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### A Recreation Survey of the City of Effingham

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A RECREATION SURVEY  
OF THE CITY OF EFFINGHAM

Glen W. Temple

A RECREATION SURVEY  
OF THE CITY OF EFFINGHAM

A Term Paper Presented  
To  
Professor John W. Masley  
Eastern Illinois University  
In  
Physical Education 528

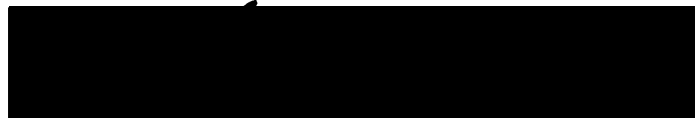
In Partial Fulfillment  
Of The Requirements For The Degree  
Master Of Science In Education

By  
Glen W. Temple

July, 1960

This study has been approved by the Head of the Department of Physical Education (Men) of Eastern Illinois University as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Science in Education Degree.

Approved:



John W. Masley  
Advisor

Date:

7/21/60

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The town of Broughton, later changed to Effingham, Illinois, was settled in the year 1854 with the arrival of the Illinois Central Railroad. Effingham grew as pioneers moved to the west along the Old Cumberland Road, now the famous U. S. Highway 40, which passes through the heart of the town.

Effingham, operating under a commission form of government, is the county seat of Effingham County. A mayor and four councilmen manage the business affairs of the city. A seven-man force, plus auxiliary and special assistants, provide police protection and four regular and twenty-eight volunteer firemen give fire protection to the city and rural areas.

Effingham's greatest asset is the Norge Division of the Borg-Warner Corporation. There are five other main industries which contribute to the betterment of the city: W. G. Best Homes Corporation, Illinois Glove Factory, Feuerborn Manufacturing Company, Effingham Regrinding Incorporated, and John Boos Company. These industries give employment to over 1,900 men and women.

Effingham is located at the heart of one of the finest transportation centers in the Midwest. Leading industrial locating services rank Effingham very favorably as a distribution point because of its unexcelled highway and railroad facilities. There are two U. S. Highways (U. S. routes 40 and 45) and three state highways (state routes 32, 33, and 37)

crossing at Effingham. Two main railroad lines cross in Effingham, the Illinois Central Railroad from Chicago to New Orleans and the Pennsylvania Railroad from St. Louis to New York. In addition, there is bus service to points in any direction. Effingham is truly named the "Crossroads of America."<sup>1</sup>

Effingham offers the finest in educational facilities for children from kindergarten through high school. There are two high schools, one public and one parochial; six grade schools, four public and two parochial; and two public kindergartens.

Nearly all denominations are represented among Effingham's twelve Protestant and two Roman Catholic churches.

Effingham serves as a shopping and civic center for the county of Effingham. As the hub of the area, Effingham is the natural locale for many special civic, recreational, educational, and entertainment events. Almost every major civic and fraternal organization is represented by chapters in Effingham.

With the foregoing paragraphs as an introduction to the locale, the author investigated the existing recreation areas, facilities, finances, legal aspects, and programs for Effingham. Through this survey it was intended to discover if the recreation needs of the area were being adequately fulfilled, and since the strong points in a program generally take care of themselves, the weak points were examined and recommendations made to improve the situation.

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<sup>1</sup> Effingham Chamber of Commerce, This Is Effingham, Illinois (Effingham, Illinois: 1960).



## CHAPTER II

### AREAS AND FACILITIES

Just as schools are necessary for public education and hospitals are needed to maintain public health, so recreation areas and facilities are required in order to house recreation programs and services. Since community recreation aims at meeting a variety of interests, it is natural that a recreation system suggest areas and facilities of diversified character. These must be well planned and designed, adequately equipped and staffed. Areas and facilities are the tools without which community recreation cannot succeed.<sup>2</sup>

The layout, equipment and special features that can help in the physical make-up of the program of recreation for the community of Effingham will be considered here.

Effingham's Community Park, a public park, covers twenty-eight acres of land. It has a variety of playground equipment, as well as adequate water and lighting. Picnic areas and fireplaces are available, as well as pavilions in case of inclement weather. Two tennis courts, one lighted softball diamond, and one baseball diamond are available to the public.

Bliss Park, consisting of approximately two acres, has a variety of

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<sup>2</sup> Harold D. Meyer and Charles K. Brightbill, Community Recreation (Boston: D. C. Heath and Company, 1948), p. 443.

playground equipment and picnic areas for public use, with adequate lighting and water.

