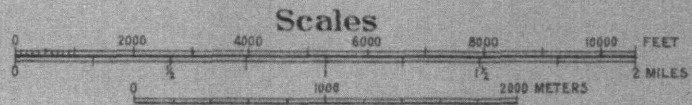





MAP OF THE CITY OF
BALTIMORE
 AND A PORTION OF
 BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.

SHOWING
EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARK LANDS

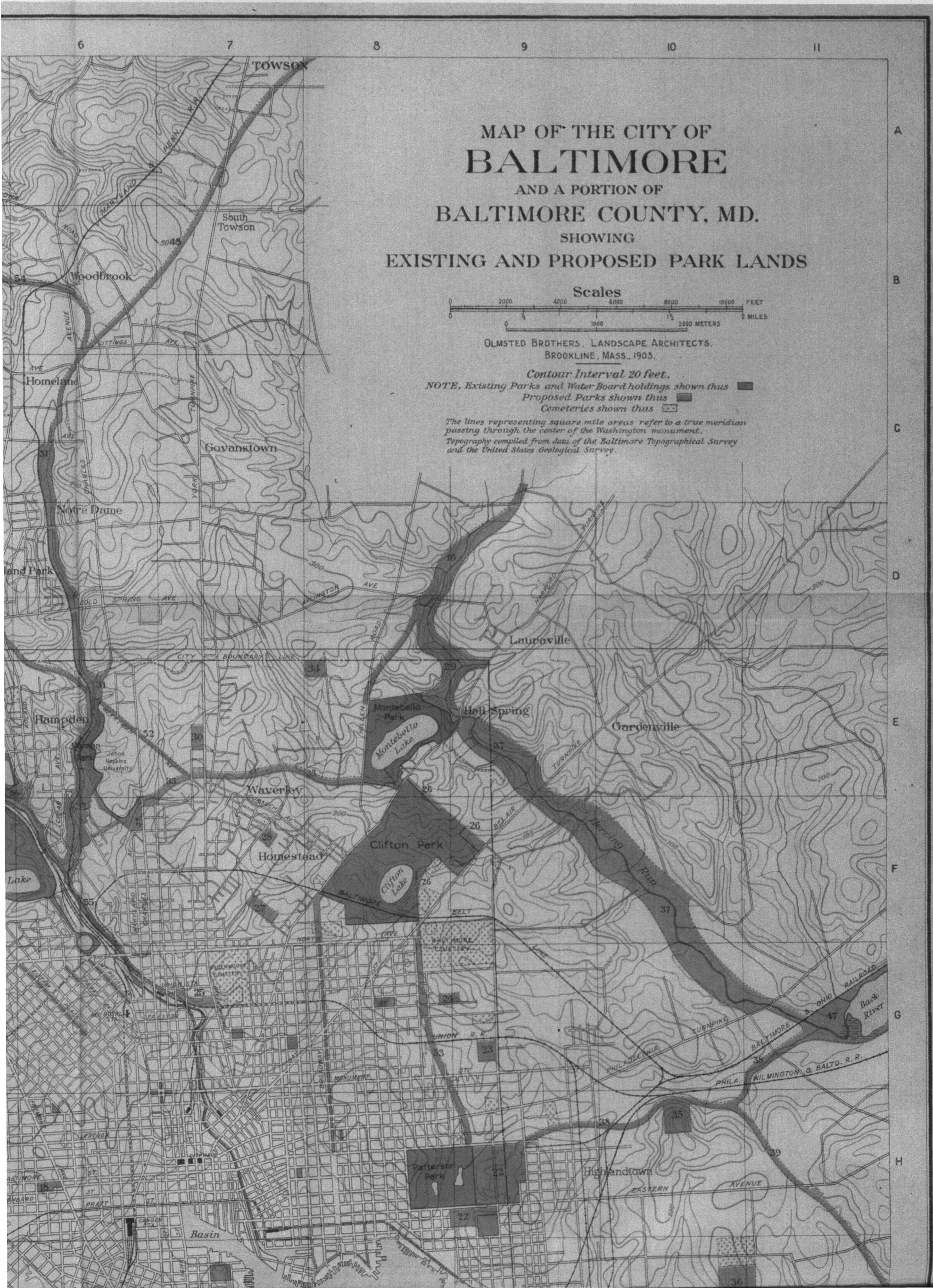


OLMSTED BROTHERS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.
 BROOKLINE, MASS., 1903.

