

Hon. Board of Park Commissioners  
City Hall  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Gentlemen:

Referring to my offer to finance certain improvements in the Butler Wild Flower Garden in Theodore Wirth Park:

I have met with your committee which included Mr. Wirth, Mr. Bossen, Mr. Doell, Mr. Berthe, and Mr. Phainin and have had a supplemental conference with Mr. Bossen and Mr. Johnson, your superintendent of maintenance, all of which has resulted in our practical agreement on the various features of the program as outlined in my letter of June 29, 1944 to the board.

My thought has always been that the moving of the fence to enclose the upland garden, staking the paths and other construction features should wait until at least the end of the war in Europe, at which time they should fit nicely into a post war work program. It is my thought and desire that in the interest of economy and so far as practical, the work should be done contract with competitive bidding. I understand your architect will prepare the various plans and specifications and give me an opportunity to pass on each of them before it is put into effect.

For adequately heating the curators office I have donated a small stove and pipe together with 10 bags of Briquettes which your truck has picked up at my home, delivered to the garden office, and which your superintendent is installing there.

A man for some clean up work has been furnished whose salary I understand is not to be charged to our fund. He has gone to work on the broad leaf nettles which Mrs. Crone considers particularly dangerous.

But to appreciate our problem some of you board members should visit the so called wild flower garden. With the exception of a small space near the office the entire area is grown up to a perfectly solid growth of Jewell Weed, nettles, and burrs, shoulder high in many places. Unless some plan is evolved to plant something which will act as a future check on these weeds the situation is hopeless.

August 29, 1944

With this in mind Mr. Bossen and I have devised a plan for planting the entire central area between the east and west paths, up to about 200 feet from the paths, to Tamaracks and native Spruces. This involves a program extending over several years. Beginning at the south line we propose to slowly push the weeds north and keep them pushed, so that ultimately we may have an uninfected space, adjacent to the paths for our wild flowers. The central Tamarack and Spruce area should provide a clear forest floor suitable for several floral varieties indigenous to that kind of an environment. But in any event the board should know that the fight, while perhaps not heavy after our tree plantings get going, is a continuous one and any relaxation therein will ruin our floral plantings in the cleaned up area adjacent to the paths.

The preparation of the upland garden tract should include the removal of several black oaks of little value and considerable sumac.

I have agreed to finance the program up to not exceeding three thousand dollars, your architects estimate, and am enclosing my check payable to the board for \$1000.00 to put our plan into operation, subject of course to the final approval of the board. If I should happen to pass on you've at least got that much. I prefer not to have any charge against my estate in this respect. I suggest that all payments by me be carried in a special account and all proper charges against the fund be recorded therein.

Toilet facilities and a box for storing fuel will be provided by your superintendent.

In conclusion may I add that I shall await with interest your final action on my proposal as approved by your committee, and particularly in the meanwhile I am happy to have Mr. Wirth's enthusiastic approval.

Mrs. Crone tells me that upon your O. K. she will start at once to gather seeds and plants for a test of the possibilities of the upland garden. Mr. Bossen will let her have some time off and otherwise assist her in this work. If and when it starts I shall keep close track of the various features of the program as they progress with the hope that, working together, we may ultimately make the wild flower garden into a place inhabited by all harmless Minnesota upland, meadow and forest flowers, plants and bushes and a show place in our great park system of which all of us may truly be proud.

Most cordially and sincerely yours,