Effingham's outdoor swimming pool is located at the edge of Community Park and is able to safely accommodate three hundred people. Two wading pools for the smaller children are located at the shallow end of the pool.<sup>3</sup>

The public library in Effingham includes sixteen thousand volumes of fiction and non-fiction books and three hundred to four hundred periodicals. The library maintains a continual state-wide borrowing service in books, magazines, films, pictures, music, etc. for schools, churches, and the general public. The library auditorium is available for public use, such as for reading clubs, art clubs, historical societies, garden clubs, scouts, etc. The library is in the process of procuring their own film and record service for the public.<sup>4</sup>

The public and parochial high schools do not work in conjunction with the park board as far as the summer program is concerned; however, the outside facilities are available to the public if they so desire.

Swings, teeter totters, jungle gyms, slides, softball fields, and outdoor basketball courts, some of which are asphalted, are available to the public. There are five public and parochial schools that provide areas and facilities under this situation.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Interview with Paul Chance, Swimming Pool Manager, March 8, 1960.

<sup>4</sup>Interview with Mrs. Raymond Bachman, Effingham Librarian, March 2, 1960.

<sup>5</sup>Interview with Mr. Raymond Lane, Superintendent, Community Unit #40 Schools, March 4, 1960.

A recreation hall is available for public use and can accommodate approximately 150 people. A dance floor, pool table, two ping pong tables, and a juke box are available for use at the recreation hall.

The Farm Bureau furnishes a hall for any group affiliated with the extension service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Boy Scouts use public or privately owned areas for their recreation, however, recently fifteen acres of land has been leased near Lake Sara for recreational purposes.<sup>6</sup>

Available near Community Park is a cabin for the Brownie and Girl Scouts. Near Lake Sara is fifty acres of land which will be used to develop a permanent camping site for the scouts.<sup>7</sup>

There are fourteen churches in the city. Each has space for low organized games both inside and around it.

Organizations which provide private recreation are numerous in Effingham. There are twenty-two civic, co-operative, fraternal, patriotic, welfare and miscellaneous organizations that provide areas and facilities for their members.

The National Guard Armory has an auditorium, indoor rifle range, recreation room and gymnasium for the use of their personnel and guests.

The Effingham Sportsman Club has two hundred and fourteen acres of land and a small lake available for its members. A picnic area and rifle range are provided in this area.

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<sup>6</sup> Interview with Mr. H. K. Dolbow, Boy Scout Neighborhood Chairman, March 12, 1960.

<sup>7</sup> Interview with Mrs. O. K. Fackler, Girl Scout Council President, March 12, 1960.

A new 4,500,000,000 gallon lake is located three miles northwest of Effingham. A vast recreational area of over 2,200 acres is available to the public.

A nine hole golf course, a swimming pool and a club house are available for members of the Effingham Country Club for recreational purposes.

Other areas and facilities are provided by the Camera Club, Hammond Organ Society, Garden Club, Green Thumb, and Artist Guild Club.

The commercial establishments in Effingham, where countless numbers of people indulge in wholesome recreation, are numerous. Areas and facilities are provided by the Heart Theater and the Rustic Drive-In Theater, which has playground equipment for small children. Other commercially owned means of recreation that provide areas and facilities are the billiard parlor, the roller skating rink, the Effingham Bowling Alley, music and dance schools, Wallace Motel Swimming Pool and airport.

There are twenty cafes located in Effingham which are sometimes used for social gatherings.

Effingham apparently can provide the community with adequate facilities for a recreation program. Since these facilities are spread throughout the community, full use can be made of the equipment available and a variety of activities can be conducted at the same time.

## CHAPTER III

### EXISTING PROGRAM

The essentials to community recreational programs for youth are:

- (1) broad, basic legislation
- (2) adequate funds to establish and operate programs and services
- (3) a wide range of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and areas
- (4) competent, trained, and well-paid professional leadership, as well as capable trained volunteers.<sup>8</sup>

The city government of Effingham does not provide a formal planned yearly program for public recreation. The program that is conducted is of a limited nature because of lack of necessary funds.

The Submerged Land Park District gave approval to the city of Effingham to organize a park district. The tax levied by the park district, called the general tax, provides for maintaining, developing and operating the physical plant but not a recreational program; however, there is a limited program in operation.<sup>9</sup>

This limited program is mainly a summer program which provides recreation mainly for the younger people. The program takes in approximately three hundred boys, ranging from eight years up to and including sixteen year olds. The boys are placed on teams in four different

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<sup>8</sup>Meyer and Brightbill, op. cit., p. 31.

