

NEED SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PLAYGROUND FUND

MUST HAVE TOTAL BY FIRST OF MAY

Committee has Best Part of Sum Needed Promised. Meeting Monday to Decide on Extension of Option

A meeting of the Playground Association was held at the Highland Park Club Monday evening when reports from the committee members seeking subscriptions were received. A meeting will be held next Monday evening at which it is expected the entire committee will be present since it is necessary to know before May 1st as to whether the option which the committee now have on the property will be extended.

Although practically all the residents of Highland Park have expressed themselves in favor of this public spirited plan for a playground, there has been a request on the part of many for more time to think the matter over before signing a subscription blank.

As it is absolutely necessary to have the entire amount, \$5,000 subscribed for before May 1st, the committee earnestly request that everyone interested in the plan will sign a subscription before that time. The first payment (one half of the subscription) is not due until October 1st and the balance any time before May 1, 1915, or payments can be made monthly or otherwise to suit the subscriber. With payments coming in such easy stages it will be a pity if the people of Highland Park allow such an opportunity of giving the children of the present and future adequate playground facilities to escape them.

Some years ago the question of buying the block from Sheridan Rd. to Linden Ave. was considered and finally voted down. It is now seen what a great mistake was made and a greater one will be made if the present plan for the playground is allowed to fall through.

The committee have not the slightest idea of letting it fall through, but would like the support of everyone in their endeavors to do a public spirited deed for the entire city.

The Erskine Bank has just installed another large case of Safety deposit boxes. If you are not already a renter, it would be well to apply early. Rent from \$3.00 to \$10.00 per year according to size.

ARBOR DAY ENTHUSIASTS WANT PLANTING GENERAL

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and thrifter than European or Asiatic nursery stock. Rifts of small thickets of such plantings would relieve the bareness of the ground covering, and set out the trees to better advantage, while not interfering with the use of the park through the present paths and open spaces.

Some of the present planting of shrubbery is in good shape, and could be utilized. The cost of work proposed would be largely dependent upon the size of stock planted, and if the labor were furnished by the city, a sum of from \$75 to \$100 would make an excellent start on the project. We would recommend leaving the present paths as they are, perhaps bordered and emphasized in places with a low growth of juniper and wild roses, with climaxes of red cedar, arborvitae or white pine at turnings. These are the best evergreens for this locality and would in time give a handsome winter effect, if used in sufficient quantities.

It would greatly increase the attractiveness of the Park if the wild flowers, such as aster, goldenrod and yarrow were allowed to grow up at least along the margins. The park is located at such a prominent place that it would seem desirable for the good of the town that it be made as attractive as possible and its native beauty restored.

There are numerous other locations which could be worked upon in time, as money could be obtained of the interest of citizens aroused. For example, there is now a beautiful stand of wild crab apple trees on the east parkway of First Street, south of Laurel Avenue, next the railroad grounds, and if this could be amplified by further planting in harmony, and extended along the parkway, a very beautiful effect could be obtained, both for the residents on the street and from the railroad trains, passing what is now rather a barren strip of ground. The Edward Hines Lumber Company has offered to co-operate on the south. Very likely the Northwestern Railroad might be induced to aid on such localities. There are numerous other roadside plantings which might be made, to the great advantage of citizens of the neighborhood and passersby, if interest enough were taken and co-operation secured.

Respectfully submitted,
Everett L. Millard,
Jesse L. Smith.

OUR TREES AS THEY ARE NOW.

Now that planting time is at hand let something be said in praise of our native shrubs and trees. If a "Who's Who" in Highland Park were to be compiled to include the most conspicuous residents it would certainly include the trees and shrubs that are in full bloom at this time—the scarlet maples, elms, aspens, willows, etc. It is a good time to begin acquaintance with these residents. It would be well to provide one's self with a good tree book like Emerson's and Weed's "Our Trees; How to Know Them," which has a page of pictures alternating with every page of description and a copy of Keller's "Our

Northern Shrubs." The rest will not be so hard for one is willing to watch the trees and shrubs from week to week as they blossom and unfold their leaves. The Press will help by printing a weekly calendar of events, if desired. But its readers must "holler" if they want it! Below is a timely installment.