Contour Interval 20 feet.

NOTE, Existing Parks and Water Board holdings shown thus 
 Proposed Parks shown thus 
 Cemeteries shown thus 

The lines representing square mile areas refer to a true meridian passing through the center of the Washington monument.
 Topography compiled from data of the Baltimore Topographical Survey and the United States Geological Survey.



REPORT UPON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC
GROUNDS FOR GREATER BALTIMORE

REPORT

UPON THE

DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC GROUNDS

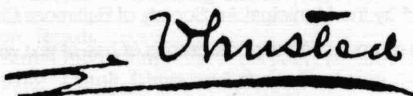
FOR

GREATER BALTIMORE

BY

OLMSTED BROTHERS

1904


Friends of Maryland's Olmsted
Parks & Landscapes

two parts of the park. The land south of the Belt Railroad is of very little value to the park and might possibly be sold whenever a good market offers, although enough should be retained to provide an agreeable setting for the entrance by way of Washington Street from North Avenue and a small additional taking should be made at the corner of Belair Road and Mine Bank Lane in order to provide an adequate and dignified entrance at that point.

Montebello Park might well be extended to include the adjacent part of Herring Run Valley, which is very picturesque and valuable for park purposes, while it is in part too rugged and too low-lying to be valuable for building purposes.

Addition to Montebello Park.

Probably the largest body of population in Baltimore in much need of the kind of recreation which Druid Hill Park affords is that in the eastern district, for whom it is most difficult of access. For the most part laboring people and artisans of small means, they have little time or opportunity for recreation of any sort, and so little experience of the healthful refreshment of rural scenery that they do not realize its value, and are not often inclined to overcome many obstacles for the sake of getting it. In a similar way many poor people are so unfortunate as not to realize the importance to their own welfare of habits of cleanliness and those simple sanitary precautions which are so much harder for them to take than for their more prosperous fellow-citizens. Under such circumstances the Board of Health steps in and enforces the observance of certain elementary precautions without waiting to educate the people up to the point of taking them of their own free will. But poor people cannot be *forced* to spend their hard-earned money and their scanty hours of recreation in travelling out on country excursions or going to Druid Hill Park, and if they are to be induced to substitute such healthful recreations for loafing on street corners or in bar-rooms or even in their own cramped homes, the path must be made easy for them.

The eastern section of the city has Patterson Park and makes

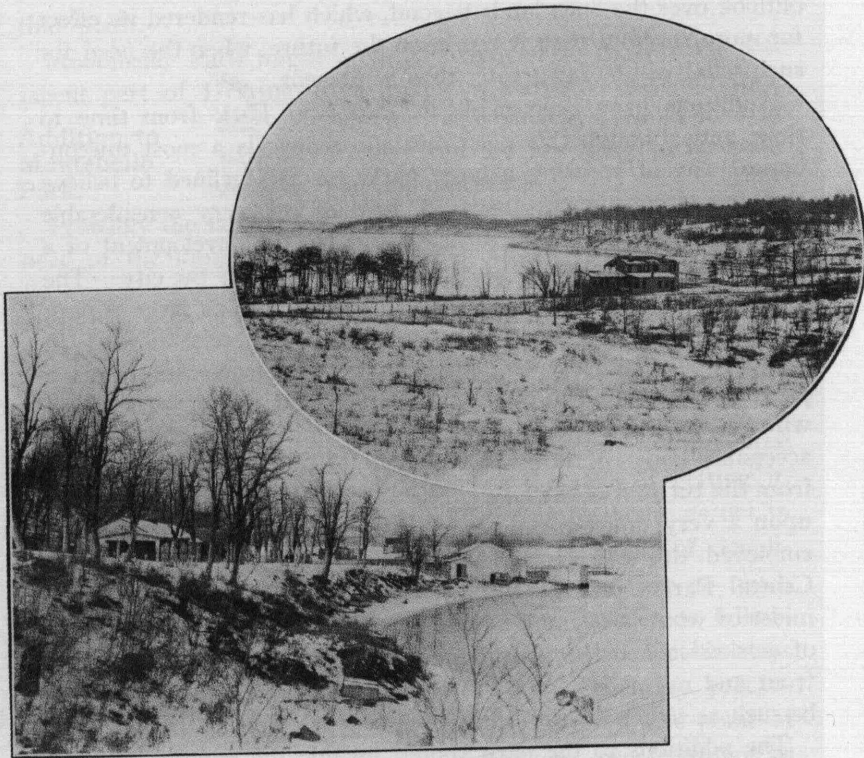
most profitable use of it, but immensely valuable as this park is, neither its area nor the disposition of the ground are such that it can permanently furnish that relief from urban conditions which we are now considering. On the side toward the city, it is admirably secluded and since the city has only just begun to grow around its sides, it has up to the present time had an outlook over the open lands beyond, which has rendered its effect far more spacious than it can be in the future, when the need for such relief will be far greater than at present.

