

## Delightful Riverside Park

**B**ECAUSE Ocean Beach furnishes so many attractions and is so easy of access a large part of the residents of this city do not really appreciate the value of Riverside Park and for that matter a lot of them have never taken the trouble to visit that beautiful reservation. Those who understand what a valuable piece of property the city owns there find it a great pleasure to sit in the park and enjoy the splendid panorama that is unfolded to the lover of nature. The city, by the way, didn't buy that property because it wanted it. When Ocean Beach was purchased the park site was thrown in at a lump sum and in that way the place was secured. For several years nothing was done to adapt it to public use. Then came a period of industrial depression and in order to provide work for the unemployed it was decided to clear up the brush on the park and that was accomplished.

Riverside Park didn't need very much attention to put it into condition. It is a natural beauty spot, rising to considerable height from the Thames river and presenting a most attractive combination of hill and vale, of boulders, ledges, shrubbery and trees. The city put up a summer house and a few other buildings and cut roads through and the result is one of the finest places for an outing in the state of Connecticut.

Unfortunately the blight has interfered with the large number of chestnut trees that formerly adorned the park and they are practically all dead. There are other trees, however, and it would not involve a great deal of trouble or expense to set out more trees of a hardy nature that in years to come would be a delight to those who visit the park.

The high parts of Riverside Park command a fine view of the Thames river to the Submarine Base, and beyond that the high hills of Ledyard can be seen. Across the river from the park is the Odd Fellows home at Fairview and the military highway that leads to Norwich on a pleasant day shows a steady string of automobiles coming and going.

In the summer time the river is ruffled by many motor craft, and occasional trains on both sides add to the variety of the scene. Those who like to get close to nature can find what they want at Riverside and incidentally it might be said that a better picnic ground could hardly be desired.

There are opportunities for salt water bathing and other attractions that have not been mentioned in this list that help to make the place worth while visiting. The increasing use of motor vehicles ought to make many more people visit Riverside and those who have no cars and do not care to walk far can get near enough to the park by use of trolleys so that no serious exertion is involved.

Years ago when the tract that is now known as Riverside Park was called Lewis woods it was the scene of many picnics. One of the notable events of each year was the outing of the old Relief Engine Co., No. 3, now the William B. Thomas Hose Co., which was held there.

On the river bank is Bolles' dock, near which hundreds of New Londoners learned to swim in the days when it was considered bad form to wear even tights when taking a dip.

It was a fortunate circumstance that forced the city to buy that property and as the population increases and the open spaces are filled up Riverside will be a constantly increasing source of satisfaction to the people who make their homes here.