<sup>9</sup>Interview with Mr. Russell Michaelree, Secretary, Park Board, March 19, 1960.

leagues according to their ages. The leagues are the Junior Little League, the Little League, the Babe Ruth League and the Junior American Legion Team. These games are attended by adults and are thus of spectator value as well as participant value. The teams practice two times a week and play one game a week.

The male adults take part in this program in the form of an evening softball league. There are approximately one hundred participants in this part of the program. The girls also have a team which plays surrounding towns.

The park board conducts a Fourth of July program for the children. The morning part of the program consists of foot races, sack races, and bicycle races for all age groups. The local baseball team provides the recreation for the afternoon part of the program. The team uses the park baseball field for all their home games. The evening program consists of a softball game and the grand finale is the annual fireworks display.<sup>10</sup>

Swimming is a phase of the summer program conducted by the park board. The swimming pool was made possible by the passing of a bond issue. The public swimming pool carries on an extensive program for both adults and youth of Effingham. The program provides instruction for all levels in swimming by qualified instructors. There are classes provided in the mornings for the non-swimmers and for those wanting to qualify for the Red Cross Life-Saving Merits. The informal part of the program is held in the afternoon and evening for all those wishing to swim.

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<sup>10</sup> Interview with Mr. Paul Smith, Park Board Member, March 19, 1960.

This is all that is available on a formal basis during the summer months in public recreation. During the winter months, the park board hires a person to supervise and instruct the public in outdoor ice skating.

Recreation plays a significant part in the program of most voluntary agencies. They operate largely on a membership basis, but membership is seldom exclusive. The cost of financing is largely through contributions from individuals, or community chests and membership fees.<sup>11</sup>

The Bartscht Memorial Library, a public supported facility, provides reading material, films, music, and pictures for schools, churches, and the general public. It has approximately sixteen thousand volumes of fiction and non-fiction books. The library has a reading club and various other clubs are using the auditorium at this time. The library is open for public use six days a week.<sup>12</sup>

Recreation plays an important role in the scouting program in Effingham. The three Boy Scout Troops and one Explorer Post, are sponsored by the local churches. There are over one hundred members in these troops and one post.

The program emphasises outdoor activities and a wide range of projects. Nature study, wood craft, hikes, athletics, games, craft activities, camporees, and water sports are also featured in their over-all program. The Boy Scouts are self-supported through dues and projects. The Boy Scouts have leased fifteen acres of land from the Effingham

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<sup>11</sup> George D. Butler, Introduction to Community Recreation (New York: McGraw-Hill Company, Inc., 1949), p. 37.

<sup>12</sup> Interview with Mrs. Raymond Bachman, Librarian, March 2, 1960.

Water Authority at the Blue Point area on Lake Sara. This leasing, free of charge, will enable the scouts to have a permanent place for campouts, jamborees, etc. The personnel involved in scouting is on a voluntary basis without financial compensation.<sup>13</sup>

The Cub Scouts include boys from ages eight to eleven. There are approximately one hundred to one hundred twenty boys registered in the two Cub Packs, which are sponsored by the Parent Teacher Association of the local public grade schools. The leadership in the Cub Scouts is on a voluntary basis without financial compensation.

The Cubs are divided into ten dens of eight to twelve boys each. During the school year, each of the dens meet once a week. Each den spends time at each meeting on a skit, or a project in keeping with the theme of the month.

Once a month the entire pack, along with parents, meet for a pack meeting. This meeting consists of a business session, group singing, displaying projects, presenting achievement awards, skits, and stunts. Following refreshments, low organized games are played. Once a year the two packs hold their Cub-Rally. At this rally, there are games, contests, and tug-o-wars.<sup>14</sup>

During National Girl Scout Week, the first Mother-Daughter Banquet was held and six hundred and nineteen people attended. This banquet took place instead of the annual Birthday Banquet.

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<sup>13</sup> Interview with Mr. H. K. Dolbow, Boy Scout Neighborhood Chairman, March 12, 1960.

<sup>14</sup> Interview with Mr. Harold Wear, Cub Scout Leader, March 12, 1960.



In Effingham and vicinity there are twenty-three troops, which include approximately four hundred girls. These troops consist of three age groups; the Brownies, ages seven through ten; the Intermediates, ages eleven through fourteen; and the Seniors, ages fourteen through seventeen.

These troops are sponsored by the various churches and schools in the area. The leadership and a place to meet is provided by the sponsoring organization. The Girl Scouts are self-supported by dues and projects.

