

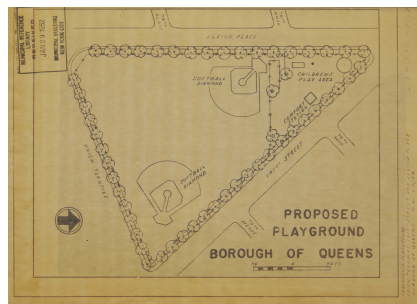
# Municipal Library Notes - March 2022

## SPOTLIGHT ON PLAYGROUNDS

### Spotlight on: Playgrounds

**By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library**

With the approach of spring and warmer weather, New Yorkers of all ages will be visiting parks and playgrounds. Here are some resources in the Municipal Library on playgrounds. The New York City Department of Parks published a two-volume set of photos and diagrams of various playgrounds in the five boroughs covering the years 1941-1961. A press release accompanies the illustrations, announcing the opening of each playground and providing background information. Here are a diagram and photo of a playground on Vleigh Place in Queens that opened in January 1952. Originally known as the Vleigh Place Playground, the name was changed in 2008 to the Judge Moses Weinstein Playground.



During the La Guardia administration, the Department of Parks and the Board of Education began working together to expand and improve playground facilities throughout the city. Fort Hamilton High School Athletic Field was the first playground to open operated by this partnership. Here is an image of four playgrounds from the report "Jointly Operated Playgrounds," published by the Department of Parks and Board of Education.

#### MACHINE AND METAL TRADES HIGH SCHOOL, MANHATTAN

Machine and Metal Trades High School, east of Second Avenue, between 96 and 97 Streets, Manhattan. This playground provides essential recreational facilities for the 1,200 students and also for the children of P.S. 150.



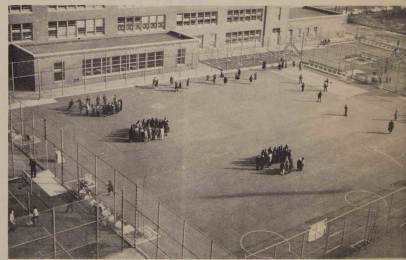
#### PUBLIC SCHOOL 18, BRONX

Located at Morris Avenue and East 148 Street, Bronx. This 3 acre playground is an example of the close cooperation between the N.Y.C. Housing Authority, the Board of Education and the Department of Parks. It will serve this heavily populated neighborhood as well as the Patterson Housing Project and school.



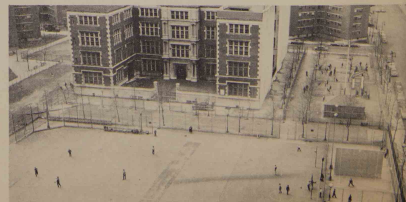
#### PUBLIC SCHOOL 200, QUEENS

This Playground bounded by Jewel Avenue, 71st Avenue and 164 Street, Queens. The major area of the playground includes an open running space, basketball, shuffleboard and handball courts, as well as an area for pre-school children.

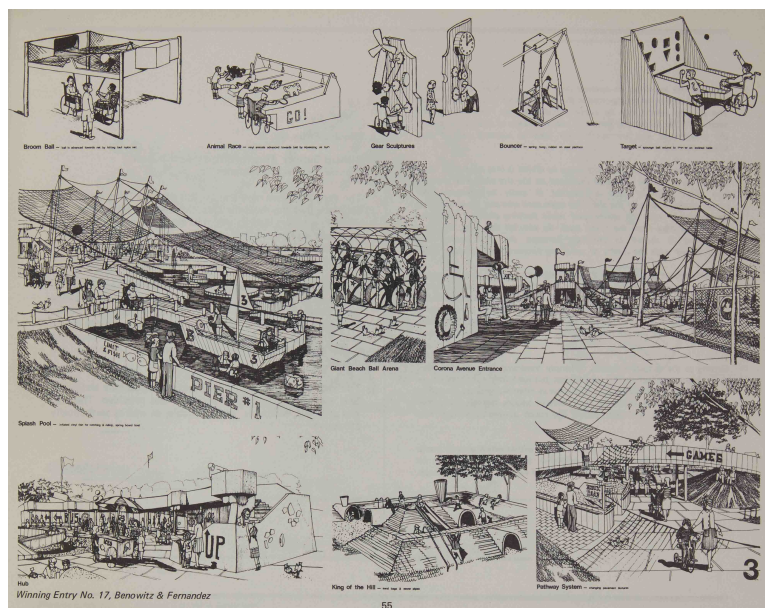


#### JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 66, BROOKLYN

On the southerly side of Sutter Avenue between Osborne Street and Stone Avenue, Brooklyn. Divided in two sections this playground serves the school children as well as the Brownsville Housing Project which surrounds it.