Patterson Park.

Additions have been made to Patterson Park from time to time, and although this piece-meal procedure is a most uneconomical way of securing a large park, we are inclined to believe that the circumstances justify a further and very considerable increase, sufficient indeed to make possible the development of a self-contained rural park for the eastern section of the city. The extension which we suggest will not make quite as large a park as is desirable, but one upon which by the exercise of skill in planning and by *consistent* application of improvement funds a park can be created in the course of the next thirty years which will offer to the working people of East Baltimore a conveniently accessible body of refreshing scenery, retired to a great degree from the turmoil of the city. The park would have to be created upon a very unpromising foundation; but if proper means are employed this can be as successfully done here as it was in Central Park, New York, and when done, its situation in the midst of what is obviously to be the dwelling place of thousands of workers connected with manufacturing plants along the water front and railroads of the flat southeastern part of the city, will be such as to render it of enormous benefit.

The additions to the park should include the opposite side of the valley upon the western slope of which it now lies and should extend as far east as Highland Avenue, where the presence of existing buildings calls a halt. These lands are, with a few exceptions, vacant and relatively inexpensive, and their control will make possible, in connection with judicious planting along the north and south boundaries, the creation of a self-contained landscape of considerable extent. A very short distance to the southeast is the small and undeveloped Canton Square, which lies upon a southern extension of the high ground east of the

valley. We believe this should be incorporated with Patterson Park by the purchase of the intermediate territory as indicated on the map. This addition, it is true, would be unfortunately cut off from the rest of the park by Eastern Avenue, with its trolley cars and other heavy traffic. This line is of too vital importance to the development of the region beyond the city



Shores of Middle Branch Harbor: Available for recreation grounds.

boundary to be seriously deflected, but by some alteration of the grades and by taking advantage of the existing levels of the ground, the two portions of the park could be brought into intimate relations over the street without interfering with the stream of traffic. Again a suggestion may be found in the four transverse traffic roads crossing Central Park, New York, the existence of which is suspected by few of the people who visit the park.

The total area which it is proposed to add to Patterson Park is about 123 acres, a costly addition, but one of which we cannot urge too strongly the immediate acquisition. In hardly any other case is there such pressing haste, because this area is just about to be encroached upon by houses, and its size is such that after its occupation by buildings the cost would probably become prohibitive. Any considerable contraction of the proposed boundaries would make it impossible to attain the purposes in view successfully and such a partial addition would be a wasteful expenditure of public funds.

Another district of park-needing population is that in South Baltimore and the whole southwestern part of the city. This sort of population is likely to increase and extend in this section with the development of manufacturing and other industries in connection with the water front of the Middle Branch Harbor, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the proposed new line of the Western Maryland.

The most available site for a large park for this district appears to lie just beyond the city boundary on the Patapsco River.

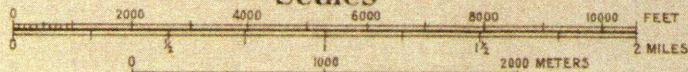
Site for Large Park. In it should be included the very attractive point of high land between the Patapsco and the Northern Branch, on the edge of which several cheap holiday resorts have already been established by private enterprise in spite of its comparative inaccessibility. This inaccessibility can be overcome, in case the city acquires the property, whenever the wooden Long Bridge connecting Ferry Bar with Brooklyn has to be rebuilt. A slight deflection of the bridge from its present line would not only bring the point in question and the land behind it into close connection with South Baltimore, but would permit a much better arrangement of the channel-draw admitting vessels to the Middle Branch.

A comparatively narrow border of upland on either shore of the Patapsco River would provide, at a small land cost, for a park containing within its boundaries a landscape of great extent, while bathing could well be provided for on the channel opposite Ferry Bar, as it now is after a fashion at the private resorts already established there.

The estuary of the Patapsco River in this region, where the

EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARK LANDS

Scales



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