

Planted by Girl Scouts of Local Council

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Evergreens Flourish at Riverside Park

Lasting monuments to the nature program of the New London Council Girl Scouts, pines and spruce are flourishing in Riverside park, adding to the scenic beauty of this restful place overlooking the Thames river.

Back in February of 1931, a committee was named to take a census of trees in this city as a means of determining the most advantageous places for planting saplings.

The tree planting program was given impetus as a "means of fittingly observing the 200th anniversary of George Washington."

Hooker is Chairman
John H. Hooker, representing the New London Chamber of Commerce, was elected chairman of the local committee, and Dr. Eugene Peck and Mrs. Charles B. Graves, who was Girl Scout commissioner, appointed a committee to take a census of the city's trees. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were named to assist in the work.

Eates Woods, the Connecticut college grounds and Riverside park were suggested as appropriate places for new trees to be planted.

Tree Planting Ceremony
Girl Scouts from this city, Montville, Niantic and Old Lyme, their leaders, councilors and friends combined in a spring court of awards and tree planting ceremony at Riverside park May 9, 1931, and trees which were planted that day are among those which are flourishing.

A committee of members of the Leaders' association, headed by Mrs. William S. Chappell as chairman, was in charge of arrangements.

Eleven Austrian pines, from two to three feet in height, were given the scouts by E. John Brouwer, and they were planted on a slope near the Bremen's monument at the park.

With permission of park authorities the Girl Scouts took over this section of the park as their special project to develop and beautify from year to year.

Kenerson Aids Scouts
Elmer E. Kenerson, superintendent of the park aided the Girl Scouts and has watched the growth of the trees set out that day and others planted later with much interest. He assisted the scouts in the tree planting.

In subsequent years additional trees were planted at the park, and considerable work in the tree planting program was done by members of Troop 2.

One of the trees planted by the troop was a rock chestnut oak, grown by Ruth Hewitt, then a patrol leader in Troop 2 and transplanted near the entrance to Riverside park in 1933. The tree is of a relatively rare type.

Other Tree Planting
Girl Scouts of the local council engaged in other tree planting. At an Arbor day ceremony at Williams park, Broad and Hempstead streets, in April 1933, a young maple was set out, and Girl Scouts participated in the planting of the Washington elm at the Shaw mansion grounds—a Connecticut tercentenary incident in 1935.



Top—Spruce, planted by Girl Scouts are shown growing among rocks on a hill at Riverside park.

Bottom—A view of pine trees which Girl Scouts planted at a ceremony in 1931. The Thames river and Groton hills are in the distance.