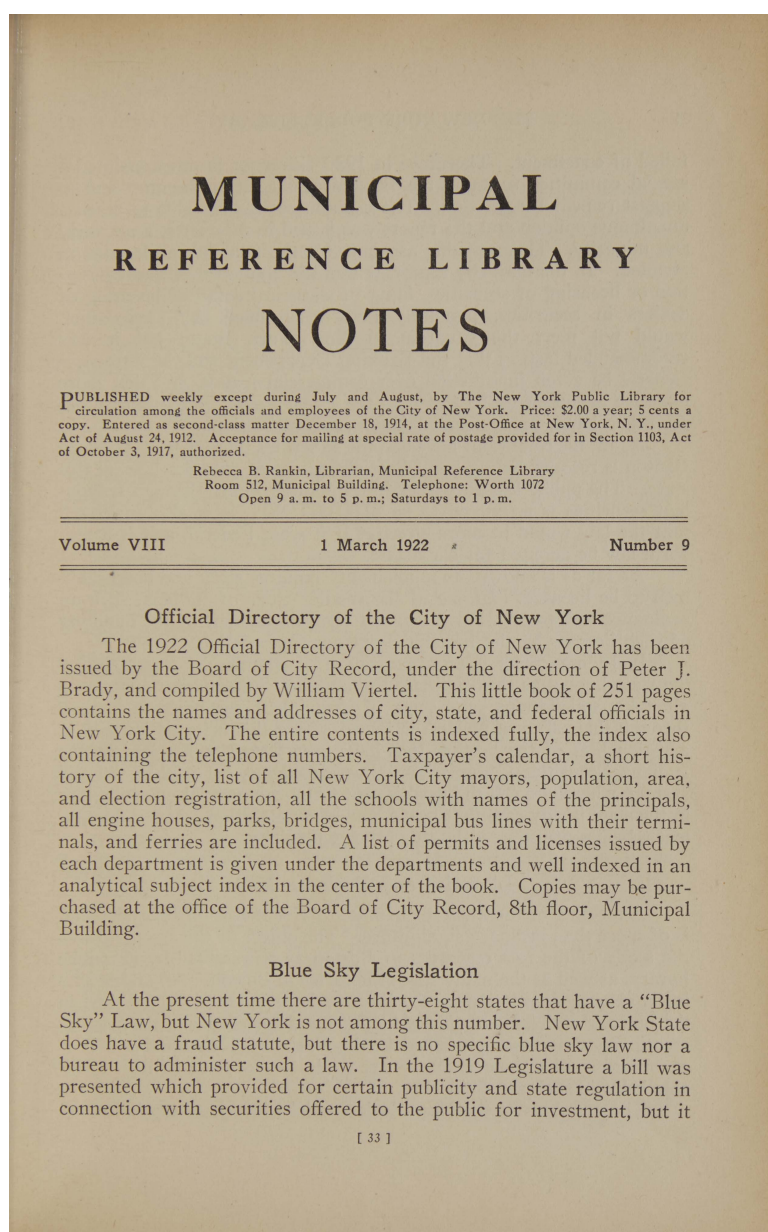
The Department of City Planning established a Special Projects Unit to begin working on programs for persons with disabilities in 1974. One of the projects was designing a playground would provide play space for disabled as well as able-bodied children. "A Playground for All Children" dated 1978 provides more information. Here are designs from one of the winning entries in a competition that was held for architects and students to submit their plans.



## Municipal Library Notes March 1922 New York City Green Book

By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

The March 1, 1922 issue of Municipal Library Notes features a short piece on the publication of the 1922 Official Directory of the City of New York. It has come to be known more informally as the Green Book. This publication not only includes information on city, state and federal government offices in the city but also statistics on budget, population, a list of all NYC mayors and more.



Below are 2 pages from the 1922 edition of the Official Directory of the City of New York with information about the Fire Department.



