

FOR REFERENCE

not to be taken from this room

1959
ANNUAL Report

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Including final executive report
Board of Public Parks & Recreation
City and County of Honolulu

SB482.7
AZ
1959
#1

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
City and County of Honolulu
City Hall Annex
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

June 30, 1960

409

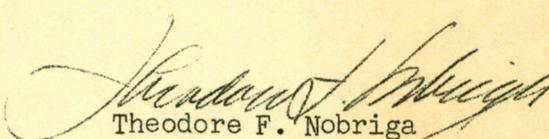
Honorable Neal S. Blaisdell
Mayor, City and County of Honolulu

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the final report of the Board of Public Parks and Recreation as an executive body, concluded June 30, 1959, and the first report of the Department of Parks and Recreation, inaugurated July 1, 1959. This covers the calendar year of 1959.

I take this opportunity to thank the officials of the various city and county agencies for their cooperation and assistance during the year. I wish also to express my appreciation of the support and loyalty of my staff.

Respectfully submitted,


Theodore F. Nobriga
Director of Parks and Recreation

Free

A N N U A L R E P O R T 1 9 5 9

BOARD OF PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION
(Final Report to June 30, 1959)

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
(July 1 to December 31, 1959)

Two important events took place in the city's park and recreation system in 1959. One was the retirement of Superintendent J. Edward Lyons on June 31, after 28 years of administration. The second was the termination of the executive functions of the Board of Public Parks and Recreation. This took place through the adoption of the new city Charter. It turned the park organization into a city department under the mayor, and made the Board an advisory body.

Named head of this new department was Theodore F. Nobriga who had acted as assistant to Mr. Lyons for the past nine years.

Mr. Lyons' period of office covered exactly the same 28 years that Honolulu's park affairs were under the jurisdiction of a special park commission. Now, at the close of this period, a quick backward look at the accomplishments of both is in order.

BACKWARD LOOK

In 1931 the city parks and playgrounds were little more than a collection of tired lawns and dusty sand-lots. Public recreation, of a sort, was in the hands of the Recreation Commission. The sheer indifference, or, worse, the political expediency with which park matters were handled by the city, ired a group of influential citizens. Headed by the late Lester McCoy they succeeded in having the Legislature form a Park Board to guide park

affairs, especially in long range planning. Mr. McCoy was chairman of this Board and Mr. Lyons, executive secretary.

For the first four years the Board was only advisory. Its members soon found, however, that without control of park finances they were powerless to carry out the hoped for program. In 1935, therefore, the Legislature was again approached and as a result, the Park Board was set up as practically an independent commission with complete control of all park matters and all park finances. As such, it functioned until 1946, laying a strong foundation in planned park development.

After the war, when all park and recreation matters were almost completely deteriorated, (with military installations on every area), the Legislature recognized the previous effectiveness of the Park Board and merged with it the old Recreation Commission. This formed the Board of Public Parks and Recreation. Such a merger was in accord with general advanced practice in this field and proved an unqualified success. Mr. Lyons was named superintendent of both parks and recreation and the new Board had a succession of chairmen and members.

The next 13 years brought Honolulu's park and recreation system to a point where it can be compared favorably with that of any city of its size on the mainland.

After the war-deteriorated parks and playgrounds had been restored, there began a carefully planned program of development and construction. With it went on expanding program of public recreation, which recognized the non-athletic as well as the athletic aspects of this subject.

END OF AN ERA

As a result, at the end of 1959 there were 57 playgrounds and fields, serving all Oahu; 18 clubhouses and centers, six gymnasiums, three swimming pools; three golf areas, 14 tennis areas, five archery ranges, a rifle range, a canoe shed and boathouse, a riding school and several miniature boat ponds and plane fields.

There were also 16 green parks and squares, three natural parks and 20 traffic areas.

And as the result of a policy to acquire every possible bit of shoreline, there were 51 beach areas. Some are suitable for swimming, others for fishing and camping. A few serve as scenic tourist lookouts. There are two beach centers and 16 dressing facilities on these areas.

Conspicuous accomplishments of the period included the construction and successful operation of the Waikiki Shell. It also included the rejuvenation of the Honolulu Zoo which attracts and instructs thousands annually. Foster Park Botanical Garden was developed into a "must" for every mainland visitor and was expanded to include three new areas.

