

PROMENADE TO CAP HUGE PLAY CENTRE

City Plan for Williamsbridge
Reservoir Site Calls for Wide
Walk on Embankment.

2-LEVEL OVAL FOR GAMES

Novel Bronx Recreation Area
to Have Pavilion, Tennis
Courts, Football Field.

The old Williamsbridge Reservoir site in the Bronx is to be developed as one of the most unusual playground centres in the city, according to plans prepared by the Park Department. A feature of the project will be a wide promenade, laid out on the reservoir embankment, which will be comparable with the broad walks that many European cities have built along the tops of their abandoned fortifications.

Spectators on this promenade will look down on one side of the streets about the reservoir. The inner side will command a view of the entire playground area, which will be in two levels and will include a turf playing field surrounded by a running track, two banks of tennis courts, eight in each bank; two children's playgrounds and a wide lawn bordered by wooded strips.

The reservoir site at 207th Street, a few blocks south of Van Cortlandt Park and west of Bronx Park, was turned over to the Park Department last year by the Depart-

ment of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity.

The Park Department had proposed originally to convert it into a huge stadium, which would not have been difficult because it has steeply sloped sides. However, there was no adequate space for parking and nearby residents objected to any such use of the area.

When the tract was transferred by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund it was stipulated that it would not be developed as a stadium or as a swimming pool, another possibility that had been considered. The department now considers the new plan a virtually ideal utilization of the tract.

The embankment, which is thirty-seven feet above the street in places, will be cut down to a maximum of thirteen feet at the south end. On the west it will be at street level. The central oval will

be raised twelve feet in the middle and sixteen feet around the sides.

The embankment is commodious enough for a promenade seventy-five feet wide, which will have two parallel walks, numerous trees and shrubs and plenty of benches. Steps will lead up to it where it is higher than the street. On the inner side ramps will descend seven feet to the play area, except at the north end, where steps will lead down to a large recreation building.

The inner slope below the promenade will be planted and at the base there will be another walk surrounding the oval. This also will be lined with trees. On a raised area in front of the recreation building there will be two playgrounds, one probably for boys and the other for girls.

Between them will be a walk leading to the depressed play field in the very centre, which will be used for football, hockey and other large-group games. In the Winter this field will be flooded for skating. It will be about 600 feet long and 250 feet wide. Around it will be a quarter-mile running track.

On either side of the play field on the raised area, which will be 250 feet wide all the way around the oval, will be the tennis courts. At the north end will be a lawn flanked by two groves of trees. In all, about 500 trees will be planted.

The recreation building will be of severely simple architecture in the modern manner. It is proposed to build it of granite salvaged from the top of the embankment. On the ground floor, opening onto the playground, there will be a large lobby flanked by locker rooms and showers.

Upstairs on the street level will be a recreation room forty-six feet long and twenty-two feet wide. At each end there will be a loggia, and the roofs over the locker rooms will be utilized as terraces. A distinctive feature of the façade will be a two-story vestibule behind a row of huge granite piers.

Park officials were unable to say when work on the development would begin. This will depend on how much money is made available in future for work relief.