98	OFFICIAL DIRECTORY	THE CITY OF NEW YORK	99	
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>				
Main Office, 11th fl. Mun. Bldg. Phone, Worth 4100.		15	269 Henry St.	
The Fire Commissioner is also a member, <i>ex-officio</i> , of the		16	223 E. 25th St.	
Board of Standards and Appeals.		17	91 Ludlow St.	
THOMAS J. DIENNAN (of Brooklyn), Commissioner. Ap-		18	132 W. 10th St.	
pointed by the Mayor. Salary \$7,500. W. 25th St.		19	307 W. 25th St.	
JOSEPH M. HANNON, Deputy Fire Commissioner, Manhattan,		20	243 Lafayette St.	
Bronx and Richmond.		21	216 E. 40th St.	
WILLIAM F. THOMPSON, Deputy Fire Commissioner, Brook-		22	159 E. 8th St.	
lyn and Queens.		23	215 W. 98th St.	
JAMES A. MACKAY, Secretary of the Department.		24	78 Morton St.	
ALOIS J. KEOGH, Secretary to the Commissioner.		25	342 E. 5th St.	
JOHN KENLON, Chief of Department. He is also a member,		26	220 W. 37th St.	
<i>ex-officio</i> , of the Board of Appeals, and the Board of		27	173 Franklin St.	
Standards and Appeals.		28	604 E. 11th St.	
JOSEPH B. MARTIN, Assistant Chief of Department.		29	160 Chambers St.	
JOHN O'HARA, Deputy Chief of Department, in Charge of		30	278 Spring St.	
Brooklyn and Queens.		31	87 Lafayette St.	
THOMAS J. HAYES, Assistant Chief of Department, in Charge		32	49 Beekman St.	
Bureau of Fire Prevention.		33	42 Great Jones St.	
WILLIAM H. SWARTWOUT, Deputy Chief, Bureau of Fire Pre-		34	440 W. 33d St.	
vention, Brooklyn and Queens.		35	223 E. 119th St.	
THOMAS P. BROPHY, Chief Fire Marshal.		36	1849 Park Ave.	
VALENTINE FENDRICH, Chief of Bureau of Fire Alarm Telegraph.		37	83 Lawrence St.	
HUBERT J. TREACY, Chief of Bureau of Repairs and Supplies.		38	157 E. 67th St.	
RICHARD J. MARSHALL, Chief of Battalion in Charge of Repair		39	12 W. 63d St.	
Shops.		40	330 E. 150th St., Bx.	
MICHAEL P. CORRIGAN, Clerk in Charge, Audit and Accounts.		41	1781 Monroe Av., Bx.	
PETER J. QUIGLEY, in charge of Division of Pensions.		42	Sedgwick & Burnside	
		43	Aves.	
<i>Boards of the Department</i>		44	221 E. 75th St.	
Board of Hazardous Materials		45	925 Tremont Ave. Bx.	
The Board meets in Room 1132, Municipal Building, at		46	451 E. 170th St., Bx.	
the call of the Chairman.		47	502 W. 113th St.	
JOSEPH M. HANNON, Deputy Fire Commissioner, Manhattan,		48	2504 Webster Ave.,	
Bronx and Richmond, <i>Chairman</i> .		49	Bx.	
WM. F. THOMPSON, Deputy Fire Commissioner, Brooklyn		50	49 Blackwell's Island.	
and Queens.		51	401 E. 166th St., Bx.	
JOHN KENLON, Chief of Department.		52	Riverdale Ave., Bx.	
JOSEPH B. MARTIN, Assistant Chief of Department.		53	75 E. 104th St.	
THOMAS J. HAYES, Assistant Chief of Department, in Charge		54	304 W. 47th St.	
Bureau of Fire Prevention.		55	363 Broome St.	
JOHN F. DIXON, Assistant Inspector of Combustibles, Man-		56	120 W. 83d St.	
hatten, Bronx and Richmond.		57	Battery Park	
D. D. GALLAGHER, Secretary.		58	81 W. 115th St.	
<b>ENGINE COMPANIES</b>				
Manhattan and The Bronx				
1	165 W. 29th St.	59	180 W. 137th St.	
2	530 W. 43d St.	60	352 E. 137th St., Bx.	
3	417 W. 17th St.	61	1518 Wmsbridge Rd.,	
4	119 Maiden Lane.	62	Bx.	
5	340 E. 14th St.	63	361 White Plains	
6	113 Liberty St.	64	Ave., Bx.	
7	100 Duane St.	65	4109 White Plains	
		66	Ave., Bx.	
		67	1214 Castle Hill Ave.,	
		68	Bx.	
		69	37 W. 43d St.	
		70	Grand St., E. R.	
		71	518 W. 170th St.	
		72	1080 Ogden Ave., Bx.	
		73	248 W. 12th St.	
		74	169 Schofield St., Bx.	
		75	3134 Park Ave., Bx.	
		76	22 E. 12th St.	
		77	655 Prospect Ave., Bx.	
		78	207 W. 77th St.	
		79	2285 Jerome Ave., Bx.	
		80	105 W. 102d St.	
		81	77 Beekman St., E. R.	
		82	79th St., E. R.	
		83	2288 Briggs Ave., Bx.	
		84	503 W. 139th St.	
		85	3025 Bailey Ave., Bx.	
		86	1215 Intervale Ave.,	
		87	Bx.	
		88	618 E. 138th St., Bx.	
		89	513 W. 161st St.	
		90	35th St., N. R.	
		91	Bloomfield St., N. R.	
		92	135th St., Harlem R.	
		93	2225 Belmont Ave.,	
		94	Bx.	
		95	1841 White Plains	
		96	Ave., Bx.	
		97	242 E. 113th St.	
		98	1259 Morris Ave.,	
		99	515 W. 151st St.	
		100	1229 Convent Ave., Bx.	
			29 Vernilya Ave.	
			<b>Borough of Richmond</b>	
		151	100 Butler Ave., Tot-	
			tenville.	
		152	1212 Bay St., Rose-	
			bank.	
		153	74 Broad St., Staple-	
			ton.	
		154	60 Hannah St., Tump-	
			kinsville.	
		155	223 Joyce St., New	
			Brighton.	
			156	412 B'way, West New
				Brighton.
			157	51 Cottage Pl., Port
				Richmond.
			158	22 De Hart Ave.,
				Corbin Harbor.
			159	1592 Richmond Rd.,
				Jongan Hills.
			160	1850 Clay Ave.,
				Concord.