Also, by the end of 1959, the city was providing over a hundred trained professional leaders on 30 playgrounds, where worthwhile leisure time activities of all kinds were available for children, teenagers and adults.

1959 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the second six months of 1959, as a city department under Ted Nobriga, park and recreation matters continued to surge forward. Mayor and Council gave full support to the program, with no hint of a return to the

old indifference. Bond money for new capital improvements was not lacking, but in common with other city departments, the shortage of maintenance and operating funds hampered many functions. In particular, the staffing of new areas as they became completed, was a problem, with no corresponding increase of staff available.

PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

The year 1959 saw several important new recreation centers entirely completed and opened for use. Some others were brought close to completion and still others were put under construction.

In the spring, the new Nanakuli Recreation Center was opened. In the autumn, Kalihi Valley Recreation Center was completed. Playing courts in Palolo Valley Field were finished, as were also the first units of Waimanalo and Manoa Valley Fields. Aina Haina Playground was about doubled in size by filling and grading. At Honouliuli-Asing Field and Waipahu Field, smaller jobs were finished.

Of outstanding importance was the start of construction on the large new bath house in Ala Moana Park. When completed, this will accommodate to a large extent the thousands who go there to swim. At the Waikiki Shell the installation of some 2000 stadium-type seats was completed and work begun on the new concession building and new public rest rooms. A public shelter with rest rooms was started in the Kapiolani Hibiscus Garden which, when completed, will focus the attention of visitors strongly on this area. The rejuvenation of the Rifle Range in Koko Head Park was also under way.

For the coming year the Planning Division has a program covering 79 projects for the improvement of Oahu's parks and playgrounds. Over four

million dollars is available for these. Major items in this program are the new gymnasium-auditorium for Waipahu Field, new park buildings on Palolo Valley and Kailua Fields, and the acquisition of some half dozen playground sites adjacent to new schools.

PUBLIC RECREATION

The Recreation Division of the Park Department offered supervised fun on thirty playgrounds in 1959. These areas were in both the city and rural districts. During the summer, eight more areas were in operation for the stepped-up Summer Fun. Altogether, 5,719 children participated in this summer activity.

The Learn-to-Swim program registered 1,719 children. Of these, 428 passed the standard test and received beginner's certificates.

Representative of a year-round training program for leaders was the training institute held for forty temporary summer workers in the late spring. For six full days they were instructed in recreation-philosophy, goals and objectives, songs for group singing, folk dancing, arts and crafts, creative dramatics, nature activities and hiking. Junior leaders were also trained. During the summer, 217 teen-age leaders served as junior aides to regular directors.

Regular teen-age club programs, covering such things as dances, outings and socials were conducted on many areas during the year.

Among other adult activities, a club to teach and practice ballroom dancing was organized during the summer. It grew rapidly to 423 members at the end of the year. Volunteer instructors conducted these classes.

The 26th year of a weekly quarter hour radio program, put on by the Recreation Division was completed. A total of 761 children and adults participated in this.

An exchange of recreation leaders with a mainland community was initiated for the first time in 1959. A leader from Los Angeles came to Honolulu in the fall, while a local leader took her place. Both report the experience to be inspirational and enriching.

The Honolulu Theatre for Youth, sponsored by the Recreation Division's creative dramatics unit, initiated a new departure in 1959 by bringing the school children of the city during a released school period to a central theatre to see a well done play suited to their years. Support of this program came from the McInerny, Atherton and Frear Foundations, and from Foremost Dairies. Cooperating in this Youth Theatre are the University of Hawaii drama department, the Honolulu Community Theatre and the Junior League. It marks a new high in cooperative community activity.

In summer, this unit put on an outstanding creative activities program in the Waikiki Shell. Besides the 100 children participating, there were 25 teachers who were learning by assisting, and seven specialist leaders.

PARK DEPARTMENT GOLF COURSES

The popularity of the scenic Pali Golf Course showed slow growth as improvements to greens and tees proceeded. About 40,000 rounds were played on the course in 1959, with some \$80,000 in receipts. This compares with the 32,000 rounds in 1958 with \$62,000 income. General improvements to the course went on slowly, with the work being done by the staff. A new tee

and fairway was made for Hole 13; Hole 16 got a new green, and another new green on Hole 3 will be in play early in 1960. The addition of electric carts increased attendance.