The Girl Scouts meet once a week during the school year and in the summer. They hold their business meeting and the recreational activities follow.

In the summer, the girls use the Girl Scout Cabin located in the Effingham Community Park for their outings. The girls also attend the Summer Day Camp for one week at Effingham Community Park. The program at the Day Camp consists of hiking, crafts, games, and cooking over an open fire.

The Senior Girls often combine their troops for special events, such as bowling parties, campouts, and play days. There are also opportunities for the Senior Girls to take part in the International Girl Scout Exchange Program and may attend the World Association Camp held at various places in the world.<sup>15</sup>

The Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture has stressed the importance of recreation programs in small communities

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<sup>15</sup> Interview with Mrs. O. K. Fackler, Girl Scout Council President, March 12, 1960.

great many boys an opportunity to participate in recreational activities. The boys are given an opportunity to participate in the following competitive sports: football, basketball, baseball, track, and golf. There is an active intramural program designed for those who enjoy playing various sports, but who do not want to engage on an interscholastic aspect. This program is conducted during the noon hours and in the evenings, depending upon the activity.<sup>20</sup>

The Girl's Athletic Association has two play days which will involve seven schools. It also provides activities after school for girls who are members. The girls have their own bowling league, swimming activities, and modern dance.<sup>21</sup>

During the year, dances are conducted by the various school organizations. The school recreation room is made available during noon hour for dancing, ping pong, television and various other activities. These activities are supervised by school personnel.<sup>22</sup>

The service clubs in the city have recreation in their organizations, but not on a formal basis. The program is restricted to members who receive much of their recreation through common interests at regular meetings, suppers, and dances. In some cases, the clubs participate in meetings, exhibits, or compete in events on a state or national basis. Some clubs carry on certain projects or sponsor various activities that

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<sup>20</sup>Interview with Mr. Jack Klosterman, Athletic Director, Effingham High School, March 31, 1960.

<sup>21</sup>Interview with Mrs. Pat Frese, Girl's Physical Education Instructor, May 31, 1960.

<sup>22</sup>Interview with Mr. Raymond Lane, Superintendent, Community Unit #40 Schools, March 31, 1960.

The movies play an important part in recreation for all aged people of Effingham and vicinity. There are two theaters, one a drive-in and one an uptown theater, available for the people of Effingham. The manager of the theaters, in conjunction with the local Parent-Teacher Association, during the summer shows special movies approved by the Parent-Teacher Association at a reduced rate. The drive-in theater has playground equipment available for the children's enjoyment before the movie begins.<sup>32</sup>

Bowling is a big recreation activity to many people of Effingham and community. The bowling alley has ten lanes of which eight are used for league play and two remain open at all times for public bowling. There are six leagues in operation and approximately two hundred and eighty men and women participate in these leagues.

The bowling alley works in conjunction with Effingham High School and Dieterich High School in setting up leagues for the boys and girls after school hours.

The alley remains open five nights a week for league play and on Saturday and Sunday for public bowling.<sup>33</sup>

There are two dancing schools for those who desire lessons in modern or classical ballet, tap dancing, or toe and acrobatic dancing. A recital is given to the public every other year.<sup>34</sup>

For the music enthusiasts, the elementary music teacher gives private lessons throughout the summer months.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>32</sup>Interview with Mr. Phil Hayes, Manager, Effingham Theaters, June 1, 1960.

<sup>33</sup>Interview with Mr. Jack Kabbes, Manager, Effingham Bowling Alley, June 1, 1960.

<sup>34</sup>Interview with Mrs. Kathryn Holmes, Dancing Director, Holmes Dancing School, June 1, 1960.

<sup>35</sup>Interview with Mr. Robert Radford, Music Director, Community Unit #40 Schools, June 3, 1960.

The airport has a qualified instructor to give flying instruction and to take people on chartered flights.<sup>36</sup>

From the foregoing, it would appear that the various private and commercial agencies are carrying on a fairly adequate program, however, the city public program is very limited in nature.

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<sup>36</sup>Interview with Mr. Jack Graham, Pilot, June 2, 1960.

## CHAPTER IV

### ORGANIZATION AND FINANCING OF EXISTING PROGRAM

Legal powers are needed for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreation areas; the construction and operation of buildings and facilities; the purchase of supplies; and the employment of personnel for maintenance and other services.<sup>37</sup>

The legal powers for the governing powers of the city of Effingham to form a park district, in order to carry out the above acts, were provided by the Submerged Land Park District of June 24, 1895.