THE SCARLET MAPLE.

The scarlet maple is in full blossom now. Some trees are so brightly colored that they give a scarlet glow to the landscape. These are the ones that bear the pistillate blossoms that will in time be succeeded by clusters of small red winged seeds. Other trees are loaded with blossoms that give a golden glow in bright sunlight. These have the staminate blossoms that produce the pollen. It is the work of the wind to carry the pollen from the staminate blossoms to the pistillate blossoms, these in the case of the scarlet maples being usually on separate trees. The scarlet maple has the most beautiful stem of all the maples. We have no more beautiful lawn tree. It hasn't the fine heavy foliage masses of the hard maple but when stripped of foliage shows more beauty of outline and the warm silvery gray of its stem and branches make it much more attractive. The so-called "soft" or silver maple has already blossomed and shed its dull brown flowers. It is not to be compared for beauty with the scarlet maple. The hard maple will not be in blossom for two weeks yet.

THE ELMS.

The elms are also in full blossom. Three weeks ago the flower buds began to swell and within the past week they have burst open. The great masses of greenish-brown blossoms seem fairly to swarm above the spreading crown of the elm. The flowers of the elm are "complete," that is, they contain both stamens and pistils and so it is possible for each tree to produce seeds.

THE ASPENS.

We have two aspens, the quaking aspen and the large-toothed aspen, the latter a much larger tree than the former. Both of these aspens hang out gray catkins for blossoms, the staminate and pistillate catkins appearing on separate trees. The quaking aspen blossoms first and its limp silver gray catkins have for some days tasseled over the tops of the trees. The catkins of the large-toothed aspen are just lengthening out. The appearance of this tree at this time with its long red and gray catkins and tawny green stem would justify its planting for a lawn tree alone. Its fine foliage masses of summer and autumn add much to its desirability, yet it is seldom considered for planting.

THE WILLOWS.

Every one admires the pussy willow. All willows have pussy catkins, but some are more conspicuous than others. The one known as *salix discolor* is the one especially recommended for its conspicuous flowers. Like the aspens, the willows display their staminate and pistillate catkins on separate bushes or trees. The staminate catkins turn gold and shed their pollen and fall away. The pistillate catkins turn green and later are filled with small winged seeds. If only for the color of stems in winter

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and the charm of the catkins, one should find space in planting for some of the willows.

THE HAZEL, ETC.

The hazel nut bush has almost concluded its display of blossoms. Its golden-green catkins loaded with bright yellow pollen have attracted the attention of all observers but its tiny cone shaped pistillate blossoms with scarlet tips are usually overlooked. It is these that produce the pods filled with nuts for the autumn offering of the hazel.

Growing sparingly on the slopes of the bluff is a shrub known as *Shepherdia Canadensis* which has been given the name of buffalo berry, its scarlet berries appearing in June. At this moment the shepherdia is in full blossom. It has tiny yellow blossoms and its opening leaves are dotted with a deep brown scale. It is a very attractive shrub for those who have eyes to see and it should attract the attention of those who have slopes to protect with vegetation. Here is a native shrub growing on just such slopes and hence best adapted to perform so important a service, yet who ever heard of a nursery man or landscape gardener proposing to plant the shepherdia? There are a number of fine specimens of shepherdia on the slope above the pumping station.

NEARBY NEWS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Sues to Restrain Collection of Taxes

Granger Farwell of Lake Forest has filed suit against County Treasurer Westfield and the town clerk of Shields, George Wenban, in an effort to restrain the clerk from collecting taxes which the plaintiff claims are excessive. The facts in this case, it is said, form one of the reasons for the fight between Assessor Appleton and the millionaire colony of Lake Forest.

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