At the Kahuku Golf Course some 5000 players enjoyed a round of play. Most of these made the 40-mile scenic trip for the purpose, driving out from Honolulu. Low fees of fifty and seventy-five cents are one of the attractions of this course.

The Golf Practice Range in Kapiolani Park, which is run as a concession continued to offer pleasure to players and profit to the Park Department.

LIFEGUARDS

No drownings took place during 1959 in the Waikiki-Ala Moana beach areas. One death resulted from a heart attack. However, there were 168 cases of first aid given as the result of surfboard and outrigger canoe accidents. Of the victims, 38 had to be hospitalized.

In the opinion of William Smith, Water Safety Director, this points up the need to solve the water safety problem at Waikiki. Accidents could be minimized if a surf-lifeguard were to be stationed in a dory, as a sort of water traffic officer. Efforts along these lines were continuing at the end of the year.

In addition to the surfing accidents, lifeguards pulled in 158 swimmers who needed help in getting back to shore. Of these, 17 were tourists. Eleven were referred to a hospital.

Help was also extended in 443 other cases, large and small, in addition to the first aid given in surfing accidents. Of these, 45 were serious enough to be referred to hospitals.

Outside of Waikiki, lifeguard service was provided on weekends during the summer at Kailua Beach Park. The one regular guard there was assisted by six volunteers.

The Waianae Lions club donated two lifeguard towers to Nanakuli's Kalaniana'ole Beach Park. These were manned on weekends by volunteers.

WAIKIKI SHELL

The Shell was closed for five months in the spring of 1959 while some 2000 stadium type outdoor seats were installed. These have proved completely popular, but in spite of their comfort, anywhere from two to eight thousand other spectators have preferred to sit on the lawn during each program which was given. The informality of the lawn seating appeals especially to family groups and young people. Seeing and hearing from the lawn are practically equal to seeing and hearing from the seats.

In spite of the closed period, total attendance at Shell programs was more than doubled over that of the previous year. The 1959 total was 170,000 as against 70,000 in 1958. The number of programs, however, was necessarily reduced by the closed period. The difference in attendance reflects the growth of Shell popularity and increased attractiveness of the productions.

The type of entertainment offered varied from such cultural productions as the Shakespear festival to popular jazz programs.

In addition to actual performances on the stage, the Shell was used for dances, graduations, festivals and creative activity classes. The 50th State Fair, which was held on adjoining park lands, presented all its shows on the Shell stage.

In addition to the new seats, capital improvements to the Shell area included the construction of new public rest rooms, a refreshment center and new ticket offices. Cost of these was about \$150,000. They were nearly completed by the end of the year.

HONOLULU ZOO

The visitor attendance count of the Zoo for 1959 was 558,446. This made it an average year, since no spectacular addition to the animals took place which would attract an unusual number of people.

Major construction accomplished was the black-topping of about two miles of pathways, connecting all the exhibits. It was completed early in 1959, and made a tremendous difference in the pleasure of visitors. They no longer have to stumble over the old, stony paths. The program of beautifying the grounds went on, with ornamental tree plantings and some new picnic areas.

At the end of the year there were 145 different kinds of animals, with a total of 719 specimens. Zoo babies born in 1959 included a Spider Monkey, a Zebra colt, a Pigmy Deer and Indian Black Buck Antelopes. Other additions included a male African lion from the Portland, Oregon, zoo. He will be a mate to Miss Samson, born in Honolulu in 1957. Two pairs of American Prong-horned Antelopes came from Montana, and among a number of

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

showy new birds were two rare white Rheas from the San Diego zoo. These are ostrich-like birds with blue eyes. With them, the Zoo's collection of large flightless birds is complete.

The Honolulu Zoo often cooperated with mainland and foreign zoos by giving specialized care to shipments of animals passing across the Pacific. This policy has resulted in a good many gift animals as tangible expressions of appreciation. The Zoo also cooperated with the State Board of Agriculture and Forestry in its project of releasing over a hundred Cattle Egrets, birds which feed on cattle flies, and are expected to materially reduce this pest.