Any territory having less than 500,000 population and so lying as to form one connected area (no portion of which shall be already included in an incorporated park district) may be incorporated as a park district, hereinafter referred to as a "General Park District." (Amended by act approved May 17, 1951).<sup>38</sup>

In organizing any park district under this code, not less than one hundred legal voter residents within the limits of such proposed park district may petition the county judge of the county in which such territory, or the greater or greatest portion thereof, in area, lies, to cause the question to be submitted to the legal voters of such proposed park district whether they will organize as a park district. Such

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<sup>37</sup> Illinois, The Park District Code (1959), Art. 2, sec. 1.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., Art. 2, sec. 1.

petitions shall clearly define the territory intended to be embraced in such district and the name of such proposed district. (Amended by act approved May 17, 1951.)<sup>39</sup>

Such organization petition shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the county of the county in which such proposed district, or the greater or greatest portion in area thereof, is situated. (Amended by act approved May 17, 1951.)

Upon the filing of such organization petition, the county judge shall order an election to be held in such proposed district, and in such order fix the time and place or places within the boundaries of such proposed district at which an election may be held to determine such question and to elect five commissioners as hereinafter provided; and name the persons to act as judges at such election. Thereupon, the clerk of the county court shall give 20 days' notice of said election by publishing one notice of the same in one or more newspapers, if any be published in said proposed district, or if none be published in said proposed district, then in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the proposed district, or if there be no newspaper of general circulation in said proposed district, then by causing said notice to be posted in five public places within such proposed district. (Amended by act approved July 6, 1957.)<sup>40</sup>

These requirements were complied with, and in the month of July,

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<sup>39</sup> Ibid., Art. 2, sec. 2.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., Art. 4, sec. 2.

1940 the legal voters in the city of Effingham went to the polls and voted in the affirmative to form a General Park District.

Candidates for park commissioner elected at the election to determine whether or not a General Park District shall be formed shall be nominated in the following manner:

1. The nominating petition shall be filed with the county clerk.
2. Signatures of twenty-five qualified voters upon said nomination petition shall be sufficient.
3. Said nomination petition shall be filed not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of said election.

In the event that said park district is organized, then the five persons who shall have received the highest number of votes for commissioner, each, at such election, shall be declared the commissioners of said district.<sup>41</sup>

On August 1, 1940, the first park board, elected by the voters, held its first official meeting.

Within thirty (30) days after declaration of the result of the election to organize a district, the five persons elected as commissioners shall meet and decide by lot, the term for which each shall hold office. Two shall serve six years; two shall serve four years; and one shall serve for two years, respectively, from the date in the next odd year an election would otherwise be held. Such elections shall take place in April on the first Tuesday in odd years.

Commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected and

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<sup>41</sup>Ibid., Art. 9, sec. 2.

qualified. Each member of the governing board of any park district, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall take and subscribe an oath to well and faithfully discharge his duties, which oath shall be filed with the secretary of said board. The board shall act without compensation.

Except where the president of the district is elected by direct vote of the electors, the board of each district shall elect from their number a president. He in turn shall delegate the duties of the remaining commissioners.<sup>42</sup>

The president is to preside over the regular monthly meetings, sign all checks, and is responsible for all pertinent public matters.

The vice-president is to preside over any meeting in the absence of the president. He is also in charge of developments. His job would deal in construction on any new facilities or purchasing of additional land.

The commissioner of finance is in charge of the annual appropriations and budget.

The commissioner of operations is responsible for the supervision of the existing limited program and general over-all operations of the park.

The duties of the commissioner of maintenance are to see that the park and its facilities are maintained. There are two custodians hired during the summer to fulfill these duties.

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<sup>42</sup> Ibid., Art. 2, sec. 10.



The Board shall appoint a secretary, whose duty is is to administer oaths and affirmations, to take care of all publicity, and to take the minutes of the meetings. In this case, the secretary is also an attorney and the legal consultant to the Board. He receives just compensation for his duties.<sup>43</sup>

Each park district shall have the power to levy and collect taxes on all the taxable property in the district for all corporate purposes. The commissioners may accumulate funds for the purposes of building repairs and improvements and may annually levy taxes for such purposes in excess of current requirements for its other purposes but subject to the tax rate limitation as herein provided.<sup>44</sup>

All general taxes proposed by the board to be levied upon the taxable property within the district shall be levied by ordinance passed not less than ten (10) days after publication of its appropriation ordinance. A certified copy of such levy ordinance shall be filed with the County Clerk of the county or counties in which the same is to be collected not later than the third Tuesday in September in each year. Thereupon, the county clerk shall extend said tax, provided, the aggregate amount of taxes levied for any one year, exclusive of the amount levied for the payment of the principal and interest on bonded indebtedness of said district of .1 percent of the full fair cash value, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>43</sup>Interview with Mr. Russell Michaelree, Secretary, Park Board, March 19, 1960.

