek. These were completed in time for summer travel. At the same time that these bridges were being erected, the State Highway

Commission had the very unsafe bridge across Bear Creek in the town of Morrison replaced by a concrete bridge.

The Park Department received from the United States Forest Service early in the spring 25,000 pine and 1000 spruce trees to be planted on park property and along the driveways; early this winter an investigation of the trees indicated that between 40 and 50% would live.

The McFarland Gateway columns at the entrance to the Mountain Parks in Morrison, which were erected in 1917, seemed dwarfed as compared to those at the Golden entrance, and Mr. Finlay McFarland, the donor, had 10 feet added to the height, making them the same as those at Golden, and thereby greatly enhancing their attractiveness.

Mr. E. W. Rollins donated to the Mountain Parks, 80 acres, the W ½ of the N.W. ¼ of Section 2, Twp. 4 S., R 71 W., which is adjacent to the land of Genessee Park at the extreme north end of the park and extends to Clear Creek. This is in reality a part of Genessee Park and brings the acreage of this park to 2056 acres.

The Park Department secured 40 acres of ground in Deer Creek Canon during the year. This is a very wild and rugged country and it is especially desirable that some land be acquired here, as it will doubtless become very popular and relieve Lookout Mountain and the Bear Creek Canon roads of much travel on Sundays and Holidays.

The maintenance of State Highways #21 and #27 was paid for jointly by the State and City and with the addition of two new blade machines these roads have been kept in very good condition during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred C. Steinhauer,

Superintendent of Parks.

List of key items, 1918 work projects:

Continuation of the road to Squaw Pass from Bergen Park

Forsberg right-of-way also gave 2 acres on a rocky cliff

Lookout Mountain Park: 2.65 acres added

Buffalo Bill Memorial was abandoned , iron fence built around grave, tombstone with plate erected

Genessee Park: increased by 240 acres by purchase of Angel Tract

Completion of Chief Hosa Lodge in 1917, built 20 house tents

Lights for Chief Hosa Lodge and the camp

Animal inclosure of 365 acres was increased by inclosing of 100 acres north of the main road, a cattle run being built under the road

Fillius Park: additional 54 acres purchased, enlarging Fillius Park to 70 acres.

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