FOSTER PARK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Had the attendance figures maintained for the first eight months of 1959 continued for the entire year, over a hundred thousand people, half of them tourists, would have enjoyed the beauty and wonder of the tropical trees and plants of Foster Botanical Garden. As it was, with the loss of the parking lot, and the general upheaval due to the construction of the Lunalilo Freeway, the actual count of visitors was 82,470.

A new temporary reception office was put up at the Nuuanu Avenue gate which will serve until the final entrance off River Street can be constructed. This awaits the development of the Queen Emma Project. When the Project is finally complete, the Garden will have about three acres more than ever before, extending down to Nuuanu Stream.

A group of 135 volunteer members of the Outdoor Circle staffed the information and reception office in 1959, as they have for a number of years past.

Foster Garden's plant import program added 425 new plant varieties to the State of Hawaii. Another annual gift of \$500 from the Garden Club of Honolulu was made toward this program.

In the Garden's three subsidiary areas--Wahiawa, Kapiolani Hibiscus Garden and the Lyon Botanic Garden in Koko Crater, development went forward as fast as reduced staffing would allow.

STREET TREES

A full-length street tree program for all Oahu was planned during 1959. The work is to be carried out under a new Park Department Division of Botanic Gardens. The unique aspect of this plan is that Honolulu's streets will themselves eventually become a branch of Foster Garden with groups of rare trees being used, differing in this from the usual city practice of using only a few well established tree varieties for a city's streets.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
January 1 to June 30, 1959

Eugene Kennedy, Chairman
Mrs. Walter F. Dillingham, Vice Chairman

Kim Ak Ching	Paul H. Katahara
Alvin K. Chang (Ex-officio Dept. of Public Instruction	Thomas E. Trask
Mrs. Eastham Guild	Howard I. Takenaka
	Mrs. Aileen K. Lota

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
July 1 to December 31, 1959

Eugene Kennedy, Chairman
Mrs. Walter F. Dillingham, Vice Chairman

Kim Ak Ching	Paul H. Katahara
Alvin K. Chang (Ex-officio Dept. of Public Instruction	Thomas E. Trask
Mrs. Eastham Guild	Howard I. Takenaka
	Adrian DeMello

ADMINISTRATION

J. Edward Lyons, Supt. of Parks and Recreation to June 30, 1959
Theodore F. Nobriga, Supt. of Recreation to June 30, 1959
Appointed Director of Parks and Recreation, July 1, 1959
Ethel Mori, Supt. of Recreation, Appointed July 1, 1959
Delos A. Seeley, Director of Planning and Construction
Samuel K. Haina, Director of Maintenance
Paul L. Breese, Director of the Honolulu Zoo
Paul R. Weissich, Director of Botanic Gardens
Jack Botelho, Business Manager and Secretary of the Board

DIED IN 1959

George K. S. Wong, January 2	Robert K. Kaina, June 12
Edward M. Sniffen, March 5	John K. Tavares, December 1 (Retired May 15, 1959)

STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES
for year ending December 31, 1959

	Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance
General Fund - Maintenance & Upkeep			
Personal Services	\$1,492,538.32	\$1,492,538.32	\$ --
Current Expenses	338,533.11	335,851.00	2,682.11
Capital Outlays	26,155.14	24,134.88	2,020.26
Pali Golf Course	88,018.00	87,785.89	232.11
<hr/>			
Totals (Maintenance & Upkeep)	1,945,244.57	1,940,310.09	4,934.48
Permanent Improvements	115,508.41	27,502.78	88,005.63
Park Improvement Bond Fund			
Permanent Improvement	2,924,240.03	1,014,320.80	1,909,919.23
<hr/>			
Totals (All funds)	\$4,984,993.01	\$2,982,133.67	\$2,002,859.34
<hr/> <hr/>			

PERSONNEL

Administration	15
Maintenance	252
Planning & Construction	10
Recreation	156
Zoo	20
	<hr/>

453

#1

P.B. ~~180-34~~
~~11759~~

Honolulu, C&C of
1959 ANNUAL REPORT.
Dept. of Parks & Recre. June 1960

Do NOT circulate

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, Hawaii