<sup>44</sup>The Park District Code, op. cit., Art. 5, sec. 1.

<sup>45</sup>Ibid., Art. 5, sec. 2.

In Effingham, the tax per cent levied on the full, fair cash value of all taxable property is .1 percent. The cash value of all taxable property in the park district is \$18,802,878.00. This gives the park board \$18,200.00 to carry on their functions.

The general taxes that are collected for the Effingham Park District are used in the following manner:

The Department of Finances appropriations goes for office supplies, office salaries, public utilities, insurance, and advertising-publishing notices.

The Department of Maintenance appropriations are used for custodians' salaries, maintenance of grounds, additional equipment, supplies, fuel, and general repairs.

The Department of Developments appropriations are used for the construction and repair of new buildings, pavilions, equipment sheds, etc.

The Department of Operations appropriations are used for the limited program and entertainment.

The breakdown for the various departments is as follows:

Department of Finances	\$3,022.00
Department of Maintenance	5,500.00
Department of Operations	5,000.00
Department of Developments	4,678.00
	<u>\$18,200.00</u> <sup>46</sup>

After analyzing the organization and the financing of the existing program of the city of Effingham, the writer feels that public recreation needs are not being adequately met because of the type of organization and the limitations of the present program.

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<sup>46</sup> Interview with Mr. Russell Michaelree, Secretary, Park Board, March 19, 1960.

## CHAPTER V

### RECREATION PROGRAM FOR THE COMMUNITY

Recreation is an essential part of community living; it is a legitimate community responsibility on a par with education, health, and welfare. In many places it is being considered for the first time. In others, it is an established service in need of streamlining to meet changing conditions. In every community it is essential.<sup>47</sup>

In Effingham, the recreation program offered is on a very limited basis and does not consider all age groups. According to Butler,<sup>48</sup> "Recreation may be considered as any form of leisure-time experience, or activity in which an individual engages from choice because of the enjoyment and satisfaction which it brings directly to him."

Mr. Russell Michaelree, legal consultant and secretary for the park board, stated that because of the type of recreation agency established in Effingham, 1940, (see Illustration I), the Park District Board is unable to provide an adequate type program that can meet the needs and interests of all age groups in the city of Effingham, Illinois.

He went on to say that with the taxing situation as it is in Effingham today, he feels that it would be inadvisable to suggest any

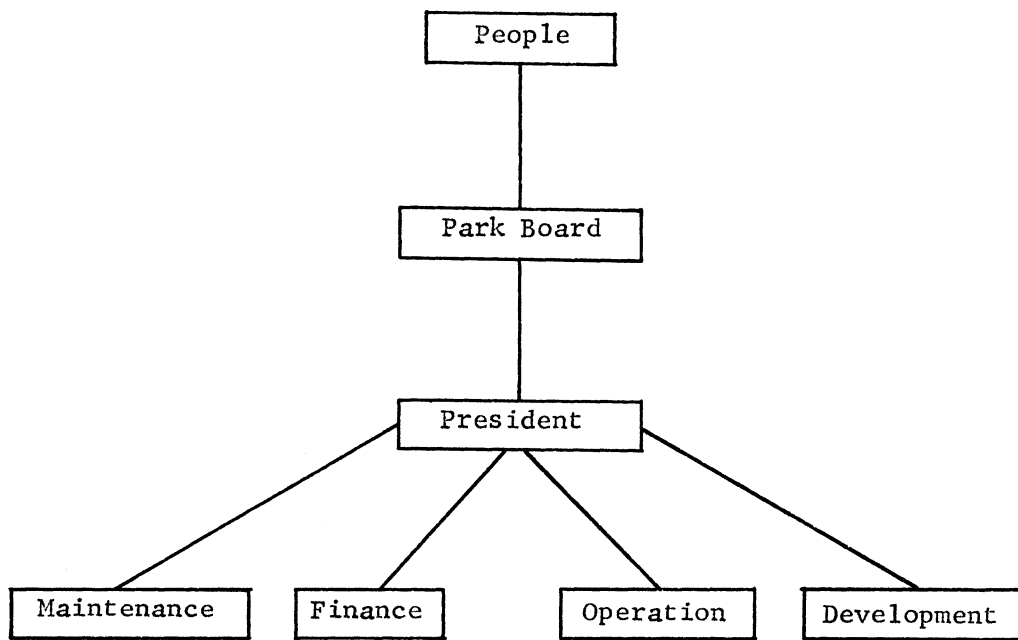
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<sup>47</sup>Meyer and Brightbill, op. cit., p. 142.