It was an incredibly layered undertaking that involved setting up the financial, physical, and digital infrastructures to support the long-term project. In the first phase, Assistant Commissioner Kenneth Cobb procured contracts with eDocNY, a New York State Industries for the Disabled vendor, to digitize the records. Cobb led a team of technologists, database managers, digitization technicians, metadata creators, collections managers, preservation and conservation staff, to



ensure the project's success.

The vendor eDocNY produced excellent high-quality, full-color scans of the certificates - a vast improvement over the microfilmed images previously available. The digital images helped to improve accuracy in transcribing the records and provided another opportunity to engage with genealogy partners who, since 2003, had been indexing the collections from microfilmed and hard copy sources.

The next phase was to make the new digital records available to a broader audience. In 2017, DORIS launched an application built by in-house developers that allowed reference staff to fulfill requests for vital record copies more efficiently and accurately using the new color images. The vital records application also provided onsite patrons with the ability to search and view the records. The “app” was a pivotal steppingstone.

Once the digitization project with eDocNY successfully digitized more than eight million records, DORIS pivoted to digitizing the Marriage License series in-house. Over the past several years more than one million records have been digitized, preserved, and made available. The project was interrupted during the pandemic and picked up again in August 2021. This work is on-going.

Further, City archivist Patricia Glowinski has begun working on a [comprehensive guide to the New York City vital records](#) documenting records created and/or maintained by the City of New York, and vital records created and/or maintained by municipalities that were once located within the boundaries of the present-day five Boroughs that were dissolved or annexed before 1898. The collection includes birth, marriage, and death registers, certificates, and indexes, and marriage licenses, 1760-1949 (with gaps).

The agency's application development team tested a variety of open-source approaches to making the vital records available in a timeframe that internet users expect. They built a robust, secure, easy-to-use platform, capable of handling a large volume of users simultaneously. As a result, on day one, more than 25,000 users accessed the site and downloaded 12,000 records. After one week, **we have had 1.8 million views and 56,000 downloads.**

With each step, access to the collections increases, and the Municipal Archives continues to build and sustain industry-standard plans to manage the physical and digital collections, and the associated descriptions that provide access points. It is to the credit and expertise of archivists, conservators, and reference and research professionals at the New York City Municipal Library and Archives, that these collections will survive for future generations, and continue to enrich the research experience of people and communities around the world.

**Stay tuned** for more announcements!

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## CELEBRATE THE OLMSTED BICENTENNIAL

### THE GREENSWARD PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL PARK

## Celebrate Olmsted Bicentennial: The Greensward Plan for The Central Park

**By External Affairs**

In honor of famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th birthday, the NYC Department of Records & Information Services will host a pop-up exhibition at 31 Chambers Street featuring the rarely seen original Greensward plan - the winning master plan submitted in 1858 by Olmsted and Calvert Vaux as part of the proposal for the Central Park design competition. The plan is considered a masterpiece of 19th century landscape architecture. Timed tickets for 30-minute slots on April 22nd, 11am - 7pm and April 23rd, 10am - 4pm are available.

Learn more and RSVP [here](#).

To learn more about upcoming events, please sign up for our [Events Mailing List](#).

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