<sup>48</sup>Butler, op. cit., p. 8.

ILLUSTRATION I

RECREATION DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION  
EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS



other means of taxation for the conducting of a program at this time. He also feels that new arrangements should, in the future, be made to give all the people of Effingham recreational opportunities.<sup>49</sup>

In recreation, a person wants to engage in an activity in which he can receive enjoyment and satisfaction. Since we do not all enjoy the same form of leisure-time experiences or activities, it is necessary to have a broad year-round program with a variety of seasonal activities.

The existing program in Effingham is centered around only a few activities: boy's little league baseball, men's softball, and public swimming. These activities provide recreation for only those interested in these particular areas.

The main reason for the limited program is finances. The General Park District has enough financial help, as a result of accumulating funds through its general taxes, for the purposes of building repairs and improvements. However, there is no financial means for the purpose of planning, establishing, and maintaining recreation programs; such programs to include playgrounds and community and recreational centers.<sup>50</sup>

The following is the writer's recommendation for solving the problem of financing a public recreational program.

Any park district may levy and collect annually, a tax not to exceed .05 percent of the full, fair cash value, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue, of all taxable property in such

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<sup>49</sup> Interview with Mr. Russell Michaelree, Secretary, Park Board, June 4, 1960.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., March 19, 1960.

district for the purpose of planning, establishing and maintaining recreational programs; such programs to include playgrounds, community and recreational centers, which tax shall be levied and collected in like manner as the general taxes for such district. Such tax shall be in addition to all other taxes authorized by law to be levied and collected in such district and shall not be included within any limitation of rate contained in this code or any other law, but shall be excluded therefrom and be in addition thereto and in excess thereof,

The proceeds of the tax authorized by this section shall be paid to the treasurer of said district and kept in a fund to be known as the recreational program fund. Such fund shall be used for planning, establishing, and maintaining recreational programs carried on by such district.

No tax shall be levied in any such district until the question of levying such tax has first been submitted to the voters of such district of any general or special election held in such district and has been approved by a majority of such voters voting thereon.

The board may submit such proposition to the voters of the district regardless of whether or not a petition, signed by electors of the district, requesting the submission thereof has been filed with the board.<sup>51</sup>

If a majority of the voters of such district voting thereon at such election shall vote for the levy and collection of the tax herein above provided for, such district shall be authorized and empowered to levy and

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<sup>51</sup>The Park District Code, op. cit., Art. 5, sec. 2.

collect such tax annually thereafter.<sup>52</sup>

This recreational tax should alleviate some of the financial problems, as the park board would have the special tax for maintaining the park and facilities and the recreation tax for maintaining the program. The big problem would be selling this idea to the people.

This recreational tax should also give the board the necessary funds to hire a competent, trained, and well-paid professional person, who would be responsible for setting up and maintaining an adequate yearly program, to meet the recreation needs of all those desiring recreation. The person should be called the superintendent of recreation and should be responsible to the park board.

The final recommendation the author would make would follow the principle of using to the fullest extent the natural resources of the community.

The schools of Effingham are presenting their students with a well-rounded recreation program during the school months. During the summer, the outdoor areas and facilities are available to those wishing to use them, but there is no formal program.

Community Park, which is owned and maintained by the park district, is located in the extreme northeast section of town, thus making it a lengthy distance to travel to gain recreational values for the majority of the people of Effingham.

Should the voters of Effingham see fit to vote in the recreation tax, an adequate yearly program could be conducted.

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<sup>52</sup>Ibid., Art. 5, sec. 2.

It is the writer's viewpoint that if the schools were working in conjunction with the park board, then the schools located in the south, east, and west sections of town, could be used for formal programs for the people in these sections of town. In this way the people would be closer to the programs and more areas and facilities could be used.

In order to accomplish this relationship of the park board and the school board, it would be necessary to appoint a recreation advisory council. This recreation advisory council would consist of three members, one member chosen by the park board from among its members, one chosen by the school board from that body, and the superintendent of recreation (see Illustration II). These three members of the advisory council must work together to maintain an adequate recreation program.

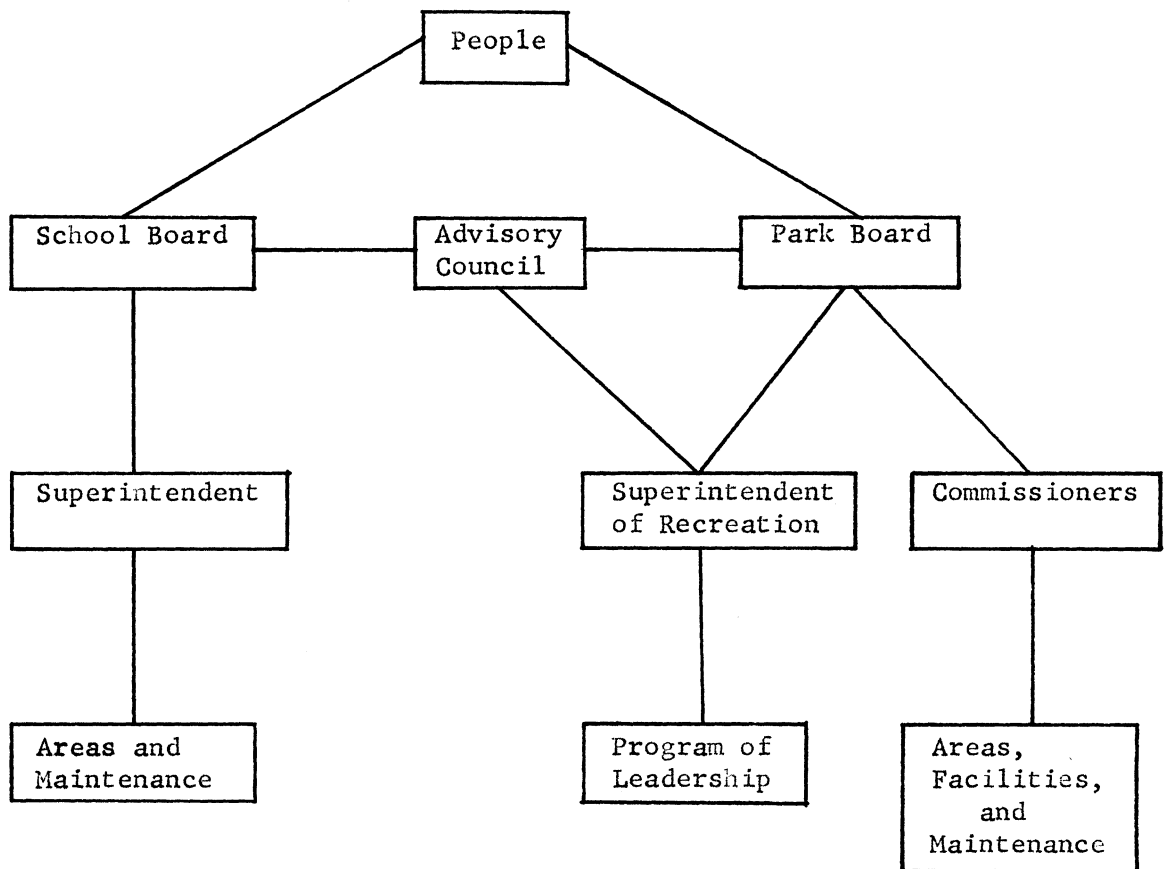
Under this arrangement, the school board would be responsible for maintenance of the school areas and facilities, and the park board would be responsible for maintenance and care of the park areas and facilities. The park board would be responsible for providing an adequate program, through the superintendent of recreation, at the areas made available by the park board and the school board located throughout the city.

With this plan of operation in action, the city of Effingham could provide its people with an adequate and well planned recreation program.



ILLUSTRATION II

PROPOSED DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION  
EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS



## CHAPTER VI

### CONCLUSIONS

The survey made of recreation in the city of Effingham makes evident the need for the passing of a recreation tax to provide the necessary funds to conduct an adequate program to meet the needs of all age groups.

The need for the co-operative program of the park board and the school board would give the necessary areas and facilities throughout the city to carry on a more adequate program and offer a larger per cent of the people the opportunity for recreation.

With the continuing support of the community agencies, and with the publicity of all aspects of the program which the Effingham newspaper and radio station could provide, the city of Effingham can have a good recreation program.

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